

Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



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

Don't blame your poor, misaligned tension.

Tension devices have not evolved in 150 years. A couple of cymbal-shaped disks, squeezed by a spring, controlled with a tightening dial. Simple!

Most dials are numbered 1-10 and little difference is seen during wide turns of the dial.

Yet, the most popularly reported repair problem? "

My tension is [off/out of adjustment/broken...]

The usual "real" problem? Dun, dun, dunnn! Mis-threading.

Modern design dictates that tension devices be integrated into your sleek, sexy looking machine, making it difficult to visually verify that the thread is engaged in this innocent device.

Several models by Brother, Baby Lock and others, incorporate a "trap door" into several of their advanced models. The trap door opens when your presser foot is up and closes when the foot is down.

This simple design allows the thread to fall into the waiting embrace of opened tension disks, preventing that nasty, loopy, bird nesting under your project.

- Should your project become one with your bobbin case, breathe...warm a pot of tea.
- Slide a scalpel or craft blade between your heirloom-in-progress and needle plate, cutting away that nasty nest.
- Then remove the needle plate & bobbin case and eliminate any thread left behind. After the parts are reinstalled and the machine re-threaded, all should be great.

- Sometimes a wad of thread or lint can lodge within the thread path, wedging the tension open and resulting in stitch pandemonium.

Scott's remedy?
Floss it out!

- Wrap 3 or 4 plies of thread between your fingers and floss the threading path until the tension feels right.