

# Sewing Machines

## Equipment Details

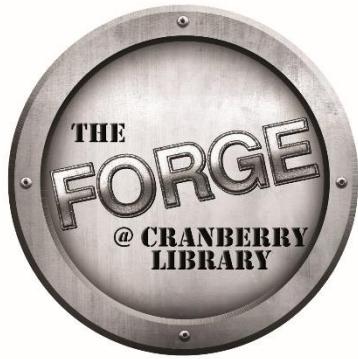
The Forge is equipped with two [Brother PS500](#) sewing machines.

Features include 100 build-in sewing stitches, 7 styles of one-step buttonholes, and 4 sewing lettering fonts.

[Quick Reference Guide & Operation Manual](#) are available for download.

Machines are free to use by appointment.

- To see appointment times, visit our [Library Calendar of Events Page](#). Appointment times vary depending on staff scheduling.
- Staff can only provide very basic instruction on use of the sewing machines.



## Sewing Supplies

### What we've got:

- Bobbins (thread will be kept on bobbins for 2 weeks after project is complete)
  - **Note:** users must use a library provided bobbin; bobbin size is specific to the machine; an incorrect bobbin could damage the machine
- Iron & ironing board
- Cutting matts
- Cutting tools (scissors, rotary cutters)
- Measuring tools
- Seam rippers
- Universal sewing machine needles in sizes appropriate for sewing cotton weight fabrics

### What you'll need to bring with you:

- Fabric
- Thread (30-90 weight)
- Notions
- Needles appropriate to the fabric that you are sewing on (See Fabric/Thread/Needle Combinations chart)
- Project patterns and instructions

## Fabric/Thread/Needle Combinations

- Needles that can be used with this machine: Home sewing machine needles (size 65/9 - 100/16)
  - \* The larger the number, the larger the needle. As the numbers decrease, the needles get finer.
- Thread that can be used with this machine: 30 - 90 weight
  - \* Never use thread of 20 weight or lower. It may cause machine to malfunction.
  - \* The smaller the number, the heavier the thread. As the numbers increase, the thread gets finer.
- The machine needle and thread that should be used depends on the type and thickness of the fabric. Refer to the following table when choosing the thread and needle appropriate for the fabric that you wish to sew.
  - The combinations shown in the table provide a general guideline. Be sure to sew trial stitches on the actual number of layers and type of fabric to be used in your project.
  - The machine needles are consumables. For safety and best results, we recommend replacing the needle regularly. For details on when to replace the needle, refer to "Checking the needle" on page B-27.
- In principle, use a fine needle and thread with lightweight fabrics, and a larger needle and heavier thread with heavyweight fabrics.
- Select a stitch appropriate for the fabric, and then adjust the stitch length. When sewing lightweight fabrics, make the stitch length finer (shorter). When sewing heavyweight fabrics, make the stitch length coarser (longer). (page B-38)  
When sewing stretch fabrics, refer to "Sewing stretch fabrics" in the "Sewing" section.

Fabric Type/Application		Thread		Size of needle	Stitch length [mm (inch)]
		Type	Weight		
Lightweight fabrics	Lawn, georgette, challis, organdy, crepe, chiffon, voile, gauze, tulle, lining, etc.	Polyester thread	60 - 90	65/9 - 75/11	Fine stitches 1.8-2.5 (1/16-3/32)
		Cotton thread, Silk thread	50 - 80		
Medium weight fabrics	Broadcloth, taffeta, gabardine, flannel, seersucker, double gauze, linen, terry cloth, waffle weave, sheeting, poplin, cotton twill, satin, quilting cotton, etc.	Polyester thread	60 - 90	75/11 - 90/14	Regular stitches 2.0-3.0 (1/16-1/8)
		Cotton thread, Silk thread	50 - 60		
Heavyweight fabrics	Denim (12 ounces or more), canvas, etc.	Polyester thread, Cotton thread	30	100/16	Coarse stitches 2.5-4.0 (3/32-3/16)
		Polyester thread	60	90/14 - 100/16	
	Denim (12 ounces or more), canvas, tweed, corduroy, velour, melton wool, vinyl-coated fabric, etc.	Cotton thread, Silk thread	30 - 50		
Stretch fabrics (knit fabrics, etc.)	Jersey, tricot, T-shirt fabric, fleece, interlock, etc.	Cotton thread, Polyester thread, Silk thread	50	Ball point needle 75/11 - 90/14	Setting appropriate for the fabric thickness
For top-stitching		Polyester thread, Cotton thread	30	90/14 - 100/16	Setting appropriate for the fabric thickness
			50 - 60	75/11 - 90/14	

### ■ Transparent nylon thread

Use a home sewing machine topstitching needle, regardless of the fabric.

### ▲ CAUTION

- The appropriate fabric, thread and needle combinations are shown in the preceding table. If the combination of the fabric, thread and needle is not correct, particularly when sewing heavy fabrics (such as denim) with thin needles (such as 65/9 to 75/11), the needle may bend or break. In addition, the stitching may be uneven or puckered or there may be skipped stitches.

## **Local Resources for Sewing Supplies:**

Nearby sources for fabric and sewing supplies include [Amy Baughman Sew and Quilt](#) and [JoAnn](#)