

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

Poolside Glamour Show#1611-1 Dress that Doubles as a Swimsuit Cover-Up

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Why settle for a plain T-shirt when you can make a swimsuit cover-up that doubles as a dress? This sporty style will take you from poolside to dinner out, and everything in between. See how easy it is to add the look of trim using the loop side of a cover hem stitch to take a simple knit dress from plain to pretty. *Are you ready? Let's go sew!*

Materials and supplies featured in this show:

- Featured machine for the trim technique is the [Brother CV3550](#) Double-Sided Cover Stitch machine.
- Medium weight interlock knit fabric in a cotton or poly/cotton blend.
- Four spools of good quality serger thread to contrast with fabric.
- Soft flexible trim can be substituted for the cover hem stitching. Add trim to dress as desired, following the design shown here or using your own ideas for decorating the dress.
- Dress pattern. Notes about the pattern: Select a pattern with a loose fit. This example features New Look pattern #6413. This pattern calls for a woven fabric. Cut from a knit it has a slightly looser fit. I found this to be ideal for the cover-up. In addition, this pattern includes a belt in the style of an Obi sash.

Steps for creating the look of trim with the cover hem stitch:

Set up the Cover Stitch machine to sew a top cover hem stitch with three needles. **Note:** With machine set for a top cover hem the loop side of the stitch forms on the wrong side and the three parallel straight stitches form on the right side. By stitching all pieces with the wrong side facing up, the loops are featured on the right side of the garment.

For skirt, cut pattern pieces and then mark design lines in your desired pattern, marking directly on the wrong side of the skirt front and back piece. I used a simple crisscrossed star pattern on the skirt. For belt, cut a rectangular piece of fabric slightly larger than the belt pattern piece. Draw similar lines on wrong side of belt piece for a coordinating look.

Test your stitch on fabric remnants and make adjustments as necessary. Select skirt pieces. With wrong side facing up, stitch along all marked lines from edge to edge, taking care that fabric is not stretched. Repeat for belt rectangle. **Tip:** Use a small piece of fabric to transition from one line of stitching to the next, keeping the stitch forming on the fabric.

Sewing the dress:

I followed basic directions included with pattern for constructing this dress, with the following variations:

To make non-bulky pockets I cut four pocket pieces from lining fabric. Next, I added a strip of dress fabric to the pocket edge, so lining doesn't show while wearing the dress. This is a great technique to use on many different garments. Visit the [Let's Go Sew](#) tips & tutorial section to download a free tutorial illustrating this technique.





I found the front zipper unnecessary for a knit dress with a large neck opening. To modify the pattern, I sewed the center front seam of the facing and the bodice closed. To create the trim look on facings, first I sewed the shoulder seams of facing with the sewing machine. Next, I stitched a line of cover hem stitching along the center front seam. I finished by sewing cover hem stitches approximately 5/8-inch from raw edges of facing and then trimmed close to the stitch for a neat and even edge. Using the facing as a design feature, I stitched the facing to the bodice with right side of facing against wrong side of bodice, turning and pressing facing to the right side after clipping and trimming the neckline seam.



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Happy Sewing!

Joanne