

Frequently Asked Questions – Sewing Machine Reservations in the SSFPL Discovery Center

Are reservations required to use a sewing machine?

A: No, but if you want to be certain that a sewing machine will be available for you to use when you visit the library, make a [reservation](#).

How long can I reserve a machine for?

A: Each individual reservation is a maximum of 4 hours. If the machine is still available after that time, you can request more time by checking in with Discovery Center staff.

How long in advance can I make a reservation?

A: If you want to reserve a sewing machine, you can do so up to 30 days in advance, either online, by calling 650-829-3860, or speaking with library staff in-person. Online reservations must be made *at least* 24 hours in advance.

For reservations that need to be made with less than 24 hours notice (including same-day reservations) call 650-829-1737 to inquire with a library staff member if they can make the reservation for you. Note that to make a reservation online with CivicRec, you must be at least 18 years old *or* be a part of a parent/guardian's account.

How old do I have to be to make a reservation/use a sewing machine?

A: Our Singer Stylist 7258 and Brother SM2700 sewing machine can be used by those who are 13 or older, or younger if accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18.

Do I need to have a library card in order to use the sewing machines and/or make a reservation?

A: No - library staff can hold your ID while you use our sewing machine and supplies. Your ID will be returned to you upon library Makerspace staff receiving the sewing machine and supplies back.

You do not need a library card to make a reservation, but to make a reservation online you need to create a [CivicRec](#) account (must be 18 or older to create an account).

How many sewing machines do you have?

A: We have 2 Singer Stylist 7258 sewing machines and 2 Brother SM2700 sewing machines.

Is there a limit to how many times I can reserve a machine?

A: You can reserve the sewing machine up to two times within seven days.

Can I bring my own sewing supplies to use with your equipment?

A: When you borrow one of our sewing machines, you will get a kit that contains a packet of needles, scissors, seam ripper, pins and pin cushion, bobbins, and black thread.

We have a limited supply of thread and fabric available for you to practice with, but generally, you need to bring your own thread and/or fabric for your projects.

Some common types of material that are generally compatible with our sewing machines include light-and-medium-weight fabrics (i.e. quilting cotton, medium-weight denim, stretchy fabrics like those used for jerseys, polar fleece, light voiles, organza, and satin).

Some common types of material that generally are not compatible with our sewing machines include:

- Heavy denims,
- Canvases,
- Upholstery,
- Leathers,
- Suede,
- Adhesive or other sticky fabrics,
- Wet fabrics

It is important to note that the above guidelines are not always hard-and-fast rules. For example, it may be possible to use our sewing machines to work on a project using leather, for example. However, going against these guidelines requires advanced sewing skills. If you are unsure whether the material you are going to use is compatible with our sewing machines, please email ssfpladm@plsinfo.org

Do I need to know how to sew before using the machines?

A: Library Makerspace staff are available to help you get started using our sewing machines, but they aren't able to teach you how to sew. Below are some resources you can use to help you be ready to start sewing:

- [The Mending Hour](#) : A library workshop held weekly on Thursdays for people to bring in sewing projects to work on using library sewing equipment and supplies. A library staff member is available for light assistance.
- Link to [training playlists on YouTube](#) (Singer Stylist)
- Link to [training playlists on YouTube](#) (Brother)

- Check out classes offered through Parks and Recreation, also available on CivicRec.

Can I take a sewing machine home?

A: No, our sewing machines are just for use in the Discovery Center.

I heard you have a serger and/or embroidery machine. Can I reserve these machines too?

These machines require staff supervision and training, so are currently only available for use by appointment only. Please email ssfpladm@plsinfo.org to speak with staff about your project needs if you think you will need to use the serger and/or the embroidery machines.