SEWING 1 SAFETY

This guide briefly highlights equipment and protocol covered in Sewing 1 Safety and Sewing Foundations. For a more thorough review of each machine, refer to the Textiles Safety Manual located on the door to the shop.

As in all of the shops, sturdy, close-toed shoes must be worn at all times for traction and stability, and to protect your feet. Long hair, jewelry, and loose clothing must be tied back to prevent getting caught in moving parts.

OPERATING THE LOCKSTITCH SEWING MACHINE

The Lockstitch machine is used for straight stitches in medium to light-weight fabric. Specialty feet can also be attached to sew piping, zippers, and shirring. Take your foot off the “drive” pedal when turning the machine on, threading, installing the bobbin, or changing a needle or foot. The Lockstitch takes DBX1 Needles.

- Never sew without material under the needle.
- Make sure top thread and bobbin thread are the same type and tension is adjusted accordingly.
- Only use Lockstitch-designated needles and thread. The scarf, or curve in the needle should face right when installed.
- Always thread left to right.
- Always hold thread tails when you start a stitch.
- Only turn the hand wheel towards you, never away.

Lockstitch Controls

- The switch on the table edge turns on the machine and the overhead lamp.
- The foot pedal under the table is used to “drive”. Release pedal to stop the machine.
- To lift and lower the foot, use the knee pedal located under the table, or the lever on the back of the machine.

Winding The Bobbin

1. Thread through loop and wrap under tension disc.
2. Fit the spool onto the bobbin winder and wrap thread end 5 times UNDER and then around spool.
3. Take the thread running between the bobbin and the tension disc. Pull it OVER and wrap around the bobbin spool in the opposite direction from before, 5 times. Do not pull thread end through the holes.
4. Trim the thread as closely as possible.

OPERATING THE WALKINGFOOT SEWING MACHINE

The Walkingfoot machine is used for straight stitches in thick or heavyweight fabric using thick nylon thread. The Walkingfoot runs at a lower speed and requires the DPx17 Needle. The threading and bobbin winding are slightly different on this machine, but all the same guidelines for operation apply as for the Lockstitch.

Winding The Bobbin

1. Fit the spool onto the bobbin winder and push down lever A to engage.
2. With the clutch engaged, pull the thread under the bobbin, and wrap the thread around it 5 times, clockwise. Hold onto the “tail” of the thread with your left hand.
3. With your right hand, take the thread between the bobbin and the spool holder and pull the thread OVER the bobbin and around 5 times, counter clockwise.
4. Engage the clutch and trim your thread as closely as possible.
OPERATING THE SERGER MACHINE

The Serger machine is used for finishing edges of material and seams. The interwoven whipstitch has some give, so it is especially useful for stretchy fabrics such as knits, cotton blends, and spandex. The Serger machine uses cotton poly thread only, with DCx27 Needles.

- Press the RIGHT foot pedal to raise the foot.
- Place the fabric just under the foot and position so the edge to be trimmed is aligned with the knife.
- Release foot pedal to secure fabric under foot.
- Gently press the LEFT foot pedal to begin serging.
- Continue serging off the edge of the fabric leaving about 4-5” of tail.
- Trim thread close to the edge of the fabric.

Rethreading and installing new needles in this machine is a complex process. To avoid damage to the machine and injury to yourself, please ask a technician for assistance if you need these changes.

OPERATING THE COVER STITCH MACHINE

The Cover Stitch machine is used to sew knit hems and chainstitching. It is versatile and creates a clean, finished hem. It is used for knits, spandex, and lighter, delicate fabrics. The Coverstitch uses wooly nylon thread only, with UY 128 GAS Needles. You can add or remove thread, up to 5 threads.

- Press the RIGHT foot pedal to raise the foot.
- Place the fabric just under the foot and position using the edge of the foot as a guide.
- Release foot pedal to secure fabric under foot.
- Gently press the LEFT foot pedal to begin stitching.
- Continue sewing off the edge of the fabric leaving about 4-5” of tail.
- Trim thread close to the edge of the fabric.

FEET

The Lockstitch has specialty feet for different sewing operations. Only the standard foot has a finger guard, so use caution when sewing with specialty feet - never place fingers under the needle. Use a small, flat head screwdriver to loosen the screw that clamps the foot behind the needle.

- Standard foot: The default foot on the Lockstitch machines.
- Standard Zipper Foot: For basic, visible zippers.
- Invisible Zipper Foot: Used for attaching invisible zippers. Make sure to thread through the holes in the top of the foot.
- Cording foot: Used for creating piping along seams. There are Left and Right feet depending on the side you are stitching on.
- Shirring foot: Used for gathering fabric. Adjust the stitch length to change the amount of gather.