



TOPSTITCHING

Always sew on the right side of the fabric when topstitching. If a special thread is used, it is always placed on the upper spool and threaded through the needle(s).

Use a blind hem foot to keep the stitching even from the edge.

When sewing around the point of a collar, begin stitching with a very small stitch about 3/4 an inch from the point. Pivot on the point and continue stitching with small stitches for about 3/4 of an inch. Return to normal length stitch. This prevents the upper threads from showing on the underside of the collar.

To make a smooth and even topstitching around the points of collars and other bulky areas where there is nothing to hold on to, attach a strong thread about 4 or 5 inches in length to hold as you guide the point through the machine. After you are past the point or bulky area, remove the thread.

Using different types and weights of sewing thread creates different effects. For a shinier finish, use silk or rayon threads. For a duller finish, use cotton thread. For a metallic look, use metallic thread. Two colors and/or two types can be combined to create an entirely different look.

The double needle is commonly used for topstitching because it sews two rows at once. When using the double needle, always sew on the right side of the fabric because the back side will look like a zigzag. Two top threads are needed. Thread the machine like one thread and separate at the needle.

Do NOT try to do a zigzag or a decorative stitch with a double needle without checking the individual machine manual to determine if the presser foot and needle plate will accommodate a double needle.

For corners: Stop sewing one or two stitches from the corner; leave the needle in the fabric; lift the presser foot; turn the fabric just a little; lower the presser foot; and with the hand wheel take one stitch. Repeat this two to three times until you have turned the corner.

Secure topstitching by pulling the threads to the underside and tying a knot rather than trying to backstitch. If you are sewing in a circle, sew your very last stitch over the beginning stitch, and then pull thread to the underside and tie.

Double needles can be purchased in different needle sizes to accommodate different weights of fabric. Double needles with different widths between the two needles can also be purchased.