

What Sewing Machine Should I buy?

The answer is – the right one for your needs

What kind of sewing do you do?

Quilting – Garments – Home Dec – etc

Buying a sewing machine is like buying a car – you need to find what works for you. How often will you use the sewing machine? Will you sew more when you have a better machine?

Knowing how you plan to use the machine and type of projects will help you identify which features are important.

What features are essential for your sewing tasks?

Walking foot, large sewing area, needle stop up/down, multiple needle positions, electronic knee lift, free motion position, accessory feet (1/4" foot with guide. Etc)

Should I buy from a discount store or on-line?

It is a cost/benefit trade off and the amount you save is far less than the headaches are worth. In general, the quality of sewing machine at a discount store is very poor.

There is no opportunity to "test drive" the machine. The warranty is with the manufacturer – far away – not your local dealer. There is no instruction or customer support.

How do I "test drive" a sewing machine?

Bring the same fabrics you intend to use in your sewing – change various settings on the machine.

- Is the machine easy to use and fun to operate?
- How is the stitch quality?
- Is the machine smooth and quiet?
- Are you able to easily control the speed of the machine?
- How do the accessory feet work – how do you know what foot to use?
- How does the machine adapt to different fabrics and layers?
- Does the machine tie off and cut threads automatically?
- How is the lighting in the sewing area? Can you see the needle?
- Is the instruction manual easy to read?
- How does the bobbin wind, threading ease, needle threader?
- What is the dealer/manufacturer warranty?
- What features do you gain or lose at the next level up or down the line?
- Other _____

What about a NEW machine versus a USED sewing machine?

Dealers take in pre-owned machines for new machine purchases. These sewing machines are serviced and tested to sell at a reduced price. Dealers offer a warranty on these pre-owned machines.

What to look for in a dealer

You are not just buying a sewing machine – you are buying a dealer

- ❑ Time spent during the demonstration
- ❑ Friendly and helpful – asking questions instead of telling you what is best
- ❑ Ability to answer questions and address concerns
- ❑ Factory trained service technicians
- ❑ The machines are serviced at their location
- ❑ Years in business
- ❑ Free Owners Lessons
- ❑ On-going telephone support
- ❑ Classes and Clubs offered
- ❑ Special events and sales promotions
- ❑ Guest teachers offered
- ❑ Designated staff for individual owners lessons
- ❑ Interest free financing for purchases
- ❑ Cabinets on display, accessories available
- ❑ Thorough knowledge of sewing machine brands
- ❑ Full line of embroidery machines, sewing machines and sergers on display
- ❑ Complete and wide selection of accessories available – bobbins, feet, etc.
- ❑ Other _____