



Buying a Sewing Machine

Determine your sewing needs

Deciding your sewing needs is an important step. Is your new machine going to be for home use, or are you going to be taking it to classes and retreats. Determine what your current sewing needs are but also what the future might bring. Is your sewing limited to just an occasional project and mending? Or, are you wanting to become an avid sewer and interested in machine quilting and embroidery.

What features are important to you?

At the top of the list should be good basic straight stitch and zig-zag. Some of the other features you should consider are: Needle Down, Scissor Cut, Adjustable Speed Control, Adjustable Feed Dogs. Another consideration may be a built in walking foot. Most of today's Electronic and Computerized sewing machines come with 150 or more stitches. So, determine what stitches are important to you. If you have kids or grandkids having built in alphabets may be important. If you like appliqué, make sure the machine comes with a good blanket stitch.

Figure out your budget.

There is a wide range of machine prices depending on the type of Sewing machine. A good basic mechanical machine will range from \$300.00 - \$1,000.00 dollars. Electronic Sewing machines can range from \$1,000.00 - \$3,000.00. The top-of-the-line Computerized Sewing machines with embroidery capability range from \$3,000.00 - \$13,000.00. Ask your sewing friends what they sew on and what features are important to them. Also visit your local dealer to see what they recommend.

Test Drive machines

Buying a new sewing machine is much like buying a new car, to make sure you are comfortable take your new sewing machine for test drive. Bring samples of material you use a lot to verify the machine is capable of handling it. Find out if the machine comes with a 1/4" foot or if you can move the needle over so you can get an accurate 1/4" seam. Find out what the dealer has to offer. Are there classes available and are they private or group? Group classes offer you the ability to learn from not only the teacher but from other students who may have questions you would never have thought of. Are the classes restricted for a certain amount of times or can you take the owners classes as many times as you would like? Ask your dealer about the warranty and where warranty work will take place. Is your machine going to have to be shipped out when work is needed or do they have an in house technician? Most important is to make sure you feel comfortable with the machine.

Consider an Extended Bed Machine.

If machine quilting is important, you may want to make sure your new machine has an extended bed. This allows more space for quilting. Originally, extended bed machines were only available with straight stitch and free motion capabilities. However most sewing machine companies are accommodating quilters creativity by supplying machines with extended beds. This is important, all the decorative stitches and features of your home sewing machine with extra space for quilting your favorite projects!

Consider an Embroidery Unit!

While Embroidery may not be something you think you want, don't just pass it off. With the explosion of technology machine embroidery is easily done. Download designs onto a USB stick and directly plug into the machine. No need for communication software! If you are quilter, you may want to consider embroidery. Many embroidery designers are taking favorite quilting designs and turning them into embroidery designs. Hoop your quilt top/batting/backing all at once and your project will be quilted with perfection.

Let us help you find your next machine! Come visit us in the Creative Center! We would love to share our passion for Pfaff with you! Happy Sewing!

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