

Supplies

- Baby Lock Triumph or Ovation Eight Thread Serger
- Ruffling Foot
- ULtraT Serger Foot for Baby Lock 8-thread Sergers
- 1 ½ yard 54" to 60" wide lightweight fabric (see description below)
- Serger thread
- Decorative Serger Thread 12 Wt. Decora was used in the video
- Removable Marker for fabric such as chalk
- Long Straightedge for Marking
- Fray Check

Lightweight, Drape-able Fabric



Choose a fabric that is lightweight, soft and flows well. Chiffon, challis, crepe de chine, cotton lawn, gauze and soft tulle are all examples of lightweight fabrics that are also drape-able. Organza or sateen are lightweight fabrics that are designed to have body or stiffness. Organza will work for this project, but will not lie against the body. Heavier fabric will also work for this and be warmer, but may be too bulky

for comfort. When extra warmth is needed, try a very lightweight polar fleece.

Fiber content on these fabrics vary from 100% polyester to 100% silk and every combination in between. Polyester chiffon is probably the least expensive option and silk velvet chiffon will cost considerably more. When looking for a fabric in person, unroll the fabric from the bolt and drape it over your arm to check how it will lay on the body. When shopping online, look for the type of fabrics mentioned above and look for the gsm. GSM stands for grams per square meter, which refers to the weight of the fabric. A lightweight fabric is typically between 30-150 GSM. Also look for any keywords such as “flowy”, “drape-able” and “soft hand”. Many online options offer fabric samples for a minimal cost.

Cut the Fabric to Size

Straighten the edge of the fabric using a long straightedge parallel to the selvedge (outside edge) of the fabric. Some lightweight fabrics, such as chiffon, can easily be torn starting from a clip through the selvedge. Since lightweight fabrics are challenging to cut, tearing is an excellent option if the fabric tolerates it. If the fabric edge is only slightly distorted, the project may still finish well due to the lack of fitting necessary. Fabric that is 54” to 60” provides a good cover. The length of the fabric creates the back length of the shawl from neck to hem. After gathering, the shawl will not be as wide as the yardage. The width of yardage extends from front hem around the neck to the opposite front hem. Determine the approximate length of yardage depending on height of person to fit. One and one third to one half of a yard will accommodate an average height. Add yardage for a taller individual and use slightly less for a more petite stature.

Finish All Four Sides and Mark the Fabric

Using an overlock stitch, finish all four sides of the cut yardage. The weight and weave of the fabric will determine the type of stitch to use. Very lightweight sheer fabrics, such as chiffon, will look good with a rolled hem, wave rolled hem or narrow overlock. Trim the selvedge while stitching. If it is not obvious after hemming the edges, mark the length of the fabric with a slip of paper. Keep the corners neat and bury the corner threads using a large eye needle. Dab the corners with some fray check.

The gathering lines on the fabric run along the length. Using a removable marker such as chalk and a straightedge, mark guidelines along the length of fabric about 6 1/2" to 7" (red dashed lines). For fabric that can tolerate the heat of the iron, press folds to use as guidelines. The distance between these lines is not critical. Try to keep the distance between lines as consistent as possible. Initially



gather along these lines and then stitch a gathering stitch between them (shown by green lines). The finished rows of gathers will be approximately 3" apart within the body of the shawl and a 6 1/2" to 7" ruffle along the edges.

Use the Differential Feed and Chain Stitch to Gather the Lines

Set up the serger for a cover hem or triple cover hem by threading the needles and the looper. Choose a thread color to blend or contrast with the fabric. Thread the cover stitch looper with a decorative thread to make the shawl reversible. Set the length to the maximum of 4, increase the differential feed to the maximum of 2 and install the Ruffling foot. Check the stitch on a scrap of fabric. Start at the hem with a tail of thread and stitch along one of the marked lines. Allow the fabric to feed smoothly and follow the marked lines or creases as best as you can. If the fabric tucks while stitching that is perfectly okay. The finished project is very forgiving if the lines are not perfectly straight. Stitch off each line with a tail of thread. Stitch all the marked lines.

Change to the UltraT or standard serger foot. The space between the sides and the first rows of gathering remains at about 6". Using the same settings stitch in between the gathered lines **in the body of the shawl**. While stitching, place hands on either side of the needle and pull the fabric flat to stitch over the gathers. After stitching, bury the tails of thread under the interlooped threads on the back of the project. Enjoy! Even when made of lightweight material this shawl will keep you surprisingly warm!