

Adjusting The Socks For A Perfect Fit

You need: "Extrawide, Double Fold Bias Tape", any color. Bright colored thread, red, royal blue, deep green, black, anything other than white. Sewing machine, scissors, a dye magnet product such as "Carbona", available in most laundry soap aisles of a supermarket. The dye prevents the dye in the bias tape from bleeding on your socks the first time washed.

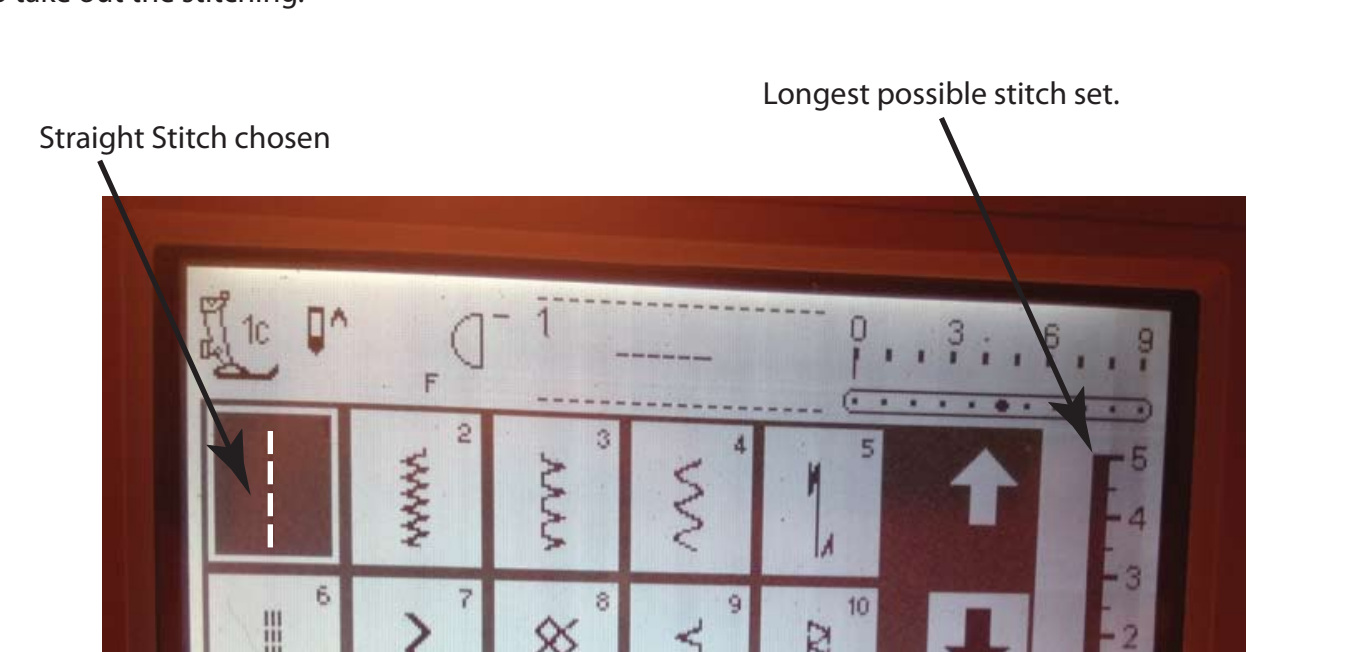
Sometimes horses fit in between sizes. Your horse might be too small for a Warmblood/Thoroughbred size sock and too large for a Quarter or Standard size sock. Call us if you have doubts about ordering the correct size socks, (850-907-5724) but if you order the WB/TB size socks because your horse is too large for Q/S, and the socks tend to fall with out other extenuating circumstances, a little sewing can solve the problem. Before you try this, call us so that we can make sure this is your next option.

Sox For Horses, Inc. can make these adjustments for you, but we do not have the benefit of being able to use your horse for fittings before making the adjustments final. There is also a finishing fee which can be avoided if you can sew. Adjusting the socks is easy. If you don't sew, but have a friend that does, these instructions will serve for a very successful custom fit for your horse's socks.

DON'T take up a sock that is already very difficult to pull over the hoof. A sock should go over the hoof without great effort, but if the sock is already at the point where it tightly goes over the hoof, this adjustment won't work. Best to call us and let us help figure out how to get a better fit for your horse. These instructions can be the solution when pulling them on is effortless, and once on, the fit on the leg leads to the socks easily falling. In other words, there is room to move to adjusting them.

It is important to make any adjustments small. You can always take in more if there is still room to move. But start with a small adjustment.

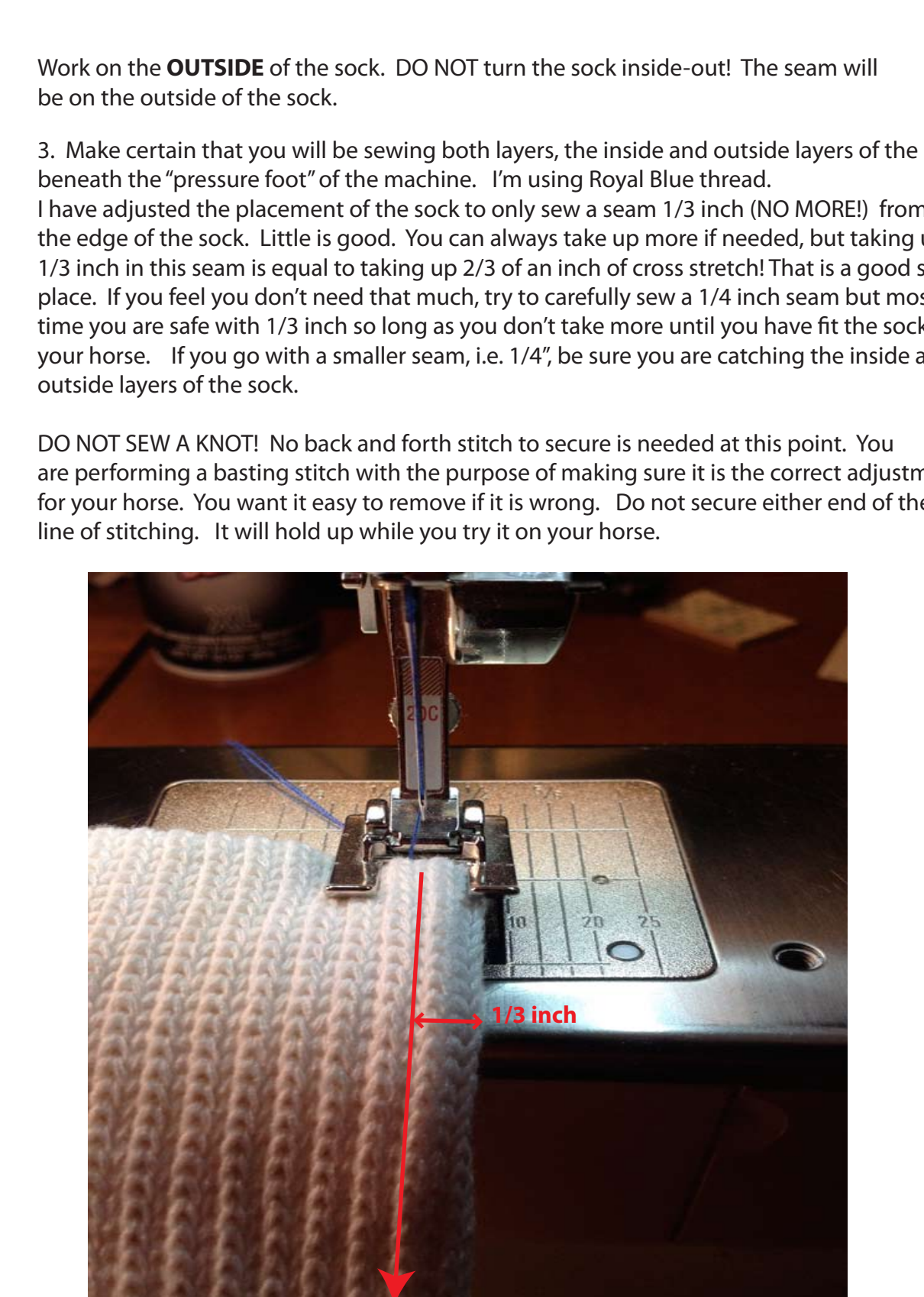
1. Lay the sock flat on the work table. You want to make sure than when you take up the sock, you are catching both the inside and outside layers of the sock. The bulk of the "take-up" seam will be on the outside of the sock so that the inside of the sock is always smooth against the leg and skin tissue. This will be shown clearly as we go.



You want the sock very flat and smooth as you are going to take it in along the side length and you must make sure to catch both the inside and outside layers.

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2. Using a very brightly colored thread, such as royal blue as shown here, or bright red, set the machine for a "Straight Stitch". Adjust the straight stitch as long as it will go. The photo here shows that I've chosen the straight stitch and that I've adjusted it to be as long as the machine will let me make it. This is called a "Basting Stitch". The bright thread is easy to see if you take up to much of the sock and have to take out the stitching.



The machine is now set to begin sewing. My machine is a Bernina and computer based. Settings will be made differently on the machine you have, unless you also use a Bernina.

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Work on the **OUTSIDE** of the sock. **DO NOT** turn the sock inside-out! The seam will be on the outside of the sock.

3. Make certain that you will be sewing both layers, the inside and outside layers of the sock beneath the "pressure foot" of the machine. I'm using Royal Blue thread. I have adjusted the placement of the sock to only sew a seam 1/3 inch (NO MORE!) from the edge of the sock. Little is good. You can always take up more if needed, but taking up 1/3 inch in this seam is equal to taking up 2/3 of an inch of cross stretch! That is a good starting place. If you feel you don't need that much, try to carefully sew a 1/4 inch seam but most of time you are safe with 1/3 inch so long as you don't take more until you have fit the sock on your horse. If you go with a smaller seam, i.e. 1/4", be sure you are catching the inside and outside layers of the sock.

DO NOT SEW A KNOT! No back and forth stitch to secure is needed at this point. You are performing a basting stitch with the purpose of making sure it is the correct adjustment for your horse. You want it easy to remove if it is wrong. Do not secure either end of the line of stitching. It will hold up while you try it on your horse.

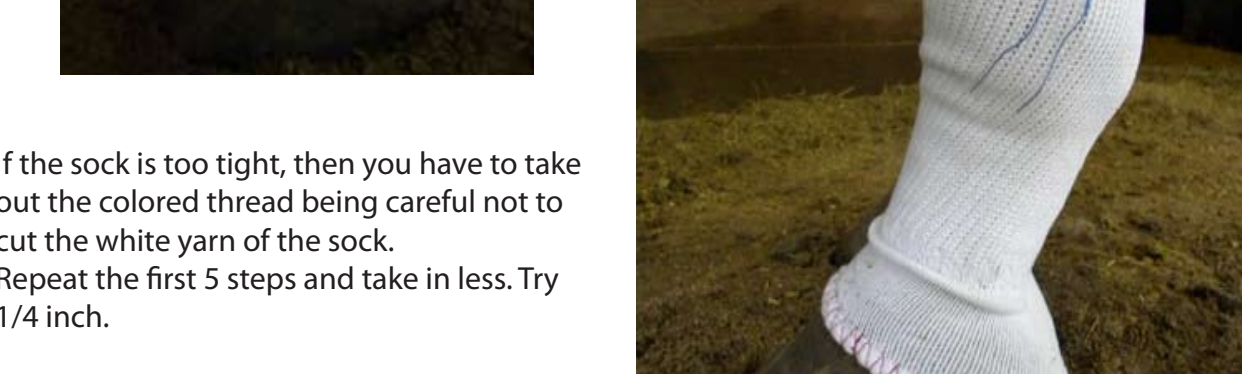


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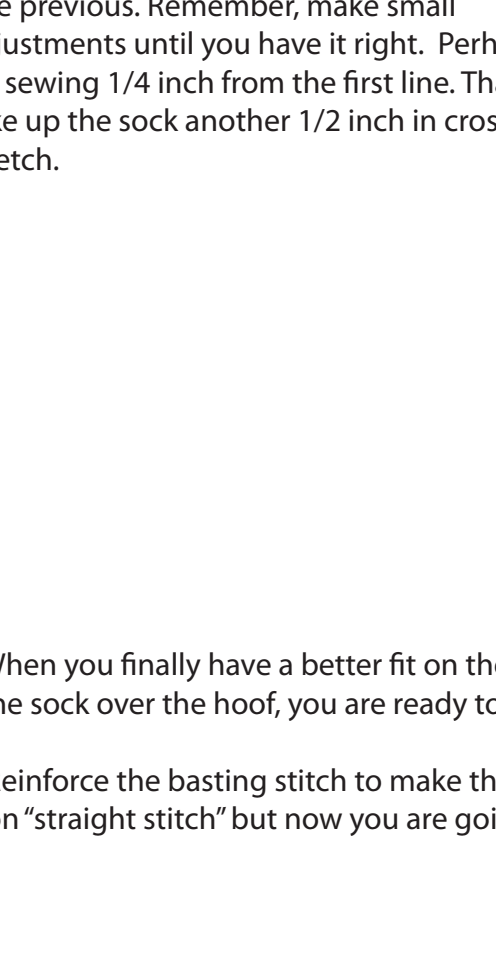
Sew in a straight line down the edge of the sock until you get to the first line of our finishing. Note how large the stitches are? You can really see them. This makes for easy removal if you must remove this line of stitching.



This is the first line of finishing. This is as far down as you need to stitch to adjust the sock.



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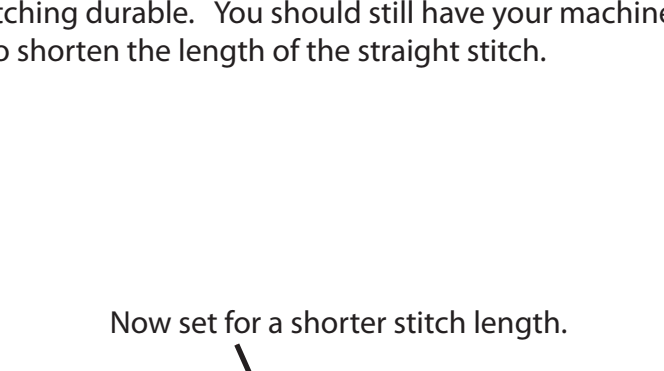


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After sewing the basting stitch, take the sock to your horse and try it on. It should not be so tight that getting it over the hoof is impossible. It will be more snug than it was, but you should still be able to get it over the hoof.

Note: you can see the seam on the outside of the sock.

On the photo below, you can see where the line of stitching ended. There are no securing knots on either end of the stitching.

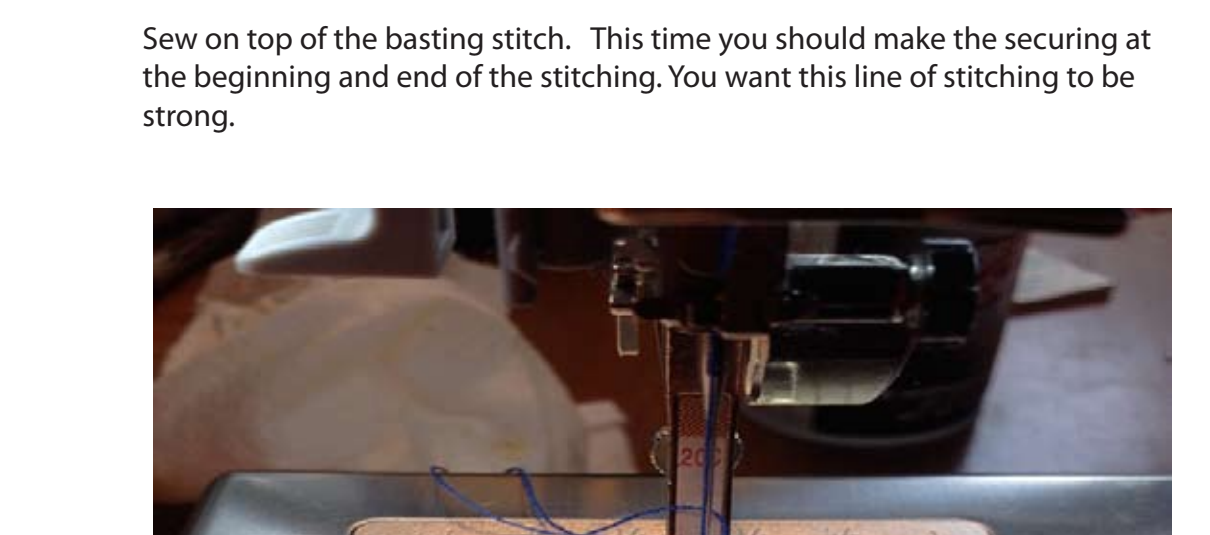


If the sock is too tight, then you have to take out the colored thread being careful not to cut the white yarn of the sock. Repeat the first 5 steps and take in less. Try 1/4 inch.

If the sock is still too large, use the same basting stitch sew a straight line next to the one previous. Remember, make small adjustments until you have it right. Perhaps try sewing 1/4 inch from the first line. That will take up the sock another 1/2 inch in cross stretch.

When you finally have a better fit on the cannon with out impairing your ability to slide the sock over the hoof, you are ready to finish the sock so that it is sturdy and attractive.

Reinforce the basting stitch to make the stitching durable. You should still have the machine on "straight stitch" but now you are going to shorten the length of the straight stitch.



Sew on top of the basting stitch. This time you should make the securing at the beginning and end of the stitching. You want this line of stitching to be strong.

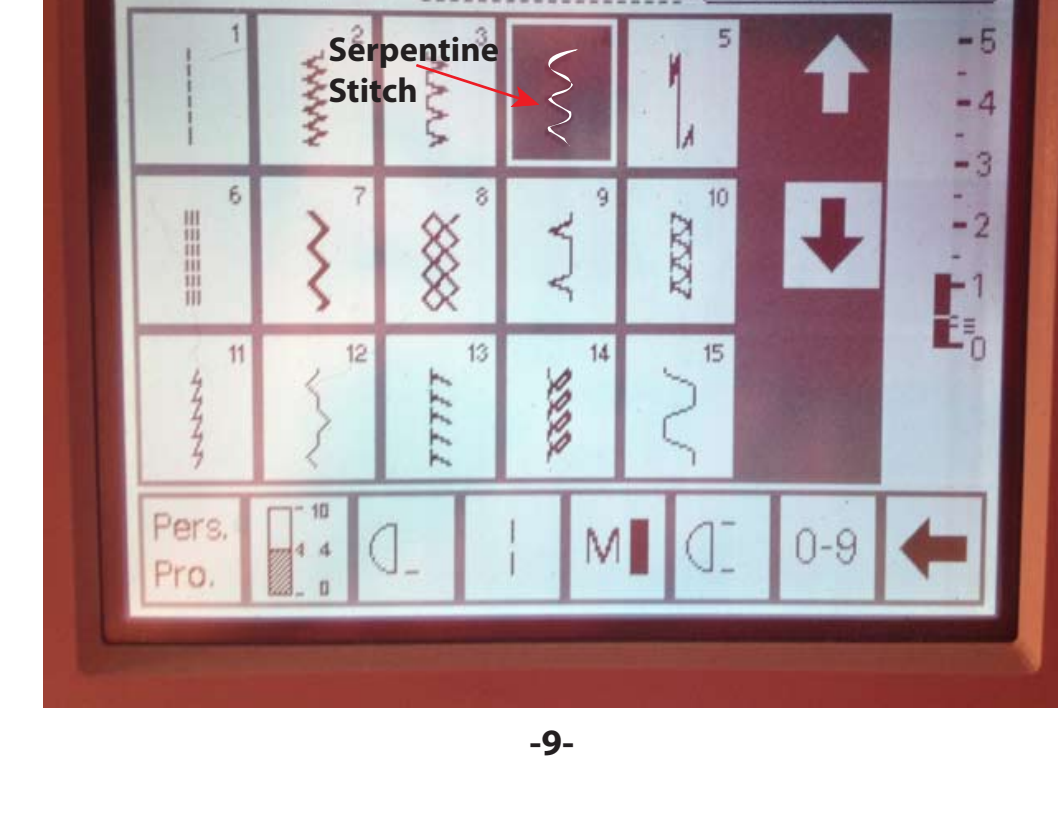


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Bias tape can be used over the seam to give you a nice finishing. You can choose any color. One package of Extrawide, Double-Fold, bias tape will be enough. **You don't have to put the bias tape over the seam. It offers a nice look.**



I finish the bias tape with a serpentine stitch. This is a snake like shape of stitches, but a zigzag stitch works good too.



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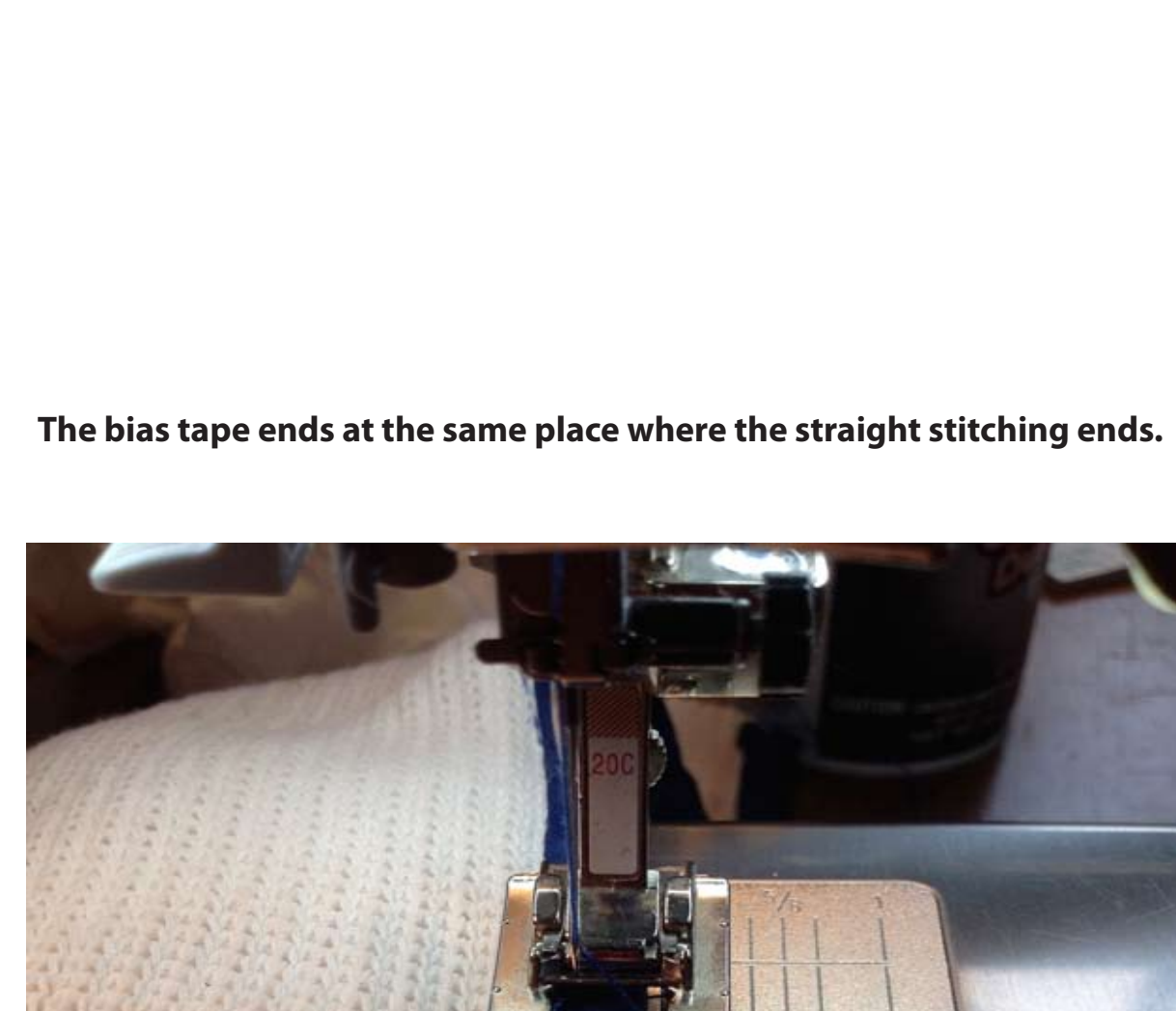
Set the machine to serpentine or zigzag. Sew the bias tape on over the seam.

As you put the bias tape over the seam be careful that you aren't sewing outside the seam. You don't want to take up any more sock than you have.



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The bias tape ends at the same place where the straight stitching ends.

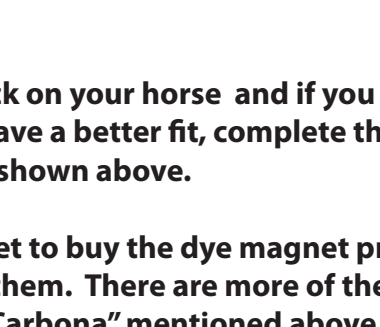


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Try the sock on your horse and if you are satisfied that you have a better fit, complete the other 3 socks as shown above.

Don't forget to buy the dye magnet product before you wash them. There are more of these products than the "Carbona" mentioned above, but these products will prevent the dye in the bias tape from bleeding color on the socks the first time the socks are washed.



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