

Supplies

- Baby Lock Applaud Creative Cover Stitch Machine
- Decorative Threads
- Stitch in the Ditch Micro Insert Foot Kit (BLDP6-SDFEET) 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 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.

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 that is 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 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
- Fabric Guide and Stitch Guide
- Serger Extension Table
- Shirring Foot
- Single Downturn Fellers
- Double and Single Fold Bias Binders
- Plain Hemmer Foot
- Cover Chain Foot
- Teflon Foot
- Open Toe Foot
- Curving Foot
- Double and Single Fold Knit/Woven Binders

Creative Options for the Applaud Creative Cover Stitch Machine

Between the thread, thread & fabric color, feet, attachments, micro inserts and stitches available the possibilities for creative expression and sewing options are almost limitless. 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:

Elegant Straps – The base strap is covered with fabric and a belt loop is layered on top creating a very sturdy strap for purse making, guitar strap or weaving. Create wide or narrow belt loop with the attachment and a wide or narrow cover stitch. Use any of the creative top stitch options including adding tape, ribbon or cording or create a plain belt loop. Cut the desired length and width of interfacing or stabilizer. Cut main fabric the length and twice the width of the strap. Place the interfacing in the center of the wrong side of the main fabric and fold the edges to the front. The raw edges should meet in the center of the strap. Press well and glue or fuse if desired. Lay the finished belt loop over the raw edge and secure well with glue or fusible. Stitch on both sides to secure the belt loop to the strap. Consider the following options:

- Stitch the belt loop down on both sides with a sewing machine. Use a bi-level foot and adjust the needle position to catch the edge of the fold.
- Use the stitch-in-the-ditch micro insert and any combination of top cover to stitch down both sides of the belt loop. This is especially attractive with a decorative wide cover stitch on either side of the wide belt loop. The back side of the cover or chain stitch adds texture. Choose a shorter stitch length to avoid larger stitches that may catch on jewelry.
- Use the left or right stitch-in-the-ditch micro insert to stitch along the edge of the strap. The insert positions one of the needles just off the edge of the strap to create a sharp edge that resembles an overlock edge.

Appliqué – Cover the folded or raw edge of an appliqué piece with the decorative top cover stitch. Use the stitch-in-the-ditch micro insert or the standard insert to and stitch slowly to cover the edge. When stitching a curved edge, use the needle up/down, speed regulator

and the knee lever to take only a few stitches at a time. Cover the raw edge of the appliqué with cord or ribbon using the Cording/Taping micro insert. Use this technique to join fabrics with a very flat seam. Fold one edge of the fabric under and place the folded edge on top of the second fabric. Secure with glue or a fusible tape. Use the stitch-in-the-ditch micro insert to stitch over the fold to seam the fabrics. For fabrics that do not fray a folded edge is not necessary, for example attach a zipper by stitching over the zipper tape.

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 wt. 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.