



Simple Serger Bow

Bows can be just about any size. For a traditional bow, cut fabric strip any width and at least five times the desired width of bow. Cut a rectangle for the knot in the center twice the width and three times the length of the desired “knot” in the center.

Set the serger up for a three thread or two thread rolled hem and test the stitch on a sample of fabric. Keep the following in mind when stitching a rolled hem:

- Use the two thread rolled hem stitch and a lightweight thread for delicate or softer fabrics.
- Sergers can easily stitch with heavier threads than sewing machine, but these threads usually look clunky in a rolled hem. Try using a lightweight thread for this stitch. In a three thread rolled hem, the upper looper is the thread that shows. The lower looper thread will be nearly invisible on the back side of the stitch. If you want a thicker edge, use a standard three thread wide or narrow and shorten the stitch length.
- When serging, use the cutting blade and always trim a bit of fabric when stitching. The typical width setting on a BabyLock serger for a rolled hem is M. (M stands for “merrow”. See the text box for some sewing trivia.) Some lightweight or loosely woven fabrics will not hold a rolled edge and it will pull away. If the hem pulls away from the edge on the sample, increase the cutting width to roll more fabric into the hem.
- Use the differential feed if the test sample ripples or if ripples are a desired effect. Increase (plus) the setting to reduce edge distortion and decrease (minus) the setting for a lettuce edge.
- Baby Lock sergers with the wave feature will create a two color wave rolled hem.
- The ends of cross threads escaping and poking out of the hem happens sometimes with a fabric that is not cut on the absolute straight of grain or when serging around a curve. I call them pokies. Eliminate pokies in a serged rolled edge with Floriani Heat N Gone stabilizer. Cut 1/2” strips of stabilizer and place this along the edge as shown in the photo. This stabilizer will hold the threads in the hem and will not wash away during the life of the garment. After stitching, carefully pull away the excess stabilizer and press following directions on the package. The stabilizer in the hem is protected enough from the heat to remain in the hem and as an added bonus gives body to the edge.
- Add dimension to a bow by including fishing line or wire in the rolled hem. On BabyLock sergers use the optional Elastic foot to easily cover either within the thread. The Elastic foot has an opening and a channel underneath the foot to place the wire or fishing line perfectly.

Merrow is the very well known Brand of industrial, high speed machine that gives you an impeccably ROLLED HEM (like ruffles on a wedding dress) or ROLLED EDGE (like a dinner napkin).



Serge a rolled hem on one long edge of the fabric. In the video the fabric measured 2" x 20". Look carefully at the rolled hem to find the right and wrong side. The right side is the side up as you stitch. Fold the serged edge under wrong sides together to create a point at the beginning and end of the fabric as shown in the photo. The stitching will trim and cover the beginning and end of the rolled edge on first side. If you are inserting wire or fishing line in the rolled edge, pull a small amount away from the edge before sewing.



Serge for a 2 to 3 inches without fabric to create a thread tail. A longer tail, will be easier to bury later. Place a piece of Floriani Heat N Gone stabilizer under the needle of the serger. This will help the sharp point flow under the needle at the start of the stitching. Use a piece at the end of the edge as well. Serge slowly when sewing over the first rolled hem. This is a lot of extra stuff to roll into the narrow hem and will usually create a little bump. If a perfect edge is needed, carefully remove the thread from the previous seam just enough to roll under and dab with a small drop of seam sealant. Stitch off the end with another long thread tail and Heat N Gone.



Bury the thread tails with a sharp pointed large eyed needle. Thread the thread tail through the eye of the needle. Pass the needle into the stitch as shown in the photo just two or three stitches in from the point and into the fold of the point. Pull the thread tail until just a bit of the point pulls through. Apply a tiny, tiny drop of seam sealant to the tip of the point. Trim the thread tail inside the point.

Fold the fabric in half and decide where the bow tails will be. Place a temporary pin and open bow out to check placement. When you have found the sweet spot, stitch across fabric to hold the tails and loops in place. Create the knot by folding the rectangle right sides together along the long edge. Convert the serger to a three thread narrow seam and serge a tail longer than the length of the rectangle. Pull the thread tail forward and lay in the fold of the rectangle. Seam the edge. Pull the rectangle to the right side using the thread tail to pull through the tube. Fold the bow and wrap the knot around the center with the raw edges in the back. Seam the raw edges of the knot with the three thread seam or stitch by hand. I like to attach the bow with a safety pin for ease in washing garment, but it can be attached by hand or even by machine stitching on either side of knot through bow fabrics.



ACCESSORY FEET FOR BABYLOCK SERGERS

The Elastic foot for BabyLock sergers has a special opening for wire or fishing line. Choose the foot that fits your 4 thread or 8 thread serger. The item number for the foot that fits any BabyLock four thread serger is BLE-EF shown on pink and the foot that fits any BabyLock eight thread serger is BLE8-EF shown on green.



The Ruffling foot for BabyLock sergers has a special configuration to help the machine gather more effectively. It also enables the machine to gather and sew to a flat piece of fabric at the same time by sliding flat piece into slot. (See red arrow on image.) Choose the foot that fits your 4 thread shown on pink or your 8 thread serger shown on green.

We didn't use the foot on this project because we wanted to control the amount of gathered ruffle and where it was placed. To super gather the ruffle sew a four thread with the differential feed all the way to setting 2 and the longest stitch length. After serging, pull on the right needle thread to create more ruffle just as you would with a straight stitch sewn with a sewing machine.



McCALL PRINTED PATTERN No. 1279 7 Pieces and 1 Transfer Traduction Française sur le patron. La Traducción en Español en el patrón.

MATERIAL REQUIRED		ONE SIZE
VIEW A—		
35" Material (Without nap)	1 1/4 yds	
39 or 42" Material (Without nap)	1 "	
Rick-Rack Braid Trimming	5 1/2 "	
VIEW B—		
35" Material (Without nap)	1 "	
39" " " "	3/8 "	
42" " " "	3/4 "	
2" Wide Ribbon For Bows	1 1/4 "	
VIEW C—		
35, 39 or 42" Material	3/4 "	
Embroidery Edging	3 1/2 "	
VIEW A or C—Embroidery		
One Skein of Six-Strand Cotton		

Including CUT AND SEW GUIDE

- I Cutting layouts for this size
- II Assembling, sewing and finishing details
- III General directions



