

More Options for Threading Needles

Self-threading sewing machine needles

These needles have a notch on the side of the needle. Insert the needle into the machine. Hold the thread taut between the thumb and index fingers of both hands. Then, slide the thread along the right side of the needle from the base toward the tip until it snaps into place.

Automatic needle threaders on sewing machines

Some sewing machine models have an automatic needle threader. This is a small lever with two hooks—one large and one small. The smaller hook goes through the eye of the needle. Because each sewing machine is different, check the user's manual for exact instructions on how to use your needle threader.

Before you get started, make sure the needle is in its highest position. Pull the lever down and lock it in place. Take the thread in your left hand and wrap it from the left side of the larger hook under the larger hook towards the right. Continue to bring the thread under, until it is also under the smaller hook. Next, hold the tail of the thread with your right hand, about an inch to the right of the needle. Make sure that you have at least a four-inch tail of

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thread. Gently, lift the lever up, and this will pull part of the thread through the back of the eye of the needle. Carefully finish pulling the thread through the back of the eye with your right hand so that the tail of the thread is completely through the back of the eye of the needle.

Infila

This is a plastic device for threading needles when sewing by hand. It works with small or large needles, and it has two funnels for holding two different needles. First, insert a needle with its point sticking up. When you slide the button, a metal blade will pop out. Wrap the thread around the blade. Slide the button back, and the needle is threaded. Lift the needle out, then slide your fingers down to the eye—this will keep the thread from exiting the eye. For safety, put a piece of Styrofoam over the point of the needle. Also, to keep it stable, put the Infila on a tray lined with a rubber shelf liner.

Hexe

This device is similar to the infila. It is made of plastic and consists of a funnel for holding the needle, a small pedal that releases a small metal blade, and a thread holder. It works best on medium-sized needles. Good finger dexterity is necessary to use this device. For safety, put a piece of Styrofoam on the tip of the needle. Also, to keep it stable, put the Hexe on a rubber jar opener or a tray lined with rubber shelf liner.