

Sewing Machine Needle Chart

Ball Point	70-90	Has a rounded point. 70 for lingerie, nylon, jersey; 80 for T-shirt; 90 for sweatshirt fleece.
Stretch	70-90	A stretch needle has a more rounded point and a blue anti-cling coating which helps to prevent skipped stitches in knits and elastic. Sometimes used on Ultra suede, vinyl, and plastic
Universal	60-90	A compromise between a sharp and a ballpoint needle; can be used on both wovens and knits. 60 – very fine batiste 70 – broadcloth 80 – trigger and gabardine 90 – denim and twill
Jeans	70-90	Has a sharp point and a shaft that is less prone to flex. The sharpness of the needles makes it better for use on denim and woven fabrics where a clean stitch is desired.
Microtex Sharp (Schmetz)	60-90	A sharp point with a thin shaft. 60-90 corresponds to the weight of the fabric; as the fabric gets heavier or denser, the number is higher. Specially designed for micro fiber fabrics.
Micro fiber (Lammertz) Quilting	Assort'd 75&90	The thin, tapered point of this needle causes less damage to fabric when seaming and cross seaming.
Topstitch	80-90	A sharp point with a large eye and deep groove. Use with heavier fabrics – the large groove cradles heavy threads.
Embroidery (Schmetz)	75-90	Sharp needle with a large eye and groove; also has a coating and larger scarf. For use with embroidery thread – prevents shredding of rayon or metallic threads. Two threads may be used through the eye of an 80-90 needle.
Leather	80-90	Point is sharp cutting wedge. Used for leather only. Not for vinyl or simulated leathers.

Added Notes:

Most sewers have grown up with universal needles that were put on the market when double knits were still in the fabric stores.

Sharps were developed to pierce cotton fabric better and, as the name implies, to stay sharp longer. They are really the only needle to use when piecing batik fabrics. A Microtex needle is the sharpest needle.

Most quilters seem to want to use quilting needles for piecing. What they don't realize, though, is that these needles are manufactured with a thicker shaft to quilt through layers of fabric and batting. Thus, when used for piecing, they will leave a large hole in the fabric.

A recommended piecing needle is a sharp 80/12 with a 50 weight thread. A sharp 70/10 with a 60 weight thread is also nice for piecing as it makes the seam much less noticeable. The thread seems to disappear into the fabric.

Quilters spend a lot of money on sewing machines, equipment and fabric and then use an old improper needle for sewing. Needles are very inexpensive compared to the project that you are making.

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