

Lesson 2.9 Overlocker: Machine Maintenance



The overlocker machine cuts as it sews and as result can become clogged up and dirty quickly. This can affect the performance of the machine. To keep your machine in good working order. The general rules of maintenance are below. Before carrying

out any machines maintenance check with **your** level of responsibility with your supervisor/manager.

Cleaning the overlocker

To clean the machine you will need, a small stiff brush, a small screwdriver or alen key, tweezers, a small oil and dispenser, a cloth, you may also need new needles.



Turn the machine off and run out any excess power (if necessary), open the machine covers fully, to reveal the loopers and lower mechanism and follow the instructions below:



- 1.** Brush around the lower loopers and blade to remove all the lint build up
- 2.** Brush/wipe the internal surfaces of the machine
- 3.** Brush the upper tension discs, needle bar and thread guide to remove debris
- 4.** Wipe external surface of the machine and work area
- 5.** Report dull, blunt, ineffective knives, do not attempt to change the knife yourself.

Knowledge Challenge 2.21

When cleaning your industrial overlocker, you will need specific cleaning tools and equipment. From the list below identify four key cleaning tools

- Mop
- Small stiff brush
- Small screwdriver
- Tissue
- Tweezers
- Cloth
- Sponge

Oiling the Overlocker

It is very important to ensure the machine is well oiled, if the machine runs dry, the parts wear more quickly which means the working life of the machine will be shorter, also worn parts make the machine louder and stitches will not form as consistently. It may be your responsibility, to apply oil or to call a mechanic when the machine needs oil. You need to be able to recognise where and when the machine needs to be oiled.

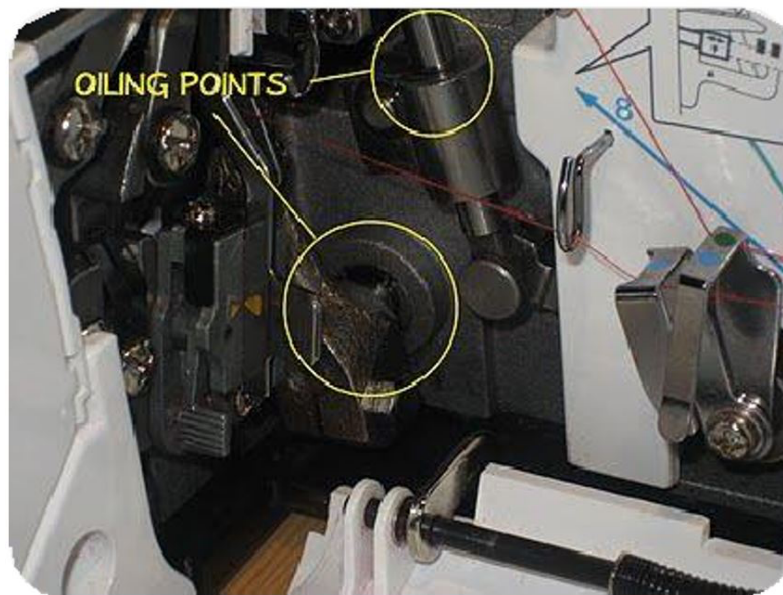
To do this, check the oil gauge is on your machine, location varies across different models. Also learn to listen to the machine, if it starts to get louder the machine needs oil, but please note keeping your machine maintained will mean it should not get to this damaging stage.



The oil gauge on this overlocker is top right of the machine, the indicator within this gauge should be halfway between the upper limit line and the lower limit line, if lower this indicates low oil.

Caution: Do not to exceed the upper red marker line this will cause excessive lubrication and contaminate products

If it is your responsibility to oil the machine, apply 2 or 3 drops of oil to the needle bar and upper looper guide as required. The lower mechanism may need oiling also, if this is the case the most common oiling points are highlighted below:



Also check oil instructions for the make and model of your machine and ensure COSH regulations are adhered to.

Wipe all surfaces thoroughly to ensure no excess oil contaminates products

Watch the video below to see more on how to clean your overlocker.



Unit 2.9 Overlocker Maintenance

<https://vimeo.com/580208036/a57626c086>



Knowledge Challenge 2.22

1. Keeping your machine well-oiled is essential, what happens if the machine is not oiled regularly and is left to run dry of oil.

The machine stops stitching

- The machine will seize up and wear out quickly
- The machine stitches do not form as consistently
- The machine will not turn on

Now let's look at changing needles on an overlocker