

Home and Clothing Care

Buying A Sewing Machine



Interest in sewing has skyrocketed over the past several years, but it's not because baby boomers are nearing retirement. Sewing has become a trendy hobby for teenagers and women in their 20s. Not since the 1950s has sewing attracted this much attention from a younger generation. With a popular culture focused on being different, young girls are learning that the needle and thread are keys to individualism.

These new sewers are finding sewing to be much easier than it was for their grandmothers because sewing machine companies have used advances in technology to develop easy to use, electronic sewing machines. Attracted by the new technology, their grandmothers are looking to upgrade their machines too.

Electronic sewing machines offer extensive stitch capabilities and have experienced enormous improvements during the past 20 years, evolving as technology breakthroughs occurred. Many of the modern sewing machines could be considered stand alone computers. Some beneficial features of these machines include speed control and automatic needle stop. The electronic, or computerized, machines offer on screen "advisors" that tell the operator which thread and needle would be most appropriate for the fabric the operator selected.

An electronic sewing machine can ease the learning process for beginners. Experienced sewers may not need to upgrade to the latest technology but will appreciate the speed and ease of tasks that took them years to manually master.

There are sewing machines for any skill level or purpose. New sewing machines can range from a couple hundred dollars to over \$8,000 for those that include embroidery modules. Embroidery software is often an additional cost on top of the machine purchase. People interested in buying one of these machines should make sure the machine's software is compatible with their home computer

When choosing a sewing machine, it is important to find a machine that matches your needs. Some may have additional components that are not necessary for certain types of sewers. For basic repair purposes, a good quality mechanical sewing machine makes a stitch comparable to a high end electronic sewing machine. It's a good idea to bring sample pieces of fabric and threads with you when purchasing a new sewing machine to ensure the sewing machine has the capabilities you need. Find out the details of the machine's warranty. Some dealers can repair the machines locally, but some require the machine to be sent off if problems occur.