



Margaret Moorehead's  
*Virtual Sewing Guild*

August 2018

Back to School  
Webinar!

[VirtualSewingGuild.net](http://VirtualSewingGuild.net)



# Back to School



- ❖ Threads
- ❖ Needles
- ❖ Stabilizers







# Virtual Sewing Guild Expo 2018







## Back to School

### Stabilizers and Fabric Prep

Cut away

Tear away

Wash away

Fabric Prep Products



Create a **FREE** account and you can download my ebook:  
**Secrets to Successful Machine Embroidery**



## Stabilizing Techniques

### Hooping and basting for embroidery

Many times when doing embroidery I hoop my stabilizer and then baste (fix, use a frame....whatever term you are used to) my fabric to the stabilizer.



## Stabilizing Techniques

Floating a piece of stabilizer:

This is the term used when you place a piece of stabilizer under your hooped project, and on top of the feed dogs.





## Tear Away:

Tears away from your project

Can be plain, sticky, fusible, or water activated tear away

## Cut Away:

Will not tear

Designed to be left in our project forever

## Water Soluble:

Disappears with water

Can be plain or sticky

Leaves no residue





## Back to School

### Plain tear away:

- Usually the most economical
- Hoop one layer of stabilizer
- Float a layer of stabilizer if more stabilization is needed

### Water Activated Sticky Tear Away:

- Activate by dabbing a wet sponge in a few areas (corners)
- Place your project on top
- Gives a firm hold where needed without an all over adhesive
- You can wet the entire project and make it an all over sticky stabilizer but this is not always necessary.
- If needed float a layer of plain tear away underneath.



## Self Adhesive “Sticky” Tear Away

- Gives an all over firm hold.
- Hoop this stabilizer with the protective paper side facing up in the hoop, and the stabilizer on the bottom side of the hoop
- Draw a “X” with a pin or an old needle to scratch the protective paper (but not through the stabilizer) in order to help you remove the protective paper.
- Place your project on top of the sticky stabilizer
- Excellent for perfect placement.



**Tear Away**



## Back to School

### Cut Away:

Designed to stay in your project forever

Used on fabrics that have stretch or are loosely woven such as polo shirts, t-shirts, fleece, sweat shirts...

Hoop the stabilizer, baste, embroider

If extra stabilizer is needed, float an extra piece.

Do not attempt to tear away...it needs to be cut away.

Hint: When trimming leave about a half inch all the way around your embroidery and round the corners.



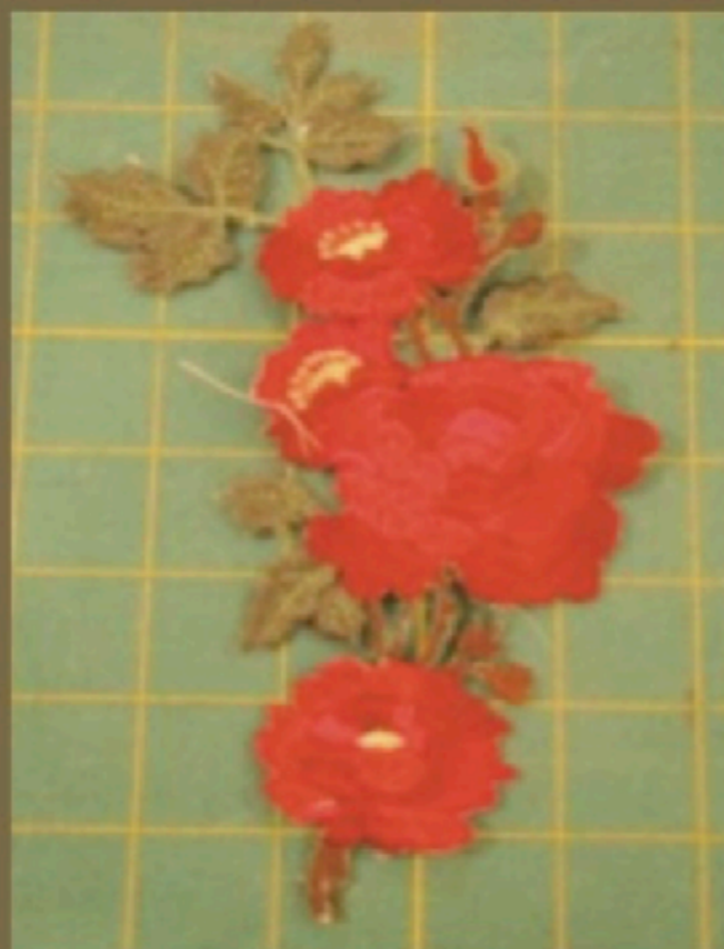
## Cut Away: No Show mesh

Technically this is a cut away but my favorite thing to do with this is Free standing Embroidery.



## Free Standing Embroidery

Hoop one layer of No Show Mesh Stabilizer and one layer of polyester or nylon organza. Stitch out your design using a rayon embroidery thread. Once the design is completely embroidered,



a



use a stencil wand to remove the excess stabilizer and organza from the outside of the embroidered design. You now have free standing design that can be stitched or glued to your project. No stressing over placement!

## Cut Away





## Back to School

### Water Soluble:

Topper: Plastic like (reminds me of plastic wrap used in the kitchen)

Used on terry cloth, fleece, velvet etc.

This is not actually “stabilizing” it is making sure your stitches lay on top of your project and do not sink in.

### Water Soluble:

Stabilizer: Use anywhere you do not want any stabilizer remaining on your finished projects such as lace, cutwork, sheer reverse appliqué, etc.

When you are finished with your embroidery quickly rough cut away the excess stabilizer and follow the manufacturers instructions for rinsing away the stabilizer that remains on your project.



**Water Soluble**



## Water Soluble Sticky Stabilizer:

Great for making sure you get your project lined up beautifully each and every time. Leaves no residue once your project is rinsed.



**Water Soluble**

Note: In this project you would NOT use sticky for the lace, but it would be great for all the embroidery on the linen

## Fabric Prep....this is not “stabilizing”



Bad Results



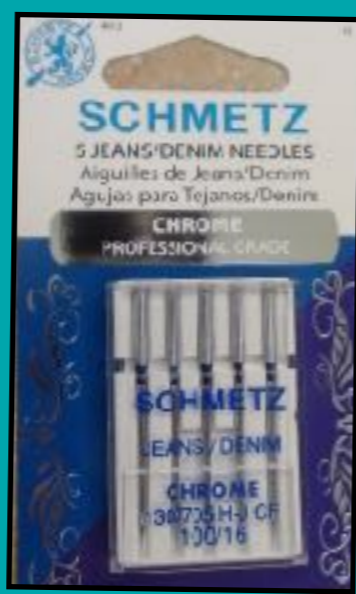
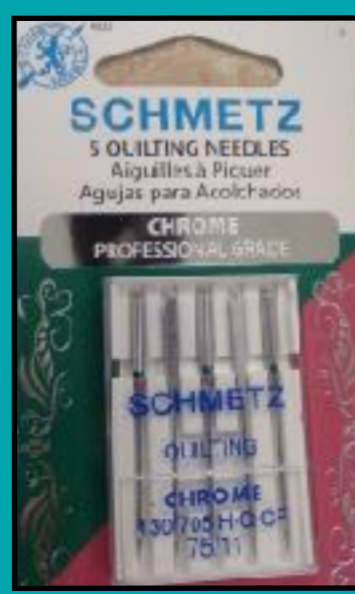
Good Results



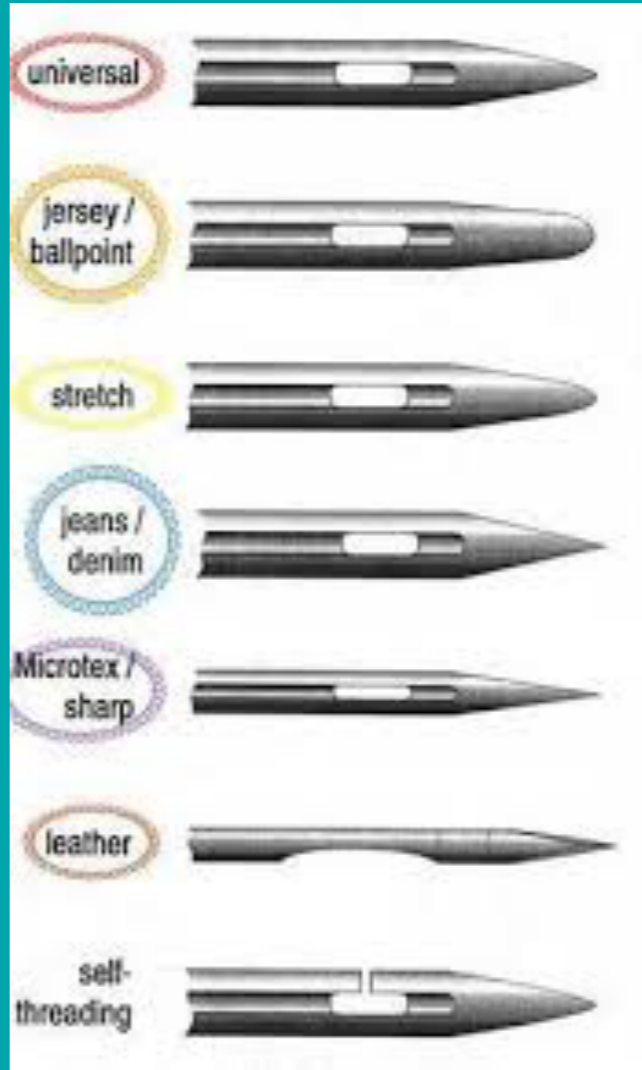
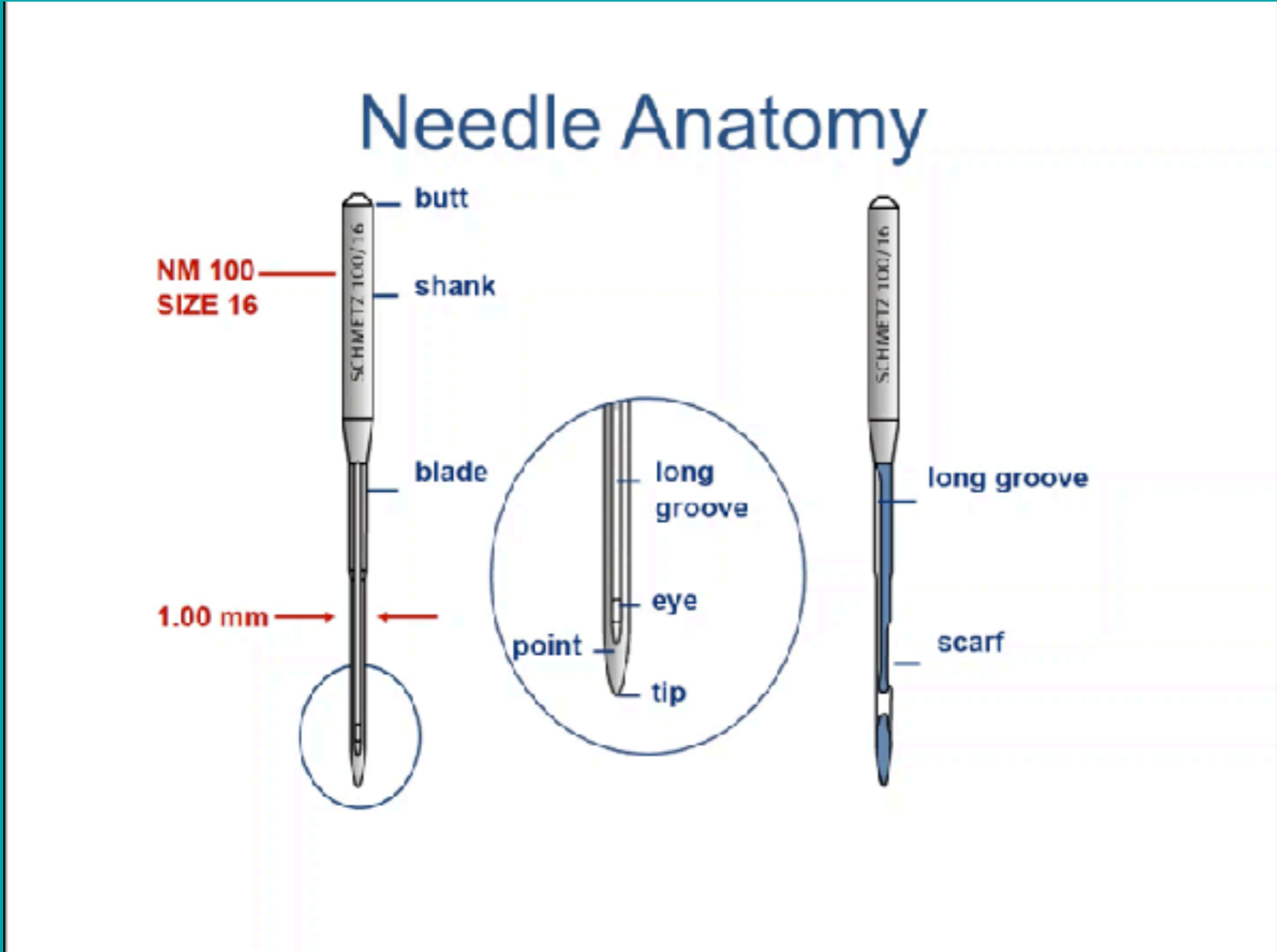


# Back to School

## Needles



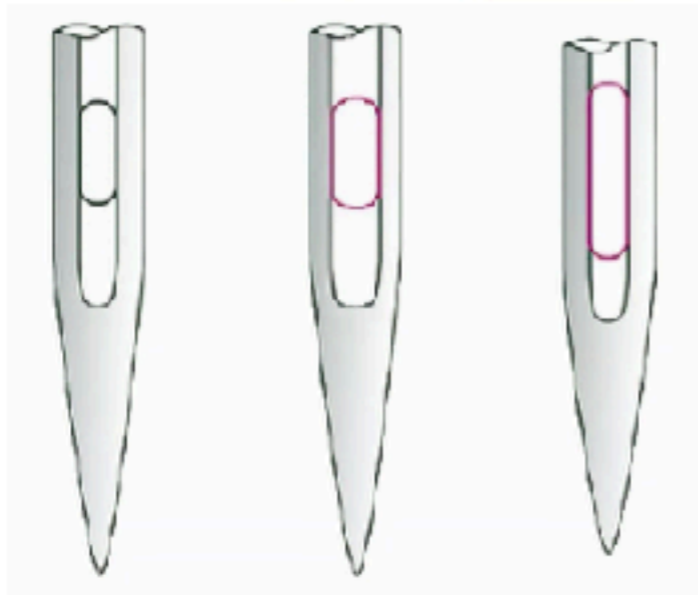
# Back to School





# Back to School

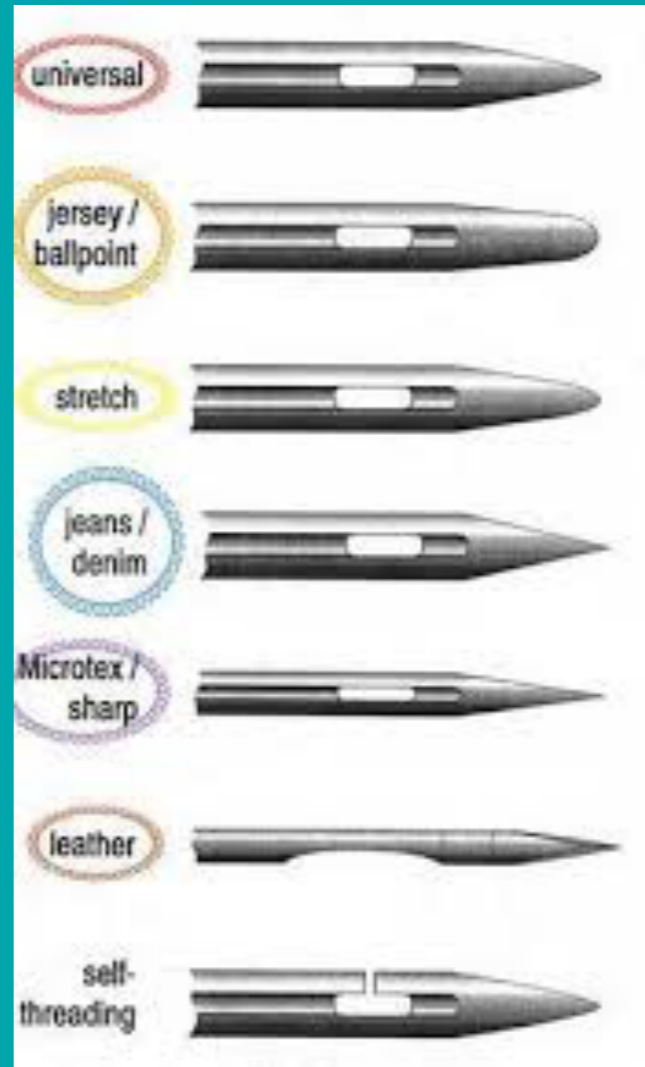
## Needle Eye Comparison



130/705 H  
Universal  
Needle

130/705 H-E  
Embroidery  
Needle

130MET  
Metallic Needle  
and  
130 N  
Topstitch Needle





# Sewing Machine Needle Chart

Create a FREE membership and you can download this chart

Metric	Imperial Size	Fabric Weight	Fabrics
60	8	Very Fine	Fine silk chiffon, organza, voile, fine lace
70	10	Very Fine	Net chiffon, nylon, sheers
75	11	Light Weight	Cotton, voile, chiffon, organza
80	12	Light to medium Weight	Cotton lawn, Taffeta, Silks, Tricots, Quilters Cotton, Gingham, fine linen, muslin
90	14	Medium Weight	Quilting Cotton, Poplin, Chintz, Synthetic Velvets, fine corduroy, linen, muslin, light wool, sweatshirt knit, fleece
100	16	Heavy Weight	Corduroy, Denim, Gabardine, Heavy Suiting, canvas, duck
110	18	Very Heavy	Heavy Denim, Heavy Canvas, Upholstery, faux fur
120	20	SUPER Heavy	Extra heavy fabrics



## Universal Needles



- This type of needle is “adequate” for most sewing projects.
- It is the good choice for your projects. (It might not be the “BEST”, but it is a good choice for most fabrics)
- It’s round enough for knits and sharp enough for woven
- Comes in a variety of sizes

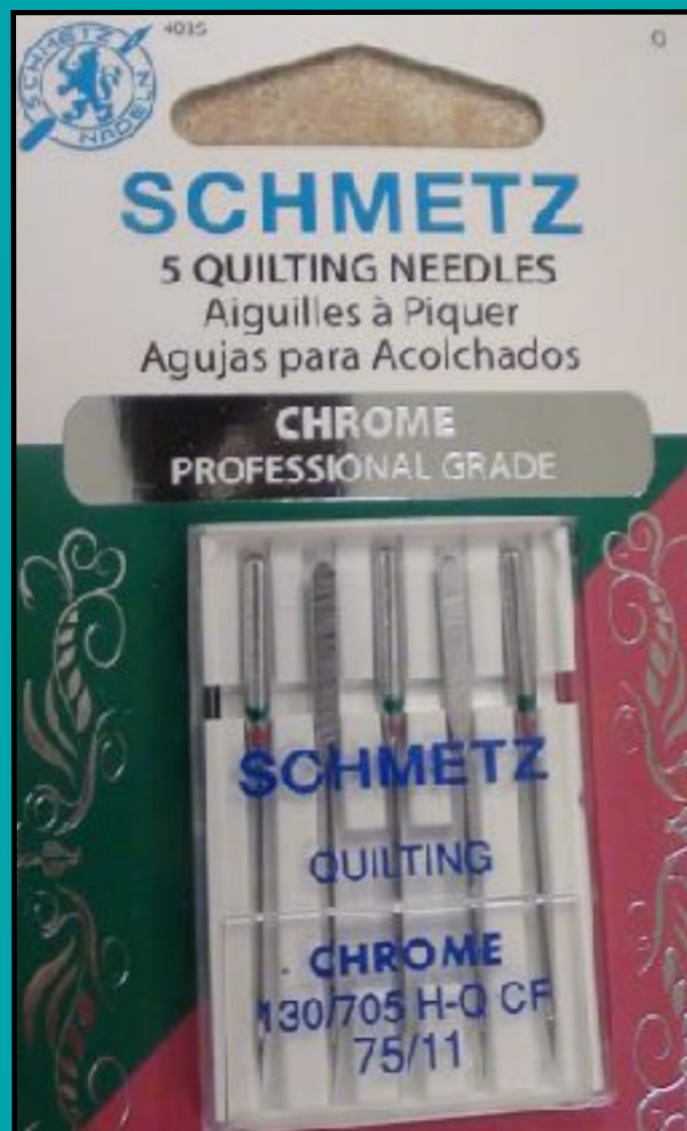
## Embroidery Needles



- Special scarf, widened groove and enlarged eye protect fragile threads and guard against excess friction for trouble-free embroidery and decorative stitching.
- Available assorted sizes, and as twin needles
- Threads to use with this needle: Rayon, polyester and other specialty embroidery threads.
- Use the smallest needle possible for embroidery. If using threads that are lighter than 40 wt use 75/11. Heavier threads use 90/14



## Quilting Needles



- Made especially for piecing and machine quilting. The special tapered design allows easy fabric penetration and helps eliminate skipped stitches.
- Available in 2 sizes. 75/11 and 90/14
- Use 75/11 for pricing and the 90/14 for the actual quilting.
- Has special taper with special rounded point
- Can be used on cotton fabric for projects other than quilting.

## Jeans/Denim Needles



- Advanced point design (Schmetz Exclusive design) is great for penetrating extra thick woven fabrics, denims, or quilts with minimum needle deflection, reduced risk of needle breakage and skipped stitches.
- This used to be a sharp needle many years ago, but it was switched to a modified medium “ball point” tip and reinforced blade for better results.
- Available in multiple sizes



## Microtex Needles

Generic name for  
Microtex is sharp



- Great for use with, micro fibers, polyester, silk, artificial leather, and coated materials.
- Very thin acute point creates beautiful topstitching and perfectly straight stitches for quilt piecing.
- Less bulk at the intersection of where the stitches are joined

## Topstitch Needles



- For use with heavy threads, topstitch threads, multiple threads, monofilament or poor quality threads.
- Elongated eye
- Trend for using this needle for actual quilting of projects



## Metallic Needles



- For use with metallic, monofilament and other specialty threads.
- Elongated eye prevents shredding and breaking of metallic threads.
- Less friction so less breaking.
- Metallic threads are finicky so this needle could be your answer

## Jersey/Ballpoint Needles



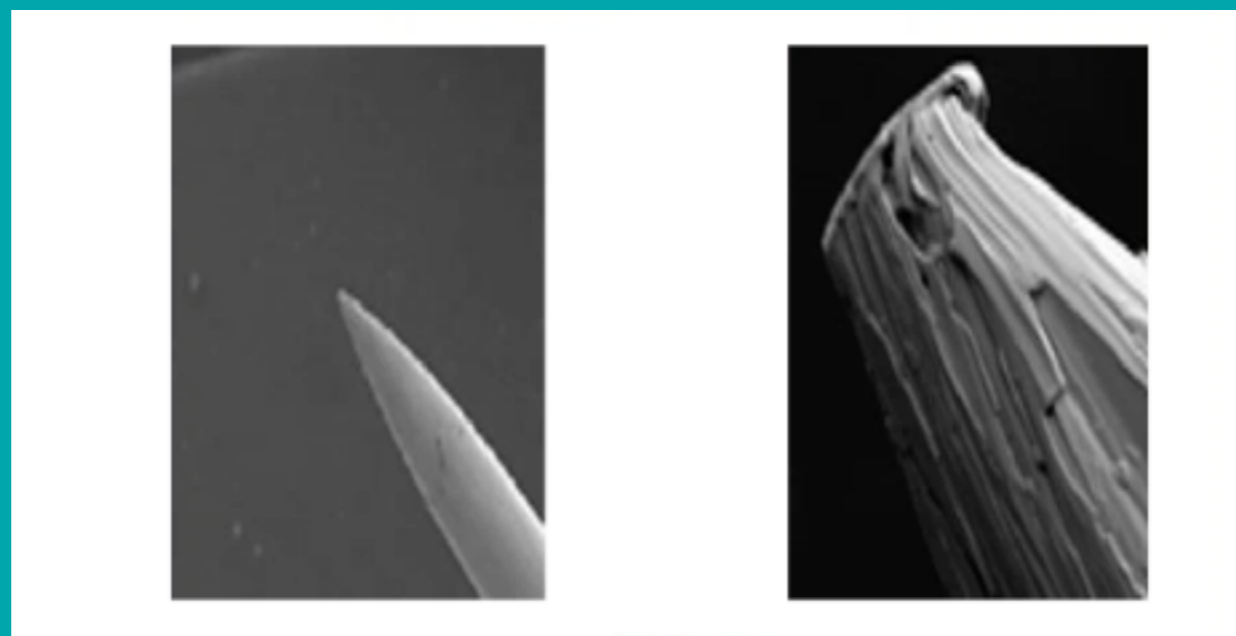
- Use when working with knits and some stretch fabrics.
- Medium ball point tip will not damage or break knitted fibers

Note: Use a “stretch” needle with material that has any elastic or spandex in it. This needle has a smaller eye than does the ballpoint needle. If there is any lycra or spandex in your fabric, start with a stretch needle, if you have issues go to the Ballpoint



## Quick Notes

- Use the correct needle for your project
- Change your needle frequently or if you are getting skipped stitches, snagging, if the needle is making a popping or loud sound, or if stitches are not forming correctly
- Needles get “burs” as we stitch, needles will be deflected as we stitch and might not remain exactly straight so we need to change needles on a regular basis.



Needle Magnified 1000 times

# Hemstitch/Wing Needles



- Has a “wing” on each side of it
- Use on light or medium weight loosely woven fabrics. This is popular for heirloom sewing to form “entredeux”





## Twin Needles Needles



- Two like needles on a single needle bar
- Comes in a variety of types: universal, stretch, jeans, metallic, and embroidery,
- Comes in a variety of sizes and spacings
  - 1.6/70 up to 6.0/100
  - 1.6 is distance between needles
  - 100 is the size of the needle

## Triple/Drilling Needles



- Originally designed for putting in waist bands. It is no longer needed for that, so now it is used for decorative stitching
- One shank with three needles
- Parallel lines on front, zig zag on the back





# Quick Notes Twin and Wing Needles

- Might need to slow down stitching speed
- Do some test to determine the stitch that will work best for you
- Be sure to engage the twin needle function on your machine if you have that function
- Use decorative threads...test to find the ones you like best
- Make notes on which stitches work and the sizes you like. This information can be recorded on paper or on some machines you can store your favorites on your machine so they will always be there for you!
- Threads can blend with the fabric or contrast with the fabric

# Back to School



Coming up next....

Understanding  
Different  
Threads!

From bobbin thread  
To  
Couching thread  
And those  
In between!





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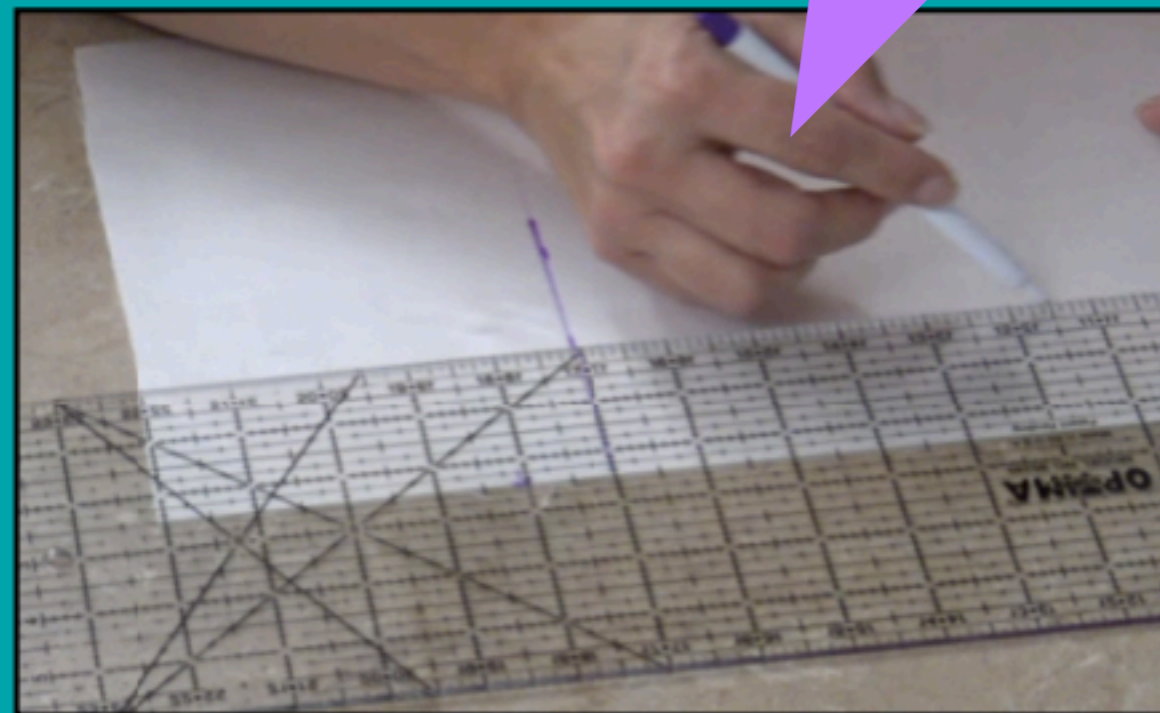


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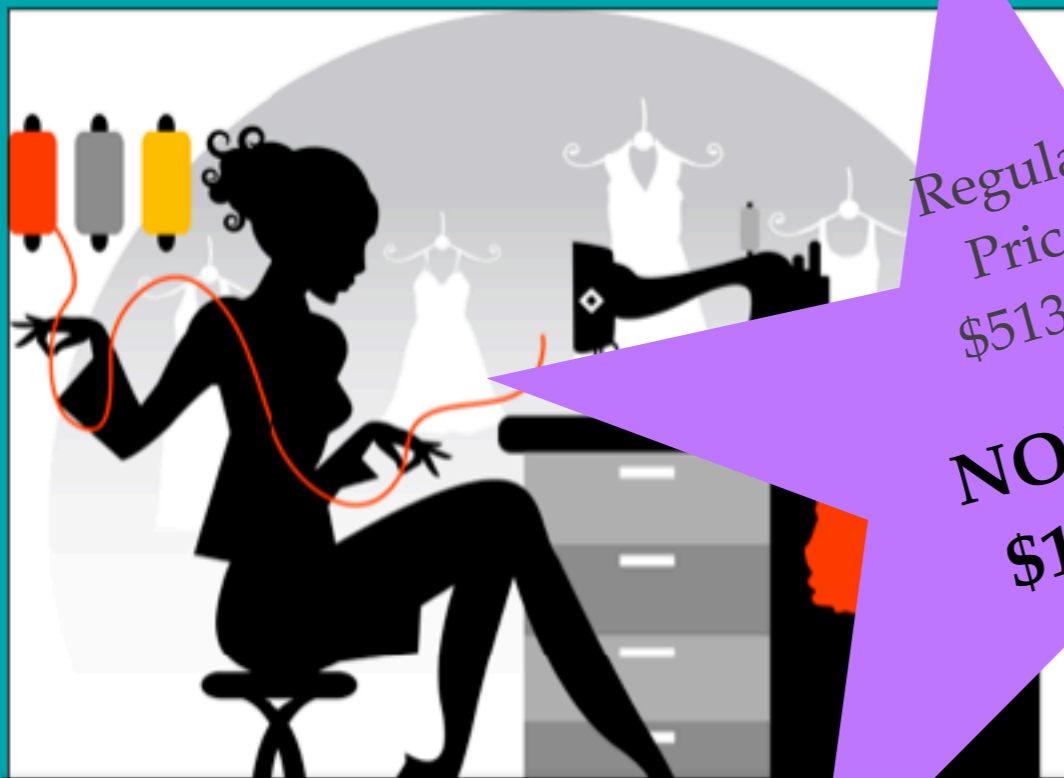
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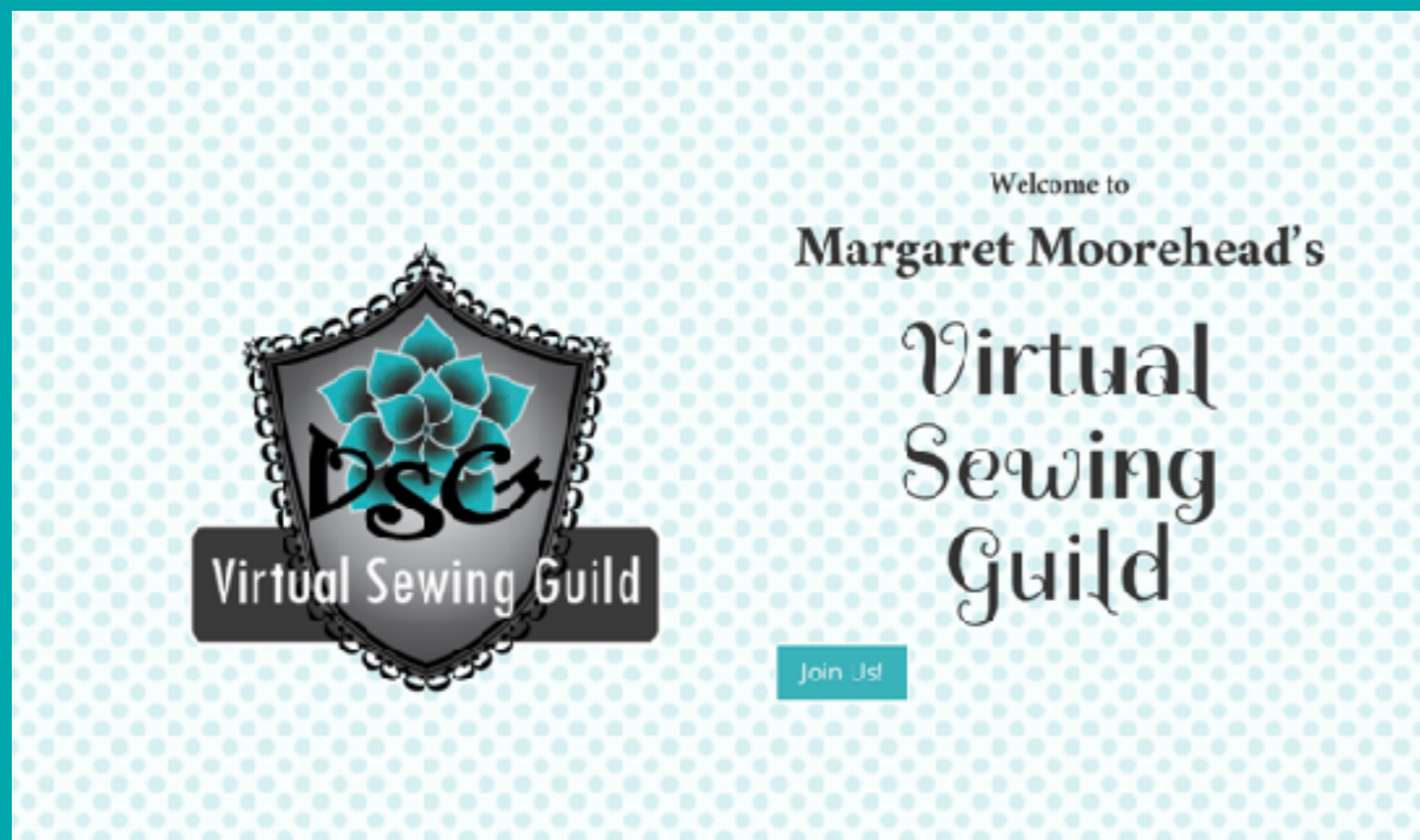
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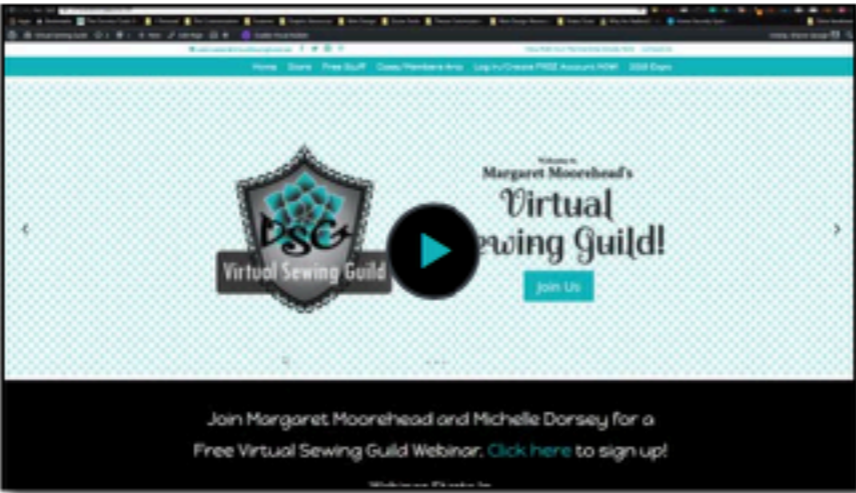
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Besides coming in a vast array of colors, threads also have different weights, content, finishes, strengths, etc.  
Let's talk about them!



# Back to School

## Thread





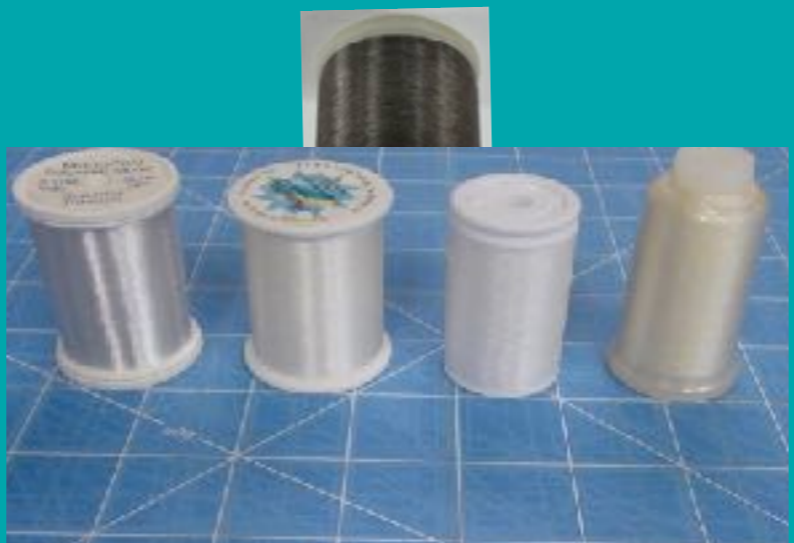
# Back to School

## Construction Thread





# Back to School



## Monofilament Thread



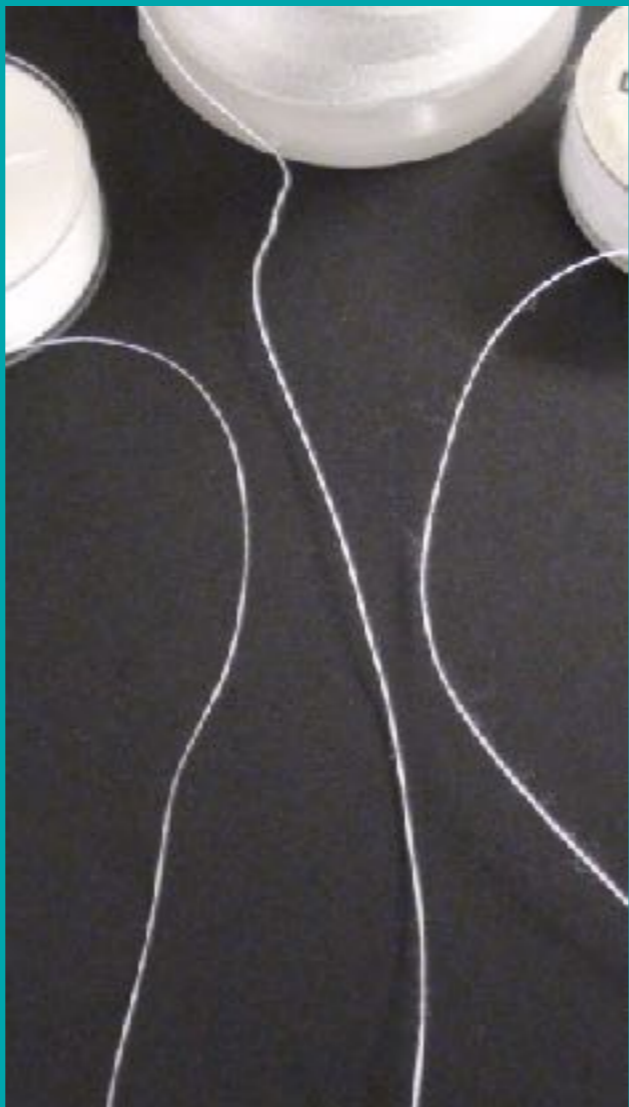




## “Bobbin” Thread

- Available in different fiber content
- Weight varies
- Pre wound
- On Spools

# Back to School



## Bobbin Thread Visual Comparison

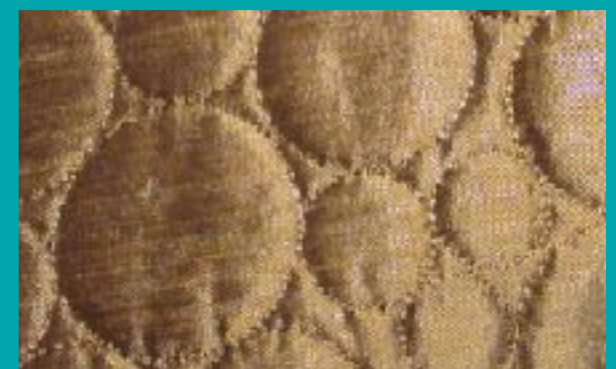
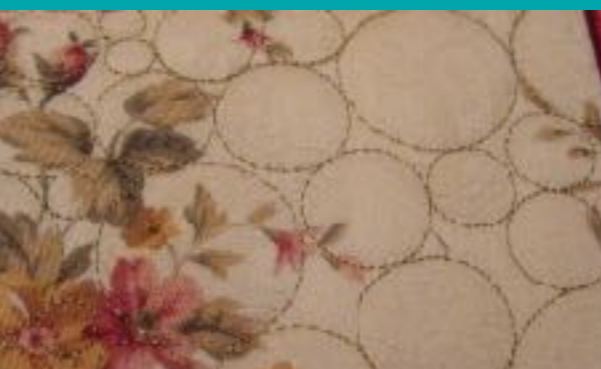
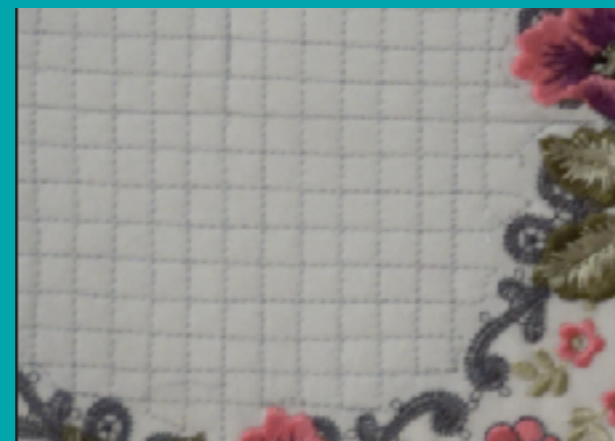


# Back to School



## “Quilting” Thread

- 40 wt thread: quilting stitches show up nice
- 50 wt. thread is great for piecing
- Special “hand quilting” thread should be used for hand quilting
- Sheen or no sheen
- Color can match or contrast





## Topstitch Thread





## Metallic Thread

Use Correct needle  
Slow machine down

Experiment with different types fo metallics



# Embroidery Thread





# Back to School

## Embroidery Thread





# Back to School

## Stitch outs

Cotton, Variegated  
Embroidery Thread

Construction Thread

Metallic Thread

Polyester Thread

Polyester Thread

Rayon Thread

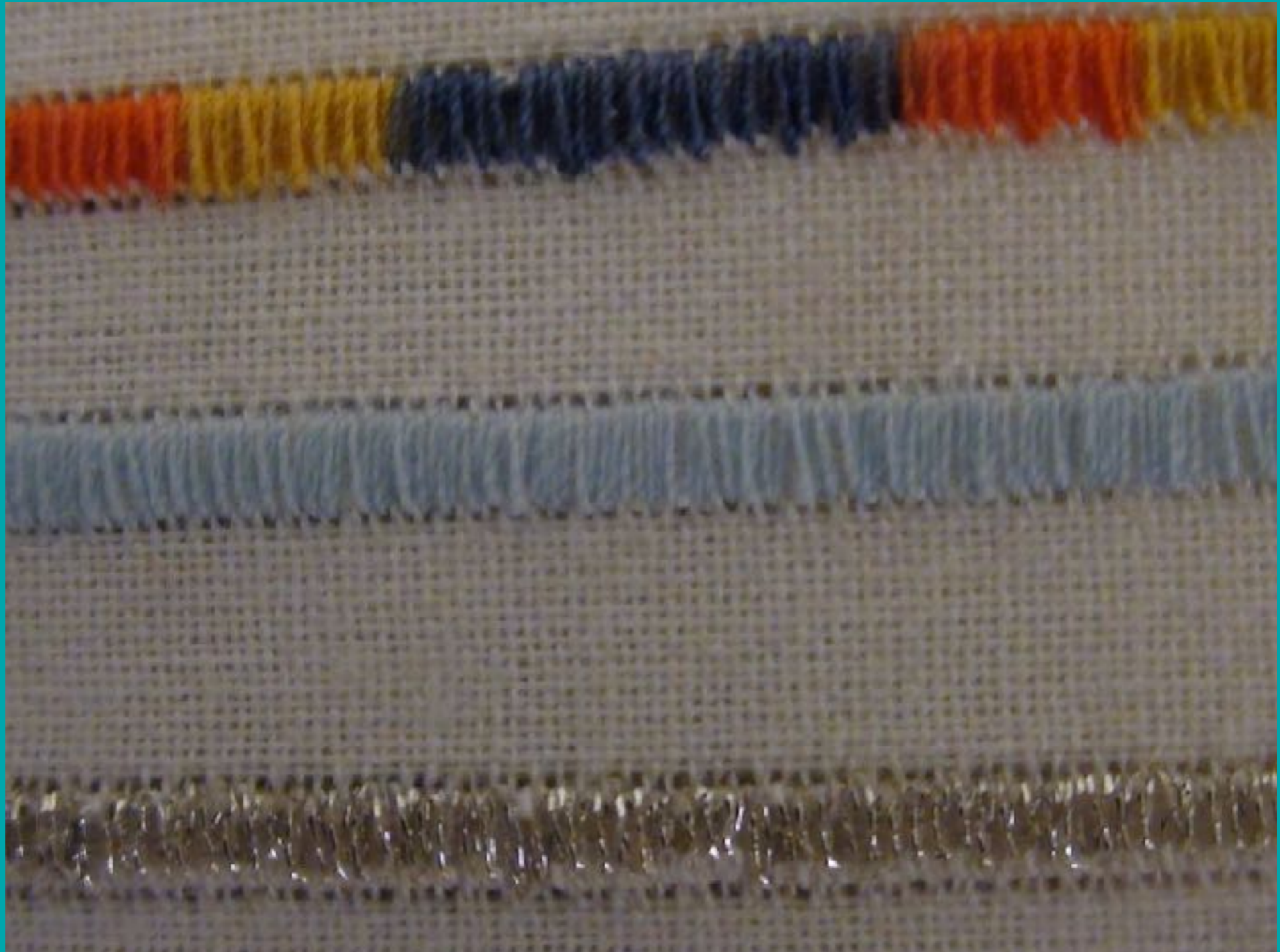




1. Cotton (bobbin thread showing).

2. Construction Thread

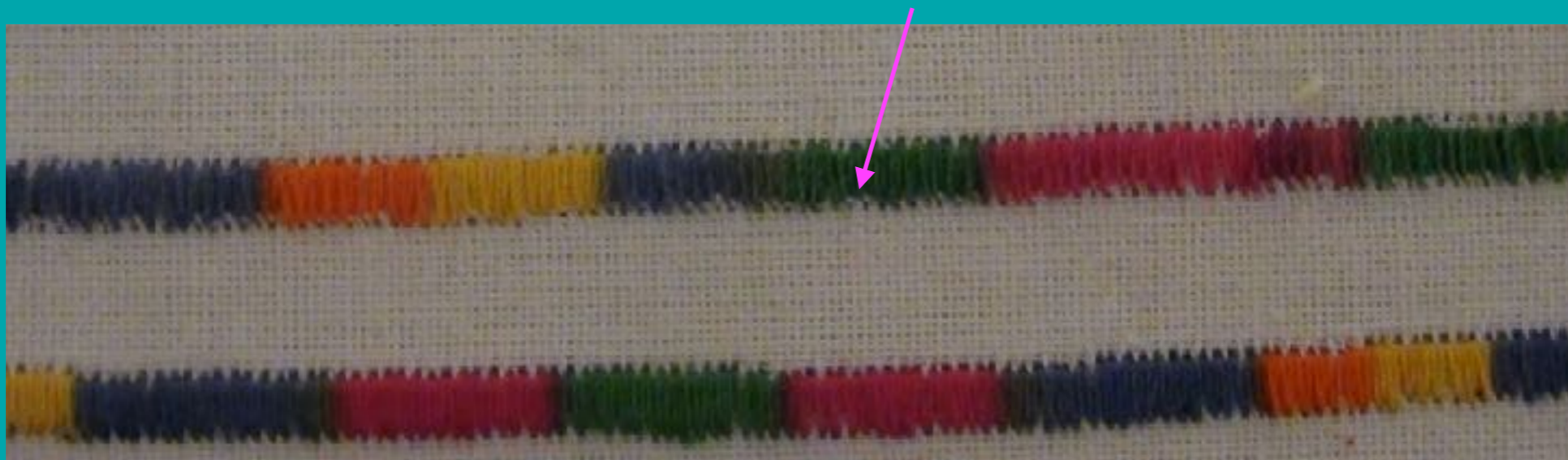
2. Metallic





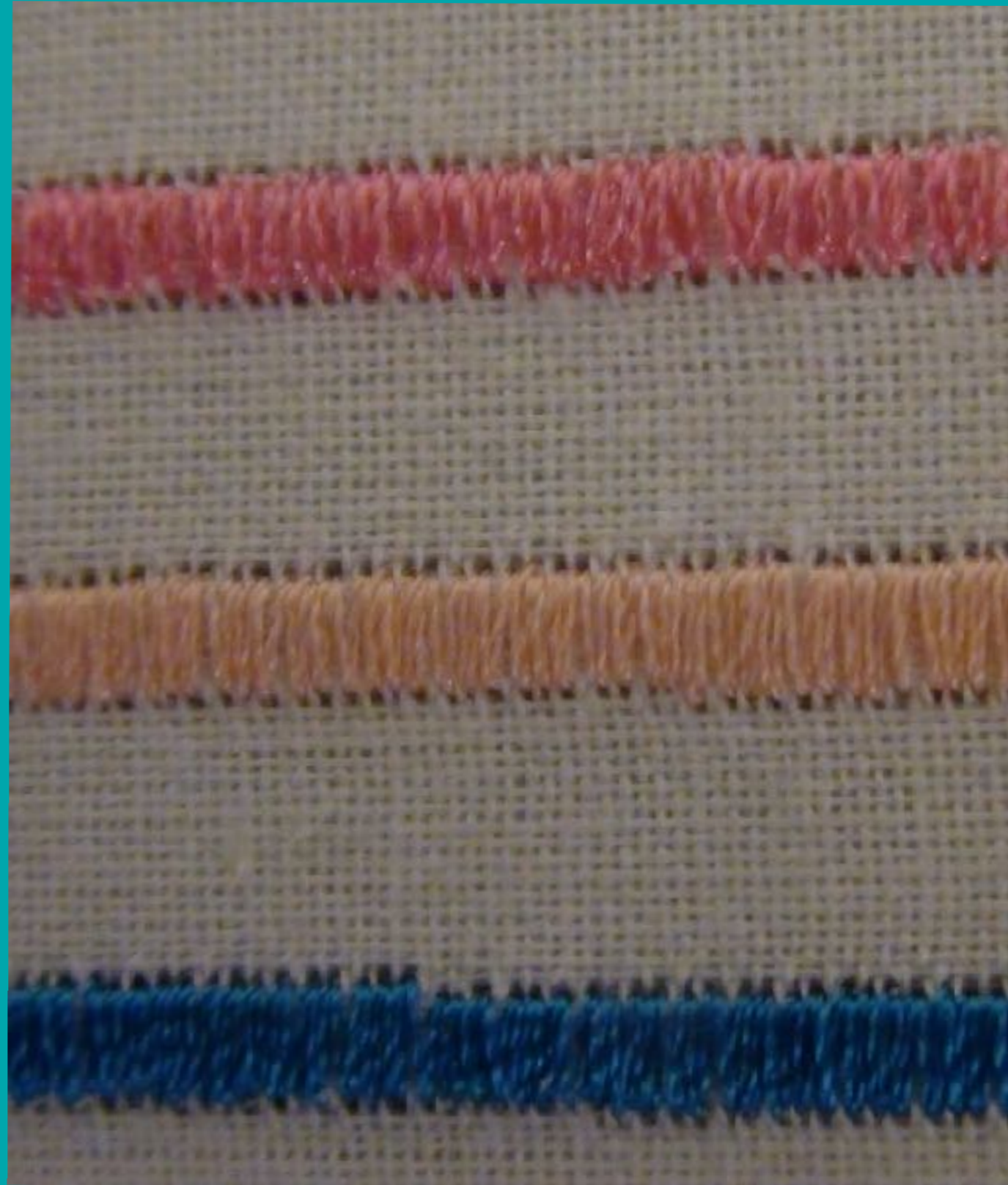
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## 40 Weight Cotton





Polyester  
Vs  
Rayon

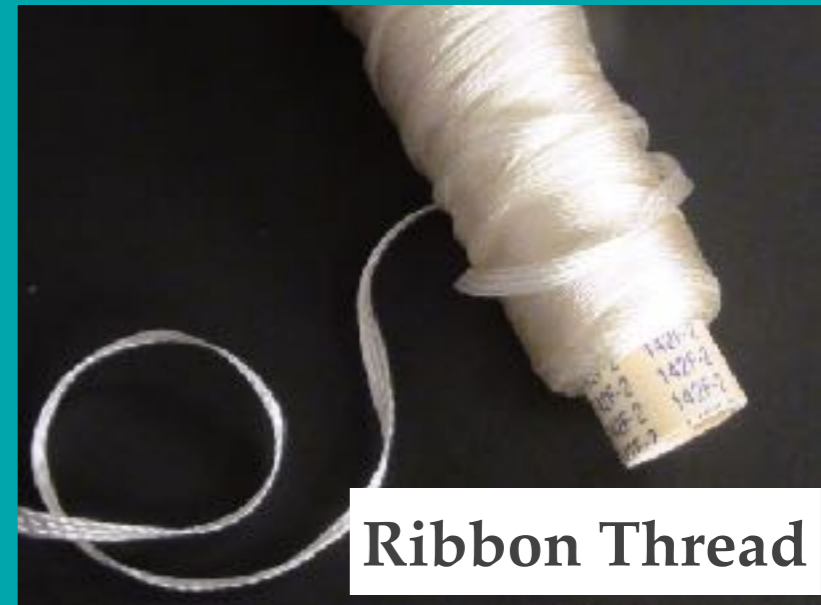
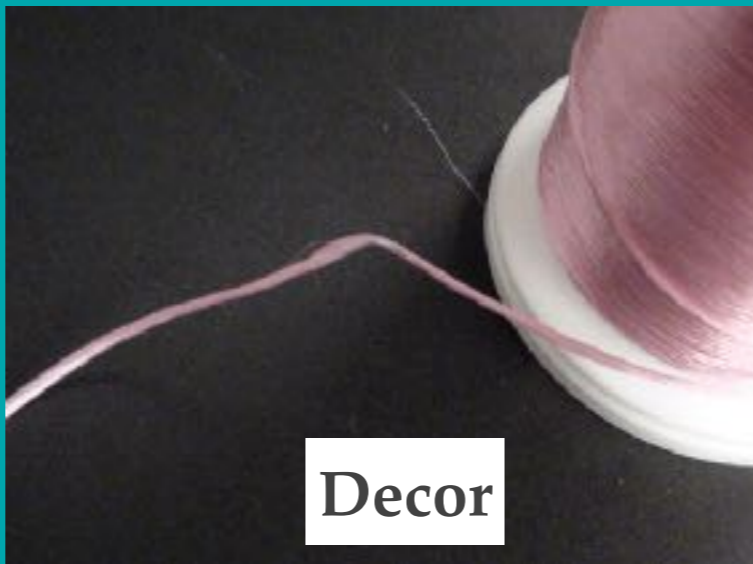


## Specialty Threads





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# Back to School

## 12 weight Thread







## Back to School

### 12 weight Thread

Jeans needle  
Size 100



Topstitch needle  
Size 90



## Back to School

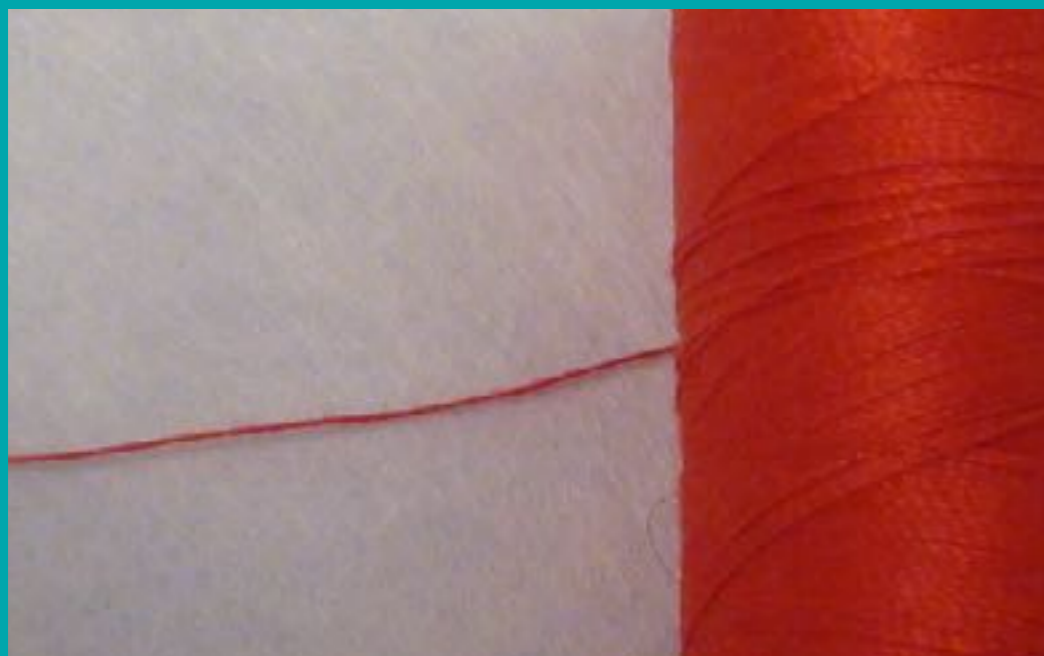
### Luny Thread

Jeans needle  
Size 100



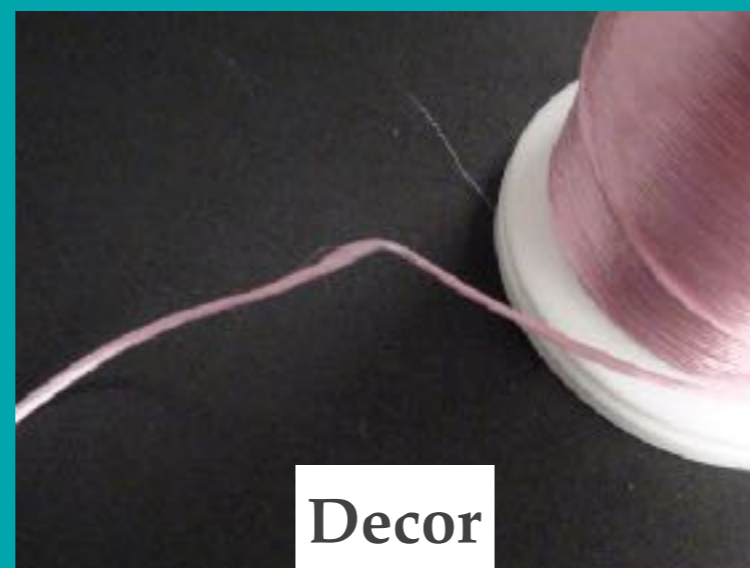


# 12 Weight Cotton



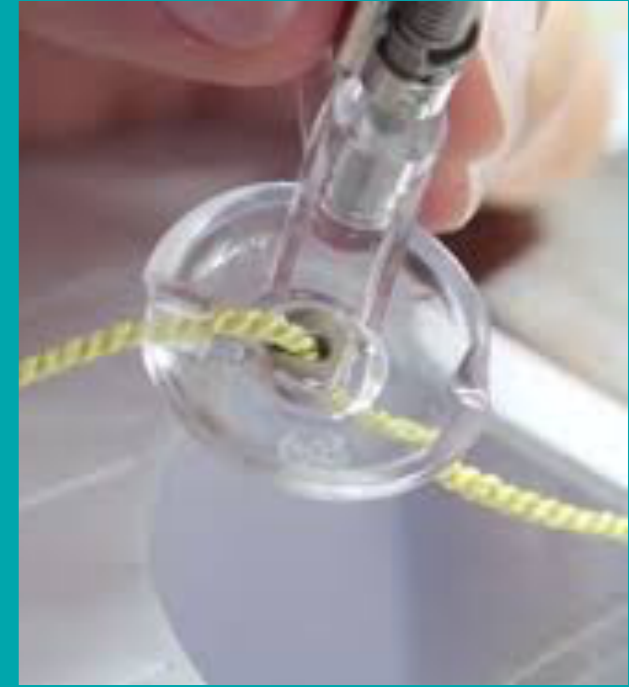
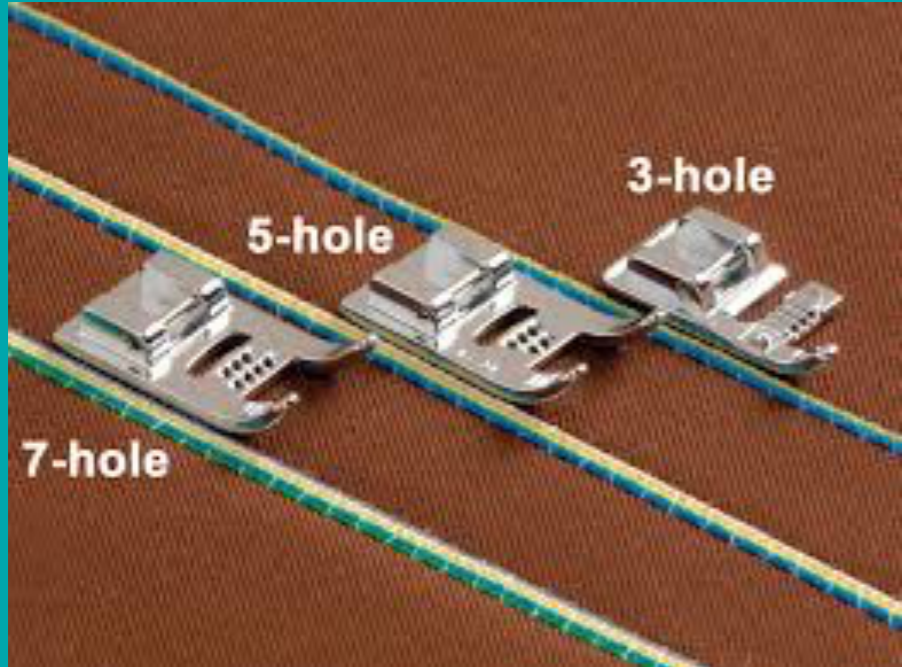
# Back to School

Decorative Threads that  
are great for “couching”  
On top of your project





# Back to School







# Back to School





# Back to School

FYI: Some threads are “twisted” and some are not





## Back to School

### Quick Notes

- When constructing a project or garment, the thread needs to be strong and durable to stand up to the wear and tear of daily use, washing and drying. In general you do not want your thread to be stronger than your fabric in garment/project construction so if something is going to break it will be the thread and not the fabric
- You can, but do not have to, match your thread content to your fabric fiber content. (Example: Silk fabric....silk thread)
- Visibility: Choose the thread based on how much you want it to show. Heavier thread shows up better than light weight thread, but be sure the thread is not too heavy for the fabric you are working on, or the stitch(es) you want to form.
- When doing topstitching you might want the stitches to be an accent, or you might want them to barely show
- Threads that are too thick for the needle can be used in the bobbin, in the serger or can be “couched” on
- Be sure to use the correct type and size of needle
- Sometimes you will need to adjust your tension to get the results you want.





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Happy Creating!*





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