

Sewing Repair Solutions

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Quarterly Newsletter
2nd Quarter -- 2026

My Top Five Problem Prevention Tips

1. Before you thread your machine, lift the pressure foot which opens the tension discs to allow the thread to seat properly in-between them. If you don't raise the presser foot, the thread is not going to seat in the tension discs giving it NO tension and that is going to cause a bird's nest UNDER the fabric.

2. Make sure you are using a quality needle. I prefer Schmetz or Organ brands. Also use the right type of needle for your fabric. Universal size 80/12 needles work for most regular sewing projects. For things like stretchy synthetic materials, you will want to use a Stretch needle. For knits and jersey, you want to use a Ball Point needle. For denim or thick material use a Denim needle.

3. Quality Sewing thread makes all the difference. Bargain bin thread or 50 year old thread from your grandma's sewing basket is not going to work well in your machine. Old thread gets brittle and breaks easily as all the moisture is just gone. Coats and Clark brand USED TO BE the main stream of thread, BUT the quality has lessened over the years to make it the lowest priced thread. If you want it to last – Use Quality Thread. Mettler is my brand of choice due to their consistent quality and reasonable price, but German Guterman is still probably the best quality.



4. Keep your machine clean. The next time your machine jams up, Take off the needle plate. Take out the bobbin case. Check everywhere for loose threads or lint. Clean everything out. Open the Light Cover end and look for thread wrapped around the Take-Up Lever. Carefully put it back together and give it a try.

5. Change your needles often. Needles are cheap, repairs are expensive. So, the more you change your needle, the less damage you are going to do to your machine over time and the longer your machine is going to last and the better your stitches will look.

The Annual All Texas Shop Hop is entering the final month ending April 30th. Once in a while, I am doing a delivery or pick-up near a shop participating in the shop hop and I try to stop in. These shops may seem “out of the way” but I visited them for the first time this past month and it would be worth making a trip for you.

Squared Up Quilt Shop - 417 E. Hwy 198 Suite #3, in Springtown. What a cute little shop in its first year of business. Linda, the shop owner, is just dynamic, helpful, excited and she has only just begun!

Pinkey's Too - 1300 W Audie Murphy Pky. Suite #1 in Farmersville. This shop, has over 4,000 bolts of fabric, panels and precuts. I've never seen such an organized shop with labels at the ends of each row telling customers the fabric lines and manufacturers. The ladies were so friendly and extra helpful.

Stitch & Fish, LLC – 7117 W FM 515 in Yantis, TX. This shop has a large selection of wide back fabrics, lots of panels and rows and rows of fabric, precuts, kits, notions, patterns and thread. It's a Fabulous shop with very helpful staff.

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