

SUCCESS WITH YOUR Sewing Machine

Successful, stress-free sewing begins with correct machine operation. The eleven simple steps listed at right will create optimum operating conditions and help keep your sewing machine happily humming away—and you along with it!

Of course, in addition to these steps, the most basic necessity is a well-maintained sewing machine. Clean and oil your machine regularly as per your user's manual to ensure smooth, quiet operation. If you are unsure of how to do this, contact us; we'll be happy to show you how to perform a home-maintenance routine in between professional service visits.

want more helpful tips?

Look for more handy reference sheets at <https://www.sewtechcreate.ca>. Look in our Reference Library under our Resources tab...

STEPS TO OPERATING YOUR SEWING MACHINE LIKE A PRO

1. Always lift the presser foot and raise the take-up lever to its highest position before starting to thread your machine.
 - lifting the presser foot disengages the tension, allowing the thread to seat correctly in the tension discs
 - raising the take-up lever places it (and the needle) in the correct position for successful threading of the thread path and needle.
2. Use good-quality threads appropriately suited to your project. Inferior threads lack strength, consistency of thickness, and often release excessive lint/thread fibres, while inappropriate thread choices rarely returns the desired results.
3. Use the correct needle for your machine and project:
 - select the needle type (point) to suit your fabric
 - choose the needle size relative to the thread weight
 - ensure the needle is in good condition; replace it every 8 hours of stitching (or every few bobbins).
4. Use the correct bobbins for your machine; ensure they are in good condition (inspect regularly; discard if damaged). Make sure the bobbin thread is wound evenly with only one thread, and has no “pokies” or hanging tails.
5. More on the take-up lever: always start and stop sewing with the take-up in its home position.
 - starting with it up prevents the thread from being yanked backwards and unthreading needle
 - stopping with it up ensures completion of the stitch formation and allows the threads to release properly from the bobbin area.
6. Always pull the handwheel towards you, in the direction the machine runs it. Turning it backwards can cause jamming.
7. Use the correct presser foot for the stitch and application; presser feet are landscaped with great precision to facilitate stitch formation, stability, fabric guiding, and technique.
8. Direct your threads out to the side of the presser foot (not the back) when you start to sew. This way, when you lower the presser foot, it'll hold your threads for you.
9. Don't push or pull your fabric while sewing as this may deflect the needle, causing it to bend or break, which can damage your needle plate and hook. Let the feed dogs do their job; yours is to guide (steer) the fabric!
10. Avoid sewing over pins (same reasons as #9)!
11. Unthread your machine—don't pull the thread backwards. Or, clip it before the first thread guide and pull it out through the needle. The threading path is a one-way street!

Tip: newer, electronic machines often have pre-set needle up/down positions, which place the take-up lever “just right” for threading—at the simple touch of a button.

My Needle System:

Tip: again, newer sewing machines may offer on-screen presser foot recommendations based upon current stitch selection. While it's a good guide to follow, there will be the occasional exception to accommodate your technique, not just your stitch choice.