

It's Sew Easy Series 1800

Show#1807-1 Capsule Wardrobe with Easy Going Knit Separates

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Let's stay in touch! I'd love to help you make the most of **your** sewing machine!

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Sew a few staple items for a warm weather capsule wardrobe and you'll be all set to pack for your next trip. A skirt, pants, and a few tops all coordinate for easy packing and wearing. Comfortable and easy to sew, knit fabric is perfect for this collection. This episode features tips for knit fabrics, a simple and decorative neckline treatment for knit tops, and a technique for hemming knits.

Are you ready? Let's go sew!

Materials and supplies featured in this show:

- [Brother](#) sewing machine
- Basic notions including a wash out marker and thread to match knit fabric. [Coats and Clark Eloflex](#) stretchable thread is an option for sewing stretchy seams.

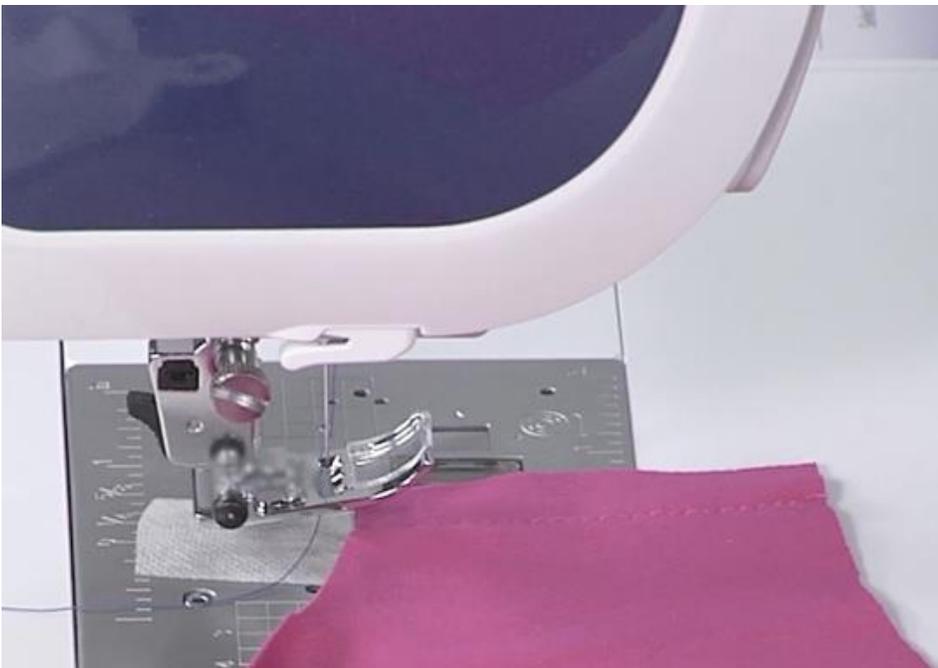
- Stretch needle size 11
- Lightweight fusible knit interfacing such as [Pellon 865F Bi-stretch Lite](#)
- Patterns specifically for knit fabric. Examples include (tank top) [New Look 6608](#), (pants) [Simplicity 8378](#), (short sleeve top and skirt) [New Look 6735](#). Note: For the tops, you'll want to choose a pattern with a gently curved neckline for this technique.
- Pattern transfer cloth for creating new patterns traced from original tissue
- Dress weight knit fabric with good stretch and recovery. Featured fabric for these garments is [Telio Ponte Leggero Knit](#) from Fabric.com
- [Dritz Non roll knit elastic](#)
- [Dritz Seams Great™](#) for finishing neckline
- [Dritz Styling Design Ruler](#) for drawing a curved line. (You can draw this line "freehand" but this ruler comes in handy for pattern alterations and re-styling many ready-made garments.)
- Optional but helpful for stitching close to the neckline edge, adjustable blind hem foot ([SA133](#))
- Curved tip [Kai scissors](#)

Tips for Creating this Capsule Wardrobe

For a small capsule wardrobe like this consider making a skirt, pants, and at least two coordinating tops. Add accessories such as belt and colorful scarf that can double as a shawl. Jeans, shorts, a tank top, and a jacket or sweater will round out this collection giving you lots of versatile outfits suitable for many warm weather outings.

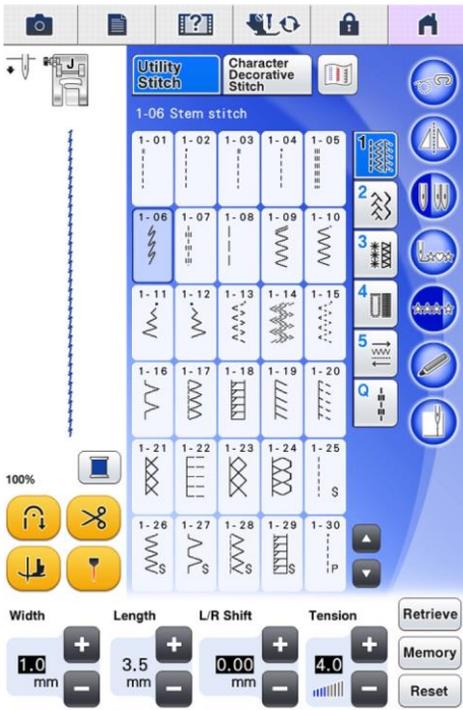
Sewing tips and techniques

There are a variety of options for sewing seams on stretchy knits. Here are some of my favorites:



Use a standard straight stitch in areas where seams won't be stretched such as the shoulders.

Begin sewing on a small piece of water-soluble stabilizer to keep finer knits from being pulled into the throat plate when backstitching. If your fabric is super stretchy you may want to stabilize the shoulders with stay tape.



The “lightning bolt” stitch is a great stitch for lengthwise seams that need to have some stretch. This stitch presses open very flat, much like a standard straight seam but it has more give. You can use this stitch for virtually all seams that require a slight amount of stretch on knit garments.

Last but not least, a three-thread wide serger stitch is also ideal for sewing or finishing the seams on these pieces. Generally, I prefer to sew shoulder seams with the sewing machine and press them open for less bulk. Keep in mind the fact that you need to be sure of the fit of your garment before trimming away seam allowance with the serger.

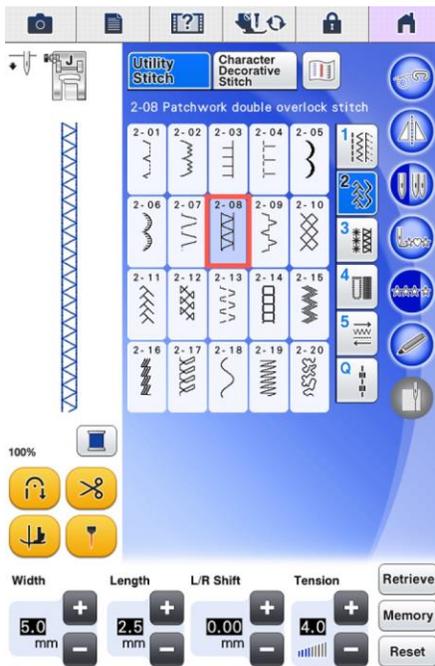
Neckline Finish

For a neckline finish without binding or facing, choose a pattern that has a 3/8-inch hem allowance for the neckline, or modify your pattern for this effect. Follow steps below to finish the neckline:

- Set machine for a 3-step Zig Zag stitch, width 3.5, length 1.2.
- Measure length of Seams Great™ tape by walking along neckline. Add 1-inch to overlap tape at the back if desired.
- Quarter-mark neckline beginning with a mark at center front and back. Quarter mark Seams Great™ tape.
- Begin by pinning tape at center back. Match the markings and sew to raw edge of neckline on the wrong side.

Tip: If you commonly experience gaping issues on your necklines, I suggest you test your neckline fit by cutting your front and back pieces with a shortened version similar to the sample piece shown on this show. Sew shoulder seams and then proceed to sew tape using a basting stitch. Begin sewing at the center back and then stretch your tape slightly along the curved areas as you sew to draw in the neckline, trimming excess when you reach the center back. Try on and adjust as necessary until you have a good formula for your figure. This may take one or two trial attempts but it will be worth it once you determine the amount you need to ease in for your neckline. Record the measurement for the tape and re-use the pattern to make the most of your efforts. Note that you may find it necessary to take in the shoulder seams at the back, front, or both for a good fit at the neckline.

- Use curved tip scissors to trim tape close to stitching.
- Select a Patchwork Double Overlock Stitch set for a width of 5.0 – 6.0 and a length of 2.5-3.0.

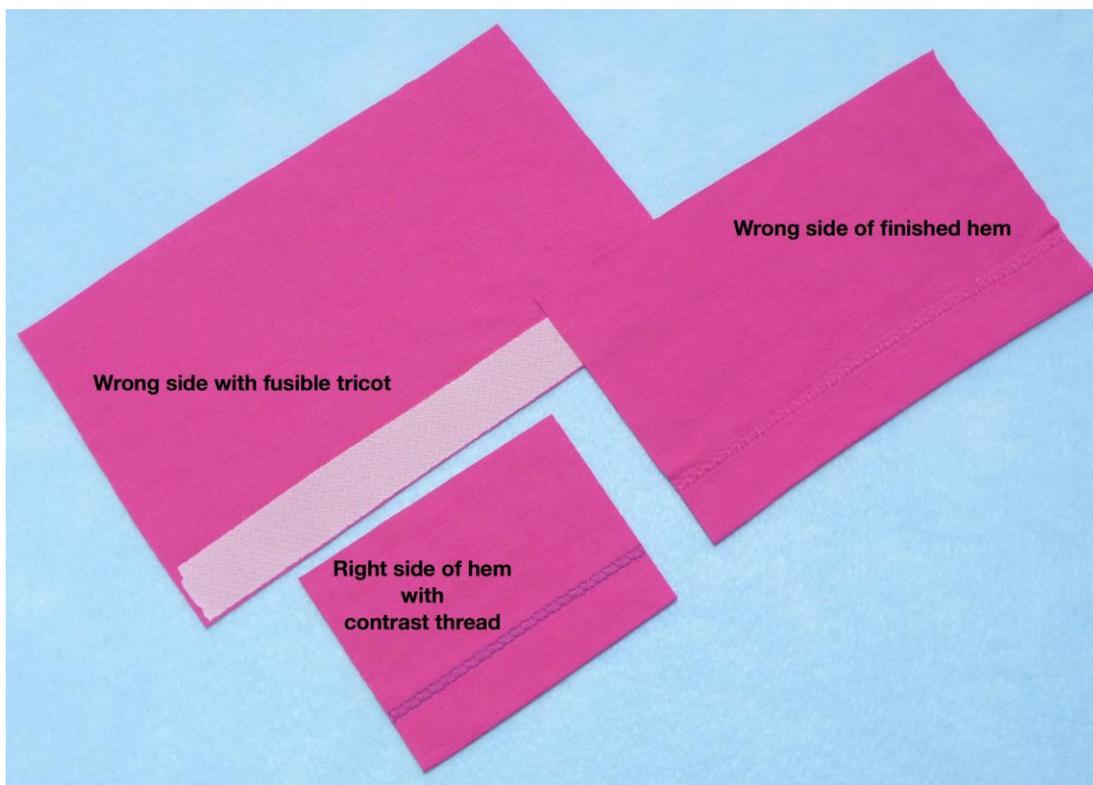


- Turn neckline under, pressing 3/8-inch to the wrong side. Stitch close to edge, having edge of foot along fold of neckline.

Bonus Instructions – To see step-by-step instructions for using this technique on a readymade T-shirt with added embellishment for the sleeves please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the FREE Tutorials and Tips section of letsgosew.com.

Hemline Technique

- For a 1-inch hem, begin by cutting a strip of lightweight knit interfacing 1-inch wide times the circumference of the hemline. **Note:** For more narrow hems simply cut interfacing to equal hem depth.
- Fuse interfacing to wrong side of hem.
- Press hem 1-inch to wrong side. Using the standard sewing foot, topstitch from the right side using the same stitch shown for the neckline with a slightly decreased stitch width of 4.0.



Please visit letsgosew.com for updates and additional project instructions.



Additional Resources:

- I invite you to visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website www.letsgosew.com. You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, and lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!
- Sign-up for letsgosew.com news [HERE](#).
- Find me on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).
- Be sure to visit the [Official Brother Blog](#) to read my posts on a wide variety of sewing and embroidery topics.

Happy Sewing!

Joanne