7.1 Manufacture

You can tick a combination of types of manufacture, for example, a garment may have both hand and machine sewing.

In the notes field please explain the details of the manufacture, for example, where on the garment is the hand stitching and where is the machine stitching.

Look at the details of the garment’s manufacture. You can learn a lot by examining specific techniques and stitching, for example, you may discover the garment was made by the same seamstress as another item in your collection or that the seamstress was left-handed.

Different types of stitching found in garments

- Lockstitch machine
- Backstitch by hand
- Chainstitch by hand

Front of cloth
Back of cloth

Seam inspection on right side to identify stitching

- Machine stitched seam
- Hand stitched seam
Manufacturer’s label

Five photographs may be added here.

Manufacturer’s labels are of great importance, for example, they may show the street the seamstress worked on. As well as providing an image, write in the notes field exactly what text (note upper and lower case) and images are on the label.

Alterations

Describe any alterations made to the garment, including repairs. Check different threads used on seams. Note whether these stitches were done by hand or machine and whether they involve additional fabric.

Alterations lend interesting provenance information, for example, they could reveal a garment worn by several generations, mother to daughter, or adjustments to accommodate pregnancy, old age etc.