

SEWING

NEEDLE AND THREAD RECOMMENDATIONS

Questions often arise concerning recommended sewing procedures necessary to reduce production time, upgrade performance and improve appearance when utilizing vinyl coated fabrics in a cut and sew operation. These inquiries were passed on to Quality Thread & Notions, a leading thread supplier for definitive recommendations. They report the following assuredly will be helpful to Spradling customers.

The most commonly used sewing thread for vinyl is bonded nylon, preferably in sizes 69 and 92. Based on factors of superior strength, durability, chemical resistance, and consistent sewing performance, nylon has become the thread of choice.

Although end-use requirements generally dictate specific thread and needle size (as noted below), seam strength and appearance also are significant elements in the thread selection process.

Polyester is generally preferred for outdoor applications due to higher ultraviolet resistance. Caution should be noted, however, that occasionally chemical reactions can occur between vinyl finishes and dyes used for polyester threads resulting in possible surface staining. Therefore, compatibility tests are recommended.

The threads listed are traditionally formed by twisting 3 or 4 plies of continuously extruded

filaments, then bonding them together to form a single sewing thread. An alternative sometimes seen in the furniture industry is called nylon monochord. This thread is produced with multiple nylon filaments combined without twisting to form a flat or oval sewing thread. The most recognizable monochord is Nymo, although there are comparable products on the market.

Sewing difficulties can also be created due to thread quality. They include:

Light Bonding - Plies of thread separate too easily causing breakage.

Inconsistent Finish Levels - Generally attributed to under lubrication resulting in excessive needle heat and ultimately thread melt or breakage, or over lubrication causing surface staining.

Poor Winding - Thread not pulling freely off the tube resulting in breakage or skipped stitches.

APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Application	Needle size	Thread Size	Comp.
Furniture	69	20	Bonded Nylon
Automotive	92	22	Bonded Nylon
Marine	69/92	20/22	Bonded Polyester



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