



MACHINE PRESSER FEET

A presser foot is the small metal attachment that presses your fabric down on to the machine plate, holding fabric in place as you sew. Feed dogs come up from below the machine plate, guiding the fabric through. Every machine comes with a standard foot, sometimes called an all-purpose or zigzag foot. Some machines also come packaged with a zipper foot and a buttonhole foot. Additional specialty feet can be purchased separately online and in machine dealer shops. Although there is a wide range of feet available, this section focuses on the most common varieties. Please note that styles and names may vary from brand to brand, and that a standard foot can perform most of the tasks you'll need. My machine runs 98 per cent of the time with a standard, buttonhole or zipper foot.

When deciding what feet to buy for your machine, weigh out the cost versus how often you'll use the foot. Some generic brand feet will also work well with your machine and are a good way to practise before investing too much money.



STANDARD (also called zigzag)

This is an all-purpose foot that comes with every machine. It works well for most functions, such as straight lines, zigzags and forward-feed stitching. When in doubt over what foot to use, standard is often a great choice.



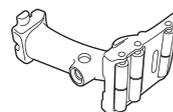
STRAIGHT STITCH

This type of foot is used for straight stitching only, as the opening on the foot is quite small and requires the needle to be in the middle position. It's an excellent choice for delicate fabrics because it presses more surface area on the fabric, giving you more sewing control.



ZIPPER

A zipper foot comes packaged with most machines, and is a must-have sewing item. The foot is narrow with openings on both sides, allowing you to sew down both sides of a zip or piping very close to the zip coils. The needle position is moved from right to left when sewing.



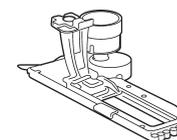
ROLLER

A roller foot has one or more small rollers that help guide fabric through the machine. It is ideal for vinyl, oilcloth, leather, velvet and other fabrics that tend to stick beneath the presser foot. A Teflon or non-stick foot is also suitable for these fabric types.



STANDARD BUTTONHOLE

A standard buttonhole foot comes packaged with most machines and is used when sewing buttonholes on a manual setting. The plate has a wider opening than a standard foot, making it easy to spot the end of the buttonhole stitches and stop you from over stitching on either end of the hole.



AUTOMATIC BUTTONHOLE

This type of foot is larger than a standard buttonhole foot, has a wider opening and works with automatic buttonhole settings to make precise buttonholes. Note that not all machines have these capabilities.



WALKING/EVEN FEED

This is a popular foot among quilters and is used when additional control is needed to feed the fabric. It works in a similar way to the feed dogs on the bottom of your machine, feeding and moving the fabric additionally from the top. A walking foot can overfeed fabrics, making it too powerful for some lightweight and delicate fabrics, but suitable for heavier fabrics.



1/4 IN SEAM

This type of foot is similar to a standard foot, but with a 1/4in (6mm) edge to the foot and horizontal 1/4 in markings across the top. This makes it easy to line up and sew 1/4 in seams, squares and other lines when quilting.



PINTUCK

A pintuck foot has small grooves on the base of the foot making it easy to sew pintuck-width seams on the outside of a garment or bag for a decorative look. Pintuck feet come with a range of grooves from three up to nine or more.



FREE-HAND QUILTING/ DARNING

This type of foot is used for free motion sewing, mostly in quilting. The feed dogs are pulled down away from the machine plate and fabric is sewn freely in any direction to create interesting designs across the top of a quilt.



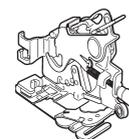
CORDING

A cording foot has open grooves on the bottom, similar to a pintuck foot, allowing cording and piping to pass through in a straight line as it is sewn into a cord casing.



BLIND HEM

This foot is used for blind stitching hems on clothing or curtains. Similar to hand stitching a hem, blind stitching performs a pattern of three forward stitches (which do not show on the outside of the garment) and then one zigzag stitch (which catches the two fabrics and stitches them together). When the fabric is turned over, only the small zigzag stitch appears, but is barely noticeable. A blind stitch foot has a narrow blade in the middle to guide the folded fabric edge while sewing.



RUFFLER

This is an intimidating looking foot with a similar concept to the gathering foot - to gather and ruffle fabric. It has more precision and settings compared to the gathering foot, and actually creates small pleats in the fabric that look like ruffles.



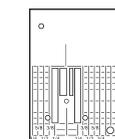
GATHERING

This nifty foot gathers fabric as you sew. By adjusting the tension and stitch length on your machine, you can adjust how much fabric is gathering at once.



TEFLON and NON-STICK

Teflon and non-stick feet are designed to glide over vinyl, plastic, leather, oilcloth and other fabrics that tend to stick between a standard metal presser foot and the needle plate.



SINGLE-HOLE NEEDLE PLATE

This is used in conjunction with some presser feet to give additional control to sewing and to reduce puckering. Like a straight stitch foot, this has one small opening, providing greater surface area to press on the fabric. There is also less chance of fabric or thread being sucked down into the needle plate.