

Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



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

Over the next several issues, Great Scott! will extoll the virtues, features, and benefits of all major brands of embroidery sewing machines.

How Do I Love Thee... Husqvarna Viking

*Alternately titled:
How do I pronounce thee...Hoosk VAR na.
Am I not the only one confused by the voweless Q?*

From the land of Volvos and Pippi Longstocking, Husqvarna was founded in 1689 as a maker of muskets for the Swedish army. Until recently, this coveted brand was marketed internationally as **Husqvarna**, relatable in America as **Viking**. Vintage Viking models were known for their lifetime lubrication and jam-free rotary hook. This trouble-free experience has led to a loyal following.

Husqvarna Viking's DESIGNER DIAMOND Royale™, their latest flagship model, has features that will appeal to embroiderers, quilters, crafters and fashionistas. Users rave about embroidery hoop size; The *Designer Majestic Hoop* spans 360mm x 350mm (14" x 14" ish more or less), the largest sewing field available on home sewing machines. This is the first machine to offer built-in 3D stitches. No glasses necessary, these continuous dimensional stitches are designed to pause at key intervals, allowing you to insert fabric, fibers or whatever into these beautiful appliqué and pop-up motifs. With almost 10" of room measured to the needle, quilters will find ample space for

creative stipple expressions and the selection of task-specific presser feet is abundantly impressive.

Husqvarna Viking's *Exclusive Sensor System™* automatically measures fabric thickness and modifies presser foot pressure as needed. Husqvarna Viking's presser foot automatically lowers when the speed pedal is pressed, and raises when you stop. Using this feature with the needle-down setting, allows you maximum pivot control for appliqué and other precision techniques.

Husqvarna Viking's *deluxe™ Stitch System* thread portioning, automatically and constantly measures fabric thickness with every revolution, delivering the precise quantity of thread to form a perfect stitch. Unlike tension, this system does not squeeze or distort thread when metering the right amount, allowing you to use sparkly Mylar based threads and other challenging fibers.

Husqvarna Viking is known for their *Sewing and Embroidery advisor™*. Like a built-in tutor, this feature recommends the appropriate presser foot, needle and stabilizer; then sets stitch parameters, like tension, presser foot settings and more. I imagine future models could have a loving grandmother's voice, with verbal cues that could be adjusted for nurturing or stern guidance.



Most premium brands understand their own native format, plus the legacy DST/Tajima design format. Most current Husqvarna Viking models can smartly speak several embroidery languages, assuring you that all of the popular formats can be used without quirky software translation. Want to hack the pre-programmed beeps, boops and chimes? The *Designer Diamond™* series reads .wav files, so confirmation sounds can be programmed like ring-tones on your smartphone.



6D Premier Embroidery Software™ is the latest iteration of Husqvarna Viking's acclaimed digitizing software. Sporting a modern Windows 8 look, feel, and touch, this program responds to gestures (like pinch, zoom and select) that are supported by your new touchy-feely tablet, laptop and desktop computer. Several puffy fonts and puffy frames are now included. The list of features is robust and impressive. The 6D family of programs can be purchased in modules, too. You can start with basic tools and upgrade as your skills and budget increase. Husqvarna Viking's *TruEmbroidery™* is still the only digitizing suite written for Apple Mac owners. Using familiar Mac menu structure and gestures, this full-featured program can even use PDFs for source artwork. A new updated version arrives this fall.



Husqvarna Viking has gems that address the needs of all abilities and budgets. If Diamonds are out of the question, the *Ruby*, *Topaz*, *Sapphire*, and *Opal* series are built to the same exacting standards,

without high-end features. All but the *Opal* share the same wide body as the *Diamond* series; The *Ruby* and *Topaz* feature large format embroidery and ample freehand stipple room. The *Sapphire* series does all that without embroidery. Top-of-the-line performance in a conservative price range.

Topaz models sew and embroider. They feature the sensor system in more approachable price range, without sacrificing quality or reliability.

Opal models, still have the exclusive sewing advisor, are built wider than most competitive models, appealing to the occasional quilter, and are a high quality alternative as an all-around, moderately priced, family sewing machine.

Sit-down quilters love the *Platinum 16™* quilter with stitch regulation. This large format 16" quilter features an industrial "M" class oversize bobbin so you can stipple without frequent bobbin changes.

Want to collect them all? The *Platinum 3000™* long arm quilter with *Inspira iQuilt™* Frame and *QuiltDesign Creator™* automation system is like embroidering in a ten-foot frame at a blazing 3,000 stitches per minute.

Can't be away from sewing? The *H Class 100q™* is a three-quarter size, rock-solid welterweight travel model that is great for quilt classes, fashion and craft projects.



All this thought of creating with a Swedish flair has made me hungry; so I am off to *Ikea* for some lingonberry juice, meatballs and rye crackers.

How do YOU pronounce **Husqvarna**? Send me a selfie video featuring your best Swedish Chef accent. Best entry wins "Great Scott! in a Box". GreatScott@kneedle.com