

THE SERGER

Sergers are relatively new in the home market, although they have been used in factories for a long time. They look much different than a regular machine and sew much faster. Two, three, four, or five spools of thread are used during the serging process, depending upon the stitch selection.

Another difference between a serger and a conventional machine is the knife that trims the fabric as it is sewn. It makes a nice edge, finishing the fabric so that it doesn't fray. Most of the time, the finished edge is placed on the inside, but sometimes it is left on the outside as a decorative trim. A serger sews the seam, finishes the edge, and cuts off the excess fabric all in one operation.

Sergers can use the same kinds of thread as conventional machines, but because they use so much, the thread is usually purchased on large cones rather than regular spools. Some sergers use different kinds of thread that conventional sewing machines cannot handle. People who enjoy sewing often own both kinds of machines because they perform different functions.

The procedures and rules for using the sergers are

1. Report any repairs as needed.
2. If the machine comes unthreaded, tell the teacher.
3. The handwheel turns the direction of the arrow on the handwheel—some turn toward the *back* and some turn toward the *front*.
4. Keep fingers away from stitching line!
5. The presser foot must always be in the down position for sewing.
6. NEVER sew paper in the serger.
7. DO NOT USE PINS IN THE SERGER AREA! **PLEASE!!**
8. Don't force or pull the fabric—the serger will feed it automatically.
9. Leave the thread tail to be cut with scissors.
10. Check the foot control position.

