

SEWING MACHINE SAFETY TIPS

Before sewing, pull the threads UNDER and BEHIND the presser foot about 3 or 4 inches. Gently hold these threads when you start a new seam, otherwise the threads may get caught in the machine.

The presser foot must always be in the down position for sewing. Use the 'take-up' lever to move the presser foot up or down. The foot should be in the 'up' position to prepare your fabric for stitching. Set the presser foot 'down' before you start stitching and then lift back 'up' again when you are done stitching.

Keep your fingers away from the moving needle and flat on the machine to the sides of the presser foot, to help guide the fabric as you sew.

Don't force or pull the fabric. The sewing machine will move fabric automatically with the feed dogs. Of course, there are exceptions to every rule-sometimes you need to help the fabric if you get to a thick seam. (There is a cool widget to help with thick seams—)

Use the machine's thread cutter to **trim threads as you work** or use a pair of short blade embroidery scissors for trimming. (Short blade scissors minimize the chance of accidentally snipping holes in your fabric-been there and done that!)

Take pins out of the fabric as you sew; DO NOT sew over pins. I've had many broken sewing machine needles from forgetting to take out a pin. (In order to see pins easier, use pins with colored bead heads.)

Maintain even speed with your foot control. Maintaining even speed will get better with practice.

Watch the seam guide as you sew, NOT THE NEEDLE, to produce an even sewing line.

When stopping in the middle of a line of sewing, keep the needle in the fabric to prevent the fabric from moving and causing loops of thread in the stitching. TIP-When sewing corners, keep the needle in the fabric and then lift the presser foot up to turn the fabric; put the presser foot back down after fabric is turned.

If the thread in your machine keeps getting messed up- take your fabric out of the machine and fix the problem. Test your machine with a scrap piece of the fabric that you are using for your project to make sure machine is fixed. Letting your machine mess up too many times on your project fabric may cause the fabric to get a big hole or get snagged. Yep, been there done that! (If the thread is so messed up, you may find that pulling the fabric away from the machine is challenging. Sometimes I've had to carefully clip the knotted thread with my embroidery scissors.)

Have someplace to keep your pins after you remove them from the fabric. I have a magnetic pin holder that I put my pins on so they are less likely to fall on the ground or get caught on other fabric.