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1-1922

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M. Dolve

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Recommended Citation

Dolve, M., "Care of the Sewing Machine" (1922). *Extension Circulars*. Paper 64.
http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_circ/64

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CARE OF THE SEWING MACHINE

by

Azalea Linfield,
Extension Clothing Specialist

1. Care of Machine

A. Oiling

A sewing machine, like any other piece of machinery, needs oiling to insure easy running and to prevent unnecessary wear of the parts which bear on each other.

If a machine is used continuously it should be oiled everyday. With moderate use an occasional oiling is sufficient. One drop of oil at each place is plenty. More than this will retard rather than help the action of the machine. If the machine runs hard it is due to lack of proper oiling of some bearings. Should the machine become gummed from long standing or poor oil, apply kerosene to all the bearings to remove the gum, then run the machine rapidly, wipe clean and oil thoroughly with good sewing machine oil before beginning to sew.

B. Running the Machine

A uniform motion is necessary to secure best results. If you are not accustomed to running a sewing machine, practice as follows: First raise the pressure foot, then remove the shuttle, replacing the shuttle slide; loosen the hand wheel; place your feet on the treadle, with the instep directly over the center, and turn the hand wheel (either backward or forward as the case may be), allowing the feet to move up and down on the rocking treadle with the motion produced. Continue this motion by pressing on the treadle, first with the heel, then with the toes, until an easy and steady motion is obtained. After becoming familiar with the treadle movement in this way connect the hand wheel with the machine.

When you are able to operate the treadle with a steady motion put a piece of cloth between the feed and pressure foot, bring the pressure foot down and operate the machine without threading it up, until you have learned to guide the material and make a straight seam. Do not attempt to do any sewing until you are able to run the machine by the treadle and accustomed to starting the machine readily without turning the wheel in the wrong direction.

TO PREPARE FOR SEWING

Before commencing to sew, raise the pressure foot and take hold of the needle thread, leaving it slack from the end of the needle. Turn the balance wheel until the needle moves down and up again to its highest point. The needle thread has then been wound around the under thread, which can be drawn up through the hole in the throat plate by the needle thread, and both should then be laid back under the pressure foot.

The best results are obtained when both the upper and lower threads are the same size and quality.

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics. W. F. Kumlien,
Director.

Distributed in furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

To Turn a Corner: Stop the machine while the needle is rising, but before it is out of the material, raise the pressure foot and turn the corner, using the needle as a pivot.

To Avoid Breaking Needles: When a needle is broken it is in nearly every case, the fault of the operator, caused by hitting the work so that needle strikes the throat plate. A needle may also be broken by sewing heavy seams or very thick goods without having the pressure on the pressure foot as heavy as it should be for such work.

Breaking the Upper Thread: This may be caused by improper threading of the machine; the upper tension being too tight; the needle being too small for the thread; the needle being set the wrong side out or set crooked; or by a sharp edge on the shuttles; or the needle rubbing against the pressure foot.

Breaking the Lower Thread: This may be caused by the shuttle being wrongly threaded, the tension being too tight; the bobbin being wound too full so it will not revolve freely; a rough or sharp place in the edge of the shuttle.

Causes of Machine Skipping Stitches: Should there at any time be skipped or long stitches at intervals, it is owing to the needle being set too low, or its having been bent away from the shuttle; or its being too small for the thread in use. Never use a needle with the point blunted or turned over.

THE BELT

If the belt is too tight the effect is to make the machine run heavy. If the belt is too loose remove one end of the hook, cut off a piece and connect the belt. Keep the belt as free from oil as possible, because oil will cause the belt to rot.

SIZES OF NEEDLES AND THREAD

Size of needle	Class of Work to Sew	Size of Cotton or Silk
0	:Very thin muslins, cambrics, lincos	100 cotton 50 silk twist
B	:Very fine calicoes, silks, linens, shertings, : fine silk goods	80 - 100 cotton silk twist
1/2	Shirtings, Sheerings, Bleached calicoes, mus- : lins, silk, general domestic goods, all : classes of general work	60 - 80 cotton A & B silk twist
1	:All kinds of heavy calicoes, light woollen : goods, heavy silk	40 - 60 cotton C silk twist
2	:Tickings, woollen goods, trousers, cloaks, : boys clothing	30 - 40 cotton D silk