



Hand Needle Selection

Hand needles vary according to the shape of the eye, the length and point. The larger the needle size, the shorter and finer the needle. Select the *type of needle* for the type of project you will be sewing and then choose the *size of needle* for the weight of fabric and type of thread you will be using.

Types of Hand Needles

Ball Point

Slightly rounded tip for sewing stretch and knit fabrics

Beading

Very fine, long needle with a small round eye for beadwork, sewing sequins, pearls, etc.

Chenille

Large-eye needle with sharp point for ribbon embroidery, candlewicking and crewel work

Cotton Darners

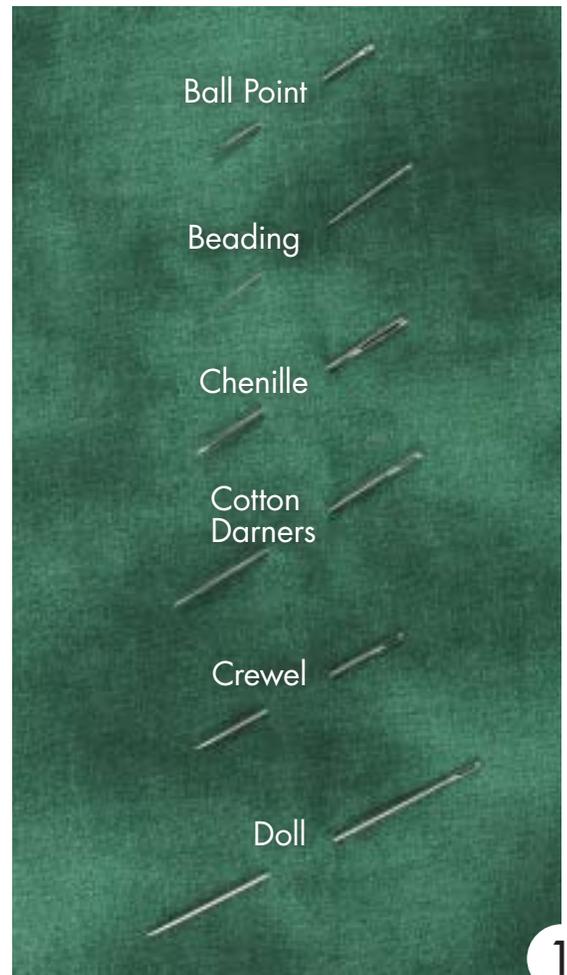
Long needle with sharp point and long eye for mending

Crewel

Sharp needle with long eye for hand embroidery and crewel work

Doll

Long needle with long eye for doll-making, soft sculpture, upholstery and other crafts





Easy Threading

General purpose needle with a slot in outer edge of eye for easy threading

Embroidery

Sharp needle with long eye for smocking, heirloom sewing, embroidery and crewel

Glovers/Leather

Needle with triangular point for use with leather, suede, vinyl and fur

Milliners

Long needle with small round eye for gathering, pleating, basting and millinery work

Quilting Between

Short needle with round eye for quilting and detailed handwork

Sharps

General purpose needle with sharp point for sewing and appliqué

Tapestry

Large-eyed needle with a blunt point for cross stitch, needlepoint and for stitching knitted items

Yarn Darners

Long heavy needle with a large eye for mending with yarn

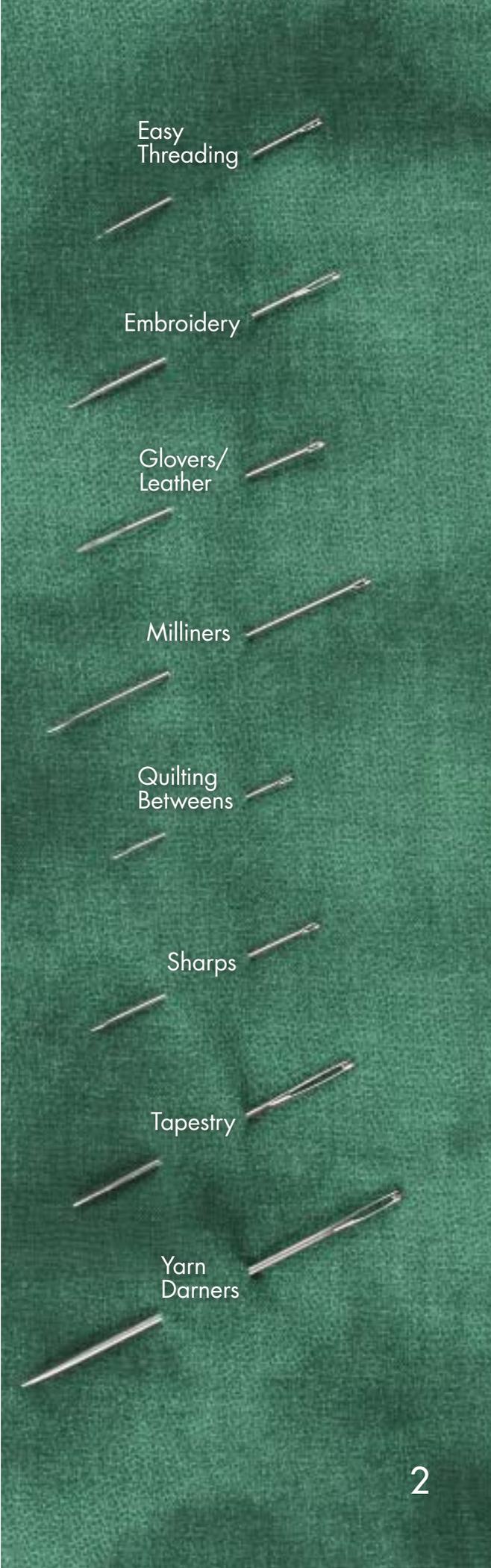
Beeswax

Are you tired of tangles and knots in your thread when hand sewing? To prevent this, pull thread through beeswax to coat the thread. Beeswax has other household uses too! Rub over zipper teeth of a stubborn zipper to make it slide like new. Use on a drawer that sticks when being opened and closed.



Needle Pullers

Lightweight, flexible needle pullers are essential to hand sewing, especially when stitching through heavy or multiple fabric layers. The flower shaped puller will grip the needle securely and help pull it easily through the layers. A needle puller is ideal for sewing through heavyweight fabrics such as denim and leather.



Needle Threaders

The eyes on small hand and machine needles can be difficult to see when threading and the eyes on serger loopers can often be difficult to reach. Needle threaders allow quick and easy threading of all types of needles.

Needle Threaders

Traditional threaders with either metal or plastic holders are suitable for most hand and machine needles. Threaders with plastic holders have a recessed cutter in the end for quick cutting of threads.



Looped Needle Threaders

Wire threaders with small loop on end hold thread securely as it passes through eye of needle. Long length allows you to easily reach into sergers to thread loopers.

Tip: The thin wire can also be used as a needle and passed through holes in center of beads for easy stringing.



Tapestry Needle Threaders

Flat, metal threaders designed especially for threading needles with thicker yarns such as needlepoint and tapestry wool.

Double Needle Threader

A double-sided threader for use with small and large eye needles. The pointed loop threader is used for fine threads and small eye needles. The squared loop threader is ideal for embroidery floss or pearl cottons and large eye needles.

Thimbles

A thimble allows you to work longer at repetitive hand sewing tasks by protecting the tip of your finger from abrasion and accidental piercing. A thimble also helps to push the needle through difficult or multiple layers of fabric. There are various types of thimbles available. Choose the one that is comfortable to wear and best fits your finger, and one that is designed for your end use.

Slip-Stop Thimble

A traditional style of metal thimble with built-in safety features. The ridges on the top and sides of the thimble prevent your needle from slipping as you hand sew.



Fingertip Thimble/Adjustable Thimble

Your long fingernails will not prevent you from hand sewing when you use this metal or plastic thimble. The bottom and tip of your finger are protected and the top is open to accommodate your fingernail.



Leather Thimble

Soft and durable, this leather thimble can be used for either sewing or quilting. The elastic band on the top adjusts to fit your finger size and the side vents allow your finger to "breathe."