

DIRECTIONS FOR USING
THE
ELDREDGE
SEWING MACHINE.

IT LEADS THE WORLD.

MANUFACTURED BY THE
Eldredge Sewing Machine Company,

MAIN OFFICE,

199 State Street, corner Adams,

CHICAGO, ILL.

The ELDREDGE is unquestionably the Most Desirable Machine ever made for all kinds of work.

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TO THE DEALER.

When sending a machine to a customer, you will ensure giving satisfaction by following these instructions:

Oil the machine and stand according to directions in this book, working in the oil and wiping off any superfluity, so as to leave it neat and clean. Use none but good sperm oil.

Wipe out the shuttle-race and the groove down which the needle descends carefully.

Set a No. 4 needle, and thread up the machine above and below with No. 60 or 70 cotton, so that it will sew correctly at the first start. Let the length of stitch and the tension be as they are when machine is received. You will usually find the bobbin filled and the shuttle tension right.

Lift the presser-foot to its notch; see that the slides are tight together; slip the belt off from the stand-wheel; be sure that the "trimmings"—oiler, screw-driver, &c.—are in the drawer. The machine will then be in such a condition as to materially assist the learner in following the instructions.

If the woodwork should by any means become spotted or dull in appearance, apply boiled linseed oil with cotton waste or a soft cloth.

If the stand is scratched or marred apply "Asphalt Varnish," a quick-drying Japan, to be obtained almost anywhere.

TO THE LEARNER.

The machine being in place on its table, and cleaned from dust, grit and lint, to prevent injury by their getting into the working parts,

Oil the Stand

at each side of the treadle where it rests upon the cones, at each end of the pitman, and the center points at both ends of the hub of the wheel; then

Oil the Machine

at the following points: The main shaft at the two holes in its bearings,—the eccentric and feed connections through hole in top of upright arm,—the needle-bar,—the guide on presser-bar on presser-lifter,—needle-bar cam through hole on the back side of face plate,—the take-up pin on needle-bar,—the centers that hold shuttle vertical lever, through hole in back side of upright arm,—the stitch-regulating slide and connections of feed vertical lever,—the grooves in which shuttle-driver slides, through the holes on the back side of same,—both ends of shuttle-driver pitman,—both ends of feed horizontal lever, and swivel to horizontal feed-lever.

And remember, whenever the machine runs hard, it is probably because it needs oil or cleaning.

Always keep the shuttle-race wiped clean and the shuttle-drive well oiled. This is important.

Next, place the belts around the wheels in the grooves ; and, with the presser-foot raised from the feed,

Prepare to Run the Machine

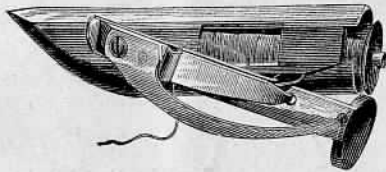
by seating yourself in front, and placing the feet on the treadle, with the hollow as nearly over the rod as possible. Always turn the *Fly-wheel toward you*. Tip the feed steadily up and down by an ankle-joint motion, without jerking, keeping the heel and toes firmly on the treadle. Continue this motion until it becomes natural, easy, and uniform.

After running the machine awhile, wipe off all the superfluous oil, thus preventing the soiling of your work. Sufficient oil will have worked into the joints to make them run easily for some time. Be especially careful to clean the needle-bar and the shuttle-race thoroughly. Next,

Fill a Bobbin

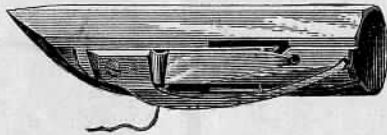
with thread from spool placed on spool-pin at the right and top of machine ; to do which you will place bobbin in spooler by putting one end into the concave cup at right hand side of spooler, then pull the plunger in opposite side of spooler to the left, and the bobbin will come to place and be held firmly. Place end of thread between end of bobbin and cup of spooler. Slide the bobbin-winder to the right, so that the small grooved wheel will come in contact with the belt, then reverse the motion, and the loose pulley revolves, and the works of the machine will stand still. Guide the thread with your right hand back and forth across the bobbin, carefully and regularly, so that the thread will unwind easily and evenly when sewing.

To Thread the Shuttle.



It carries forty-two yards of No. 50 cotton.

Hold the shuttle in the left hand, in position shown in the above engraving. With bobbin in the right hand, and thread delivering from the under side toward you, slip it nearly into its place, and pass the thread through the narrow angular slot, then lay it from you across the square opening. Now, close the shuttle by lowering the point, so that the bobbin will drop into place; raise the latch until it can be pushed into position by the thumb. (Be careful to push it in squarely, so as not to unnecessarily strain it.) Then, draw the thread back toward the heel, or square end of shuttle, and, raising the thread, slip it over the notch, and directly beneath the outside flat tension-plate. Now,



reverse the position of shuttle, and carry the thread out through the guide-hole and staple, as shown above, and under the outside curved spring.

Be careful that the thread passes through the staple, else the latch will be likely to fly out and be broken.

It will be noticed that in this shuttle there is only *one hole* through which to pass the thread.

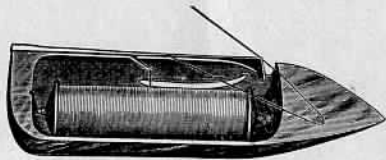
Tension is obtained by means of the screw near the point of the shuttle, turning it *to the right* to increase, and *to the left* to diminish the pressure on the thread.

In removing bobbin from shuttle, hold the shuttle *point down*, to allow bobbin to drop out of recess in end of latch.

To Thread the New Self-Threading Shuttle.



Never remove the spring to the shuttle in threading it.



Hold the shuttle in the left hand with the point towards you. Take the bobbin in the right hand, placing the point in the end of the plunger at the front end of shuttle, press it in until the other end of the bobbin will drop into the groove at the back end of shuttle. Then press the bobbin downward until it reaches the recess for its bearing, always having the thread draw from the under side of bobbin next to the slotted side of shuttle as shown in the engraving. Then hook the thread over the notch formed by the angular slot in the side of the shuttle, as shown in the engraving, drawing the thread between the spring and over to the front face of the shuttle as shown, catching it under the thumb. Then draw the thread to the right and downward, and it will pass under the end of the spring and around the pin. The shuttle is then threaded ready for use.

There are no holes through which to pass the thread.

Tension is obtained by means of the screw near the heel of

the shuttle, turning it *to the right* to increase and *to the left* to diminish the pressure on the thread.

The shuttle being threaded, lay it aside, and next

Set the Needle,

taking in in the left hand, putting its point through the hole in presser-foot and needle-plate, then entering the large end into the perpendicular hole in needle-bar, pushing it up as far as it will go, *with the long groove square in front of you*, then turn the set-screw to hold the needle fast.

Thread the Needle

by passing the thread from the spool (in same position as when filling bobbin), with the left hand pass the thread under the curved point to upper spring, carrying it to the left between the two springs, allowing it to draw in little notch at the center of under spring; thence into thread-guide at right of needle-bar, by slipping it under the projecting tongue and upwards between the tongue and the arm; thence into slot in head of needle-bar, merely pressing it downwards; thence pass a loop of the thread through the take-up guide from the back towards you, and slip it over the end of take-up; thence down through hole in lower end of needle-bar; thence from front to back, through needle-eye, leaving a few inches extended.

Place shuttle in its carrier, and holding end of upper thread loosely by the left hand, turn fly-wheel once around, when the two threads will have become locked, and can be drawn through the hole in needle-plate by drawing thread in left hand upward. Pass the two thread ends back from you. Put the slides into their places over the shuttle. Turn the fly-wheel until the needle is raised to the highest point, then put the goods under the presser-foot, and drop it down.

Regulate Tension

of upper thread by turning the tension or thumb-screw to the right, until the thread seems to draw through it with about the same tenacity as it did from the shuttle, for the purpose of making a stitch alike on both sides.

If the under thread lies straight, or is not drawn sufficiently into the goods, turn the tension-screw more to the right. If such is the case with the upper thread, turn to the left, or increase shuttle tension.

For all ordinary work it is sufficient to change only the tension of the upper thread. If the shuttle-thread draws easily and smoothly, but with a firm feeling, it is probably right, and the stitch should be perfected by the upper tension.

Soft and thin goods require but little tension; but on thick and heavy goods the tension should be heavier.

Proper adjustment of the tension is one of the most important requisites for neat stitching.

Get Required Length of Stitch

by sliding the thumb-screw on the front of the upright arm; unfasten the screw by turning it to the left, and slide it upwards for a longer, and downward for a shorter stitch; turn the thumb-screw up firmly, so it will not jar loose while the machine is in motion.

You can now proceed to sew, remembering that practice is necessary for performing these instructions properly.

Remove the Work

when the needle is out of the goods, and the presser-foot raised, drawing it *from you* after pulling the upper thread out two or three inches.

**DIFFICULTIES WHICH LEARNERS MOST FREQUENTLY
ENCOUNTER.**

BREAKING OF THE UPPER THREAD MAY BE CAUSED—

- By the machine being wrongly threaded ;
- By the upper tensions being too tight ;
- By the needle being too small for the thread ;
- By the needle being set the wrong side out, or set crooked.

BREAKING OF THE LOWER THREAD MAY BE CAUSED—

- By the shuttle being wrongly threaded ;
- By the tension being too tight ;
- By the bobbin being wound too full, so as not to revolve freely ;
- By a sharp edge in the shuttle.

"SKIPPED STITCHES" ARE CAUSED—

- By the needle being set too low, or bent away from the shuttle-race, or by the accumulation of lint or oil in the holes through which the needle passes, so as to prevent it throwing a regular and perfect loop.

HINTS TO OPERATORS.

The pressure on the foot is presumed to be right for ordinary sewing, but can be graduated by the screw at the top of the presser-bar, turning it to the right or downward for more pressure, and to the left or upward for less pressure, and regulated according to thickness of goods. Be careful not to turn it so far up as to leave too little pressure, or so far down as to cut thin goods.

Do not pull the work, as, by so doing, the needle is liable to be bent or broken, and the stitch made irregular.

Never run the machine without cloth between foot and feed, or you will scratch the foot, and cause your work to drag.

Never run the machine with the shuttle in its carrier, unless the slides are tightly in their places.

See that needles have good points, and are straight. Use sizes adapted to thread as per list below.

The needles furnished with the Eldredge Machine are of a superior quality. We advise the use of needles purchased from the Company. These needles are numbered by a new gauge, and should be used as follows :

No. 1, with finer than No. 200 Cotton Thread.

No. 2, with No. 150 to No. 200 Thread.

No. 3, " " 100 " 140 "

No. 4, " " 70 " 90 "

No. 5, " " 40 " 60 "

No. 6, with coarser than No. 40 Cotton, and with Nos. 80 to 100 Linen Thread.

The above list is a safe one to follow, though with good material and **experience** an operator may use a size finer needle. Uneven, inferior, or wavy thread, requires a coarse needle.

Sizes of silk vary so much that we only suggest judging which letters compare with the above standard of thread, and using corresponding needles.

Loop stitches sometimes occur from using needles too fine for the thread; but generally from the thread feeding off too freely, which is remedied by retarding the thread. If the upper thread loops, increase the upper tension; if the lower, increase the shuttle tension. Looping with silk and linen is caused by the thread catching on the point of the needle. To prevent it, smooth off the point of needle with a fine hone.

If you have too much tension on both threads, it will be shown by the constant breaking of the **upper** thread, or the gathering of the work.

If you wish to sew with a view to ravel easily leave the upper tension so light that the under thread will not be drawn into the goods, but lie straight.

For sewing flannel or "bias" seams, use a fine stitch and as light a tension as possible, so as to leave the thread loose enough to stand the strain of stretching the goods.

Use your own judgment about sizes of thread, but you will find that machine stitching can be done as well and as strongly with finer sizes than can be used in hand sewing.

If you **prefer** to use a size finer thread for the under one, there is no objection.

The treadle in the stand may wear loose so as to rattle. In such a case, loosen the cone on the right hand of the treadle,

drive it up close to the treadle, and refasten it. If this brings the pitman out of perpendicular, loosen the left instead of the right cone, as the machine runs easier when the pitman is perpendicular.

If the belt becomes loose, remove one end from the belt-hook, cut off about half an inch, punch a new hole, and replace the hook.

Always use the finest lubricating oil. In case the machine has been neglected and become gummed, use paraffine oil, or benzine, until the machine is again clean; but always endeavor to keep the machine so clean that it will not become gummed or clogged.

Of all things, BE SURE that the machine is kept cleaned and well oiled.

Oil, thread, needles, attachments and other findings, of qualities best adapted to the machine, can be procured at the Office of the Company, 199 State, cor. Adams St., Chicago, Ill., and should be kept by all local agents, as the successful working of a sewing machine often depends upon the quality of these small articles.

HEMMING.

Lift the presser-bar to its highest point with the left hand, then raise the lifter as high as it will go with the right hand, to support the bar in this position; turn the small screw that holds the foot in its place towards you once around and slip the foot off downward. Put the hemmer on in place of foot, being sure that the needle will pass through center of hole in hemmer, and tighten the screw you loosened. Clip off the right hand corner of the cloth, so that it will get the roll more naturally; turn up the edge of the cloth about one-fourth of an inch, insert it in the scroll or mouth of the hemmer, and push or draw it along

with any pointed instrument until the needle will enter it. Now let down the presser-bar, and hold the edge of the goods between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand while it is being hemmed, keeping the scroll of the hemmer just full, as it will leave a raw edge if there is too much or not enough turned in.

In hemming a curve, draw gently on the edge being hemmed, resisting the feed, and guide the work carefully.

FELLING.

Let one edge of the cloth project about one-fourth of an inch beyond the other (or place the edges together, and stitch about one-fourth of an inch from the edge, then trim off the under edge near to the seam), open the work and turn the wire edge over the narrow one—then slip this edge into the hemmer, which turns the raw edge under, and will operate as in hemming.

When both hemming and felling, practice is necessary before a neat seam can be produced, but this variety of work is a special merit of our machine.

The stitch may be laid close to the edge, or away from it, by setting the hemmer so the needle does not pass exactly through the center of the needle-hole.

WIDE HEMMING, with the "Diamond" Hemmers.

Place the hemmer you desire to use as close to the needle as the foot will allow it to come, and in such a position that the edge of the cloth, folded for hemming, will be on a line with the needle, and so ready to be stitched down. Secure the hemmer in place by means of a clamp and gauge-screw, and proceed as in ordinary hemming.

QUILTING.

To adjust the quilter, put it through the small hole in lower end of presser-bar, with the indicator or flat end, to the right.

Drop the indicator so that when the foot is down it will just touch the cloth, and be at the same distance from the needle as you wish the rows of stitching to be apart. Tighten the set-screw in back of presser-bar. Having made the first row the desired distance from the edge, place the work so that that row will be under and in a line with the lower edge of indicator, which will form a guide for each successive row of stitching; the row last made always passing under and in a line with the indicator while stitching the next.

CORDING.

Put the corder on in place of presser-foot. Thread the cord through small hole in left end of corder, thence through tube or cord-guide, letting two or three inches remain out. After the cloth has been prepared, either by creasing or stitching a seam, place the cloth one thickness over and the other under the cord-guide, and the whole under corder-foot. Draw the cloth to the left till fold touches end of corder-guide, then let down the foot, and stitch as usual, keeping the goods well to the left while stitching. Should the needle pass through the cord, or too far from it, change the position of corder as may be necessary, to right or left.

GATHERING AND SEWING ON AT THE SAME TIME.

Attach the ruffler to the machine in the place of the presser-foot, and put the hook at the end of its working-lever, over the needle set-screw. Place the band under the foot of the ruffler and upon the needle-plate, and the piece to be ruffled *on* the steel plate of the ruffler. Hold the lower cloth gently by the thumb and fingers of the left hand, so that the upper cloth shall be carried forward by the ruffler-feed faster than the lower. The amount of fullness can be regulated by the horizontal lever and ratchet on the ruffler, and by shortening the stitch.

TUCKING, with the "Johnston" Tucker.

Attach the tucker to the machine with gauge-screw. Connect the tucker to the needle with the small hook on the arm. The figures on the gauge show the width of the tuck. The figures on the marker show the width of space. To make tucks just meet, of any desired width, place the gauge and marker so that the indicator will point to the same figure on both marker and gauge. The space can be regulated by moving the marker to the left the same distance as the desired space. For example, to make a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch tuck, without any space, let indicator point to the figures $\frac{3}{8}$ on both marker and gauge. Then if a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch space is desired, move the marker to the left $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch, indicator will then point to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on marker. In commencing, fold the cloth to be tucked and place it between the upper and lower plates of the tucker close to the gauge; after sewing this, fold the cloth at the mark and proceed as before.

These directions will make a tuck of practical width and leave **no space** between the tuck. To obtain that, move the main plate to the left as far as the distance you wish to leave between your tucks.

To Make Narrow Tucks.

The cloth gauge is made in two parts, and to make a narrow tuck, slide the back portion of the cloth gauge back so that the front portion of the gauge will pass in front of the presser-foot and nearly on a line with the needle. This will enable the operator to make tucks one-eighth of an inch wide.

For the numerous special attachments, of very little or no value, with which the market is flooded, instructions are generally printed for distribution with each article. We advise our customers to deal in and use only the attachments we have named.

The ELDREDGE is gaining
popularity more rapidly than
any Machine in the market.

THE

ELDREDGE

UNPARALLELED IN ITS RECORD.

UNDOUBTED ARE ITS MERITS.

Self-Threading Shuttle.



The Best in Use.

UNEQUALED IN STYLE AND FINISH.

UNLIMITED IN ITS RANGE OF WORK.