

Kenmore

SEWING MACHINE 17881



OWNER'S MANUAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

KNOWING YOUR SEWING MACHINE

Machine identification	2 ~ 3
Accessories	4
Setting spool pins	5
Converting to free-arm sewing	5
Pressure regulator, Presser foot lever	6
Presser feet, Speed control plug	7
Light and power switch, Sewing light	8
Foot control, Seam guides, Darning plate	9
Needle, thread and fabric chart	10
Needles, Placement of needle	11
Winding the bobbin	12
Threading the bobbin thread	13
Threading top thread	14
Picking up bobbin thread	15
Adjusting top thread tensions	16

STARTING TO SEW 17

SIMPLE SEWING

Straight stitching	18 ~ 19
Fastening a seam, Turning a square corner	
Zigzag stitching	20 ~ 21
Checking tensions, Overcasting, Interfacing darts	

UTILITY AND STRETCH STITCH SEWING

Buttonhole making	22 ~ 23
Blind hemming	24
Shell stitching	25
Box stitching	26
Fagoting, Two-point shell stitching	27 ~ 28
Satin stitching, Appliqueing	29 ~ 30
Zipper application	31 ~ 32
Mending, Darning	33 ~ 34
Button sewing, Bar tacking	35 ~ 36
Stretch stitching	37 ~ 45
Adjusting stretch stitch balance, Straight stretch, Rick-rack stretch, Overcast stretch, Smocking stretch, Serging or pine leaf stretch, Elastic stretch, Stretch patching, Herring bone stretch	
Geometric decorative stitching	46
Free-arm sewing	47

CHECKING PERFORMANCE PROBLEMS . . . 48 ~ 49

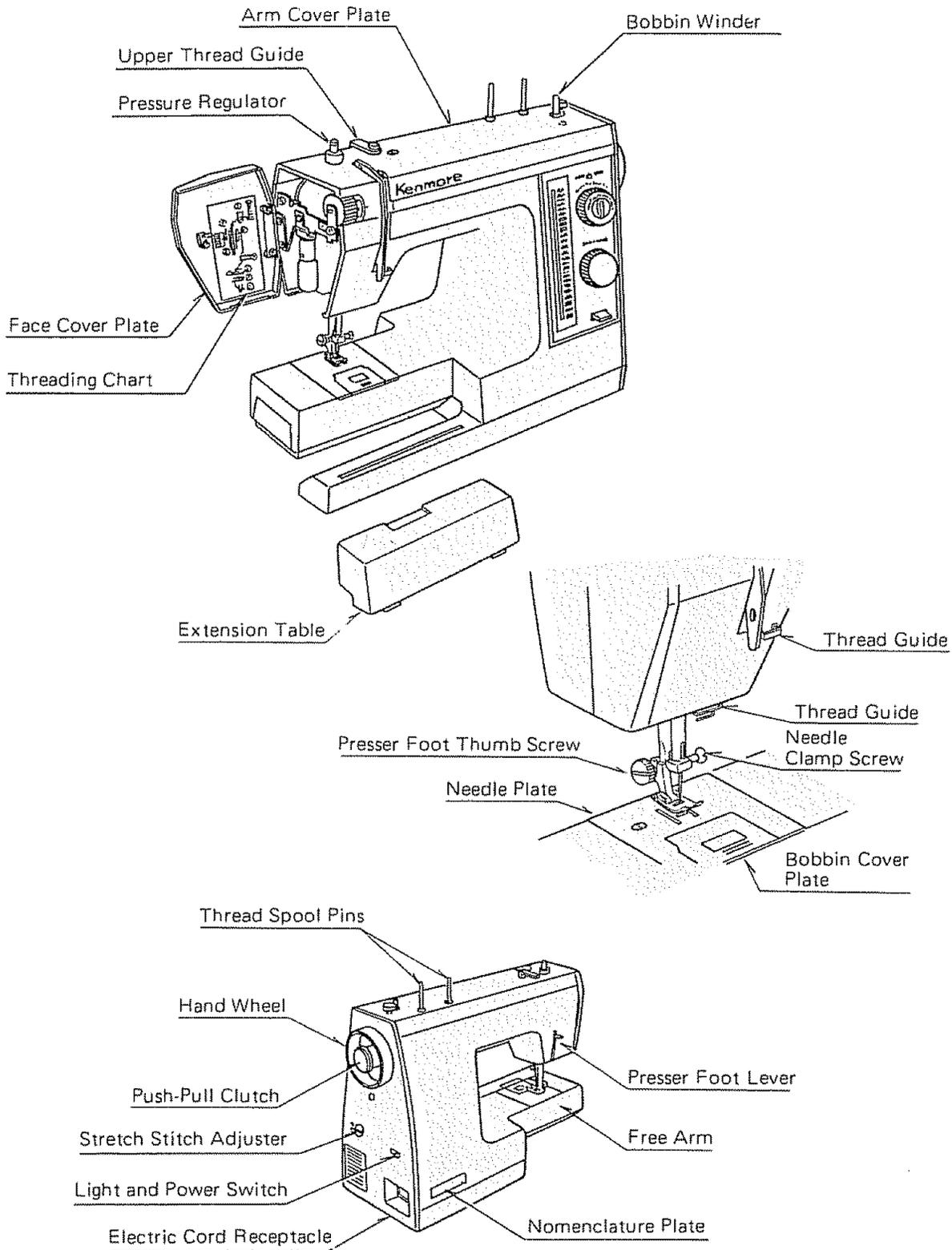
CARING FOR THE MACHINE

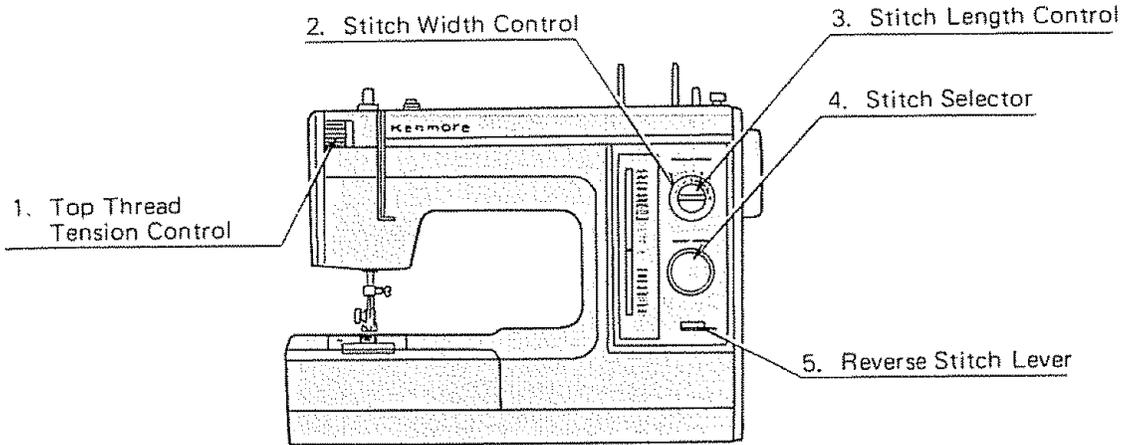
Cleaning feed dogs and shuttle	50
Oiling under arm cover plate	51
Oiling underside	52
Oiling in face cover plate	53
Parts list	54 ~ 55

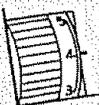
USING PORTABLE CASE OR CABINET 56

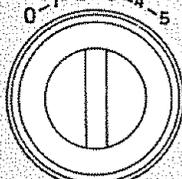
KNOWING YOUR SEWING MACHINE

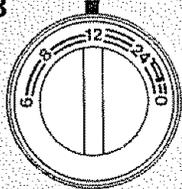
MACHINE IDENTIFICATION

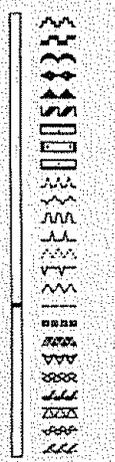




1  This control regulates your top thread tension. The higher the number, the tighter the tension.

2  This control regulates the width of the stitch you select. The higher the number, the wider the stitch.

3  This control regulates the length of the stitch you select. The dial is calibrated in stitches per inch. The higher the number, the shorter the stitch. Fabric will not be fed when the dial is set at "0".

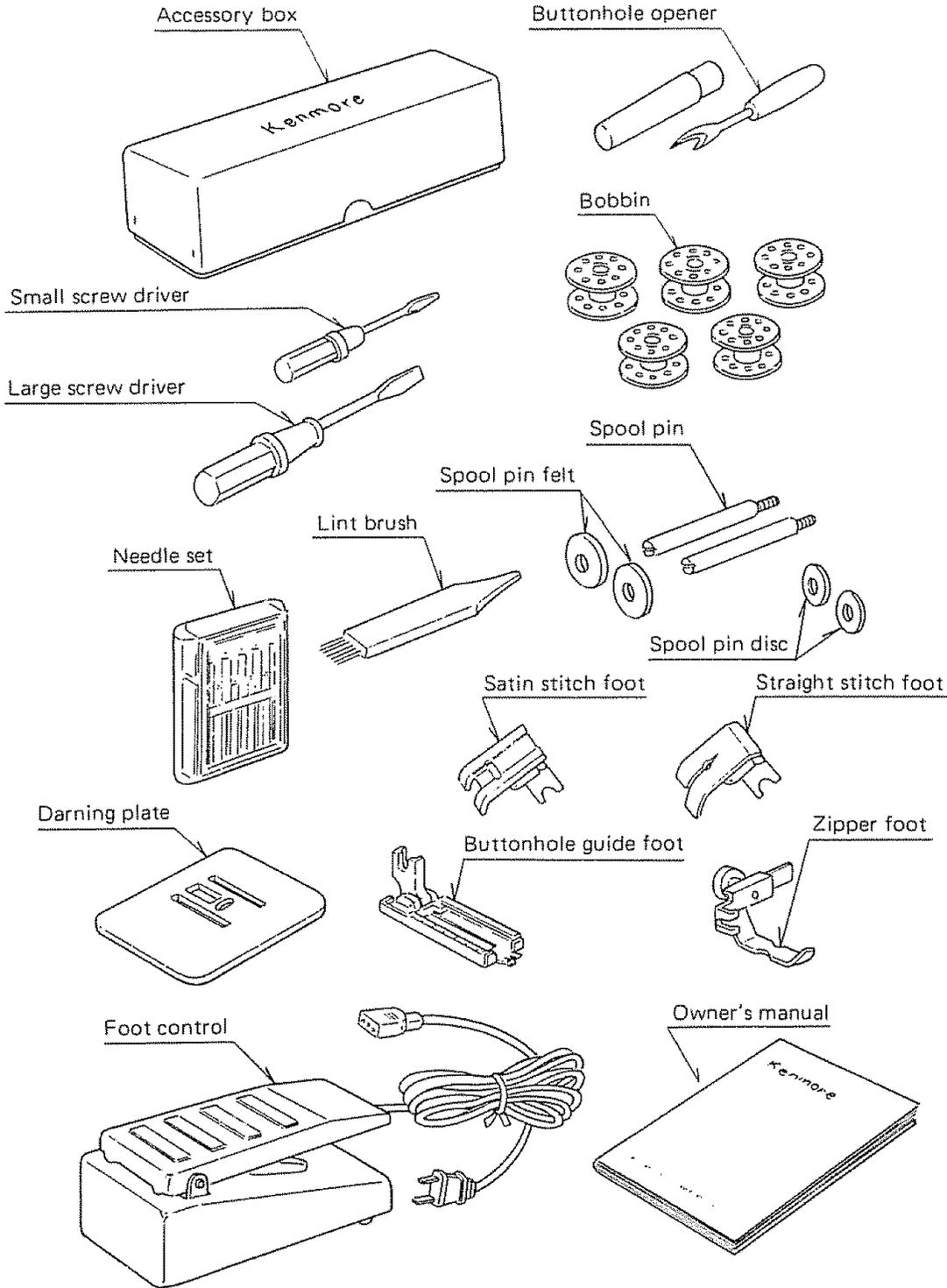
4  The desired stitch will be obtained by turning this Stitch Selector until the stitch is indicated by the red line on the indicator panel.

Note: To select a stitch, be sure needle is out of fabric at its highest position.

5  When reverse stitching is needed, push down the lever and hold there during sewing.

■ ACCESSORIES

ACCESSORIES

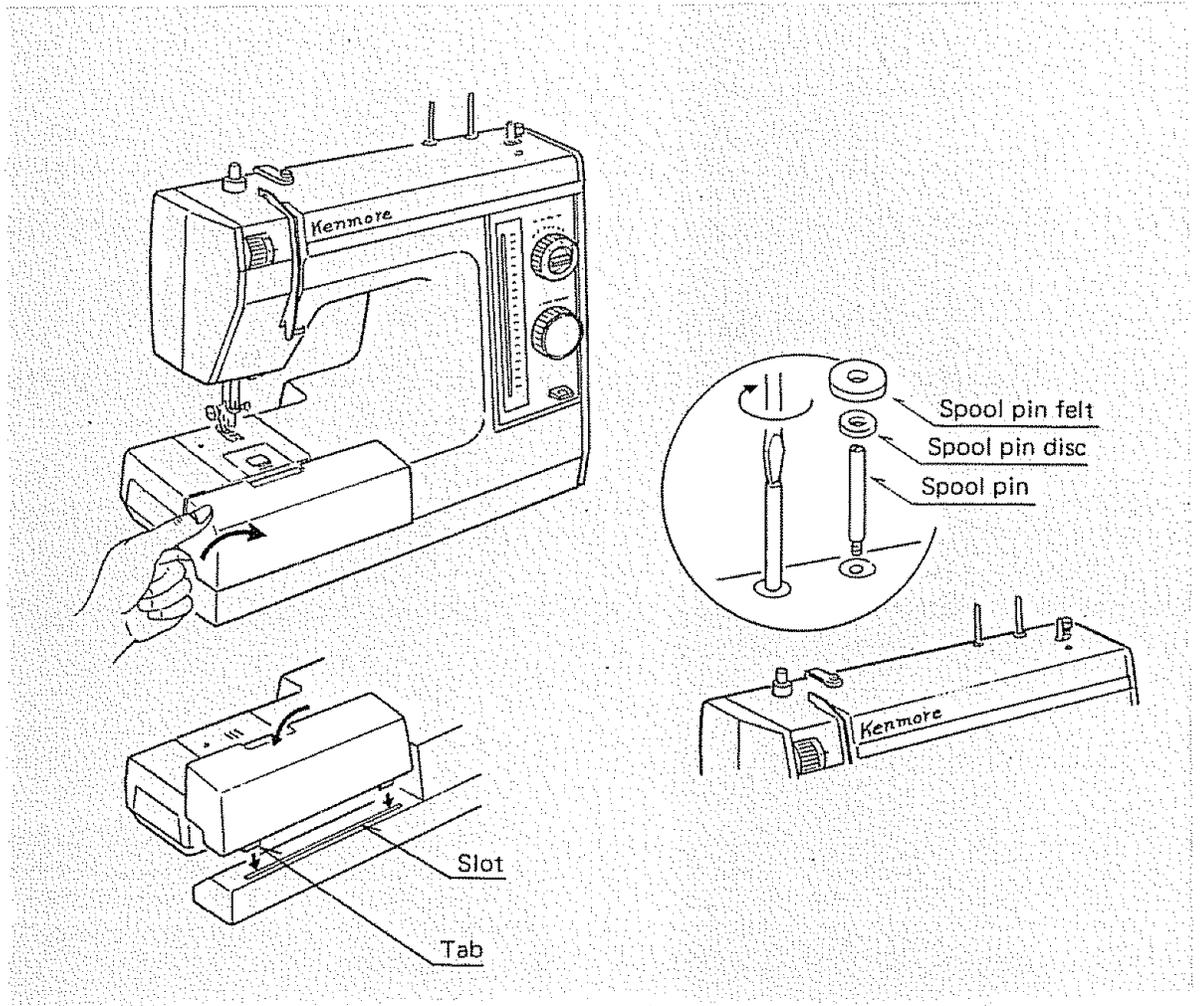


SETTING SPOOL PINS

Spool Pins are packed in accessory box.

Screw thread spool pins in place securely with a screw driver.

Position spool pin discs and felts as shown in illustration.

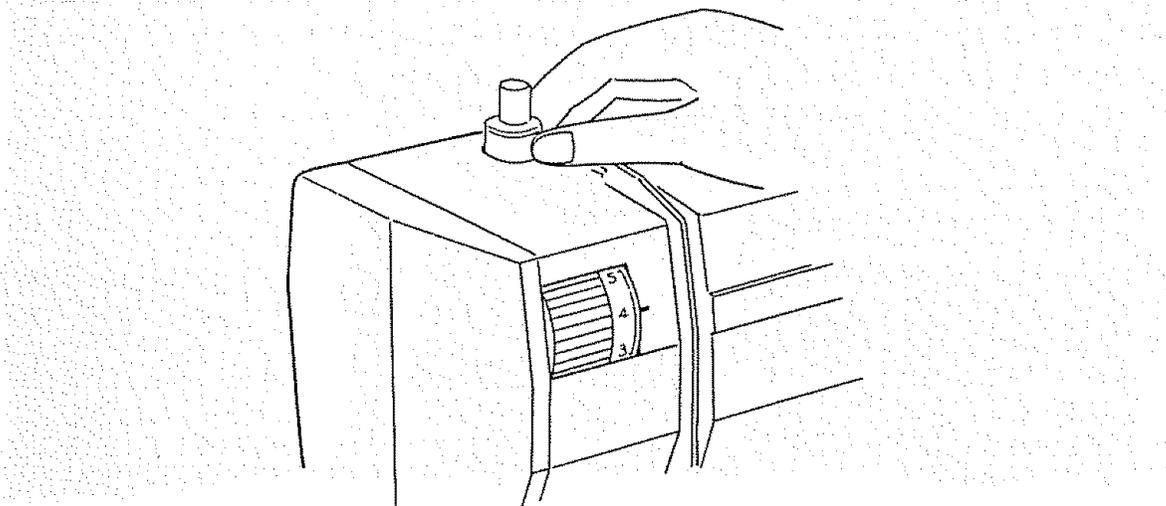


CONVERTING TO FREE-ARM SEWING

To utilize free-arm feature for sewing tubular material, remove the extension table from the machine.

To return to flat-bed sewing, reposition the extension table inserting tabs of the base into slot of the machine.

PRESSURE REGULATOR



Push down the outer ring of the pressure regulator. This will release the pressure on the presser foot. (See above)

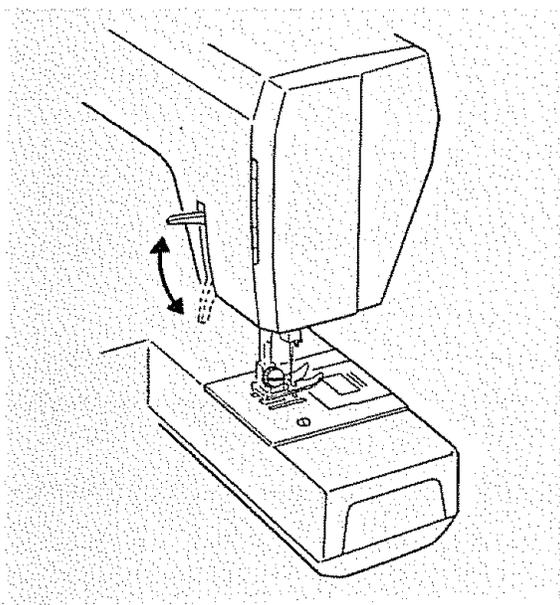
To increase the pressure, push down inner pin until suitable pressure is obtained.

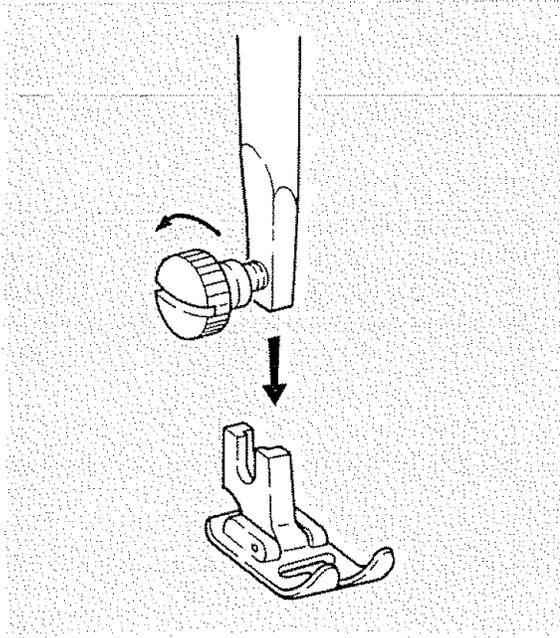
Insufficient pressure may cause poor feeding of the fabric, skipped stitches, or difficulty in guiding the fabric. If feed dogs or presser foot marks appear on the fabric, reduce the pressure.

When sewing multiple thickness or heavy fabric, reduce the pressure. Increase pressure when sewing lighter weight fabrics.

PRESSER FOOT LEVER

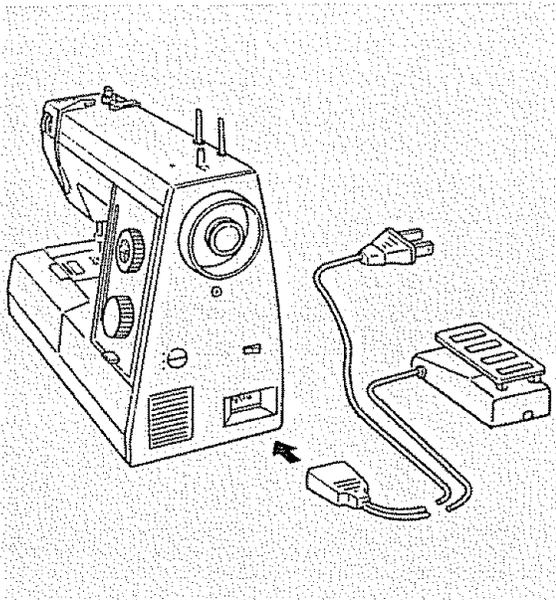
To aid you in the placement of heavy fabrics under the presser foot, the lever can raise foot beyond the normal "up" position. This is also an aid in changing your presser feet.





PRESSER FEET

To change the various presser feet, raise the presser bar to its highest position by lifting the presser foot lever. Loosen the presser foot thumb screw, choose the proper foot, insert from the bottom. Tighten the screw using the large screw driver to make certain the foot is secure.



SPEED CONTROL PLUG

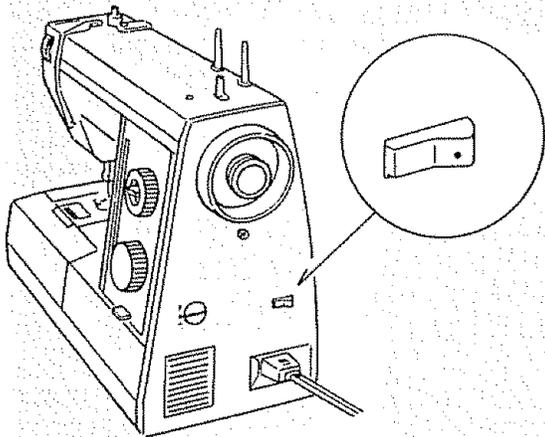
Insert the foot control plug onto the three prong connector as shown at the left. Connect the cord plug into any 110 ~ 120 volt AC wall outlet.

LIGHT AND POWER SWITCH

Turn on power by pushing light and power switch.

Important safety feature

Your machine will not operate unless the light/power switch is turned on. Turning on the power automatically illuminates the whole stitching area. If you're interrupted or stop sewing, turn off light/power switch.



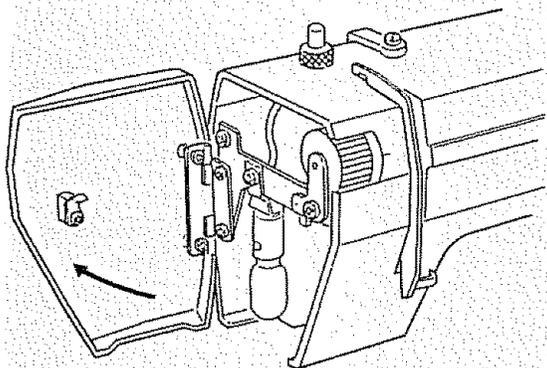
SEWING LIGHT

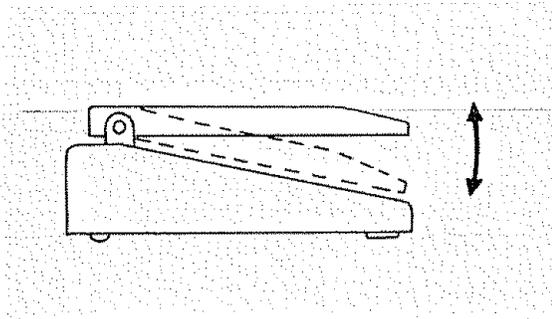
The sewing light is located in the face cover as shown. To replace the bulb, turn the light off and open the face cover. Push the bulb up and turn the bulb counter-clockwise and remove it from the socket.

Push a new bulb in and turn it clockwise.

NOTE:

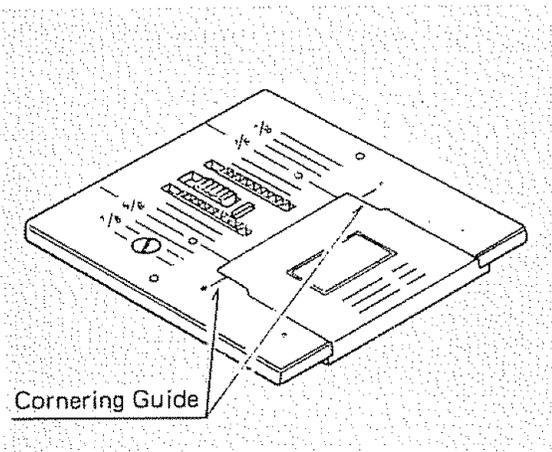
First, unplug the machine prior to removing and replacing the bulb. Be aware that the light bulb may be warm.





FOOT CONTROL

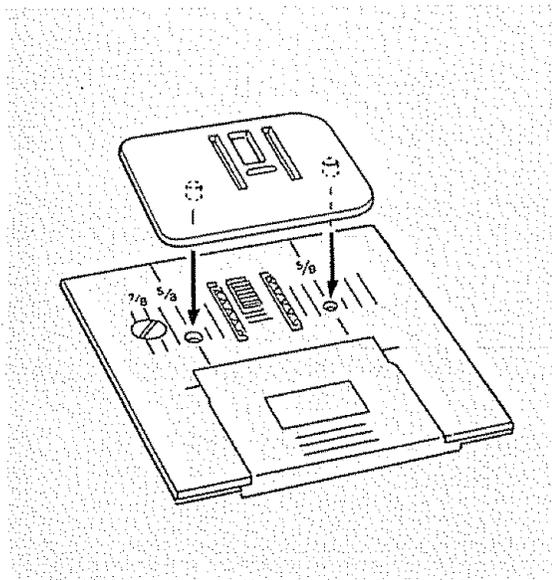
Step on this control to start to sew. The harder you press on the control, the faster the machine will sew. Slow down by reducing pressure on the control. You may want to practice your speed at different levels when you first use the machine.



SEAM GUIDES

Seam guides are printed on either side of the needle plate to aid you in guiding your fabric. THE GUIDE LINE EXTENDING ALONG THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE NEEDLE PLATE IS THE "ALL IMPORTANT" 5/8" SEAM LINE.

The cornering guides are convenient when turning a square corner 5/8" from the fabric edge. See next section of this book for directions.

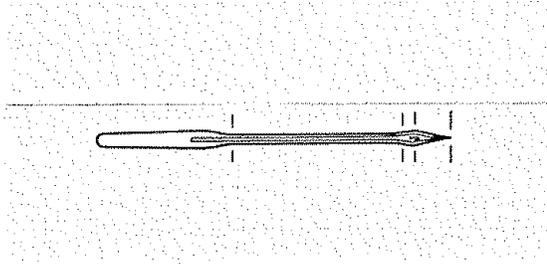


DARNING PLATE

There are a few times when you want to control the feeding of the fabric yourself. Raise needle to its highest position and raise presser foot. Place darning plate over needle plate aligning two pins of darning plate with holes of needle plate. You may then determine the movement of the fabric yourself. See page 35 for button sewing application.

NEEDLE, THREAD AND FABRIC CHART

FABRIC	NEEDLE SIZE AND COLOR	THREAD SIZE	RECOMMENDED STITCH LENGTH SETTING
Lightweight: Batiste, Dimity, Chiffon, Silks, Fine Lace, Organza, Crepe, Taffeta, Voile, Organdy	11-ORANGE	Polyester Core/Cotton Wrap Fine Mercerized Cotton Silk A	12 stitches per inch
Medium Weight: Cotton, Cotton Blends, Percale, Gingham, Shantung, Pique, Seersucker, Satin, Knits, Vinyl Suitings, Linen, Wool Crepe, Leather	14-RED	50 Mercerized Cotton Polyester Core/Cotton Wrap Silk A	10 to 12 stitches per inch
Medium Heavy Weight: Corduroy, Denim, Wool, Sailcloth, Wool Flannel, Gabardine, Velvets, Leather	14-RED or 16-PURPLE	50 Mercerized Cotton Mercerized Heavy-Duty Polyester Core/Cotton Wrap Silk A	8 to 10 stitches per inch
Heavy Weight: Coatings, Upholstery Cotton Duck, Heavy Twills, Canvas	18-GREEN	Heavy Duty Mercerized Cotton Polyester Core/Cotton Wrap Silk A	8 stitches per inch
Decorative top-stitching on all types of fabric	16-PURPLE 18-GREEN	Buttonhole Twist (Use as top thread only)	6 stitches per inch
Stretch Fabric: Polyester Double Knits, Nylon Tricot, Jersey, Stretch Terry, Spandex, Cire Tricot	11-STRETCH FABRIC NEEDLE- BLUE	Polyester Core/Cotton Wrap 50 Mercerized Cotton	10 to 12 stitches per inch

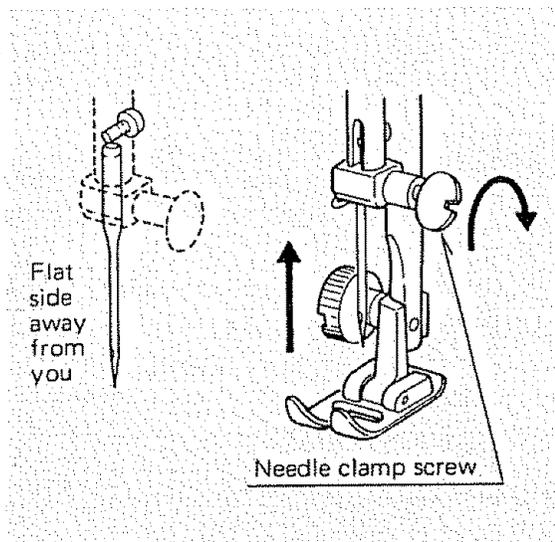


NEEDLES

Use KENMORE needles. The size of the needle should conform with the size of the thread and both should suit the fabric. Kenmore needles are color-coded by size for your convenience (See chart on facing page).

Never use a bent needle or one with a dull point.

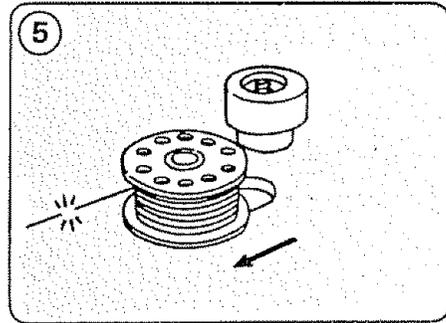
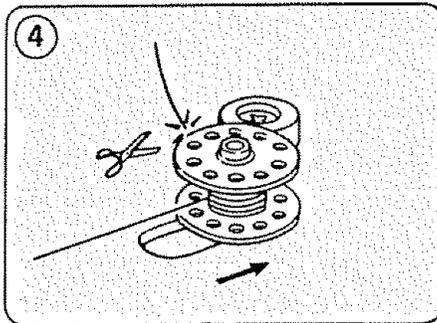
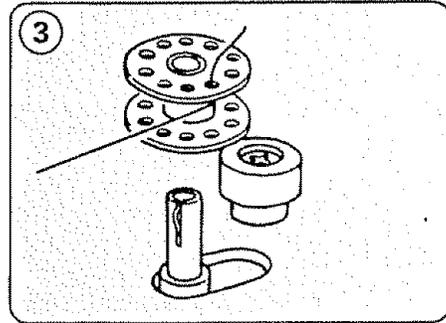
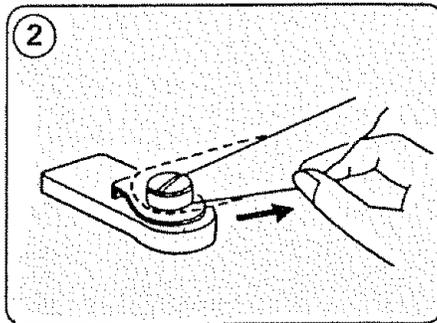
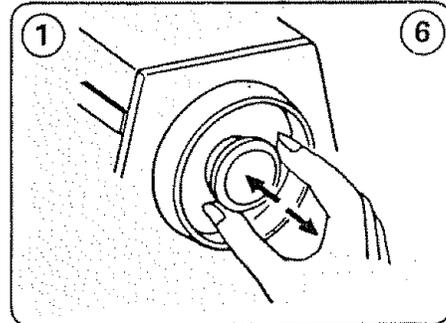
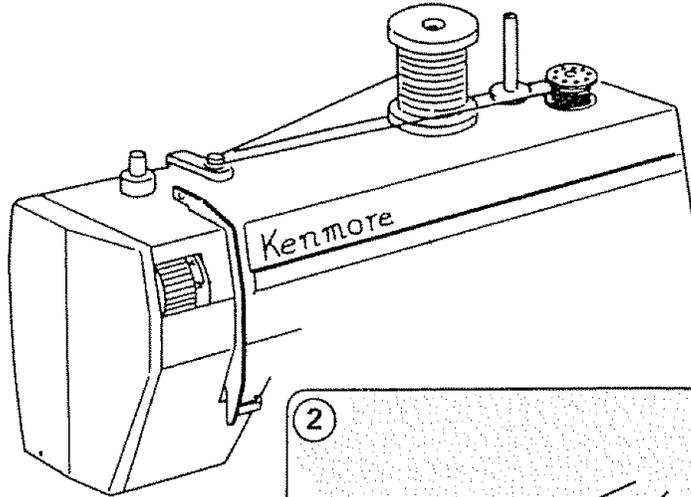
The exact length of your needle is shown at left. Be sure you never use one in your machine that is not this exact length.



PLACEMENT OF NEEDLE

Raise needle bar to its highest position by turning the hand wheel toward you. Loosen the needle clamp screw. Holding the needle with the flat side away from you, slip the needle into the needle bar. When it is in as far as it will go, tighten the needle clamp screw with small screw-driver provided in the accessory box.

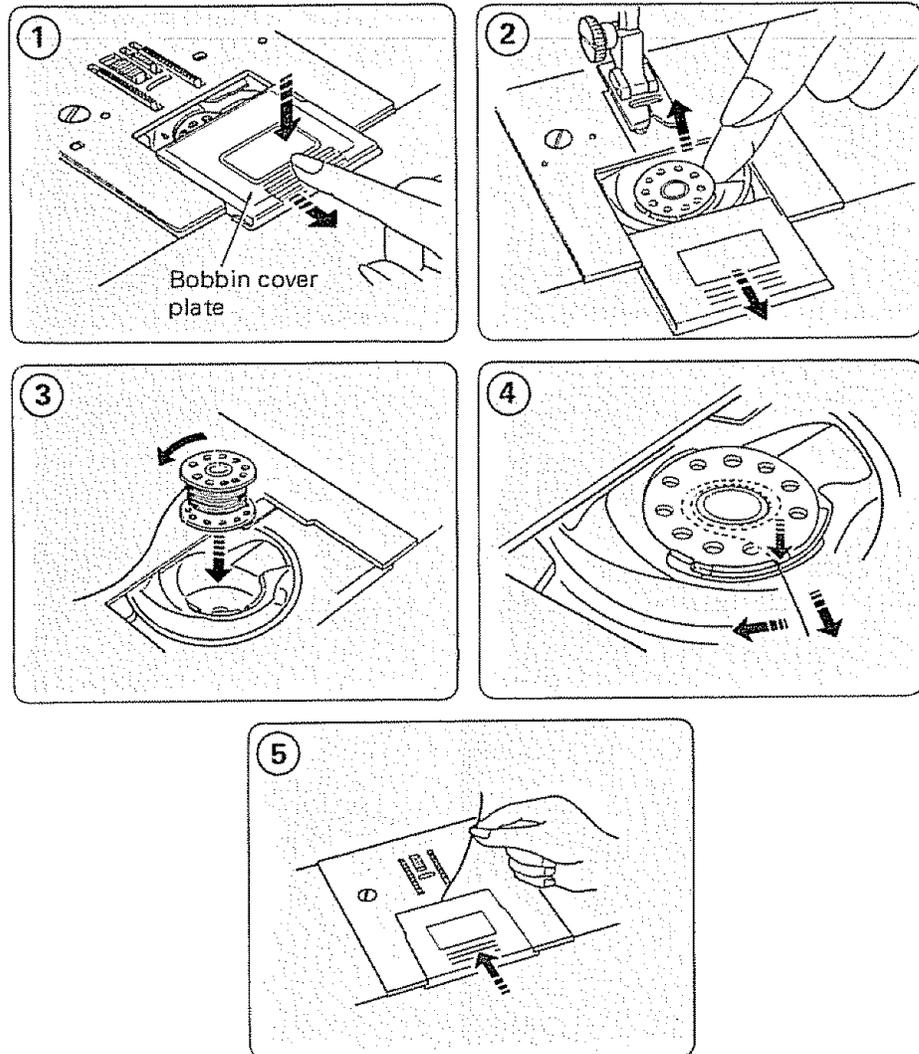
WINDING THE BOBBIN



1. Pull Push-pull Clutch away from machine to disengage clutch.
2. Draw thread from spool through bobbin winder tension disc as shown.
3. Pull end of thread through hole in bobbin as shown.
4. Place bobbin onto bobbin winder shaft with end of thread coming from the top of the bobbin. Push bobbin

- winder shaft to the right until it clicks. Holding onto end of thread, start machine. When bobbin is slightly filled, snip off end of thread.
5. Wind thread until winder stops. Remove bobbin. Clip thread.
 6. Push in Push-pull Clutch to engage clutch.

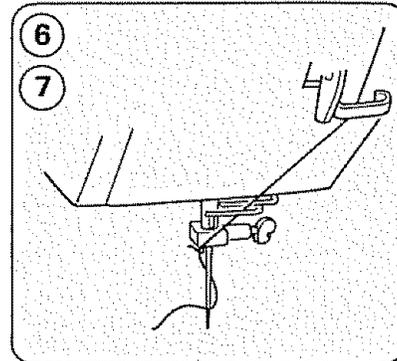
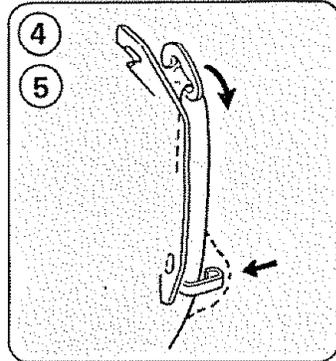
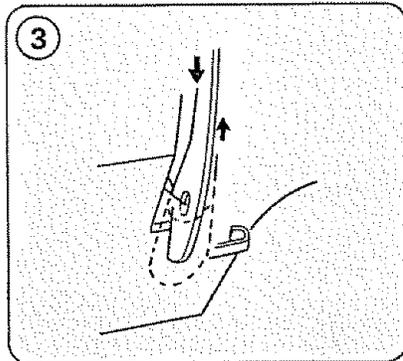
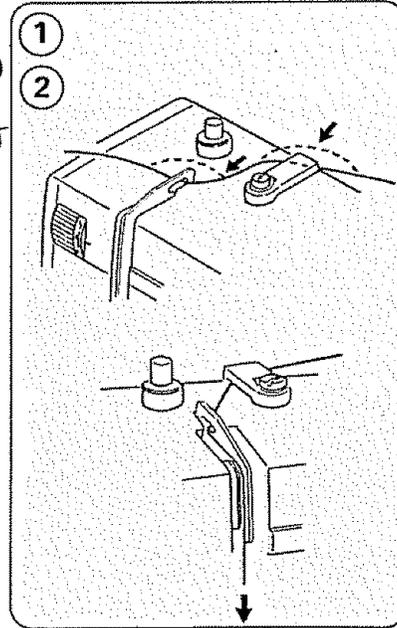
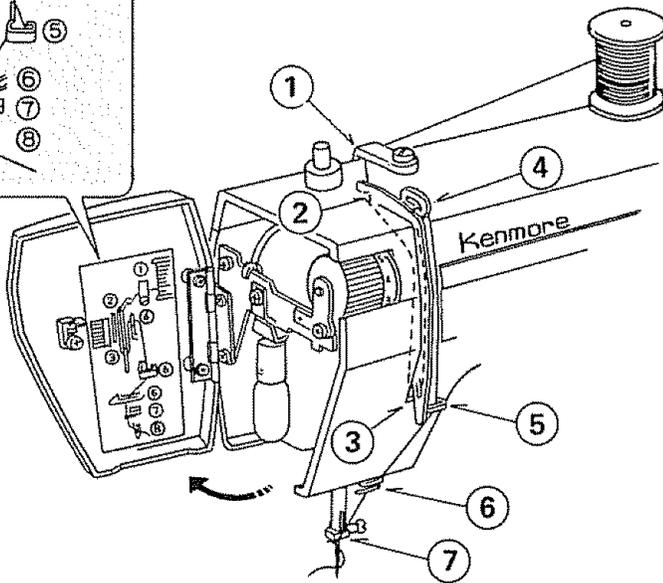
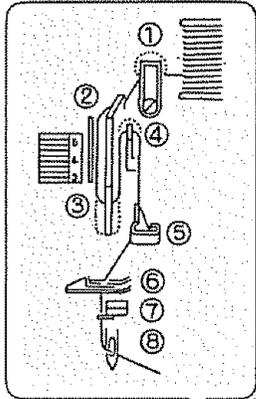
THREADING THE BOBBIN THREAD



1. Remove the bobbin cover plate by pulling it toward you while pushing it down slightly.
2. Take the bobbin out and wind it.
(See page 12 for winding the bobbin.)
3. Insert bobbin into shuttle making sure bobbin rotates counter clockwise.
4. Pull 4-inches of thread through tension slot of bobbin case and toward back of machine as shown.
5. Close the bobbin cover plate allowing thread to emerge through slot in needle plate.

THREADING TOP THREAD

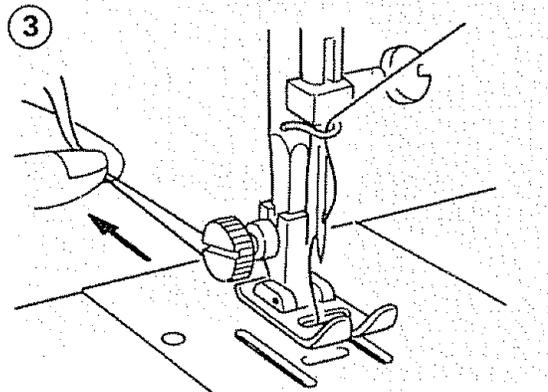
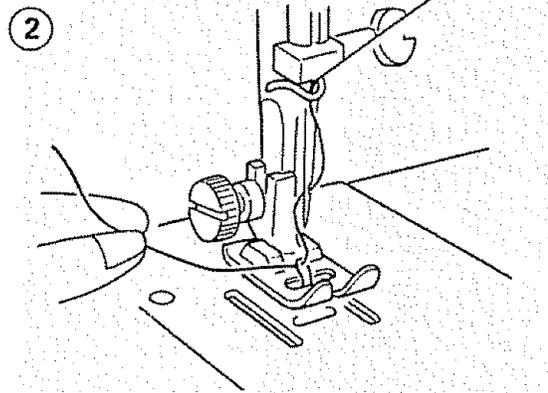
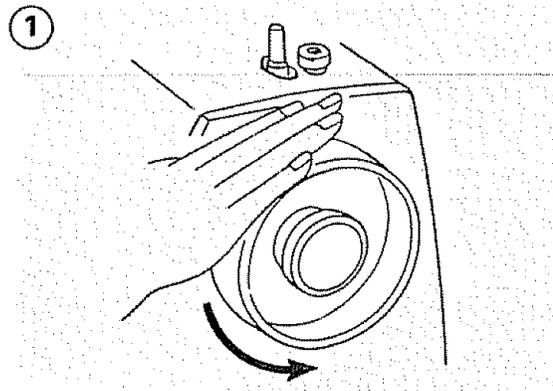
The numbered steps below follow the numbers on the illustrations. Dotted lines show places where the thread loops and then is pulled tight.



Raise thread take-up lever to its highest position by turning hand wheel toward you. Raise presser foot lever. Place spool on spool pin as shown, with thread coming from the back of the spool.

1. Draw thread through thread guide.
2. Draw thread into threading channel toward you.
3. Draw thread down channel and around the spring wire as shown.

4. Draw thread up & through take-up lever.
5. Draw thread down and into thread guide.
6. Thread then is slipped into needle bar thread guide.
7. Thread needle from front to back.



PICKING UP BOBBIN THREAD

1. Raise presser foot lever. Hold needle thread loosely in left hand and rotate handwheel toward you one complete turn.

2. Bring bobbin thread up by pulling upper thread.

3. Pull both threads under and to the back of the presser foot, leaving 3 to 4 inches of thread clear.

If you cannot pick up bottom thread by following steps given above, then check:

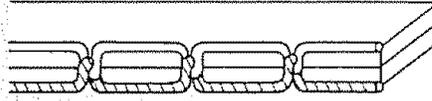
1. Is needle threaded from front to back?
2. Is thread tangled around needle?
3. Is there 3 to 4 inches of thread coming from the shuttle?
4. Is thread from shuttle tangled?

ADJUSTING TOP THREAD TENSIONS

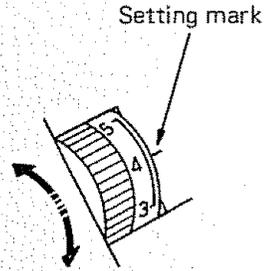
Probably the most important control on your machine is this one that regulates your top thread tension.

There are many reasons for having to reset your tension. The best tension for one fabric may not be correct for another. The required tension depends upon the stiffness of the fabric, thickness of the fabric, numbers of layers of fabric being sewn, as well as the type of stitch you are making.

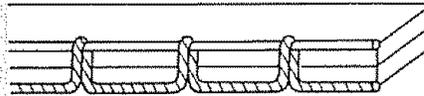
It is best to test the stitching on a scrap of the fabric you are using before starting to make a garment. Use the straight stitch function as shown at the right.



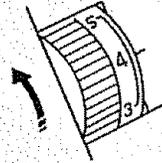
An ideal straight stitch will have threads locked between the two layers of fabric.



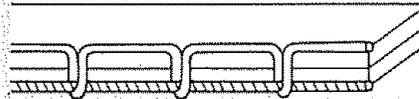
Upper thread too tight



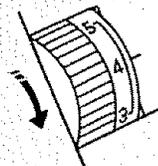
Decrease Tension



Upper thread too loose



Increase Tension



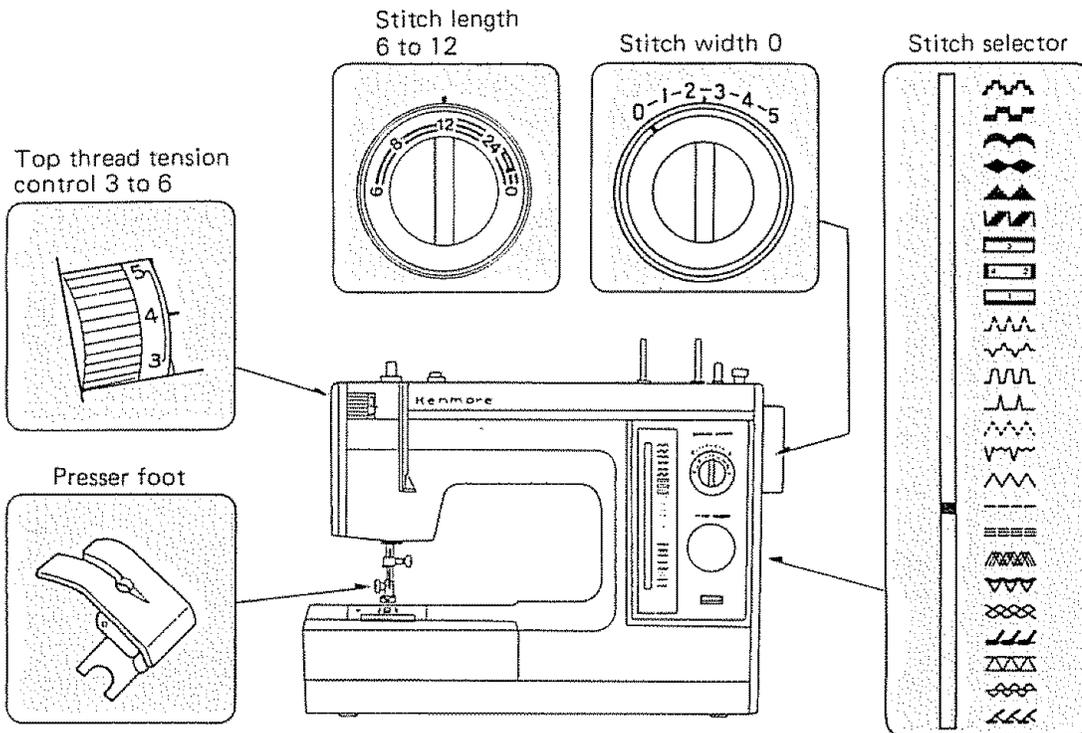
STARTING TO SEW

Now that you are familiar with the controls on your machine and with the accessories provided for the machine, you are ready to start to sew with your new Kenmore sewing machine. Below are some good habits to follow each time you sit down to sew:

1. Test the needle. It should be straight, properly set and sharp on the point. It should be the correct size for the fabric and thread being used. Do not be afraid to change your needle frequently. Many of the new fabrics made of synthetic blends tend to dull the needles more easily than fabrics made of natural fibers.
2. Before placing the material on the machine, see that the ends of the threads have been drawn about 4 inches to the rear of the machine. Hold on to threads during the sewing of the first 3 or 4 stitches of the seam.
3. Test the machine stitch on a scrap of fabric you plan to use. The fabric should be double thickness. Adjust the machine for the length of stitch and tension suitable to your fabric.
4. Fabric should be placed under the presser foot with the bulk of the material to the left of the needle and the right edge of the material placed on the 5/8" seam marking on the needle plate when making a simple seam.
5. Run the machine at a slow even speed. The more pressure you put on the foot control, the faster the machine will sew.
6. Fasten each seam by back tacking at the beginning and end of the seam.
7. Always finish sewing each seam with the needle at its highest point.
8. Guide the fabric gently with your hand in front of the needle. Never pull or hold the fabric in such a way that the normal feeding is altered.
9. When turning the hand wheel manually, always turn it toward you.

■ SIMPLE SEWING

STRAIGHT STITCHING



You will find in garment construction that you are doing two types of sewing-temporary and permanent.

1. Temporary stitching-Usually the longest stitch possible and often done on a single layer of fabric. The various types of temporary stitching are:

- Basting
- Stay stitching
- Guide line marking

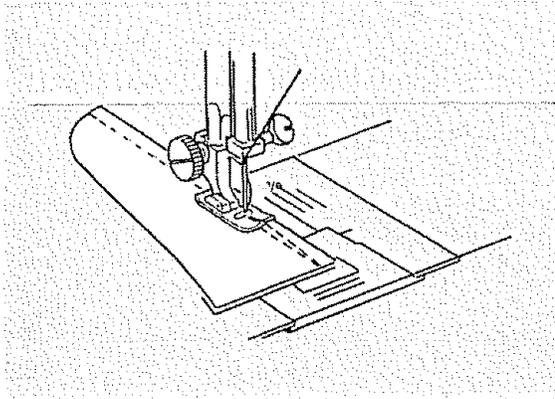
2. Permanent stitching. This is the actual stitching that holds the garment together. Much of this stitching is visible on the outside of the garment and therefore must be good looking.

The best length stitch to use for medium weight fabrics is 10-12 stitches per inch. This is in the middle range of the Stitch Length Control.

You must remember to lengthen the stitch for heavier fabrics, multiple layers of fabric and thicker seams. Some of these seams are:

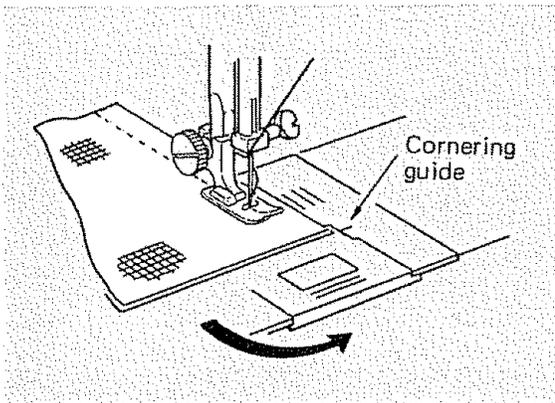
- Common two layer seams
- Curved two layer seams
- Top stitched three layer seams
- Top stitched four layer seams

When you have two seams crossing each other with considerable thickness, sew slowly and carefully so the seam will be as strong as possible in this area.



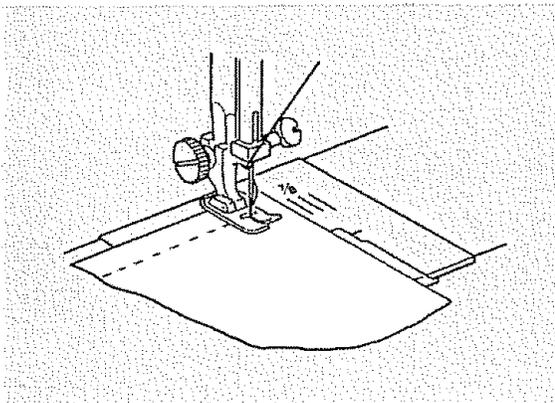
FASTENING A SEAM

Be sure both threads are drawn back under the presser foot. Lower needle into fabric about 1/2 inch from beginning of seam. Press and hold reverse stitch lever down and stitch in reverse until needle reaches beginning of seam. Release the reverse lever and complete seam. When you reach the end, press the reverse lever down again and sew back over 1/2 inch of completed seam.

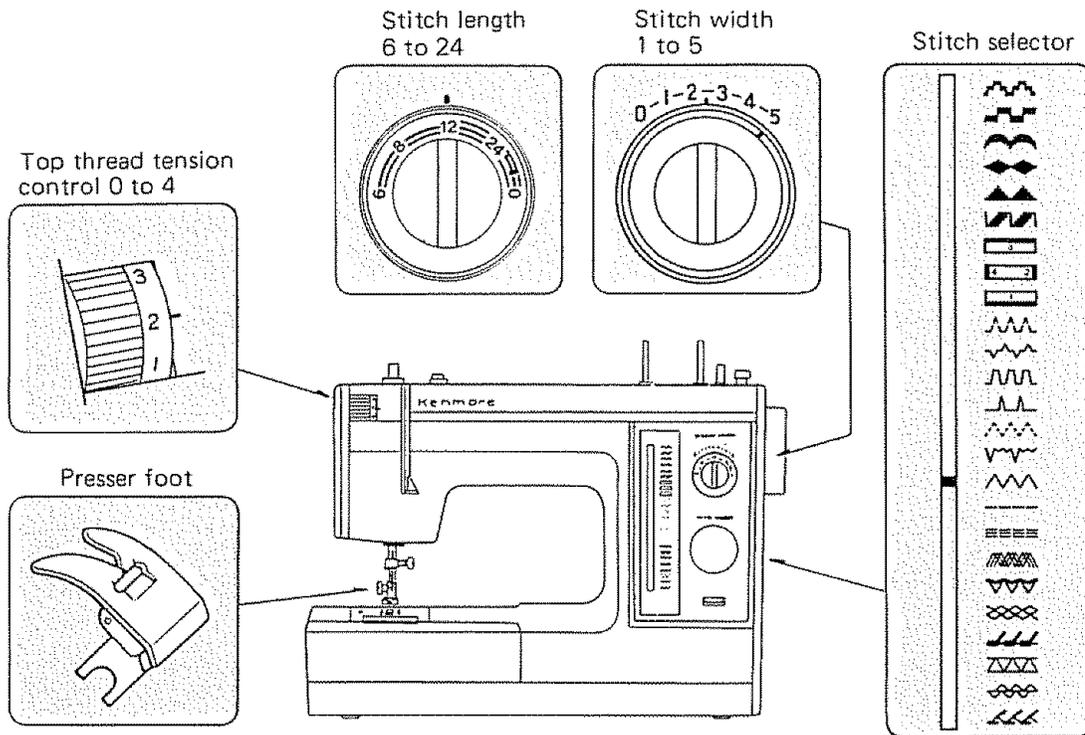


TURNING A SQUARE CORNER

To turn a square corner 5/8" from the fabric edge, stop stitching with the needle tip piercing the fabric, when reaching the cornering guide as shown. Raise the presser foot, turn fabric. New stitching line will align with 5/8" seam guide on side of needle plate. Lower the presser foot and begin stitching in new direction.



ZIGZAG STITCHING



This type of stitching greatly expands the use of your machine. This is the feature that enables you to overcast seams, applique and sew on buttons. Simply use the settings indicated in the illustration for the simple zigzag. Follow directions given in the following pages for more specific uses.

CHECKING TENSIONS

The easiest way to check tensions is to sew a medium zigzag stitch on the fabric you will be using.

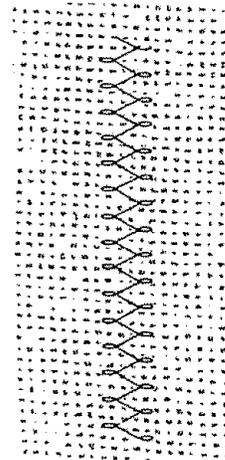
Use the appropriate type of thread and needle. Use different colors of thread on the bobbin and upper spool.

Sew a line of medium zig-zag stitches. The bobbin thread should not show on the top of the fabric.

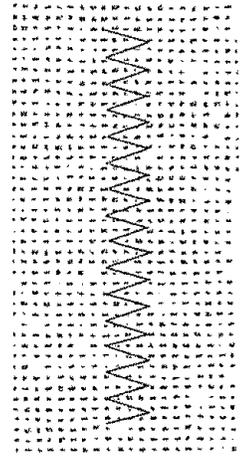
Adjust the top tension if necessary to achieve the stitch formation mentioned above.

This tension control is very sensitive. You may want to reduce the tension towards 0 when sewing wide stitches on soft fabric. This reduction of tension will tend to eliminate puckering of soft fabrics.

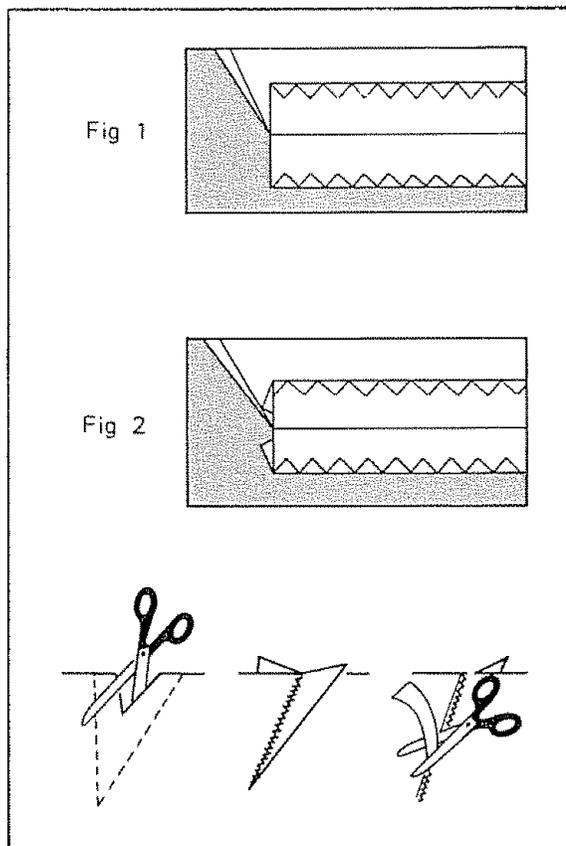
UNDESIRABLE



DESIRABLE



TOP SIDE OF FABRIC



OVERCASTING

This is one of the more frequently used zigzag stitches in garment construction. You may want to overcast along the raw edge of each seam allowance or fold the raw edge toward the garment and stitch.

Fig. 1 shows the raw edge finished. Fig. 2 illustrates the folded edge stitched.

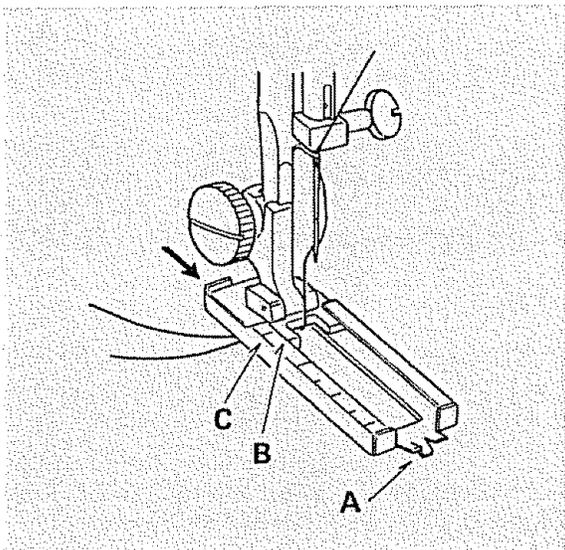
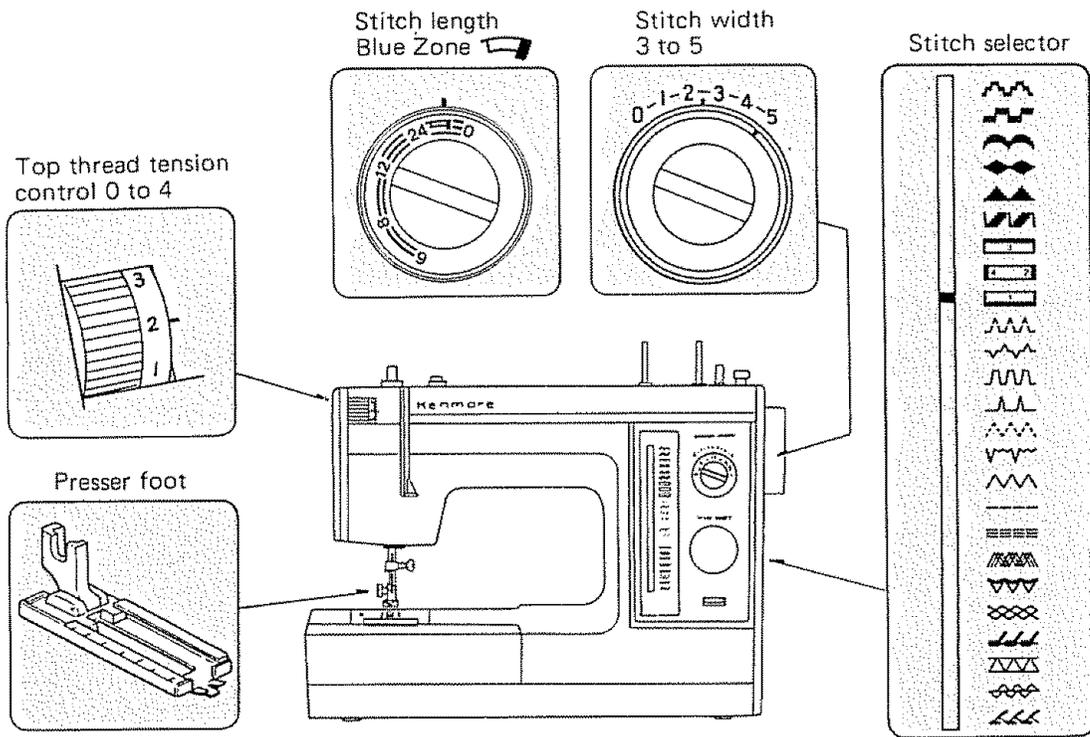
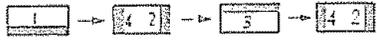
Stitch so the needle pierces the fabric just short of the outside edge. Raw or worn edges of older garments can be overcast to prevent further raveling.

INTERFACING DARTS

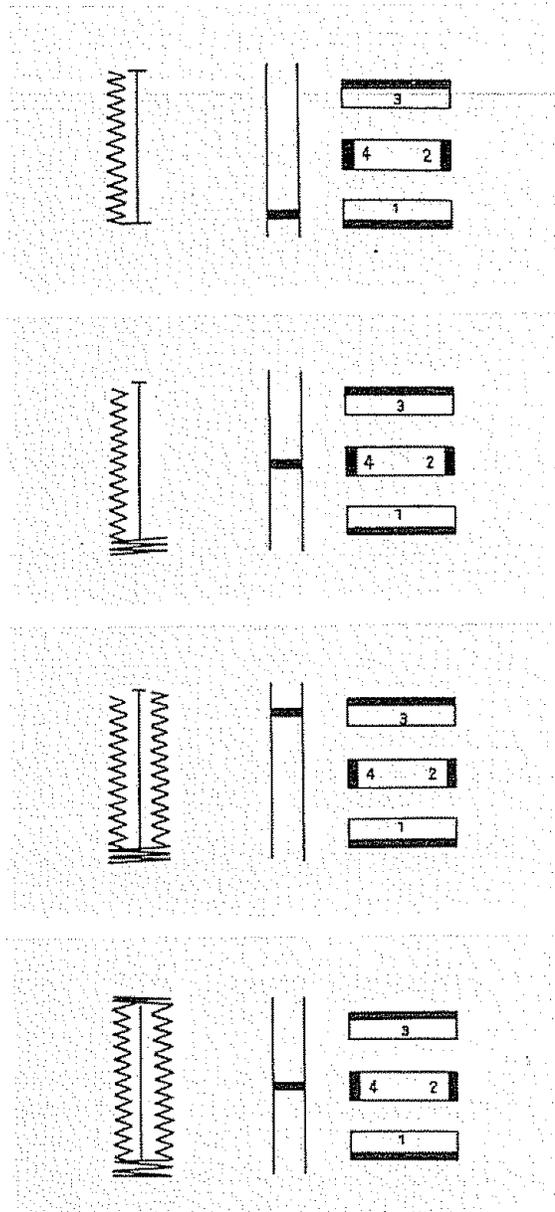
To reduce bulk of interfacing darts, cut interfacing down center between dart lines. Overlap cut edges, matching dart lines. Zigzag stitch along marking line from point to wide end of dart. Trim both raw edges close to stitching.

UTILITY AND STRETCH STITCH SEWING

BUTTONHOLE MAKING



1. Carefully mark the buttonhole length on your garment. Place the fabric with the buttonhole marked under the buttonhole foot. Pull the guide foot (A) all the way forward so that the index mark (B) is aligned with the graduation (C), with thread to rear. (The markings on the left side of foot will help you in making all your buttonholes the same size. Graduations act as reference mark.)



2. Set stitch selector at **2**. Stitch forward until you approach the bottom marking of the buttonhole. Stop sewing at the right stitch and raise the needle to its highest position by turning hand-wheel toward you manually.

3. Set stitch selector at **3** and bartack 5 or 6 stitches at the bottom mark of the buttonhole. Stop sewing at the left stitch. Raise needle to its highest position by turning handwheel toward you.

4. Set stitch selector at **3** and sew the other side of the buttonhole until you approach the top marking of the buttonhole. Stop sewing at the left stitch. Raise the needle to its highest position.

5. Set stitch selector at **4** again and bartack 5 or 6 stitches to finish the buttonhole.

Always make a practice buttonhole on a scrap of fabric you plan to use. Try the buttonhole with the button you will use.

Always use an interfacing in area of garment where buttonholes are placed. Tissue paper or regular interfacing can be used. Tear paper away after stitching, if it is used.

For heavier weight fabrics, loosen your top tension slightly.

BLIND HEMMING

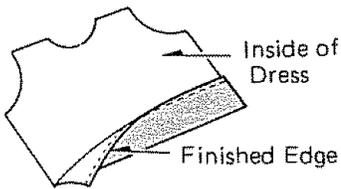
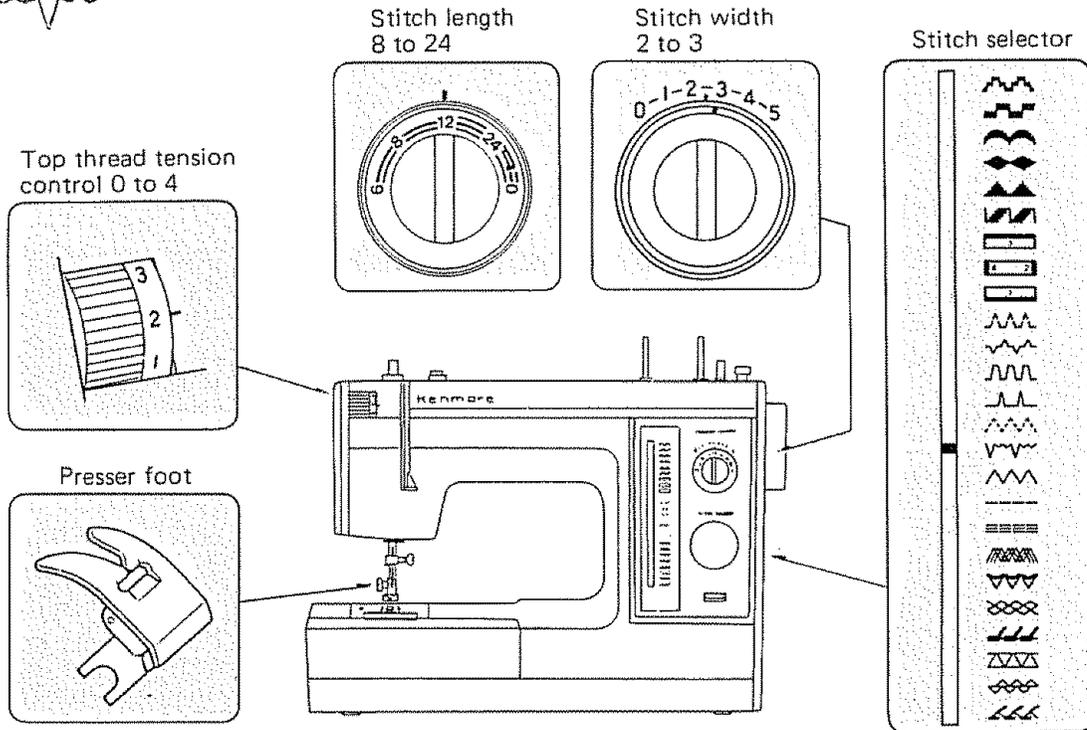


Fig. 1

1. Finish edge of hem anyway you desire. Turn up hem appropriate width. (Fig. 1)

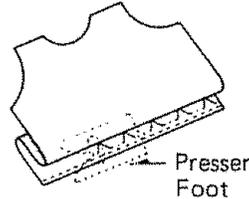


Fig. 3

3. Place garment under presser foot in such a way that narrow zigzag stitches will be sewn on extended edge. The wide zigzag stitch should just catch the fold of the garment. (Fig. 3)

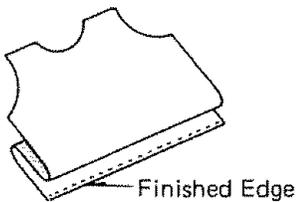


Fig. 2

2. Fold garment away from hem leaving 1/8" of hem edge extending. (Fig. 2)

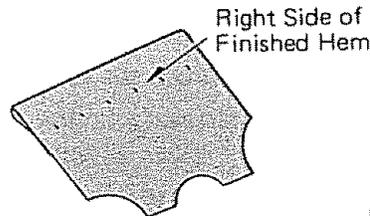
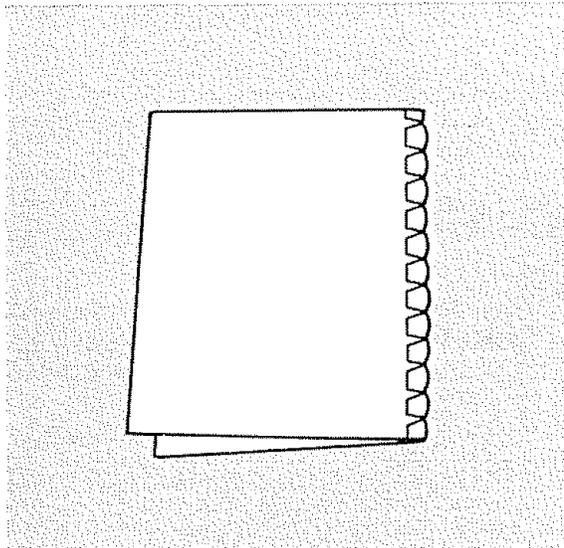
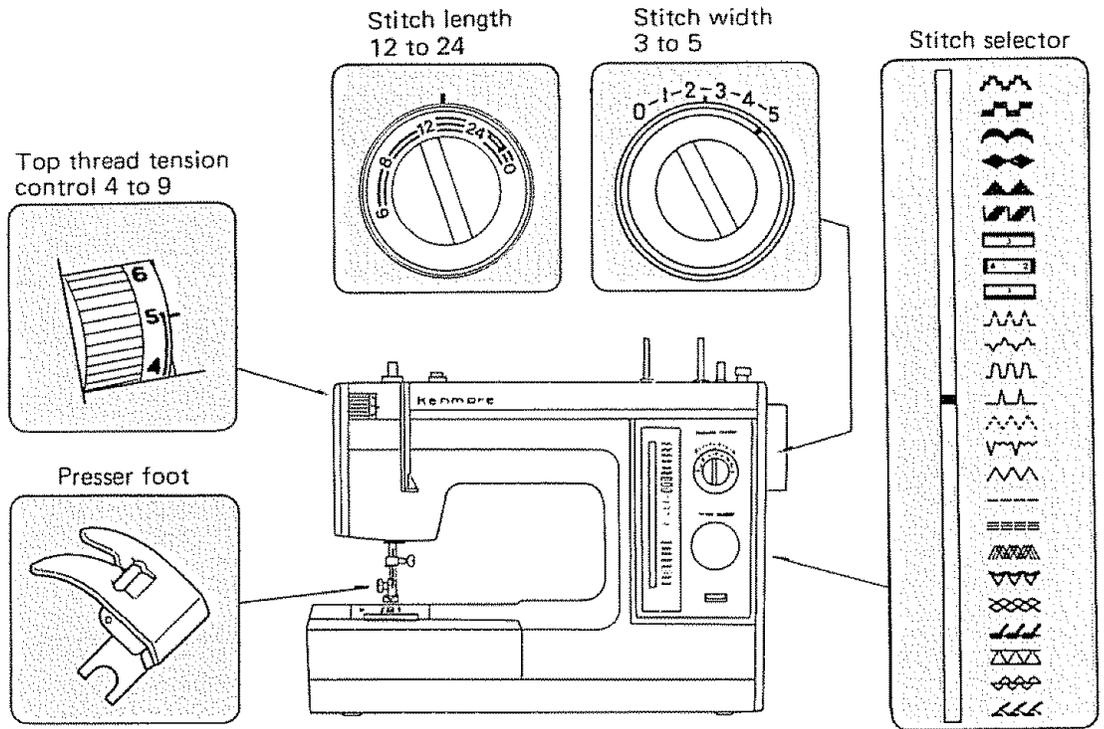


Fig. 4

4. Press both sides of the finished hem. The right side of the garment will show only the blind stitches. (Fig. 4)

SHELL STITCHING

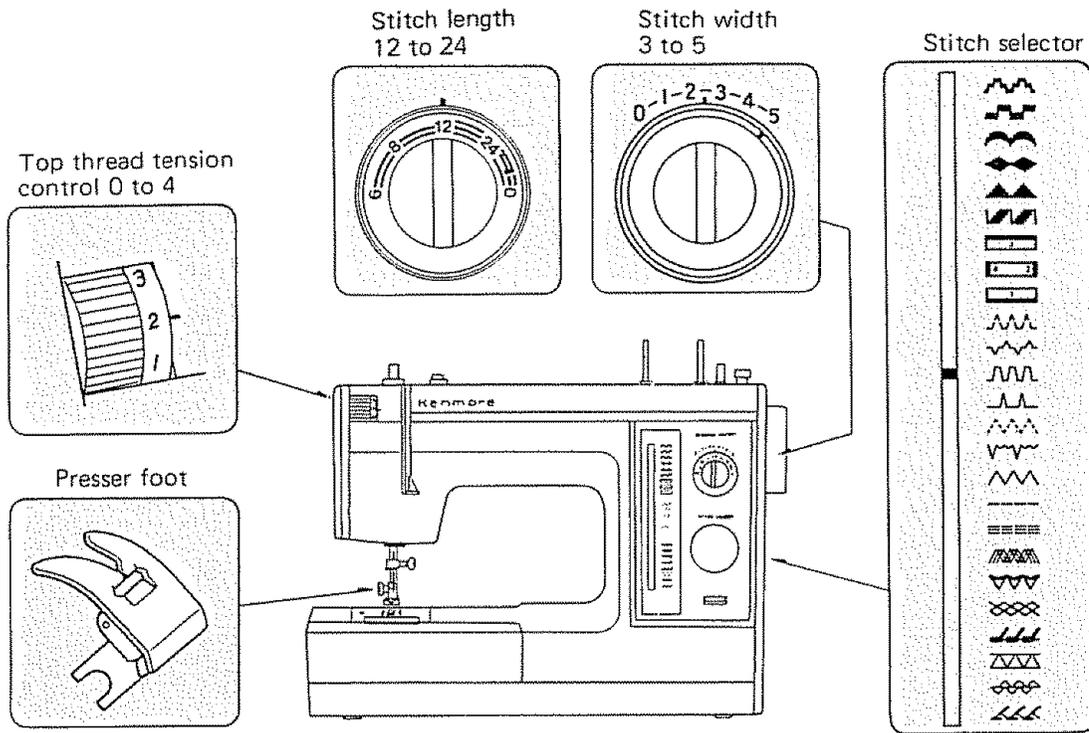


This stitch used on the edge of nylon tricot makes an attractive edge stitch called Shell Stitching.

When sewing this stitch, allow needle to just clear the right edge of the fabric when it zigzags.

You may need to tighten top thread tension slightly to obtain desired effect.

BOX STITCHING

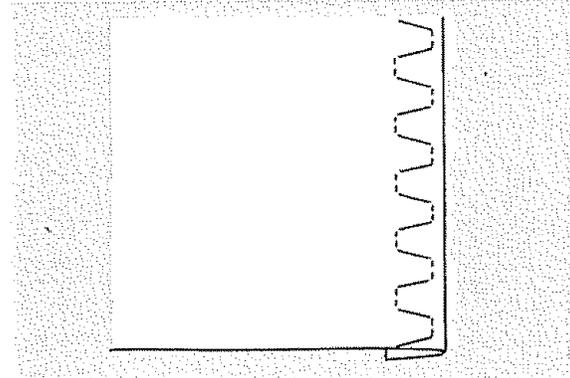
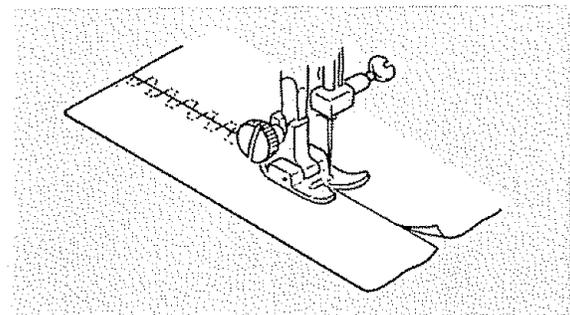


This is a good stitch to use in attaching or binding elastic fabrics and stretch lace, lingerie stretch knit.

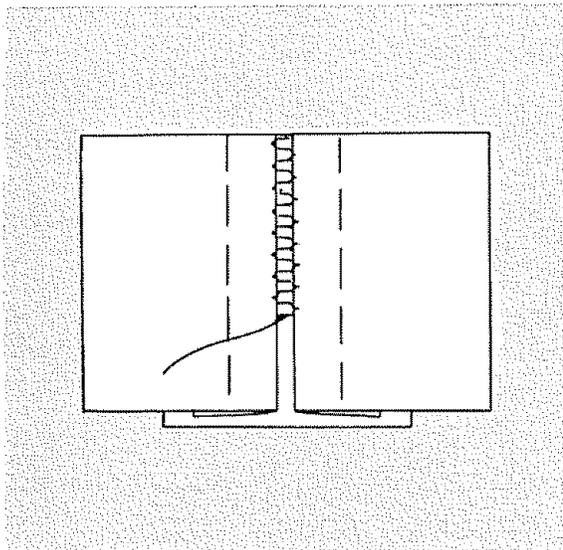
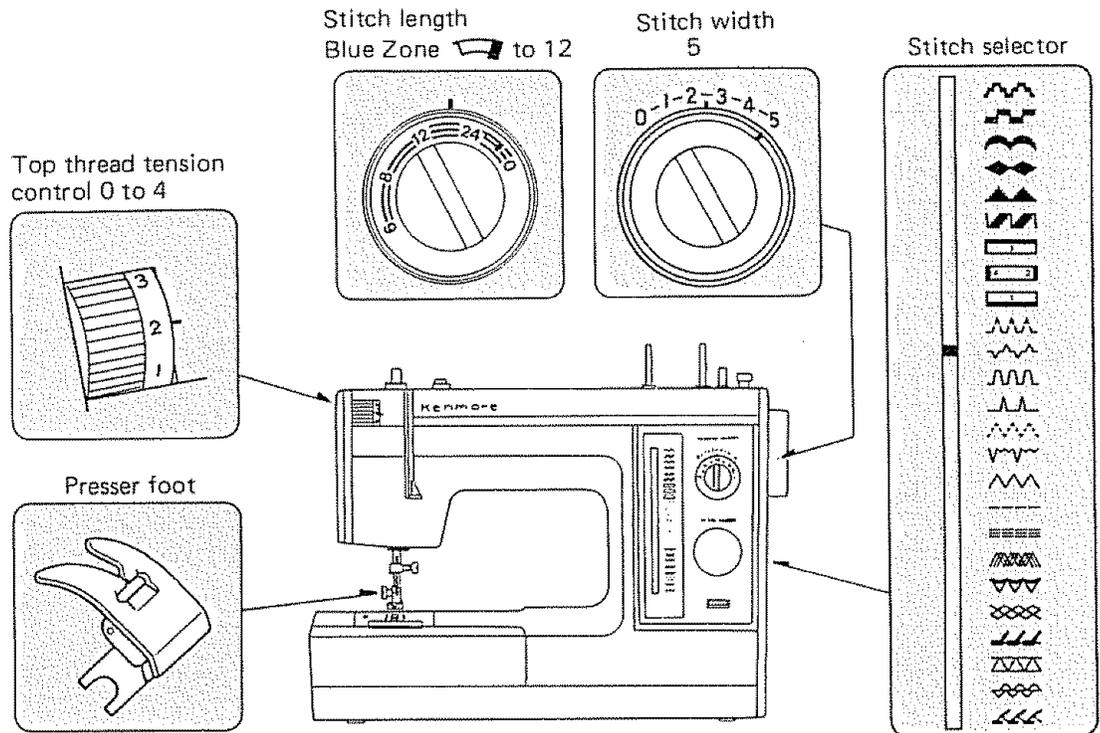
The stitch is decorative as well as useful.

DECORATIVE EDGING

Turn the raw edge under 2" and press. Place the fabric right side up with the middle of the turnover under the center of the presser foot, so that the stitch sews on to the fold and just over the raw edge underneath.



FAGOTING



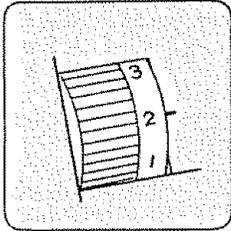
This is a popular decorative stitch (used in sleeves or fronts of blouses and dresses). To attach two separate pieces of fabric together, leave a little space inbetween. To prepare the fabric:

Fold under the seam allowances on the cut edges, and press. Baste folded edges to tissue paper with about 1/8" space between. Stitch over the 1/8" allowance, just catching the fabric fold on both sides with needle. Remove bastings and paper; press.

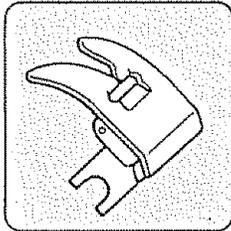
TWO-POINT SHELL STITCHING



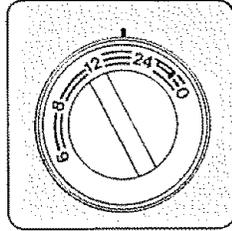
Top thread tension control 0 to 4



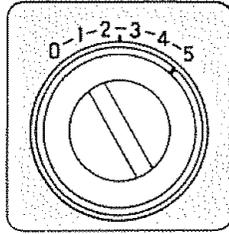
Presser foot



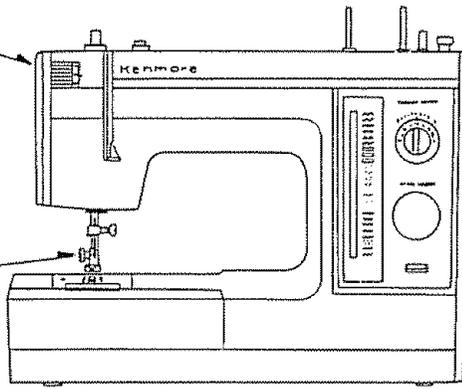
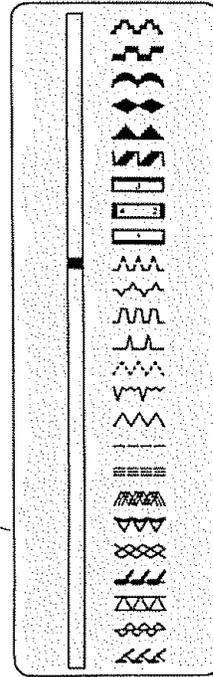
Stitch length
Blue Zone to 12



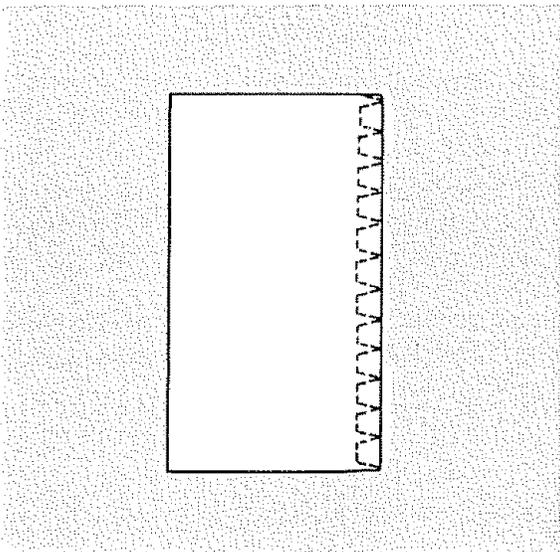
Stitch width
3 to 5



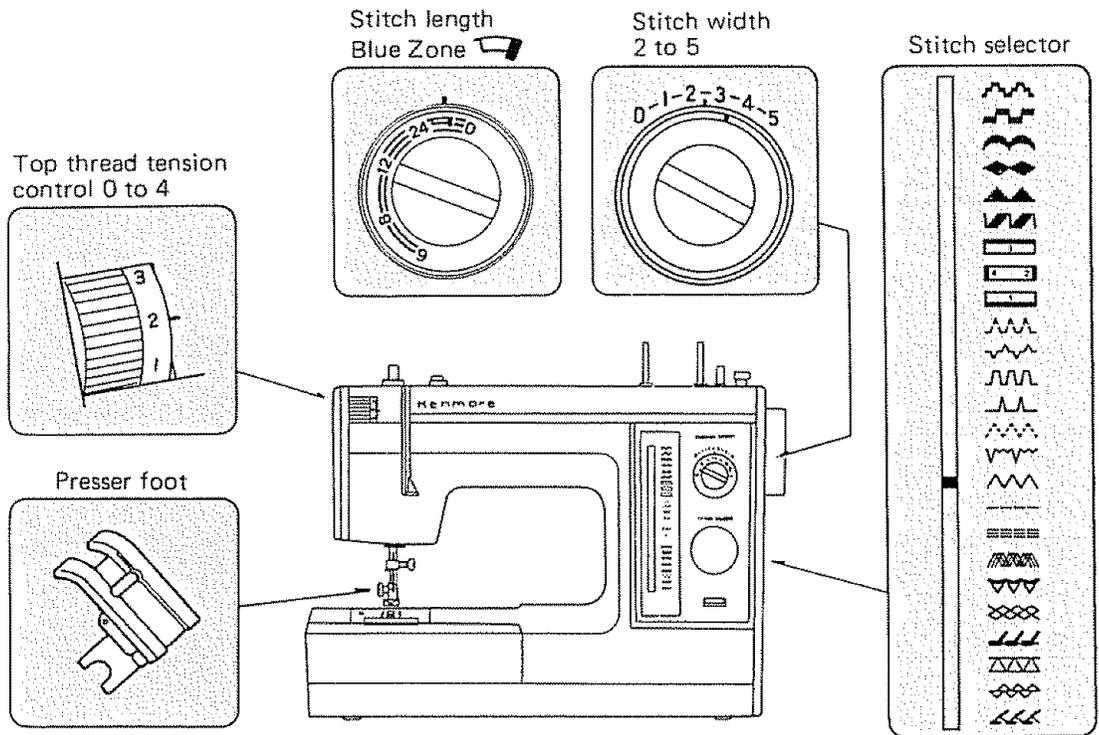
Stitch selector



This stitch can also be used as a single overlock stitch as well.



SATIN STITCHING



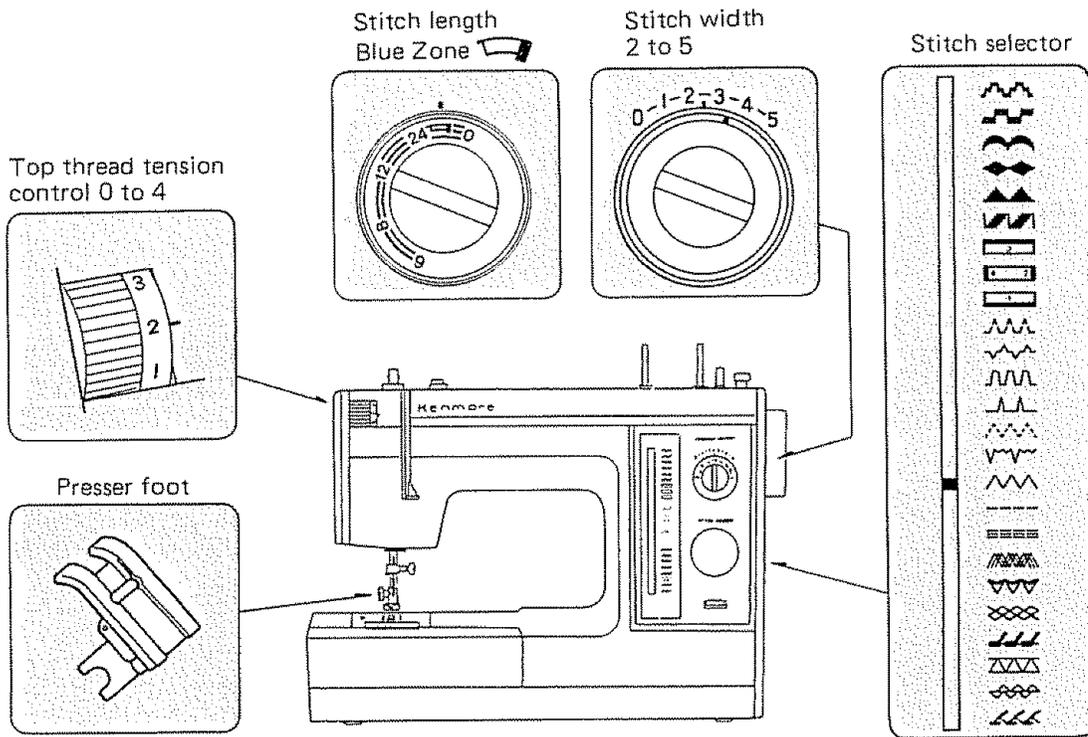
Closely spaced zigzag stitches are called satin stitches. This is an attractive stitch used for appliqueing, buttonhole making.

Whenever you are using this stitch, it is well to remember to loosen the tension of the top thread slightly. The wider the stitch you make, the looser the tension should be.

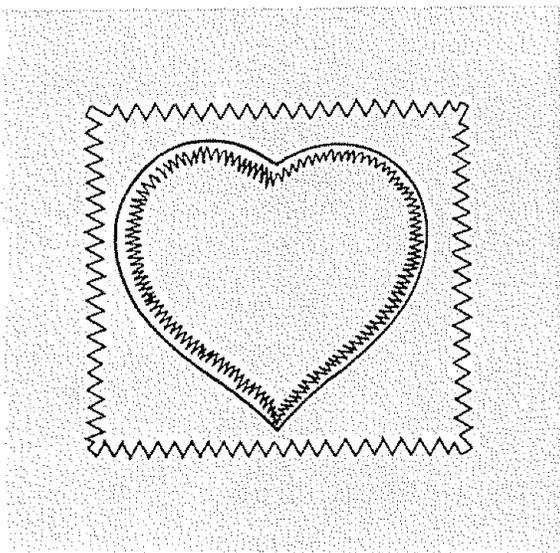
If you are stitching on a very soft fabric, it is well to use a backing of tissue paper or interfacing for a well formed stitch. Puckering of the material will be eliminated and the bobbin thread will not be visible on the top side of the fabric.

It is best to practice a sample design on a fabric scrap before sewing design on garment.

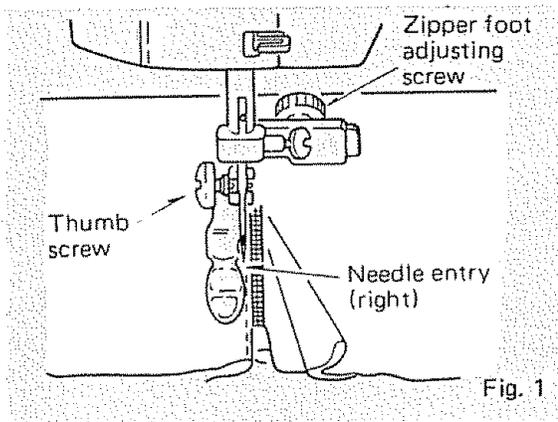
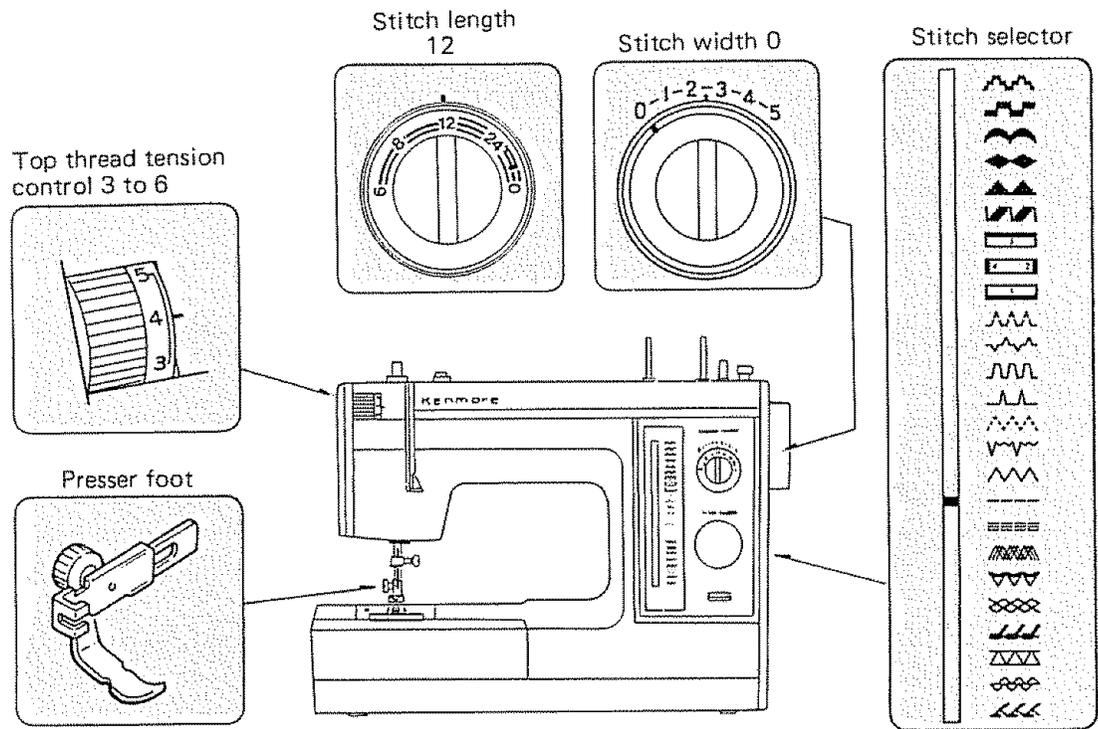
APPLIQUEING



Select an applique design to be applied to your garment and baste it in place. Satin stitch around the raw edge of the applique completely covering the edge. You may want to do this with a contrasting color of thread or self color.



ZIPPER APPLICATION



REGULAR ZIPPER

Pin or baste zipper to fabric and place the work in position under the presser foot. Loosen the zipper foot adjusting screw to set the foot on the left side of the needle, and sew the left side zipper as shown. (Fig. 1) To sew the rightside zipper, loosen the screw and bring the foot to the right side of the needle.

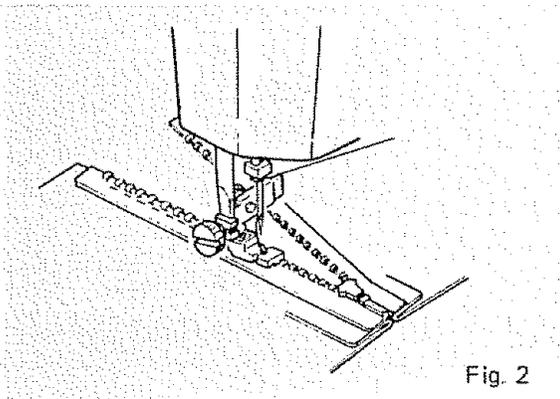


Fig. 2

INVISIBLE ZIPPER

Adjust the foot so the needle is sewing through the center hole of the foot and one groove of the foot is riding on the teeth of the zipper. See Fig. 2. Follow the zipper manufacturer's instructions.

After zipper has been inserted, finish sewing seam by shifting foot to side position sewing through side notch.

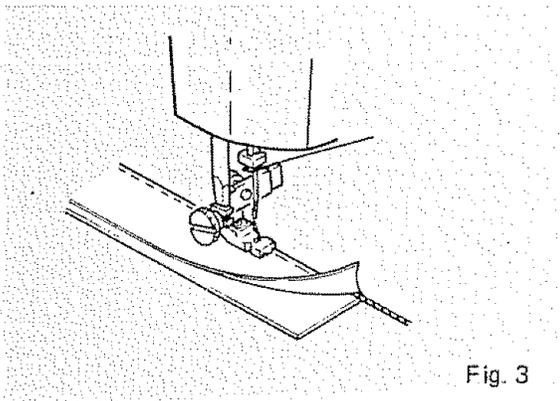


Fig. 3

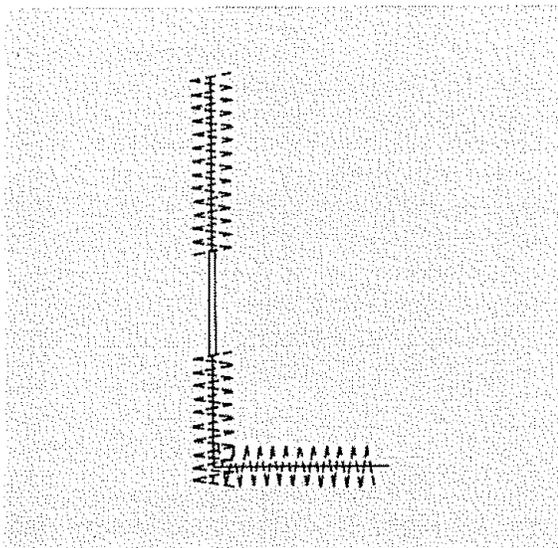
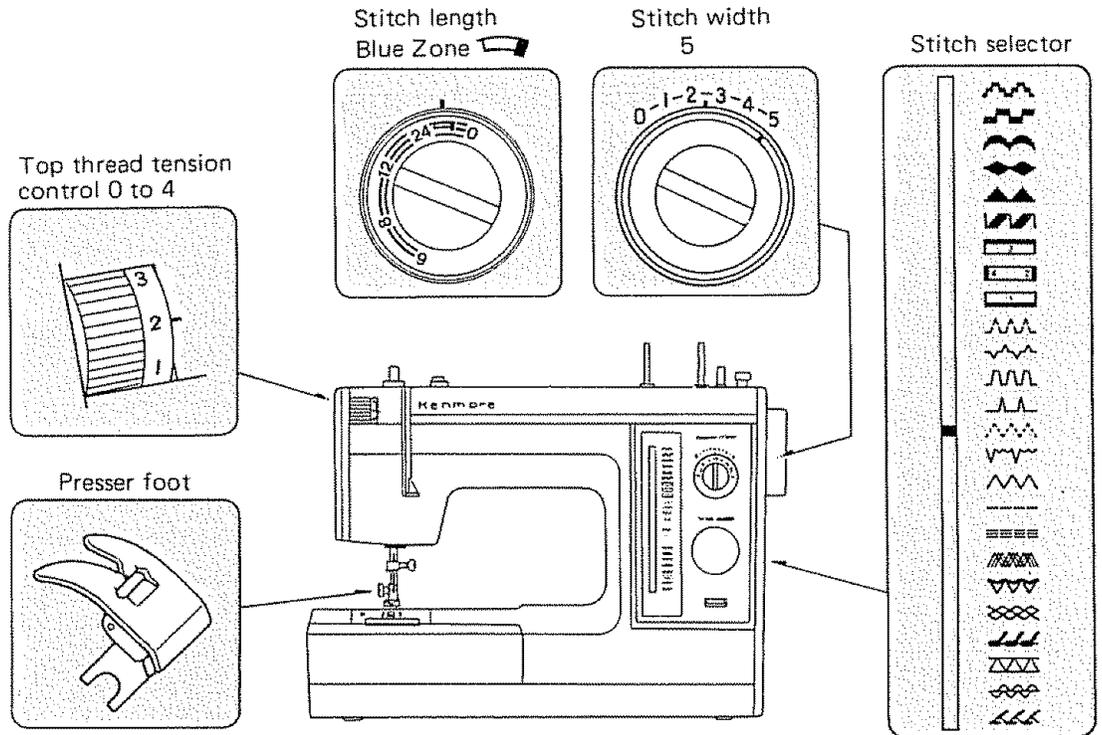
CORDING

Foot can also be used to make cording for slipcovers etc. Cover a cord with a strip of bias fabric and sew as shown in Fig. 3.

NOTE:

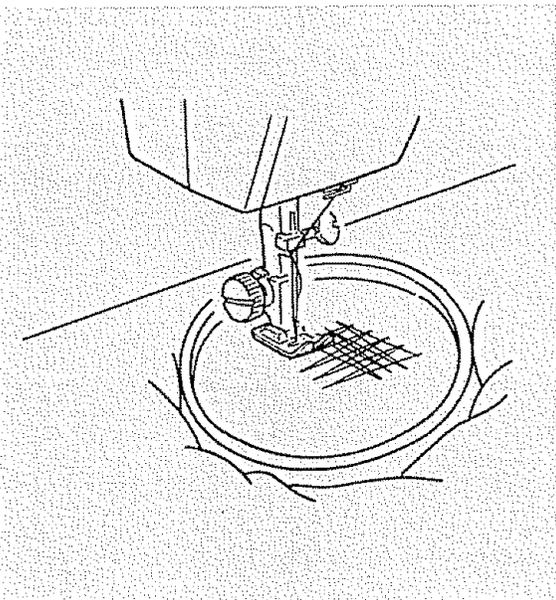
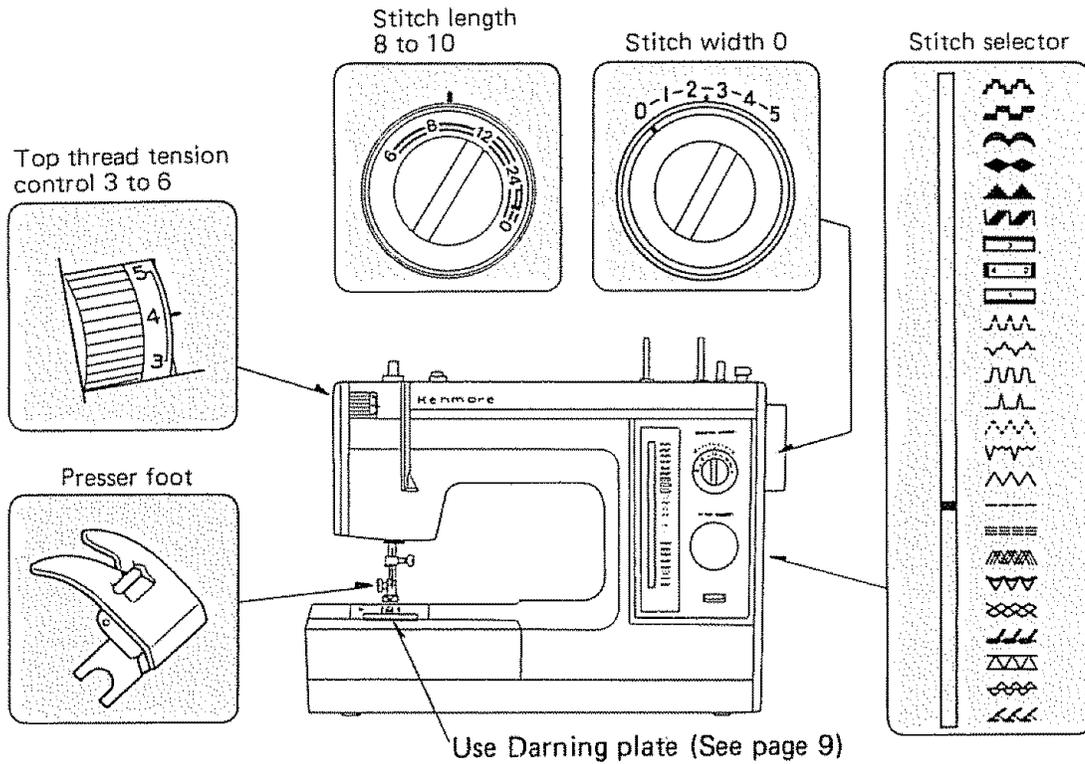
Use "Low Bar Sewing Machine ZIPPER FOOT" (6757) for "invisible zipper" and "cording", which can be obtained at any stores of Sears Roebuck and Co.

MENDING



To repair a straight or three-cornered tear, position the tear under the needle in such a way that the stitching catches both sides of the tear. When mending a three-cornered tear, stitch from each end to the center. It is well to use a piece of fabric under the tear for reinforcement.

DARNING



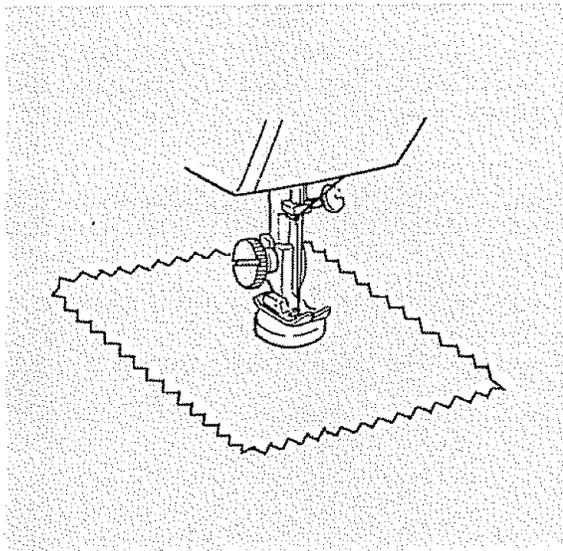
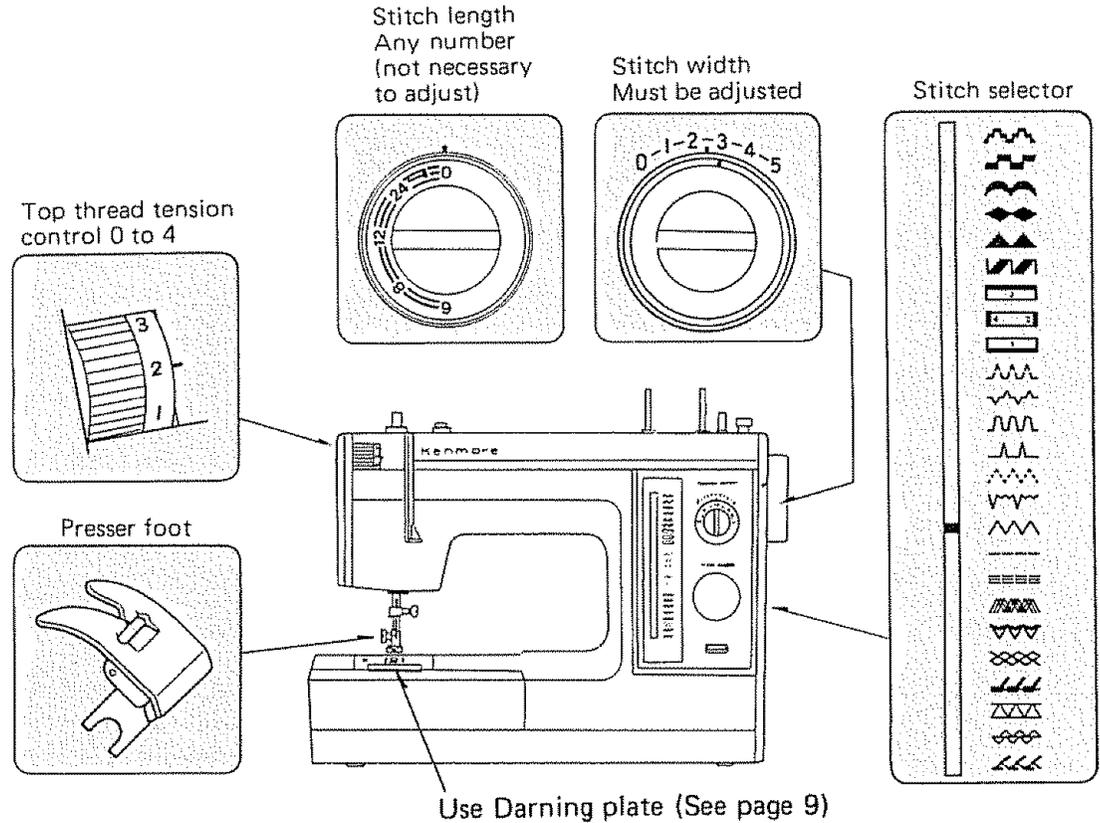
Push down the outer ring of the pressure regulator to release the pressure on the presser foot. (See page 6)

Stretch fabric between embroidery hoops with hole centered. Lower presser bar and sew at a slow speed moving fabric back and forth with a steady rhythm to cover darning area. When it is covered, turn fabric 1/4 a turn and sew layer of stitching across first layer.

If fabric is thin or badly damaged in hole area, you may want to put a separate piece under the hole for reinforcement.

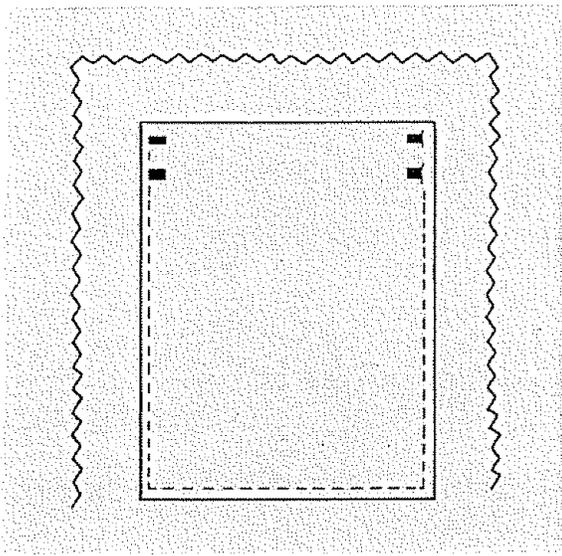
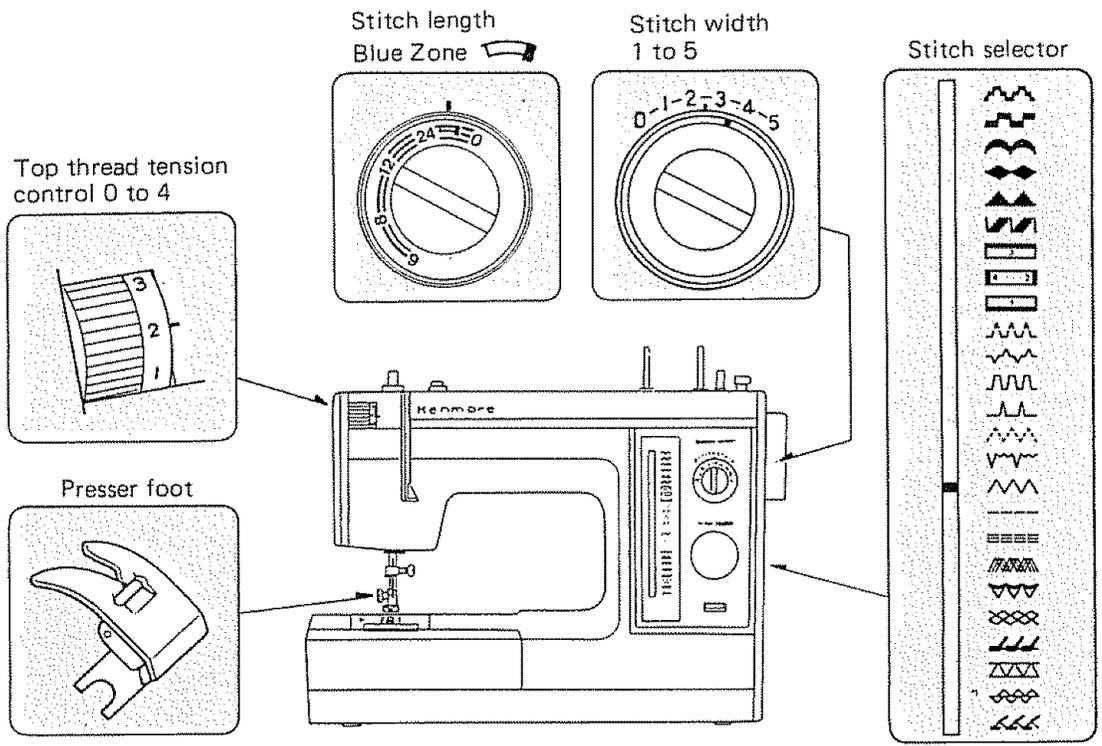
Be sure to return pressure on presser foot to original adjustment after darning. (See page 6)

BUTTON SEWING



1. Align two holes of button with slot of presser foot and lower foot to hold the button securely.
2. Turn hand wheel manually until needle point is just above button.
3. Adjust stitch width control so needle will enter left hole of the button.
4. Turn hand wheel again by hand so needle enters second hole. Readjust stitch width if necessary. Stitch a number of times.
5. Finish sewing with an extra two inches of thread remaining. Draw these threads to reverse side of garment and tie.

BAR TACKING

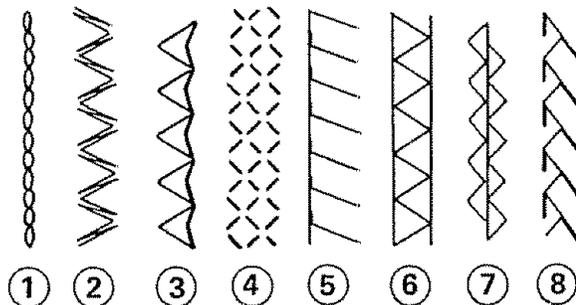


This stitch is similar to a very short satin stitch and is used to reinforce points of strain such as corners of pockets and straps on lingerie.

Sew 4 to 6 zigzag stitches.

STRETCH STITCHING

The stitches shown below are all for use with stretch and knit fabrics. These are special stitches built in to the machine for your quick selection.



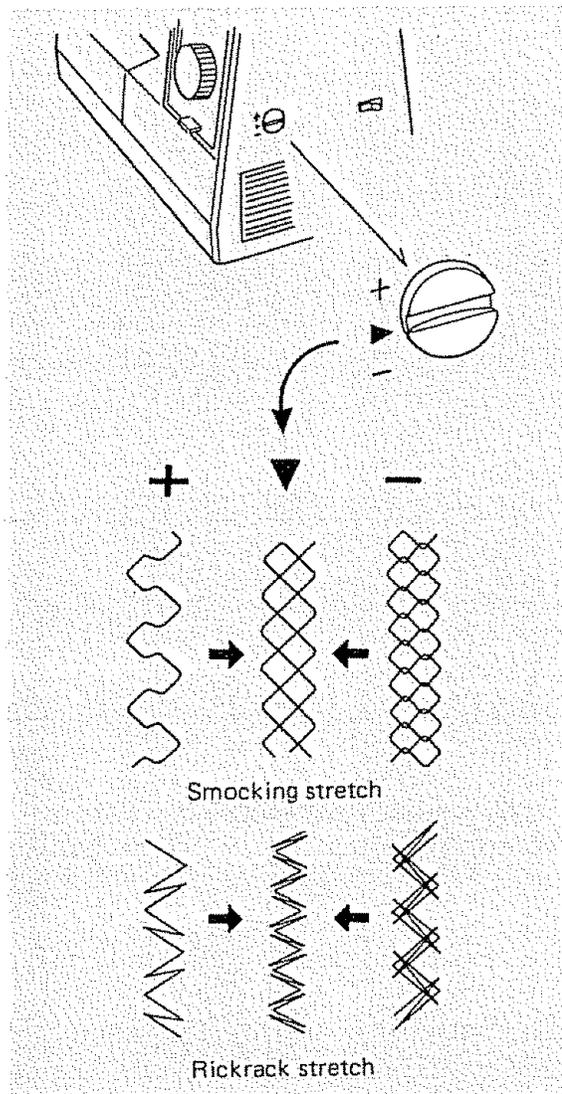
1. Straight Stretch
2. Rickrack Stretch
3. Overcast Stretch
4. Smocking Stretch
5. Serging or Pine Leaf Stretch
6. Elastic Stretch
7. Stretch Patching
8. Herring Bone Stretch

ADJUSTING STRETCH STITCH BALANCE

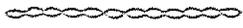
In stretch stitch sewing, the stretch stitch adjuster should usually be in a neutral position (between "+" and "-", or ► position). When sewing some fabrics, you may need to adjust this control to balance the stitches for appearance sake.

If design seems open like the illustrations to the left, adjust the control slightly toward "-" until design looks like the center design.

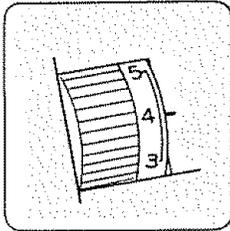
If the design appears to be closed as in the right hand illustrations, turn the control toward "+" until stitching is as you desire.



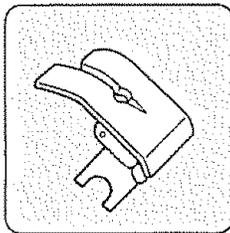
STRAIGHT STRETCH STITCHING



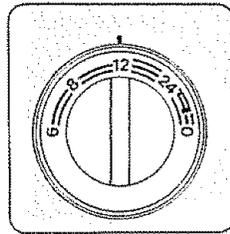
Top thread tension control 3 to 6



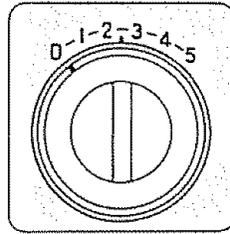
Presser foot



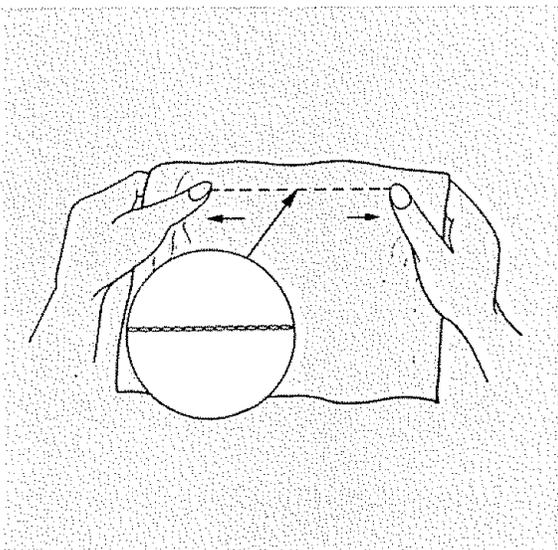
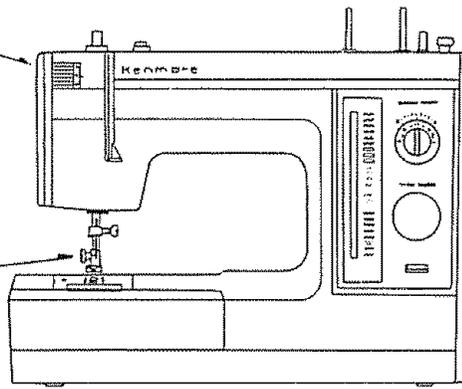
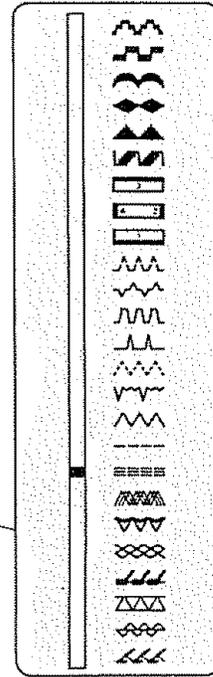
Stitch length
Any number
(not necessary
to adjust)



Stitch width 0



Stitch selector



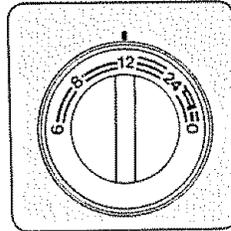
Use this stretch stitch with knitted fabric and other fabrics that stretch. Sew as you do with regular straight stitch seaming. The seam may be pressed open as with any regular seam, but will stretch if necessary.

This is also a good stitch to use on curved seams regardless of the type of fabric. Any seam that will receive a great deal of strain when worn should be sewn with the stretch stitch. Use in children's shorts and slacks as well as adult sports clothes.

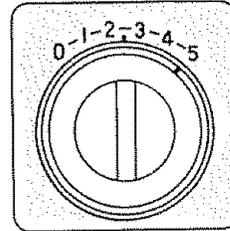
RICK-RACK STRETCH STITCHING



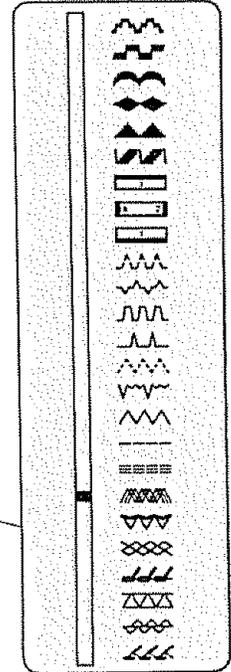
Stitch length
Any number
(not necessary
to adjust)



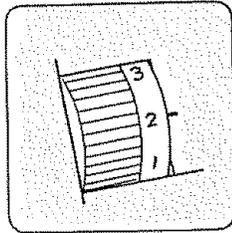
Stitch width
2 to 5



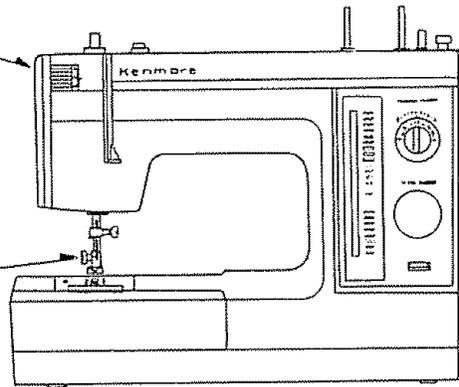
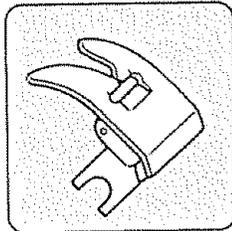
Stitch selector



Top thread tension
control 0 to 4



Presser foot

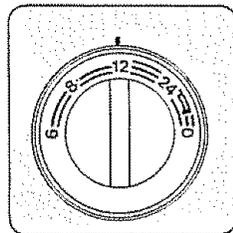


Sew on stretch fabrics in any area that you might use a zigzag stitch.
This stitch can be used as a decorative top stitch as well.

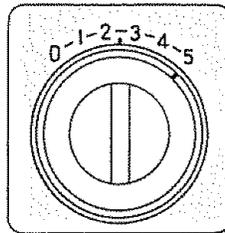
OVERCAST STRETCH STITCHING



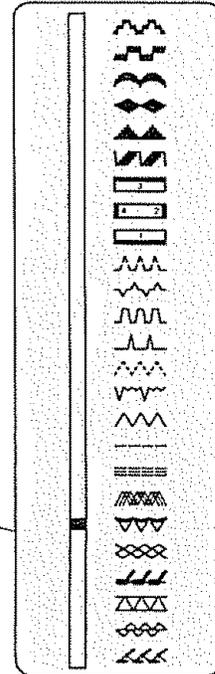
Stitch length
Any number
(not necessary
to adjust)



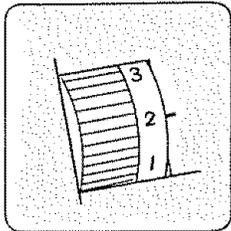
Stitch width 5



Stitch selector



Top thread tension
control 0 to 4



Presser foot

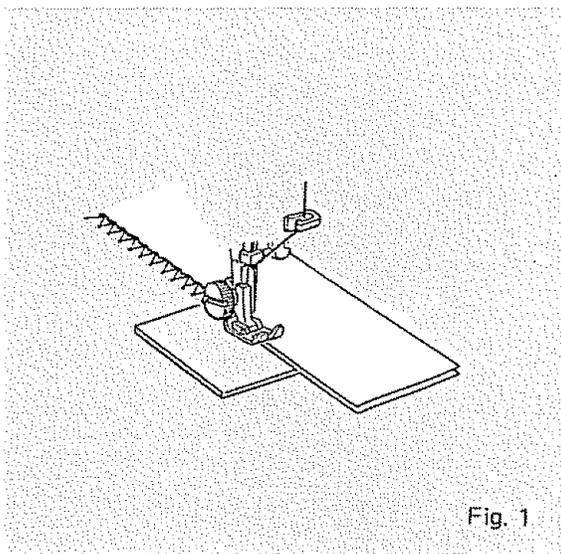
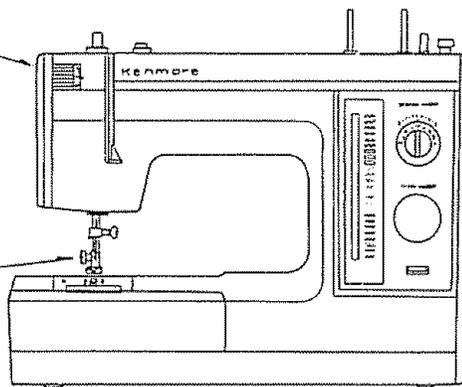
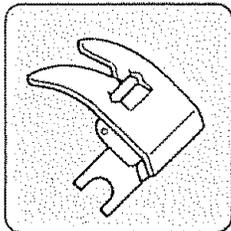


Fig. 1

This stitch can be used for sewing a seam with an overcast finish. It is used for seams of $3/8''$ to $1/4''$. The seam is formed and finished in one operation. It must be used when you are making swimwear, ski pants and other garments that require stretch.

Fig. 1 shows the raw edge finished.

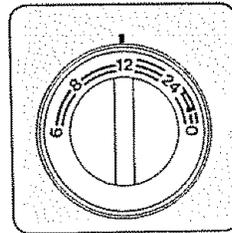
Stitch so the needle pierces the fabric just short of the outside edge.

Raw or worn edges of older garments can be overcast to prevent further raveling.

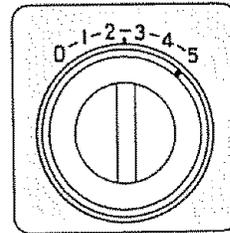
SMOCKING STRETCH STITCHING



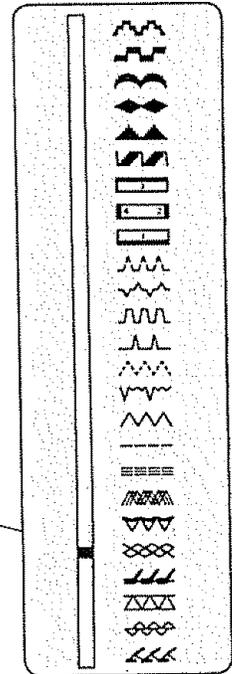
Stitch length
Any number
(not necessary
to adjust)



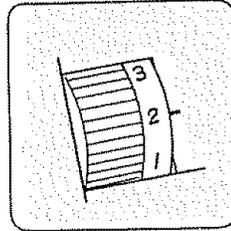
Stitch width
3 to 5



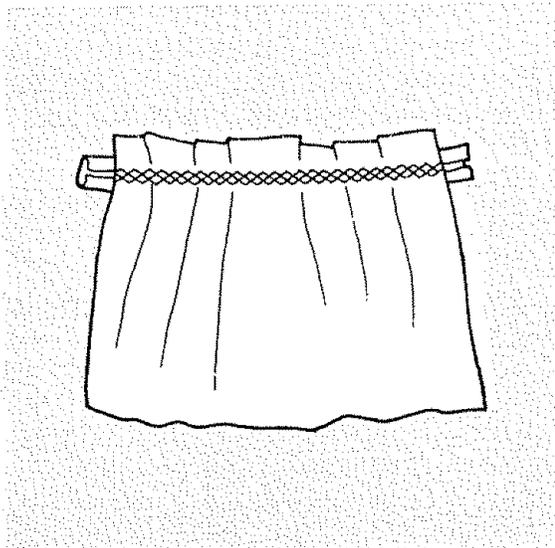
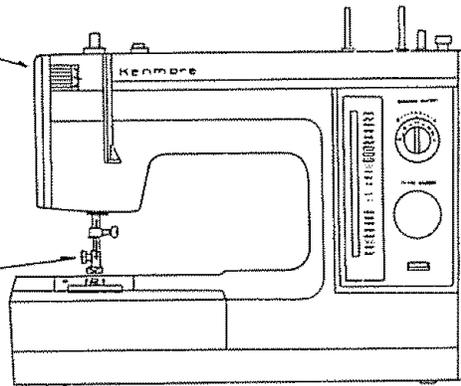
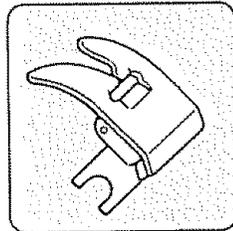
Stitch selector



Top thread tension
control 0 to 4



Presser foot



With a narrow strip of fabric directly under the line of gathering, stitch over the gathers. The design will be a series of small diamonds.

When smocking a garment, the stitching should be done before the piece is sewn into the garment.

SERGING OR PINE LEAF STRETCH STITCHING

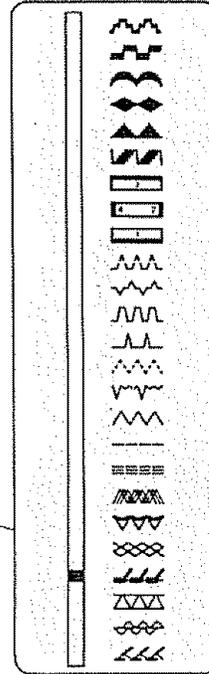
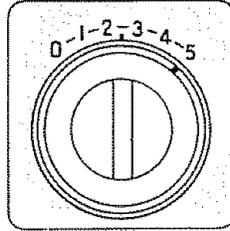
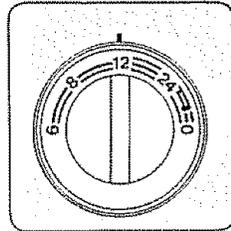
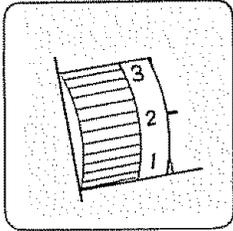


Stitch length
Any number
(not necessary
to adjust)

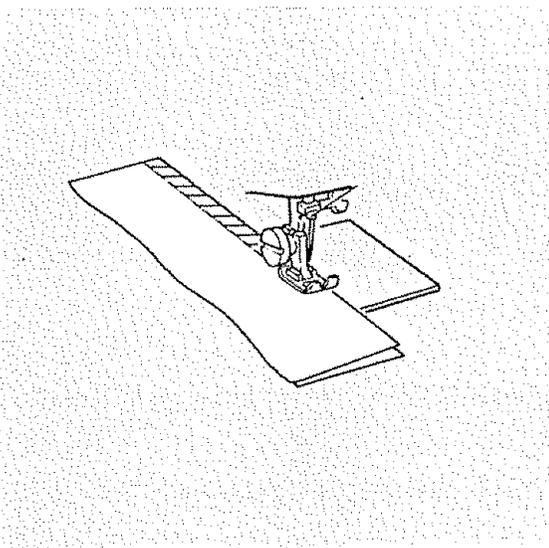
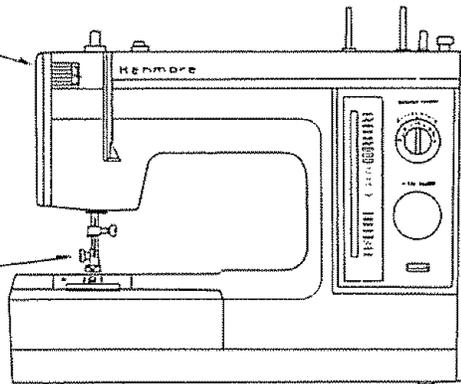
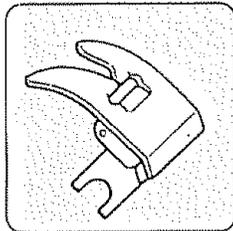
Stitch width
3 to 5

Stitch selector

Top thread tension
control 0 to 4



Presser foot



The serging or pine leaf stitch is similar to one used by garment industry in making sportswear. It is particularly useful when sewing swimwear, ski and other sports garments.

ELASTIC STRETCH STITCH

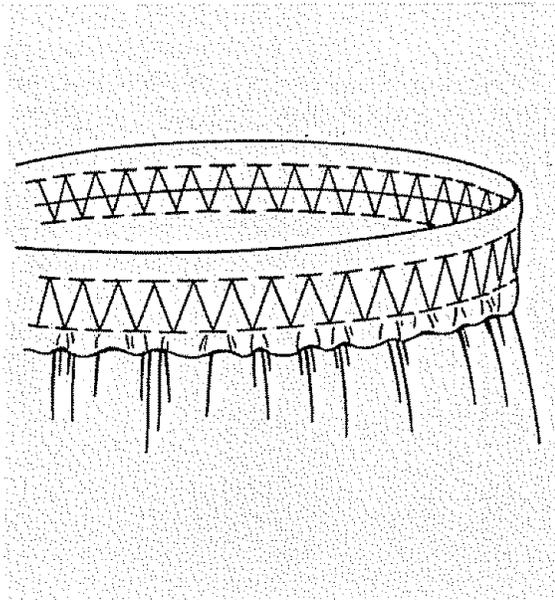
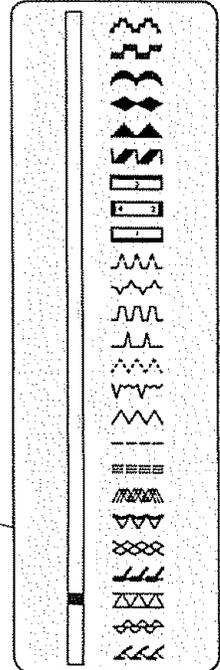
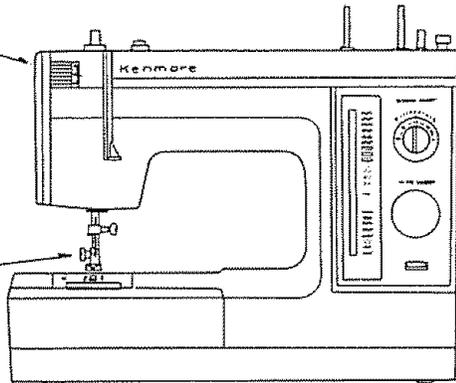
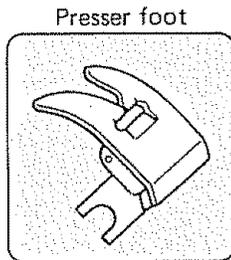
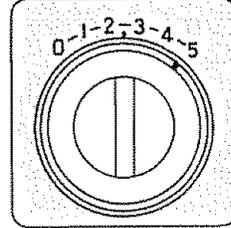
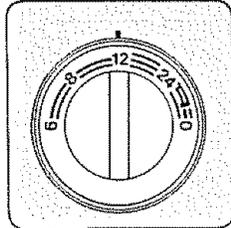
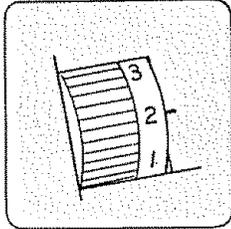


Stitch length
Any number
(not necessary
to adjust)

Stitch width
3 to 5

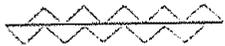
Stitch selector

Top thread tension
control 0 to 4



Use this versatile stitch to insert elastic in garments. Simply stitch elastic into place, making sure it is evenly spaced. To do this, mark the correct length piece into quarters, then match these markings with center front and side seams.

STRETCH PATCHING

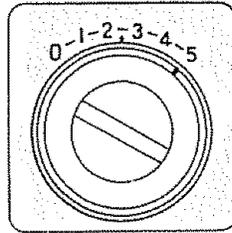
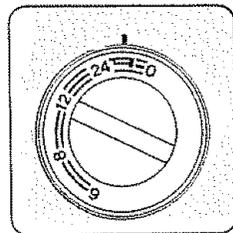
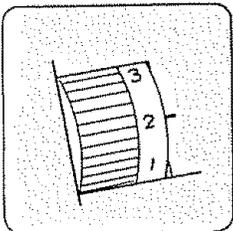


Stitch length
Any number
(not necessary
to adjust)

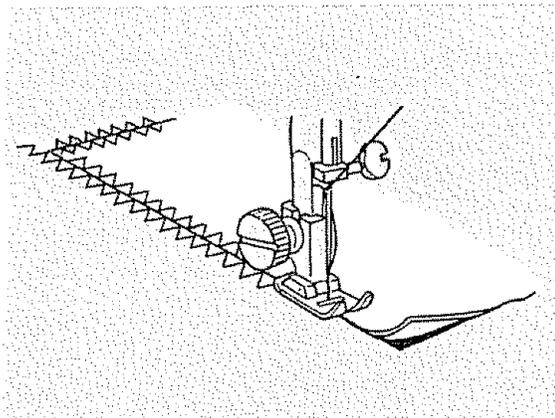
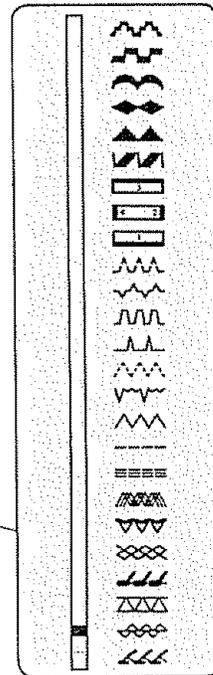
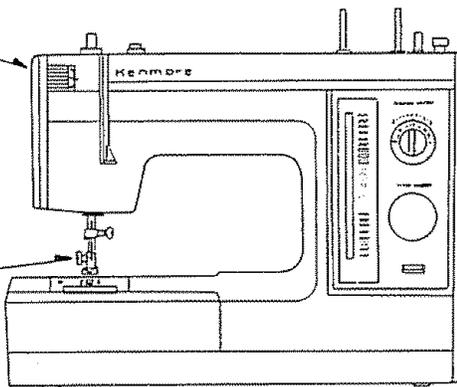
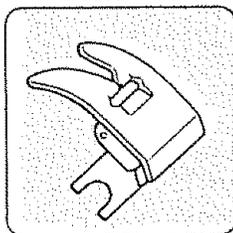
Stitch width
5

Stitch selector

Top thread tension
control 0 to 4

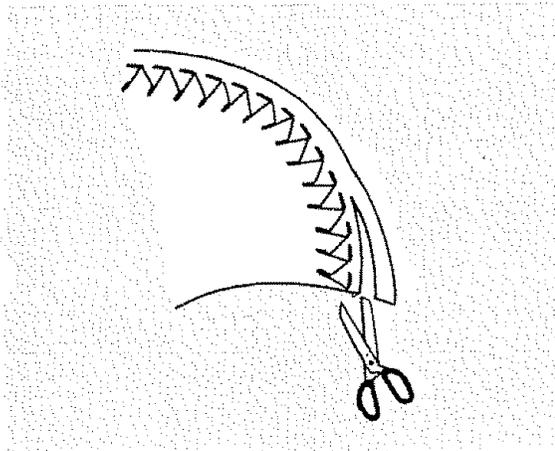
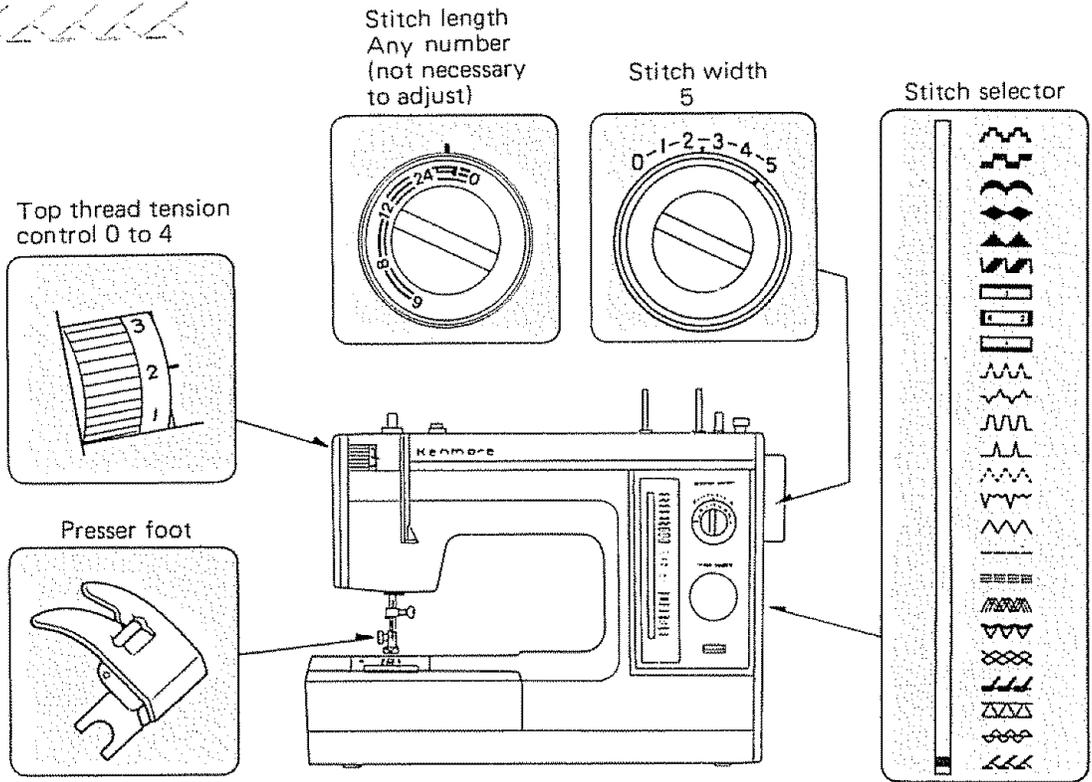


Presser foot



If the kids keep "busting out" elbows or knees if someone burns or hole in expensive knits this recipe will save you big money ! It can be decorative, too . . . When you want patches to show !

HERRING BONE STRETCH

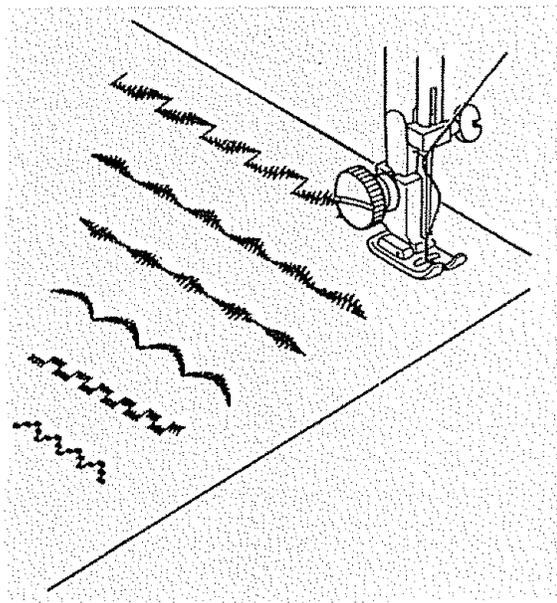
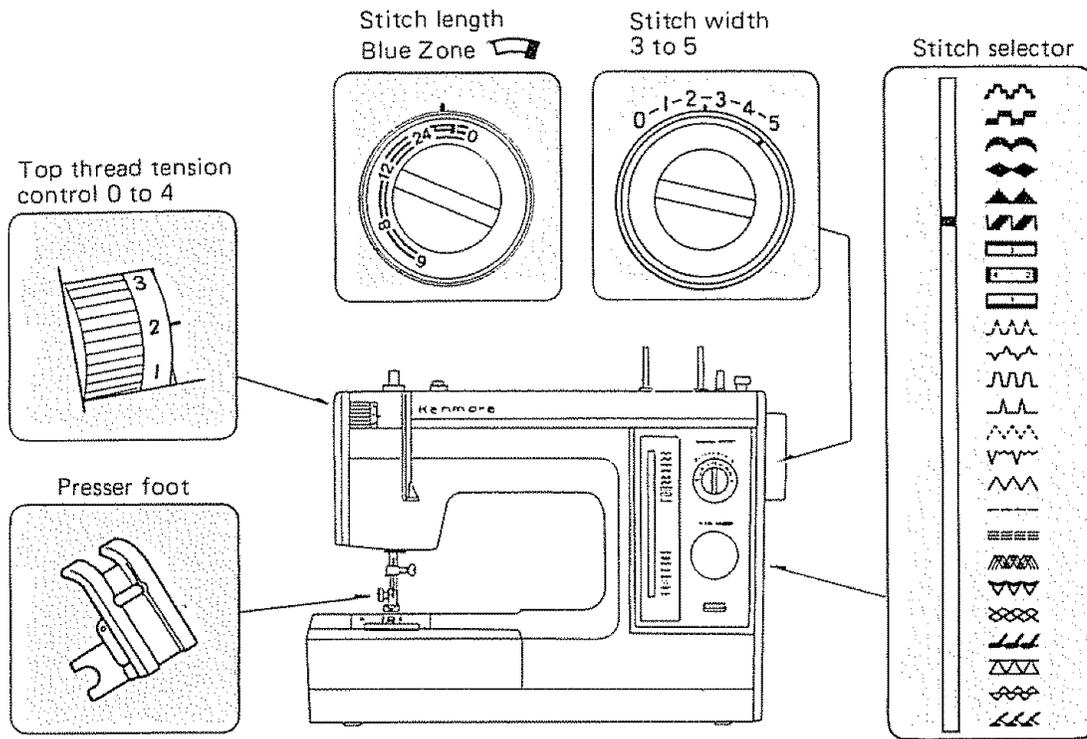


Use as hemming stitch for blankets, tablecloth and draperies.

Place the fabric right side up, and sew 3/8" from the edge.

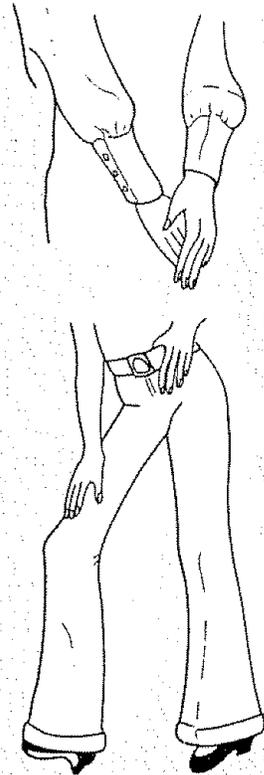
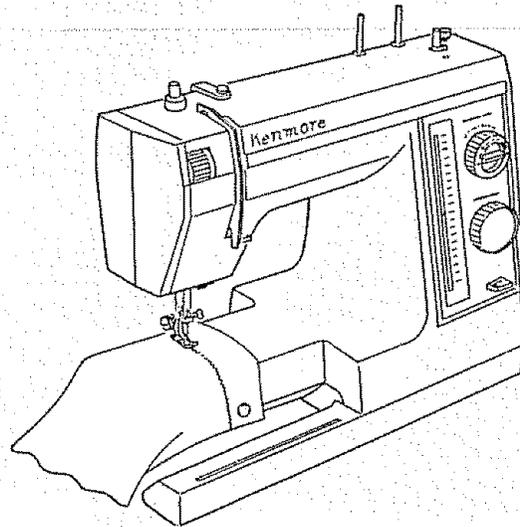
Trim close to stitching. The stitch will prevent raveling.

GEOMETRIC DECORATIVE STITCHING



These stitches are purely decorative. You can sew one row or several or vary the stitch width and length for special effects. You may want to combine these stitches with other decorative stitches. Experiment on a scrap of fabric to see what special effects are possible.

FREE-ARM SEWING



This sewing machine can be used like a flat bed machine, but easily converts to free arm machine by removing the extension table.

The free arm enables you to sew tubular types of pieces more easily. Just slip the sleeve or pants leg on the free arm as shown above.

You will find many uses for this free arm feature such as:

1. Mend elbows and knees of garments more easily.
2. Sew in sleeves more easily. This is especially true when sewing smaller garments.
3. Applique, embroider or hem around edges of cuffs or pants legs.
4. Sewing in elastic casings in skirts or pants at the waistline.

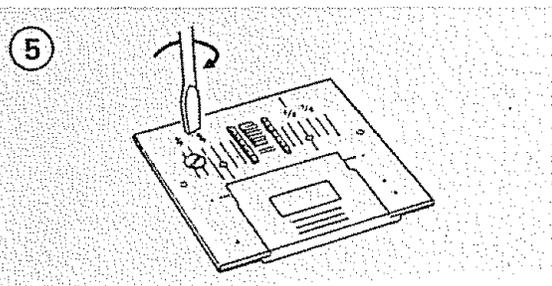
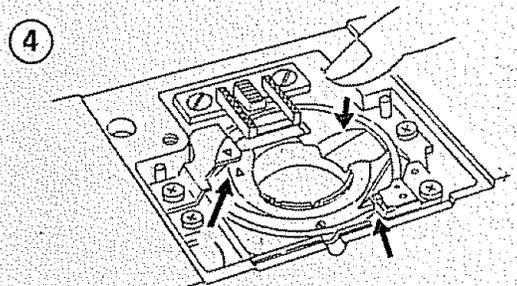
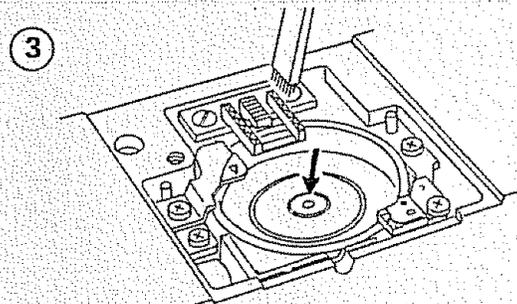
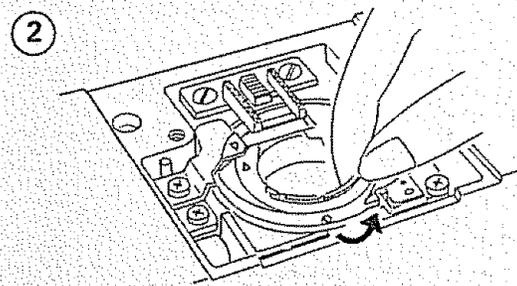
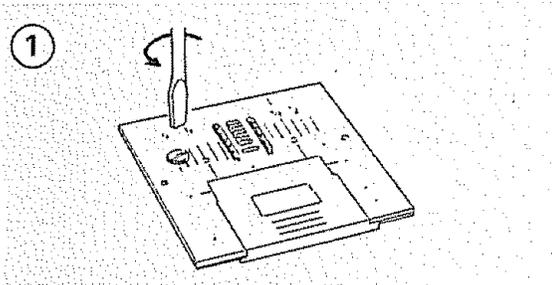
Checking Performance Problems WHAT TO DO

PROBLEM	PROBABLE CAUSE	CORRECTION
Irregular Stitches	<p>Incorrect size needle. Improper threading. Loose upper thread tension. Pulling fabric. Light pressure on presser foot. Loose presser foot. Unevenly wound bobbin. Nicks or burrs at hole of needle plate.</p>	<p>Choose correct size needle for thread and fabric. Rethread machine. Tighten upper thread tension. Do not pull fabric; guide it gently. Increase pressure on presser foot. Reset presser foot. Rewind bobbin. Replace needle plate, or polish off burrs completely.</p>
Breaking Needle	<p>Pulling fabric. Incorrect size needle. Incorrect setting of needle. Loose presser foot.</p>	<p>Do not pull fabric; guide it gently. Choose correct size needle for thread and fabric. Reset needle. Reset presser foot.</p>
Bunching of Thread	<p>Upper and lower threads not drawn back under presser foot before starting seam.</p>	<p>When starting a seam be sure to draw both threads under and back of presser foot about 4" and hold until a few stitches are formed.</p>
Puckering	<p>Incorrect thread tension(s). Light pressure on presser foot. Using two different sizes or kinds of thread. Bent or blunt needle. Loose presser foot. Fabric too sheer or too soft.</p>	<p>Reset thread tensions(s). Increase pressure on presser foot. Upper thread and bobbin thread should be same size and kind. Insert new needle. Reset presser foot. Use underlay of tissue paper.</p>

PROBLEM	PROBABLE CAUSE	CORRECTION
Skipping Stitches	Incorrect size needle. Bent or blunt needle. Incorrect setting of needle. Tight upper thread tension. Light pressure on presser foot.	Choose correct size needle for thread and fabric. Insert new needle. Reset needle. Loosen upper thread tension. Increase pressure on presser foot.
Breaking Upper Thread	Starting to stitch too fast. Improper threading. Tight upper thread tension. Incorrect size needle. Sharp eye in needle. Nicks or burrs at hole of needle plate.	Start to stitch at a medium speed. Rethread machine. Loosen upper thread tension. Choose correct size needle for thread and fabric. Insert new needle. Replace needle plate, or polish off burrs completely.
Breaking Bobbin Thread	Improper bobbin threading. Lint in bobbin or shuttle.	Check bobbin threading. Clean bobbin and shuttle.
Fabric not Moving	Darning plate in place. Light pressure on presser foot. Thread knotted under fabric. Push-pull clutch is disengaged.	Remove darning plate. Increase pressure on presser foot. Place both threads back under presser foot before beginning to stitch. Push in the clutch.
Machine Jamming Knocking Noise	Thread caught in shuttle.	Disassemble and clean shuttle.

CARING FOR THE MACHINE

CLEANING FEED DOGS AND SHUTTLE



To insure the best possible operation of your machine, it is necessary to keep the essential parts clean at all times. Using a small brush, remove the lint that accumulates in the shuttle area and around the feed dogs.

1. Remove bobbin cover plate by sliding toward you. Using a screw driver, remove needle plate cover. (Fig. 1)

2. Remove the shuttle by lifting up and out.

3. Using a small brush, remove the lint that accumulates in and around the feed dogs and shuttle area. And put a drop of oil to the point indicated by arrow.

4. Insert the shuttle into the shuttle race making sure to line up red arrows as illustrated in Fig. 4. The bobbin should be fully seated.

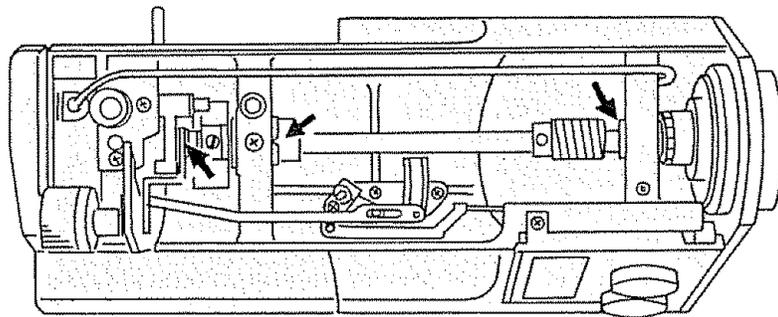
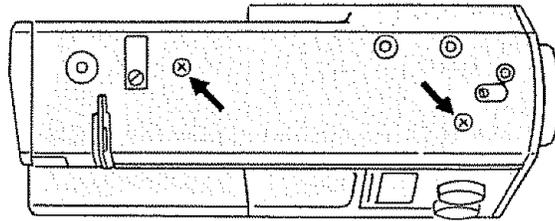
5. Replace needle plate.

NOTE:

A small brush is provided in the accessory box.

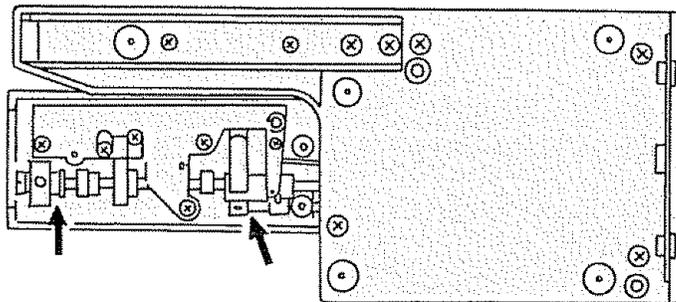
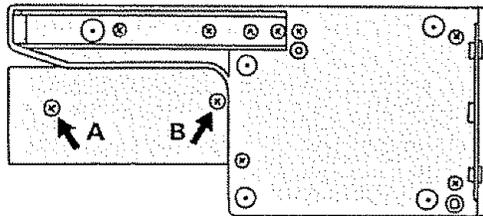
OILING UNDER ARM COVER PLATE

Remove arm cover plate to oil points indicated in top of machine head. To remove cover plate, loosen up two top screws and lift the cover plate as illustrated below.



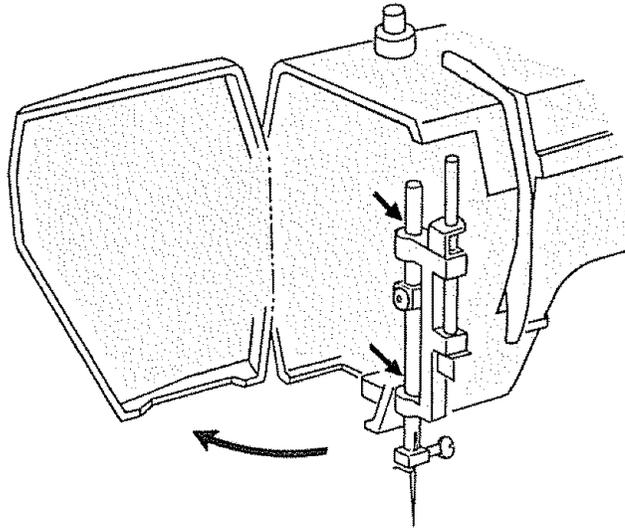
OILING UNDERSIDE

Tilt machine head back and remove bottom covers by loosening two screws (A) and (B) as shown below. Then place one or two drops of Kenmore sewing machine oil at each point.

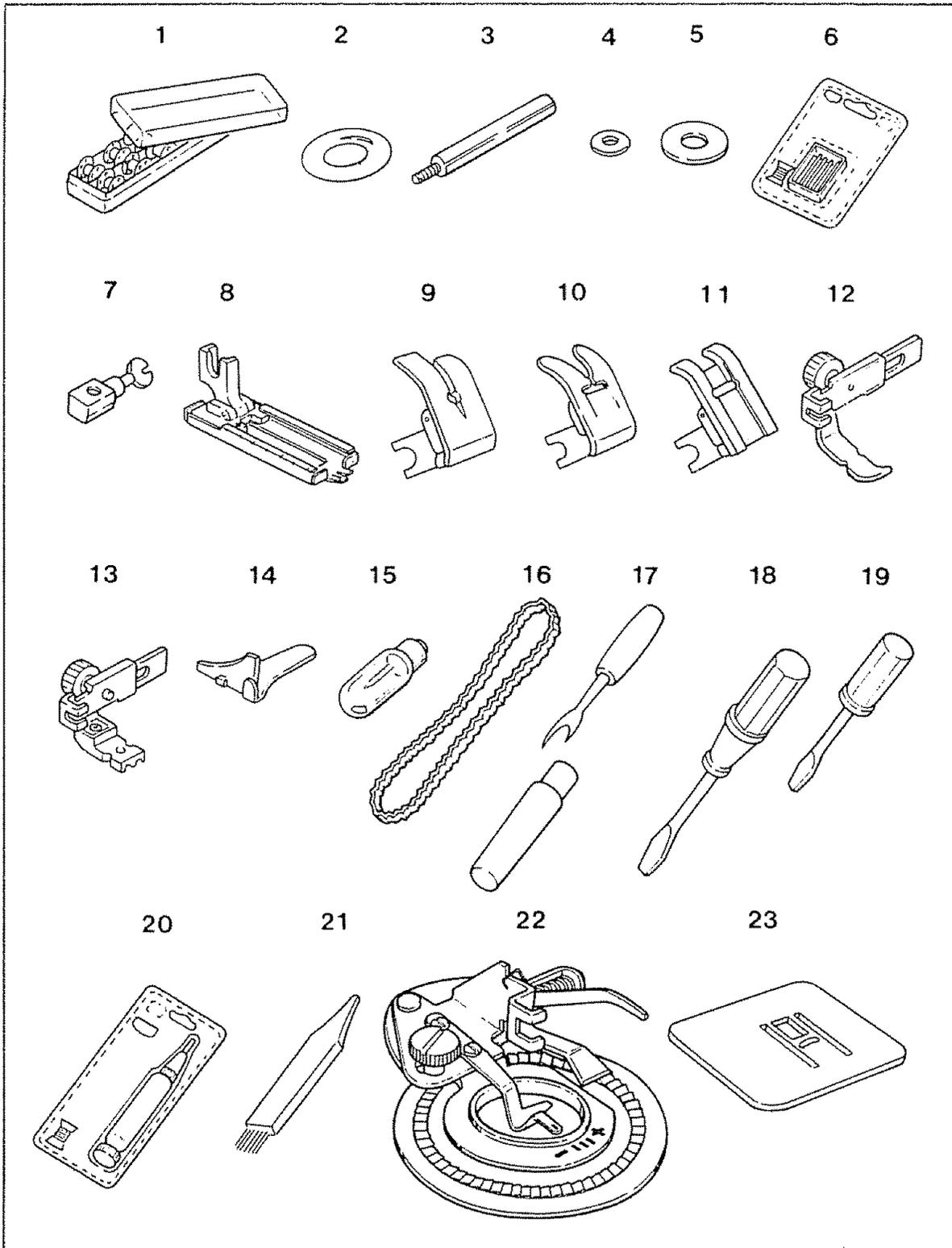


OILING IN FACE COVER PLATE

Open face cover plate and oil points in illustration.



PARTS LIST



PARTS LIST

All parts listed herein may be ordered from any Sears store or service center.

WHEN ORDERING REPAIR PARTS, ALWAYS GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. PART NUMBER | 2. PART DESCRIPTION |
| 3. MODEL NUMBER | 4. NAME OF ITEM |

If the parts you need are not stocked locally, your order will be electronically transmitted to a Sears Repair Parts Distribution Center for expedited handling.

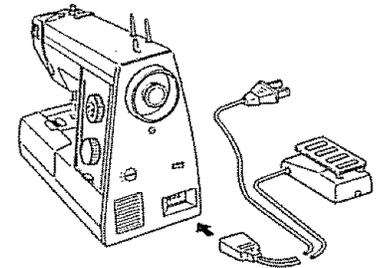
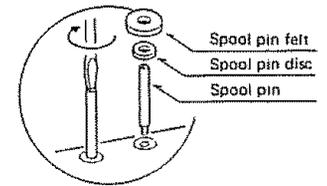
Ref. No.	Part No.	Description
1	*6862	Bobbin box with 10 bobbins
2	1939	Bobbin winder rubber ring
3	8286	Thread spool pin
4	2273	Nylon disc
5	102403202	Spool pin felt
6	813404013	No. 11 Stretch fabric needles (BLU)
	6551	No. 11 Single needles (ORG)
	6552	No. 14 Single needles (RED)
	6553	No. 16 Single needles (PUR)
	6554	No. 18 Single needles (GRN)
7	650511002	Needle clamp with screw
8	648801005	Buttonhole guide foot
9	650802003	Straight stitch foot
10	40390	Standard zigzag foot
11	650801002	Satin stitch foot
12	593401008	Zipper foot
13	*6757	Zipper foot
14	*6864	Needle threader
15	6797	Light bulb
16	650166008	Motor belt
17	6830	Buttonhole opener
18	41670	Large screw driver
19	41669	Small screw driver
20	*6889	Oil and lint brush
21	802424004	Lint brush
22	*6530	Flower stitch attachment
23	650803004	Darning plate
24	*6811	Foot control (Not illustrated)

* These items are not furnished with the machine, but may be ordered per instructions above.

Kenmore Sewing Machine 17881

SETTING UP YOUR MACHINE

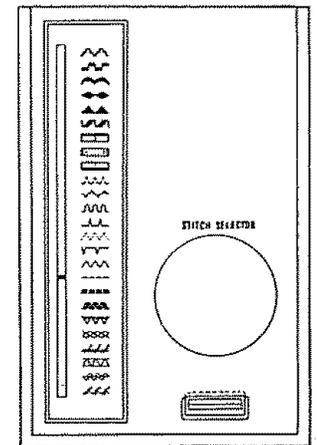
1. You'll find spool pins, nylon discs and spool pin felts in the accessory box. Using a screw driver, attach spool pins securely on the top cover and position nylon discs and felts over the spool pins as indicated.
2. Plug foot control into machine receptacle. Then connect cord into any 110 ~ 120 volt A.C. wall outlet.
3. Your Kenmore sewing machine has been thoroughly oiled at the factory. Be sure to wipe off the needle plate area, bed plate and shuttle carefully before sewing a garment. It is wise to practice on a scrap of fabric so any surplus oil is absorbed.



STITCH SELECTOR

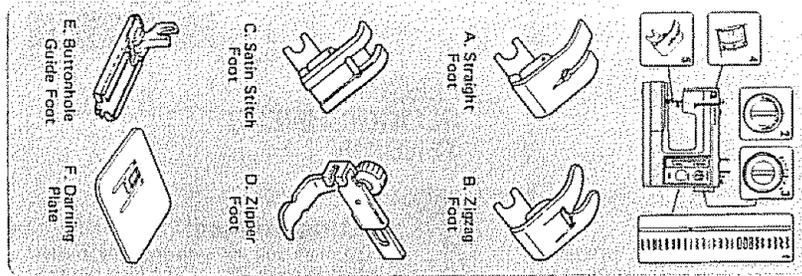
There are certain types of stitches that are used more often than others in your garment construction. Because of their frequent use, you will soon realise the convenience offered to you by this control.

The desired stitch will be obtained by turning the Stitch Selector Dial until the stitch is indicated by the red line on the indicator panel.



PRACTICAL STITCH CHART

STITCH	1 SELECTOR	2 LENGTH DIAL	3 WIDTH DIAL	4 TENSION CONTROL	5 PRESSER FOOT
STRAIGHT	---	6 TO 12	0	3 TO 6	A
ZIGZAG	W	6 TO 24	1 TO 5	0 TO 4	B
MENDING	W	BLUE ZONE	5	0 TO 4	B
BLIND	W	8 TO 24	2 TO 3	0 TO 4	B
SHELL	W	12 TO 24	3 TO 5	4 TO 9	B
BOX	W	12 TO 24	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	B
FAGOTING	W	BLUE ZONE	5	0 TO 4	B
TWO-POINT SHELL	W	BLUE ZONE	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	B
STRAIGHT STRETCH	W	ANY NUMBER	0	3 TO 6	A
HICK RACK	W	ANY NUMBER	2 TO 5	0 TO 4	B
SMOCKING	W	ANY NUMBER	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	B
OVERCAST	W	ANY NUMBER	5	0 TO 4	B
SERGING OR PINE LEAF	W	ANY NUMBER	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	B
ELASTIC	W	ANY NUMBER	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	B
STRETCH PATCHING	W	ANY NUMBER	5	0 TO 4	B
HERRING BONE	W	ANY NUMBER	5	0 TO 4	B
WALLS OF TROY	W	BLUE ZONE	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	C
DOMINO	W	BLUE ZONE	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	C
CRESCENT	W	BLUE ZONE	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	C
DIAMOND	W	BLUE ZONE	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	C
PYRAMID	W	BLUE ZONE	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	C
RIBBON	W	BLUE ZONE	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	C
BUTTONHOLE	W	BLUE ZONE	3 TO 5	0 TO 4	E
SATIN STITCH	W	BLUE ZONE	2 TO 5	0 TO 4	C



CARE FREE STITCHING

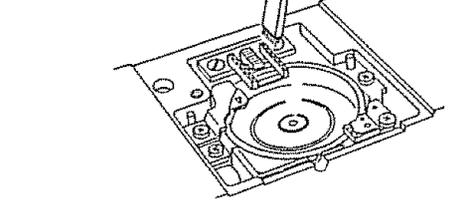
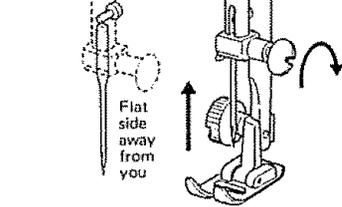
Kenmore

depends on the **BIG**  **NEEDLES SHUTTLE THREADING**

and the **LITTLE**  **FEEDING SLUGGISHNESS TENSION**

NEEDLE
Make certain your needle is correctly inserted with flat side away from you. Be sure needle is not blunt or bent.

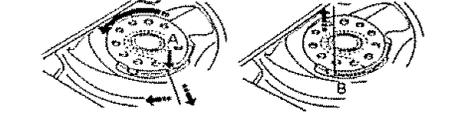
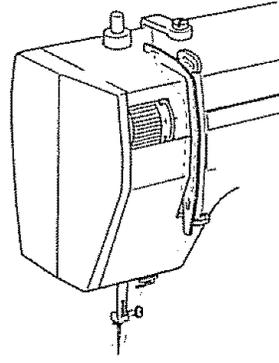
SHUTTLE
Clean in and around the shuttle and feed dogs to remove accumulated dust and lint which may cause **NOISE OR JAMMING**.



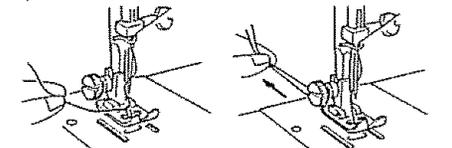
THREADING
THREAD CAN TANGLE AND SNAP without being seen. If your thread breaks, unthread and then **RETHREAD** the machine, both top and bottom threads.

TOP THREADING
Make sure there is no slack or snags in the thread. Use the type of thread and size needle recommended in your instruction book.

BOTTOM THREADING
1. Insert bobbin into shuttle making sure bobbin rotates counter clockwise.
2. Pull thread through slot (A) and then to the left. Pull thread through notch (B) and leave thread about 4 inches long.

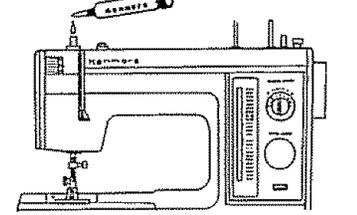
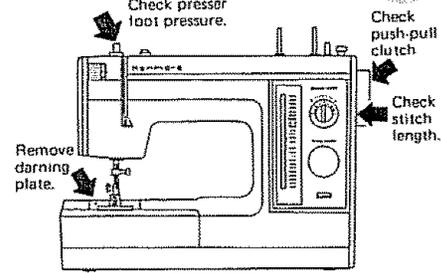


COMPLETING THREADING
Hold top thread loosely in left hand and rotate handwheel toward you one complete turn. Next, pull top and bottom threads under and to the back of presser foot.

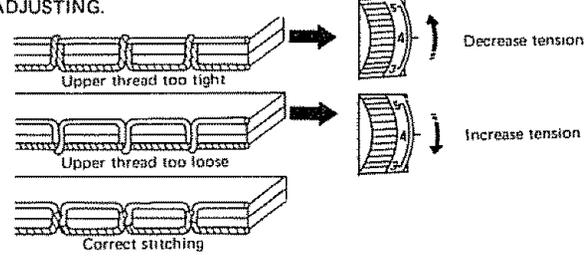


FEEDING
(MATERIAL DOESN'T FEED PROPERLY)

SLUGGISHNESS
The more you use your machine, the less often it needs oil. If you have not used your machine for a few months, and it seems sluggish, oil your machine. Periodically oil at points indicated in your instruction book. **USE ONLY KENMORE SEWING MACHINE OIL.**



TENSION
Compare your straight stitching with the illustrations. If it looks like either of the top two, correct the thread tension dial as shown. **BE SURE TO NOTE YOUR PRESENT SETTING BEFORE YOU START ADJUSTING.**



IMPORTANT

For your safety an important new feature has been incorporated in this machine. The light/power switch provides electric current for the motor as well as the light. In order to operate the machine this switch must be on.

If you are interrupted while sewing and must leave the machine unattended, just turn off the light/power switch and the machine can not be started accidentally by pressing on the foot control. This feature also applies when the machine is in storage.

The foot control is used to vary the machine speed from zero to high.

Sears Canada Inc.

Dear Homemaker:

You have just invested in a very fine zigzag sewing machine. Before using your new Kenmore machine, please pause for a moment and carefully read this booklet which contains instructions on how to operate and care for your machine.

Specific instructions are given on threading, tension adjustments, cleaning, oiling, etc. This will help you obtain the best sewing results and avoid unnecessary service expense for conditions beyond our control.

Advice on the operation and care of your machine is always available at your nearest Sears Retail Store. Please remember, if you have questions about your machine, always mention the model number and serial number when you inquire.

Kenmore Sewing Machine

Record in space provided below the model number and serial number of this appliance. The model number and serial number are located on the nomenclature plate, as identified on Page 2 of this booklet.

Model No. 385. _____ Serial No. _____
Retain these numbers for future reference.

WARRANTY

FULL 25-YEAR WARRANTY ON SEWING MACHINE HEAD

For 25 years from the date of purchase, Sears will, free of charge, repair defects in material or workmanship which appear in the sewing machine head.

FULL TWO YEAR WARRANTY ON ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT OF SEWING MACHINE

For two years from the date of purchase, Sears will, free of charge, repair defects in material or workmanship which appear in the electrical equipment of the sewing machine, including motor, wiring, switch and speed control.

FULL 90-DAY WARRANTY ON ALL PARTS AND MECHANICAL ADJUSTMENTS

For 90 days from the date of purchase, Sears will, free of charge, replace any parts and provide mechanical service necessary for proper operation of the sewing machine, except for normal maintenance.

To obtain warranty service described above, SIMPLY CONTACT THE NEAREST SEARS STORE OR SERVICE CENTER IN CANADA. This warranty applies only while this product is in use in CANADA.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

SEARS CANADA INC., TORONTO, ONT M5B 2B8

SEWING MACHINE

Now that you have purchased your Kenmore Sewing Machine, should a need ever exist for repair parts or service, simply contact any Sears Service Center and most Sears Stores. Be sure to provide all pertinent facts when you call or visit.

The model number of your Sewing Machine will be shown on your nomenclature plate on the back of your Sewing Machine. See page 2 for location.

WHEN ORDERING REPAIR PARTS, ALWAYS GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

*MODEL NUMBER *NAME OF ITEM *PART DESCRIPTION

If the parts you need are not stocked locally, your order will be electronically transmitted to a Sears Repair Parts Distribution Center for handling.

SEARS PARTS SOURCE 185
PART NO 651800015
INSTRUCTION BOOK
FOR THE SEARS SEWING MACHINE

SEARS CANADA INC., TORONTO, ONT M5B 2B8