

## KEEPING YOUR SEAMS ELASTIC



### **Mara MCT is ideal for stretchable seams**

Elastic seams continue to prove a major challenge for fabric related manufacturers. The design, processing and machinery are dimensioned for fabrics which are not or are only slightly stretchable. With Mara MCT, Gütermann provides the optimum thread for elastic seams.

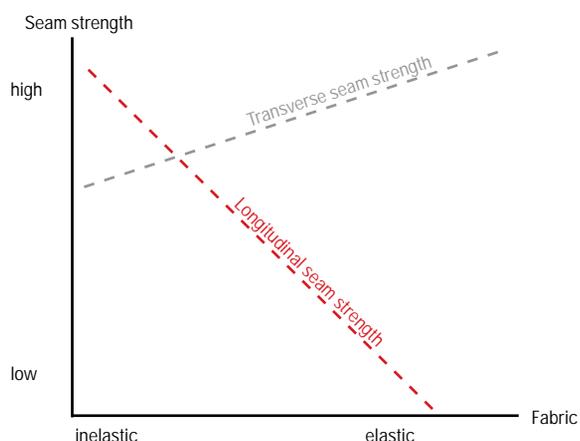
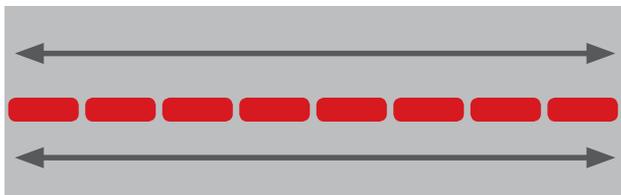
# How to make seams elastic

Customers want it, producers deliver it: comfortable fashion which sits comfortably because it is stretchable. These elastic outer fabrics challenge the conventional production processes. The decisive point is the longitudinal strength of the seams. In

order to avoid errors and therefore customer complaints, several things are to be observed – and the correct thread should be selected.

## The importance of the longitudinal seam strength

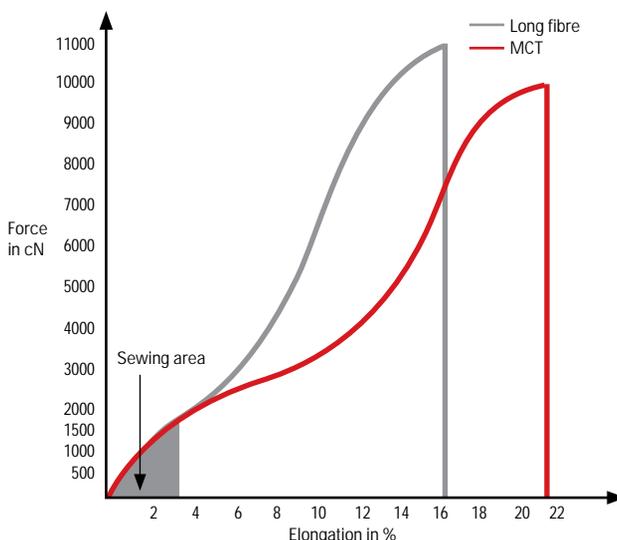
The longitudinal seam strength is the maximum strength in the direction of any seam. On non-elastic outer fabrics, this seam strength is of almost no consequence. On stretchable fabrics, this seam strength is extremely important. This creates a demand for the thread because the more elastic a fabric is, the less longitudinal seam strength it has. Here the strength of the seam at the expansion limit hardly contributes towards its robustness. With an optimally-adjusted stitch pattern, this approximately equals the double loop strength of the sewing thread. The solution to this problem can be found in the selection of the correct stitch type, the optimum thread interlacing, thread tension and density of stitching – and of course the selection of the correct thread.



The longitudinal seam strength decreases in proportion to the elasticity of the fabric.

## No problem using the Gütermann Mara MCT!

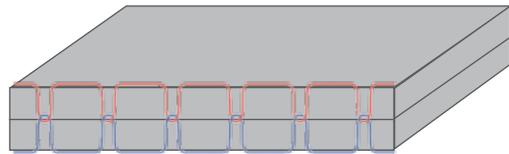
Thanks to Micro Core Technology, the Gütermann Mara MCT provides very special advantages which are significant for the production of elastic seams. Due to its highly even quality, the thread requires far less thread tension than a standard core-spun thread. The result is a higher reserve of thread in the seam, making it far more flexible, but the same processing qualities as standard corespun threads. In brief: Using Micro Core Technology, we have made this thread more elastic without changing its sewing behaviour. In this way, Mara MCT can be processed just as well as a long fibre thread and is yet far more resilient.



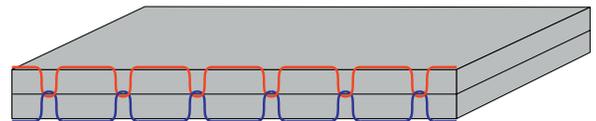
MCT and long fibre threads can be used for sewing equally well, yet Mara MCT is substantially more stretchable – and the seam is therefore more elastic and robust.

## Important – the correct setting

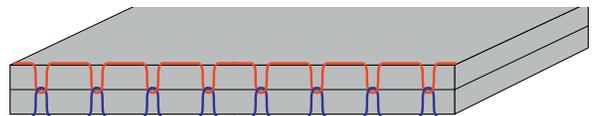
Ideally, the thread interlacing should be positioned in the centre of the workpiece for double lockstitch seams, so that the thread reserve for the upper and lower threads remain equally high and the forces can be distributed evenly. The resulting seam causes the thread to be placed under tension with a low thread reserve. Thread breakage will occur far more quickly and the seam is less elastic. If the thread tension is set too high, the low thread reserve would be reduced even further. To obtain an elastic lockstitch, the following rule applies: „As much thread tension as necessary, and as little as possible“! It is possible to achieve low tension values using the optimum sewing thread. Here, too, Mara MCT is far superior to standard sewing threads. The elasticity of the seam can also be increased easily and effectively by increasing the stitch density.



The optimum thread interlace lies in the middle of the sewing material.



Often, closing seams are closed with 3-4 stitches/cm.



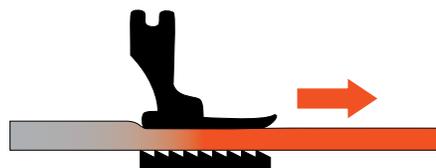
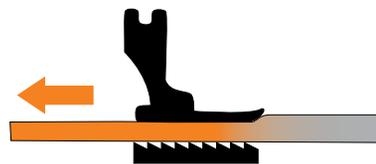
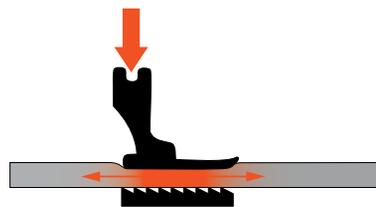
The optimum stitch density for elastic seams is 5-7 stitches/cm.

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## Clever tricks for experienced users

In addition to all these factors, there are numerous other tricks which help towards producing an attractive, elastic seam.

- The correct presser foot pressure: the higher the presser foot pressure, the more elastic the seam! As the stitch is formed, the sewing material is stretched and can therefore absorb a higher thread reserve. But be careful! Test this first on a fabric sample, otherwise layers may be displaced and damage may occur.
- Manual pulling: please do this very carefully – in particular when using stretchable sewing material. Here the thread reserve in the seam can be substantially increased. It is essential that you pull in moderation and absolutely evenly.
- Manual stretching: if the methods above do not work properly, you can stretch the sewing material evenly as you sew. For example, if the sewing material is stretched during sewing by approximately 15 %, the finished seam is also approximately 15 % more stretchable. However, your work must be very even.



The seam competence since 1864.



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