



Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman

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

SURVEY Says?

Spring... Decades of Family Feud have etched my neural network, causing me to think in a call/reply modality.

Spring...



FEVER

CHICKEN

FORWARD

SURVEY Says?

CLEANING

Spring is a time for rebirth, and rejuvenation with vegetation sprouting everywhere after winter's harsh months. A time for cleaning, a time for organization.

Your sewing studio (this creative craft space could also be your dining room table) is a good place to start. Thread tails on spools tied off, stabilizer rolled and labeled, fabric folded and organized by color. Look under your stack of UFOs (UnFinished Objects), there it is...your embroidery machine.

With holiday projects in the rearview mirror, spring is a great time to give your embroidery machine some TLC. Embroiderers (me too) are a bit nutty, some of us incrementing our sewdometers by 10,000,000 or more stitches annually. Here are some signs and symptoms of an embroidery machine in need:

- Sticky embroidery units that cause projects to shift registration.
- Skipped stitches.
- Broken threads.
- Loopy stitches underneath.
- Noisy, clunky harsh sounds.
- Handwheel will not turn.
- Inconsistent results.

Here are some things you can do at home.

Factory-trained technicians have access to manuals that document specific settings, log-in information for backend adjustments, and access to technical help desks for guidance when all else fails.

Authorized service centers have access to genuine parts.



Change the needle.

Remove the needle plate and bobbin case cover, clean, big chunks of lint with a vacuum attachment, blow the remainder clear with compressed air. Inspect the needle plate and bobbin case for nicks, grooves and needle strikes. Replace as needed.

Clean glue from your hoops, with Goo Gone, WD-40 or diaper wipes.

Don't try this at home: Do not open the casing.

Exposed circuit boards are prone to immediate permanent damage from ungrounded static electricity. Fight the urge to lubricate. Modern machines use several types of lubrication throughout their innards. Only a few require conventional oil in the rotating hook area.

Do not consult with your Yahoo group. There is a high chance that the well-intentioned anecdotal information will be false.

Like today's automobiles, embroidery machines are complex, requiring less attention. This complexity is easy for technicians who are factory-trained for your brand. Factory-trained technicians have access to manuals that document specific settings, log-in information for backend adjustments, and access to technical help desks for guidance when all else fails. Authorized service centers have access to genuine parts. **I can't stress this enough.** Old school technicians can fix legacy machines by touch and feel. New machines must be approached with science over art, with appropriate tools, jigs and lubrication. Trust your machine to a dealership that is factory-trained and certified for your brand.

Some brands and dealerships offer service agreements.

These agreements differ from extended warranties, by covering maintenance, worn parts and broken parts. Surprisingly, new machines have very few "warranty" issues. Warranties cover defects in workmanship, but do not cover mis-threading or other mistakes. But things happen. Thread fails, design files with tight densities can cause havoc, and loose needles can slip out of place. Service agreements provide value, usually costing less than annual service, while covering the odd circumstance. Here is the big plus. Misbehaving machines can be nurtured on demand; whenever they act up. Many service centers provide expedited service for covered product, saving you time and money. Check with your favorite dealership and find out about optional protection for your brand. While you are there, ask how fast their turnaround is. Are repairs done on site or sent to a central repair shop? Can minor problems be addressed while you wait?

Spring is a great time to perk up your embroidery machine and craft area.

Once organized, you can make room for your new multi-needle machine, craft cutter or 3D printer. In too deep? Contact NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals, NAPO.net. Better yet? Contact the producers of Hoarders, Buried Alive on TLC.

Survey says there were six, sexy, suave Family Feud hosts. How many can you name? You can hit my buzzer at GreatScott@kneedle.com, [Facebook.com/GreatScottSews](https://www.facebook.com/GreatScottSews) and [Kneedle9999](https://www.instagram.com/kneedle9999) on Instagram.