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Segment Title: Sewing with a Chiffon

Sample Garment: Sheer Fashion Wrap

Host: Joanne Banko

Description: Traditional Sewing – Sheer Fashion Wrap made from synthetic Chiffon

Don't be shy when it comes to sewing sheers and soft fabrics. In this segment of Its Sew Easy TV you'll learn tips and techniques for taming sheer, soft fabrics like the chiffon used for this sheer fashion wrap garment. In addition, we will focus on specific machine settings, and accessories such as the straight stitch foot and straight stitch throat plate, designed for successful straight stitching on anything that is sheer and soft.

I love making and wearing wraps for every season. My book titled *Wrapped in Embroidery* includes similar wraps for designed cooler weather but you might be surprised to learn that this sheer wrap is based on the same basic shape as these two wraps featured in the book.

The style is basically a large rectangle with a U shaped opening for the front. The book shows how to draw the pattern shape for a few different wraps. Download my instructions to draw a simple pattern for my sheer wrap. See Resources for details. Note that this is a once size fits most garment with little to no fitting issues.

This sheer wrap is very versatile. It is made from polyester chiffon. You may find chiffons with a slightly crinkled texture or a similar synthetic fabric called georgette. They all work well for this style. Frequently these fabrics are found in the special occasion section of your local fabric store. You can wrap it a number of different ways for different looks. Wrap it to the side and wear it like a large scarf with a decorative pin to hold it closed. Or, wear it open like a shawl. Tie it in front for yet another look.

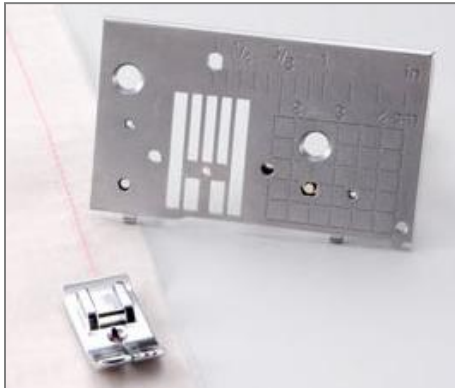


Depending on the fabric you choose, this wrap can be dressed up or down. This wrap is great over a sundress, sheath, or even a tank top and jeans. Are you ready? Let's Go Sew!

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Materials and Supplies:

- Wrap pattern drawn onto pattern tracing cloth.
Purchase soft synthetic chiffon as per pattern requirements or purchase 1 ½ yards of 58-60-inch wide chiffon fabric if you are using my pattern download.
- Fine thread to closely match fabric. Select a thin thread such as Coats Dual Duty XP® Fine.
- Computerized Sewing machine. Note: The [Brother Quattro® 3 Trilogy](#) was used to create the featured wrap.
- Optional but helpful, [Straight Stitch Presser foot](#) and straight stitch throat plate. Note: This set is included with the [Brother Quattro® 3 Trilogy](#). Check with your local dealer to see if this foot and or plate are available for your Brother Model machine.



- Optional but helpful, 8-inch Serrated Sewing Scissors such as Havel's item No.30212 and a 7-inch Laying Tool such as Havel's item No.30075.

8-inch Serrated Sewing Scissors



7-inch Laying Tool



Cutting Tips for Sheer Chiffon:

Tape tissue paper, or similar clean, white paper onto your cutting surface. Pin the edges of the chiffon to the paper, pinning so selvedge edges are perfectly straight. In addition, it is helpful to use some fabric weights to help hold the fabric in place.

Next, pin your pattern tissue or traced pattern all the way through the paper layer. Be sure to use fine sharp pins for cutting, and for sewing this fabric.

Serrated scissors are highly recommended for cutting sheer and slippery fabrics. The edge of the scissors have fine teeth that help grip the fabric as you cut. This helps prevent slippage and uneven cutting.

Before you remove the pattern it's a good idea to mark the wrong side of each fabric piece so you can tell the difference while you are sewing. Painters tape or magic tape works fine, just be sure you don't leave the tape in place for too long or it may leave a residue.

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Tips for Sewing Seams with Sheer Chiffon:

Option #1: Replace the standard plate with a straight stitch throat plate and replace the standard presser foot with a straight stitch foot. Select a straight stitch in the center needle position.

Option #2: Using the standard zig-zag throat plate, select a straight stitch in the left needle position.

Machine Settings: For sewing sheer and fine fabrics use the left needle position for the straight stitch. Select a stitch length slightly less than 2.0. Use a fine sharp sewing machine needle size 8-10. Thread top and bobbin with a fine sewing thread.

For seams on chiffon, follow the steps below for a French Seam technique. Note: These steps are for sewing a seam with a standard 5/8-inch seam allowance.

1. Begin by placing the fabric pieces wrong sides together. Sew a seam measuring 3/8-inch.
2. Press seam flat, then trim seam allowance to measure slightly more than 1/8-inch. Remember that this is a synthetic fabric so use a low temperature on the iron and test for best results.



3. Press the seam a second time, folding it with right sides together and having the stitched line at the top edge. Notice that you are enclosing the raw edges inside the fold. To finish, stitch the seam a second time, using a 1/4-inch seam allowance.



4. Press one final time, pressing the seam toward the back of the garment.

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Tips for Hemming Sheer Chiffon:

Hem all areas of your sheer fabric using the following technique:

For this sheer wrap we are working with a hem allowance of ½-inch. If you have a pattern that calls for anything wider than ½-inch, I suggest you trim the excess to make the hem allowance equal to ½-inch. I used a method that requires two lines of stitching to form the hem. Follow the steps below for a double turned ¼-inch hem.

1. Using thread that closely matches the fabric; begin by stitching a line along the designated fold line for the hem, stitching a scant distance inside the actual ½-inch hem allowance. This step helps in two ways; first, it helps to stabilize the hem edge, making it easier to handle. Second, it creates an obvious line for pressing your hem fold.



After the first line of stitching it is a simple matter of folding and then stitching the hem with the raw edge tucked inside. Press the fabric to the wrong side, pressing so that the stitched line falls on the wrong side of the fabric. Pin as necessary using fine pins. To finish the hem, stitch hem from the wrong side, folding the raw edge under as you stitch. Miter the corners if desired. When you are finished with your hem give it a final press.

Tips: To begin and end your stitching on sheer fabric, place 1-inch strips of water soluble stabilizer against the right side of fabric. Fold and pin the beginning portion of the hem, pinning through the stabilizer. Repeat at the end if necessary. Gently hold the stabilizer as you begin stitching. This step makes it easier to begin and end on soft sheer fabric. Use the laying tool like you would your finger, to help hold the fabric in place as you stitch.

These tips and techniques apply to sewing and hemming most any pattern suited for sheer chiffon, especially wraps and scarves. Enjoy your beautiful wrap!

Resources:

- For additional instructions for sewing a sheer wrap with Brother machines and genuine Brother accessories, visit the project section of brothersews.com.
- Visit your local [Brother sewing machine dealer](#) for special machine accessories such as the Straight Stitch foot and Straight Stitch throat plate.
- Visit Joanne Banko's website www.letsdosew.com to download the instructions for drawing the original wrap pattern and for more information about her book titled *Wrapped in Embroidery*.