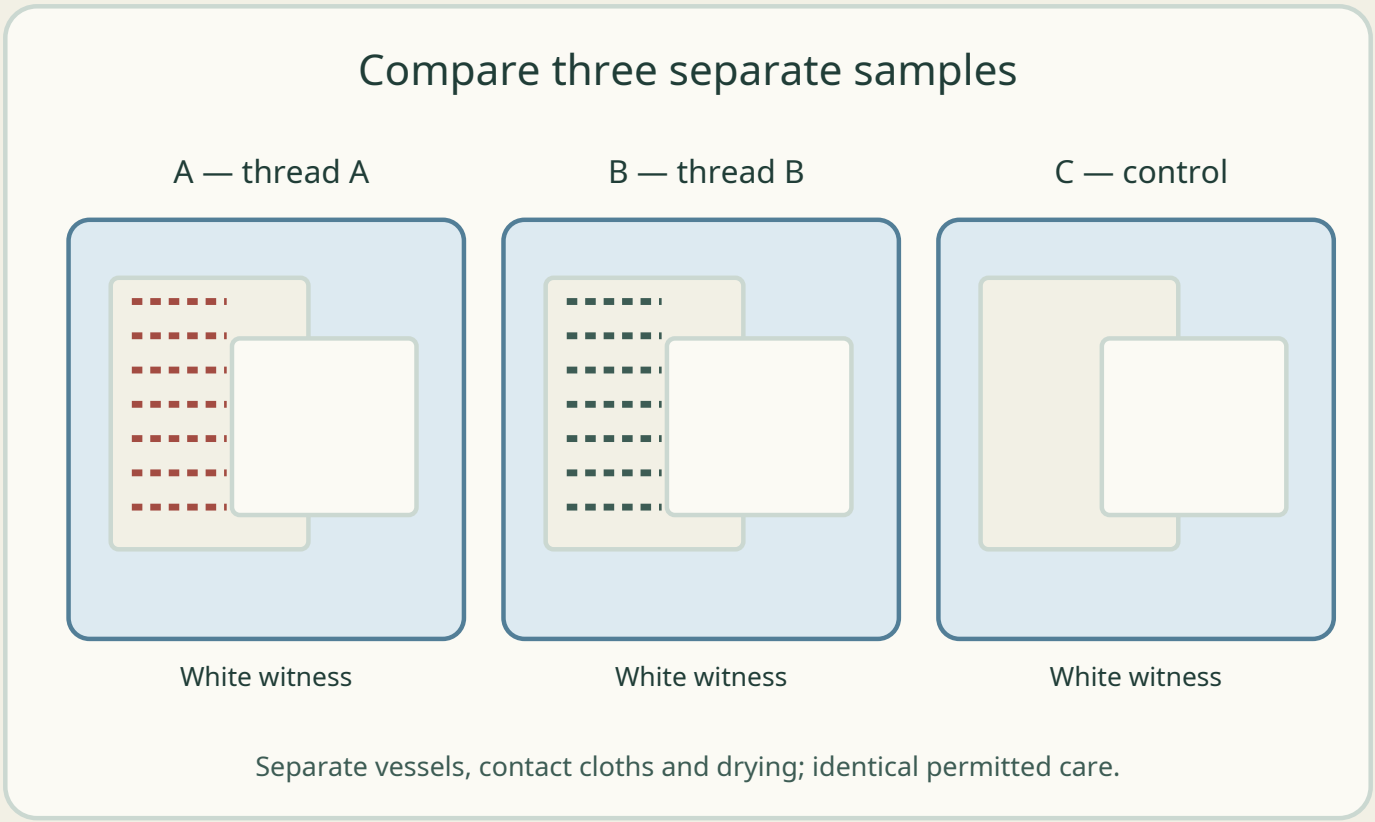
Choose Colorfast Thread for a Visible Repair



Compare candidate sewing threads on separate representative swatches and log observed colour transfer under permitted care without claiming certified colourfastness.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and repair records

Illustrative repair plans — not physical test results

Before you start

Contrasting thread may release dye onto a garment when wet or rubbed. A small household comparison can screen candidate materials, but cannot establish standardized colourfastness, long-term durability or a guarantee against staining. This is a material selection worksheet for ordinary washable adult woven clothing and non-technical textiles, using spare samples only. Never experiment on a treasured, dry-clean-only or damaged garment. Unknown care requirements or inaccessible representative materials call for advice or a less risky choice.

Materials

Thread candidates A and B with labels, spare cloth representative of the garment and patch, clean undyed white cotton witness cloths, labelled separate clean containers, ruler, pencil, suitable needle and the detergent and water temperature permitted by every relevant care instruction. Separate dry and damp witness cloths. Keep all samples away from the actual garment.

Plan the repair

Compare the labelled care instructions before any wet work. Prepare separate representative stitched samples A and B with comparable cloth and stitch coverage, and an otherwise similar unstitched control C. For each sample use separate clean water and a separate white witness cloth in contact with it during an identical, permitted gentle care process; do not mix samples or intentionally expose the garment to dye. Record the actual process and examine both witness cloth and original sample after permitted drying under the same lighting. A distinct colour change or transfer suggests avoiding that candidate. An unchanged witness cloth only means no transfer was observed under those particular conditions. Optional separate dry or damp gentle contact/rubbing comparisons on scrap may reveal transfer; they are not standardized crocking tests.

Steps 1–2

1. Read the garment care instructions

Record fibre, wash method, permitted temperature, drying and detergent restrictions. If the label is missing or does not allow the proposed method, do not perform a wet comparison for this garment.

2. Select candidate threads

Record maker, colour identifier and fibre where known for A and B. Compare thickness and softness; dye behaviour is only one aspect of compatibility.

Steps 3–4

3. Check shared permitted care

Compare all labels including the patch and witness cloth. Choose a common permitted method relevant to the garment. If no common method is known, record NOT CHECKED and choose a safer alternative or refer.

4. Prepare representative scraps

Use comparable spare cloth for each candidate, preferably from the same material and colour lot. Do not cut a sample from sound original clothing. Use similarly sized samples and keep labels attached to their containers rather than the wet fabric.

Steps 5–6

5. Make stitched samples and a control

Use the same approximate stitch count and length for A and B. Prepare a similar unstitched cloth C to reveal any base-fabric dye transfer. Label three fresh undyed white witness cloths separately.

6. Record initial appearance

Lay samples and witness cloths in diffuse neutral light. Note starting colour, existing marks and texture. Keep a written record or unfiltered photograph with a consistent neutral reference.

Steps 7–8

7. Prepare isolated containers

Use separate clean vessels for A, B and C, the same permitted water conditions and detergent if specified. Place each witness cloth in contact with its corresponding sample during the comparison. Never combine baths.

8. Follow the permitted method

Use the chosen gentle care method consistently for the separate samples. Record water temperature if measured, detergent and approximate duration actually used. Do not accelerate by boiling, bleaching or aggressive rubbing.

Steps 9–10

9. Rinse and dry separately

Follow applicable instructions, using fresh separate water as required and keeping the witness cloth associated with its sample. Dry samples separately as permitted, away from the garment. Do not use direct heat unless allowed.

10. Observe possible transfer

After drying, compare each witness cloth to its initial state and the control under similar light. Record NONE OBSERVED, VISIBLE TRANSFER or UNCERTAIN; describe colour and location. A stained control suggests base cloth transfer and limits attribution to thread.

Steps 11–12

11. Consider separate contact comparisons

If appropriate, gently pass a fresh white dry cloth across a spare sample, then use a different damp cloth only if permitted. Use separate samples and record contact conditions. Do not claim a standard rubbing test or reuse stained cloths.

12. Choose the least risky candidate

Reject a candidate with observed transfer or incompatible texture or care. If the control transfers dye or the comparison is uncertain, avoid high-contrast combinations and seek material-specific advice. No observation guarantees future performance.

Steps 13–14

13. Retain the log

Record all conditions, changes and limitations, including NOT CHECKED for any skipped procedure. Keep sample identities and photos with the log; do not report hypothetical outcomes as actual results.

14. Review later ordinary care

If an appropriate mend is made separately, follow the actual garment care instructions and monitor ordinary wear. Stop using the new thread if transfer appears and seek suitable care advice rather than repeating experimental treatments on the garment.

Fix, care and preserve

A white witness cloth shows colour

Record the actual transfer and avoid the implicated candidate. If the control also changes, the cloth may contribute dye; do not attribute everything to thread.

The two samples were washed together

The comparison cannot reliably distinguish the source of transfer. Use fresh separate representative samples if permitted; mark the mixed comparison inconclusive.

The care labels conflict

Do not choose a more aggressive method to force a result. Select compatible materials or refer, recording NOT CHECKED.

No colour transfer is visible

Report only no transfer observed under the recorded conditions. Do not label the thread certified colourfast or promise no future staining.

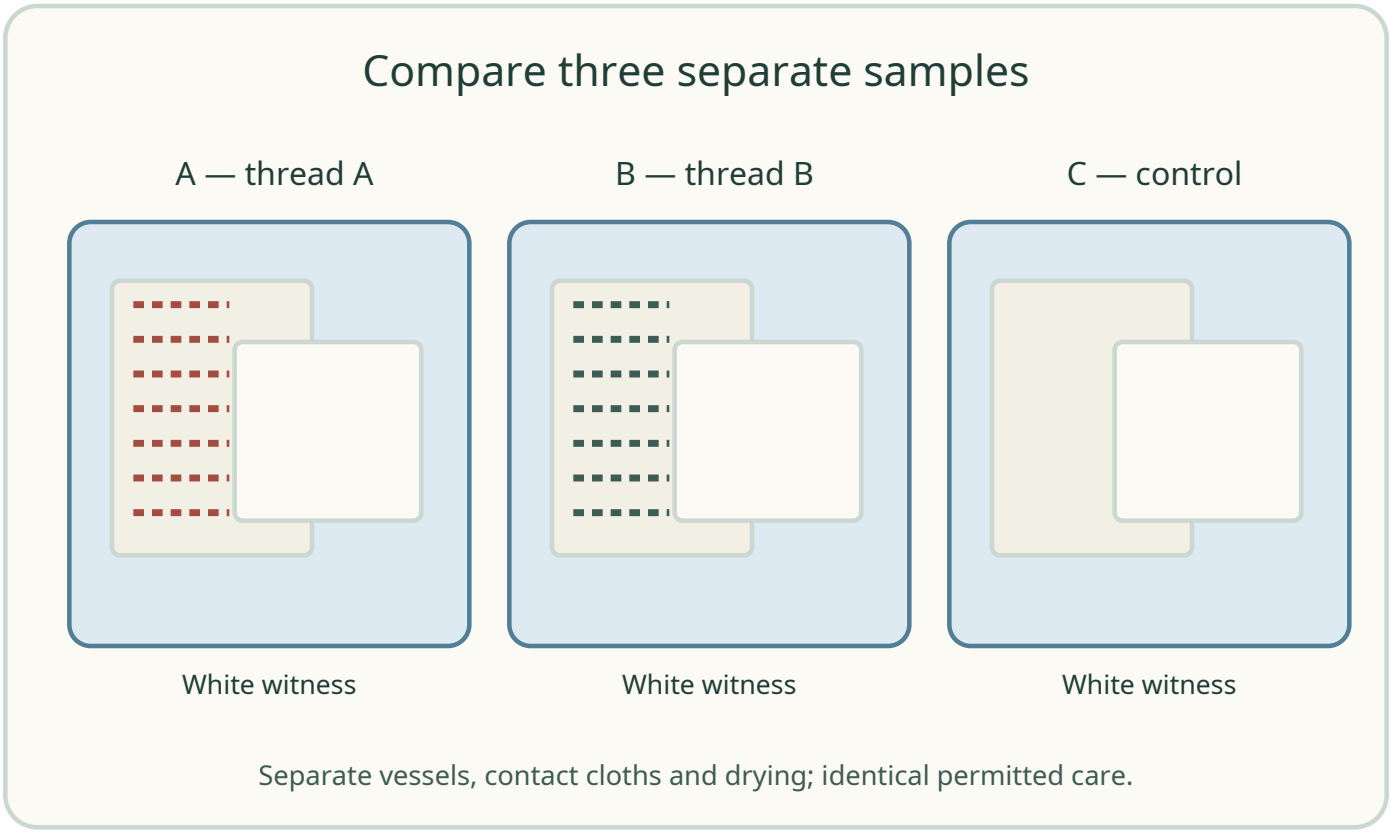
Originality and evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, design, diagrams and records. Follow the actual item, textile and tool instructions. No physical repair, durability, load, strength, washing, flame-resistance or compatibility testing was performed by the publisher. Ordinary adult garments and non-technical household textiles only; no safety or performance certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. Schematics are illustrative, not full-size cutting patterns. Record only actual observations.

Pattern 1

Wash-comparison setup: three individually labelled vessels with sample A, sample B and unstitched control C; each has its own fresh undyed white witness cloth touching the sample. Keep baths and drying separate and use identical common permitted care conditions. Schematic, not an accredited test method.



Pattern 2

Colour transfer log: separate columns A, B and control C for before and after observations, actual care method, visible transfer and uncertainty. Add optional dry and damp contact observation fields using separate witness cloths. NONE OBSERVED is limited to this comparison, not proof of colourfastness.

Record colour transfer, not certification

Observation	A	B	C
Initial appearance			
After permitted care			
Witness transfer / colour			
Control contribution			
Dry contact (optional)			
Damp contact (optional)			
Decision / uncertainty			

NONE OBSERVED applies only to the recorded comparison.

Record 1 — Materials and repair plan

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

Garment / patch care and fibre

Thread A / B identifier and labels

Common permitted method or unknown

Representative sample and control

Witness cloth identifiers

Initial colour / lighting reference

Actual care plan / detergent

Decision: compare / not checked / refer

Record 2 — Finish and follow-up

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

Actual water / duration / care

A witness cloth and sample result

B witness cloth and sample result

Control cloth result

Optional dry/damp contact results

Interpretation and limitations

Selected candidate / defer / reject

Date / follow-up