

BERNINA
eBook Series



JUST OVERLOCK IT!

Overlocker Care

Tips for Maintaining a Trouble-Free Relationship
with your BERNINA L 450 / L 460

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Helpful Tools ▪ Daily Care ▪ Regular Care

Annual Care

made to create **BERNINA**

OVERLOCKER CARE

Tips for Maintaining a Trouble-Free Relationship with your BERNINA L 450 / L 460

Just like your sewing machines, your overlocker needs regular cleaning and oiling. Unlike your sewing machine, knowing the proper time to do this may vary more from person to person. You will learn quickly that an overlocker/serger creates much more lint than a sewing machine because with every stitch it is also cutting the fabric. This eBook will give you tips for maintaining a trouble-free relationship with your overlocker.



BERNINA L 450 OVERLOCKER



BERNINA L 460 OVERLOCKER

OVERLOCKER CARE

Tips for Maintaining a Trouble-Free Relationship with your BERNINA L 450 / L 460

To help you better understand when and how to care for your BERNINA Overlocker, let's consider habits for Daily Care (every time the machine is used), Regular Care (considerations for more thorough cleaning), and Annual Care (the service done by a Certified BERNINA Technician).

HELPFUL TOOLS

When you purchase your machine, it will come with some machine oil. This oil is specifically for the overlocker and is NOT the same oil used for sewing machines. You will also have a small lint brush and a screwdriver to remove your stitch plate.

You may also wish to add few additional things to your toolbox for keeping a clean machine.

Investing in a pack of microfiber cloths is great for any sewing studio. The microfiber acts like a magnet for collecting lint and dust that easily build up when working with textiles.

Another great sewing studio companion is a draftsman's brush. I use this all the time to quickly dust my work surface and machines. The thin bristles are super soft and will not damage any delicate surface or equipment.

While the lint brush that comes with the machine is conveniently stored in the looper cover, I also use a dual head sewing machine lint brush. The spiral wrapped side is perfect for cleaning the feed dogs with a scrubbing action, while the straight bristle side has fairly firm bristles that help move the stubborn lint out of the machine.

Cotton swabs work well for capturing lint from hard to reach spaces, and the Micro Vacuum Attachment will literally suction up any lint from the machine.



TOOLS THAT COME WITH THE MACHINE



HELPFUL ADDITIONAL TOOLS

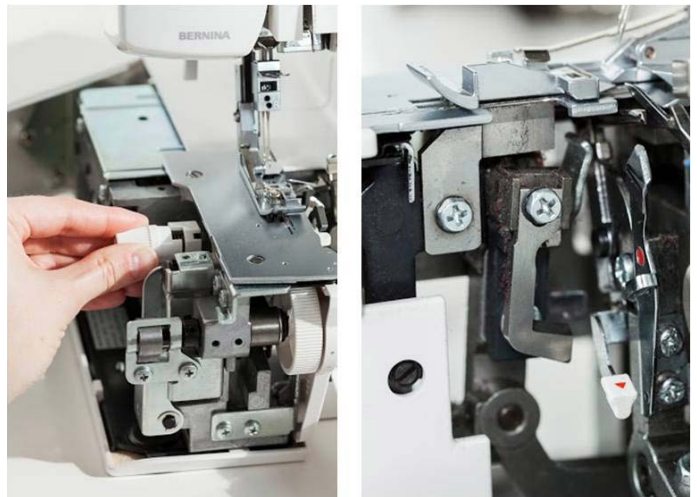
DAILY CARE - CHANGING NEEDLES

DAILY CARE CHECKLIST

- Lower the knife and clean between the upper and lower knife blades
- Raise the knife when finished
- Dust out the area behind the looper door
- Open the sewing table and dust out
- Wipe down presser foot (remove for easier access)
- Brush off/wipe down the exterior of the machine
- Check needles and change if dull
- Store the machine covered to reduce dust buildup

Daily Care is the routine care that you should give your machine each time you are finished using it for the day. Getting into this habit early will mean that you never sit down to a dirty machine. The area that builds up lint and hangs onto it the most is the knife area. Taking the time to lower the knife and brush this out between uses means that you will have a better cleaner cutting action.

Tip: To lower the knife on the BERNINA L 450/L 460 machines, simply open the sewing table and locate the knife activation knob. Press it in and turn clockwise to lower the blade. Moving it counter clockwise will bring the blade back up again.



DEACTIVATE KNIFE WITH THE KNOB INSIDE THE SEWING TABLE AREA

CHANGING NEEDLES

The L 450 and L 460 overlockers use standard household needles, just like your sewing machine (130/705H).

The size and type of needle is determined by your project needs. The smallest size needle you should use in an overlocker is 70/10. The machine moves very quickly and anything smaller will break easily.

On the other hand, the largest size needle you should use is 90/14. Anything bigger will be too large for the clearance between the loopers and could cause a bent needle, or worse, a bent looper.

I personally use 80/12 universal needles for the majority of my projects. Needles can last a long time in an overlocker. I change my needles every other month. The exception would be if a needle is damaged; then you will want to change it immediately.

Tip: If one needle breaks, it is good habit to change both needles. Keeping the needle size and type the same results in a better formed stitch.

REGULAR CARE

REGULAR CARE CHECKLIST

- Remove the stitch plate and wipe down
- Clean out lint under the feed dogs
- Brush out area underneath the stitch plate that is hard to access
- Reinstall stitch plate and check that feed dogs rotate properly
- Unthread machine
- Clean tension disk by flossing with thin stabilizer or paper
- Vacuum or brush out ALL lint from looper area
- Wipe down looper mechanism with cloth
- Oil the machine at two points indicated
- Turn handwheel to help distribute oil along metal shaft
- Change needles, throw away old needles
- Wipe down thread stand area and thread tower
- Rethread machine (if desired)
- Move from table and wipe down suction cups on bottom of machine
- Store machine covered to reduce dust buildup

About every 3-4 months, I suggest you go a little deeper into cleaning and also oil the machine.

For this, begin by removing the stitch plate. This allows for better access to cleaning around the feed dogs of the machine. The machine will come with a screwdriver specifically for this purpose. There are two screws on the stitch plate. After the first time you remove them, they are simple to remove.



REMOVING THE STITCH PLATE

This is a good time to wipe down the stitch plate with a microfiber cloth. Then take the lint brush and maybe some cotton swabs to clean the feed dogs. When you have things all tidy, put everything back together.



CLEANING THE BOTTOM OF THE STITCH PLATE

REGULAR CARE - OILING

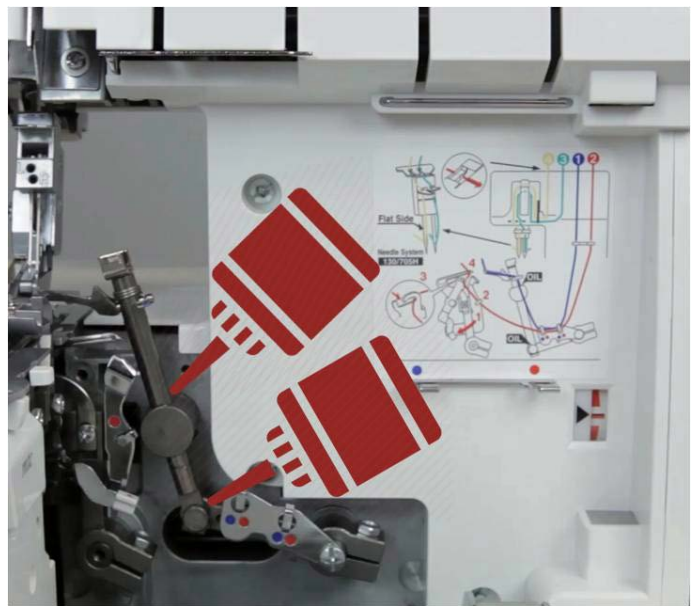
How often an overlocker needs to be oiled varies by user and by usage.

An unused machine will dry up faster than a machine that is used often. So if it's been sitting unused for several months or years, you will need to oil it before using it.

Machines used frequently, with regular cleaning and care, may only need to be oiled every 4-9 months.

Getting to know your machine will help you determine when is best, as you will likely notice more noise or the machine feeling tight in movement.

There are only two points that need oiled on most machines, and they are both on the looper shaft. If in doubt, look at the diagram located on the machine.



TWO OIL POINTS ON BERNINA L 450 / L 460

TIPS: OILING AN OVERLOCKER

The oil is NOT the same as the oil for your sewing machine. It is important to use the oil that came with your overlocker, or check with your dealership or manufacturer to ensure that you are using the correct oil.

Over-oiling an overlocker can cause more harm than good. The oil will act like a magnet to all that lint and debris, collecting grime to the area of the machine doing the most work.



Click the icon to view a video on cleaning and oiling the BERNINA L 450 / L 460.

ANNUAL CARE - OILING

ANNUAL CARE CHECKLIST

- Clip and remove threads
- Check blades for damage
- Take any stitch samples showing problem stitches with you to the dealer's store
- Make note of any issues or noise to report
- Consider taking/purchasing new thread for technician to leave on machine after service

There are some things that are best left to the pros. If your machine has a recurring issue such as breaking needles, skipping stitches or the blade becomes damaged, then you know it's time to take it to the dealer.

Replacing a knife can be a costly repair, so keep those pins that are easy to shear off when overlocking to a minimum. I recommend using Wonder Clips by Clover, as they are easy to see and are less likely to end up in the cutting knife of your machine.

As a general rule, take your overlocker to a certified dealership annually to be cleaned, oiled and adjusted. The technician will be able to remove the machine covers and work at cleaning the "inner" inside that you don't have easy access to. They will also check the machine's tensions and clean things up, which means one less time you will have to clean it also.

Proper care and maintenance will lead to many happy sewing hours.

HAPPY AND TIDY SERGING!

WHAT A CERTIFIED BERNINA TECHNICIAN WILL DO

- Check for overall electrical and mechanical safety
- Check for factory required updates and safety checks
- Provide preventative maintenance
- Conduct internal machine cleaning and lubrication
- Polish areas of thread contact
- Perform all necessary adjustments
- Calibrate the tensions
- Sew in the machine

