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Technique Tool Box

- Alternative Threads



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AMBER

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Be careful of traditions...

**Traditions are peer pressure
from dead people.**

- Eliot Schrefer



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Overview

- Thread makeup & defining what you currently know.
- How to choose your proper needle per thread size.
- Adjusting for hook timing for larger threads.
- Interfacing/Backing: What are the best options?

Embroidery vs. Sewing Threads

ALL THREADS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL



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Traditional Embroidery Thread

- Shiny - Can make a vintage stitch technique looks cheap and out of context.
- Shrinks - Average 5-10% shrinkage for most manufacturers post laundering.
- Tensile strength average.
- High cost per cone.



Vintage Sewing Thread

Low Sheen – Creates a vintage look dropping the sheen and adding excellent structure with fast speeds.

Shrinkage - Average >1-3% shrinkage for most manufacturers post laundering.

Tensile strength high – reduces thread breaks during production.

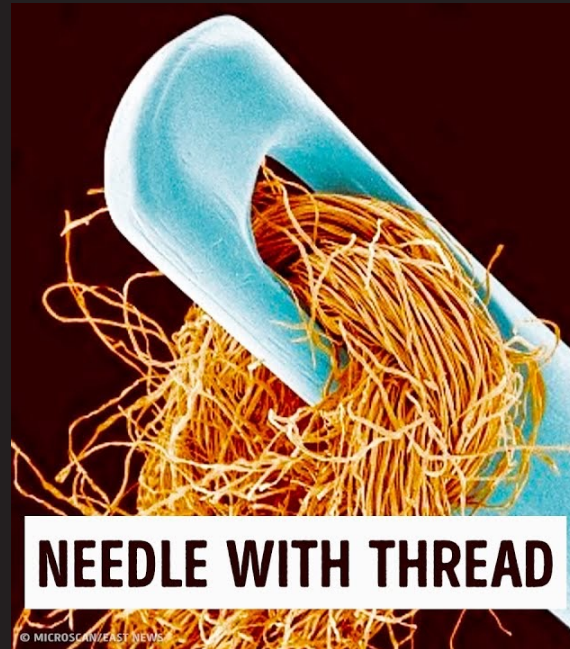
Low cost per cone.



WHY IS THREAD MEASURED IN WEIGHT?

The most useless measurement of a given thread for digitizing and technique development purposes is how much it weighs.

If thread manufacturers have an advantage up-selling heavier thread, then I'd be a premium commodity.



SO HOW SHOULD WE SHOP FOR THREAD?

Thread specifications should be based on the following:

- **SIZE IN DIAMETER – TEX 27 AVERAGE 40 WT THREAD**
- **TENSILE STRENGTH – IF THE DATA SHEET DOESN'T POST INFO, IT DOESN'T QUALIFY**
- **STRETCH PERCENTAGE UNDER TENSION – CHECK THE DATA SHEET**
- **POLY CORE IS A MUST – ONLY POLYESTER CORE SPUN WITH VARIOUS BLEND WRAPS WILL WORK**
- **COLOR FASTNESS & WASHABILITY – ANYTHING < 10%**

WHERE DO I FIND THIS MAGICAL INFO

PRODUCT DATA SHEETS

Isacord 40 is a machine embroidery thread made of 100 % trilobal polyester. Isacord 40 combines excellent embroidery properties, high tensile strength and excellent colour fastness.

Fields of application

Isacord 40 is an universal embroidery thread. Its advantages are becoming particularly effective on heavy-duty textiles.

Technical data

Material	100 % polyester
Construction	continuous filament
Linear density (ISO 2060)	approx. Nm 74 / 2 (dtex 135 * 2)
Tensile strength (ISO 2062)	approx. 1.226 cN
Elongation at break (ISO 2062)	approx. 24 %

Fastness properties

Colour fastness to artificial daylight (ISO 105 B02)	≥ 5
Colour fastness to perspiration (ISO 105 E04)	≥ 4
Colour fastness to washing 95 °C (ISO 105-C06-E2)	≥ 3 - 4
Colour fastness to rubbing (dry) (ISO 105 X12)	≥ 4
Colour fastness to dry cleaning (ISO 105 D01)	≥ 3 - 4
Colour fastness to bleaching with hypochlorite (ISO 105 N01)	≥ 4 - 5

Care labels



Colour range

Isacord 40 is available in 345 colours and 12 multicolour shades as shown in our shade card.

Make-up

5.000 m kingspool (*article number 2914*) and 1.000 m kingspool (*article number 2922*)

Isacord multicolour is available on 1.000 m kingspools (*article number 2579*)

Needle size

The following needle sizes are recommended: Nm 70 - 80.

SIMPLE THREAD GUIDELINES

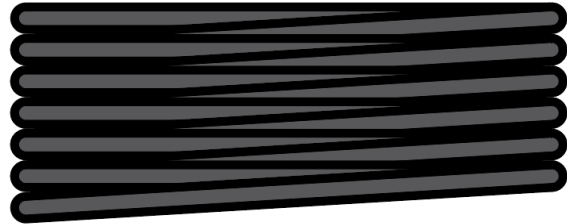
THIS WILL HELP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

- **TEX Size typically translates to a mm measurement. So a TEX 27 would be approximately 0.27 of a millimeter.**
- **If the product data sheet doesn't show you the specs, they presume your ignorance.**
- **Sewing thread is often half the cost of embroidery thread.**
- **TEX 27 density is 0.36 pitch while TEX 40 density is 0.7 pitch.**
- **If its something different than you're doing now, you're winning.**
- **Don't let your supplier dictate your direction 100% - there are a lot of options out there. Are you hungry enough to discover them?**

SIMPLE THREAD GUIDELINES

THIS WILL HELP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

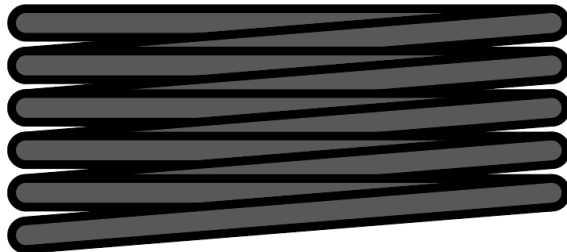
TEX 27 • 0.36 mm PITCH



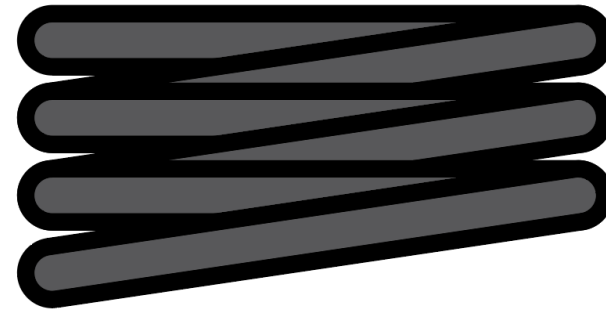
TEX 60 • 0.77 mm PITCH



TEX 40 • 0.48 mm PITCH



TEX 77 • 1.1 mm PITCH



Hook Timing • Larger Thread Woes

HAVE YOU GOT THE METTLE TO HACK YOUR EMBROIDERY MACHINE?



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LARGER THREAD HOOK TIMING

WORK WITH YOUR MECHANIC ON THIS ONE

DISCLAIMER:

**DO THIS AT YOUR OWN RISK.
INCORRECTLY TIMING YOUR
MACHINE EITHER TOO
ADVANCED OR RETARDED CAN
CAUSE YOUR HOOK TO COLLIDE
WITH YOUR NEEDLE &
POTENTIALLY BREAK OR
DAMAGE YOUR EMBROIDERY
MACHINE.**

2 Degrees of retarding your machine's timing will allow a small amount of extra time for the hook and loop to catch.

It should not affect the timing for regular threads when switching back.

Slow your machine down to allow for minimal deflection during runtime.

Needles & Knowledge

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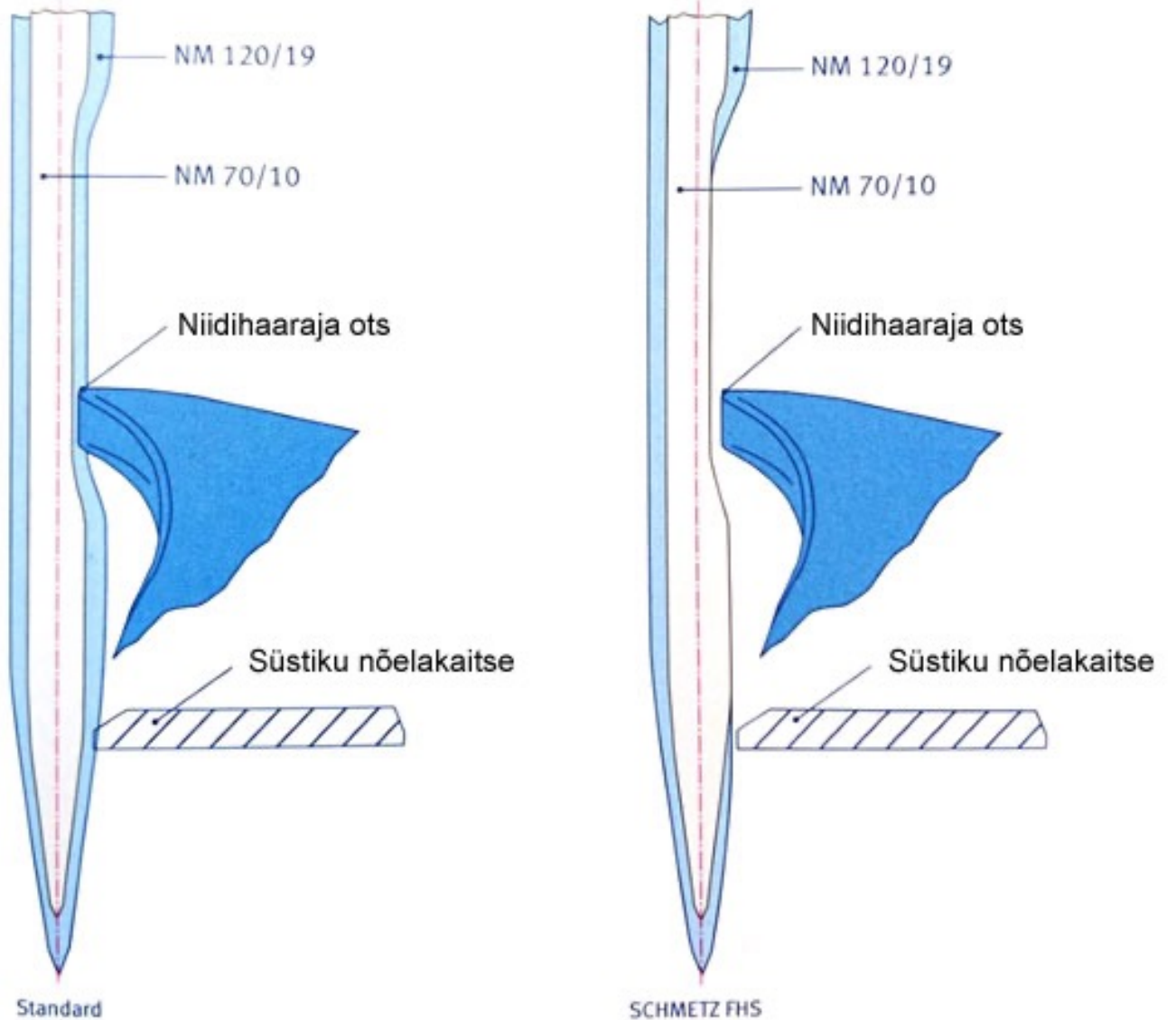
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LARGER THREAD HOOK TIMING ALT.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO ADJUSTING MACHINE TIMING

- SCHMETZ FHS NEEDLES ARE MADE FOR LARGER THREADS.
- THEY COME IN ALL MAJOR SIZES & IN BALL POINT FORMATS



WHICH NEEDLES SHOULD I USE?

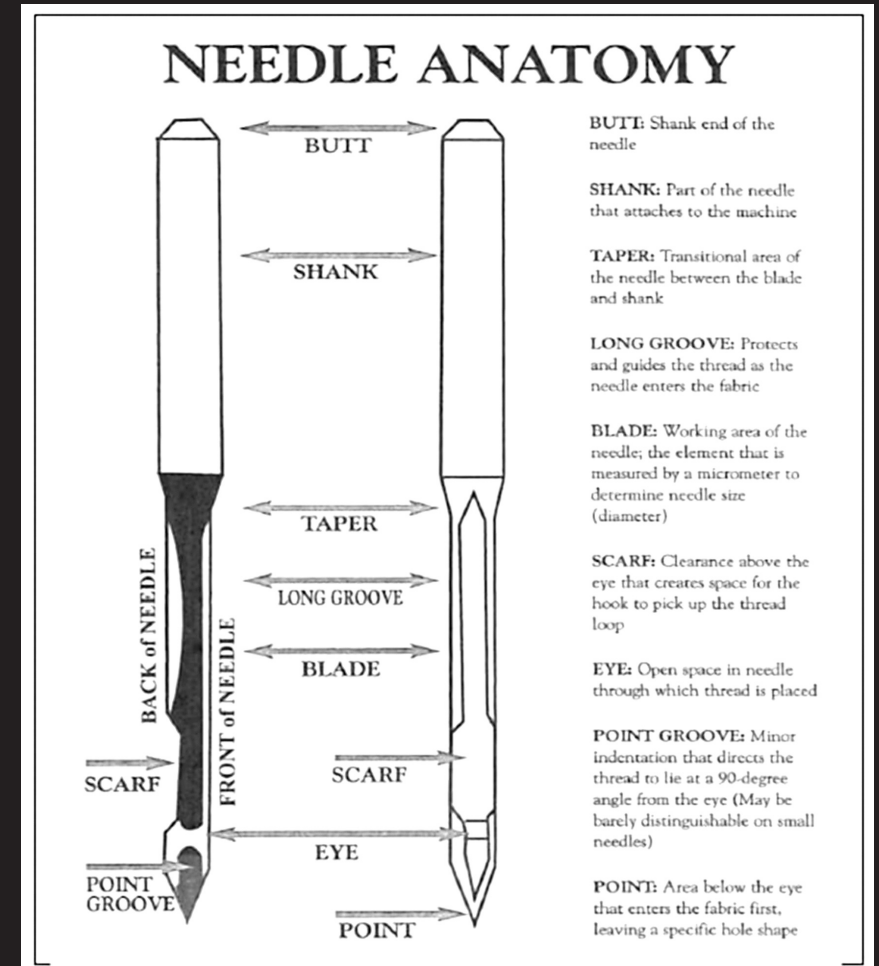
THE SMALLEST ONE YOUR EYES CAN THREAD

TEX 18 – 24 • 65/9 - 75/11

TEX 27– 40 • 75/11 - 80/12

TEX 40-80 • 80/12 - 100/16

Side Note: My favorite for Burmilana is
90/14 Ballpoint FHS



Survey

- Thank you for joining me today.
- Did you enjoy the session?
- What subjects or content would you like to learn more about in the future?
- Did you sign up for an advanced class & no idea what's been happening?



Questions?



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