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In application, Q-Loop is introduced at the "make loop" operation. The film is inserted with the denim fabric into the belt loop folder. Generally, the only modification necessary here is to cut a slot at the back end of the belt loop folder in order to accommodate the entry of the Q-Loop film from under the table. Be sure that the Q-Loop roll turns freely and that the film and fabric travel freely through the folder. You should also check a section of sewn loop to be certain the Q-Loop is centered in the finished loop. (We generally recommend that the width of the Q-Loop be 1/8 inch or more wider than the width of the finished loop so that the film will cover the complete interior of the loop even if the film has some side to side movement.) If the belt loop fabric is sewn from strips of fabric that are table cut, it is necessary to overlap the splices from one strip to the next. An alternative would be to surge the strips into a continuous roll.

The belt loop chain resulting from the "make loop" operation must next be processed through a "fusing" or "melting" operation. In this operation, the Q-Loop film is completely melted into a liquid, penetrating the denim fabric and coating the actual fibers. In order to accomplish this, the interior of the belt loop should reach a temperature of between 290° and 300° F.

To determine whether you have reached the temperature required, you can use self adhesive temperature strips, which are available upon request. Apply one of the strips to the center of the back side of the belt loop fabric just prior to sewing. Be sure to leave the Q-Loop out of this section so that it will not interfere with your test. You should also "flag" this section so that it can be easily identified after sewing and heating. After heating, and upon inspection of the temperature strip, you will be able to observe the temperature that was reached inside the loop.

An alternative to temperature strips would be to remove the stitching from the belt loop after it has been heated and allowed to cool down. With the stitching removed you should be able to peel open the loop with minimal resistance. There will be no evidence of Q-Loop film in the loop other than a slight color change. THIS IS THE CONDITION YOU WANT in order to achieve maximum anti-fray characteristics. If proper temperatures were not attained in heating/fusing, the Q-Loop will act more like a glue between the fabric plies, and it will be very difficult to open the loop once the stitching is removed.

In melting the Q-Loop, steam does not activate the film, and therefore, is not necessary. "Small parts" belt fusers are capable of melting the film but they will require very long dwell times. Remember that it is more desirable to expose the loop to lower temperatures for longer periods of time in order to enable the heat to penetrate the loop interior. High temperatures with short dwell times tend to scorch thread or fabric.

QST has developed two machines specifically for melting Q-Loop. The model QLP-2 Q-Loop Processor will produce 45' to 50' per minute. The Model QLP-5 will produce 20' to 25' per minute.

I hope that this summary can get you started with your jeans samples using Q-Loop so that you can discover how effective Q-Loop is at eliminating fraying in your finishing process.

Please contact me with any questions that you may have.

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