

NOSTALGIC GATHERING/SHIRRING

Ruffles, Frills and Valances – The Fast Way!

Never tried frill-edged seams because they're too much effort? Obviously, you haven't tried it with a serger's special shirring foot yet. It lets you gather fabrics by the meter while attaching them and finishing the seam edges in one easy step.

In other words: Fine ruffles and nostalgic valances can be sewn incredibly fast – and without great effort! So why not start sewing doll's clothes, nostalgic fashion and cozy home decorating projects you haven't ventured before?



The specialist for
beautiful ruffles,
frills and valances!

THE SHIRRING FOOT

The shirring foot allows you to sew together two layers of fabric while simultaneously gathering the bottom fabric layer. It's absolutely convenient and time-saving, as this eliminates the extra step of gathering a valance first, before attaching it to a piece of fabric. The shirring foot does it in one simple operation.

Single fabric layers, however, are turned into gorgeous frills just as easily – thanks to the shirring foot.

Materials Required for Gathering:

- > SINGER® serger
- > SINGER® shirring foot for sergers/overlockers
- > Fabrics of your choice,
for best results we recommend to use lightweight
and sheer fabrics.
- > 3-4 Reels overlock thread
in fabric matching color
- > SINGER® overlock needles 2022

1 Preparing the Serger/ Overlocker:

Make the following machine settings:

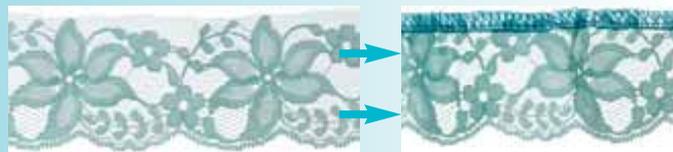
- > Stitch program: 3-thread overlock or
4-thread ultra-stretch mock safety stitch
- > Stitch length: 3 – 4 mm
- > Stitch width: 2 – 4 mm
- > Differential feed: Highest setting
- > Upper knife: Engaged

1 | Snap on the shirring foot. Depending on the chosen stitch program, insert one or two needles.



2 Preparing the Fabric:

2 | Generally, the length of fabric required for gathering valances is calculated in a minimum ratio of 2.5:1. To give you an example: If you want to sew a valance on a seam with a 1 m length, you need a fabric strip of 2.5 m (minimum) for producing the frilled edge. The length of fabric strip to be cut depends on the amount of gathering effect required.



! Tip: Lightweight materials, like cotton, fine table linens, or silks are better suited for gathering than firm, heavyweight fabrics. Fine fabrics may, therefore, well be cut in a length of 3 to 3.5 times the amount for producing the valance.

3 | This is how to place the cut fabric under the shirring foot >>

For gathering a single fabric layer:



< Important: Seam edges of narrow fabric strips must be finished first – before they are gathered. We recommend to use the rolled hem program of your serger.

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Let's Start Sewing:

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- > Raise the presser foot.
- > Raise the needle in highest position.
- > Place the fabric strip's raw edge under the presser foot (see photo 2.3).
- > Lower the presser foot and finish the raw fabric edge with the 3-thread overlock stitch. While gathering, the ruffled edge will be finished simultaneously.

For Gathering and Simultaneous Attachment of a Valance:



51 There is no faster way of attaching valances to a piece of fabric. This type of gathering is, therefore, ideal for lingerie, richly-frilled doll's clothes, or for valances on skirt hems! Two fabric layers are sewn together and finished, while the bottom fabric layer is gathered – all in one simple operation.

- > Place the fabric layer to be gathered between stitch plate and presser foot.



- > Place the second (top) fabric layer into the opening located at the front of the shirring foot, making sure the edges of both top and



bottom fabric layers line up, and the right fabric edge lines up with the right edge guide of the foot.

- > **Make sure the fabric layers are positioned with right sides together.**

- > Lower the shirring foot and start sewing while evenly guiding both fabric layers along the foot's edge guide.

- > Carefully press over the finished gathered seam (always press towards the larger part of the fabric!)

- > If needed, use your sewing machine to straight stitch the hem in place as closely to the seam as possible.



Our Extra-Special Tip: Something Different to Ruffles and Valances!

Delicate Satin Straps

Satin ribbons can be gathered just as fast – for great-looking, trendy straps on tops and dresses, or as special eye-catcher on cushions or bed throws.

Materials required:

- > **Satin ribbon**, approx. 2 – 3 cm wide (we recommend not to use narrower types of ribbons as these may slip away under the presser foot).
- > **Special-effect thread** for decorative effects, if desired.

And that's the way to do it:

- > Select the double chain stitch.
- > Disengage the upper knife.
- > Thread the machine with a special-effect thread: Use it as needle thread to highlight the straight stitching.
- > Using the special-effect thread as looper thread will highlight the loops of the double chain stitch. In this case, make sure the right side of the satin ribbon faces down while sewing. If not, the decorative stitching is done on the wrong side of the ribbon!
- > Cut the satin ribbon in a length that is 2.5 times the amount required for the finished, gathered ribbon.
- > Start gathering the satin ribbon.



Fashionable Lace Borders

Haute Couture has rediscovered nostalgic ruffles! Whether on tiered skirts, hems on blouses or necklines – frill-edged seams are currently in vogue.

Frills, ruffles and valances can quickly add a special charm to ordinary garments and turn them into trendy eye-catchers in no time. Or, why not accent a garment with a gathered lace border for a change?

- > Select the double chain stitch on your serger.
- > Using the shirring foot, gather the lace border as described before (single layer, no bottom fabric layer!)
- > Change to the standard presser foot of your serger.
- > Topstitch the right side of the gathered lace border on your piece of clothing with the double chain stitch.

