

Overview

Couching is a decorative threadwork technique in which threads, yarns, or other fibers are laid across the quilt and fastened in place by the machine's quilting thread. The three sizes of couching feet in this kit enable you to couch a wide variety of threads, yarns, ribbons, and other fibers to add a special touch to your quilts.

Your machine should already be fitted with the Handi Feet mount that works with the interchangeable Handi Feet. These instructions describe how to attach and use the couching Handi Feet.

To attach one of the couching Handi Feet

1. If another Handi Foot is on the mount, use the 2.5mm hex wrench to loosen the mounting screw far enough that you can slide the foot off of the mount.
2. Slide the desired couching Handi Foot onto the mount. Note that the opening on the side of the foot is lined up with the screw hole. Push the Handi Foot up as far as it will go.



3. Ensure the foot is centered with the needle when the foot is fully tightened with the 2.5mm hex wrench. If it isn't properly centered, loosen the lock nut; center the foot with the needle; hold the foot in position; and firmly tighten the lock nut.



NOTE: We recommend that you use the 1.5mm couching foot to ensure the foot is centered over the hole in the needle plate. Then slowly rotate the hand wheel to confirm that the needle smoothly cycles through the center of the hole. Then put on each of the other two couching feet and manually cycle the needle through the hole.

(Continue at the middle of column 2.)



Handi Feet Couching Kit (QM00842)

IMPORTANT NOTE: If your machine didn't come already equipped with the Handi Feet mount, you need to convert from the original hopping foot to the Handi Feet mount using the Handi Feet Conversion Kit (QM00841).

Kit Contents

1. 1.5 mm couching foot (QM10519)
2. 2.0 mm couching foot (QM10521)
3. 3.0 mm couching foot (QM10518)
4. M4 screw (QM10172)

You may also need:

- 2.5mm hex tool (This tool came with the Handi Feet Conversion Kit.)



To use a couching Handi Foot

1. Thread your machine as usual with the desired quilting thread.
2. Match the weight of the fiber to be couched with the size opening in the couching foot. Thread the fiber through the opening on the couching foot from the top.

Either use a tooth floss threader to thread the couching foot, or lay the fiber to be couched over the top of the couching foot and take several tacking stitches to push the fiber through the hole; then pull the short, loose end of the fiber through the hole in the couching foot.



(Continue at the top of column 3.)

3. Begin stitching. As you stitch, the machine's quilting thread will fasten, or "couch", the fiber to the quilt.



Tips for using the couching Handi Feet

The couching feet work equally well with both the Handi Quilter stand-up longarm machines and the sit-down machines. These tips apply to both types of quilting machines.

- Use thinner fibers with the smaller (1.5mm or 2.0mm) couching feet.
- If your machine thread isn't properly couching the fibers, try using a smaller couching foot. The fiber should fill the opening in the couching foot but still pull smoothly through the hole. Also consider slowing down your quilting.
- Make sure you pull a good amount of fiber from the spool or ball to ensure that it is able to move freely through the hole in the couching foot as you stitch. There always needs to be some slack so that the stitching and the fiber stay together.
- Once the fiber is threaded through the couching foot and you begin stitching, you don't need to guide the fiber being couched. Simply quilt as you normally would. If you know you are going to be quilting in a particular direction, you can orient the fiber in that direction – but it isn't necessary. As long as you have sufficient slack in the fiber, it will move through the hole in the foot as you quilt.
- Keep the fibers being couched from getting twisted or knotted as you work.
- The machine's thread color can be the same color as the fibers to be couched, or a contrasting color. As you are developing your couching techniques, we recommend that you use a matching thread color.

Handi Feet Couching Kit
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