

How To Manage Bulk in Sewing, Ways with Elastic, Knit Hems & What To Do When a Serger Loper Thread Breaks with Londa Rohlfing

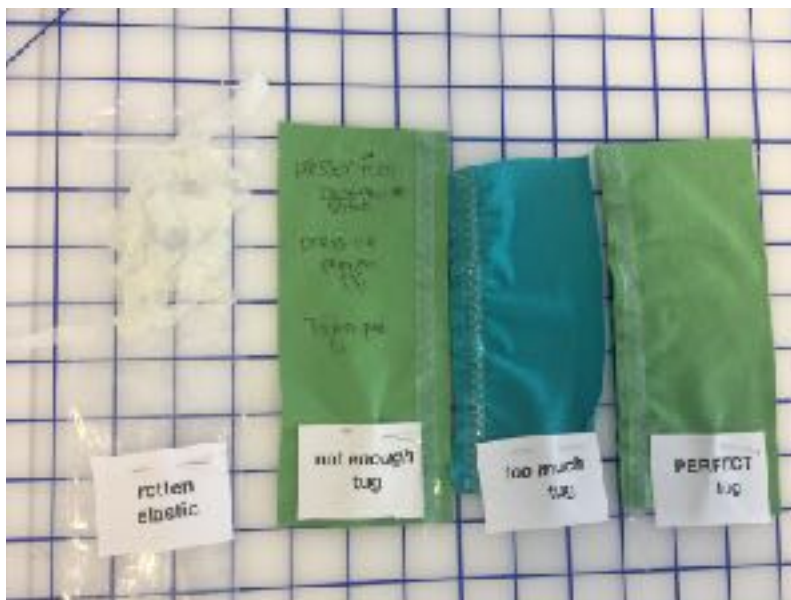
EPISODE DESCRIPTION

Londa Rohlfing teaches how to manage bulky edges when sewing, shows us some wonderful ways with elastic, ways to eliminate diagonal drag on knit hems, and shows us the 3 things you must understand about 'fixing' things when a serger thread breaks.

SECTION A: Managing the Bulk and Elastics + Knit Hems



1. Typical Elastic Casing has a 'loving hands made at home' look
2. Butt elastic ends and stitch to a lightweight scrap of fabric instead of lapping and stitching. This is less bulky.



3. Londa's Clean & Snappy Finish using Clear Elastic

Do not use rotten clear elastic. Exposure to light causes clear elastic to rot and tear apart with tension.

Use a decorative stitch foot for your sewing machine to ever so slightly reduce the pressure on the work. Apply a SLIGHT tug to the elastic as it is zigzagged (wide and long) to the wrong side of an edge. Samples in photo show not enough tug, and too much tug. Aim for the 3rd sample - perfect tug. The tendency will be to tug TOO much!

These garment edges using Cover Hem and Twin Needle Stitching. Londa's 3 disc DVD: **Stretching Your Knit Sewing Know How** gives more detail on this technique, as do both of her patterns: **UpScale Techniques & Nifty Necklines** and **Terrific T Knit Top** patterns.



4. Wrapped Upper Edge of Elastic - allow additional 3/4" fabric from where very most top edge of elastic is desired.
Stitch with a 1/4" seam - takes up 1/2". Additional 1/4" allows for top 'turn' around the edge.
Stitch in the side seams to hold.
Butted colored back easily defines the back of garment.



5. Balance the Bulk. Knits are bulky, and seams are usually NOT pressed open, creating even more bulk.

This principle exists heavy fabrics like jeans' hem (2 layers vs 6 layers without clipping at hemline compared to 3 layers on each side if a clip is made at the hemline and seam allowances are pressed in opposite directions. This also applies at armhole and neckline edges of a top.



6. Knit hems can easily morph into 'Dreaded Diagonal Drag' as shown here...

7. Knit hems need OOMPH - additional body. I like to interface the entire hem edge with knit interfacing cut on the cross (stretchy) grain.

This is another place to 'Balance the Bulk' by clipping at Hem Line and sending seam allowances in opposite directions.

Split the interfacing at the seam line as one should never fuse interfacing over a seam.



8. 'Stick' and Interface simultaneously by serging interfacing to wrong side of hem, with sticky side of the interfacing UP. Then steam press into place and stitch.



9. Another option - use machine basting stitch to STITCH in place - through center of hem depth and right at the edge. This works really well to 'mark' the very top edge for cover hem placement.



10. Trimming excess hem allowance above top hem stitching must be done CAREFULLY. Use a really sharp scissors, with wrong side body of garment facing you and falling away from the excess hem edge to trim in order to be SURE you don't snip into it!.



SECTION B: Serger Broken Thread Fix Rules

3 RULES of UNDERSTANDING FOR RE-THREADING SERGERS

Whenever any thread (ESPECIALLY Loooper Threads) breaks while serging, understand and DO these 2 things.

1. Assuming needle thread(s) are still threaded, loosen them from their wrap around the lower looper, **getting the threads coming directly from the eye of the needle(s) and towards the BACK.**
2. **Upper Loooper Thread MUST MUST MUST** lay further 'back' than the Lower Loooper thread. It is always threaded FIRST.
3. **Lower Loooper Thread must lay IN FRONT OF the Upper Loooper Thread**, and lay over and in the 'crook' of the elbow of the Upper Loooper.

