Invisible Hems with the Blind Hem Foot!

Everybody can do it by hand: Sewing strong and durable hems that appear almost invisible on the right fabric side. The experts call it »blind hems«, primarily used for heavyweight materials like woolens, or gabardine, but also for heavy home furnishing fabrics.

Sewing blind hems by hand requires good eyes and time! It’s much easier and faster to let an overlocker do the job: It sews a seam, trims the excess fabric and finishes the seam edge – all in one simple operation. With the blind hem foot and correct thread tension settings you can sew blind hems on skirts, trousers, curtains – fast and professionally!

Materials Required for Blind Hemming:

- SINGER® serger
- SINGER® blind hem foot for sergers/overlockers
- Woolen fabrics, gabardine, heavy home furnishing fabrics
- 3 Reels fine overlock thread in fabric-matching color
- SINGER® overlock needles 2022

Preparing the Serger/Overlocker:

Make the following machine settings:

- Stitch program: 3-thread overlock stitch (or 2-thread overlock stitch, if available)
- Stitch length: 3 – 4 mm
- Stitch width: 2 – 4 mm
- Differential feed: N
- Upper knife: Engaged
- Remove left needle
- Thread tension: Standard settings

Preparing the Fabric:

1. Snap on the blind hem foot. Insert the right needle. Thread the machine.

2. Fold in and press the hem in the desired width (1). Tilt over the hem so the seam edge on the right extends by approx. 1.5 cm (2).

Let’s Start Sewing:

Tip: Always sew a test seam first before you start your blind hemming!

3. Place the fabric under the presser foot with the pressed hem facing up. You are sewing along the raw edge of the hem, and the seam appears like an edge finish. The bottom layer of the fabric’s fold, however, is seamed simultaneously.
4 I Make sure the needle barely pierces the fabric fold on the left.
The needle should only pierce one or two fibers of the fabric while sewing! The further left the needle pierces the fabric, the more visible stitches become on the right fabric side.

5 I The blind hem foot can easily be adjusted for sewing perfect, invisible hems on different types of fabric.
After having found the optimal positioning of the hem, turn the adjustment screw on the presser foot forwards or backwards to move the foot’s guide plate until it lines up with the edge of the fold.

➤ If you’re moving the guide plate to the left, toward the fold, the distance between fabric and needle increases. That means, the needle pierces less fibers of the hem.

➤ If you’re moving the guide plate to the right, further away from the fold, the fold has to be readjusted. In this case, the needle stitches deeper into the hem.

6 I You can now start sewing your hem.
Sewing at a slow speed provides better control of the fabric feed, to ensure that the fabric fold always lines up with the foot’s guide plate and the needle barely pierces the fabric.

Important: Never use pins when seaming with an overlocker as they could get caught in the upper knife. For slippery or thick fabric types we recommend to baste the hem in place approx. 2 cm away from the seam’s edge before you start sewing.

Tip: Using a transparent thread in the needle for sewing hems ensures that the blind stitch is truly invisible, even on fine fabric types! Slightly reduce the thread tension of the needle thread in this case.

Be Different: Make the Blind Stitch Visible!

For special effects: The blind stitch technique also lets you sew »visible hems«. Stunning results can easily be achieved with beautiful decorative threads, or threads in contrasting colors as needle thread. The so-called »ladder stitch« is extremely easy to sew:

➤ Prepare the hem as described before.
➤ Reduce the stitch length.
➤ If desired, thread the needle with a decorative or contrasting thread. For thicker threads or metallic threads, slightly reduce the tension!
➤ While sewing, the needle should stitch approx. 1 mm deep into the fabric fold, so the stitching is visible on the right fabric side.
➤ Adjust the foot’s guide plate accordingly and sew this highly decorative hem.

Delicate Lace Borders – Perfectly Sewn!
The blind hem foot is also ideal for attaching delicate lace while finishing the seam edges in one simple operation. Perfect for fine linens and lingerie!

➤ Place the fabric under the presser foot.
➤ Position the lace under the foot so it lines up with the foot’s guide plate on the right during sewing.
➤ Adjust the foot’s guide plate so the needle barely pierces the lace. This creates an extremely narrow seam join.

Please note: The further right you’re moving the guide plate, the more material of the lace will be overstitched. Moving the guide plate further to the left creates a narrower seam join.

➤ The foot’s guide plate guarantees an even and precise feeding of the lace while sewing.

Tip: Piecing rows of lace with different types of lace creates fabulous nostalgic effects! Use the blind hem foot for this technique as it will produce extremely narrow seam joins!