

Serger Stitches

2.220

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SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide
to
Successful
Sewing

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Sergers, originally used in industrial sewing venues, are a boon to home sewers. Different from a conventional sewing machine that forms a stitch with a bobbin and top thread, a serger works with loopers and needle threads that form an overlocking stitch.

When selecting a serger, keep in mind that as the number of threads and loopers increase, so does the price of the machine. So, choose the configuration that best fits your needs.

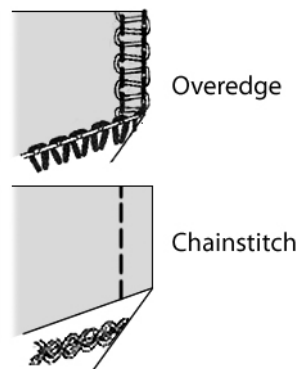
Two-Thread Serger Stitches

Two-thread stitches are flatter and lighter weight than three- or more thread stitches and they have the greatest stretch. They're best suited to lightweight, sheer and knit fabrics.

- **Overedge:** edge-finishing only
- **Flatlock:** seaming knits or to use decoratively on woven fabrics
- **Rolled Hem:** finish single fabric layers
- **Chainstitch:** a stable stitch that appears as a standard straight stitch on the right side and a decorative chain on the underside. This can be used decoratively, or as a construction stitch.

Note: If the chain is pulled, the seamline will pull out.

2-Thread



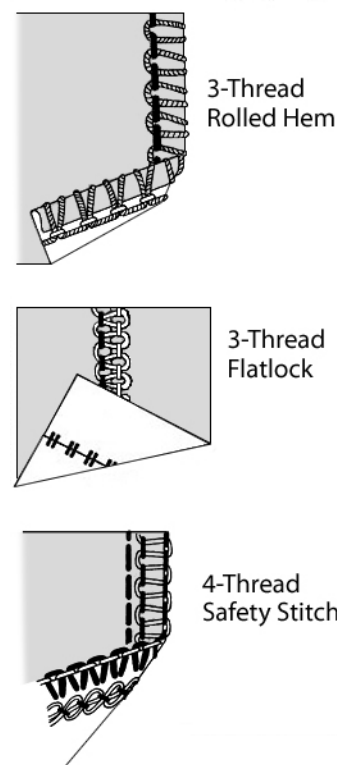
Three-Thread Serger Stitches/ Four-Thread Serger Stitches

Three-thread stitches use one needle and two loopers and are the most popular option for seam finishing. These are good for medium- to heavyweight fabrics. Depending on whether the needle is in the right or left-hand needle position, the stitch width can be wide or narrow.

On four-thread sergers, two needles and two loopers create more secure stitches for seaming/finishing. The stitches perform the same functions as three-threads, only with extra durability.

- **Overlock:** seaming and finishing, especially on knits
- **Flatlock:** decorative stitch for medium- to heavyweight fabrics; also used for seaming
- **Rolled Hem:** decorative edge finish on medium- to heavyweight fabrics
- **Coverstitch:** decorative topstitch formed with the cutting blades disengaged. The four-thread stitch looks like two rows of topstitching on the right side and a decorative stitch on the underside.

3/4 Thread



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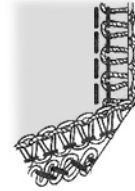
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Five-Thread Serger Stitches

These secure stitches are a combination of three-thread overlock and two-thread chainstitching. They're suitable for seaming knits and wovens, as well as edge finishing medium- to heavyweight fabrics.

- **Overlock:** finishing and seaming knits and wovens
- **Safety Stitch:** very secure stitch combining a three-thread overlock and two-thread chainstitch for seaming wovens
- **Coverstitch:** three parallel rows of topstitching on the right side; decorative stitching on the underside

5-Thread



Safety
Stitch

Five-plus Serger Stitches

Newer sergers offer up to 10 threads, combining stitch configurations from two-, three- and four-thread models. 🖨️

For more information, see SEW-lutions Guideline 2.150
What to Look for in a Serger.