



FABRICS

Fabrics

- Look at:
 - Fibre content
 - Construction



Fibres

- Broken into 4 main categories:
 - Natural
 - Man-made
 - Synthetic
 - Blends

Natural Fibres

- Come from natural plant or animal sources:
 - Cotton, bamboo, linen, hemp, silk, wool, camel hair, alpaca, etc.

Man-made Fibres

- Are manufactured by humans but use natural materials (ex: cellulose) as their base:
 - Acrylic, rayon, acetate

Synthetic Fibres

- Made completely non-organic sources (ex: oil-based):
 - Polyester, nylon, spandex

Blended Fibres

- Often fabrics are made with a blend of man-made and natural fibres to give the strength of the synthetic fibre while having the feel of the natural one



FIBRES IN DETAIL

Cotton

- Made from the cotton plant
- Hypoallergenic, durable, soft, breathes well, dust-mite resistant, easy to clean
- Burns easily, creases, weakens with exposure to light
- Will likely shrink when washed so it is a good idea to wash them before starting a sewing project
- One of the most versatile fabrics for sewing
 - Can be used for so many projects, especially clothing



Wool

- Made from sheep or goat hair
- Good at temperature regulating, breathable, moisture-wicking, odour-resistant, resistant to tearing and fire resistant
- Pills easily, can weaken when wet, can be itchy, can get mold/mildew
- Often used for outerwear like jackets, hats and tuques as well as socks, sweaters and blankets



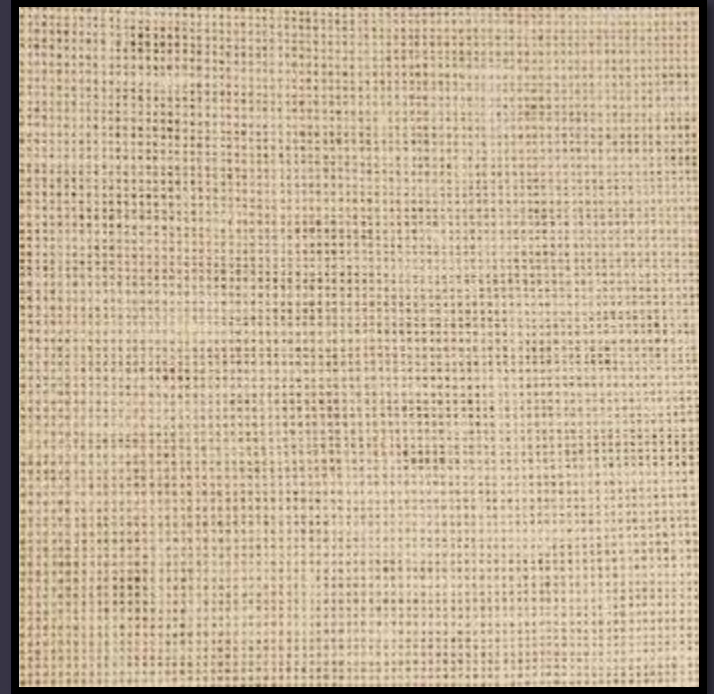
Silk

- Made from the Chinese silkworm cocoon
- Hypoallergenic, very soft, shiny, breathable, very absorbent, light-weight
- Expensive, typically not machine-washable (needs dry-cleaning), stains easily
- Used in many fashion projects, robes



Linen

- Made from flax fibres
- Strong, lint-free, absorbent and machine-washable or dry-clean, resistant to dirt and stains, very breathable
- Wrinkles easily, can be expensive, affected by mildew and perspiration, shrinks
- Used in clothing and hats especially in warm climates; also often for table cloths and other home fabrics



Polyester

- Very durable and lightweight and resistant to shrinking, mildew and creasing, flexible and quick-drying
- Does not breathe well, is not very environmentally friendly and stains in polyester can be more difficult to remove
- Often used in clothing, activewear and backpacks



Acrylic

- Man-made fibre designed to imitate wool
- Wool-like feel, durable and soft (not itchy like wool can be)
- Not as warm as wool, can irritate the skin, not breathable
- Used in sweaters, gloves, hats but also many housewares like rugs, curtains and upholstery



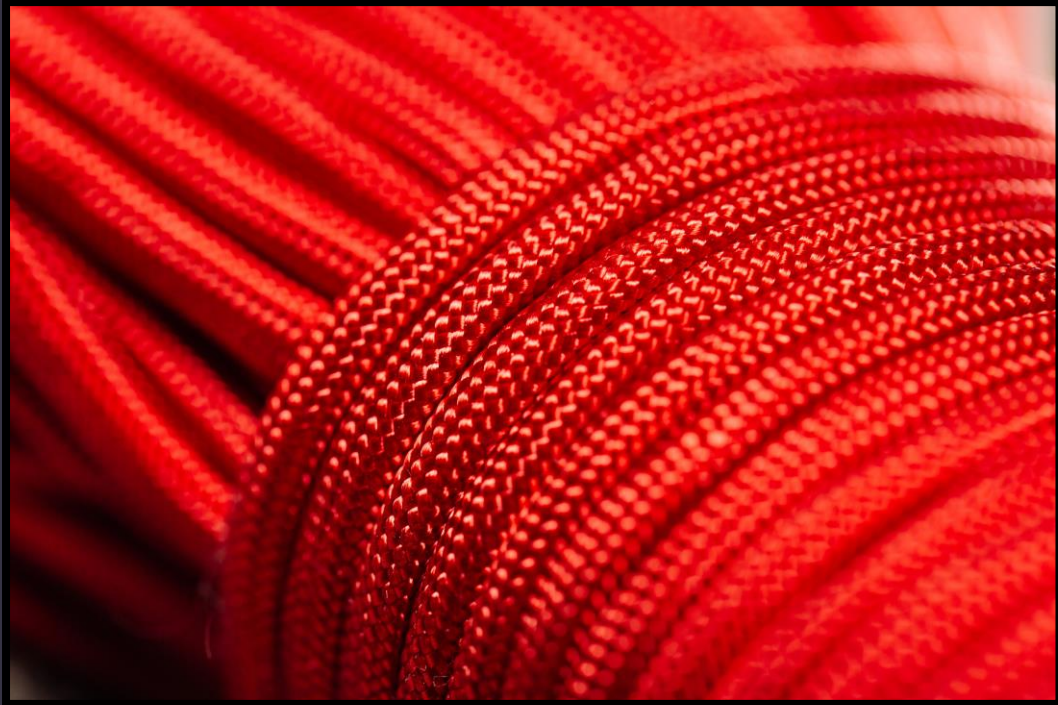
Viscose or rayon

- Man-made fibre made from cellulose
- Can have a silky appearance and feel, breathable, usually inexpensive
- Creases easily and not environmentally friendly
- Used for clothing items such as blouses, dresses, and jackets, and around the home in carpets, curtains and upholstery.



Nylon

- Man-made fibre that is very lightweight yet durable
- Often used to imitate silk
- Easy to care for, resistant to insects, fungi and mildew, water proof, can be UV-protected, doesn't shrink, is tough
- Not absorbent, not environmentally friendly, can be difficult to clean
- Used for outerwear like rain jackets, windbreakers, backpacks, tents, etc.



Spandex

- Super stretchy in all directions, moisture-wicking, resistant to oils, lotions and perspiration, soft, durable and easy to care for
- Sensitive to heat, does not breathe well
- Often used for high-stretch garments like activewear and bathing suits

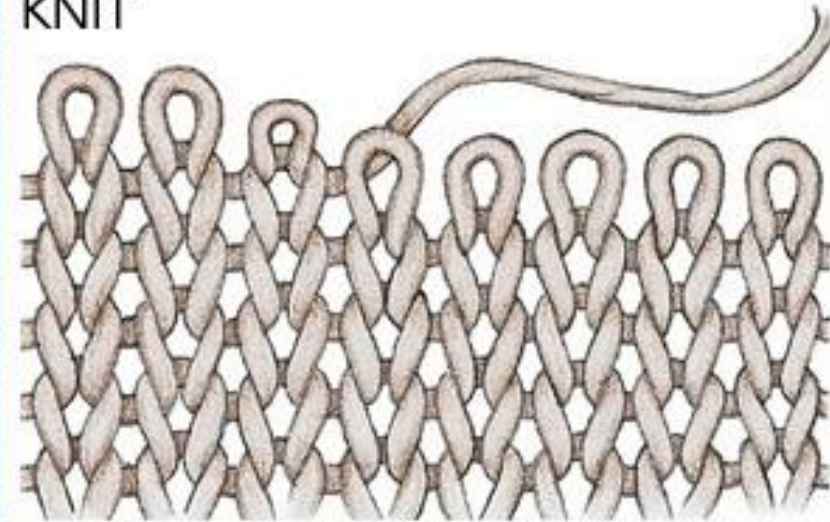


Construction

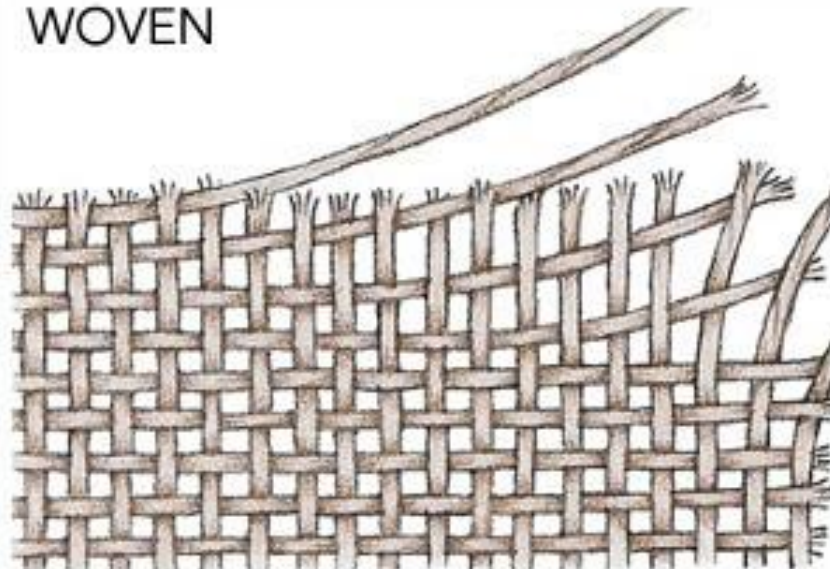
- Looks at how the fabric is put together.
- Most fabrics are either woven or knit
- The way the fibres are then put together is what will determine the fabrics texture:
 - Denim, flannel, terry cloth, voile and poplin are all made from woven cotton but have very different textures



KNIT



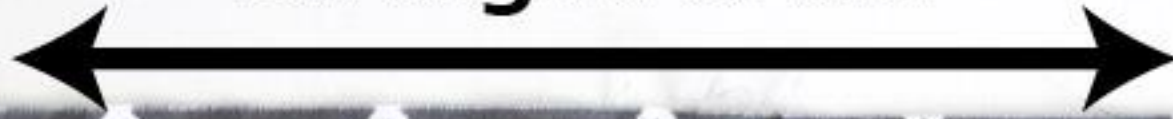
WOVEN



Construction

- When working with fabric it is important to find the grain
 - Sewing patterns will instruct you on how to line up your pattern pieces according to the grain

Straight Grain



Cross Grain



Bias Grain

COLLECTION NAME AND DESCRIPTION:

XOXO



Cotton + Steel Basics



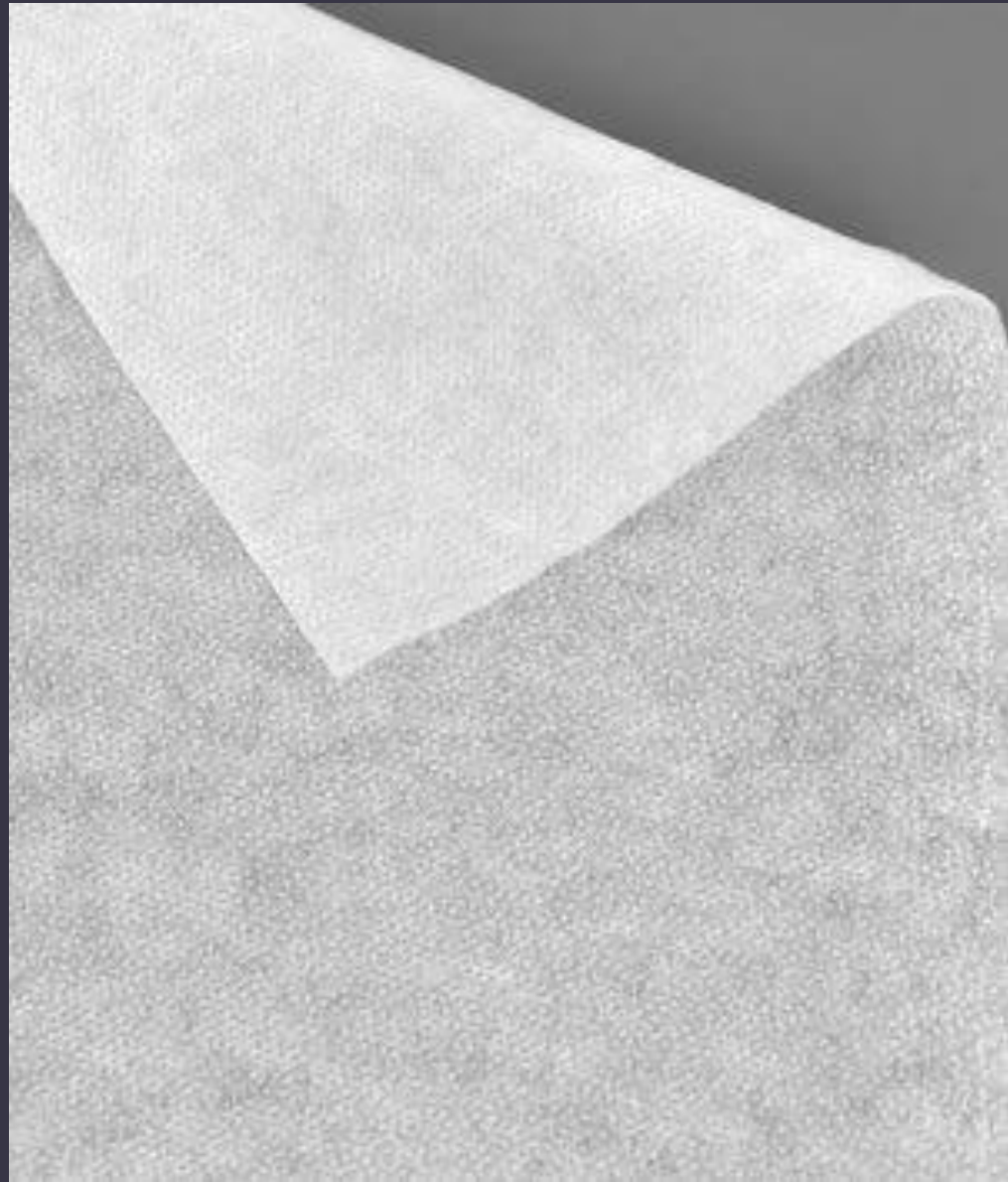
MADE IN JAPAN

SEASON:

Spring

Note: interfacing

- This is a stiffening agent
 - Basically has glue on one side and you iron it onto the wrong side of your fabric
 - Solidifies projects like collars or the button-hole area of shirt/dress/jacket





CHOOSING FABRICS

Patterns

- The sewing pattern will typically indicate the type of fabric to use – it is best to stick to what is suggested to get the look and feel desired; this will depend on the project type

Project Type

- Different projects require different types of fabric:
 - Ex:
 - Fabrics used for every day clothing should be machine washable, breathable, light-weight
 - Fabrics used for home décor need to be sturdy, maybe stain-water resistant, etc.

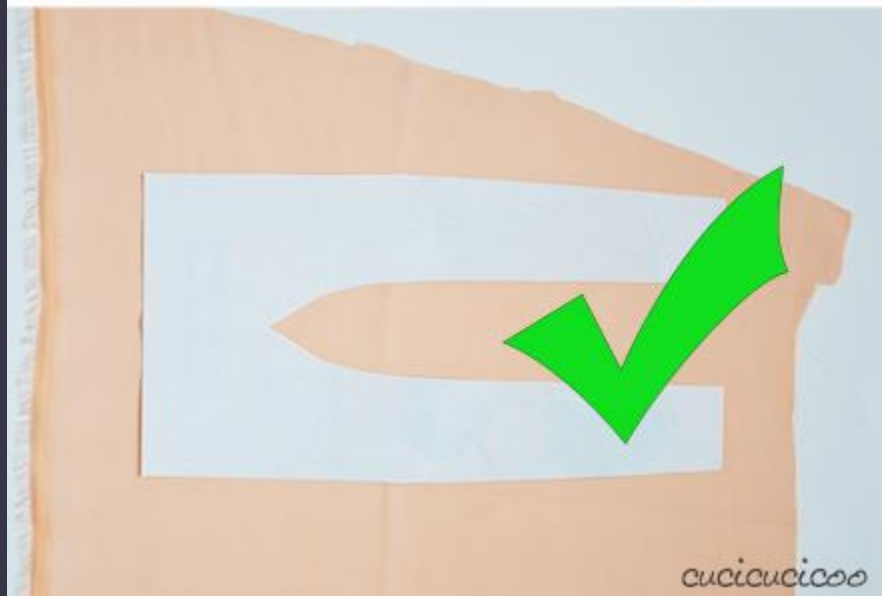
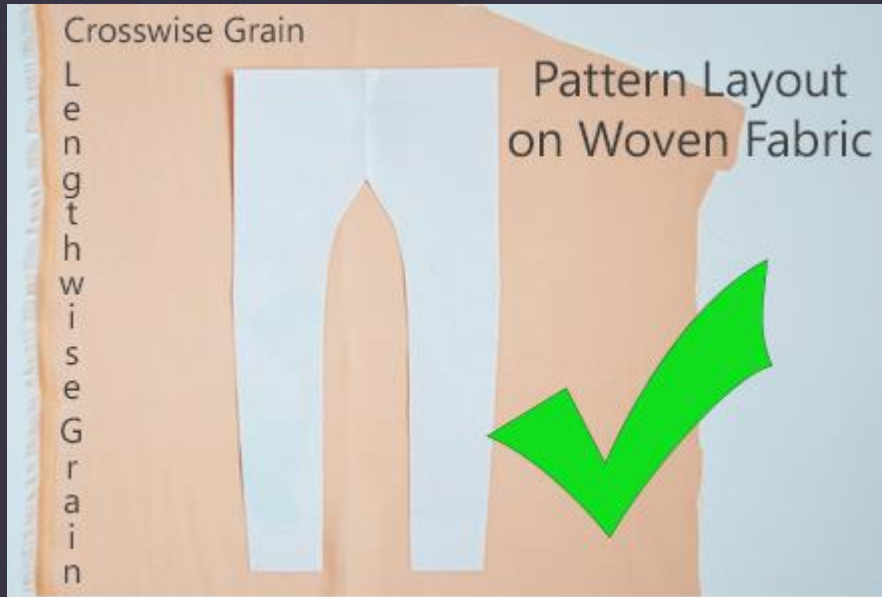
Fabric Pattern

- Some fabrics have patterns that work from any direction but others can only be used one way



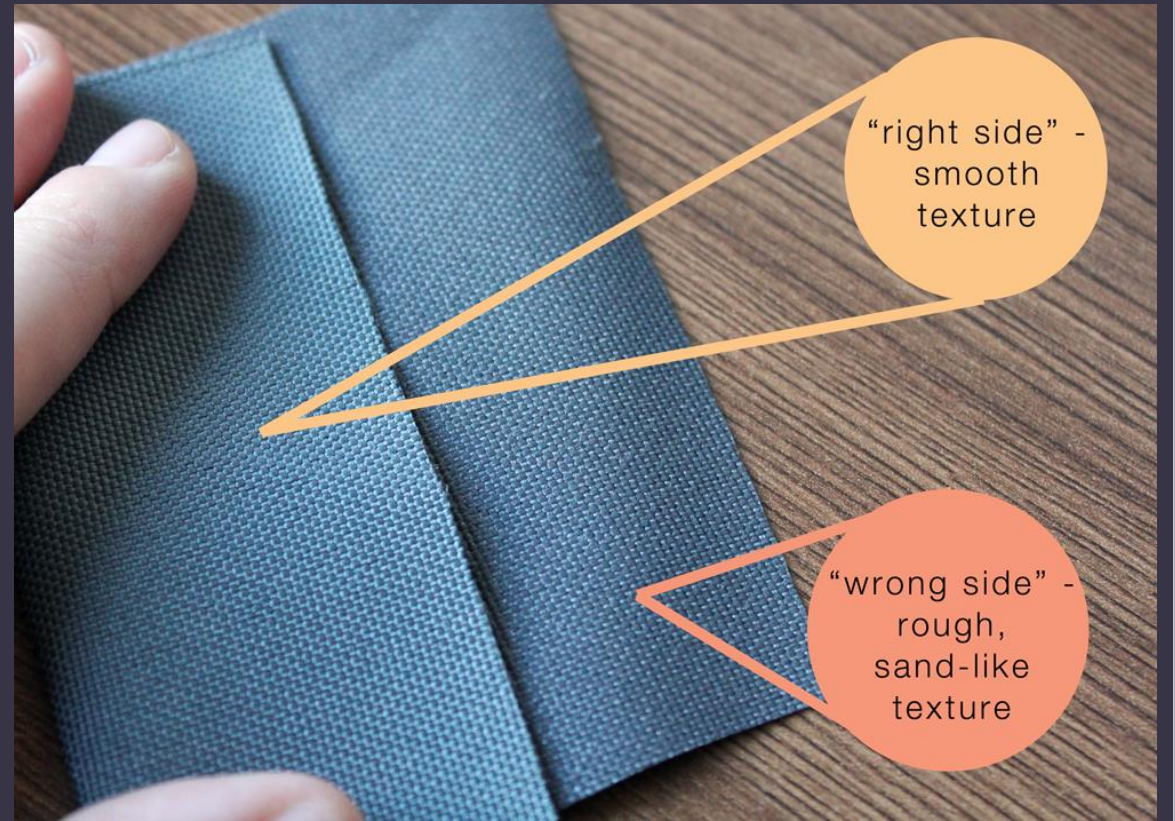
Grain

- The grain is the direction that fibres are placed
 - There is a lengthwise grain and a crosswise grain
- In woven fabrics both grains are typically similar
- In knit fabrics the crosswise grain typically offers stretch whereas the lengthwise does not



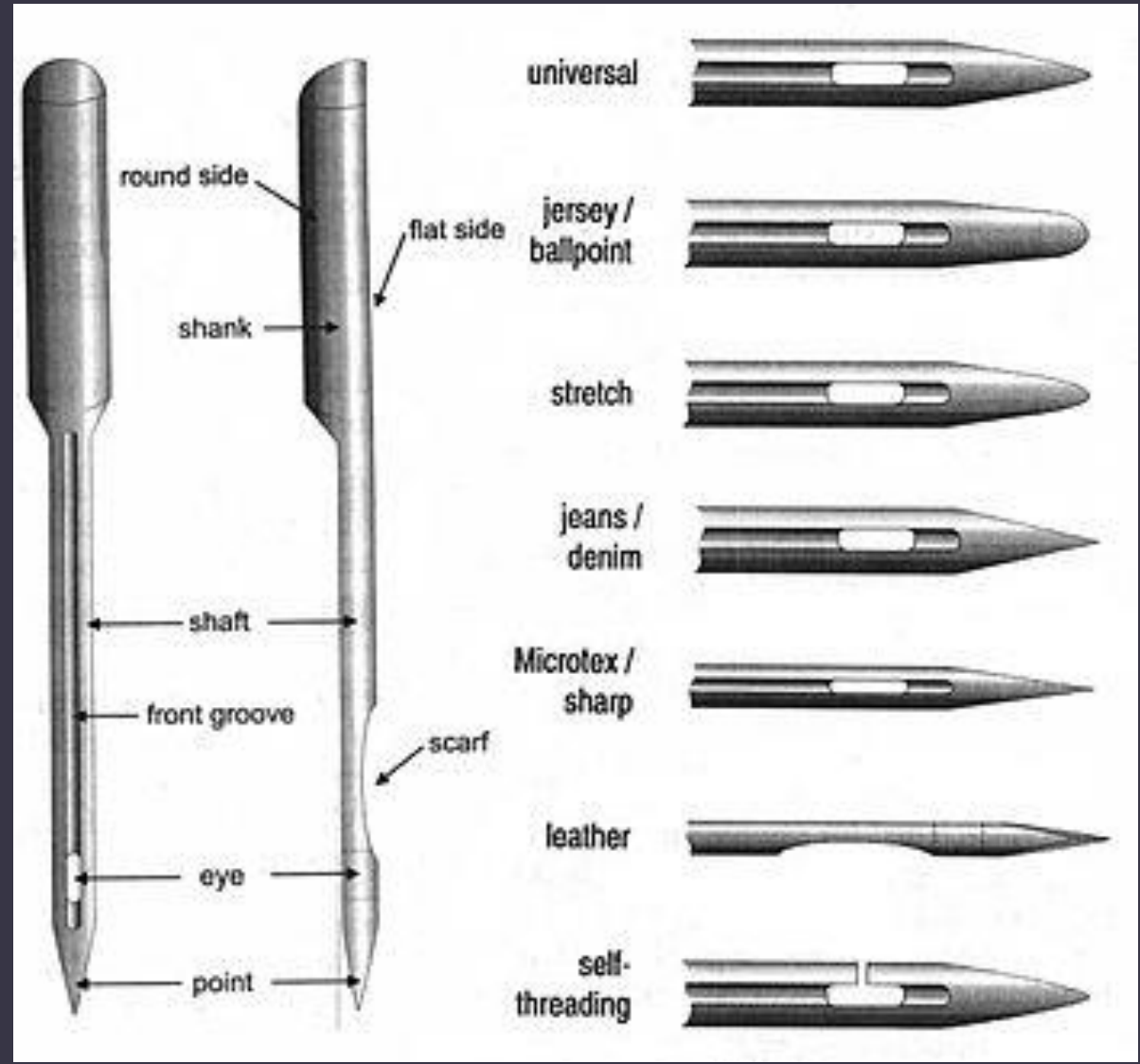
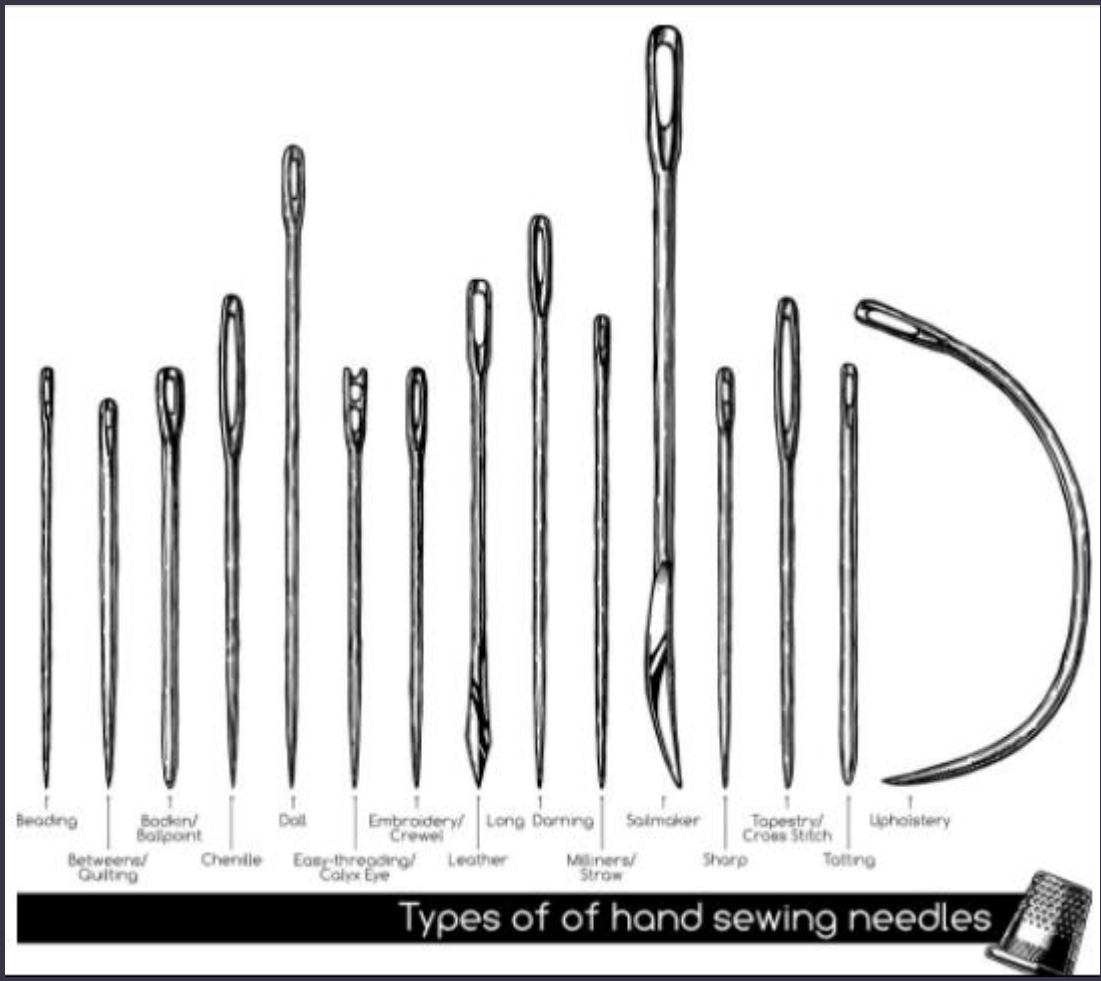
Right and Wrong Side of Fabric

- When starting a sewing project it is important to determine the right and wrong side of the fabric (outside and inside) to make sure you are using the fabric properly
 - Many times the wrong side does not show the pattern of the fabric, etc



Needle

- Whether sewing by hand or with a machine you must pick the right needle for the project:
 - Lighter more delicate fabrics require thinner needles
 - Heavier fabrics will require sturdier needles



Thread

- Just like fabric, thread is available in different fibres; you need to match the thread with the type of fabric you are using to ensure matching characteristics
- Some threads are thicker and better for embroidery and embellishments whereas others might offer stretch
- Polyester and cotton are the most “all-purpose” threads



Sources

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