



JOYCE JAGGER

# THE EMBROIDERY COACH

## Six Months Maintenance

This is maintenance that I find easy to schedule the first week in January and July along with my weekly and three months maintenance. **Make sure that your machine is turned off when you doing any type of brushing or blowing on any of the parts.**

### Cleaning

**Turn your machine off for this section.**

I start this maintenance by blowing out the motor, floppy drive and Control Panel. I then take off the needle bar covers. In order to do this, you must remove all of the threads from your machine. It is best to take them completely off. This way they don't get tangled and create a complete mess. I tried doing a complete job without removing them, but I had a total disaster. I know that it is not pleasant to have to rethread the machine, but twice a year is not bad. I completely wipe off the thread rack at this time.

While you have the needle bar cover off, check to make sure that all of your take up springs are in the correct position. If you find any one of them that are not at the same height, you may have to gently bend it so that it is in the correction position. Be very gentle, they break easily and to replace them is not an easy job. The correct position of your tension springs is another factor in your tension control.

**You will need to turn on your machine for this section.**

It is best to bring down the needle bar into its drop-dead position. On my machine that is 180 degrees. Manually move your timing wheel to this position and your presser foot should be all the way down. On my machine, the timing wheel is in the back of the machine. On a multi-head it will be on the side of the machine. Take a q-tip and wipe off the needle bars and any black that you see on any of the areas and on the springs. With a paper towel, clean all around the needle bar including the top of the needle clamp.

Check the black cushion rubber to see if there are any breaks or flaking. When they start to wear, it flakes off onto your garments. It will leave a dirty

mark on the garment. Make sure that you wipe all of the dirt, lint and oil off of the black rubber and on the backside and inside part of the presser foot. You can only reach this entire area when the needle bar is down in this drop-dead position. After you have finished cleaning the needle bar, place a drop of oil at the lower portion of the bar and at the top spring of the needle bar. I do this with my needlepoint oiler. All that I want is that one metered drop, no more.

Now do a manual trim to bring it back to its proper position and do a manual color change to move to the next needle. Repeat this process on each needle bar of your machine. I have found it easier to start with the last needle bar on my machine and then work over to the first needle. Make sure that your needle is in the correct upright position before trying to move to the next needle.

## **Check for Scratches and Burrs**

After your needle bar is in the upright position, remove the needle and check the presser foot for any nicks or burrs. Check both the hole in the presser foot and the bottom of the presser foot. Polish them off with the emery cloth, then the crocus cloth. You can use the abrasive cord to run around inside of the hole in the presser foot.

This cleaning and oiling will take you approximately 5 minutes per needle bar.

If you do not have any abrasive cord, you can cut a thin strip off of the edge of your emery cloth and run that around the hole of the presser foot.

Check the needle plate, the hole in the needle plate, the picker, the hook and the knives for any nicks. Make sure to polish them with your crocus cloth if you see any type of nick or scratch. Be very careful with the knives, they are very thin and will bend easily.

Manually rotate your timing wheel so that your presser foot is all the way down. You can now check your hook to see if there are any scratches at all around the edges. If there are, polish them off with the crocus cloth.

The next major area for cleaning is the Pre-tensioners and the Tensioners. Sometimes they are called the Tension assembly. A lot of dirt and lint gets trapped inside of the tension disks. Even the tiniest speck of lint will totally mess up your tension and you will not have any control of it.

First take your compressor or canned air and blow out all of the dirt and dust. Start with the top at the Pre-tensioners. These are the tensions at the top on your thread rack. These actually condition the thread allowing it to flow thru the tensions without kinking or twisting. Take a q-tip with alcohol and wipe inside of the tension disks. This will remove all of the dirt and lint. Continue this with each pre-tensioner and down to the tensioners on the front of the machine. You will never gain control of your tensions if you do not keep these tension assemblies clean. It is very important.

The last area for cleaning is inside of the cylindrical bed or the arm. You will remove the screws in the cover. Move your pantograph all the way back as far as it will go to have access to the last screw on the cover. With your long brush clean this area out totally. It will have dirt, threads and excess oil. Clean the oil out with a q-tip and wipe out as much as you can. Brush out all of the dirt, lint and threads. The first time that I took off my cover, I found hair in there. I don't think that it was mine! You never know!!! This is a very neglected area, but just like all of the rest of your machine, it needs to be maintained.

If you will perform all of these maintenance tasks on a timely schedule, you should get great performance and service from your equipment for many years.

## **Greasing & Oiling**

Make sure that you follow the Weekly and the 3 Months Maintenance for the greasing and oiling while you are cleaning your machine.