

Supplies

- o Serger Thread for Crochet such as standard serger thread to heavier threads such as 12 wt. (Crochet/Tatting thread in size 50 can be used in the serger.)
- o Embroidery Threads for Color Blending
- o Three cones or spools of Serger thread for needle and loopers when gathering
- o 1" Strips of Scrap fabric as a base for serger crochet. The color of the fabric may peek through. Choose a color that will enhance the project such as green for green trees. The length and quantity of strips depends on the size of the base.
- o Base for supporting serger crochet strips. Styrofoam cones, empty thread cones and even cones rolled from lightweight shirt cardboard work well. Cones create trees, but other shapes would also work well for different topiary shapes.
- o Floral Supplies such as stem wire, stamens and floral tape for making Fantasy Flowers.
- o Glue for adhering crochet strip to base. Standard white glue works well. Hot glue would also work, but would be trickier to handle.
- o Heavy Thread or Dental Floss for creating extra gathers with the Elastic Foot.
- o Serger Accessory Feet used in video for Baby Lock 8 thread sergers:
 - o Ruffling Foot for Baby Lock 8 thread sergers (BLE8-RF)
 - o Lace Applicator Foot for Baby Lock 8 thread sergers (BLE8-LF)
 - o Clear Foot for Baby Lock 8 thread sergers (BLE8-CLF)
 - o Elastic Applicator Foot for Baby Lock 8 thread sergers (BLE8-EF)
- o Serger Accessory Feet for Baby Lock Celebrate and other Baby Lock 4 thread sergers:
 - o Ruffling Foot for Baby Lock 4 thread sergers (BLE-RF)
 - o Lace Applicator Foot for Baby Lock 4 thread sergers (BLE-LF)
 - o Clear Foot for Baby Lock 4 thread sergers (BLE3ATW-CLF)
 - o Elastic Applicator Foot for Baby Lock 4 thread sergers (BLE-EF)

Instructions

Create a Shaded or Ombre Effect for Multiple Rows of Serger Stitching

To create a shaded or Ombre effect, change thread colors gradually when creating serger tucks or serger crochet lace strips. Thread the upper and lower loopers with multiple 30 to 40 wt. threads. Three embroidery threads in each looper was used in the video. To create the effect, change one thread to a different color when each strip is created. The color change or shaded progression could go as follows:



1. Upper Looper has three dark threads and lower looper has three dark threads.
2. Upper Looper has two dark threads and one lighter thread and lower looper has three dark threads.
3. Upper Looper has two dark threads and one lighter thread and lower looper has two dark threads and one lighter thread.
4. Upper Looper has one dark thread and two lighter threads and lower looper has three dark threads.
5. Upper Looper has one dark thread and two lighter threads and lower looper has two dark threads and one lighter thread.
6. Continue adding one light thread to alternate loopers until all the threads are lighter.

Settings for the Celebrate serger tucks shown in the video:

Three thread wide stitch – width 7.5 & stitch length 3 (shorten stitch length for more thread coverage)

- Left Needle – All Purpose thread Tension 4
- Right Needle – Not Used
- Upper Looper – (2) 40 wt. variegated threads & (1) 30 wt. solid thread Tension 2
- Lower Looper – (2) 40 wt. variegated threads & (1) 30 wt. solid thread Tension 2

Serger Gathering Techniques

Gathering on the serger is possible because of the differential feed function using two sets of feed dogs. The differential feed creates gathers when the forward set of feed dogs cycles faster than the rear set of feed dogs. When the number on the side of the machine is set higher, the greater potential for gathering. This feature can also be used to ease one fabric piece to another while seaming or avoid stretching bias edges. The differential feed can also be set to a negative number to stretch or “lettuce” edges.

- For additional ruffle, gently hold the fabric from releasing behind the foot with your left hand.
- To create even more gathers, attach a ruffling foot to the machine. The ruffling foot is an optional accessory and has a spring that descends below the foot to hold the fabric closer to the feed dogs. The ruffling foot can also be used to attach a ruffle to an un-ruffled piece of fabric. In the photo right, the fabric to be gathered is right side up on the bottom and the un-gathered fabric will be right side down and inserted into the slot as shown.
- To create even more gathers, use a four thread stitch and pull the right needle thread that runs through the middle of the stitch to gather.
- To create the maximum gather, use the elastic foot and stitch over a length of very heavy duty thread or dental floss. The thread will be caught within the stitching. Use the thread to support and gather along the thread. After sewing the ruffle, remove the gathering thread.



Create Serger Crochet

Set up serger for a three thread wide stitch. Use standard thread in the needle and use either standard, multiple threads or heavier threads in both the upper and lower loopers. The looper threads will show as the “crochet lace”. Use a long stitch length and set the differential feed to N. Lock the cutting blade in the down position. If using a serger with an Automatic Thread Delivery system, such as the Baby Lock Accolade, Victory or Triumph (including previous ATD models) no adjustment is necessary



after choosing the “A” setting for the three thread wide stitch.

If using a serger with a tensioning system, such as the Baby Lock Celebrate, the serger crochet strips will probably not lie flat because a tension system has difficulty “stitching in the air”. Serger crochet is possible, but the results will tend to be more organic looking. In the photo right, the sample on the left was created with the Automatic Thread Delivery System. Play with a sample to check and modify your tension settings for the best results. Generally, the tension on the looper threads will need to be loosened, especially when using heavier threads. The tension settings depend on the thickness of the thread. Check your tension settings on a scrap of fabric and then create a serger crochet. Choose a single heavier thread when using this technique on the Celebrate as opposed to multiple threads in the shading technique.

Create Serger Crochet Strips for a Tiny Trees or Fantasy Flower Project



Create serger crochet strips. Stitch along the side of the 1” fabric strip. The needle will be in the left hand position. Using the marks on the toe of the foot, keep the raw edge of the fabric just to the right of the needle. The stitch does not need to cover the raw edge. At the end of the strip, bring up the beginning of the strip and stitch another row next to the first row of stitching. The needle should just catch the previous stitching. You will essentially be stitching in the air and just catching the

previous stitch. Use the marks on the toe of the foot to keep the position accurate. If the stitching misses, stop and reposition to catch the edge. Any part that misses can be repaired with a sewing machine using a zig zag stitch to join the pieces. If creating lace for a small tree, misses can add to the effect of the project and can either be repaired or left.

The lace will start to ruffle as more rows are added. To increase the ruffle effect, reduce the stitch length to add more thread to the lace. It may become challenging to keep the edge under control. Slow down and develop a hand position to help guide the piece under the foot. When creating lace for a tree consider creating wider lace strips with additional rows for the bottom of the tree and narrower lace strips for the top of the tree.

Use the gathering feature to ruffle the serger crochet strips when creating tiny trees or fantasy flowers. After creating all the serger crochet strips, re-thread the serger with standard serger thread in the needle and both loopers. Raise the cutting blade from the locked position. Set the stitch length to the maximum of 4 and engage the differential feed to the maximum of 2. Serge along the un-stitched side of the lace strip and keep the needle just to the right of the lace. You will be trimming about ½” of fabric from the strip and gathering the strip at the same time.

To create tiny trees, glue the strips to a cone form starting at the bottom and spiraling up to the top. The fantasy flowers are very gathered serger crochet strips glued and/or hand sewn in a spiral and attached with floral tape to the end of a floral wire. Start at the center and wrap the serger crochet strip tightly starting in the center. Cover the raw edges underneath the flower with floral tape. Add embellishments such as central pistons and artificial leaves to the stem to the fantasy flowers.