

Fabric Breakdown

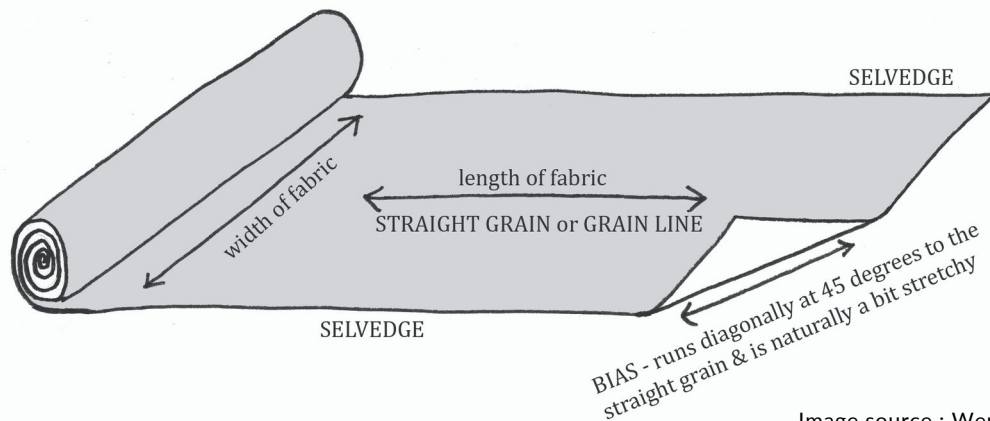
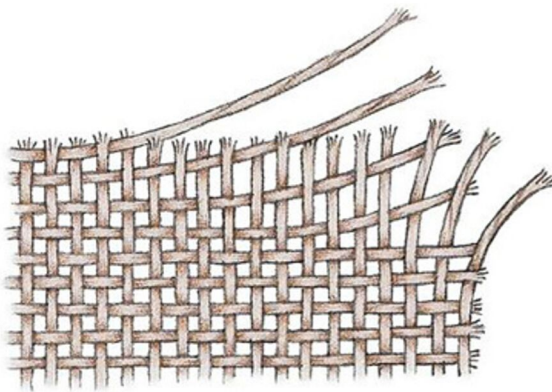
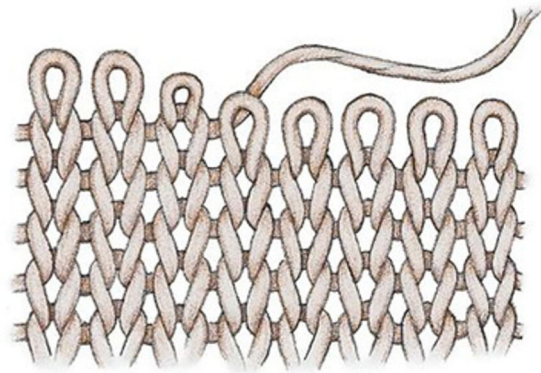


Image source : Wendy Ward

A piece of fabric is made up of a few different parts. The selvage runs along either end of the fabric and will typically have holes in it, and may have the name of the designer, company, collection. This is where the machine holds onto the fabric while it is being made. The length wise grain runs parallel to the selvage, and the crosswise grain runs across from selvage to selvage. Most patterns are laid out along the lengthwise grain. You also have the right side of the fabric, which is the pretty side you want everyone to see. There is also the wrong side of the fabric. If it is hard to tell the difference between the right and wrong side, I always suggest labelling them with tape or a wash away pen or chalk. The bias is located along the 45 degree angle of the fabric. This part of the fabric has quite a bit of give and stretch. It is important to know about this part of the fabric because some pieces are cut or laid out on the bias to give them more drape and allow them to curve.



woven material



knit material

Fabric can also be woven or knit. Illustrated are the two basic structures of a woven vs. a knit.

- A woven fabric consists of fibres running up and down (warp) and then fibers being woven (like basket weaving) across (weft). This makes a woven fabric more stable. Woven fabrics can be categorized by thickness and type of fiber, thread count, type of weave, and quality of fibers used.
- Knit fabric is made from continuous loops. Similar to what a basic knit stitch looks like when you are knitting. The loops are what give a knit fabric its flexibility and stretch. Knit fabrics can also be categorized by the way they are produced, the fiber content, and thickness.