

April 2nd, 2025

The Baby Lock Applaud is a dedicated cover/chain stitch machine with the added feature of an optional decorative stitch on the topside of the fabric. (It is not an overlock machine.) Use one, two or three chain/cover needles and chain looper for the chain or cover stitch. The chain stitch needle thread forms a straight stitch on the top of the fabric and a chain stitch on the underside. The cover stitch is the hem of choice in the garment industry for knit garments because it has stretch and the results are professional. The cover stitch has two or three parallel lines of stitching on the front of the garment and the back of the stitch covers the raw edge of the fabric with interloped threads. It is a modified wide chain stitch. The Creative Top Cover Stitch is a decorative stitch created when wipers on the top of the foot carry decorative threads back and forth to be secured by the needle threads.

Supplies

Baby Lock Applaud Creative Cover Stitch Machine

Serger Thread

Decorative Threads

Wash Away Tape ¼"

Chenille Hand Sewing needle (this is a large-eyed needle with a sharp point)

Bamboo Skewer

Unique Features of the Baby Lock Applaud

The Applaud is a dedicated cover hem/chain stitch machine. It is a perfect compliment machine for sewists that:

- Have a serger without the function of a cover/chain stitch (such as Baby Lock four thread sergers). Not all sergers have the option of creating a chain or cover stitch. Combination machines are available that perform both the overlock stitches and cover/chain stitches. Baby Lock eight-thread machines not only can do both, but all the overlock and cover/chain stitches can be combined into over 80 combinations. Purchase a combination machine for maximum functionality or if space is at a premium. If you already own an overlock only serger and want to keep it, add the Applaud for all the cover/chain stitch functions.
- Do not want to or have difficulty converting their combination overlock/cover hem serger from one function to another. Add the Applaud creative cover stitch machine if your overlock serger is challenging to convert (not a Baby Lock!) or a dedicated machine makes your sewing easier. A separate cover/chain stitch machine comes in handy when using the chain stitch for quilt piecing or dedicated hemming. The Applaud has unique features that make stitching easier. Sewing a cover hem in the round and turning sharp corners with the cover stitch are simplified with these features that include needle up/down, sewing speed control and the automatic lowering of feed dogs when the presser foot lever is raised.
- Expand their creativity with the creative cover stitch and a larger machine. The Applaud has a wide harp to accommodate larger projects unlike many sergers on the market. Use the creative cover stitch for quilting, decorative hems on new or up cycled garments and attaching trims or appliqué. Use thicker or fragile threads in the creative cover wipers that commonly would be challenging to sew. Use decorative

threads in the chain looper for two sided projects and even use extra heavy threads with the looper thread bypass (up to size four thread).

- Add the functionality of the flat sport seam to active wear projects. Top end active wear usually features a very flat lapped seam. This seam needs to be strong and reduces chaffing because it is flat. The Applaud accommodates a wide variety of thread types including soft nylon thread designed for this type of seam. The Applaud accommodates a wide variety optional feet and accessories.

Optional attachments to manipulate fabric before it reaches the foot include:

- Fabric Guide
- Fabric and Hemming Guide
- Swing Guide
- Belt Loop Binders $\frac{3}{4}$ " and $1\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Single Fold Bias Binders $1\frac{1}{8}$ " and $1\frac{5}{8}$ "
- Double Fold Bias Binders $1\frac{1}{8}$ " and $1\frac{3}{8}$ "
- Plain Hemmers $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Single Downturn Fellers $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{5}{8}$ " and 1"
- Knit/Woven Double Fold Bias Binders 8mm, 10mm and 15mm
- Knit/Woven Single Fold Bias Binder 15mm

Optional Accessories for the Standard Shank:

- UltraT Serger Foot
- Specialty Inserts for Combination Foot
- Lace Applicator Foot
- Open Toe Foot
- Gathering Foot
- Shirring Foot
- Elastic Foot
- Teflon Foot
- Curve Foot and Clear Curve Foot
- Cover Chain Foot

- Teflon Foot
- Clear Foot

Flat Sport Seam

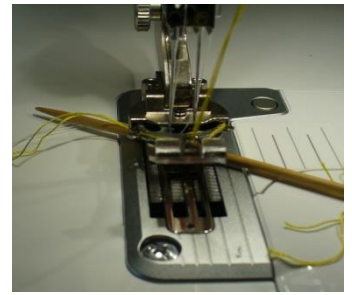
The flat sport seam is strong and non-chaffing. Select fabrics that do not ravel or place a difficult fabric on the underside to be covered by the chain looper thread. Set up the machine for a wide or triple cover stitch. Thread the chain looper with textured nylon thread (wooly nylon). Thread the wipers with long staple polyester thread or wooly nylon. Create the seam by overlapping the fabrics $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Because the fabrics overlap, modify the seam allowance. The seam allowance is a mere $\frac{1}{8}$ " when both fabrics are overlapped. Use $\frac{1}{4}$ " wash away tape with two sticky sides to secure and stabilize the fabrics while stitching. Lay the fabric right side up and flatten. Secure the tape along the edge. Remove the protective paper strip and lay the second fabric right side up with the raw edge just past the edge of the tape. Press along the seam to secure. Stitch using the needle position indicators on the combination foot insert as a guide to keep the raw edge of the top fabric just to the left of the C3 or rightmost needle.

Cover Stitch and Creative Cover Stitch Hem in the Round

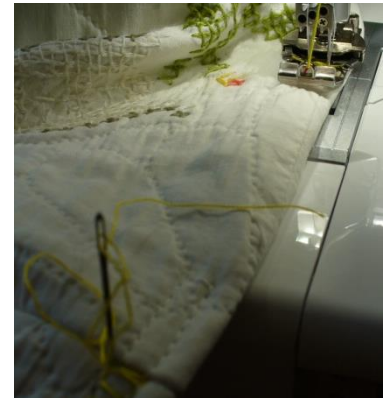
Hemming a sleeve or the bottom of a garment calls for creating a hem "in the round". The cover stitch is began and ends in the interior of the garment and the loose threads need to be secured to the underside. Since a cover stitch is just a wide chain stitch, the terminal end will easily unravel if not secured.

1. Fold the fabric to the underside and press the hem. If the garment has a bulky serger seam, reduce the bulk at the seam by pressing the serger seams to opposite sides. Unfold the hem and make a small clip just up to the seam line at the fold. Press the seams to opposite sides and refold the hem. Secure the hem with wash away tape, fusible tape or use pins placed well away from the stitching line.

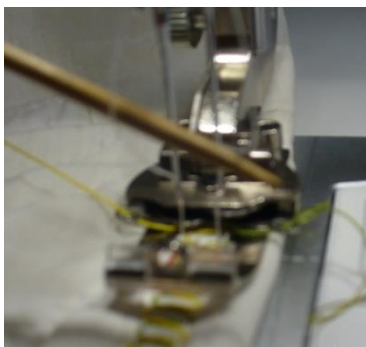
2. Set up the machine for a wide, narrow or triple cover stitch. Thread the machine with polyester thread in the needles and either polyester or wooly nylon thread in the chain looper. Raise the presser foot and place the fabric under the presser foot with the right side up. Since the raw edge of the hem is on the underside, use the fabric guide or fabric and hemming guide to position the fabric while stitching. If the threads are looped together underneath the foot from prior stitching, use a bamboo skewer to clear the threads from under the foot.



3. If possible, start sewing at least 1" away from any bulky seams. Sew slowly over the bulk and periodically adjust by stopping and raising the presser foot (the knee lever works perfect for this). Use the bamboo skewer if necessary to help the bulk under the presser foot. Stitch along the hem until the beginning is about 5-6" from the needle and stop with the needle and presser foot down. Clip the top threads close to the stitching (they will not try to unravel) or pull them to the underside and clip them along with the chain looper thread. Continue stitching and pay close attention to meeting the beginning stitching. Overlap stitching (trying to stitch exactly on top of the previous stitching) for about 1".

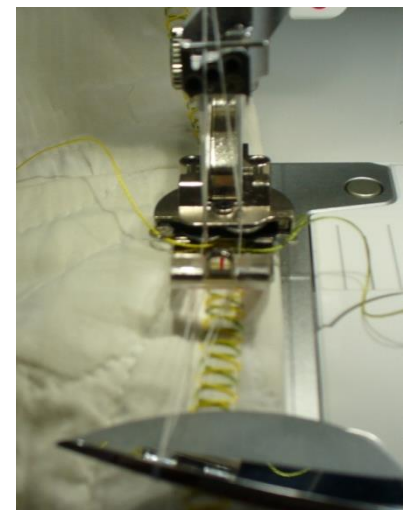


4. The needle threads will try (and succeed!) to unravel if they are not pulled to the back and secured. Move the needles to the highest position and raise the presser foot. Above the needles pull slack in the top threads. Swipe the bamboo skewer **under the foot** from back to front to bring both threads to the front of the foot.



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Hold the thread loops and turn the handwheel backwards one entire rotation to bring the needles back to the highest position to release the needle threads from the chain looper. ***This is the only time to rotate the***



handwheel backwards ever!

5. Clip the loops in the front and release them. Grasp the fabric on the left side and behind the presser foot. Pull the fabric back and to the left with a firm and steady tug. The top threads will usually pull perfectly to the underside of the fabric. Clip the chain looper thread leaving enough thread to tie a knot close to the fabric. If the top threads do not pull to the backside, use a chenille needle to individually pull them to the back. Tie all threads together with overhand knots and use the chenille needle to pull the threads under the looper threads.
6. The wiper threads need to also be pulled to the backside when stitching a creative cover stitch in the round. Detailed instructions are in the Applaud Instruction and Reference Guide, but here are a few useful tips.
 - a. The needle and chain looper threads are secured exactly as detailed above. Think of the wiper threads as a secondary layer on top of the cover stitch threads that will begin after the cover stitch, end before the cover stitch and be secured separately.
 - b. Begin stitching with the wiper threads disengaged by moving the wiper positioning lever down. Stitch only a few stitches and engage the wiper positioning lever up. Hold the wiper threads and stitch about ½". Pull the wiper threads to the back of the stitching. To pull them to the back, stitch about ½" and stop with the needles in the down position. Insert the bamboo skewer directly behind the needles and tease the wiper threads to the back of the foot.
 - c. Continue stitching the hem until the beginning of the stitching is about 5-6" from the foot just as before. Remove the needle and chain looper threads, but use the chenille needle to pull the wiper threads to the underside of the hem. Time them in an overhand knot and pull them under the chain looper threads. Clip them off.
 - d. Continue stitching the hem and pay close attention to overlapping the beginning stitching. Stop stitching after overlapping the beginning stitching by



about 3 or 4 stitches. Stop sewing and clip the wiper threads just above the needle clamp (leaving about 4" from the foot). Disengage the wiper positioning lever by putting it in the down position. Use the bamboo skewer to pull the wiper threads from the guides and to either side of the foot. Stitch about ½" with only the cover stitch threads. Remove the cover stitch threads just as above. Use the chenille needle to pull the wiper threads to the underside and secure. Do not pull excessively on the wiper threads when securing them as the stitching on the top may distort.