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ready?



Brought to you by Joanne Banko

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### **Fabric Tip Sheet for Faux Suede**

**About the fabric:** This coat was constructed from [Shannon Fabrics Cuddle®](#) Suede Fabric. It's currently available in eleven luxurious colors. The color you see here is charcoal. This easy care fabric is 100% Polyester, 56/58" wide. Laundering instructions call for Machine Wash Cold Water and Tumble Dry Delicate. As with most faux suede you should avoid fabric softener sheets.

Here is how it is described by [Shannon Fabrics](#): Buttery soft and medium weight, this micro suede fabric features a twill weave with a sueded brushed hand. It is ideal for apparel such as jackets, vests, skirts, handbags and totes or home decor duvet covers, pillows, window treatments, upholstery and much more.

I would like to add that this is not like the "ultrasuede type" of fabric you may have used in the past. The right and wrong sides of this faux suede are distinctly different and the fabric does not have built in ravel resistance. It is however, very affordable and easy to sew with just a few tricks!



Seen on PBS It's Sew Easy TV  
Series 1400 – Segment 1405-3

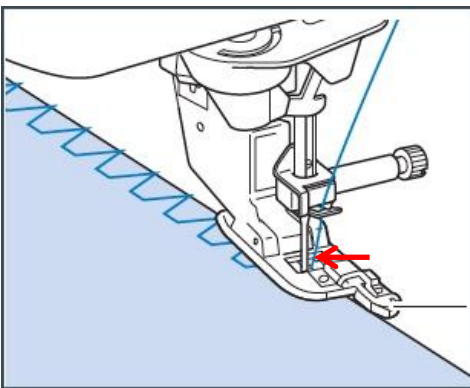
#### **General tips:**

- ✂ Cut all fabric pieces using a with nap layout. Fabric should be smooth and flat on the cutting surface. Use weights or ballpoint pins to secure patterns.
- ✂ I like to use [Dritz Fine Ball Point Pins](#) for this fabric instead of silk pins. They penetrate the fabric but since the tip of the pin is a ballpoint they do not damage the fibers.
- ✂ Select a size 10-12 microtex type needle for sewing all seams.
- ✂ Choose a good quality all-purpose polyester sewing thread such as [Gutermann](#) or [Coats Dual Duty XP Fine](#) or [Coats Dual Duty Standard](#).
- ✂ It is helpful to gently hold the fabric layers slightly taught when you sew each seam and when topstitching. Note that this fabric is not "sticky" on the wrong side but rather smooth. I used a standard presser foot without any issues when stitching the seams. A non-stick foot is helpful when stitching from the right side.
- ✂ Plan to use lots of topstitching to help hold layers flat and enhance the look of the finished garment. Use a stitch length of approximately 3.0 for best results.
- ✂ Press from the wrong side as much as possible, with iron set for synthetics. When pressing from the right side always use a press cloth and never let the iron touch the fabric.
- ✂ Finish seams with an overcast stitch, three-step zigzag or a serger for best results.

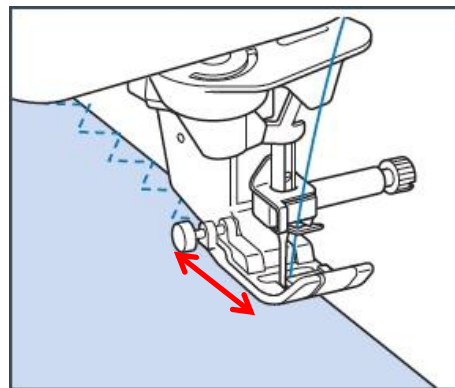
## Additional tips for finishing the raw edges:

This fabric definitely ravel! Unless you completely line the garment you will need to finish each seam. For hems you can turn under the raw edge to enclose it. Check your machine manual for recommended stitches. The ones shown here are very common and often built into even the most basic machines. When selecting overcasting stitches I like to choose stitches that coordinate with a special overcasting foot whenever it's possible. This type of foot includes a guide, making it easy to ensure that the raw edge is wrapped with the right hand jump of the stitch. If you use a three-step zigzag to overcast you'll want to make sure that the final right hand jump of the stitch falls just over the raw edge of the fabric. By the way, the three-step zigzag (also known as the 3-step elastic zigzag due to it's ability to stretch) is an excellent choice for overcasting on a wide variety of fabrics. While it's not quite as pretty as some of the overcasting stitches, it is very functional. The ability to adjust the length and width of this stitch with a wide range of settings means it works on just about anything and everything you choose to sew!

Overcast stitch with overcast foot "G"



Three-step zigzag stitch with standard foot "J"



Always test on scraps and adjust the length and width of the stitch until it covers enough to keep the ravel at bay, lays smooth, and does not create too much bulk. When overcasting on the sewing machine a good quality thread makes a big difference. If you can match your fabric with thread of a finer weight the results will be even better. This same principle holds true for serging. However, it can be difficult or expensive to locate fine serger thread. I found that the weight of this brand of suede varies slightly. Here is a basic rule you can follow – When fabric is thinner use a stitch setting that is a bit shorter and narrower, when fabric is thicker use a stitch setting that is a bit longer and wider. I encourage you to remember one of my favorite successful sewing sayings, **"To test is best!"**

See photos on the next page. Note that samples are sewn with contrast thread for better visibility.



<p>1-17</p>	<p><b>Overcasting stitch</b></p>	
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<p>1-18</p>	<p><b>Overcasting stitch</b></p>	
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<p>1-15</p>	<p><b>3 steps elastic zigzag</b></p>	
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**Three Thread Wide Serger Stitch**

Top Edge: Standard Serger Thread

Bottom Edge: Fine Serger Thread