

Choosing Your Next Sewing Machine

Things to consider before you walk into a store:

What are Your must have's, some ideas to think about:

Think about the kind of sewing you do or want to do? Quilting, Heirloom, Clothing, Embroidery, Mending, and Fiber Art.

What to consider: Walking foot, feet that are a perfect ¼ inch, a wide variety of feet to choose from, embroidery, the machine cuts your thread, you can wind your bobbin without unthreading your machine, permanent and temporary memorization of your stitches, a knee lift that will lift your presser foot, Speed Control, buttonhole ease, specific stitches decorative and functional, Mirror Imaging, Start and Stop buttons, Free Motion capability, Differential Feed, ability to connect to your computer, dropping the feed dogs, Pressure foot control, needle up and down, can your machine of choice be upgraded to embroidery, and space right of the needle.

What don't you like about your current sewing machine? Is there a specific annoyance that you would love not to have to deal with anymore?

What does your machine look like inside? And what can it do? Can it sew through 8 layers of denim or thin silk? Is strength important?

Do you buy from an online source, a dealer or a big box store?

Big box and online sources are made different than the dealers machines. Warranty work will need to be returned to the online source or manufacturer and you will have to pay for all the shipping.

Advantages of Sewing Machine Dealers:

You can go into the store and try out a lot of different machines to see what you like,

you know where to take your machine for warranty work,

you have a place to learn to use your sewing machine,

you know where to get parts and accessories,

& you have someone to ask questions when you are having problems.

When you go to a dealer take fabric with you that is typical of what you sew. For example if you love to make silk blouses take fabric scraps of your silks to test. If you know you want to machine quilt with your new machine take a couple squares of cotton and the weight of batting you typically like to quilt. Then you can ask for a demonstration of machine quilting on machines you'd like to test drive.

Budget – be practical about what you can purchase within your budget for example if you want to add embroidery to your machines' capabilities it adds quite a bit to the price.

Price reflects quality and capabilities. You may have to be willing to spend a bit more to get a machine that will have everything you'd like.