

## 110-1

Angela Wolf demonstrates hemming techniques on silk.



## Sewing with Silk Charmeuse



- **Supplies:**

- Pattern: Angela Wolf Patterns #AW-1103 available at [www.AngelaWolf.com](http://www.AngelaWolf.com)
- Sewing Machine Needle:
  - Universal 70/10 - Always use a new needle when sewing with silk, this will prevent snagging.
- Thread options
  - Either 100% silk, 100% mercerized cotton, or 100% polyester (listed in order of quality with silk being the first choice)
  - Use same thread in the bobbin
- Clay chalk for marking - DO NOT use wax chalk on silk!
- Glass head pins
- Iron with steam, check for leaking first as that can stain your silk.

- **Steps**

- Pre-shrink your fabric:
  - If you plan on dry cleaning your finished product, take you fabric to your local dry cleaner and ask them to dry

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clean and "steam press". The steam press will preshrink your fabric.

- Another option is washing in cold water either by hand or with a delicate cycle. Then either hang to dry or very low heat. I would recommend washing a small swatch of fabric first to test. Washing silk charmeuse will change the hand of the fabric a little, so make sure that is what you want - although you will end up with a very easy to take care of top.

- Set up sewing machine with a 2.5 stitch length.

- **Techniques**

- **French seam:**

- Start with the fabric wrong sides together. Pin your seam. Sew a straight seam with a 1/2 inch seam allowance.



- Trim seam allowance to just about 1/8th of an inch.



- Press seam allowance to one side. Use steam. Use a press cloth if pressing from the "right side" of fabric.



- Turn fabric with seam allowance toward the inside - "right sides" together.
- Press along hidden stitching line - creating a new edge to sew.



- Sew 1/4" from the edge.



- Press this seam toward the back of the garment.



- **Hemming:**

- **Option 1:**

- Use a "rolled hem" foot attachment for your sewing machine. This is very easy to use, but you will need to practice with it - especially when hemming by the french seams.

- **Option 2:**

- Serge the edge with a "narrow rolled edge". This is one of my favorites because it is fast, easy to do, and very fashionable.

- **Option 3:**

- Rolled hem: (by the way, I used a white thread on navy so you can see the steps)
      - Sew a line 1/4" in from edge of fabric.



- Fold fabric under, using the stitch line as the edge of the fold. Press.



- Trim fabric, very close to your last stitch line.



- Fold fabric under one more time and press. This should now look like a narrow rolled hem.



- Sew one more time around, right on the edge your new fold.



- Press.

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