

As Seen on It's Sew Easy Public Television – Series 1400

Make a simple soft belt to accent existing garments or top off a custom made garment.



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Belts are one of the best ways to accessorize and pull together a fashion forward look. Options include a simple belt made with decorative elastic, a soft suede style with machine-stitched eyelets, or even an embroidered belt cinched with D-rings. There are so many possibilities!



Denim dress is a pre-purchased garment. Faux suede wrap is a featured garment from the book titled [Wrapped in Embroidery](#) by Joanne Banko. Instructions for making this wrap are found on the CD included with the book. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Materials and supplies featured in this segment:

- Featured machine is the [Brother XV8550D Dream Machine2](#). Any machine with or without a built in eyelet stitch can be used for this project. See options included in the following instructions.
- Specific supplies for faux suede fabric belt with machine stitched eyelets:
 - [Shannon Fabrics](#) Cuddle® Suede Fabric is ideal for this soft suede belt. Visit my website, www.letsgosew.com to download a free **Faux Suede Fabric Tip Sheet** to help you sew this luxurious fabric.
 - Fine fusible tricot interfacing.
 - Pattern tracing cloth or paper for creating a pattern.
 - Tape measure for measuring length of belt.
 - Hand sewing needle and thread.
 - Water-soluble stabilizer – optional but helpful for stitching eyelets.
 - Non-stick presser foot – optional but helpful for topstitching faux suede.
- Dritz Notions, including the following for various belt styles:
 - [D-rings](#)
 - [Fashion buckles](#)
 - [Decorative wide elastic](#)
 - [Eyelet Setter and Eyelets](#)
- For the elastic belt you will need a decorative buckle. Use snaps or hook and loop tape if you want to remove the buckle for laundering.

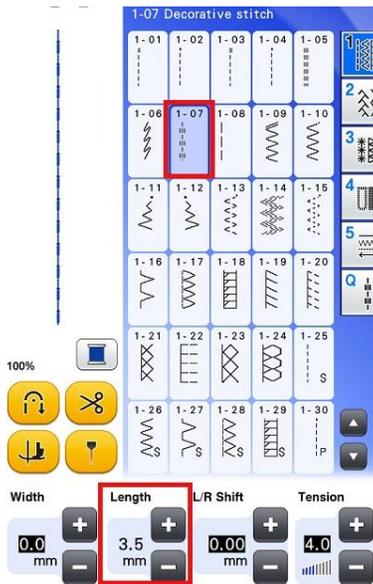
Basic Instructions for creating elastic belt shown on denim dress:

Wrap elastic around your waist to determine a comfortable length. Add 1-2-inches for finishing the ends and then subtract the size of the buckle from end to end since this will add to the length. If desired, apply snaps or hook and loop tape to each end. As an alternative you can turn under the ends and whipstitch to secure by hand or use an adjustable zipper foot to stitch close to the buckle, securing the elastic in the process.

Basic Instructions for creating soft suede belt with machine stitched eyelets:

Determine width of belt as desired and add 1-inch for seam allowance. Wrap a tape measure around your waist to determine length and add 8-inches for an overlap. If you are making a belt to go over a bulky garment like the suede wrap featured on the show you will want to take the waist measurement over the garment. **Tip:** If you have a ready-made belt you can use it for both measurements, and also to decide on eyelet placement.

Cut a belt pattern from paper or tracing cloth using your measurements for width and length. Shape the eyelet end of the belt as desired or leave it straight. I chose to create a slightly pointed end. In the rest of these instructions this will be referred to as the shaped end. Use the pattern to cut two strips of fabric for the belt. Cut a matching strip of fusible interfacing, having seam allowance trimmed away on interfacing. Fuse interfacing to wrong side of front belt piece.



For a designer look select a stitch that is more prominent than a standard straight stitch and then lengthen the stitch length. **Tip:** I prefer to use decorative embroidery thread for added sheen when topstitching.

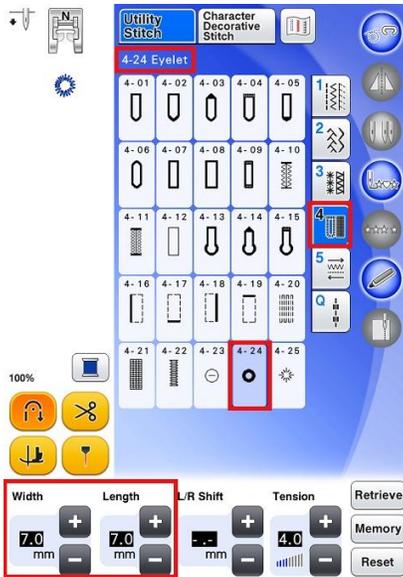
Topstitch evenly spaced lines as desired on the front piece. **Tip:** I like to use a non-stick foot for this as it easily glides across the faux suede. See examples of right and wrong side below:



Place front and back right sides together and sew using a 1/2-inch seam allowance, sewing each long edge along with the shaped end, leaving the straight short (buckle) end open for turning. Trim seam allowance to 1/4-inch, turn and press using an iron shoe or press cloth. Overcast the open end.



Set up machine for sewing eyelet stitch. Beginning 4-inches from the shaped end, sew 4-6 eyelets spaced one inch apart along center of belt. Add more or less eyelets to suit your garment and your waist. **Tip:** Be sure to stitch a sample eyelet first to see if any settings need to be changed. It's a good idea to use a water-soluble topper on the suede. You can mark the eyelet position with a water-soluble marker and wash everything away before adding the buckle.



To create a hole for the prong on the belt stitch another eyelet at the opposite end, having the eyelet centered ½-inch from the short end. **Tip:** As an alternative you can use metal eyelets and stitch a small buttonhole at the opposite end for inserting the belt prong.

Overcast the unfinished raw edge. Working from the front side insert prong into the single hole, and then wrap short end to the wrong side and hand stitch to secure. **Tip:** Depending on the finished width of your belt and the size of your buckle you may find it necessary to gather this edge to fit width of buckle. Your suede belt is finished.





Complete instructions for the embroidered belt can be found at blog.brothersews.com. Click on the link below:

<http://blog.brothersews.com/embroidery/embroidered-belt-free-design/>

Additional Resources:

- Visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website www.letsdosew.com. I would love to hear your thoughts, comments, and answer any questions you may have. You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, and lots of sewing fun at letsdosew.com!
- Find me on Facebook www.facebook.com/letsdosew/
- Be sure to visit the [Official Brother Blog](http://www.brothersews.com) for even more ideas, projects, and information!
- Visit the official website for Dritz products at www.dritz.com. Dritz has special notions for making great belts and many other "must have" sewing accessories and notions.

Happy Sewing

Joanne