



Quick Fix Checklist:

Common Sewing Machine Problems

Part 1: The Absolute Basics (Check These First!)

- ☐ **Power:** Is the machine plugged in securely at the wall and at the machine? Is the power switch ON?
- ☐ **Foot Pedal:** Is the foot pedal connection secure?
- ☐ **Needle:** Is it new? Is it the correct type for your fabric (e.g., Ballpoint for knits, Denim for jeans)? Is the flat side of the shank facing the back?
- ☐ **Threading:** Have you re-threaded BOTH the top thread and the bobbin from scratch with the presser foot UP?

Part 2: Thread & Tension Issues

- ☐ **Loops Underneath Fabric (Bird's Nest):**
 - Check top threading path again. Is thread seated in the tension discs?
 - Slightly increase the top tension dial (e.g., from 4 to 4.5).
- ☐ **Loops on Top of Fabric:**
 - Check that the bobbin is inserted correctly and threaded properly in its case.
 - Clean any lint from the bobbin case area.
- ☐ **Thread Keeps Breaking:**
 - Lower the top tension.
 - Check for burrs on the needle, spool pin, or thread guides.
 - Are you using old or low-quality thread? Try a new spool.

Part 3: Stitch & Needle Issues

- ☐ **Skipped Stitches:**
 - Change the needle. It's likely dull, bent, or the wrong type.
 - Ensure the needle is inserted as high as it will go.
- ☐ **Needle Breaks:**
 - Are you using the right size/type of needle for heavy fabric?
 - Are you pulling the fabric instead of letting the machine feed it? Let the machine do the work.

Part 4: Fabric Feeding Issues

- ☐ **Fabric Not Moving:**



- Check if the feed dogs are dropped. Find the lever and re-engage them (turn the handwheel one full rotation after).
- Is the stitch length set to 0? Increase it.
- Is the presser foot down?

Part 5: General Maintenance

- [] **Noise/Sluggishness:**
 - When was the last time you cleaned the lint from the bobbin area and feed dogs?
 - Does your machine require oiling (check your manual)? Use only 1 drop of sewing machine oil.

If you've gone through this entire list and the problem persists, it may be time to visit a professional repair shop.