

How to select
the right machine
for you!

Sewing machine buyers guide



The World's leading sewing machine manufacturer

JANOME

Things to consider....

Choosing a sewing machine can seem a daunting task, especially if you're buying it for someone else but by asking a few simple questions you'll be able to make the right choice.

Experience

Is the sewing machine for a beginner or for someone more experienced? Beginners will probably need an inexpensive machine with a range of basic stitches, while an experienced sewer may require many more features. Janome has an extensive range of models from standard mechanical models to very sophisticated and powerful computerised models packed with lots of easy to use features.

Projects

What type of sewing will the machine be used for? Dressmaking, home furnishings, repairs and alterations, upholstery, crafts, quilting or all of these? Look for the term "free arm" which will make sewing sleeves and trouser legs easier. Our new range of long arm models will help with those bigger projects such as quilts and bridal wear. For crafts and quilting you'll need a machine with a wider range of stitches. For upholstery look for a machine capable of heavy duty use. For a professional finish to your sewing you'll find an overlocker invaluable to complement your sewing machine.



Frequency of use

How often will the machine be used? If a machine is only for occasional use such as mending or light sewing a more basic model may be suitable. For regular sewing and where stitch variety is needed choose one with a larger range of stitches and features.

Weight

Will it need to be packed up and put away after each use or maybe transported to a class? Machines vary from around 7kg to over 12kg.

Product quality

It is important that you choose a machine that will give you many years of good service. All Janome machines are built with either a metal body or a metal internal frame. Without either of these, stitch quality is likely to suffer after a period of use.

Guarantee

All Janome sewing machines come with a 2 years parts and labour guarantee. This can be extended to 5 years on payment of a small additional fee.

Types of machine

Take a look at
the Janome 525S
Mechanical Machine



Mechanical sewing machines

Mechanical sewing machines are basic models, with limited features and stitches. Some models may have a 1-step buttonhole facility or an automatic needle threader. They can sew most materials but lower-priced models in this category are better suited to sew light to medium-weight fabrics. Generally they will have a convertible free arm which is used to help sew cuffs and trouser bottoms.

There are two types of bobbin systems used on these machines. One is a front loading system where the bobbin is inserted into a bobbin case and then slotted into a front opening on the arm of the machine. The second is a top loading full rotary hook system for easy jam proof operation. This system also offers a clear view cover for the bobbin area which allows for monitoring of the bobbin thread level.

* For full details of machines in this range see Standard range brochure



Computerised sewing machines

Computerised sewing machines are more versatile machines with added features which help to make sewing easier and more precise. They offer greater needle penetration power so can easily handle thicker fabrics.

Everything is made easy as these machines offer many different stitch options which are selected by pressing a key or using an LCD touch display screen. They may feature the ability to memorise favourite stitches and stitch combinations. Some have a built in alphabet for sewing name tags and personalising projects.

Take a look at
the Janome TXL607
Computerised Machine



* For full details of machines in this range see Computerised range brochure



Computerised Long-arm sewing machines

Computerised Long-arm machines are perfect for those who need all the best and easiest computerised functions, plus additional arm space for larger projects such as bridal wear, quilt making and home furnishings. The sheer length of the arm space, the power and spectacular stitch quality and built in AcuFeed system on some models, make these machines a powerful tool to enhance your creativity.

Take a look at the
Janome MCB900QCP
Computerised Long-arm
machine



* For full details of machines in this range see Computerised Long-arm range brochure



Computerised Sewing & Embroidery machines

Part of the computerised range includes automatic embroidery machines or models that combine both sewing and automatic embroidery. These machines are able to stitch out pre-programmed embroidery designs which are great for personalising your sewing. Designs are built into the machine or can be downloaded from the internet.

Optional digitizing software is available to create or edit designs.

Take a look at
the Janome MC9900
Sewing & Embroidery
machine



* For full details of machines in this range see Sewing & Embroidery machine brochures



Overlocker machines

Overlockers give that professional finish to your sewing. They are mainly used for hems and seams but can also have decorative stitching options. The main benefit of an overlocker is that it can sew a seam, finish the edge and cut off the excess fabric in one step. However, unlike sewing machines, they cannot sew buttonholes or zips. They are also great for finishing knitted or difficult to sew fabrics. Overlockers are also known as “sergers”.

*Take a look at
the Janome 9300DX
Overlocker*

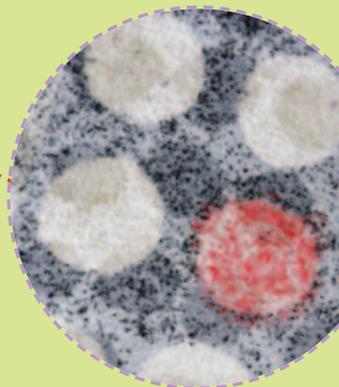


* For full details of machines in this range see Overlocker range brochure

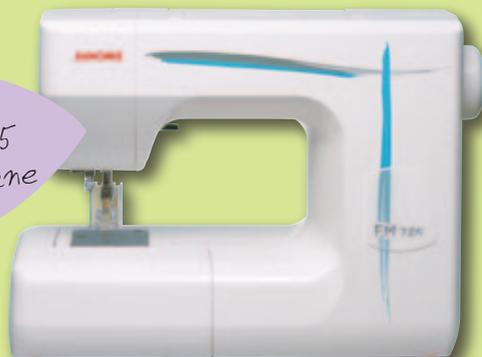


Embellisher

An embellisher is based on a sewing machine but has no bobbin, feed dogs or thread. Instead it has barbed needles and by moving layers of different fabrics under the needles a new fabric / surface embellishment is easily created. This “new” fabric can then form the base for beautiful new sewing projects.



Take a look at
the Janome FM725
Embellisher machine



* For full details see
FM725 Embellisher brochure

Machine terms

If all the technical terms seem completely baffling, the glossary below should help you to make better sense of them:

Threading guides:

Place the thread in the easy to follow channels for upper threading of the machine.

Auto 1-step buttonhole lever:

The buttonhole size is automatically determined when the buttonhole lever is pulled down and a button placed in the sliding buttonhole foot.



Thread cutter:

Convenient thread cutter which can be used with one hand.

Needle threader:

A pull down gadget to aid threading the machine needle.

Presser foot holder:

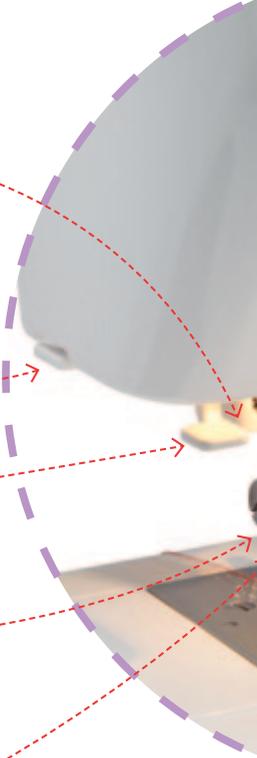
To assist in sewing different processes a variety of different feet can be attached.

Presser foot:

The presser foot holds the fabric in place against the feed dogs so that it doesn't move about whilst you are sewing. Most presser feet are quick change snap on type.

Feed dogs:

These are saw-shaped teeth that move the fabric through the machine needle stitches. The feed dogs are dropped for free machining.





Function buttons

Needle up/down facility:

This allows you to programme the needle to always finish in the up or down position... great for pivoting on corners!

Lock stitch button:

This helps when you're starting or ending a stitch or pattern, as it locks off the stitching and stops it unravelling.

Reverse sewing button:

This allows you to sew a few stitches or stitch continuously in reverse.

Start/stop button:

This enables you to use the machine without the foot control.

Needle plate:

The metal needle plate fits over the bobbin/feed dog area and has seam guides engraved on it to help measure the seam width whilst stitching.

Top loading jam proof bobbin mechanism:

Thread is wound onto the bobbin which is dropped into the machine and enclosed by a clear hook cover plate. You can see when the thread is running out!

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ne as the
gs can be





Stitch adjustment:

Use to override default stitch settings for stitch width and stitch length.



Free arm:

A free arm is a cylinder on the bed of the machine which allows you to sew items such as sleeves and trouser legs. Detach the accessory box to reveal free arm.



Stitch selector:

On computerised machines it is easy to select a stitch by pressing a key or using a touch pad. On more basic machines, the stitch selector is usually a dial.



Maximum speed controller:

This function is only available on computerised machines. It sets the maximum sewing speed of the machine irrespective of how far the foot controller is depressed.

Knee lifter:

The knee lifter is extremely helpful when sewing applique, sewing around curves, patchwork and quilting since it allows you to handle the fabric whilst your knee controls the presser foot.





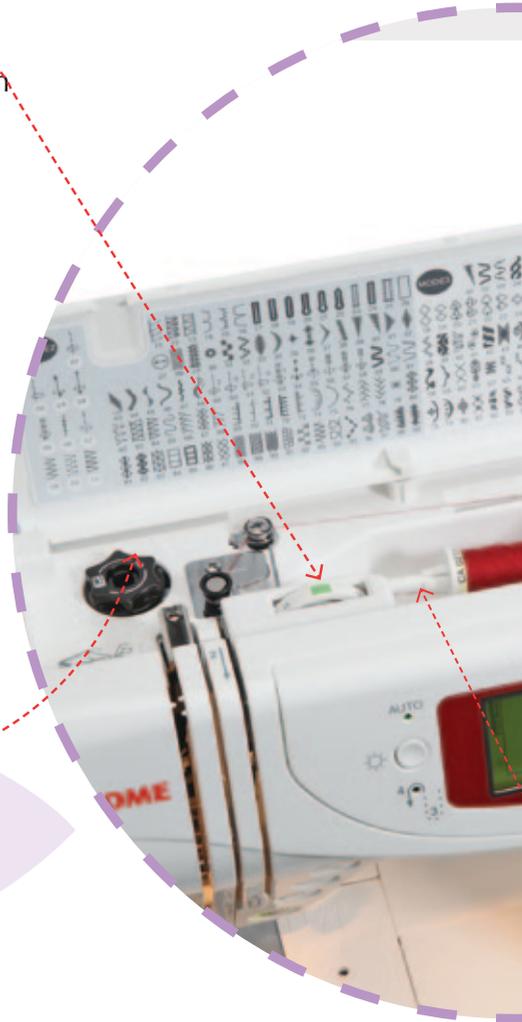
Auto-thread tension:

For general sewing, set the tension dial at AUTO, which covers a wide range of sewing conditions.



Foot pressure dial:

The pressure of the foot can be adjusted, for example when stitching applique to help turn corners smoothly.





Stitch library:

To access the selection of different stitches available simply key in the stitch number required.

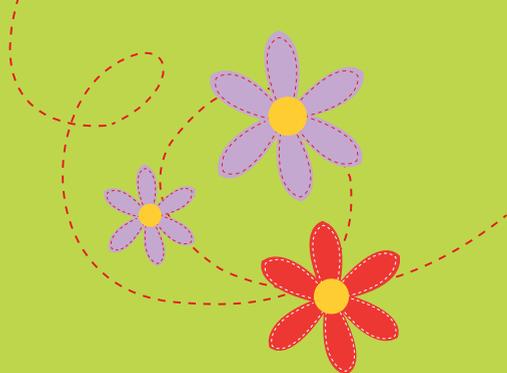
Bobbin winder:

Thread from the spool winds onto the bobbin keeping an even tension. When the bobbin is fully wound it will stop automatically.

Spool holder:

Use to firmly secure the thread spool in place whilst sewing.





About Janome

Established in the 1960's, Janome is now the brand leader in the UK with an extensive range of sewing machines and overlockers. Janome sewing machines are designed for ease of use to encourage all levels of sewing. Over 2 million Janome machines have been sold in the UK, with around 50 million sold worldwide. Janome is renowned for quality & reliability at affordable prices and their aim is to provide customers with an unrivalled level of service.

Janome believes that its customers have the right to expect that Janome products will provide them with truly aspirational levels of quality and value without exploiting the people who work for their suppliers.

Janome adheres to high ethical standards with regards to the use of child labour, safety, pay, terms of employment and working hours. Ethical audits are used and many of these audits are conducted as part of the company's participation in the Ethical Trading Initiative which brings together representatives of government, business, trade unions and human rights groups.

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