

Machine Maintenance – The Care and Feeding of your Singer FeatherWeight Sewing Machine

Instructor: Steve Pauling

This class will cover all basic concepts associated with sewing machine maintenance – inspection, cleaning, lubrication and understanding lockstitch machine mechanics. As time permits, students will be encouraged to perform all basic maintenance activities. Our goal is to complete all tasks within the designated class time. However, that is not always possible, depending on student's general knowledge and ability to grasp the concepts/skills. We will, however, discuss them all in detail.

Please bring the following suggested supplies:

- 1) Paper and pen/pencil for note taking.
- 2) Sewing machine in good working order
- 3) Operating manual for sewing machine
- 4) Don't forget the power cord and/or foot control!!!
- 5) Necessary tools for opening all readily accessible sewing machine covers, including needle plate. Generally, this includes a medium and a small screwdriver similar to the ones provided with the machine.
- 6) Containers or small plastic bags to hold parts – an egg carton or muffin pan works great to separate and keep them in order!
- 7) Medium-light colored terry cloth hand towel to catch small disassembled parts
- 8) Old terry cloth bath towel to use as padded work surface
- 9) Small screw driver for disassembling and adjusting bobbin case tension
- 10) Small brush for removing lint
- 11) Tweezers
- 12) Quality sewing machine oil and dispenser (NO 3-in-1 household oil!!!)
- 13) Soft absorbent cotton cloths for wiping down parts and your hands of excess oil/grease
- 14) Standard 50 wt consumer thread (Coats and Clark, Gutterman, Metrosene, etc.) – bring two medium colored threads of the SAME BRAND, TYPE, AND SIZE. No dark colors or intense “Jewel-Tone” colors – medium colors only.
- 15) Scraps of fabric for sewing tests – plain fabric without a printed design is easiest for analyzing stitches. Medium weight cotton broadcloth (quilting material) is minimum requirement. Other fabric types/weights may be brought for additional sewing tests.
- 16) Wear comfortable old clothes and be prepared to get your hands dirty
- 17) And if you need reading glasses, don't forget to bring them!!

I will have a small assortment of supplies and tools available for sale, including the regular and small sized screw drivers for bobbin case tension adjustments, gear lubricant, cleaning brushes, vacuum attachments, an excellent oil bottle (good quality oil) with a long telescoping brass tube for placing a drop of oil deep inside the machine without making a mess, the special low-temperature grease, and other items.