

The Beginner's Guide to Overlockers

What is an overlocker?

An overlocker, also known as a serger, is a sewing machine that is used to finish the edges of fabric. Overlockers use a series of needles and loopers to create a stitch that wraps around the edge of the fabric, preventing it from fraying.



Beginners Guide To Overlockers: Sewing Tips, Tutorials: How To Thread Overlock Machine by Kass Hall

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Overlockers are a great way to give your garments a professional finish. They can be used to sew a variety of fabrics, including knits, wovens, and even delicate fabrics like lace.

How to choose an overlocker

There are a few things to consider when choosing an overlocker.

- **The type of fabric you will be sewing.** Overlockers are designed to sew a variety of fabrics, but some models are better suited for certain

fabrics than others. If you will be sewing mostly knits, you will need an overlocker that is designed for knits. If you will be sewing mostly wovens, you will need an overlocker that is designed for wovens.

- **The number of needles.** Overlockers come with either two needles or three needles. Two-needle overlockers are less expensive and easier to use, but they can only create a basic overlock stitch. Three-needle overlockers are more expensive and more difficult to use, but they can create a variety of stitches, including a rolled hem.
- **The features.** Overlockers come with a variety of features, such as differential feed, rolled hem, and coverstitch. Differential feed allows you to adjust the speed of the top and bottom feed dogs, which can be helpful for preventing puckering or stretching. Rolled hem allows you to create a rolled hem, which is a decorative finish that is often used on garments and home décor items. Coverstitch allows you to create a coverstitch, which is a stitch that is similar to a topstitch but is more durable.

How to thread an overlocker

Threading an overlocker can be daunting, but it is actually quite simple once you get the hang of it. Here are the steps on how to thread an overlocker:

1. **Start by threading the upper loopers.** The upper loopers are located on the top of the machine. Thread the yarn through the guides and into the loopers.
2. **Next, thread the lower looper.** The lower looper is located on the bottom of the machine. Thread the yarn through the guides and into the looper.

3. **Finally, thread the needles.** The needles are located on the front of the machine. Thread the yarn through the guides and into the needles.

How to use an overlocker

Once your overlocker is threaded, you are ready to start sewing. Here are the steps on how to use an overlocker:

1. **Place the fabric under the presser foot.** The presser foot will help to keep the fabric in place while you are sewing.
2. **Start sewing.** Slowly press the foot pedal to start sewing. Guide the fabric through the machine with your hands.
3. **Stop sewing.** When you reach the end of the seam, release the foot pedal to stop sewing.

Troubleshooting

If you are having problems with your overlocker, here are a few troubleshooting tips:

- **The thread is breaking.** This could be due to a number of factors, such as the thread being too tight, the needles being dull, or the fabric being too thick. Try adjusting the thread tension, replacing the needles, or using a thinner fabric.
- **The stitches are puckering.** This could be due to the differential feed being set incorrectly. Try adjusting the differential feed to the correct setting for the fabric you are sewing.
- **The stitches are skipping.** This could be due to the needles being bent or the fabric being too thick. Try replacing the needles or using a

thinner fabric.

Overlockers are a great way to give your garments a professional finish. They are relatively easy to use, and they can be used to sew a variety of fabrics. If you are looking for a way to improve the quality of your sewing, an overlocker is a great investment.



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