



Checklist

Machine Maintenance & Troubleshooting

This practical guide is designed for owners of lightweight and portable sewing machines. Following these steps helps you avoid timing issues, reduce vibration noise, and prevent frustration before it starts. Keep this list near your sewing station and run through the "Pre-Sewing" block before launching any new project.

Phase 1: Pre-Sewing Setup

- **Insert a fresh needle** before starting a major project to ensure sharp piercing power through multiple layers.
- **Match your needle type** to your fabric weight (e.g., use a Ballpoint for knits or a Universal 80/12 for cotton).
- **Wind the bobbin slowly** at medium speed to prevent the thread from stretching or winding unevenly.
- **Thread the top path with the presser foot UP** to ensure the thread slips deeply between the tension discs.
- **Test on a scrap piece of fabric** identical to your project material to verify tension settings before sewing the real thing.

Phase 2: While You Are Sewing

- **Listen to the sound of the motor** and stop immediately if you hear a loud clunk or grinding noise.
- **Guide the fabric gently** with your hands but never push or pull it, as this can bend the needle and damage the feed dogs.
- **Check the machine stability** and place a rubber mat underneath if the unit starts vibrating or walking across the table.
- **Stop and re-thread** if you see loops forming on the underside of the fabric.

Phase 3: Post-Project Maintenance



- **Remove the needle plate** using your screwdriver to expose the feed dogs and bobbin area.
- **Brush out all lint and dust** from the bobbin case area using a small nylon brush (never blow air into it).
- **Check for loose screws** on the needle plate or outer casing caused by vibration and tighten them gently.
- **Lower the presser foot** onto a piece of fabric scrap before storing the machine to relieve pressure on the spring.
- **Cover the machine** with a hard case or dust cover to protect the tension dials from dust accumulation.

Phase 4: Quick Troubleshooting (If It Jams)

- **Rethread the top spool completely** as this resolves 90% of tension issues.
- **Check the bobbin orientation** to confirm it is unwinding in the correct direction (usually counter-clockwise).
- **Inspect the needle for bends** by placing the flat side on a table or mirror.
- **Clean the tension discs** by running a piece of un-waxed dental floss through the thread path.