



# *Getting to Know:* **Lauren**

A-LINE SERIES  
**Model BL450A**



**FOR THE LOVE OF SEWING**

Baby Lock Consumer Helpline: 800-313-4110  
[www.babylock.com](http://www.babylock.com)



# Lauren

## Model BL450A

Introducing Lauren, the easy-to-use serger from the Baby Lock A-Line series of sewing machines. Lauren loves to give projects a finished look with reinforced stitches and decorative edging. Practical and steady, Lauren will make sure every thread stays in place with a professional look.

This Getting to Know You Guide will take you through a simple, step-by-step process on how to thread your serger and set tension dials for balanced stitches. Once you're familiar with your machine, refer to the instruction and reference guide (packaged with your machine) for additional directions.

Like all machines in the A-Line Series, Lauren has the features and the durability to handle all of your projects – you can always count on her to be there for you. Be sure to ask your Baby Lock Retailer about Lauren's friends in the A-Line Series, like Audrey, Natalie and Grace. From classic tailored looks to modern-day fashions, the machines in the A-Line Series will help you sew and serge with success – all with the quality you've come to expect from Baby Lock.



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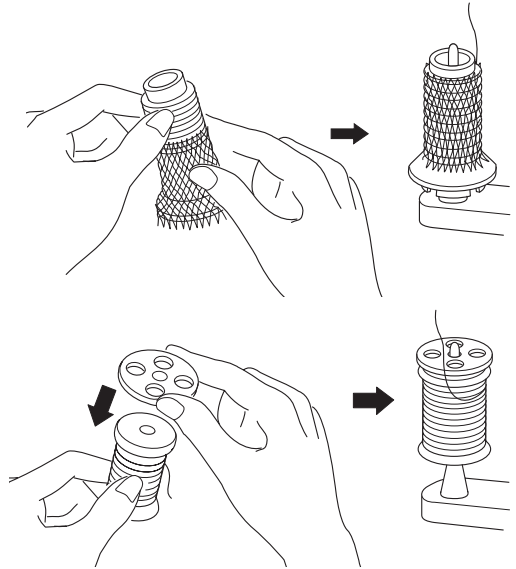


# Setting Up Your Serger

When threading, it's important to consider the type of thread you use for serging. Remember, a serger creates a finished look with reinforced stitches, so strong thread is an important ingredient. A top quality, long staple, polyester or poly/cotton blend is the best choice. Skipped stitches and broken threads are often the direct result of using old or inferior thread.

## Thread Spools

Serger cone thread is designed for serging and feeds freely from the top. When using decorative threads, a spool net may be needed. Regular thread spools can also be used if you insert a spool cap from the accessory packet into the top of the spool. The spool cap forms a smooth edge, allowing the thread to feed off evenly.



## Threading Your Serger

New owners may be apprehensive about threading the serger. It's much easier than it appears. In fact, there are two methods for threading your serger: Tying-on and Manual. Tying-on is certainly the quickest threading method, but manual threading is almost as quick. It's a good idea to practice threading your serger manually. At some point in time, you will need to re-thread a looper or all of the thread paths and the time to learn is NOT in the middle of a sewing project! Practice now, and you'll be serging with confidence in no time.

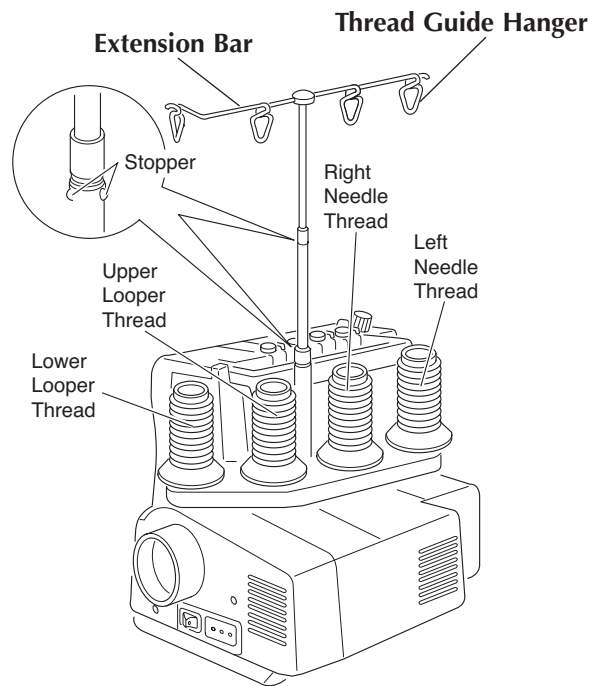
## Extension Bar

1. Pull the extension bar up as far as it will go.
2. Rotate the thread guide hanger so that the thread guides are right above the spool pins.
3. Place the cone thread or spools on spool pins.

## Thread Sequence

The thread guides and tension dials are color-coded, and a color-coded threading diagram is located inside the front cover of the serger. Proper threading sequence is the most important rule to remember when threading your serger:

- 1st - Upper looper (green)
- 2nd - Lower looper (blue)
- 3rd - Right needle (yellow)
- 4th - Left needle (red)



Back view

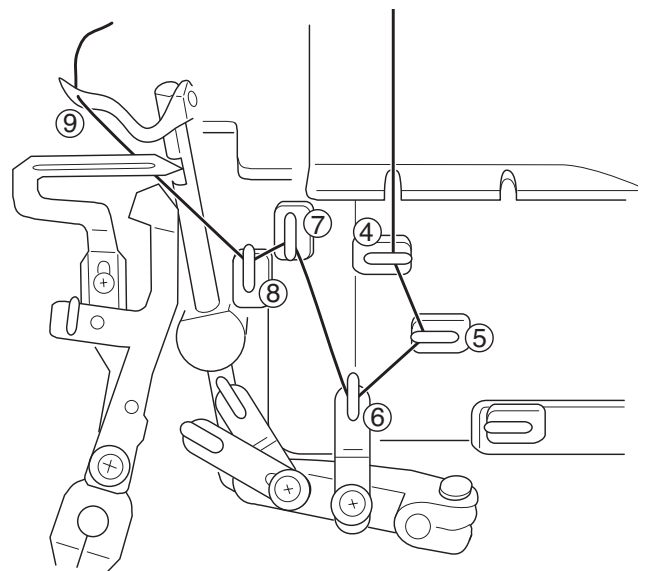
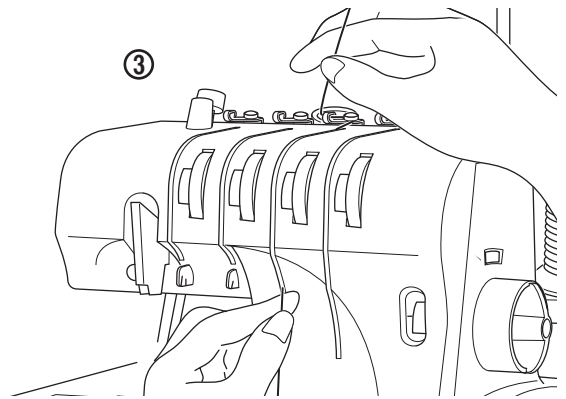
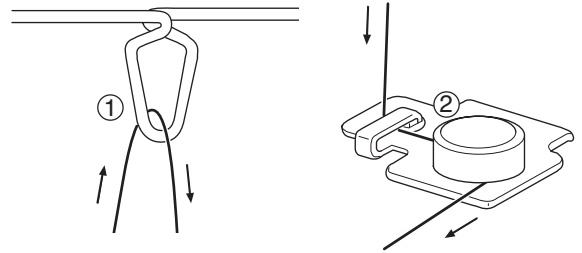


# Manual Threading

Open the front cover and thread upper looper thread as illustrated below. Follow the GREEN color marked thread guides.

## Threading the Upper Looper

1. Pass thread through top thread guide hanger from back to front.
2. Bring thread down and pass through thread guide and under pretension disc.
3. Bring thread straight down through the slot so that it passes between the tension discs. Give the thread a tug to be sure it is secure between the tension discs.
4. Hook thread from the left side.
5. Hook thread from the right side.
6. Hook thread from the bottom side and pull thread up.
7. Hook thread from the top side.
8. Hook thread from the bottom side and pull thread up.
9. Use tweezers to pass thread through the upper looper eye from front to back. Pull at least 3 inches (7cm) of thread through the upper looper.

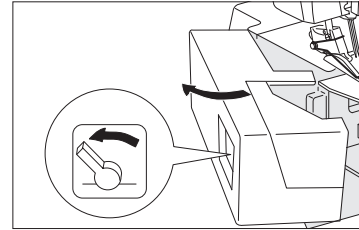




# Manual Threading

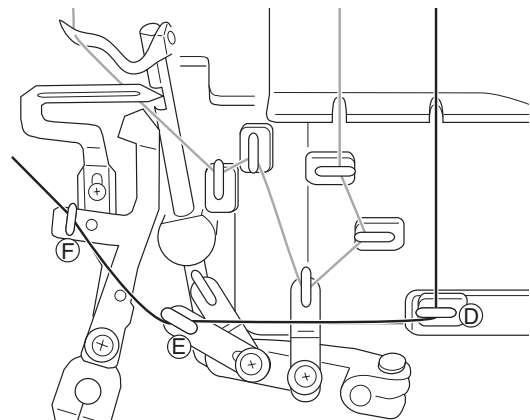
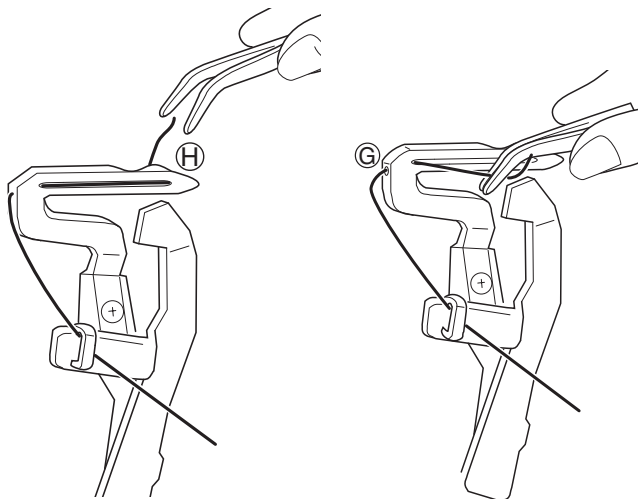
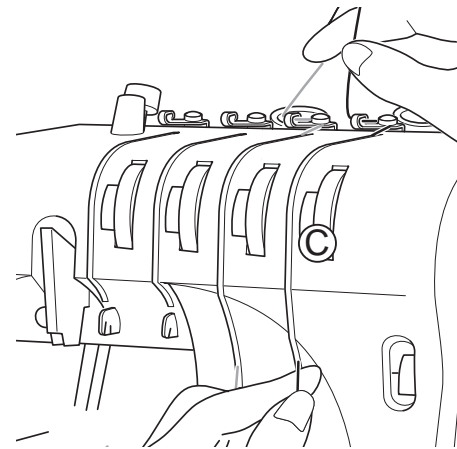
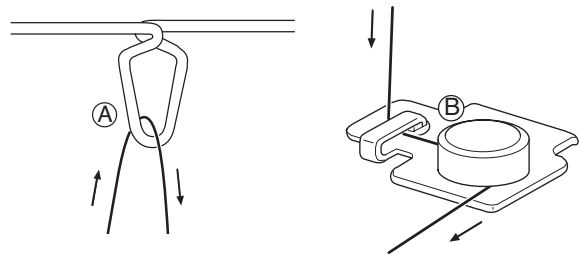
Remove the free arm cover and thread the lower looper thread as illustrated below. Follow the BLUE color marked thread guides.

Remove free arm cover by swinging the extension table out with the lever in locked position. The free arm cover will stay attached to the extension table.



## Threading the Lower Looper

- A. Pass thread through top thread guide hanger from back to front.
- B. Bring thread down and pass through the thread guide and under pre-tension disc.
- C. Bring thread straight down through the slot so that it passes between the tension discs. Give the thread a tug to be sure it is lodged between the tension discs.
- D. Hook thread from the right side and pull thread toward the left.
- E. Hook thread from the bottom side.
- F. Hook thread from the bottom side and pull thread toward the left.
- G. Turn handwheel toward you until the lower looper is in extreme left side position. Pass thread through hole using the tweezers.
- H. Turn handwheel until the lower looper is in extreme right position. Use the tweezers to pass thread through lower looper eye, front to back. Pull at least 3 inches (7cm) of thread through lower looper over upper looper and toward the back of the machine.





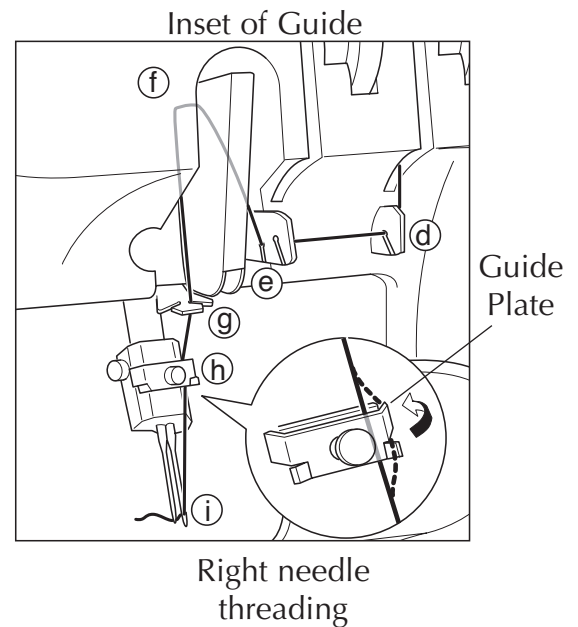
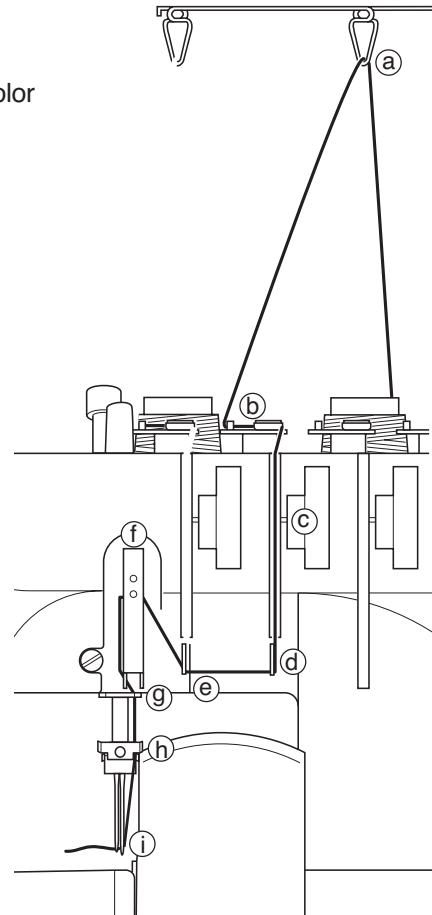
# Manual Threading

## Threading the Right Needle

Thread right needle following steps a thru i. Follow YELLOW color marked thread guides.

- a-c. Refer to steps 1-3 in threading upper looper thread.
- d. Hook thread into guide and pull it toward the left.
- e. Hook thread into back opening of guide and pull thread up.
- f. Hook into guide by sliding thread across top and down.
- g. Position thread into right side opening of guide.
- h. Pass thread behind right side of guide plate.
- i. Use the tweezers to thread the right needle eye front to back. Pull at least 3 inches (7cm) of thread through the needle eye.

**TIP:** Practice threading your machine at least once a day until you are comfortable with the process.





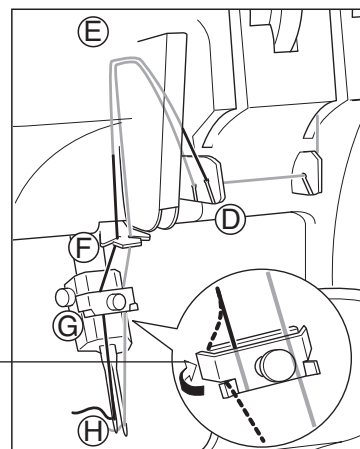
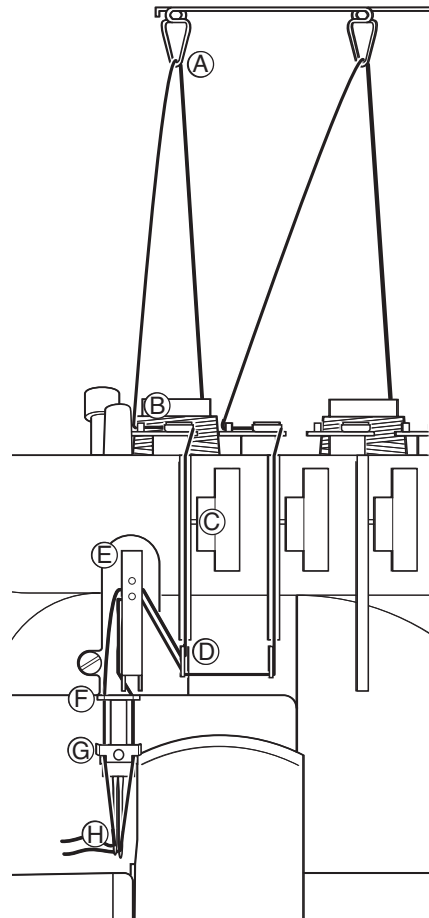
# Manual Threading

## Threading the Left Needle

Thread left needle following steps A through H.  
Follow RED color marked thread guides.

- A-C Thread first 3 steps same as first 3 steps in threading upper and lower looper.
- D. Hook thread into front opening of guide and pull thread up.
- E. Hook into guide by sliding thread across top and down.
- F. Position thread into left side opening of guide.
- G. Pass thread under left side of guide plate.
- H. Use the tweezers to thread the left needle eye front to back. Pull at least 3 inches (7cm) of thread through the needle eye.

**TIP:** Practice threading your machine at least once a day until you are comfortable with the process.



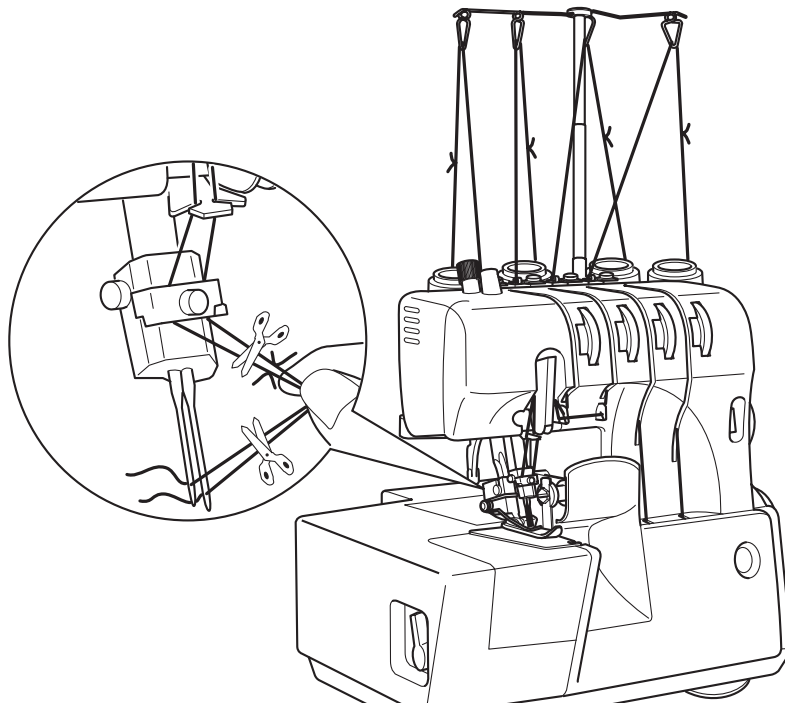
Guide Plate

Left needle  
threading



## Tying-on Threading Method

The Lauren serger comes with thread already threaded through the thread paths. Simply tie the ends of your thread spools or cones to the ends of the existing threads and sew each strand through. Here's how:



1. Place the thread spools or cones on the spool pins and bring the new thread through the thread guide hanger, back to front.
2. Making as small a knot as possible, tie the spool thread ends securely to the ends of the threads that are through the thread paths. Clip the thread tails of the knot.
3. Note the tension settings\* and turn all tension dials to the smallest number.
4. Slowly run the machine until upper and lower looper thread knots come through the eyes of the upper and lower loopers.
5. Stop the machine and cut needle threads above the eyes of the needles.
6. Rethread eyes of needles manually.
7. Return tension dials to the original settings.
8. Place all four threads under and to the back of the presser foot.

**\*TIP:** Before changing the tension dial settings for the first time, write the factory settings in your instruction book.





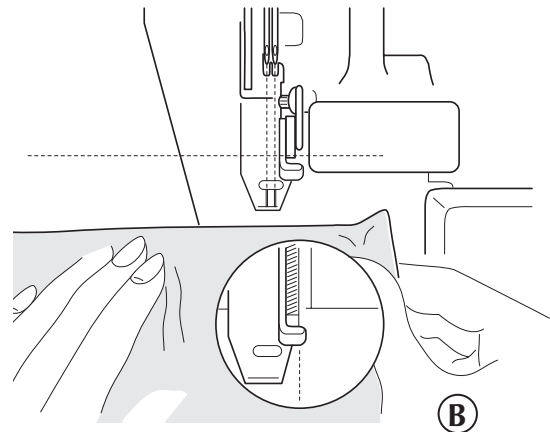
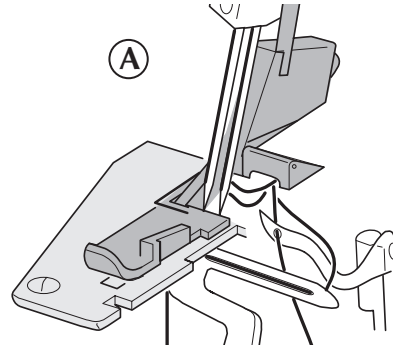
# Serging

Serging is somewhat different than sewing with a conventional sewing machine. You can serge without fabric under the foot to create a thread chain for decorative purposes. The machine won't jam. With the Lauren serger, it isn't necessary to lift the presser foot to insert the fabric; just place it at the toe of the foot and start to serge. Be careful not to pull the fabric – the machine will feed it evenly without help. At the end of a seam, just serge off the edge of the fabric

Before beginning a project, test serge on a fabric scrap to make sure the machine is threaded properly and the tensions are set correctly. Here's a step-by-step guide for serging with fabric:

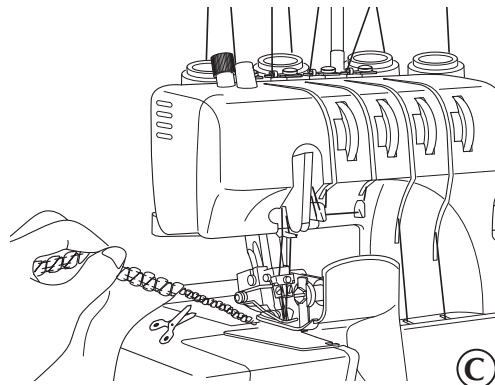
## Starting to Serge

1. Place all threads under the presser foot and toward the back (Diagram A).
2. Lower the presser foot.
3. Turn the handwheel toward you 2 or 3 times to make sure a thread chain is forming.
4. Press the foot control while gently pulling threads toward the back, making a 2-3" thread chain.
5. Place the fabric under the toe of the foot, aligning the fabric edge about 1/4" to the right of the foot (Diagram B).
6. Gently hold the thread chain behind the presser foot with your left hand and start serging.



## End of Seam

1. When the needle reaches the end of the fabric seam, chain-off by running the machine until the thread chain is about 2-3" long.
2. Stop the machine and cut the thread chain (Diagram C) leaving a 3" - 4" thread tail.
3. To secure the seam, place a dot of seam sealant at the end of the seam. Let dry and trim the thread chain or pull the thread chain back through the seam using a yarn needle.





# Tension Guidelines

It is easiest to become familiar with tension adjustments if you practice using different thread colors, that match to the color-coding of the machine. Use the same type and weight of thread for all four strands. REMEMBER: Turn tension dials to a higher number to tighten the tension or to a lower number to loosen the tension performance.

## 3 - or 4 - Thread Seaming

The upper and lower looper threads should interlock right over the cut edge of the fabric. (Diagrams A-3 and A-4)

## Looper Tension

- If the lower looper thread pulls toward the top of the fabric OR if the fabric edge curls up, the upper looper tension is too tight and the lower looper tension is too loose. (Diagrams B-3 and B-4)
- If the upper looper thread pulls toward the underside of the fabric OR if the fabric edge curls under, the lower looper tension is too tight and the upper looper tension is too loose. (Diagrams C-3 and C-4)

BOTH loopers can be too tight or too loose:

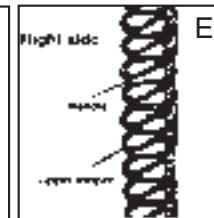
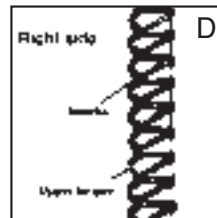
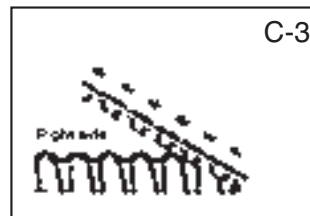
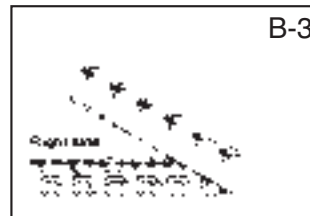
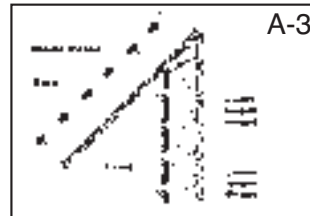
- If the fabric “tunnels” or puckers under the stitching, either both loopers are too tight OR the stitch width may be too wide for lightweight fabrics. (Diagram D)
- If the looper threads extend beyond the cut edge of the fabric (“feathering”), both loopers are too loose. (Diagram E)

## Needle Tension

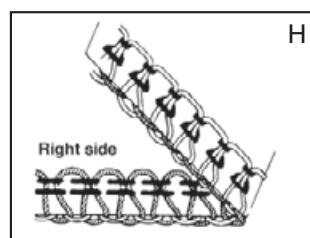
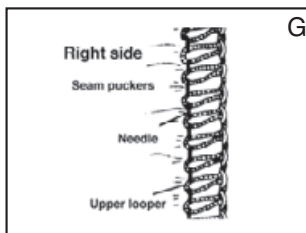
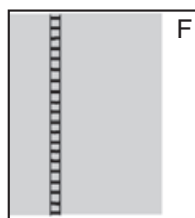
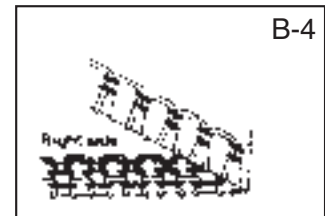
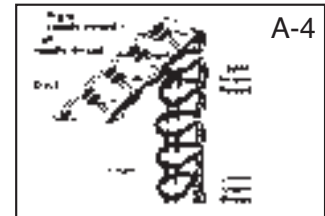
Sew a test seam and, if stitches are visible from the right side of the fabric (Diagram F), tighten left needle tension. If the seam begins to pucker or draw up lengthwise, the needle tension is too tight. (Diagram G)

On the 4-thread stitch, if the inside straight stitch forms loops on the back side of the fabric, tighten the right needle tension. (Diagram H)

## Three-thread Seaming



## Four-thread Seaming





# Lauren's Tote

This adorable tote can be constructed quickly and easily using a serger. It's even reversible for a totally different look!

Skill Level: Beginner

## Supplies:

- Baby Lock Lauren Serger
- 4 Spools Maxi-Lock serger thread
- 2 Spools ivory woolly nylon extra thread
- 3/4 yard printed home décor fabric
- 3/4 yard blue home décor fabric
- 1/4 yard green home décor fabric
- 1/4 yard gold home décor fabric
- Iron
- Cardboard
- Pins
- Hand needle

4. Set your serger for 3-thread wide stitch with left needle, upper looper thread and lower looper thread between 2.0-4.0.

5. With wrong sides together, serge first set of strips together. Then serge second set of strips together. **(Fig. 1)**

6. Now you have two larger pieces for the outside base of the tote bag. Press seams outward. **(Fig. 2)**

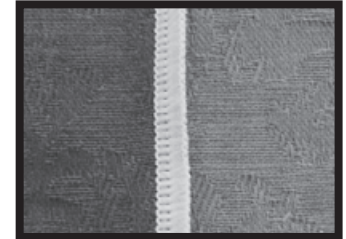


Fig. 1

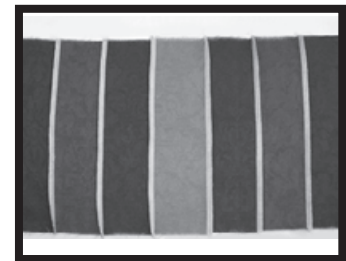


Fig. 2

## Instructions:

1. Cut:
  - Two 8-1/2" x 16-1/2" pieces of print for the outside top
  - Two 17" x 16-1/2" pieces of print for the inside fabric
  - Two 2-1/2" x 27" pieces of blue for the straps
  - Eight 2-1/2" x 7" pieces of blue for the outside base
  - Two 2-1/2" x 7" pieces of gold for the outside base center strips
  - Four 2-1/2" x 7" pieces of green for the outside base
2. Thread the serger for a four thread stitch with the woolly nylon extra thread in the upper and lower loopers and maxi lock thread in the needles.
3. Place the 7" long strips into two sets of seven in the following color order: blue, green, blue, gold, blue, green, blue.



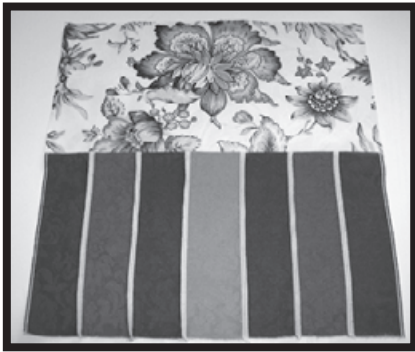


Fig. 3

7. With right sides together, serge one 8-1/2" x 16-1/2" outside top piece to one of the outside base sections. Press the seam. Repeat for the second half. **(Fig. 3)**
8. Place the two outside pieces together and serge along both sides and across the bottom leaving the top edge open.
9. Place the two 17" x 16-1/2" inside fabric pieces right sides together.
10. Serge across the bottom and down one side. When serging the other side seam, leave an opening about 4" long for turning.
11. Pull the bottom corners into a point and measure approximately 1" inch in from the point.
12. Serge the point off and repeat for the other corner on the opposite side. This will give the bag a flat bottom.
13. Repeat this step for the outside bag bottom corners.
14. With right sides together, serge each strap piece lengthwise.
15. Turn the straps right side out and press.
16. Place the outer bag section and the inside bag section with right sides together.
17. Insert the entire strap between the layers on each side. Position each of the strap ends 4" from the side seam and hold in place with a pin.
18. Serge around the top edge catching only the raw edges of the straps. Do not serge over the pins.
19. Turn the bag right side out through the 4" opening in the side.
20. Press to shape the bag.
21. Cut a piece of cardboard and insert it into the base of the tote.
22. Use a hand needle and thread to tack it into position to keep it from sliding when you reverse the bag.
23. Use the hand needle and stitch the opening closed.



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