



Singer Featherweight 221 Pre-Purchase Inspection Scorecard

Bring this sheet to estate sales, dealer shops, or use it when requesting photos from online sellers.

Machine Details

- **Seller/Listing:** _____
- **Asking Price:** \$ _____
- **Serial Number:** _____ (Verify at *ISMACS.net*)
- **Year of Manufacture:** _____

Phase 1: Visual & Originality Audit

If a component is missing or aftermarket, it becomes a negotiation point for a lower price.

- **Simanco Stamps Present:** Bobbin case, foot pedal, and main metal attachments bear the "Simanco" mark.
- **Faceplate Match:** Style (Scroll or Striated) correctly matches the production era indicated by the serial number.
- **Drip Pad Intact:** Original felt drip pad is still pinned under the bottom cover.
- **Decal Condition:** Gold decals are visible, not completely rubbed off at the front edge.
- **Original Case:** Black carrying case is included, latches work, and the internal accessory tray is present.

Phase 2: Mechanical & Electrical Test

Warning: Do not plug in machines with visibly frayed wires.

- **Handwheel Test:** Turns smoothly toward you with steady resistance. Does NOT freeze or grind.



- [] **Motor Sound:** Runs evenly without loud sputtering. (*Sputtering = worn carbon brushes*).
- [] **Wiring Condition:** Power cord and foot pedal wires are flexible, with no exposed copper or brittle cracking.
- [] **Light Fixture:** Original light housing is intact and functional.
- [] **Tension Assembly:** Complete, moves smoothly, and the check spring is unbroken.

Phase 3: The Active Stitch Test

Demand a sewing sample on scrap fabric before paying a "fully serviced" price.

- [] **Feed Dogs:** Move fabric smoothly in a straight line without manual pulling.
- [] **Stitch Balance:** Top and bottom threads lock in the center of the fabric.
- [] **Bobbin Winder:** Engages correctly and spins without slipping.

Final Evaluation & Negotiation Matrix

Grade the Machine:

- [] **Ready to Sew:** Passes all major mechanical tests. Validates top-tier pricing (\$600+).
- [] **Average / Needs Light TLC:** Runs, but needs original parts sourced or deep cleaning (\$400 - \$600).
- [] **Project Machine:** Seized mechanics, bad wiring, or missing Simanco bobbin case. **Do not pay over \$300.**

Red Flag Checklist (Walk Away If):

- [] Seller refuses to show serial number.
- [] Motor smokes or smells like burning plastic.
- [] Handwheel is completely locked/seized.

Negotiation Notes / Missing Parts to Deduct from Price: