

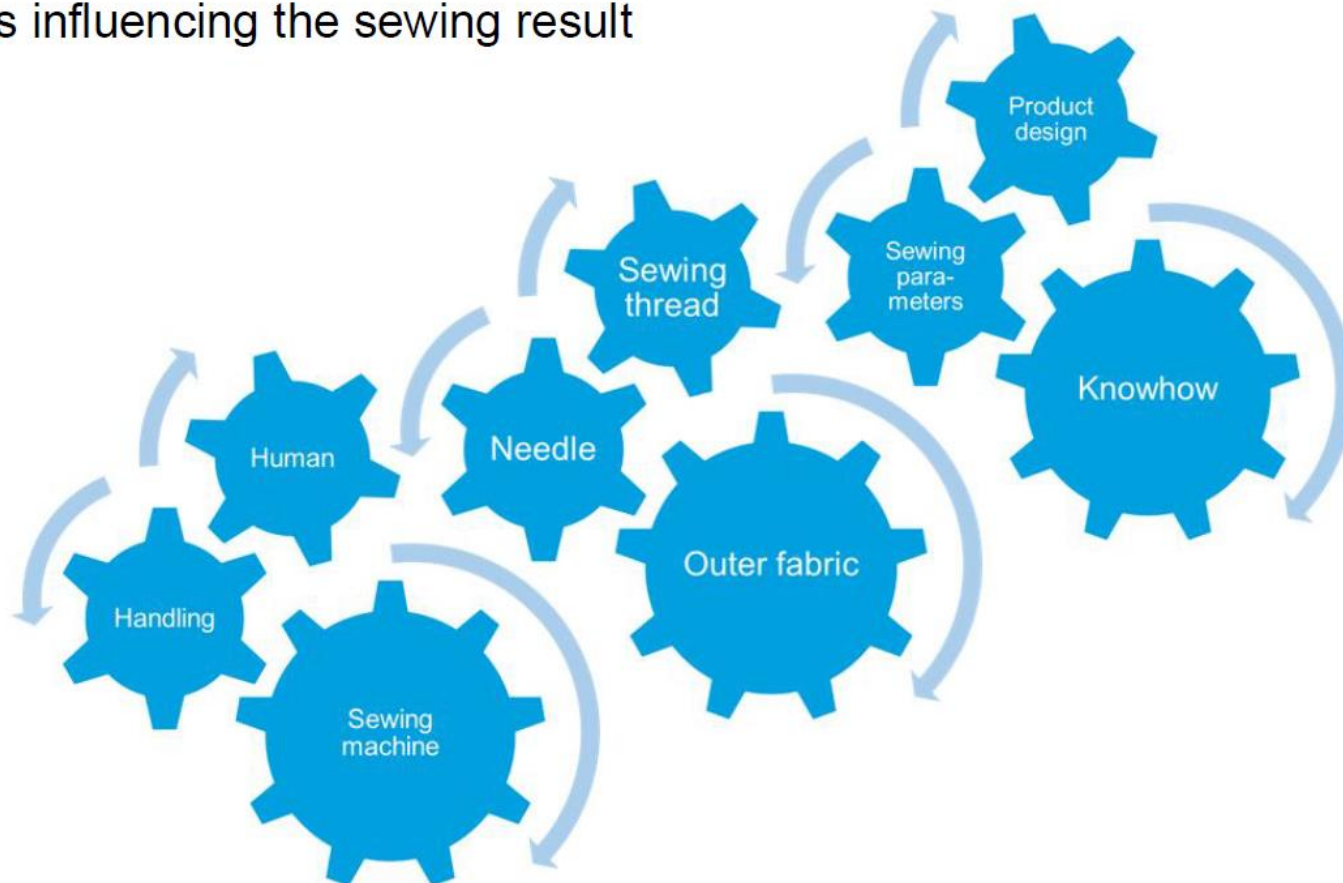
The Right Thread for every Sewing Project

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Factors influencing the sewing result



So many threads... so many colors

☐ **Thread Types:** *fiber composition*

- Polyester, Cotton, Rayon, Silk

☐ **Thread Weight**

- Various systems (Weight, Denier, Tex, etc.)

☐ **When threads tug at each other:** Balancing the stitch

- Matched threads
vs.
• Mixed threads



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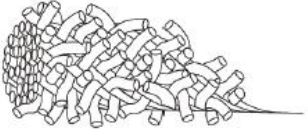
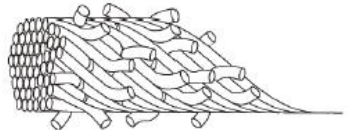
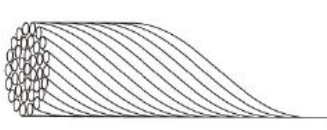





Raw material comparison

	NATURAL FIBRES	CHEMICAL FIBRES
Raw material	Cotton	Polyester
Appearance	matt gloss	Individually possible via filament profile, fibre/staple length etc.
Breaking strength	-	+
Elongation	-	+
Abrasion resistance	-	+
Dyeability	++	+ (High pressure dyeing: 4 bar, 135°C)
Colour fastness	-	++
Light fastness	-	++
Melting point	approx. 320°C (Self-ignition temperature)	approx. 256°C
Resistance to chemicals	-	Acid resistance is okay



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Thread types

	Spun thread	Core spun thread	Continuous filament	Continuous filament, texturised
Construction				
Appearance	textile, matt, very hairy	textile, matt, light hairy	smooth, glossy	open, bulgy
				
Breaking strength	-	+	++	-
Elasticity	+	+	++	+++
Abrasion resistance	-	+	++	-
Mettler products	SILK-FINISH COTTON, AMANDA	SERALON®, EXTRA STRONG, DENIM DOC, SERACOR, BOBBINETTE	POLY SHEEN®, POLY GLOW, SERALENE	SERAFLOCK

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Metrosene

ISACORD



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Thread types

	Monofilament	Wrapped yarn
Construction		
Appearance	hardly visible, stiff	decorative, metallic glossy
		
Breaking strength	-	-
Elasticity	+	+
Abrasion resistance	-	-
Mettler products	TRANSFIL	METALLIC

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Thread Weight... a heavy topic!

More than one system:

→ **Weight**: length of thread needed to weigh 1 kg (2.2 lbs).

e.g.:

- **50 wt** thread means **50 km** (~30 miles) of thread to weigh 1 kg.
so the thread from ~ **333 spools** of **50 wt silk finish** would weigh 1 kg
- **60 wt** thread: 60 km to weigh 1 kg (20% more thread / weight)

→ **Metric Count - Nm** (e.g. Mettler) **≠** Weight

- How many meters of threads weigh 1g. E.g.:
 - Nm 40: 40 m (~ 43.75 yards) of thread weigh 1g (0.035 oz)
 - Nm 100: 100 m of thread per gram (finer thread)
- Smaller number → heavier thread

→ **Tex**: weight (in grams) of 1000 m (1 km ~ 0.6 mile) of thread

→ **Denier**: how many grams thread weighs per 9,000 meters (9 km/5.6 miles)



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The direct method of comparing thread weights

→ **Visual** test: Side by side

→ **Feel** test: Slide between thumb and index fingers

TIP: use your fingernails to assess slubbiness

→ **Pull** test: Pull until breaking point (strength)

TIP: 3-ply thread will be stronger than 2-ply of the same weight



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When threads tug at each other: Balancing the stitch

→ **Needle** Thread vs. **Bobbin** Thread

Matching threads:

- Basic sewing
- Quilt Piecing

Matching vs. Different threads:

- Quilting stitch
- Embroidery (Polyester, metallic)
- Decorative stitching

→ ***Don't forget the needle!***

- Needle first
- Tension second (needle and bobbin)

→ There's only one way to know: **TEST!**



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Machine Tips

- **Select the right needle first** (Type / Size)
- **Avoid jack rabbit starts**
- **Use** a high-tension bobbin case for applications with lightweight bobbin thread (e.g. Bobbinette, Bottom Line, etc.)
 - Thread the **bobbin case finger** on **CB hook models**
 - Use the **Piggy Tail (gold latch) bobbin case** on **artista** and **rotary hook models**
 - Use the **High Thread Tension Bobbin Case** on new **4, 5 and 7 Series** models
 - **Increase bobbin thread tension** with the multi-purpose tool on **8 Series** models
- **Use a Multiple-Spool holder** for **easier threading** and **best thread delivery**
- **Save your stitch** with any adjustments to fit the threads used **in memory** for **future use**



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Threading tips

- **Cross-wound** thread spools should be mounted **horizontally**
TIP: use a spool mesh to help regulate difficult threads (e.g. metallic)
- **Stacked** threads spools should be mounted **vertically**
TIP: use a pad under the spool to promote smooth, even rotation
- Use a **thread stand** for **larger cones**
- **Always (Always!)** have the **presser foot in the UP position** when you start threading your machine.
TIP: you can lower the presser foot once the thread passes between the tension disks (use your Free Hand System) and verify that you have effective thread tension. This will make the rest of the threading process, down to and through the needle, easier
- For **extra heavy decorative threads:** use your **Overlocker!**
Heavy threads (e.g 12 wt) behave much better in a looper.



Thread Storage

- **BEST: Cool / Dry / Dark** storage (e.g. drawer)
- Especially important for natural fiber threads (cotton, silk, rayon)
- NOTE: beware of dust accumulating on thread stored in the open.



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In summary

- **Thread is fundamental** to the structure of your projects (quality)
- **Thread is like candy** for your creativity
- **Thread Play** is the keyword
- A thread may be **labeled for** a specific application (e.g. embroidery) but is **not limited to** a single application (e.g. hemming jeans with embroidery thread)
- **Always test first** with a new thread (or combination)
- **Save the stitch** with the settings that fit the threads) in your machine's long-term memory for future use



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