Production Sewing Machinist Programme

A training programme designed to support the growing demand for industrial sewing skills
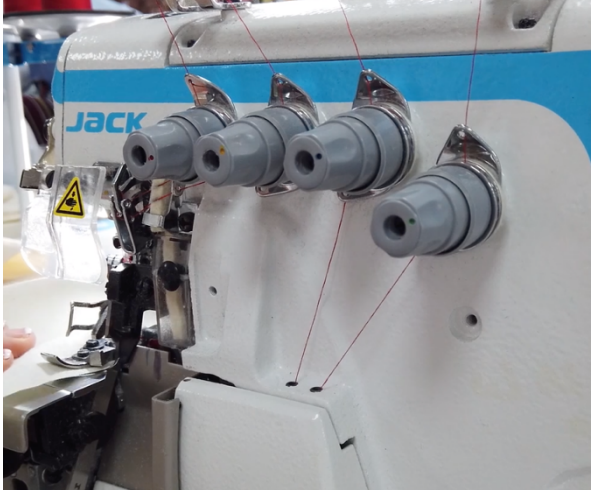
Lesson 3.6: Overlock

THE TASK: Create straight, even overlocked trim that meets quality standards.

LEARNING OUTCOME: By completing this task you will:

- Learn how to control the overlocker
- Minimise slowing down before you stop sewing
- Learn how minimise and control trim offs
- Learn how to increase the machines capacity
- Learn to overlock in fast bursts while aligned fabric with the blade
- Gain material handling skills
- Learn how to recognise overlock stitching that meets quality standards
- Get used to working to quality standards at speed

PREPARATION: To prepare to complete this task you must:

- Cut two strips of plain fabric 92.5 cm longs x 15 cm wide (if you are training in company use the type of fabric you will be expected to work on in production)
- Thread overlocker with contrast thread
- Check tensions to ensure a well-balanced stitch
- Ensure the right type of needles are inserted and it is undamaged

- Create and position a continuous loop
- Be aware that the blade will trim off excess whist the machine produces the stitch that neatens the raw edge

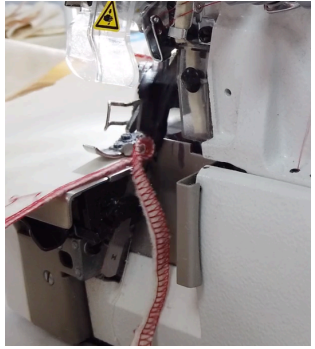**QUALITY STANDARD:** To meet the quality standard you must ensure

- The stitch is even and well balanced
- The previous stitch width is trimmed **only**
- No wavy edges or excess trim
- No cuts into the fabric
- Two loop lengths of trim, showing an even stitch and straight, even trim of just a stitch width
- Please be aware that trimming off too much fabric may alter the size or shape of a products

WORK SAFELY
- Ensure an eye guard is fitted and down when overlocking
- Long hair is tied back
- Flat, closed shoes are worn
- No scarfs or long obstructive jewellery is worn
- The chair is set at the right height and positioned correctly, and all tools are to hand

CARRY OUT THE TASK

To carry out the task see the instructions below:

1. Cut a continuous loop - two lengths of fabric approx. 91.5cm x 15.cm	2. Overlock one short seam to join the lengths together	3. Create and wrap the loop lengths around the machine, overlock the other short seam and create loop as in previous tasks
4.Set the machine at a medium speed (35/40)

Position the right, raw edge of the fabric under the right edge of the presser foot and against the blade | 5. Start overlocking, build up speed, keeping the edge of the fabric to the right edge of the presser foot. Lightly guide the fabric through, letting it flow though, and keeping your fingers on top of the fabric and your thumbs beneath. Do not grip | 6. Increase the set speed of the overlocker.

Re position the loop to the right of the presser foot to trim off the previous stitching only. Overlock at speed, trimming just the |

	the fabric, try to force it through, or hold it back. Do not trim off more than 2mm. Continue to overlock, stop when you get back to where you started.	width of the previous row of stitching. Continue and repeat to produce **two** loop lengths of trim, demonstrating straight, even cut off lengths at just a stitch wide

REMEMBER! Keep alert to your thread feed! Should you need to re-thread the machine see Lesson 2.8

Watch the back tack process video below, this will provide further detail on how to carry out this task.

Unit 3.6 Overlock

https://vimeo.com/580218812/62ef55a7c6

Do not proceed onto the next task until you have produced two loop lengths of previous stitch width trim and completed the Skill Challenge below:

Skill Challenge 3.8

1. When overlocking how do you ensure that you are working safely
   - By keeping the eye guard down at all times
   - By keeping the machine switched on at all times, even when not sewing
   - By keeping feet on the foot pedals, even when not sewing

2. See the statement below and fill in the missing words
   - An overlocker has a b_ _ _ _ that c_ _ _ the fabric as it sews, and produces a s_ _ _ _ _ that neatens the raw edge.

3. Why is it important to **not** trim off too much fabric when overlocking?

   - Because trimming off too much fabric creates waste
   - Because trimming off too much fabric can damage the overlocker
   - Because trimming off too much fabric can result in altering the size or shape of a product