

Sewing Machine



BY HANS HERZOG

Even sewing machines need a little TLC every once in a while. Lint build-up in the hook and feed dog area, as well as between the top tension disks, can cause excessive wear, noise and tension issues. Clean and oil your machine frequently, and your machine will reward you with years of trouble-free operation.

Note: BERNINA® machines have either an oscillating hook system or a rotary hook system, which is the mechanism that the bobbin case fits into. Each type is cleaned and oiled using slightly different methods. Oscillating Hook System (activa 125-240, virtuosa 130-160, aurora 430-440, artista 165-170); Rotary Hook System (1008, artista 180-200)

CLEANING & OILING

Bobbin Area

- Remove the needle plate and bobbin case and hook. *Oscillating Hook System only:* Remove the hook.
- With a lint brush, clean around the feed dog, the hook and the surrounding area. *Oscillating Hook System only:* Clean the hook.
- Clean the bobbin case.



Brush lint out; don't blow it in! Use the brush included with your machine or use a make-up (blush or powder) brush or a small paintbrush to remove lint.



Tension Area

- Lift the presser foot bar and using a lint brush, clean each side of the top tension discs. Lower the presser foot bar and use a length of buttonhole twist or Cordonnet to floss each side of the top tension discs (see photo).
- Check the take-up lever for jammed thread ends; if found, gently remove or take to a trained technician.



Floss both sides of the tension disk.

Oiling

- *Oscillating Hook System only:* Reinstall the hook if it was removed when clearing the lint.
- Place one drop or two drops of oil in the areas shown, or as indicated in your BERNINA® Guide and Instruction Manual.
- Insert the bobbin case as instructed in the manual. *Note: If machine is accidentally over-oiled, sew several lines of stitching on a scrap of fabric to remove the excess.*



Oiling the oscillating hook system



Oiling the rotary hook system

Make Your Sewing Machine Happy!

The following short list details the key points of caring for your sewing machine.

NEEDLES – Use only needles made to fit your brand and model of machine. In general, BERNINA® and Schmetz needles are appropriate for BERNINA® machines. Needles should be replaced after 6-8 hours of sewing.

THREAD – Select high quality, long staple thread to minimize the amount of fuzz and lint deposited in the machine. Inexpensive “bargain” thread can deposit large amounts of lint that build up in the feed dog and tension areas and can cause tension inconsistencies over time.

ROUTINE CLEANING – After every sewing session remove the throat plate to brush out the lint and fuzz that accumulates around the feed dog and bobbin area. Floss the tension disks as in the photo at left.

REGULAR LUBRICATION – Oil as recommended by your sewing machine manufacturer using only the appropriate oil. *Do not use household oil or spray lubricant on your machine.* While some BERNINA® sewing machines display a message when it is time to lubricate the hook, there are times – such as when using linty threads and fabric – when more frequent cleaning and oiling is warranted, particularly in machines that have a rotary hook systems.

YEARLY SERVICE – In addition to regular maintenance, take your BERNINA® sewing machine to an authorized BERNINA® dealer for an annual check-up (schedule this before the “sewing season” starts and during time away from home so you won’t miss your machine while it’s gone!) The trained technician will remove all the covers, clean and lubricate the interior parts, and check the overall condition of your machine. He/she will also test and adjust the machine to meet the manufacturer’s specifications, and perform any factory-recommended updates.

Conscientious upkeep of your machine will keep it at peak performance for years of uninterrupted sewing pleasure!