

## Show#2003-2 Lined Lace Tank

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Would you believe that this lined lace tank is sewn almost entirely on the serger? It is! Using the serger to sew the seams makes for a finished tank with seams that are nearly invisible. The construction of this lined tank is a bit unusual so be sure to follow each step carefully. Let me guide you through the steps to make your own lined lace tank top. **Are you ready? Let's go sew!**

### Special supplies featured in this show:

- [Brother](#) XP1 Luminaire Sewing & Embroidery machine
- [Brother Serger](#)
- Brother SAQTXP1 Wide Extension Table for support during sewing and quilting.
- Tank top pattern for woven fabrics. [New Look 6517](#) is a good choice if you would like a pattern with darts. Eliminate side slits for this project. **Important pattern notes:** My sample top does not have darts. However, I recommend a pattern with darts if you have a Cup size B or larger. If you are using a new pattern and unsure of the fit, be sure to make a trial garment out of woven fabric before making this lined

lace top. Serging all seams means you will not have extra seam allowance for fitting. Once you have fine-tuned the fit you may want to trace your pattern onto pattern tracing cloth. This makes a durable pattern you can use over and over again.

### **Select fabric and prep your pattern as follows:**

Choose fabrics for the top, selecting lace for the outside and blouse fabric for the lining. Trim side seams **and** armhole seams allowances down to a quarter of an inch. Trim hem allowance leaving only a quarter of an inch. Trim all seam allowance away at the neckline. Cut one front and back from lace and one from and back from blouse fabric for lining. **Tip:** Mark right side of lace pieces to easily recognize the right and wrong sides as you sew. From blouse fabric, cut 1 ½-inch wide strips of bias for trimming neckline, measuring front and back neckline for length, and adding several extra inches for finishing.

### **Prepare to construct the top as follows:**

*Important notes before you begin:*

*It's a good idea to machine or hand-baste armhole, shoulder, and neckline seams to keep them from slipping out of place as you stitch. It's important to keep raw edges together for each seam sewn. Basting also helps you to see how the seams go together before stitching a more permanent seam with the serger. Skim the raw edges of the fabric as you serge, trimming just the stray threads and raveled edges on the fabric. If you choose to use pins be sure to keep them far away from the serger blades.*

*Remove any basting immediately after serging the seam. When possible, serge with the lace side facing up. Make sure your serger stitch catches all the fabric layers as you stitch, or you will end up with gaps in your seam that need to be re-stitched. If this happens it is easy to pop over to the machine and close the gap using a straight stitch sewn alongside the serger seam. In addition, be sure none of your excess fabric is caught by the serger blades while stitching seams.*

**Step 1.** Set up serger for a 4-thread balanced stitch with thread to match fabric. Be sure to test your stitch on scraps of fabric with a layer of lining and lace.

**Step 2.** Prepare to sew side seams: With right sides together sew side seams of lace. Repeat for lining. Press side seams toward back of garment.

**Step 3.** Prepare to sew armholes: Layer lace tank with lining, slipping one tank inside the other, with right side of lace tank facing the wrong side of tank made from blouse fabric. Serge each armhole seam. Note that the shoulders are still unsewn at this point. Take care to serge slowly and carefully around the curve of the armhole. See example of serged armhole below:



Remove basting and press armhole seams toward the lace side.

**Step 4.** Prepare to stitch shoulders: Flip garment so armhole seams are on the inside and wrong side of lace tank faces right side of tank from blouse fabric. Now, open out lace and lining at the shoulders, matching corresponding shoulder seams, placing shoulder seams of lining wrong sides together and shoulder seams of lace right sides together. Serge shoulder seams. Note that you will cross over the armhole seam when serging each shoulder seam from end to end. See below:





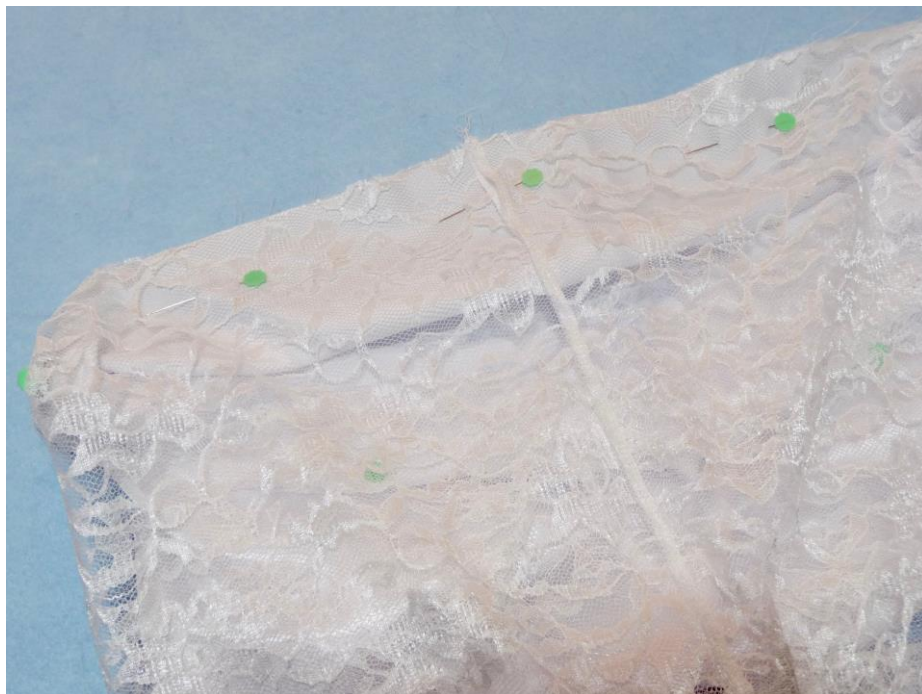
Turn completed shoulder seams to inside of garment and press, re-pressing armhole as needed.

**Step 5.** Prepare to stitch hem: Note that the entire neckline is open at this point, allowing you to reach inside and match up the hem of the lace tank with the hem of the tank from blouse fabric. To line up both edges of the hem, reach inside the neckline turning both the lace and the lining to the inside, beginning at one side seam, and having right side of lace facing wrong side of blouse fabric. See below:



Serge the hem, working your way all around the hem connecting the layers together and completing the circle.

**Tip:** Basting these layers together before serging makes serging the hem easier. This will also help you see how the hem layers come together. As an alternative you can pin these layers together, making sure pins don't interfere with serger blades as you stitch. See below:



**Step 6.** Press to flatten the hem edge and then thoroughly press shoulder and armhole seams. Set up sewing machine for sewing with matching thread. Topstitch the hem to keep the layers together. Topstitch armholes as well, to keep layers flat and secured.

**Step 7.** All that's left is finishing the neckline at the sewing machine. Baste neckline edges together. Beginning at the back neckline, pin bias to lace with right sides together. Sew a ¼-inch seam all around the neck, turning under raw edge at a 45-degree angle and overlapping excess neck trim to finish at the back. Trim away excess length and press trim to inside, folding bias over the seam allowance. Turn under remaining raw edge and press, then hand sew to finish or topstitch from the right side, taking care to catch folded edge on the inside of tank. See neckline steps below:



You are finished! Enjoy!



For more information, including updates, project instructions and future tutorials, be sure to visit [www.letsgo sew.com](http://www.letsgo sew.com).



#### Additional Resources:

- I invite you to visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website [www.letsgo sew.com](http://www.letsgo sew.com). You'll find online lessons, videos, tutorials, free downloads, plus lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!
- Sign-up for letsgo sew.com news [HERE](#).
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- Be sure to visit the [Stitching Sewcial](#), the Brother blog, to read my posts on a wide variety of sewing and embroidery topics.

Happy Sewing!

