



VIRTUAL  
Breakfast  
Club

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT 8:30 AM ON FACEBOOK

Brought to you by:

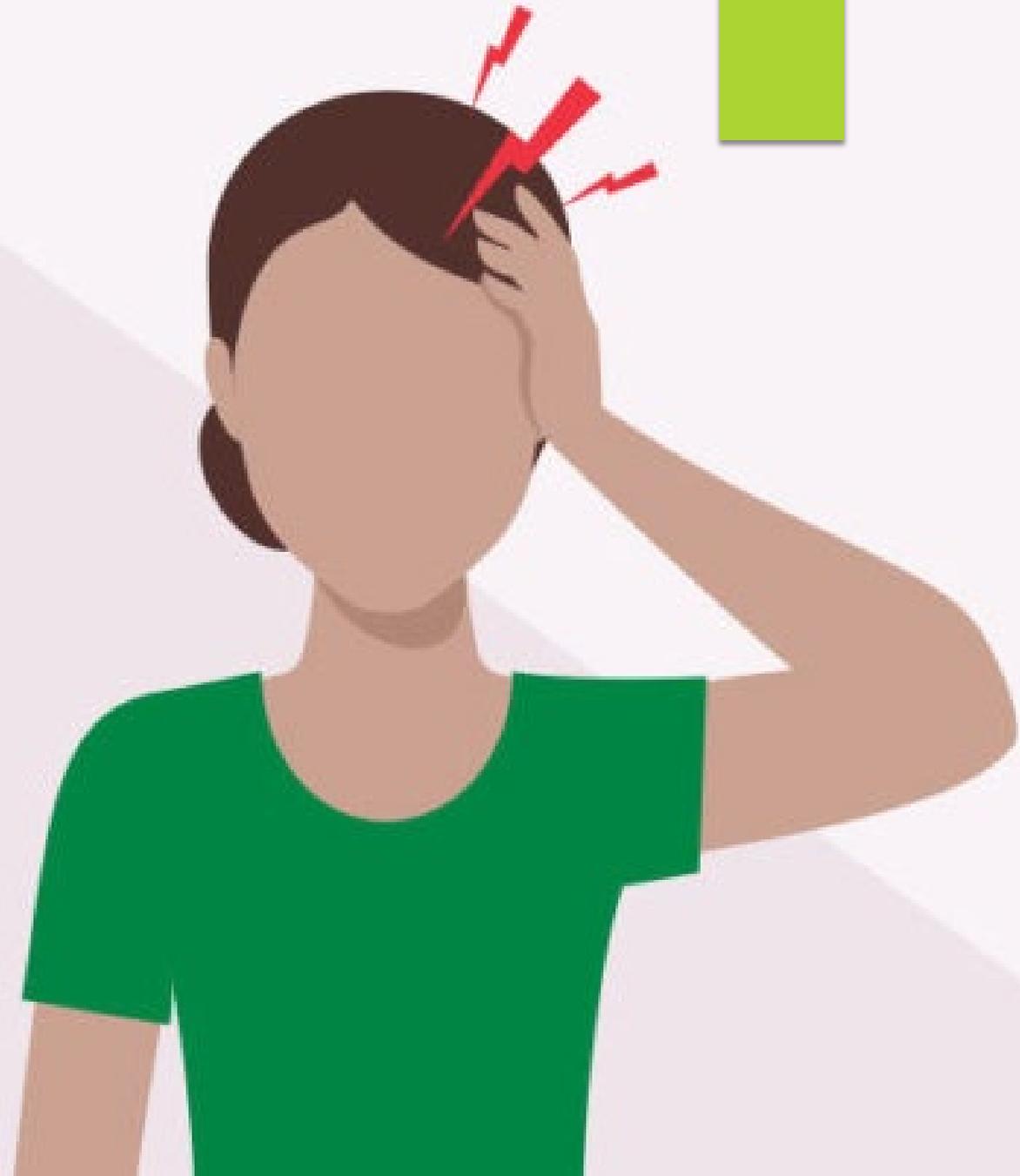
# MATERIAL Girls

Quilt Boutique

6750B Crain Highway LaPlata, Maryland 20646  
301.392.9575 [www.materialgirlsqilt.com](http://www.materialgirlsqilt.com)

# Solve Tension Headaches

ON AN OVERLOCKER



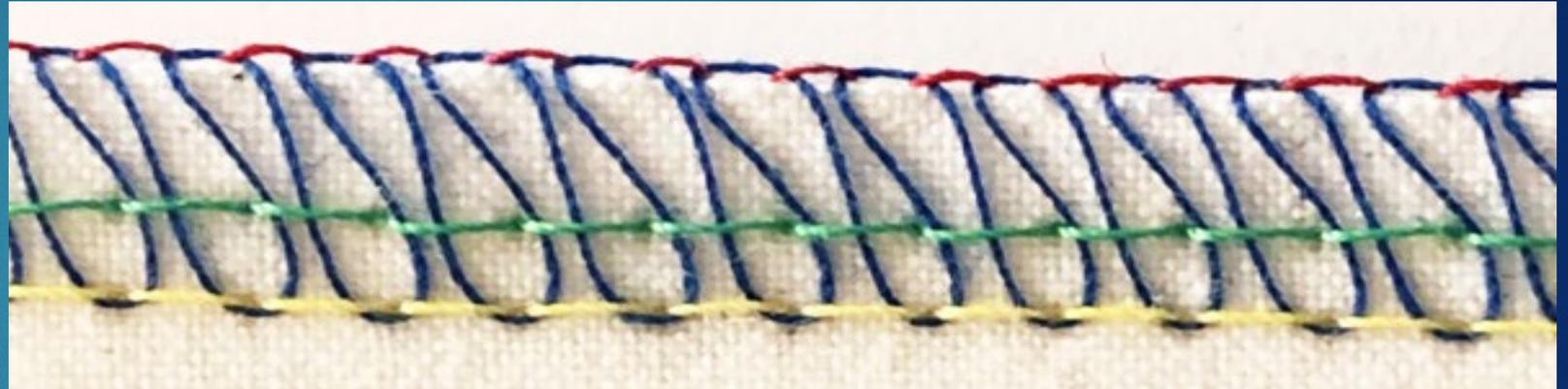
# Ultimate Goal: A Balanced Stitch

- ▶ One where the looper threads meet right at the edge of fabric and the needle threads do not pucker or gape.

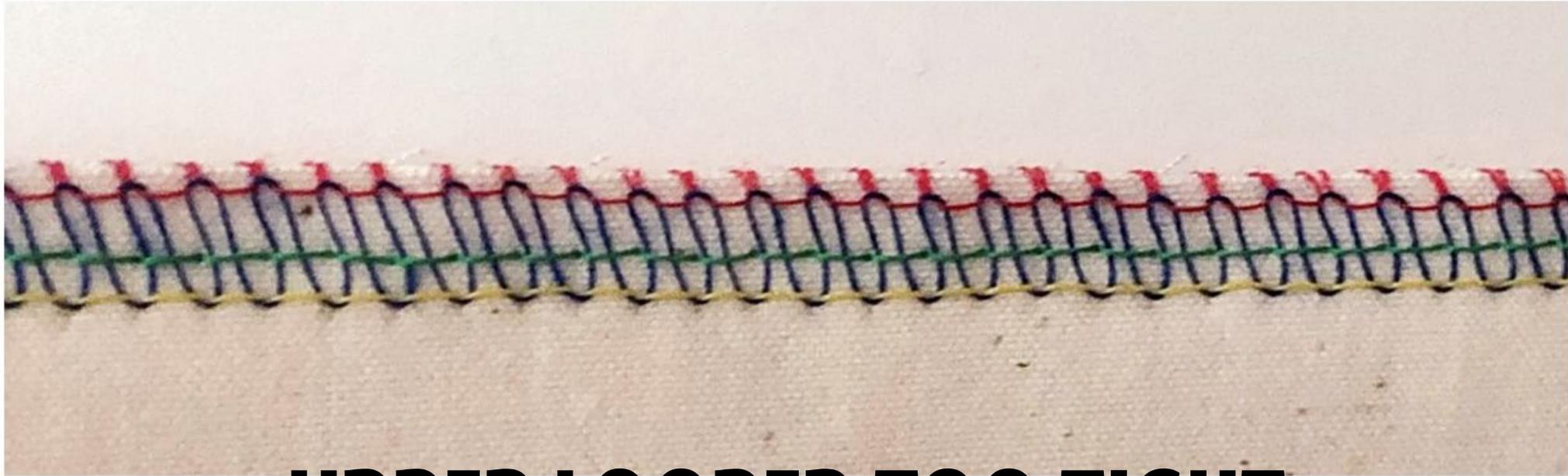


# Let's diagram a 4-thread overlock

Front/Top of the Stitch

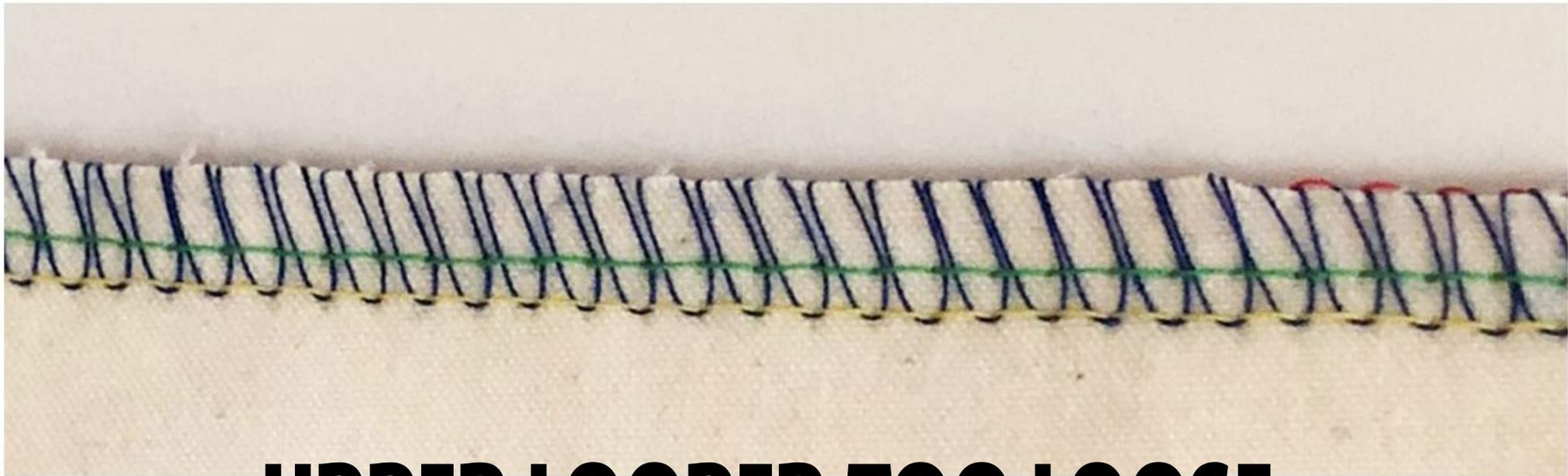


Back/Bottom of the Stitch

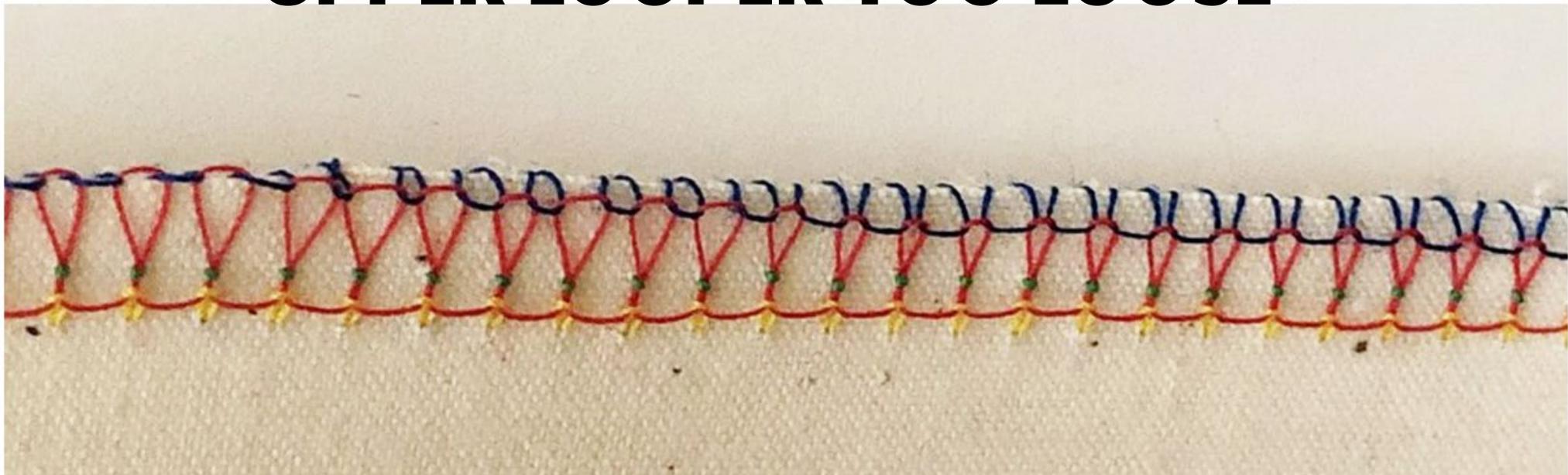


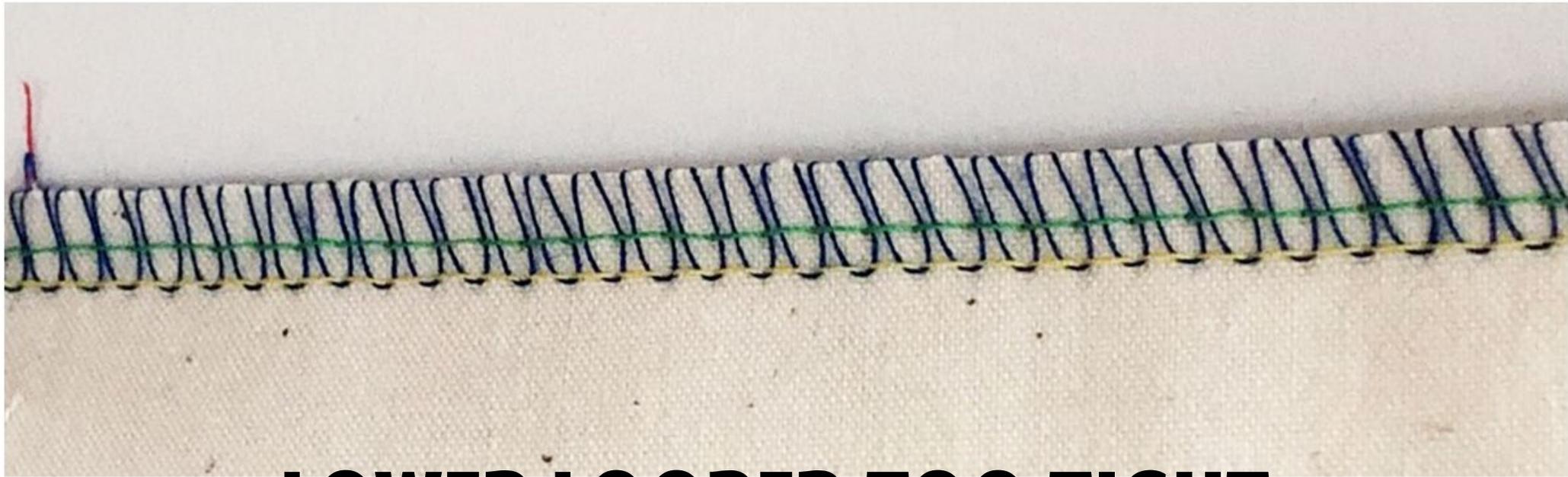
**UPPER LOOPER TOO TIGHT**





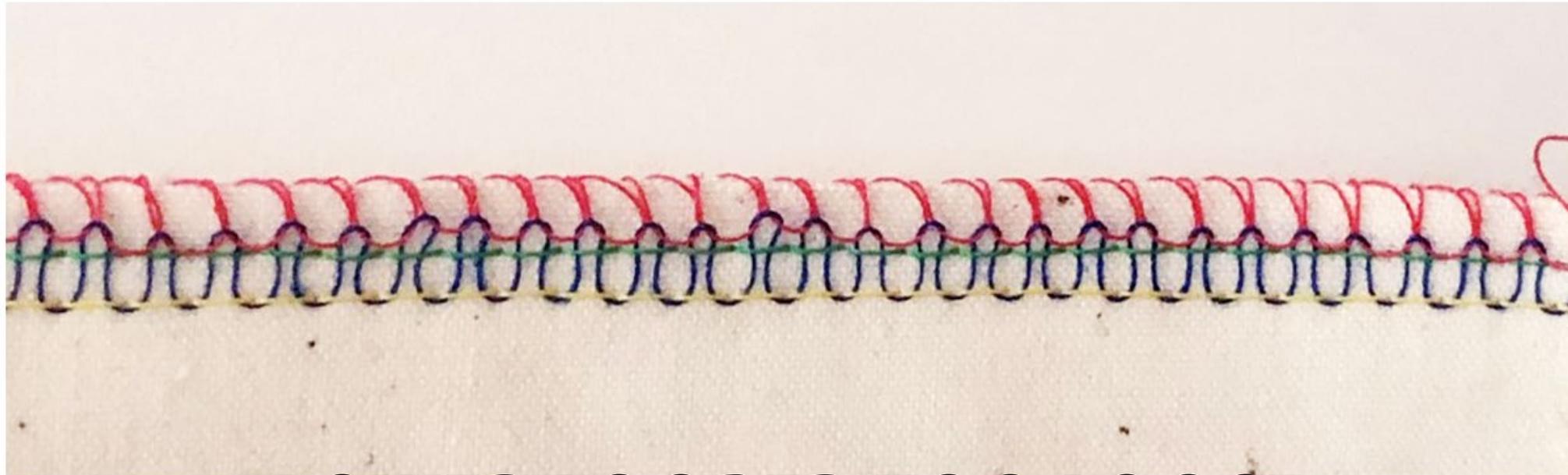
**UPPER LOOPER TOO LOOSE**





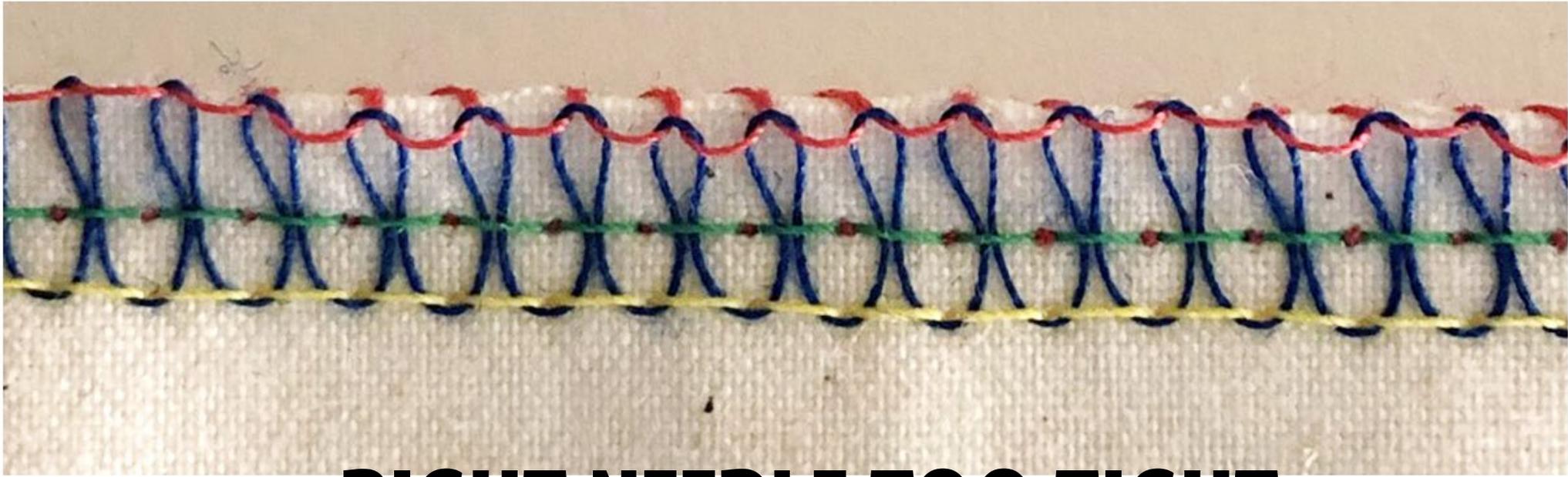
**LOWER LOOPER TOO TIGHT**





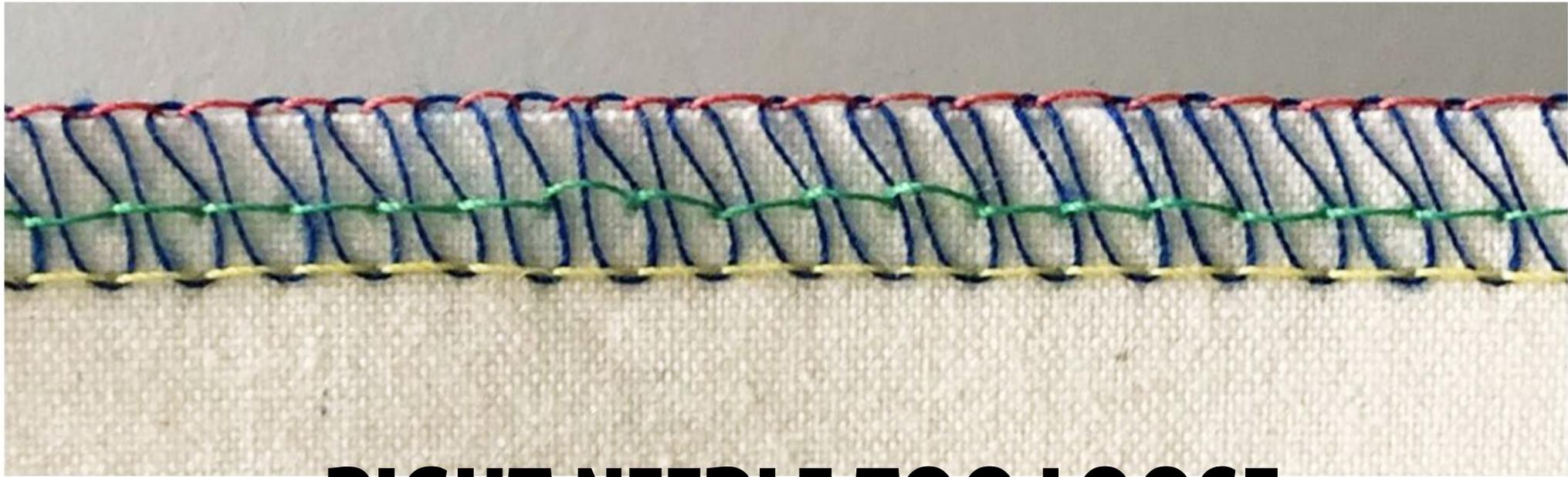
**LOWER LOOPER TOO LOOSE**





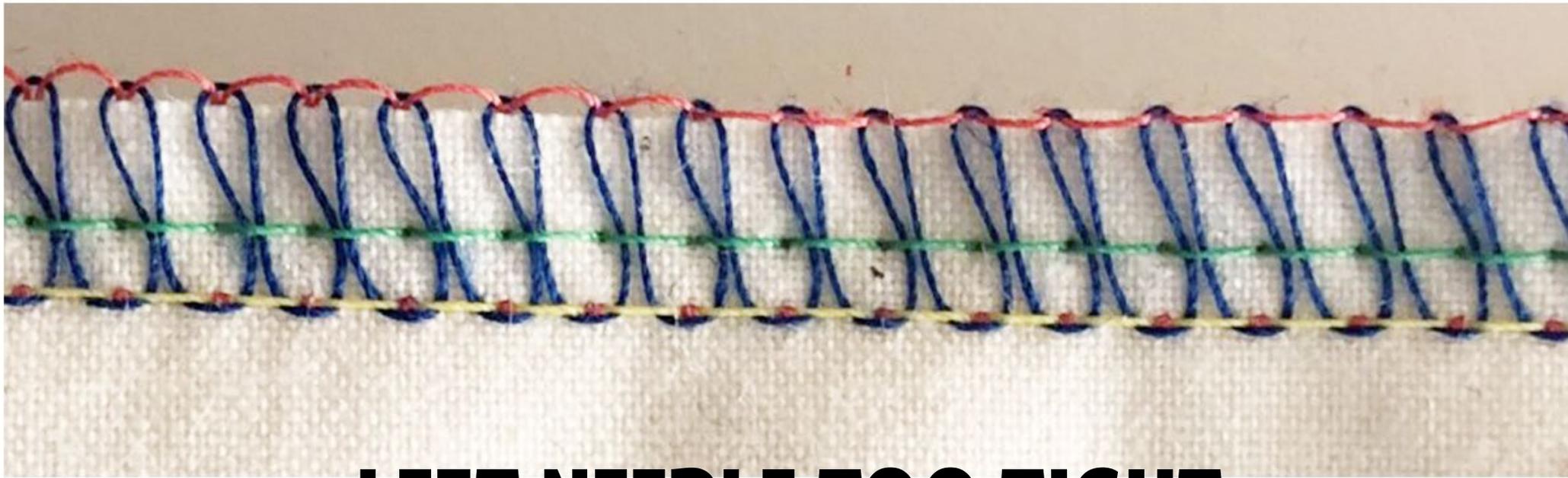
**RIGHT NEEDLE TOO TIGHT**





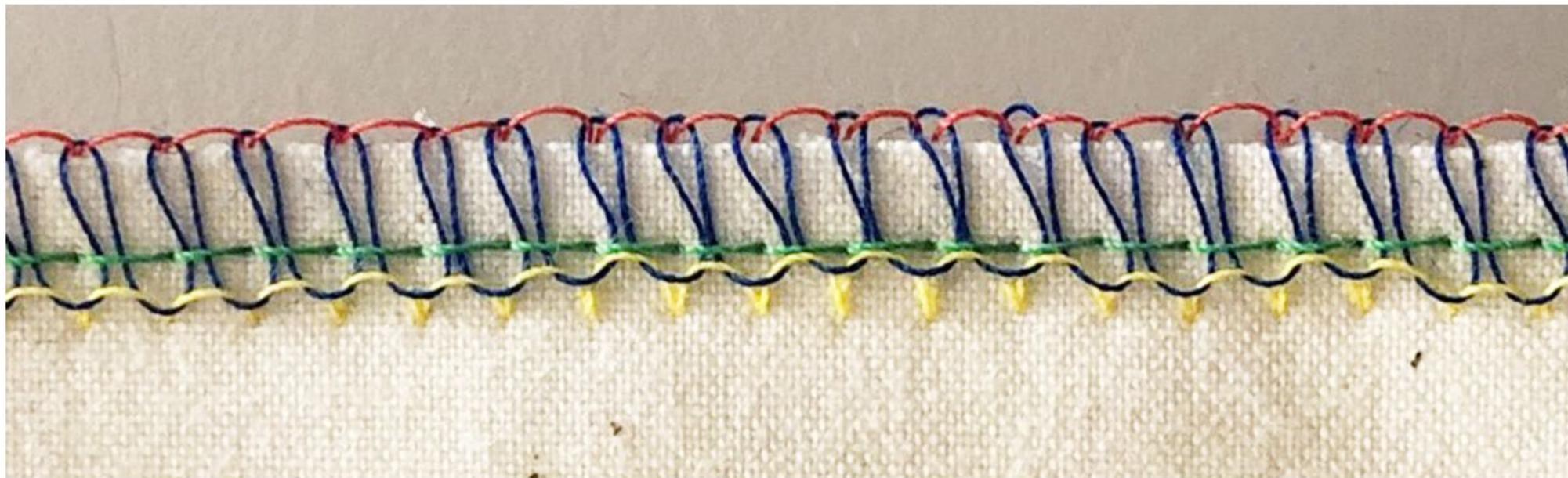
**RIGHT NEEDLE TOO LOOSE**





**LEFT NEEDLE TOO TIGHT**





**LEFT NEEDLE TOO LOOSE**



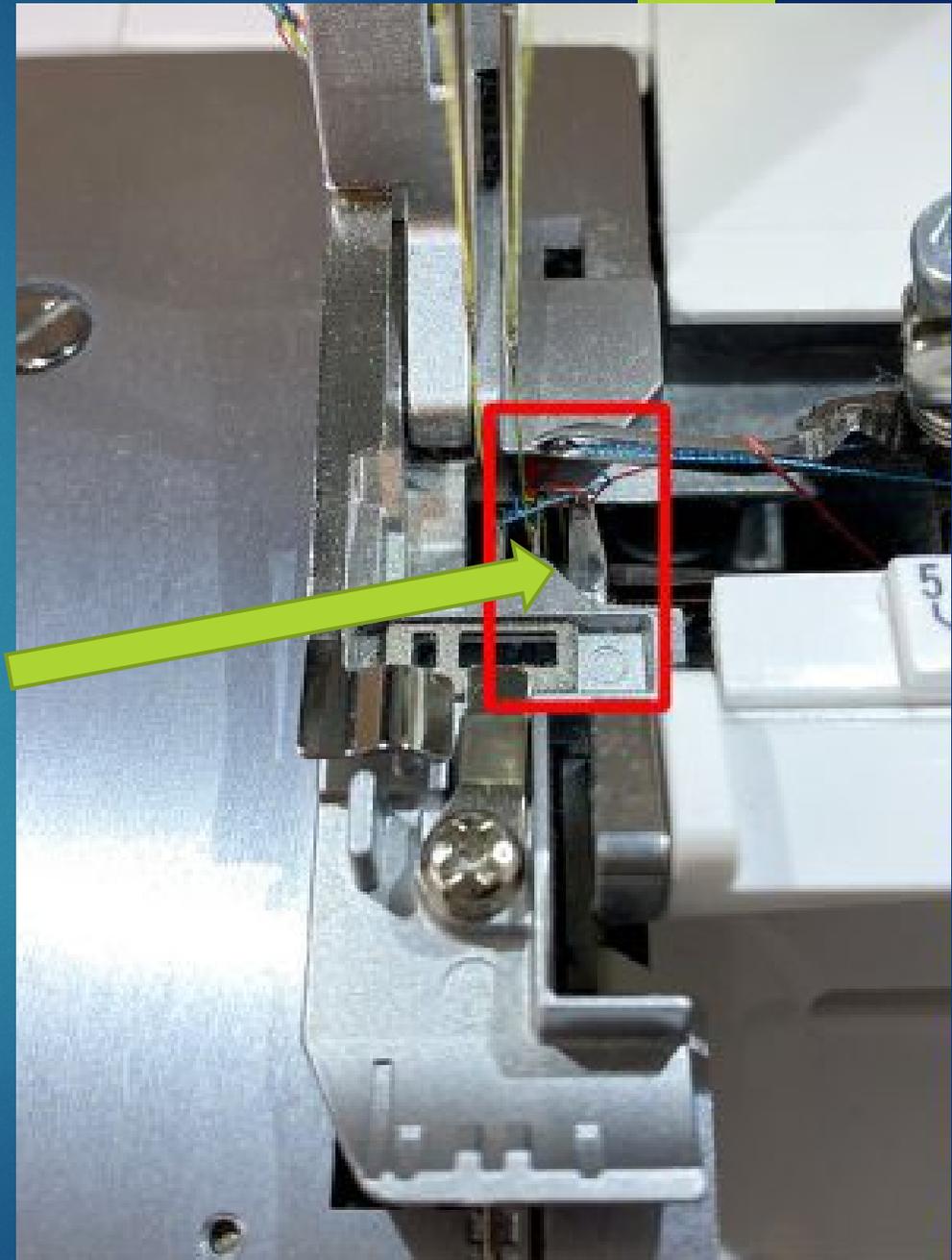
# Tunneling

- ▶ Seam allowance does not lay flat. Curves underneath the stitches or loops hanging off the edge



# BERNINA Overlockers with MTC

- ▶ If your seam allowance is just pulled too tight (or conversely, if both looper threads are hanging loosely off the edge of the fabric), we need to adjust Micro Thread Control, or mtc.
- ▶ This is a lever that controls the stitch finger, a small metal piece that sits under the fabric at the needle area that supports the fabric at the point where looper threads are wrapping the raw edge.



MTC too tight

When mtc is too tight, the looper threads will dig into the raw edge of the fabric, preventing the seam from lying flat or causing a “tunneling” effect. If mtc is too loose, it means it’s creating too much slack between the looper threads and the edge.

MTC too loose



# No MTC?

Adjustments will need to be made to:

1. Cutting Width
2. Overall Tension Adjustment

# Tips and Tricks

- ▶ Adjust ONE tension AT A TIME!
- ▶ If you aren't sure what's wrong, start by assessing the stitch. Start by looking at the needle tensions, and then work on the looper tensions.
- ▶ Try using a slightly different color thread in one of your loopers so you can easily tell which looper thread is misbehaving.
- ▶ Use the same scrap of fabric over and over when you are adjusting--simply position the fabric so the serger trims off the old stitch.
- ▶ Pull the retractable thread stand to the highest position before sewing
- ▶ Raise the presser foot when threading, as this opens the tension disks ensuring proper threading.

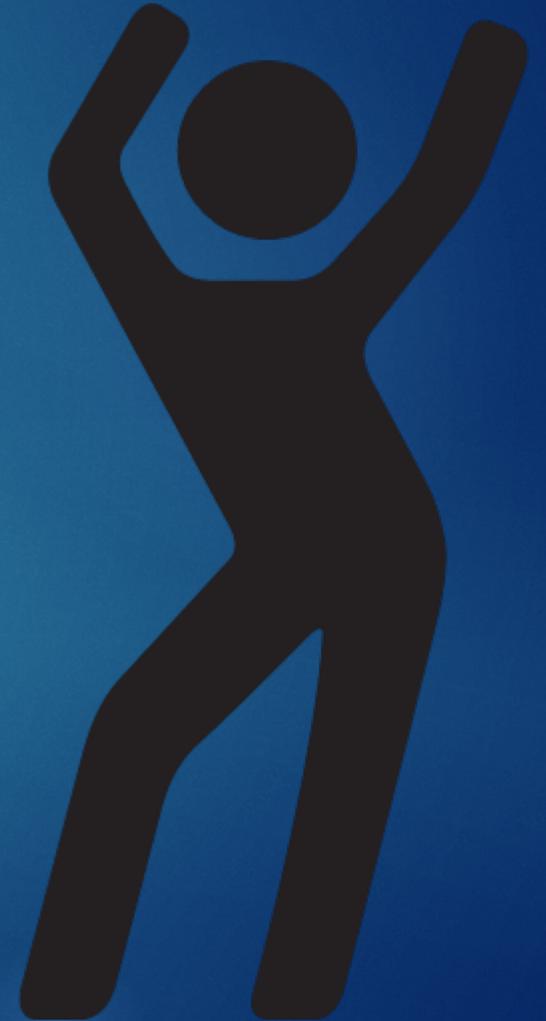
When  
all else  
fails....

CUT ALL THE  
THREADS AND  
START OVER!



# Remember...

1. Upper Looper
2. Lower Looper
3. Right Needle
4. Left



# Resources

- [Overlocker for Beginners: The Essential Stitch](#)
- [Perfecting a Balanced 4 Thread Overlock Stitch](#)
- [How to Thread an Overlocker](#)