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Necchi N178

NECCHI N178 Overlock Machine User Manual

Model: N178

1. Introduction

The Necchi N178 is an advanced 3/4 thread overlock machine designed for both beginners and experienced users. It offers versatile sewing capabilities, including a free arm for tubular seams, and is suitable for a wide range of fabrics. This manual provides essential information for the safe and efficient operation, setup, and maintenance of your Necchi N178 overlock machine.

2. Safety Instructions

- Always disconnect the machine from the power supply before cleaning, lubricating, or performing any user maintenance.
- Keep fingers away from all moving parts, especially the needle, knife, and loopers.
- Use only the accessories recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never operate the machine with any air openings blocked. Keep ventilation openings of the sewing machine and foot controller free from the accumulation of lint, dust, and loose cloth.
- Do not operate the machine if it has a damaged cord or plug, if it is not working properly, or if it has been dropped or damaged.
- Ensure the machine is placed on a stable, flat surface during operation.

3. Product Overview

The Necchi N178 overlock machine is designed for precision and durability, offering professional finishes for various sewing projects. Its compact size and robust construction make it suitable for any sewing space.



Figure 3.1: Front view of the Necchi N178 overlock machine, showing the threading guides and the 'NECCHI N178' branding.



Figure 3.2: Side view of the Necchi N178, highlighting the tension dials and other operational controls.



Figure 3.3: Back view of the Necchi N178, showing the power input and ventilation.



Figure 3.4: Top view of the Necchi N178, illustrating the thread spool setup and guides.

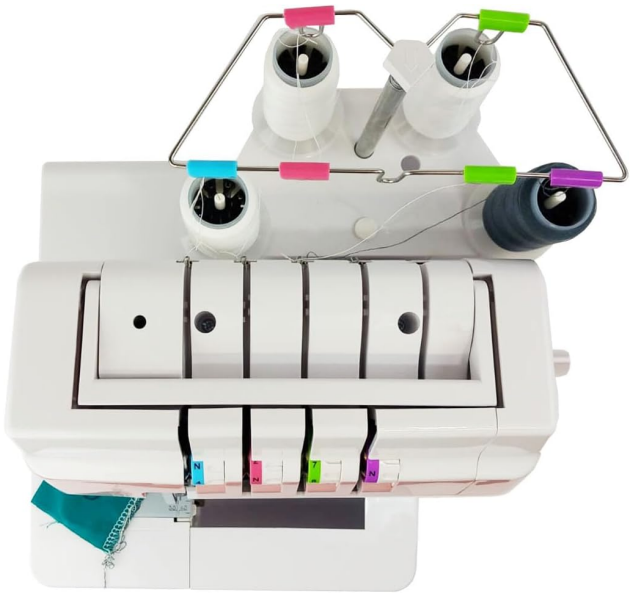


Figure 3.5: The Necchi N178 in operation, demonstrating its ability to sew fabric.

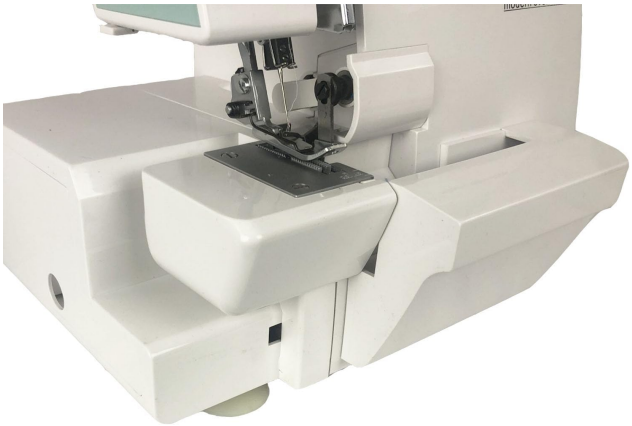


Figure 3.6: Close-up view of the needle area and the free arm feature, ideal for sewing tubular items.

4. Setup

4.1 Unpacking and Placement

1. Carefully remove the machine from its packaging.
2. Place the machine on a stable, level surface. Ensure there is adequate space around the machine for fabric handling and ventilation.
3. Remove all packing materials and protective films.

4.2 Power Connection

- Ensure the power switch is in the 'OFF' position.
- Connect the power cord to the machine and then to a suitable electrical outlet.
- Connect the foot controller to the machine.

4.3 Thread Spool Setup

The Necchi N178 features simplified threading. Refer to the color-coded threading paths on the machine for guidance.

1. Place the thread spools onto the spool pins.
2. Use the provided spool caps or discs to secure the thread spools.
3. Guide each thread through its designated thread guide according to the color-coded diagram on the machine.

4.4 Accessory Installation

The machine comes with a rich set of accessories. Install them as needed for your specific project:

- **Scrap Container/Additional Table:** Attach the scrap container to collect fabric trimmings or use it as an additional flat work surface.
- **Needles:** Insert the appropriate needles for your fabric type.
- **Guide:** Attach the fabric guide for consistent seam allowances.

5. Operating Instructions

5.1 Threading the Machine

The N178 is designed for simplified threading, with an open side cover and looper system for clear visibility. Follow the color-coded threading paths carefully for each thread (3 or 4 threads).

1. Open the front and side covers to access the loopers and threading paths.
2. Follow the numbered and color-coded guides for each thread, starting with the upper looper, then the lower looper, and finally the needles.
3. Ensure threads are seated correctly in all tension discs and guides.

5.2 Stitch Selection and Adjustment

The Necchi N178 offers various stitch types and adjustments for professional results on diverse fabrics.

- **Stitch Length:** Adjust the stitch length using the dial on the side of the machine. The range is typically 1 to 5 mm.
- **Cutting Width:** Modify the cutting width (4 to 7 mm) to achieve the desired seam finish, ensuring the fabric edge is trimmed precisely.
- **Differential Feed:** The differential feed, adjustable from 0.7 to 2 mm, allows you to control how fabric is fed through the machine. Use it to prevent stretching on knits or puckering on fine fabrics, or to create gathering effects.
- **Tension Dials:** Adjust the tension for each thread using the corresponding numbered dials. Correct tension is crucial for balanced stitches.

5.3 Knife Disengagement

For projects that require sewing without trimming the fabric edge, the cutting knife can be disengaged.

- Locate the knife disengagement lever, usually found near the cutting knife.
- Follow the machine's specific instructions to safely disengage the knife.

5.4 Sewing with the Free Arm

The free arm feature is ideal for sewing tubular items such as sleeves, cuffs, and pant hems.

- Remove the accessory tray or flatbed extension to expose the free arm.
- Slide the tubular fabric item onto the free arm.
- Proceed with sewing as usual, guiding the fabric around the free arm.

6. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Necchi N178 overlock machine.

6.1 Cleaning

- **Always unplug the machine before cleaning.**
- Use the provided cleaning brush to remove lint and dust from the looper area, feed dogs, and under the needle plate.
- Wipe the exterior of the machine with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.

6.2 Needle Replacement

- Turn off and unplug the machine.
- Loosen the needle clamp screw(s) and remove the old needle(s).
- Insert new needles, ensuring the flat side of the needle faces the back of the machine, and push them up as far as they will go.
- Tighten the needle clamp screw(s) securely.

6.3 Knife Replacement

A spare knife is included with your machine. Replace the knife when it becomes dull to ensure clean fabric cuts.

- **Unplug the machine.**
- Refer to your machine's specific instructions for safely replacing the upper and lower knives. This typically involves loosening screws and carefully installing the new knife blades.

7. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter during operation.

7.1 Skipped Stitches

- **Check Needles:** Ensure needles are inserted correctly, are not bent, and are the correct type for your fabric. Replace if necessary.
- **Re-thread:** Incorrect threading is a common cause. Re-thread the entire machine carefully, following the color-coded paths.
- **Tension:** Adjust thread tensions.

7.2 Thread Breakage

- **Check Thread Path:** Ensure threads are not caught or snagged anywhere along their path.
- **Tension:** Too high tension can cause thread breakage. Reduce tension slightly.
- **Needles:** A bent or dull needle can cause thread to break. Replace needles.
- **Thread Quality:** Use good quality thread suitable for overlock machines.

7.3 Uneven Stitches or Puckering

- **Differential Feed:** Adjust the differential feed setting to match your fabric type. Increase for knits to prevent stretching, decrease for fine fabrics to prevent puckering.

- **Tension:** Adjust thread tensions to achieve a balanced stitch.
- **Stitch Length:** Adjust stitch length as needed for the fabric.

8. Specifications

Feature	Specification
Brand	Necchi
Model	N178
Color	White-Pink
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	31 x 28 x 49.5 cm (approximate)
Item Weight	7.2 Kilograms
Stitch Speed	Up to 1200 stitches per minute (ppm)
Stitch Length Adjustment	1 - 5 mm
Cutting Width Adjustment	4 - 7 mm
Differential Feed Ratio	0.7 - 2 mm
Thread Capacity	3 or 4 threads
Free Arm	Yes
Knife Disengagement	Yes
EU Spare Parts Availability	10 Years

9. Warranty and Support

For warranty information, please refer to the documentation provided at the time of purchase or contact your retailer. The manufacturer guarantees EU spare parts availability for 10 years from the date of purchase.
For technical support or service inquiries, please contact Necchi customer service or your authorized dealer.

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