

Pin Tuck Blouse



Materials and Supplies

- Brother Sewing Machine *
 - Commercial Pattern
 - Lightweight linen-look fabric per pattern
 - Lightweight tear away stabilizer for embroidery rows
 - 50 wt. Brother poly thread for embellishment: wisteria (607) used on sample
 - Size 5 perle cotton for pin tucks and fagoted edges
 - 60 wt. thread for pin tuck bobbin
 - Sewing thread
 - "J" and "N" feet
 - Pin Tuck foot [SA174](#) for 7 mm machines, [SA162](#) for 5 mm machines such as PE300S and PE400D)
 - Buttonhole sewing "M" and buttonhole "A" feet
 - Spray starch
 - Washable pen or chalk
 - 8 - 1/2" buttons
- * *stitch numbers are from the ULT machine but similar designs are available on most machines.*

Preparation

- Step 1** Lightly starch and press your fabric.
- Step 2** In the area you plan to cut the two front pieces, mark the center front along the grain using chalk or washable pen.
- Step 3** Lay the front pattern on your fabric and draw around it with a washable pen or chalk.
- Step 4** Prepare a second opposite facing front.
- Step 5** Cut out both fronts, allowing 1" extra outside each shape.
- Step 6** On each, draw a line 1" away from the center front mark, to be approximately 15" as the length of the first row of pintucks. Draw five more lines 1/2" apart and each 1" shorter than the previous.



Front Embellishment



Step 1 With thin tear way stabilizer (one or two layers) under the second, fourth and sixth graduated lines, work a stitch of your choice with the "N" foot with Brother poly thread in wisteria (607) starting above the cutting line you marked. Stitch 8-41 in small size was used on the sample. Use the single star setting to complete a full design at the end of each row. Tear way the stabilizer.

Step 2 Change to the 2.0 mm twin needle and the centered straight stitch. Add a second spool of wisteria and thread both needles. If using cording, switch to the pin tuck bobbin cover (SA174 only) and insert cord. Alternately, tape a small straw in front of the machine to guide the cord.

Step 3 Experiment with your fabric. With the weight of the sample linen on the ULT, stitch 1-04 with 2.0 mm length and tension of 9 worked well with the size 5 perle cotton to make corded pin tucks.



Step 4 Starting at fabric top edge, stitch following the longest marked line. Leave a tail to later tie the pin tucks underneath. Next stitch a row to the right and left of this row guiding the stitched line in the groove second from left or right for SA174 or outer grooves for SA162. Leave a tail for each row. (Pin Tuck foot SA162 has five thinner groves rather than 7 as in SA174. SA162 with batiste weight fabric and size 8 perle works cotton well on the PE300S and 400D machines.) See Photo 2.

Step 5 When embellishment is complete on both sides, pull threads to the back of the pin tuck rows and tie by hand. Remove lines from marker and press.

Step 6 Place pattern on the embellished fronts and cut out, making sure the pin tucks are in line with the straight grain marks. Cut out back and collar. Cut and apply iron on interfacing on front facing and collar according to pattern.



Sleeve Embellishment and Assembly

Step 1 For fagoted corded sleeve trim cut six strips 2 1/4" wide x 14" long. Mark the center of each along the length and work a set of three corded pin tucks down the center of four strips to match the shirt. Remove marks and press pin tucks. Press back 1/2" seams along each long edge. Press under a 1/2" seam along the length of the fabric from which you will cut the sleeves.

Step 2 With machine set up with the pin tuck foot, a single needle and wisteria thread, test your fabric and settings to cord the edges. The sample used stitch 1-10 (zigzag) at 2.0 mm wide and 0.8 long. Lay a length of size 5 (or 8 on SA162) perle cotton on top of the folded edge and place under the pin tuck foot so the right needle swing goes over the fabric/cord edge and the left needle swing catches the fabric. Use matching wisteria thread in the bobbin. Couch a cord to all long folded edges. See Photo 3.

Step 3 Select a bridging stitch like 2-11 (feather) at default setting (5.0 mm x 2.5 mm). Lay the two corded edges in the second from center row on each side of the foot. See Photo 4.

Step 4 Sew two groups of three strips with the plain one at the bottom. Feel free to experiment with various stitches such as: 2-12 (fagoting cross), 2-10 (smocking or honeycomb), 3-8, 3-17 or 3-19 (hemstitching) and different colors of perle cotton and thread for different effects.

Step 5 Place the sleeve pattern on the fabric with the three-strip unit next to the corded edge to aid in positioning the sleeve trim. Sew the strip to the main fabric with the feather stitch (2-11) or whatever bridging stitch you used on the band.

Step 6 If desired, work the chain design (8-41 small) down the middle of the last strip and above the top strip to finish the sleeve. This will embellish the lower sleeve as well as tie into the front design. See Photo 5.

Step 7 As the edge has been finished with the corded edge, fold back the lower 5/8" seam on the pattern before measuring and cutting the sleeve. Cut the sleeves.

Step 8 Carefully trim the corded seams close to the couching for a clean finish.

Step 9 Follow the pattern to assemble the shirt with sewing thread.

Step 10 Work the buttonholes with foot "A" and sew on the buttons with foot "M" with the thread shank extended, if your linen is not very thin. Press and enjoy!

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