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### **Should I invest in buying a blind hem machine?**

The blind hem machine is very much a stand alone machine just like an Overlocker designed for a specific task but can be an excellent compliment machine to your sewing machine collection. The question is do I do enough blind hemming to justify buying this machine? Well that is an answer only you will know.

A blind hem machine will only perform the blind hem stitch and no other which is found on dresses, skirts and trouser legs. The blind hemmer creates its stitch by the needle moving from side to side rather than up and down which a conventional sewing machine would do. It is the only machine on the market that performs a stitch in that way. There is only one thread needed as it creates a chain stitch, so does away with a bobbin and bobbin case. The fabric is placed between two small oblong discs which run lengthways and perform very much like sewing machine feed dogs. There is a small lever at the side of the machine which secures the fabric in place by pushing up the cloth. As the needle sweeps from side to side the fabric is graded and caught by the slightest amount creating a visible stitch on one side and a blind stitch (invisible) on the other. The domestic blind hem machine uses the same needles as a domestic sewing machine which is different to an industrial blind hem machine which use special bent needles. There are no attachments to come with the machine such as feet or special needles so this makes the blind hemmer completely self sufficient, once bought, that's it, no extra cost apart from thread.

The blind hem machine works best with a thinner thread called “Graal” which creates a really nice invisible look to the hems of garments. Graal thread comes in a good selection of colours and can be purchased from specialist sewing machine dealers that sell the blind hem machine.

The blind hem machine will save a huge amount of time when it comes to blind hemming a garment rather than if you were to do this by hand. The only competition this machine has is the computerised sewing machine which will also perform a blind hem stitch. Once the sewing machine has changed to the special blind hem foot and the blind hem stitch is selected, it can create a nice blind hem but this takes a lot of practice to make a perfect invisible hem to your garment. Where the blind hemmer machine really comes into its own is its speed that it can produce the blind hem and the accuracy that it performs the stitch. So if you are creating lots of blind hems on your garments then this machine is an excellent companion to have in your sewing room sitting along side the sewing machine and your Overlocker.

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