



The

# LUCKY NEEDLE

## SEWING MACHINE TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE



### A LUCKY NEEDLE EBOOK

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# SEWING MACHINE TROUBLESHOOTING



Congratulations on becoming a part of [The Lucky Needle!!!](#)

This is a helpful guide containing Sewing Machine Troubleshooting Tips! Don't worry, everyone runs into sewing machine problems! Over the years I've found that if I am having trouble with a sewing machine, it is one of these issues! I've put together this interactive guide so you will be able to easily tackle the sewing machine issues you may come across and get you back to working on your project in no time!

I've included links in the document that will take you to useful videos if you need some extra tips! These links are highlighted in [green!](#) Just click on the [green text](#) to be taken to helpful videos!

I also recommend printing out this guide and keeping it next to your machine! This way you can fix sewing machine issues you may come across, without running back to your computer.

Don't forget if you ever get stuck, we all do, take your questions to [The Upholstery Forum!](#) This is a community of all levels of upholsters with questions just like yours, and lots of answers!!

The most important thing is to just get out there and start practicing!!!!

Good luck on your project!

- John Pollock | Founder





### THREADED CORRECTLY

Make 100% sure that the sewing machine is threaded correctly!



### BOBBIN INSTALLATION

Make 100% sure that the bobbin is installed correctly!



### CLEAN MACHINE

Clean and oil the sewing machine!



Having trouble with your sewing machine? It may be a much easier fix than you think!

Here are 6 quick things to check that will make sure your machine is ready for the job and have you sewing in no time!



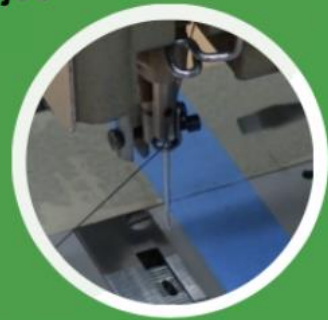
### SAFETY CLUTCH

Check the safety clutch!



### NEEDLE INSTALLATION

Make 100% sure that the needle is installed correctly!



### CHANGE THE NEEDLE

It may be time to change the sewing machine needle!

# SEWING MACHINE TROUBLESHOOTING



## SEWING MACHINE TROUBLE SHOOTING

Having problems with your sewing machine? Check for these six most common issues!



### 1. MAKE SURE YOUR SEWING MACHINE IS THREADED CORRECTLY

(Make sure to check the thread tension disks)

- Check out these Lucky Needle Videos:
  - [How to Thread Your Industrial Sewing Machine](#)
  - [How to Set Thread Tension](#)



### 2. MAKE SURE THE BOBBIN IS INSTALLED CORRECTLY

(Make sure to check the tension spring)



### 3. CLEAN AND OIL YOUR SEWING MACHINE

- Check out these Lucky Needle Videos:
  - [How to Clean a Sewing Machine Part 1](#)
  - [How to Clean a Sewing Machine Part 2](#)



### 4. CHECK THE MACHINE'S SAFETY CLUTCH



### 5. MAKE SURE THE NEEDLE IS INSTALLED CORRECTLY



### 6. CHANGE THE NEEDLE

CHECK  
OUT MORE  
INFORMATION  
ON THESE  
6 COMMON  
PROBLEMS  
BELOW!



## **THREAD BUNCHING UNDER SEAM?**

- Make sure to hold onto your thread when starting your seam.
- Make sure the bobbin is installed correctly (check the tension spring).
- Check the actual threading of the machine and make sure all parts are threaded correctly.
  - Check out these Lucky Needle Videos:
    - [How to Thread Your Industrial Sewing Machine](#)
    - [How to Set Thread Tension](#)

## **THREAD FRAYING?**

- Cheap thread can cause fraying. We recommend using a reliable thread like Coats Ultra Dee or Amman Serabond Polyester Sewing Thread. See *The Lucky Needle's Apprentice Course E-Book: Materials and Supplies* for more information on thread.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [What Type of Thread to Use?](#)
- Check for a bad needle. Needles that may be bent or dull can cause thread to fray.
- Check the size of your needle. If the thread does not fit inside the channel of the needle, the needle you are using is too small.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [What Size Needles? - What Type of Needles?](#)
- Check for burrs on the bobbin hook and buff any out with emery cloth.
- Check for burrs on the thread path (this can be done by running a Q-tip along the thread path).
- Check the timing of your sewing machine.

## **LOOSE THREAD ON THE TOP OF A SEAM?**

- Make sure the bobbin is installed correctly, including the thread tension spring.



## **LOOSE THREAD ON THE BOTTOM OF A SEAM?**

- Check the upper thread tension including the thread tension disks.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [How to Set Thread Tension](#)
- Make sure the entire sewing machine is threaded correctly.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [How to Thread Your Industrial Sewing Machine](#)

## **THREAD BREAKING?**

- Check the quality of thread you are using. Cheap thread can cause breaking. We recommend using a reliable thread like Coats Ultra Dee or Amman Serabond Polyester Sewing Thread. See *The Lucky Needle's Apprentice Course E-Book: Materials and Supplies* for more information on thread.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [What Type of Thread to Use?](#)
- Make sure that the needle is installed correctly.
- Check that the needle is the correct size, make sure it is not too small. If the thread does not fit inside the channel of the needle, the needle you are using is too small, and will cause the thread to break.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [What Size Needles? - What Type of Needles?](#)
- Make sure that the thread tension is not too tight.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [How to Set Thread Tension](#)
- Make sure that the bobbin is threaded correctly.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [Learn How to Sew: Installing Your Bobbin](#)
    - [Run Out of Bobbin Thread? How to fix it](#)



## **NEEDLE BREAKING?**

- The fabric being used may be too tough for the size of the needle.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [What Size Needles? - What Type of Needles?](#)
- Check the timing of your sewing machine.

## **PUCKERED SEAMS, WAVY AND BUNCHED UP FABRIC?**

- Make sure you are not pulling or pushing too hard, or in an uneven manner as material is fed through the machine.
- Make sure the pressure on the presser foot is not set too high.
- Make sure the thread tension is not too high.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [How to Set Thread Tension](#)

## **SKIPPED STITCHES?**

- Make sure your needle is correctly installed and it is not too small or bent.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [What Size Needles? - What Type of Needles?](#)
- Check the timing of your sewing machine.
  - Check out this Lucky Needle Video:
    - [How to Fix a Skipped Stitch - Upholstery Tips and Tricks](#)

## **UNEVEN STITCH LENGTHS?**

- Make sure you are not pulling or pushing your material too much.
- Make sure the presser foot is lifted high enough for the material you are sewing.
- Make sure the foot pressure is not too loose, and it's tight enough to grab the fabric.