



LEARN & CREATE

with Baby Lock

Getting to Know Your Baby Lock Cover Stitch

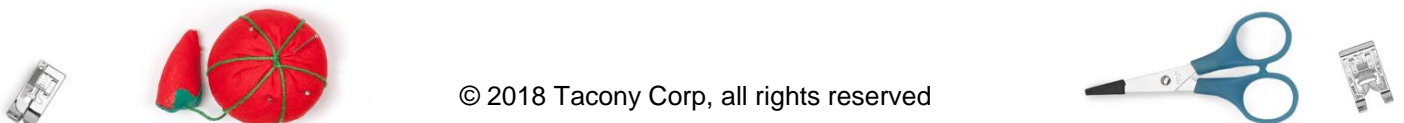
Get to know all the features of the Baby Lock Cover Stitch machine. This video walks through all the stitches on the machine and shows all of the parts and pieces that come with the machine, so you will feel confident using your new cover stitch machine.

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What Comes with the Machine

1. The Owner's Manual
 - There is a lot of good information for you in the manual including pictures of all of everything included with the machine.
2. An accessory bag found in the top of the machine box contains:
 - 4 thread caps with foam
 - 4 thread caps without foam
 - Thread Nets
 - Screwdriver with black handle
 - Use to remove shank that holds the foot
 - Or use it to adjust guides on specialty presser feet
 - It can also be used to remove the needle plate for cleaning
 - Machine cover
 - Looper threading tool



- Mounting bolt with washer (U.S.A. only) which can be used to attach the serger to a sewing table
- 3. Foot pedal and power cord
- 4. A second accessory bag found in the storage under the looper thread spool stand.
 - Swing the bottom of the spool stand to the right to open the storage compartment
 - Note that when you are sewing, the storage under the spool pins should always be closed so the thread can feed properly
- 5. The small accessory bag contains:
 - An Allen wrench with a red handle which is used to tighten and loosen the screws that hold the needles in place.
 - Tweezers
 - Lint brush/needle insert tool
 - Extra needle screws just in case you lose one.
 - A needle threading tool
 - A package of needles
 - The recommended needle for your cover stitch machine is an ELx705CF in a size 80/12 or 90/14
 - That information is printed right on the front of your machine so it will be easy to find when you need to shop for new needles
 - Guide fixing screws for the sewing table (for Optional Accessories)
 - Accessory adapter (for Optional Accessories)



Thread for the Cover Stitch Machine

Sara is using Madeira Serger Thread.

1. The cover stitch machine works best with thread that is cross wound on the spool and that is very sturdy
2. If you are using cones of thread, then the cone holders should be used on the spool pin to keep the thread sitting straight and still while you are stitching
 - The cone holders are placed on the spool pin and then the thread is placed over the cone holder
3. It is also ok to use smaller spools of thread
 - When using smaller spool, you should use the thread caps found in the accessory pouch



- Remove the cone holder from the spool pin
 - Place a thread cap with foam on the spool pin with the foam side up
 - Set the spool of thread on the foam spool cap
 - Place the non-foam spool cap over the top of the spool with the prongs facing down
4. When working with slippery decorative threads, you may need to use a thread net.
 - Thread nets are designed to keep the thread from sliding down and off the spool

Tour of the Machine

1. The front left of the machine is a door that swings open to the left
 - If you open that door after threading the chain looper, you will be able to see where the looper thread lands after threading
2. The sewing table to the right of the needles can be opened by sliding it to the right and then pulling it forward
 - When that sewing table door is open, you will be able to see threading diagrams
 - That door must also be opened to access the lever used for the Jet Air threading of the looper
3. On the top of the sewing table there are four screw holes which are used for attachments which are fastened to the table with screws and guide and/or fold the fabric for you
4. On the top left side of the machine you will find a built-in thread cutter
5. On the front of the machine you will see four tension dials
 - Each dial adjusts the tension on a different thread as it travels through the machine
 - The instruction guide has information on where to set each of those dials for the different stitches sewn by your cover stitch machine
6. On the right side of the machine you have the lever that adjusts the differential feed.
 - Differential feed allows you to have nice flat seams on any type of fabric
7. The looper threading port is on the front of the machine
 - The threading port is used for threading the chain looper
 - It even has a label that tells you NOT to put oil in it
8. The dial at the bottom left of the machine with numbers on it is the stitch length dial



9. On the bottom of the machine in the center front you will find the needle drop drawer.
 - If you should ever drop a needle into your machine, if you pull out this little drawer, you will probably find your missing needle.
10. The handwheel is on the right side of the machine
 - There is an arrow molded into the side of the machine indicating that the handwheel turns toward the front of the machine
11. The small dial on the top of the machine at the left is a presser foot pressure dial.
 - You do have the ability to adjust the downward force of the presser foot on the fabric by turning this dial

Set-up for Triple Cover Hem

If you follow the Chart and make sure everything is set-up for the stitch before you begin threading, you are less likely to skip a step. Then when you thread the machine, you are ready to go.

On the back of the Instruction Manual that comes with your Baby Lock Cover Stitch Machine, you will find a chart that gives you all of the information you need to set each type of stitch.

Chart for stitch selection settings for Chain/Cover

Stitch name	Nb. Needles & ndle position	Stitch L/dial	Left needle tension dial	Center needle tension dial	Right needle tension dial	Chain looper tension dial	Diff. Feed	Seam width
4 Thread								
Triple Cover Stitch	C1 / C2 / C3	3,0-4,0	4-6	4-6	4-6	1-2	N	6mm
3 Thread								
Cover St. Narrow	C1-C2	3,0-4,0	4-6	4-6	-	1-2	N	3mm
	C2-C3	3,0-4,0	-	4-6	4-6	1-2	"	"
Cover St. Wide	C1-C3	3,0-4,0	4-6	-	4-6	1-2	"	6mm
2 Thread								
Chain stitch	C1	3,0-4,0	3-5	-	-	2-3	N	-
	C2	3,0-4,0	-	3-5	-	2-3	"	-
	C3	3,0-4,0	-	-	3-5	2-3	"	-

1. There are several different types of stitches
 - A triple cover stitch is sewn with all three needles
 - A narrow cover stitch can be sewn with either the left needle and center needle or with the center needle and the right needle
 - A wide cover stitch is sewn with the left and right needles
 - A chain stitch is sewn with just one needle and can be stitched with any one of the three needles
2. The needles are numbered C1, C2, and C3
 - Needles are number from left to right



- So, the left needle is C1
- The center needle is C2
- And the right needle is C3

To set up for a triple cover stitch, follow across the chart to set up the machine first

1. Place all three needles in the machine (C1, C2, and C3)
2. Set the stitch length at 3 to 4
 - The range allows you to decide if you want a longer or shorter stitch on the fabric you are using
 - If you are unsure, try starting with 3.5 and see how it goes
 - The molded arrow on the side of the machine should be pointing at the desired setting on the stitch length dial
3. All three needle tension dials should be set between 4 and 6
 - Sara set her needle tensions to 5
4. The chain looper tension should be set between 1 to 2
 - Sara set her needle tension to 1.5
5. The differential feed should be set on N (for Normal)
 - Differential feed can be adjusted when you begin sewing if you find that your fabric is puckering or stretching
6. The seam width shown on the chart is not a setting on the machine, rather it is the width of the seam stitched by the triple cover hem
 - The distance between the left and right needles is 6mm so that is how wide the seam will be.

Threading

The Baby Lock Cover Stitch machine can be threaded in any order, so if you break a thread you can just re-thread that one path!

1. Make sure that the telescopic thread guide is pulled up to its full height
2. Place the thread on the spool pins

THREAD THE CHAIN LOOPER

1. Open the front door by sliding it to the right and then pulling it forward
2. Lift the presser foot
 - The machine should always be threaded with the presser foot UP
3. Push the white button at the same time you turn the hand wheel toward the front of the machine until you hear a loud click



- The click is the sound of the air tubes engaging
4. Take the thread up and over the guide on the telescopic thread tree
 5. The thread then goes through the silver thread guide from top to bottom
 6. The thread then goes into the bottom of the tension dial from right to left and lays over the top of the thread guide on the left side of the tension
 7. Pull a long length of thread so there will be enough thread to go through the air tubes and into the chain looper on the other side of the machine
 - If it is hard to pull that extra thread, you may have forgotten to raise the presser foot
 8. Cut the end of the thread so you have a newly trimmed end that is not fuzzy or frayed.
 - Resist the temptation to wet the end of the thread.
 - You do not need moisture in the air tubes
 9. Insert about an inch of thread into the threading port
 10. Push down on the Jet Air threading lever
 11. The extra length of thread you pulled down disappears into the threading port
 12. If you open the door on the left side of the machine, you will see the thread coiled up
 - If you do not see a coil of thread, you just did not pull down quite enough thread
 - Close the door, pull down a little more thread and push the Jet Air threading lever again

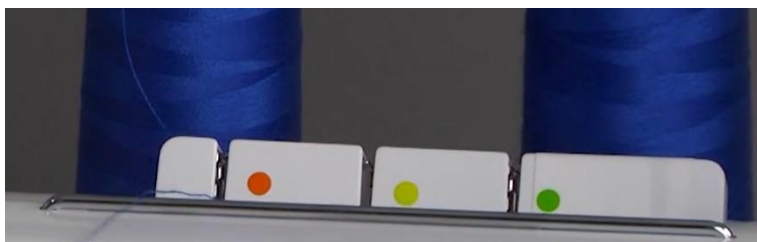


THREAD THE LEFT NEEDLE

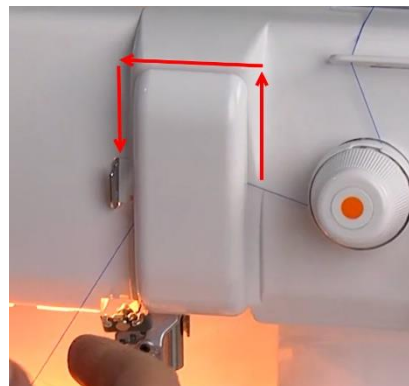
(Chain Needle 1 also known as C1)

You will find that it is easiest to thread the needles working from left to right.

1. Take the thread up and over the guide on the telescopic thread tree using the guide that is directly above the spool
2. The thread then goes into a clip in the color-coded bar on the back of the machine



- Hold the thread taut between both hands and snap it down into the guide
 - You will hear the thread snap into position
3. The left needle thread follows the path indicated by the orange color coding
 4. Place the thread top to bottom through the orange hole just above the orange tension dial
 5. Bring the thread around the bottom of the orange tension dial from right to left
 6. Take the thread up and over the white rectangular piece at the left of the tension dials
 7. Set the thread into the silver guider at the left of that rectangular piece
 8. Place the thread into the thread guide above the needles
 - The thread goes behind the flat guide at the back and sits inside the hook just above the flat guide
 - Sara placed the thread behind the flat guide and then guided the thread above the flat guide into the hook
 9. Slide the thread into the guide at the top of the needles from right to left



10. It was important to thread the machine with the presser foot UP so the tensions were open, but it will be easier to thread the eye of the needle with the presser foot down.

THREAD THE EYE OF THE LEFT NEEDLE

You have choices about how you thread the eye of the needle.

1. You can just use your fingers and guide the thread through the needle
2. You may find that using the tweezers that came with your machine make it easier to see and to guide the thread through the eye of the needle.
3. Or you can use the needle threading tool that came with your machine.
4. To use the needle threading tool:
 - Hold the tool so the triangle that are molded into the tool are on the top and bottom
 - If the triangles are on the left and right it is not going to work
 - Place the thread horizontally (left to right) between the prongs on the end of the tool

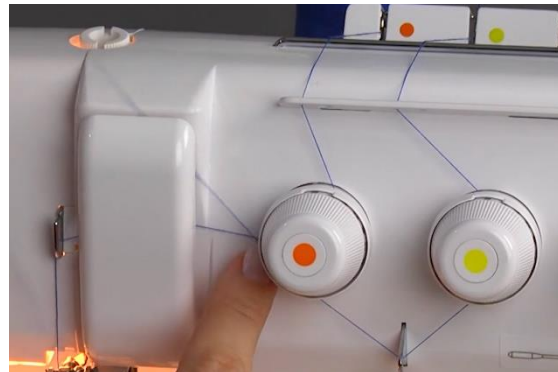


- If the thread is vertical (top to bottom) this is not going to work
- Place the tool around the needle so the needle is sitting vertically between the prongs
- Slide down the front of the needle to the eye
- Push gently and the needle threader pushes the thread through the eye of the needle.
 - A gentle touch is required because the pin that pushes the thread through the eye of the needle is small enough to fit through the eye of a needle along with the thread
 - If you push hard, it will bend
- You can now grab the loop of thread behind the needle and pull it through
- The hook on the needle threader can be used to pull the loop of thread behind the needle or you can use your fingers or your tweezers.

THREAD THE CENTER NEEDLE

(Chain Needle 2 also known as C2)

1. Lift the presser foot UP again so the tension disks are open
2. Take the thread up and over the guide on the telescopic thread tree using the guide that is directly above the spool
3. Snap the thread into the yellow coded clip in the color-coded bar on the back of the machine
4. The thread then goes through the yellow hole just above the yellow tension dial
5. Take the thread around the bottom of the yellow tension dial from right to left.
6. The thread goes under the thread guide just below the yellow tension dial
7. And then it goes up and over the rectangular piece following the same path used by the thread in the orange path.
8. Set the thread into the silver guider at the left of that rectangular piece
9. When the thread comes to the thread guide above the needle, it comes in this time from the right
 - The only thread that comes into this thread guide from the left is the thread for chain needle 1 in the orange path.
 - Both chain needle 2 and 3 come in from the right

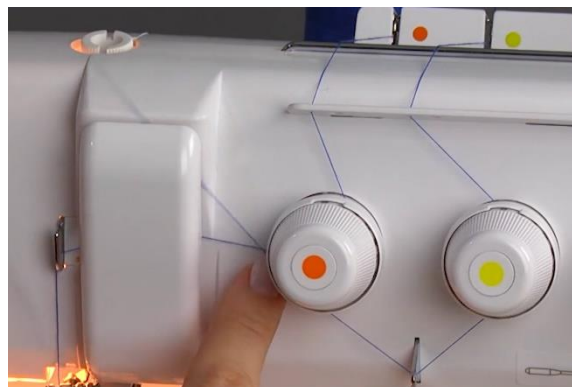


10. Slide the thread into the guide at the top of the needles from right to left
11. Lower the presser foot and thread the eye of the center needle

THREAD THE RIGHT NEEDLE

(Chain Needle 3 also known as C3)

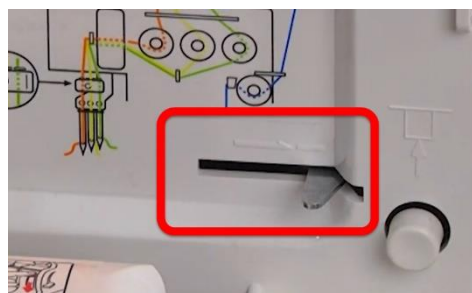
1. Lift the presser foot UP again so the tension disks are open
2. Take the thread up and over the guide on the telescopic thread tree using the guide that is directly above the spool
3. Snap the thread into the green coded clip in the color-coded bar on the back of the machine
4. The thread then goes through the green hole just above the yellow tension dial
5. Take the thread around the bottom of the green tension dial from right to left.
6. The thread goes under the same thread guide just below the yellow tension dial that was used for the center needle
7. And then it goes up and over the rectangular piece following the same path used by both of the previous threads
8. Set the thread into the silver guider at the left of that rectangular piece
9. When the thread comes to the thread guide above the needle, it comes in this time from the right
 - The only thread that comes into this thread guide from the left is the thread for chain needle 1 in the orange path.
 - Both chain needle 2 and 3 come in from the right
10. Slide the thread into the guide at the top of the needles from right to left
11. Lower the presser foot and thread the eye of the center needle



OPEN THE AIR TUBES

Before we can begin to sew, the air tubes that were closed at the beginning of the threading process need to be opened.

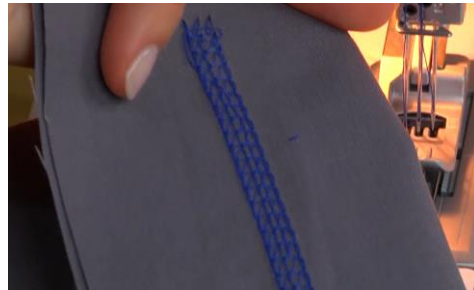
1. Move the silver lever to the right to open the air tubes



2. If you try to close the door and it will not close, it is probably because you forgot to open the air tubes

Sew a Triple Cover Stitch

1. When you have just threaded the machine and are ready to start sewing, make sure that you have fabric all the way under the needles.
 - The machine needs fabric to form the first stitch
 - Once the stitch is established, you will be able to chain on and off the fabric
2. The presser foot must be down
3. Sew a few stitches and then trim the thread tails
 - Trimming the loose threads keeps them from getting caught in the seam
4. When you get to the end of the fabric:
 - You can chain off and cut the thread tail with the thread cutter on the left side of the machine
 - Or you can chain off and cut the thread tail with small scissors
 - A third way is to:
 - Lift the presser foot
 - Pull a little slack in the needle threads
 - Pull the fabric to the back of the presser foot
 - Cut the threads with scissors
5. The triple cover stitch has three parallel rows of straight stitches sewn by the needles on the right side of the fabric and the chain looper stitch on the wrong side of the fabric



6. You can see when you look at the chain looper stitch why the tension was set at a lower setting than the setting used on the needles.
 - The chain looper thread has to travel across the back of the stitch and reach all the way from the left needle to the right needle
 - It simply takes more thread to cover the back of the stitch behind all three needles than it does to sew a straight stitch
7. When we change to a narrow cover hem or a chain stitch, it will not take as much thread to cover the back of the stitch, so we will be tightening the chain looper tension on those stitches



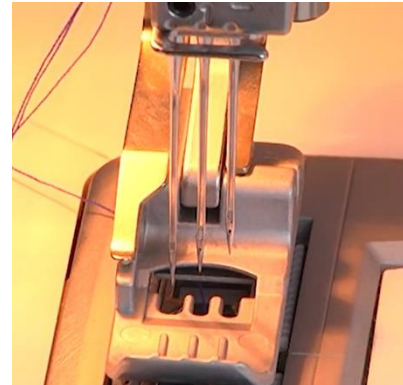
Troubleshooting

If you ever have trouble with skipped stitches on the right side of the fabric:

1. First check the threading and make sure that none of the threads have come out of any of the thread guides
2. Check that all the needles are all the way up into the machine
 - There is a little window just above each needle clamp screw
 - If the needle is inserted correctly, you will be able to see the top of the needle in that window
 - If you cannot see the top of the needle, loosen the screw and push the needle up until you can see it in the window

PRO TIP: The needles each sit at a different height when they are correctly inserted into the machine. The left needle is always going to be the lowest and the right needle is always going to be the highest.

3. If you still have not solved the problem you could try rethreading the machine from scratch.
4. If rethreading does not solve the problem, it may be that one or more needles need to be replaced.
 - A dull or damaged needle could be the problem



The last step would be to try changing the tension settings.

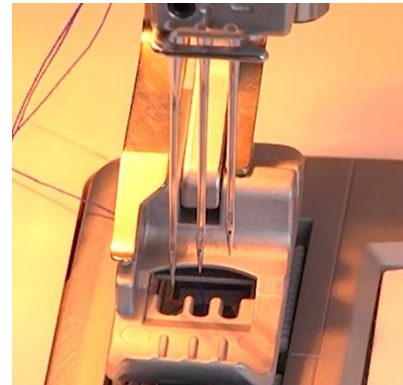
Sewing a Cover Hem

There are lines molded into the toe of the presser foot.

1. These lines can be used to help you guide the fabric to sew straight and to line up the rows of stitching when matching up to the start of the seam when sewing in the round.
2. Each of the three lines is directly in line with one of your needles

Why is it called a cover hem?

1. The goal is to center the stitch over the raw edge at the top of the hem
2. The chain looper thread will then “cover” the raw edge of the fabric



To sew a cover hem:

1. Turn the hem up and press
2. The hem will be stitched from the right side of the fabric
3. You will be able to feel the top edge of the hem through the fabric
4. Line up the top edge of the hem with the center mark on the toe of the presser foot as you sew the hem
5. There are also guide lines on the bed of the machine that can be helpful in keeping the fabric lined up.
6. A cover hem can be used with both woven and stretch fabrics
7. A cover hem is a stitch that has built-in stretch so there is give in the hem, so the stitches will not break when you wear the garment

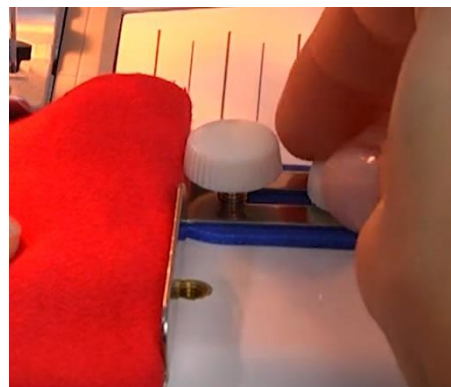


Fabric Guide

Part # BLE8FG

If you find it a little difficult to keep your cover hem straight by feeling the edge of the hem through the fabric, you may want to purchase the optional Fabric Guide from your Baby Lock retailer

1. Place the blue accessory adaptor that came with your machine over the two screw holes that are closer together
2. Place the slot in the Fabric Guide over the adaptor
3. Use the guide fixing screws that came with your machine to loosely attach the Fabric Guide
 - Leave the screws a little loose until you have lined up the guide exactly where you need it for your hem
4. To position the Fabric Guide, temporarily place the fabric under the foot with the wrong side up
5. Line up the top of the hem with the center needle
6. Move the Fabric Guide into position against the folded edge of the hem and tighten the screws.



TO SEW THE HEM

1. Turn the fabric over so the hem can be stitched with the right side up
 - Turning it wrong side up just made it easier to adjust the position of the fabric guide



2. Guide the folded edge of the hem against the Fabric Guide as you stitch the hem

Sewing “In-the-Round”

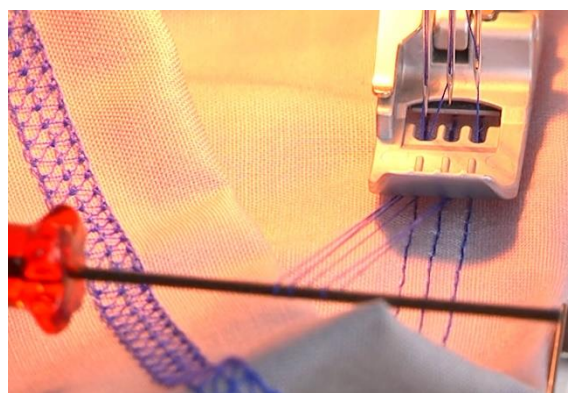
To get the fabric under the needle to start:

1. Turn the hand wheel toward the front of the machine to bring the needles to the highest position
2. Lift the presser foot
3. Pull some slack in the needle threads
4. Pull the thread tail to the back of the presser foot
5. Slide the fabric under the foot from the left side
6. Adjust the position of the Fabric Guide
7. Lower the presser foot
8. Stitch around the hem and stop a couple of inches from the start
9. Trim the thread tails at the start of the stitching on both the front and back of the seam
10. As you sew the last bit of the hem, guide the fabric so the stitches at the beginning of the seam are perfectly lined up with the marks on the toe of the presser foot
11. Sew until the end of the seam overlaps the stitches at the start of the seam
12. Sew until you have overlapped the end of the seam with the start of the seam, so the stitches are locked
 - The cover hem machine is not able to back stitch to secure the seam, but those overlapped stitches will do the job



TO BRING THE THREADS TO THE BACK OF THE STITCHING:

1. Lift the presser foot
2. Use the Allen wrench to bring the threads to the front of the foot
3. Cut the threads right at the loop around the Allen wrench
4. Pull the fabric toward the back of the foot to bring it out from under the presser foot
5. And all the threads are pulled to the back of the seam
6. If desired, you could tie a knot in the threads, but it is pretty secure with the overlapped stitches, so you could just trim the threads



Cover Stitch Wide

Changing from a triple cover stitch to a cover stitch is very easy because all you have to do is remove the center needle

1. Cut the thread for the center needle at the top of the spool
2. Remove the spool from the spool pin and set it aside
 - It is always a good idea to remove any spools that are not being used because the thread can tangle with the threads you are using as you sew
3. Remove the thread from the center needle by pulling just in front of the needle to pull the thread down through the machine and out of the needle.
4. Remove the center needle
 - You do need to remove any unused needles from the machine
5. And you are ready to sew a wide cover hem
 - The only difference between the triple cover hem set up and the wide cover hem set up is that the center needle is removed for the wide cover hem
6. The wide cover hem has just two lines of straight stitches on the right side of the fabric so the line of stitching down the center is missing.



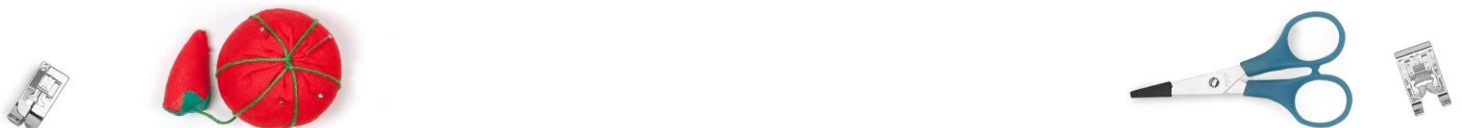
Differential Feed

The primary job of the differential feed is to allow you to have perfect flat seams that are neither stretched or puckered.

1. If your fabric is puckering, you can move the differential feed to a lower number to stretch the fabric slightly so it does not pucker
2. If your fabric is being stretched as you sew, you can move the differential feed to a higher number to ease the fabric so it is not stretched
3. Or you can move the differential feed setting to a high enough setting so that it gathers your fabric

HOW IT WORKS

1. There are two feed dogs under the foot with one in front and the other at the back of the foot
2. If you set the differential feed at N for Normal, both feed dogs the same as if it was one unit



3. If you set the differential feed at a lower number, the front feed dog takes shorter strokes, so it holds the fabric back at the front of the foot to prevent puckers
4. If you set the differential feed at a higher number the front feed dog takes longer strokes, so it eases fabric into the stitches to prevent stretching
5. If you set the differential feed at 2, the front feed dog moves twice as far as the back feed dog so it pushes enough fabric into the stitches to create gathers.

TO GATHER FABRIC

1. Set the differential feed at 2.0
2. Set the stitch length at 4.0
 - You will get more fullness in the gather with a longer stitch length
3. If you place a finger behind the presser foot and let the fabric stack against that finger as you sew, that can also give you a better gather

CREATE A PUFFING STRIP

1. A puffing strip is a strip of fabric that is gathered along both long edges and then inserted between two pieces of flat fabric
2. This is a technique that is often used in heirloom sewing
3. Use the same settings of differential feed at 2.0 and stitch length at 4.0 as were used in the previous exercise
4. Sew along both long edges of the fabric strip so both sides are gathered
5. To straighten the gathers across the narrow direction, hold both sides of the strip and gently tug.



KEEP LYCRA FROM STRECHING

1. It is a good idea to use a small piece of your same fabric to test sew before you hem your project
2. The test on this Lycra fabric left the hemmed edge slightly longer than the cut edge, so the fabric was stretched as it was stitched



3. Since the fabric was stretched just a little bit, bringing the differential feed up just one click should be enough to keep the fabric from stretching
4. If the reverse effect had happened and the hemmed edge was narrower than the cut edge, then the fabric has gathered and the differential feed could be moved down one click to solve the problem

Cover Stitch Narrow

When changing from a cover stitch wide to a cover stitch narrow, you have a choice. You could move either the right needle into the center position or you could move the left needle into the center position.

1. A narrow cover stitch is sewn with two needles.
 - You will always be using a needle in the center position
 - You have a choice of whether you pair the center needle with the left or the right needle
2. It is important to tighten the screw for the empty needle position so it does not loosen from the vibration of the machine and fall out
3. Cut the thread for the needle that was moved right at the top of the spool
4. Pull the thread down through the machine and out of the eye of the needle
5. Move the spool of thread to the correct spool pin for the new position of the needle in the center
 - It is important to move the thread to the correct threading path because each color-coded path and tension is specific to the needle position
6. Rethread in the correct threading path
7. Because you have re-threaded, it will be necessary to have fabric under the needles as you begin to sew.
 - The machine needs fabric to form the first stitch after the machine is threaded
 - After that first stitch is formed, the cover stitch machine is able to chain between seams
8. Take a few stitches to start the seam and then pause and trim the thread tail
9. The stitch has two parallel lines of straight stitches on the right side of the fabric, but those stitching lines are much closer together.



10. The back of the stitch is still covered by the looper threads, but again it is much narrower
11. The narrow cover hem may work better with some of the optional attachments.
12. The narrow cover hem may also be a more attractive look for top-stitching on some garments.

Chain Stitch

The chain stitch is sewn with just one needle and the chain looper.

1. The chain stitch can be sewn with any one of the three needle positions
2. Sara elected to use the center needle position, so the left needle was removed from the machine.
3. Trim and remove the thread for the needle that was taken out of the machine
 - So, there are now just two spools of thread on the machine
 - One thread in the chain looper
 - One thread in the needle
4. If you refer to the Threading Chart on the back of the Instruction Manual, you will find that changing to the chain stitch will also require a tension adjustment.
 - When you are working with a cover stitch, the chain looper thread needs enough thread to stretch from side to side across the back of the stitch
 - When you sew a chain stitch, the loop is much smaller since it just covers the back of a single line of straight stitching
5. The threading chart says the tension should be set at 2 to 3
6. Try setting it at 2.5 and then test sewing
7. On the right side of the fabric you will have a single line of straight stitches
8. On the back you will have a row of chain loops
 - The back of the stitch can be beautiful with a decorative thread!



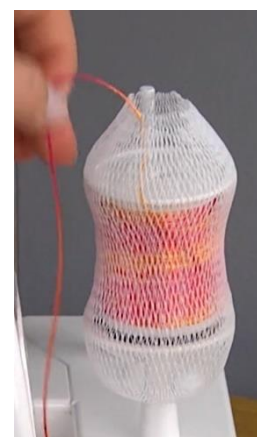
Decorative Threads - Decora

You can use threads in the chain looper that are too heavy to pass through the eye of a needle

4. Decora from Madeira is a 6wt thread

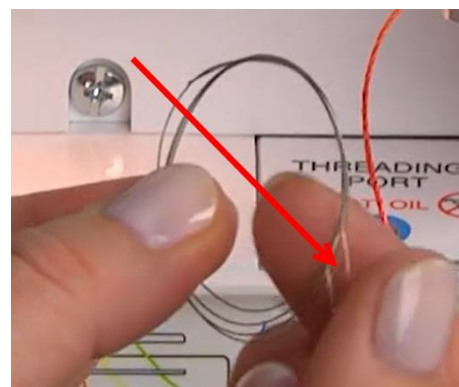


- The smaller the number is on thread weight, the thicker the thread
5. Cut the chain looper thread at the spool and pull it down and out of the machine
 6. Decora is a slippery thread, so it will need a thread net to keep it from falling off the spool and getting caught under that spool
 7. Fold the thread net in half and slip it over the thread
 - The net will allow the thread to feed out the top but will prevent the thread from spilling off the spool
 8. Remove the cone holder from the chain looper spool pin
 9. Place a spool cap with foam on the spool pin with the foam facing up
 10. Place the spool with its net on top of the foam spool cap
 11. You can stretch the thread net over the spool cap
 12. Place a non-foam spool cap with prongs down on top of the spool
 13. Again, you can stretch the thread net to fit around that spool cap
 14. Take the thread over the thread guide on the telescopic thread tree
 15. Thread as normal through the thread guides and tension
 16. Put the machine into threading mode by holding down the white button and turning the handwheel toward the front of the machine until you hear the loud click that indicates the air tubes are closed

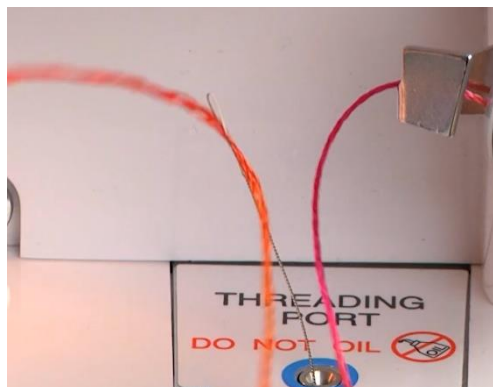


SOMETIMES IT CAN BE CHALLENGING TO GET THICKER DECORATIVE THREADS INTO THE THREADING PORT

1. That is why the machine comes with a Looper threading tool include in the Accessory bag
2. The looper threading tool is a thin gauged stainless-steel wire with a loop at one end and a flat end on the other side that can be pushed through the chain looper threading port
3. Carefully uncoil the threading tool
4. Insert the flat end into the chain looper threading port



5. Open the door on the left side of the machine so you will be able to see when the end of the threading tool emerges from the eye of the chain looper
6. Insert the decorative thread through the loop of the threading tool
7. Pull down enough thread so it will be able to travel through the air tubes to the other side of the machine
8. Gently grasp the wire at the eye of the looper and pull the threading tool and the decorative thread through the tubes until it emerges at the eye of the looper
9. Cut the tail of the thread and tuck it into the tray in the left side of the machine
10. Close the door on the left side of the machine
11. Push the silver lever to the right to open the threading tubes and return to serging mode and close the front door of the machine.



SEWING WITH DECORA

1. The stitch length will need to be a little longer when sewing with heavier decorative threads
 - Sara set the stitch length at 3.0 and then ran a seam on a small piece of fabric to test the stitch
2. Note that it might also be necessary to loosen the looper tension when sewing with heavier decorative threads
3. Because the decorative thread was placed in the chain looper, the back side of the stitch is going to be the pretty side.
4. The blue line running through the center of the stitch is the needle thread
5. The needle thread will always be visible so if you do not want to see a contrast stitch running up the center, you would need to select a needle thread that matches your decorative thread



Decorative Thread – Cotona

Cotona from Madeira is a 4wt thread so it is even thicker than the Decora

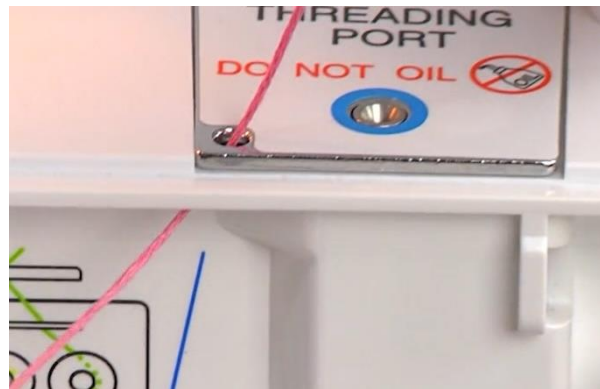
1. Cotona is a cotton thread so it has a matt finish instead of the silky look of the Decora



2. The challenge with the Cotona is that because it is even heavier than the Decora, it can be difficult to pull through the threading tubes.
 - The thread is doubled over as it is pulled through, so it is just a lot of bulk to move through the system
3. Place the thread on the spool pin with a thread net and the spool caps in the same manner used previously for the Decora
4. Take the thread over the thread guide on the telescopic thread tree
5. Thread as normal through the thread guides and tension
6. Put the machine into threading mode by holding down the white button and turning the handwheel toward the front of the machine until you hear the loud click that indicates the air tubes are closed

USING A THREAD CRADLE

1. Cut about 18" of serger thread
2. Fold your thread length in half
3. Place both cut ends of your thread cradle into the threading port.
4. Hold the loop at the other end of the thread so it does not blow all the way through
5. Push the lever to blow the cut ends of the thread through to the eye of the looper
6. Open the door on the left side of the serger and you should see the cut ends of your thread cradle
 - You now can hold both the cut ends of the cradle at the left side of the machine and the looped end near the threading port
7. Push the silver lever to the right to open the threading tubes
 - This may feel a little weird, but it will allow you to see the thread as it passes through the tubes at the center of the machine
8. Pull the cut end of the thread until you see the loop at the opening between the tubes.
9. Reach in with your tweezers and grab the loop when it appears in the gap between the tubes
10. Thread the Cotona through the thread guide hole just to the left of the threading port from top to bottom
 - This thread guide will keep the Cotona from getting caught in the front door when it is closed
11. Thread the Cotona through the loop of the thread cradle



12. Use the thread cradle to pull the Cotona through the eye of the chain looper
13. Trim the thread tail and tuck it into the tray
14. Close both doors on the serger
15. And you are ready to sew and once again the pretty thread is on the back of the stitch



CREATING THREAD CHAIN

1. Another use for these decorative threads is to create a beautiful thread chain that can be used to make tassels, belt loops and cord for couching
2. Simply sew without fabric
3. Hold the chain behind the presser foot and gently guide the chain straight out the back of the foot
4. Do not pull because that could bend your needle
5. Simply hold the chain so it is straight
6. If you pull to the side, the chain will break because the stitch is pulled off the stitch fingers on the needle plate

OTHER USES FOR DECORATIVE THREADS

1. Heavy threads can also be used in the chain looper with the triple cover stitch for a much wider decorative stitch
2. A narrow cover hem with heavy thread in the looper will give you a decorative stitch that is wider than the chain stitch and narrower than the triple cover hem
3. Try different weights of thread in the chain looper
4. Remember that when you are sewing with decorative thread in the looper, you will be sewing upside down because the chain looper thread is on the back of the stitch

Troubleshooting Problems

1. When you begin to sew, the fabric does not move forward, and the machine makes a buzzing sound
 - You forgot to move the silver lever to the right to open the threading tubes and return to the sewing mode
2. You sewed a seam and when you turn it over you have loose ugly loops on the back side of the seam
 - You forgot to lower the presser foot before you began stitching



3. The loops are loose and there is a row of needle stitching without thread
 - One of your needles is unthreaded
4. If your cover stitch seems to be pulled tight across the back and is forcing the fabric to tunnel
 - Remember that when you change from a chain stitch to a cover hem, you will need to loosen the chain looper tension
5. The back of the stitch looks like the one on the left instead of the one on the right.
 - That bad row of stitching was caused by a burr on the needle



- If you are getting poor stitching or skipped stitches, it may be time to change the needle.

