

A NEAT AND EASY ROLLED HEM TECHNIQUE

Learned from friend Linda Huggins.

This technique will make a rolled hem about half of the initial amount you fold down, so start by deciding how wide you would like the roll to be. If you don't want an actual roll look, it is better to go wider so the end result can be flat, especially once ironed. Obviously the size will also depend on the scale of the piece you are working and how delicate the fabric is. If the fabric is on the ravelly side with lots of loose threads, you may wish to go to the wide side to help handle the threads. Try to cut along straight weave or consider bias.

Experiment on scrap until you have the hang of it - this will also give you an idea of the width to make the initial fold. Start by finger pressing or ironing over a single fold along the edge(s) you want the rolled hem. This width can be anywhere from a fat $1/16$ to $3/16$ for most dolls. Be consistent in your stitches. Smaller is better and makes a smoother roll. Longest space between zig zags is about $1/4$ ".

Have a needle threaded with single knotted thread. Leave knot in the fold at one end coming up in the fold and taking a tiny stitch only over a couple of threads on the fold. Then, no more than $1/4$ " ahead of the stitch in the fold, take a stitch in the main fabric just to the raw edge of the fold, again only take a few threads in the stitch. Continue stitching like this zig zagging back and forth from the fold to the main fabric just outside the raw edge. When you have gone a couple of inches, pull your thread and the stitches will magically pull into a neat rolled hem. Use your fingers to smooth out the ease. Continue on in the same way.

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