

Getting to know your



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Commercial break for products.



John M. Griest



1889 Patent

Style Boxes

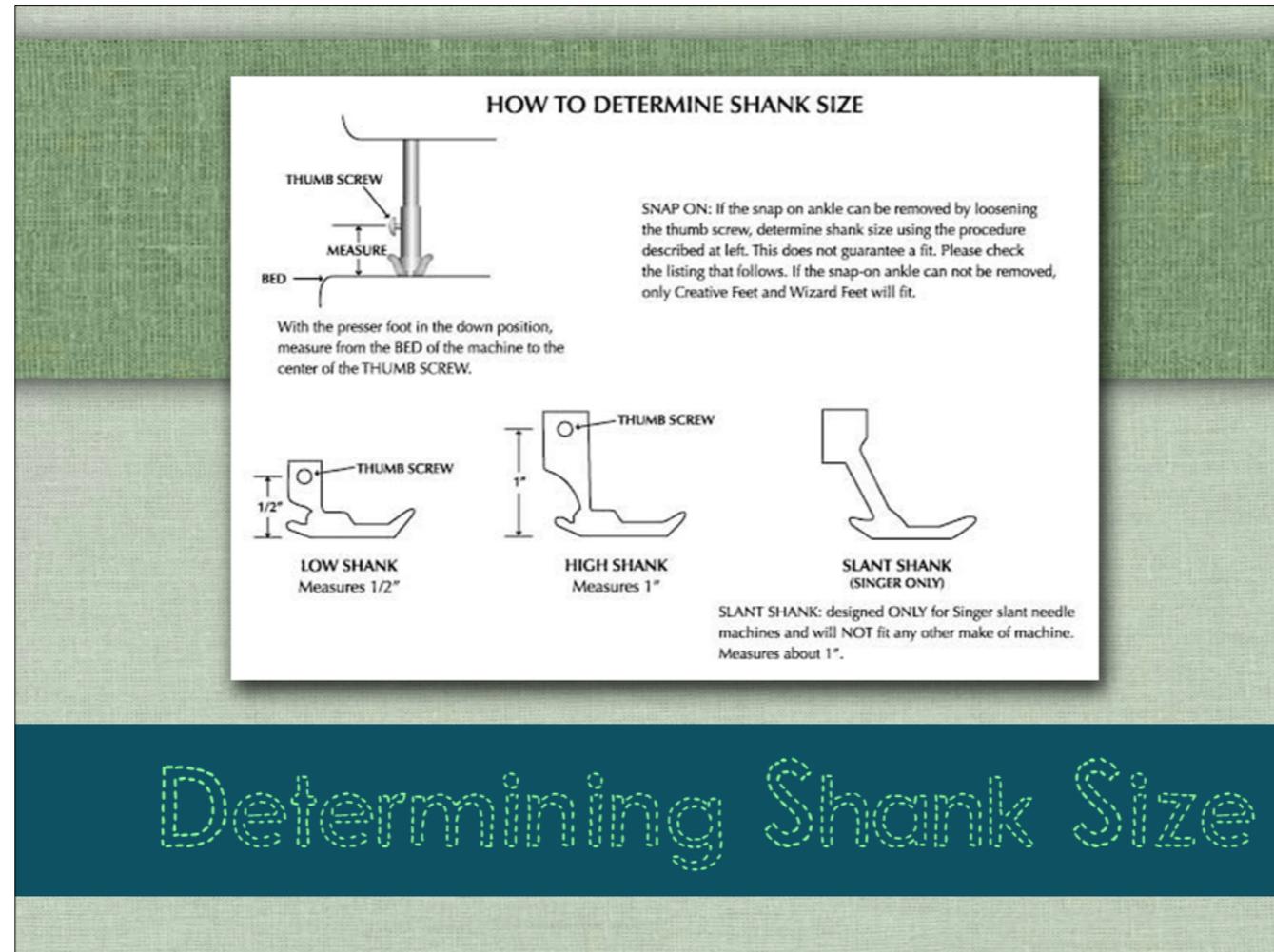
John M. Griest was responsible for many of our present day sewing machine attachments. The earliest patent may have been for an improved hemmer in 1873. His over 21 inventions included a sewing guide, a braiding foot, tucker-marker, buttonholer, gatherer and a ruffler.

At times during his lifetime, he worked for others in the sewing machine business such as Singer. In 1889, his last invention for Singer was the Folding Box. They became known as style boxes starting with #1 and ending with #14; the included attachments corresponding with the model of sewing machine. Collectors today call them puzzle boxes.

In 1892, John Greist founded his own attachment manufacturing company. He supplied the Singer and Morse companies with attachments, particularly buttonholers. Mr. Greist died in 1906 as the age of 56.

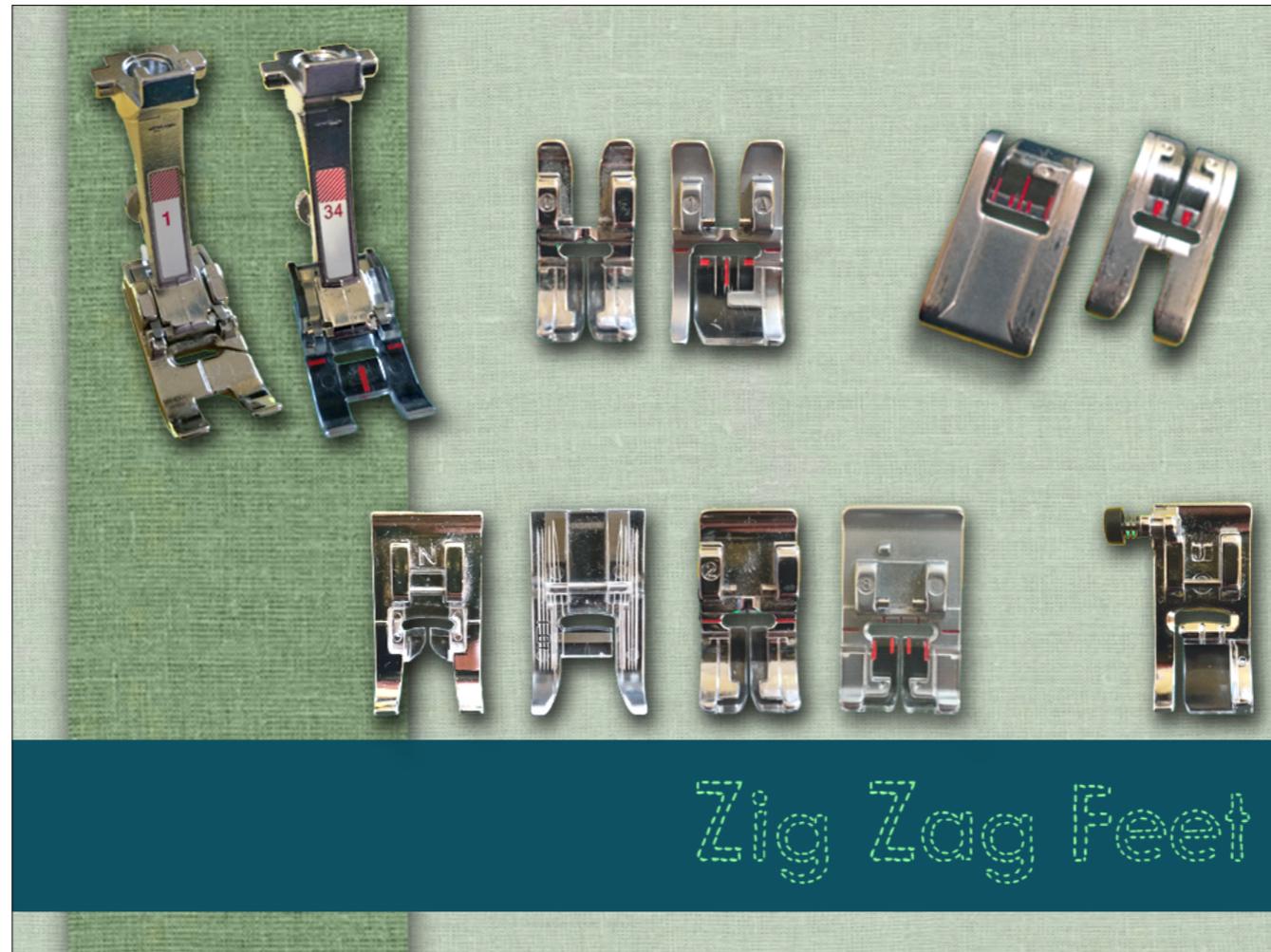
Puzzle boxes...we still have them...they just look different!!!

ID: zigzag, zipper, buttonhole



The majority of sewing machines are low shank. The height of the shank is not brand specific, but rather model specific....sometimes machines for quilters may be high shank but not always. Singer is the only machine that has a slant.

But I have snap on feet!!! Most machines since the 80's use snap on feet. In order to use a snap on foot, your machine will still need an adapter shank so you will need to know. Adapter shanks are available for all machines.



GoToFoot for straight, zigzag, satin and decorative stitching & twin needles.

IDENTIFICATION CLUES:

Transparent for better view? Wheeler&Wilson glass in 1861

Size of needle hole? 5..7..9mm

Indentation on bottom for wide stitches. No indent for straight stitches only.

Extra buttons or blades for a specific use? (i.e. leveler foot)

Marking or notches?

Shape along back edge? Dual feed?

Open Toe Feet



Best visibility for applique

Part of the zigzag family, but this foot is completely open for visibility.
Excellent for applique.

BETH WEHRMAN will demo applique on her Bernina.

As we continue with the slides for specialty feet, please notice how different the feet may look in a category, but yet they are intended to accomplish the same end result.

Straight Stitch Feet

Used with straight stitch throat plate

Ideal for very lightweight fabrics

May have guide fence or markings for quilting



* True straight stitch foot on this slide*

Straight stitching is especially good for fine, lightweight fabrics: silk, chiffon

Best when used with corresponding throat plate

Foot will be flat on the bottom for even pressure

Use for: darts and topstitching or to eliminate skipped stitches & puckering

Use for: fabrics that are bunching or getting pulled down into feed dogs

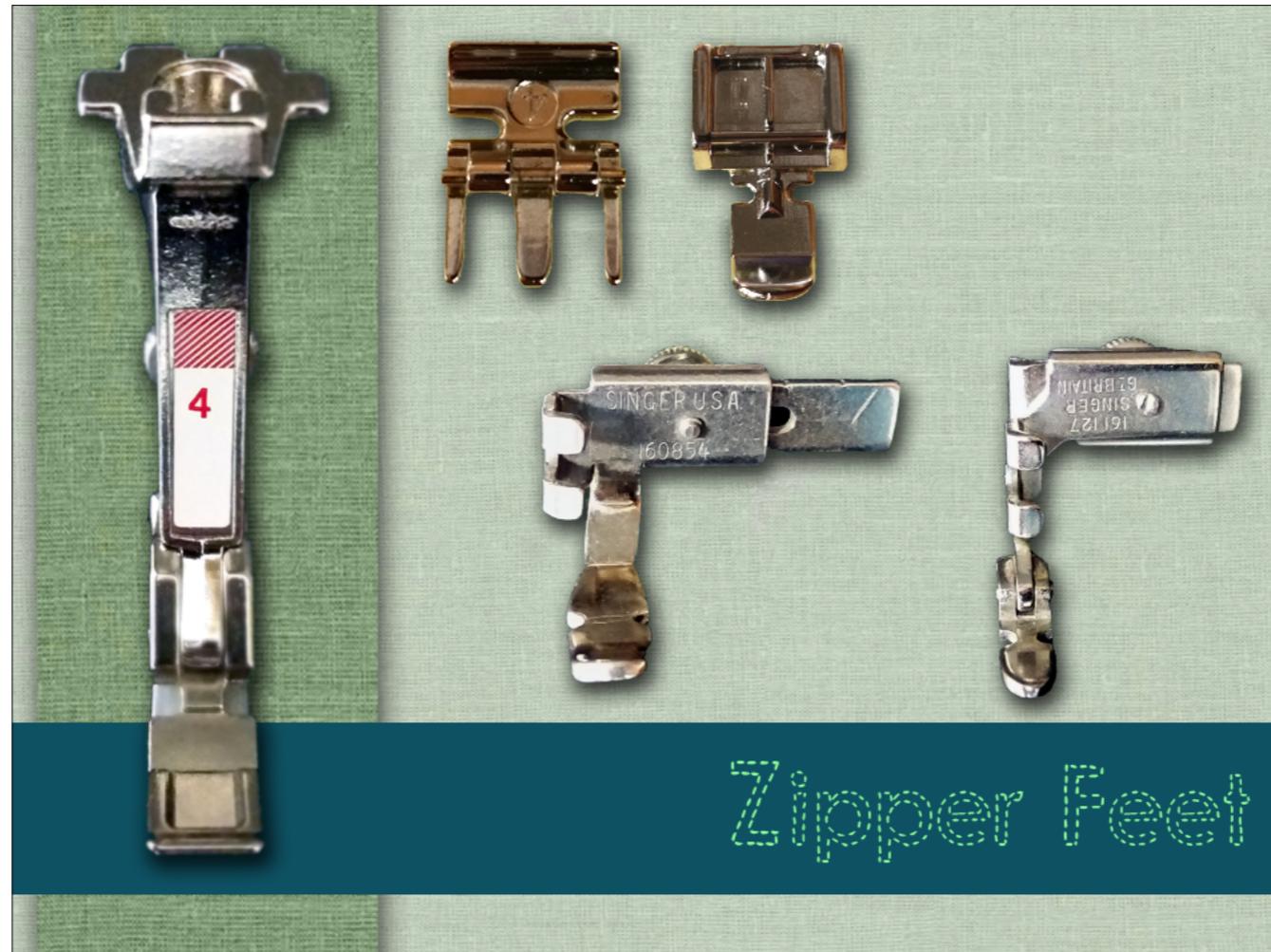
!!!Make sure needle position is directly above the needle hole!!!

WALK MACHINE THROUGH ONE STITCH COMPLETION BY MANUALLY TURNING THE BALANCE WHEEL!!!

Quarter inch foot for piecing quilts, but also for doll clothes & shirt making.

LYNETTE KLEIN demo on Bernina #8 Jeans foot.

SHERI HUGHES demo on quarter inch seam jig on Featherweight.



Changing your needle position would be used with all these zipper feet, but the four feet on the right are also adjustable. The top two presser feet can be snapped on with either the left or right pin. The bottom two have an adjustable thumb screw in back to slide the foot left or right. The bottom right foot is the only one that is hinged.

This foot is also used for sewing piping, beading and fringed trims where it is necessary to stitch close to the bulk without a foot getting in the way. If seam allowances are pressed to one side, it is also possible to stitch in the ditch.

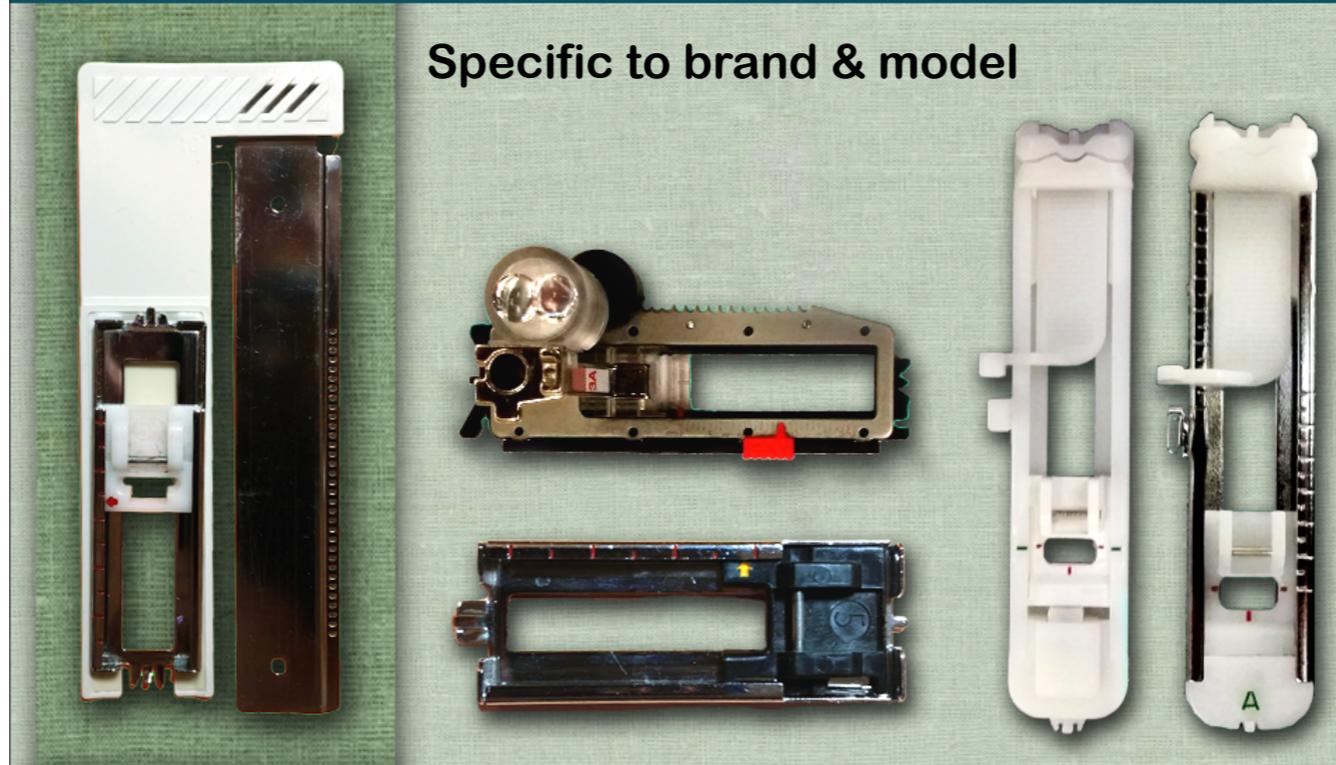
LAURA DELONG has tips on the zipper foot.



Unlike a regular zipper foot which rides along side the zipper teeth, this foot acts like a miniature steamroller. The deep grooves sit on top on the zipper coil, rolling it away so that stitching is almost under the coil. Invisible zipper feet can be purchased for your specific model or the universal feet above come with different shank sizes that slide on to fit your machine.

Buttonhole Feet

Specific to brand & model



Although there are generic buttonhole feet on the market, this is one foot that is typically quite specific to your brand and model. Some have a button sizer on the back of the foot. Most will have guides for cording.

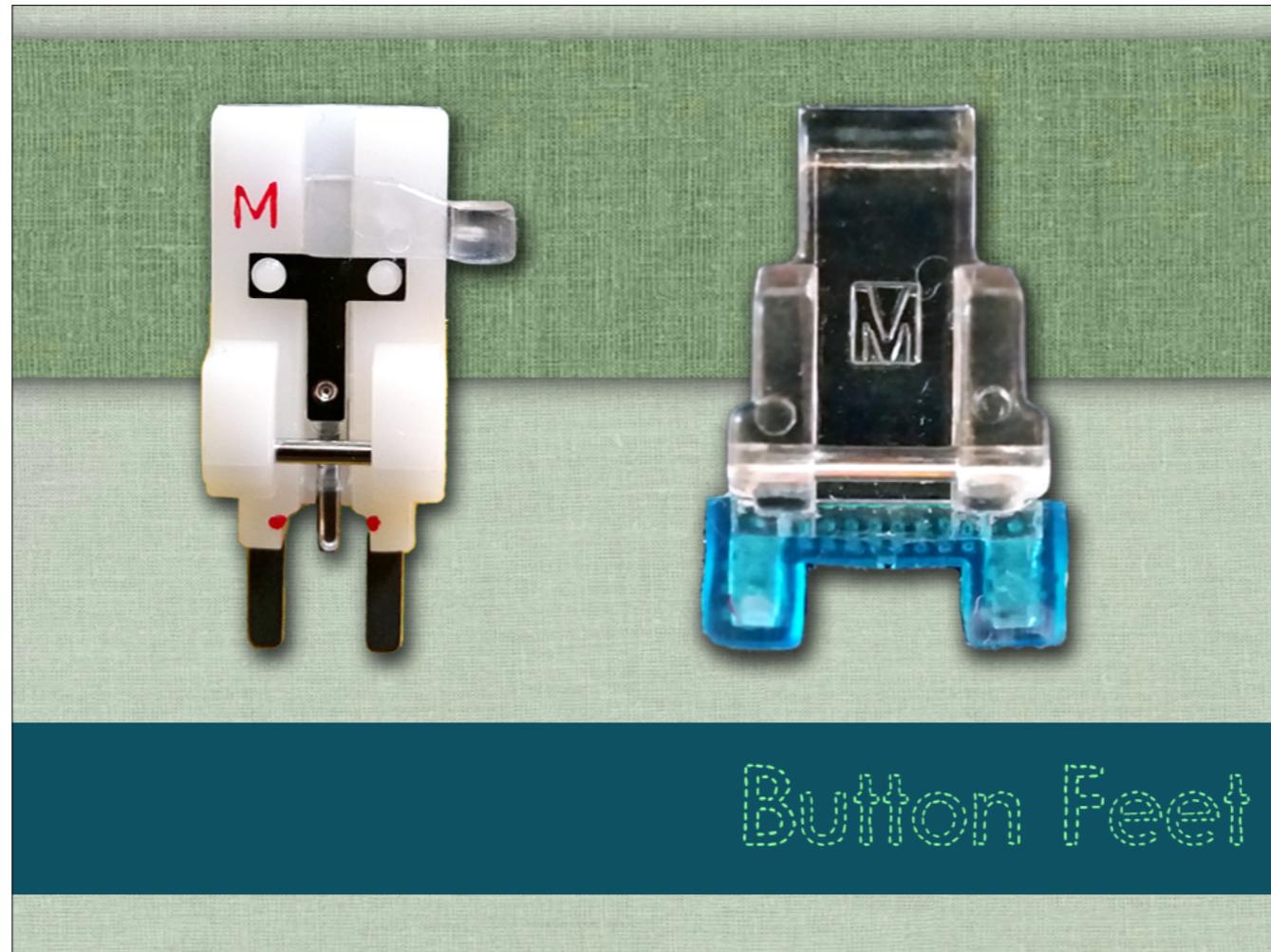
Templates ensure uniform size and shape



Buttonholer

The old fashioned buttonholer is still an option for very uniform buttonholes.

Notice this model has a Greist label. John Greist also made buttonholers for Singer and Morse. Even though the top cover may look different, the internal mechanism is the same. The templates came in various lengths as well as in straight and keyhole versions. They are interchangeable between the brands.



Some button feet are made with a guide wire in the middle to create a shank.

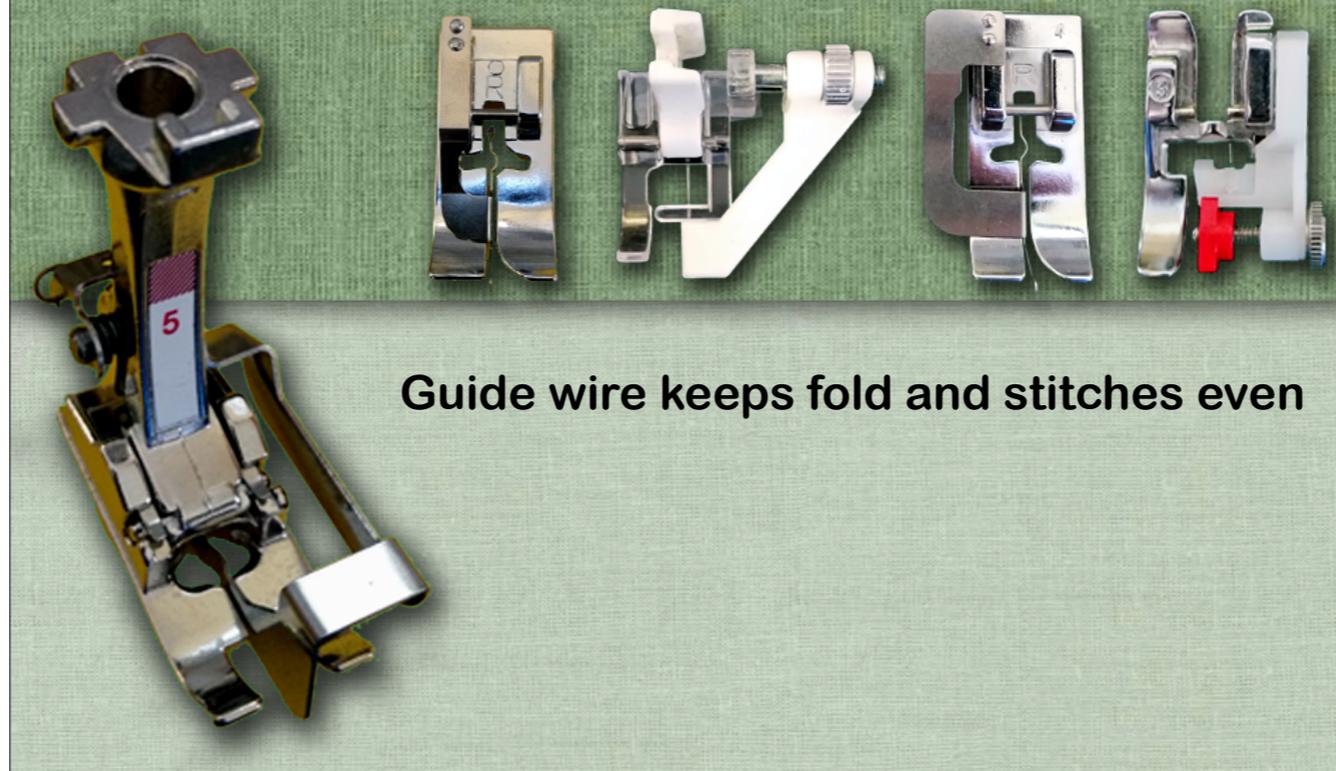
This allows the button to be loose enough to lie smoothly when garment is buttoned. If your foot does not have this feature, a toothpick can be centered between the button holes for the same end result.

It is necessary to lower the feed dogs before using this foot. Although the spacing between the holes is usually consistent, it is wise to walk your machine through one zigzag to make sure the needle clears the holes.

There are generic feet available. Some machines can sew on buttons by simply removing the snap on foot and using only the shank of the machine to hold down the button.

KATIE HUGHES will demo on a Brother.

Blind Hem Feet



The blind hem foot is specifically designed to sew a hem by machine on the inside that will only show small pick stitches on the outside mimicking handwork. Typically there will be a metal guide in the center of the needle opening which keeps the fold of your hem consistent so the stitching can catch the fold.

Two of the feet pictured are adjustable by a thumb screw. Generic versions are available. This foot can also be used for pin tucking and topstitching close to an edge. Take a close look at #5 in the from left corner.

ANN REED will demo on her Elna.



Look at the differences in edge stitch feet! Although the Bernina #10 foot looks very similar to #5 Blind Hem foot in the last slide, there is no metal guide in the middle of the needle opening. It can be used for topstitching or stitching in the ditch. With a clear needle opening, it can also be used for joining two pieces of fabric or lace together side by side with a zigzag or decorative stitch.

There are generic feet available such as the adjustable one above. Another version of this foot is called a stitch in the ditch foot. The difference is that the center metal blade is much longer. The bottom left foot is a vintage version.

Watch pricing! Great for old eyes!

SHERI HUGHES will demo on Bernina.

Hemmer Feet

Available from 2 mm to 6 mm

Vintage feet are adjustable



The rolled hemmer typically included with a sewing machine is the 2mm (less than an 1/8" roll). They are also available in a 4mm and 6mm (approximately 1/4"). It is appropriate for light to medium weight fabrics and the edge must be ravel free and starched. A straight stitch is typically used, but special effects can be done with a zigzag or decorative stitch. It can also be used for couching fine cord.

The two feet on the left are vintage adjustable feet and can hem up to one inch. Why different colors? Black hemmers were produced during WW II when chromium, nickel and aluminum were at a premium. Sewing feet that were a mix of black and silver were made pre-war or post-war when different materials were dumped into the bins at the factory. The assemblers simply reached into the bins and used whatever was pulled out first.

KATHRYN BARNHILL will demo on a Singer

Overcast Feet



Used in place of serger

Guide wire prevents fabric curling

Use with zigzag or overcast stitch



A substitute for a serger, an overcast foot can be used to neaten fabric edges and to stop fraying. The small guide wire prevents the zigzag or overcast stitch from puckering or curling. The foot in the upper left corner also trims the fabric before overcasting.



Designed to feed multiple layers of fabric evenly
Suitable also for stretchy fabric
Helpful when matching plaids and stripes

Walking Feet

This foot (also called an even feed foot) is designed to feed layers evenly to prevent the top fabric from being pushed ahead and ending up longer than the bottom layer. Use for quilting multiple layers, fleece, suede, leather, vinyl, fabric with nap, stretchy knits and keeping plaids and stripes aligned. It is a MUST HAVE foot and generic versions are available.

Machines with dual feed do not need this foot. Pfaff had the patent on its IDT but that has now expired. Janome AcuFeed and Bernina Dual Feed are very similar.

MARY HILLIARD will demo on her Viking.

Roller Foot

Alternative to the teflon or walking foot

Ideal for leather and vinyl

Use with thick or stretchy fabrics



A roller foot is appropriate for fabrics that are difficult to stitch such as leather, vinyl, plastic, suede, velvet, batting and very thick, stretchy fabrics. Seams will be smooth, not ripply and stitches will be consistent. This foot comes with either textured or smooth metal or plastic rollers. If the surface is being imprinted by the roller, try switching to a teflon foot. Universal feet are commonly available.

Teflon Feet



For sewing leather, plastic & vinyl

Alternative to the roller or walking foot

Ruffler makes small tucks every 1, 6 or 12 stitches



Gathering foot makes ruffles

Ruffler and Gathering Feet

Rufflers have changed over the years but they all have two adjustments: the number of stitches between tucks and the depth of the tuck. Changing the stitch length will also affect the fullness of the gathers and the depth of the tuck. You can download a very good ruffler handbook at youcanmakethis.com.

The gathering foot creates resistance causing the fabric to gather. To increase the amount of gathering, lengthen the stitch and increase the tension. A wide twin needle is recommended for a flatter finish as a single row of stitching has a tendency to curl. Some of the newer feet have the ability to feed two layers of fabric through at one time. One layer will gather while being attached to the other fabric which remains flat. There is a learning curve with this procedure and it is easier to gather and attach in two separate steps.

VALERIE MCMULLEN will demo the ruffler on a Brother.

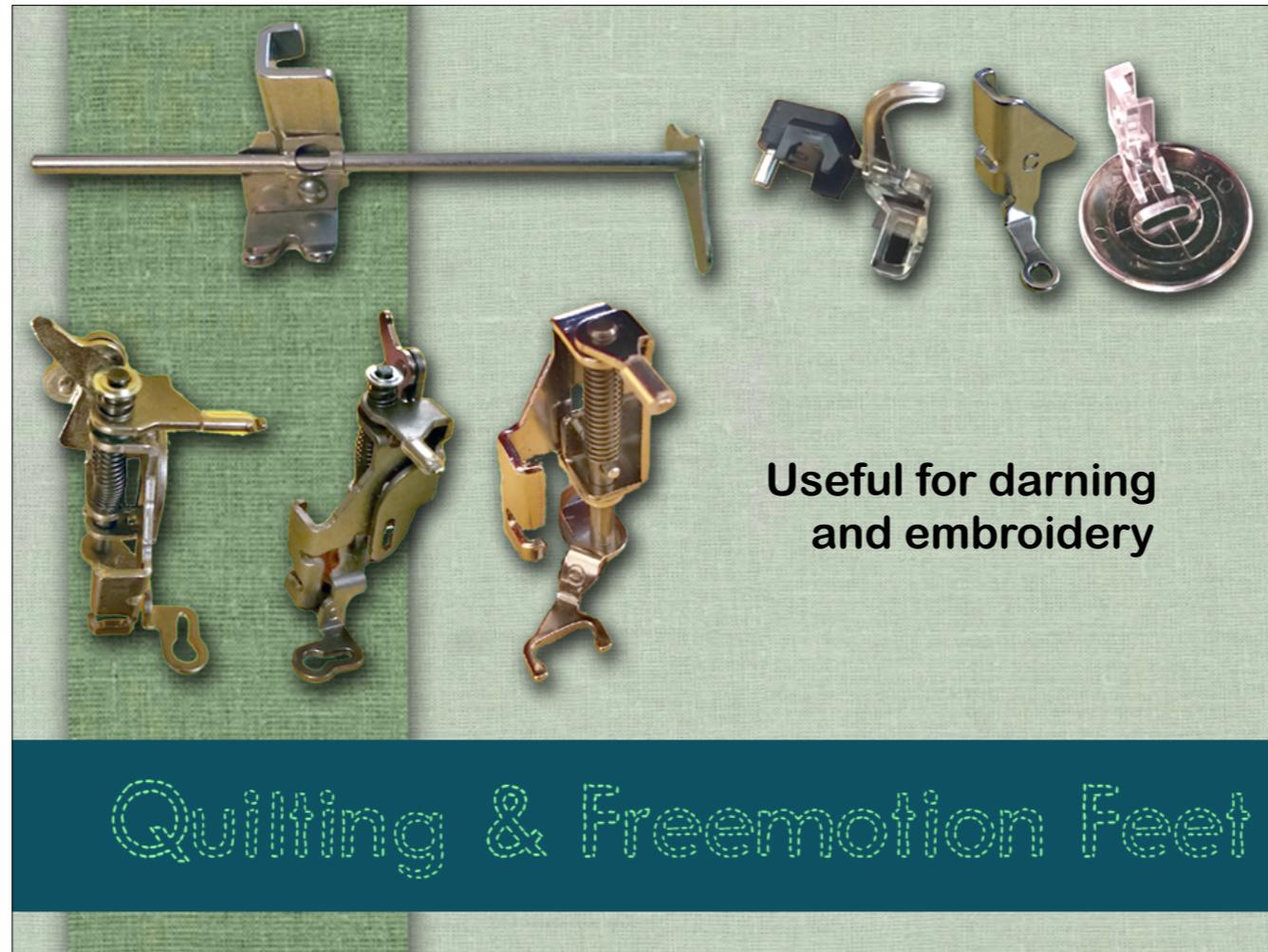
Binder Feet

**Multiple slot binder for bias fabric strips
or pre-folded bias binding**



A binder will fold, wrap and stitch the binding all in one step. Most of the feet look like the vintage ones on this slide which will accept cut bias strips or prefolded binding. There is also a newer adjustable bias binding foot. The clear foot makes it easier to feed prefolded bias only.

KATHRYN BARNHILL will demo on her Singer.



The feed dogs need to be lowered and the fabric is hand guided. The needle is surrounded by a ring or a shape like the letter “C” and can be metal or clear plastic for better viewing. The spring loaded foot raises and lowers along with the needle bar. when the needle lowers, the foot also lowers to allow the machine to create a stitch. When the needle rises, so does the foot allowing you to move your fabric. This foot is used for darning, free motion embroidery and quilting. If you haven’t used one before, practice on patching jeans until you develop a rhythm with your machine. Quite often the upper tension will need to be loosened to prevent the bobbin thread from being pulled to the front.

The non spring loaded feet in the top row are also considered quilting feet. Notice the feet are quite small except for the clear echo foot on the far right. Quite often a guide bar pictured in the upper left corner is used to keep design lines parallel.

Pintuck Feet

Modern foot uses double needle



**Vintage foot uses single needle
and is adjustable
for tuck depth and spacing**



This slide shows a modern foot on the left and a vintage pintuck foot. The modern one uses a twin needle to create a raised tuck above the surface of the fabric. That finished tuck is moved to the left or right and rides in the groove on the underside of the foot while the next one is stitched. This assures the tucks will be parallel. Pintuck feet come 3, 5 and 7 grooves for different weights of fabric. Firmer pintucks can be made by feeding a fine cording under the foot. In addition, a cord guide is needed that attaches to your throat plate.

The antique pintucker uses a single needle. While it stitches one tuck, it marks the fabric for the next tuck. The top screw adjusts the depth of the tuck and the bottom screw adjusts the spacing between tucks.

Beading and Braiding Feet

Deep grooves glide over bulky trims

Slot feeds and centers flat trim



The beading foot has a deep groove on the bottom to for cording, pearls and various trims that are somewhat round. The trim is attached with a zigzag stitch typically with a clear nylon or polyester thread. This foot is also used for piping.

The braiding foot slot accommodates flat braid, sequins or ribbon. Depending on the trim, it can be attached with a zigzag, decorative or twin needle.

Both feet on this slide are from Creative Feet and the various shanks were included.

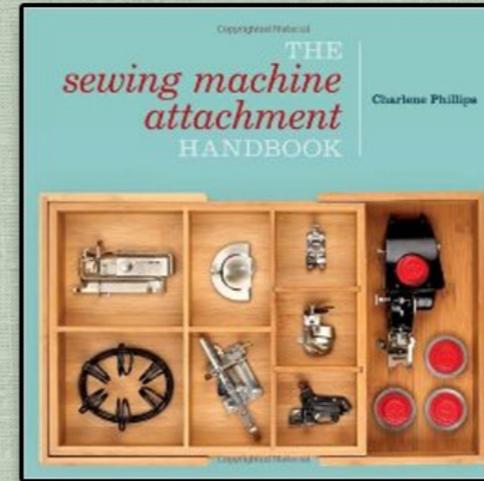
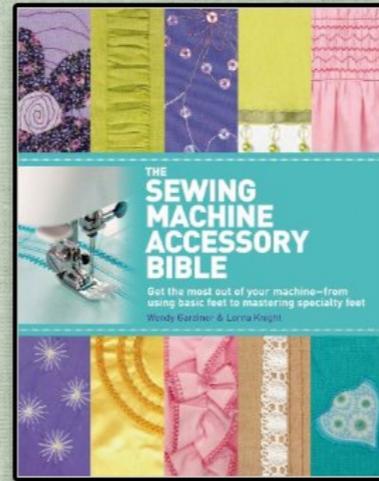


Free Craftsy course!

Sewing machine websites.

You tube!!!

Blogs!!!



Books

Excellent books for further information. The book on the left covers modern feet and the book on the right covers vintage attachments and some new attachments.

Questions?

*Enjoy the demos presented
by your fellow ASG members!*

Thank You!

If you own it, try it! Don't be afraid to invent new uses for a foot. No sewing police will knock at your door!

Check online for prices of brand names vs. generic universal feet

DEMOS: Pay attention to power cords around the demo stations. Members also need to see the demos. If no one is at a sewing machine, go to other stations and circle back.

Thank you.

Only one daughter was
harmed in the making of
this presentation.

Help me.

KATELYN!!!