

SERGER SENSE

Hints & Tips

TYING ON NEW THREADS

1. Turn all tension dials to 0. EXCEPTION: Those machines that have automatic tension release levers, or those which have automatic tension release when presser foot is lifted.
2. Cut threads above thread cones. Remove old thread cones. Replace with new thread cones, and tie new thread onto old.
3. Clip the needle thread/threads above the eye of the needle/ needles. Pull gently until new thread appears. Cut off old thread above knots. Keep these threads in front of machine.
4. Raise the presser foot and pull on old chain until new colors appear.
5. Rethread the needle/needles.
6. TURN TENSIONS BACK TO NORMAL and lower presser foot.
7. Serge a chain, then try stitch on a scrap of fabric. If no chain appears, you will need to check threading to make sure no thread has broken.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

THE SERGER MUST BE THREADED IN A PARTICULAR ORDER:

- 1) Upper Looper
- 2) Lower Looper
- 3) Needle – Needle (It doesn't matter which needle is threaded first.)

TWO MAJOR THREADING NECESSITIES:

- 1) The lower looper thread must pass over the upper looper thread and looper.
- 2) ALL THREADS must be "above board"...there should not be any needle threads going down into the throat plate.

ONE NEEDLE SITS HIGHER THAN THE OTHER.

Take a look at the distance between the two needles. When inserting a needle, be sure to insert the shaft as high up as it will go.

STITCH DEFINITIONS

BALANCED STITCH -- "Normal" stitch for serging seams

- ☐ Upper & lower looper threads meet on the outside edge of the seam.
- ☐ Needle threads are visible as straight lines on the top side of the seam.
- ☐ Needle threads appear as only tiny dots on the back side of the seam.

ROLLED HEM STITCH -- "Napkin Edge"

- ☐ Use attachment, switch, foot, or throat plate for rolled hemming.
- ☐ Use only one needle – the right needle is traditionally used.
- ☐ The stitch is very narrow.
- ☐ Upper looper is only thread visible and wraps from front side completely to back. This is the only place that the decorative (primarily woolly nylon) will be used.
- ☐ **TENSION ADJUSTMENTS:**
 - o Needle: Normal
 - o Upper Looper: Normal if using regular thread / Looser if using woolly nylon
 - o Lower Looper: Very Tight

FLATLOCK STITCH -- Primarily used for decoration

Using left needle gives wide stitch. Using right needle makes narrower stitch.

Sewn with wrong sides together, and seams are then pulled apart.

TENSION ADJUSTMENTS:

- o Needle: Very loose
- o Upper Looper: Normal for regular thread
Loose for decorative thread
- o Lower Looper: Very Tight

REVERSIBLE EDGE BINDING -- Used to simulate seam binding – front and back will look the same. Most often used as edge finish, particularly on blankets and home dec items.

- ☐ Fabric must be somewhat firm to keep fabric from rolling.
- ☐ Use only 1 needle -- usually the right.
- ☐ **TENSION ADJUSTMENTS:**
 - o Needle: Normal
 - o Upper Looper: Normal for regular thread / Loose for decorative thread
 - o Lower Looper: Very Tight

TO TIGHTEN TENSIONS:

Turn dial to the right (Righty-Tighty)
Turn dial to a larger number
OR Turn to the (+) setting (the higher the #, the tighter the tension)

TO LOOSEN TENSIONS:

Turn dial to the left (Lefty-Loosey)
Turn dial to a smaller number
OR Turn to the (-) setting (the lower the #, the looser the tension)

SO, THIS IS NORMAL?!

Fill out these pages and keep it handy, "just in case!"

MAKE AND MODEL OF SERGER:

TENSION SETTINGS:

	(Knob Color or color on tension dial)	Number on Dial
LEFT NEEDLE		
RIGHT NEEDLE		
UPPER LOOPER		
LOWER LOOPER		

✂ Perhaps the most critical adjustment when doing garment sewing is the adjustment for the left needle tension. This is the thread that will show from the right side of the garment. If you can see too much thread (ladders) from the right side of the garment, you will need to tighten the left needle tension.

✂ The right needle thread will not show from the right side of the garment when a 4-thread stitch is used, so the color and tension settings are not as critical as the left needle. However, if you are using the right needle as the only needle (as in a 3-thread stitch), then the right needle tension setting and color do become important.

CUTTING WIDTH:

LOCATION	CURRENT #	TO WIDEN CUTTING WIDTH	TO NARROW CUTTING WIDTH
		<input type="checkbox"/> Move blade to the right. <input type="checkbox"/> Change to a higher number.	<input type="checkbox"/> Move the blade to the left. <input type="checkbox"/> Change to a lower number

✂ If stitches are hanging off the edge of the fabric, change to a higher number (move the blade to the right).

✂ If fabric is "curling" or "rolling" inside the stitch, change to a lower number (move the blade to the left).

DIFFERENTIAL FEED:

LOCATION	NORMAL #	TO PREVENT PUCKERING	TO PREVENT STRETCHING
		<input type="checkbox"/> Change to a number that is less than "1". or <input type="checkbox"/> Move the lever to the "stretchy" picture. (on some machines)	<input type="checkbox"/> Change to a number that is greater than "1". or <input type="checkbox"/> Move the lever to the "squishy" picture. (on some machines)

WHEN WILL I USE THIS?

- 1) When your fabric is either puckering or stretching out of shape.
- 2) When you want to gather or to "lettuce leaf".

To correct puckering: Set differential feed toward the 0.7 setting.

To correct stretching out of shape: Set differential feed toward the 2.0 setting

STITCH LENGTH:

NORMAL NUMBER	LOCATION	TO LENGTHEN THE STITCH	TO SHORTEN THE STITCH
		<input type="checkbox"/> Change to a higher number.	<input type="checkbox"/> Change to a smaller number.

Stitch Length affects the appearance and durability of a seam. You will use a 2.5 stitch length for most garment sewing.

Your machine can be adjusted for a number of different stitch lengths, generally between the numbers of 1 to 4 or 1 to 5.

- The smaller the number, the closer together the stitches will be.
- The larger the number, the further apart the stitches will be.
- Shorter is not necessarily better, and may even weaken the seam line if fabric is sheer or of a delicate nature.
- If fabric is stretching out of shape, LENGTHEN THE STITCH LENGTH.
- If fabric is puckering under the needle, SHORTEN THE STITCH LENGTH.

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