

## How to Use an Overlocker

Don't be afraid of it! Once you've worked out the basics, it will become your trusted friend. Do go to a class at your local sewing shop, its very useful.

1. Always thread in the order in which it tells you in your manual. It is important to make sure that the lower looper thread lies over the upper looper thread or the machine won't be able to create a chain. Most machines are colour coded these days which makes it easier to thread.
2. Always raise the presser foot before threading and make sure the needles are high.
3. Cross wound spools like overlocker cones are recommended
4. Specialist overlocker thread is a slightly lighter weight than normal sewing thread and it is often polyester so will withstand high speeds. It may seem expensive at first but will last you a long time.
5. When starting to stitch, do not lift the presser foot, keep it in the down position and gently push the fabric underneath so it overlocks from the beginning of the piece of fabric.
6. Keep overlocking after you have got to the end of the fabric to create a 4 inch tail, otherwise you run the risk of it coming unthreaded.
7. When rethreading, snip the existing threads, tie on new ones and pull through- this will work for the upper and lower looper but you will have to thread the two needles by hand.
8. Always insert needles correctly, the one on the left is slightly higher than the one on the right. Needles between 70 and 90 will be fine but it all depends on the type of fabric.
9. Clean the fluff out after every use with a brush and a microfibre cloth. Every few months, remove the stitch plate then take the lint brush or cotton swabs to clean the feed dogs.
10. Keep pins to a minimum- use clips instead. Replacing a blade can be costly. Use a long wooden skewer to guide the fabric through the blades.
11. Buy a useful guide by Crafty Sew and So Leicester on how to get the best out of your overlocker-[craftysewandso.com](http://craftysewandso.com)