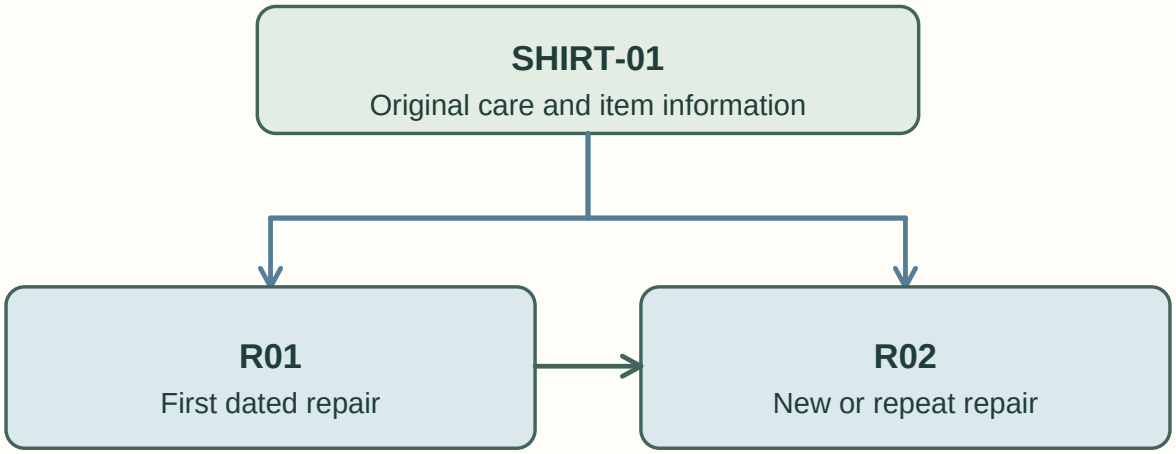
Track Repairs and Fabric Care

Keep an item history, not just a result



Link a subsequent event to its earlier record.

Do not overwrite previous observations.

Create a reusable repair log that keeps material, method, observations and care instructions together.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and repair records

Illustrative repair plans — not physical test results

Before you start

A short repair record makes the next repair easier: it helps distinguish repeated failure from a new defect and prevents care instructions from being forgotten. This guide creates a reusable log for ordinary adult garments and noncritical household textiles. It does not certify repair quality, replace professional records or set safety limits. Record what you actually did and saw, rather than treating blank fields as satisfactory results.

Materials

Paper or a notebook, pencil, ruler, optional camera, item care label, known repair material labels and the two printable record sheets. A folder or small envelope can hold a sample of spare thread or a photograph reference; do not attach sharp tools to records. Use ordinary private storage, and avoid recording unnecessary personal identifiers.

Plan the repair

Assign each item a stable simple ID, such as SHIRT-01, and each repair an event ID such as SHIRT-01/R01. Use one row or sheet per event, with date, location, original damage, method, material and care instructions, actual observations and next review. Example: R01 records a 30 mm seam gap, planned 10 mm overlaps, 50 mm worked span, matching thread, and pending post-wash observation. A later R02 is a new entry linked to R01, not an overwrite. Record actual care instructions from labels and the more restrictive compatible care if established; record UNKNOWN when they are not available and seek advice before uncertain treatment. Use statuses PLANNED, COMPLETED, OBSERVED, REVISE or REFER with dates; do not mark an unperformed check complete.

Steps 1–2

1. Select items worth tracking

Choose everyday clothing or noncritical textiles that you repair regularly, value, or want to preserve. Safety-critical equipment requires appropriate specialist records and procedures instead.

2. Assign a stable item ID

Use a short label such as SHIRT-01 or LINEN-02. Keep it in the log, not necessarily on the garment. Avoid changing it when the item gets a new repair.

Steps 3–4

3. Record original information

Copy the fibre and care label as actually stated and note any maker guidance. Mark UNKNOWN if a label is missing or illegible; do not infer care from a similar-looking item.

4. Record the problem

Describe the date, location, size, and observable condition of the damage. Record whether the surrounding cloth is sound or unknown. Sketch or photograph it if helpful without forcing the damaged area.

Steps 5–6

5. Give the repair an event ID

Start at R01 for the first logged repair and use R02, R03 and so on for later events on the same item. If the same repair fails again, link the new entry to the earlier event.

6. Write the planned method

Record whether you intend to reattach a seam, patch, darn, or refer it. Note expected dimensions or sound margins when relevant. Keep planned and completed values separate.

Steps 7–8

7. Record actual materials

Write the needle and thread type, colour, fabric source, grain and care instructions as known. Label spare material for future reference. Do not store pins or needles with paper records.

8. Record what was done

After the repair, note the actual worked area, method and any change from plan. The example seam has a 30 mm gap and two 10 mm overlaps, a planned 50 mm span; write the measured actual result separately.

Steps 9–10

9. Log the immediate observation

Note actual appearance, anchors, alignment, tool accounting and any gentle handling observation. Record defects or unknowns explicitly. Do not turn these observations into a load or strength rating.

10. Set the care instructions

Copy compatible wash, dry and pressing instructions or record unresolved conflicts. Use the more restrictive care only if compatible with all materials; when uncertain, defer and consult a suitable repairer.

Steps 11–12

11. Record ordinary care events

After a permitted routine care cycle, record date and actual method if relevant. Note observed changes in fraying, colour, shape or stitches. Leave the observation pending if no care cycle has occurred.

12. Set the next action

Choose COMPLETED, OBSERVED, REVISE or REFER as appropriate, with a date and reason. A completed repair may still need a follow-up; a referral is not a failed record.

Steps 13–14

13. Preserve the history

When a new tear or repeat failure occurs, add a fresh event and reference prior entries. Do not erase evidence of an earlier problem. Compare damage location and care history before repeating a method.

14. Review and simplify the log

Keep only useful facts, review open actions, and note when an item is retired or donated. Store logs privately with the item or in an indexed folder. Use them to inform ordinary repairs, not to certify performance.

Fix, care and preserve

Care label is missing

Write UNKNOWN and defer uncertain cleaning; do not copy another item’s care label.

A planned repair differs from the actual result

Record both separately with the reason for the change.

A repair fails again

Create a new dated event linked to the earlier entry and reassess the underlying cause.

Log fields are blank

Mark NOT CHECKED or UNKNOWN as appropriate; avoid treating omissions as successful observations.

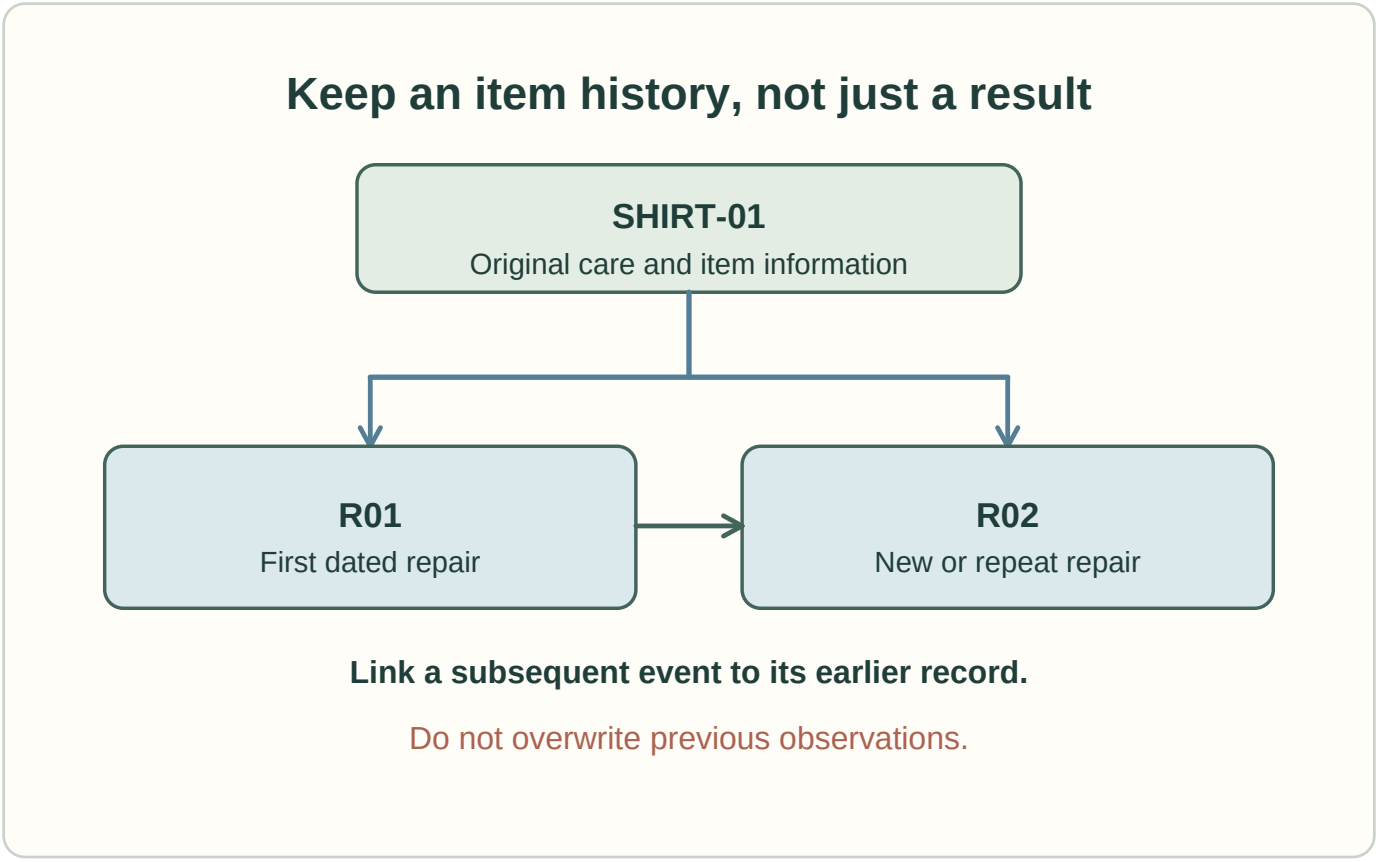
Originality and evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, design, artwork, diagrams and records. Follow actual item, material and tool instructions. No physical repair, durability, load, strength, washing or finish compatibility testing was performed by the publisher. Adult ordinary clothing mending only; no safety or performance certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. Measured schematics are not full-size cutting patterns. Record only actual observations.

Pattern 1

Item-to-event log diagram: one item ID links multiple dated repair event IDs. Retain original care record and append new events instead of overwriting. Example SHIRT-01 / R01 / R02.



Pattern 2

Example repair-log entry: 30 mm original gap; planned 10 mm sound overlap each end; 50 mm planned span. Actual worked span, material and later care observations have separate fields; pending checks are not passes.

Example log: plan is not proof

Original gap	30 mm
Planned sound overlap	10 mm each end
Planned worked span	50 mm
Actual span and thread	Record after repair
Later care observation	PENDING / actual result
Next action / date	Record separately

An unperformed check is not a pass.

Record 1 — Materials and repair plan

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Item ID / description

Original fibre / care label

Event ID / date / linked prior event

Location / original damage / measurements

Planned method / dimensions

Actual materials / thread / care

Actual worked span / method

Status / immediate observations

Record 2 — Finish and follow-up

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Event ID / follow-up date

Routine care actually performed

Shape / fray / colour / stitch observations

Comfort or ordinary function if checked

Unperformed checks / unknowns

Next action and reason

Linked subsequent repair ID

Date / next review / retired if applicable