

Multiple-hole Foot

20.225

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SEW-lutions Guidelines

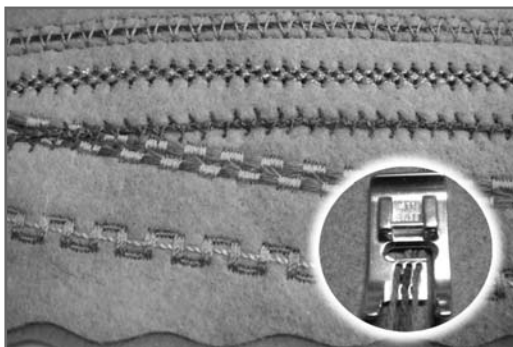
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If you love working with tiny trims, fun yarns and specialty threads, chances are good you'll enjoy working with a multi-hole presser foot.



Depending on machine brand, the foot may have three, five or seven holes in the front that you can thread things through to guide them while you stitch over them (1).

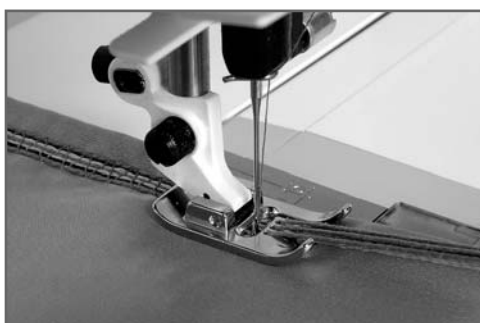


Photo courtesy of Husqvarna Viking

1

Some brands offer a single slot for feeding the yarns, rather than multiple individual holes (2), but both function the same.



Photo courtesy of Bernina of America

2

If you look at the underside of the foot, you'll see a recession down the length so that the yarns or threads can pass easily without jamming.

Pick a Trim

There are many types of trims that can be used with this foot—any small yarns and decorative threads that fit through the holes with ease. Avoid those with slubs, bumps or loops as they often hang up while feeding and result in uneven stitching.

All the threaded strands don't need to be the same—you can mix yarn with metallic threads and slick cords if you prefer.

Depending on the length of the design area, you can wind the yarns onto empty spools to prevent tangling, or simply lay them in your lap. Just be sure they're separated so they don't knot up as you stitch.

Pick a Thread

The thread that holds the strands in place can be decorative or invisible, depending on your preference. Rayon machine embroidery threads work well, as do many metallics. Select something to complement the strands you're sewing down. If you want the threaded strands to be the focal point, use invisible thread for stitching them down, in either clear or smoke color, depending on the color scheme.

Pick a Stitch

Many decorative stitches can be used over the strands as long as they're wide enough to catch the outermost plies and hold them in place. If you're using the maximum number of yarns or threads, then set the machine for the widest stitch width to ensure coverage.

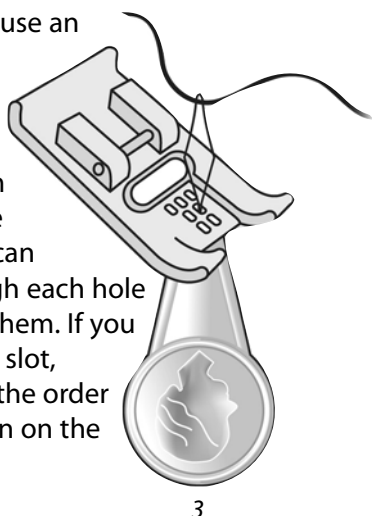
Use stitches that sew only forward, not those with a backward motion forming the pattern.

Getting Started

These specialty feet usually come with a needle threader to make getting the multiple strands through the holes an easier process. If your foot doesn't come with a threader, purchase one separately as it's almost impossible to get the threads or yarns through the holes without one. Licking the ends of plied threads and yarns only exacerbates the problem as the plies untwist.

If you're using multiple colors of yarns and threads, think about the order they will appear on the fabric—for example, you can "frame" the strands with the same color in the outside holes and a different color in the center holes. Or, you can use an entirely different yarn or thread in each hole.

Thread the strands through from the bottom of the foot using the wire needle threader (3). You can thread something through each hole or just through some of them. If you have a foot with an open slot, simply lay the strands in the order you want them to be seen on the fabric (4).



3



4

Photo courtesy of Bernina of America

Stabilize

Depending on the fabric you're using and the stitch you select, it may be necessary to stabilize the area where you're applying the trim.

Test-stitch a sample to check for puckering before you begin your actual project, and stabilize if necessary.

Design Wise

Apply the thread strands as you would any trim, either free-form or draw a design onto the fabric surface. Sew in straight lines or gentle curves; the foot doesn't work well on tight or small curves.

You can do singles rows of stitching, or cross over previous rows with the next to create a collage look as shown above.

Stitching

Extend each of the yarns about 2" behind the presser foot to avoid having them slip out of the holes as you start to stitch. "Comb" the strands in the front to be sure they're not tangled and can feed freely.

Stitch slowly as you're guiding multiple strands at one time while trying to follow a design line. If your machine offers a speed control, reduce the speed for more accurate feeding.

Ideally the trim lines will end in a seam to anchor the multiple ends and the decorative stitching line. If that's not the case, leave the strands and the stitching threads long enough to thread into a needle and bring them to the underside to tie off. ■

Note: Check with your sewing machine dealer to determine if this accessory is available for your machine model and brand. Not all accessories are available for every machine.
