

Threading a Serger



Threading a Serger

60 minutes

Description/Rationale:

A serger is a specific kind of sewing machine that was created primarily to sew knit fabric and has four interlocking threads instead of just one thread. By the end of this workshop, a home sewer will be able to use a serger machine and basic sewing supplies to thread a serger and make a pillowcase.

Objectives:

By the end of this session...

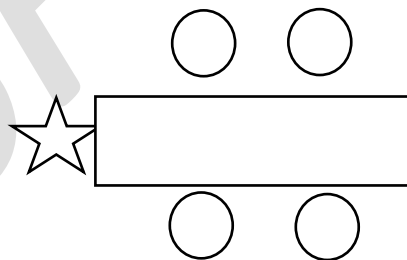
1. A sewer can demonstrate threading a serger successfully within 3 attempts.
2. A sewer will create a pillowcase.

Materials Needed:

Equipment: Serger machine with power cord, peddle, and operator's manual for each participant, all supplies on participant supplies list, table space and chair for each participant.

Room Set Up:

- Enough chairs for all participants to sit comfortably with their machine at a table or desk.
 - Star = Instructor
 - Circles = Participants



Exercise: Introduction & Preparing the Serger

Time: 8 min

Materials Needed: Serger, Thread, Operator's Manual, Participant's Guide

Trainer talking points, actions:

Welcome to our learning to thread a serger workshop! Today we will answer the question "How do I thread my serger?" Please, feel free to ask questions or ask for clarification at any time during the lesson.

First, we are going to go through the parts of the serger. You will see that many are the same as a standard sewing machine. *(Turn to the Pre-workshop Checklist in your Participant's Guide).*

Ask: What parts of the machine do you recognize from a standard sewing machine?
Learners discuss.

There are a few pieces of equipment specific to a serger. *Facilitator shows the differential feed dial, upper and lower knife, upper and lower looper.*

Now turn to the page in your participant's guide that starts with #1- Prepare the machine for threading. We are going to follow these instructions to thread each part of the serger.

Demonstrate:

The first step to threading is to take each thread through the left hole thread guide top to bottom. Next, take each thread through the right hole thread guide top to bottom.

Explain to students to watch the instructor first as the instructor demonstrates and explains the skills.

After you have threaded each thread guide hole, open the cover doors and lower the knife. *Instructor demonstrates.*

Activity: Students are given time individually to practice preparing the machine for threading.

Assessment: Facilitator goes through the Pre-workshop Checklist with each student. Evaluator will check first two items of the Threading Checklist with students and correct and encourage as needed.

ASK: Identify the differential feed dial.

SAY/Transition: We've just learned how to prepare the machine for threading. We can now thread the machine.

Exercise: Thread the upper looper.

Time: 8 min

Materials Needed: Participant's Guide, Serger

Trainer talking points, actions:

There is a specific order to threading the machine. The machine must be threaded upper looper first, lower looper second, right needle third, and left needle fourth. We start with the thread second from the right (the upper looper thread) every time. Threading a serger is similar to threading a sewing machine although we must thread four threads and we must thread two loopers.

Ask: Which is the upper looper thread?

Demonstrate:

The instructor will demonstrate threading the upper looper while talking through the steps. Students need to be able to see the instructor's actions. Likely the students will need to stand behind the instructor. Use the second from the right thread. Follow the color-coded path. Follow and say the steps in the objectives listed below.

1.2.2 Snap the thread through the thread guide hook right to left. Follow the color-coded path.

1.2.3 Floss the thread between the tension disks from the right and then over the hook.

1.2.4 Follow the thread through the hook guide right to left.

1.2.5 Snap the thread in the hook guide bottom to top. Continue to follow the color-coded thread guide path.

1.2.6 Pull the thread behind the pin.

1.2.7 Pull the thread through the upper looper.

1.2.8 Push the thread back and to the right.

Activity: Follow the threading steps starting with #2-Thread the upper looper, as guidance. Thread the upper looper 3 times on your own until successful.

Assessment: The instructor will observe the students to verify they have accurately threaded the upper looper along the color-coded path.

Ask: In what order does the machine have to be threaded?

Answer: 1. Upper looper 2. Lower looper 3. Right needle 4. Left needle

Transition: Push the thread behind the presser foot and to the right.

Exercise: Thread the lower looper.

Time: 10 min

Materials Needed: Participant's Guide, Serger

Trainer talking points, actions:

The lower looper is the most difficult part of threading the machine. We will go through it slowly step by step.

Demonstrate: *The instructor will demonstrate threading the lower looper while verbally explaining the skills listed below.*

1.3.1 Use the thread on the far right.

1.3.2 Snap the thread through the thread guide hook left to right. Follow the color-coded path.

1.3.3 Floss the thread between the tension disks from the right and then over the hook.

1.3.4 Snap the thread through the hook guide right to left.

1.3.5 Follow the thread through the next two thread guides right to left. Follow the color-coded path.

1.3.6 Follow the thread through the stationary thread guide under the knife and hardware.

1.3.7 Turn the handwheel forward until lower looper arm swings out.

1.3.8 Thread through the thread guide on the lower looper arm from left to right.

1.3.9 Rotate the handwheel forward until seeing the lower looper.

1.3.10 Make an X with the lower and upper looper, thread ABOVE the upper looper.

1.3.11 Pull the thread through the lower looper.

1.3.12 Put the knife back up and close the covers.

Activity: *Have the students follow along using the instructions for threading the lower looper in the Participants Guide. Point out the photos of steps 1.3.6 Follow the thread through the stationary thread guide under the knife and hardware. 1.3.8 Thread through the thread guide on the lower looper arm from left to right. (steps 3.6 and 3.8 in the Participant's Guide).*

Thread the lower looper 3 times on your own until successful.

Assessment: The instructor will observe the students to verify they have accurately threaded the lower looper along the color-coded path.

Ask: What happens if you do not thread the lower looper ABOVE the upper looper?

Answer: The machine will not form a stitch. (Additionally, it could break the needle).

Exercise: Thread the right needle

Time: 5 min

Materials Needed: Participant's Guide, Serger

Trainer talking points, actions:

Threading the needles will be very familiar as it is very similar to a standard machine.

Demonstrate:

Facilitator verbally addresses each skill while demonstrating.

1.4.1 Use the thread second from the left.

1.4.2 Draw the thread through the second from the left thread guide. Follow the color-coded path.

1.4.3 Floss the thread between the second from left tension disks from the right.

1.4.4 place the thread under the hook right to left.

1.4.5 Put the thread through the thread take-up lever right to left.

1.4.6 Snap the thread through the hook guide left to right.

1.4.7 Put the needle in its highest position.

1.4.8 Slide through the hook above the needle.

1.4.9 Thread the right needle.

Activity: Follow the threading steps starting with #4-Thread the right needle in the Participant's Guide. Thread the right needle 3 times on your own until successful.

Assessment: The instructor will observe the students to verify they have accurately threaded the right needle along the color-coded path.

Exercise: Thread the left needle

Time: 5 min

Materials Needed: Participant's Guide, Serger

Trainer talking points, actions:

Threading the left needle is very much like threading the right needle.

Demonstrate:

Facilitator verbally addresses each skill while demonstrating.

1.5.1 Use the thread on the far left.

1.5.2 Draw the thread through the far-left thread guide. Follow the color-coded path

1.5.3 Insert the thread between the left tension disks from the right then over the hook.

1.5.4 Put the needle in its highest position.

1.5.5 Put the thread through the thread take-up lever right to left.

1.5.6 Put the thread through the hook thread guide from right to left.

1.5.7 Slide through the hook above the needle.

1.5.8 Thread the left needle.

Activity: Follow the threading steps starting with #5 in the Participant Guide, thread the left needle. Thread the left needle 3 times on your own until successful.

Assessment: The instructor will observe the students to verify they have accurately threaded the left needle along the color-coded path.

SAY/Transition: Now that the machine is threaded, we can begin our project.

Exercise: Make the pillowcase

Time: 12 min

Materials Needed: Participant's Guide, Serger, Upholstery Needle

Ask: Do you have your pre-cut fabric?

Visually check that each participant has the fabric.

Trainer talking points, actions:

Put the right (decorative) sides of the fabric together. When serging be sure to leave long (3-5 inch) thread tails at the beginning and end of the seam.

Demonstrate:

3.1 Run one long 33 in edge through the serger at a 5/8 inch seam allowance.

3.2 Run 2nd long 33in edge through the serger at a 5/8 inch seam allowance.

3.3 Run one short 20.5 in edge through the serger at a 5/8 inch seam allowance.

Trainer talking points, actions:

Here you should have three sewn sides of the pillowcase and the short edge should have two 3-5 inch thread tails at the beginning and end of the seam. Now we are going to secure the thread tails. There are three ways to secure the thread tails. I will demonstrate each of them and you can choose which you would like to do on your pillowcase.

Demonstrate:

4.2. Knot the two ends of the tail.

4.3 Weave the tail under the stitches.

4.4 Leave long tails.

Activity: Choose the way you want to secure the thread tails and do your chosen method.

The student will be given the pillowcase evaluation checklist. The instructor will observe the students to verify they have secured the thread tails successfully. Turn to the Pillowcase Checklist in your Participant's guide.

Assessment: The student will be given the pillowcase evaluation checklist. The instructor will observe the students to verify they have secured the thread tails successfully.

Ask: What are the 3 possible ways to secure the thread tails?

Answer: 1. Knot the two ends of the tail 2. Weave the tail under the stitches 3. Leave long tails

SAY/Transition: You will have one raw, unsewn edge left. Now we are ready to hem that edge.

Exercise: Hem the fabric

Time: 5 min

Materials Needed: Participant's Guide, Serger, Iron, Standard Sewing Machine

Demonstrate:

Facilitator verbally addresses each skill while demonstrating.

5.1 Separate the two pieces of fabric at the open end.

5.2 Sew the hem all the way around the open end, do not sew the two pieces together. Use a 5/8 inch seam allowance.

Activity: Give students time to hem the fabric on their individual machines.

Trainer talking points, actions:

There are three ways to finish the hem of the fabric. 1. Leave the decorative serged edge of the hem. 2. Fold and iron the hem to the inside of the pillowcase. 3. Finish the hem on a standard sewing machine. I will demonstrate each of them and you can choose which you would like to do on your pillowcase.

Demonstrate:

Facilitator verbally addresses each skill while demonstrating.

5.4 Leave the decorative serged edge of the hem.

5.5 Fold and iron the hem to the inside of the pillowcase.

5.6 Finish the hem on a standard sewing machine.

Activity: Choose the way you want to finish the hem and do your chosen method. *The student will be given the pillowcase evaluation checklist. The instructor will observe the students to verify they have hemmed the pillowcase successfully.*

Assessment: The student will be given the pillowcase evaluation checklist. The instructor will observe the students to verify the raw edge has been hemmed and finished successfully.

Ask: What are the three potential ways to finish the hem?

Answer: 1. Leave the decorative serged edge of the hem 2. Fold and iron the hem to the inside of the pillowcase 3. Finish the hem on a standard sewing machine.

Exercise: Evaluation and wrap-up

Time: 5 min

Materials Needed: Participant's Guide

Trainer talking points, actions:

You have made a beautiful pillowcase and can be confident threading your serger machine now. Please, take a moment to complete the evaluation in the back of the Participant's Guide to let me know how the workshop went for you and what can be improved.

Assessment: Facilitator will make sure all checklists in the Participant's Guide are complete.

Evaluation: Participants will complete the evaluation sheet.

Works Cited

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Janome. (2007). *Mylock204D: Instruction book model 204D*. Tokyo, Japan: Author.

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