

Sew the New Fleece, by Rochelle Harper. There's no better reference guide to fleece garment techniques.

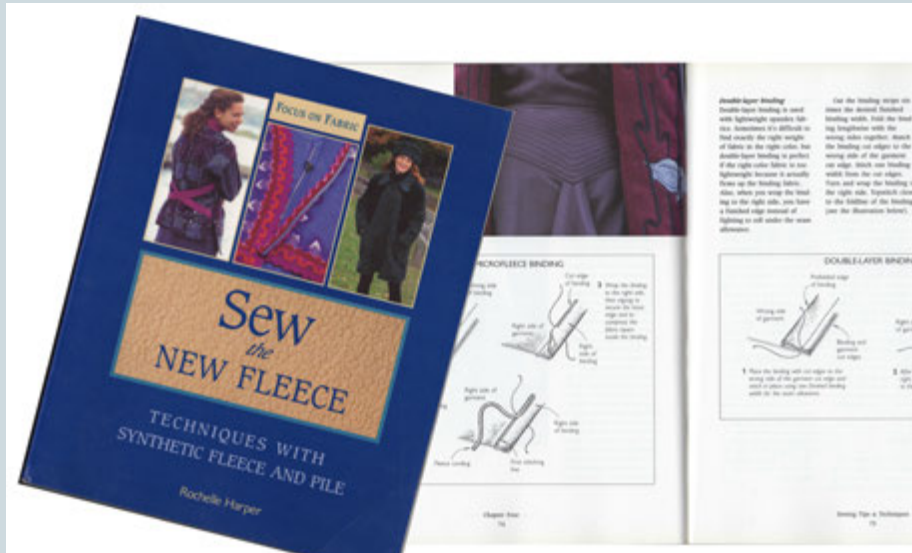
Singer Sewing with Knits | Among the vast array of generally fine knit-sewing guides, this beautifully photographed Singer volume stands out for its extensive coverage of no-serger workarounds. As Rochelle told me, "The only reason to insist on serged seams for knit sewing is when you demand high stretch and full recovery." On less stressed knit garments, straight stitches can work fine. Marcy Tilton, among many other knit experts, only uses sergers as edge-finishing tools.

Cjpatterns.com | Christine Jonson's popular patterns are specially crafted for her favorite fabrics, Lycra-blended knits. Best of all, she carries a reliably consistent collection of these fabrics by the yard, so you can often come back and get more of something you fall in love with.



Fusible fabric spray | Marcy Tilton keeps odorless, colorless, acid-free, temporary, and repositionable 505 fabric spray adhesive handy for tacking knit hems before stitching them with a double needle. She sprays right at her cutting table, as shown in the center image at right, with the work in a small box to catch any overspray, which is generally minimal.

Both 505 and Misty Fuse are widely available, as well as direct from the makers' websites.



To Consider

Garments Profiled Online

Check out these high-action performance tops that mix knits with wovens for maximum movement with trim fit. At right is a woven equestrian competition shirt designed to be worn under a formal riding jacket, concealing the Lycra-knit side and underarm panels.

At right is a military-approved combat uniform shirt with a knit body and underarm panels, heavy woven upper sleeve layers sporting multiple zippered pockets and shoulder- and elbow-padding insert panels, and a woven rectangular band collar and zipper placket. Note also the deep ribbed cuffs with thumbholes left in the seams. The whole thing is designed to be worn under body armor, and the woven material is so stiff as to feel like armor itself, but the concept is fascinating, even for less demanding activities.



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