

Sewing Presser Feet

There are more than just a few kinds of sewing presser feet. Did you know there are short and high shanks? Do you know what the shank is? Read on for helpful information about sewing presser feet!

First, you need to know what you have—high or low shank machine.

- A high shank machine measures approximately 1 1/4" from the presser foot screw to the bottom of the foot. (Uses High Shank Sewing Feet)
- A low shank machine measures approximately 3/4" from the presser foot screw to the bottom of the foot. (Uses Low Shank Sewing Feet)
- There are shanks that slant and some presser feet are snap on. It's determined by the type sewing machine you are operating.

Nearly all of the stitches your machine makes can be done with just a few simple presser feet - the basics.

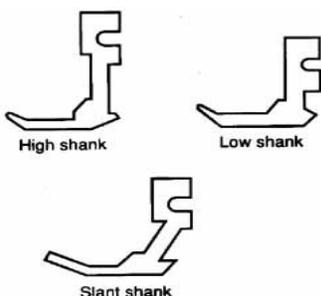
Zig Zag foot is the most common you will use. Many (like me) will use this for straight and zig zag sewing. It's much easier to use it for both as there is no need to stop and change feet when switching between the two frequently. I use mine for all stretch stitching, blind hemming, finishing and straight stitching.

The **straight stitch foot** does come in handy for working on heavier fabrics (denim, canvas). It's not entirely necessary to have...if you have to choose between this foot and a zig zag foot, go for the standard zig zag.

The **button hole foot** is a wonderful little presser foot. In the past, we learned to make button holes by hand and by machine, without a special presser foot. This little gadget accurately makes a button hole the specific size you need to match the buttons you are attaching.

Darning foot. Love this little gadget. It works terrific for embroidery (satin stitch appliqué) and darning, of course. Of course, if you don't have one, you can always use an embroidery hoop and no presser foot to free hand your work with your machine.

Zipper foot is essential. This is a reversible foot (it changes side to side) and is handy for sewing invisible zippers as well.





A **ruffle foot** is handy if you do a lot of gathering. If you only do occasional gathering, it's easiest to do that by hand. I wouldn't spend the money on this foot unless you have heavy amounts of ruffling or gathering to do.



A **rolled hem foot** is a good one to have on hand. It makes a perfect rolled hem each and every time, that tiny little hem that is next to impossible to create with a straight stitch foot.

So, what about all the other presser feet? Like the piping, quilting, button, pintuck and more?



I'll admit, there are sewing machines that remind me of commercials, "Set it and forget it!". They do nearly everything for you. Is it more work to not have all the specialty presser feet? Perhaps—it depends on your skill level at using a basic sewing machine.

It's about convenience and expense, need and skill. Before you purchase specialty presser feet, determine how often you will use the foot and whether or not this is a one time application. Consulting your manual for your sewing machine will provide information on making specialty stitches with the feet provided. Other sources of How-To are on many of the well established web sites.