



LEARN & CREATE

with Baby Lock



Why 8 Threads on a Serger?

Why 8 Threads on a Serger? It's a question that we hear all the time! Why do you need them and what would you do with it? With 30 years of Baby Lock experience under her belt, there is nobody better to explain why than Pam Mahshie. We're pretty sure that you'll know why when you've finished watching!

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Two Machines in One

Although Pam is sewing on the Ovation serger, these same features and settings can also be found on the Triumph serger.

1. The Baby Lock Evolve, Evolution, Ovation and Triumph are more than just a serger
2. Those models are actually two machines in one!
3. Four of the threads allow you to sew a cover stitch or a chain stitch
 - The gold colored threads in the picture at the right are used to sew the cover or chain stitch options
4. The other four threads can be used to sew overlock stitches or a roll hem stitch
 - The green colored threads in the picture at the right are used to sew the overlock or roll hem stitch options
5. You can also sew any cover or chain stitch with any overlock stitch



6. Using combinations of the two types of stitches means you have over 87 different configurations

You may have said that you had no plans to purchase a serger because it can only sew a very narrow seam

1. Pam will show a variety of seam widths in this class including:
 - A 5/8" seam that works well for garment sewing
 - A 1/4" seam that is perfect for piecing quilts
 - And a 1/2" seam that is the preferred width of many home dec sewers

8 Thread Stitch

1. The machine has been threaded using gold colored thread in the chain looper and chain needles, and green colored thread in the upper looper, lower looper and overlock needles

The image at the right shows the appearance of the 8-thread seam on the top or right side of the fabric

2. The three rows of gold straight stitches are the formed by the gold thread in the chain needles
 - The gold straight stitch at the far left is from Chain Needle 1
 - The gold straight stitch in the center is from Chain Needle 2
 - The gold straight stitch on the right is from Chain Needle 3
 - Note that the needles are numbered from left to right
3. At the edge of the fabric you can see the green threads that overlock the edge of the fabric
4. You can also see two rows of green stitches that run at the left edge and through the center of the overlock loops
 - The green straight stitch at the left edge of the loops is formed by Overlock Needle 1
 - The green straight stitch in the center of the loops is formed by Overlock Needle 2
5. The green serpentine loops are formed by the upper looper



The image at the right shows the appearance of the 8-thread seam on the back or wrong side of the fabric

1. The gold colored wavy stitches are formed by the chain looper
2. The gold colored loops are connected to all three of the gold straight stitches on the top side of the fabric
3. The green colored loops are formed by the lower looper thread
4. The green colored loops are connected to the green needle threads



So, would anyone really use this 8-thread seam?

1. Maybe not
2. It can be used for some decorative seams
3. It could also be used if you wanted a really strong seam held together by 5 needle threads and finished with an overlock edge to prevent raveling

If you take a pair of scissors and cut between the cover stitch and the overlock stitch, you will find that you have two different stitches running side by side.

Although the two stitches were sewn side by side, they are not connected to each other, so you can use them together or separately.

1. The gold cover stitch could be used for a hem
 - You may find that you have garments in your closet with a cover hem at the bottom edge or the sleeves
2. The green overlock stitch is often used for seams on knit garments
 - That same garment that has a cover hem may have overlock seams at the shoulders and side seams

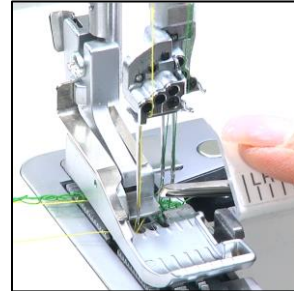


So let's take a look at some of the different ways that these stitches can be used separately and in combination.



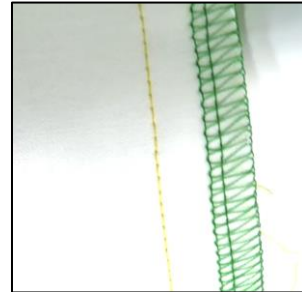
5/8" Seam

1. Cut the gold threads for Chain Needle 2 and Chain Needle 3 but leave Chain Needle 1 threaded
2. Pull the threads for Chain Needles 2 and 3 out of the machine
3. Remove Chain Needles 2 and 3 from the serger.
 - On the Ovation and Triumph sergers you do not need to tighten the screws when you remove the needles
 - There is a small plate that prevents the needles from falling out
 - If you are using an Evolve or Evolution, make sure you tighten up those screws after you remove the needles, so the screws do not fall out of the machine and get lost!
4. The stitch is sewn with a chain stitch sewn by Chain Needle 1 and the Chain looper along with a four thread overlock stitch sewn with Overlock Needles 1 and 2, the upper looper and the lower looper



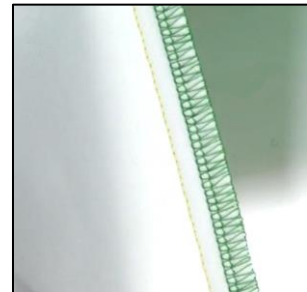
The resulting stitch is an industry standard stitch and again is one that you may find in the garments in your closet.

1. This allows you to sew a straight stitch seam and an overlock edge finish to keep the garment from raveling and it is all done in just one step.
2. The big difference you will see with the 8-thread Baby Lock machines is that the seam is a full 5/8" width
3. The wider seam could be desirable to leave a full seam allowance in case the garment needed to be altered later
4. Or this could be a seam that just makes the garment hang better



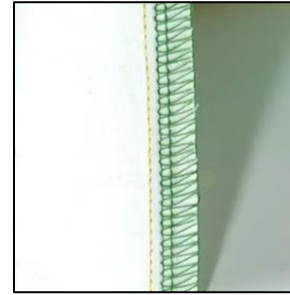
1/2" Seam

1. Move the needle to the Chain Needle 2 position in the center
 - Note that Pam did not unthread the needle
 - She simply moved it from the left to the center
2. There are no other changes needed
3. The needle thread is closer to the overlock edge finish and the seam allowance is narrower
4. And now you have a 1/2" seam allowance



3/8" Seam

1. Move the needle to the Chain Needle 3 position at the right
 - Note that Pam did not unthread the needle
 - She simply moved it from the center to the right
2. There are no other changes needed
3. The needle thread is even closer to the overlock edge finish and the seam allowance is narrower
4. And now you have a 3/8" seam allowance



4-Thread Overlock Stitch

1. Cut the gold thread that is in the chain needle and remove the gold needle thread from the machine
2. Remove the Chain Needle from the machine
3. Cut the gold thread that is in the Chain Looper and remove that thread also
4. Now only the green threads are being used

The edge of the fabric will be trimmed as you sew by the cutting blades

1. An overlock stitch is sewn along the edge of the fabric
2. A chain stitch or a cover hem can be stitched in the middle of the fabric with the cutting blades locked so nothing is trimmed if they are sewn independently of the overlock
3. The seam is stitched with two Overlock Needles and you can see the two lines of straight stitching on the top side of the seam
4. The edge of the fabric is wrapped by the loops formed by the upper and lower looper thread and that protects the edge of the fabric to prevent revealing

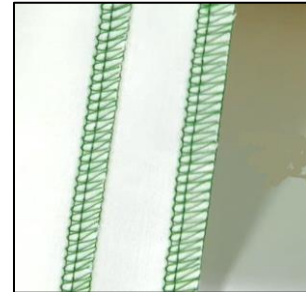


The width of the seam can be adjusted.

1. The Width knob can be used to adjust the cutting width
2. The seam pictured above would be too wide for a quilter who wanted a 1/4" seam
3. Turn the width dial to set the width at 5.5mm
 - The cutting blade is moved closer to the needles to trim the fabric for a narrower seam allowance



- On your Baby Lock serger, the stitch fingers on the needle plate that are used to form the loops and keep them flat are also adjusted so you have the perfect frame for the narrower loops
- 4. Note that there are two numbers for each setting on the Width knob
 - The higher number is the distance from Overlock Needle 1 on the left to the cutting blade
 - The lower number is the distance from Overlock Needle 2 on the right to the cutting blade
- 5. A width setting of 5.5mm on the 4-thread seam will give you a true ¼" seam
- 6. And as you can see in the image at the right, the seam is narrower than the first seam Pam stitched
- 7. The stitch on the right is the widest seam that can be stitched with a 4-thread seam
- 8. The stitch on the left is the narrowest seam that can be stitched with a 4-thread seam
- 9. And you can set the width at any setting between these two extremes

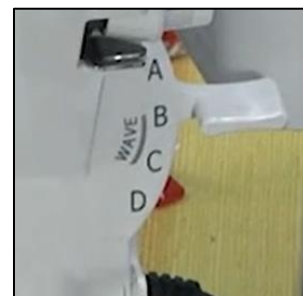


3-Thread Narrow

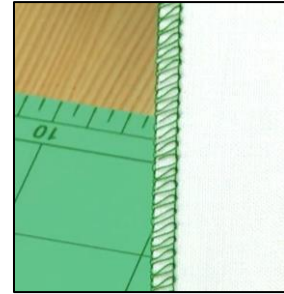
1. Cut the green thread that is in Overlock Needle 1 on the left at the top of the spool
2. Remove the Overlock Needle 1 on the left from the machine
3. Remove the thread that was cut from the machine
 - Leaving the needle threaded until it has been removed from the machine can help if you drop the needle
 - The thread will hold the needle, so it does not drop inside the serger

Automatic Thread Delivery System

1. If you change to a different type of thread, a different weight of fabric or change from a wide stitch to a narrow stitch, the machine automatically adjusts and there are no tension adjustments for you
2. When you change from using a wide stitch with the left needle to a narrow stitch with the right needle the Stitch Selector should be changed from the A setting used with the left needle to the B setting used with the right needle
 - A for left needle



- B for right needle
 - C for narrow hem
 - D for roll hem
3. The 3-thread stitch works well for:
 - Lingerie
 - Light weight fabrics
 - Or delicate fabrics like sheers



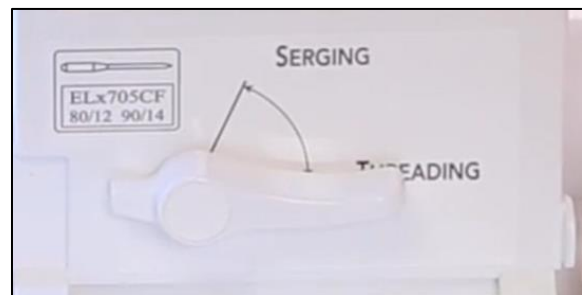
Narrow Hem

1. Move the Stitch Selector to C for a narrow hem
 - A for left needle
 - B for right needle
 - C for narrow hem
 - D for roll hem
2. One other change is required when changing from a narrow 3-thread stitch to a narrow hem
3. Turn the Stitch Length dial to the Rolled Hem side of the dial
 - This automatically reconfigures the machine to create a narrow or rolled hem
 - Note that there is a circle around the numbers on the Rolled Hem side of the dial, so you will know at a glance which side of the dial you are on.



Pam also changed the lower looper to a different color thread so you would be able to see the difference between the narrow hem and the rolled hem

1. Place a spool of gold thread on the spool pins for the lower looper
2. Put the machine into threading mode
 - Open both front doors on the serger
 - Lift the presser foot
 - The presser foot should always be up while you are threading
3. Move the Serging/Threading Lever to the Threading position
4. Turn the hand wheel toward the front of the machine until you hear the threading tubes snap as they close



5. Take the thread up and over the thread guide labeled LL for lower looper in the telescopic thread tree
 - Note that the brushes in those thread guides were placed there to help prevent twists and tangles in the thread
6. There are four channels for thread on the top of the serger and the lower looper thread goes in the channel at the far right
7. Use two hands to guide the thread into the channel and press down at the back to snap the thread into the thread guide at the back of the channel
 - You will hear a click when the thread is clipped into the guide
8. Guide the thread to the front of the channel and tuck it behind the thread guide at the base of the channel
9. Insert about an inch of thread into the threading port marked with an L for the lower looper
10. Pull down enough thread so there will be a long enough length of thread to blow all the way through the threading path and into the eye of the lower looper
11. Push the "PUSH TO THREAD" button
12. And the thread comes out at the eye of the lower looper
13. Move the lever back to SERGING

IMPORTANT NOTE: The lower looper was re-threaded without unthreading either the needle or the upper looper. Your Baby Lock serger can be threaded in any order at any time!

1. Sew a narrow hem on a single layer of fabric
2. The top of the narrow hem has green loops from the upper looper
3. The bottom of the narrow hem has gold loops from the rethreaded lower looper
4. The loops meet right along the edge of the fabric forming a narrow flat hem

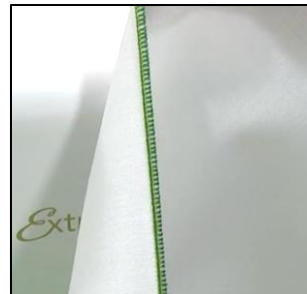


Rolled Hem

1. To change from a Narrow Hem to a Rolled Hem requires just one change
2. Move the Stitch Selector to D



- A for left needle
 - B for right needle
 - C for narrow hem
 - D for roll hem
3. Sew the Rolled Hem on a single layer of fabric
 4. The green thread from the upper looper is visible on the top of the fabric
 5. When the fabric is flipped over, the green thread from the upper looper is also visible on the back side of the fabric
 6. The gold thread that is in the lower looper is completely hidden within the stitch
 7. The upper looper thread has wrapped all the way around the edge of the fabric
 8. You can also feel that the fabric has been rolled over inside the hem so the raw edge is completely encased



So, having an 8-thread serger allows you to create all kinds of seams from a full 5/8" wide seam down to a 1/8" roll hem which gives you the flexibility to work with all kinds of fabrics and sewing projects.

