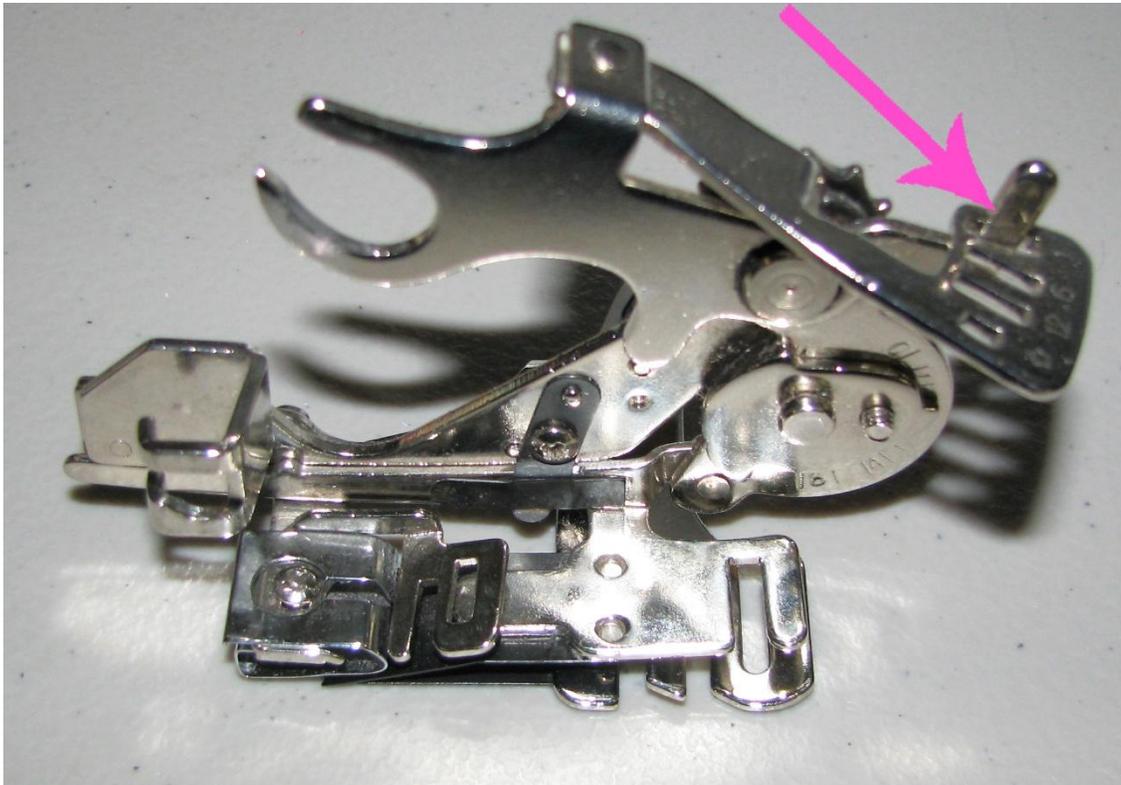


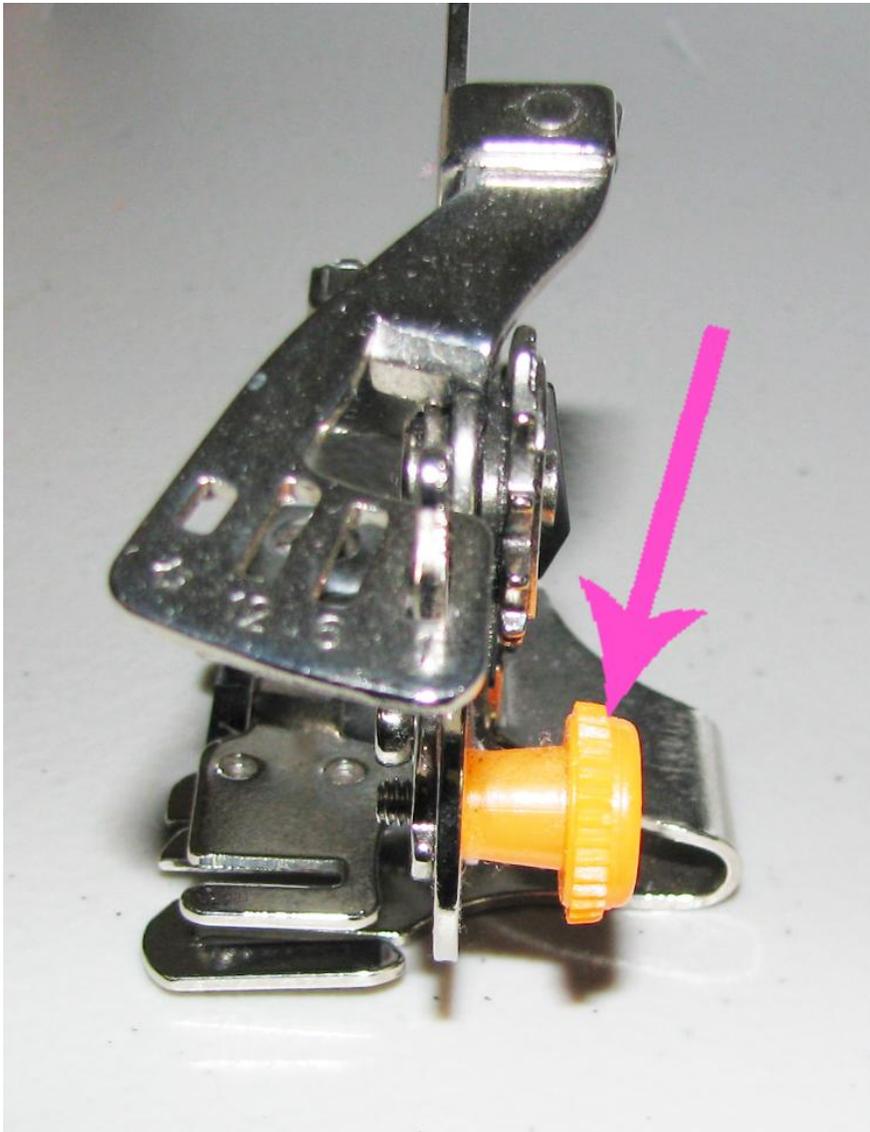
Get To Know Your Ruffler Foot

Ruffler feet take some time to get used to and figure out. The more you use it, the more you understand the way it works and the faster you will be on your way to being a ruffling professional! Pixiedustpatterns hopes this information will help you love your ruffle foot! Please remember this is just an example of a standard universal ruffle foot and may not be exactly like the one you own. This is not the only way to use a ruffle foot, this is simply our opinion on what works best for us. Please be sure you check with your machine shop or manual to ensure that your machine can use a ruffle foot safely!



The arrow points to a little lever that allows you to adjust how many stitches per

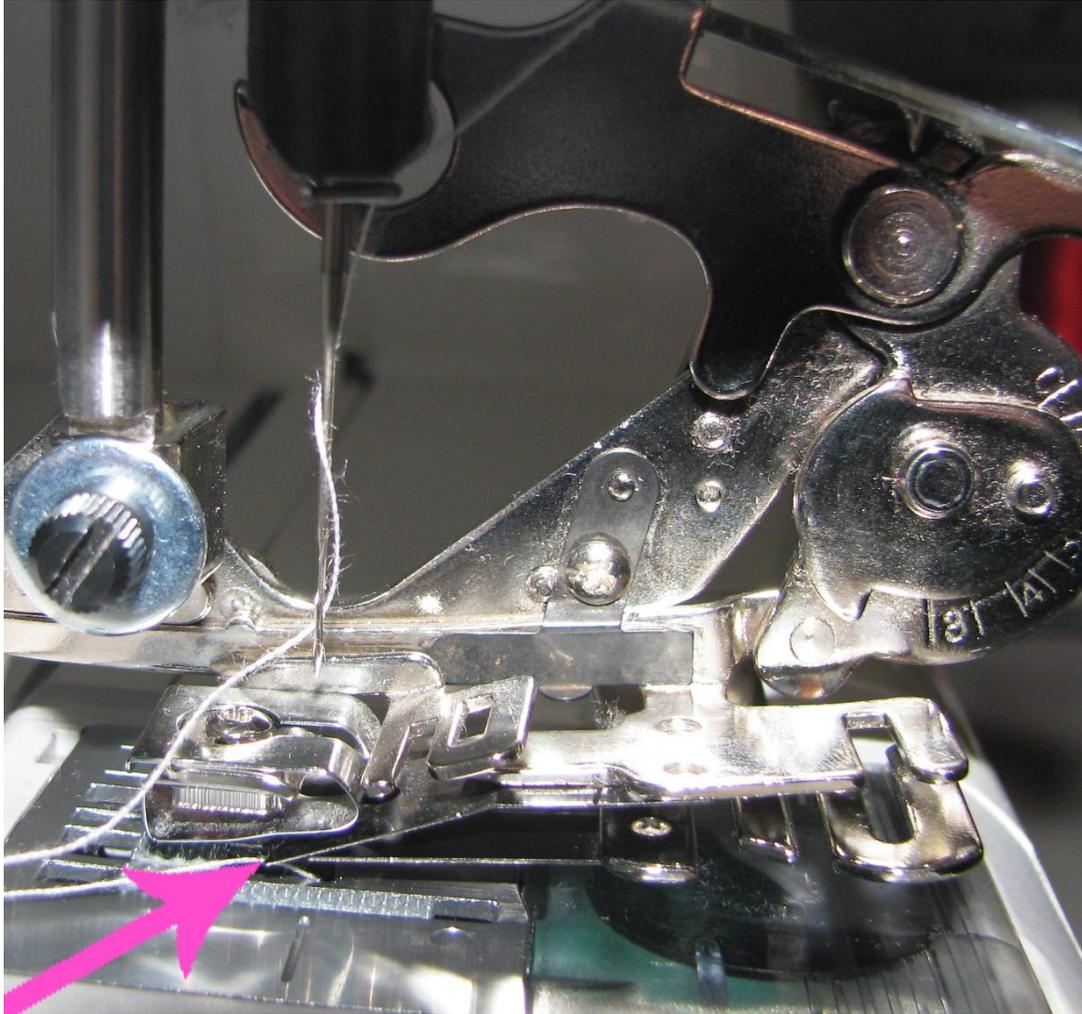
ruffle you would like. This ruffle foot has a hole for a 1, 6, and 12. The top piece of the ruffle foot lifts up so you can move it to have the lever in the space of the number you want and then snaps back down. If you put the lever in the spot marked 12, your machine will stitch 11 normal stitches, then on the 12th stitch, it will tuck the fabric under to make a ruffle, then sew 11 more regular stitches, then on the next stitch tuck the fabric under to make another ruffle and so on. I usually keep mine on the 1 mark so the machine will gather one little ruffle with every stitch.



This arrow points to the orangish-yellow thumb screw. This is a grooved big plastic screw that you can use your fingers to loose and tighten that will allow you to move the ruffle depth dial, which I will explain in the next step! It turns counter clockwise to unscrew and clockwise to tighten like standard screws or bolts.



This is the ruffle depth dial. This is what you can move once you loosen your orangish-yellow thumb screw. This ruffle foot has numbers from 0-5, the lower the number the less ruffled your fabric will be, the higher the number, the more ruffled your fabric will be. This number affects the depth of the ruffle. If you have it set to a 5, you get what I would call pleats instead of gathered little ruffles. If you have it set at a 1, you get little small gathered fabric. As you can see, mine is set at about $2 \frac{1}{2}$.



This arrow points to the little spring like metal piece that has tiny prongs on the end that scoops up the fabric as it sews so the needle will go through the gathered bit of fabric to stitch the ruffle in place. You want your fabric to go just under this little metal scooper so it will scrunch up your fabric as you sew, creating your ruffle.

Using your ruffle-

So you are probably wondering where your ruffle foot needs to be set and how to set your sewing machine so your ruffle ends up being the right length. That is a tough questions because there are so many variables, but hopefully this will help. Before you start sewing with your ruffle foot, there are a few things to do. First, if you are sewing a ruffle that has a folded over end, you might want to sew the ruffle ends together. For instance, say you are making a dress that has a ruffle across the front chest and the ruffle says to cut your piece 3" long and 20 inches wide, then fold your fabric in half so it looks 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and 20 inches wide, so your folded side will be the top of your ruffle so you do not need to have a hem on the end of your ruffle. I find the easiest way to make the ruffle perfect is to fold the fabric in half, then iron it flat, then sew a straight stitch along the very edge of the loose ends, just like $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the ends. Then, make sure before you start sewing with your ruffler foot that your needle is going down in the very center of the needle hole of the ruffle and that your machine is set on the straight stitch. I've had lots of broken needles because I still had my machine on the zig-zag stitch, and be careful because those needles can fly off pretty fast and get you in the face! So then you need to decide about where you need to set your ruffle foot and your stitch length on your machine. Consider the number dial on the side of your ruffle foot and remember the higher the number, the more gathered it makes it, the lower the number, the less gathered. So if you want it more like pleats, you can turn the ruffler all the way to the highest number, if you want little small gathers, you can turn it to like the 1 or 2 setting. But, it also depends on the length of the stitch on your machine. My mom has a low end machine that the longest stitch setting is only a 4, but she also

has a higher end machine that the longest stitch setting is a 5, and my machine goes to a 6. Now, what those numbers mean exactly, I have no idea, but the 6 on my machine is bigger than the 5 on her high end machine, and the 5 is bigger than the 4 on her low end machine, so i can only assume it goes in order and there is a set length and that number means something for all machines. So if your machine goes longer than average or shorter than average, that will make a bit of a difference in how much fabric you need to make your ruffle fit around your pants leg or skirt or whatever you are making. And to complicate it even more, the little springy thing on the bottom of the ruffler foot with the tiny prong like things that actually grabs the fabric as it ruffles, that thing will lose its springiness over time so the more you use the ruffler, the less ruffled it gets on the same number setting. Now, this takes a LONG time, like i turn my ruffler foot up a number every 3-6 months depending on how often i use it to keep it the same rufflness, and i use my ruffler constantly. To give you an idea, I bought a new ruffler foot about 6 months ago and i have my machine set at a 5 and my ruffler foot is set on the number 3 mark, and i usually cut my fabric about 1.75 times as long as what i am putting it on, assuming I am using standard medium weight quilting cotton. So if my pant leg is 12 inches around, i would cut my fabric for the ruffle to be about 20 inches. But, it also depends on how thick the fabric is. Just a standard weight cotton is most commonly used, but when i do something that is more like a thick canvas or a velvet or fleece or something like that, i turn the ruffler foot up to like a 4 and a half or 5 because it has a hard time squishing up the thicker fabrics. So basically, you play with it until you get to know your machine and your ruffler foot and the fabric. Hope this helps and you can always email us at pixies@pixidustpatterns.com if you have questions, we are happy to help!