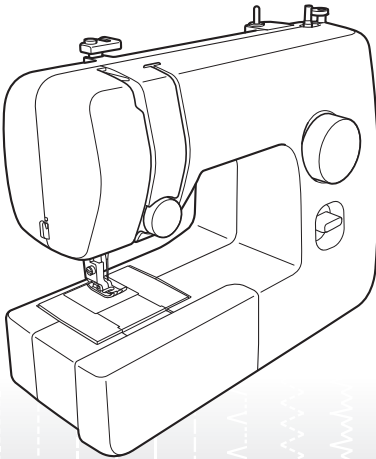


# Operation Manual

## Sewing Machine

Product Code: 888-X53/X54/X55/X56



Please visit us at <http://solutions.brother.com> where you can get product support and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Please read these safety instructions before attempting to use the machine.

**⚠ DANGER** - To reduce the risk of electric shock:

**1** Always unplug the machine from the electrical outlet immediately after using, when cleaning, when making any user servicing adjustments mentioned in this manual, or if you are leaving the machine unattended.

**⚠ WARNING** - To reduce the risk of burns, fire, electric shock, or injury to persons.

**2** Always unplug the machine from the electrical outlet when making any adjustments mentioned in the instruction manual:

- To unplug the machine, switch the machine to the symbol "O" position to turn it off, then grasp the plug and pull it out of the electrical outlet. **Do not** pull on the cord.
- Plug the machine directly into the electrical outlet. Do not use an extension cord.
- **Always** unplug your machine if the power is cut.

**3** **Never** operate this machine if it has a damaged cord or plug, if it is not working properly, if it has been dropped or damaged, or water is spilled on the unit. Return the machine to the nearest authorized dealer or service center for examination, repair, electrical or mechanical adjustment.

- While the machine is stored or in use if you notice anything unusual, such as an odor, heat, discoloration or deformation, stop using the machine

and immediately unplug the power cord.

- When transporting the machine, be sure to carry it by its handle. Lifting the machine by any other part may damage the machine or result in the machine falling, which could cause injuries.
- When lifting the machine, be careful not to make any sudden or careless movements, otherwise you may injure your back or knees.

**4** Always keep your work area clear:

- Never operate the machine with any air openings blocked. Keep ventilation openings of the machine and foot control free from the build up of lint, dust, and loose cloth.
- **Do not** store objects on the foot controller.
- **Do not** use extension cords. Plug the machine directly into the electrical outlet.
- **Never** drop or insert **any** object into **any** opening.
- **Do not** operate where aerosol (spray) products are being used or where oxygen is being administered.
- **Do not** use the machine near a heat source, such as a stove or iron; otherwise, the machine, power cord or garment being sewn may ignite, resulting in fire or an electric shock.
- **Do not** place this machine on an unstable surface, such as an unsteady or slanted table, otherwise the machine may fall, resulting in injuries.

**5** Special care is required when sewing:

- **Always** pay close attention to the needle. Do not use bent or damaged needles.

- Keep fingers away from **all** moving parts. Special care is required around the machine needle.
- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.
- Switch the machine to the symbol “O” position to turn it off when making any adjustments in the needle area.
- **Do not** use a damaged or incorrect needle plate, as it could cause the needle to break.
- **Do not** push or pull the fabric when sewing, and follow careful instruction when freehand stitching so that you do not deflect the needle and cause it to break.

## 6 This machine is **not** a toy:

- Your close attention is necessary when the machine is used by or near children.
- The plastic bag that this machine was supplied in should be kept out of the reach of children or disposed of. Never allow children to play with the bag due to the danger of suffocation.
- **Do not** use outdoors.

## 7 For a longer service life:

- When storing this machine, avoid direct sunlight and high humidity locations. Do not use or store the machine near a space heater, iron, halogen lamp, or other hot objects.
- Use only neutral soaps or detergents to clean the case. Benzene, thinner, and scouring powders can damage the case and machine, and should never be used.
- Always consult the operation manual when replacing or installing any assemblies, the presser feet, needle, or other parts to assure correct installation.

## 8 For repair or adjustment:

- If the Light unit (light-emitting diode) is damaged, it must be replaced by authorized dealer.

- In the event a malfunction occurs or adjustment is required, first follow the troubleshooting table in the back of the operation manual to inspect and adjust the machine yourself. If the problem persists, please consult your local authorized Brother dealer.

**Use this machine only for its intended use as described in this manual.**

**Use accessories recommended by the manufacturer as contained in this manual.**

**The contents of this manual and specifications of this product are subject to change without notice.**

**For additional product information, visit our web site at [www.brother.com](http://www.brother.com)**

# SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS


## This machine is intended for household use.

This appliance is not intended for use by persons (including children) with reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities, or lack of experience and knowledge, unless they have been given supervision or instruction concerning use of the appliance by a person responsible for their safety. Children should be supervised to ensure that they do not play with the appliance.

This appliance can be used by children aged from 8 years and above and persons with reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities or lack of experience and knowledge if they have been given supervision or instruction concerning use of the appliance in a safe way and understand the hazards involved. Children shall not play with the appliance. Cleaning and user maintenance shall not be made by children without supervision.

# FOR USERS IN THE UK, EIRE, MALTA AND CYPRUS ONLY

## IMPORTANT

- In the event of replacing the plug fuse, use a fuse approved by ASTA to BS 1362, i.e. carrying the  mark, rating as marked on plug.

- Always replace the fuse cover. Never use plugs with the fuse cover omitted.
- If the available electrical outlet is not suitable for the plug supplied with this equipment, you should contact your authorized dealer to obtain the correct lead.

## CONTENTS

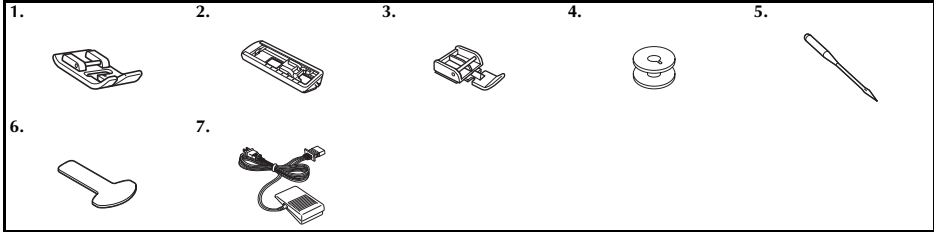
|  |           |  |           |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| <b>IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS .....</b>           | <b>1</b>  | <b>3. BUILT-IN STITCHES .....</b>                  | <b>22</b> |
| <b>1. KNOWING YOUR SEWING MACHINE .....</b>          | <b>4</b>  | Straight stitching .....                           | 22        |
| <b>ACCESSORIES .....</b>                             | <b>4</b>  | Zigzag stitching .....                             | 22        |
| Optional accessories .....                           | 4         | Blind hem stitching .....                          | 23        |
| <b>THE MAIN PARTS .....</b>                          | <b>5</b>  | Overedge stitching .....                           | 24        |
| Flat bed attachment .....                            | 5         | Elastic stitching .....                            | 24        |
| <b>USING YOUR SEWING MACHINE .....</b>               | <b>6</b>  | Double action stitching .....                      | 25        |
| Connecting plugs .....                               | 6         | <b>4. SEWING BUTTONHOLES AND BUTTONS .....</b>     | <b>26</b> |
| Main power and sewing light switch .....             | 7         | Making a buttonhole .....                          | 26        |
| Foot controller .....                                | 7         | Adjusting buttonholes .....                        | 27        |
| Checking the needle .....                            | 7         | <b>5. USING ATTACHMENTS AND APPLICATIONS .....</b> | <b>28</b> |
| Replacing the needle .....                           | 7         | Zipper insertion .....                             | 28        |
| Changing the presser foot .....                      | 8         | Gathering .....                                    | 29        |
| <b>THE CONTROLS .....</b>                            | <b>9</b>  | Appliqués .....                                    | 29        |
| Pattern selection dial .....                         | 9         | <b>USING OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES .....</b>            | <b>30</b> |
| Patterns and stitch names .....                      | 9         | Sewing buttons .....                               | 30        |
| Reverse sewing lever .....                           | 10        | Darning .....                                      | 31        |
| <b>THREADING THE MACHINE .....</b>                   | <b>11</b> | Using the blind stitch foot .....                  | 32        |
| Winding the bobbin .....                             | 11        | <b>6. APPENDIX .....</b>                           | <b>33</b> |
| Lower threading .....                                | 13        | <b>MAINTENANCE .....</b>                           | <b>33</b> |
| Upper threading .....                                | 14        | Restrictions on oiling .....                       | 33        |
| Drawing up the lower thread .....                    | 16        | Precautions on storing the machine .....           | 33        |
| <b>FABRIC, THREAD, AND NEEDLE COMBINATIONS .....</b> | <b>17</b> | Cleaning .....                                     | 33        |
| <b>2. SEWING BASICS .....</b>                        | <b>18</b> | <b>TROUBLESHOOTING .....</b>                       | <b>35</b> |
| Please read before sewing .....                      | 18        | <b>INDEX .....</b>                                 | <b>38</b> |
| Starting sewing .....                                | 18        |  |           |
| Trial sewing .....                                   | 19        |  |           |
| Changing the sewing direction .....                  | 19        |  |           |
| Sewing thick fabrics .....                           | 19        |  |           |
| Sewing thin fabrics .....                            | 20        |  |           |
| Sewing stretch fabrics .....                         | 20        |  |           |
| Stitching cylindrical pieces .....                   | 20        |  |           |
| Thread tension .....                                 | 20        |  |           |

# 1 KNOWING YOUR SEWING MACHINE

1

## ACCESSORIES

We have designed these accessories to help you easily perform most sewing tasks.



| No. | Part Name                       | Part Code  |                    |
|-----|---------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
|     |                                 | Americas   | Others             |
| 1   | Zigzag foot "J"<br>(on machine) | XC4901-121 |                    |
| 2   | Buttonhole foot "A"             | X59369-321 |                    |
| 3   | Zipper foot "I"                 | XE9369-001 |                    |
| 4   | Bobbin<br>(One is on machine)   | SA156      | SFB:<br>XA5539-151 |

| No. | Part Name                    | Part Code  |        |
|-----|------------------------------|--|--------|
|     |                              | Americas   | Others |
| 5   | Needle set<br>(90/14 needle) | 3-piece set: XE5328-001<br>2-piece set: XE7064-001 |        |
| 6   | Screwdriver                  | XF3557-001   |        |
| 7   | Foot controller              | See page 5   |        |

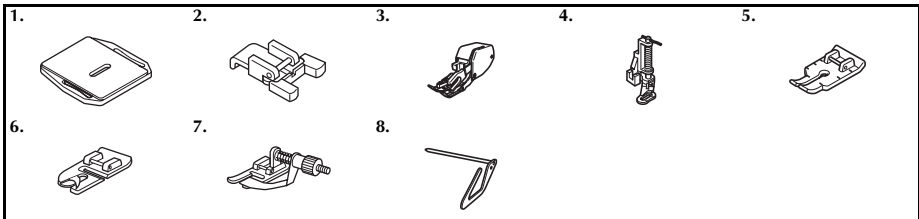


### Note

- The included accessories vary depending on the machine model.

## Optional accessories

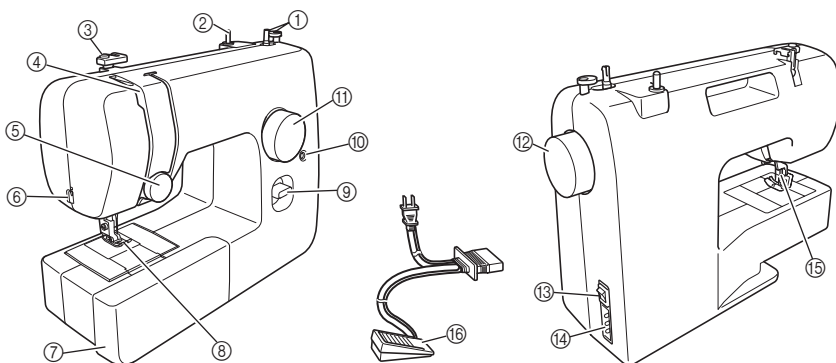
The following are available as optional accessories to be purchased separately. Depending on the model you purchased, the following accessory may be included with your machine.



| No. | Part Name              | Part Code  |                      |
|-----|------------------------|------------|----------------------|
|     |                        | Americas   | Others               |
| 1   | Darning Plate          | XC6063-021 |                      |
| 2   | Button sewing foot "M" | XE2137-001 |                      |
| 3   | Walking Foot           | SA107      | F034N:<br>XC2165-002 |
| 4   | Quilting Foot          | SA129      | F005N:<br>XC1948-052 |
| 5   | 1/4-inch Quilting Foot | SA125      | F001N:<br>XC1944-052 |

| No. | Part Name          | Part Code |                      |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|
|     |                    | Americas  | Others               |
| 6   | Narrow Hemmer Foot | SA127     | F003N:<br>XC1945-052 |
| 7   | Blind Stitch Foot  | SA134     | F018N:<br>XC1976-052 |
| 8   | Quilting guide     | SA132     | F016N:<br>XC2215-052 |

## THE MAIN PARTS



- ① **Bobbin winder (Page 11)**  
This winds the thread onto the bobbin for use as the lower thread.
- ② **Spool pin (Page 11, 14)**  
This holds the spool of thread.
- ③ **Thread guide (Page 11, 14)**  
This is used when winding the thread onto the bobbin and then threading the machine.
- ④ **Thread take-up lever (Page 15)**
- ⑤ **Upper tension-control dial (Page 21)**  
This controls the tension of the upper thread.
- ⑥ **Thread cutter (Page 19)**  
Pass the threads through the thread cutter to cut them.
- ⑦ **Flat bed attachment with accessory compartment (Page 5)**
- ⑧ **Presser foot (Page 8)**
- ⑨ **Reverse sewing lever (Page 10)**  
Push this lever to stitch in the reverse direction.
- ⑩ **Buttonhole fine-adjustment screw (Page 27)**
- ⑪ **Pattern selection dial (Page 9)**  
Rotate the dial in either direction to choose the stitch you want.
- ⑫ **Handwheel**  
Used to manually raise and lower the needle.
- ⑬ **Main power and sewing light switch (Page 7)**  
You can turn the main power and sewing light switch on and off.
- ⑭ **Foot controller jack / socket (Page 6)**  
Plug in the foot controller plug and connect the machine to the power supply.
- ⑮ **Presser foot lever (Page 14)**  
Used to raise and lower the presser foot.

- ⑯ **Foot controller (Page 7)**  
You can use this to control the sewing speed, and to start and stop sewing.

Foot Controller:

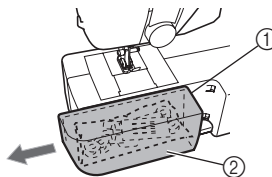
Model KD-1902 for 110-120V area  
KD-1902 for 110-127V area (Brazil only)  
Model KD-2902 for 220-240V area

The foot controller part code differs depending on the country or region. Contact your dealer or the nearest authorized service center.

### Flat bed attachment

The accessories can be stored in a compartment inside the flat bed attachment.

- ① **Slide the flat bed attachment to the left to open it.**



- ① Flat bed attachment
- ② Storage compartment

## USING YOUR SEWING MACHINE

1

### WARNING

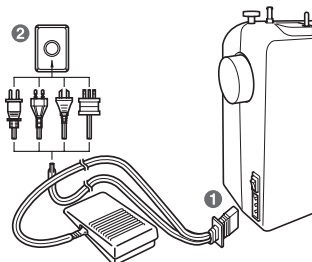
- Use only regular household electricity for the power source. Using other power sources may result in fire, electric shock, or damage to the machine.
- Make sure that the plugs on the power cord are firmly inserted into the electrical outlet and the power supply jack on the machine.
- Do not insert the plug on the power cord into an electrical outlet that is in poor condition.
- Turn off the main power and remove the plug in the following circumstances:
  - When you are away from the machine
  - After using the machine
  - When the power fails during use
  - When the machine does not operate correctly due to a bad connection or a disconnection
  - During electrical storms

### CAUTION

- Use only the power cord included with this machine.
- Do not use extension cords or multi-plug adapters with many other appliances plugged in to them. Fire or electric shock may result.
- Do not touch the plug with wet hands. Electric shock may result.
- When unplugging the machine, always turn off the main power first. Always grasp the plug to remove it from the outlet. Pulling on the cord may damage the cord, or lead to fire or electric shock.
- Do not allow the power cord to be cut, damaged, modified, forcefully bent, pulled, twisted, or bundled. Do not place heavy objects on the cord. Do not subject the cord to heat. These things may damage the cord and cause fire or electric shock. If the cord or plug is damaged, take the machine to your authorized dealer for repairs before continuing use.
- Unplug the power cord if the machine is not to be used for a long period of time. Otherwise a fire may result.

### Connecting plugs

- 1 Connect the foot controller plug to the machine.
- 2 Connect the power supply plug to a wall outlet.

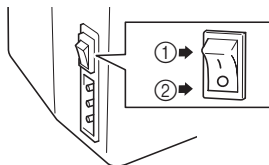


### Note

- If a power outage occurs while the sewing machine is being operated, turn off the main power and unplug the power supply cord. When restarting the sewing machine, follow the necessary procedure to correctly operate the machine.
- (For U.S.A. only)
- This appliance has a polarized plug (one blade wider than the other). To reduce the risk of electric shock, this plug is intended to fit in a polarized outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully in the outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install the proper outlet. Do not modify the plug in any way.

## Main power and sewing light switch

This switch turns the main power and sewing light on or off.



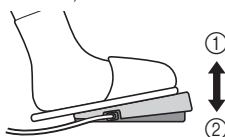
- ① Turn on (toward the 'I' mark)
- ② Turn off (toward the 'O' mark)

### **CAUTION**

- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.

## Foot controller

When you press the foot controller down lightly, the machine will run at a low speed. When you press harder, the machine's speed will increase. When you take your foot off the foot controller, the machine will stop.



- ① Slower
- ② Faster

You should make sure that nothing is placed on the foot controller when the machine is not in use.

### **CAUTION**

- Do not allow pieces of cloth and dust to build up on the foot controller. Doing so could cause a fire or an electric shock.



#### Note

(For U.S.A. only)

- Foot Controller: Model KD-1902  
This foot controller can be used on the machine with product code 888-X53/X54/X55/X56.  
The product code is mentioned on the machine rating plate.

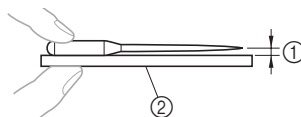
## Checking the needle

The sewing needle must always be straight and sharp for smooth sewing.



### ■ Checking the needle correctly

Put the flat side of the needle on a flat surface. Check the needle from the top and the sides. Dispose of any bent needles safely.



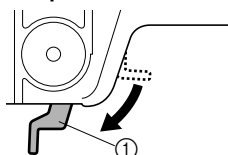
- ① Parallel space
- ② Level surface (bobbin cover, glass, etc.)

## Replacing the needle

### **CAUTION**

- Always turn off the machine before you change the needle. Otherwise, injuries may occur if the foot controller is accidentally pressed and the machine starts sewing.
- Only use sewing machine needles for home use. Other needles may bend or break and cause injury.
- Never sew with a bent needle. A bent needle will easily break and cause injury.

- 1 Turn off the machine.
- 2 Raise the needle by turning the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) so that the mark on the wheel points up.
- 3 Lower the presser foot lever.



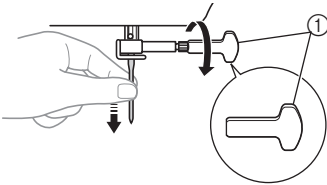
- ① Presser foot lever



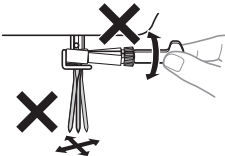
## ! CAUTION

- Before replacing the needle, place fabric or paper under the presser foot to prevent the needle from falling into the hole in the needle plate.

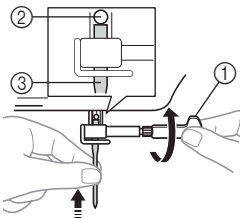
- 4** Hold the needle with your left hand, and then use a screwdriver to turn the needle clamp screw counterclockwise to remove the needle.



- ① Use a screwdriver
- Do not use excessive force when loosening or tightening the needle clamp screw, otherwise certain parts of the sewing machine may be damaged.



- 5** With the flat side of the needle toward the back of the machine, insert the needle until it touches the needle stopper. Next, tighten the needle clamp using a screwdriver.



- ① Use a screwdriver  
② Needle stopper  
③ Needle

## ! CAUTION

- Make sure you insert the needle until it touches the stopper, and securely tighten the needle clamp screw with a screwdriver, otherwise the needle may break or the machine may be damaged.

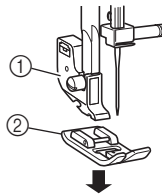
## Changing the presser foot

## ! CAUTION

- Always turn off the machine before you change the presser foot. If you leave the power on and step on the controller, the machine will start and you may be injured.
- Always use the correct presser foot for the stitch pattern you have chosen. If you use the wrong presser foot, the needle may strike the presser foot and bend or break, and may cause injury.
- Only use presser feet that have been designed to be used with this machine. Using any other presser foot may cause accident or injury.

You will have to change the presser foot depending on what you want to sew and how.

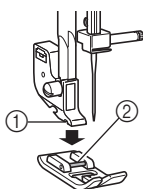
- 1** Turn off the machine.  
Raise the presser foot lever.
- 2** Raise the needle by turning the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) so that the mark on the wheel points up.
- 3** Remove the presser foot by pulling it vertically downward.



- ① Presser foot holder  
② Presser foot

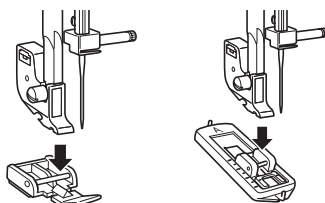
- 4** Put a different presser foot on the needle plate so that the bar on the presser foot is in line with the slot on the shank.

- 5** Lower the presser foot lever and fix the presser foot onto the shank. If the presser foot is in the correct place, the bar should snap in.



- ① Shank
- ② Bar

**■ Presser foot installation orientation**



**! CAUTION**

- If the presser foot is not installed with the correct orientation, the needle may strike the presser foot, which may bend or break the needle and cause injury.

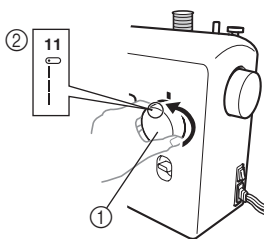
**THE CONTROLS**

**Pattern selection dial**

**! CAUTION**

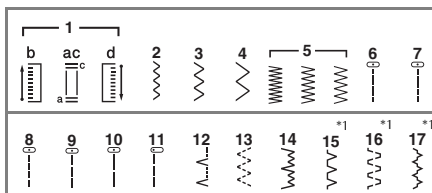
- When you use the pattern selection dial to choose a pattern, raise the needle by turning the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) so that the mark on the wheel points up. If the needle is in the down position when you turn the pattern selection dial, the needle, presser foot or fabric may be damaged.

To choose a stitch, simply turn the pattern selection dial in either direction.













- ① Pattern selection dial
- ② Chosen pattern number





**Patterns and stitch names**



\*1 : Stitch nos. 15-17 are only available on certain models.

| Pattern                     | Preset Length (mm (inch)) | Reference Page |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Stitch Name                 | Preset Width (mm (inch))  |                |
|                             | 0.5 (1/32)                | 26             |
| 4-STEP AUTOMATIC BUTTONHOLE | 5 (3/16)                  |                |
|                             | 0.7 (1/32)                | 22, 29, 30, 32 |
| ZIGZAG STITCH               | 1.8 (1/8)                 |                |
|                             | 1.5 (1/16)                | 22, 29, 30, 32 |
| ZIGZAG STITCH               | 3.3 (3/16)                |                |

| Pattern   | Preset Length<br>(mm (inch)) | Reference<br>Page     |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stitch Name   | Preset Width<br>(mm (inch))  |                       |
|    | 2 (1/16)                     | 22, 29, 30,<br>32     |
| ZIGZAG STITCH   | 5 (3/16)                     |                       |
|    | 0.5 (1/32)                   | 22, 29                |
| ZIGZAG (SATIN)<br>STITCH  | 5 (3/16)                     |                       |
|    | 1.6 (1/16)                   | 22, 31                |
| STRAIGHT STITCH<br>(Center Needle<br>Position)                                      | —                            |                       |
|    | 1.8 (1/8)                    | 22, 31                |
| STRAIGHT STITCH<br>(Center Needle<br>Position)                                      | —                            |                       |
|    | 2 (1/16)                     | 22, 31                |
| STRAIGHT STITCH<br>(Center Needle<br>Position)                                      | —                            |                       |
|    | 3 (1/8)                      | 22, 28, 29,<br>31, 32 |
| STRAIGHT STITCH<br>(Center Needle<br>Position)                                      | —                            |                       |
|   | 4 (3/16)                     | 22, 31                |
| STRAIGHT STITCH<br>(Center Needle<br>Position)                                      | —                            |                       |
|  | 2.5 (3/32)                   | 22, 29, 31            |
| STRAIGHT STITCH<br>(Left Needle Position)   | —                            |                       |
|  | 2 (1/16)                     | 23, 32                |
| BLIND HEM STITCH  | 5 (3/16)                     |                       |
|  | 1 (1/16)                     | 24                    |
| ELASTIC STITCH  | 5 (3/16)                     |                       |

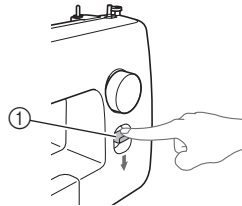
| Pattern   | Preset Length<br>(mm (inch)) | Reference<br>Page |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Stitch Name   | Preset Width<br>(mm (inch))  |                   |
|  | 2 (1/16)                     | 23, 32            |
| STRETCH BLIND<br>HEM STITCH   | 5 (3/16)                     |                   |
|  | 2 (1/16)                     | 24                |
| OVEREDGE STITCH   | 5 (3/16)                     |                   |
|  | 1.2 (1/16)                   | 25                |
| DOUBLE ACTION<br>STITCH   | 5 (3/16)                     |                   |
|  | 1.2 (1/16)                   | 25                |
| BRIDGING STITCH   | 5 (3/16)                     |                   |

## Reverse sewing lever

You can use reverse sewing for back tacking and reinforcing seams.

To sew in reverse, push the reverse sewing lever in as far as possible and hold it in that position while you lightly push the foot controller. To sew forward, release the reverse sewing lever. The machine will then sew forward.

The length of reverse stitches is fixed at 2 mm (1/16 inch).



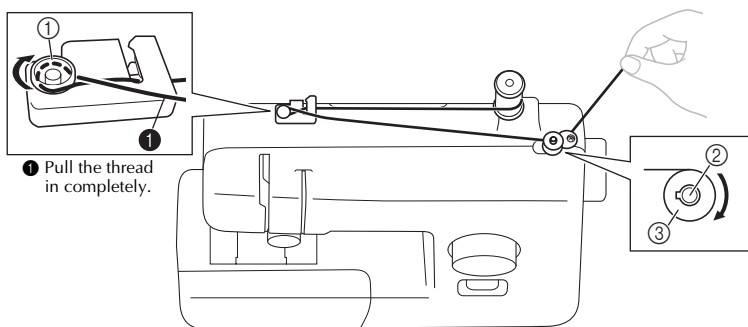
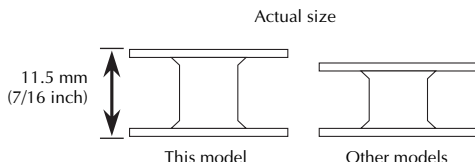
① Reverse sewing lever

## THREADING THE MACHINE

### Winding the bobbin

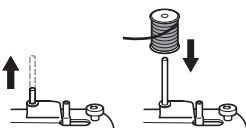
#### CAUTION

- We designed the bobbin that comes with this machine. If you use bobbins from other models, the machine will not work properly. Only use the bobbin that comes with this machine or bobbins of the same type (part code: SA156, SFB: XA5539-151). Using other bobbins may cause damage to the machine.

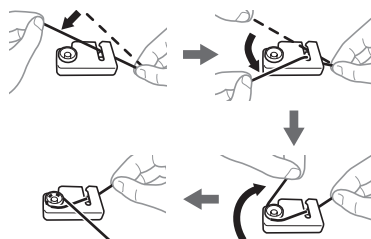


- ① Pre-tension disk      ② Bobbin winder shaft      ③ Bobbin

- 1** Pull up the spool pin and put a spool of thread on this pin.



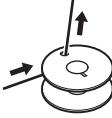
- 2** While holding the thread from the spool with your right hand, pass the thread toward you, in the groove on the thread guide. Then, pass the thread around the pre-tension disk and pull the thread in completely.



#### CAUTION

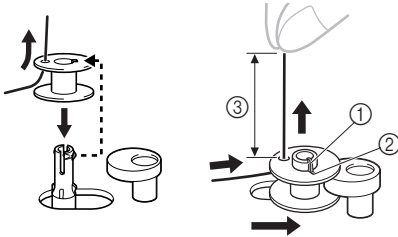
- If the spool of thread is in the wrong place, or is set incorrectly, the thread may tangle on the spool pin.

- 3** Pass the end of the thread through the hole on the bobbin from the inside of the bobbin.



- 4** Put the bobbin onto the bobbin winder shaft and slide the bobbin winder shaft to the right. Turn the bobbin clockwise, by hand, until the projection slides into the notch of the bobbin.

- Make sure to pull out 7 to 10 cm (3-4 inches) of thread from the hole on the bobbin.



- ① Projection
- ② Notch
- ③ 7-10 cm (3 – 4 inches)

**CAUTION**

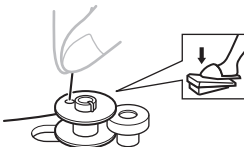
- Pull the thread taut and hold the end of the thread straight up. If the thread is too short, not pulled taut or held at an angle, injuries may occur when the thread is wound around the bobbin.

- 5** Turn on the machine.

**CAUTION**

- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.

- 6** While holding the end of the thread, gently press the foot controller to wind the thread around the bobbin a few times. Then stop the machine.



- 7** Trim the excess thread above the bobbin.

- Leave 1 cm (1/2 inch) of thread from the hole on the bobbin.

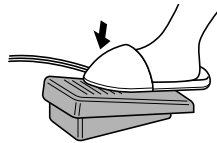


- ① 1 cm (1/2 inch)

**CAUTION**

- Make sure you follow the instructions carefully. If you do not cut the excess thread completely before winding the bobbin, when the thread runs low it may tangle around the bobbin and cause the needle to break.

- 8** Press the foot controller to start.



- 9** When the bobbin seems full and begins spinning slowly, take your foot off the foot controller.

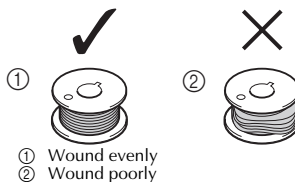
- 10** Cut the thread, slide the bobbin winder shaft to the left and remove the bobbin.

**Note**

- When the sewing machine is started or the handwheel is turned after winding the thread around the bobbin, the machine will make a clicking sound; this is not a malfunction.
- The needle bar does not move when you slide the bobbin winder shaft to the right.

**CAUTION**

- Not winding the bobbin properly may cause the thread tension to loosen, and may break the needle.



- ① Wound evenly
- ② Wound poorly

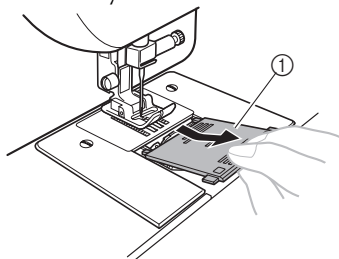
## Lower threading

Install the bobbin wound with thread.

### CAUTION

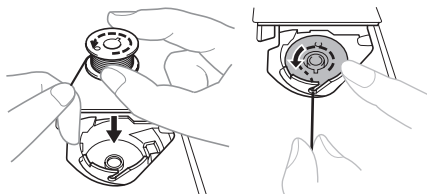
- Make sure you turn off the machine while threading. If you accidentally step on the foot controller and the machine starts to sew, you could be injured.

- 1 Prepare the bobbin wound properly before threading the lower thread.
  - See page 11 for the details about bobbin winding.
- 2 Raise the needle by turning the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) and raise the presser foot lever.
- 3 Remove the bobbin cover by sliding it and lift toward you.



① Bobbin cover

- 4 Put the bobbin in so the thread comes out in the direction shown by the arrow.

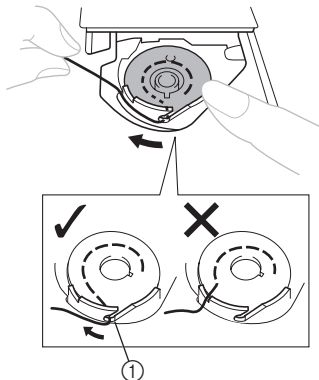


### CAUTION

- Make sure you set the bobbin so the thread unrolls in the right direction. If the thread unrolls in the wrong direction, it may cause the thread tension to be incorrect or break the needle.

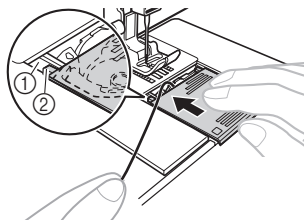
- 5 Hold the end of the thread, push the bobbin down with your finger, and then pass the thread through the slit, as shown.

- If the thread is not correctly inserted through the tension-adjusting spring of the bobbin case, it may cause incorrect thread tension.



① Tension-adjusting spring

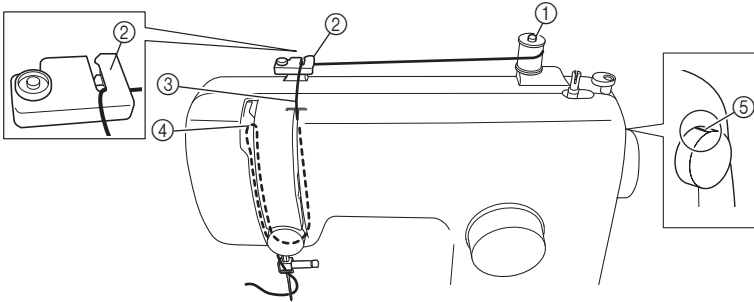
- 6 Replace the bobbin cover. Put the projection into the race retainer groove and push closed.



① Groove  
② Projection

- Make sure that the end of the thread comes out from the cover toward the rear of the machine (as shown in the illustration).
- Draw up the lower thread before starting sewing. Refer to "Drawing up the lower thread" on page 16 after threading the upper thread.

## Upper threading



- ① Spool pin
- ② Thread guide (back)
- ③ Thread guide (front)

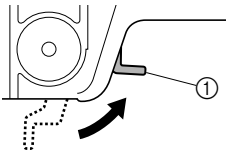
- ④ Thread take-up lever
- ⑤ Mark on the handwheel

### ! CAUTION

- When threading the upper thread, carefully follow the instructions. If the upper threading is not correct, the thread may become tangled or the needle may bend or break.
- Never use a thread weight of 20 or lower.
- Use the needle and the thread in the correct combination. For details on the correct combination of needles and threads, refer to "FABRIC, THREAD, AND NEEDLE COMBINATIONS" on page 17.

① Turn off the machine.

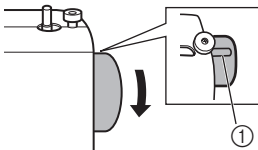
② Raise the presser foot lever.



- ① Presser foot lever

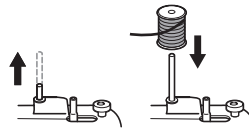
③ Raise the needle by turning the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) so that the mark on the wheel points up.

- If the needle is not correctly raised, the sewing machine can not be threaded.



- ① Mark on the wheel

④ Pull up the spool pin and put a spool of thread on this pin.

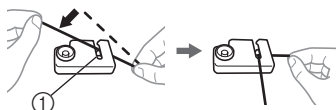


### ! CAUTION

- If the spool of thread is in the wrong place, or is set incorrectly, the thread may tangle on the spool pin and cause the needle to break.

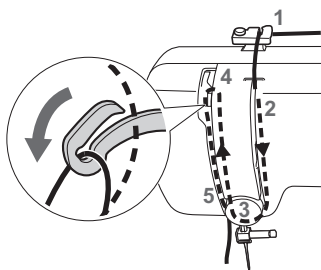
**5** While holding the thread from the spool with your right hand, pass the thread toward you, in the groove on the thread guide.

- Make sure that the spring in the groove catches the thread.

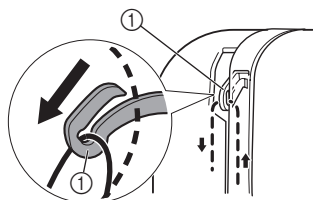


① Spring

**6** Feed the upper thread as shown in the following illustration.



**7** Make sure you guide the thread through the thread take-up lever from right to left as shown in the following illustration.



① Thread take-up lever

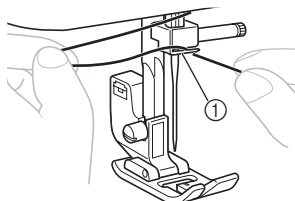


**Memo**

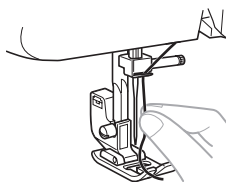
- If the thread take-up lever is lowered, the upper thread can not be wrapped around the thread take-up lever. Make sure you raise the needle by turning the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) so that the mark on the wheel points up.

**8** Put the thread behind the guide above the needle.

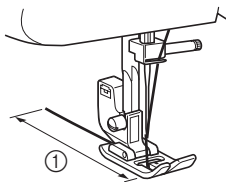
- The thread can easily be passed behind the needle bar thread guide by holding the thread in your left hand, then feeding the thread with your right hand.



① Needle bar thread guide



**9** Thread the needle from front to back leaving a thread tail of about 5 cm (2 inches).



① 5 cm (2 inches)



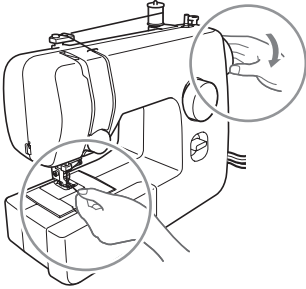
**Note**

- Make sure you raise the presser foot lever and the thread take-up lever before you feed the upper thread.
- If you incorrectly feed the thread you may cause sewing problems.

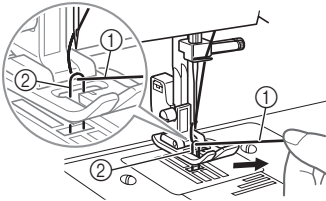


## Drawing up the lower thread

- 1** While lightly holding the end of the upper thread, slowly turn the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) by hand to lower and then raise the needle.

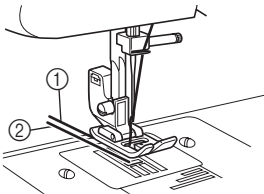


- 2** Pull on the upper thread to draw up the lower thread.



- ① Upper thread  
② Lower thread

- 3** Pull out about 10 cm (4 inches) of both threads and put them toward the back of the machine under the presser foot.



- ① Upper thread  
② Lower thread

## FABRIC, THREAD, AND NEEDLE COMBINATIONS

| Fabric Type/Application |                    | Thread           |       | Size of Needle                                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|--|
|                         |                    | Type             | Size  |  |
| Medium weight fabrics   | Broadcloth         | Cotton thread    | 60–90 | 75/11–90/14  |
|                         | Taffeta            | Synthetic thread |       |  |
|                         | Flannel, Gabardine | Silk thread      | 50    |  |
| Thin fabrics            | Lawn               | Cotton thread    | 60–90 | 65/9–75/11   |
|                         | Georgette          | Synthetic thread |       |  |
|                         | Challis, Satin     | Silk thread      | 50    |  |
| Thick fabrics           | Denim              | Cotton thread    | 30    | 100/16   |
|                         |                    |                  | 50    | 90/14–100/16                                       |
|                         | Corduroy           | Synthetic thread | 50–60 |  |
|                         | Tweed              | Silk thread      |       |  |
| Stretch fabrics         | Jersey             | Thread for knits | 50–60 | Ball point needle<br>75/11–90/14<br>(gold colored) |
|                         | Tricot             |                  |       |  |
| Easily frayed fabrics   |                    | Cotton thread    | 50–90 | 65/9–90/14   |
|                         |                    | Synthetic thread |       |  |
|                         |                    | Silk thread      | 50    |  |
| For top-stitching       |                    | Synthetic thread | 30    | 100/16   |
|                         |                    | Silk thread      | 50–60 | 75/11–90/14  |



### Note

- Never use a thread weighted #20 or lower. It may cause machine malfunction.



### Memo

- The lower the thread number, the thicker the thread; and the higher the needle number, the thicker the needle.

### ■ Ball point needle

Use the ball point needle when sewing on stretch fabrics or fabrics where skipped stitches easily occur. The factory recommended needle is “HG-4BR” (Organ). Schmetz needles “JERSEY BALL POINT” 130/705H SUK 90/14 may be used as a substitute.

### ■ Transparent nylon thread

Use a 90/14 to 100/16 needle, regardless of the fabric or thread.



## CAUTION

- **Make sure you follow the needle, thread, and fabric combinations listed in the table. Using the wrong combination, such as heavyweight fabric like denim with a small needle (65/9-75/11), may bend or break the needle. The wrong combination may also cause the seam to be uneven, the fabric to pucker, or the machine to skip stitches.**

## 2 SEWING BASICS

Please read before sewing

### ! CAUTION

- To avoid being injured, watch the needle carefully while you are using the machine. Keep your hands away from moving parts.
- Do not stretch or pull the fabric during sewing, otherwise the needle may be damaged and you may be injured.
- Do not use bent or broken needles, otherwise you may be injured.
- Take care that the needle does not hit basting pins or other objects during sewing. The needle may break and you may be injured.
- Always use the correct presser foot. If you use the wrong presser foot, the needle may hit the presser foot and bend or break and you may be injured.
- When you turn the handwheel by hand, always turn it toward you (counterclockwise). Turning it the other way may cause the thread to tangle and damage the needle or fabric, and you may be injured.
- Do not start sewing without placing the fabric under the presser foot, otherwise the presser foot may be damaged.

### Starting sewing

- 1 Turn on the machine.

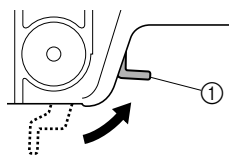


### ! CAUTION

- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.

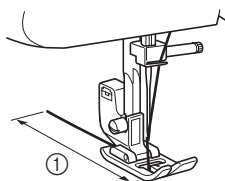
- 2 Raise the needle by turning the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) so that the mark on the wheel points up.
- 3 Turn the pattern selection dial to select a stitch (see page 9).
- 4 Change the presser foot (see page 8).

- 5 Raise the presser foot lever.



① Presser foot lever

- 6 Place the fabric under the presser foot, pass the thread under the presser foot, and then pull out about 5 cm (2 inches) of thread toward the rear of the machine.

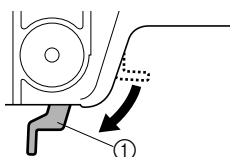


① 5 cm (2 inches)

- 7** While holding the end of the thread and the fabric with your left hand, turn the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) with your right hand to lower the needle to the starting point of the stitching.

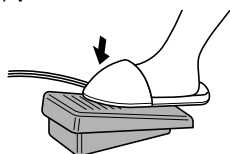


- 8** Lower the presser foot lever.



① Presser foot lever

- 9** Slowly press down on the foot controller.



▶ The machine starts sewing.

- 10** Take your foot off the foot controller.

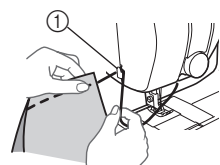
▶ The machine stops sewing.

- You can use reverse sewing for back tacking and reinforcing seams by pressing the reverse sewing lever. Refer to “Reverse sewing lever” on page 10 for the details.

- 11** Raise the needle by turning the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise).

- 12** Raise the presser foot lever.

- 13** Pull the fabric to the left side of the machine, and then pass the threads through the thread cutter to cut them.



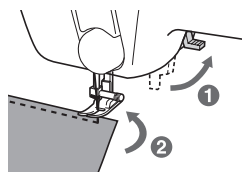
① Thread cutter

## Trial sewing

A trial piece of fabric should be sewn. Use a piece of fabric and thread that are the same as those used for your project, and check the thread tension and stitch length and width.

## Changing the sewing direction

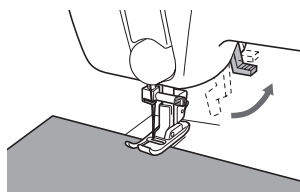
Stop the machine with the needle in the fabric at the point where you want to change the sewing direction, and then raise the presser foot lever. Using the needle as a pivot, turn the fabric, lower the presser foot lever, and then continue sewing.



## Sewing thick fabrics

- If the fabric does not fit under the presser foot**

If the fabric does not fit easily under the presser foot, raise the presser foot lever even higher to bring the presser foot to its highest position.

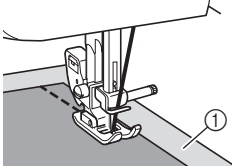


## CAUTION

- If fabric more than 6 mm (15/64 inch) thick is sewn or if the fabric is pushed with too much force, the needle may bend or break.

## Sewing thin fabrics

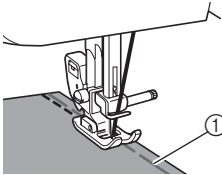
When sewing thin fabrics, the stitching may become misaligned or the fabric may not feed correctly. If this occurs, place thin paper or stabilizer material under the fabric and sew it together with the fabric. When you have finished sewing, tear off any excess paper.



① Stabilizer material or paper

## Sewing stretch fabrics

First, baste the pieces of fabric together, and then sew without stretching the fabric.

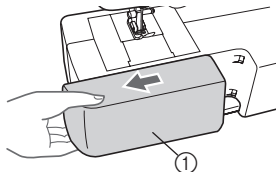


① Basting

## Stitching cylindrical pieces

Removing the flat bed attachment makes it easier to sew cylindrical pieces such as cuffs and pant legs, or hard-to-reach areas.

**1** Slide the flat bed attachment to the left to release it.



① Flat bed attachment

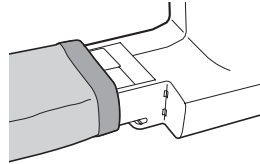
▶ With the flat bed attachment removed, free-arm sewing is possible.



### Note

- When you are finished with free-arm sewing, install the flat bed attachment back in its original position.

**2** Slide the part that you wish to sew onto the arm, and then sew from the top.



## Thread tension

The tension of the thread will affect the quality of your stitches. You may need to adjust it when you change fabric or thread.

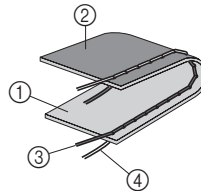


### Memo

- We recommend that you do a test sample on scrap of a fabric before you start to sew.

### ■ Correct tension

Correct tension is important as too much or too little tension will weaken your seams or cause puckers on your fabric.



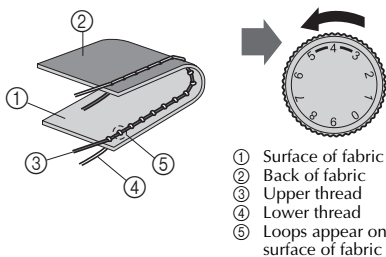
- ① Surface of fabric
- ② Back of fabric
- ③ Upper thread
- ④ Lower thread

### ■ Upper tension is too tight

Loops will appear on the surface of the fabric.

#### Note

- If the bobbin thread was incorrectly threaded, the upper thread may be too tight. In this case, refer to “Lower threading” on page 13 and rethread the bobbin thread.



- ① Surface of fabric
- ② Back of fabric
- ③ Upper thread
- ④ Lower thread
- ⑤ Loops appear on surface of fabric

#### Solution

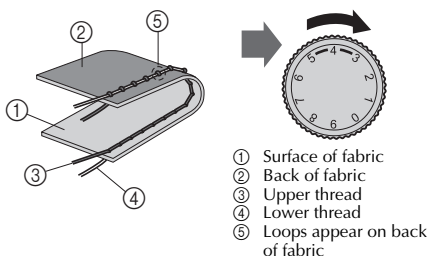
Reduce the tension by turning the upper tension control dial to a lower number.

### ■ Upper tension is too loose

Loops appear on the back of the fabric.

#### Note

- If the upper thread was incorrectly threaded, the upper thread may be too loose. In this case, refer to “Upper threading” on page 14 and rethread the upper thread.



- ① Surface of fabric
- ② Back of fabric
- ③ Upper thread
- ④ Lower thread
- ⑤ Loops appear on back of fabric







#### Solution

Increase the tension by turning the upper tension control dial to a higher number.

## 3 BUILT-IN STITCHES

### Straight stitching





Straight stitches are used for sewing plain seams.

| Stitch Name                                 | Pattern   | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| Straight Stitch<br>(Center Needle Position) | 6<br>  | 1.6 (1/16)                |
| Straight Stitch<br>(Center Needle Position) | 7<br>  | 1.8 (1/8)                 |
| Straight Stitch<br>(Center Needle Position) | 8<br>  | 2 (1/16)                  |
| Straight Stitch<br>(Center Needle Position) | 9<br>  | 3 (1/8)                   |
| Straight Stitch<br>(Center Needle Position) | 10<br> | 4 (3/16)                  |
| Straight Stitch<br>(Left Needle Position)   | 11<br> | 2.5 (3/32)                |

#### ■ Top stitching and stretch materials

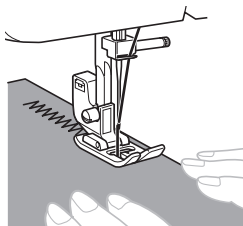
You can use a straight stitch for top stitching and sewing lightweight fabrics.

### Zigzag stitching

| Stitch Name           | Pattern  | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Stitch Width [mm (inch)] |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Zigzag Stitch         | 2<br> | 0.7 (1/32)                | 1.8 (1/8)                |
| Zigzag Stitch         | 3<br> | 1.5 (1/16)                | 3.3 (3/16)               |
| Zigzag Stitch         | 4<br> | 2 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 |
| Zigzag (Satin) Stitch | 5<br> | 0.5 (1/32)                | 5 (3/16)                 |

#### ■ Zigzag stitch

Turn the pattern selection dial to the Zigzag Stitch, and then start sewing.



We recommend that you sew using the Straight Stitch at the beginning and end of Zigzag Stitches. (This acts as a reinforcement stitch.)

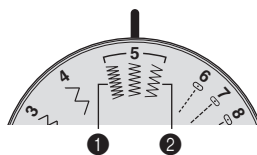


#### ■ Zigzag (Satin) Stitch

You can use the Zigzag (Satin) Stitch for making decorative stitches.

When sewing a Zigzag (Satin) Stitch, use a slightly looser upper-thread tension to produce more beautiful stitches.

With the pattern selection dial, the Zigzag (Satin) Stitch (number 5) can be set to one of three stitch lengths. The middle position is the setting for the standard stitch length.



- 1 For a shorter stitch length, turn the pattern selecting dial to the left position of Zigzag (Satin) Stitch (number 5).
- 2 For a longer stitch length, turn the pattern selecting dial to the right position of Zigzag (Satin) Stitch (number 5).

## Blind hem stitching

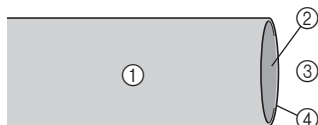
| Stitch Name              | Pattern       | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Stitch Width [mm (inch)] |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Blind Hem Stitch         | 12<br>Λ-Λ-Λ-Λ | 2 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 |
| Stretch Blind Hem Stitch | 14<br>WwWw    | 2 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 |



### Memo

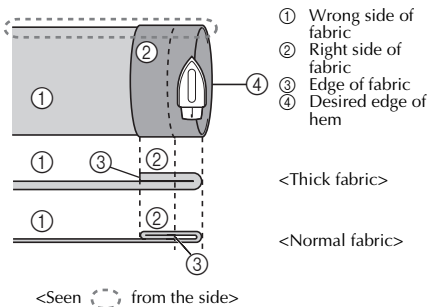
- When the size of cylindrical pieces is too small to slide onto the arm or the length is too short, the fabric will not feed and desired results may not be achieved.

### 1 Reverse the skirt or pants.



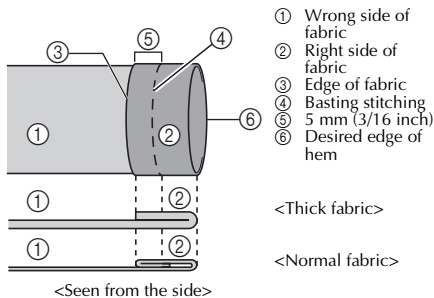
- ① Wrong side of fabric
- ② Right side of fabric
- ③ Bottom side
- ④ Edge of fabric

### 2 Fold the fabric along the desired edge of the hem, and press.



<Seen from the side>

### 3 Use a chalk to mark on the fabric about 5 mm (3/16 inch) from the edge of the fabric, and then baste it.



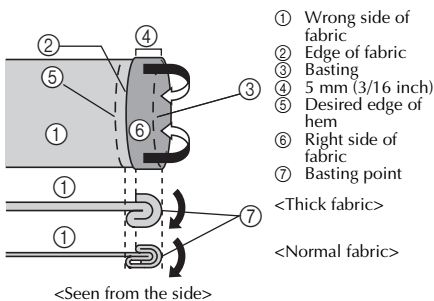
- ① Wrong side of fabric
- ② Right side of fabric
- ③ Edge of fabric
- ④ Basting stitching
- ⑤ 5 mm (3/16 inch)
- ⑥ Desired edge of hem

<Thick fabric>

<Normal fabric>

<Seen from the side>

### 4 Fold back the fabric inside along the basting.



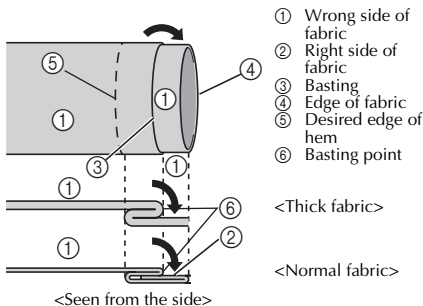
- ① Wrong side of fabric
- ② Edge of fabric
- ③ Basting
- ④ 5 mm (3/16 inch)
- ⑤ Desired edge of hem
- ⑥ Right side of fabric
- ⑦ Basting point

<Thick fabric>

<Normal fabric>

<Seen from the side>

### 5 Unfold the edge of fabric, and position the fabric with the wrong side facing up.



- ① Wrong side of fabric
- ② Right side of fabric
- ③ Basting
- ④ Edge of fabric
- ⑤ Desired edge of hem
- ⑥ Basting point

<Thick fabric>

<Normal fabric>

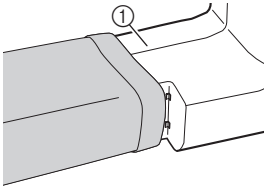
<Seen from the side>

### 6 Remove the flat bed attachment and make free-arm sewing possible.

- For details on free-arm sewing, refer to "Stitching cylindrical pieces" (Page 20).



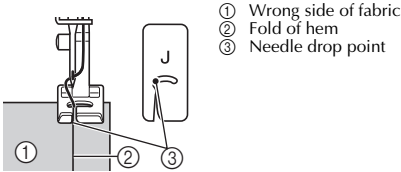
- 7** Slide the part that you wish to sew onto the arm, make sure that the fabric feeds correctly, and then start sewing.



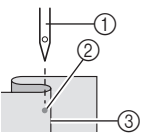
① Arm

- 8** After selecting a stitch, slowly turn the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) until the needle has moved from the right side to the left.

- 9** Position the fabric under the presser foot, and then adjust the fabric position until the needle slightly catches the fold of the hem when the needle comes to the left end of the stitch.



① Wrong side of fabric  
② Fold of hem  
③ Needle drop point

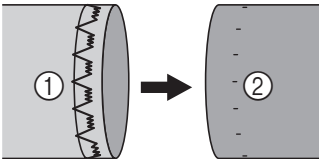


① Needle  
② Needle drop point  
③ Fold of hem

- 10** Lower the presser foot lever.

- 11** Sew at a slow speed holding the fabric with your hands, so that the needle slightly catches the fold of the hem.

- 12** Remove the basting stitching and turn the fabric right side up.



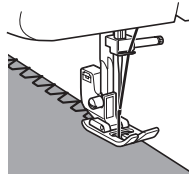
① Wrong side of fabric      ② Right side of fabric

## Overedge stitching

| Stitch Name     | Pattern | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Stitch Width [mm (inch)] |
|-----------------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Overedge Stitch | 15<br>  | 2 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 |

\* Stitch no. 15 is only available on certain models.

- 1** Put the fabric under the presser foot so that the seamline (or arrowhead point) is approximately 3 mm (1/8 inch) to the left of the center of the presser foot.



- If the seam allowance is wider than the stitch pattern, trim away any excess fabric after stitching.

## Elastic stitching

| Stitch Name    | Pattern | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Stitch Width [mm (inch)] |
|----------------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Elastic Stitch | 13<br>  | 1 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 |

You can use the Elastic Stitch for mending, sewing elastic or joining fabric. Each is explained below.

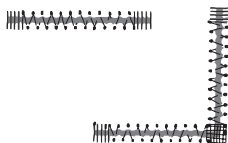
3

■ **Mending**

**1** Place the reinforcement fabric under the area you want to mend.

- Use the basting pins to hold the reinforcement fabric.

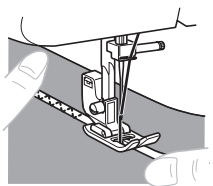
**2** Following the line of the tear, sew using the Elastic Stitch as shown.



■ **Sewing elastic**

**1** Pin the elastic tape to the wrong side of the fabric.

**2** As you sew, stretch the elastic in front of and behind the presser foot.



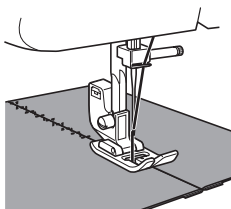
■ **Joining fabric**

You can use the Elastic Stitch to join two pieces of fabric together and it is very effective when sewing knitted fabrics. If you are using nylon thread, the stitch will not be visible.

**1** Put the edge of the two pieces of fabric together and center them under the presser foot.

**2** Sew them together using the Elastic Stitch. Make sure you keep the two fabric edges close together.

- Use the basting pins to hold the two fabric edges close together.



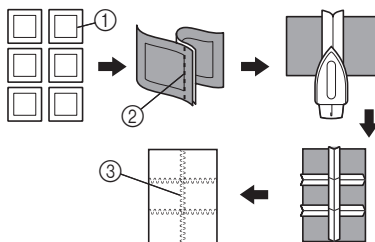
**Double action stitching**

| Stitch Name          | Pattern | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Stitch Width [mm (inch)] |
|----------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Double Action Stitch | 16<br>  | 1.2 (1/16)                | 5 (3/16)                 |
| Bridging Stitch      | 17<br>  | 1.2 (1/16)                | 5 (3/16)                 |

\* Stitch nos. 16-17 are only available on certain models.

These stitches are used for joining two pieces of fabric, such as when making patchwork.

Example: Patchwork with Double Action Stitch



- ① Desired seamline
- ② Straight Stitch
- ③ Double Action Stitch

# 4 SEWING BUTTONHOLES AND BUTTONS

## CAUTION

- Always turn off the machine before replacing the presser foot. Otherwise, injuries may occur if the foot controller is accidentally pressed and the machine starts sewing.

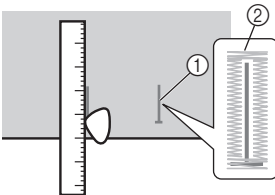
## Making a buttonhole

| Pattern | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Stitch Width [mm (inch)] | Foot                 |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
|         | 0.5 (1/32)                | 5 (3/16)                 | Button-hole Foot "A" |

### Memo

- We recommend that you practice making a buttonhole on a scrap piece of fabric before you try it on an actual garment.
- When making buttonholes on soft fabrics, place a stabilizer material on the underside of the fabric.

- Using tailor's chalk, mark the position and length of the buttonhole on the fabric.



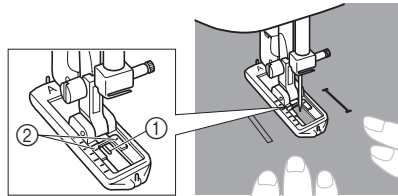
- Marks on fabric
- Buttonhole sewing

- Attach the buttonhole foot and push the frame back until it stops with the plastic insert at the front of the frame.

## CAUTION

- If the presser foot is not installed with the correct orientation, the needle may strike the presser foot, which may bend or break the needle and cause injury. (See page 8 for the correct presser foot orientation.)





- You need to sew the front bar tack first. Line the bar tack mark under the center of the presser foot and match it up to the two lines on the presser foot.



- Front of chalk mark
- Red lines

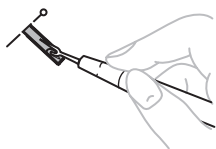
## Making a Buttonhole

| Step                       | Sewn section | Pattern  |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Step 1<br>(Front bar tack) |              |  |
|                            |              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set the pattern selection dial to "a".</li> <li>Lower the presser foot and sew 5 to 6 stitches.</li> <li>Stop the machine when the needle is at the left side of the stitches and then raise the needle from the material.</li> </ol> |
| Step 2<br>(Left side)      |              |  |
|                            |              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn the pattern selection dial to "b".</li> <li>Sew the length of the tailor's chalk line.</li> <li>Stop the machine when the needle is at the left side of the stitch and then raise the needle.</li> </ol>                         |

| Step  | Sewn section  | Pattern   |
|---|---|---|
| Step 3<br>(Back bar tack)   |  |  |
| 1. Turn the pattern selection dial to "c" (same position as in step 1).<br>2. Sew 5 to 6 stitches.<br>3. Stop the machine when the needle is at the right side of the stitch and then raise the needle from the material. |   |   |
| Step 4<br>(Right side)  |  |  |
| 1. Set the pattern selection dial to "d".<br>2. Sew the right side until the needle reaches the stitches sewn in step 1.  |   |   |

**■ Securing the Stitching and Cutting the Buttonhole**

- 1** To secure the stitching, turn the material 90 degrees counterclockwise and sew straight stitches to the end of the front bar tack of the buttonhole.
- 2** Remove the material from the machine. We recommend that you put pins across both ends of the buttonhole to prevent the stitches from being cut.
- 3** Cut an opening in the middle of the buttonhole with the seam ripper tool. Be careful not to cut through any stitches.



**! CAUTION**

- When using the seam ripper to open the buttonhole, do not put your hand or finger in the path of the ripper. The seam ripper may slip and you may be injured.

**Adjusting buttonholes**

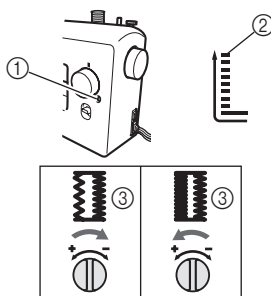
If the stitching on the two sides of the buttonhole is not the same, you can make the following adjustments.

- 1** After sewing the left side of the buttonhole, stitch the right side and observe the feeding.



① Right row

- 2** If the left side is too open or tight compared with the right side, adjust the buttonhole fine-adjustment screw as described in the following paragraphs.



- ① Buttonhole fine-adjustment screw
- ② Left side
- ③ Buttonhole appearance

If the left side is too open, turn the buttonhole fine-adjustment screw with a buttonhole screwdriver in the “-” direction.

If the left side is too tight, turn the buttonhole fine-adjustment screw with a large screwdriver in the “+” direction.


- This adjustment ensures both sides of the buttonhole are the same.

## USING ATTACHMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

### CAUTION

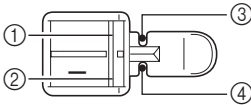
- Always turn off the machine before replacing the presser foot. Otherwise, injuries may occur if the foot controller is accidentally pressed and the machine starts sewing.

### Zipper insertion

| Stitch Name                              | Pattern   | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Foot            |
|--|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Straight Stitch (Center Needle Position) |  | 3 (1/8)                   | Zipper Foot "I" |

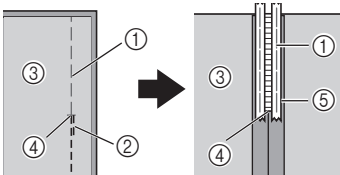
You can use the zipper foot "I" to sew different types of zippers, and can easily position it to the right or left side of the needle.

When sewing with the zipper on the right side, attach the shank to the left pin of the zipper foot. When sewing with the zipper on the left side, attach the shank to the right pin of the zipper foot.



- Right pin for sewing with the zipper on the left side
- Left pin for sewing with the zipper on the right side
- Needle drop point for sewing with the zipper on the left side
- Needle drop point for sewing with the zipper on the right side

### 1 Prepare the fabric with the zipper basted on the wrong side.



- Basting stitching
- Reverse stitches
- Wrong side of fabric
- End of zipper opening
- Zipper

### 2 Turn off the machine. Attach the zipper foot "I".

### CAUTION

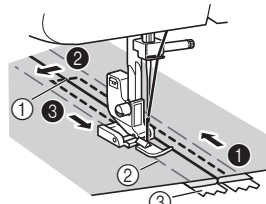
- Turn the handwheel toward you (counterclockwise) and check that the needle does not touch the zipper foot before you start sewing. Choosing a different stitch will cause the needle to hit the presser foot and break, and you may be injured.

### 3 Turn on the machine.

### CAUTION

- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.

### 4 With the right side of the fabric facing up, continue sewing with the zipper on the right side of the presser foot.



- End of zipper opening
- Basting stitching
- Zipper

- Sew the stitching in order, from 1 to 3.

## CAUTION

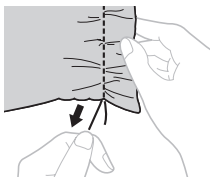
- Make sure the needle does not hit the zipper during sewing. If the needle hits the zipper, the needle may break and you may be injured.

- When you have finished sewing, remove the basting stitching.

## Gathering

| Stitch Name                                    | Pattern     | Stitch Length<br>[mm (inch)] |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|
| Straight Stitch<br>(Center Needle<br>Position) | 9<br>- - -  | 3 (1/8)                      |
| Straight Stitch<br>(Left Needle<br>Position)   | 11<br>- - - | 2.5 (3/32)                   |

- Loosen the tension of the upper thread so that the lower thread lies on the underside of the material.
- Sew a single row (or many rows) of straight stitches.
- Pull the lower threads to gather the material.



## Appliqués

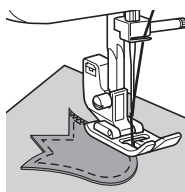
| Stitch Name              | Pattern    | Stitch Length<br>[mm (inch)] | Stitch Width<br>[mm (inch)] |
|--------------------------|------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Zigzag Stitch            | 2<br>~ ~ ~ | 0.7 (1/32)                   | 1.8 (1/8)                   |
| Zigzag Stitch            | 3<br>~ ~ ~ | 1.5 (1/16)                   | 3.3 (3/16)                  |
| Zigzag Stitch            | 4<br>~ ~ ~ | 2 (1/16)                     | 5 (3/16)                    |
| Zigzag (Satin)<br>Stitch | 5<br>~~~~  | 0.5 (1/32)                   | 5 (3/16)                    |

You can create an appliqué by cutting a different piece of fabric into a shape and applying it as a decoration.

- Baste the cut design to the fabric.



- Carefully sew around the edge of the design with a zigzag stitch.

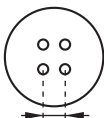


## USING OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

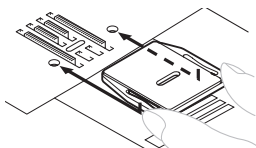
### Sewing buttons

| Stitch Name   | Pattern | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Stitch Width [mm (inch)] | Foot                   | Other         |
|---------------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Zigzag Stitch | 2       | 0.7 (1/32)                | 1.8 (1/8)                | Button Sewing Foot "M" | Darning Plate |
| Zigzag Stitch | 3       | 1.5 (1/16)                | 3.3 (3/16)               | Button Sewing Foot "M" | Darning Plate |
| Zigzag Stitch | 4       | 2 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 | Button Sewing Foot "M" | Darning Plate |

- 1** Measure the distance between the buttonholes and set the pattern selection dial to the Zigzag Stitch with the desired width.



- 2** Turn off the machine.
- 3** Change the foot to the button sewing foot "M".
- 4** Place the darning plate on the needle plate.

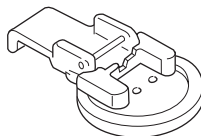


- 5** Turn on the machine.

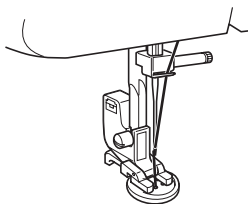
### CAUTION

- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.

- 6** Put a button between the foot and the fabric and make sure that the needle enters the holes without hitting the button. If it hits, see step **1**.



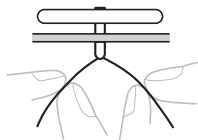
- 7** At a slow speed, sew about 10 stitches.



### CAUTION

- Make sure the needle does not hit the button during sewing. The needle may break and you may be injured.

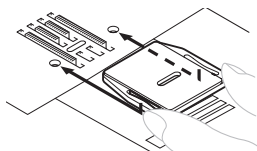
- 8** Pull the upper thread at the end of the stitching to the wrong side of the fabric, and then tie it with the bobbin thread.
- Use scissors to cut the upper thread and the bobbin thread at the beginning of the stitching.



## Darning

| Stitch Name                              | Pattern | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Other         |
|--|---------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Straight Stitch (Center Needle Position) | 6<br>⋮  | 1.6 (1/16)                | Darning Plate |
| Straight Stitch (Center Needle Position) | 7<br>⋮  | 1.8 (1/8)                 | Darning Plate |
| Straight Stitch (Center Needle Position) | 8<br>⋮  | 2 (1/16)                  | Darning Plate |
| Straight Stitch (Center Needle Position) | 9<br>⋮  | 3 (1/8)                   | Darning Plate |
| Straight Stitch (Center Needle Position) | 10<br>⋮ | 4 (3/16)                  | Darning Plate |
| Straight Stitch (Left Needle Position)   | 11<br>⋮ | 2.5 (3/32)                | Darning Plate |

- 1 Turn off the machine. Place the darning plate on the needle plate, then turn on the machine.



- 2 Either remove both the presser foot and presser foot holder assembly and then lower the presser foot lever.
- 3 Put the section you want to darn under the presser foot together with fabric for reinforcement.
- 4 Turn on the machine.

### CAUTION

- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.

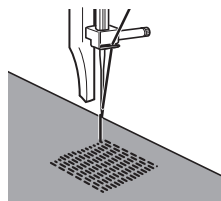
- 5 Begin sewing by alternating between gently drawing the work away from you and pulling it toward you.



### Note







- Sew while holding the fabric stretched in order to keep the fabric held down.

- 6 Repeat this motion until the section being darned is filled with parallel lines of stitching.





## Using the blind stitch foot

| Stitch Name                              | Pattern   | Stitch Length [mm (inch)] | Stitch Width [mm (inch)] |
|--|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Zigzag Stitch                            |  | 0.7 (1/32)                | 1.8 (1/8)                |
| Zigzag Stitch                            |  | 1.5 (1/16)                | 3.3 (3/16)               |
| Zigzag Stitch                            |  | 2 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 |
| Straight Stitch (Center Needle Position) |  | 3 (1/8)                   | —                        |
| Blind Hem Stitch                         |  | 2 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 |
| Stretch Blind Hem Stitch                 |  | 2 (1/16)                  | 5 (3/16)                 |

This foot comes in handy not only for stretch blind hem stitching, but also for sewing fabric edges and seams.

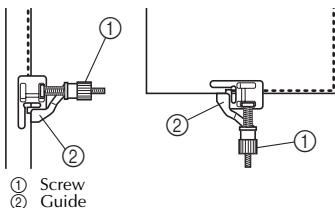
### ■ When edge stitching

- 1 Turn off the machine.
- 2 Attach the blind stitch foot. Turn on the machine.

## ! CAUTION

- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.

- 3 Position the needle the distance you want the stitch to be from the edge of the fabric, and then lower the needle in that position.
- 4 Turn the foot guide screw and carefully adjust to guide the fabric.



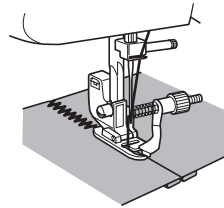
### ■ When sewing seams

- 1 Turn off the machine.
- 2 Attach the blind stitch foot. Turn on the machine.

## ! CAUTION

- Do not turn on the machine while pressing down the foot controller. The machine may start unexpectedly and cause personal injury or damage to the machine.

- 3 Set the pattern selection dial to the Straight Stitch (Center Needle Position). Align the foot guide with the needle position.
- 4 Set the pattern selection dial to the Zigzag Stitch with the desired width.
- 5 Place the fabric under the foot so the foot guide is aligned between both edges of the fabric.
- 6 Lower the presser foot and start sewing.

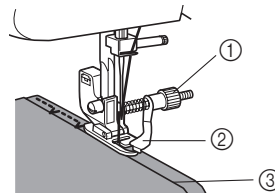


5

### ■ When stretch blind hem stitching

When stretch blind hem stitching using the blind stitch foot, turn the screw to adjust the guide to the folded hem.

- For more details on blind hem stitching, see page 23.



## 6 APPENDIX

### MAINTENANCE

#### Restrictions on oiling

In order to prevent damaging this machine, it must not be oiled by the user.

This machine was manufactured with the necessary amount of oil applied to ensure correct operation, making periodic oiling unnecessary.

If problems occur, such as difficulty turning the handwheel or an unusual noise, immediately stop using the machine, and contact your authorized dealer or the nearest authorized service center.

#### Precautions on storing the machine

Do not store the machine in any of the locations described below, otherwise damage to the machine may result, for example, rust caused by condensation.

- Exposed to extremely high temperatures
- Exposed to extremely low temperatures
- Exposed to extreme temperature changes
- Exposed to high humidity or steam
- Near a flame, heater or air conditioner
- Outdoors or exposed to direct sunlight
- Exposed to extremely dusty or oily environments



#### Note

- In order to extend the life of this machine, periodically turn it on and use it. Storing this machine for an extended period of time without using it may reduce its efficiency.

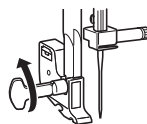
#### Cleaning



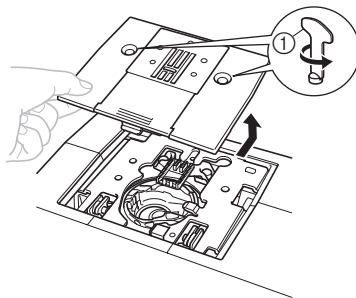
#### CAUTION

- Make sure you unplug the machine before you clean it, otherwise you risk getting an electric shock or being injured.

- 1 Turn off the machine and unplug it.
- 2 Raise the needle and the presser foot.
- 3 Loosen the presser foot screw and the needle clamp screw to remove the presser foot holder and the needle.

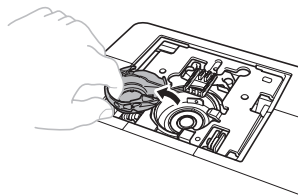


- 4 Using the screwdriver, remove the two screws. Lift up the needle plate as shown in the illustration, and then slide the needle plate to the left to remove it.

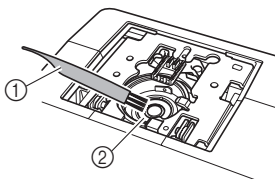


① Use the screwdriver

- 5 Grasp the bobbin case, and then lift it out to the left.



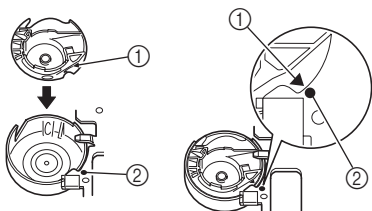
- 6** Use the cleaning brush or a vacuum cleaner to remove any dust from the race and its surrounding area.



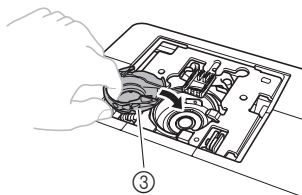
- ① Cleaning brush
- ② Race

- Do not apply oil to the bobbin case.

- 7** Insert the bobbin case so that the ▲ mark on the bobbin case aligns with the ● mark on machine as shown below.



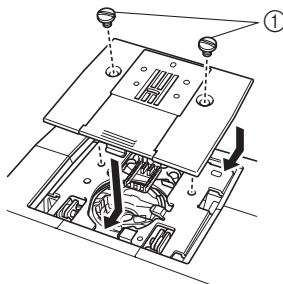
- Align the ▲ and ● marks.



- ① ▲ mark
- ② ● mark
- ③ Bobbin case

- Make sure that the indicated points are aligned before installing the bobbin case.

- 8** Install the needle plate, and then tighten the screws.



- ① Screws

- Make sure that you install the needle plate securely.

### **CAUTION**

- Never use a bobbin case that is scratched; otherwise the upper thread may become tangled, the needle may break, or sewing performance may suffer. For a new bobbin case (part code: XE9326-001), contact your nearest authorized service center.
- Make sure that you fit the bobbin case properly, otherwise the needle may break.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

If the machine stops operating correctly, check the following possible problems before requesting service. You can solve most problems by yourself. If you need additional help, the Brother Solutions Center offers the latest FAQs and troubleshooting tips. Visit us at “<http://solutions.brother.com>”. If the problem persists, contact your dealer or the nearest authorized service center.

| Symptom  | Possible cause  | How to put it right   | Page |
|--|---|---|------|
| <b>The sewing machine does not work.</b>                     | The main power switch is turned off.  | Turn on the main power switch.  | 7    |
|  | The bobbin-winder shaft is pushed to the right.   | Move the bobbin-winder shaft to the left.   | 12   |
|  | You have not used the foot controller properly.   | Use the foot controller properly.   | 7    |
| <b>Fabric being sewn with the machine cannot be removed.</b> | Thread is tangled below the needle plate.   | Lift up the fabric and cut the threads below it, and clean the race.                      | 33   |
| <b>The needle breaks.</b>                                    | The needle is incorrectly installed.  | Correctly install the needle.   | 7    |
|  | The needle clamp screw is loose.  | Use the screwdriver to firmly tighten the screw.  | 8    |
|  | The needle is bent or blunt.  | Replace the needle.   | 7    |
|  | The upper thread was not threaded correctly.  | Correct the upper threading.  | 14   |
|  | You have not used the right combination of fabric, thread and needle.   | Choose a thread and needle that are appropriate for the type of fabric.                   | 17   |
|  | The presser foot you are using is not appropriate for the type of stitch that you want to sew.  | Attach the presser foot that is correct for the type of stitch that you want to sew.      | –    |
|  | The upper thread tension is too tight.  | Loosen the upper thread tension.  | 21   |
|  | You are pulling the fabric too much.  | Lightly guide the fabric.   | –    |
|  | You have not fitted the spool properly.   | Fit the spool properly.   | 14   |
|  | The area around the hole in the needle plate or the presser foot is scratched.  | Replace the needle plate. Contact your retailer or the nearest authorized service center. | –    |
|  | The bobbin case is scratched.   | Replace the bobbin case. Contact your retailer or the nearest authorized service center.  | –    |
|  | You have not used a bobbin that has been designed for this machine.   | Use a bobbin that has been designed for this machine.                                     | 11   |
| <b>The upper thread breaks.</b>                              | You have not threaded the upper thread properly. (For example, you have not fitted the spool properly, or the thread has come out of the guide above the needle.) | Correct the upper threading.  | 14   |
|  | There are knots or tangles in the thread.   | Remove any knots or tangles.  | –    |
|  | The needle is not appropriate for the thread you are using.   | Choose a needle that is appropriate for the type of stitch.                               | 17   |
|  | ▼ The upper thread tension is too tight.  | Loosen the upper thread tension.  | 21   |

| Symptom                                       | Possible cause   | How to put it right   | Page  |
|---|--|---|-------|
| <b>▲<br/>The upper thread breaks.</b>         | The needle is bent or blunt.   | Replace the needle.   | 7     |
|   | The needle is incorrectly installed.   | Correctly install the needle.   | 7     |
|   | The area around the hole in the needle plate or the presser foot is scratched.                 | Replace the needle plate. Contact your retailer or the nearest authorized service center. | –     |
|   | The bobbin case is scratched, or has a burr on it.   | Replace the bobbin case. Contact your retailer or the nearest authorized service center.  | –     |
|   | You have not used a bobbin that has been designed for this machine.                            | Use a bobbin that has been designed for this machine.                                     | 11    |
| <b>The lower thread is tangled or breaks.</b> | You have not wound the bobbin thread properly.   | Wind the bobbin thread properly.  | 11    |
|   | The bobbin is scratched or does not turn smoothly.   | Replace the bobbin.   | –     |
|   | The thread is tangled.   | Remove the tangled thread and clean the race.   | 33    |
|   | You have not used a bobbin that has been designed for this machine.                            | Use a bobbin that has been designed for this machine.                                     | 11    |
|   | Bobbin is set incorrectly.   | Reset the bobbin thread correctly.  | 13    |
| <b>The thread tension is incorrect.</b>       | You have not threaded the upper thread properly.   | Correct the upper threading.  | 14    |
|   | You have not wound the bobbin thread properly.   | Wind the bobbin thread properly.  | 11    |
|   | You have not threaded the right combination of thread and needle for the fabric you are using. | Choose a thread and needle that are appropriate for the type of fabric.                   | 17    |
|   | You have not attached the presser foot holder properly.  | Attach the presser foot holder properly.  | –     |
|   | The thread tension is incorrect.   | Adjust the tension of the upper thread.   | 20    |
|   | You have not used a bobbin that has been designed for this machine.                            | Use a bobbin that has been designed for this machine.                                     | 11    |
|   | Bobbin is set incorrectly.   | Reset the bobbin thread correctly.  | 13    |
| <b>The fabric is wrinkled.</b>                | You have not threaded the upper thread properly or fitted the bobbin properly.                 | Thread the upper thread and wind the bobbin thread properly.                              | 11-16 |
|   | You have not fitted the spool properly.  | Fit the spool properly.   | 14    |
|   | You have not used the right combination of fabric, thread and needle.                          | Choose a thread and needle that are appropriate for the type of fabric.                   | 17    |
|   | The needle is bent or blunt.   | Replace the needle.   | 7     |
|   | If thin fabrics are being sewn, the fabric is not being fed correctly.                         | Sew with stabilizer material under the fabric.  | 20    |
|   | The presser foot you are using is not appropriate for the type of stitch that you want to sew. | Attach the presser foot that is correct for the type of stitch that you want to sew.      | 28    |
|   | The thread tension is incorrect.   | Adjust the tension of the upper thread.   | 20    |

| Symptom                                  | Possible cause   | How to put it right  | Page |
|--|--|--|------|
| <b>Stitches are skipped.</b>             | You have not threaded the upper thread properly.   | Correct the upper threading.   | 14   |
|  | You have not used the right combination of fabric, thread and needle.                          | Choose a thread and needle that are appropriate for the type of fabric.                        | 17   |
|  | The needle is bent or blunt.   | Replace the needle.  | 7    |
|  | The needle is incorrectly installed.   | Correctly install the needle.  | 7    |
|  | Dust has accumulated under the needle plate or in the bobbin case.                             | Remove the needle plate and clean the plate and the bobbin case.                               | 33   |
| <b>The stitch is not sewn correctly.</b> | The presser foot that you are using is not correct for the type of stitch.                     | Attach the presser foot that is correct for the type of stitch that you want to sew.           | –    |
|  | The thread tension is incorrect.   | Adjust the tension of the upper thread.  | 20   |
|  | The thread is tangled.   | Remove the tangled thread. If the thread is tangled in the bobbin case, clean the bobbin case. | 33   |
| <b>The fabric does not feed.</b>         | The darning plate is fitted on the needle plate.   | Remove the darning plate.  | –    |
|  | You have not used the right combination of fabric, thread and needle.                          | Choose a thread and needle that are appropriate for the type of fabric.                        | 17   |
|  | The thread is tangled, for example, in the race.   | Remove the tangle thread. If the thread is tangled in the race, clean the race.                | 33   |
|  | The presser foot you are using is not appropriate for the type of stitch that you want to sew. | Attach the presser foot that is correct for the type of stitch that you want to sew.           | 28   |

## INDEX

### Numerics

4-Step Automatic Buttonhole .....26

### A

Accessories .....4

    optional .....4, 30

Appliqués .....29

### B

Blind hem stitching .....23

Blind stitch foot .....32

Bobbin winding .....11

Button sewing .....30

Buttonhole

    adjusting .....27

    making .....26

Buttonhole fine-adjustment screw .....27

### C

Cleaning .....33

Connecting plugs .....6

### D

Darning .....31

Darning plate .....30, 31

Double action stitching .....25

Drawing up the lower thread .....16

### E

Elastic stitching .....24

### F

Fabric, thread, and needle combinations .....17

Flat bed attachment .....5

Foot controller .....7

Free-arm style .....20

### G

Gathering .....29

### H

Handwheel .....14

### L

Light switch .....7

Lower threading .....13

### M

Main parts .....5

Main power .....7

Maintenance .....33

### N

Needle

    checking .....7

    combinations with fabric and thread .....17

    replacing .....7

### O

Overedge stitching .....24

### P

Pattern selection dial .....9

Patterns .....9

Presser foot changing .....8

### R

Race cleaning .....33

Reverse sewing lever .....10

### S

Spool pin .....11, 14

Stitches

    built-in .....22

    names .....9

Straight stitching .....22

### T

Thread cutter .....19

Thread tension .....20

Threading

    lower .....13

    upper .....14

Troubleshooting .....35

### U

Upper tension control dial .....21

Upper threading .....14

### Z

Zigzag stitching .....22

Zipper insertion .....28

English  
888-X53/X54/X55/X56  
Printed in Vietnam



XF3924-001