



SINGER® PROJECTS

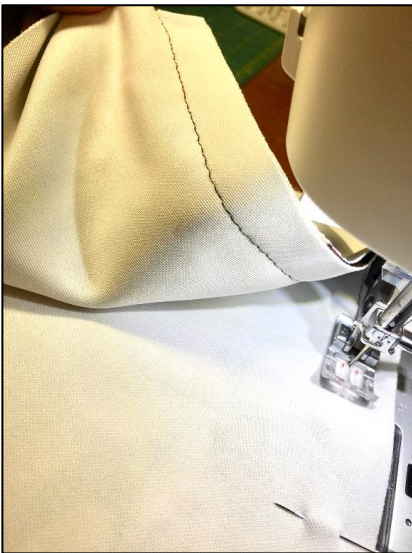
Sewing with Neoprene and Scuba Knit: Tips & Hints

Neoprene and scuba knit fabrics become increasingly popular for fashion sewing, and working with these fabrics is easy if you follow a few basic guidelines.

Tip #1: For sewing neoprene and scuba knit, it is recommended that you use a ball point needle. This will prevent skipped stitches and produce a nice, smooth line of stitching.



Tip #2: For sewing seams, rather than using a straight stitch, use a very narrow, elongated zigzag stitch. Doing so will create a bit of “built-in stretch” in order to avoid popped or broken stitches when the garment is worn. A good zigzag setting is a 1.0mm for the stitch width and a 3.5mm for the stitch length.

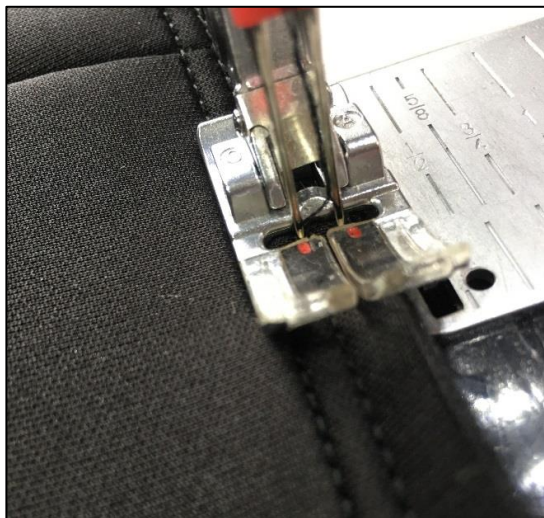
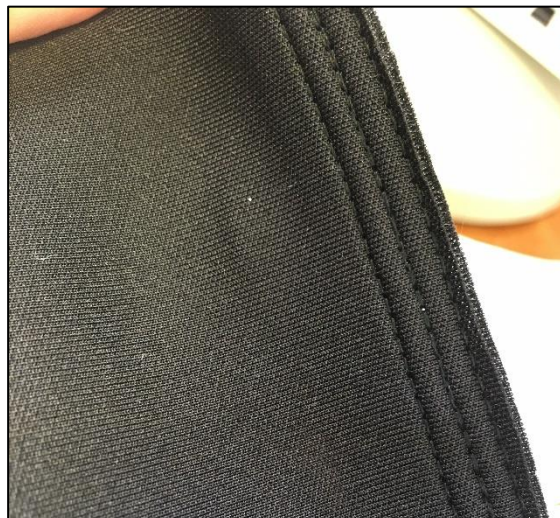


Tip #3: Thicker neoprene generally has a bit of loft (soft thickness), which is one of its unique characteristics. Pinning through two layers of the thicker type of neoprene could leave the fabric a little distorted, so you may find that using soft basting tape or basting glue in the seam allowance is useful for holding the fabrics when sewing seams. It can also be used for securing the placement of armhole and neckline facings, binding and zipper teeth piping.



Tip #4: Twin needle sewing is ideal for sewing with neoprene and scuba knit! It produces professional double stitched lines on the right side of the fabric and a stretch-friendly zigzag stitch on the wrong side of the fabric. Because these fabrics do not ravel, you can simply stitch your hem and then trim the excess hem facing on the wrong side. A good stitch length setting is 3.5mm.

Twin needle stitching creates a very smart topstitching effect when you use two rows, resulting in four lines of stitching. If you sew with the second row of stitching tracking in one of the previously sewn lines, the result will be the look of a triple cover hem.



Tip #5: Instead of traditional piping, our garment features using zipper teeth as piping! The neoprene is very stretchy and the zipper somewhat heavy, so in this case the fabric edge was stabilized with a narrow strip of fusible interfacing. This helps to avoid a wavy edge once the zipper is stitched into the edge of the fabric.

