



# Hong Kong Seams

For Woven & Stretch Fabrics  
March 2024

## What is a Hong Kong Seam?

A strip of fabric is wrapped around the raw edge of each seam allowance.

Kennis Wong

<https://itch-to-stitch.com/hong-kong-seam-finish-part-1/>



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## Advantages of Hong Kong Seams

Non bulky finish.

Works on straight, curved or intersecting seams, corners and armholes.

Decorative finish created with contrasting, coordinating printed or striped fabric.

Seam finishes coordinate with facing edges and hem finishes.

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## Hong Kong Seams for Woven Fabrics

### Garment

- Exposed Seams.
- Medium to heavyweight fabrics.
- Unlined jackets, coats and vests.
- Partially lined jackets.
- Skirts & tailored dresses.

### Binding

- Cut on the bias.
- Lightweight, firmly woven fabrics, such as silk, cotton, batiste or lining.
- Same care as the primary fabric.

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## Prepare a Woven Hong Kong Seam

Cut bias strips  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

Cut enough length to cover all the seam allowances.

Stitch the garment with a plain  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam.

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## Sew a Hong Kong Seam

Sew the binding to the garment seam allowance.

- Right sides together, match the edge of the bias strip to a single edge of the seam allowance.
- Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edges.



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## Sew a Hong Kong Seam

Encase the raw edges of the seam allowance and the binding.

- Fold the bias strip over the edge.
- Press and pin.

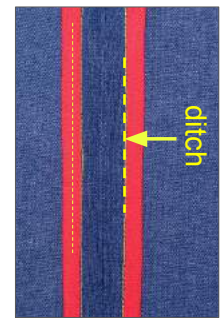


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## Finish a Hong Kong Seam

Invisibly secure the binding to the seam allowance.

- From the right side of the seam, stitch in the ditch.
- The ditch was formed when the bias strip was sewn to the seam allowance.



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## Finish a Hong Kong Seam

Trim the excess bias binding.

- On the back of the seam allowance, trim the excess bias strip close to the stitching.
- Press.

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## Hong Kong Seams for Stretch Fabrics

A stretchy Hong Kong finish for sweater knits.

Olgalyn Jolly

<http://www.craftingfashion.com/2019/03/a-stretchy-hong-kong-finish.html>



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## Advantages of Stretch Hong Kong Seams

No serger required.

Zigzag stitches form a secure stretchy seam.

Non bulky finish with smooth seam allowances.

Decorative finish with contrasting, coordinating, printed or striped fabrics.

Works on curved or straight seams.

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## Stretch & Woven Hong Kong Seam Similarities

Best for medium to heavyweight fabrics.

Exposed raw edges are covered with a single layer of binding.

Smooth seam allowances.

Decorative addition to a garment.

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## Stretch & Woven Hong Kong Seam Differences

### Woven Hong Kong

- Bias binding.
- The binding is wrapped around each individual seam allowance.
- Finish by stitching in the ditch.

### Stretch Hong Kong

- Crossgrain binding.
- Binding may be wrapped around both seam allowances together.
- Finish with a 3-step zigzag on the binding.

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## Hong Kong Seams for Stretch Fabrics

### Garments

- Sweater knits.
- Knits that ravel.
- Heavyweight knits.
- Bulky knits.

### Binding

- Very lightweight, stretchy.
- Non fraying or raveling.
- Fabrics such as, stretch lining, micro mesh, or jersey.
- Same care as the primary fabric.

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## Prepare a Stretch Hong Kong Seam

Cut crossgrain binding strips 1½" wide.

Cut enough to cover the length of the seams.

Sew a ⅝" seam in the garment seam with a narrow zigzag or wobble stitch.

- A narrow zigzag or wobble stitch is almost a straight stitch. It has just enough wobble to allow the seam to stretch.

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## Sew a Stretch Hong Kong Seam

Sew the binding to the garment seam allowance.

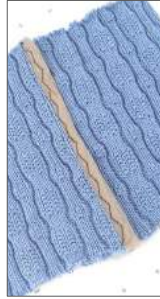
- Right sides together, match the edge of the crossgrain strip to the edge of the garment seam allowance.
- Set the machine to a narrow zigzag or wobble stitch.
- Stitch ⅜" from the raw edges. Trim to ¼" later.
- Stretch the binding fabric a little as you sew to prevent the garment seam from stretching or rippling.

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## Sew a Stretch Hong Kong Seam

Encase the raw edges of the seam allowance and the binding.

- Trim the binding & seam allowance to ¼".
- Fold the crossgrain strip over the edge and pin.
- From the right side of the seam, sew with a 3-step zigzag on the binding.



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## Finish a Stretch Hong Kong Seam

Trim the excess crossgrain binding.

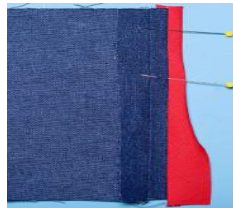
- On the back of the seam allowance, trim the excess crossgrain strip close to the stitching.
- Press.

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## Hong Kong Seam Finish Overview



Sew a 5/8" plain seam.  
Sew a bias strip to the edge of a single seam allowance.



Fold the bias strip over the edge, encasing the seam allowance. Press



From the top side, stitch in the ditch.

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## References for Hong Kong Seam Finishes

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<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/fcs2/fcs2304/fcs2304.pdf>

Wong, Kennis. (n.d.-a). Hong Kong Seam Finish – Part 1 | Itch to stitch.  
[https://itch-to-stitch.com/hong-kong-seam-finish-part-1/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1709500597.0099599361419677734375](https://itch-to-stitch.com/hong-kong-seam-finish-part-1/?doing_wp_cron=1709500597.0099599361419677734375)

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<http://www.craftingfashion.com/2019/03/a-stretchy-hong-kong-finish.html>

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