

Beginning Serging: Rolled Edge Napkins

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One of the most often used stitches on your serger, apart from the four thread overlock, is the rolled edge. This works beautifully on napkins, as well as for hemming difficult to hem, slippery chiffon.

To learn how to serge a rolled hem, start with either 100% cotton, 100% linen or a cotton/linen blend. These natural fabrics work best for napkins as they absorb moisture. Polyester or any synthetic fabric blends are not recommended for making napkins—they just don't absorb as well.

Supplies:

- Cotton or linen squares cut to 18 or 20"
- Scrap fabric cut from the same linen or cotton
- 2 cones serger thread
- 1 cone Wooly Nylon
- Seam sealant (Fray-Check)
- Instruction manual
- Optional: clear wash-away stabilizer

Machine Set-up

3-thread Rolled Hem

1. Remove your left needle.
2. Thread your machine: Wooly Nylon in Upper Looper and serger thread in right needle and lower looper.



3. Set Tension:
 - a. Right needle: Normal
 - b. Upper Looper: 2-3 (check your owner's manual)
 - c. Lower Looper: 5-7 (check your owner's manual)
4. Set Stitch Length: 1.0-2.0 (check your owner's manual)
5. Set Differential Feed: 1.0 or N (if edges draw in and pucker, try .5)
6. Set Stitch Finger: disengaged
7. Set knife: engaged

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Practice:

Using a piece of scrap fabric that is the same material as your napkin fabric, practice until you've serged a proper edge.

1. Serge a two inch chain.



2. Place fabric on serger. Lower the presser foot, and holding the two-inch chain behind the foot, begin serging the edge.
3. When you've reached the end of the napkin, serge a chain long enough so that you can load the second side of your napkin slightly beneath the presser foot.
4. Hold on to the thread chain by pulling it out to the right.



5. Stitch a few stitches until your napkin is about halfway beneath the presser foot, right up to, but not beneath, the needle.
6. Now, raise your presser foot, allowing the fabric to relax and avoiding "stretch marks." This both allows the stitches to catch in the fabric, and avoids "pointing corners."
7. When you've reached the end of your scrap fabric edge, serge a tail and clip, leaving a 3-inch tail behind your presser foot, and a 3-inch tail dangling from your napkin.



8. Now, place a dot of Fray Check on the edge of your napkin. After the Fray Check dries, clip the thread.



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Tip: To keep the Fray Check from getting hard, iron it dry using a press cloth, or steam press it, again using a press cloth, until it dries.

Once you've perfected the above eight steps on your scrap fabric, you are ready to serge your napkins!

Note: sometimes, with a single layer of fabric, you will have a few skipped stitches. To avoid this, lay a piece of see-through wash away stabilizer on top and serge.

