

APPENDIX C – EXCERPT: “SEWING STITCHES USED IN MEDIEVAL CLOTHING”

Sewing Stitches Used in Medieval Clothing

Compiled by Jennifer L. Carlson

These have been generally sorted by date then by stitch and region. The compiler's used the the terminology that is in each source in question.

STITCH TYPE	DATED TO	LOCATION	ITEM	SOURCE
Back stitch	16th century	London, England	Hose in London Museum: backstitched seam	Crowfoot et al, p. 156
Running stitch	16th century	Kilcommon Bog, Ireland	Dress with pleated skirt	Dunlevy, M. Dress in Ireland, p. 57
Running stitch	16th century	London, England	Hose in London Museum: allowances of backstitched seams held down to either side with running stitches, about 2-3mm out from seam	Crowfoot et al, p. 156
Running stitch	16th century	London, England	Hose fragment (as yet unpublished) Seam allowance each turned out from the seam and held down by running stitches.	Crowfoot et al, p. 186
Tacking stitch	16th century		Holding down trim	Arnold, J. QEWU, p. 185
Back stitch	c. 1535-1560	Spanish or English	Youth's red satin doublet. Panels of cotton wool padding between double rows of back stitching	Arnold, Patterns, p. 70
Buttonhole stitch	c. 1535-1560	Spanish or English	Youth's red satin doublet. Worked buttonholes in silk thread, 19mm(3/4") long, opening 13mm(1/2") long, with square ends	Arnold, Patterns, p. 70
Cord whip stitched onto edge	1562	Florence, Italy	Suit of Cosimo I de'Medici. Raw edge of velvet on trunkhose panes oversewn with gold metal thread	Arnold, Patterns, pp. 53-54
Gathering stitch	1562	Florence, Italy	Suit of Cosimo I de'Medici. Lining of trunkhose gathered to fit the leg measurement; ends of trunhose panes gathered into place	Arnold, Patterns, pp. 53-54
Overcast stitch	1562	Florence, Italy	Gown and pair of bodies worn by Eleanor of Toledo. Linen lining of bodies attached to velvet by over stitching	Arnold, Patterns, p. 102
Running stitch	1562	Florence, Italy	Suit of Cosimo I de'Medici. Raw edge of silk on panes on trunkhose turned under and held by running stitches in 2-ply silk	Arnold, Patterns, pp. 53-54
Stab stitch	1562	Florence, Italy	Suit of Cosimo I de'Medici. Row of stab stitches down center front about 1.5mm (1/16") from edge	Arnold, Patterns, pp. 53-54
Back stitch	c.1565-67	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Svante Sture. Plunderhosen. Double-layer linen lacing strip backstitched to waistline.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 57
Back stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Joins in plunderhosen fabric backstitched	Arnold, Patterns, p. 63
Back stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Doublet. Linen lining backstitched in.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 68
Buttonhole stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Erik Sture. 13mm (1/2") long buttonholes with square ends worked in silk.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 60
Buttonhole stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Doublet. Buttonholes 19mm(3/4") long worked in silk	Arnold, Patterns, p. 68
Edges daubed with wax	c. 1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Plunderhosen. Cut edges of velvet panes daubed with wax to prevent fraying.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 63
Gathering stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Erik Sture. Gathers on codpiece, sleeve cuff, leg panes	Arnold, Patterns, p. 60
Gathering stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Gathering stitches for cartridge pleating on plunderhosen; lining gathered	Arnold, Patterns, p. 62
Overcast stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Small area of oversewing in wine colored thread, possibly a tailor's mark, in leg of plunderhosen	Arnold, Patterns, p. 63
Pad stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Doublet. Pad stitching in collar	Arnold, Patterns, p. 68

Running stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Running stitches in plunderhosen down sides of waist puff; in crotch seam; for joins in fabric	Arnold, Patterns, p. 63
Tack stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Nils Sture. Cartridge pleats tacked to breeches of plunderhosen	Arnold, Patterns, p. 63
Top stitch	c.1567	Uppsala, Sweden	Suit of Erik Sture. Doublet waist is topstitched	Arnold, Patterns, p. 60
Gathering stitch	c. 1570-1580	Germany	Semi-circular cloak with hood. Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nurnberg T2795. Neckline gathered to fit bottom of hood.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 97
Tacking stitch	c. 1570-1580	German	Velvet loose gown. Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nurnberg (Item#?) Tacking stitches used to hold horsehair in position in sleeves	Arnold, Patterns, p. 109
Back stitch	c. 1574	Florence, Italy	Suit of Cosimo I de'Medici. Backstitching all around the collar and down both fronts 1.5mm (1/16") away from edge to hold down buttonhole reinforcing strip	Arnold, Patterns, pp. 55-56
Buttonhole stitch	c. 1574	Florence, Italy	Suit of Cosimo I de'Medici. Buttonholes with square ends worked in heavy silk similar to modern buttonhole twist	Arnold, Patterns, pp. 55-56
Running stitch	c. 1574	Florence, Italy	Suit of Cosimo I de'Medici. Running stitches in silk thread holding down seam turnings in collar; running stitches in front neck seam turnings (turnings 5mm wide)	Arnold, Patterns, pp. 55-56
Edging with wax	c. 1575-1600	Germany	Silk hat. Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nurnberg T1220. Raw edges daubed with wax to prevent fraying.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 94
Gathering stitch	c. 1575-1600	Germany	Silk hat. Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nurnberg T1220. 4 circles of gathering stitches used to pull pleats of crown into shape	Arnold, Patterns, p. 94
Back stitch	c. 1585	Possibly German	Doublet. Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nurnberg (Item#?) Line of backsting, 3mm(1/8") away from edge on both fronts.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 107
Overcast stitch	c. 1585	Possibly German	Doublet. Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nurnberg (Item#?) Overstitching on sleeve cap – may be only decorative	Arnold, Patterns, p. 107
Pad stitch	c. 1585	Possibly German	Doublet. Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nurnberg (Item#?) Felt layer on doublet skirts is pad stitched; layer of felt pad stitched onto linen in collar	Arnold, Patterns, p. 107
Running stitch	c. 1585	Possibly German	Doublet. Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nurnberg (Item#?) Lines of stitching, probably running stitches, to hold whalebones; lining of skirt stitched in what looks like running stitches	Arnold, Patterns, p. 107
Back stitch	c. 1615-1620	Italy, early provenance unknown	Suit of doublet and trunkhose. Appliqued leather motifs outlined with tiny backstitches	Arnold, Patterns, p. 90
Buttonhole stitch	c. 1615-1620	Italy, early provenance unknown	Worked buttonholes, 16mm(5/8") long, with round ends at center front, square at the other end (keyhole style)	Arnold, Patterns, p. 90
Gather stitch	c. 1615-1620	Italy, early provenance unknown	Trunkhose. Lining gathered at the waist.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 90
Pad stitch	c. 1615-1620	Italy, early provenance unknown	Doublet. Supportasse attached to collar, made of several layers of linen pad stitched together	Arnold, Patterns, p. 90
Running stitch	c. 1615-1620	Italy, early provenance unknown	Points on doublet of satin, edges turned under 1.5mm(1/16") and held with running stitch	Arnold, Patterns, p. 90
Buttonhole stitch	c. 1620	Spanish or Italian	Green silk jerkin. Buttonholes 22mm(7/8") long worked 3mm(1/8") in from edge in thread matching the wrapped buttons	Arnold, Patterns, p. 70
Overcast stitch	c. 1620	Spanish or Italian	Green silk jerkin. Doublet pieces joined with overcast seams; skirt tabs joined to doublet with overcast stitches.	Arnold, Patterns, p. 70
Tack stitch	c. 1620	Spanish or Italian	Green silk jerkin. Silk pieces mounted on linen canvas, raw edges folded over and tacked down; same for skirt tabs	Arnold, Patterns, p. 70

Notes:

Janet Arnold's Patterns of Fashion entries – need to be checked against original book; check stitches, and page numbers
This page was last modified 25 February 2002