

Consumables List

This is a breakdown of what I have on my bench, in the tool cabinet, and in my travel kit. Not all items are needed for every machine, and some may be considered somewhat esoteric, but this is what I own and use.

1. Liquids (some items could be listed under more than one category, but I'll refrain from that). Almost as important as what is listed is what is NOT listed. Note no mention of WD-40 nor PB-Blaster. I use these on motorcycles, not on sewing machines. Some will disagree, but this is my list, not theirs.
 - a. Lubrication
 - i. Sewing machine oil: I buy it in quarts as necessary, Lily White from WAWAK is a great deal on quality oil
 - ii. Sew Retro Grease: from the Featherweight Shop. Expensive, but works well in potted motors
 - iii. MIL-G-23827A grease: Aircraft and instrument grease, my personal favorite for potted motors. Not easy to find, I bought mine in a 5-pound can military surplus
 - iv. AeroShell 7: Aviation grease similar to MIL-G-23827A above. As of this writing, I am still testing it for suitability
 - b. Penetrating fluids
 - i. Aerokroil: my go-to penetrating oil. Expensive, but a little goes a long, long way
 - ii. Mouse Milk: Designed for aviation use, excellent penetrating power. Available in two formulations, one water based. The non-water based is not available in California, so it MUST be wicked good.
 - iii. Gibbs: Aerosol penetrating fluid/lubricant. As of this writing, I am testing it, but initial results look very promising, so I'm including it here
 - c. Cleaners
 - i. Simple Green: I use a 10% solution of the aluminum safe version with warm water in my ultrasonic cleaner
 - ii. Dawn dish soap: My go-to degreaser. Use with hot water and a scrub brush and grease doesn't stand a chance
 - iii. CRC QD Contact Cleaner: An electronics staple. I use it to flush motor commutator bars after leveling and polishing on the bench motor.
 - d. Polishes
 - i. Meguiar's Scratch-X 2.0: one of my favorite polishes for sewing machines. Designed primarily for plastics in automotive applications
 - ii. Original Bike Spirits Spray Cleaner and Polish: Legendary in the motorcycle world for cleaning road grime off a bike when parking at a bike night event. Works great on sewing machines and cases too
 - iii. Mothers California Gold Metal Polish: an excellent general purpose metal polish
 - iv. Autosol: I use it on leather strops as the final step when sharpening edged tools, such as single edge razor blades
 - v. Auto Glym: a wonderful polish, once again from the world of automobiles. Works very well on sewing machines

- vi. Kocour Yellow Compound SS17: I use the large bricks (2.75 pound). SS17 is my go-to compound at the buffing wheel for almost all polished parts of a sewing machine
 - vii. Kocour White Compound KC11: I use white compound for small parts that are being polished with a rotary tool and either a buffing wheel or a felt polishing point. KC11 is a bit dryer than SS17 and buffing residue wipes clean easily and leaves a very high shine
2. Rotary tool supplies – ALWAYS wear safety glasses or a face shield when using a rotary tool or buffer
- a. Cutting
 - i. Cutoff wheels: I use Dremel brand with their mandrels. No reason for the choice, but I've used them for years
 - b. Cleaning
 - i. Wire wheels: I tend to buy them from Harbor Freight as the cost is minimal compared to Dremel. They don't last forever, and you know they're giving up the ghost when you start seeing wires fly off. Run them ONLY at the slowest speeds.
 - ii. Scotch-Brite wheels: I buy these in bulk, on mandrels, from Amazon. The Dremel branded ones are very expensive when you consider how short lived these things are, so why pay more? They work very, very well
 - c. Buffing
 - i. 1" diameter cloth wheels: I buy these from Amazon in packs of 20, which comes with four or five mandrels. They shed like mad when you start a new one, so be prepared. Regardless of the mess they make, they are a necessary evil
 - ii. 1" diameter chamois wheels: These too, come from Amazon. Chamois wheels are my preferred type on the bench motor and work very well with SS17 compound
 - d. Polishing
 - i. Hard felt polishing point assortments: I buy several different types from Amazon. They work exceptionally well with both SS17 and KC11 compounds and are a must-have for polishing bobbin cases and upper thread tension assembly components. Be aware that you will be generating a lot of heat, so be careful
3. Electrical supplies
- a. SBR Rubber Grommets: I buy several inside diameter sizes of 7/16" hole diameter grommets used in rewiring motors.
 - b. Non-Insulated ring terminals: I keep three or four sizes in stock, based on wire sizes and stud sizes. #8 stud is the most common for sewing machine needs. I buy these by the bag of one hundred
 - c. Heat Shrink Tubing: I buy this by the 25' spool in several sizes, 1/8", 3/16", and 1/4" inside diameters (pre-shrink sizes). Black should be the only color you need, but that's a personal choice
 - d. Primary wire: my wire of choice is Stinger Select SSPW18BK primary wire. This is what I use when rewiring potted motors and lamp assemblies. It's very flexible, has a high-quality PVC jacket, and handles high temperatures. Since we're not dealing with high current draws, 18 AWG is fine. If you prefer a 16 AWG wire, their SPW316BK is an excellent choice.

- e. Brass Washers for #8 screw: I keep these handy as a lot of Singer power blocks come in missing washers
 - f. Crimp-on wire splices: I use these in lieu of wire nuts. I keep 4 different sizes in stock
 - g. Clamp-on Wire Splicing Connectors: I keep these in 2 wire and 3 wire in my field kit for when I work on wiring of commercial machine tables
4. General shop supplies
- a. Firm felt cord: I keep several sizes in stock. It's used as grease wicks in Singer potted motors and as oil wicks on connecting rods on certain machines
 - b. Saxophone key bumper felts: I buy these from Amazon. They are used for oil wicks on some model Singer machines in the needle and presser bars
 - c. Spool felts: I buy these by the one hundred pack. In addition to using them on spool pins, when cut into quarters, they can be used as bobbin case oil felts on 66 class machines
 - d. Blue shop towels: Yes, the blue paper towels should be in your shop, as well as your "normal" paper towels. The blue ones are relatively lint-free (or at least are low lint) and are excellent for cleaning buffing dirt from small parts
 - e. Grant's Terry Towels: I buy these in packages of twelve at Harbor Freight. They are a decent size (12x16 inches) and are washable. They are also inexpensive enough that when they get too gross after washing, you don't feel bad about throwing them out, except you probably won't. I also use one as a cushion for my machinist jack that I use with my sewing machine fixture
 - f. Scotch-Brite pads: I buy the large size at the box stores, the bigger the pad and the more in the pack, the better. I cut them down with my utility scissors to usable sizes as needed, most often into $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide strips. Get the most you can for the least amount of money
 - g. Single edge razor blades: We buy these by the box of one hundred at the hardware store. Yes, if you know how to use an oil stone, you can sharpen these, often sharper than from the factory