



The

# LUCKY NEEDLE

## SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE

A Guide to Navigating the World of Industrial Walking Foot Sewing Machines and How to Purchase Your First Machine



## A LUCKY NEEDLE EBOOK

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# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



Congratulations on becoming a part of [The Lucky Needle!!!](#)

A good walking foot sewing machine is the first thing you will need when beginning upholstery! But with all of the different brands, models and price points out there, it can be a bit confusing! This is a helpful Sewing Machine Buyers Guide to help you through the buying process and get you working on your projects in no time!

Once you have your machine don't forget to check out our Lucky Needle Sewing Machine Troubleshooting Guide! This handy guide is a helpful tool if you get stuck when using your new machine!

I've included links in the document that will take you to useful videos and websites if you need some extra tips! These links are highlighted in [green!](#) Just click on the [green text](#) to be taken to helpful extras!

Don't forget if you ever get stuck, we all do, take your questions to [The Upholstery Forum!](#) This is a community of all levels of upholsters with questions just like yours, and lots of answers!!

The most important thing is to just get out there and start practicing!!!!

Good luck on your project!

- John Pollock | Founder



# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## BUYING A SEWING MACHINE: WHERE TO START?



To make this guide easier to navigate, it has been separated into seven main sections to help you through the process of buying a sewing machine and get you started on your projects in no time!



WHAT IS A WALKING FOOT SEWING MACHINE & WHY YOU NEED ONE!  
*(pages 2-4)*



CHOOSING YOUR BUDGET *(page 5)*



HOW TO FIND & PURCHASE A QUALITY USED MACHINE *(page 6)*



WHERE TO SEARCH *(page 7)*



WHAT MACHINES TO LOOK FOR *(page 8-10)*



INSPECTING THE CONDITION OF THE SEWING MACHINE  
*(pages 11-12)*



MAKING THE DEAL! *(page 13)*



PURCHASING A NEW SEWING MACHINE *(pages 14-17)*



NO BUDGET- DREAM SEWING MACHINES *(pages 18-19)*



LONG ARM, DOUBLE NEEDLE, ZIG-ZAG & PORTABLE MACHINES  
*(pages 20-21)*



ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR NEW MACHINE *(pages 22-23)*



## WHAT IS A WALKING FOOT SEWING MACHINE & WHY YOU NEED ONE!



Finding the right sewing machine can be tough, but first let's get a better understanding of the walking foot sewing machine, so you have a better idea of what you should be looking for.

### INDUSTRIAL WALKING FOOT SEWING MACHINE



The first and most important tool you will need to start learning upholstery is an Industrial Walking Foot Sewing Machine. When you are shopping for your first machine, you need to make sure it is a **WALKING FOOT MACHINE**. The walking foot feature is what allows an upholster to sew multiple layers of fabric and foam together with ease. Non-walking foot machines are meant for light weight applications and will not work for the types of projects we are doing. For more info check out this [Lucky Needle Video: What is a Walking Foot Sewing Machine? How it Works & Why You Need One!](#)

The term "Walking Foot" is one of the most well-known and common terms used for describing the type of machine we are looking for. There are a few other terms used for this exact same type of machine such as; Unison Feed, Compound Feed and Triple Feed. All of these terms represent the type of machine that uses three different moving parts, the feed dog, the inner foot, and the needle to help feed the material through the machine. This type of machine needs all three parts working together to move the thick layers of material through the machine smoothly.

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



When shopping for sewing machines you will occasionally see machines that will be advertised as walking foot machines, but if you examine the machine closely, only the outer foot is actually moving in a way to help feed the fabric, and the inner foot and needle only move straight up and down, not helping feed the material in any way. I suggest avoiding these types of “fake” walking foot machines, as they will not work as well for heavy materials. The following video reviewing the Juki DDL-1181N, is a great example of a “fake” walking foot machine I would avoid:

- [Juki DDL-1181N Industrial Walking Foot Sewing Machine Review](#)



**FAQ: John, is there a walking foot attachment sold for non-walking foot machines?**

**Answer: No. There is absolutely NO walking foot attachment sold for non-walking foot machines. There are many attachments sold as walking foot attachments, but these do not work or replace the type of machine needed for this type of upholstery.**

Industrial sewing machines come with two motor options; clutch type and servo type. The most common is the clutch type motor, but servo motors are quickly becoming more popular as the technology becomes less expensive. Clutch type motors work by using a clutch that engages the motor to the machine when the pedal is pressed, similar to how a clutch in a manual car works. While they are considered to be the more powerful of the two options, the sewing speed can be difficult to control because the clutch motor spins full speed all the time. If your machine has a clutch type motor, I suggest getting the smallest pulley available to reduce the speed and make it easier to control. I use a clutch type motor in The Lucky Needle Course Videos, as it is the most common and most likely what you will be starting with.



# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



This is a servo type motor. These motors are electronically controlled and don't start spinning until you press the pedal. The best feature about this type of motor is that you can control the speed with a dial on the motor, giving you much more control over your machine. They are thought to have less power than the clutch type, but I personally have not found this to be an issue. I actually prefer servo motors over the

clutch type, but it's not likely to find a used machine with a servo motor for an affordable price. If it is in your budget, I would recommend getting a machine with this type of motor. However, you can learn on a clutch type just as myself and many others did before servo motors. In recent years servo motors have become much more affordable. One good option I see a lot of people doing, is finding a well-priced, used machine and then fitting an aftermarket servo motor to the used machine. This is a pretty easy thing to do and you can find new servo motors for around \$150.

Here are two examples of popular options:

- [Consew Industrial Sewing Machine Servo Motor](#)
- [Consew CSM 1000 Servo Sewing Machine Motor](#)



# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## CHOOSING YOUR BUDGET



When It comes to shopping for a walking foot sewing machine, my advice varies based on what you can afford to spend. Don't worry, whatever your budget is, this guide will help you find the best options in your price range!

Something I want you to consider when purchasing a sewing machine is that this tool is an investment! If you learn to use it correctly, it will not only save you money by not paying others to do the work for you but can also make you money by charging others to do work for them. The cost of your machine will likely pay for itself a thousand times over during its life. Especially if you figure that the cost of a new custom automotive interior can range anywhere between \$5,000 to \$20,000! I have made a great living for myself over the last ten years, and it all started with a used Juki LU-562 that I bought for \$600!

**\$ Budget # 1 - \$400 to \$1400:** If your budget is somewhere in this range, I recommend purchasing a quality used machine. This is because most new machines that are in this price range are not very good and can cause you frustrating sewing issues. Searching for a used machine can take a bit of time, but it's the best option compared to buying a cheap, low quality, new machine. If this is your budget, continue on to the next page to read "How to Find and Purchase a Quality Used Machine".

**\$ \$ Budget # 2 - \$1400 to \$2200:**  
If you are able to spend this amount on a machine, there are a few fantastic options that will likely last you your entire life. If this is your budget, you can skip ahead to page 14.

**\$ \$ \$ Budget # 3 - No Budget "My Dream Sewing Machines":**  
If you are lucky enough to have a large budget for your sewing machine and want the best money can buy, these machines are what every trimmer wishes they had. If this is your budget, you can skip ahead to page 15.



"Trimmer" is an industry term used to refer to an experienced upholsterer

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## HOW TO FIND & PURCHASE A QUALITY USED MACHINE



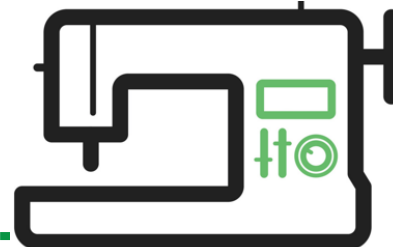
Purchasing a used machine is a great option, but it can be daunting if you don't know where to start. This section contains four subsections that will cover the process of buying a used machine, including; Where to Search for a Machine, What Machines to Look For, Inspecting the Condition of the Sewing Machine, as well as Making the Deal!



*“So, you've decided to go the route of purchasing a used sewing machine, hopefully I can help with this process! By the way, I buy most of my tools secondhand. I even made a video about it, [Buying Tools on Craigslist: How to Find & Make Great Deals](#). Buying used is a great option, read more to learn why!”*

## USED SEWING MACHINES

Although an older machine may have a few more years on it, it may be a much better option than a brand new one. Most older machines were manufactured using a high-quality metal, at a high-quality standard. More recently, many sewing machine manufacturers have outsourced most, if not all of their production to manufacturing facilities in China. While I understand this move and hold no judgement with this business practice, it has led to a decline in the quality and precision of the sewing machines and their parts. This is also why you will see many new, off-brand machines that look exactly the same, because many of these factories will sell clones of popular, high-quality machines to anyone that wants to put their logo on it. Most of the time these clone machines are poor quality, and sometimes can be the rejects that did not pass “Quality Control”, and will have absolutely no warranty or support. This is why I recommend staying away from cheaper new machines and focusing on finding a quality used machine within your budget!



# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## WHERE TO SEARCH

I always recommend starting your search for a machine on [Craigslist!](#) This is a fantastic place to find good deals! If Craigslist isn't popular in your area, there should be some sort of classifieds or other local secondhand websites available. [Facebook Marketplace](#) can also be a great place to search for deals.

The following are three search terms I recommend using when searching for used machines:

- “Walking Foot Sewing Machine” - This will quickly find you the most qualified machines.
- “Industrial Sewing Machine” - This search will likely include a lot of non-walking foot machines, so you will have to sort through the results. On the bright side, this is typically where you will find the best deals! Most often the people selling these used machines don't know what a walking foot sewing machine is or the value of one, they just want it out of their garage.
- “Commercial Sewing Machine” - This search will yield similar results as above. Many non- walking foot sewing machines, but some machines that will be worth the search!



In addition to Facebook Marketplace, Facebook may have local selling groups in your area you can join to search for deals!

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## WHAT MACHINES TO LOOK FOR

When it comes to shopping for an older, used machine it's quite a bit easier than people make it out to be. Honestly, any of the major brands of sewing machines are great machines and will work for you. As I said earlier, older machines were manufactured pretty darn well. The important thing is to make sure you get a walking foot machine. Major Brands include:

- Adler
- Brother
- Consew
- Juki
- Pfaff
- Singer
- NC

There are some other smaller brands you may come across that will work for you, just make sure you test and inspect the machine before buying it!

One other thing to keep in mind when looking for sewing machines, is to make sure the sewing machine has a reverse function. A reverse function allows you to easily lock in your stitch, so it does not unravel. Some older machines did not come standard with this function, so it's definitely something you will want to be on the lookout for. It is still possible to do everything on a machine without a reverse function, you will just have to manually reverse the machine by hand. The reverse function just makes life much easier, as you will see once you start practicing.

The following two pages contain a list of some models of good used sewing machines, separated by brand. This is not meant to be a complete list, but a general guide on what types and styles of sewing machines to look for.

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## ADLER

### ADLER 67



### ADLER 467



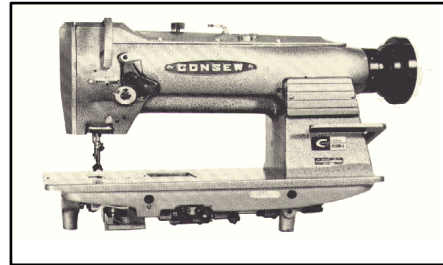
### ADLER 167\*\*



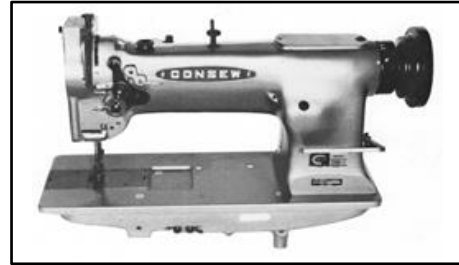
\*\*Also seen as Chandler 167 below

## CONSEW

### CONSEW 255



### CONSEW 226R



### CONSEW 206 RB



## CHANDLER

### CHANDLER 167\*\*



\*\* Chandler is an American company that imported these machines from Adler

## BROTHER

### BROTHER LS2



# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## JUKI LU

**JUKI LU-562**



**JUKI LU-563\*\***



\*\* Larger bobbin than the 562.

## PFAFF

**PFAFF 1245 OLD VERSION**



**PFAFF 145**



## SINGER

**SINGER 111\*\***



\*\*Make sure it has reverse function

**SINGER 211**





## INSPECTING THE CONDITION OF THE SEWING MACHINE

It may take you some time to find a good deal on a quality used machine, but I promise if you keep looking you will find a great machine for a great deal! In my experience these older machines are pretty tough, so as long as they were somewhat cared for, they should be in pretty good condition. That being said, here are some things you should look for when purchasing a used machine:

1. Visually inspect the entire machine. Look underneath the machine, inside the access plate on the side of the head and inside the bobbin case. If you see any damage or something that does not look right, you should pass on the machine.
2. Rust! Inspect the machine inside and out for rust on the parts. Sewing machines should be oiled regularly in order to operate smoothly and prevent it from rusting. If you see excessive rust on a machine, it probably means it was left outside and not oiled for some time. If a machine has been left outside you will want to steer clear of purchasing it.
3. Does the machine look like it has been repainted? Repainted machines are typically hiding something, like rust, water damage or extreme overuse!
4. Check the needle bar and feet bars for excessive play. To do this, lock the feet in the upright position, then grab each bar individually and check for excessive play. There will probably be some play but if it feels like a lot, the bushings are probably worn out from not oiling the machine enough. This is not a deal breaker because this can be repaired, but this will involve taking the machine to a place that services industrial sewing machines to have this problem fixed.

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## INSPECTING THE CONDITION OF THE SEWING MACHINE

5. Turn the machine over by hand using the hand wheel. The machine should turn over smoothly. If it feels a little rough, it most likely just needs a cleaning and oiling. If you cannot turn the machine over at all there is most likely something broken or bent inside the machine. Do not buy a machine in this condition.
6. **TEST THE MACHINE BEFORE YOU BUY IT!** Bring some material with you and test it out! See if it feels normal while sewing. Does it make any strange noises? If you don't know what it is supposed to feel like or sound like, watch some YouTube videos beforehand. There are videos previewing most older machines that you can watch to get a good idea of how the machine should operate.
7. Check the stitching. Are any stitches being skipped? Is the thread fraying anywhere? Does the stitching look tight, even and normal? These are not deal breakers because most of these problems are caused by an offsetting or the timing being off. These problems are not hard fixes and are usually affordable to have someone service and time the machine, if you don't want to do it yourself.

Once you get your newly acquired sewing machine home, I recommend giving it a deep cleaning and a good oiling! Check out these Lucky Needle videos:

- [Upholstery Basics: How to Clean a Sewing Machine Part 1](#)
- [Upholstery Basics: How to Clean a Sewing Machine Part 2](#)

**REMEMBER, A SEWING MACHINE IS AN INVESTMENT, INSPECT CAREFULLY!**



# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



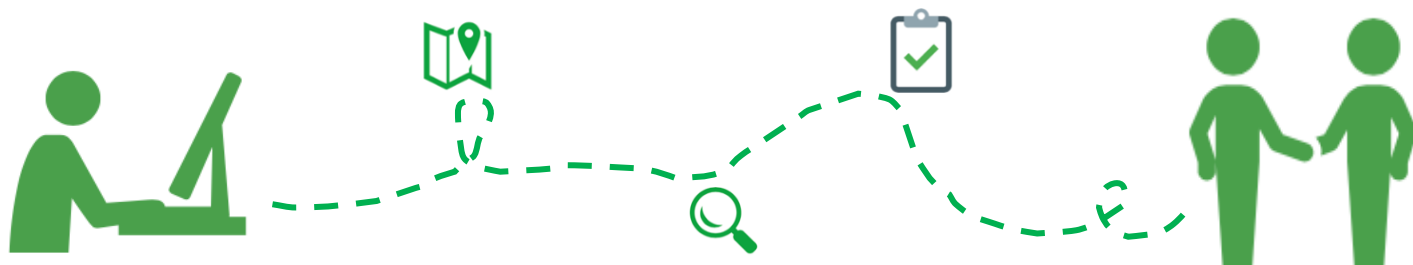
## MAKING THE DEAL!

When shopping for a used machine or any tool, remember that the asking price is NOT the sale price. Many people shop around looking at the LIST price. Getting a good deal is up to you asking for a better deal! Most people that list things for sale do not expect to sell it for the price they list it at. I recommend making an offer at least 30% lower than the asking price and expect to meet somewhere in the middle. So just remember that you have to ASK for a better price to actually get a better price!

Another thing to keep in mind when making a deal is to look at how long the machine has been listed for sale. If it's been weeks and has not sold, the seller will be more likely to accept a lower price.

Check out this Lucky Needle video for more information and a deeper explanation of how I approach making a good deal on used equipment:

- [Buying Tools on Craigslist: How to Find & Make Great Deals](#)



# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## PURCHASING A NEW SEWING MACHINE



Purchasing a new machine is a great option but it can be daunting if you don't know where to start. There's so many brands and models, it can be hard to know where to begin! Here's some tips on purchasing a new sewing machine!

When it comes to purchasing a new machine in the \$1,400- \$2,200 price range, I recommend sticking with the following major brands:

- Juki
- Pfaff
- Adler
- Consew
- NC

There are many other smaller brands that sell clones of the popular model sewing machines at a lower price. Sometimes these machines can be good, or they can be terrible. It's a risk I chose not to take, just to save a few dollars. I cannot stress this enough, when buying a sewing machine remember that this tool is an investment! If I'm buying new, I prefer to stick with an established brand that has a warranty.

Here is a list of machines I suggest you consider:

### **NC1508NH - \$1,950**



The [NC1508NH](#) is machine is by far the best deal for a new machine on this list! It should actually be in the Dream Sewing Machines list because it is that good! This machine is basically the same machine as the Juki 1508, but far less expensive. If you can afford this machine, I highly recommend it! One of the best features of this machine is the 'Foot Control Knob'! While most machines need adjusting with a wrench, the Foot Control Knob allows the operator to adjust the height of the foot based on type of work they're doing. It's conveniently located on top of the unit and can be changed on the fly.

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## JUKI DNU-1541S - \$1,795



The [JUKI DNU-1541S](#) is one of my top recommendations across the board when anyone asks what machine to buy. It's not the best machine on this list, but it is certainly one of the best bangs for your buck in this price range. I personally have used this machine for many years and love it. It is used by many professional trimmers and will last your lifetime.

## NC6 - \$1,850



The [NC6](#) is a fantastic machine! I have personally used and thoroughly tested it and have no complaints. The NC6 is actually manufactured by [Seiko](#). The Seiko facility is still located in Japan and they are widely known as one of the highest quality sewing machine manufacturers in the world. One of my favorite things about this machine is its simplicity. It is very easy to use and doesn't have a lot of bells and whistles. This model has been in production for many years and is proven to last a lifetime. Do not confuse this machine with the Consew RB5. They look the same but are manufactured in different countries. The NC6 is made with higher quality parts and materials from Japan.

## PFAFF 1245 - \$2,200



The PFAFF 1245 just barely made the price cap for this list, but it's considered to be one of the best walking foot machines available. Until recently, this machine was much more expensive, but now I have seen it selling online for \$2,200 or lower, so it is definitely worth thinking about.

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## CONSEW 1541S-CC - \$2,049



The [CONSEW 1541S-CC](#) is essentially the same machine as the JUKI DNU-1541S. The big difference is that it has an adjustment knob on the top, which allows you to set the foot lift height on the fly, thus eliminating the need to adjust it with a wrench. This is not a necessity, but it is nice to be able to adjust the foot height for large, bulky sections mid seam.

## CONSEW 206 RB-5 - \$1,899



The [CONSEW 206 RB-5](#) is a very popular choice among many professional trimmers. This is a great machine and you will be happy with your purchase.

## NC1 - \$1,200



The [NC1](#) is a great hobbyist or beginner machine. This machine comes with a great servo motor that is easy to control and learn on. The NC1 is an entry level walking foot machine, and while the quality is there, it does not compare to the Juki 1541, NC6 or NC1508NH all of which have higher quality parts. If you are a weekend warrior, hobbyist or just someone who will do a few projects a year and want something affordable, this is the machine for you. However, if you plan on doing a large amount of upholstery work, a higher quality machine, while a bit of an investment, will be well worth it.

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## A NOTE ABOUT THIS LIST FROM JOHN...

Some of you might be wondering, “What about the [Consew 1206 RB](#), Sailrite Fabricator and other models of the same style machine? Why aren’t they on this list?”

These new machines run around \$1,600 and could be on this list as they technically are in this price range. However, I do not recommend purchasing these machines. These machines are not bad, and many people are happy using them. I personally do not think they are a high enough quality for the price and are definitely not suitable if you plan on making upholstery a profession.

For the same amount of money, you will be much better off purchasing a quality used machine, like those discussed on pages 6-13. I used to recommend the Sailrite Fabricator to non-professionals when it was sold at a lower price years ago. I no longer recommend the Sailrite Fabricator, but I did make a review video on the machine if you are interested: [Lucky Needle Video: Sailrite Fabricator Review](#)



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TO RECEIVE **\$50** OFF YOUR NEW NC MACHINE!!!

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## NO BUDGET - DREAM SEWING MACHINES



These are the machines that I hope to have one day and are considered to be the best machines you can buy. With high quality parts, brands you can trust, and the best options available, these machines will have you feeling like a top of the line trimmer!



### ADLER M TYPE 867

In my opinion this is the best machine available for the type of upholstery we are doing. This machine is used by many of the best trimmers in the world and also used by many high-end car manufacturers.



### PFAFF 2545

This is the best machine Pfaff sells for automotive and marine upholstery. It is also one of the best machines available, rivaling the Adler M Type 867. There are too many features on this machine to list! Interested in more info? Check out this video: [PFAFF 2545](#)

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## **JUKI LU-1508**

The [Juki LU-1508](#) is the big brother to the 1541S model. It is a slightly larger machine and has a top load bobbin. Top load bobbins are said to be more reliable, smoother sewing, and better at handling thicker threads.



## **JUKI LU-2810**

This is the best machine Juki sells for automotive and marine upholstery. The best feature is that it has a longer neck than the other Juki models. This allows much more working area under the neck to easily fit those larger projects.



## **CONSEW 255RB-3**

The [Consew 255RB-3](#) is the best machine sold by Consew. It's built like a war tank! This machine is a bit more basic than others on this list, but don't mistake that for a bad thing! This model has been in production for a very long time and has proven itself to be one of the longest lasting machines on the market. It's simplicity also makes for less problems that would require servicing the machine. Keep this guy oiled and taken care of, and it will be your friend for life.

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## LONG ARM, DOUBLE NEEDLE, ZIG-ZAG & PORTABLE MACHINES



These are some common additional machine options that are available and can lead to more confusion when shopping for a machine. The short answer is “No”, you don't need any of these. Let's clear this up for you!

### LONG ARM MACHINES



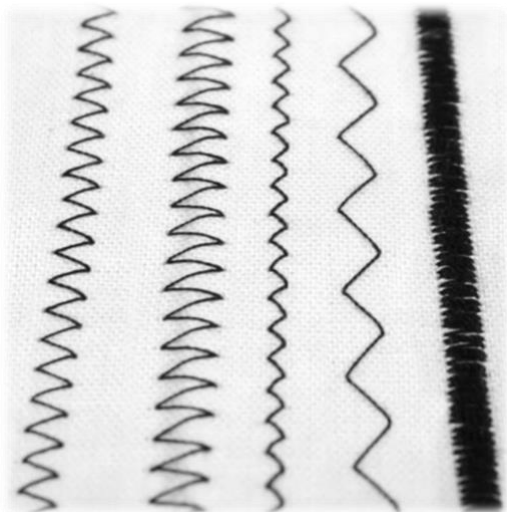
Long arm machines, like the [NC6L](#), are basically the same machines we looked at earlier, just stretched out to allow more fabric under the neck. You really only need this type of machine if you will be sewing extraordinarily large projects and need to fit a large amount of material under the neck. This type of machine is great to have if you can afford it, but they are not a necessity. Double needle machines can also have a long arm, like the [NC11L](#).

### DOUBLE NEEDLE MACHINES



Double Needle machines, like the [NC11](#), will sew two stitches at the same time. You really only need one of these machines if you will be sewing french seams of the same width daily. I personally have never needed one of these machines in all my years of upholstery. The main reason for this is because I like to adjust the width of my french seams depending on the thickness of thread and the style of interior I am working on. Adjusting the width on most double needle machines is a process! Typically, you only need this type of machine for manufacturing the same exact product in large quantities.

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## ZIG-ZAG MACHINES

These machines will sew in a zig-zag pattern, which is typically offered as an option on more expensive machines. You will most likely never need this option. Zig-zag stitches are used in areas where you want the seam to stretch a little bit, such as boat sails. If you will be frequently working on sails or other applications where this feature is needed, you will want to consider this option. Otherwise, this type of machine is not necessary.



## PORTABLE MACHINES

On your search for a sewing machine you will come across very reasonably priced, smaller, portable walking foot machines, like the REX 607 or the Sailrite Ultrafeed, and will be tempted to buy them. I have to say that while “yes”, you can do automotive and marine upholstery with these machines, and I have even seen people learn on them, I still do not recommend buying one. The only reason you need this type of machine is if you actually need the portable aspect of an industrial machine. For example, if you live on a boat or you do all of your upholstery work at a job site. The main reason I do not recommend these machines is because the area under the neck is much smaller. With less space to work with, you will have a lot of trouble just trying to fit a normal amount of material under there, like when sewing longer sections of pleats.



# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR NEW MACHINE



Once you have your sewing machine it is time to think about accessories! Below are a few accessories that I think will be a great addition to your new machine, no matter if you purchased it used or new!



### SEWING MACHINE FEET

There are a few types of sewing feet you will want to eventually purchase:

**Welt Feet:** These sewing feet are a must have if you plan on sewing seams with welting, also known as piping, like the picture to the left. I recommend purchasing 3/16" and 1/4" welt feet for difference size welt cords and fabric thicknesses. These are the sizes I use most often. You may also want 1/8" welt feet if you like the look of smaller welt.



**Zipper Feet:** These are sewing machine feet that have part of the foot missing so that you can sew closer to the zipper. These feet are optional, but I like to have them around for different uses, mostly for sewing windlace. I typically sew zippers using regular flat feet, but zipper feet can be useful at times. The bottom left picture shows the difference



Flat Feet

Welt Feet

Zipper Feet

# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## SEWING LIGHT



It can be very helpful to have a [Flexible Sewing Light](#), to light up the area under the neck of the machine. There are many types and options out there, but my favorite style is the magnetic kind that sticks anywhere on the machine and has a flexible head. This comes in handy, so you can easily move the light into the perfect spot, no matter what you are working on.

## DRAWERS



Many machines will come with a single drawer on the sewing machine table. I prefer to remove the single drawer and screw a [Three-Drawer Organizer](#) to the table. This will save you a lot of time, so you won't have to get up from the table and find the tool you need. To see just how I do this check out this [Lucky Needle Video: Upholstery Tips & Tricks: Table Drawers](#)

## SEWING NEEDLES



While most sewing machines will come with one size of needle, there are many different types of sewing machine needles you can use in upholstery. When starting out, it's important to have different needle choices on hand, and as needles are inexpensive, I like to have a lot of options. I recommend having sizes 18, 20 and 22 with the standard universal R type point to start out with, but I personally like to have every size from 16 to 24. If you will be sewing heavy leather, I recommend having some needles with an SD point. There are specific needle systems that fit in different manufacturers sewing machines, so be sure to check your sewing machine manual for the proper needle type. For more information check out this [Lucky Needle Video: What Size Needle? What Type of Needle?](#) Remember, you can own the best sewing machine in the world, but without the correct needle, you will run into problems. When deciding which brand of needle to use, I recommend choosing [Groz-Beckert!](#) Founded in 1852, Groz-Beckert is the world's leading provider of quality industrial machine needles! The Lucky Needle has partnered with Groz-Beckert to make these excellent needles available to Lucky Needle Students for an additional 5% off their already 30% off price! See the next page for details!

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# SEWING MACHINE BUYERS GUIDE



## One Last Thought From John...

*Remember, something I really want you to consider when purchasing a sewing machine, whether it's used or new is that,*

**THIS TOOL IS AN INVESTMENT!!!**

*If you learn to use your new machine correctly, it will not only save you money, it will make you money!!! You will no longer have to pay others to do upholstery work for you. In fact, when people need upholstery work done, and trust me someone always does, you can make money by doing the work for them and charging for it!*

*The cost of your machine will likely pay for itself 1,000 times over during its life! Especially if you compare the cost of a new machine to the cost of a new custom automotive or marine interior, which can range anywhere between \$5,000 to \$20,000! I have made a great living for myself over the last ten years, and sewn some fantastic upholstery projects along the way, and I want the same for you!*



*For me, it all started with a used Juki LU-562 that I bought for \$600 off Craigslist. So, get out there and find the machine that's right for you!*