

Bulky Overlock foot Information

- Two Bulky Overlock feet for the BERNINA machines are available, one for machines with a 5.5mm stitch width and one for machines with a 9mm stitch width.
- Both presser feet can be used on all sewing machine models as the opening underneath differs in size to accommodate different thicknesses of cords. The only limitation may be the stitch width.
- When creating and attaching piping or string pearls to a clothing, craft or home decorating project, this presser foot will work well.
- The groove in the foot will accommodate the piping and string pearls easily under the presser foot.
- Originally the Bulky overlock foot was designed to sew bulky sweater knits using an overlock stitch.
- Watch this [Video](#) for a very good demonstration on how to sew bulky knits together.
- The uneven sole of the presser foot will accommodate uneven edges of the project.
- On top of the presser foot there is an engraved guide line that will assist in the best needle position for missing the cord when making piping.
- Any type of cord can be sewn on with this presser foot, from shiny upholstery cord, wool, self-made cords or even string pearls or string beads.



Preparation

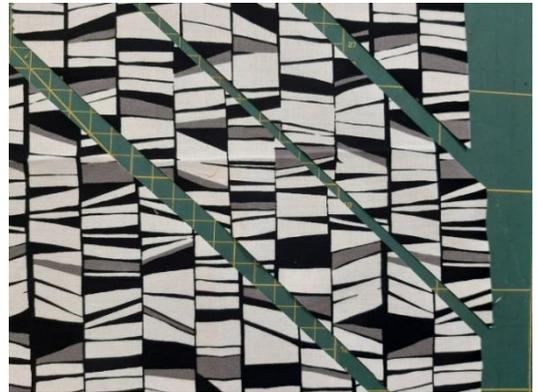
- Fuse the batting to the wrong side of the bottom fabric.
- Cut strips about 35cm long. The width of the strips can vary.
- Draw a 25cm x 30cm rectangle on paper. This will be used as a guide to trim the finished top fabric when all the strips are sewn together, as well as to use when planning where to place the strips.
- Use the pattern to mark the start points of each strip.
- Place the strips as preferred. Make sure that it extends slightly over the paper pattern.
- Pin the strips together, except for one seam where the piping will be inserted.
- Sew the strips together with a straight stitch and a seam allowance of 1 cm.



- **Tip:** Use the Quilter securing programme for a neat start and end on the seams. This stitch starts with 5 short stitches and then changes over to a normal stitch length. When the end of the seam is reached, about 5mm from the end, press the Back stitch function and the machine will sew 5 short stitches again. No back stitching.
- Press all sewn seams to one side.

Making Piping

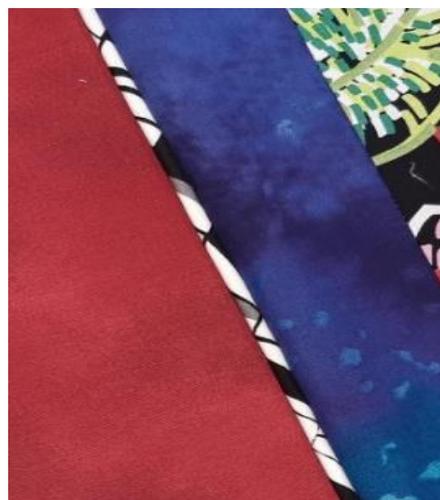
- Any cord can be used, but a soft cord will be easier to manipulate when sewing it in place.
- Use a 6mm diameter cord.
- Measure the circumference of the cord with a measuring tape and add 2cm for seam allowance. (Finished seam allowance on the piping will be 1cm).
- This measurement will be the width of the bias strips that will be used.
- Cut fabric bias strips of about 4.5cm wide. Make sure it is cut on the true bias (45°) to the straight grain of the fabric.
- To get a longer strip of fabric, join the strips at a true angle and press seams open.
- Thread the machine with the same thread on top and in the bobbin.
- Attach the Bulky overlock foot.
- Move the needle position to the right so that the needle is in line with the line on the top of the presser foot. This will ensure that the needle will sew next to the cord and not through it.
- If the cord is thinner than 6mm, play with the needle position until the required end result is achieved. But test sewing is important.
- Enclose the cord in the bias strips.
- Place under the presser foot and sew.
- While sewing make sure the fabric wraps snugly around the cord.



- Pin the newly made piping between the last two strips of fabric.
- Use a straight stitch and place the strips and the piping under the presser foot.
- The seam allowance might seem wider, but that is because of the needle placement and the cord in the middle of the presser foot.
- While sewing, remove the pin before sewing over it and make sure that the raw edges all stay in line.



- Press the seam gently to the side.
- The rest of the piping will be sewn to the side of the project before finishing the project.



Attaching Cords

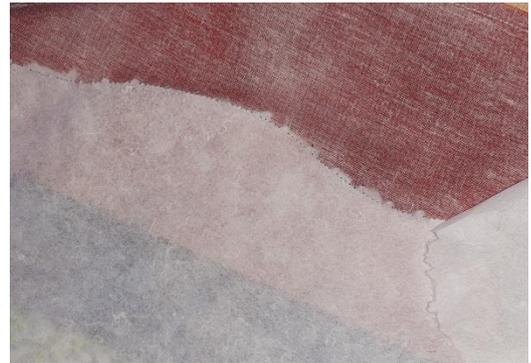
- Place the paper pattern on top of the sewn strips and trim the excess fabric.
- Place the tear-away stabilizer under the top fabric.



- Select the cords to be sewn onto the fabric.
- Thread the top of the machine with the same colour thread as the cord. For interesting effects, different colours can be used.
- Select a Blind stitch and adjust the Stitch length to 2 and the stitch width to about 3.
- The needle position will be as normal. Test sew to fine tune the position of the needle.

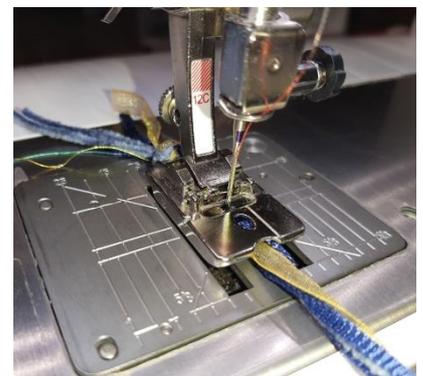


- Place the fabric and the cord under the presser foot.
- Sew at a moderate sewing speed.
- The groove under the presser foot will keep the cord in line when sewing curved lines.
- Another stitch that can be used with great success is a Zigzag stitch.
- The stitch width will depend on the width of the cord.
- The colour thread will depend on the required end result.
- Attach the rest of the prepared piping on one edge of the top fabric and sew in position.
- After attaching all the cords as preferred, remove the tear-away stabilizer gently.
- Support the stitches with a finger while removing the tear-away gently from the stitching.



Making Scrappy Cords

- To make scrappy cords, strips of fabric, ribbon, cords, threads or even wool can be used.
- Select the combination of material that will make up the cord. Measure the length that is needed and add about half of the measured length.
- The threads, fabric, cords and ribbon will be twisted during the sewing process.
- If some of the strips of fabric, ribbon or wool is shorter than needed, no problem, as they can be added to the scrappy cord during the sewing process.
- Select the colour of decorative threads that will best suit the scrappy cords, and thread the machine on top and in the bobbin with the same thread.
- Secure all the strands of fabric, wool, ribbon and cords together. This will make handling a bit easier.
- Set the sewing machine on a Zigzag stitch. The stitch width will depend on how thick the cord will be when twisted.
- Test the stitch width by turning the hand wheel, and making sure that the needle misses the cords and ribbons on the right and the left swing of the needle.
- Select a straight stitch with the needle position in the centre and sew a few stitches in one place to secure the strips or materials.



- Because there is no fabric under the presser foot and on the feed-dog, the cord cannot feed under the presser foot.
- Use both hands to pull the scrappy cord under the foot while sewing. Use a forward and backward motion. How fast the cord is pulled will determine how long the stitch length will be.
- The denser the zigzag stitches are around the cord the stiffer the cord will be.
- While sewing, twist the cords.
- To secure the stitching, select a straight stitch and sew a few stitches in one place on the cord.
- The ends of the scrappy cord can be worked into seams when attaching the scrappy cord to a project.
- Be careful not to make the cord too thick. It still needs to glide easily underneath the presser foot groove.



Sewing The Project Together

- Attach the Bulky Overlock foot.
- Thread the machine with the same thread on top and on the bobbin.
- Change the sewing needle to a size 90 needle, as the sewing will be over very thick cords.
- Place the back fabric, with the fused batting, face down onto the top fabric.
- Pin and sew the side seam with the piping on first.
- Change the presser foot to a Standard sewing presser foot #1.
- Pin the rest of the side seams of the project.
- Sew the side seams of the project but leave a 5cm opening to turn the project inside out.
- Sew carefully over the thick cords.
- Trim the corners and the cords.
- Turn the project inside out.
- Pin and press the side seams gently.
- Attach a [Zipper Presser foot #4/#4D](#) and top stitch the piping in place, on the side seam and on the project.
- Use a stitch length of 3mm.
- Change the presser foot to an [Edge stitch foot #10](#) and top stitch the edge of the project all around.



Attaching String Beads and Scrappy cords

- Select embroidery thread that will blend in with the scrappy cords and with the string beads.
- Attach the Bulky overlock foot #12.
- The stitches that work the best when “couching” cords or beads onto fabric are a Zigzag stitch and a Blind stitch.

- Zigzag stitch:

- Needle position centre
- Stitch length between 2.5-4mm
- Stitch width depends on the width of the cord

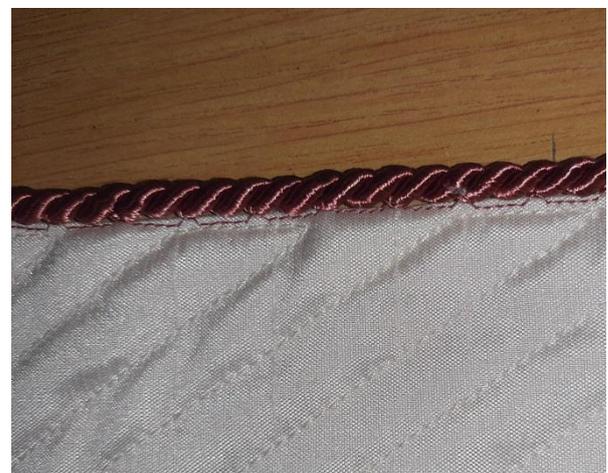


- Blind stitch:

- Needle position as standard setting but can be fine-tuned.
- Stitch length between 2-3
- Stitch Width – standard



- When couching string beads use a zigzag stitch.
- Select a longer stitch length so that the stitches slip in between the beads. Test the stitch width so that the needle does not hit the bead.
- Place the beads under the presser foot and sew in position.
- When couching the cords the Zigzag stitch will sew the cord down with a visible stitch. This can add to the decoration.
- For an invisible stitch the blind stitch works the best. The zigzag of the stitch will only catch the cord halfway and the straight stitch part of the stitch will sew next to the cord. Test the stitch settings
- Use the preferred method to sew the beads and the cord onto the project.
- Let some of the cords and beads hang off the project.
- Sew one of the cords to the edge of the project. Following the technique described to attach the cord, will result in the cord lying next to the edge.
- The blind stitch can be used as described in couching the cords.



- The Mirror Image function can be used to mirror the blind stitch when guiding the fabric from the left side of the presser foot.



Bulky Overlock Foot “Postcard” finished

