

Tips & Techniques!

Tips & Techniques #12

USE YOUR STUDIO BY WHITE 7934D SERGER TO CREATE YARNS

The popularity of novelty yarns in ready to wear garments has never been higher. Generally used in small amounts, novelty yarns can turn a ho-hum sweater into a designer original. The frustration of finding these yarns coupled with the cost of the yarn is, at best, overwhelming. The solution, use your serger to create novelty yarns!

General Hints

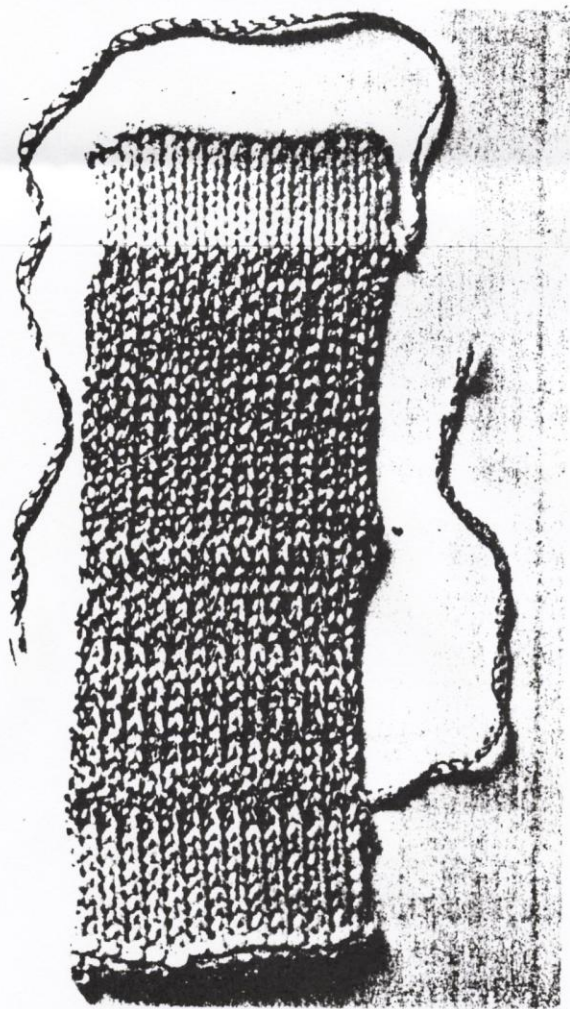
1. It is essential to pull on the chain from behind the presser foot with as even an amount of pressure as you can.
2. Set up a ball winder in close proximity to the serger and periodically stop to wind up the yarn.
3. Decorative or heavier threads should be used in the upper looper of the serger (it is easier to thread).
4. For added elasticity, especially when using rayon threads, use a texturized nylon thread in the lower looper (such as Woolly Nylon).
5. Choose only good quality polyester threads for use in the needle(s). Cotton threads tend to break.

Additional Color

1. Using regular sewing threads, thread the left needle and both loopers.
2. Set the stitch length to maximum.
3. Thread your MC or base yarn through the hole located in the front of the presser foot.
4. Begin serging for about 3 inches and

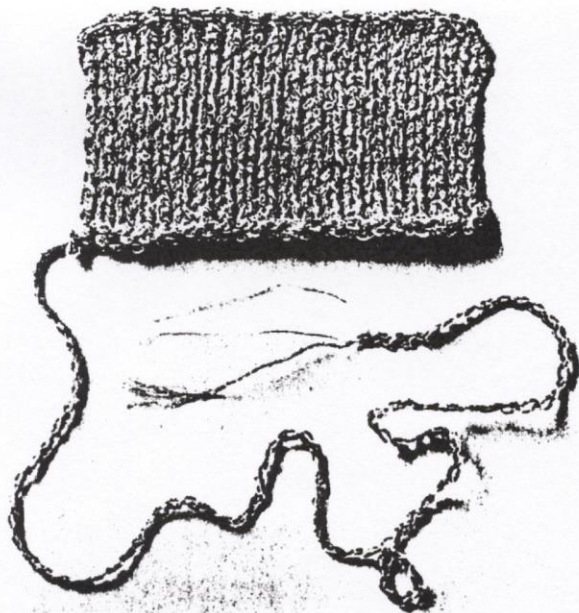
inspect the result. You will need to adjust tensions so that the thread hugs the yarn without excess loops and the needle thread is almost straight.

5. For a variegated effect, use two different colors in the loopers. For added interest, use metallics or rayon machine embroidery threads.



Increasing The Size Of Decorative Threads And Yarns

1. Thread both needles with color coordinated sewing threads.
2. Use metallics, rayon threads or small yarns (such as a 2/24) in the lower and/or upper loopers.
3. Holding the threads from behind the presser foot, chain (run the serger without any fabric). (See general hint #1.)
4. Run your fingers along the chain, if the loops from the loopers gather up, the needle tensions need to be loosened. You have proper balance when nothing on the chain moves.
5. Adjust the tensions of the upper and lower loopers so that neither is predominate and looping more than the other.
6. Continue chaining until the desired yardage is obtained.

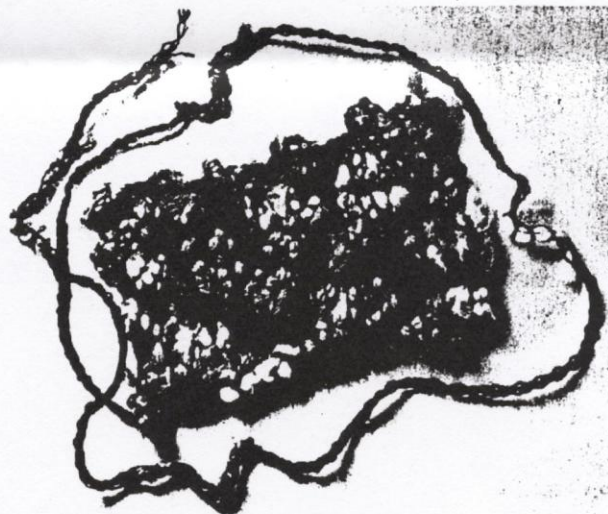


Thick And Thin

1. Thread both needles and loopers with desired color of sewing thread. (Woolly Nylon was used in the loopers in the

sample shown below.)

2. Remove the presser foot.
3. Cut 1"-2" lengths of chunky yarns in one or several colors to have at hand.
4. Chain about 12" (see general hint #1).
5. Stop the serger. Place a piece of the cut yarn next to the needles.
6. Continue to chain. The needles should grab the yarn piece and serge it right into the chain. Be extra careful you do not get your fingers near the needles while chaining, without the presser foot you have no protection.
7. Stop the chaining process every 3"-6" (your preference) to add another piece of yarn.
8. This yarn can be knit alone as in the picture or used as an accompany yarn. Also try using small yarns or metallics for the pieces.



"Birds Nest" Textured Yarn

1. Thread both needles with sewing thread and both loopers with texturized nylon thread.
2. Place on the floor to your right, one spool Decor 6 (a heavy rayon thread) and two spools Candlelight metallic thread.
3. Swing your knife up, out of the cutting position. (This is the only time the knife

should be out of position when you are serging.)

4. Chain for approximately 3". Bring up the three decorative threads (leaving the spools on the floor) and hold the ends in your left hand along with the chain. With your right hand, grasp those three decorative threads just in front of the serger.
5. While chaining (see general hint #1), swing the three decorative threads into the needles to be caught and back out again. Repeat about every 2"-3".
6. The result is a chain with the decorative threads caught at regular intervals. Cut the loops of decorative threads between the caught areas.
7. The yarn can then be knit on approximately stitch size 4-5 on the chunky machine. The texture tends to come out more on the purl side. Use your fingers or a wire brush to comb it out even more. The rayon and metallic threads will tend to untwist somewhat adding more fullness. By using the texturized nylon in the loopers, the knit backing is solid and has excellent elasticity.

There are many, many more possibilities of combining yarns and threads in conjunction with your serger. Watch for additional information on using yarns and your serger to make fabulous trims.

