

## SEWING MACHINE BUYING *CHECKLIST*

### Thread and bobbins

- Is the machine easy to thread?
- Can you put two spools in for twin needles?
- Are you comfortable with the bobbin-loading system?
- Does the machine have a separate motor for winding a bobbin mid-project?

### Stitching

- How much vibration and noise does the machine make when in use?
- Does it make even, neat basic stitches like straight stitch and zigzag?
- To what extent (length and width) can basic stitches be customized?
- Can you move the needle position left and right?
- Is it easy to change the needle?
- How easy is it to reverse the stitches for back tacking?
- Does it take an extra stitch before back tacking, and is it activated with a toggle or button?

### Fabric feed

- How well does the machine cope with your fabric samples?
- What options are there to problem-solve the situation if fabric does not feed well?
- Can you set the sewing speed separately from the foot control, and how sensitive is the control?
- How much space is in the throat?
- How high does the presser foot lift for bulkier projects?
- Does the stitch plate have seam allowance markings?

### Convenience

- Does the machine have a free arm?
- How easy is it to remove the machine-bed extension?
- Is there built-in storage?
- Is the storage easy to access?
- What is the machine weight?
- Is there built-in LED lighting for clear threading and sewing?
- Can you take the stitch plate off to remove lint and clear out thread nests?

### Accessories

- What presser feet does the machine come with?
- Can it accept generic presser feet if you want to purchase additional feet?
- How difficult it is to change the presser feet?
- Does it have a buttonhole foot and a few options for buttonhole styles?
- How straightforward is it to make identical buttonholes? Make a few on scraps to find out.

### Reliability and value

- What is the machine manual like? Are the instructions easy to follow and clearly illustrated?
- What does the retailer say about this machine?
- What alternative would they suggest in the same price range and why?
- How does the machine compare with other models in terms of your desired features?
- Did you check the machine for all the features on your wants-and-needs list?
- Do all the features on the sewing machine meet your expectations?

# SEWING MACHINE BUYING *CHECKLIST*

## Thread and bobbins

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## Convenience

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## Stitching

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## Accessories

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## Fabric feed

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## Reliability and value

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