Basic Hand Sewing techniques

- running stitch
- baste stitch
- back stitch
- invisible/ladder stitch
- catch stitch
- whip stitch
- blanket stitch

9 Handy Hand Stitching Basics for Sewing

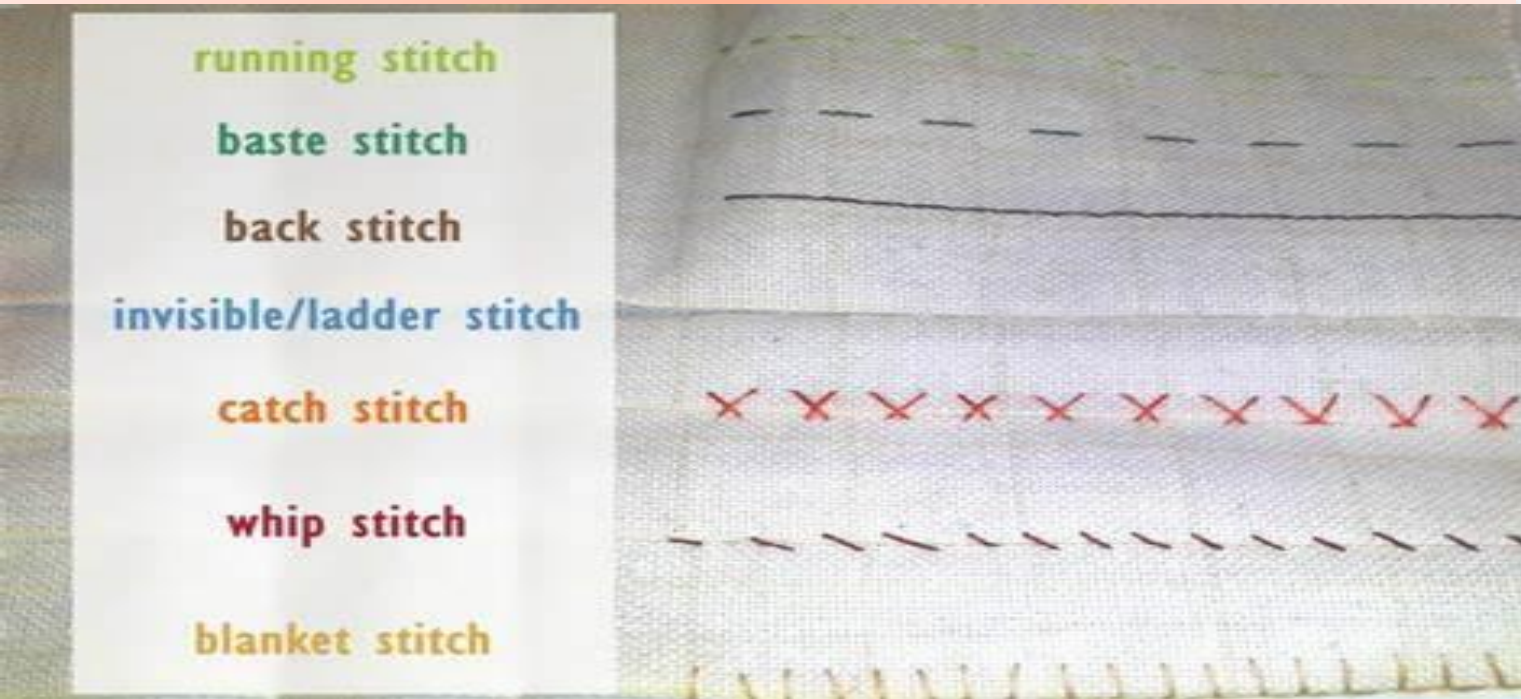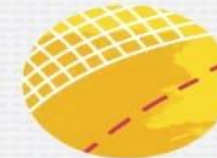Machine sewing and hand sewing are complementary to each other, so it's essential to learn both. Here are some hand stitching basics you need to know.

Whip Stitch
Made up of short, diagonal stitches along the edges of two fabrics, this hand stitching technique is great for hemming.

Back Stitch
Made up of small, durable stitches, the back stitch is perfect for creating seams that can resist pulls or strains and for mending seams as well.

Overcast Stitch
These diagonal stitches are used to secure the edges of the fabric to prevent it from unraveling. It can also be used to mend a tear.

Catch Stitch
Identified by its crisscross stitches, this versatile stitch is great for front-facing fabrics, circular garments, like tablecloths, and for hemming lined garments.

Slip Stitch or Ladder Stitch
Ladder-like in appearance, these stitches can be used to make hidden seams in between two fold edges of a flat edge. It can also be used for bindings, closing a lining, invisible application of an applique, and closing stuffed sewing projects.
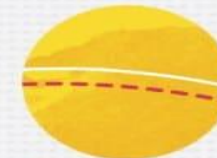
Basting Stitch
Quick, large stitches are the trademark of this technique, which makes it perfect for holding temporary pieces together. It usually involves thread in a different color from the fabric for easier spotting during removal.

Blind Hem Stitch
Used to create invisible hems, this technique is perfect for lighter and silkier fabrics since its stitches won't be seen.

Running Stitch
Its straight stitches are one of the most commonly used in sewing. While it can also be made using a machine, hand sewn running stitches can be made quicker and can be used for narrow spaces unreachable to a machine.

Securing Stitch
Done at the end of a sewing project, this technique will prevent unnecessary loosening of your stitches.