2. STRAIGHT STITCHING

preparation

SELECTING NEEDLE AND THREAD

The needle and thread you choose will depend upon the fabric to be stitched. The needle should be fine enough to prevent the fabric from being marred with large punctures, yet heavy enough to pierce the fabric without being bent or deflected. Remember, too, that the eye of the needle must be large enough for the thread to pass through it freely: too fine a needle will cause the thread to fray.

The table below is a practical guide to needle and thread selection. Refer to it before starting a sewing project. Be sure to use the same size and type of thread in both needle and bobbin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FABRIC</th>
<th>THREAD SIZES</th>
<th>NEEDLE SIZES</th>
<th>STITCH LENGTH SETTING</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| DELICATE - tulle, chiffon, fine lace, silk, organdy | Fine mercerized cotton  
Fine synthetic thread | 9**            | 15 to 20              |
| LIGHTWEIGHT - batiste, organdy, jersey, voile, taffeta, silk, crepe, chiffon velvet, plastic film | 50 mercerized cotton  
“A” silk Synthetic thread | 11              | 12 to 15 (8 to 10 for plastic) |
| MEDIUM WEIGHT - gingham, percale, pique, linen, chintz, faille, satin, fine corduroy, velvet, suitings, stretch fabric, knits | 50 mercerized cotton  
60 cotton  
“A” silk Synthetic thread | 14              | 12 to 15              |
| MEDIUM HEAVY - gabardine, tweed, sailcloth, denim, coatings, drapery fabrics | Heavy-duty mercerized cotton  
40 to 60 cotton Synthetic thread | 16              | 10 to 12              |
| HEAVY - overcoatings, dungaree, upholstery fabrics, canvas | Heavy-duty mercerized cotton  
24 to 40 cotton | 18              | 6 to 10               |
| ALL WEIGHS - decorative top stitching | “D” silk**  
(Buttonhole twist) | 18              | 6 to 12               |

† Does not apply to chainstitching
** Size 9 needle recommended for sewing only. For bobbin winding, use larger size needle
*** Use with 50 mercerized cotton or “A” silk in bobbin