9. REGULATING PRESSURE

The pressure dial regulates the pressure that the presser foot exerts on the fabric. Correct pressure is important because it means fabric feeds smoothly and evenly. The NORM (normal) setting is an all-purpose setting, which you will use for most of your sewing. The firm, gentle pressure it provides lets you sew a wide variety of fabrics of different weight and texture. The MAX (maximum) setting is used when you need extra control to sew very heavy fabric.

*Lower the presser foot before setting pressure*

- To increase pressure, turn dial from NORM to MAX.
- To decrease pressure, turn dial from MAX to NORM.
- For darning, turn dial to DARN, which releases pressure and permits darning.

10. REGULATING NEEDLE-THREAD TENSION

The needle-thread tension dial regulates the degree of tension on your needle thread and lets you select just the right setting for your stitch, thread, and fabric. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ symbols indicate approximate zig-zag and straight stitch tension ranges. The numbers eliminate guesswork in duplicating exact settings.

Correct tension is important because too much or too little will weaken your seams or mar the appearance of decorative work. To determine correct tension setting, make a test on a sample of your fabric. If the fabric puckers, decrease tension. If the stitches look loose, increase tension. (For detailed instructions on adjusting zig-zag stitch tension, see page 29.)

- To increase tension, turn to higher number.
- To decrease tension, turn to lower number.

**NOTE:** This dial governs needle-thread tension only. Bobbin-thread tension has been correctly set at the factory, and you do not need to adjust it.