



UNIT 3: SEWING ROOM

Sewing room should be a small room set apart for the purpose or a well lit corner kept solely for sewing. Space should be allotted in the linen room area for a sewing room where linen, uniforms and guest clothing can be repaired. Tailor or Seamstress work in the sewing room. The area should be well lit with adequate storage space of for various equipment.

Activities of sewing room

1. Altering of uniforms
2. Patching of table linen
3. Repair of table linen, room linen and uniforms.
4. Repairing of expensive linen such as curtains, bedcovers and slip covers that require a minimum of repair
5. Repairing of guest clothing
6. Mending of mats and rugs
7. Making of pads for polishing of silver from used mattress pads
8. Converting of condemned linen into reusable forms
9. Stitching of upholstery (if no separate upholsterer is employed)
10. Making of recommendation for the quantity of material required for upholstery, curtains and so on

Equipment used in sewing room

Machines

- Heat patching machines – For sealing neat repairs and holes in table and bed linen
- Sewing machines – To stitch varying thickness of all fabrics, could be electrically or manually operated.
- Blind stitch machine: A blind hem machine will only perform the blind hem stitch and no other which is found on dresses, skirts and trouser legs. The blind hemmer creates its stitch by the needle moving from side to side rather than up and down which a conventional sewing machine would do.
- Over edging machines – Essential for remaking discards e.g. towels into wash cloths. It cuts seams and overcast in one operation.
- Zigzag machines – Highly useful for mending, darning, button sewing
- Electric iron – For ironing clothes

Other accessories

- Machine Oil – Oiling of the machine in a good functioning condition. Machine should be oiled at the end of the day so that the oil can soak in.
- Machines cover – To cover the machine to avoid dust and lint.
- Brushes – To clean machine's smaller parts.
- Work tables – For cutting, mending, altering linen and uniforms. Work tables should be treated with silicon spray (to make fabric slide)
- Needles – Of different sizes and thickness.



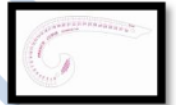
- Thimbles – These are protective covers worn on the first & second finger while sewing so that the needle doesn't hurt the fingers. These are usually made up of steel.

- Scissors – To cut cloth
- Thread cutter – Pointed end to cut thread closely from small spaces.



- Pinking shears - Pinking shears are scissors, the blades of which are saw-toothed instead of straight. They leave a zigzag pattern instead of a straight edge.

- French Curve - A French curve is a template usually made from metal, wood or plastic composed of many different curves. It is used in manual drafting and in fashion design to draw smooth curves of varying radii.
- Measure tape



- Hem Gauge- Helps in making an accurate fold and crisp fabric crease every time while sewing. The fold is even and uniform along the fabric.
- Pins and pin cushions

- Seam Ripper - A seam ripper is a small sewing tool used for cutting and removing stitches. The most common form consists of a handle, shaft and head. The head is usually forked with a cutting surface situated at the base of the fork.
- Threads – cotton and polycot, different colours
- Hooks and buttons – of different sizes, shapes and colours
- Tailors chalks for marking
- Pattern paper to make pattern drawing easy
- Clips and weights
- Shuttle and thread spool



Basic hand stitches

1. Temporary stitches – Stitches which are used to hold two or more layers of clothing together before permanent stitches are put in.
 - I. Even basting
 - II. Uneven basting
 - III. Extra firm basting
2. Permanent stitches
 - I. Joining stitch
 - a) Running stitch
 - b) Back stitch
 - II. Edge finishing stitch
 - a) Plain hemming
 - b) Blind hemming
 - c) Overacting
 - d) Whipping
 - e) Button hole stitch/blanket stitch

