



## Checklist

### The Handheld Sewing Machine Mastery Plan

This checklist is designed for anyone who wants to perform quick, permanent wardrobe repairs without the frustration of tangled threads. It ensures you skip the common mistakes that cause seams to unravel and helps you get professional results from a portable device. Use this list before every repair session to save time and fabric.

#### Phase 1: Preparation & Setup

- **Confirm battery strength.** Fresh alkaline batteries are crucial; weak batteries cause motor drag and skipped stitches on heavy fabrics.
- **Select the right needle.** Check that you are using a standard universal needle (size 90/14) for denim or a thinner needle for delicate shirts.
- **Inspect the needle direction.** Make sure the flat side of the needle shank faces the back of the machine (or as specified in your specific manual).
- **Thread with precision.** Follow the guide loops exactly, ensuring the thread passes firmly between the tension discs.
- **Thread the eye correctly.** Double-check that you threaded the needle from back to front (or inside to out), as incorrect threading prevents stitch formation.
- **Perform a scrap test.** Always sew a 2-inch line on a scrap piece of similar fabric to check tension before touching your garment.

#### Phase 2: The Sewing Process

- **Support the fabric weight.** Ensure the garment rests on a table or your lap so its weight does not pull the needle off a straight line.
- **Lift the fastening plate.** Slide the fabric edge under the plate, ensuring you have enough seam allowance.
- **Sink the needle manually.** Turn the rotary wheel by hand to lower the needle into the fabric before turning the power on.
- **Engage the power gently.** Press the button lightly and let the feed dogs move the fabric; do not pull the fabric from the back.



- **Maintain consistent speed.** Keep a steady pace to ensure even stitch length and prevent bunching.

### Phase 3: Securing the Stitch

- **Stop with the needle up.** Turn the wheel manually to raise the needle to its highest position once the seam is finished.
- **Pull thread for slack.** Pull a few inches of thread from the spool to give yourself room to cut.
- **Cut the thread correctly.** Snip the thread *before* you remove the fabric from the machine.
- **Lock the loop manually.** This is the most important step: pull the loose thread end through to the *back* side of the fabric until the final loop closes.
- **Tie a knot.** Use a hand needle or your fingers to tie the tail end into a secure knot to prevent the chain stitch from unraveling.

### Phase 4: Maintenance & Storage

- **Remove batteries for storage.** If you won't use the machine for a week, take the batteries out to prevent corrosion.
- **Clean the feed dogs.** Use a small brush to remove lint and dust from the metal teeth under the needle plate.
- **Check the needle tip.** Run your finger (carefully) over the needle point; if it feels burred or dull, replace it immediately to avoid snagging fabric.
- **Store with a sample.** Leave a small piece of fabric under the presser foot to protect the metal teeth and the needle tip during storage.