

1. LAYING YOUR PATTERN

If you run your finger along your sequin fabric, you will notice that the sequins overlap like chain mail or the scales on a fish. In one direction, you feel the sharp lip of each sequin, while in the other, the sequins feel smooth. This is because the stitching that holds sequins onto their background fabric is stitched in one direction. *In the smooth direction, the stitches will hold strongly*; in the other they can unravel. It is important to make sure that the parts of your garment that are under the greatest stress during wear - such as the neckline and the shoulders - are as strong as possible. To do this, you must lay your pattern and cut your fabric so that the sequin stitch moves away from the stressed point.

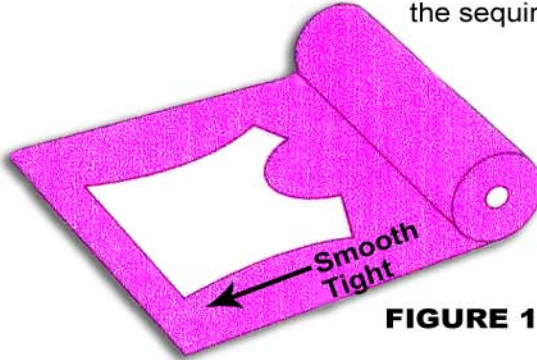


FIGURE 1

In other words, if you run your finger along your fabric starting at the most stressed point - the shoulder seam, for instance - the sequins should feel smooth. (If they feel rough, it means the stress will be pulling against the stitch, and may cause the sequins to loosen.)

Another way to tell the direction of the stitch is by noting how your sequin fabric unrolls from its display tube. The stitches follow the direction from the roll to the edge of the fabric. Run your finger from the roll to the fabric's edge and it will feel smooth. If your pattern were laid properly on the fabric, the stress points would be closest to the roll. See FIGURE 1.



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3

2. FRAMING YOUR PATTERN

As you cut your pattern, add an extra 1/8 inch to all measurements. Then, using a stitch count of approximately 10 per inch, stitch each individual piece around its entire outline. You will be creating around your pattern a frame of stitches approximately 1/4 inch from the edges as FIGURE 2 and 3 illustrate. We recommend using (0/3) 3 cord polyester wrap or polyester thread with minimum stretch. This will ensure that the sequins will not run off the fabric as you work.

2. FINISHING YOUR PATTERN

Sequin garments require larger seams than most garments. When joining the parts of your own garment, take the extra 1/8 inch of material from STEP 2 into the seam. Also make sure to take your framing stitch into the inside of the seam. A covering of narrow lace or seam binding will provide comfort at any inside seam that comes into contact with the body. See FIGURE 4 for sequence.



FIGURE 4



HELPFUL HINTS:

1. Choose a pattern with the fewest seams and avoid gathers at the waistline.
2. Zippers are best for closures.
3. Use hooks and eyes rather than buttons for overlaps.
4. Do not press the garment, not even the seams.

A SPECIAL NOTE FOR STRETCH FABRIC:

Sequins on stretch fabric can add a special form-fitting flair. Since stretch fabric behaves differently from other fabrics, it does require slightly different treatment to ensure the best results. The stretch fabric used to back sequins expands in width (NOT in length) in a proportion of about 1.5 to 1. For instance, a 12 inch wide piece will stretch to 18 inches.

Therefore, if you are using stretch fabric, reduce all measurements in WIDTH ONLY (do not alter the long measurement) by at least 10%. If a pattern calls for 8 inches, cut no larger than 7 1/4 inches. This accommodation allows the garment to fit snugly, but not too tight. Make additional allowances if a tight fit (leotard) is desired.