Ready-Set-Sew

Janome's Portable Sewing Machine "Start Sewing" Guide

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Janome portable sewing machine. We've compiled a few tips that will help you get the most out of your new purchase and increase your enjoyment of sewing.

Bobbin Winding

In order to ensure correct bobbin winding, use both hands to thread machine around the guide for correct tension. For more detailed instructions see page 10 in your Instruction Manual.

Pro tip: Because different brands of thread unwind in various manners, sometimes it is helpful to lightly hold the thread as it comes off the spool. This will help create smooth and tightly wound bobbins - which is important for a good stitch.

Top Threading

Before you begin to thread, make sure the presser foot is in the up position and the needle is at the highest position. Lift the foot by using the presser foot lifter. To raise the needle, always turn the hand wheel on the right side of the machine toward you. This will help ensure that the threading guides are in the proper position to receive the thread. For more detailed instructions see page 14 in your Instruction Manual.

Pro Tip: The needle is always threaded from front to back. If you are having a hard time seeing the eye of the needle, use the silver needle threader accessory that comes with your machine to insert the thread into the needle eye.



Before inserting the bobbin into the machine, hold the bobbin in your hand and make sure that the thread is coming off the bobbin in a counterclockwise direction (it should look like a "P"). This will allow the bobbin thread to move correctly and to stay lodged in the bobbin tension guide. For more detailed instructions see page 12 in your Instruction Manual.

Picking Up the Bobbin Thread

Before you begin to sew, the bobbin thread needs to be pulled up onto the sewing bed. Gently hold the needle thread and turn the hand wheel towards you. In approximately two rotations, you will see the bobbin thread looped around the needle thread. Using your fingers, grab the bobbin thread and pull up a 5" length. For more detailed instructions see page 16 in your Instruction Manual.

Sewing Over Thick Fabrics

As a portable machine, it is not recommended that heavy weight fabrics are used on this model. However, when sewing layers of light to mid-weight fabric, seams can become thick. It is important to keep the presser foot level when sewing over these seams or uneven surfaces. A Hump Jumper or Jean-a-ma-Jig (optional purchase) will help you!

Pro tip: A quick fix is to fold a scrap of fabric 2 - 3 times and put it behind the needle and underneath the presser foot when you approach the seam or hump in your fabric. This will help to level your foot and keep your fabric feeding correctly.



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General Troubleshooting Tips

There is often a learning curve when you purchase a new sewing machine. While sewing your first project, you may encounter problems that may seem difficult but, are in fact easy to sort out. For instance, your bobbin could be in backwards. Or, you are encountering jammed thread because you missed a thread guide. These quick tips cannot hope to cover the whole range of problems that you might come up against, but will hopefully provide a few pointers to solving the most common issues you'll face.

The Thread Loops on the Underside or Topside of the Fabric

Pro tip: Problems with your seam are the opposite of what you might think. If the thread is looping on the underside of your seam, re-check the upper threading on your machine. The thread may not be correctly seated in the thread guides or has come out of the Take Up lever.

Conversely, if the thread is looping on top, make sure the bobbin thread is coming off the bobbin counterclockwise and that the thread is securely threaded in the bobbin tension guide.

Machine or Needle is Jammed

Using scissors, carefully cut away thread above and below your fabric. Gently pull the fabric away from the presser foot area, while making slight turns on the hand wheel to raise the needle.

Inspect the needle to make sure it isn't bent. If so, replace it. Before re-threading the needle, turn the hand wheel toward you, making sure that there isn't any more thread or fabric in the feed dogs or in the bobbin area.

Machine Won't Turn On

Check to make sure that the cord plugged into the wall.

Check to make sure that the power cord is plugged into the sewing machine. For more detailed instructions see page 4 in your Instruction Manual.

For general troubleshooting tips, see page 32 in your Instruction Manual.