

[It's Sew Easy Series 1600 - Be a Sewing Superstar!](#)

Night Time Glamour Show#1605-1 Dress



Presented by: Joanne Banko

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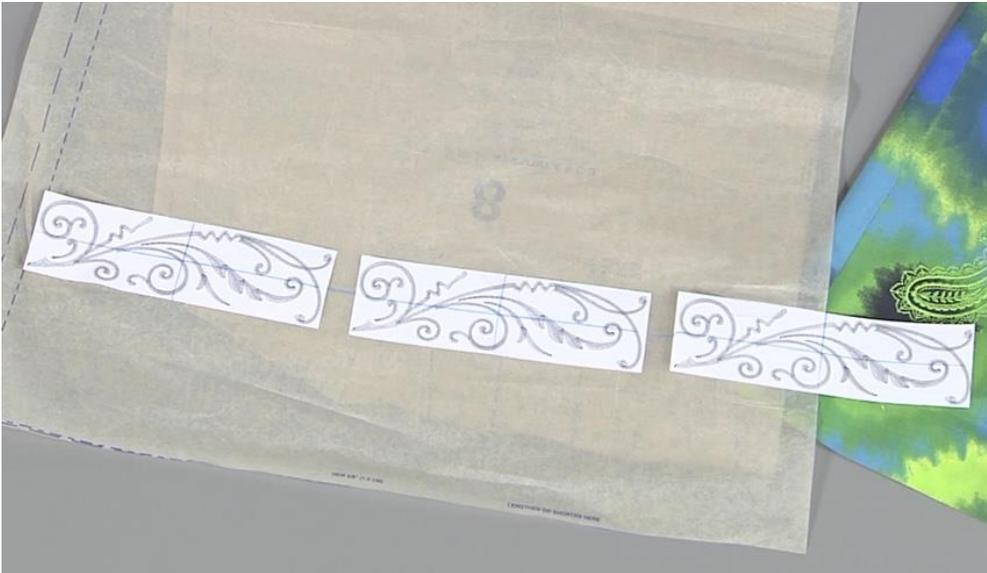
You can add instant elegance to plain or patterned fabric with machine embroidery. In this segment you'll see how to use tone on tone embroidery for a subtle yet stylish accent with an upscale look. Learn how to play with color, create designer looks, and explore two-thread serger techniques for dealing with dress weight fabrics. *Are you ready? Let's go sew!*

Materials and supplies featured in this show:

- Featured machine is the [Brother XV8550D Dream Machine2](#)
- Featured Serger is the [Brother 5234PRW](#)
- Embroidery design on blue dress is motif 04_01 from [Wrapped in Embroidery](#) by Joanne Banko. The embroidery design collection included with the book has several additional designs that are suitable for dress weight fabrics. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details about the book and included designs.
- Paisley designs shown on green/blue dress are available on the Brother design download site www.ibroidery.com.
- Featured pattern is McCall's 7381. **Note:** Many patterns work well for a border hem technique. Look for a hemline that is straight or gently curved for best results.
- Fabric is good quality rayon challis.
- Iron-on tear away stabilizer is recommended for this embroidery technique.
- Printed templates from software are optional for help with creating even placement. **Note:** [Wrapped in Embroidery](#) includes detailed instructions for embroidering border style designs without needing templates printed from software. For the dress featured on this show I printed templates using the Brother PE Design Software program and added the Snowman® Marker to aid in alignment. [CLICK HERE](#) for a free Let's Go Sew tip sheet with more information about using this type of marker and alternative marker called a [Target Sticker](#) from DiME.

Embroidery Tips:

Select a design that marries well with your fabric. When in doubt, test it out. The design shown on the blue dress is the same as the one on the wrap I'm wearing on this show. It is light and airy and was specifically digitized to work well on this dress weight fabric. Look for similar designs if you want to embroider on dress weight fabric. For this light design I used iron-on tear away stabilizer, attaching an oversized piece to the fabric so the entire area was firm and stable. If you're embroidering near the hemline you can add the embroidery after constructing the garment, but just before finishing the hem. When using templates, test your placement options on the pattern tissue before embroidering on the dress.



You can opt for a random, all over design like the paisley on the green and blue dress or a border style design like the navy design along the hem.



Close-up of dress hem



For an all over design like the one on the dress shown here it's best to embroider before cutting out the garment. Simply trace the outline of your pattern piece on the fashion fabric, cut an oversized piece, embroider, and then cut and sew as you would for any standard garment.

Explore the idea of shuffling colors if you have this feature on your machine. Pick your own colors or use a fabric print for inspiration. You'll find a free Let's Go Sew tip sheet for shuffling colors [HERE](#).

Serger Tips:

Rayon challis ravels easily. It's important to clean finish all the raw edges. If you have a serger you'll find it ideal for finishing seam allowance and hem edges. Set machine for a two-thread overcast stitch if you have this option available. Attach the two-thread convertor to the upper looper to form a stitch using just the needle and the lower looper. Here I used the left needle to create a wide stitch with more coverage. Note how the stitch looks a little like a zigzag on the bottom side.



Using only two threads results in a lighter weight finish on the fabric, making it ideal for dress weight fabrics. It's important to know that this stitch does not lock at the seamline so it's unsuitable for a seam. You can finish a single layer of each edge and press the seam open, or serge the seam together and press it flat to one side.

I hope you'll try making your own embroidered dress and add some glamour to your wardrobe!



Questions? Comments? I invite you to visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website www.letsgo sew.com. You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, and lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!

Find me on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Be sure to visit the [Official Brother Blog](#) to read my posts on a wide variety of sewing and embroidery topics.

Happy Sewing!

Joanne