

The Edge Sewing Induction Information Handout

Sewing tips and general information

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The Edge Monday – Saturday 12pm-8pm / Sunday 12pm-5pm

Fabrication Lab Wednesday 12pm-6pm / Thursday 12pm-8pm / Saturday 12pm-6pm

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/plan-my-visit/spaces-visit/edge>

Where: Fabrication Lab, bottom level (left of the toilets at the base of the stairs)

Your visit: Log into your Library account at the terminal at the entrance of the Fabrication Lab (or book online) and select the equipment you'll be using. You must have a Library account and be inducted into the equipment (an email should be sent a week after your induction workshop) you want to use before you can allocate a time. Please ask Library staff if you require help with your log in and locating materials. You must wear closed in footwear.

Sewing equipment: Bernina 730 series domestic machines, Bernina 700D over locker, iron and iron board, basic sewing resource toolkit (contains fabric scissors, measuring tape, fabric chalk, dressmaking pins, black/white thread), spare regular sewing machine needles

Start guide to using a domestic sewing machine

The sewing machines at The Edge may be a little different in design than a typical modern machine but each model regardless of age will have a similar way to set up to sew. Here is a general guide and the differences of the machines you'll be using versus the modern machines you may encounter at home.

Unfortunately we do not have time to get to know our Bernina 700D over locker in the induction; however the following links will provide you with the necessary help to using this machine.

https://www.bernina.com/en-AU/SupportData/BERNINA-Nah-und-Stickmaschinen/Overlocker/Manuals/700D-800DL/Instruction-Manual-700D_800DL_EN_DE_FR_ES

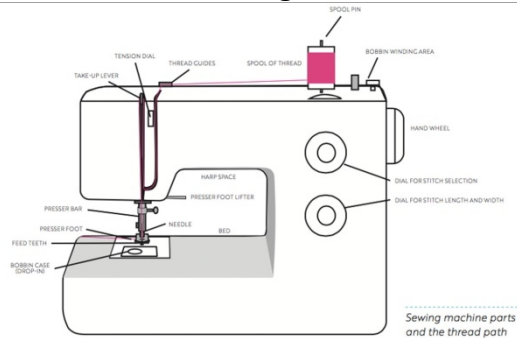
Threading guide to the Bernina 700D over locker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMvN-Wke06c>



Domestic sewing machine

Typical method of threading the top thread. Think of the direction as drawing a capital 'N' in reverse, some machines may thread in the different way so you'll be drawing a backwards capital 'N'



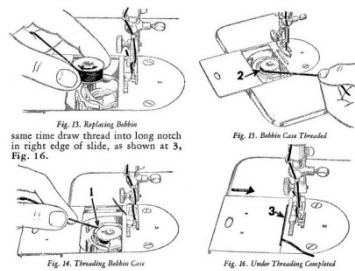
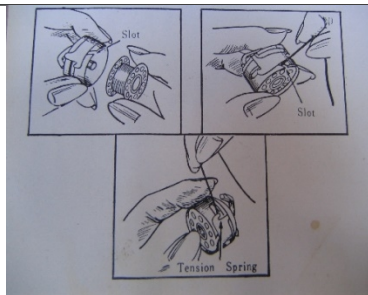
The Edge typical sewing machine, Bernina 730 series. Some of our sewing machines will vary from this model. These models benefit from having a removable slide on table.



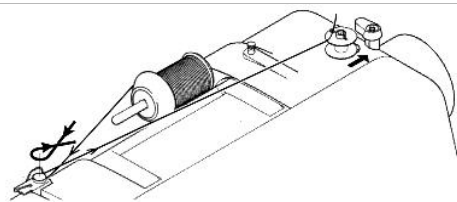
The Edge machine's stitch selector vs a typical modern machine. The 0 stitch is both the straight and zig-zag (select which you'd like with the lever on the right)



The Edge machines' bottom thread is accessed from the front vs modern machines which do not have a bobbin case and the bobbins are inserted from the top



The Edge machine's bobbin winder is hidden behind a compartment vs typical modern machines which sits visible on top



Troubleshooting

You will come across a few hiccups on your sewing journey but over time you'll be able to identify issues easier and hopefully will face less of them. But it happens to all of us!

Stitching tangles when you sew	Keep your thread 'tails' away from your fabric / sew a couple more stitches before you back tack / rethread your machine / check bobbin is secure in the carrier
Fabric gathers/puckers when sewing	Loosen your thread tension / rethread your machine / check for correct thread type
Misses a stitch when sewing	Change the needle (it's blunt or broken) / check the needle is in its holder correctly (direction of eyelet, firmly in holder) / are you using the correct needle type? / might need repairs on the timing belt
Fabric doesn't move when you stitch	Check if you've lowered the dog teeth / check for loose threads/fuzzy lint stuck in the bobbin carrier / is the machine on? / fabric may be unsuitable for your machine
Maintenance	Get a machine check-up annually and when you consistently run into issues that you cannot solve

General sewing tips

Other sewing folk, YouTube and an online search are your best friends when it comes to learning. If you don't know the correct terms of what you're doing ask in person, on online forums, type in a description in a search bar and it can lead you to the solution. From there you'll eventually become one of those knowledgeable makers that can help others too! There is also merit and much reward in going your own way and not following rules. You'll find some things can only be done by hand and some only by machine.

Thick fabric	Wider stitch length, stronger thread, ,might require different needle type
Thin fabric	Smaller stitch length, regular thread, ideal to use plastic dog teeth feeder
Fabric/material type	Match fabric type with the similar thread type (Cotton fabric + cotton/ cotton-poly thread). Check what your machine can sew. This can affect your ironing because if you iron a cotton fabric sewn with a polyester thread then you may melt the thread.
Needles	Replace needles when you notice you have more issues than usual, the needle point is duller than a fresh needle, the needle is bent or has a snag in the point

	Different fabrics might require different needles. Stretch and jersey fabrics need a ball point needle, leather requires a leather needle etc.
Purpose	What is the reason you want to make an item? How can you achieve your outcome? Knowing the 'why' before you 'do' will dictate your success and your options.
Patternmaking and Design	A great way to begin your creative craft is by imitating or using another design as your base. Pick something you have and try to deconstruct how it was made, why the maker chose the materials, what you'd change.
Motivation	Learning isn't a chore! It can be disheartening not getting to where you want to as fast or neatly as you want but doing something will always further you towards your goal and troubleshoot from different avenues. Thinking is the smaller part of progress (as important as it may be), but doing will achieve in leaps and bounds.

If you need any assistance please don't hesitate to contact me via [Instagram \(SadaSata\)](#). I'm happy to break down techniques step by step or in illustrative form and enjoy your sewing journey wherever it takes you!

Bibliography

<http://www.ashleyandthenoisemakers.com/blog/2015/1/8/bernina-730-record-review>

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<https://www.sewingonline.co.uk/instructions/jonescb/Threadbobbincase.html>

<https://www.quiltingboard.com/vintage-antique-machine-enthusiasts-f22/bobbin-threading-singer-201-a-t253956.html>

<https://www.singer.com/sewing-resources/winding-a-bobbin-alt>

<https://www.instructables.com/lesson/Meet-Your-Sewing-Machine/>

<https://wunderlabel.co.uk/blog/17-common-sewing-machine-problems-solve/>