

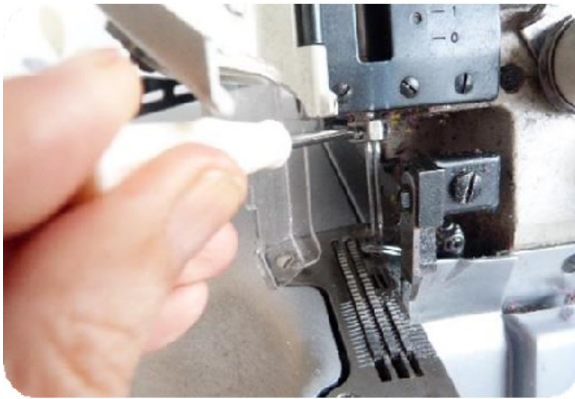
Lesson 2.10 Overlocker: Change Needle

You may have the responsibility to change blunt or damaged needles on the overlocker. First check if there is a needle procedure in place that must be followed, then check the needle type and size required.

The needle type and size required will vary depending on the machine make and model, the fabric to be sewn and the product being made. (See Lesson 2.11 for more information)

This needle changing guide refers to needle installation on a standard 5 thread Brother MA4 -B551 (twin needle)

- 1.** Switch off machine, run out power if required and clear thread from needle area
- 2.** Release the presser foot, swing to the left and open Perspex eye guard to clear access to the needle



3. Position the needles at the highest point using the balance wheel

4. Use a small screwdriver to loosen the screw set within the needle bar, just enough to release the needle (try not to take out screw)

5. Remove the old needle from the needle bar. If the needle is broken and part of the shank remains in the needle bar after the screw is loosened, tap the bar with the handle of the screwdriver, it should fall out. Dispose of the needle following companies broken needle procedure.

6. Check the new needle – is it the correct Needle, type and size?

7. Check it is not damaged

8. Check the needle and thread compatibility, by threading the needle with a short length of thread. Hold the thread taut at each end in vertical position. The needle should spin slowly down and around the thread. If it slides slowly down and around the thread. If it slides too quickly or does not slide at all, try a different size needle or select another thread.



9. Locate the long groove on the needle

10. Position the needle with the long groove to the front and short indent to the back (the eye faces the front, **not the side as on a lockstitch machine**)

- 11.** Insert the needle as high as possible into the needle bar
- 12.** Tighten the needle bar screw
- 13.** Check the needle position by lowering the needle slowly using the balance wheel
- 14.** Thread the needles and test sew on scrap fabric, if the needle is positioned correctly, there will be no skipped stitches and no unexpected noises

See more on overlocker needle change by watching the video below:



Unit 2.9 Overlocker Maintenance

<https://vimeo.com/580211082>

Knowledge Challenge 2.23

1. To change the overlocker needle you need to follow the right process. See the actions in the process listed below. Put the process in the right order from 1 to 10.
 - Switch off machine, run out power
 - Check the needle positions by lowering the needles slowly
 - Check the new needles
 - Thread the needles and test sew
 - Position and insert the new needles into the needle bar
 - Open Perspex eye guard to clear access to the needles
 - Remove the old needles from the needle bar
 - Position the needles at the highest point using the balance wheel
 - Release the presser foot, swing to the left
 - Tighten the needle bar screws

The next lesson is all about needle types, characteristics, and common needle problems.