Checklist

Sewing Heavy Fabrics Like a Pro

Part 1: Pre-Sewing Preparation

- [ ] **Fabric Pre-Wash:** Have you pre-washed and dried your fabric (denim, canvas) to prevent shrinking?
- [ ] **Test Scraps:** Do you have several scrap pieces of your exact fabric (including layers) for testing?
- [ ] **Project Plan:** Are your pattern pieces cut and your project steps reviewed?

Part 2: Needle & Thread Selection

- [ ] **Correct Needle Type:** Is the needle a "Jeans/Denim," "Leather," or "Topstitch" type? (Not "Universal")
- [ ] **Correct Needle Size:**
  - Medium-weight (e.g., 8-10 oz denim): 90/14
  - Heavyweight (e.g., 12 oz+ denim, multiple layers): 100/16 or 110/18
- [ ] **New Needle:** Have you installed a brand-new needle for this project?
- [ ] **Appropriate Thread:** Is the thread "Heavy-Duty," "Topstitch," or "Bonded Nylon" (for leather)?
- [ ] **Bobbin Thread:** Is the bobbin wound with the correct thread (usually same as top thread, unless using very thick topstitch thread)?

Part 3: Machine Setup & Settings

- [ ] **Machine Cleaned:** Is the bobbin area and feed dogs free of lint?
- [ ] **Correct Presser Foot:**
  - For general sewing: Walking Foot / Even-Feed Foot
  - For leather/vinyl: Roller Foot or Teflon (Non-Stick) Foot
- [ ] **Stitch Length:** Is the stitch length increased to 3.0mm - 4.0mm?
- [ ] **Tension Test:** Have you sewn a line on your scrap fabric to check for balanced tension? (No loops on top or bottom)
- [ ] **Sewing Speed:** Are you prepared to sew slowly and steadily, without pushing the fabric?

Part 4: Final Check

- [ ] **Seam Leveler:** Do you have a "hump jumper" or piece of folded fabric ready for thick seams?
- [ ] **All Tools Ready:** Are your scissors, clips, and other notions within reach?