

## Class: Double Stitched Hem

Ali is making a t-shirt out of a stretch knit fabric. She wants her hem to look like those on the t-shirts she has seen in the stores. These t-shirts have hems that appear to have two straight lines of stitching next to each other. She does not have serger that does a cover stitch (special double needle stitch with stretch for knit fabrics, used for hemming and decorative top stitching).

Help Ali select the best needle to do a double row of stitching on her t-shirt with a regular zig-zag sewing machine. All of the needles below fit in her machine. Rank the needles from best to worst.

Samples: Use packages of needles and a sample of knit interlock.

### 4 Coverstitch hem, catching hem raw edge.

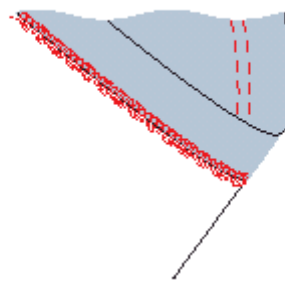


Image above from: <http://sewing.about.com/library/sewnews/library/aatech0603.htm>

- 4 Double needle for stretch knit fabrics
- 1 Single needle for stretch knit fabrics
- 2 Universal double needle for most woven and knit fabrics
- 3 Denim double needle

Double Stitched Hem

Official Placement: 4-1-2-3

Cuts: 2,1,9

Hormel scores, for online score calculations see:

<http://www.worldaccessnet.com/%7Enormans/hormel.html>

#4 This double needle is designed for stretch knits. It is best to use because Ali will not have to stitch her hem twice to get two lines of stitching and the tips of the of the needles are rounded so they will not cut delicate fibers in knit fabrics. It will prevent skipped stitches as it is designed to keep stretchy fabrics from bouncing when the needle comes up out of the fabric. Also, double needles used with all-purpose thread build in some stretch into the stitching so the hems do not pop out as easily.

#1 This is a single needle designed for stretch knits. Ali will have to stitch two rows of stitching to make the hem look like ready made t-shirts. She may want to use woolly nylon, a stretchy thread, to build some stretch into the stitching to prevent popped stitching when the hem

stretches. However, the needle is designed to prevent skipped stitches on knits and the point is rounded. This is Ali's second best choice.

#2 This is a double needle designed for most woven and knit fabrics. Most likely, the slightly rounded points will not damage the knit. This double needle is not designed to prevent the fabric from bouncing so Ali may get skipped stitches. She can prevent this if she stabilizes her fabric. Starching the fabric may help to stabilize it or she can fuse the hem with fusible web. This will stiffen the hem a bit and it will not bounce as much when the needle comes out of the fabric. Ali should choose this needle over a denim double needle which may damage a knit fabric.

#3 This is a denim double needle. Ali should not choose this needle for knits of any kind. The sharp points will cut the fibers and leave holes in the fabric. This is Ali's worst choice.