



# Double Overedge Stitch



The double overedge stitch has two sets of overlapping zigzag stitches on the right and a straight stitch on the left. Sometimes the zigzag stitches are different sizes. This stitch is designed for overcasting the raw edges of fabrics that are prone to fraying. It is perfect for linen, shantung, gabardine and denim. It can be used to stitch and finish a seam in one operation. If using it to seam, make sure you trim your seam allowances to 6mm (1/4in) before stitching. The double overedge stitch is available on many mechanical machines and most computerised sewing machines.



## ESSENTIAL FACTS

### Also known as

Serger stitch and overcast stitch

### Key feature

Combination of a straight stitch and overlapping zigzags

### Substitute stitch

Zigzag stitch, overcast stitch or slant pin stitch

### Common uses

To finish raw edges to prevent fraying

### Presser foot

Overcast

### Fabric type

Woven fabrics that fray easily

### Thread type

All-purpose polyester or cotton

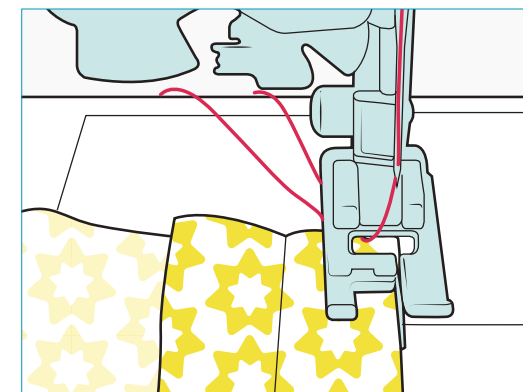
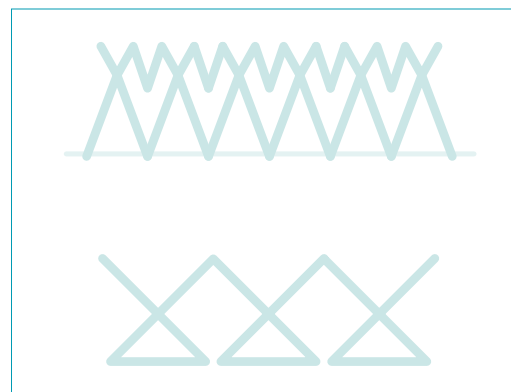
### Needle type

Universal, size appropriate for fabric

### SEE ALSO

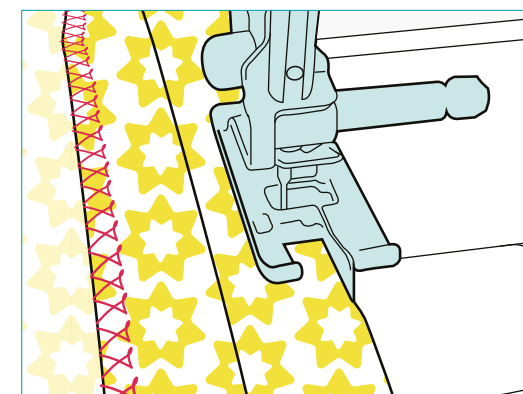
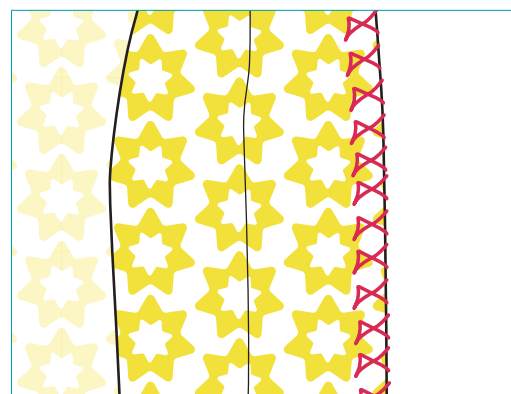
Overcast foot, page 162

## HOW TO FINISH A SEAM USING THE DOUBLE OVEREDGE STITCH



1 Sew the seam as usual and press the seam allowances open. Attach the overcast foot to the sewing machine and select the double overedge stitch.

2 Fold back the fabric so that you have one seam allowance and position the fabric under the presser foot so that the right fabric edge of the seam allowance is butting up against the guide on the foot. Lower the presser foot.



3 Overcast the seam, making sure you backstitch at the beginning and end. Use the guide on the foot as your seam guide. The stitches should go just off the edge on the right side.

4 Repeat for the other seam allowance. Press the seams open.

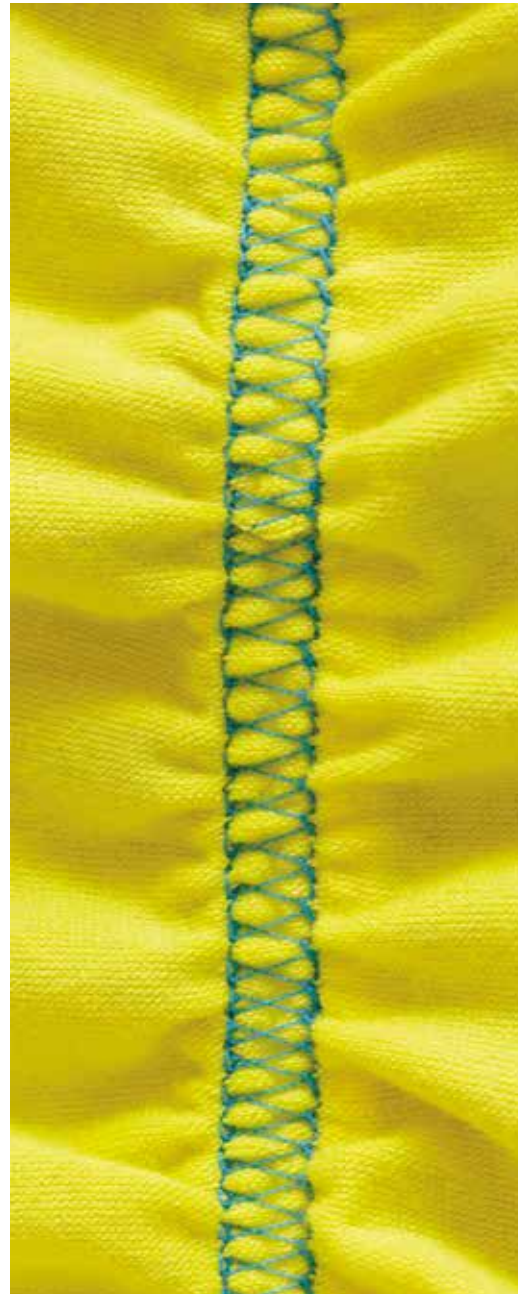
**EXPERT TIP** It is also possible to overcast the seam allowances together. If you do this, press the seam allowances to one side instead of pressing them open.



# Closed Overlock Stitch



The closed overlock stitch is another type of stitch that mimics a serger stitch and can be used for seaming and overcasting knit fabrics in one step. It can also be used to hem knits and give them a sporty look. It is ideal for stitching elastics directly on to fabric on waistbands as opposed to having elastic threaded through a casing. It has a stretch straight stitch on both the left and right sides, with zigzag stitches in between. Be sure to trim seam allowances to 6mm (1/4in) prior to sewing. The closed overlock stitch is commonly available on both mechanical and computerised sewing machines.



## ESSENTIAL FACTS

### Also known as

Overlock stitch, serger stitch and flatlock stitch

### Key feature

Parallel straight stitches with zigzag in between

### Substitute stitch

Stretch overedge stitch, slant pin stitch or three-step zigzag stitch

### Common uses

Seaming and hemming knits and applying elastic

### Presser foot

Overcast for seam finishes; all-purpose for applying elastic; walking for hemming knits

### Fabric type

Stretch knits

### Thread type

All-purpose polyester

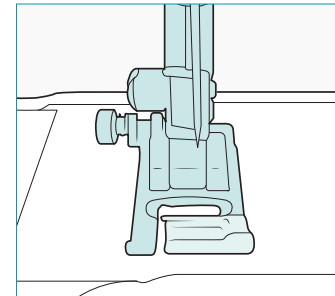
### Needle type

Stretch needle or ballpoint needle

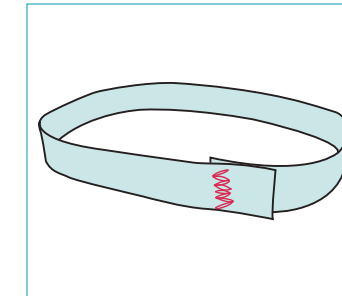
### ▶ SEE ALSO

Stretch overedge stitch, page 48

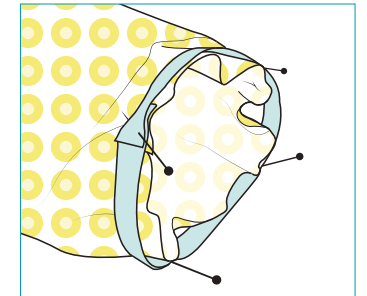
## HOW TO APPLY ELASTIC USING THE CLOSED OVERLOCK STITCH



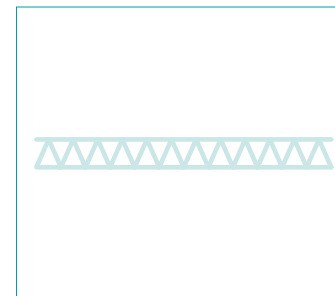
1 Attach the all-purpose foot to the sewing machine, select a zigzag stitch with a length of 2.5mm and a width of 2mm and insert a stretch/ballpoint needle.



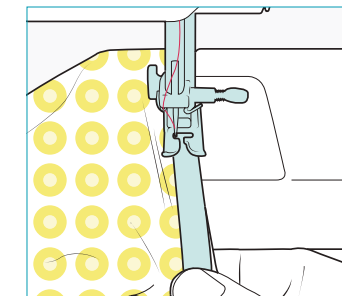
2 Cut the elastic to the correct length, overlap the ends of the elastic by 13mm (1/2in) and stitch to form a circle.



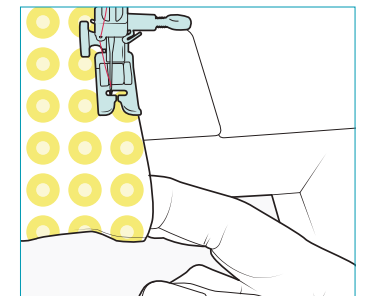
3 Quarter mark the elastic and quarter mark the garment at the centre front, centre back and side seams. Pin the elastic to the right side of the fabric, aligning along the right edge, matching each of the quarter-mark points, and pin at the points.



4 Position the elastic so it is centred under the presser foot. Select the closed overlock stitch.



5 Backstitch and then stitch across the elastic, stretching flat from pin to pin. Backstitch at the end.



6 Turn elastic to the wrong side and again match and pin the quarter points. Position the fabric under the presser foot with the right side face up and the fabric fold against the right edge of the presser foot. Stitch across, stretching flat from pin to pin, making sure you backstitch at the beginning and end.



**EXPERT TIP** 'Quarter mark' means to divide into four equal sections and mark with a pin.



# Slant Pin Stitch



The slant pin stitch is an overcasting stitch for knit fabrics and is used to stitch seams and finish them in one step. It uses both forward and reverse stitches to allow maximum elasticity on highly stretchy fabrics. It has a stretch straight stitch on the left side and angled stitches on the right. Some slant pin stitches angle forward while on other machines they angle back. Like other overcast stitches, this stitch is only 1/4in (6 mm) wide so be sure you trim the seam allowances prior to stitching. The slant pin stitch is available on most mechanical and all computerised sewing machines.



## ESSENTIAL FACTS

### Also known as

Knit overcast stitch and slant overedge stitch

### Key feature

Combination of a straight stitch and overcast stitch

### Substitute stitch

Stretch overedge stitch or closed overlock stitch

### Common uses

Stitching and finishing seams on knit fabrics

### Presser foot

Overcast

### Fabric type

Stretch knits

### Thread type

All-purpose polyester

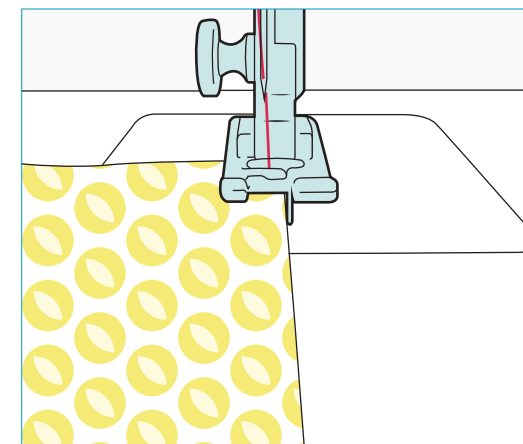
### Needle type

Stretch or ballpoint

### SEE ALSO

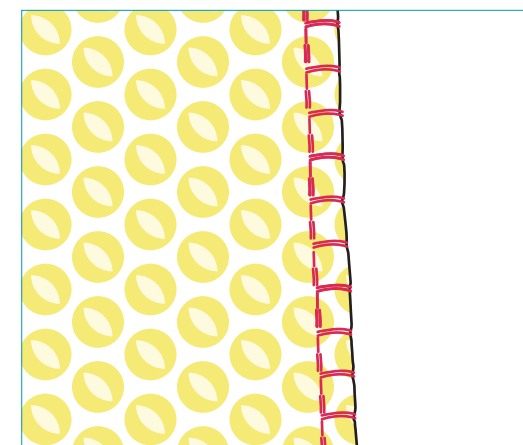
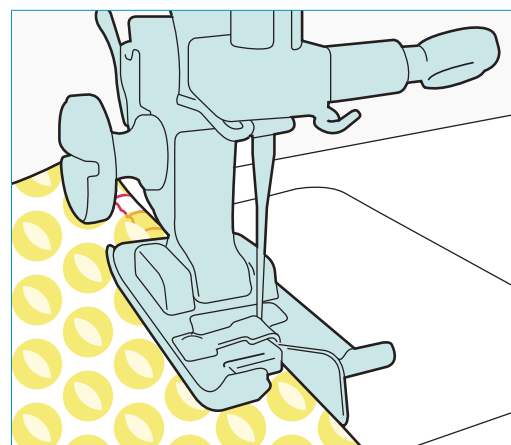
Overcast foot, page 162

## HOW TO SEW KNITS USING THE SLANT PIN STITCH




1 Attach the overcast foot to the sewing machine and select the slant pin stitch. Insert a stretch/ballpoint needle in the machine.

2 Position the fabric under the presser foot so that the right fabric edge is butting up against the guide on the foot. Lower the presser foot.



3 Stitch the seam, making sure you backstitch at the beginning and end. Use the guide on the foot as your seam guide.

4 The stitches should go just off the edge on the right side.

 **EXPERT TIP** You can also use the slant pin stitch to hem knits.



# Reverse Overcast Stitch



The reverse overcast stitch has a stretch straight stitch on the right and zigzags on the left. Use it to apply overcast raw edges on knit fabrics, to apply lace trims and elastics to lingerie and as a decorative hem stitch on knits. Use with a stretch needle and polyester thread for knit fabrics and a universal or Microtex needle for delicate wovens. Be careful when using an overcasting foot, as on some machines the stitch pattern can make the needle hit the centre pin and break. You can also use an all-purpose or walking foot.



## ESSENTIAL FACTS

### Also known as

Reverse overedge stitch

### Key feature

Reverse combination of a straight stitch and overcast stitch

### Substitute stitch

Zigzag stitch

### Common uses

Overcast knit fabrics, applying lace and elastic trim

### Presser foot

Overcast, all-purpose or walking

### Fabric type

Stretch knits, lace and elastics

### Thread type

All-purpose polyester

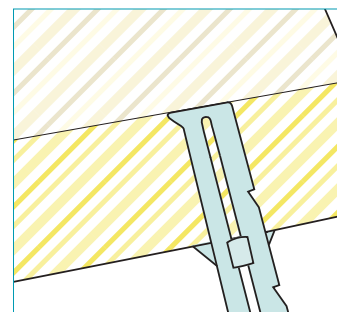
### Needle type

Stretch for knits; universal or Microtex for wovens

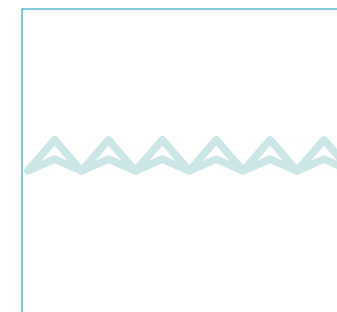
### SEE ALSO

All-purpose foot, page 158;  
Walking foot, page 159

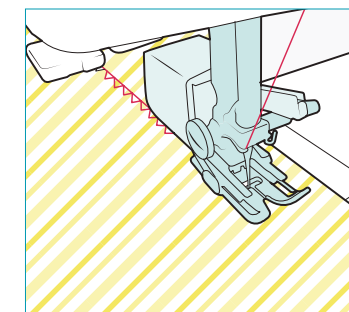
## HOW TO HEM KNITS USING THE REVERSE OVERCAST STITCH



1 Press the full amount of the hem allowance to the wrong side; use an adjustable seam guide or tape measure for accuracy. Pin.

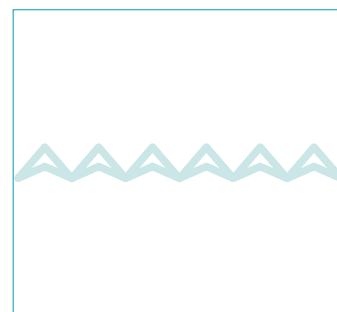


2 Attach the walking foot to the machine and select the reverse overcast stitch. Insert a stretch/ballpoint needle in the machine.

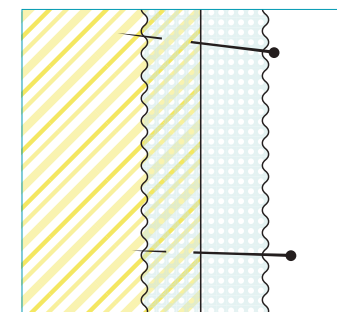


3 Position the fabric under the presser foot and align the fold on a seam guide that is the same measurement as the hem allowance. Lower the presser foot and stitch the hem, making sure you backstitch at the beginning and end.

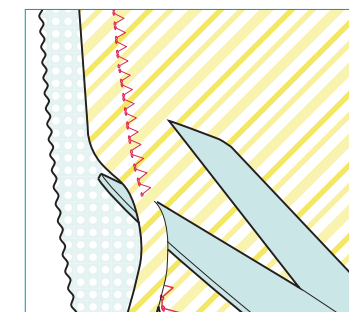
## HOW TO APPLY LACE TRIM USING THE REVERSE OVERCAST STITCH



1 Attach the all-purpose foot to the sewing machine and select the reverse overcast stitch.



2 Pin the lace trim to the fabric's right side, overlapping the fabric raw edge by about 13mm (1/2in). Position the fabric under the presser foot so the lace edge is centred under the foot. Lower the presser foot.



3 Stitch along the lace edge, making sure you backstitch at the beginning and end. Trim away the excess fabric under the lace near the stitch line.



**EXPERT TIP** You can also use the reverse overcast stitch to appliqué.



# Shell Stitch



The shell stitch is used to create delicate shell tucks along folds. It has several straight stitches on the left and a straight stitch off to the right that pulls in the fold to form a slight tuck. The tension will need to be tightened for this stitch to create prominent tucks. Shell stitch is often used to hem lingerie and delicate knitwear and is beautiful along necklines. It is best used with lightweight fabrics that have some stretch or are on the bias. The shell stitch is available on some computerised sewing machines but is frequently substituted with overcast stitch.



## ESSENTIAL FACTS

**Also known as**  
Picot edge stitch

**Key feature**  
Several straight stitches on the left and one straight stitch off to the right

**Substitute stitch**  
Overcast stitch

**Common uses**  
Hems on knitwear and lingerie

**Presser foot**  
Satin stitch

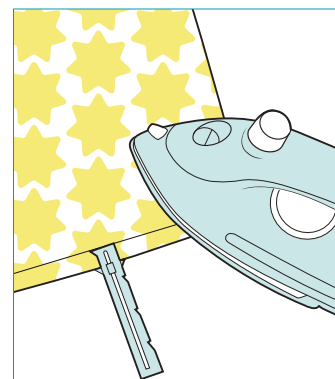
**Fabric type**  
Knits and lightweight wovens

**Thread type**  
Polyester for knits, cotton or polyester for wovens

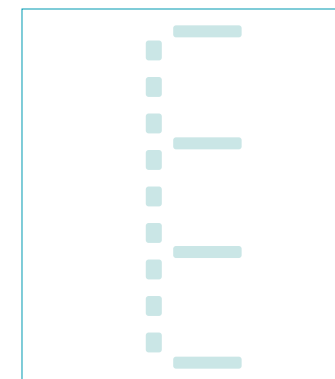
**Needle type**  
Universal for wovens; stretch for knits

▶ SEE ALSO  
Satin stitch foot, page 158

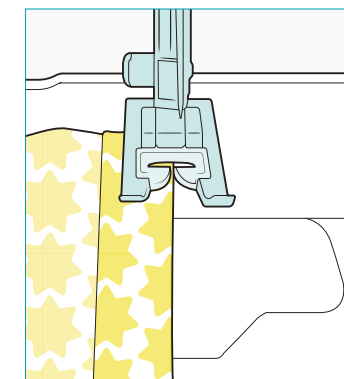
## HOW TO HEM KNITS USING SHELL STITCH



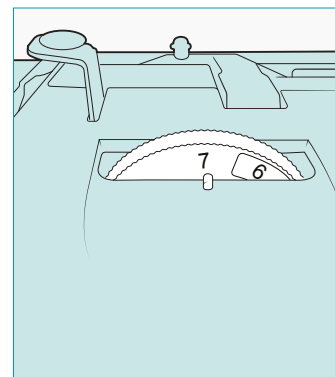
1 Press the hem 13mm (1/2in) to the wrong side. Use an adjustable seam guide or tape measure for accuracy. Pin.



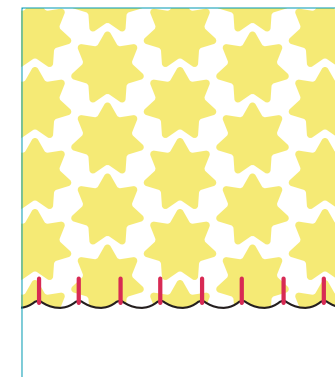
2 Attach the satin stitch foot to the sewing machine and select the overcast stitch. Insert a stretch/ballpoint needle in the machine.




3 Position the fabric under the presser foot so that the fold is aligned with the centre guide of the presser foot.



4 Tighten the tension to 7.



5 Lower the presser foot and stitch the edge. The zigzag should drop off the fabric edge and pull it in to the left to form the shell tuck. Be sure you backstitch at the beginning and end.

 **EXPERT TIP** If you want to create a more pronounced tuck, increase the tension.

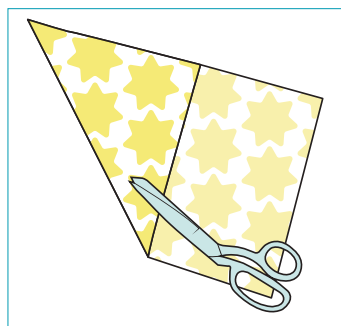


## Shell Stitch

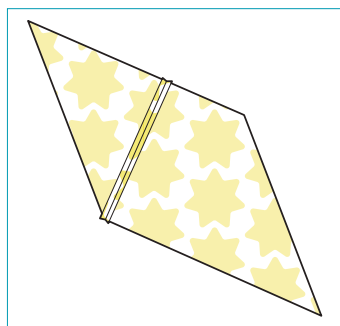
The shell stitch can also be used to make a scalloped piping. You can use prepackaged bias tape or you can make your own. The benefit of making your own bias trim is that you can use any fabric, colour or pattern you desire.



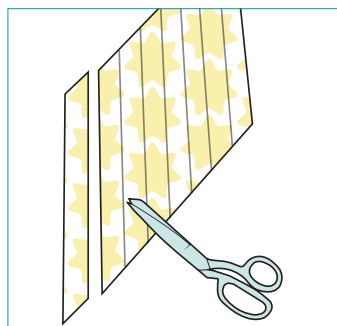
### HOW TO MAKE SCALLOPED PIPING USING SHELL STITCH



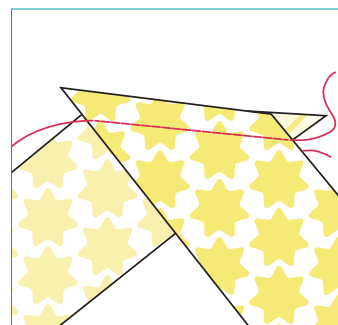
1 Fold the selvedge over to form a triangle, creating a 45-degree fold along the bias. Cut along that fold.



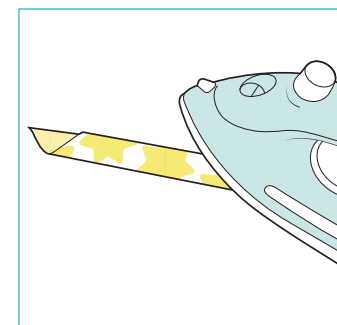
2 Pin the triangle to the other selvedge with right sides facing and stitch with a 6mm (1/4in) seam allowance. Press the seam allowances open and you will have a parallelogram.



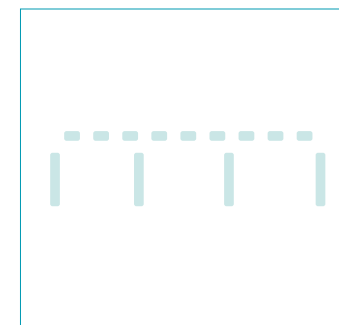
3 Using a ruler and a fabric marker, mark parallel lines to the bias edge that are 5cm (2in) apart. Cut on the lines using scissors or a rotary cutter, acrylic ruler and mat.



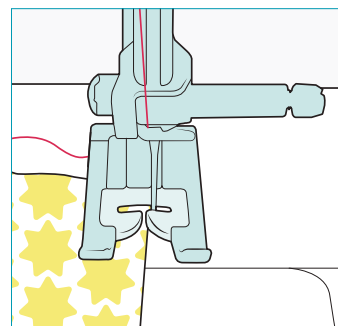
4 Place two strips of fabric right sides together at 90 degrees. Offset the tip of each strip by 6mm (1/4in). Pin. Select a straight stitch, length 2.5mm. Stitch with a 6mm seam allowance. Repeat until you have one long piece. Press the seam allowances open.



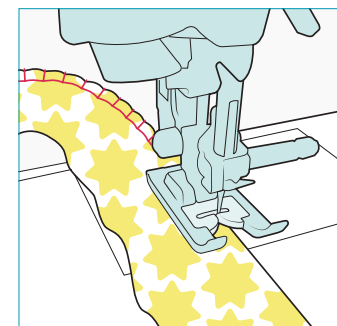
5 Fold the strip in half with the wrong sides facing and the long edges aligned. Press.



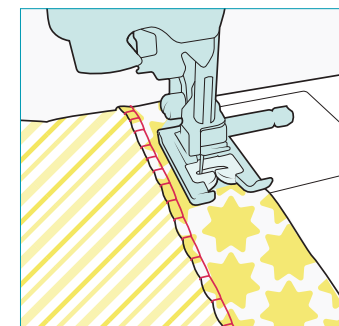
6 Attach the satin stitch foot to the sewing machine and select the overcast stitch. Tighten the tension to 7.



7 Position the fabric under the presser foot so that the fold is aligned with the centre guide of the presser foot.



8 Lower the presser foot and stitch along the folded edge. The zigzag should drop off the fabric edge and pull it in to the left to form the shell tuck. Always backstitch at the beginning and end.



9 Place the scalloped trim right side facing the right side of the hem of the garment. Pin. Stitch with a straight stitch and a 13mm (1/2in) seam allowance. Finish the raw edge with an overcast stitch and turn right side out.



**EXPERT TIP** Shell stitch can be used on a skirt or dress hem or try it on a neckline. Use it as a trim on a pillow.