



SEWING INDUCTION - THE EDGE



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their continuing connection to land and as custodians of stories for millennia. We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we all meet today, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.



INDUCTION SUMMARY

Mend or make with our sewing machines to revive an old favourite, follow a pattern or test your design innovations. In this induction, you learn how to set up a machine, cut and pin, sew straight and take home some samples.

Once you've completed the induction you can book and use the State Library of Queensland's sewing machines and overlocker at The Edge during Open lab.

Open Lab sessions are a chance to meet up with like-minded makers and tinkerers at The Edge with facilitators to support your creative needs in the space.

Bookings are required to use the equipment and you will be able to book with your SLQ account once you have completed the relevant induction.

Wednesday 1.30pm – 8pm

Thursday 1.30pm – 8pm

Saturday 12pm – 6pm

For more info and to book, head to <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/visit/spaces/edge>

The following equipment is available at The Edge:

- Bernina 730 series domestic machines x 10
- Bernina 700D over locker x 1
- Irons and iron boards x 2
- Basic sewing resource toolkit (contains fabric scissors, measuring tape, fabric chalk, dressmaking pins, black/white thread), spare regular sewing machine needles
- Leather and other sewing needles



EQUIPMENT OVERVIEW

START GUIDE



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.

We do not have time to get to know our Bernina 700D over locker in the induction, but please use the same safety and sensible use procedures as with our domestic sewing machines.

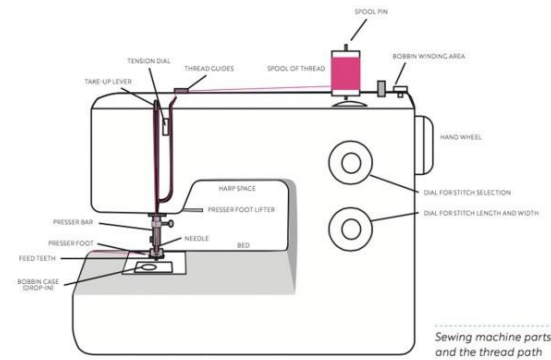
The following links will provide you with the necessary help to using the overlocker and there is a manual provided in the space.

[Bernina Manual](#)

Threading guide to the Bernina 700D over locker
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMvN-Wke06c>

DOMESTIC SEWING MACHINE BASICS

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 mostly do not have a bobbin case and the bobbins can be inserted from the top.

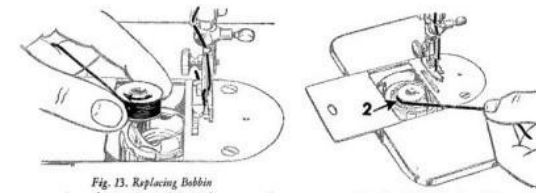
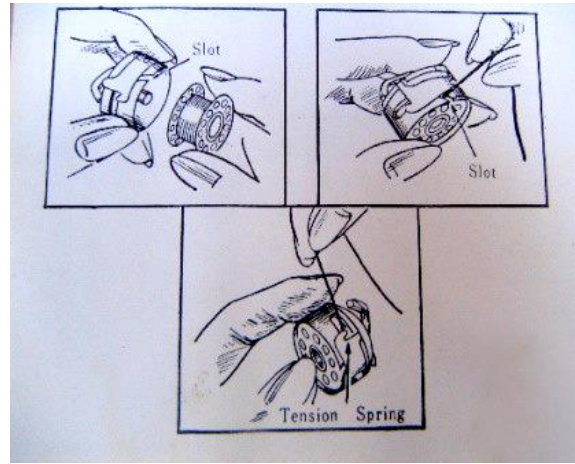


Fig. 13. Replacing Bobbin same time draw thread into long notch in right edge of slide, as shown at 3, Fig. 16.

Fig. 15. Bobbin Case Threaded

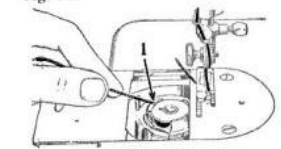


Fig. 14. Threading Bobbin Case

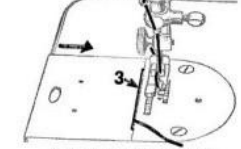
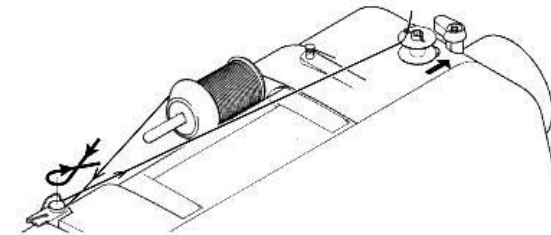


Fig. 16. Under Threading Completed

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 overtime 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 and remove loose threads from under the arm.
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 / you may need another layer in between the fabric and foot to grip your material.
Needle is broken or needs replacing	Turn off machine and carefully take out broken pieces (put in Sharps container) / the flat part of the shaft faces away from you when installing, and you will be able to see through the eye of the needle / check you're using the right needle and thread type for your material.
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 & 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.



GENERAL & SEWING SAFETY

The Innovation Lab is a shared space so please be considerate of your tidiness, food consumption, time you have with staff available and chatting with people working on their projects. If you're not sure of something, please ask first.

Take breaks! Whether you're working diligently or are feeling frustrated a breather will always be appreciated by your mind and body.

Make sure the equipment and materials in the Innovation Lab you want to use are for common use as some people do bring their own supplies with them.

Practice safe lifting of heavy equipment. With your knees, not your back! And if you're unable to move any resources staff can help you do so.

Tidying as you go is a good habit to have to maintain sanity! When you feel overwhelmed the worst thing to have is a cluttered space which makes you feel even more not in control.

If you require an iron and ironing board please ask the staff to where to set up and the proper use of the iron if you're not sure. Do not leave the iron on unattended without switching it off.

Accidents may occur, it's a reality and it's ok! Report any broken resources to the staff, please do not try to fix anything yourself. Notify staff if machines are playing up and they can troubleshoot. If you hurt yourself there is First Aid available.

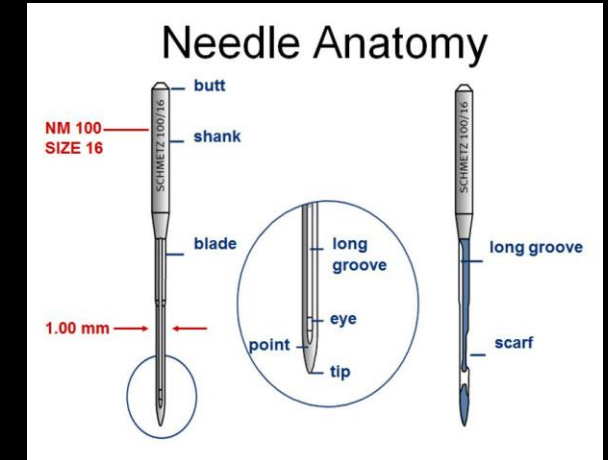
As you sew remember that the machine will pull the fabric towards the needle so your hands will go along with it! Loosely hold and steer your fabric safely from in front and left of your body in the same position. If you need to adjust anything from under the needle turn off the machine!

There's an order of sequence you'll find when setting up a sewing machine and sewing. Keep this in mind when you feel like something isn't 'working'. Sometimes retracing the steps will find the issue.

Remember to leave the sewing machines in an appropriate condition for the next person. Also replace the needle and threads to the standard types if you're using something special (like an extra strong thread and jeans needle).

FURTHER SUPPORT

- <http://www.ashleyandthenoisemakers.com/blog/2015/1/8/bernina-730-record-review>
- <https://www.quartoknows.com/blog/quartocreates/tips-for-smooth-sewing-thread-management>
- <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/>
- <http://schmetzneedles.blogspot.com/2012/10/sewing-machine-needle-anatomy.html?m=1>



FURTHER SUPPORT – Refilling a bobbin



FURTHER SUPPORT – Loading the machine with thread



FURTHER SUPPORT – Loading the bobbin into the machine



FURTHER SUPPORT – Threading the machine



FURTHER SUPPORT – Sewing some fabric



THANKS & CONTACTS

If you need any sewing related assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me via Instagram (@SadaSata). I'm happy to break down techniques step by step, in illustrative form and refer you to some resources. Enjoy your sewing journey wherever it takes you!

- Jimmy Eng



STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

The Edge info and bookings –
<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/visit/spaces/edge>

Email –
appliedcreativity@slq.qld.gov.au

Phone – 07 3840 7666

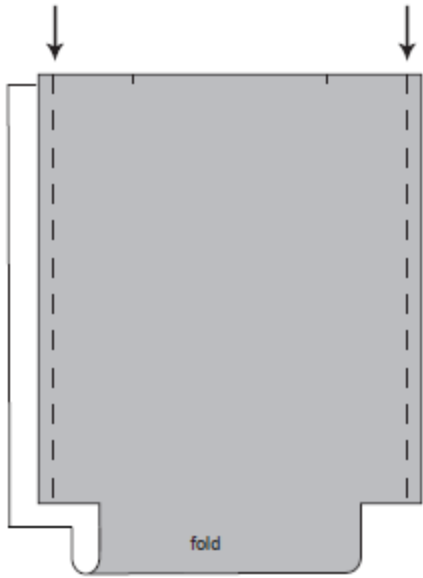


Tote Bag

Order of Assembly

Instructions by Jimmy Eng for The Edge,
State Library of QLD
~ Sewing Induction Workshop supplement ~

A



Fold Mainpiece vertically, right sides together and on the sides....

[OPTIONS]

1/

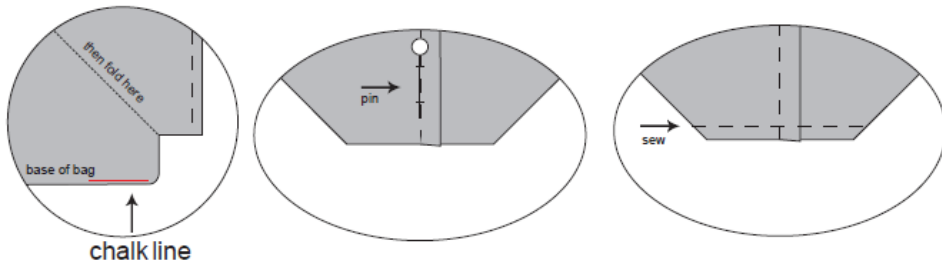
- Sew 1cm seam
- Zig zag stitch/overlock the seam edge

Or

2/ French seam

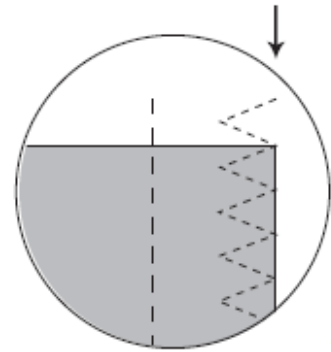
- Sew 0.5cm seam
- Bagout (turn bag into itself so the other side shows)
- Sew 0.5cm seam again (to capture the original seam inside the stitching)

B

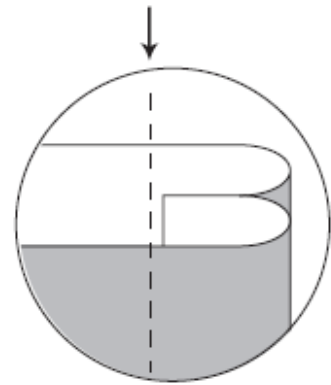


* If you're doing the French seam then turn the bag inside out first;

- With some chalk, rub along the base of the bag fold line
- Open the corner of the bag so the chalk line and the side seam sits on top on each other, put a pin in both these points so they stay on top of each other
- Sew across the seam (*French seams use your method of sewing*)



A 1



A 2

C

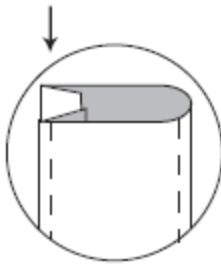


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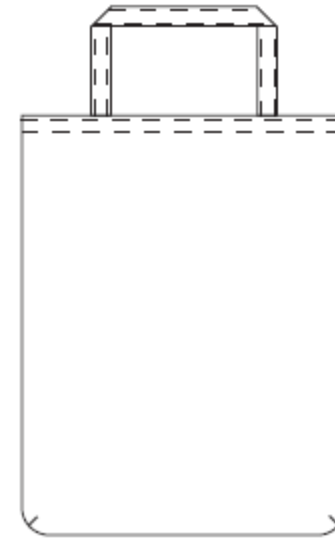
- Fold the bag straps horizontally, sew 1cm seam
- Bag out use a safety pin attached to one end/loop turner)
- Top stitch the seam and fold edge (0.3-0.5cm)

Or



2/

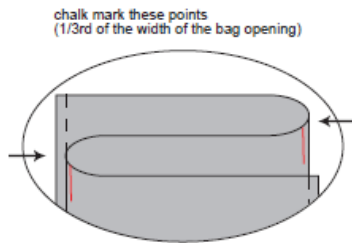
- Fold 1cm seam allowance on each long edge and iron
- Fold these two edges together and top stitch down [top stitch the folded edge if you like]



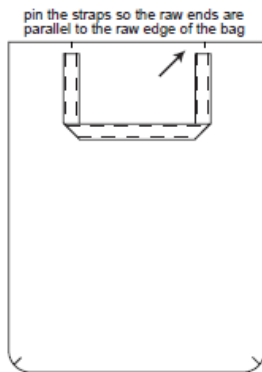
Congratulations, you've made a Tote bag!

- Straight stitch
- Overlock (keep a cut edge from fraying)
- Bag out
- Create a boxed finish (the bag corners)
- Complete an item from a flat pattern

D

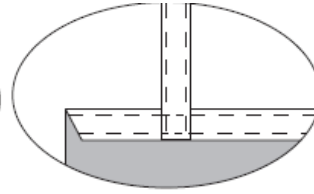
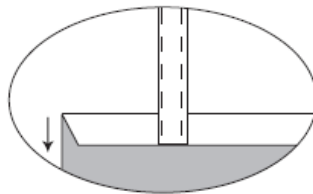


chalk mark these points (1/3rd of the width of the bag opening)



pin the straps so the raw ends are parallel to the raw edge of the bag

then when you flip the edge of the bag to iron/sew down the strap will be the right way up



top stitch this folded edge

tuck the raw fabric edge 1cm then sew

- Fold the opening into a Z formation and mark the fold points with chalk, mark these points on the other side of the bag
- Pin/ sew down the straps to the chalked points, one strap to each side
- Fold the bag opening/top edge down 3cm and iron the fold. Sew the fold
- Tuck the edge of the bag into itself 1cm and top stitch to finish the bag