



**Lacy Romper Sewing Pattern**



In this tutorial I will be making 3 different rompers to show you some tips when working with different size laces and materials. If you are using silk or silk-like materials please read the info sheet first!

**List of required materials:**

- Broad cloth or lightweight/thin satin (best is non-stretch), silks etc.
- Band lace (lingerie quality) in 1"-3" width
- Elastic thread
- Regular thread
- Sewing machine
- Iron
- Pins
- ¼" band elastic
- Safety pin
- Scissors
- Hand sew needle

**Seam allowance:** 3/8" unless otherwise stated

**To begin:** prewash your broadcloth to prevent any shrinkage. Print out the templates without scaling. Cut out the desired size. Cut out your fabric according to sizing chart.

Here's some info about the lace you want to use:

Best lace to use is the one for lingerie. It has to be soft to touch. Most cheap lace sold on small paper/cardboard rolls for a \$1 or so won't work! Fabric stores have a great selection of by-the-yard lace on their ribbon/trim wall. You can also find band lace packaged in the bindings/edgings section. Or online at ebay. I found many sellers that offer huge rolls to closeout prices for about \$10 for a 40-50 yd roll!

DO NOT use ruffled, stretch, crochet or eyelet lace as they are too thick!!

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WRONG lace:



you will need non-ruffled lace!!

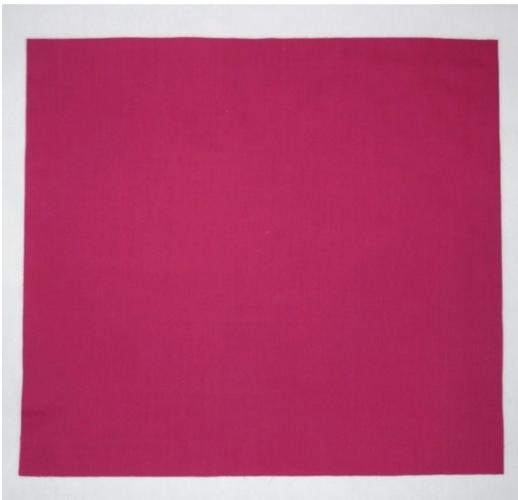
RIGHT lace:



3



This is ONE of your 2 cut pieces of fabric:



4

Mark the vertical center of both pieces:



Then place crotch template onto fabric aligning the straight edge with bottom fabric edge and pointy tip in center:



5

Pin template in place and cut around it:



Repeat with other fabric piece.

To hem/finish top and bottom edge:

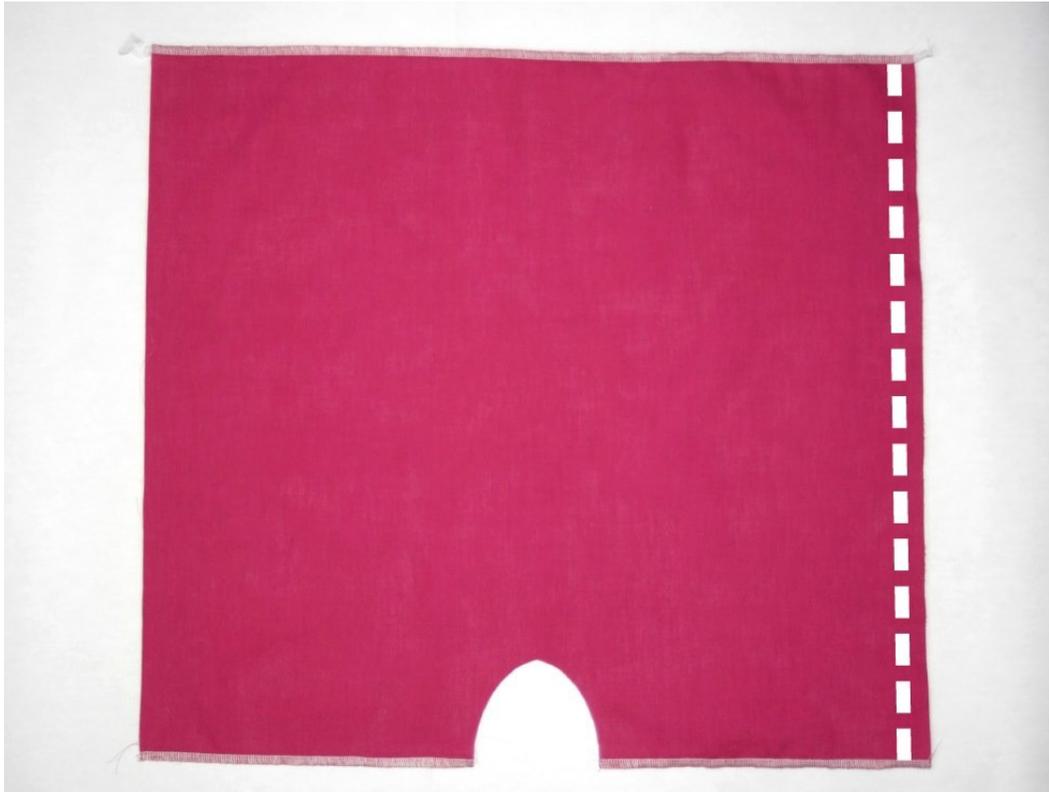
Use your serger or a zigzag stitch on your regular machine to hem top and bottom edges:



6

To sew front and back together:

Place fabric pieces (with right sides if using shiny satin) together and pin right side, then sew with straightstitch. Backstitch beginning and end, then serge/zigzag stitch raw edge:

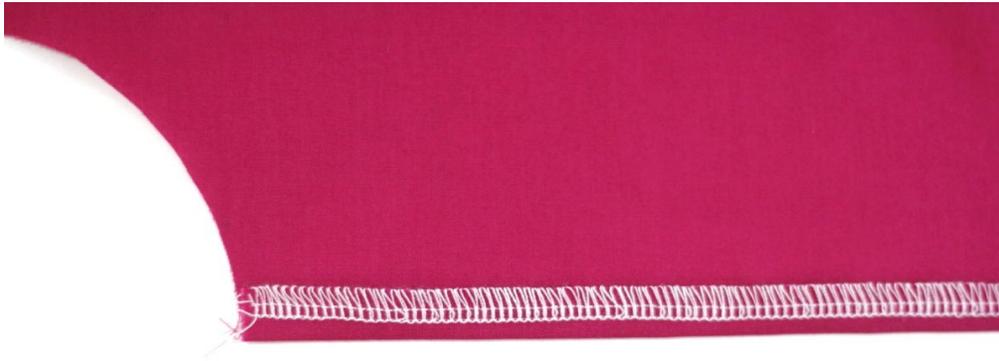


This is now your sewn together romper piece:



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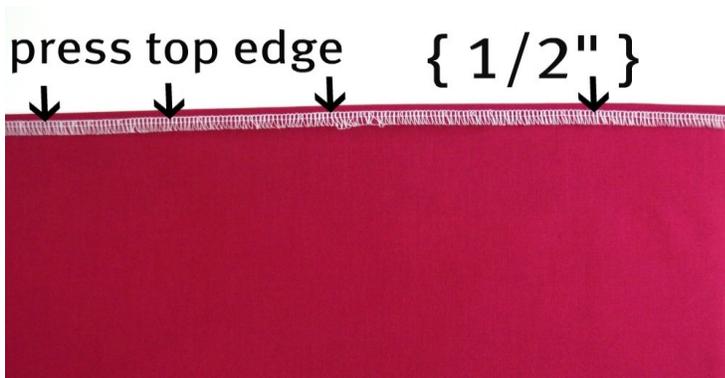
Next step is to fold the leg hems 3/8" up and press:



Then sew with a straight stitch:



Now fold down the top edge 1/2" and press:



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DO NOT sew, it needs to be open and will be finished later on!

This is how the romper piece looks now:



To sew on lace:

For the all pink romper I chose a scalloped flat lace:



As stated in the sizing chart, the amount (or yardage) of lace depends on the width and how widely apart you are going to place it. For my all-pink romper I chose to place my lace in rows covering the entire romper and due to the scalloped edge I set my rows just a little bit more apart as on the black/pink romper.

Begin with pinning lace to the romper. Best is to start on the bottom:



When using scalloped lace you want to place the rows so that the scallops reach into the slimmer section of the first lace. Alternate scallops:



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Place your last (top) row 1" under the top edge fold! (or 1/4" below that pressed line)



To sew lace on:

Since you can use different widths of lace and even scalloped lace, here are some example pictures as to how many rows of to sew and where to place them:

For 2.5-3" wide lace AND scalloped lace, sew in 3 rows sew the top row 0.5" away from the lace top edge:



For 1-2" straight lace, sew 2 rows:



**To sew in the elastic:**

Wind some elastic manually onto your bobbin. I use the shown brand but any brand available at craft/fabric stores will be fine! Wind the thread tight but not too tight. You can pull slightly on your elastic thread while you are winding it up.



Insert the bobbin with the elastic thread into your lower part of your machine and thread the upper with regular thread. Insert your romper into your sewing machine with right sides up and start sewing right at the edge with a good 4 inches of elastic thread hanging out.

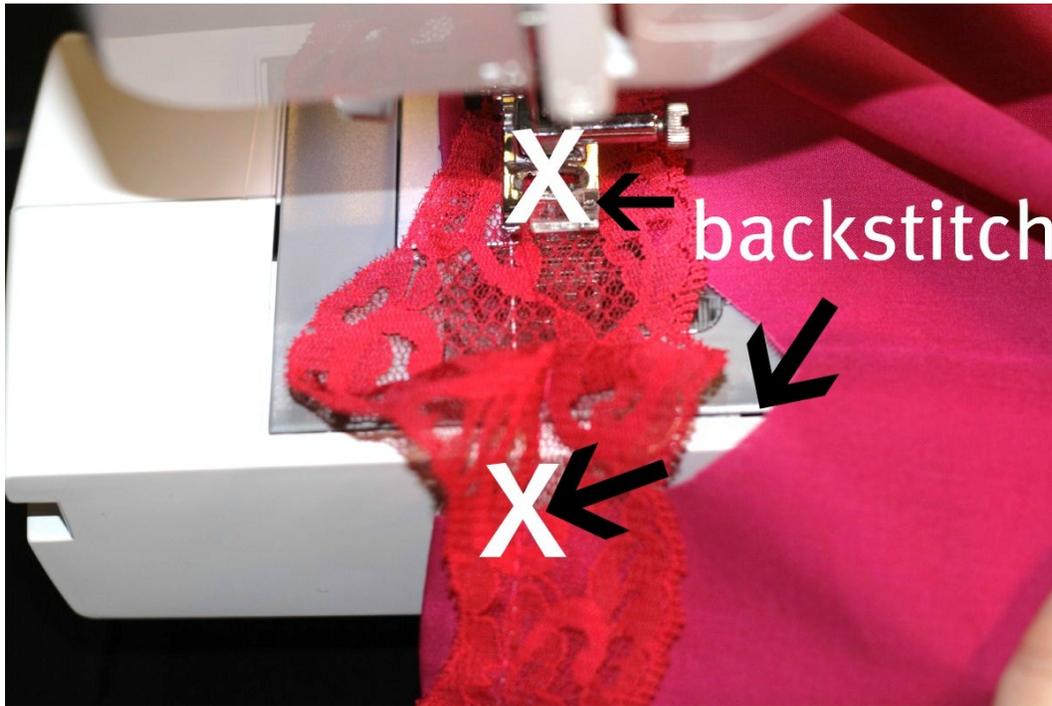
Set your machine to the longest stitch length and the tension to 2-3. Sew right along the drawn line. Be sure to check while you are sewing if your elastic thread has not jumped out from over the bobbin. That sometimes happens and will make your elastic not being gathered. If that happens rewind your elastic thread!

Sew your first row about 0.5" away from the leg hem fold. Since I am using scalloped lace I placed my bottom row lower than I would straight lace.



Once you reach the crotch you want to backstitch once and sew another stitch, then backstitch again. This is necessary to secure the elastic thread and prevent it from pulling out of the fabric when cut.

You can either cut your threads now to hop over to the other leg or leave it on as I did. Always backstitch a couple of times when reaching the crotch or starting a new leg:



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To show this better I took my fabric off the machine. Here is my first row:



This picture shows the crotch a bit scrunched up since I left my threads in:



Once your bottom row (or entire romper) is done, cut the crotch area out. Be careful not to cut the backstitched ends:



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Once the entire romper is done (remember, you can decide just how many rows of lace you want!), this is how it looks now:



Inside view. You'll see my 3 rows for each band of lace since my scalloped lace was 3" wide:



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For my black/pink romper I used 1.5" wide straight lace and only sewed 2 rows each:



For my orange satin romper I only placed 2 rows of 3" width on top and 1 row on the bottom. This gave my romper a totally different look:



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Here is a close up of my 3" wide lace placed on the romper before sewing:



This is how it looks from the inside once sewn:



To sew side seams of romper:

Rethread your lower compartment and change your elastic thread out for regular thread. Also reset tension and stitch length!

Fold romper over with right sides together and arrange all rows of lace so they will face down. Then pin and sew with a tight straight stitch (stitch length at 1.5-2) along dashed lines with backstitching beginning and end. Be sure to flip up the top edge which you have pressed but not sewn:





Trim off lace:



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Serge/zigzag stitch raw edge:



To sew the crotch:

On my black/pink romper you can see that one of my rows reach right over the crotch, so in this case.....



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flip lace up.....



.....and pin as shown in circle:



Rearrange lace downwards and sew, serge/zigzag stitch along dashed lines. Backstitch beginning and end:



Here is a picture of my all-pink romper where I zigzag stitched the crotch:



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Romper is almost done:



To make top casing:

Fold down your previously pressed top edge and either pin in place or go right to sewing it down with a straight stitch. Leave a 1" opening in the back center:



Secure a safety pin to your ¼" elastic and insert it into the casing:



Once both ends meet, handstitch both ends slightly overlapping, together with at least 10 stitches:

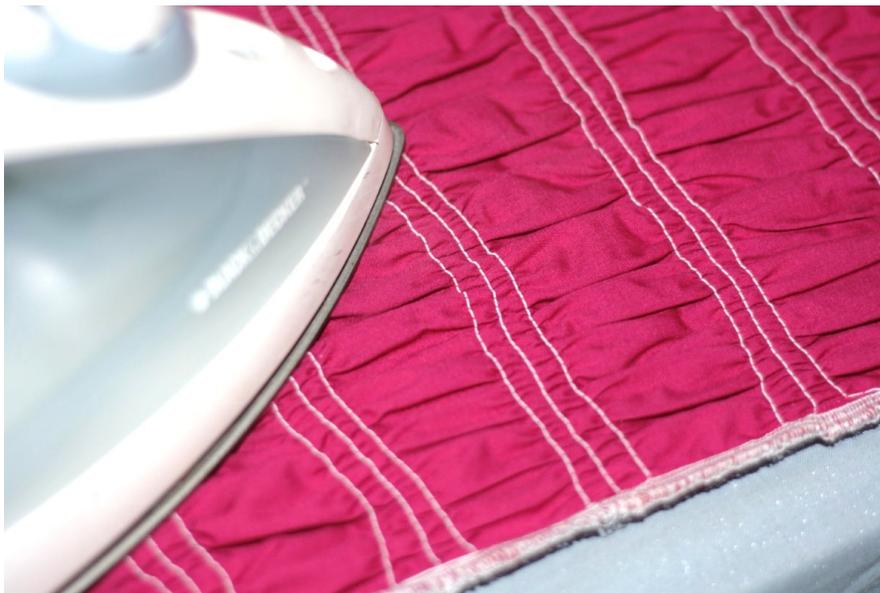


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Insert care/size tags and sew opening closed with backstitching beginning and end:



Last step is to steam press the inside to make your elastic thread shrink up. Set your iron to low heat and steam. This will allow the romper to stay put on child and it helps to create a tighter look.



Here is an example of my orange satin romper:

Before steam pressing



after steam pressing



### **Optional – ribbon ties:**

You can add a ribbon to make halter ties. Heat seal the ends of your ribbon (or use fray stop – available at fabric stores). Pin your straight edge of your ribbon to the inside of your romper and sew with a matching color thread. Backstitch beginning and end.

The placement for ties may be  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  away from the sides.



picture from other project

Or you can make your own bias tape which is a double folded fabric strip:



Buttons are added for a visual effect only☺

Design samples:





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For questions please email [whimsycouture@hotmail.com](mailto:whimsycouture@hotmail.com)

Thank you so much for using this pattern!

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## Sizing chart for lacy romper (made with band lace):

### FABRIC - CUT 2

Size	length	x	width	fabric yardage
0-6m	15.5"	x	16"	0.5 yd
12-24m	18.5"	x	17"	0.5 yd
2t	20.5"	x	19"	2/3 yd
3t	22"	x	20"	2/3 yd
4t	23"	x	21"	2/3 yd
5t	24"	x	22"	2/3 yd

LACE – the amount below is for a fully covered romper (you will need less if only a few rows)

Determine how many yards of lace you really need by either finishing your romper to the point where you would place your lace or by making a template from tracing paper or freezer paper. Then follow this diagram to determine how many rows of lace in which width you want:



pink shows the rows of lace

2

Size yardage (depends on lace width and on distance between each row)

0-6m 8- 12 yds

12-24m 9 – 14 yds

2t 10-15 yds

3t 11- 16 yds

4t 15 – 20 yds

5t 17 – 22 yds

Chest elastic (1/4" width non-roll)

0-6m 14"

12-24m 16"

2t 16.5"

3t 17.5"

4t 18"

5t 19"

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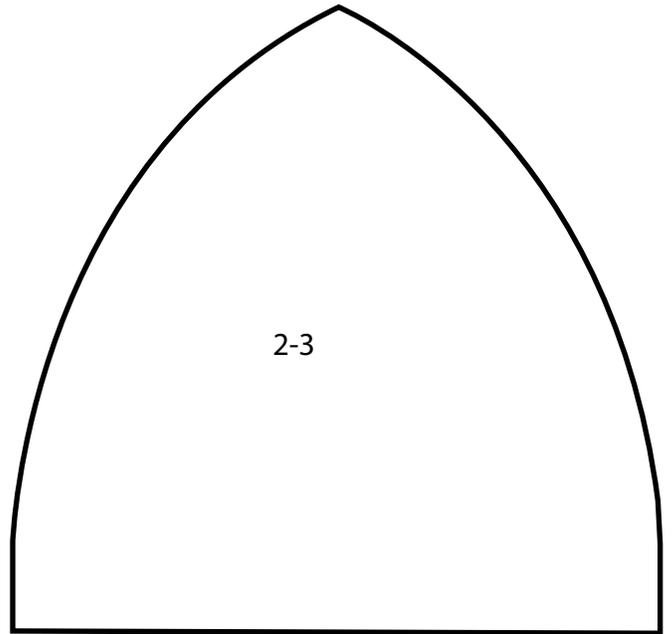
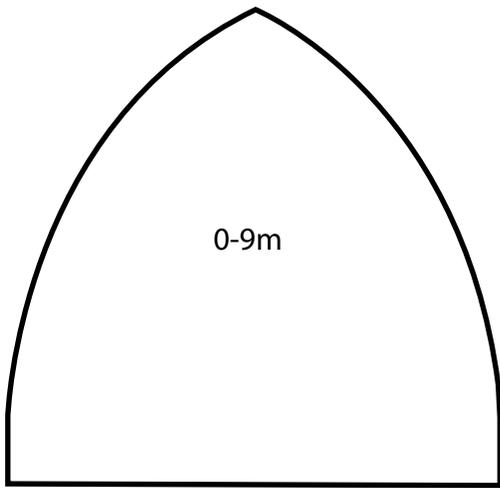
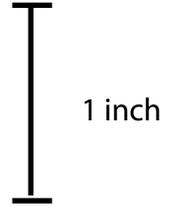
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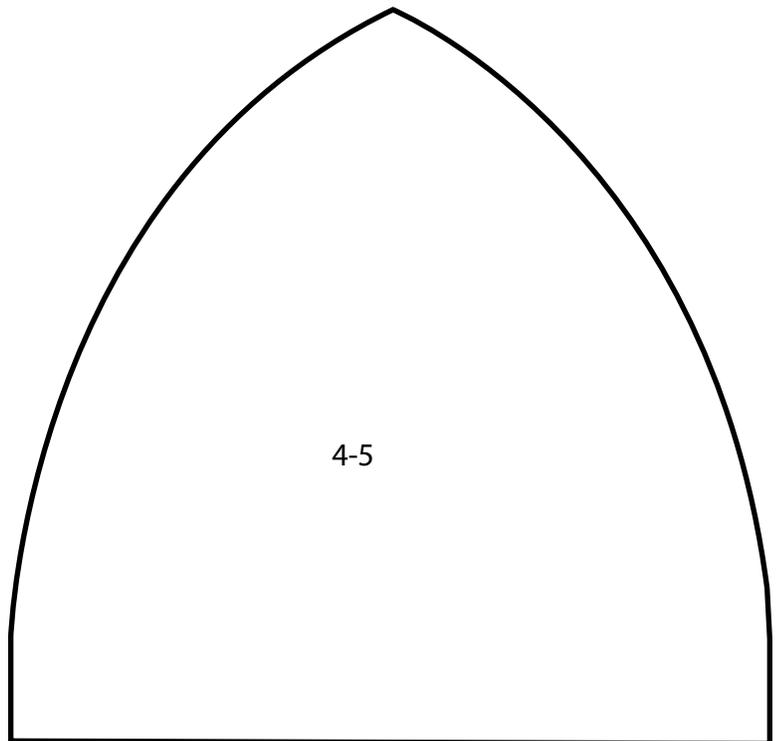
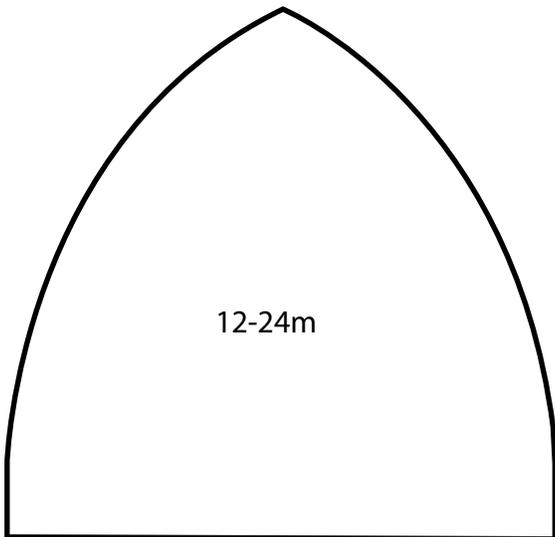
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# Lacy Romper Crotch Templates



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## Sewing with silk

The following are good rules for all types of silk, but as with any tip or technique, test everything on a small scrap before you dive into the whole project.

### Cutting tools

Silk is prone to snags and pulls, so it is very important your scissors are super sharp and free of any nicks in the blades. If you prefer using a rotary cutter, insert a fresh blade.

### Needles & Pins

A brand new, fine needle with a sharp point is best. Try a 70/10 or 60/8 size. Needles called "sharps", "quilting" or "Microtex" are good ones to look for.

Sharp and smooth are the watch words for your pins as well. You can find actual silk pins, but any fine, sharp straight pin will work.

### Cutting & Pinning

Slippery, slippery is silk! Because of this, it is often recommended you cover your regular cutting surface with kraft or butcher paper then lay the silk over the paper. The grip of the paper helps the silk from sliding. Because of the slipperiness, it's also a good idea to always cut silk as a single layer rather than folded.

Pins can leave behind holes in silk, so if you must pin, do it within the seam allowance so any left-behind holes won't be seen on the finished project.

### Thread

Oddly enough, silk thread is not your best choice for sewing with silk. It's not as strong as cotton or polyester thread. I confirmed this with our friends at [Coats & Clark](#). They recommend the [Dual Duty XP Fine](#) thread for silk, which is fine enough to meld into the seam and not cause puckering, but because it's polyester, is stronger than a cotton thread this thin would be. However, the XP Fine is available in fewer colors, so a [Dual Duty General Purpose](#) is another good choice.

### Marking

Fabric markers and chalk can sometimes be hard to remove from silk. Make sure you do a test mark on a scrap and try to remove it before making any marks on your actual cut pieces. If there's a problem, try tailor tacks, which are made by running a doubled length of thread through the fabric at notches, dots and other marks. Or you can mark pattern notches by making a tiny snip within the seamline.

## Seam and fabric strength

If you choose a lightweight silk for home décor projects, you might consider adding a thin layer of cotton batting for extra strength and density. This is a particularly good idea for silk pillow covers.

In garment sewing with silk, if you have a seam that is likely to have a stress point (sleeves, crotch, pockets, etc) you can add what is called 'stay tape' over the seam. A couple sources I found suggested using the selvage from your silk fabric, which I thought was a great, free idea. You can also use a packaged twill tape.

Avoid fusible interfacings. Silk organza is a good alternative.

## Actual sewing

If you are still worried about slipping and shifting while you sew, layer strips of tissue paper or lightweight tear-away stabilizer over and under your fabric prior to stitching.

A [flat bottom presser foot](#) is best, and you can experiment with increasing the presser-foot pressure. Always run several test seams first to check for pulling or puckering.

If your machine has a [straight-stitch needle plate](#), this offers the best surface for any fine, thin fabrics... not just silk.

A shorter [stitch length](#) is normally recommended - try 2.0 to 2.5.

Always [finish you seams](#) to avoid raveling. A French seam or a serged finish are your best choices. If you have a serger, one suggestion is to serge ALL the raw edges of ALL your cut pieces. This helps in two ways, 1) it prevents raveling while you are working with the pieces, and 2) it pre-finishes your edges while they are flat and easier to work with. Because a serger trims and cuts simultaneously, you'll need to over-cut your pattern pieces to account for the trimming.

## Caring for silk

As with any [fabric preparation](#), it is important to pre-treat silk in the method you intend to care for the finished project.

Often, silks best retain their crispness and shine if dry-cleaned, so no pre-treatment is necessary. That said, many silks can be hand washed, using a mild detergent or baby shampoo, in lukewarm water. Rinse the fabric several times to make sure all soap is removed.

Rather than drying in the dryer, roll silk in a towel to absorb excess water, then iron the rest of the way dry on a low setting. If wrinkles are not an issue, simply lay flat to air dry.

Use a pressing cloth (you can make your own from silk organza) to protect your silk from heat and steam drips. Press the seams flat first, then press them open. Pressing them flat first kind of 'melds' the stitches into the fabric and you are less likely to have puckering.

Never use a chlorine bleach; it will yellow silk.

Moths will attack silk so keep your finished project protected... I think they must know we stole the silk from them!

Info from: <http://sew4home.com/tips-resources/sewing-tips-tricks/776-sewing-with-silk>