

SUPPLIES

- Baby Lock Applaud Creative Cover Stitch Machine
- Decorative Threads
- Cording/Taping Micro Insert Foot Kit (BLDP6-TCFEET) for the Applaud
- UltraT Serger Foot
- Belt Loop Binder $\frac{3}{4}$ " (BLES8-S12)
- Belt Loop Binder 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (BLES8-S11)

Features of the Applaud Creative Cover Stitch Machine

The Baby Lock Applaud is a dedicated cover/chain stitch machine with the added feature of an optional decorative stitch on the top side 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 stretches 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.

Presser Feet for the Applaud Creative Cover Stitch Machine

The Applaud comes with a standard presser foot with separate ankle and a special wiper foot for adding threads to the top of the chain/cover stitches. The ankle accommodates the specialty feet designed for chain/cover stitch work on other Baby Lock 8-Thread and Cover Stitch machines. (The exception is the plastic insert on the Pintuck Foot due to the new style cover plate design.) The UltraT foot available from Moore's sewing is ideal for anti-friction sewing. Use the wiper foot to achieve the top cover effect.

The wiper foot on the Baby Lock Applaud has a plastic insert called the Micro Insert on the front of the foot before the needle. The standard insert included with the machine has three red reference lines to indicate the position of the needles. To remove the insert, pinch the plastic on the toe of the needle and pull backward. Insert the piece by sliding the micro insert back onto the foot. Check that the insert is lying flat in the foot. If you are unsure, feel at the top of the insert to check it is seated properly. When the insert is too high in the foot, it will block the wipers from full movement and the top stitch will not form.

Attachments for the Applaud Creative Cover Stitch Machine

Serger attachments attach to the machine before the presser feet and manipulate the fabric before it reaches the needle. These attachments work with the wiper foot. Attachments designed for Baby Lock sergers work equally well on the Applaud. Examples are the Belt Loop Binders, Knit/Woven Binders, Seam Guide, Double Fold Fellers and many others. Secure attachments to the machine with two white thumbscrews that came in the accessory compartment of the machine. Attachments are generally two parts, and the position of the attachment is adjustable side-to-side and front-to-back. Attachments are available separately and in a foot kit designed especially for the Applaud that includes a carrying case and the most popular attachments for the machine. Some of the accessories available for the Applaud are:

- Belt Loop Binders
- Shirring Foot
- Fabric Guide and Stitch Guide
- Single Downturn Fellers
- Serger Extension Table
- Double and Single Fold Bias Binders

- Plain Hemmer Foot
- Open Toe Foot
- Cover Chain Foot
- Curving Foot
- Teflon Foot
- Double and Single Fold Knit/Woven Binders

Creative Options for the Applaud Creative Cover Stitch Machine

The possibilities for creative expression and sewing options are almost limitless, with the thread and fabric color, feet, attachments, micro inserts and stitches available. Additionally, the Automatic Thread Delivery system allows for the stitch to be formed without fabric. Stitch without fabric to create cording for use in the cording feet or for use in yarn crafts such as crochet, knitting or tassel making. Below are just a few creative options:

Gathering: Create shirring or gathering on a garment using the creative top cover stitch over cord elastic. Stitch over elastic cord (or any cord) using the Cording/Taping micro insert. Secure one end of the cord and pull the other end to gather the fabric. Increase the differential feed setting for additional gathering while stitching. Look for holiday elastic cord sold for package wrapping as an economical option.

Create Cording or “Yarn”: The Applaud will form a stitch without fabric under the presser foot. The chain or cover stitch should be started on a scrap of fabric after re-threading the machine. Successfully start a cord by beginning the chain or cover stitch on a scrap of fabric with the wipers unengaged (lever in the down position) and adding the wiper threads after the stitch is established. Vary the weight of the cord by the combination of the weights of the individual threads. Create cord using up to 6 threads (a triple cover stitch with two wiper threads) or as little as 3 threads (chain stitch with one wiper thread). Experiment by stitching a little “in the air” with a thread combination to see if a cord forms well before stitching on any project. Not all threads (especially thin metallic threads) will work well together. In creating a cord for use in the micro insert a narrow cover stitch with a combination of two 12 weight threads in the needles, a serger thread in the looper and two 30 weight threads in the wipers worked well.

Embellish Fabric: The cording/taping foot is perfect for adding trim or cording to fabric. Change the color and texture of the fabric to match or coordinate a not-too-perfect fabric. Use any of the micro inserts to guide the cord, ribbon or yarn under any of the different stitch combinations available on the Applaud. The wiper system need not be used when stitching down ribbon. The tape or ribbon will be perfectly positioned for the needle to catch the sides of the trim. The six micro-Cord/Tape included in the set are:

- Cording Foot 5mm One Groove
- Cording Foot 2.5mm Two Groove
- Cording Foot 2mm Two Groove
- Cording Foot 1.6mm Two Groove
- Taping Foot 8mm Wide Cover
- Taping Foot 5mm Narrow Cover Left

Observations on Decorative Thread Choices

A wide variety of threads work very well in the wipers to create the decorative top cover stitch and in the chain looper of the Applaud. Very heavy decorative threads up to a 4 or 6 weight stitch well as long as they flow. Loosen the tension adjustment in larger threads to allow them to flow smoothly. In the wipers, try to avoid loosely twisted threads that tend to separate into individual strands. The individual threads may catch on a wiper. Very thin metallic threads tend to twist and may catch on a wiper.

When threading the wipers, place cones or spools to avoid twists as the thread and it travels to the wipers. The top thread guides have fuzzy inserts to help pull out any twists. Use any of the spool caps, cone holders, nets or any other available options to allow the thread to spool evenly and relax before it reaches the tension clips. In some cases, a kink or loop can pass through to the wipers and catch on them. Periodically stop sewing and inspect the threads to monitor for potential problems. Sometimes placing the thread a little distance away or in an optional thread stand placed back from the machine allows the thread to release before reaching the wipers.