Buying a Serger? Presales Considerations:

Understand what it is that you are buying:

- Make sure you do a demo on the model you are choosing at a sewing center or at sewing/quilting show expo where you can actually ask questions of the dealer and see the speed the Serger operates at.
- Home serger models operate at 1300 stitches per minute compared to standard home sewing machines which stitch at up to 850 stitches per minute for modern era models. Vintage machines are generally even slower.
- Sergers have knives that trim the seam while you are serging it, these can be turned on or off.
- Understand that basic sergers require 3 or 4 spools of thread to be used simultaneously.
- Understand that your serger needs to be cleaned and oiled periodically to keep it running well.

Do not just go buy a serger because "everyone else is doing it"   and not just because it is on a good sale-price or coupon. A serger is not something you take out of the box and just start using like a sewing machine. They work differently and you need some basic understanding of these differences.

Know yourself and what your patience-level is and your paying-attention-to-detail is.

If you want to use a serger for garment construction, or just for finishing seams, this is what a serger is used for. Folks who get one and learn to use the model they choose, usually just love it and cannot imagine how they got along without one before in their sewing room.

Basic Entry-Level sergers are NOT made for heavy thick fabric construction as in Diapers, Diaper-Covers, Nursing-pads, or heavy denim and canvas, etc. some folks do try it and have less than good results.

It is surprising to read comments from folks who bought a serger and put it away in the cupboard for months and yes, even years, without learning to use it properly. They decided it was too hard to learn to use. People buy a serger and do not consider that the 12 month warranty begins at date of sale.

My advice if you are someone who thinks like that, take a Beginners Serger class on Craftsy, https://www.craftsy.com/sewing/classes/beginner-serging/35609 or at your local sewing machine center, and learn to use the machine you bought, or sell it to someone who would be glad to have and use a serger if they could afford to buy one.

Another great resource is the free tutorial at

Amy Alan has a Serger Lesson on It's Sew Easy   https://youtu.be/o8VHoWwPcDo

Serger use is a skill and there is a learning curve, even with the fully automated self-threading sergers that start at around $1500.00. Yes, there is still a learning curve on those brands, and they are very expensive to maintain all the extra bells and whistles involved on those models.

Either choose to read the User Manual, view the YouTube resource tutorials and read the many How-To's we publish in the FILES AREA of our group.

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Your machine conditions, and the fabric you are using are different – particularly from a wear and tear standpoint – so keep in mind that you need to test your machine with your fabric scraps to set the tension settings – do not ask others to figure out your stitching issues or machine settings for you, without first trying it on your scraps and posting photos of what the problems are.

Our published How-To's can point to where to start with your settings, but those are a guideline – everyone's fabric is different so your results may need adjusting the dials differently than what is published.

Do your homework, and learn the basics for how to adjust your stitch formation with the Tension Tutorial: Secrets To Taming Serger Tension https://youtu.be/NTdjgIKIBr0

Or, sell the Serger to someone who will make good use of it.

This group is not a place to enter your complaints about your serger being too difficult to learn on the group feed here.

This group is about helping folks who want to learn to use their machines to make their garments or creations come out with more professionally seams and edges.

Thousands of members here have successfully learned to use their serger and many of them are so expert at it, they kindly lend a hand answering the same basic beginner questions every day for new users trying to learn. Be a part of the solution.