

SEWING MACHINE NEEDLE SIZE CHART

A printable beginner reference | [Sweet Sewing Patterns](#)

1 | Needle size at a glance

Size	Blade diameter	Typical fabric weight / use
60/8	0.60 mm	Very fine / sheer fabrics
70/10	0.70 mm	Lightweight woven fabrics
75/11	0.75 mm	Light-medium; some stretch needles
80/12	0.80 mm	Medium-weight cottons and many beginner projects
90/14	0.90 mm	Medium-heavy wovens and heavier knits
100/16	1.00 mm	Heavy denim, canvas and thicker seams
110/18	1.10 mm	Very heavy materials; check machine compatibility
120/19	1.20 mm	Extra heavy; not supported by every home machine

2 | Match needle TYPE to fabric

Needle type	Good starting use	Common size example
Universal	Many woven fabrics; quilting cotton / poplin	80/12
Ballpoint / Jersey	Jersey, interlock and many other knits	70/10 - 80/12
Stretch	Highly elastic knits with spandex / Lycra	75/11 or 90/14
Jeans / Denim	Dense denim, twill and canvas	90/14 - 100/16
Microtex / Sharp	Fine silk, microfiber and tightly woven fabric	60/8 - 80/12

3 | Before you sew

- ☐ Check your machine manual for the needle system and maximum size. ☐ Match needle type AND size to fabric and thread.
- ☐ Test on a scrap with the same number of layers. ☐ Never force thick fabric through your machine.

4 | Change the needle when...

Stitches skip, thread shreds, fabric snags, the needle makes unusual sounds, or the needle hits a pin. About 8 sewing hours or the start of a new project is a common manufacturer guideline, not a fixed rule.

Remember: Bigger metric numbers mean thicker needle blades. Needle TYPE matters just as much as size. These are general starting points - always follow your machine manual and test on scraps.