

Glossary of

Terms relating to household sewing machines

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- British Textile Machinery Association
- Clothing Manufacturers' Federation of Great Britain
- Confederation of British Wool Textile Industries
- Health and Safety Executive
- Institution of Mechanical Engineers
- Institution of Production Engineers
- Joint Standing Committee for the Wool Textile Industry
- Lambeg Industrial Research Association
- Society of Dyers and Colourists
- Textile Institute
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- Clothing and Footwear Institute
- Consumer Standards Advisory Committee of BSI
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- Mail Order Traders Association of Great Britain
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Foreword

This British Standard, which is published under the direction of the Textile Machinery Standards Committee, is based essentially on the work of ISO Technical Committee 148 "*Sewing machines*" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) but as the discussions within that ISO Technical Committee in respect of terminology also concern industrial type sewing machines it has been decided that a British Standard for terminology of domestic or household machines should be published without awaiting the conclusion of the deliberations in ISO/TC 148. Account has also been taken of the work of ISO/TC 38/SC 10 "*Stitches, seams and stitchings*".

This glossary is divided into 2 sections. Section 1 consists of the terms and their definitions in alphabetical order. Section 2 includes illustrations of machine parts and accessories.

Appendix A lists alternative terms, not listed separately in section 1, with a cross-reference to the numbers of the more usual terms which are listed alphabetically in section 1.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 32, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

0.1 Scope

This British Standard lists terms and definitions and provides a selected illustrated nomenclature of the principal features of household sewing machines, their accessories and ancillary equipment and includes a basic vocabulary of sewing terms and techniques relevant to the use of domestic or household sewing machines.

0.2 Reference

The title of the publication referred to in this British Standard is given on the inside back cover.

Section 1. Terms and definitions

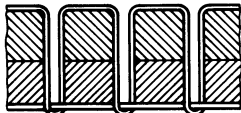
NOTE See Appendix A for alternative terms which are not listed separately but appear in this glossary with the more usual terms which are numbered and listed alphabetically.

No.	Term	Definition
1	appliqué	A motif affixed to a garment for ornamentation.
2	automatic	A machine that can complete an operation, e.g. buttonholing, without the need for the operator to intervene or control the movement of the cloth.
3	back stitch	A reverse stitch used in a bar tack or at the beginning and end of the seam for reinforcement.
4	bar tack	A series (or bar) of closely spaced zig-zag stitches used to reinforce the ends of buttonholes, flies, pockets, belt hoops and other similar openings and junctures to prevent tearing.
5	basting	Tacking with temporary stitches to hold garment parts in the correct position for a subsequent permanent sewing operation. Sometimes the garment is basted together for a first try-on.
6	bed	The sewing platform that supports the needle plate and slide plate. It contains the lower sewing mechanisms. NOTE See Figure 3.
7	bight	The distance between the extreme positions of the traverse movement of the needle (e.g. width of a zig-zag type stitch).
8	binding	Covering the edge of a seam with an additional piece of material (see also <i>cording</i> , 34 and <i>pipings</i> , 93). A special presser foot may be required.
9	blind stitch	A stitch that does not go right through the cloth.
10	blind stitch hemming	A seam in which the stitch is not easily discerned on the material. It is made by presenting the material to the needle in a particular way. A special presser foot may be required.
11	bobbin	A spool containing the lower thread. NOTE See Figure 4.
12	bobbin case	The container for the bobbin allowing the lower thread to be unwound as required and at an even tension. The case usually includes a tension spring that controls the tension of the lower thread as it is unwound. With some types of shuttle and hook the function of the bobbin case is designed into the shuttle or hook body thus eliminating the need for a separate bobbin case or case holder. NOTE See Figure 5.
13	bobbin case holder	That part of a shuttle or hook that holds the bobbin case in a stationary position allowing the bobbin to unwind within it and the shuttle or hook to revolve around it during stitch formation.

No.	Term	Definition
14	bobbin case holder latch	The lever or spring that holds the bobbin case in position.
15	bobbin case position plate	A plate that holds the bobbin case in its correct position. NOTE See Figure 6.
16	bobbin case positioning stud	A stud that locates the bobbin case in its correct position. NOTE See Figure 7.
17	bobbin latch	A device that allows changing from sewing to bobbin winding without removing the bobbin from the bobbin case. NOTE See Figure 7.
18	bobbin thread tension screw	The screw for adjusting the tension applied to the lower thread. NOTE See Figure 5.
19	bobbin winder	A device for filling a bobbin with thread quickly and evenly. It may be located internally or externally on the machine. NOTE See Figure 8.
20	bobbin winder engaging latch/lever/switch	The switch to engage the bobbin winder for winding.
21	bobbin winder pulley	The wheel that runs against the hand wheel to drive the bobbin winder spindle.
22	bobbin winder spindle	The pin for holding the bobbin while it is being wound with thread. NOTE See Figure 8.
23	bobbin winder stop	A device for stopping the bobbin winder when the bobbin has been filled with the correct amount of thread. NOTE See Figure 8.
24	bobbin winder tension	A device that regulates the tension on the thread when the bobbin is being wound. NOTE See Figure 9.
25	braiding	Affixing braid to a garment. A special presser foot may be required.
26	button sewing	Affixing buttons.
27	button sewing foot	A presser foot designed to assist in affixing buttons to a garment. NOTE See Figure 11 and Figure 32.
28	buttonhole foot	A presser foot designed specifically to assist in overedging the cut edges of a buttonhole. NOTE See Figure 10.
29	buttonholing	Formation of a buttonhole.
30	chain stitch (using single thread)	A class of stitch formed with one needle thread and characterized by intralooping. A loop of thread is passed through the material and secured by intralooping with the succeeding loop after it has passed through the material to form a stitch. NOTE See stitch class 100, BS 3870.
31	chain stitch (using two or more threads)	A class of stitch formed with two or more groups of threads and characterized by the interlacing and interlooping of the loops of the two groups. Loops of one group of threads are passed through the material and are secured by interlacing and interlooping with loops of another group to form a stitch. NOTE See stitch class 400, BS 3870.

No.	Term	Definition
32	cloth guide	An attachment to aid in attaining uniformity of seam width. NOTE See Figure 12.
33	convertible bed machine	A machine that may be used as either a flat bed or free arm machine without addition or subtraction of parts.
34	cording	Sewing a braided or raised edge on a garment (<i>see also binding</i> , 8 and <i>pipng</i> , 93). A special presser foot may be required. NOTE See Figure 13.
35	darning	Mending a tear, hole or worn part of the material.
36	decorative stitch	A stitch produced by a machine-controlled sequence forming a decorative pattern. It may be of lock stitch or chain stitch type.
37	direct lubrication	Lubrication by means of open oil holes located to deliver lubricant directly to the bearing surface. The lubricant is applied manually.
38	edge stitcher	An attachment, in the form of a presser foot, to enable stitching to be kept accurately on the extreme edge of the material. NOTE See Figure 14.
39	embroidery	A sequence of stitch types produced by manual control of the material to produce an ornamental pattern.
40	extension table	An extension to the working surface of a free arm machine or a flat bed machine. NOTE See Figure 15.
41	face plate	The cover on the sewing head end of the machine arm. NOTE See Figure 16.
42	fagotting stitch	A modified zig-zag stitch for joining materials and allowing a narrow gap between the two edges. The machine performs a cycle of three stitches, the first through one piece of material, the second in the aperture and the third through the second piece of material. Applicable to lock stitch machines only.
43	feed dog	A toothed (or flat) surface acting against the underside of the material being sewn and operating to move the material regularly and evenly under the sewing head. NOTE See Figure 17.
44	feed throw-out	A mechanism enabling the operator to drop the lower feed so that it will not rise above the throat plate, thus rendering the lower feed inoperative. It is used during darning or embroidery operations. It is sometimes improperly referred to as "drop feed".
45	feeding foot	A presser foot that alternately engages and disengages with the upper surface of the material and that is driven so that it feeds the material. NOTE See Figure 18.
46	felling	Joining two thicknesses (or more) of material in which one edge of the material is folded over to conceal the raw edge.
47	flagging	The rising and falling of material caused by the needle movement. It may occur also when there is too large an opening for the needle in the needle plate, allowing the material to be dragged into the needle hole.
48	flat bed machine	A machine with a flat working surface.
49	folding	Forming a fold in the material just before the material is fed under the needle to be sewn.
50	foot driven machine	A machine driven by means of a treadle.

No.	Term	Definition
51	forced feed lubrication	A system of lubrication that requires only the maintenance of the correct oil level in one control reservoir from which all necessary bearing surfaces are lubricated by means of some type of mechanical pump.
52	free arm machine	A machine where the working surface consists only of an arm. NOTE See Figure 19.
53	gathering	The drawing together, and holding in place, of a succession of small folds of material by stitching.
54	gravity feed lubrication	Lubrication in which the lubricant is delivered by gravity from a reservoir located at some high point in the sewing machine and is metered to the bearing surfaces.
55	guiding	Assuring regularity and direction of sewing, generally to the edge of the material.
56	gussetting	Insertion of an angular piece of material into a garment to strengthen or enlarge some part of the garment.
57	hand driven machine	A machine driven by means of a hand wheel or crank.
58	hand wheel	A wheel located at the end of the machine arm and controlling the movement of the take-up lever and needle bar. NOTE See Figure 20.
59	hand wheel stop motion screw	A knob located on the hand wheel that engages or disengages the sewing mechanism. It prevents the sewing mechanisms from operating when winding a bobbin. NOTE See Figure 20.
60	heel	That part of the presser foot furthest away from the oncoming material to be sewn. NOTE See Figure 21.
61	hem	A smooth edge produced by turning over the raw edge and securing it to the main material.
62	hemmer	An attachment that folds the material so that the raw edge is turned under or over to form a hem when sewn. It is sometimes improperly referred to as a "folder". NOTE See Figure 22.
63	hook	A device that acts as the loop-taker and carries the needle thread around the bobbin containing the lower thread, in order to form a lock stitch.
64	household sewing machine	A sewing machine specifically designed for domestic or household sewing work.
65	insertion	The joining of lace or a motif by cutting out the foundation material and "inserting" the lace or motif so that when inserted it lies flush with the foundation material.
66	interlacing	The passing of a thread over or around another thread or loop of another thread when forming a stitch.
67	interlooping	The passing of a loop of thread through another loop formed by a different thread when forming a stitch.
68	intralooping	The passing of a loop of thread through another loop formed by the same thread when forming a stitch.
69	lock stitch	A class of stitch formed with two or more groups of threads and characterized by the interlacing of the two or more groups. Loops of one group are passed through the material and they are secured by the thread or threads of another group to form the stitch. NOTE See stitch class 300, BS 3870.

No.	Term	Definitions
70	looper	A machine element having a blade to carry the lower thread, beneath the material, through the needle thread loop, enabling the loop to enclose the lower thread in the formation of a chain stitch. NOTE See Figure 23.
71	lower feed system	A system for progressing the material being sewn towards the needle by means of a mechanism acting against the underside of the fabric being sewn. The motion may be intermittent, alternating or reversible.
72	lower straight thread	A characteristic of a lock stitch when the interlacing is on the underside of the material (i.e. bobbin thread side). NOTE See Figure 1.
		
		Figure 1 — Illustration of lower straight thread
73	lubrication free	No lubrication is required.
74	machine bed	The sewing platform of a sewing machine that supports the needle plate and upright arm and covers the lower feed and lower thread mechanisms.
75	monogramming	Sewing letters (e.g. initials) onto material, using a satin stitch.
76	motor driven machine	A machine driven by means of an electric motor.
77	needle bar	A bar holding the needle clamp. It is part of the upper sewing mechanism. NOTE See Figure 31.
78	needle clamp	The holder attached to the needle bar for holding the needle. NOTE See Figure 31.
79	needle clamp thumb screw	The screw that clamps the needle to the needle clamp. NOTE See Figure 31.
80	needle plate	That part of the bed which has openings for needle and feed dog penetrations. NOTE See Figure 24.
81	needle position dial/lever	A dial or lever that places the needle in the left, centre or right sewing position. NOTE See Figure 25.
82	needle thread	Upper thread supply. NOTE See Figure 27 and Figure 28.
83	needle thread tensioner	The device for applying tension to the needle (i.e. upper) thread. NOTE See Figure 28.
84	needle threader	A device that assists with the threading of the needle. It may be an integral part of the machine or an accessory. NOTE See Figure 26.
85	notching	Making small cuts on the material edge to be used as guides during make-up.
86	overedge seaming	Joining two or more plies of material by means of an <i>overedge stitch</i> , 87.

No.	Term	Definition
87	overedge stitch	A class of stitch formed with one or more groups of thread and characterized by loops from at least one group of threads passing around the edge of the material. Loops of one group of threads are passed through the material and are secured by intralooping with themselves before succeeding loops are passed through the material, or secured by interlooping with loops of one or more interlooped groups of thread before succeeding groups of the first group are again passed through the material. NOTE See stitch class 500, BS 3870.
88	overedging	Neatening the cut edge of a material by the use of an overedge stitch to avoid fraying.
89	pattern disc	A disc that produces an ornamental stitch pattern. NOTE See Figure 29.
90	pattern disc holder	A dial that holds the interchangeable pattern discs in position. NOTE See Figure 29.
91	pinking	Zig-zag edge cutting of material to prevent ravelling or fraying. Usually effected with "pinking" shears.
92	pintucking	Narrow pleats stitched into place along their length.
93	pipng	Sewing a raised edge on a garment. A special presser foot may be required.
94	pleating	Excess cloth folded to provide fulness, drape or effect.
95	presser bar	A device consisting of a bar that has the presser foot located at its lower end and that presses down on the material being sewn to hold it against the feed dog without causing damage to the material. NOTE See Figure 30 and Figure 31.
96	presser bar lifting lever	A lever that raises or lowers the presser bar and presser foot and allows the needle thread tensioner to operate. NOTE See Figure 30.
97	presser foot	An attachment that presses the material being sewn against the lower feed during sewing in order to prevent "flagging" between stitches and to assist in the feeding of the material. NOTE 1 See Figure 31 to Figure 38. NOTE 2 There are presser feet for various applications, e.g.: a) appliqué; b) special purpose; c) buttonholes (see Figure 10); d) button sewing (see Figure 11 and Figure 32); e) gathering (see Figure 33); f) darning and embroidery (see Figure 34); g) general purpose (see Figure 35); h) straight stitch (see Figure 36); i) zipper, slide fasteners and cording (see Figure 37 and Figure 43). NOTE 3 The presser foot can be of one piece manufacture or the plate can be detachable, e.g.: a) one piece presser foot (see Figure 33); b) presser foot shank (see Figure 38); c) presser foot plate (see Figure 38); d) presser foot hinge pin (see Figure 38).