

# Guide to Cleaning Your Knitting Machine

Here is a quick guide to cleaning your knitting machine. Please print out and keep near your machine.

## Daily or Weekly Clean (or after every garment)

- Carriage:
  - remove main carriage, turn over and brush out fluff from back and front channels and across metal cams. Leave to one side.
  - Use lint free cloth to wipe off old oil from rails and cams. Put aside for now.
  - repeat for ribber carriage if being used.
- Main Bed:
  - (optional) use vacuum nozzle tool to pick up fluff before and after brushing.
  - With brush the needles at front from back to front towards gates. Also brush across main bed and behind the back rail.
  - Use lint free cloth to wipe off old oil from main bed and behind back rail. Do a quick wipe off the needle butts.
  - Take drop of machine oil on finger and gently smear the back rail, needle butts and front rail.
- General:
  - repeat above for ribber if using.
  - cover machine with lint free sheet if not being used immediately.
  - if machine will not be used for some time then take yarn out of tension wires to stop them from weakening. Put tools away.

## Regular Clean (after every 4 – 5 garments)

- Carriage:
  - take off carriage, turn over and brush out fluff from rails and cams.
  - with lint-free cloth, wipe out all old oil from rails. also gently wipe between cams and over moving parts. put to one side.
  - you do not need to oil a Knitmaster carriage, but if you have a Brother or Toyota carriage add a drop of oil on top of the grey plate at back of carriage (just behind the plastic corners).
- Main Bed:
  - take out sponge bar from channel and check. Replace or renew sponge if needed.
  - clean out the channel with long stem brush, twisting to get out fluff (clockwise from right, anti-clockwise from left).
  - Replace sponge-bar.... sponge downwards, on top of needles (hold needles down with ruler).
  - brush front to back across needles and through gates.
  - vacuum dust away from needles and from back rail.
  - check yarn masts/tension disks and remove any fluff
  - using a lint-free cloth, wipe off old oil from front and back rails and main bed until no more comes off. also do quick wipe of needle butts.
  - put one or two drops of oil on a clean lint-free cloth and gently wipe over the back and front rails. add another drop and wipe over needle butts.
  - use another clean cloth and Groom cleaner to wipe over plastic parts of machine. also wipe over plastic top of carriage.
  - replace carriage and check everything is moving well.
  - repeat for ribber if using.

## Full Clean (annual or bi-annual)

- Carriage:
  - take off carriage, turn over and brush out fluff from rails and cams.
  - with lint-free cloth, wipe out all old oil from rails. also gently wipe between cams and over moving parts. put to one side.
  - you do not need to oil a Knitmaster carriage, but if you have a brother carriage add a drop of oil to the top back two corners.
- Main Bed:
  - take out sponge bar from channel and put aside.
- Needles:
  - fill mason jar half full with surgical spirit and two drops of machine oil.
  - take out middle 100 needles and put hook downwards into mason jar. Put on lid and shake well.
  - take out needles and spread them out to dry on lint-free cloth.
  - take out remaining outside 100 needles and do the same.
- Main Bed:
  - clean out sponge bar channel with long-stem cleaning brush.
  - vacuum dust away from front of machine and from back rail area.
  - using a lint-free cloth, wipe off old oil from front and back rails and main bed until no more comes off.
  - put one or two drops of oil on a clean lint-free cloth and gently wipe over the back and front rails. add another drop and wipe over needle butts.
  - use another clean cloth and Groom cleaner to wipe over plastic parts of machine. also wipe over plastic top of carriage.
- Yarn Masts:
  - check yarn masts/tension disks and remove any fluff
- Sinker Plate:
  - check and clean all brushes and moving parts. Unscrew brushes to remove any fluff.
- Sponge-bar:
  - replace sponge in old sponge-bar or replace whole sponge-bar.
- Needles:
  - when dry put back into machine swapping position, ie. inside needles to outside.
- Sponge-bar:
  - put new sponge-bar back into machine on top of needles, sponge facing down. use ruler to hold down needles as you push.
- Final Check:
  - replace carriage and check everything is moving well.