Your machine performs its best when you use the correct style and size of needle for your sewing project!

**Needle style** basically refers to the design of the needle’s point. The correct needle style to use depends on the type of fabric you are sewing. Needle style is usually indicated by color on the top of the needle. For example, red on the top means a Style 2020 needle, yellow on the top means a Style 2045 ball point needle, blue on the top indicates a Style 2026 denim needle, etc.

**Needle size** basically refers to the needle’s thickness. Needle sizes are designated by two measuring systems – American & European. For example, a size 14/90 needle means size 14 (American) & size 90 (European). Though there is a wide range of needle sizes available, the most commonly used sizes are 11/80, 14/90 and 16/100. Needle size is usually indicated on the needle by a small band of color just below the top color of the needle. A small orange band means size 11/90, a small blue band means size 14/90, and a small purple band means size 16/100. Smaller needle sizes are appropriate for lighter weight fabrics, and larger needle sizes are appropriate for heavier weight fabrics.

**Regular Point Needles**
Style 2020
Designed for sewing woven (non-stretch) fabrics
Using on stretch fabrics can cause skipped stitches

**Ball Point Needles**
Style 2045
Designed for stretch knit (not woven) & synthetic suede fabrics
Using on woven fabrics can cause snags/puckers

**Heavy Duty Needles**
Style 2026 Denim – for thicker fabrics
Style 2020 Topstitching – larger eye for heavier threads
Style 2032 Leather – wedge point for precise leather penetration

**Tips & Hints:**
- Change needles frequently for best sewing results – generally, after approximately 8-10 hours of stitching time.
- If thread is shredding or if you hear a popping sound when the needle penetrates the fabric, these are indications that the needle should be changed.
Sewing Machine Needles - Specialty

Sewing Machine Needles can expand your machine’s capabilities so that you can be even more creative! Here are two of the more popular styles of specialty needles: the Twin Needle and the Hemstitching Needle.

**Twin Needles**
Style 2025 (3mm) / Style 2024 (4mm)
The most common sizes are 3mm & 4mm (distance between the two needles)

For twin needle hemming on woven or stretch fabrics:
- Set machine for straight stitch in center position
- Increase stitch length

For decorative twin needle stitching:
- Select stitch
- Reduce stitch width to prevent needle from hitting the left and right sides of the foot
- Test the stitch first by turning handwheel slowly

Threading the machine:
- 2 threads on top – one thread spool on the regular spool pin, and one thread spool on an auxiliary spool pin. (Check your manual for information on how to set your machine for twin needle sewing. For some models the auxiliary spool pin may be an optional accessory.)
- The bobbin is threaded as normal.

**Hemstitching Needles**
Style 2040
Hemstitching Needles (also called Wing Needles) have ‘wings’ on each side which create small ‘holes’ in fabric as stitches are formed, producing an open, cutwork appearance. Typically used for heirloom sewing, this needle can also be used for table linens, fashion sewing and more.

Sewing with a Hemstitching Needle:
- Use only with woven, natural fiber fabrics such as linen, cotton, batiste and organdy
- It is helpful to use an Open Toe Foot (optional for some models) to have a clear view while sewing
- An entredeux stitch is commonly used, but nice ‘cutwork’ effects can be achieved using a smaller size zig-zag or pin stitch
- Thread the needle manually (don’t use built-in needle threader) to prevent damage to threader hook pin due to needle’s large size.

**Tips & Hints:**
- For twin needle sewing, always test on a scrap fabric. Turn the handwheel toward you very slowly, to make sure that the left and right movement of the needle does not hit the presser foot. If it does, you will need to further reduce the width of the stitch.
- For hemstitching on fabrics such as cotton or linen, it can be helpful to apply a fabric spray starch before you begin to sew, giving the fabric additional stability. Test first on a swatch of scrap fabric.
Sewing Machine Needles - Embroidery

Where regular sewing is typically done using all-purpose thread or polyester thread, machine embroidery is most often done using specialty threads such as rayon or metallic. In addition, embroidery machines generally sew faster than regular sewing machines, putting additional stress on the needle. Specialty threads, along with higher embroidery speeds, require needles that can accommodate these qualities.

Chromium needles are specially designed to do this! They have a larger, longer eye than a standard sewing machine needle, which helps prevent the shredding or fraying of soft rayon thread or coarse metallic thread. They are also designed to withstand the higher speeds of embroidery machines.

Chromium needles are available in Style 2000 and Style 2001 (see below), and both styles are available in sizes 11/80, 14/90 and 16/100. Take a closer look - these needles have 2 color bands just below the main shank to indicate needle style and needle size. The upper color is needle style, and the lower color is needle size.

**SINGER® Chromium – Style 2000**

Use this style of needle for machine embroidery on woven (non-stretch) fabrics.

Upper color on needle (all sizes) is grey which indicates the needle style is 2000

Lower color indicates needle size
- Yellow = size 11/80 (light weight fabrics)
- Blue = size 14/90 (medium weight fabrics)
- Purple = size 16/100 (heavy weight fabrics)

When the machine is in regular sewing mode (not embroidery mode) this needle can be used in place of the Style 2020 regular point needle, for decorative machine stitching with rayon or metallic threads on woven fabrics.

**SINGER® Chromium – Style 2001**

Use this style of needle for machine embroidery on stretch knit (not woven) fabrics.

Upper color on needle (all sizes) is green which indicates the needle style is 2001

Lower color indicates needle size
- Yellow = size 11/80 (light weight fabrics)
- Blue = size 14/90 (medium weight fabrics)
- Purple = size 16/100 (heavy weight fabrics)

When the machine is in regular sewing mode (not embroidery mode) this needle can be used in place of the Style 2045 ball point needle, for decorative machine stitching with rayon or metallic threads on stretch fabrics.

**Tips & Hints:**
- Be sure to use an appropriate stabilizer for your machine embroidery or decorative machine stitching, to help support the fabric and the stitches.
- Change needles every 8-10 hours of stitching time for best sewing results.