Instructions: How To Build Your Own Custom Silver Whinnys™ Draft Sox.

1. It takes 2 Warmblood/TB size Summer Whinnys® Silver to build one Clydesdale sock. Smaller draft or draft cross horses may only use 1.5 socks to build one sock. Call us for any suggestions before you begin. 850-907-5724.

You will need: 3 packs of double bias tape, a dependable sewing machine, thread, sharp good quality sewing scissors and Summer Whinnys. Retayne, Carbona, or Rit Dye Fixative or Colour Catcher to stop the Bias tape from color bleeding on your finished socks. .

2. Before you cut up socks , take a good look at the outside of the sock and then turn it inside out and take a good look at the inside of the sock. Remember the difference. You can clearly see that finishing of the inside of the sock is not as pretty as the outside of the sock.

This photo shows the rougher finishing stitching on the inside of the sock.

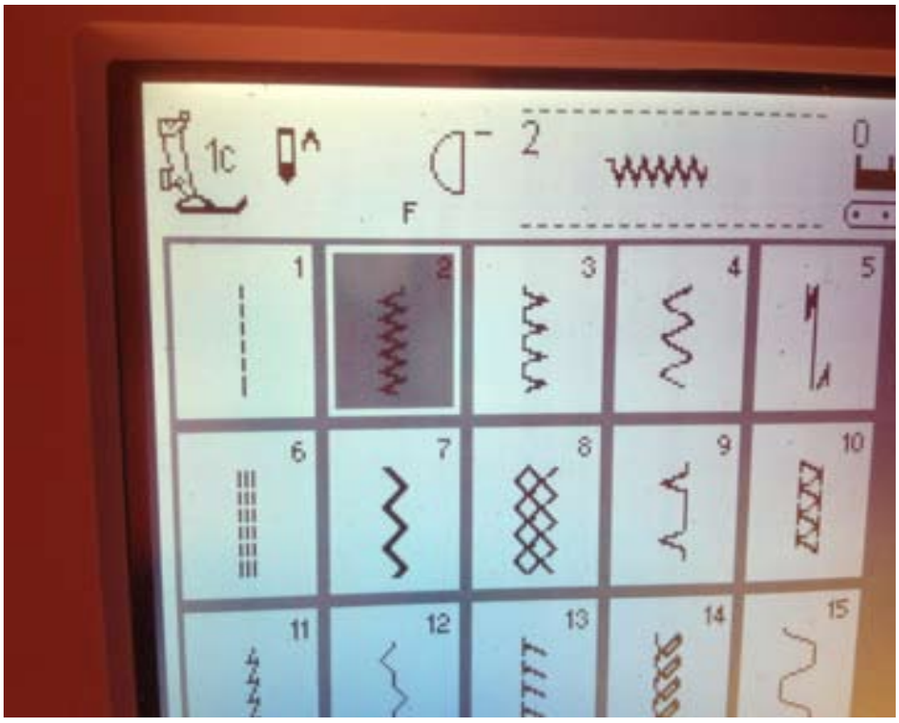
The outside of the sock has a much smoother finishing.

3. For a large draft, like a Clydesdale, cut two socks lengthwise and open them up. It takes two Warmblood/TB size socks to make one large draft size socks

4. If you have a smaller draft or draft-cross, then you will want to cut one of the WB/TB socks in half (into two equal pieces) because you will only be adding a half sock to a whole sock. Use very sharp sewing scissors. Be careful to cut both layers of sock. Try to cut following the straight line of the knit. It won't be that even on the inside when you look, but that's okay. You are going to finish those raw edges right away to keep them from unraveling.

The sock shown below would be cut one more time down the middle to make two panels for a draft cross or smaller draft horse.

5. Set your sewing machine to zigzag stitch and sew all 4 edges of both socks to catch the yarn and prevent unraveling. Do this immediately even if you are not going to finish the socks until later.

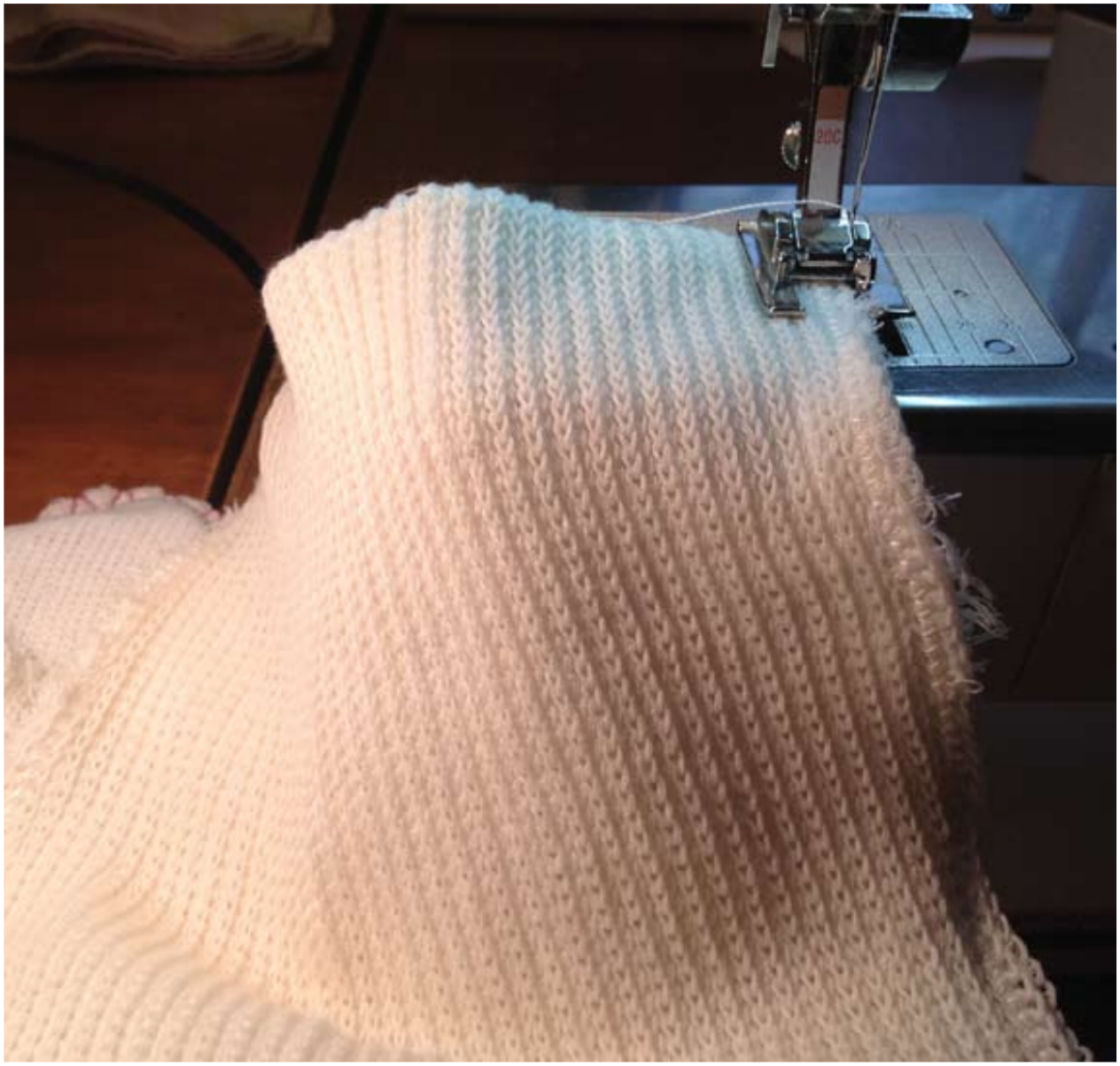


**** Important NOTE:

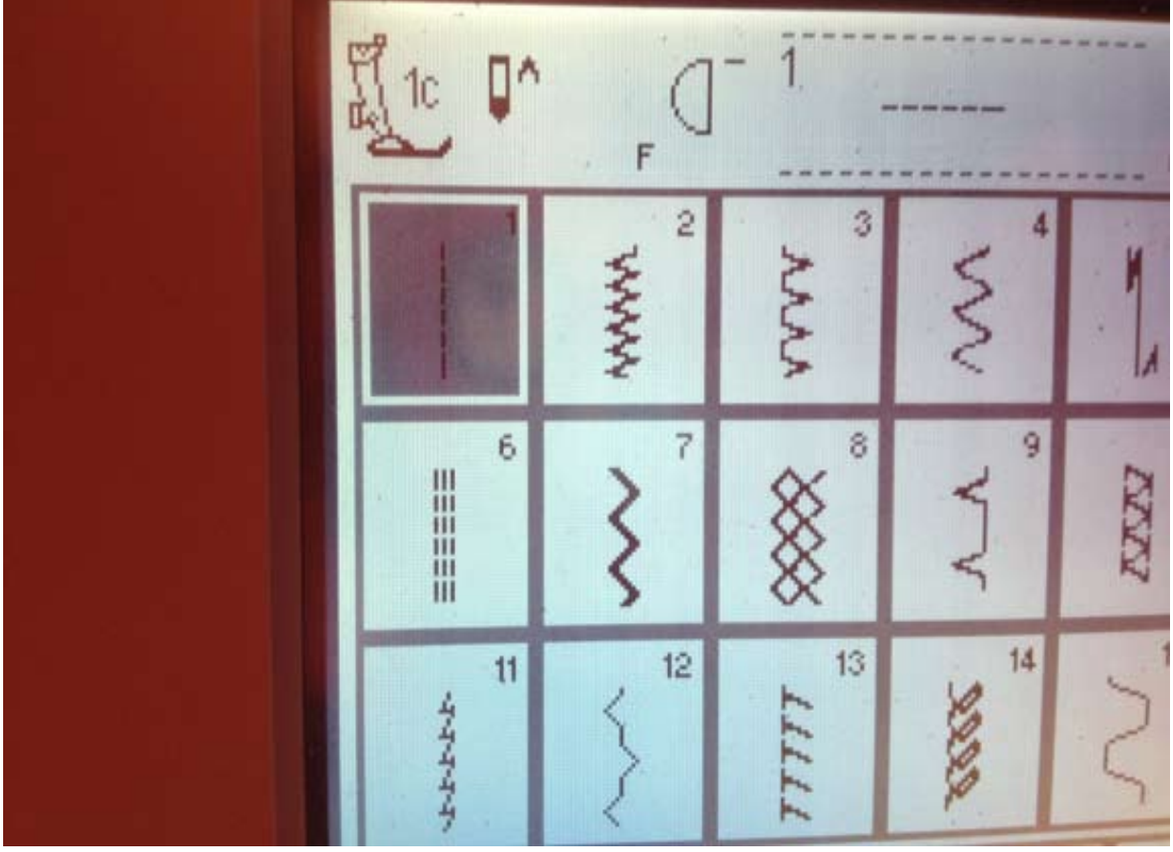
DO NOT STRETCH THE SOCKS AS YOU SEW. You want the socks to move through the pressure foot of the machine on their own with very little pulling on them. The reason is that as you go along sewing, you will want to have both sides of the socks meet evenly. They will mostly match if you don't stretch them as you sew. There may be times when you need to pull one side or the other to make sure they come together evenly, but that will be very minimal if you don't stretch the socks as you are doing these initial finishing steps!

Zigzag all raw edges. Be sure to catch the two layers of socks! The stitch can be set to be medium in size, not a large stitch but doesn't have to be small either. If you wish to sew each edge twice, all the better. Every time you sew a seam twice, the more durable you make the socks.

You can use a normal pressure foot. You don't need a pressure foot like the one shown.



6. Once the raw edges are finished and secure, set the machine to a "straight stitch" Set the straight stitch length to normal length.



Lay the two socks together. You want the inside of one sock against the inside of the other sock. The nice, even, outside finishing should remain on the outside of the sock. The seam allowance won't be on the inside of the sock. It will be on the outside of the sock and nicely finished with bias tape, as shown below because you do not want the seam allowance rubbing against your horse's skin on the inside of the sock!

7. Now sew the two socks together by "making a seam". Lay the two socks together, zigzagged edge to zigzagged edge. INSIDE OF THE SOCK TO THE INSIDE OF THE OTHER SOCK. Make a 1/3" seam. You don't want a larger seam allowance. Building the socks as large as possible at first is better than building them too small. You can always take them in if needed. When you join two socks together using the straight stitch, you want to join them in sections so that you don't have an uneven Begin at the "foot" of the sock and pin it to match the sock you are joining.

Sew only that section making sure it meets evenly.

8. Once you have made sure the socks are meeting evenly, sew the socks together with a seam allowance of 1/3 inch. Match the next section, pin it and sew it

Again, be careful not to stretch the socks as you bring them together and make sure that as you are sewing, the top or bottom of the socks are going to meet evenly when finished. Keep checking as you sew the seam and if you have to stretch one sock to get it even with the other sock, then do so, but important to have the tops and the bottoms even.

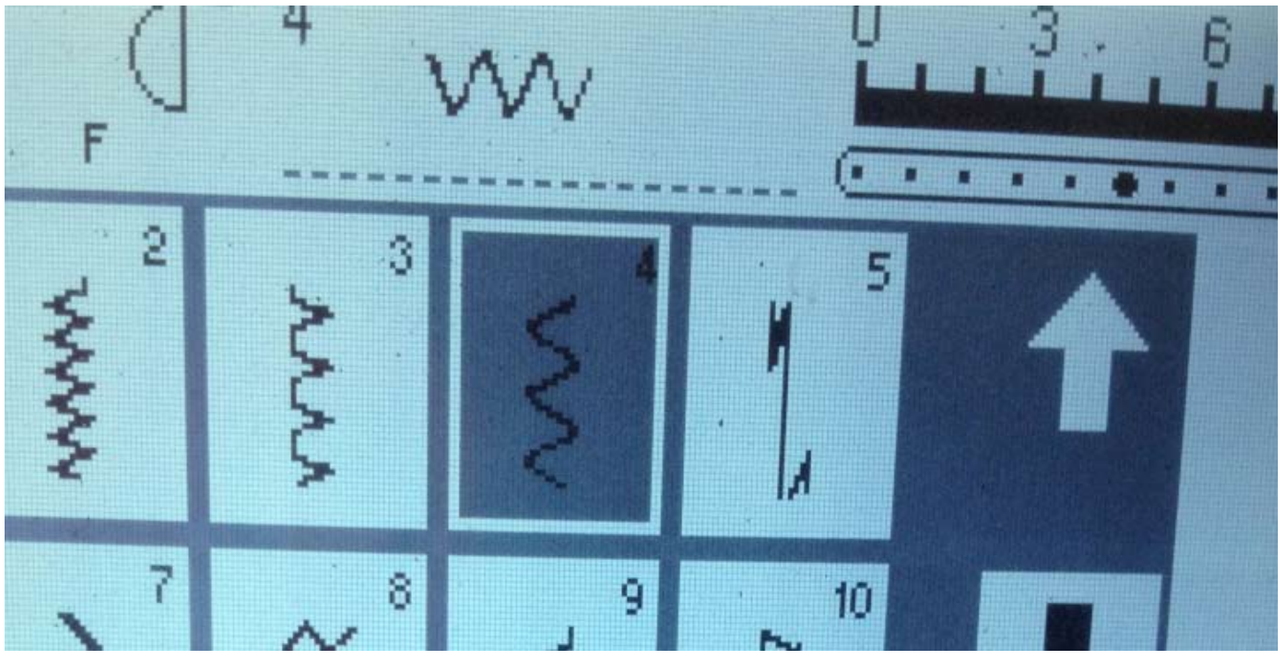
Take the 3rd section, and sew it while carefully watching that the top of both socks will match.

9. If you are doing this for your own horse, it's a good time to take the sock out and try it on the horse to make sure you have a good fit. If it's too loose, you can take up the sock again by adding another line of straight stitching to the inside of the first seam. Take up a little at a time, maybe only another 1/4 inch of the sock. Don't adjust both seams! Pick one and leave the other alone. You can adjust everything to fit with only one seam being modified. If you have to cut off a large seam allowance, it's easy to just run double lines of zigzag stitching over the raw edge to secure it again.

10. Once you have the perfect fit, you can trim the seam back down to 1/3 inch and re-zigzag to seal the raw edges.

11. Once you are sure you have the seams correct and the right size sock, sew the straight stitch again staying on top of the first line of stitching so that you now have a double layer of stitching, making the seams and socks very durable.

12. Have your Double Folded Bias Tape ready. Start at the "foot" of the sock by sewing the bias tape over the rough edges of the seam on the outside of the socks. The Bias Tape gives the socks a nice finish, makes them more durable. We use a "serpentine stitch" to sew on the bias tape, but a zigzag stitch will work if your machine does not have a serpentine stitch. Be careful that you are catching both sides of the bias tape as you sew it on.



Helpful tips. Don't stretch the socks as you are sewing. The only time you may have to stretch a sock is when you are joining two socks together and you need to just move the sock enough to meet up even with the other sock. You want the top and the bottom of the socks to meet evenly but if you are pulling on the socks as you are sewing, they will be very difficult to match up.

Bias Tape runs color the first time it is washed. You can wash them the first time with a "color catching" product available in your grocery stores by the dyes. Though we've listed some, there are others. Look for a product that stops colors from bleeding. There are several.

Note how all seams are on the outside of the sock, not on the inside of the sock against the skin.

It took a socks and 1/2 to make one sock for this big guy.