

How often should I replace needles?

1.

It is essential that your needle is fitted correctly as this will affect the performance of your machine and thread. The groove should be placed to face you.

2.

Change your needles on a regular basis as blunt or damaged needles will cause stitching to loop, look uneven or worse still, won't sew at all! Replacing the needle will prevent looping and create a crisper finish. We highly recommend a set schedule for changing needles, e.g. change one needle per head every week.

3.

Change your needle when using a different thread weight or introducing a new type of thread e.g. Metallic, we recommend keeping separate needles specifically to use with metallic threads.

4.

Change your needle when applying new embroidery techniques e.g. three dimensional embroidery, this requires a slightly shorter needle - **DBXK5 KK80** due to its shorter shank, bending resistance is lower.

5.

Change your needle when you embroider onto denser woven fabrics such as martial art belts and baseball caps. Use a titanium sharp point needle **MXK5 SAN1** size 80 which is specially designed to pierce into woven fabrics and prevent the needle from blunting or overheating.

6.

Puckering occurs when the fabric has been gathered by the stitches. This is caused by too many stitches in your design, loose hooping, lack of backing, incorrect tension or a dull or oversized needle. Reduce your needle size for finer fabrics to prevent holes forming around the design.

7.

Bird nesting is a build-up of thread between the actual garment and needle plate. This can be caused by inadequate tensioning, too many stitches or a blunt needle.

8.

Thicker garments such as horse blankets and arctic style fleeces can cause the needle to overheat after having to cut through a heavier fabric. Change your needle frequently.

9.

If your machine is missing stitches, it could mean the hooped fabric isn't tight enough, your machine isn't threaded properly or the needle is incorrectly fitted or blunt.

Learn More:

Punch Book - Digitising for Embroidery design by Bonnie Nielsen

Madeira Embroidery Training Courses contact: sales@madeira.co.uk

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