



Designation: D5646 – 96 (Reapproved 2008)

## Standard Terminology of Basic Sewing Machine Stitches for Home Use<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5646; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers basic stitches made by sewing machines designed for home use. These terms and definitions are not necessarily consistent with those used in the apparel or home furnishings manufacturing industries. Each stitch is identified with a definition, a discussion of how the stitch is formed and might be used and an illustration of one or more possible stitch patterns. This terminology does not include stitches made by sergers, hemmers, or by attachments to the home sewing machines.

1.2 Additional terms can be found in Terminology D123.

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

2.2 *Federal Standard:*

Fed. Std. 751a, Stitches, Seams and Stitching<sup>2</sup>

### 3. Terminology

**blind hem stitch**, *n—in home sewing* a complex machine stitch pattern consisting of small groups of straight or narrow zigzag stitches separated by a wide zigzag stitch unit at consistent intervals. (See Fig. 1.)

DISCUSSION—The blind hem stitch is used to make and lessen the visibility of hems in finished textile products. Other potential applications include seam finishes on soft fabrics and decorative work.

**buttonhole stitch**, *n—in home sewing*, a complex machine stitch pattern made by coordinated motions of needle and feed, appearing as very close stitches forming a narrow rectangle of stitching that is usually composed of four stitch segments, one on each side and on each of the two ends of the rectangle. (See Fig. 2.)

DISCUSSION—The buttonhole stitch is used for making buttonholes on garments and other textile products. In a keyhole buttonhole, one end

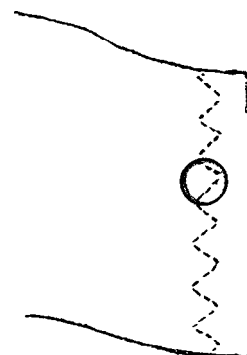


FIG. 1 Multiple Stitch Zigzag

is rounded rather than straight.

**complex machine stitch pattern**, *n—in home sewing*, a machine stitch pattern formed when two or more simple machine stitch patterns are combined in one repeating unit. (Compare simple machine stitch pattern.)

DISCUSSION—Complex machine stitch patterns include the blind hem stitch, buttonhole stitch, and straight stitch.

**lockstitch**, *n—in home sewing*, a type of stitch formed with two threads: one needle thread and one bobbin thread interlaced with each other.

DISCUSSION—The needle thread passes through the material and interlaces with thread from the bobbin so that the interlacing is midway between surfaces of the material(s) being sewn. Other lock stitch formations are available for industrial use. (See Fig. 3.)

**machine stitch**, *n—in home sewing*, the resulting arrangement

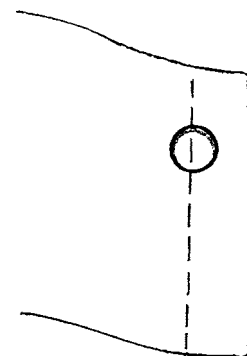


FIG. 2 Straight Stitch

<sup>1</sup> This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.54 on Subassemblies.

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<sup>2</sup> Printed in 1965 as Federal Standard No. 751a, Stitches, Seams and Stitching, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20407. Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.