

### *Why an 8-Thread Serger*

Baby Lock has a unique line of 8-thread sergers. These sergers function as both an overlock machine and a cover/chain stitch machine. These sergers also have the ability to create all variations of both the overlock and cover/chain stitch individually or in any combination together. There are over 80 combinations of overlock/cover/chain stitches. For example, a four-thread overlock (4 threads) and a triple cover stitch (4 threads) used in combination is an 8-thread stitch.

The combination stitch described above is a large and very sturdy stitch. It and its cousins the 7-thread stitch (cover stitch and 4-thread overlock) and 6-thread stitch (cover stitch and 3-thread overlock wide) are very useful for seaming loosely woven or difficult fabrics that are prone to easily fray. These combinations are also used decoratively when stitched with fancy threads.

One of the “superpowers” of these stitches is the ability to easily and beautifully gather fabric when used with the differential feed feature and the ruffling foot. Not only is the fabric evenly gathered without the need for a thread to pull (and possibly break), but the gathers are also adjustable with one of the needle threads in the 4-thread overlock stitch. Use the bypass feature of the ruffling foot and the gathers are automatically sewn to a flat un-gathered fabric.



## *Rose Pillow*

To create the Rose Pillow shown in the video, select a lightweight fabric with some body. The ruffled fabric will be sewn to a base fabric that forms the pillow itself. At the serger thread the machine with a triple cover stitch and a 4-thread overlock. Use serger thread that matches the rose fabric. If desired, thread the O2 needle with a different color thread to easily find it for use in adjusting the gathers. Set the stitch length to the maximum 4 and attach the ruffling foot. Move the differential feed lever up to the maximum of 2.



Cut the rose fabric into 6" wide strips. For the purple rose in the video, 5 strips 40" wide were sewn together on the short ends. For the plaid rose pillow two 6 foot by 6" strips were used. Fold the strip in half lengthwise (like a "hot dog"). Starting on one of the folded ends, stitch in a curve to the open end of the folded strips to create a tapered beginning. Continue to serge and gather along this side. Taper the end of the strip just as the beginning. Depending on the fabric the gathered side will be about ½ the length of the original strip. Heavier fabrics gather less than lightweight fabrics. Optionally, don't seam the short ends and make multiple smaller gathered pieces, both will work well.

## *Flat Rose Pillow*

For a flatter rose, sew the gathered strip to the base fabric in a spiral starting on the outside of the circle. Pre-mark a circle using a plate on the base fabric. Using a sewing machine sew the gathered strip to the base fabric. As the spiral reaches the center of the rose, sew the rows closer to the previous ones and push a little extra fabric to create a tight "super gather". The center is difficult to disguise, so fold a square of fabric or cover a button to hand sew into the center.



## *Open Rose Pillow*

For the full open rose, sew the gathered strip to the base fabric in a spiral starting on the inside of the circle. Fold the tapered end of the gathered strip into a rose center and sew the gathered end to the approximate center of the base fabric. Begin to sew around the center by abutting the folded side towards the center and sewing the gathered side down with a wide zig zag stitch on the sewing machine. As the strip spirals out, make the rows further from the previous row. Don't make any row further away from the previous than the width of the gathered strip that shows. The flower will not look great until it is fluffed out after the pillow is completed.

