

Singer Featherweight Maintenance

Step back in time and get your hands dirty in this all-day, hands-on workshop dedicated to Singer Featherweights - the portable workhorses that built wardrobes, quilts, and happy homes. We'll focus on Singer 221, 221k, and 222 machines, which were manufactured from 1935 to 1968. Whether your machine was rescued from a basement, inherited from a family member, or found online for a deal, this workshop is designed to help you understand how these marvelous mechanisms *actually work*—and how to keep them stitching smoothly for decades to come.

Throughout the day we'll cover:

- Safe cleaning and lubrication
- General care including, needles and thread
- Common wear points and tension systems
- Diagnosing mystery noises and stitch formation
- Tips for musty odors
- Case care and maintenance

Come prepared to learn, laugh, and leave with a machine that feels revived—and a new appreciation for the engineering brilliance hiding under that beautiful enamel.

Schedule

May shift due to class needs:

- 9:00am - 10:00am: General machine anatomy and safe maintenance practices
- 10:00am - 11:30pm: Guided cover removal, cleaning and lubrication
- 11:30am - 12:15pm: Electrical inspection
- 12:15pm - 1:00pm: Break for lunch
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm: Reassembly and test stitching
- 2:00pm - 3:30pm: Troubleshooting lab or open sewing time

Class Size

Class will be limited to 12 participants to ensure enough individual attention can be given during instruction and troubleshooting. Every participant must have a machine; no auditing allowed.

Fees and Pricing

- Instruction cost: \$695.00
- Mandatory Sewing Machine Owner kit fee: \$25 (see below for details)

Supplies Needed

Participants should bring:

- A working Singer Featherweight, model numbers are 221, 221k, or 222.
 - Be sure to bring a needle, 2 colors of thread (one for bobbin and one for the top), foot pedal, bobbin and bobbin case.
 - To get the most from the class, the machine's handwheel should turn freely without resistance.
 - If your machine is missing parts like needle plates, belts, or other pieces critical to the operation, it's not a fit for the class. If a student needs help purchasing missing parts to be able to participate, I can help source parts and bring them to the workshop if notified 30 days beforehand.
- Screwdrivers for their machine; vintage machines usually have slotted or flat head screws, so bring 2-3 different sizes of screwdrivers, from large to small.
- A large bath towel to lay their machine on; this will get dirty
- A bright flashlight or headlamp
- Scrap fabric for test stitching
- Q-tips (a good handful or two depending on how dirty their machine)
- A roll of shop rags or sturdy paper towels
- A sense of adventure and fun
- Magnetic tray or other tray to keep screws and parts in during disassembly
- Optional but helpful:
 - Latex gloves to protect the skin of the hands
 - Extendable magnetic wand to help find screws that may drop to the floor
 - Additional light that sits on or mounts to the table to help see inside the machine

The mandatory class kit will include sewing machine oil, metal cleaning solution, and some specialty tools needed for class. Kit fee of \$25 is payable to the instructor in class.

Sewing machine oil is not able to be taken on an airplane, so workshops that require air travel will have to have class kits shipped ahead of time via ground shipping. We can arrange class sign-up cut off times and shipping logistics at the time of booking.

Notes

- Because of the nature of vintage machines, students who are sensitive to musty smells and chemical cleaners may want to sit this workshop out.
- Students who struggle with hand strength or upper body joint pain may find it difficult to access all the areas needed on the machine.