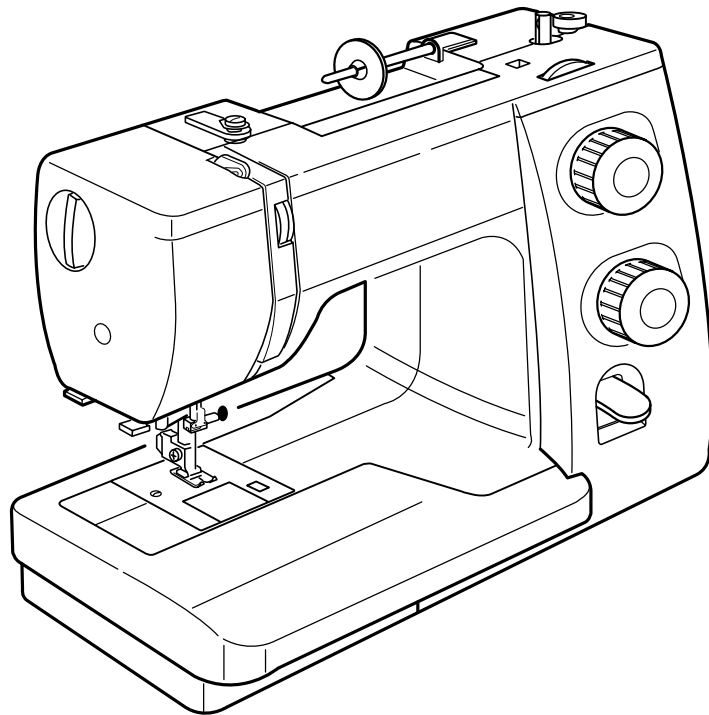


# INSTRUCTION BOOK



## Sewist 500

\*Please Note: This version is only a partial manual. Visit your local Janome Dealer for a full version.

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

When using an electrical appliance, basic safety precautions should always be followed, including the followings:

Read all instructions before using this appliance.

## **DANGER**— To reduce the risk of electric shock:

1. An appliance should never be left unattended when plugged in. Always unplug this sewing machine from the electric outlet immediately after using and before cleaning.
2. Always unplug before replacing a sewing machine bulb. Replace bulb with same type rated 15 Watts.

## **WARNING**— To reduce the risk of burns, fire, electric shock, or injury to persons:

1. Do not allow children to play with the machine. The machine is not intended for use by children or infirmed persons without proper supervision.  
Do not allow to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when this sewing machine is used by or near children.
2. Use this appliance only for its intended use as described in this owner's manual.  
Use only attachments recommended by the manufacturer as contained in this owner's manual.
3. Never operate this sewing machine if it has a damaged cord or plug, if it is not working properly, if it has been dropped or damaged, or dropped into water.  
Return this sewing machine to the nearest authorized dealer or service center for examination, repair, electrical or mechanical adjustment.
4. Never operate the appliance with any air opening blocked. Keep ventilation openings of this sewing machine and foot controller free from accumulation of lint, dust and loose cloth.
5. Never drop or insert any object into any opening.
6. Do not use outdoors.
7. Do not operate where aerosol (spray) products are being used or where oxygen is being administered.
8. To disconnect, turn all controls to the off ("O") position, then remove plug from outlet.
9. Do not unplug by pulling on cord. To unplug, grasp the plug, not the cord.
10. Keep fingers away from all moving parts. Special care is required around the sewing machine needle.
11. Always use the proper needle plate. The wrong plate can cause the needle to break.
12. Do not use bent needles.
13. Do not pull or push fabric while stitching. It may deflect the needle causing it to break.
14. Switch this sewing machine off ("O") when making any adjustment in the needle area, such as threading the needle, changing the needle, threading the bobbin or changing the presser foot, and the like.
15. Always unplug this sewing machine from the electrical outlet when removing covers, lubricating, or when making any other adjustments mentioned in this owner's manual.

## SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

The design and specifications are subject to change without a prior notice.

## **SECTION 1. KNOW YOUR MACHINE**

Names of Parts .....	2
Standard Accessories .....	3
Accessory storage .....	3
Extension Table .....	4
Free-arm sewing .....	4

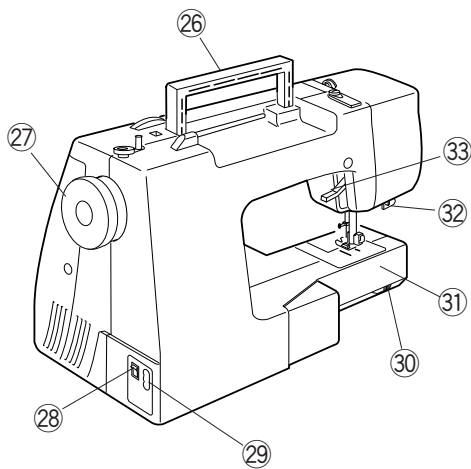
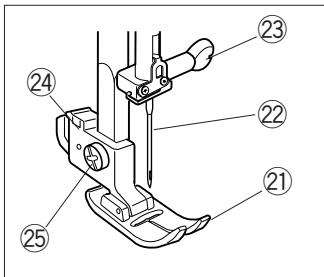
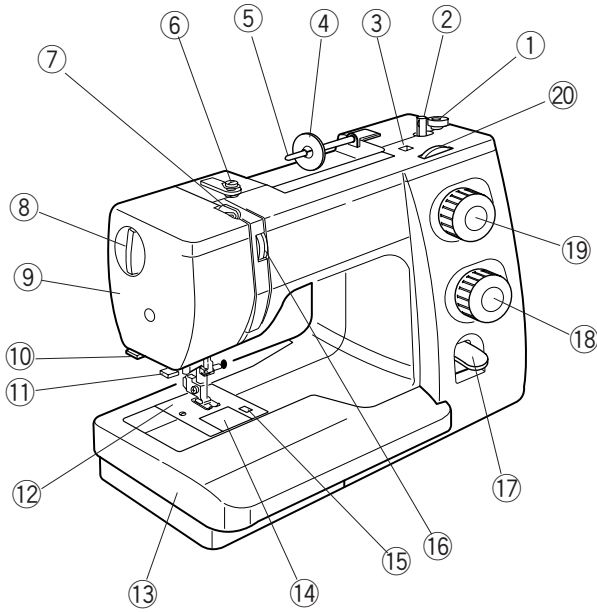
## **SECTION 2. GETTING READY TO SEW**

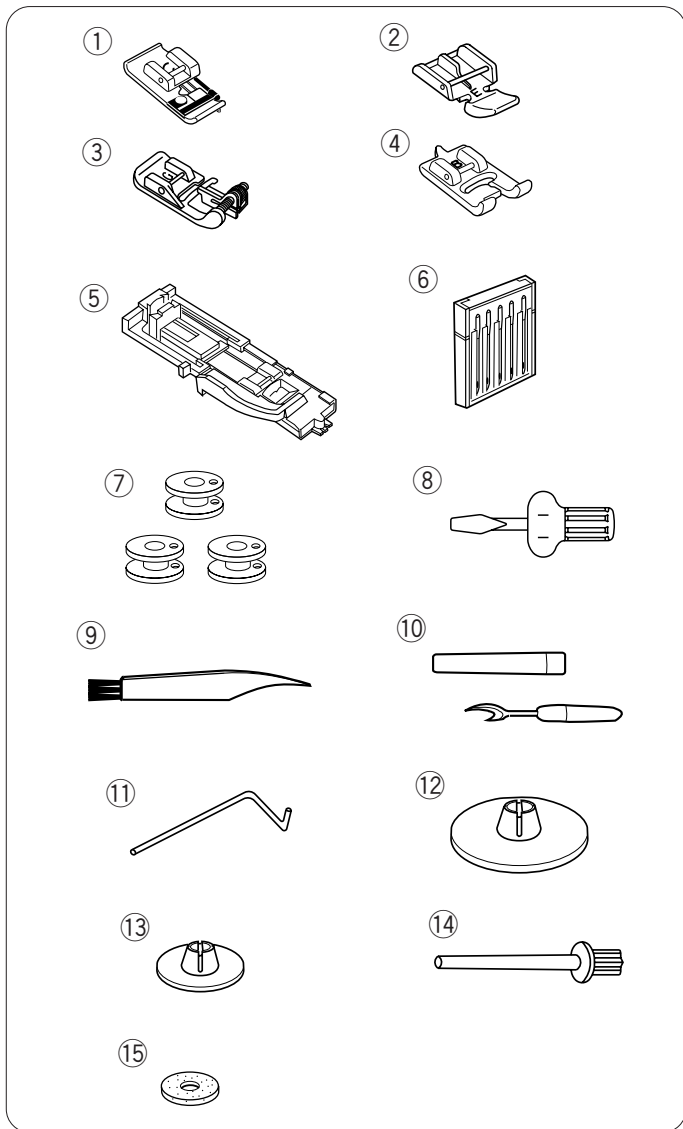
Connecting the Power Supply .....	5
Controlling the Sewing Speed .....	5
Reverse Stitch Lever .....	6
Foot Pressure Dial .....	6
Dropping the Feed Dog .....	6
Raising and Lowering the Presser Foot .....	7
Changing the Presser Foot .....	7
Removing and Attaching the Foot Holder .....	7
Changing Needles .....	8
Needle and Thread Chart .....	8
Winding the Bobbin .....	9
Setting the spool .....	9
Removing the bobbin .....	9
Winding the bobbin .....	10
Inserting the bobbin .....	11
Threading the Machine .....	12
Needle threader .....	13
Drawing up the Bobbin Thread .....	14
Selecting the Stitch Pattern .....	15
Pattern selector dial .....	15
Stitch Length Dial .....	15
Adjusting stretch stitch balance .....	16
Stitch Width Dial .....	16
Variable needle position .....	16
Balancing Needle Thread Tension .....	17

## SECTION 1. KNOW YOUR MACHINE

### Names of Parts

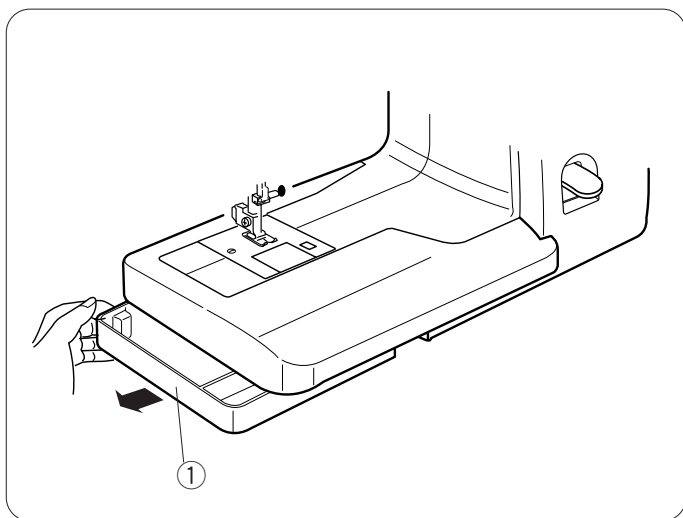
- ① Bobbin winder stopper
- ② Bobbin winder spindle
- ③ Hole for additional spool pin
- ④ Spool holder
- ⑤ Spool pin
- ⑥ Bobbin winder thread guide
- ⑦ Thread take-up lever
- ⑧ Foot pressure dial
- ⑨ Face plate
- ⑩ Thread cutter
- ⑪ Needle threader
- ⑫ Needle plate
- ⑬ Extension table (Accessory storage)
- ⑭ Hook cover plate
- ⑮ Hook cover plate release button
- ⑯ Thread tension dial
- ⑰ Reverse stitch lever
- ⑱ Stitch length dial
- ⑲ Pattern selector dial
- ⑳ Stitch width dial
- ㉑ Presser foot
- ㉒ Needle
- ㉓ Needle clamp screw
- ㉔ Foot holder
- ㉕ Setscrew
- ㉖ Carrying handle
- ㉗ Handwheel
- ㉘ Power switch
- ㉙ Machine socket
- ㉚ Drop feed lever
- ㉛ Free-arm
- ㉜ Buttonhole lever
- ㉝ Foot lifter





### Standard Accessories

- ① Overedge foot C
- ② Zipper foot E
- ③ Blind hemming foot G
- ④ Buttonhole foot B
- ⑤ Automatic buttonhole foot R
- ⑥ Needles
- ⑦ Bobbins
- ⑧ Screwdriver
- ⑨ Lint brush
- ⑩ Seam ripper (buttonhole opener)
- ⑪ Quilting guide
- ⑫ Spool holder (large)
- ⑬ Spool holder (small)
- ⑭ Additional spool pin
- ⑮ Felt cushion

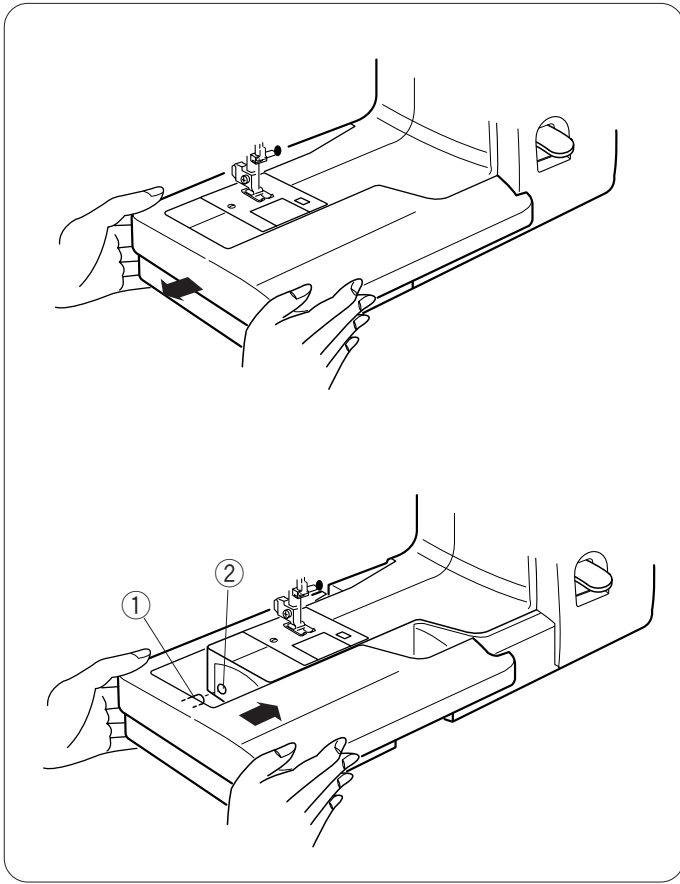


### Accessory storage

The standard accessories can be stored in the accessory storage box under the extension table.

Draw out the storage box from the table as shown.

- ① Accessory storage box



## Extension Table

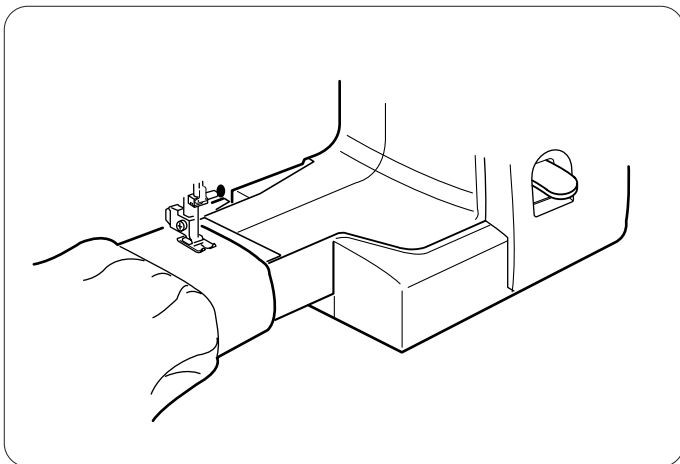
### To detach:

Pull the extension table to the left.

### To attach:

Insert the pin into the hole and push the extension table to snap it in place.

- ① Pin
- ② Hole



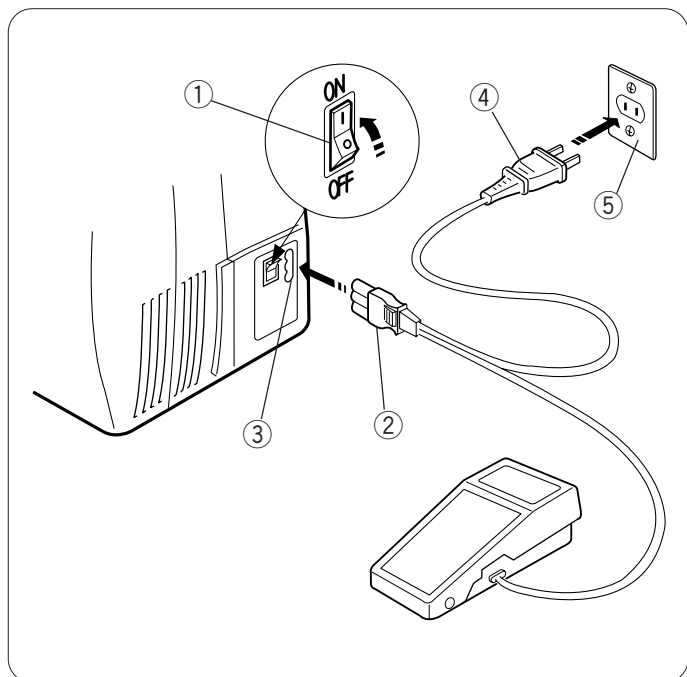
## Free-arm sewing

Free-arm sewing is used for stitching sleeves, waistbands, pant legs or any other tubular garments.

It is also useful for darning socks or mending knees or elbows.

## SECTION 2. GETTING READY TO SEW

### Connecting the Power Supply



- 1 Turn the power switch off.
- 2 Insert the machine plug into the machine socket.
- 3 Insert the power supply plug into the wall outlet.
- 4 Turn the power switch on.

- 1 Power switch
- 2 Machine plug
- 3 Machine socket
- 4 Power supply plug
- 5 Wall outlet

#### NOTE:

Before connecting to the power supply, make sure the voltage shown on the machine conforms to your electrical power.



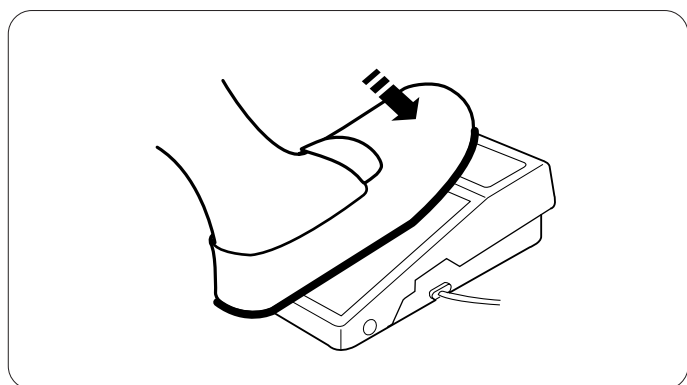
#### WARNING:

While in operation, always keep your eyes on the sewing area, and do not touch any moving parts such as the thread take-up lever, handwheel or needle.

Always turn off the power switch and unplug from the power supply:

- when leaving the machine unattended.
- when attaching or removing parts.
- when cleaning the machine.

Do not place anything on the foot control, otherwise the machine will run intermittently.



### Controlling the Sewing Speed

#### Foot control

Sewing speed can be varied by the foot control.

The harder you depress the foot control, the faster the machine runs.

### Operating Instructions:

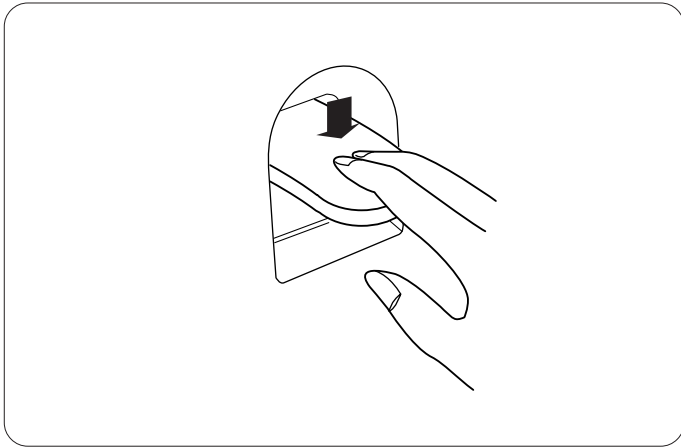
The symbol "O" of a switch indicates the "off" position of a switch.

For an appliance with a polarized plug (one blade wider than the other):

To reduce the risk of electrical shock, this plug is intended to fit in a polarized outlet only one way.

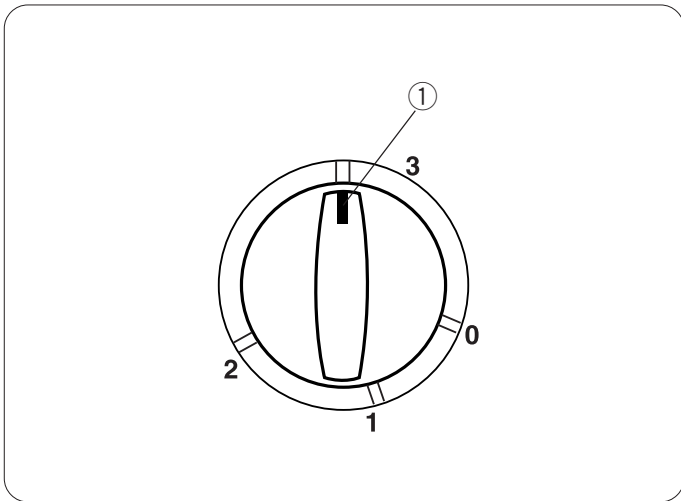
If it does not fit fully in the outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install the proper outlet. Do not modify the plug in any way.

The foot controller Model YC-482J or TJC-150 is used with the sewing machine Model 525S (USA market only).



### Reverse Stitch Lever

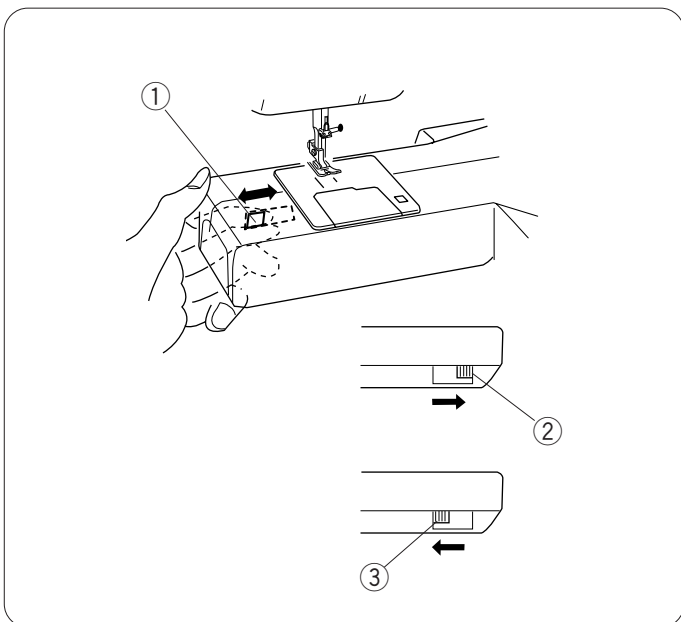
Push the reverse stitch lever down to sew in reverse. The machine will sew in reverse while the lever is pushed.



### Foot Pressure Dial

Turn the foot pressure dial to adjust the foot pressure. The foot pressure dial should be set at “3” for regular sewing. Reduce the pressure to “2” for appliqué, cutwork, draw work and basting. Set the setting mark at “1” when sewing chiffon, lace, organdy and other fine fabrics.

- ① Setting mark



### Dropping the Feed Dog

The drop feed lever is located underneath the free-arm bed on the backside of the machine.

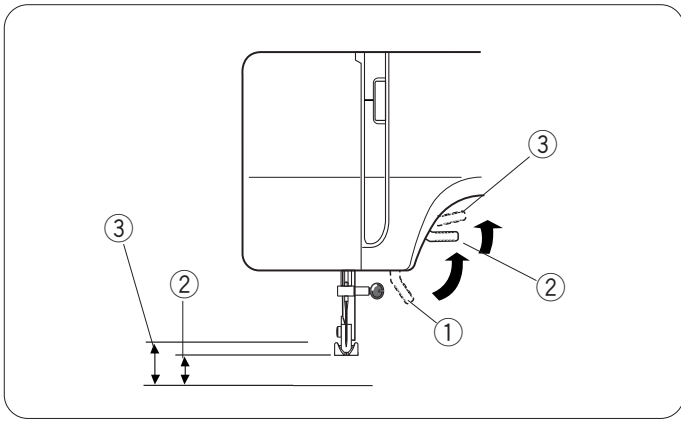
To drop the feed dog, push the lever in the direction of the arrow, as illustrated.

To raise the feed dog, push the lever in the direction of the arrow, as illustrated, and turn the handwheel toward you.

The feed dog must be up for regular sewing.

- ① Drop feed lever
- ② Raised position
- ③ Lowered position



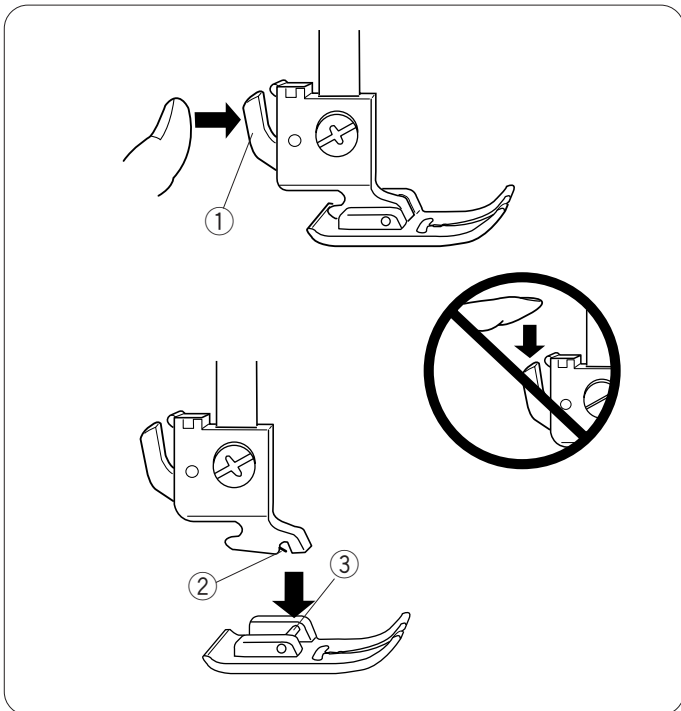


## Raising and Lowering the Presser Foot

The presser foot lifter raises and lowers the presser foot.

You can raise the foot about 1/4" (0.6 cm) higher than the normal up position for easy removal of the presser foot, or to help you place heavy fabric under the foot.

- ① Lowered position
- ② Normal up position
- ③ Extra up position



## Changing the Presser Foot

### To remove:

Raise the needle to its highest position by turning the handwheel counterclockwise. Raise the presser foot, and press the lever on the back of the foot holder.

- ① Lever

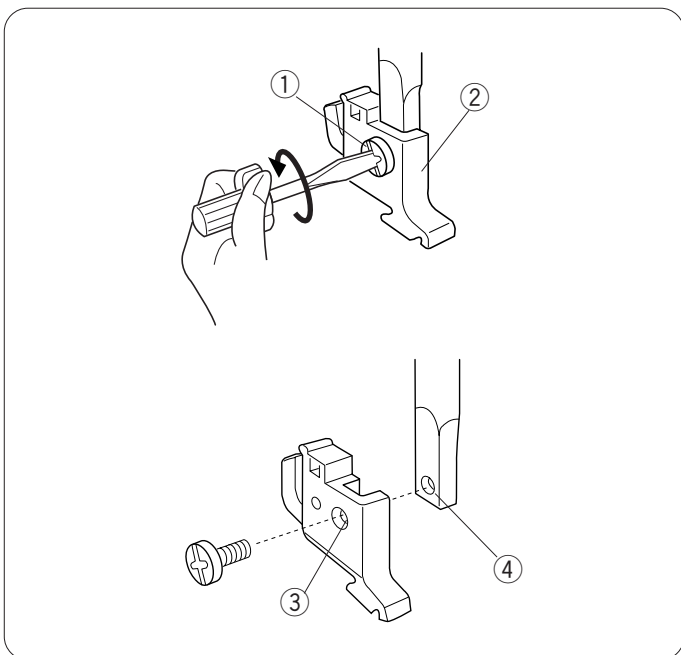
### ⚠ CAUTION:

Turn OFF the power switch before changing the foot. Always use the proper foot for the selected pattern. The wrong foot can cause the needle to break. Do not push the lever down to prevent it from being broken.

### To attach:

Place the desired presser foot, so that the pin on the foot lies just under the groove on the foot holder. Lower the presser foot lifter to lock the foot in place.

- ② Groove
- ③ Pin



## Removing and Attaching the Foot Holder

### ⚠ WARNING:

Turn OFF the power switch before detaching or attaching the foot holder.

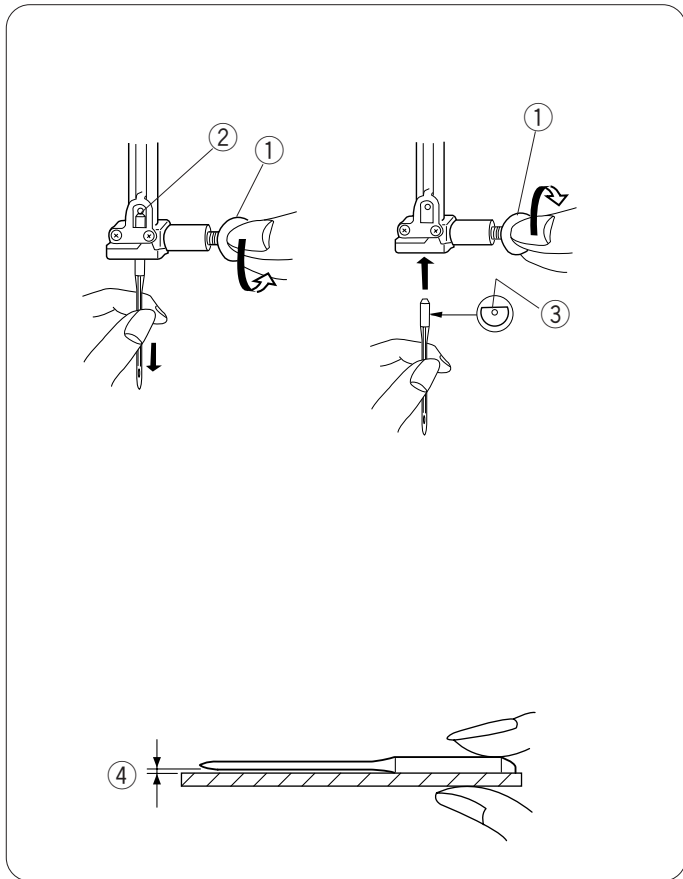
### To remove:

Remove the setscrew by turning it counterclockwise with a screwdriver and remove the foot holder.

### To attach:

Match the hole in the foot holder with the threaded hole in the presser bar. Fit the setscrew into the hole. Tighten the screw by turning it clockwise with a screwdriver.

- ① Setscrew
- ② Foot holder
- ③ Hole
- ④ Threaded hole



## Changing Needles

### **! CAUTION:**

Always make sure to turn the power switch off and disconnect the machine from power supply before changing the needle.

Raise the needle by turning the handwheel and lower the presser foot.

Turn off the power switch.

- 1 Loosen the needle clamp screw by turning it counterclockwise.  
Remove the needle from the clamp.
  - 1 Needle clamp screw
- 2 Insert a new needle into the needle clamp with the flat side of the needle to the rear.  
When inserting the needle into the needle clamp, push it up against the stopper pin and tighten the needle clamp screw firmly.
  - 2 Stopper pin
  - 3 Flat side

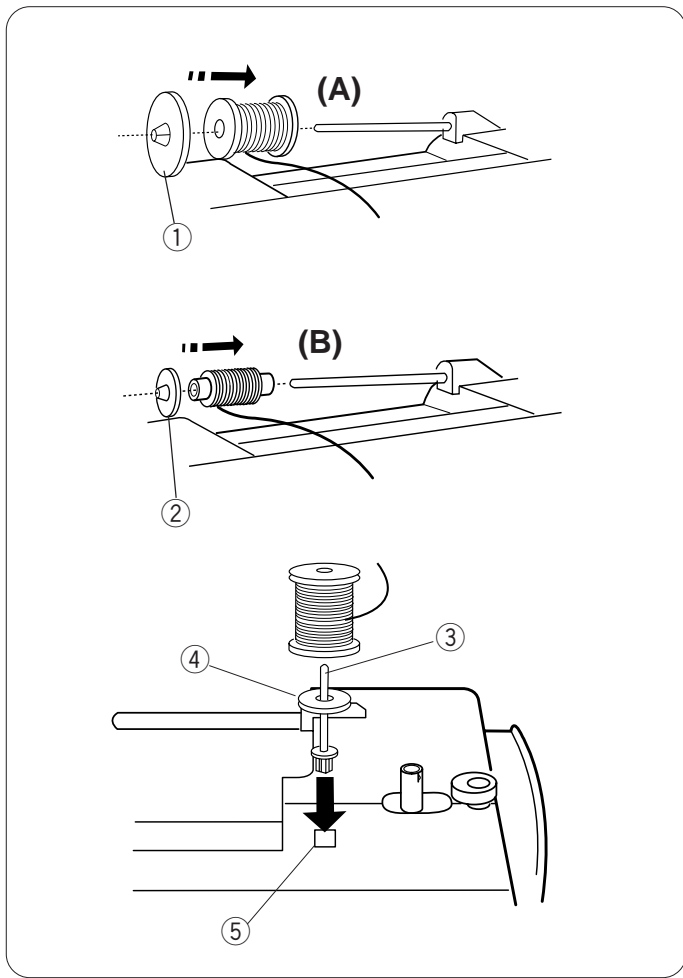
To check needle straightness, place the flat side of the needle onto something flat (a needle plate, glass etc.) The gap between the needle and the flat surface should be consistent.

Never use a blunt needle.

- 4 Gap

## Needle and Thread Chart

WEIGHT	FABRIC	TYPE of NEEDLE	NEEDLE SIZE
Very Light	Chiffon, Georgette, Fine Lace, Organdy Net, Tulle	Universal Ball Point	9 (65) 9 (65)
Light	Batiste, Voile, Lawn, Pure Silk, Crepe de Chine, Sheer Crepe, Chambray, Handkerchief Linen, Gingham, Challis, Percale, Wool Crepe, Peau de Soie, Taffeta, Satin, Silk Surah, Satin-backed Crepe, Qiana	Blue Tipped Needle Universal	11 (75) 11 (75) 12 (80)
	Single Knits, Jersey, Swimwear, and Tricot	Blue Tipped Needle Ball Point	11 (75) 11 (75)
	Leather, Suede	Wedge Point Leather Needle	11 (75)
Medium	Flannel, Velour, Velvet, Muslin, Velveteen, Poplin, Corduroy, Broadcloth, Linen, Chintz, Gabardine, Felt, Terry, Burlap, Quilted Fabrics	Universal	14 (90)
	Double Knits, (synthetic and natural) Stretch Velour, Stretch Terry, Sweater Knits	Ball Point	14 (90)
	Leather, Vinyl, Suede	Wedge Point Leather Needle	14 (90)
Heavy	Denim, Sailcloth, Ticking	Denim Needle	16 (100)
	Double Faced Wool, Heavy Coating, Fake Fur, Drapery Fabrics	Universal	16 (100)
	Leather, Suede	Wedge Point Leather Needle	16 (100) 18 (110)
Very Heavy	Canvas, Duck, Upholstery Fabrics	Universal	16 (100)
Topstitching for Special Finishes		Topstitching Needle	14 (90)



## Winding the Bobbin

### Setting the spool

Place a spool of thread on the spool pin with the thread coming off the spool as illustrated.

**A:** Press the large spool holder firmly against the spool of thread.

① Large spool holder

**B:** For a small spool, use the small spool holder.

② Small spool holder

### Additional spool pin

The additional spool pin is for bobbin winding without unthreading the machine.

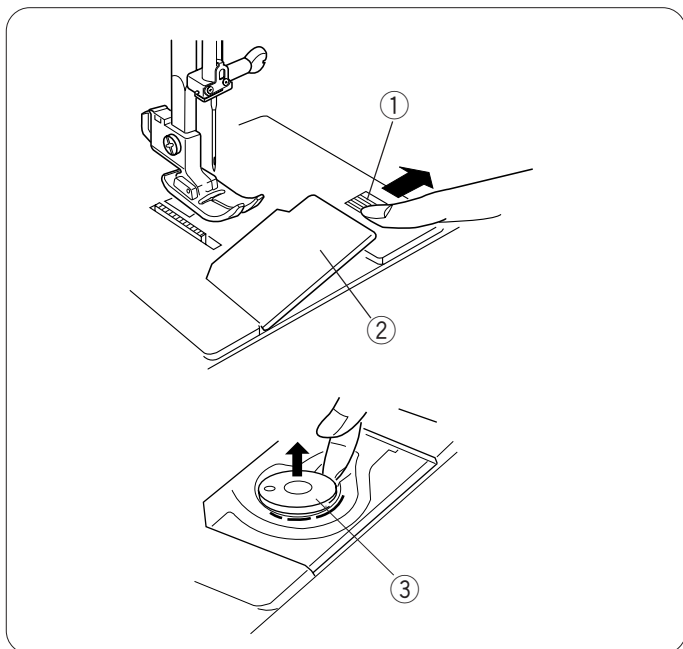
Insert the additional spool pin into the hole.

Place the felt and a spool on the pin.

③ Additional spool pin

④ Spool pin felt

⑤ Spool pin hole



## Removing the bobbin

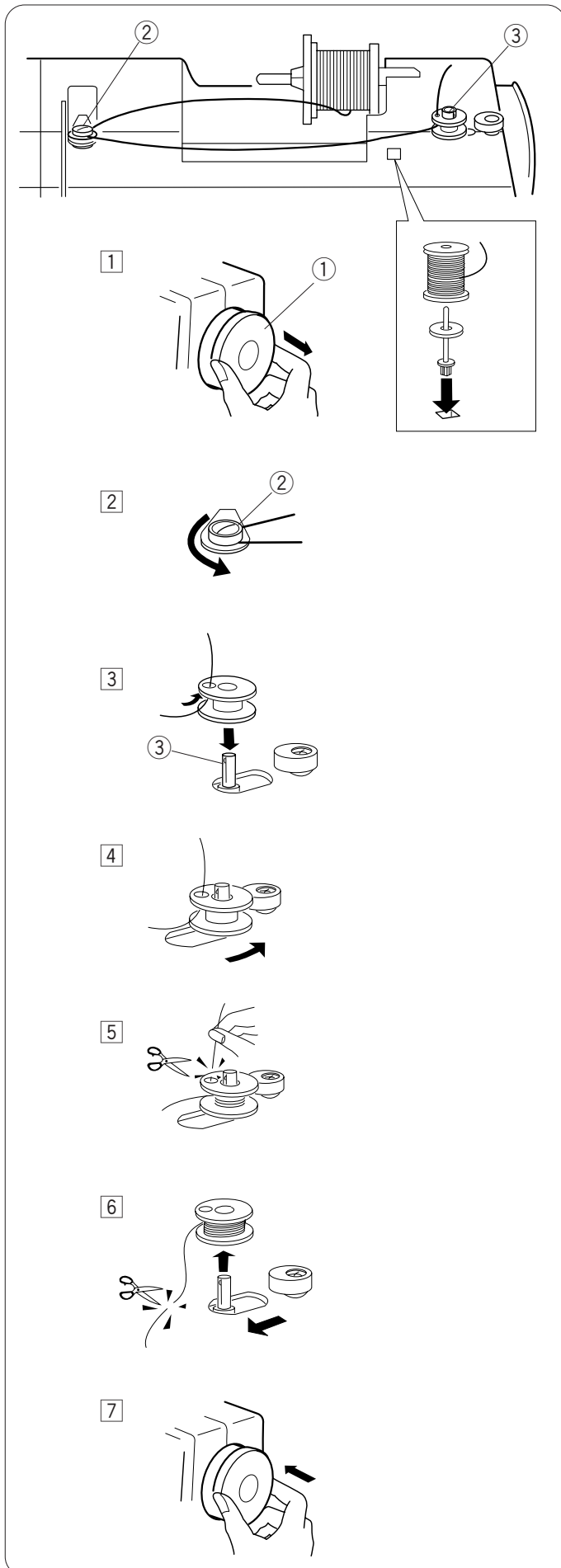
① Push the hook cover plate release button to the right and remove the cover plate.

① Hook cover plate release button

② Hook cover plate

② Lift out the bobbin.

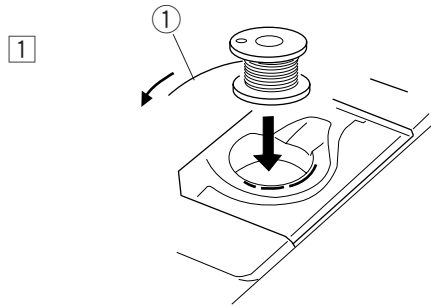
③ Bobbin



## Winding the bobbin

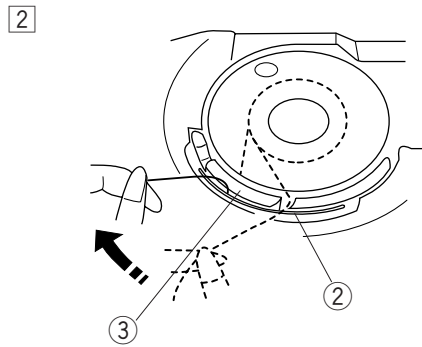
- 1 Pull out the handwheel to disengage the clutch.
    - ① Handwheel
  
  - 2 Draw the thread from the spool. Guide the thread around the bobbin winder thread guide.
    - ② Bobbin winder thread guide
  
  - 3 Thread through the hole in the bobbin from the inside to the outside. Put the bobbin on the bobbin winder spindle with the free end of the thread coming out at the top.
    - ③ Bobbin winder spindle
  
  - 4 Push the bobbin to the right.
- NOTE:**  
Do not move the bobbin winder spindle while the machine is running.
- 5 With the free end of the thread held in your hand, depress the foot control. Stop the machine when the bobbin has been wound a few layers, and cut the thread close to the bobbin.
  
  - 6 Depress the foot control again. When the bobbin is fully wound, it will stop automatically. Return the bobbin winder to its original position by moving the spindle to the left, and cut the thread as illustrated.
  
  - 7 Push in the handwheel to engage the clutch.

## Inserting the bobbin



- 1 Place the bobbin in the bobbin holder with the thread running off as illustrated.

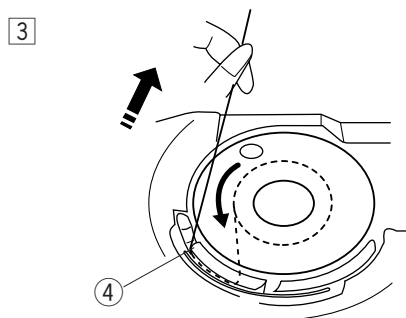
① Thread



- 2 Guide the thread into the front notch on the front side of the bobbin holder. Draw the thread to the left, sliding it between the tension spring blades.

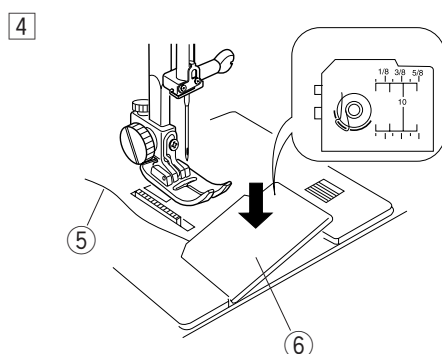
② Front notch

③ Tension spring blade



- 3 Continue to draw the thread lightly until the thread slips into the side notch.

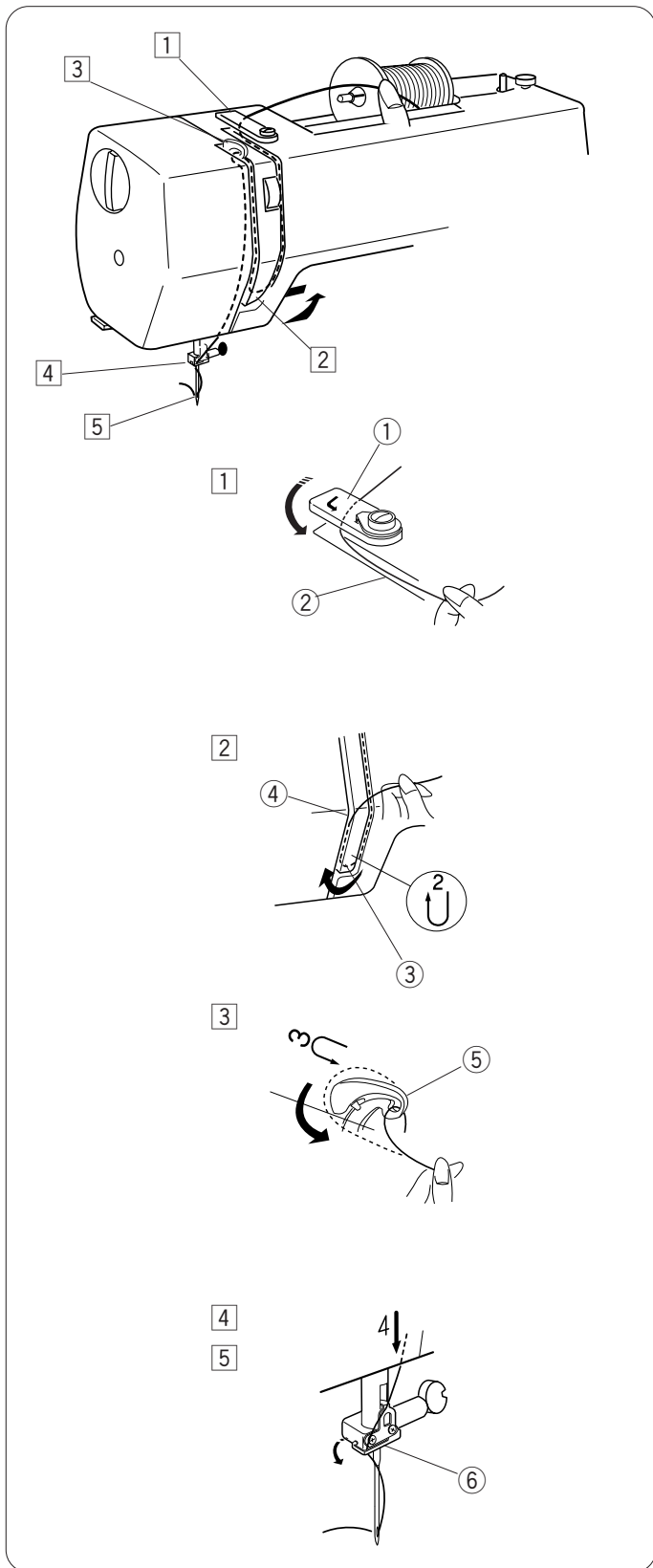
④ Side notch



- 4 Pull out about 4" (10 cm) of thread. Attach the hook cover plate. Check the threading by referring to the chart shown on the hook cover plate.

⑤ Thread

⑥ Hook cover plate



## Threading the Machine

### To set the needle thread:

Raise the thread take-up lever to the highest position by turning the handwheel.

Raise the presser foot.

- 1 Draw the thread from the spool and pass it under the thread guide. Then draw it down along the right channel.

- ① Thread guide
- ② Right channel

- 2 Draw the thread up around the bottom of the thread guide plate.

Pull the thread up along the left channel

- ③ Thread guide plate
- ④ Left channel

- 3 Firmly draw the thread from right to left over the thread take-up lever and down into the take-up lever eye.

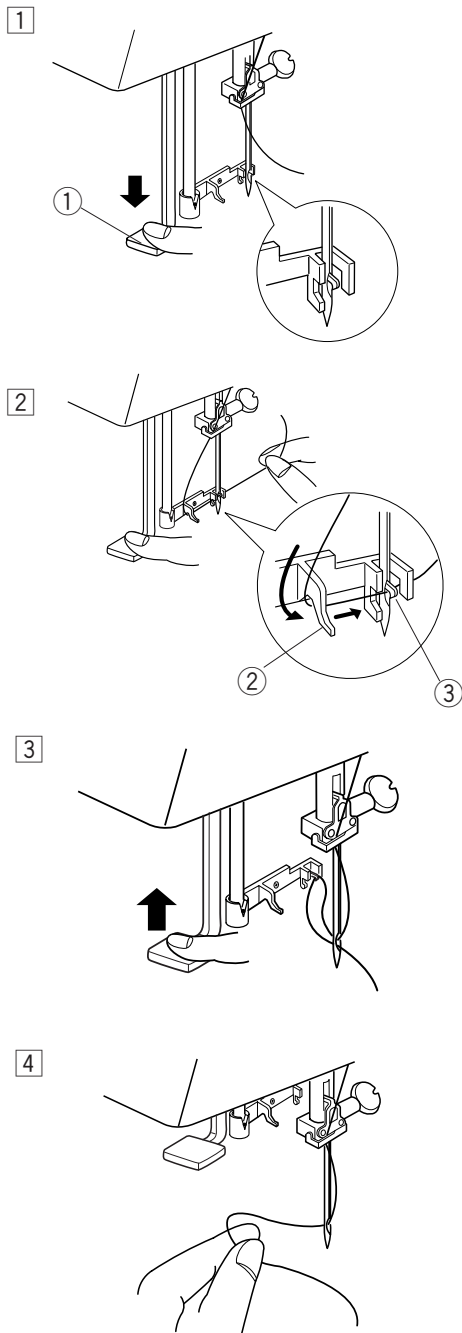
- ⑤ Thread take-up lever

- 4 Draw the thread down along the left channel and slip the thread behind the needle bar thread guide from the left.

- ⑥ Needle bar thread guide

- 5 Pass the thread through the needle eye from the front or use the needle threader (refer to the next page).

## Needle threader



- 1 Raise the needle to its highest position and lower the presser foot. Push down the needle threader knob as far as it will go.

The hook comes out through the needle eye from behind.

① Threader knob

- 2 Draw the thread from the left around the guide and under the hook.

② Guide

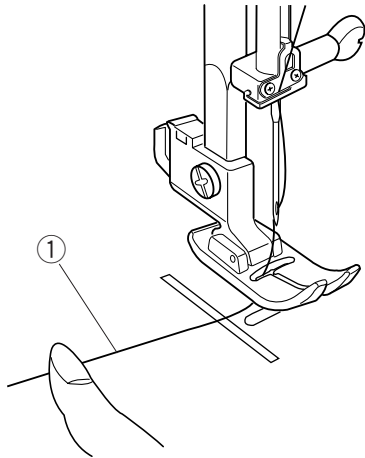
③ Hook

- 3 Release the knob slowly while holding the thread end with your hand. A loop of the thread is pulled up through the needle eye.

- 4 Pull out the end of the thread through the needle eye.

## Drawing up the Bobbin Thread

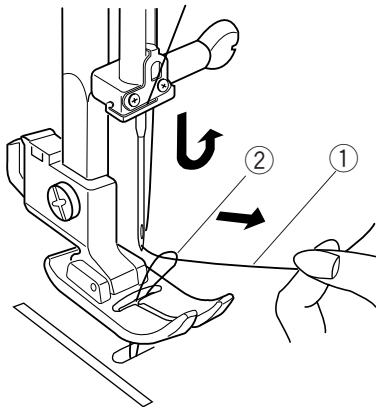
1



1 Raise the presser foot and hold the needle thread lightly with your left hand.

① Needle thread

2

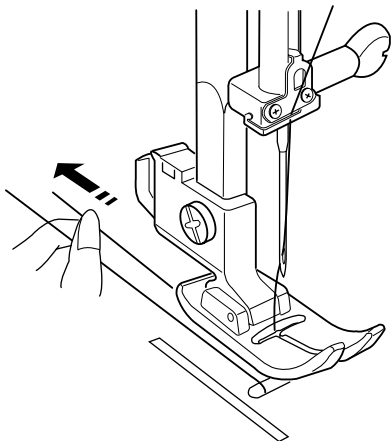


2 Turn the handwheel slowly toward you one complete turn. Bring the bobbin thread up by pulling the needle thread as illustrated.

① Needle thread

② Bobbin thread

3

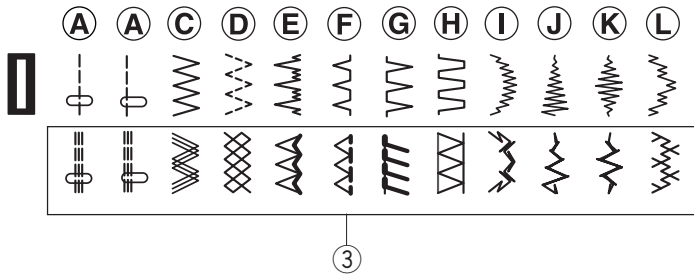


3 Pull 4" (10 cm) of both threads back and under the presser foot.



## Selecting the Stitch Pattern

Raise the needle to its highest position.



### Pattern selector dial

Turn the pattern selector dial to set the symbol of the desired stitch pattern at the setting mark.

- ① Pattern selector dial
- ② Setting mark



#### CAUTION:

Do not turn the pattern selector dial while the needle is in the fabric, otherwise the needle may bend or break.

To select the stretch stitch patterns, set the stitch length dial at S.S.

- ③ Stretch stitch patterns

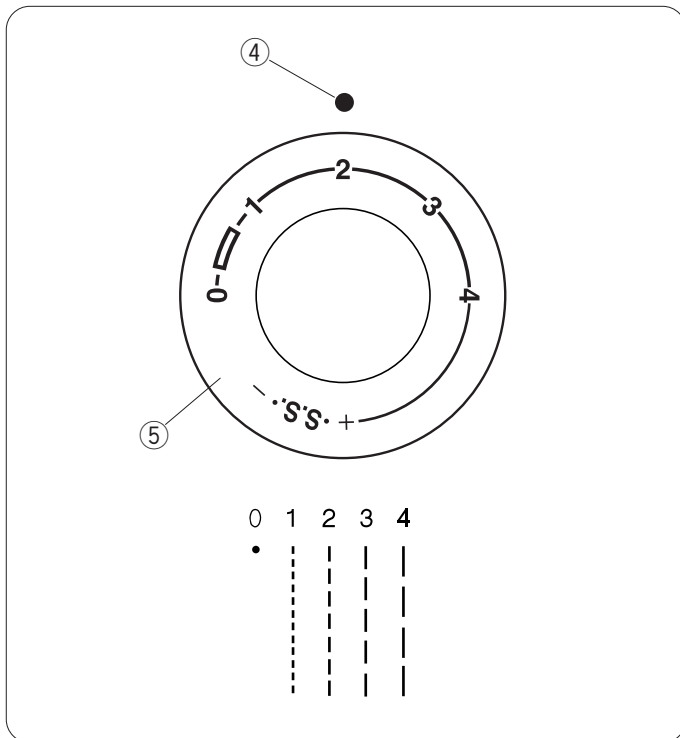
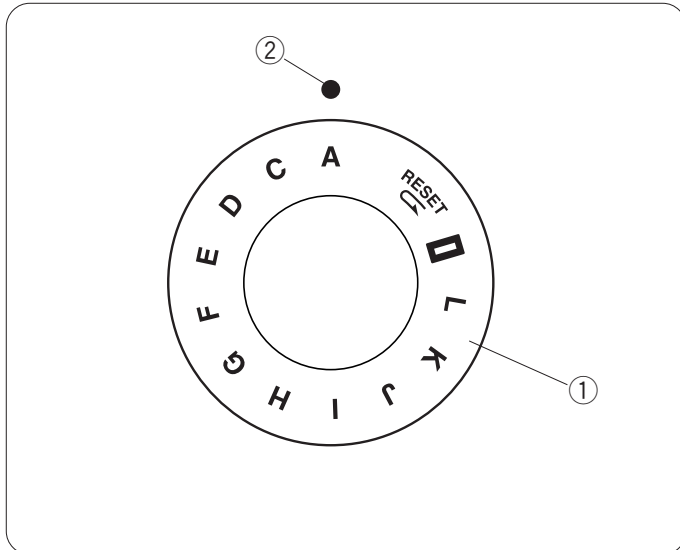
### Stitch Length Dial

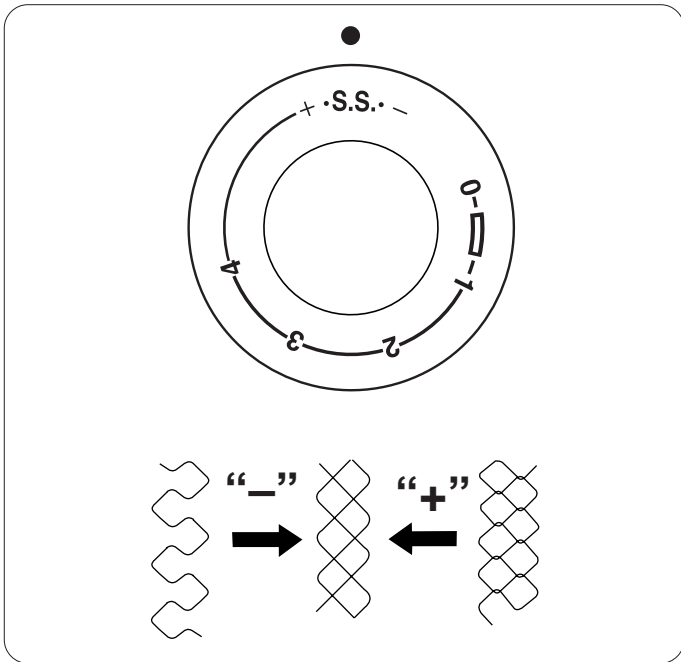
Turn the stitch length dial to set the desired stitch length number at the setting mark.

The higher the number, the longer the stitch

The "□" mark shows the adjustment range when sewing the buttonhole.

- ④ Setting mark
- ⑤ Stitch length dial



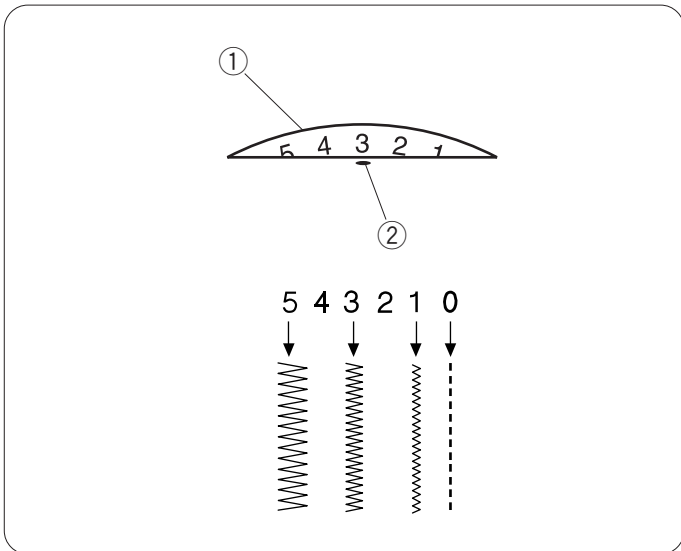


### Adjusting stretch stitch balance

If the stretch stitch patterns are uneven when you sew on a particular fabric, correct them by turning the stitch length dial.

If the patterns are drawn out, correct them by setting the dial to the “-” side.

If the patterns are compressed, correct them by setting the dial to the “+” side.



### Stitch Width Dial

Turn the stitch width dial to set the desired stitch width number at the setting mark.

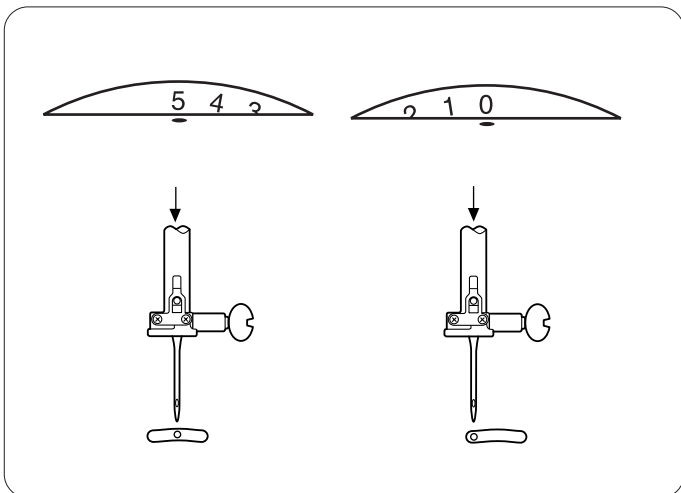
The higher the number, the wider the stitch

- ① Stitch width dial
- ② Setting mark



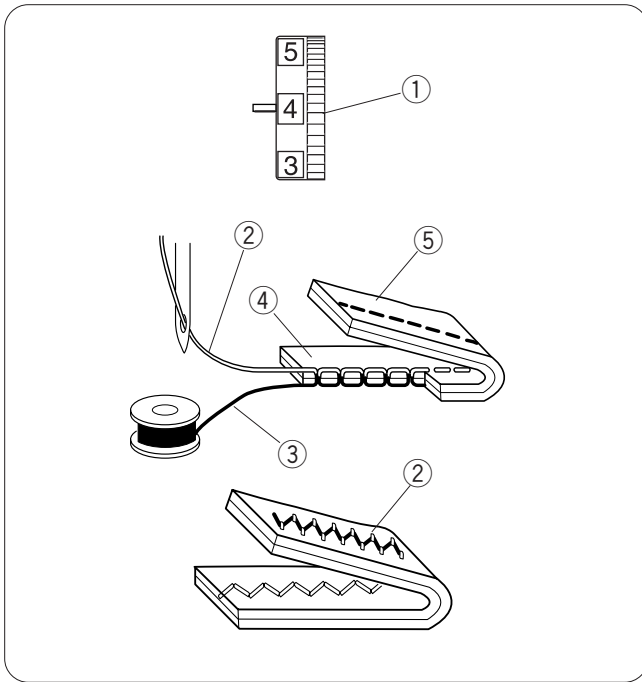
#### CAUTION:

Do not turn the stitch width dial while the needle is in the fabric, otherwise the needle may bend or break.



### Variable needle position

The needle drop position of the straight stitches can be moved between the center (5) and left (0) with the stitch width dial.



## Balancing Needle Thread Tension

The thread tension should be adjusted depending on the sewing materials, layers of fabric and sewing method. To adjust the thread tension, turn the tension dial.

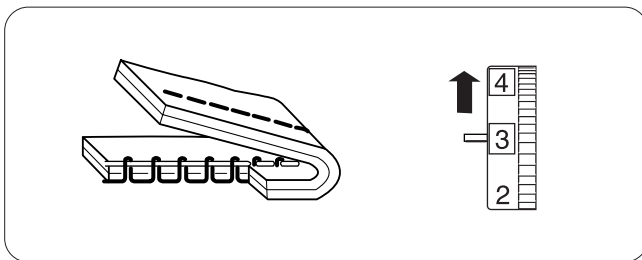
① Tension dial

### Balanced tension:

The ideal straight stitch has threads locked between two layers of fabric, as illustrated.

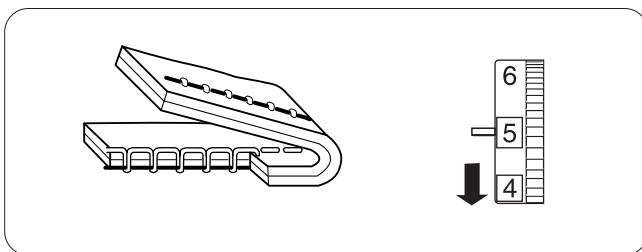
For an ideal zigzag stitch, the bobbin thread does not show on the right side (top side) of the fabric, and the needle thread shows slightly on the wrong side (bottom side) of the fabric.

- ② Needle thread (Top thread)
- ③ Bobbin thread (Bottom thread)
- ④ Right side (Top side) of fabric
- ⑤ Wrong side (Bottom side) of fabric



### Needle thread tension is too tight:

The bobbin thread (bottom thread) will appear on the right side (top side) of the fabric. Loosen the needle thread tension by moving the dial to a lower number.



### Needle thread tension is too loose:

The needle thread (top thread) will form loops on the wrong side (bottom side) of the fabric. Tighten the needle thread tension by moving the dial to a higher number.