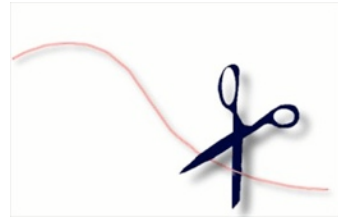


Threads

Thread passes through the needle eye in an up and down motion very quickly before it forms one stitch. *To achieve a perfect stitch, you need three things:*



correct thread - correct size needle - properly adjusted tension

1. Choose thread that is compatible with your fabric. Always choose a good, high-quality thread that won't split easily. Using a low quality thread creates excessive lint build-up, and has frayed edges and roughness in the thread. Hold your thread up to a good light. Does it look nice and smooth, or frayed and rough?
2. Next, select the proper needle to match the fabric. Choose the needle type (i.e. jeans, microtex) and the needle size to match the thread. Is it hard to thread your needle? Then needle size may be too small for the thread.

Always start with a new needle!

- Numbers on thread spools need not be confusing. The first number (i.e. 40/3, 100/3) is the size of the thread. The second number is the number of plies of the thread when twisted together. The more plies, the stronger the thread. A general rule is 2 ply for decorative stitching and 3 ply for machine stitching. Remember, thread quality and strength has evolved so much over the years you may want to try many types!
- The higher the number, the finer the thread. The medium size is 40 - 50 wt. Thread sizes range up to 100.
- When selecting silk thread, 100 weight is the best. It is the smallest size offered and can match any fabric. Also available in 30 wt, and 50 wt.
- When letters indicate size, A is fine and D is heavy.
- What color of thread to use? Select one shade darker than the fabric. If the fabric is multi-color or plaid, choose the most dominant color.
- Thread does deteriorate over time. Store with care away from extreme moisture or dryness. Store in a covered container to keep free from dust.

Silk thread

Strong and has a bit of stretch. Smooth and free of "fuzzies". Blends into seams, almost invisibly and keeps a free-flowing seam. Silk thread is perfect for basting since it doesn't leave an impression on the fabric. Silk takes on the color of the fabric, so a huge color assortment is not necessary. Perfect for sewing all fabrics, but excellent at sewing silks and woolens. Does the best job for sewing rolled hems with a tighter edge.

Cotton Wrapped Polyester

Combines the strength of polyester core with cotton wrap, smooth seams with a natural give and works well on cotton knits.

Polyester thread

100% polyester provides strength and flexibility for sewing on knits, stretch fabrics due to its stretch and non-shrinkage. Also use to sew on any natural fabrics, those with blended fibers, and synthetic.

Rayon thread

Smooth finish, good shine.



Cotton thread

100% cotton thread.

Perle (pearl) cotton thread

A 2 ply, hi-sheen, non-divisible twisted thread (why sometimes referred to as one strand) and used in many forms of needlework. Oftentimes used in the bobbin only.

Mercerized Cotton Thread

Nylon thread

Heavy duty is abrasion resistant and does not deteriorate so can be used both indoors and outdoors. Perfect for upholstery and heavy duty home decorating projects.

Monofilament thread (invisible thread)

Made of 100% transparent nylon or polyester and comes in clear and smoke. Strong with little stretch. Most popular sizes are .004 and .005 Can be used for machine sewing and for overlock stitching. Can be used for applique, crafts, machine quilting, and other home decor projects. Cover with a net when machine sewing to prevent tangling.

All purpose thread

Most usually made from cotton wrapped polyester. Cotton giving it the strength and polyester gives the flexibility and stretch.

Cotton thread fibers have been mercerized to add strength, ability to take dye, and color fastness.

*****mercerized** is a finishing process to make thread smooth and take dye better, lustrous appearance. First invented by John Mercer in 1851.*

Sewing Job	Thread type	Fabrics	Needle
Light & delicate	cotton wrapped polyester, 100% cotton, silk	chiffon, fine lace, organza, tulle, georgette	60/8, 65/9, or 70/9

Sewing Job	Thread type	Fabrics	Needle
Lightweight	cotton wrapped polyester, 100% cotton, silk	batiste, crepe, chiffon, velvet, jersey, organdy, plastic covered, taffeta, voile, linen, lace	65/9, 70/10, or 80/12 ballpoint or stretch 70/10 or 75/11

Sewing Job	Thread Type	Fabrics	Needle
Medium weight	cotton wrapped polyester, 100% polyester, 100% cotton, silk, monofilament	medium weight cottons, chintz, fine corduroy, gingham, knits, percale, satin, rayon, linens, seersucker, taffeta, nylon tricot	80/12 or 90/14 ballpoint or stretch 75/11
	when using silk thread		Microtex 70/11, or embroidery 75/11 needles 100 wt - 60-70 50 wt. - 80-90 30 wt. - 90-100

Sewing Job	Thread type	Fabrics	needle
Medium Heavy	cotton wrapped polyester, 100% cotton, silk	coatings, denim, drapery, gabardine, sailcloth, tweed, vinyl, deep pile fabrics, brocade, corduroy, wool and wool blends	80/12 to 100/16 leather 90/14 ballpoint or stretch 80/12 or 90/14

Sewing Job	Thread type	Fabrics	needle
Heavy Duty	Button and Carpet thread - 100% polyester, extra strong 100% polyester, silk, 100% nylon	upholstery, heavy vinyl, coated fabrics, canvas, leather	100/16, 110/18, or 120/19 jeans/denim 100/16 or 110/18 leather 100/16 or 110/18

- * Tempting to blame the thread when breakage occurs in machine embroidery, but can take some steps with the machine. Tension is important. Test the tension by sewing a 4 inch long row of zigzag stitches on a scrap of similar fabric - stabilize and hoop the same. The correct tension for machine embroidery should be a little bit unbalanced, having a tighter bobbin tension. The needle thread shows on the surface and pulls a little to the underside of the fabric. If the needle thread covers the bobbin thread on the underneath, the needle tension is way too loose. Adjust accordingly for the thread.
- * Check the path of the thread. Make sure it is unobstructed. The thread may do better on the horizontal pin or on a thread stand. Try both.
- * Check your needle. It should be the right weight for the fabric. Is it bent? Remember to change the needle about every 8 hours of use.

Sewing Job	Thread type	Description	Fabrics	Needle
Embroidery machine				75/11 (typical)
			heavyweight fabrics, denim, puffy foam	75/11 to 90/14
	rayon	high sheen, consistent trouble free performance with high speed sewing, doesn't fray or break, most come as 40 wt or as thicker 30 wt.		40 wt use machine needle size 14/90 30 wt use needle size 14/90 - 16/100
	polyester	similar to rayon, doesn't shrink, fade, or bleed, doesn't fray or break		
	cotton embroidery thread	lovely, soft sheen, weights up to very fine 100 (heirloom quality) but finer threads will tend to be weaker in cotton, 30 or 50 wt is more appropriate for machine embroidery as stronger and better coverage.		
	silk	strength and stability, sews smoothly without breaking, distinct sheen unmatched by other threads, 30 to 50 wts most appropriate for machine embroidery		
	metallic, mylar	requires more care than rayon or cotton threads, but popular for adding sparking accents		

RESOURCES - Threads to try

YLI

YLI Jeans Stitch Thread

- Consistently smooth without fuzz, equally well as decorative serging thread. Used in upper and lower looper, gives a colorful look and durable stitch, use for machine embroidery, topstitching, decorative quilting thread.
- Size 30 polyester

YLI Select

Extra long staple 100% cotton thread, perfect for machine piecing, applique, constructions, and quilting.

YLI Pearl Crown Rayon

- Twisted thread-like cord, decorative thread designed for serger loopers, bobbin work, hand sewing, or couching

YLI Fine Metallic

- Nylon core, rice paper for better bonding and stability, silver alloy film undercoated, designed to stitch 1000 stitches per minute.

YLI Woolly Nylon

- Textured 100% nylon serger thread with strength, stretch, and memory. Soft and wonderful for rolled edges, use in upper and/or lower looper of serger.

YLI Silk Thread - 30, 50, 100 wt

- 100% pure filament silk without broken or spun strands, strong and durable, yet very fine, 100 wt disappears when used providing excellent use for applique, invisible hems, tailoring, and other sewing applications. 50 wt is pure filament silk thread is all purpose for construction, quilting, or embroidery. 30 wt is a topstitch weight filament thread for quilting, topstitching, embroidery, and embellishing; a buttonhole twist thread.

Madeira Metallic thread

Sturdy metallic thread for sewing machines and embroidery machines. Adds a shimmer to your sewing. Comes in a variety of textures and thicknesses from 12 wt to 50 wt. - 40 wt. 50% polyester 45% polyamide 5% pure silver and other combinations, lint free

Purple Moose - <http://www.purplemoosedesigns.com>

Madeira FS20 and Mettler metrolene threads are available for online orders

FS 50 Wt - Perfect for small lettering, fine monograms and filigree embroidery, vivid detail and for very intricate touches.

FS 45 wt - more economical aluminum coating, strong and durable. The reduction of the metallised wrapped results in a thinner thread than the FS 35 wt.

FS 40 wt - razor thin polyamide core and twist construction with pure silver; smooth, supple thread suitable for sophisticated embroidery designs on challenging materials.

FS 35 wt - trouble free stitching at high speeds, fills fast.

FS 30 wt - embroidery is rich and certainly has a metallic appearance, suitable for outdoor use, chlorine, bleaching, harsh detergents, and temperatures up to 203 degrees.

FS20 Blackcore - Soft metallic thread with strong textured polyester filament core with a metallize polyester foil wrap. Made from 80% viscose and 20% metallis. Specialty thread and quality *metallic* without normal problems of metallic, use for machine embroidery, serger, and decorative sewing. gentle to the skin. Use a 100/16 needle. If you use this thread for hemstitching, use a 120/19 wing needle.



FS 15 wt - best metal effect for embroidery and sewing, 3-ply is functional, decorative, and durable for hard-wearing seams, high strength, trouble free sewing on demin, and sporting goods.

Mettler

Mettler Metrolene thread - 100% polyester, 60 wt. supple yet strong, finished seam will hardly be seen or felt. Blends softly into the fabric. Very soft to the touch. A very fine thread, and gives your sewing a “subtle” look. Lack of any loose fibers. Thread wt is very fine - 120 wt.



Metrosene all purpose polyester, 100 wt, 3 ply, high quality thread for all sewing machine projects

Metrosene mercerized - 100% cotton, 50 wt, 3 ply. Use for machine quilting and applique.

Mettler Silk Finish - 50 wt, 3 ply 100% Egyptian long staple and mercerized cotton, soft, shrink resistant. Use for machine sewing and hand stitching.

Metrosene 100% cotton, 50 wt, 3 ply. Use for machine quilting and applique.

Metrosene Fine machine embroidery thread - 100% cotton, 60 wt, 2 ply.

Mettler Silky sheen (PolySheen) - 100% polyester, heavier weight for better coverage when machine quilting or embroidery, high breakage resistance. Lustrous and colorfast.

Aurofil

www.aurifil.com

Cotton Mako' 50 - 100% cotton, 50 wt Mako thread, strong and is Egyptian long staple thread. Fine thread slides smoothly through the machine with no breakage. Perfect for high speed embroidery machines and sergers, also machine sewing and quilting. Works up beautifully in quilting, piecing, and embroidery machines.

Cotton Mako' 20, Cotton 50, Cotton 40, and Cotton 12 - general purpose sewing. Cotton 50 is also excellent for small miniature quilting blocks as it stitches a perfect flat seam. Cotton 40 also good for buttonholes, and in-the-ditch stitching.

Aurilux 36 - 100% polyester, high brilliance like rayon, color-fast, strong and durable for quilting.

Rayon 40 - popular for free motion quilting and machine embroidery machines, 40 wt, 2 ply. High strength and excellent luster.

Wool Lana 12 - made of 50% Australian wool and 50% acrylic. Soft appearance with strength of acrylic. Perfect for machine embroidery, textured effects, working with chenille and chain stitch embroidery attachments. 12 wt.

Thread terms

Ply is the number of threads twisted together to make one single thread.

Twist is the crimping of fibers that causes them to interlock into one single ply; the number of turns per cm or inch. Threads should not untwist while sewing and too little twist may break or fray. Too much twist and you get looping, knotting, and snarling. The direction the thread twists is very important. As it goes through the machine, more twist may be added.

- *Right twist* - American threads are usually twisted to the right, gives average stitch quality.
- *Left twist* - most commercial and imported threads are twisted to the left, giving a better than average stitch quality. (made in West Germany, Mettler, Isacord)
- *Test the twist* while holding the spool in the left hand, roll the strand of thread towards you with one thumb. Left twist will tighten and right twist will loosen.

Roll is the tendency of the thread to roll to the right or left while sewing, creates appearance of crooked threads. Poor quality threads are more likely to roll than higher quality thread.

Staple is the length of fibers used to twist together, forming a single ply. Domestic thread fiber lengths are about 1 1/2" to 2 1/2" long, while European threads range from 5 1/2" to 6 1/2" in length.

Happy Sewing!
Charlene

www.theseinbox.com
<http://theseinbox.blogspot.com>

