

Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



Scott Goodman, owner of Sewing Machine Warehouse & Kneedle.com has been servicing the sewing public since 1976.

Spa Treatment for your Embroidery Machine

OK I get it. I know you have a (finger quotes) “special relationship” with your embroidery machine. Your “special friend” could use an occasional spa treatment. Think Asian music, mud bath, hot rocks, cucumbers on eyelids, mani/pedi. While manufacturers are non-specific on service intervals, most models will sound a little throaty and get testy after 3 ½ to 4 million stitches. Most embroiderers drive that mileage in a year. Beloved members of our 12-step embroidery group (you know who you are) can achieve these numbers in 6 months or less.

Do-it-yourselfers and the adventurous, take note...new technology machines are not to be oiled! There are many different lubricants used throughout the machine. The sewing machine lube periodic table of elements include lithium, silicone and many hydrocarbon remnants of old dinosaurs.

Not scared yet? Remove the throat plate (bobbin case cover), needle plate (the metal one your needle goes into) and bobbin case. Open the upper side cover if it is easily removable. See the lint and fibers? Some of you will be tempted to embellish them into your next project. The rest of you will suck up the big chunks with your vacuum and a small brush. With your safety glasses in place, use compressed or canned air and blow away the evidence of your last projects. Look for thread that may have wrapped itself around the take-up lever and other moving parts. Important note: Some models have fuzzy things (looks like a glue-on fake mustache) that are secured to the bobbin case or adjacent parts. Some are red, others are grey/black. Do not remove the fuzzy thing!

Your robot (embroidery unit) will need lubrication, too. I do not advocate self-surgery, so this is for your information only. There are two axis rods that carry and move your hoop. The X axis= lefty and righty and the Y axis = to and fro. The wrong lube will make your robot sad. These rods should be cleaned and lubricated in accordance to your manufacturer's technical recommendation.

While I have simplified the process, technical training is very brand and model specific. Manufacturers consider their service manuals proprietary and do not make them available for public consumption. Entrust your creative extension to a technician who is worthy. It is not possible for an untrained tech to “guess” the settings and adjustments on complex machines. The untrained mechanic can do more damage than good.

Talk to your local dealer about their Service Maintenance Agreement. Conceived by Singer over 50 years ago, these agreements allow you to bring your baby for service and worn parts, as needed, without additional cost. The investment for these agreements rival annual expected out-of-pocket maintenance expenses, protect you from the unexpected and give you the opportunity to get service whenever you need it. Most dealers prioritize protected machines with speedy service.

Questions, comments or just want to share something? Write to me: GreatScott@kneedle.com

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