

## Brother 2104D

# Brother 2104D Overlock Sewing Machine Instruction Manual

Model: 2104D

## INTRODUCTION

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This manual provides detailed instructions for the safe and efficient use of your Brother 2104D Overlock Sewing Machine. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the machine to ensure proper setup, operation, and maintenance.

The Brother 2104D is a compact, lightweight overlock machine designed for cutting, sewing, and overcasting with perfect stitches. It features a differential feed mechanism to prevent fabric waving or stretching, and can operate with 3 or 4 threads, including the ability to sew rolled hems. A bright LED work light illuminates the sewing area, and the presser foot pressure is adjustable for various fabric types.



Image: The Brother 2104D Overlock Sewing Machine shown with its power adapter, foot pedal, instruction manual, and accessory CD.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

When using an electrical appliance, basic safety precautions should always be followed, including the following:

- **Read all instructions before using this machine.**
- **DANGER:** To reduce the risk of electric shock, always unplug the machine from the electrical outlet immediately after using and before cleaning.
- **WARNING:** To reduce the risk of burns, fire, electric shock, or injury to persons:
  - Do not allow to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when this machine is used by or near children.
  - Use this machine only for its intended use as described in this manual.
  - Never operate this machine if it has a damaged cord or plug, if it is not working properly, or if it has been dropped or damaged.
  - Keep fingers away from all moving parts. Special care is required around the sewing machine needle.
  - Always use the proper needle plate. The wrong plate can cause the needle to break.
  - Do not pull or push fabric while stitching. This may deflect the needle causing it to break.
  - Always unplug the machine when making any adjustments in the needle area, such as threading the

needle, changing the needle, or changing the presser foot.

- Never drop or insert any object into any opening.
- Do not use outdoors.
- Do not operate where aerosol (spray) products are being used or where oxygen is being administered.
- To disconnect, turn all controls to the off position, then remove plug from outlet.

## PRODUCT COMPONENTS OVERVIEW

Familiarize yourself with the main parts of your Brother 2104D overlock machine.



Image: Detailed view of the color-coded threading guides and tension dials on the Brother 2104D.

- **Thread Guides:** Color-coded paths for easy threading.
- **Tension Dials:** Adjust thread tension for each of the 3 or 4 threads.
- **Differential Feed Dial:** Controls the feeding speed of the front and rear feed dogs to prevent stretching or puckering.
- **Stitch Length Dial:** Adjusts the length of your stitches.
- **Cutting Knife:** Trims fabric edges as you sew. Can be disengaged.
- **Presser Foot:** Holds fabric firmly in place. Adjustable pressure.
- **LED Work Light:** Illuminates the sewing area for better visibility.

- **Free Arm:** Allows for easy sewing of cylindrical items like cuffs and sleeves.
- **Accessory Compartment:** Convenient storage for needles, tools, and other small accessories.



Image: The Brother 2104D Overlock Machine with the accessory tray removed, revealing the free arm for circular sewing.

## SETUP

### 1. Unpacking and Placement

- Carefully remove the machine from its packaging.
- Place the machine on a stable, flat surface.
- Ensure there is adequate space around the machine for comfortable operation and fabric handling.

### 2. Power Connection

- Connect the foot controller plug to the machine's receptacle.
- Insert the power cord plug into a suitable electrical outlet.
- Ensure the voltage matches your local power supply.

### 3. Threading the Machine

The Brother 2104D features color-coded threading paths to simplify the process. Follow the numbered and colored guides precisely.

1. Raise the presser foot and the needle bar to their highest positions.
2. Place the thread spools on the spool pins.
3. Follow the color-coded guides for each thread (typically green, blue, red, yellow) through the upper thread guides, tension discs, and loopers/needles.
4. Ensure threads are seated correctly in the tension discs.
5. For detailed visual instructions, refer to the threading diagram on the machine or in the full manual.



Image: A close-up view of the internal threading diagram on the Brother 2104D, showing the numbered and color-coded paths for each thread.

#### 4. Needle Installation

- Turn the handwheel to raise the needle to its highest position.
- Loosen the needle clamp screw.
- Insert the new needle with the flat side facing the back of the machine, pushing it up as far as it will go.
- Tighten the needle clamp screw securely.

### OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

#### 1. Basic Stitching (3-Thread and 4-Thread)

- Select the desired stitch type (3-thread overlock or 4-thread overlock) by adjusting the threading and needle configuration.
- Place the fabric under the presser foot.
- Lower the presser foot.
- Gently press the foot controller to start sewing. Guide the fabric smoothly.

#### 2. Adjusting Thread Tension

Correct thread tension is crucial for balanced stitches. Adjust the tension dials according to your fabric type and desired stitch appearance.

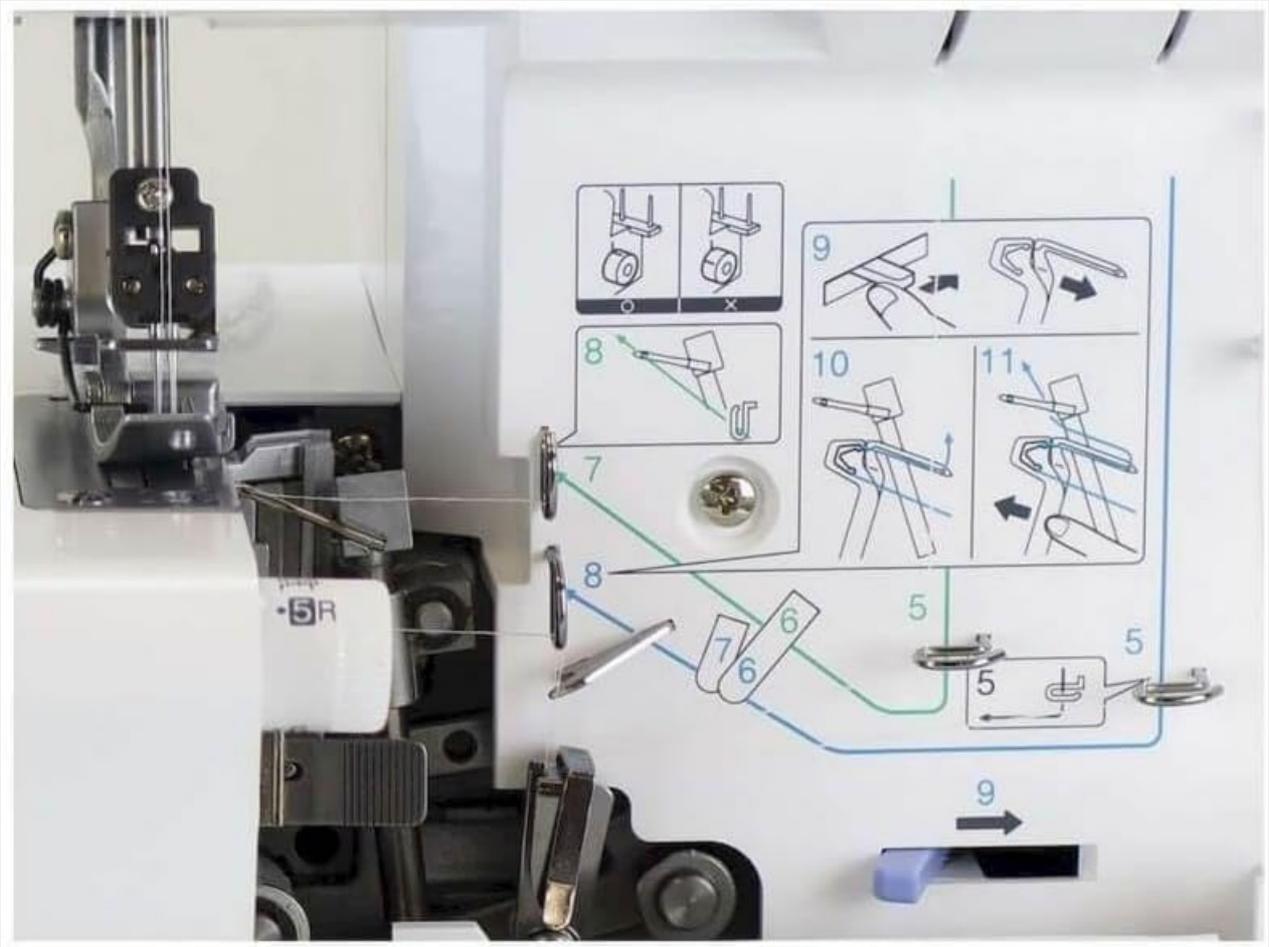


Image: Close-up of the four tension dials on the side of the Brother 2104D, used to control thread tension for each spool.

- Turn the dial clockwise to increase tension, counter-clockwise to decrease.
- Test on a scrap piece of your fabric to achieve optimal stitch balance.

### 3. Differential Feed Adjustment

The differential feed prevents stretching or puckering on various fabrics.



Image: The differential feed control dial on the Brother 2104D, located on the right side of the machine.

- Set to 1.0 for normal fabrics.
- Increase the ratio (e.g., 1.5-2.0) to prevent stretching on knit fabrics.
- Decrease the ratio (e.g., 0.7-0.8) to create a gathering effect on woven fabrics.

#### **4. Rolled Hem Function**

To create a delicate rolled hem, adjust the machine settings as follows:

- Remove the left needle (for 3-thread rolled hem).
- Adjust the stitch finger lever to the rolled hem position.
- Modify tension settings as recommended in the full manual for rolled hems.

#### **5. Using the LED Work Light**



Image: The bright LED work light on the Brother 2104D illuminating the fabric area during sewing.

The integrated LED light provides clear illumination of your sewing area, reducing eye strain. It turns on automatically when the machine is powered on.

## MAINTENANCE

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### 1. Cleaning

- **Always unplug the machine before cleaning.**
- Regularly remove lint and dust from the looper area, under the needle plate, and around the feed dogs using a small brush or vacuum cleaner.
- Wipe the exterior of the machine with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use harsh chemicals.

### 2. Needle Replacement

- Replace needles frequently, especially when working with new projects or if you notice skipped stitches or thread breakage.
- Refer to the "Needle Installation" section for detailed steps.

### 3. Blade Maintenance

- If the cutting knife becomes dull and no longer cuts fabric cleanly, it may need to be replaced. Consult your full instruction manual for replacement procedures or contact a qualified service technician.

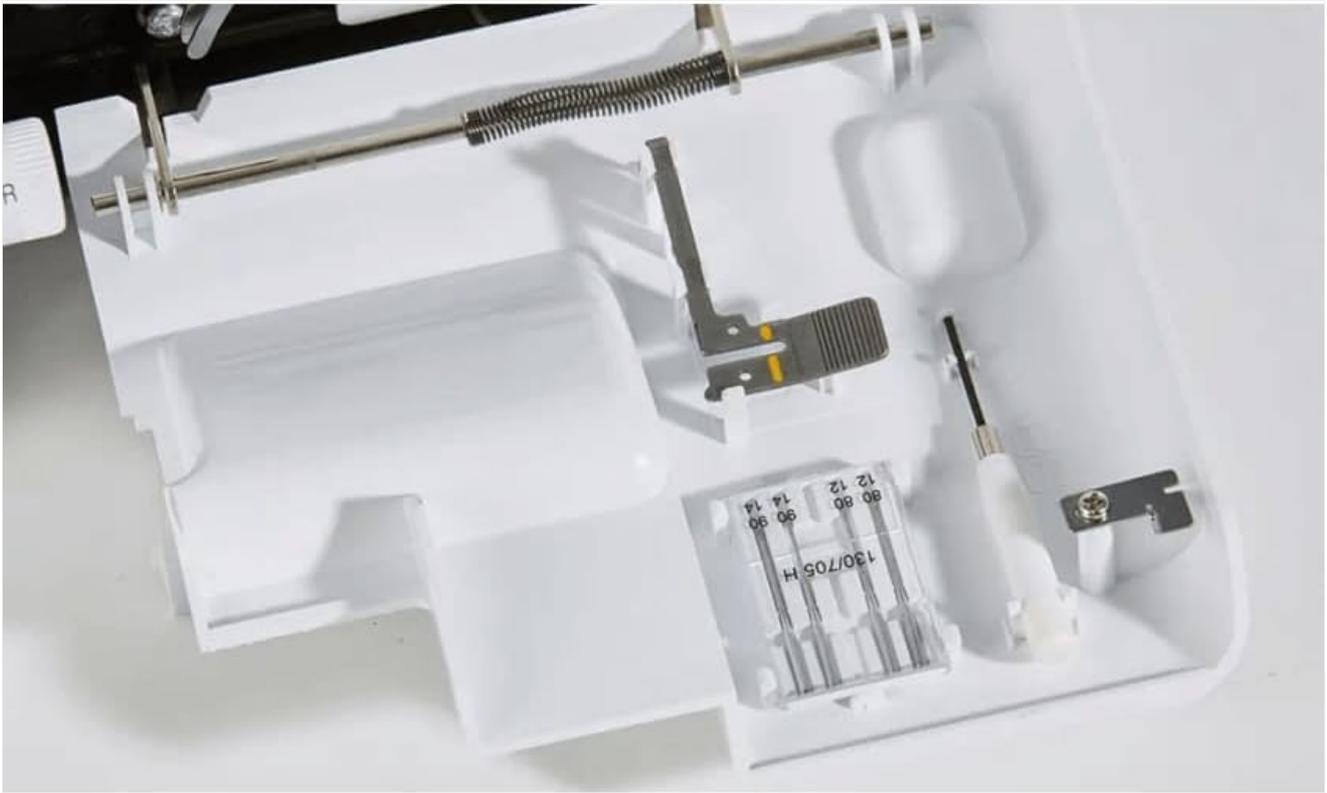


Image: The accessory compartment of the Brother 2104D, showing storage for spare needles, a screwdriver, and other small tools.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

Before contacting customer support, please refer to the following common issues and their solutions.

| Problem                        | Possible Cause  | Solution  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Skipped Stitches               | Incorrect needle, bent needle, improper threading, incorrect tension.                     | Replace needle with correct type and size. Re-thread the machine carefully. Adjust tension settings.                  |
| Thread Breakage                | Incorrect threading, high tension, poor quality thread, burr on thread path, bent needle. | Check threading path for obstructions. Reduce tension. Use good quality thread. Replace needle.                       |
| Fabric Puckering or Stretching | Incorrect differential feed setting, incorrect tension.                                   | Adjust the differential feed ratio. Fine-tune thread tension.   |
| Machine Not Starting           | Power cord not plugged in, foot controller not connected, main power switch off.          | Ensure all power connections are secure and the power switch is on.   |
| Noisy Operation                | Lack of lubrication, lint buildup, loose parts.   | Clean the machine thoroughly. Consult the full manual for lubrication points if applicable. Tighten any loose screws. |

## SPECIFICATIONS

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|-------|---------|
| Brand | Brother |
|-------|---------|

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|--|--|
| <b>Model Number</b>                    | 2104D                                    |
| <b>Color</b>                           | White                                    |
| <b>Material</b>                        | Stainless Steel, Plastic                 |
| <b>Product Dimensions (D x W x H)</b>  | 25 x 28 x 30 cm (9.8 x 11 x 11.8 inches) |
| <b>Item Weight</b>                     | 6.5 Kilograms (14.3 lbs)                 |
| <b>Power Source</b>                    | AC Adapter                               |
| <b>Electrical</b>                      | Yes                                      |
| <b>Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)</b> | 04977766756457, 04977766758246           |

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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### Warranty Information

Specific warranty details for your Brother 2104D Overlock Sewing Machine are typically provided with your purchase documentation. Please refer to the warranty card or contact your retailer for information regarding warranty coverage and terms. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

### Customer Support

For further assistance, technical support, or to inquire about replacement parts, please contact Brother customer service. You can often find contact information on the official Brother website or through the retailer where you purchased the machine.

You may also visit the official Brother store for more information: [Brother Store](#)