Hand Sewing Stitches

Backstitch - strong, versatile stitch used for seams, topstitching, handpicked zippers

Even Backstitch

Half-Backstitch

Pickstitch

Prickstitch

Basting - used to temporarily hold together two or more fabrics

Even Basting

Uneven Basting

Diagonal Basting

Blanket Stitch - decorative edging

Buttonhole Stitch
Chainstitch - decorative stitch worked right to left

Cross Stitch - decorative stitch worked top to bottom and back up to top

Fagoting Stitch - decorative stitch

Featherstitch - decorative stitch

Hemming Stitches
Slant Hemming Stitch

Vertical Hemming Stitch

Uneven Slipstitch

Catchstitch

Blind-Hem Stitch

Blind Catchstitch

Overcast Stitch

Overhand Stitch

Padding Stitches - used in tailoring to hold interfacing to outer fabric

Running Stitches - short, even stitches used for seaming, tucking, mending, and gathering
Slipstitch - nearly invisible stitch

Even Slipstitch

Uneven Slipstitch

Tailor Tacks - used to transfer pattern marking to fabric

Whipstitch - overhand stitch used to join two finished edges

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Hand Stitches

Running Stitch
Perhaps the simplest of stitches, the thread runs straight through the fabric without doubling back on itself. Used to join fabric for gathering and mending.

Basting Stitch
Similar to a running stitch with very long stitches. Used as a flexible alternative for pinning and for gathering, it can be pulled out easily.
**Back Stitch**

A strong stitch, the back stitch is formed by pulling the needle through the fabric, then doubling it back on itself. The needle emerges beyond the stitch just made, and doubles back again for the next stitch.

**Whip Stitch**

A basic over-and-over stitch, can be used to form a hem or seam.

**Overcast Stitch**

Basically, a whip stitch on the raw edge of fabric, used to finish the edges neatly and prevent fraying.
Bar Tack

A bar tack provides reinforcement at one or both ends of a button hole or other opening. Make a bar tack by taking three or four tight vertical stitches across the end of the buttonhole, the width of the buttonhole and buttonhole stitches combined.

Cross stitch
a.k.a. Catch stitch

Used to finish a hem or tack facings. The thread catches a thread or two on the hem, then on the garment, crossing itself on each half stitch. Creates a flexible hem with some give.

Blanket Stitch

The thread passes under itself on each stitch (forming a half-hitch), binding the edge of the fabric.
Slipstitch  
a.k.a. Blind Hem

A stitch that is almost invisible from the both sides. The needle passes inside the fold of the hem, then emerges to catch one or two threads, then back into the folded hem for the next stitch.

Swing Tack

A stitch that connects two pieces of a garment while still allowing movement between them. The thread is tacked to one piece of fabric, then a chain knot is made with the thread, similar to a crochet chain. The needle is passed through the last loop of the chain knot to lock it, and that end is then tacked to the other piece of fabric.

Vertical Hem Stitch  
a.k.a. Couch Stitch

A stitch that is nearly invisible from the front side. The needle catches two threads in the garment, then passes behind the folded hem to emerge for the next stitch. It then rises vertically to catch two threads in the garment for the next stitch.