
Supplies

- Serger and All Purpose Thread
- Wash Away Thread
- Stretch Bulk Thread by Madiera
- Décor 12 wt. Thread by Madiera
- Paperbacked Fusible Web
- Wash Away Tape
- Serger Feet and Attachments
- Clear Foot (BLE8-CLF)
- Blindhem Foot (BLE8-
- Seam Guide (BLE8-FG)
- Iron

Instructions

A few minutes of preparation can make serging more successful and result in a more professional finish. Use a sewing machine to baste along the fold for simpler placement on a serger blind hem and control the seams when creating a vent in a hem. Use fusible web and wash away tape to secure the hem before sewing and provide stability when sewing. Additionally, specialty serger feet and accessories control fabric and allow a clear view when matching hemstitching.

Use the different variations of the Cover and Chain stitch in combination to create different more interesting hems. Both sides of each stitch creates a different look. Use different threads such as 12 wt. thread to create additional interest.

Cover Stitch Success

The Cover stitch is stitched from the top side of the fabric creating a stitch with 2 or 3 lines of stitching and a wide area of stitching on the back side covering the raw edge. Prepare the fabric and set up the machine to cover the raw edge.

Cut paperback fusible web the width of the finished hem. Fuse the web to the wrong side of the fabric aligning with the raw edge. The tape need not completely fill the hem. Before removing the paper, turn the hem up and use the paper edge to iron a crisp hem. Remove the tape and press the hem in place. Install the hem guide on the machine and adjust.

When hemming an item "in the round", use the clear foot and place the item under the foot. The stitch may un-form when placing the item under the foot, but will reform when beginning to stitch.

Overlap the beginning stitching by 1" using the clear foot to place the stitches directly on top of the earlier stitches. To remove the stitching and pull the top threads to the rear of the work, stop the machine with the needles in the highest position and raise the foot. Swipe under the foot with a stiletto and pull the threads toward the front. Clip the top threads and remove the work from under the foot with a quick motion towards the rear of the machine to pull the threads to the back. Tie the threads together and bury the threads.



Turn a Corner with Cover Stitch

Prepare the corner for stitching success by basting the side seam and pressing.


Fold the corner to determine the side seam and bottom hem. Re-fold to the wrong side and turn down a very small (1/4") amount. See the photo as a reference. Using a sewing machine stitch the side seam. Clip the bottom corner in the seam to reduce bulk. Turn the hem to the right side. Clip the small fold at the raw edge of the side seam to release the fold. It will lay flat for hemming and the fold will remain along the seam. Press well. See photo for reference.

On the right side, mark the point where the raw edges meet using a removable pen or chalk.

Place the item under the needle to cover the raw edge on the back of the work. Stitch until the closest needle (pivot needle) reaches the mark. Stop the machine with the needle just above the fabric, raise the foot and turn the fabric. Gently release a very small amount of thread above the eye on the non-pivoting needle. If necessary, pull the thread up from the back of the machine on the pivot needle. Lower the foot and continue to stitch.

Using a hand sewing needle and matching thread, tack down the loose thread with a few stitches.





Cover Stitch with Wash Away Tape for Delicate Fabrics

For very delicate or stretchy fabrics use wash away tape to secure the hem.

Place the sticky side of tape on the hem. Be careful to keep the fabric flat.

Remove the paper to expose the second sticky side. Fold up the hem and press in place.

Stitch the hem using the seam guide to keep the hem placed while stitching. The wash away tape will support the stitching and reduce stretching the hem out of shape. If the hem still stretches, engage the differential feed by moving the lever up a “click” or two.

Use finer thread for a more delicate hem. Stretch bulk thread can also be used for more substantial fabrics.

