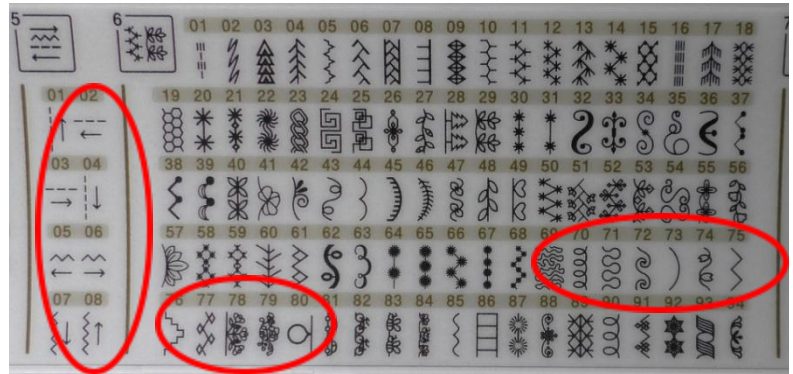


Introduction

Sewing sideways? Technically a sewing machine with this feature has “lateral feed”. The Baby Lock Vesta can not only sew a straight stitch and a zig zag stitch to the left and right of the needle, but can use this feature to create really large decorative stitches. Use some of these built in stitches to quilt, sew a patch in a hard-to-reach area and make a Madeira Hem. Follow these instructions to create a Madeira Hem.



Supplies

- Fabric that **is not suitable** for this technique is fabric that easily ravel. The fabric will be moistened with water, so it must be a washable fabric.
- All Purpose thread
- Wash Away thread wound on bobbin. Clearly mark the bobbin as wound with wash away thread.
- Thread for Appliqué to match fabric
- Sharp scissors for trimming
- Best Press 2
- Iron and padded Ironing surface

Instructions

The Madeira hem is a shaped hem. The fabric is appliquéd to the base fabric and has a turned under edge. This technique is traditionally used for hems on heirloom garments, but also can be applied to linens and quilt borders.

Prepare the Appliqué Fabric

Cut the fabric that will be the appliqué the length of the hem plus 3-4" and at least 1" wider than the finished hem and the size of the decorative stitch selected. Press the fabric well and add body with Best Press 2. Fold the fabric right sides together with raw edges even. Fold in the middle on the short edge. (The strip will be the width of the strip and one half the length.) If the strip is extra wide, use a wash away or heat away pen to draw a reference line to aid in stitching straight.

Set Up the Machine and Stitch the Wide Stitch

Thread the machine with all purpose thread through the needle and the wash away thread in the bobbin. Select an extra wide stitch. Stitch #75 is used in the photos on the right. To determine where the stitch will begin, magnify the stitch and check where the stitch will start in relation to the strip. Remember that the stitch can be mirror-imaged if necessary. If you are unsure, stitch a sample and note where the stitch begins. Start stitching right at the fold and continue the length of the fabric. The machine will move the fabric from side to side. While the fabric is feeding under the needle, keep the edges parallel to the foot or reference line to keep the stitch going straight.

Turn the Appliqué Edge Under

Trim the fabric close to the stitching and clip into any corners. Turn the appliqué fabric right side out. Push the corners out and even up the edges. Press very well with a **dry iron**. This is the time to take extra care to make the points or curves of the fabric look just like the stitch. Lay the fabric on the padded pressing surface and spray along the seam line with Best Press 2. Allow the moisture to penetrate the fabric by letting the fabric sit on the ironing surface for a few minutes. Press the piece again with the iron to dry out the fabric. Press well to set the fold of the fabric. Test to see that the wash away thread has dissolved and the fabric pulls apart. If the thread has not dissolved, repeat moistening fabric and pressing. Pull the fabric apart, press well again and adjust any edges. Place the appliqué on the base fabric and pin in place. Use a lightweight tearaway stabilizer on the back to keep the stitching flat.



Appliqué the Fabric

On the Baby Lock Vesta, select stitch #2-04 and adjust the stitch length to 2.0 mm and the width to 1.4 mm. Use the mirror image function to stitch with the appliqué on the left side of the needle. This stitch can also be shifted using the L/R Shift key and entered into the memory of the machine for easy retrieval. The Pivot feature is a real time saver while stitching. With the Pivot feature engaged, the needle will stay in the fabric and the presser foot will lift to allow for easily turning corners.

Where Are the Screens?

To visualize the size of large decorative stitches, go to the screen that looks like a piece of paper as shown below. Use the arrow to see the entire stitch. Note on the screen where the stitch will begin. Place the fabric under the needle of the machine at that location.

To adjust the stitch settings, touch the icon in the lower right corner to access the screen.

Many times it is important to start the decorative stitch at the beginning, such as when quilting a block and knowing where to place the fabric. The icon with the needle-star-heart-star (red circle below) will take the stitch to the starting point of the stitch.

