

Skills for Living

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Topic 21-3

Sewing Equipment

- In this topic, you will learn how to use sewing equipment, as well as
 - ❖ **Small equipment**
 - ❖ **The sewing machine**
 - ❖ **The serger**
 - ❖ **Safety with sewing tools**

Sewing Equipment

Objectives for Topic 21-3

After studying this topic, you will be able to

- determine the basic sewing supplies
- describe how to operate and care for a sewing machine
- list the uses of a serger

Topic 21-3 Terms

❖ lockstitch

❖ bobbin

❖ presser foot

❖ feed dogs

❖ thread-tension
regulator

❖ serger

❖ looper

Small Equipment

- You will need several types of small sewing equipment
 - ❖ sewing box
 - ❖ measuring tools
 - ❖ cutting tools
 - ❖ marking tools
 - ❖ pins and needles
 - ❖ pressing equipment

Measuring Tools

- Measuring tools are essential for taking measurements
 - ❖ tape measure
 - ❖ sewing gauge



Cutting Tools

- Having good-quality, sharp shears and scissors is very important in sewing
 - ❖ dressmaker shears
 - ❖ scissors
 - ❖ rotary cutter
 - ❖ seam ripper
 - ❖ pinking shears

Marking Tools

- Marking tools are used to transfer pattern markings to fabric
 - ❖ tracing wheels
 - ❖ tracing paper
 - ❖ tailor's chalk
 - ❖ tailor's pencil

Pins and Needles

- *Dressmaker pins* hold garment pieces in place
- *Needles* are used to bring the thread through the fabric
- *Pincushions* hold pins and needles when not in use
- *Thimbles* are used when sewing by hand



Pressing Equipment



- Pressing is as important as stitching
- Several pieces of sewing equipment are recommended
 - ❖ iron
 - ❖ pressing cloth
 - ❖ ironing board
 - ❖ tailor's ham

The Sewing Machine

- There are many brands, but all operate basically the same



How a Sewing Machine Works

- The *lockstitch* uses thread from both the upper and lower part of the sewing machine, locking the threads in the middle of the fabric layers
- The *bobbin* is a small spool that feeds the lower thread
- The *presser foot* holds fabric in place
- The *feed dogs* are two small rows of teeth that move the fabric forward
- The *thread-tension regulator* balances the tension between the upper and lower threads

Threading the Machine

- Different models thread differently
 - ❖ A diagram in your owner's manual will show how to thread your machine
- Both the upper and lower parts of the machine must be threaded
 - ❖ If the bobbin thread is not brought up through the needle hole, a knot will form

Types of Stitches

- Almost all sewing machines make two basic types of stitches
 - ❖ A *straight stitch* is a lockstitch that holds fabric layers together
 - ❖ A *zigzag stitch* is a sideways stitch, often used to prevent seam edges from raveling

Caring for the Machine

- Your owner's manual will have step-by-step directions
- Lint gathers from routine sewing and must be removed with a soft cloth or small brush
- Oil is regularly needed, but must be wiped away to prevent soiling the good fabric
 - ❖ Sew a few stitches on a fabric scrap to remove any unseen oil

Did You Know...

- In 1755, American Charles T. Wiesenthal designed and patented a double-pointed needle to eliminate the need for turning the needle around with each stitch
- In 1830, Barthelemy Thimonnier of France used the double-pointed needle as the basis for the first sewing machine put to practical use
- In 1846, Elias Howe patented the lockstitch sewing machine

The Serger

- *Sergers* are high-speed sewing machines that can stitch, trim, and finish seams in one simple step
 - ❖ Instead of bobbins, sergers have upper and lower *loopers*
 - Needle threads intertwine with looper threads to form stitches

Safety with Sewing Tools

- Certain precautions should always be followed to keep the sewing area safe
 - ❖ Read all instructions before using any tool
 - ❖ Use each tool only for its intended purpose
 - ❖ Never leave tools unattended
 - ❖ Supervise any children or pets in the area

Summary for Topic 21-3

- Basic equipment needed for sewing includes
 - ❖ measuring, cutting, and marking tools
 - ❖ pins, needles, and pressing equipment
- The sewing machine is the most complex and most important piece of sewing equipment
- Giving the sewing machine proper care will keep it running well