



## Checklist

### Machine Buying & Setup

This checklist is designed for hobbyists and creators ready to purchase and set up their first hybrid machine. It ensures the buyer selects the right model for their specific goals and avoids common setup errors that lead to frustration. Use this list before visiting a dealer or clicking "buy" online to guarantee a smooth start to your embroidery journey.

#### Phase 1: Defining Your Requirements

- **Measure your available workspace.** Ensure you have enough depth for the machine and the embroidery arm movement (the arm moves back and forth significantly).
- **Determine your maximum required hoop size.** Decide if a 4x4 inch field is sufficient or if you need a 5x7 inch or larger field for future projects like jacket backs.
- **Set a strict budget range.** Include the cost of the machine plus an additional \$100–\$200 for essential startup supplies like thread and stabilizer.
- **Check connectivity preferences.** Confirm whether you need Wi-Fi transfer capabilities or if you are comfortable using a USB drive for designs.
- **Assess throat space needs.** Prioritize a larger distance between the needle and the machine body if you plan to quilt bulky blankets.

#### Phase 2: Evaluating the Machine

- **Verify the file format.** Confirm the machine reads common files (like .PES or .JEF) so you can easily download third-party designs.
- **Test the automatic needle threader.** Make sure it works smoothly, as you will use this feature constantly during multi-color embroidery.
- **Check the screen visibility.** Ensure the LCD screen is bright and responsive to touch for easy design editing.
- **Listen to the motor sound.** Run the machine at high speed to check for excessive vibration or rattling, which can affect stitch precision.



- **Confirm accessory availability.** Check if the brand uses universal presser feet and bobbins or if you must buy expensive proprietary versions.

### Phase 3: Setup and First Run

- **Purchase the correct thread types.** Buy 40wt polyester or rayon thread for the top and specific bobbin filament (usually 60wt or 90wt) for the bottom.
- **Stock up on basic stabilizers.** Acquire tear-away stabilizer for woven fabrics and cut-away stabilizer for stretchy knits like t-shirts.
- **Install a fresh needle.** Insert a new embroidery-specific needle (size 75/11 is standard) before running your first design.
- **Wind the bobbin correctly.** Follow the manual's diagram exactly, as embroidery machines are highly sensitive to bobbin tension.
- **Perform a test stitch.** Run a simple design on scrap fabric with stabilizer to verify tension settings before touching your actual garment.

### Phase 4: Maintenance and Care

- **Clean the bobbin case area.** Brush out lint after every 8 hours of stitching or after every project that uses plush fabrics like velvet.
- **Change needles frequently.** Replace the needle after every major project (approx. 8–10 hours of use) to prevent thread shredding.
- **Cover the machine when idle.** Use a dust cover to prevent particulate matter from settling into the tension discs and electronics.
- **Update the firmware regularly.** Check the manufacturer's website every few months for software patches that improve performance.