

NARROW HEM WITH BAN-ROL

This little trick needs to be wider known. If you dig on the Internet you can find it in other tutorials. For a tiny hem (-1/8"), you can use the aid of **Ban-Rol**, also sometimes referred to as Ban Roll. It's a very sturdy starched interfacing used by tailors for stiffening waistbands in pant and skirts. It comes in various widths on continuous yardage. It's loosely woven, despite being stiff, so you can peel away the threads to create a "comb" that helps easily turn your fabric for hemming but will be pulled out after stitching.

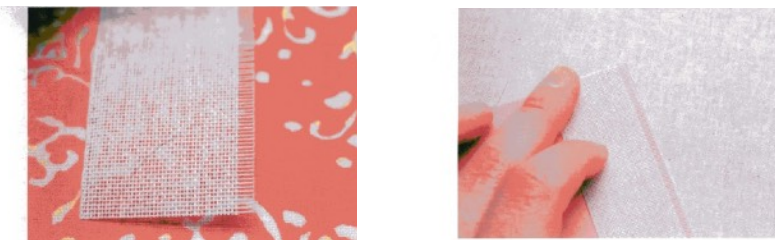
The great thing about this method is that the Ban-Rol is reusable so you can make one small investment to have a lifetime of beautiful tiny hems. You can find it in 50-yard packs on Amazon and Wawak, but there's no way you would ever need that much. They sell it by the single yard online at the [Sewing Place](#), [Crafter's Vision](#), [Londa's Creative Threads](#), and [B. Black and Sons](#). I'd recommend getting a few yards so you can create different "combs" for different hem widths, or just in case you ever have to hem a maxi-length circle skirt or something crazy.

1. Snip into one bound edge in order to get the first vertical thread free. From there, you can start pulling out the threads with your fingers. Keep pulling the single thread until you have a length that matches or slightly exceeds the circumference of your hem:

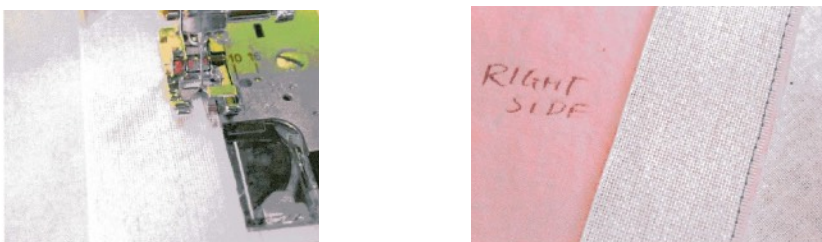


Keep going until you create a "comb" that is the width of the hem you would like to have. So, this would work for super teeny hems and heftier hems: I like 1/4".

2. Now align the edge of the comb with the **RIGHT SIDE** of the raw edge of your garment to be hemmed. If your fabric frays madly, move the ban-rol inward slightly to stay clear of the fray. Pin if you want, but I've found that the ban-rol doesn't really shift as long as you align it correctly as you sew.



3. Take it to the sewing machine, where you will stitch **JUST INSIDE** the inner edge of the comb part. You don't want your stitches to catch the still-woven part of the ban-rol. Remember the comb is pulled out of your stitches later, so you should only sew over the horizontal threads:



4. For fraying fabrics, trim the stray threads off now so they don't poke out of your hem later. Now gently flip the ban-rol all the way over to the wrong side of the fabric. This rolls the tiny hem for you without you having to measure all the way around or burn your fingers with the iron. For complete accuracy, you may want to press this part down so the hem is flattened first.



5. Stitch along the edge next to the ban-rol to secure the hem.



6. Now gently pull the ban-rol comb out of the stitches.



Perfectly minuscule hem you just made. And there's no double stitching to be seen:
Note that you **can** use ban-rol when hemming in the round. Just overlap it where the circular hem meets. The comb will pull out as usual.

Extra Tip. Remove strands of thread from the opposite side of the Ban roll for a different width of hem.