

Fixing Sewing Maching Problems



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I'm noticing several people commenting that they're having trouble with their sewing machines. Stitches looking wonky. Loose stitches. Skipping Stiches. Etc. I used to own a fabric store, taught sewing for years and did custom sewing for about 30 years. May I share some advice?

99% of stitching problems can be easily fixed.

1st - take both the spool of thread and bobbin thread completely out of the machine. Rethread both of them. Check your manual or online info to make sure you're doing it correctly. Putting something the opposite way through a loop or missing one of those little spots can be a Big Deal. Your bobbin needs to be going clockwise or counterclockwise - depending on the brand of your machine. It Makes A

Difference... 😊 Make sure your thread is pulled between the upper tension discs and not sitting on top of them. And use good quality thread. If you have old no name thread from Grandma's sewing box, if any of your thread is on wooden spools (yes, those spools are cool but that thread is not!), if you paid \$1 a spool (or less!) - it is NOT quality thread and will just be a pain in the neck to use. And it will make more fuzz and lint inside your machine. Just don't. Please.

2nd - change your machine needle. So many people say 'why should I do that? I've used the same needle for years?!' Well - that's exactly why you should change your machine needle. The companies that manufacture and sell sewing machine needles recommend changing them for every single project. Of course that would be ridiculous when making these masks. And, that really is more often than needed. However, a needle is NOT supposed to last for forever. It is meant to wear out and need changing periodically. If you've sewn over a pin accidentally - you've probably barbed the end of your needle. If you feel anything rough on the end of the needle - it needs to be changed. And when you put the new needle in, be sure you put it in correctly. It needs to be pushed up all of the way into the fitting before being tightened and it needs to be put in the correct direction. Some machines thread front to back.

Others thread left to right. It matters... 😊 Quality machine needles are also important. I really prefer Schmetz brand for any machine. UNLESS you're using a Singer sewing machine and then for some reason, Singer needles really do seem to work better.

Also - if you haven't cleaned out the lint in your machine ever - or in a long time - please take a few minutes to do that. Do NOT try to service, clean and oil your entire machine unless you really know what you are doing. But cleaning out the lint under the throatplate and in the bobbin area is totally safe to DIY. A good reliable shop that will maintain your machine is a great find! And interestingly, if you use your machine consistently - you'll probably need to service it less often than if you only drag it out once a year or so... 😊