



Lesson 2.12: Work aids and Machine Attachments







There are numerous different attachments from presser feet for specific jobs to table extensions and large attachments for ruffling





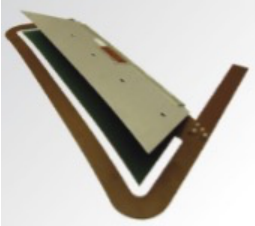

fabric. The most common work aids used in the stitching industry are listed below, along with details about what the work aid is and what it does. Production sewing machinists may use a variety of work aids or none, depending on the product being produced, the different processes required and the quality standard in place.




- Decrease production time
- Improve the quality of the product
- Reduce the direct workload
- Reduce handling time
- Create consistent quality
- Produce special effects i.e., ruffling or pleating

There are numerous different attachments from presser feet for specific jobs to table extensions and large attachments for ruffling fabric. The most common work aids used in the stitching industry are listed below, along with details about what the work aid is and what it does.

Production sewing machinists may use a variety of work aids or none, depending on the product being produced, the different processes required and the quality standard in place.

Attachment		Used for...
Hem and Seam Guides		Used for consistent sewing at a determined distance from edge of fabric
Folder		Numerous types available. used to fold fabric into the desired configuration for sewing
Compensating Foot		Presser foot with two sections, each section performs at different heights with the help of a spring, used for sewing thick fabrics layers
Slack Feeder		To help feed and attach lace, braids, tape or elastic at the correct tension
Piping Foot		Used for attaching piped trimmings, allowing close stitching to the piping
Gathering Foot		Used for gathering fabric evenly as it stitches

Teflon Foot		Used to sew sticky, difficult fabrics, helping to keep them moving easily whilst stitching
Compressed Air		Used to clean machines and remove curling from fabrics, specially knitted fabrics
Walking Foot		Used to stitch heavy, sticky materials i.e. leather, pvc helping to keep them moving easily whilst stitching
Stacker		Used to organise and shift products from one machine to the next
Stitching Jig		Used for joining small parts of ie collar and cuff in uniform, consistent way
Automatic Thread Cutter		Set within the sewing machine to cut thread at a regular distance

Single Turn Hemmer		Used to sew straight even hem width (available in double turn)
Zipper Foot		To enable close sewing to zipper teeth when attaching zips
Needle Cooler		The Needle Cooler help avoid needle breakages and thread burn when working at high speed. The cooler delivers a continuous adjustable stream of cold air onto any sewing machine needle.

Watch the video by Trefacraft below for a tutorial of standard presser feet used in industry.



 YouTube^{GB}

Search



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMliavLbEGU
&t=9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMliavLbEGU&t=9s)

Knowledge Challenge 2.30

1. Draw a line to match up the work aids/attachments listed below to the job they are designed to do.

Work aids/attachment	Job
Slack feeder	Used to help keep sticky materials moving easily whilst stitching
Single turn hemmer	Used to feed and attach lace, braids, tape or elastic at the right tension
Compensating foot	Used to fold fabric as required for sewing
Folder	Used to keep hems even and straight whilst sewing
Gathering foot	Used to help sew thick, uneven fabric layers
Walking foot	Used to gather fabric evenly as the machine stitches



GROUNDWORK: Completing this groundwork is an option, it will help you to gain better knowledge of the processes and machines used to make a product. For those undertaking an apprenticeship these activities will help you gather information relevant to the End Point Assessment.

Note: For those learners, who are independent and not yet working as an employed production sewing machinist, alternative recommendations are included.

Depending on the sub sector you work in and the products you make, the use of work aids and attachment will vary. As a production sewing machinist you may use different presser feet, folders, or hem guides. There may also be machines in your company that are set up with attachments permanently such as hemmers, rufflers or folders in bedding factories where long, even hems are required.

To complete this groundwork, look at the processes within your company and list the key attachments used. Take a photograph of each and note the purpose of the attachment (why it is used). Create a table as in the lesson above, specific to your company. This can include permanent attachments used in larger companies or the different work aids and attachments you use at your own machine.



Course completion and certification

Congratulations! You have completed the final challenge of Course 2, Industrial Sewing Machines and achieved certification.

Well done!

This course is part of the UKFT Production Sewing Machinist Programme. Your certificate validates the skills and knowledge you have gained, it will help secure employment in the fashion and textiles industry, can be utilised in your role if you are already employed or help advance your career in the industry.

Your tutor will download your certificate if you are working offline. If you are working online and have completed all the challenges correctly you can download the certificate yourself, to do this.

- Complete the last knowledge challenge >
 - click 'back to course lesson'>
 - click 'back to course' >
 - click 'download certificate'.

We appreciate your feedback

We would appreciate your feedback and opinion. To this end, please complete the short evaluation survey below and add general comments that may help improve the content and course delivery

1. The course, as a whole was:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very Poor

2. The course content was:

- ☐ Relevant to the production sewing machinist job role
- ☐ Partly relevant to the production sewing machinist job role
- ☐ Not relevant to the production sewing machinist job role

3. The explanations, examples, videos, illustrations etc were:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Good, Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very Poor

4. The skills and knowledge challenges where:

- ☐ Too Easy
- ☐ Just right
- ☐ Too difficult

5. Did you complete any Groundwork exercises?

- ☐ Yes

- ☐ No

6. If yes, where they?

- ☐ Interesting and useful
- ☐ Not interesting or very useful

Can you recommend any improvements to the course that may help future learners?

Thank you, we appreciate your feedback. It will help us improve future course content and the learning experience. If you are completing the course offline. Please hand the survey into your tutor: