

Sewing Machine Needles

Type	Description	Fabric
Universal	An all-purpose needle that is a cross between a sharp and a ballpoint needle. For general sewing and piecing.	Woven fabrics, knits and synthetics.
Embroidery	Has an extra-long eye and specially shaped scarf.	Most fabrics.
Ballpoint	Like a universal but has rounded edges and is tapered differently. The needle will push the weave out of the way instead of cutting through.	Knits, cotton knits, rib knits, double knits, Ultra-suede, and coarse knits.
Wing/Hemstitch	The sides of the shank are flared which creates an open work or "eyelet" effect. Tension may need adjustment.	Most fabrics.
Leather	Has a triangular or wedge-like point to make a large clean hole.	Real leather, suede and heavy vinyl.
Jeans/Denim	Has a strong sharp point, a stiff shank, slender eye and a re-enforced blade.	Denim and tightly woven cotton such as canvas.
Metallic/Metafil	Similar to an embroidery needle with a large eye and an extra-long scarf but the eye is Teflon coated. Use with rayon, monofilament, invisible and metallic threads.	Most fabrics.
Quilting	Has a strong shaft with a tapered point.	Most fabrics.
Serger/Industrial	Used only for Sergers and industrial machines.	
Jersey	Has a medium ballpoint tip.	Knits.
Stretch	Has a rounded tip, elongated eye, and a specialized scarf.	Spandex, Lycra, lingerie, faux fur, fleece, and elastic.
Microtex/Sharp	More slender with a finer point than the universal.	Fine woven fabrics, chintz, microfibers, polyester, batik, foils, or synthetic suede.

Type	Description	Fabric
Topstitching	Has a sharp point, extra-long eye and a deeper groove that accommodates thick threads.	Most fabrics.
Twin/Triple	Has 2/3 needles mounted on a single shank with a cross bar. Makes parallel rows of stitching.	Most fabrics.
Self-Threading	Universal needle with an opening at the side of the eye for easy threading.	Woven fabrics, knits and synthetics.
Double Eye	The needle has two eyes for two threads to create a shading effect.	Most fabrics.
Spring	Needle has a wire spring above the point to prevent fabric from riding up onto the needle when the presser foot is removed and feed dogs are down.	Most fabrics.

