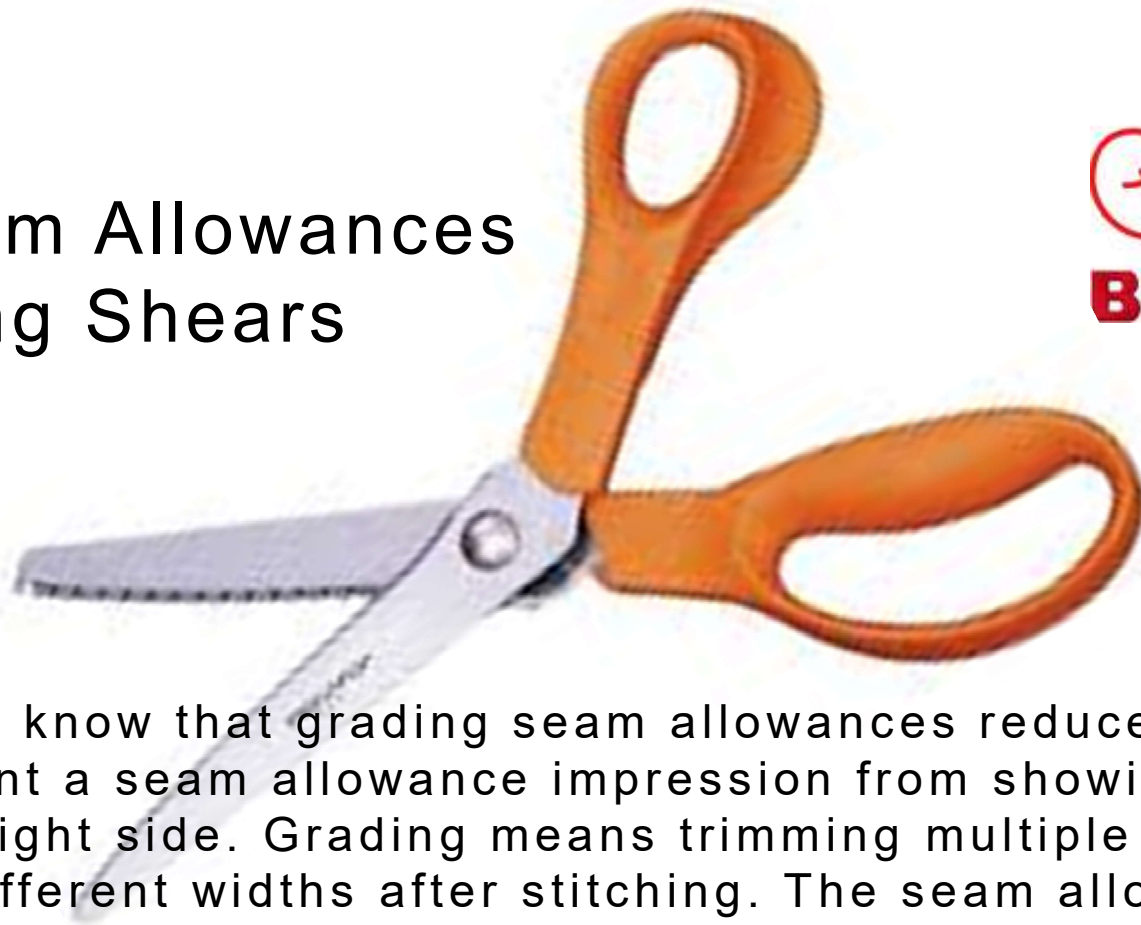


Grade Seam Allowances with Pinking Shears



Garment makers know that grading seam allowances reduces bulk and helps prevent a seam allowance impression from showing through on the right side. Grading means trimming multiple seam allowances to different widths after stitching. The seam allowance facing the inside of the garment, or an under collar, is trimmed the narrowest.

Trimming seam allowances with pinking shears creates an even softer edge that further reduces the risk of seam allowances showing on the right side.

The pinked edge isn't used so much to reduce fraying as it is to soften the cut edge. Therefore, this technique may be used on both wovens and knits.



The facing seam allowance is being trimmed to the narrowest width with pinking shears in this picture.



Both seam allowances have been trimmed with pinking shears. The facing seam allowance is cut the narrowest, (gray fabric in this picture). The garment fabric seam allowance is left slightly wider, (red fabric underneath). Notches have also been cut from the curve to reduce bulk. This is an example of pinking even a knit fabric that won't fray. The soft, pinked, edges will virtually disappear under the garment fabric when turned right side out.