

## “FOURTH OF JULY WINDSOCK”



Use your serger to make a red, white, and blue windsock to celebrate the Fourth of July. This windsock is so easy you'll want to make more. Using the stretch wrapped stitch and variegated woolly nylon the windsock edges go from ordinary to spectacular. Not only is this a decorative edge finish but an economical one too. Only one spool of woolly nylon is needed for this project.

Need a windsock to celebrate another holiday or bring in a new season. Simply change the fabric colors and then change the woolly nylon colors. Whether it is for Valentine's Day or celebrating the arrival of Spring this simple project will be on your to do list.

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### **Skill Level: Beginner**

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### **Supplies:**

- 1/3 yd of blue flag fabric or Ripstop™
- 1/3 yd of white flag fabric or Ripstop
- 1/3 yd of red flag fabric or Ripstop
- ½ yd of Rigilene™ boning
- 3 - 24" pieces of Dacron 50 pound test fishing line
- 1 large brass fishing swivel
- 1 spool or red, white and blue variegated Woolly Nylon by YLI™
- 2 spools of blue serger cone thread
- 1 spool sewing thread
- Pins
- Large eye needle
- Seam Sealant

## Equipment:

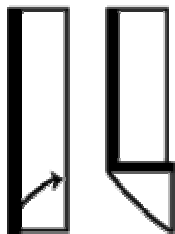
Elna Serger – 945 or 744

## Instructions:

1. Cut the flag fabric to measurements below. Note that the red fabric for the top of the windsock is cut  $\frac{1}{2}$  " wider than the other colors to allow for turning under the top casing.

	Sock Top	Tails
	1 – blue flag fabric 6" x 18"	2 – blue flag fabric 3" x 42"
	1 – white flag fabric 6" x 18"	2 – white flag fabric 3" x 42"
42"	1 – red flag fabric 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 18"	2 – red flag fabric 3" x 42"

2. Set up serger for the Stretch Wrapped stitch. This stitch is sewn using the lower looper and two needles. You will need to place the two-thread converter on the upper looper. Thread the lower looper with woolly nylon. Use a tension release clip in the green thread patch. Shorten the stitch length to 0.5. If you plan to make additional windsocks you may want to program this setting into the memory on the 945.
3. Place the red strip and the white strip wrong sides together and stitch along one 18" side.
4. Serge the unfinished 18" edge of the red strip to prevent raveling.
5. Place the blue strip and the white strip wrong sides together and stitch along one 18" side. Note: By placing the fabric wrong sides together, the seams will be on the outside of the sock. The red, white, and blue seams are too much fun to hide.
6. Remove the thread from the right needle, and remove the right needle thread from the machine.
7. The six long strips, 3" x 42" are the tails for the windsock. Serge one long edge of each tail. Don't clip your threads at the end of each tail; just keep sewing so that the six tails end up chained together like a giant kite tail.
8. Cut the chained strips apart.
9. Fold the end of each strip to form a point, illustration 1. Hold the strip right side up with the finished edge to your left. Fold the strip so that the top short edge is even with the unfinished right hand side of the strip. The top short edge should stick out about  $\frac{1}{4}$  " beyond the long edge. This will be trimmed off when you serge.



**Illustration 1**

10. Sew the opposite side of the tail.

11. Continue in the same manner until all six tails are done.
12. Pin the six tails to the 18" unfinished edge of the blue strip wrong sides together. The tails should be at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each end of the blue strip so they will not be caught in the seam when you sew the top of the windsock into a tube. If necessary, overlap the tails slightly to make them fit without extending into the seam allowance.  
**Note:** To prevent sewing over pins, place the pins parallel to the edge to be sewn. Place the pins at least 1" from the fabric edge. The pins will be on the left side of the foot as you sew and will never come anywhere near the cutting blade on the serger. But it is still necessary to remove the pins as you sew.
13. Serge the tails to the blue strip.
14. Serge the sock top closed along the side seam.
15. Measure sock opening. Cut boning to match. Fold the top of the sock down over the boning and straight stitch the casing using a sewing machine.  
**Note:** In steps 16 and 17 the instructions refer to cording, this is the fishing line from the supply list.
16. Use a hand-sewing needle with a large eye to attach the cord to the top of the sock at three equally spaced points. Cords will be approximately 6" apart. Fold the cord in half. Thread both cut ends of the cord through the eye of the needle. Pass the needle from the outside of the sock toward the center. Then thread the needle through the loop formed where the cord is folded in half. Pull it tight.
17. When you have attached all three cords, bring them together and tie all of them to the eye of the swivel.
18. Use seam sealant to secure the stitching at the tips of the tails, at the bottom edge of the side seam on the sock, and on the knot at the swivel.
19. Let the sealant dry before you trim the thread tails.
20. Your sock is now complete. Hand where desired and admire your work.

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