

LOVE YOUR OVERLOCKER

Overlocker Kit

Tweezers	Bent ones are best.
Screwdriver	Replacing needles.
Big screwdriver	Use to replace blade, take to technician.
Spanner	Take to technician.
Needle threader	
Oil	
Brush	Use a paint brush instead.
Replacement needles	Same as sewing machine, Universal 80 - 90.
Spool holders	For large cones of thread.
Spool caps	For small spools of thread.
Spool nets	Slippery embroidery threads etc.

Threads

- Use large cones for bigger projects.
- Smaller threads such as *Moon* are perfect for changing colours on lots of projects.
- Most threads can be used on an overlocker, but don't buy too cheap.
- Silky threads work great for decorative stitches.

Standard Overlocking

For finishing raw edges on standard fabrics such as cotton.

- 3 threads:
 - Remove right needle for 3 thread overlocking.
 - Keep right needle but remove left for narrower stitching.
- Stitch length: 2.5-3.
- Differential feed: 1.0
- Blade in position.

Overlocking Seams

For creating seams using the overlocker instead of a sewing machine.

- 4 threads:
 - Both needles must be in place.
- Stitch length: 2.5-3.
- Differential feed: 1.0
- Blade in position.
- Mark up the fabric where you want your seam line to be and use needle guide when stitching.

Removing the Needles

1. Move blade out of position.
2. The right hand needle hangs lower than the left.
3. Identify the screw that corresponds to the needle you want to remove.
 - a. You may need to unscrew both screws to allow the needle to drop.
4. Place some fabric or paper under the pressure foot to prevent the needle from dropping into the machine.
5. Remove the unwanted needle and then screw both screws back into place.
 - a. Check the other needle has not dropped and that all screws are secured tightly.
6. Put the blade back in position.
7. When replacing the needle you will notice one side is rounded and the other is flat, the flat side goes to the back.

Threading

- Turn machine off.
- Move blade out of position (if it helps).
- Make sure the presser foot is up, this opens up the tension dials allowing for better threading.
- Start from the far right (the lower looper) and work your way left, following the colour coded guide inside the machine.
- When ready turn on the machine, bring the threads under the presser foot and out to the left hand side and put presser foot down.
- Make sure blade is back in position.
- Hold onto the threads and start to sew (you do not need fabric for this).

- Gently ease the threads through as you sew, try not to pull too hard.
- If the threads form a chain then you have threaded your machine correctly, if not then you will need to open up your machine and identify the problem

Troubleshooting Threading

Some questions to ask if your overlocker is not stitching correctly:

- Has the thread become tangled at the spool?
- Has the thread gone through the tension dial correctly? Can it be seen through the dial? Does it need locking in?
- Have I missed a thread guide inside the machine?
- Has a thread snapped? Do I need to adjust the tensions?
- Is the needle loose?
- Have the threads become twisted inside the machine?

If you have checked all these things but still not getting the desired result the best course of action is to start again and re-thread the machine.

Troubleshooting Tensions

Always run a sample of fabric through your machine before starting on your main project. Tensions change depending on fabric, stitch type and threads.

Tension dials: the higher the number the tighter the tension, the lower the number the looser the tension.

Overlocking should look flat and neat. The upper and lower looper threads should meet neatly on the edge of the fabric and the needle thread should be barely visible on the reverse side.



Some questions to ask when adjusting the tensions:

- Are the looper threads hanging loose over the edge of the fabric?
 - Tighten the upper and lower looper threads and/or increase the stitch width.
- Is the fabric puckering?
 - Loosen the needle tension.
- Is one of the looper threads pulled over the edge of the fabric?
 - Tighten the thread that has been pulled over the edge and/or loosen the thread that is doing the pulling.
- Is the needle thread clearly visible on the reverse side?
 - Tighten the needle thread tension until it almost disappears.

Overlocking Different Fabrics

Fabric	No. of Threads	Stitch Length	Stitch Width	Notes
Heavyweight fabrics such as denim or fabrics with a pile such as velvet.	3-thread	3-4	Wide	A long stitch length and wide stitch width prevents the overlocking from looking bulky on heavy fabrics.
Medium-weight fabrics such as cotton or polyester.	2 or 3-thread	2.5-3	Standard	The easiest fabrics to work with on an overlocker.
Lightweight fabrics such as silk.	2 or 3-thread	1.5-2.5	Narrow	Lighter fabrics tend to fray more so a closer overlock is often required.
Delicate fabrics such as chiffon, organza etc.	2 or 3-thread	2-3	Narrow	These fabrics require a slightly longer stitch length to prevent holes or pulls.
Stretch fabrics such as jersey or lycra.	3 or 4-thread	3-5	Standard or Wide	4 threads are preferable with stretch fabrics as the overlocking will be put under more stress, the extra thread helps keep the stitching strong.