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Janome FA4

Janome FA4 Serger Overlock Machine Instruction Manual

Model: FA4

1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the safe and effective use of your Janome FA4 Serger Overlock Machine. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the machine to ensure proper setup, operation, and maintenance. Keep this manual in a safe place for future reference.

2. Product Overview and Key Features

The Janome FA4 is an advanced overlocker designed for versatile stitching. It features 2 needles and supports 2, 3, or 4-thread overlock stitching. Key features include:

- **Adjustable Differential Feed:** Control fabric feeding with a ratio adjustable from 0.5 to 2.25, ideal for various fabric types and special effects.
- **Easy Threading System:** Color-coded thread guides and a self-threading lower looper simplify the threading process.
- **Automatic Thread Tension Release:** Thread tension automatically releases when the presser foot is lifted, allowing for smooth thread drawing.
- **Quick Rolled Hem Conversion:** Easily switch to rolled hemming without changing the needle plate. A lower looper pre-tension stitch eliminates the need to adjust tension for rolled hems.
- **Adjustable Cutting Width:** Customize the cutting width from 3.1 mm to 7.3 mm.
- **High Speed Operation:** Capable of speeds up to 1,300 stitches per minute (SPM).
- **Free Arm Design:** Facilitates sewing cylindrical items like cuffs and sleeves.



Image 1: Front view of the Janome FA4 Serger Overlock Machine. The machine is white with a blue top cover, showing the thread guides and the free arm attachment.

3. Setup

3.1 Unpacking and Placement

1. Carefully remove the machine from its packaging.
2. Place the machine on a stable, flat surface, ensuring adequate space for operation and fabric handling.
3. Connect the foot control and power cord to the machine and a suitable power outlet.

3.2 Threading the Machine

The Janome FA4 features color-coded thread guides to simplify threading. Refer to the threading chart on the machine for specific paths.

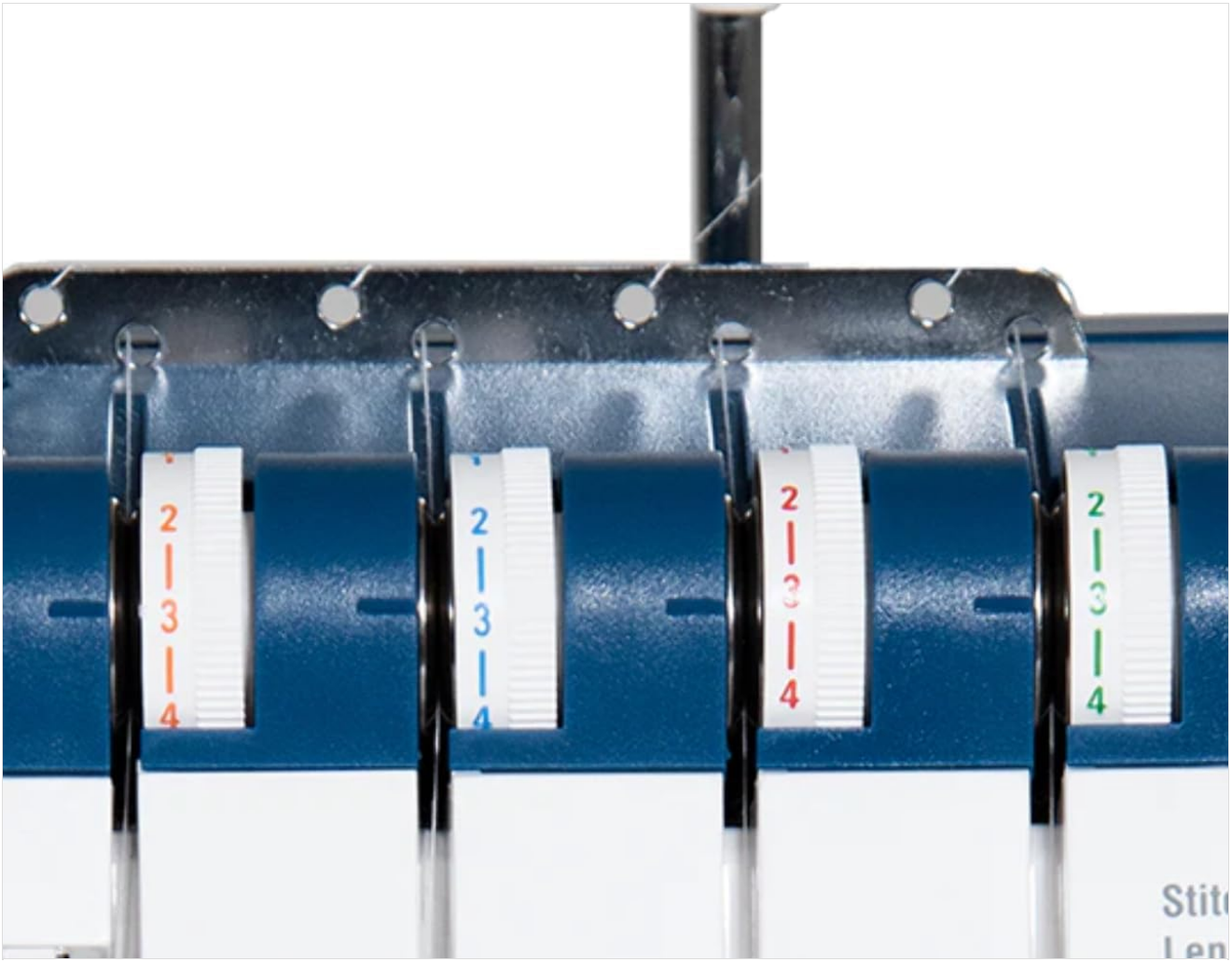


Image 2: Close-up view of the color-coded tension dials on the Janome FA4. Each dial is marked with numbers 2, 3, and 4, corresponding to different thread paths.

1. Raise the presser foot. This releases the thread tension.
2. Follow the color-coded guides for each thread (upper looper, lower looper, right needle, left needle).
3. For the lower looper, simply lay the thread into the guide and flip the designated switch for self-threading. The guide automatically returns to its normal position when the balance wheel is turned.

3.3 Needle Installation



Image 3: Close-up view of the needle and presser foot area of the Janome FA4, showing the needle clamp and the throat plate.

Use the correct type and size of needles (e.g., Janome needles No. 11, No. 14). Ensure the flat side of the needle faces the back of the machine when inserting.

4. Operating Instructions

4.1 Basic Stitching

The Janome FA4 can perform 2, 3, or 4-thread overlock stitches. Select the desired stitch type by adjusting the number of needles and loopers used.

4.2 Adjusting Stitch Length and Differential Feed



Image 4: Close-up view of the stitch length and differential feed adjustment dials on the side of the Janome FA4. The stitch length is set to '3' and differential feed to '1.0'.

Use the dials on the side of the machine to adjust stitch length and differential feed. The differential feed ratio can be set between 0.5 (for stretching fabric) and 2.25 (for gathering fabric).

4.3 Rolled Hemming

To perform a rolled hem, simply adjust the machine settings as per the instruction manual. The FA4 allows for quick conversion without changing the needle plate, and the lower looper pre-tension stitch simplifies the process.

4.4 Using the Free Arm



Image 5: The Janome FA4 Serger with the free arm attachment removed, revealing the narrow sewing surface for cylindrical items. The removed attachment is shown to the left.

Remove the accessory box to convert the flatbed to a free arm. This is useful for sewing small, circular items like cuffs, sleeves, and necklines.

4.5 Adjusting Cutting Width and Foot Pressure

The cutting width can be adjusted from 3.1 mm to 7.3 mm using the appropriate control. Adjust the presser foot pressure according to the fabric thickness to ensure even feeding.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Cleaning

Regularly clean lint and thread scraps from the machine, especially around the looper area and under the needle plate. Use the provided lint brush for this purpose.

5.2 Oiling

Apply a small amount of sewing machine oil to designated oiling points as indicated in the full instruction manual. Do

not over-oil.

5.3 Changing Needles

Replace needles regularly (e.g., after 8-10 hours of sewing) or if they become bent or dull. Always use the correct needle type for your machine and fabric.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Janome FA4, refer to the following common troubleshooting tips:

- **Skipped Stitches:** Check needle installation, ensure the needle is not bent or dull, and verify correct threading.
- **Thread Breakage:** Re-thread the machine, check for burrs on thread guides or needles, and ensure tension settings are appropriate for the thread and fabric.
- **Uneven Stitches:** Adjust differential feed, check tension settings, and ensure the presser foot pressure is suitable for the fabric.
- **Machine Not Starting:** Verify the power cord and foot control are securely connected.

For more detailed troubleshooting, consult the comprehensive instruction manual provided with your machine or contact Janome customer support.

7. Specifications

Feature	Specification
Model Number	FA4
Stitch Types	2, 3, or 4-thread overlock
Differential Feed Ratio	0.5 to 2.25
Adjustable Cutting Width	3.1 mm – 7.3 mm
Maximum Sewing Speed	1,300 SPM
Item Weight	16.5 pounds (7.5 kg)
Product Dimensions	9"D x 12"W x 16"H (22.86 cm D x 30.48 cm W x 40.64 cm H)
UPC	732212405501

8. Included Accessories

The Janome FA4 Serger Overlock Machine comes with the following standard accessories:

- Screwdriver (Large)
- Screwdriver (Small)
- Tweezers
- Set of Needles (No. 11, No. 14)
- Nets
- Spool Holder Caps

- Lint Brush
- Needle Threader
- Oil
- Spreader
- Spanner
- Upper Knife
- Attachment Mounting Plate
- Foot Control
- Instruction Manual (this document provides a summary; refer to the physical manual for complete details)

9. Warranty and Support

For warranty information, please refer to the warranty card included with your Janome FA4 Serger Overlock Machine or visit the official Janome website. For technical support, service, or to purchase replacement parts, please contact Janome customer service directly.

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