

CREATIVE CORDING

A simple trick with a strong impact!

If you're looking for precious, elegant effects to be added to your finished creations, why not try the cording technique?

You have undoubtedly seen this pronounced embroidery work before. It looks as if strings of cord have been applied to the fabric – hence the technique's name. Whether sewn as winding pattern, in curved or straight lines: This special embroidery technique always lends a lavish touch to your projects. And it's so easy to do – with the appropriate accessories!



The specialist for »purl seams«:

THE CORDING FOOT

Precious-looking purl seams are easily produced, simply by over stitching a pearl thread, fine cord or thin braid with a narrow zigzag stitch.

Thread types may vary from cotton to rayons, but fine woolen yarns can also be used. Experiment with different types of threads, cords or yarns!

The cording foot evenly feeds the thread, cord or braid while sewing – regardless if you're embroidering winding patterns, curves or corners.

Hand-sewn purl seams are no easy task – it's child's play, however, using your sewing machine's cording foot!

Materials Required:

- > Firm fabrics
e.g. cotton, linen, velvet, denim, etc.
- > Interfacing for fabric backing
- > For finer fabric types, use stabilizer for additional reinforcement
- > SINGER® cording foot
- > SINGER® needle, size 80
- > Machine embroidery thread
- > Pearl thread, cotton or synthetic cord, fine woolen yarn, etc.
- > Temporary spray
- > Disappearing fabric-marking pen

1 Preparing the Sewing Machine:

Stitch program:

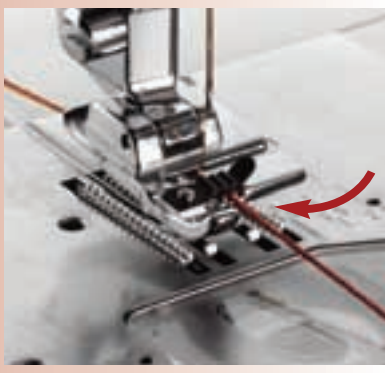
Select a zigzag stitch, width: 2.5 - 4 mm, length: 0.4 - 0.6 mm

1 | Attach the cording foot. Thread the needle with the machine embroidery thread. If you're using a rayon sheen as embroidery thread, we recommend not to use it as bobbin thread – use a fine cotton instead.



Reduce the upper thread tension. This way the needle thread produces a smoother finish on the fabric's surface giving the embroidery a more pronounced appearance.

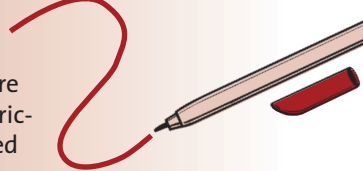
2 | Pull the cord under the small black tension disc from right to left, so it runs through the foot's center groove. Place the cord end under the cording foot, so it runs in the foot's center groove at the back.



2 Preparing the Fabric:

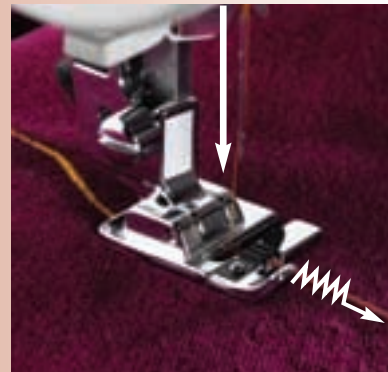
3 | To prevent fabric distortion while embroidering, we recommend to reinforce the fabric with stabilizer. Using a layer of interfacing has the advantage of preventing fabric slippage, but this will slightly stiffen the material. Today's different types of stabilizers are suitable for all fabric types. Stabilizers can be fused to the fabric to be embroidered with a »temporary spray« and easily be removed after the embroidery has been finished.

If you're not doing free-motion embroidery, draw all lines of your planned pattern on the fabric before you start, using a disappearing fabric-marking pen, and follow the marked lines while sewing.



3 Let's Start Sewing:

4 | A simple trick! Place the fabric under the cording foot. Select a zigzag stitch and sew along the marked lines. The cord is automatically applied while sewing and over stitched with a narrow satin stitch. Make sure the cord is completely over stitched. If not, increase the width of the zigzag stitch.



! Tip! When sewing curved lines reduce the sewing speed and slowly move the fabric following the curved lines, to ensure that the cord is evenly over stitched, including all tricky areas.

! Tip! You can simply achieve variations of beautiful decorative effects by playing with the stitch width. Use a decorative thread or cord in a contrasting color and over stitch it with a long length and wide stitch width, so that the cord is visible between the stitching. Follow your inspirations and experiment with decorative threads, cords and yarns! Have you ever thought of applying a piece of ordinary fine string, normally used to tie up parcels, as a decorative trim? It looks great on linen when stitched in place in natural color shades.



Extremely elegant touches can be achieved with Lurex yarns – ideal for embellishing evening wear!



Rustic effects with natural materials: Fine parcel string is transformed into an original border!

! Tip! Parallel rows of cording can easily and evenly be sewn using the edge guide!

5 | Finishing the cording:

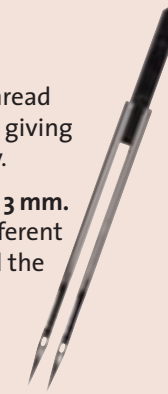
At the beginning and end of the purl seam secure the threads at the back of the fabric by tying a knot or stitching in place. The cord can simply be trimmed at both ends.

Playing with colors:

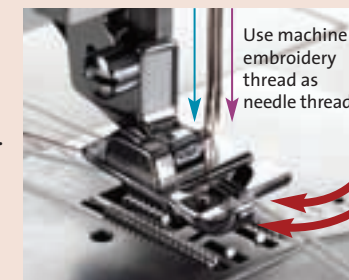
Working with a twin needle and different thread colors produces beautiful decorative effects, giving the impression similar to ribbon embroidery.

Insert a twin needle with a needle spacing of 3 mm. Thread the two needle threads with two different colors. For the second thread spool you need the machine's additional spool pin. Follow the machine's thread path and pull the right thread into the right needle's eye and the left thread into the left needle's eye.

If your machine is equipped with an automatic needle threader, don't use it for threading a twin needle. It has to be done manually!



> Pull two strings of pearl thread, cord or thin braid. Using a twin needle, however, please remember that extremely curved lines cannot be sewn. Best suitable are soft wave-like effects or straight-line designs.



> Select a zigzag stitch with a width of 2-3 mm. Overstitch the two strings of pearl thread, cord or thin braid. Using a twin needle, however, please remember that extremely curved lines cannot be sewn. Best suitable are soft wave-like effects or straight-line designs.

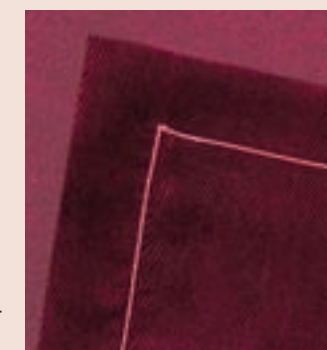


! Another useful tip! Don't leave the twin needle in the fabric when pivoting the fabric for sewing corners!

Precious, durable seams:

Add an exquisite touch to your table linen!

Fold in and press a seam approx. 5 cm. Use a matching decorative thread and cord for sewing a narrow purl seam instead of a simple top-stitched seam.



Appliqués with a difference!

Use the cording technique in your appliqué work, for a change. You'll be amazed at the stunning results!

Simply over stitch the outline of the motif using the cording foot and a cord of your choice in one of the foot's grooves instead of selecting an ordinary zigzag stitch.

Important: Make sure the needle completely over stitches the outer edge of the appliqué to prevent fraying!

