

Rediscovering Me Again with the CoverPro 2000CPX

By Regena Carlevaro, Janome Education Manager

Before kids, I made a lot of my clothing. After kids, any extra time that I had to devote to creating garments is gone as well as the figure I used to have. I am sure that those of you who have children can relate. In the years that have passed, I have tried to pick up the pieces again, but after a couple of failed attempts to make something fit well and not cost an arm and a leg in supplies, I called it quits on making clothes. I then turned my need to create quilting and home decor and had almost forgotten that I used to be the girl who owned a one-of-a-kind wardrobe. Until last weekend...

On a random visit to a fabric store, my daughters both expressed a desire to learn how to make their own skirts. We began walking through the aisles of fabrics designated for clothing and I found myself running my hands over the different textures, stopping to look at a particular print and thinking that it would make a nice shirt. The juices began to flow again. I let my girls loose and told them to find a fabric that they wanted for their skirts. Ironically, they headed over to the wall of quilting cottons to look at the fun prints there.

I gathered my thoughts and decided to start slow. What fabric could I choose that would be easiest to deal with? What type of garment pattern would take the least amount of altering to fit well? Most importantly, what would take the least amount of time to make? I headed to the knit section.

Since it is summer, I was happy to find some really fun printed knits. I don't know how you feel about buying a decent knit shirt in the warmer months, but it always makes me a bit nuts to have to pay \$49 for a glorified t-shirt. In comparison, a 1 3/8 yard piece of knit at \$12.99 per yard with a 50% off coupon didn't seem so bad. Add in a sale of patterns for \$1.99 and it seemed my timing was meant to be!

I selected a simple pattern for a knit top - one with three sizes in one envelope. I prefer these as I am smaller through my shoulders and bigger through my stomach and hips. I could blame this on having three children, but it would be more honest to say that I love avocado cheeseburgers almost as much as I love to sew.

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At home, I laid out the pattern pieces for the front and back of the shirt. I cut out the neck and arm sections of the pattern according to my size, but slowly cut out at an angle on the side seams, meeting up with the next larger size on the pattern to accommodate my pear shape.



Although the pattern called for facing pieces for the neck and arm eyes, I ignored them.

I currently own a Janome Memory Craft 6500P and MyLock 634D serger. I love the lightning stitch on my sewing machine as it allows the fabric to give without breaking the threads in the seam. Another quick tip I learned a long time ago is to layer a strip of the selvedge into the shoulder seams. This provides support to the seam, eliminating the need to use elastic or seam tape.



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I also love how quick and easy it is to overcast my seams with my serger. Quick, boom, bam. However, when it came to the neckline, arm eyes and the hem of the shirt, it was time to utilize my latest acquisition. This is where the CoverPro 2000CPX came to the rescue and cemented my everlasting affection for it.

I folded over the 5/8" seam allowance of the neckline, which according to the pattern directions, should have been attached to a bulky facing piece. In my experience, these never lay right and are always flapping around inside of your garment, which is why I chose not to use facing. I placed the folded neckline, right sides up, under the foot of the 2000CPX and began sewing a 2-needle coverstitch in place. When I returned to the beginning of the circle, I tried a technique that one of my co-workers once showed me. I lifted up the presser foot, grabbed my tweezers and slid it between the presser foot and the fabric, grabbing the two need threads.



I pulled them out until I had a 3" loop of thread, cutting it at the halfway mark.



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Next, I grabbed the fabric near the neckline and gently pulled the shirt to the back of the machine.



Viola! The needle threads are pulled to the inside of the shirt and automatically ties a knot with the looper thread. It was too good to be true!

I repeated the same steps for the arm eyes and the hem and it worked every time. My shirt was done! From start to finish, only 1 hour and 15 minutes had passed. I put my new shirt on and it fit beautifully. My coverstitched hems are beautiful with plenty of give for a knit fabric, but without any ugly puckering.

Thank you CoverPro 2000CPX! I am excited about sewing clothes for myself again. I already have plans for making the next shirt variation that is included in my newly acquired pattern. I think I will try the binder attachment and see where that takes me.



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