



RESOLVING TENSION ISSUES

Things to check, in this order:

1. Tension dial: should be set between 4.0-4.5. This covers the average sewing project from thread to needles and fabric thickness you are trying to sew. If you are sewing very heavy, or very light fabrics, check your manual for the appropriate tension number.
2. When did you last clean your machine? If it has not been for a while, unthread the machine, take out the needle and give it a clean. You will have to unthread the machine anyway to try and resolve a tension issue, so if it's been awhile you may as well check.
3. Bobbin check 1: Is it inserted properly so that the thread unwinds in the right direction. Typically for top-loading machines this is counter-clockwise, with front loading machines this is clockwise. Always check your manual to be sure as variations do happen!
4. Bobbin check 2: Is the bobbin wound properly? Does the thread look evenly applied with no uneven areas or loose looking wound thread. Is there very little thread left on the bobbin? If yes to any of these, wind a new bobbin and rethread the machine.
5. Needle check 1: Is the needle inserted correctly (pushed firmly up as far as possible) and the screw firmly in place? If the screw is finger tight, try re-inserting the needle and tightening with your machine's screwdriver. Don't just tighten up the screw, vibration can cause a loose needle to drop and even the smallest drop can cause issues.
6. Needle check 2: Are you using the right needle for your project? If it is a universal, try changing it to a more specific needle designed for the task. Not sure about what needle to use? There's a free download on Pedal & Treadle's website.
7. Unthread the top spool of thread and rethread the machine. If there is very little thread left the tension can drop as there is less thread on the spool to maintain tension.

Once you have checked and done all of the above, try sewing again. If the tension is still causing issues, you may need a service. This needs to be done by a professional.