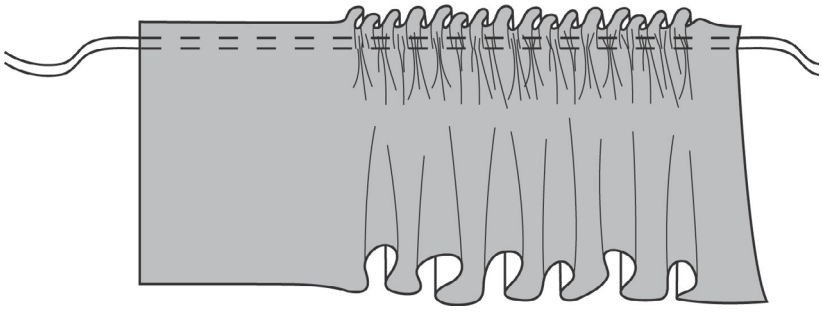
Gathering

What is Gathering?

Gathering is the process of drawing fullness into a much smaller area to create soft, even folds.

Method 1: Loosened Tension

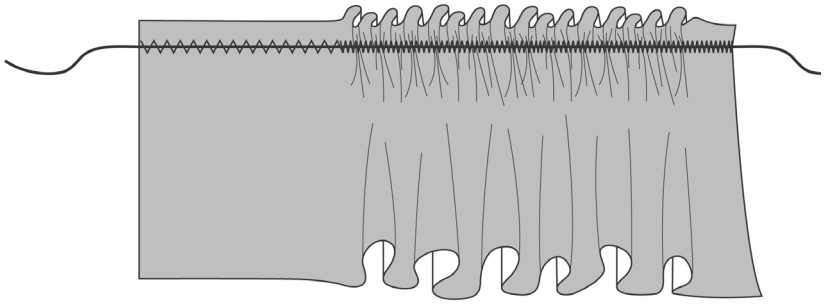
Select a straight stitch; adjust the length to 3 - 4mm and slightly loosen the needle tension. Stitching from the right side, sew two lines of stitching – one on or just beyond the seamline, the other inside the seam allowance (approx. 6 - 9mm apart). When attaching the gathered edge to an ungathered piece of fabric, place pieces right side together and pin at notches (or at each end of the section to be gathered). Pull the bobbin threads together to evenly distribute the gathers between the pins. Stitch between the two lines of basting stitches. After seam is sewn, remove any gathering threads that can be seen on the right side.



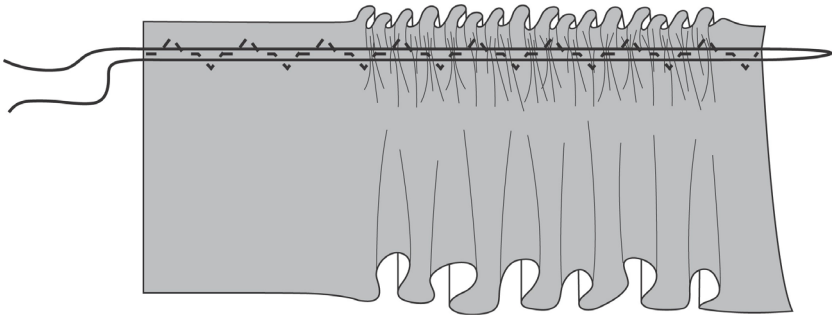
Method 2: Single Cord

Zigzag over a single length of cord, taking care not to catch the cord in the stitching; the cord is encased in the stitching. Gather the fabric by pulling on the ends of the cord, taking care not to pull the cord out of the stitching.

Tip: Insert the cord into the guide in center hole at the front of BERNINA Embroidery Foot #6 or Clear Embroidery Foot #39; it will be positioned exactly under the needle, perfectly placed for stitching over.



Method 3: Double Cord

Using a Gathering stitch (see your sewing machine manual for stitch availability), sew over a doubled length of cord, taking care not to catch the cord in the stitching. The cords are encased in the small zigzag stitches to the right and left of center needle position. Gather the fabric by pulling on the ends of the cord. The loop will keep the cord from pulling out of the stitching.

Tip: Loop the cord around the center toe at the front of BERNINA Buttonhole Foot #3; they will be positioned at each side of the needle, perfectly placed for stitching.