

Fault finding - Checklist

Domestic Sewing Machine

- If you can, always operationally check the machine and stitch - making sure the bobbin winder is not engaged during this process and looking for the following:
 - Missing stitches
 - unbalance tension
 - Breaking thread
 - Chewing up material
- Check the machine is threaded properly ensuring the thread is situated in all the correct guides.

TIP: When threading up a machine make sure the presser foot is up, this will open the tension discs allowing the thread to be positioned correctly between them.
- Make sure the machine has:
 - The correct size of bobbin,
 - Is situated in the bobbin carrier properly
 - Thread is engaged in the carrier spring
- Deciding on changing the needle – change if any of the following is present:
 - If there are any rags in the end
 - The needle is not the correct one for the machine
 - It is not in the correct way
 - The needle is bent
- Check the sewing foot for any rags or burrs and buff smooth
- Needle Plate:
 - Check the needle plate for any burrs or gouges (these can be buffed out using a fine grade emery paper or needle file)
 - Ensure the needle plate is not bent.
- Check the hook for any rags
- For an oscillating shuttle check the racer spring for any dints or rags.
- SEWING PEDAL / SPEED CONTROLLERS:**
 - Check that there is a smooth operation when using (making sure it is not sticking)
 - Most common issues include:
 - capacitor is gone or
 - the circuit board is gone

TIPS:

- Make sure you do a deep clean ensuring all fluff and trapped threads are removed
- If the timing is out always adjust the needle bar height first
- If the distance between the needle and hook is too big adjust using the needle positioning screw at the back of the machine.

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Overlocker

- If able, operationally check the machine
- Remove all threads
- Re thread using colour coordinated threads that match the tension gauge colour (this helps when balancing the tensions)
- When re threading make sure the presser foot is raised
- Once the threads are engaged properly in between the tension discs it can be lowered.
- TIP:** Make sure when threading up an overlocker always thread the needle last this ensures they don't get trapped behind the lower looper thread
- Ensure the threads are all engaged in the correct thread guides.
- Check the needles:
 - are the correct ones for the machine
 - check they are not bent
 - have no rags
 - are in the correct way
- Check the needle plate for any:
 - rags
 - burrs
 - bends
 - missing pins
- Check the sewing foot for any rags or burrs and smooth out
- Check the looper for any rags
- Check looper to needle relationship operation
- Check the needle guide is in front of the needle and not behind
- Make sure you do a deep clean ensuring all fluff and trapped threads are removed

OILING YOUR MACHINE

- Do NOT over oil a machine - 1 drop is enough!
- Use a silicon-based grease compatible with nylon gears.
- NEVER use WD40 on a sewing machine as this can melt any rubber parts ie- the bobbin winder ring.