Spiral Snail Cut Ruffle

A spiral ruffle scarf is a really quick gift and can be made from just about any soft fabric with drape. The ruffle itself can be a simple addition to any garment or home decor such as pillows and fancy curtains.

Cut a circle from fabric and starting at the edge cut in a spiral pattern towards the center. The cut can be a consistent width or, as in the image below, vary in width. Spiral cuts can also be joined end to end to create a much longer ruffle.

The outside edge is a bias edge. Depending on the fabric, the edge can be left un-hemmed if the fabric does not ravel. Edge finishes can be a narrow hem, rolled edge or a lettuce edge.

The inside edge can be sewn flat into a seam or gathered for a mega-ruffle. To add a seam to the interior of a garment, mark the location of the ruffle on the pattern and cut the pattern at the mark. Add a seam allowance to each piece . Use the separate pattern pieces to cut the garment out and seam the pieces together sandwiching the ruffle in the middle of the seam.

Serger lettuce edge works by stretching the bias edge. Use a smaller stitch such as a narrow edge or a rolled hem. For added drama, insert fishing line in the rolled hem. The added structure of the fishing line will hold the ruffle out from the body. For BabyLock sergers, the optional Elastic foot has an opening and under foot channel to guide the fishing line

to the perfect location to be encased by the thread. Any serger overlock stitch will finish the edge. The three thread wide lettuce edge shown in the photo right uses variegated embroidery thread in the upper and lower loopers. Tension settings can vary with the type of thread used, so try a sample to adjust for your perfect stitch. The settings I used on the BabyLock Celebrate serger were:

Left Needle- 4
Right Needle- not used
Upper Looper- 2.5
Lower Looper- 4
Stitch Width- "M"
Stitch Length- Standard 2
Differential Feed- 0.6

Because the thread for the upper looper was very slippery and wanted to fall off the spool, I used one of the thread nets that come with the machine as shown in the photo. Insert the thread net in the bottom of the thread and puddle the net around the bottom of the spool.