

Things You Might Not Know About Bobbins

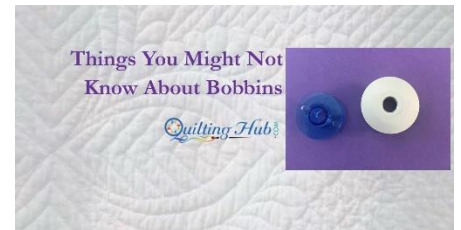
Courtesy of Michelle, Dinkydoo Fabrics, Canada

Summary

Quilting Contessa researched bobbins and shared some interesting things you might not know about bobbins.

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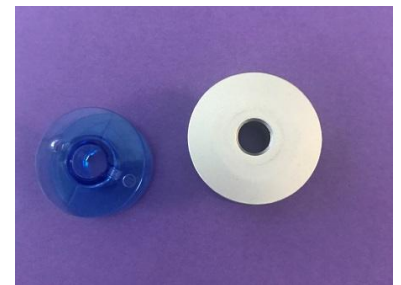
"Bobbin!" is a swear word in my house. My husband and I both we have two sewing machines and our mid-arm quilting machine to run out of bobbin thread. The wise women say that you should always wind 5 bobbins at the start of any quilt. What they don't tell you is that the last one will always run out anyway!



Given how often that word gets used, I decided to do a little research into bobbins. This article won't tell you everything you need to know about bobbins. You would need a book for that. However, it can make you aware of what deserves your further attention.

In history, bobbins were made to hold wire, yarn, and thread in sewing machines, cameras, and electronic equipment. In other fiber arts, bobbins are also used in spinning, weaving, knitting, and lacemaking.

Bobbins come in different sizes, shapes, and materials. They come pre-wound, or you can wind them on your machine or use a separate bobbinwinder. Some come with holes, some don't. They have names like "L" for the regular sewing machine or "M" for a long-arm.



They have names like "15" and "15J" for different brands of sewing machines. Some are flat, some are more domed. The number of holes can vary from none to many. Some are plastic, some are metal. Some are aluminum, some are steel. Some bobbins drop in from the top and some insert from the front.

What you need to know is that **THEY ARE NOT INTERCHANGEABLE!**

The purpose of the [bobbin](#) case is tension. The sewing machine must have this tension for the [bobbin](#) thread to interlock with the top thread to create a stitch. If the [bobbin](#) is the wrong size or type or material, the [bobbin](#) case can't do its job. If you have more than one machine, please remember to mark your bobbins or store them separately! We bought blue tinted bobbins for my husband's machine and clear for mine,



and we do store them separately.

If you purchase a secondhand machine, it may come with the wrong bobbins or no bobbins at all. You must do the research to get the right bobbins. A local quilt shop may also be able to help you.