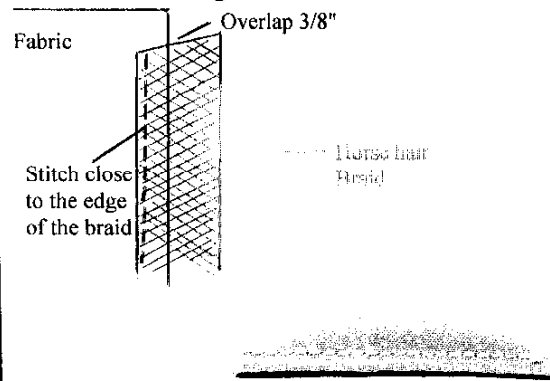


Horse Hair Braid:

This method is used when you want the hem or edge to have "body" or to stand out. It is often used with skirt hems when you want the skirt to have fullness. It comes in white and black and in several different widths. Once applied to the fashion fabric hem, you can attach the upper edge of the braiding to the lining for a clean finish. To attach the braid, mark hem and cut off leaving 1/2 inch. Place the braid on the hem edge overlapping edges by 3/8". Stitch close to the edge of the braid. Turn braid to the inside of the hem. Finger press or press slightly with iron. Stitch close to the bottom edge of hem.



Trim or lace as edging:

Hems or edges can be easily finished using trims such as lace, sequins, beads, etc. Be sure that the trim you choose is suitable for the fabric and laundry directions. If the fabric frays easily, serge the outside edge first or apply Fray Check before attaching the trim. If there is no fear of fraying, simply apply the trim. You may need to cut some of the fabric away from behind the trim.

Machine stitching as an edge finish:

Machine stitches can finish off an edge beautifully. Use a stabilizer to do this! Be careful when tearing away the stabilizer to not tear away the stitching from the fabric. If in doubt, cut away as much of the Sulky Solvy as possible and use water to do the rest.

Iron-On interfacing to finish an edge:

Iron-on interfacing can be used to finish edges that fray easily. Because colors are limited, it is not always possible. Try it on your fabric and see how it looks. These techniques are great for the back of bound buttonholes, for neck and sleeve plackets, and even for hems.

Heat used to finish edges:

If your fabric has a low melting point, you can use heat to finish an edge. Try using your soldering gun with a flat tip. Be careful to barely touch the edge or your fabric will literally melt away!

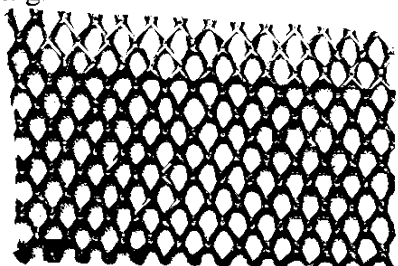


Chemicals or adhesives for an edge finish:

Use Fray Check or similar product to finish a hem or a seam. Test this on a scrap of fabric first to see what it will look like when it is completely dry.

Adhesive and stabilizer on stretchy fabric:

If your fabric stretches easily, attach it to stabilizer sprayed with adhesive before sewing.



Scotch magnetic tape for "sticky" fabrics:

If your fabric sticks to the presser foot (plastics, etc.) cover the fabric with a piece of tape. Sew on the tape. You can even draw your stitching line with a pen onto the tape and the stitch on the line.



Sulky Solvy fabric stabilizer

Sulky Tear East fabric stabilizer:

Order information for Class Tailor Pant pattern, sizes 4-26 (includes pattern for two different body shapes - shorter rise in front and fuller rear or longer rise in front and flatter rear:

Mary Ellen Flury

3315 Royal Glen Court

Davidsonville, MD 21035

Phone: 301 261-7771

\$15.00 plus shipping (\$2 to \$10 depending on shipping method)

SEWING DIFFICULT FABRICS - Challenging but Rewarding!

First of all: **STABILIZE!**

If your fabric is sheer or lightweight, use Sulky Solvy or Sulky Tear Easy to make the fabric more "stiff." Use a spray adhesive on the stabilizer if necessary to prevent the fabric from slipping around. This also helps when you want to avoid stretching the fabric, especially when you are sewing edges cut on the bias or on a curve. Use more than one layer of stabilizer if necessary. Tear away one layer at a time. You can also use Scot Magnetic tape as a stabilizer for small areas.

Good luck as you try these techniques!

Narrow rolled hem:

This is a skill you must have! It can be used with sheer or medium weight fabrics. It always looks great. Take time to follow the **three** necessary steps:

- 1a. Stitch along hemline 3/8" away from the edge using a 2.5 or shorter straight stitch. Use stabilizer for this step if necessary.
- 1b. Fold the fabric along the stitch line and finger press or use an iron.
- 2a. Stitch 1/16" from the fold.
- 2b. Trim the edge of the fabric away close to this stitching. Use a good pair of scissors. Applique scissors are great.
- 3a. Fold the edge over right along the stitched and trimmed edge. Try to keep this as narrow as possible.
- 3b. Stitch your narrow hem in place about 1/16" away from the edge. This final stitch needs to be perfectly straight and will look beautiful from the right side of the garment.



Self Faced or Lined Hem:

This is a good technique to use if you possible can because it is fast and easy and looks clean. Use this with sheer or lightweight fabrics. Especially effective on curved edges such as armholes, neck openings, and certain sleeve hems.

Simply cut two of the same piece or cut a facing. Stitch the two pieces, right sides together at the edge you want to finish. Trim carefully, especially if your fabric is sheer and you will be able to see the trimmed seam through the fabric. Turn pieces to the right side; press.

