

# Seams to Me Tag File

Created by Susan Beck

BERNINA  
Just SEW IT!

This mixed media tag file is a fun way to organize technique swatches. It makes a great visual reference so you can remember what you've learned and incorporate these techniques into your sewing.

The *Seams to Me* tag file showcases five specialty seams that work for all types of sewing. It starts with cardstock tags and ends with a unique work of art—created by you!



## Machine & Accessories

- BERNINA 3 Series or 5 Series machine
- Open Embroidery Foot (BERNINA #20/20C/20D)
- Clear Embroidery Foot (BERNINA #39/39C)
- Fagoting and Fringe Foot (BERNINA #7)
- Lap Seam Foot (BERNINA #70)

## Fabric & Notions

- Six large cardstock tags, 5.25" x 2.625"
- Assorted linen & silk fabric swatches
- Ribbons, trims, laces, etc.
- Charms, buttons, beads, silk flowers, etc.
- Scrapbook papers, ink pads, colored pencils, etc. to create backgrounds
- Craft glue
- Thread of choice
- 6+ Keys: vintage, current, and charm keys (1 or more for each tag)
- 1½"-2" binder ring in an antique (bronze) finish

## Graphics and Fonts

Download the following free graphic frame:  
<http://thegraphicsfairy.com/vintage-printable-french-fabric-labels-collage-sheet/>

Download and install the following font:  
<http://www.fonts4free.net/veteran-typewriter-font.html>



### Tag Preparation

Dip the tag in water and carefully crumple to add wrinkles and creases.

*Note: The tag is fairly fragile when wet so take care when unfolding it.*



Unfold the tag and let dry.

*Tip: Press between paper towels with a warm iron to speed dry & make the creases more permanent.*

Rub the edges and surface of the tag across an ink pad to add a distressed and dirty look to it. The color shown is Copper Kettle by Fiskars.



Add color pencil, paint, paper, stamping, etc. as desired. Additional layers of color and texture can be added later as you start "building" a specific tag. More distressing ink can be added at anytime to blend layers of texture and color together.



watercolor pencil

torn scrapbook paper glued in place

### Label Preparation

Using a graphics program such as Microsoft Paint or Corel Draw, create a page of labels similar to the diagram below.

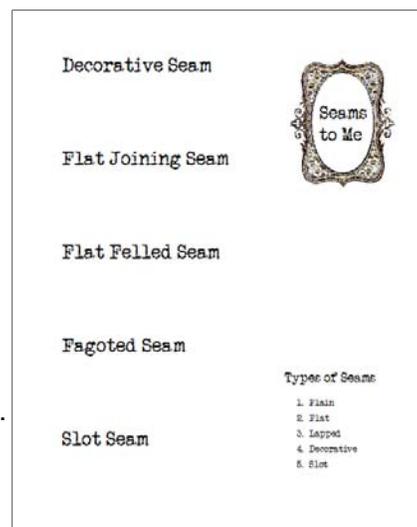
Left side of page:

Font: Veteran Typewriter (see previous page for link); 30 pt; 3 lines of spacing Between each title

Right side of page:

Frame resized to 2.125" x 2.625  
Title Font: Veteran Typewriter; 28 pt; centered in frame

List Font: Veteran Typewriter; 20 pt. for numbered list



3/4" - 1" margins

Print the page in color (frame has some coloration) but it would also work in black & white or grayscale.

Let the ink dry for 3-5 minutes, then wet the paper and crumple it. Place the crumpled paper in a tea solution to give it an "aged" look. The longer it is in the tea, the darker it will become; it looks darker when wet and will lighten slightly as it dries.

Remove the paper from the tea when it is slightly darker than the desired color. Carefully flatten the paper (it is very fragile) and let it dry.

Tear edges to create the labels (7 total). Add ink as desired for a distressed look.



## General Directions

The following pages give directions for making each seam swatch and general details of how each tag is embellished. Because you are using your own elements for embellishment, your tags will not look the same as the ones shown. These instructions are meant to be used as guidelines for you to create your own “mini works of art.”

Every tag is embellished on each side: Side One has a label indicating the seam shown on the other side (the first tag is the cover and has the title of the file—shown below). Side two has a sewn swatch of the seam technique.

Layer and arrange embellishment items on the tag until you have the look you want. Do this for both sides *before* securing anything so you can best determine how to attach the items and in what order.

Each tag has a key of some type incorporated into the design on either side one or two. This represents the fact that proper technique is the key to improving your sewing skills.

Some items are sewn onto the tag and others are glued. Still others are attached with a combination of both methods (two or more items are stitched together and then glued onto the tag). All sewing onto the tags is completed first and then remaining items are glued so the glued items will cover the stitching that shows through on the opposite side of the cardstock.

Take care to avoid sewing through a glued item as craft glue will stick to the needle and can damage the inner working of a sewing machine.

## Tag File Cover



*Side One*  
Label sewn to fabric swatch around the oval frame; glue used on the edges.

Sew button above title.

Position swatch on tag; stitch lace or trim along the lower edge, sewing through the card.

Tie a ribbon to the key and glue the key in place.

*Side Two*  
Sew list to swatch and glue swatch to tag.

Glue trim across the top of the swatch.

Glue letters across the lower edge of the list.



## Decorative Seam

This seam is used as a way to disguise the joining of two pieces of fabric, making the seam line invisible.

Place fabrics right sides together and stitch a plain seam using a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " - 1" seam allowance.

Press the seam to set the stitches and then press the seam open to reduce bulk.



Place stabilizer as needed to the wrong side of the fabric. One or two layers of tear-away can be used; some of the stabilizer will remain in the fabric because it will be difficult to remove all of it once the decorative stitches are sewn. If you want to have no stabilizer remaining, use a water soluble type and rinse it out after all stitching is complete.

Using an open or clear embroidery foot, sew stitches of your choice along each side of seam.

Select a "star" or "daisy" stitch and sew down the center—on the seam line where the first two rows of stitching meet.



Continue adding rows of stitching to each side of seam line as desired.

If you want to duplicate the stitches shown, look for these stitch graphics as the stitch numbers may vary from model to model.



## Tag Details

### Side One

Gather one edge of a sheer ribbon along one side and glue in place.

Scribble-stitch on a swatch of fabric (with batting behind it). Glue a charm to the swatch and then glue the swatch to the tag.

Glue label in place.

### Side Two

Glue torn paper/fiber (the red in the background) and then glue the swatch on top of it.

Sew the button in place.

Stitch the ribbon in place using a bar tack and then tie the key onto it.



## Fagoted Seam



Used as a method of joining two pieces of fabric in a decorative way; disguises the join, adding a “lacy” heirloom-type detail.



Sew wide satin stitch using Tailor Tack Foot #7 to create a “tunnel” of stitches on seam



Gently pull apart fabrics and press the seam open.



Sew a triple straight stitch down the center of threads using an open embroidery foot.



Sew stitches as desired on each side of seam using a clear or open embroidery foot.

## Tag Details



### Side One

*Note: Assemble side two first so that side one pieces cover stitches.*

Glue fabric swatch in place.

Layer corrugated paper over fabric and glue in place.

Add sticker in the lower corner and rub with ink pad.

Glue label in place.

Make two holes in the tag for button. Thread cord or yard through the holes in the button and then through the tag so they extend to the other side of the tag (a charm will be threaded onto the cord—see Side Two).

### Side Two

Add sticker in the upper corner and rub with ink pad.

Layer fabric swatch and technique swatch; lightly glue together.

Glue stacked swatches to the tag.

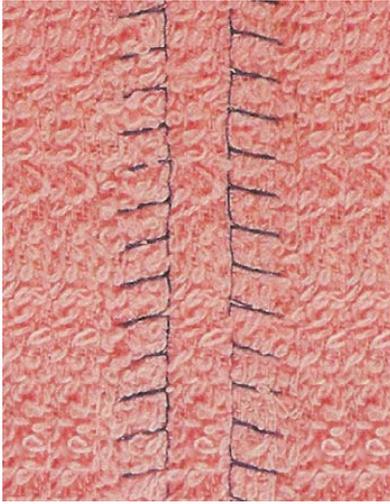
Sew buttons in place through the tag.

Glue key in lower right corner.

Thread charm onto cord or yarn coming from the other side (holding button). Tie the ends of the cord together.



## Flat Joining Seam



Flat, strong seam that reduces bulk; good for terrycloth, felt, and leather.

Trim away the seam allowance on *one* piece of fabric. *Optional: Mark the seam line on the remaining piece of fabric.*

Position the cut edge of the first fabric on the seam line of the second one.

Use the same thread in the needle and bobbin and an open embroidery foot.

Select the Stretch Overlock Stitch; adjust needle position to far right.



Position cut edge of fabric with inside right toe of presser foot; stitch. Repeat on the other side.

## Tag Details



*Side One*  
Assemble side two first so that side one pieces cover the back of the brads.

Glue fabric swatch in place.

Glue label in place.

Add sticker in the lower corner.

Attach cord at the center of the upper edge of the label (bar tack using the machine). Tie the cord into a bow & knot the ends.

Place a drop of glue on wrong side of the bar tack to secure it.

*Side Two*  
Attach twine at the lower left corner of the technique swatch using a bar tack. Thread the twine through a key and tie into a knot.

Secure the technique swatch to the tag in three corners using colored brads. Glue the lower left corner to the tag.



## Slot Seam



Tailored detail that adds texture and/or color to seam



Baste a plain seam and press it open. Adhere Wonder Tape to edges of seam allowances



Adhere a strip of fabric, right side down, to the Wonder Tape.



Topstitch through all layers on each side of the seam using the edge of the foot for spacing.

Remove the basting stitch to open the seam

## Tag Details



*Side One*  
Thread a silk ribbon through a key and tie it onto a decorative safety pin.

Attach the pin to the upper right corner of a fabric swatch. Glue fabric swatch to tag.

Pull the ribbon ends up to the upper left corner and bar tack a piece of narrow trim to the tag, securing the ribbon. Tie the trim into a bow.

*Note: The following steps should be done after the flowers and button are attached to the other side of tag.*  
Glue label in place (shown layered over a second piece of distressed paper). Add button stickers in lower right corner.

*Side Two*  
Fold back one edge of the seam and secure with a decorative safety pin.

Glue the swatch in place on the tag.

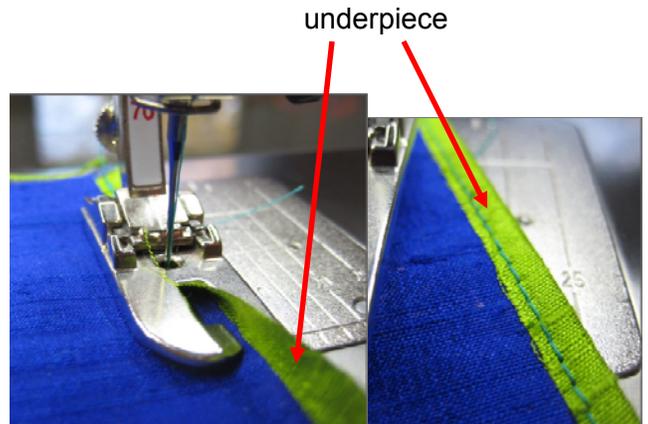
Layer two silk flowers and place a button in the center. Position on the lower right edge of the tag and sew the button in place through all of the layers. *Note: The flowers and button were attached before the label and stickers were applied to the opposite side.*



## Flat Felled Seam



Position fabric wrong sides together, offset by width of seam.



Feed extending edge into lapped seam foot and sew over the other edge

A strong, sturdy, lapped seam, the flat felled seam is finished on both sides and can be used for reversible projects. This seam is easy to sew using a lapped seam presser foot.

Curl fabric into the foot and sew the seam in place



### Seam Allowance Sizes

4mm seam (Foot #70) = Seam allowance cut size is  $\frac{3}{8}$ " total with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " for lapped piece and  $\frac{1}{8}$ " for underpiece. Finished size is  $\frac{1}{8}$ ".

8mm seam (Foot #71) = Seam allowance cut size is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " total with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " for lapped piece and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " for underpiece. Finished size is  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

## Tag Details



*Side One*  
Glue a piece of torn Mulberry paper to tag.

Stitch a length of rick rack trim to a length of pleated ribbon.

Glue the stitched trims to the tag on top of the Mulberry paper.

Glue label in place.

Sew a button onto the tag as shown.

Attach twine at the upper area of the tag using a bar tack. Tie into a bow, adding beads at each end,

*Side Two*  
Layer the technique swatch with a fabric swatch and stitch them together along one side using a medium zigzag stitch.

Glue the layered swatches to the tag.

Layer two silk flowers and place a button in the center. Slip a ribbon through a key and position the ends of the ribbon under the button. Sew the button in place through all of the layers.

Sew the button in place through all layers.

