

The Cure:

Skipped stitches:

Replace your needle first, even if it's brand new. Make sure it's inserted properly. The flat side always faces the same direction the needle is threaded; if you thread your needle front to back the flat must face the back, etc. Check your thread next, it should be smooth and uniform. Stay away from very inexpensive threads, (you get what you pay for); if in doubt try another spool. Some fabrics or threads require special needles - check with your sewing machine specialist. Finally try washing your fabric. Some treatments at the factory can leave a residue that will keep your machine from stitching properly.

Looping or knotting:

This usually occurs on the bottom of the fabric. The first thing to do is unthread and re-thread the machine even if it looks like it's threaded properly. If the problem persists; check for loose threads or lint around the upper tension or bobbin case area. Try a higher number on the upper tension control, but don't adjust the bobbin tension.

Breaking needles:

The needle size may be the most important factor. 70/11 or 80/12 are mostly for light to medium weight fabrics, 90/14 or 100/16 for medium to heavy and 110/18 for denims and canvas. Don't help feed your fabric too much as it can cause the needle to bend and break. There are many special needles for "tough" materials such as leather or high density micro fabrics. The right needle will make a world of difference.

Breaking thread:

Check that needle first! The flat side always faces the same direction the needle is threaded; if you thread your needle front to

back the flat must face the back, etc. It's probably not the tension!

Puckered seams:

The stitch length may not be right for the type of fabric, finer fabrics require shorter stitches - 14 to 16 stitches per inch or about 2 mm long. The tension may be set too tight; try a lower number.

The fabric pushes into the needle plate when starting:

- The right way to start:
1. Insert the point of the needle into the material.
 2. Lower the presser foot.
 3. Apply the power. Always stop with the take-up lever in the highest position. This is not the same as the needle in the highest position.

Universal Needle — General sewing of knit and woven fabrics. Slight ball point. Available sizes: 8/60, 9/65, 10/70, 11/75, 12/80, 14/90, 16/100, 18/110 through 19/120.

Microtex Needle — Sharp point for straight stitches on delicate and microfiber fabrics. Available sizes: 8/60, 9/65, 10/70, 11/75, 12/80, 14/90.

Denim/Jeans Needle — For denim or other densely woven fabrics or when a very straight stitch is required on multilayer fabrics. Very sharp point and stiff shaft. Available sizes: 10/70, 11/75, 12/80, 14/90, 16/100, 18/110.

Stretch Needle — Designed for synthetic suedes or elastic knitwear. Designed with a deep scarf to prevent skipped stitches. Available sizes: 11/75, 14/90.

Topstitch Needle — Extra sharp with an enlarged groove to accommodate large diameter threads and dense fabrics. Available sizes: 12/80, 14/90, 16/100.

Quilting Needle — Special taper to shaft and sharp point to prevent damage to material sewn in layers. Available sizes: 11/75, 12/80, 14/90.

Embroidery Needle — Designed for rayon and polyester embroidery applications. Available sizes: 11/75, 12/80, 14/90.

Metallic Needle — Designed with an enlarged polished eye to accommodate specialty threads by preventing shredding. Available sizes: 12/80, 14/90.

No Cure?

The diagnosis is free!

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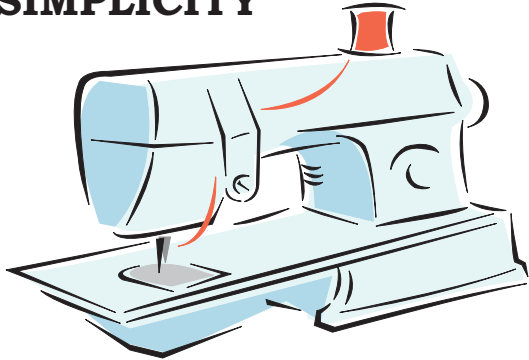
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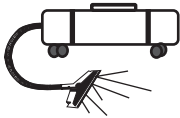
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HELP!
I SKIPPED A STITCH AND CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT!

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