

**Simplicity**<sup>®</sup>  
Sewing Machines

# Let's Get STARTED!

**Americana Series**  
**AMERICAN DENIM Model SA1100**

*Use This Guide First*

To help you get started using your new sewing machine, this booklet shows you, step-by-step, how to thread your machine and how to set the dials for straight stitching. Practice threading and sewing a straight stitch first. When you are familiar with your machine, refer to the instruction manual (packed with your machine) for additional operating instructions.

Simplicity Sewing Machine  
Education Helpline: 636-651-0030

# 1

## Winding the Bobbin

For best sewing results, use a top quality, long staple, polyester or poly/cotton thread for all-purpose sewing. Skipped stitches, broken threads, and poor stitch quality are often a result of using old or inferior thread. Use the same type of thread for both upper and lower threading for a consistent stitch quality.

1. To release the clutch for bobbin winding, pull out the handwheel until it clicks [Fig. 1].
2. Place a spool of thread on the spool pin and bring the thread around the bobbin winding tension disc as shown [Fig. 2].
3. Place the thread end through a small hole in the bobbin from the inside to the outside [Fig. 3].
4. Place the bobbin on the bobbinwinder spindle matching the small groove on the bobbin with the spring on the spindle [Fig. 4]. Push the spindle to the right [Fig. 5].
5. Hold the end of the thread [Fig. 6] and depress the foot control [Fig. 7]. When the thread has wound on the bobbin several times, stop the machine and clip the thread end close to the hole in the bobbin [Fig. 8]. Depress the foot control again to continue winding the bobbin.
6. When the bobbin is fully wound, stop the machine. Push the bobbinwinder spindle to the left, clip the thread and remove the bobbin [Fig. 9].
7. Reengage the clutch by pushing the handwheel until it clicks into place [Fig. 10].

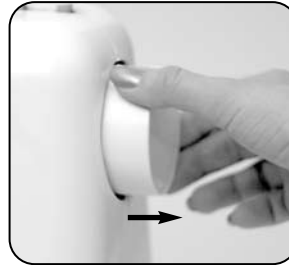


Fig. 1

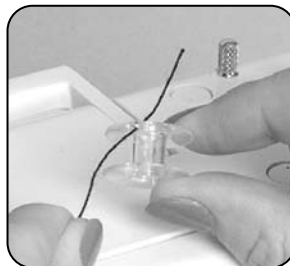
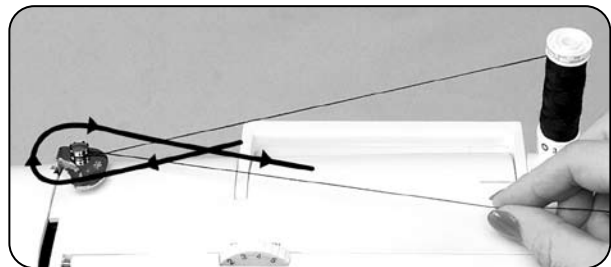


Fig. 3

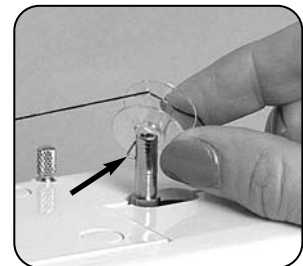


Fig. 4

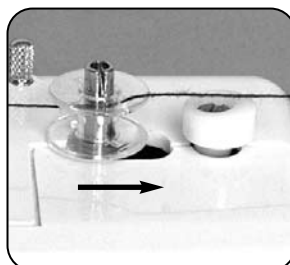


Fig. 5

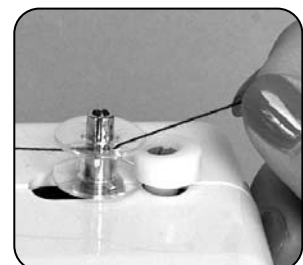


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

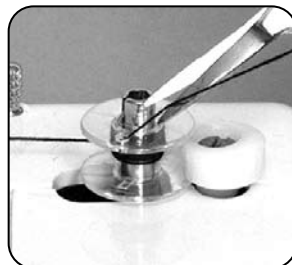


Fig. 8

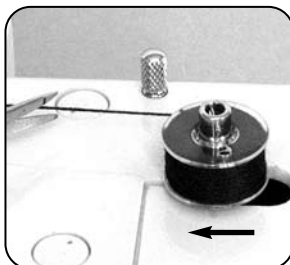


Fig. 9

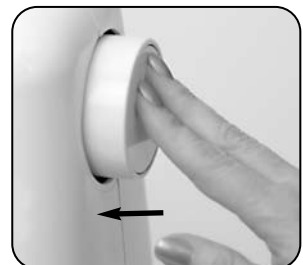


Fig. 10

# 2

## Threading the Bobbin Case

Correctly placing the bobbin in the bobbin case is necessary for a proper stitch to be formed. Double-check this step before placing the bobbin case into the machine.

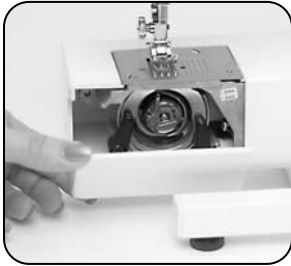


Fig. 1

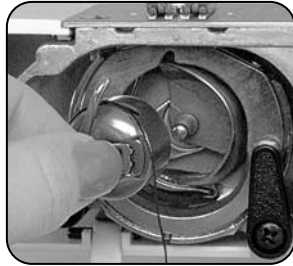


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

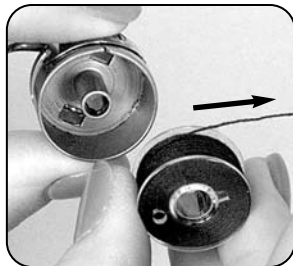


Fig. 4

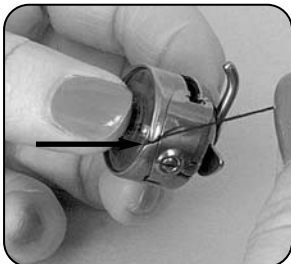


Fig. 5

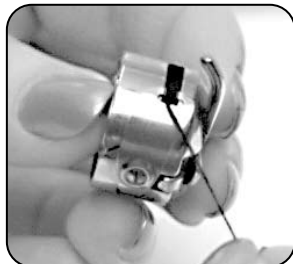


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

### Removing the bobbin from the bobbin case:

1. Turn the handwheel toward you to raise the needle to its highest position.
2. Remove the free-arm cover and open the bobbin cover [Fig. 1].
3. Open the hinged latch of the bobbin case and pull the bobbin case out of the machine [Fig. 2].
4. Release the latch to remove the bobbin [Fig. 3].

### Inserting a new bobbin:

1. Hold the bobbin case in your left hand. Hold the filled bobbin in your right hand [Fig. 4]. Unwind about six inches of thread, making certain the thread unwinds over the top of the bobbin as illustrated. Place the bobbin in the bobbin case.
2. With the bobbin in the bobbin case, pull the thread into the slot on the edge of the bobbin case [Fig. 5].
3. Pull the thread under the tension spring and into the thread outlet [Fig. 6]. Leave about six inches of thread extending from the bobbin case.

*Note:* It's important to be sure the bobbin is turning **CLOCKWISE** [Fig. 7] as you pull thread from the bobbin case. If it is turning counterclockwise, remove the bobbin from the case, turn the bobbin over, place it back into the case, and rethread the bobbin case.

# 3

## *Inserting Bobbin Case into the Machine*

After inserting the bobbin case into the machine, be sure the bobbin thread (about six inches) falls loose from the bobbin case and is not caught or tangled in any way.

### **Placing the bobbin case into the shuttle:**

1. Open the latch of the bobbin case and hold it with the long finger pointing upward [Fig. 8]. Place the bobbin case over the pin of the shuttle aligning the long finger with the notch at the top of the shuttle [Fig. 9].
2. Release the latch and push the bobbin case firmly into place [Fig. 10]. Close the bobbin cover.

*Note:* Be sure the bobbin thread (about six inches) falls loose from the bobbin case and is not caught or tangled in any way.



Fig. 1

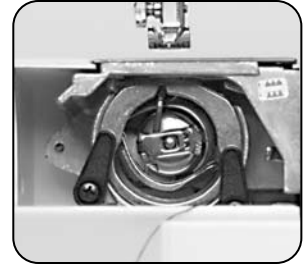


Fig. 2

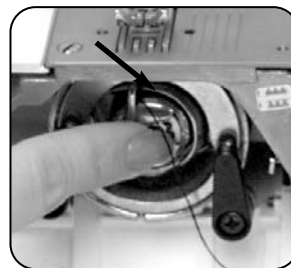
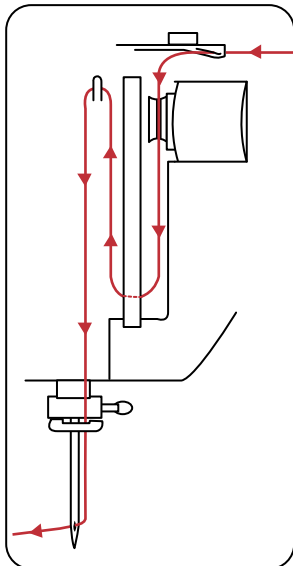


Fig. 3

# 4

## Threading the Machine

It's very important to make sure the presser foot is raised when threading the upper thread path. This opens the tension discs allowing the thread to fall between them. When you lower the foot to begin sewing, the right amount of tension will be applied to the upper thread.



Threading Diagram

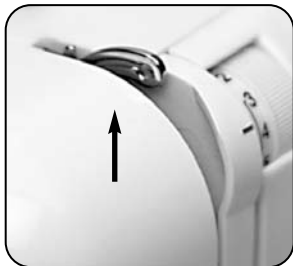


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

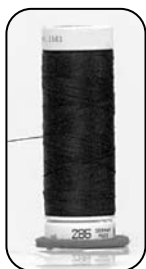


Fig. 3

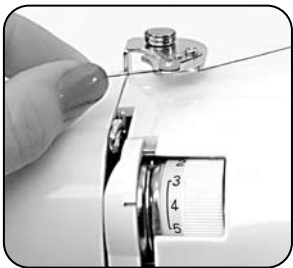


Fig. 4

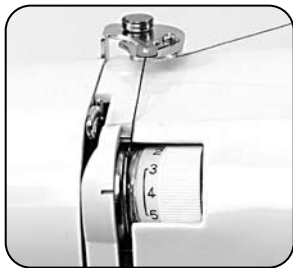


Fig. 5

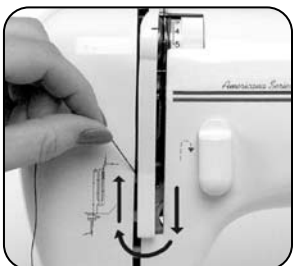


Fig. 6

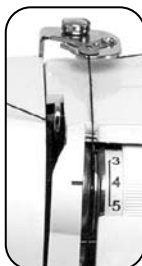


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

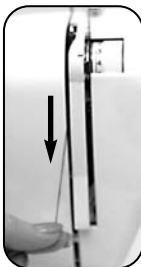


Fig. 9

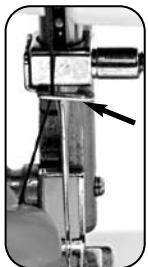


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

1. Turn the handwheel toward you to raise the take-up lever to its highest position [Fig. 1].
2. Raise the presser foot to release the thread tension [Fig. 2].
3. Place felt cushion on spool pin. Place a spool of thread on the spool pin with the thread coming from the back of the spool [Fig. 3].
4. Snap the thread into the first thread guide at the top of the machine [Fig. 4].
5. Bring the thread down between the tension discs [Fig. 5].
6. Bring the thread down the right slot of the threading path, then across to and up the left slot [Fig. 6].
7. Bring the thread through the take-up lever from right to left [Fig. 7], making sure the thread falls into the take-up lever slot [Fig. 8].
8. Bring the thread back down the left slot of the threading path [Fig. 9] and into the thread guide above the needle [Fig. 10].
9. Thread the needle eye from front to back [Fig. 11]. (Clip the thread end with sharp scissors for easier needle threading.)

# 5

## Raising the Lower Thread

When manually turning the handwheel, ALWAYS turn it toward you – NEVER backward.

1. Make sure the presser foot lever is raised.
2. Hold the end of the needle thread with your left hand. Turn the hand wheel toward you with your right hand until the needle goes down once and comes back up, stopping when the needle is at its highest position.
3. Gently pull up on the needle thread [Fig. 1]. The bobbin thread, looped around the needle thread, will be drawn up through the needle hole.
4. Pull about six inches of both the upper and lower threads toward the back of the machine, placing them under the presser foot [Fig. 2].

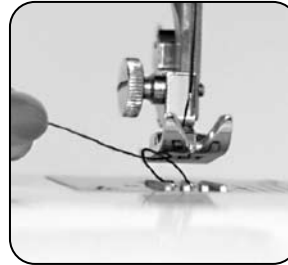


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

# 6

## Setting the Control Dials

Each built-in stitch can be customized for specific sewing needs by making stitch length and stitch width adjustments. The machine is color-coded for easy stitch length and width selection.

### STITCH SELECTOR DIAL [Fig. 1]

To select a stitch, turn the stitch selector dial to align the stitch desired with the indicator dot. The stitches are color-coded to correspond with the stitch length dial. Select a stitch, then set the stitch length within the color range. These color ranges are guidelines and may vary for some sewing techniques.

### STITCH WIDTH DIAL [Fig. 2]

The stitch width dial is numbered 0 - 5, representing the various stitch widths in millimeters. The higher the number, the wider the stitch. The yellow color-coding between 3 and 5 represent the width range for making buttonholes.

To select a stitch width turn the dial until the desired width setting is aligned with the indicator dot.

### STITCH LENGTH DIAL [Fig. 3]

The stitch length dial is numbered 0 - 4 representing the various stitch lengths in millimeters. The higher the number, the longer the stitch.

To select a stitch length turn the dial until the desired length setting is aligned with the indicator dot.

When set at 0 the fabric will not feed under the foot.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

# 7

## Starting to Sew

Several synchronized parts of the sewing machine interact to form a stitch. The needle moves up and down as the shuttle spins in perfect time so that the bobbin thread interlocks with the needle thread through the layers of fabric. To maintain this perfectly tuned timing, here are a few sewing tips you'll want to follow:

### SEWING TIPS

- Always begin sewing with the needle in the highest position. Always place the needle in the highest position at the end of a seam before removing the fabric from the machine.
- Always turn the handwheel toward you, not away from you. Never “rock” the handwheel.
- Be sure to lower the presser foot before sewing to engage the tension discs for perfect stitch balance. This is an easy step to miss when sewing extra thick fabrics.
- Gently guide the fabric as you sew; never push or pull the fabric under the needle.
- Don't sew over pins. Simply remove the pins as they approach the needle. Sewing over pins can damage your machine, nick the needle or cause personal injury.
- Use the proper needle/thread/fabric combination. See chart on page 15 of the instruction book..

### BEGINNING TO SEW

1. Select a stitch. Make the appropriate stitch width and length adjustments.
2. Turn the hand wheel toward you to raise the needle to its highest position.
3. Raise the presser foot and pull about six inches of thread to the back of the machine and under the presser foot.
4. Place the fabric under the presser foot aligning the cut edge of the fabric with the seam guide marking on the needle plate. Position the fabric so the needle is about 3/8" from the beginning fabric edge [Fig. 1].
5. Lower the presser foot and depress the foot controller to begin sewing. The sewing speed is determined by the amount of pressure you apply to the foot controller.
6. To secure the beginning of a seam, take 3-4 stitches forward, then push down and hold the reverse lever to take 3-4 stitches in reverse.
7. Release the lever and continue sewing forward at a consistent speed while guiding the fabric along the seam guide marking.
8. At the end of the seam, press and hold the reverse lever to take 3-4 backstitches to secure the seam end.
9. Before removing the fabric raise the needle to the highest position [Fig. 2].
10. Raise the presser foot and gently pull the fabric to the left, releasing at least six inches of thread from needle and bobbin [Fig. 3].
11. Use the thread cutter on the back of the presser foot bar to cut both threads close to the fabric [Fig. 4].

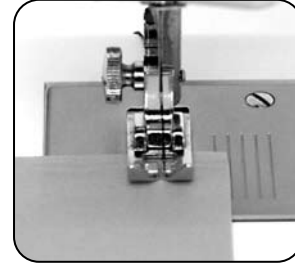


Fig. 1

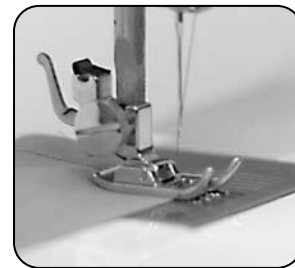


Fig. 2

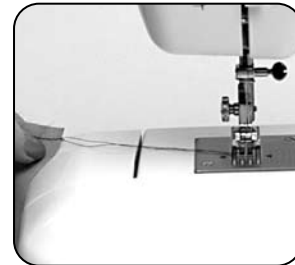


Fig. 3

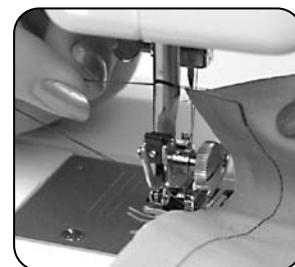


Fig. 4

# Stitch Functions

| STITCH FUNCTION                | PATTERN | LENGTH | WIDTH | PRESSER FOOT | DROP FEED |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 Seaming                      | A       | 3      | 0     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 2 Basting                      | A       | 4      | 0     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 3 Topstitching/Edgestitching   | A       | 3      | 0     | Blind Hem    | Up        |
| 4 Gathering                    | A       | 4      | 0     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 5 Zipper insertion             | A       | 3      | 0     | Zipper       | Up        |
| 6 Piping insertion             | A       | 4      | 0     | Zipper       | Up        |
| 7 Overedging                   | A       | 2      | 3-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 8 Bartacking                   | A       | N/A    | 4-5   | All-purpose  | Down      |
| 9 Satin stitch appliqué        | A       | .5-1   | 3-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 10 Attaching buttons           | A       | N/A    | 5     | Button       | Down      |
| 11 Seaming knits               | A       | 2-3    | 2     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 12 Blind hemming               | B       | 4      | 3-5   | Blind Hem    | Up        |
| 13 Overcasting                 | C       | 1.5-2  | 3-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 14 Mending                     | C       | .5-1.5 | 3-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 15 Attaching elastic           | C       | 3-4    | 3-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 16 Seaming nylon tricot        | D       | 1-3    | 3-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 17 Decorative picot hem        | D       | 4      | 5     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 18 Seaming bias curves         | E       | 3-4    | 0     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 19 Triple topstitching         | E       | 3-4    | 0     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 20 Overcasting heavy fabrics   | E       | 2-3    | 3-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 21 Decorative rick rack        | E       | 2-4    | 3-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 22 Encasing elastic/ribbon     | F       | 4      | 5     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 23 Decorative flat fell seams  | F       | 3-4    | 5     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 24 Ribbon attaching            | G       | 3-4    | 4-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 25 Mock smocking               | G       | 3-4    | 4-5   | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 26 Attaching rib trim          | H       | 3-4    | 5     | All-purpose  | Up        |
| 27 Buttonholes                 |         | .5-1   | 3-5   | Buttonhole   | Up        |
| 28 Free-motion monogramming    | A       | N/A    | 4-5   | None         | Down      |
| 29 Free-motion quilting        | A       | N/A    | 0     | None         | Down      |
| 30 Darning                     | A       | N/A    | 3-5   | None         | Down      |
| 31 Seaming sheer fabrics       | A       | 2-2.5  | 0     | Straight     | Up        |
| 32 Patchwork piecing           | A       | 2-2.5  | 0     | Straight     | Up        |
| 33 Sewing specialty synthetics | Any     | 1-5    | .5-4  | Roller       | Up        |
| 34 Sewing with two threads     | Any     | 1.5-4  | 0-5   | Any          | Up        |
| 35 Sewing dense fabrics        | A       | 3-4    | 0     | All-purpose  | Up        |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| A  |  |
| B  |  |
| C  |  |
| D  |  |
| E  |  |
| F  |  |
| G  |  |
| H  |  |
| B<br>U<br>T<br>T<br>O<br>N<br>H<br>O<br>L<br>E |  |

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