



- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 SAN®1** size 80 which is specially designed to pierce into woven fabrics and prevent the needle from blunting or overheating.
- 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.
- Birdnesting 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.
- 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.
- 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

For more information go to [www.madeira.co.uk](http://www.madeira.co.uk)

Madeira Embroidery Training Courses contact: [training@madeira.co.uk](mailto:training@madeira.co.uk)

2021

