

BERNINA
eBook Series



JUST OVERLOCK IT!

Overlocker/Serger Stitch Applications

Written by:

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4-Thread Overlock Stitch ▪ 3-Thread Overlock Stitch ▪ 2-Thread Overlock Stitch
Flatlock Stitches ▪ Rolled Hem Stitches ▪ Specialty Stitches

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OVERLOCKER/SERGER STITCH APPLICATIONS

The overlocker, or serger as it is commonly known, is a useful machine addition to any sewing room. This machine allows for fast professional looking seams and edges, but also provides opportunities beyond just utility. The overlock stitch is used for construction and edge finishes most often, but can be used for applications like inserting zippers and more. The rolled hem edge finish is a great way to finish delicate fabric, and can be used to create wire edged ribbon. Consider using the flatlock stitch for beautiful decoration in heirloom sewing techniques. Of course, the overlocker provides many useful applications for garment sewing, but this machine also makes easy work of home dec projects, crafts and quilting. Incorporating this machine and its stitch variations into your sewing projects can be a lot of fun.

SERGER STITCHES	
BALANCED OVERLOCK STITCHES	
4-THREAD	Construction seams on most fabrics Seams in areas of stress, such as a crotch seam Gathering • Attaching elastic • Inserting zippers
3-THREAD	Construction seams on light to medium weight fabrics Construction seams on knit fabrics Decorative edgings Finishing seam allowances for open seams Creating piping and trims Creating custom cords • Attaching beads
2-THREAD	Finishing scarf edges Finishing Seam allowances for open seams Decorative edgings
ROLLED EDGE STITCHES	
3-THREAD	Hemming light to medium weight fabrics Hemming scarves and napkins Creating pintucks Serging shaped edges with fishline or wire Making custom cord
2-THREAD	Hemming sheer and lightweight fabrics Hemming scarves and napkins
FLATLOCK STITCHES	
2- and 3-THREAD	Creative decorative lines of stitching Stitching flat seams with little bulk Stitching reversible seams Joining laces • Blind hemming • Faggoting
SPECIALTY STITCHES	
3-THREAD SUPER STRETCH STITCH	Swimwear • Dancewear • Activewear
3-THREAD NARROW SEAM	Heirloom seams • Lingerie seams • Fine fabric seams
2-THREAD NARROW WRAPPED EDGE	Finishing scarf edges • Jacket openings • Decorative edgings
3-THREAD WIDE WRAPPED EDGE	Blanket edging • Vest edges • Jacket openings
2-THREAD PICOT STITCH	Hemming sheer and lightweight fabrics

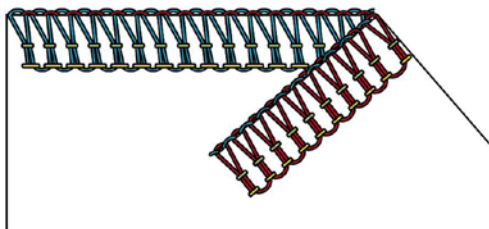
OVERLOCK STITCH

The most basic serger stitch is the overlock stitch. A 4-thread or 3-thread overlock stitch is the most common stitch used for seams. The 4-thread overlock is perfect stitch for sewing knits because it is strong and flexible. Using a 3-thread overlock is a great way to overcast and finish raw edges of woven fabrics. A 2-thread option uses fewer threads, is less bulky and is good for finishing edges.

Variations:

- 4-Thread Overlock
- 3-Thread Overlock Wide (LN)
- 3-Thread Overlock Narrow (RN)
- 2-Thread Overlock Wide (LN)
- 2-Thread Overlock Narrow (RN)

4-THREAD OVERLOCK



The **4-THREAD OVERLOCK** is the strongest construction stitch. It uses both loopers, as well as both needles. This is a wider stitch, and the two rows of needle stitches provide a sturdy seam for projects that will get a lot of wear and tear, and for seams in areas of stress.

Uses:

- General construction- knits and wovens
- Installing elastic
- Inserting zippers
- Gathering
- Sewing binding



Use a 4-thread overlock stitch to make fast t-shirts



Add ribbing to a neckband with ease

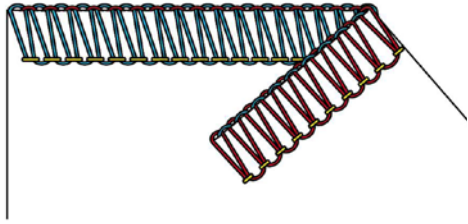


Install a zipper with an overlocker for a clean finished edge

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OVERLOCK STITCH, CONTINUED

3-THREAD OVERLOCK

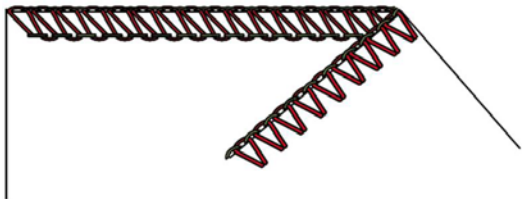


The **3-THREAD OVERLOCK** is the same stitch as the 4-thread overlock, but uses only one needle. As a result, this stitch has a bit more flexibility, and is perfect for seaming light to medium weight fabrics or knits where you desire a less bulky seam. This stitch can be made wide or narrow using either the left or right needle. It is important to always remove the needle that is not being used so that the stitch forms properly.

Uses:

- Construction seams onwoven and knit fabric
- Finished or decorative edges
- Piping
- Attaching beads, trims or lace
- Attaching trims or lace
- Blindstitch
- Patchwork piecing

2-THREAD OVERLOCK



The **2-THREAD OVERLOCK** uses one needle, either left or right, and the lower looper only. You must install a 2-thread converter onto the upper looper for the stitch to form properly. This is not a secure stitch like the 4-thread or 3-thread overlock, but it makes a lovely finished edge for fine fabrics that will not handle a lot of bulky thread.

Uses:

- Edge finish for delicate fabrics
- Decorative edging



Use the 3-thread overlock with Blindstitch Presser Foot to create a blindhem using an overlocker



Use a 3-thread overlock and the Multi-purpose Foot to create piping from ribbon

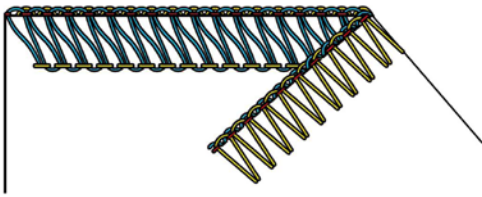


Use variegated thread to finish edges for a fun effect

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FLATLOCK STITCH

A **FLATLOCK STITCH** is created by sewing two layers of fabric together and then pulling them apart until the seam lies flat. One side of the stitch forms loops and the other side of the stitch looks like ladders. A flatlock stitch can be created using a 3-thread or 2-thread stitch set-up. A wide flatlock (left needle) catches more fabric and is more durable than a narrow (right needle) seam. The needle tension is loosened and lower looper tension is tightened. When sewing, allow the loops to hang over the edge (adjust Micro Thread Control -mtc +) for the best results.



Variations:

- 3-Thread Wide - Left Needle (LN)
- 3-Thread Narrow - Right Needle (RN)
- 2-Thread Wide - Left Needle (LN)
- 2-Thread Narrow - Right Needle (RN)

Uses:

- Decorative lines of stitches
- Sewing flat seams with less bulk
- Reversible stitch
- Patchwork Piecing
- Joining Lace
- Blind hemming
- Faggoting
- Heirloom sewing
- Ribbon weaving



Flatlock stitches create fun options for decoration



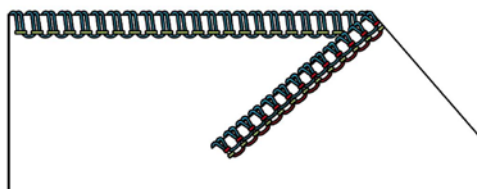
Use a flatlock stitch to attach sequins or trims to projects



Use the flatlock stitch to hem a t-shirt

ROLLED HEM

A **ROLLED HEM** is ideal for finishing edges on fine fabrics. By tightening the lower looper, shortening the stitch length and removing the stitch finger, the fabric will slightly roll and the upper looper will cover the edge in a narrow stitch. A textured nylon thread, such as Woolly Nylon or Maxi-lock Stretch, will fill in the spaces making a beautiful colorful edge finish on scarves, napkins or lingerie. This stitch can be created with 3 threads or 2 threads. The 2-thread version is less bulky and makes a lovely finish on sheer and lightweight materials. Get creative with stretchy fabrics and differential feed to create a scalloped lettuce edge finish, even add fish line to this stitch to further hold the shape.



Variations:

- 3-thread rolled hem
- 2-thread rolled hem

Uses:

- Hemming light to medium weight fabrics
- Hemming sheer fabrics
- Edge finish for scarves or napkins
- Pintucks
- Creating shaped edges with fishline or wire
- Creating custom cord or serger yarn
- Decorative finish
- Lettuce edge finish



Add fish line to the rolled hem for added shape



Create your own yarn to make tassels using the rolled hem stitch

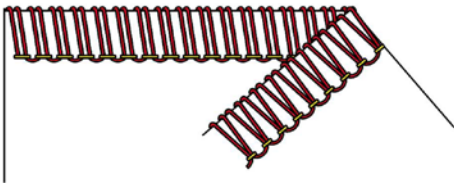


Napkins are a popular project for the rolled hem stitch

SPECIALTY STITCHES

Variations and adjustments to the settings of the three basic stitches can result in some useful specialty stitches. Adjusting the needle tension of a 2-thread overlock stitch will result in a wrapped edge that is great for finishing blankets and placemats. The super stretch stitch is perfect for spandex seams. Simply removing the stitch finger from a 3-thread overlock will create a very narrow seam, but not a rolled hem. A picot stitch is a delicate way to finish and edge for a simple look.

2-THREAD WRAPPED OVERLOCK



The **2-THREAD WRAPPED OVERLOCK** uses one needle and one looper, but unlike the standard 2-thread overlock, the needle tension is tighter. This pulls the looper thread all the way around the edge of the fabric. Using decorative threads and varying stitch lengths makes this a great stitch for a decorative finished edge.

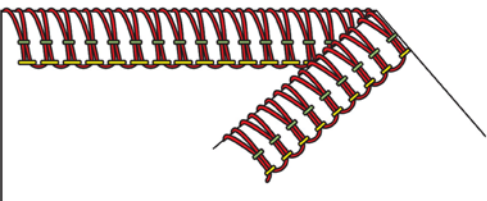
Variations:

- 2-thread wrapped overlock wide - Left Needle (LN)
- 2-thread wrapped overlock narrow - Right Needle (RN)

Uses:

- Edge finish for scarves, napkins, blankets
- Jacket openings

SUPER STRETCH STITCH



The **SUPER STRETCH STITCH** is a unique stitch set-up that uses both needles for strength and one looper for maximum stretch. This is a great option for activewear and swimsuits. Thread the looper with texturized nylon thread for more stretch and softness.

Uses:

- Swimwear
- Activewear
- Dancewear



Finish the edge of a t-shirt blanket with a 2-thread wrapped edge

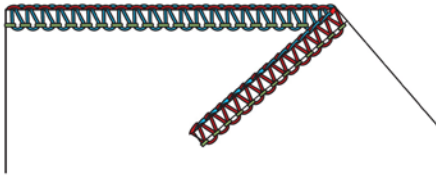


The super stretch stitch is perfect for swimwear

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SPECIALTY STITCHES, CONTINUED

3--THREAD NARROW SEAM

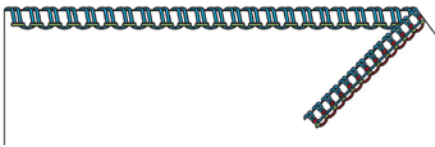


When you need a seam that is narrower than the standard 3-thread overlock, create a **3-THREAD NARROW SEAM** by removing the stitch finger using the Rolled Hem Selection Lever. The looper threads will meet at the edge of a slightly rolled fabric, resulting in a delicate stitch.

Uses:

- Heirloom sewing
- Lingerie seams
- Fine fabric seams

PICOT STITCH



A **PICOT STITCH** has the delicacy of a narrow seam or rolled hem, but has a more open look. To create this stitch, the right needle and both loopers are used. The Rolled Hem Selection Lever will be pulled toward you, thereby removing the stitch finger from the formation. The lower looper tension is tightened, pulling the upper looper thread toward the back. Unlike a rolled hem, the stitch length is longer, creating space between the stitches which results in a unique delicate look.

Uses:

- Hemming sheer and lightweight fabric
- Lingerie finish



The 3-thread narrow seam creates a nice secure seam for fine fabric



The Picot Stitch makes a beautiful hem for lightweight fabrics

AS YOU TRY THE DIFFERENT OVERLOCK STITCHES, remember that the stitch length and differential feed are variable, and can be adjusted even while sewing. Get creative by trying different tensions and threads on materials to see what you can create! Optional presser feet can also help with various sewing tasks, such as installing zippers, making gathers, stretching elastic during installation, creating piping and adding beads, sequins and trims. There are many ways to incorporate the overlocker into your creative sewing process.