

Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



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

What Are You Waiting For?

Santa is long gone, the reindeer are in their stable, holiday guests are back home. It is now time to play with your presents. The new embroidery machine that Santa (or what ever mythical entity visits your house) left under your tree is still in the box. What to do...

"They" tell me that there are three learning styles: Visual, auditory and tactile. Because of your love for fiber artistry, you are probably a visual or tactile learner, so turn down the ABBA tunes on your music delivery device (things change fast). The following are steps that anyone can follow:

Step one: Open the box and remove your machine. Step two: Plug it in. Step three: Breathe...

Visual Learner

Look at your machine and all the pretty things that came with it. See the screen? Monochromatic is good, color is better; a lot better. Hi-def screens are much easier to understand and edit. Color imagery inspires you to create and embellish beautiful and exciting items for your wardrobe or home, and gifts for loved ones. Explore the home, layout, setting and help screens to see your available options. The manual can be read front to back or, for our attention-challenged friends, look here, the manual can be referenced in a more modular style. You can jump to any part of the manual as needed. Join an embroidery club at your local dealership and see what others are creating with their machine(s) and software.

Auditory Learner

Listen to the pretty chimes, beeps and robot sounds as your machine comes to life. Most machines assure the correct touch with a beep, an incorrect with a boop. The "ta-pocketa-pocketa"* embroidery sound signifies that all is well. Schedule a lesson at your local dealership and listen as the educator gently guides you through the basic navigation of your screens and operation of your machine. Their soft, assuring voice will guide you through machine options, threading, hooping and selecting the right stabilizer. Your inner voice will help you select the right dealership and join a group where you will hear what others have experienced with their embroider-quest.

Tactile Learner

Feel the smooth lines that the designer spent weeks perfecting. Pick up and examine all of the hoops and feet that came with your machine. Touch the screen, go ahead, touch it...Anywhere! Let your fingers explore the screens and menus. Feel how the hoops fit together. Open the stabilizer and cut a piece that is larger than your hoop. Stroll to your closet and grab one of last year's fashions. Your firm grip squeezes it and your stabilizer within your hoop. You can feel the hoop engage into its proper position. The machines rising and falling heartbeat rhythm is palpable while monogramming your initial. While visually enticing, the finished letter's texture is reward enough.

Good news! Electronic safeguards in most modern machines defy your best attempts of sabotage. Don't be afraid to experiment with your wonderful, inspirational gift. For those of you whom are "afraid of computers", many new computerized machines are not much more challenging than using a microwave oven or iPhone.

Your enjoyment of this wonderful craft can be greatly enhanced by lessons received at your local dealership. Most offer free lessons with purchase. Sometimes Santa shops at "Big Box" stores or via the internet. These models are quite functional, but may be more challenging than models available at "specialty" stores. Fee-based lessons at your local dealership will shorten the learning curve with tips & techniques, expose you to many creative ideas and introduce you to interesting people that love your craft.

Speaking of interesting...Great Scott! is interested in hearing from you. Tips, tricks, questions, gossip. Write to me: GreatScott@kneedle.com

*Apologies to James Thurber & Walter Mitty