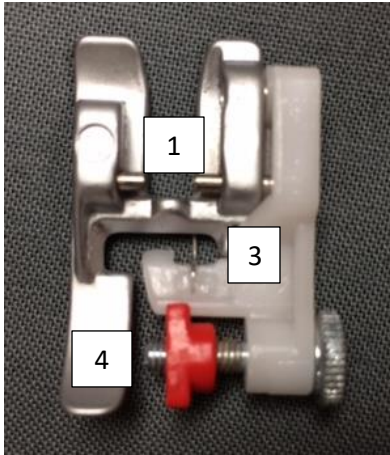


Pfaff Pfeatured Pfoot: Blind Hem/Overcasting Foot 3
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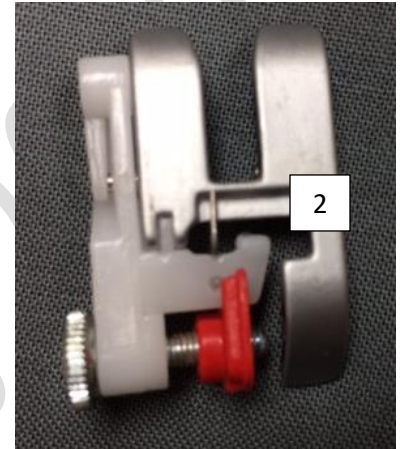
The Blind Hem/Overcasting Foot #3, another basic foot that is included with most machines as a standard accessory, is often ignored because nobody knows how to use it. This is a pity, since this foot is incredibly useful. Once you get to know it, it will become your go-to foot for finishing seam allowances, neatening raw edges, pretend “serging”, blind hemming, and even quilt sleeve applications.



What Makes It Special?

There are a few features of note on foot #3:

1. It has the back split for IDT;
2. Underneath, it has a nice cutout area for dense stitches;
3. It has a built-in pin in the needle drop area;
4. It has an adjustable red fabric guide.



What Does This Mean?

We already know what the back split and underneath groove mean for feed and stitch quality. But what’s the pin for? It’s essential for supporting thread when you want to sew off the edge of fabric. By stitching over the pin, your thread will be kept in place to prevent puckering. And the adjustable guide lets you feed your fabric exactly where you want it.

When Should I Use It?

1. Overcasting Seams:

We overcast single-thickness seams whenever we want to prevent raw edges from raveling during wear or washing. We also overcast multiple-layer seams when we want to reinforce seams and/or neat up the raw edges (this technique is often used in bags and pouches; the raw edges are exposed, but we want them to look nice).



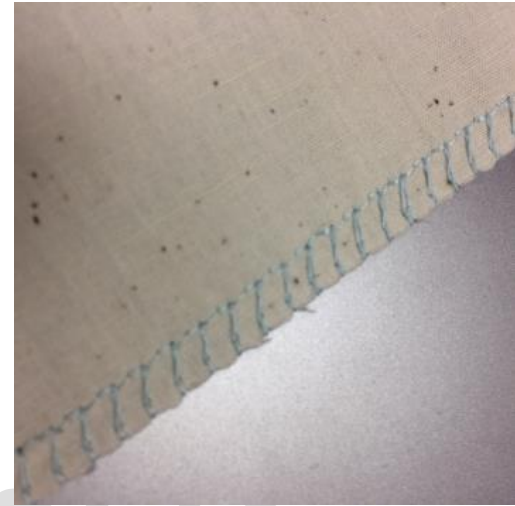
If you try to use a 0A foot, as shown here, you’ll notice two things:

- a/ it will be difficult to guide your fabric, and
- b/ your raw edge will pucker and ruffle. Not a nice look!



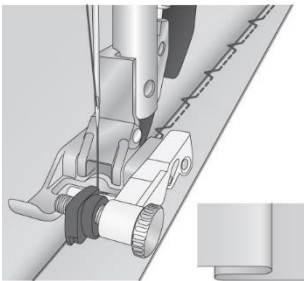
When you use the #3 foot, though, you get a nice, even, flat result. How? First, you adjust the guide so that it lines up with the pin. You want the pin to lie just off the edge of your fabric, so set the guide accordingly. Then, when you choose your stitch, make sure it clears the pin (this is one of the few times when we suggest that you turn your handwheel, very slowly and always towards you, to ensure that you won't be hitting the pin).

When you sew over the pin, the pin prevents the thread from being pulled and distorting the stitch and the fabric.



2. Blind Hemming:

Most machines have two blind hem stitches, one for woven fabrics, one for knits, but they work in exactly the same way. They are also easy to execute with the #3 foot.



To get started, fold your fabric as shown in the diagram (if it doesn't make sense, come see us!) Choose your stitch and adjust your guide so that it falls on the fold of the fabric. You may have to fiddle around a little, because the left-hand "bite" of the stitch should just fall on the fold, catching only one or two threads. Once you have the stitch and guide adjusted, double-check to make sure that the needle won't hit the pin. The pin isn't actually used in this stitch.



When your stitching is finished, it will look like this.



When your hem is unfolded, the stitches that bit into the fold will just barely show. →



3. Fake Serging:

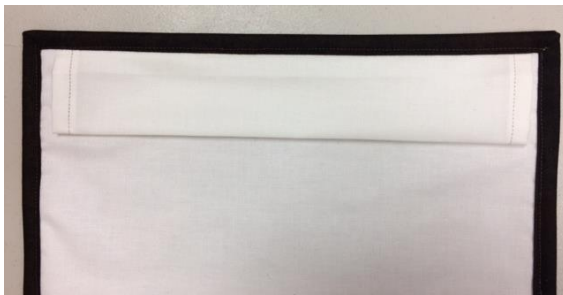
Sergers (overlock machines) are great for sewing seams, trimming them, and overcasting them all in one step. Overlock stitches on sewing machines can give the same effect, but without the trimming. Set up your #3 foot as for overcasting, above, choose an overlock stitch (ie one that sews a seam as well as overcasts), and sew your fabrics right sides together. This works particularly well with knits and stretchy fabrics.



4. Attaching a sleeve to a quilt, invisibly:

Bet you never thought of this one!

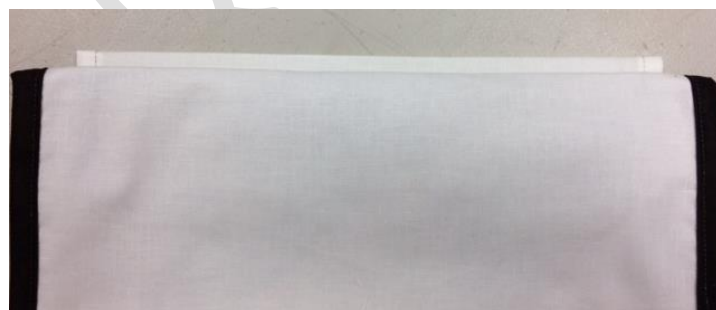
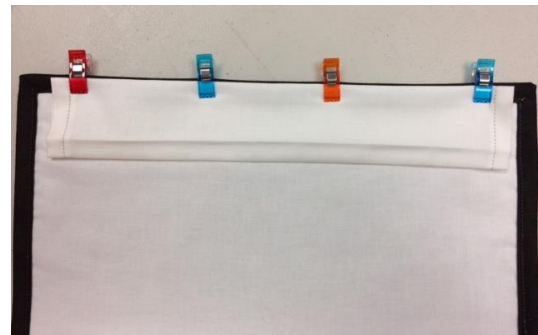
When you attach a sleeve to a quilt, chances are you sew at least one length by hand. With the Blind Hem/Overcast Foot #3, you can do the whole thing by machine! Here's how:



1. Cut your sleeve to the desired width and length and hem the short ends; place the long edges wrong sides together and sew them to the top edge of your quilt as you attach the binding. Press a crease along the bottom of the sleeve.

(You are probably already familiar with this step.)

2. Skooch the upper edge of the sleeve up so that it is even with the top edge of your binding and press the bottom of the sleeve again. This forms a pleat to take up the bulk of the dowel that will be inserted. This new bottom edge is the one that needs to be sewn in place.



3. Fold the front of the quilt back against itself, leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ " of sleeve exposed. This is very similar to prepping your fabric to make a blind hem, only you're "hemming" a quilt with a sleeve.

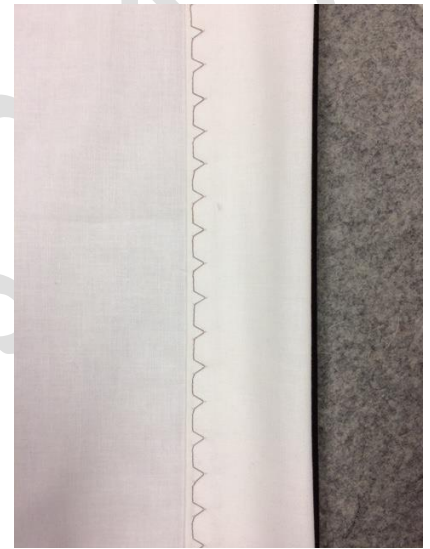
4. Choose your blind hem stitch and adjust your guide so that it falls on the fold of the quilt. Adjust your stitch so that the left-hand “bite” of the stitch just falls on the fold, catching only a few threads and stitching into the batting (but not through to the quilt top). Once you have the stitch and guide adjusted, double-check to make sure that the needle won't hit the pin. Again, the pin isn't actually used for this stitch.



Sewing in Progress



Stitches While Still Folded



Completed Sleeve

5. Because you took a bite only into the backing and batting of your quilt, no stitches show on the front. Take a look!



There you go. It's definitely time to make friends with you Blind Hem/Overcasting Foot!