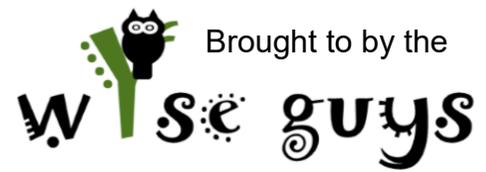




What to check before you blame your machine!



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Often when sewing you have trouble “with your machine”. Very often the problem is caused by a simple issue that has nothing to do with a machine problem.

Here are a variety of thread, needle and (sorry) operator issues that can cause problems and tips on how to avoid them.

- Thread—your bobbin thread must always be equal to or thinner than your top thread.
- Rethreading the machine, both top and bottom, is the first thing to do when experiencing problems. When rethreading cut the thread near the spool and pull it out through the needle. Do not pull the thread backwards out the top of the machine.
- Always be sure the pressure foot is “up” when rethreading.
- Clean your machine – bobbin area and tension discs – lint causes lots of problems.
- Always do a small test with the fabric, thread, needle and stabilizer you plan to use. Keep these samples and make notes of machine settings on them to save time in the future.
- Start each large project with a new needle. Damaged needles can cause thread breakage.
- If your machine is skipping stitches, putting in a new needle will usually fix the problem.
- If you get thread shredding or breakage try a larger needle.
- When doing decorative stitching, stitch a short sample with the fabric and stabilizer you will be using in your project.
- Using a foot with a grooved bottom, like an embroidery foot, when doing decorative stitches will help create smooth, even stitches.
- Use a stabilizer under your fabric to prevent puckering of decorative stitches.
- Use a felt pad under your spool that is larger than the diameter of the spool.
- When taking thread off machine, cut near spool and pull thread out the needle. This keeps fuzz from being pulled up into the head of the machine.
- Check all of the above things BEFORE changing your tension. If your machine was running fine and “all of the sudden” isn’t, it probably isn’t a tension issue.
- If you choose to adjust your tension – Lower number equals lesser tension. Rule of thumb – leave your bobbin tension alone (unless doing bobbin work). You can usually solve any problems with top tension, needle or stabilizer adjustments. Loops on bottom – tighten top tension, loops on top – loosen top tension. Most often broken thread is because tension is too tight.