## BabyLock Serger Jewelry

Use your BabyLock serger to create fancy cording to use in making almost any type of jewelry. BabyLock sergers with the Automatic Thread Delivery system are perfect for creating thread cords and covering cording because they don't rely on a tensioning system. The perfect amount of thread is delivered every time regardless of the type of thread used. So grab some fun threads and let's get started!


## CREATE CORDING WITH THE OVERLOCK STITCH

Thread the machine for the Overlock Stitch wide according to the Quick Reference Guide. Thicker threads can be used in both the upper and Lower Loopers. Threads up to 12 wt . can be used in the needle if a size 90 EL705CF needle is used. The serger will form a perfect overlock stitch without fabric.

- Multiple threads can be used in the looper to get the thickness of a decorative serger thread. Thread should flow freely through the looper and the heaviest thread appropriate for this technique is a size \#7 or \#8. For example, one strand of Glamour \#8 (a metallic serger thread) is equivalent to using two 12wt. threads or five 30-40wt. threads.
- Treat the multiple threads as one through the thread path. Use a thread cradle to thread the serger when using thicker or multiple strands. A thread cradle is a $20-24$ " piece of 30-40 wt. thread folded in half. Insert the two cut ends into the threading port and thread the serger while holding on to the loop at the other end. Insert the larger or multiple threads into the loop and pull them through.
- Make sure when using multiple threads in the looper that they can all flow freely and not get hung up. Use a thread stand or cup to control the thread and periodically check that they are not tangled.
- Stitch at a slow to moderate speed when using multiple threads in the looper.
- Always use a single thread in the needle.



## COVER CORDING OR FISHING LINE WITH THE OVERLOCK STITCH

Use the Overlock Stitch and the Beading Foot (left) for larger cord and the Elastic Foot (right) for small cord such as fishing line. These feet are available for 4 thread and 8 thread BabyLock sergers, but they are not interchangeable between models. Make sure you purchase the foot that fits your machine.

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-Treat the multiple threads as one through the thread path. Use a thread cradle to thread the serger when using thicker or multiple strands. A thread cradle is a 20-24" piece of $30-40 \mathrm{wt}$. thread folded in half. Insert the two cut ends into the threading port and thread the serger while holding on to the loop at the other end. Insert the larger or multiple threads into the loop and pull them through.

- Make sure when using multiple threads in the looper that they can all flow freely and not get hung up. Use a thread stand or cup to control the thread and periodically check that they are not tangled.
- Stitch at a slow to moderate speed when using multiple threads in the looper.
- When using the Beading foot, only use the needle in the $\mathbf{O 2}$ or right needle position. There is a hole in the foot in case the left or O 1 needle is inserted into position to avoid a needle break, but the needle in that position can not be used with this foot.
- Always use a single thread in the needle.
- The amount of thread covering is controlled by the $A, B, C \& D$ lever on the side of the machine. Each setting allows for a different amount of thread released to the stitch. Select the A setting for the largest cording and the D setting for the smallest cord such as fishing line.
- The A setting is the most amount of thread delivered to the stitch and should be used for larger cord. The cord should fit easily in the slot on the foot.
- The B setting is a smaller amount of thread and should be used for medium cord.
- The C setting is used for smaller cord. It is a balanced stitch and there will be an equal amount of thread on the top and bottom of the stitch.
- The D setting is commonly used for a rolled hem. The lower looper thread is nearly invisible on the bottom of the stitch.

- Lock or dis-engage the cutting blade.
- The cutting width dial affects the stitching even if the blade is not engaged. Use a wider setting to release more thread to the stitch and a smaller "width" for the smallest cord. When stitching using the D setting for example, put the width to the M setting as recommended for the Rolled Hem.
- The feed dogs of the serger will not be able to pull the cord through because there is nothing for them to work against. Lay the cord in the slot, take a few stitches by hand and then gently pull the cord from behind the foot. You are the "stitch length". Depending on the speed of the machine, it is a very, very gentle pull.
- Lay larger cord in the slot along the right side of the Beading foot. Keep the cord to the right of the needle.
- Insert very small cord or fishing line in the two slots and the groove on the underside of the of the Elastic Foot for perfect placement.



## INSERT BEADS TO COVERED FISHING LINE

Beads or charms can be included when covering fishing line with thread. Use the standard presser foot and not the elastic foot for this technique.

- Pre-thread the beads onto the fishing line prior to stitching.
- Allow more fishing line than the finished project requirements. A "15\# test" of fishing line is a good weight for most projects.
- Choose beads or embellishments in a medium to small size as the fishing line will show on larger objects.
- Cover the fishing line as described in the Covering Cord with the Overlock Stitch section above. Use the D setting, M width and Rolled Hem setting.
- When time to insert a bead, stop the serger with the needle up. Lift the presser foot and slide the bead on a loop under and to the back of the foot. Make sure the fishing line is behind and to the right side of the needle. Lower the presser foot and continue stitching.
- After a few stitches, stop and pull the fishing line to set the bead next to the stitching.
- Control the distance between the beads by counting time between setting beads. To set beads closely, two loops can be placed with a few stitches in between before pulling the fishing line. Pull the fishing line to set the bead as you create the cord instead of waiting till the end. Trust me, it's easier that way.



## SOME PROJECTS TO TRY...

## NECKLACE OR BRACELET

Decorative thread
Scrap of fabric
Elastic foot or Beading Foot depending on size of cord Jewelry findings
Small pliers
E6000 glue
Set up serger for Overlock stitch and a stitch length of 4. The stitch length really doesn't matter, but the feed dogs will work less at this setting.

Needle(s): use one of the following

- Sewing, Embroidery or Serger thread 30 to 40 wt. with size 80 serger needles
- Decorative Thread 12 wt. thread in size 90 serger needles.

Upper and Lower looper: use one of the following

- Serger thread such as Glamour \#8
- Decorative thread 12 wt. two strands threaded together
- Decorative thread 30 or 40 wt. three to five strands threaded together

Start the Overlock wide stitch on a scrap piece of fabric to check the stitch. Stitch off the fabric and stitch in the air to create the length of chain needed for project. Keep chain clear of back of foot by gently supporting thread. Do not pull on the thread chain. Some threads flow better than others. If a thread consistently breaks or hangs up, substitute a different thread. Stitch at a very moderate and consistent speed. Tie end of chain in an overhand knot until ready to use.

End of chain can be sealed off with seam sealant. Place a drop about $1 / 4$ " from knot. Allow to completely dry and then cut chain through sealed portion. Attach cord(s) to jewelry findings and secure with E6000 glue.

Multiple cords can be used in a single necklace.

- Use multiple loose strands joined at the clasp.
- Use multiple loose strands through a large bead or pendant.
- Use thick and thin cords in the same piece.
- Braid the cords in either a simple or complex pattern. Search "friendship bracelet patterns free pdf".
- Knot the cords using any variety of macrame style knots. Instructions are easy to find on the internet for knots. The Josephine knot uses two cords
 and is pictured right. Search "macrame knots" or "Josephine knot".


## LARGE HOLE BEAD BRACELET OR NECKLACE

## Beading Foot

Large hole beads or charms
Rat tail satin cord 1.5 to 2 mm , Stretch cord 1.5 to 2 mm or narrow satin ribbon
Scrap of Fabric
Jewelry findings
E6000 glue for attaching jewelry findings

Set serger up for three thread wide overlock stitch. Stitch length can be adjusted for coverage of cord and type of thread used. Attach Beading foot to the machine.

Needle: use one of the following

- Sewing, Embroidery or Serger thread 30 to 40 wt. with size 80 serger needles
- Decorative Thread 12 wt. thread in size 90 serger needles.

Upper and Lower loopers: use one of the following

- Decorative thread 12 wt. two strands threaded together
- Decorative thread 30 or 40 wt. three to five strands threaded together

Stitch a sample to make sure your beads or charms fit on the finished cord. Place cord or ribbon in groove of cording foot. Stitch to cover cord with thread in length needed for project. Place seam sealant on ends and allow to completely dry. Cut through seam sealant.

To string beads onto cord, use a hand sewing needle with a large eye or paint the end of the cord in nail polish and allow to dry. The painted end of the cord should be rigid enough to pass through the hole in the bead.

Look for jewelry findings that can clamp over the end of a cord. Attach cords to jewelry findings and secure with glue such as E6000. Depending on the jewelry findings used, if the cording ends are too thick, stitch a "chain" before inserting cord and continue stitching after cord has passed through to create thinner ends.

## DROP EARRINGS

## Beading Foot

Large hole beads or charms
Rat tail satin cord 1.5 to 2 mm , Stretch cord 1.5 to 2 mm or narrow satin ribbon
Scrap of Fabric
Jewelry findings
E6000 glue for attaching jewelry findings
Create covered cording using any of the instructions above. The larger the cord the heavier the earrings will be, so keep that in mind. Many decorative knots can be used to create
 earrings and instructions abound on the internet for an incredible array of knots from the simple to the complex. The double coin knot is pictured to the right and it is an easy choice for earrings. Search "double coin knot".

Attach loose cord ends to earring jewelry findings. There are multiple choices for inserting and glueing the cord end into a cone or using a clasp that is pressed closed over the end of the cord.


