

Series 900 - 1910's - Puffing and Pleating with Londa Rohlfing

PUFFING

A strip of fabric - usually 3" wide or less, with gathering on both sides to create a 'poufy' texture. Most commonly found in heirloom sewing.

Entredeux - row of 'holes' formally placed on both sides of 'Puffing'. Entredeux defined means 'between 2'.

Gather Fabric

Londa's Method (Shown in Series 800)

1. No tension adjustment
2. Not necessarily much longer of a stitch: lighter weight fabrics still need fine stitches for fine gathers
3. Reinforce each of two rows of stitching, wrong side up, as begin. Use needle position to place two rows of gathering stitching, each 1/8" on either side of seamLINE.

Pull up Gathers SIMULTANEOUSLY along each edge.

Shaped Puffing for a Neckline

- Upper edge is pulled up tighter.
- Lay on top of garment in place, and pull up gathering stitches to curve as desired.
- Locate seamLINE below the puffing, which will be BETWEEN the 2 rows of gathering stitches on EACH edge of the puffing.
- Cut garment away below stitching, ALLOWING for a 1/4" seam allowance with which to attach the puffing TO the garment.
- Lowermost Edge of Puffing:
 - Stay Stitch garment on seamLINE. Clip if necessary to join to Puffing, right sides together.
 - Stitch with Puffing up at the machine, and stitch BETWEEN the gathering rows of stitching.
 - Press Seam allowance towards GARMENT.
- Uppermost Edge of Puffing:
 - Stitch right side of 2" wide BIAS Binding, steamed to a matching neckline curve, curve to the Wrong side of the Puffing - a bit BELOW the innermost gathering row of stitching.
 - Press Bias up, and around the raw edge and the the FRONT, turning under a bit and topstitching.

PLEATING without MEASURING and MARKING

Length: Generally 3 times as long as finished desired length PLUS any distance BETWEEN pleats. Just be sure to start with PLENTY of length - for 'security'.

Width: Episode demonstrated with a folded piece of straight grain fabric, but can certainly be a hemmed width of fabric.

Londa's Variable Depth and Spacing Technique

Use sticky markers or just physical points on the machine bed to determine and mark:

#1 Distance from needle - the furthest point from the needle that is established

This can be:

- * the distance between each pleat
and
- * the depth of each pleat

#2 Distance from needle - the point closest to the needle that is established

This is double the depth desired of each pleat with #1 space between each pleat

Any given distance towards the front of the needle on the bed of the machine (A) can be marked with a pin
and brought to the needle itself to form a pleat
or brought to
another mark closer to the needle (B)
to form regularly spaced pleats.

Stitching from the completed fold TO a mark (A) BEFORE pleating again will put a uniform space between the pleats.

The greater the distance between the established points (A and B) on the machine bed, the deeper the depth of each pleat.

For photos of the Bridal Gown trim being created with this technique consult Londa's Blog Post at:

<http://blog.londasfiles.com/?p=1504>

Fork or 'Tined Implement' Pleating

Pleats can be easily created that are the depth of the width of the fork.

Allow for a 3:1 ratio of fabric length
Plus any distance allowed BETWEEN pleats.

Turning a 'grab' of fabric made with the fork TOWARD (clockwise) the needle creates pleats directed AWAY from you.

Turning a 'grab' of fabric made with the fork AWAY (counterclockwise) from the needle creates pleats directed TOWARD the front.

Tucking the pleat right TO the needle makes pleats right next to each other, with no fabric 'space' between the tucks.

Marking a set distance from a completed tuck to which to turn the NEXT pleat makes pleats WITH fabric 'space' between the tucks as determined.

Londa Rohlfing

Londa's Creative Threads

www.londas-sewing.com

For More information, visit [Londa's Blog](#) about pleating from November 2012