Sewing Machine Maintenance

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Saint Marys Community Public Library
One of my UFOs
Quilt Camp

Round bobbin, not a singer 15
Note the rope light...
My second new machine, ever. (1983?)
One for Christmas when I was 9.
Bought for camp
Necchi - My mom’s
White Featherweight, yep I own one....
Singer 301, yes I think I have 3...
Cabinets I love...

Singer 42

Art Deco Style, curved door.

(I own 3 right now)
Many More...

I think I have about 17 machines right now......

I would buy another 301, if I found one that was only like 10 bucks ;)

Davis Vertical feed (treadle)- first walking foot

National Two Spool - spool for the bobbin area.
Why Vintage?

So far there has only been 2 or 3 machines I couldn’t fix:

One was a potted metal part that snapped.

I couldn’t figure out a Touch and Sew - plastic parts.
Sometimes newer ones are crankier
My sister and I.....

Night and day

I can sit at one of her machines and make it work perfectly for me.

She walks over it and builds a birds nest for her.

I can get so irritated with her other machine, and it sews fine for her.

Some days I just walk away from sewing.
Can we expect these to last as long?
Identify your machine

Name of company

Model name?

Model number?

Most machines are made in
Identify Bobbins

Two kinds, 15 and 66 - if you are buying box store type machines.
Identify Your Bobbins

29-4  221/301  66  15
Bobbins from Joann's
Before you sew

Clean and lubricate
Cleaning Supplies
Brushes

All kinds

Stencil brushes are stiff - very helpful

Big makeup brushes for dust
Tools

Dental picks

Tweezers
Screwdrivers
Alcohol -
Rubbing or stronger denatured.
(don’t get on wood or gold decals)
Sew Purty

https://www.sewpurityworkshops.com/products-we-use

They started a company to teach people how to use their vintage machines.
Oil

Sewing Machine oil is mineral oil.

Do not buy 3 in One Oil - hardens, turns gummy.
Grease your metal gears.

(vaseline in a pinch)
Do you grease plastic gears?

I don’t know. Collectors have differing opinions.

I have used white lithium grease for years, but now I am unsure. I do use vaseline.
The only truly safe cleaner on a Vintage Machine is Sewing Machine Oil.

If you are unsure, wipe with sewing machine oil.
Parts of a machine

- Sewing Head
- Horizontal Arm
- Arm Shaft
- Spool Pin
- Machine Pulley
- Upright Arm
- Upright Arm Shaft
- Connecting Rods
- Needle Thread Tension Assembly
- Needle Bar
- Machine Bed
- Needle
- Face Plate
- Presser Bar
- Presser Bar Lifter
- Presser Foot
- Feed Dog
- Bobbin Case
- Loop-Taker (Shuttle)
- Bed Shafts

HEAD (Front View)
Check your manual
Clean bobbin area

Bobbin race
Finding a manual for your machine

Try the manufacturer’s site:

★ http://www.singerco.com/
★ http://www.babylock.com/downloads/manuals/

Old manuals

★ http://ismacs.net/free-sewing-machine-manuals-list.html

Don’t pay for a manual, usually you can find it for free online.
Other places to find support for your machine

★ Facebook groups
  ○ Great for fast photos
  ○ Fast info
  ○ Not so good for searching or organization of files

★ Yahoo Groups
  ○ Best for searching files
  ○ Emails and not Facebook dependent

★ Forums
  ○ https://www.quiltingboard.com/
  ○ http://needlebar.org/main/
Needles


Sharps - woven fabric

Ball Points - knit fabric

Universal - can do both

Always use a ball point when sewing knits. If you are quilting, use a sharp.
Cleaning

Remove bobbin

Brush lint out

Check for threads

  Trapped in odd places

Dental floss on bobbin case?

Oil bobbin area liberally

  If too much wipe off with a cloth

  You can tell the noise when it needs to be oiled.
Cleaning

Unscrew needle plate and remove

Brush lint out

Oil moving parts where metal meets metal

Open door for needle bar on left

  Check for varnish color

    Alcohol

Oil needle bar

Oil take up lever
Cleaning

Remove needle

Wipe off with oil

Remove top of sewing machine - should be two screws

  Locate gears

  Are they lubed?

  Is there dry lube on them?

  Add gear grease - not oil

  Look underneath

Put everything back together