

Sew at Home

OnDemand Classes

Education by Baby Lock & Designer's Gallery

Crown Jewel III Basics – Part 1

If you are ready to start quilting with your new Crown Jewel III and are not sure exactly how to get started, this is the class you are looking for. Learn how to wind the bobbin, how to thread the Crown Jewel III, how to adjust the tensions and how to change the needle and how to know which size to use. Trouble shooting when the stitching is not looking right will also be covered, so it will be easy for you to spot the problem and solve it so you can get to quilting! We will also take a look at some of the different quilting feet that are available for your Crown Jewel III. And at the end of class you will have a class handout with step by step instructions and lots of pictures to use as you set up your quilt so you can start enjoying that beautiful new Crown Jewel III.

Note: If you are looking for instruction on using your new Baby Lock quilting frame, you will want to take a look at either Momentum Frame Basics or Pearl Frame Basics.

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Turn on Crown Jewel III

A front power switch has been added to the Crown Jewel III

1. There is still a power switch at the back of the machine on the left side
2. The Crown Jewel III also has a power switch on the right handle bar at the front of the machine
3. Note that both switches must be turned to ON for the machine to work
4. But once both are on, the machine can be turned on or off with the front switch if you will be returning to sewing later on that same day

Winding Bobbins

A bobbin winding machine and several M class metal bobbins were included when you purchased your Baby Lock Crown Jewel.

1. The bobbin winder comes packed with its own instruction book
2. Additional bobbins can be purchased from your Baby Lock dealer.
 - Bobbins for your Crown Jewel III are sold in packs of 3 bobbins
 - Part number BLJ-BOB

Set up the bobbin winder

1. Attach the spool pin by screwing it into the threaded hole closer to the center of the bobbin winder
 - This is where your spool of thread will sit
2. Attach the thread mast and pigtail thread guide
 - Attach the thread mast by screwing it into the threaded hole closer to the front edge of the bobbin winder
3. Turn the thread mast so the thread guide is directly above the thread sitting on the spool pin
4. Tighten the nut at the bottom of the thread mast so it does not wobble
5. You will find it easier to tighten the nut if you hold the pigtail thread guide up out of your way
6. Slide the pigtail thread guide back down to the base of the thread mast
7. Turn the pigtail so it sticks out over the front of the bobbin winder



- The pigtail should be slightly to the left of the tension assembly on the front of the bobbin winder.
8. There is a very small Allen wrench packed in the same plastic bag that the thread mast was in.
 9. You will need to use the Allen wrench to tighten the tiny set screw on the collar where the pigtail thread guide is attached to the thread mast
 - Tighten it so the pigtail stays in the correct position



10. Plug the bobbin winder into power and you are ready to wind bobbins.

Thread the bobbin winder

1. Place the thread on the spool pin
2. Place the thread in the guide on the thread mast
3. Then place the thread in the pigtail thread guide



4. After the pigtail guide is threaded, the thread goes into the tension disks.
5. Insert the thread between the tension disks.
 - The thread goes between the disks and goes clockwise around the tension
6. Grasp the thread on both sides of the tension disks and floss it firmly into the tension
7. Place an empty bobbin on the bobbin pin at the left front of the bobbin winder

8. The large black knob with numbers around it is the speed control and controls how fast the bobbin winds
 - Note that all bobbin winders will wind a smoother bobbin with less stretching of the thread if you wind at a slow to medium speed.
9. Wind the thread clockwise around the bobbin 7 or 8 times and hold onto the end of the thread until it is pulled into the winding bobbin
10. Touch the green Start bobbin at the same time as you wrap the thread around the bobbin one more time and the thread will be snatched out of your hand and wound onto the bobbin



11. When the bobbin is full the bobbin winder will stop
 - Note: If you want to wind a bobbin that is not full, you can stop the bobbin winder by touching the red Stop button.

If you are winding thread from a parallel wound spool the optional horizontal spool pin can be used on this bobbin winder



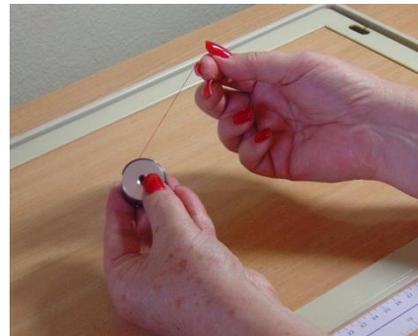
Insert the Bobbin into the Bobbin Case

Instructions for inserting the bobbin into the bobbin case are on page 24 of the Crown Jewel III Instruction book

1. When you take the bobbin off the bobbin winder the bobbin will be in the correct position to be inserted into the bobbin case
2. The thread wraps clockwise around the bobbin
3. The end of the thread comes off the top of the bobbin and extends to the right



4. Hold the bobbin case as shown in the picture
5. Drop the bobbin into the case



6. Guide the thread into the slot on the bobbin case
7. Pull the thread under the flat metal tension spring



Set the Tension on the Bobbin

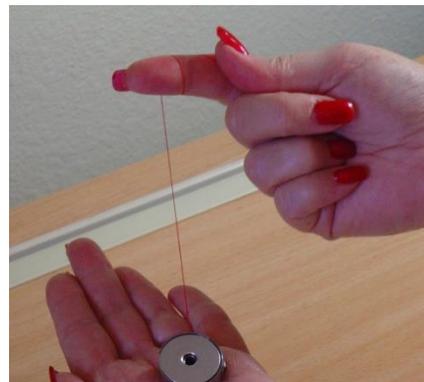
Instructions for setting the bobbin tension are on page 24 of the Crown Jewel III Instruction book

1. **The bobbin tension is the foundation tension for the entire machine.**

2. **Always set the bobbin tension FIRST!**
3. Tension should always be set with a full bobbin
4. Tension should be tested and adjusted if necessary each time you put a new bobbin into the machine

To test the bobbin tension

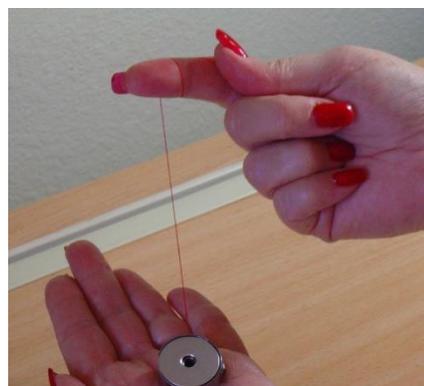
1. Pull about 10 inches of thread out
2. Lay the bobbin case with the bobbin facing up in the palm of your hand
3. Wrap the thread a couple of times around your index finger
4. Gently lift the bobbin case by the thread
 - If the tension is correct, the bobbin case should lift to stand on its edge in your hand but should not lift off your hand
 - If the tension is too tight, the bobbin case will lift off your hand
 - If the tension is too loose, the thread will pull easily from the bobbin case and the case will not lift to stand on its edge



CORRECT



TOO TIGHT



TOO LOOSE

To adjust the bobbin tension

1. Adjust the larger screw on the side of the bobbin case
2. Turn the screw to the right or clockwise to tighten the tension
3. Turn the screw to the left or counterclockwise to loosen the tension
 - So just remember: Righty tighty – Lefty loosey
4. Adjust in small increments, and then test the tension again until you have it just right
 - If you think of the screw as a clock face and you would turn the slot on the screw one minute with each adjustment



5. Do not ever turn the smaller screw on the side of the bobbin case. It holds the tension spring in place.

Cleaning and Oiling

Always clean the bobbin area before you place a new bobbin in the machine.

Instructions for cleaning and oiling the machine are on page 26 of the Crown Jewel III Instruction book.

1. It is important to keep the area around the bobbin as clean as possible
2. If you allow lint to build up in the bobbin area of your machine some of that lint may migrate and get sewn into the back of your quilt
3. The bobbin area should be cleaned at least every time you put a new bobbin into the machine.
 - And if you are using a thread that produces a lot of lint, you may even need to clean between bobbin changes.
4. The easiest way to clean around your bobbin is to use a small soft brush.
 - I have used the sable paint brush in the picture for many years to clean a variety of sewing machines and sergers.
 - It was purchased at an art supply store.
 - Or you could use a clean make up brush.
5. Put a couple of drops of sewing machine oil on the tips of the bristles on your brush.
 - Using a little oil on the brush will cause the lint to stick to the brush, so the brush actually picks up the lint instead of just moving it.
6. Run the brush around the bobbin area and the lint will stick to the oily brush



What about canned air?

1. The problem with using canned air in the bobbin area is that you are likely to blow the lint farther into the machine instead of cleaning it out.
2. And if you do manage to blow it out of the bobbin area it is likely to land on the table and the tracks of your quilting frame.
3. It is important to keep the table and tracks of your quilting frame clean and free of dust and debris.
4. If the wheels on the carriage and the machine get thread and lint wrapped around them, then the stitch regulation may not work properly.
5. It is just easier to keep the table clean instead of spending time trying to clean around the wheels after you have a problem!
6. Canned air can be useful to clean the lint on the needle bar.



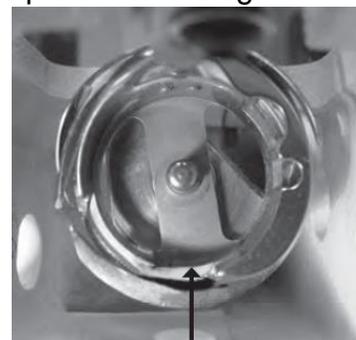
And don't forget to check inside the bobbin case

1. If you see any lint in the bobbin case use your soft brush to remove the lint
2. Lint can also build up under the tension spring on the side of the bobbin case
 - A little ball of lint under that tension spring can lift it just enough so you have no tension on the bobbin thread!
3. Clean under the tension spring by using the corner of a business card or 3 x 5 card
 - You may even be able to use stiff junk mail for this
 - But please do not use a pin or a needle because those sharp metal things could damage the bobbin case
4. Pass the corner of the card under the tension spring and if there is a ball of lint in there it will be pushed out by the card



The bobbin basket of your Baby Lock Jewel or Crown Jewel should be oiled regularly

1. Place just one drop of oil on the hook as shown in the picture at the right.
 - Oil with every second bobbin change
 - And before you begin to quilt if the machine has not been used recently.
2. You have only one spot to oil.
 - Internal oiling is not necessary except when the machine is taken to your Baby Lock service technician for routine maintenance and cleaning.
3. Always use light Sewing Machine oil when oiling your Baby Lock Crown Jewel
 - Household oils can have wax in them which results in a gummy residue in your machine
 - A bottle of sewing machine oil is included in the accessory pack of your Crown Jewel III
 - When you need more, the correct oil is available from your Baby Lock dealer



Insert Bobbin Case into the Machine

1. Hold bobbin case with the cutout where the bobbin is visible at the top
2. Do not lift the latch when putting the bobbin case into the machine

3. Place the bobbin case into the bobbin basket and press until it clicks



Threading the Crown Jewel

Instructions threading the machine are on page 22 of the Crown Jewel III Instruction book.

1. Begin by placing your thread on the spool pin at the back of the machine
2. Take the thread through the loop on the thread mast directly above the spool pin.
3. There are two spool pins on your Baby Lock Jewel III
 - You will find one on each side of the machine
 - You can use either spool pin when you are sewing with one spool of thread
4. You can also use both spool pins if you want to quilt with two threads.



To thread with two threads:

1. Place a spool on each spool pin
2. Thread each thread through the thread mast.
 - Each thread will go through the loop directly above the spool.
3. After taking the threads through the thread mast, grab both threads and thread them together through the remainder of the threading path as if they were just one thread
4. Both threads will be threaded through the eye of one needle
 - The Crown Jewel III is not able to sew with a double needle
5. Using two threads will give you a heavier look and can be easier than trying to find a heavy thread in the exact color you need.
6. You can also use threads of two different colors and they will twist together as you sew and create a kind of tweed look.
 - Try using two contrasting shades of brown or grey when quilting the fur on an animal
 - Or try two shades of green when quilting leaves and vines

An optional Horizontal Spool Pin is available and is used when you are sewing with specialty threads or metallic threads that are wound on a spool instead of a cone.

1. The Horizontal Spool Pin is mounted on the top of the machine in the threaded hole just to the right of the three-hole thread guide.
 - Part # BLJ18-HS
2. The thread goes from the Horizontal Spool Pin to the first thread guide on the top of the machine
 - So when using the Horizontal Spool Pin, the thread is not placed in the guides on the thread mast



3. It is then threaded into the three hole thread guide and is threaded in the normal manner as detailed below

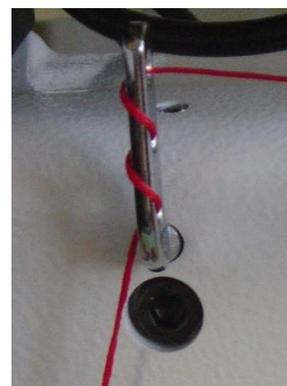
Thread guide on top of the machine

1. The thread passes through the guide on the top of the machine after going through the thread mast
2. Place the thread behind the guide
3. Hold it on both sides of the guide
4. Pull toward yourself and the thread snaps into the guide

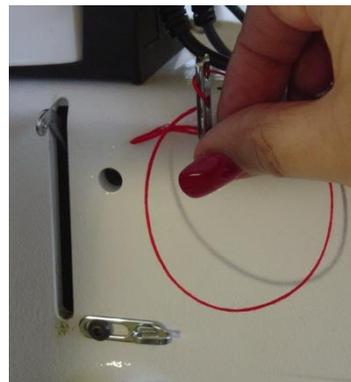
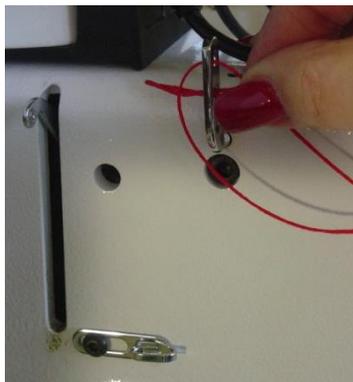
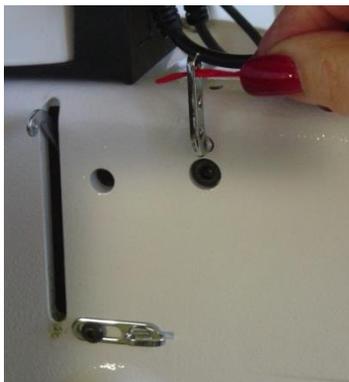


Three hole thread guide

1. The thread is threaded through the guide with three holes.
2. The thread passes through each hole from right to left.
3. Thread the holes working from top to bottom
4. The thread will wrap around the front edge of the guide between holes as shown in the pictures at the right



5. It may be easier to get the thread through the holes if you fold the end of the thread over and twist it.
 - This doubled thread makes the end of the thread stiffer and easier to aim at the hole.
6. Although you will normally thread all three holes, you can reduce the top tension by threading just two holes.
7. Or to reduce the tension even more, thread just one hole on this guide.



Thread guide above tension

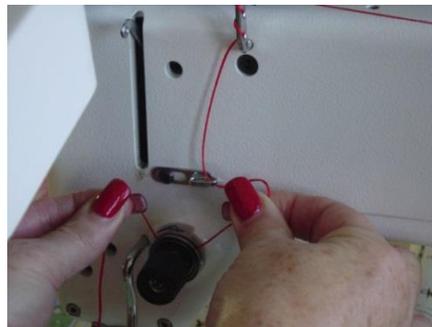
1. There is a thread guide on the front of the machine between the three hole guide and the tension assemble
2. Hold the thread above and below the guide
3. Snap it into the guide from the left side



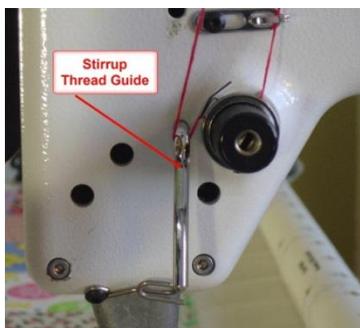
Thread between tension disks

1. Pull the thread firmly into place between the two metal disks of the tension assembly. Use two hands and floss the thread between the disks.
2. Note that unlike a regular sewing machine, the tensions on the Jewel or Crown Jewel are always engaged.
 - There is no presser foot lifter on the Baby Lock Jewel or Crown Jewel.
 - The foot always remains in the down position and the tensions are always closed and ready to sew
 - So you need to make sure that the thread is seated all the way into the disks

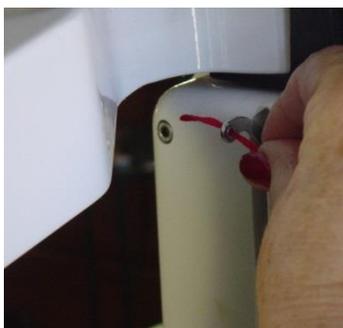
3. **Hold the thread on both sides of the tension assembly and floss the thread so it is seated all the way into the tension**
4. Make sure that the thread is caught in the take-up spring on the top of the tension (The take-up spring is the little wire on the top of the tension)



5. Take the thread under the Stirrup thread guide from right to left



6. Bring the thread up to the Take-Up Lever
7. The thread goes through the eye of the Take-Up lever from right to left.



8. Bring the thread straight down the front of the machine to the thread guide just above the needle bar.
9. Take the thread behind the curved side of the thread guide on the left

10. Pull the thread to the right and lift it over the straight side of the guide on the right.



There is one last thread guide just above the needle.

1. There is a hole that is a thread guide in the silver ring just above the needle.
2. Place the thread through the guide from the outside toward the inside of the ring



Threading the Needle

And finish off by threading the eye of the needle.

1. To make it easier to thread the eye of the needle, it is helpful to cut the thread on an angle.
2. Thread the needle from front to back
 - You are aiming the thread toward the end of the machine with the hand wheel
3. Cut a fresh new end on the thread
 - Cut the thread on an angle
 - The thread is less likely to fray if cut on an angle
 - And it will be easier to get it through the eye of the needle
 - Don't spit on the thread even if Grandma always did
 - Most fibers swell when wet and that will make it harder to get that thread through the eye of the needle



If threading the needle is challenging, you may want to purchase a needle threader to make this task easier.

1. The needle threader below works perfectly for threading the Baby Lock Crown Jewel and is available from your Baby Lock dealer
 - Part #B8490S01A

To thread the needle using this needle threader

1. Note that there is a triangle molded into the handle of the needle threader.
2. The triangle must be on top during threading.
3. Lay the thread across the quilt top and scoop up the thread with the threader.
4. The thread must go through the end of the threader left to right as shown in the picture at the right below.
5. Lift the thread to the front of the needle.
6. Push gently on the threader until you feel it touch the front of the needle.
 - Do not push too hard.
 - What you are feeling is the tiny pin that goes through the eye of the needle touching the front of the needle.
 - If you push hard the pin will bend!
7. Move the threader slowly down the front of the needle until you feel the pin go through the eye of the needle.
8. If you look behind the needle, you will see the pin has carried the thread through the eye of the needle.
9. Pull the thread through the needle.



Troubleshooting TNT 1

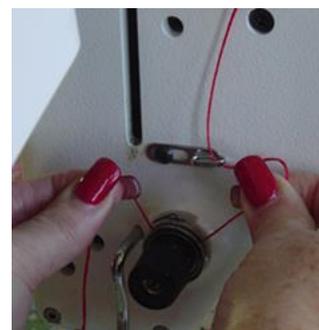
Troubleshooting tip: if your machine is not stitching correctly always use TNT to find the problem.

1. The first T stands for threading.
2. More often than not you will find the problem is incorrect threading and you can get back to quilting once you have corrected the threading!

If the back of your stitch is loose and loopy, the top thread is not seated between the thread disks



1. Hold the thread on both the right and left sides of the tension and move it back and forth to floss it down into the tension disks.
2. Then try stitching and check the back of the fabric to see if you have solved the problem.



You may also need to start at the spool and check each thread guide to make sure:

1. That all threading steps are correct
2. That the thread is not wrapped around something and caught
3. That the thread is not caught on or under the spool
4. Is the thread in the eye of the take up lever?
 - This one sometimes gets missed.
5. If all else fails, try re-threading from the beginning.
 - Sometimes you will have a threading problem that you cannot see and re-threading magically solves it.

Needles

The Baby Lock Crown Jewel uses a 135x7 round shank needle

1. These needles are available from your Baby Lock dealer
2. The correct size needle to use for your quilt depends on the type of thread you will be using
3. You will find a chart on page 18 of the Crown Jewel III instruction book detailing what size needle is most appropriate for different types of thread

Needle Guide

Needle size	Thread size
12 & 14	monofilament, 100 wt. silk, 60 wt. poly, mylar
16	monofilament, hologram 100 wt. silk, 60 wt. poly, 50 wt. poly, 50 wt. cotton, some 40 wt. threads
18	40 wt. cottons and poly, 30 wt. cottons and poly
20	Any thread 30 wt. and heavier such as 12 wt., 19 wt., 30 wt.

The needles used for your Baby Lock Crown Jewel are different from the needles used in your regular sewing machine

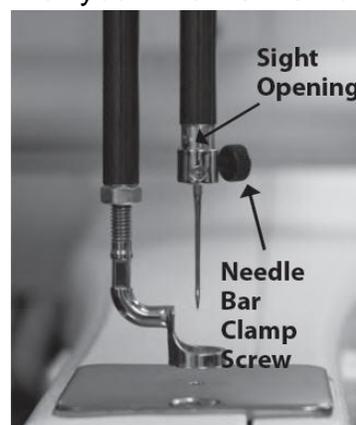
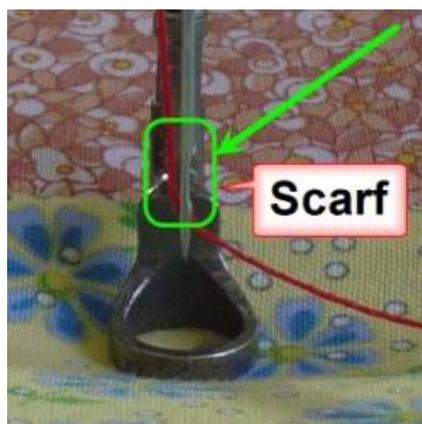
1. The needles for your Crown Jewel are an industrial style needle with a round shank.



2. Needles do not last forever and do need to be changed
3. Change the needle when you begin a new quilt
4. You may also need to change the needle if you begin to experience skipped stitches. Those skipped stitches can be caused by a dull needle.

Inserting Round Shank Needles

1. The picture at the right was taken from the end of the frame, so what you are looking at is the side profile of the needle.
2. Because these needles do not have a flat back, you will need to understand the anatomy of a needle in order to insert them into the machine properly.
3. If you look closely at a sewing machine needle you will find a groove that runs down the front of the needle.
4. You will also find an indentation on the back of the needle just above the eye.
 - That indentation is called the scarf of the needle.
5. Locating the groove and the scarf on the needle will tell you which is the front of the needle and which is the back.
6. As you face the end of the machine with the bobbin case:
 - Loosen the needle bar clamp screw
 - Insert the needle with the groove facing you and the scarf on the back side of the needle
 - Make sure you insert the needle all the way up into the needle bar as far as possible.
 - Check the sight opening to make sure you can see the top of the needle and that it cannot go any higher.



7. Tighten the needle bar clamp screw
8. Look carefully at the eye of the needle. The eye should not be twisted to the right or left, but should face straight forward.
 - If you have difficulty telling if the needle is straight you could take the old needle that was removed and put the point into the eye of the new needle.
 - The old needle becomes a “pointer” to help you know that the needle is in straight.



Troubleshooting TNT 2

Troubleshooting tip: If your machine is not stitching correctly always use TNT to find the problem.

1. As we discussed previously, the first T stands for threading.
2. The N stands for needle.

If the machine is threaded correctly, the second thing to check is the needle.

1. Have you been using the same needle for too long?
 - They do get dull.
2. Or if you just changed the needle, check that it is all the way up into the machine.
 - Look through the sight opening to see the top of the needle
3. Is the needle in backwards?
 - Look for the scarf and make sure it is facing the hand wheel at the back of the Crown Jewel.
4. Is the needle turned slightly to the left or right?
 - Put the point of the used needle in the eye of the new needle and the shaft of the needle should point straight at your belly button.

Quick Set Tension

The new Quick Set Tension in the Crown Jewel III provides a numerical value for the tension setting on the needle tension

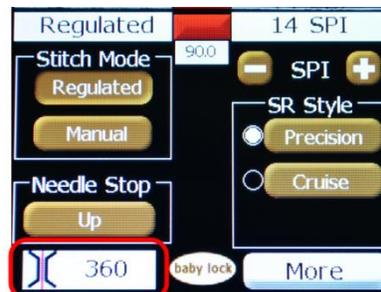
1. **Always** set the bobbin tension first
 - The bobbin tension is the foundation tension for all of the Baby Lock long arm quilting machines
 - The top tension can then be adjusted to achieve a balanced tension
 - Tension should always be set with a full bobbin



- Tension should be tested and adjusted if necessary each time you put a new bobbin into the machine

After the bobbin tension is set, it is time to adjust the top tension.

1. A digital tension setting is now displayed in the lower left corner of the Main screen on the Crown Jewel III
2. As you turn the top tension dial, the tension setting on the LCD screen changes in increments of 5
3. Test sew to see if the stitches are balanced with only the needle thread visible on the top and only the bobbin thread visible on the bottom
 - Place a scrap of fabric on the extra batting and backing at one side of your quilt top for test stitching
4. If the bobbin thread is being pulled to the top, the needle tension should be loosened
5. Turn the tension dial to the left to loosen the needle tension and the tension number will decrease in increments of 5
6. If the top thread is being pulled to the back, the needle tension should be tightened
 - Turn the tension dial to the right to tighten the needle tension and the tension number will increase in increments of 5
7. Having a numerical value for the needle tension will make it easier to know where the tension should be set for threads that are used frequently



Although the setting may vary slightly between different threads, having that numerical setting will get you close to the perfect setting very quickly

Troubleshooting TNT 3

And we are going to visit the subject of troubleshooting one more time

1. The first T stands for threading and that the threading should always be checked first if the stitch is not right.
2. The N stands for needle and that is the second place to look if the threading is right

If the machine is threaded correctly, and the needle is new and inserted correctly then you are ready for the last T.

1. The last T stands for tension.

Always troubleshoot in the same order and you will get back to quilting right away

1. T = threading

2. N = needle
3. T = threading

The reason you always change the tension last is that if the machine is threaded incorrectly and you change the tension, you have just taken one problem and turned it into two problems!

And a couple of reminders before we look at adjusting the top tension

1. Always test and set the bobbin tension first.
2. If you have not done that, you should take care of that task first before you make any changes to your top tension.

And if you have a mess like the one in the picture below, you remember that we talked about that being caused by a threading error.

1. **This is not an incorrect tension setting; it is a machine that is not threaded correctly**
2. Hold the thread on both sides of the tension disks and floss it into the disks.



3. Sew another line of stitches and check to see if the problem has been corrected.

Glide Foot

Part #BLQ-GF

The Crown Jewel III is already set up to use interchangeable Baby Lock feet

To attach the Glide Foot:

1. If another foot is on the shank, use the 2.3mm hex wrench to loosen the mounting screw far enough that you can slide the foot off of the shank.
2. You may need to lift the shank above the foot to release the foot



3. Slide the Baby Lock Glide Foot onto the machine.
 - The opening on the side of the foot lines up with the machine's screw hole.

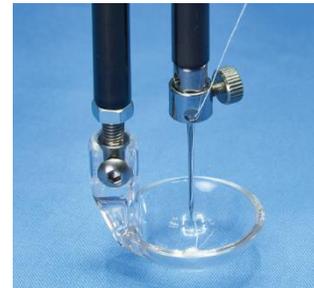


4. Push the Baby Lock Glide Foot up as far as it will go.
5. Ensure the foot is centered over the hole in the needle plate and that the needle is centered in the foot
6. Then fully tighten the screw with the 2.5mm hex wrench



The Baby Lock Glide Foot is a bowl-shaped foot that easily glides around appliqué, embroidery designs, rickrack, lace, embellishments or other dimensional elements on a quilt.

1. The Baby Lock Glide Foot is useful when quilting from the back of the machine, either with a pantograph or quilt pattern board.
2. It glides over the edges of the quilt so you don't unknowingly flip the raw edges or catch lofty batting while quilting.
3. Use the glide foot to quilt around couched designs
4. The foot also glides over basting stitches without catching
5. NOTE: Do not apply buttons or hardware embellishments until after the quilt has been quilted



Couching Feet

Part #BLQ-CCF

The Crown Jewel III is already set up to use interchangeable Baby Lock feet

1. Couching is a decorative threadwork technique in which threads, yarns, or other fibers are laid across the quilt and fastened in place by the machine's quilting thread.
2. The three sizes of couching feet in this kit enable you to couch a wide variety of threads, yarns, ribbons, and other fibers to add a special touch to your quilts.



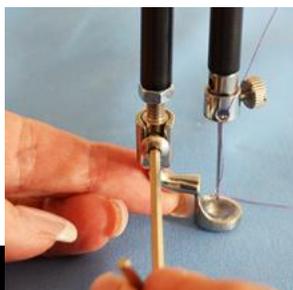
The Couching Feet come as a complete kit

1. You get three Couching Feet in the kit
 - 1.5mm couching foot
 - 2.0mm couching foot
 - 3.0mm couching foot
2. Look closely and you will see that each foot has a different size opening in the center of the foot
3. You will choose the foot to be used based on the size of the fiber you will be couching
 - If the hole in the selected foot is too small, the fiber will not move smoothly through the foot
 - If the hole in the selected foot is too large, the fiber can move around and make it hard to catch the yarn on every stitch
4. The kit also includes an extra screw to attach the foot
5. You will also need the 2.5mm hex tool that came with your machine



To attach one of the couching feet:

1. If another foot is on the mount, use the 2.5mm hex wrench to loosen the mounting screw far enough that you can slide the foot off of the mount.
2. Slide the desired couching foot onto the mount.
 - Note that the opening on the side of the foot is lined up with the screw hole.
3. Push the foot up as far as it will go.



4. Ensure the foot is centered with the needle when the foot is fully tightened with the 2.5mm hex wrench
5. If it is not properly centered, loosen the lock nut, and center the foot with the needle
6. Hold the foot in position, and firmly tighten the lock nut
7. Recheck the position

To get started:

1. Thread your machine as usual with the desired quilting thread.
 - It is your choice whether the thread matches the couching thread or is a contrasting color
 - When you are just beginning to get used to couching, you may find it easier to work with thread colors that match the couched cord
 - As you gain confidence, go ahead and experiment with contrasting threads
2. Match the weight of the fiber to be couched with the size opening in the couching foot
3. Pull up the bobbin thread in the usual way
 - Hold the needle thread
 - Needle down
 - Needle up
 - Move the machine to one side to pull the bobbin thread to the surface
 - Grab both the needle and bobbin threads and pull them under the foot and away from the direction you will be stitching (To the back or to the side so it is out of the sewing path)
 - Note that you want both the needle thread and the bobbin thread under the foot
4. Take a few tiny stitches to anchor the threads
5. Place the yarn that will be couched over the top of the foot between the needle and the shank of the foot
6. Take one stitch across the top of the yarn
7. Move the fabric without stitching and the yarn will be pulled through the hole in the couching foot.

Tips for using the couching feet:

1. Use thinner fibers with the smaller (1.5mm or 2.0mm) couching feet
2. If your machine thread is not properly couching the fibers, try using a smaller couching foot.
 - The fiber should fill the opening in the couching foot but still pull smoothly through the hole
 - Also, consider slowing down your quilting

3. Make sure you pull a good amount of fiber from the spool or ball to ensure that it is able to move freely through the hole in the couching foot as you stitch.
 - There always needs to be some slack so that the stitching and the fiber stay together
4. Once the fiber is threaded through the couching foot and you begin stitching, you do not need to guide the fiber being couched.
 - Simply quilt as you normally would
 - If you know you are going to be quilting in a particular direction, you can orient the fiber in that direction, but it is not necessary
 - As long as you have sufficient slack in the fiber, it will move through the hole in the foot as you quilt.
5. Keep the fibers being couched from getting twisted or knotted as your work
6. The machine's thread color can be the same color as the fiber to be couched, or a contrasting color.
 - As you begin developing your couching techniques, we suggest that you use a matching thread color