



In this lesson you will learn to how to make ruffles or pleats of different kinds with utmost ease using the Usha Janome Ruffler Foot.



This foot is absolutely the easiest way to add those beautiful accents to your outfits or even add a feminine touch to your home décor accessories.

For this lesson you will need – the Usha Janome Ruffler foot, 4 strips of fabric, say about 5 inches by 15 inches, can be assorted colours... and a pair of scissors. This is the Ruffler foot -- it may appear bulky and complicated, but is very simple to use. So, do not panic.

This here, is the Ratchet Gear Feed plate. These are slots with numbers here – this allows you to control how far apart or how close you want the ruffles. The first slot is marked 1, which means that there will be a ruffle after every stitch. The slot marked 6 means that there will be a ruffle after every six stitches and the next slot numbered 12 means, a ruffle for every 12 stitches. The slot on the extreme left with the star mark is for straight stitches, should you wish to have ruffles only at intervals.





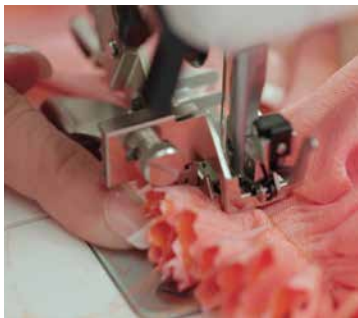
This black screw here is the Ruffling Depth Screw and it allows you to adjust the depth of the pleats. 1 is for really tiny pleats. 4, 6, and 8 increasingly make deeper pleats. Remove the normal presser foot and snap on the Ruffler foot, with the black plastic arm going over the needle screw as shown in the video. We will begin with ruffles for every stitch by using this first slot here...



Set your machine -- turn the Thread Tension dial to 4, select A on your Pattern Selector Dial for Straight Stitches, and set the Stitch Length at two and a half.



Feed the 1st strip of fabric into the Ruffler Foot's slit like this, and begin sewing. Next, let's try out the 6 stitches slot, by moving the Ratchet Gear Feed plate.



Feed the next strip of fabric you have into the Ruffler Foot's slit and sew to get a ruffle after every 6 stitches. Now move to the slot numbered 12. Feed the third piece of fabric and begin to sew.



Now lay them horizontally one below the other and you will see that the strip stitched on slot 1 has ruffles that are closer to each other, the one stitched on the 6-stitches slot has ruffles six stitches apart, and the strip stitched on the slot numbered 12 created a series of pleats 12 stitches apart.



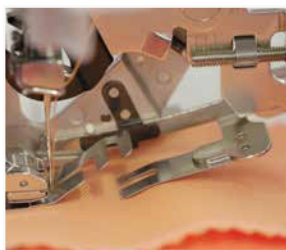
Now, we'll see the effect of the Depth Screw on the pleats of the fabric. For this we will need one strip of cloth for practice.

Set your machine: Shift the Ratchet Gear to slot 1 for a ruffle after every stitch. Set the Ruffling Depth Screw to 8. Feed the fabric and sew till you have about 5 inches of ruffled stitches at this setting. Next, change the depth to 6 by moving the Ruffling Depth screw.

Lift the pressure foot and slide about 3-4 inches of the fabric following the ruffles you just made. Then sew another 5 inches of ruffles with this depth.

Now, reduce the depth to 4 and follow the same process of leaving some fabric before you sew another 5 inches of ruffles.

For the last step – reduce the depth to 1 and sew. Now remove the strip from the machine and lay it out – see the effect of the Ruffle Depth Screw. The ruffles made on Number 1 are very lightly pulled while those made on Number 8 take in a lot of fabric. As you practice you will also learn how much fabric you will need for various projects.



Now that you have seen the effect of the various depths, lets move on to one more interesting aspect that we can use for multiple things...to create ruffles and attach the fabric at the same time – this is really cool and saves you the hassle and pain of doing two rounds of stitching and aligning.

For this you will need one piece of fabric that is 6 inches by 8 inches and one strip a little longer than the base fabric

See here how we will attach this piece of fabric with the other piece while creating ruffles. Set the Ruffle Ratchet gear at 6 and increase depth to 8. You may select the stitch and depth as desired.

Put the 6 x 8 piece of fabric under the presser foot. Then insert the strip of fabric that is to be attached and ruffled into the ruffle foot's slit as shown in the video.





Once both pieces are in place begin to sew...see how evenly the ruffles get created at the same time securing both the pieces together. Trim the extra thread and cut the extra fabric. This is what it should look like -- the piece of fabric attached with ruffles after every 6 stitches.

Ruffles can be used creatively anywhere and everywhere. Use ruffles and pleats to embellish your dress and accessories... they add flair, panache and style wherever added. Experiment with depth and tuck lengths to create beautiful designs like in this hairband, this is where we sew the ruffles.



Practice and experiment – and see how dramatically it can alter anything you wish to.