

The Fabulous Four

When you are sewing and you run into difficulties with thread breakage, shredding or general overall trouble, there are four main points to check. If you do this quick check, in this order, 95% of the time your difficulties will

1. Thread delivery

- Starting at your spool, follow the thread path through the entire machine. Is your machine threaded properly?
- Are you using a spool or cone? Cone threads should ALWAYS come off the top.
- Some straight wound spools may come off the side vs. pulled from the top. Try flipping the spool over so that it delivers from the opposite end OR from the front of the spool vs. the back of the spool.

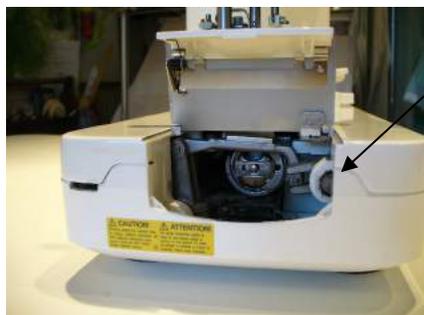
2. Tension

- Follow the thread path down to the tension disk or check your computerized pre-set tension. Do you have the proper tension for the thread you are using? Remember that decorative threads require a very loose tension!
- Remember to have your presser foot UP while threading the machine.



3. Needle

- Follow the thread path down to your needle. Do you have the correct needle for the type of thread you are using? Decorative threads usually perform best with a Topstitch or Metallic 90/14 needle.
- Do you have the correct needle for the type of fabric you are sewing on?
- Have you changed your needle recently? If not, do so.
- If you have changed the needle but the thread is shredding, change the needle again. You may have a burr in the eye of the needle.



4. Bobbin/Cleaning

- Pull out your bobbin and check to see if it is wound properly, i.e., a tight flat wind.
- If using a decorative thread on top, are you using a smooth polyester thread in the bobbin?
- Is the bobbin case area clean? If not, get rid of the dust bunnies, threads, and lint in and around the bobbin case.
- Last but not least, when was the last time you had your machine serviced? If it's been a while, make an appointment for its yearly check up.

Written by Cindy Needham. May be duplicated with permission!

Email: linenqltr@comcast.net