

Singer Sewing Machine



(MODEL 185K *Oscillating Shuttle*)

This three-quarter sized, straight-stitch machine was a development as replacement of stylistically outmoded but long-lived Singer 99K, and shares many mechanical parts with that machine ([Singer 185 Part List](#)). It was produced from around 1955 to 1964. The 185K is the UK model, 185J is the Canadian cousin of the machine.



185K



185J

Singer 185K Tension Control

The following was taken from instructions covering the 99K model, but also should be applicable to the 185K.

TO REGULATE NEEDLE THREAD TENSION

The tension on the needle thread can be tested only when the presser foot is down. The numerals "0" to "9" on dial X, **Fig 29** indicate the different degrees of tension that can be obtained. The numbers do **not** denote size of thread or amount of tension.

When the tension has been correctly set, note the number at the indicator line Y, **Fig 29** so that this setting may be regained should the tension be altered for special work.

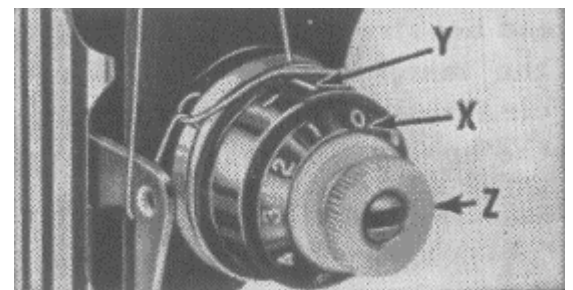


Figure 29

To increase tension, turn the thumb nut Z, **Fig 29** gradually to the right (clockwise) until the required tension is obtained. Each higher number denotes increased tension.

To decrease tension, turn the thumb nut Z, **Fig 29** gradually to the left (counter-clockwise) until the required tension is obtained. Each **lower** number denotes less tension.

The tension indicator Y is marked with the signs + and -, which indicate the direction in which to turn the thumb nut Z for more or less tension.

TO REGULATE BOBBIN THREAD TENSION

The tension on the bobbin thread is regulated by the screw **A**, **Fig 30** which is nearest the centre of the tension spring on the outside of the bobbin case. To increase the tension, turn screw **A** over to the right. To decrease the tension, turn this screw to the left.

When the tension on the bobbin thread has been once properly adjusted, it is seldom necessary to change it. A correct stitch can usually be obtained by varying the tension on the needle thread.

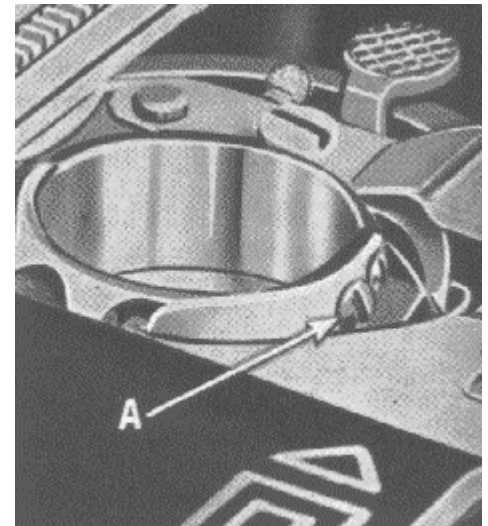


Figure 30

TO REMOVE AND DISASSEMBLE NEEDLE THREAD TENSION

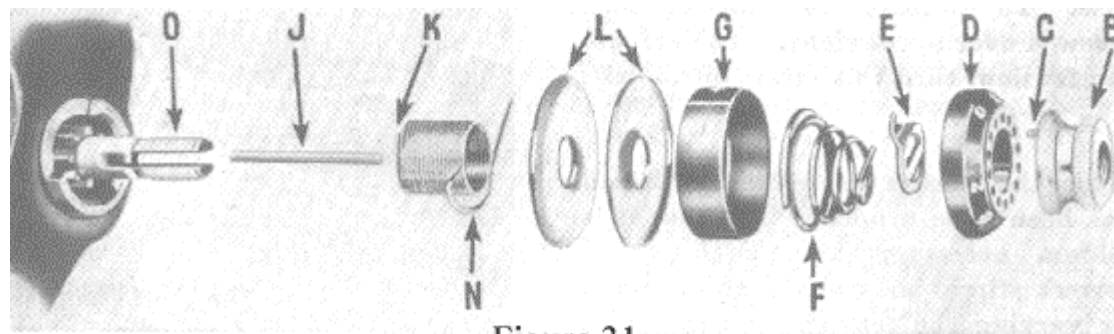


Figure 31

Turn the thumb nut **B**, **Fig 31** to the left until the numeral "0" on the numbered dial stops opposite the centre line between the plus and minus signs, then press in the dial to disengage the pin **C**, **Fig 31**, in the thumb nut from the dial, and remove the thumb nut and dial, stop washer **E**, tension spring **F**, indicator **G**, the two tension discs **L**, and the thread take-up spring **N**.

TO REASSEMBLE AND REPLACE NEEDLE THREAD TENSION

Make sure that the tension releasing pin **J** is in place in the stud **O**, then place the thread take-up spring in the stud, having the tail (inside the coil) of this spring in one of the grooves **T** of the stud, and with the large loop **N** of the spring resting against the thread take-up spring regulator at **M**, **Fig 32**.

Fig 32 shows the spring in correct position on the stud. The tail of the spring is not visible in these illustrations, but its location inside the spring coil, is indicated by **K**, **Fig 31**.

Place the two tension discs **L**, **fig 31** with their flat thread-bearing sides together in position on the stud **O** and with the loop **N** of the thread take-up spring straddling the discs **L** as shown in **Fig 33**.

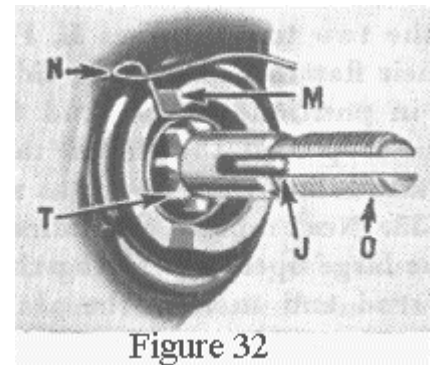


Figure 32

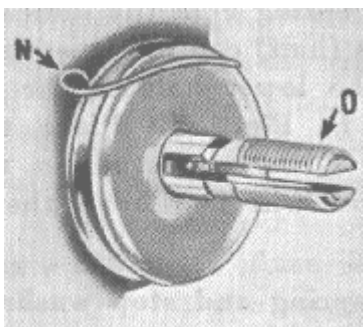


Figure 33

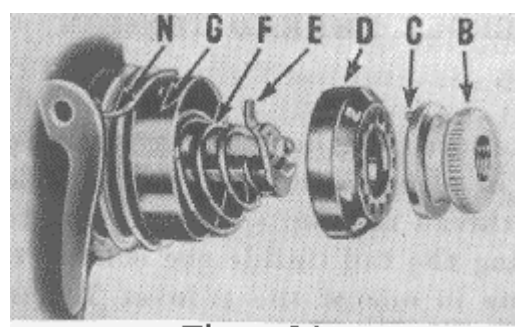


Figure 34

Next replace the indicator **G** with the large open side facing the end of the stud and so that the plus and minus marks will be at the top with the minus sign to the left.

Then insert the tension spring **F** in the indicator with the first (half) coil of the spring straddling the lower half of the stud, as shown in **Fig 34**. Place the stop washer **E** on the stud so that the extension will be above the tension stud.

If the spring and stop washer are in correct position, the extension **S** will clear the first (half) coil of the tension spring as shown in **Fig 35**.

Next place the numbered dial on the stud so that the numeral "2" is opposite the stop washer extension, then push the dial to compress the spring, so that the thumb nut can be turned on to the stud, carefully guiding the pin **C** in the thumb nut into one of the of the numbered dial. Then proceed to adjust the tensions as instructed below.

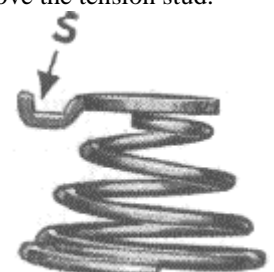


Figure 35

TO ADJUST THE NEEDLE THREAD TENSION

Lower the presser bar and turn the numbered dial **D** to bring the numeral "1" opposite the centre line **Y**, **Fig 29** between the plus and minus signs on the tension indicator.

Press the numbered dial inward as far as it will go, and turn the thumb nut **B** until the pin **C** engages one of the holes in the numbered dial. Turn the thumb nut, together with the numbered dial, to the left. This should cause the numeral "0" to stop opposite the centre line if the tension is properly assembled.

Now insert the pin **C** of the thumb nut **B** in different holes of the numbered dial until one is found which gives a **slight perceptible tension** on No. 50 mercerised thread when the thumb nut is turned to the extreme left and the numeral "0" is opposite the centre line. This tension gradually increases with the turn of the thumb nut to the right, providing a full range of tensions from light to heavy with one revolution of the thumb nut.

TO ADJUST THE TENSION ON THE THREAD TAKE-UP SPRING

The tension on the thread take-up spring **N**, **Fig 34** should be just sufficient to take up the slack of the needle thread until the eye of the needle in its descent reaches the material.

If the tension on the thread take-up spring requires adjustment, disassemble the needle thread tension as instructed above, and place the end of the spring **N** in the groove which produces the correct tension. Reassemble the needle thread tension as instructed above.

TO ADJUST THE BOBBIN THREAD TENSION

First adjust the needle thread tension. Then, using No.50 mercerised thread in both the needle and the bobbin, and using two thickness' of thin material under the presser foot, turn the numbered dial, by means of the thumb nut, to bring the numeral "4" opposite the centre line. A few stitches should now be made in the material and then examined to see if the stitch is properly locked in the material.

If the bobbin thread shows on top, the tension on the bobbin thread should be increased. If the needle thread shows on the bottom, the tension on the bobbin thread should be decreased.

A wide range of materials and threads can now be accommodated without further adjustment of the bobbin thread tension.

Any change in tension, required to obtain a proper stitch to suit different materials being sewn, can be made by a slight adjustment of the tension on the **needle thread only**.

Online References:

Singer 99k Tension Control : <http://www.demon.co.uk/quinn/singer/99tens/index.html>

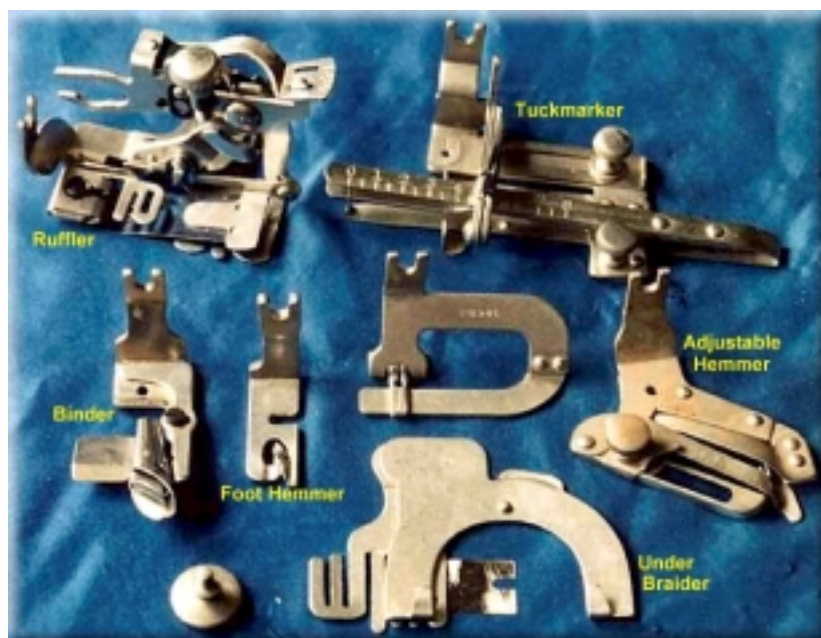
The Singer 185J : <http://www.hughes.net/taria/highdesert/185j.html>

The Singer 185K : <http://www.demon.co.uk/quinn/singer/s185k/index.html>

Singer Machine Attachments : <http://www.demon.co.uk/quinn/singer/attach/backfix.html>

185 Parts List : <http://users.erols.com/santilla/parts/185.htm>

Singer Attachments



PARTS LIST FOR THE SINGER MODEL 185

Prices quoted are from a Singer repairman's manual dated March 1963 (Possibly Canadian)

* = specify color when ordering

Part Number	Part Name	Price
44	Hook Pitman Screw Stud (left)	\$0.35
158	Bobbin Winder Bracket Screw	\$0.15
175	Feed Forked Connection Adjusting Screw	\$0.05
175	Hook Pitman Adjusting Screw	\$0.05
191	Feed Dog Screw	\$0.15
208	Thread Guide Screw	\$0.05
216	Hook Pitman Screw Stud (right)	\$0.15
226	Hook Slide Spring Screw	\$0.05
240	Timing Gouge Screw	\$0.05
248	Clamp Stop Motion Stop Screw	\$0.05
256	Clamp Stop Motion Clamp Screw	\$1.00
307	Feed Rock Shaft Screw Center	\$0.20
315	Feed Bar Screw Center	\$0.15
447	Take-up Stud Set Screw	\$0.15
448	Arm Shaft Bushing Set Screw	\$0.15
453	Take-up Spring Regulator Set Screw	\$0.05
662	Bobbin Case Cushion Spring Screw	\$0.05
691	Throat Plate Screw	\$0.15
1036	Take-up Crank Set Screw	\$0.15
1085	Feed Forked Roller Screw Stud	\$0.20
1130	Take-up Stud Cap Screw	\$0.20
1132	Hook Connection Link Hinge Screw	\$0.20
1134	Needle Bar Position Screw	\$0.35
1148	Stop Motion Bushing Set Screw	\$0.15
1172	Tension Regulating Screw	\$0.05
1173	Tension Spring Screw	\$0.05
1216	Pitman Screw Stud (right)	\$0.35
1301	Feed Raising Bar Hinge Screw	\$0.35
1353	Needle Bar Connecting Stud Set Screw	\$0.15
1381	Feed Forked Connection Hinge Screw	\$0.35
1485	Hook Crank Clamping Screw	\$0.15
1512	Arm Rock Shaft Screw Center (lower) Nut	\$0.20
1513	Feed Rock Shaft Screw Center Nut	\$0.15
1519	Feed Bar Screw Center Nut	\$0.15
1520	Feed Forked Connection Hinge Screw Nut	\$0.15
1520	Hook Pitman Screw Stud (right) Nut	\$0.15
1832	Feed Forked Connection Roller	\$0.60
1944	Feed Bar Roller and Stud	\$0.60
1944	Feed Raising Bar Roller and Stud	\$0.60
2054	Needle Clamp	\$0.55
2102	Tension Disc	\$0.15
2827	Face Plate Thread Guard	\$0.05
8217	Feed Regulator Friction Washer	\$0.02
8422	Thread Guard (head of arm)	\$0.02
8879	Arm Spool Pin Washer (2) *	\$0.02
15287	Bobbin Winder Friction Ring *	\$0.15

15288	Bobbin Winder Pulley	\$0.15
15445	Feed Bar Screw Center	\$0.30
20687	Hemstitching Attachment and Yielding Presser plate	\$0.85
25510	Presser Foot for braiding	\$0.60
25525	Bias Gauge	\$0.30
25527	Seam Guide	\$0.30
25637	Under Braider Foot	\$0.50
26075	Thread Cutter and Holder	\$0.15
32503	Arm Shaft Bushing	\$0.80
32507	Feed Bar	\$1.35
32510	Feed Raising Bar	\$1.70
32519	Needle Stop Pin	\$0.02
32520	Oscillating Hook	\$6.25
32522	Oscillating Hook Bobbin	\$0.20
32528	Hook Bobbin Ejector Spring	\$0.15
32567	Bobbin Case Tension Spring	\$0.50
32569	Oscillating Hook Slide	\$1.25
32570	Hook Slide Friction Spring	\$0.05
32574	Tension Releasing Pin	\$0.15
32589	Feed Cover Plate (oval top)	\$0.40
32590	Bobbin Case	\$5.80
32594	Oscillating Hook Crank	\$1.35
32598	Bobbin Case Bracket Oil Pad	\$0.01
32599	Oil Pad Holder	\$0.15
32600	Feed Dog	\$1.95
32618	Stop Motion Flanged Bushing	\$1.20
32619	Clamp Stop Motion, complete	\$2.45
32622	Feed Cover Plate (flat top)	\$0.40
32626	Oscillating Hook	\$9.00
32656	Oscillating Hook Bell Crank	\$1.95
32659	Bobbin Case Position Bracket	\$1.95
32660	Bobbin Case Position Bracket, complete	\$3.85
32661	Bobbin Case Cushion Spring	\$0.15
32662	Position Bracket Hinge Stud	\$0.30
32663	Position Bracket Latch	\$0.50
32664	Hook Bobbin Ejector	\$0.50
32758	Thread Take-up Spring	\$0.15
32759	Thread Take-up Spring Regulator	\$1.35
32773	Presser Foot (hinged)	\$1.65
32783	Throat Plate	\$1.95
33602	Arm Rock Shaft	\$2.45
33603	Arm Shaft	\$3.90
33609	Feed Forked Connection	\$2.35
33611	Feed Rock Shaft	\$1.20
33613	Needle Bar Connecting Link	\$1.35
33615	Needle Bar Crank	\$1.70
33618	Oscillating Hook Pitman	\$1.40
33620	Presser Bar Lifter	\$0.60
33634	Thread Take-up Crank	\$2.45
33635	Thread Take-up Lever	\$1.35
33637	Take-up Lever Hinge Stud	\$0.15
33638	Take-up Lever Link	\$0.80
33655	Needle Bar	\$1.70

33657	Needle Bar Hole Plug	\$0.05
33659	Tension Releasing Lever	\$0.60
33660	Tension Releasing Lever Spring	\$0.05
33662	Arm Shaft	\$6.50
33667	Presser Bar Lifting Bracket	\$1.05
33671	Tension Releasing Lever Hinge Pin	\$0.05
33673	Needle Bar Connecting Stud	\$0.80
33674	Timing Gauge	\$0.30
33675	Timing Gauge Screw Washer	\$0.05
33676	Slack Thread Regulator	\$0.80
33691	Bobbin Winder Thread Guide	\$0.30
33693	Feed Regulator	\$1.35
33694	Feed Regulator Thumb Nut	\$0.55
33695	Feed Regulator Thumb Nut Stud	\$0.25
33698	Stitch Indicator	\$0.25
33700	Stitch Indicator Spring	\$0.10
33701	Feed Regulator Friction Spring	\$0.15
33703	Take-up Lever Hinge Stud	\$0.80
33705	Presser Bar Lifter Hinge Pin	\$0.05
33709	Presser Bar (hollow)	\$1.95
33711	Face Plate for 33712*	\$1.70
33712	Face Plate 33711 with two 2827 *	\$1.70
33715	Tension, complete *	\$3.45
33716	Bobbin Winder Bracket *	\$1.35
33717	Bobbin Winder Frame *	\$0.80
33718	Bobbin Winder Frame and Spindle *	\$1.75
33722	Stitch Indicator Plate *	\$0.55
35018	Tape Delivery Blade	\$0.60
35505	Embroidery Attachment, for two threads	\$8.25
35931	Hemmer (adjustable)	\$2.50
35932	Quilter	\$0.80
36067	Presser Foot for braiding, for art work, for braid 1/16" to 3/16" wide	\$2.95
36583	Tucker, complete	\$2.25
45339	Tension Regulating Thumb Nut Pin	\$0.02
45775	Bobbin Winder Screw Friction Washer	\$0.02
45812	Bobbin Winder Friction Washer	\$0.05
45864	Tension Indicator Flange *	\$0.15
45865	Tension Indicator Flange Stop Washer	\$0.05
45866	Tension Indicator *	\$0.20
45869	Tension Spring	\$0.15
50046	Arm Rock Shaft Screw Center (lower)	\$0.20
50052	Presser Bar Bracket Clamping Screw	\$0.15
50053	Seam Guide Thumb Screw	\$0.30
50056	Take-up Lever Cap Screw	\$0.20
50305	Tension Screw Stud Set Screw	\$0.05
50561	Hook Bell Crank Hinge Screw	\$0.60
50579	Bobbin Case Latch Screw	\$0.05
50580	Bobbin Ejector Hinge Screw Stud	\$0.15
50611	Bobbin Case Stud Set Screw	\$0.15
51045	Machine Hinge Connection Set Screw	\$0.15
51282	Presser Foot Braid Guide Screw	\$0.05
51295	Feed Regulator Hinge Screw	\$0.45
51771	Feed Regulator Thumb Nut	\$0.30

51792	Tension Regulating Thumb Nut	\$0.30
56814	Feed Rock Shaft Screw Center	\$0.40
86496	Darning Presser, complete	\$0.80
86742	Ruffler, for one, six and twelve stitch ruffling	\$3.45
120378	Screw Driver (hook tension)	\$0.15
120842	Hemmer Foot for 5/64" hem	\$1.55
121170	Ruffler Shirring Plate (universal), complete	\$0.50
121464	Binder	\$1.35
121614	Presser Foot, for blind stitch braiding for soutache braid	\$3.95
121615	Presser Foot Braid Guide	\$1.70
121634	Needle Threader and Seam Ripper, complete	\$0.95
121725	Finger Guard	\$0.45
140082	Stitch Indicator Plate Screw	\$0.05
140167	Tension Screw Stud	\$0.65
140519	Arm Rock Shaft Adjusting Screw	\$0.15
140545	Needle Clamp Thumb Screw	\$0.25
140808	Face Plate Thumb Screw	\$0.35
140808	Presser Foot Thumb Screw	\$0.35
140865	Arm Rock Shaft Screw Center (upper)	\$0.35
140866	Pressure Regulating Thumb Screw	\$0.60
140867	Face Plate Screw	\$0.15
140868	Bobbin Winder Frame Hinge Screw	\$0.25
160506	Buttonhole Attachment, complete	\$9.95
160720	Darning and Embroidery Attachment, complete	\$2.95
160741	Walking Presser Foot	\$3.95
160812	Stiletto	\$0.65
160845	Cording Foot (left toe)	\$0.70
160846	Cording Foot (right toe)	\$0.70
160927	Under Braider, complete	\$0.65
161127	Presser Foot (hinged, adjustable) for cording and slide fasteners	\$1.45
161133	Tube of Oil	\$0.30
161290	Attachment Set, complete	\$6.00
170067	Presser Bar Spring	\$0.15
170183	Pressure Regulating Extension Pin	\$0.30
171502	Stop Motion Clamp Washer	\$0.15
172222	Bobbin (4)	\$0.20
173571	Arm Spool Pin	\$0.15
173577	Hand Wheel (disc)	\$3.15
433719	Bobbin Winder with Bracket	\$3.45
	Needles Cat. 2020 (15x1)(3) Size 14Pkg	\$0.30

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