



Checklist

Smart Buyer's Verification Sheet

This checklist is designed for aspiring sewists ready to make their first purchase. It helps you cut through the confusion of online listings and ensures you avoid buying a "disposable" machine. Use this list before you head to checkout to verify that your chosen model meets the standards for durability and ease of use.

Phase 1: Assessing The Specs

- **Verify the internal weight.** Confirm that the machine weighs at least 12 pounds to ensure it has a metal skeleton, preventing wobbling during high-speed sewing.
- **Check the bobbin type.** Look specifically for a "Top Loading" or "Drop-In" bobbin system with a clear plastic cover, as these are much harder to jam than front-loading ones.
- **Locate the free arm.** Make sure a portion of the machine's bed is removable, allowing you to slide sleeves and pant legs onto the arm for hemming.
- **Confirm standard sizing.** Avoid "Mini" or "Micro" machines entirely; ensure the machine uses standard Class 15 bobbins and universal sewing needles.
- **Identify the stitch controls.** Check that the machine allows you to adjust both stitch length and stitch width independently, rather than offering only fixed presets.
- **Look for the speed slider.** If choosing a computerized model, ensure it features a manual speed limiter to help you learn without losing control.

Phase 2: The Purchase Safety Check

- **Audit the seller.** If buying on Amazon or Walmart, verify that the "Sold By" line lists the manufacturer or an authorized sewing dealer, not a random third party.



- **Inspect the warranty terms.** Read the fine print to see if the warranty covers electrical components and labor, or if it is limited strictly to the metal chassis.
- **Check the voltage.** Ensure the machine's plug and voltage match your country's standard (e.g., 110V for the US) to avoid blowing the motor immediately.
- **Clarify the return policy.** Confirm who pays for return shipping, as sending back a heavy machine can be expensive if you simply do not like how it feels.

Phase 3: Essential Add-Ons

- **Stock up on quality needles.** Add a pack of "Universal" size 80/12 needles and "Ballpoint" needles for knits to your cart, as the included needle is often low quality.
- **Select the right thread.** Purchase 100% polyester all-purpose thread from a reputable brand like Gutermann or Coats & Clark; avoid the cheap "100 spool" variety packs.
- **Get a maintenance kit.** Ensure you have a small lint brush and a screwdriver that fits the machine's throat plate screws for regular cleaning.

Phase 4: Post-Purchase Setup

- **Save the packaging.** Store the original box and Styrofoam inserts in a closet, as you will need them for safe transport or warranty repairs later.
- **Run a test swatch.** Before sewing your project, test the straight stitch and zigzag on a scrap piece of fabric to check tension.
- **Register the product.** Go to the manufacturer's website immediately to register your serial number and activate your warranty protection.