

# Understand Sewing Machine Needle Designations



Needle “**systems**” designate the basic features of a needle that fits any particular sewing machine including shank diameter, length from butt to eye, grooves and point length. The needle system can be composed of numbers, letters, or any combination of numbers and letters.

Example: 134, 16x257, DBx1, 128GAS, MY1014H

Since some machine builders assign their own needle systems (designations), ORGAN needle packages often list alternate references.

Example: DBx1  
16X231  
16x257  
1738



## POINT STYLE

Points of sewing machine needles are designed to meet demands of various materials. Fundamentally there are *cloth points* and *leather (cutting) points*.

Cloth Point needles have conical points with sharp or rounded points that penetrate materials and can displace fibers of cloth.

Tightly woven materials benefit from sharpener points while loosely woven, knit and stretch materials benefit from ball points.

Leather Points have cutting points.

*Diamond and Triangle* points penetrate dense leather, paper and similar materials just as a nail penetrates wood.

*Wedge Points* with “knife” shape points (Narrow Wedge, Twist, and Spear points) avoid bursting through such materials, slice into leather and leather like materials to create handsome stitches.

## FINISHES

The default finish of sewing machine needles is chromium plated. PD/Perfect Durability (titanium) plating makes needles more resistant to wear. Cool-Sew (LP & HP) PTFE alleviate adhesion and friction during needle penetration.

## SIZES of Needle

The needle size refers to the diameter of the needle blade (portion of needle that penetrates material).

The common standards are the ORGAN/Singer numbers and Metric numbers.

Example: 14/90 16/100



These appear etched on the shank of the needle.

Some machine builders specified their own sizes such as Union Special, Willcox&Gibbs, Reece and more.

Example: 16/040  
18/2  
22/50

See ORGAN “Size Chart & Needle Anatomy Chart”.

Also... see ORGAN “Thread Size Chart” (needle sizes appropriate for thread sizes)

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**ORGAN NEEDLES**