



Checklist

How to Choose Your Perfect Quilting Machine

Use this guide at home to define your needs and take it with you to the store to test models.

Part 1: Assess Your Needs (At Home)

- **My Primary Goal:**
 - Learning to quilt (beginner)
 - Upgrading my current machine
 - Professional use / quilting for others
- **Project Size:** What is the largest quilt size I realistically plan to make?
 - Baby Quilts / Wall Hangings (up to 45" wide)
 - Lap / Throw Quilts (up to 60" wide)
 - Bed Quilts (Full, Queen, King - 80"+ wide)
- **Types of Quilting:** What techniques am I most interested in?
 - Straight-line quilting
 - Free-motion quilting
 - Ruler work
- **My Budget:**
 - My comfortable maximum spending limit is: _____

Part 2: Key Machine Features (In-Store Testing)

For each machine you test, check the following:

Model Name: _____

- **Workspace & Size:**
 - **Throat Space:** Measure from the needle to the inside of the machine. Is it adequate for my planned projects? (Record the measurement: ____ inches)
 - **Extension Table:** Is one included or available?
- **Core Functions:**



- **Needle Up/Down Button:** Does it have one? (Crucial for pivoting)
- **Speed Control Slider:** Can I set a maximum speed?
- **Thread Cutter:** Is it automatic? (Button or foot pedal activated)
- **Knee Lift:** Is one included and does it feel comfortable to use?
- **Stitching Power & Quality:**
 - **Test Stitching:** Sew through a "quilt sandwich" (2 layers of cotton with batting).
 - **Piercing Power:** Does the motor sound strong or does it struggle?
 - **Stitch Quality:** Are the stitches even and consistent? (Check top and bottom)
- **Free-Motion Quilting (if applicable):**
 - **Feed Dogs:** Can they be easily lowered?
 - **Stitch Regulator:** Is one included or available? How does it feel?
- **Included Accessories:**
 - 1/4" Foot
 - Walking Foot (or does it have a built-in dual feed?)
 - Free-Motion / Darning Foot

Part 3: Final Feel & Impression

- How does the machine sound? Is it smooth or loud?
- Is the lighting (LEDs) bright enough to illuminate the workspace?
- Are the buttons and screen intuitive and easy to use?
- **My Overall Rating (1-5):** _____