

HAND CRANK CONVERSION

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One of my favorite sewing friends recently contacted me for another Sew-Classic machine to add to her family. She told me that she was looking for a Singer 99, and expressed interest in both a hand crank model and an electric one.

VOILA! With a little “Imagineering” and some modifications, I put together a Singer 99 that can go from hand crank to electric and back again with ease.

With the 99's, you can run into problems with the bobbin winder not working correctly when you replace the solid hand wheel with the smaller diameter, spoked hand wheel. So, with the help of a drill press, I drilled and filed out a notch in the solid hand wheel to accept the finger of the hand crank assembly. This allows the machine to be used with its original hand wheel and that means the bobbin winder works perfectly in its original state. It also preserves the larger diameter belt groove for optimal performance with the electric motor.

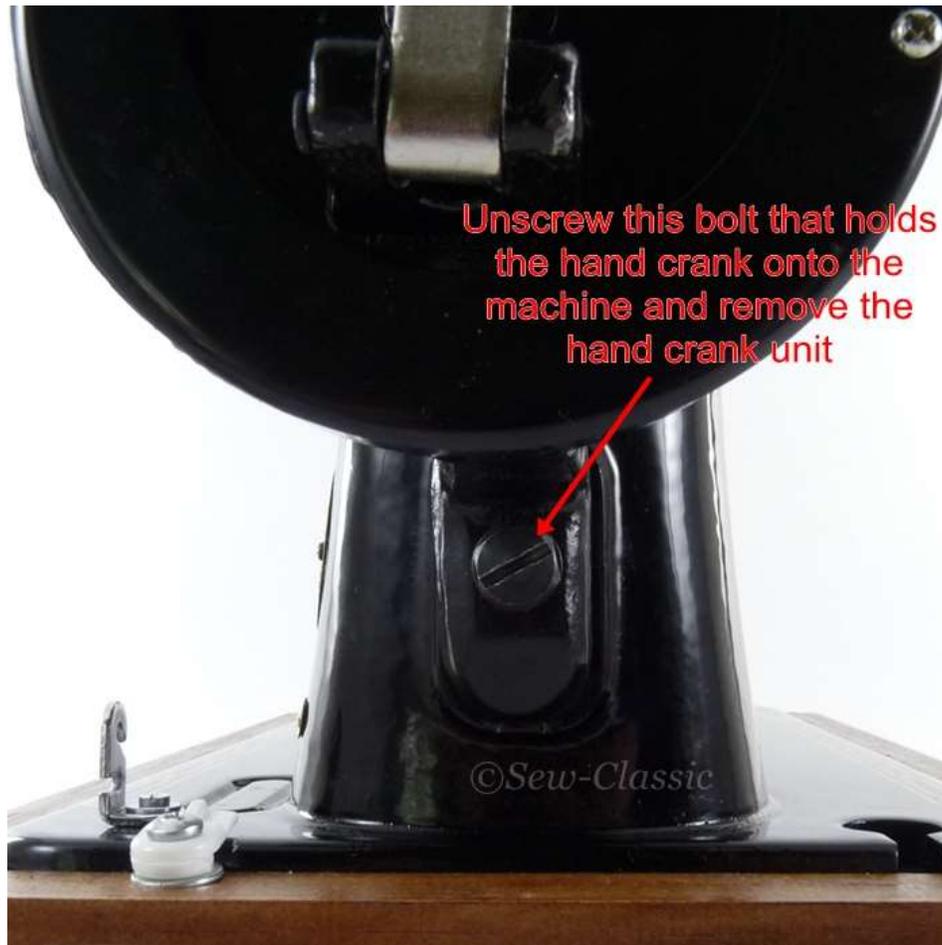
The aftermarket hand cranks often need some tweaking to help them work well, so I also took care of that to make sure it operates as smoothly as possible.

Here are some photos of the Singer 99 with the notched hand wheel and the hand crank assembly attached.



Below are photos that illustrate how to convert the machine from hand crank to electric.
This photographic tutorial with instructional text shows exactly how easy it is - step by step. It can be done with just a regular blade type screw driver in a matter of minutes.





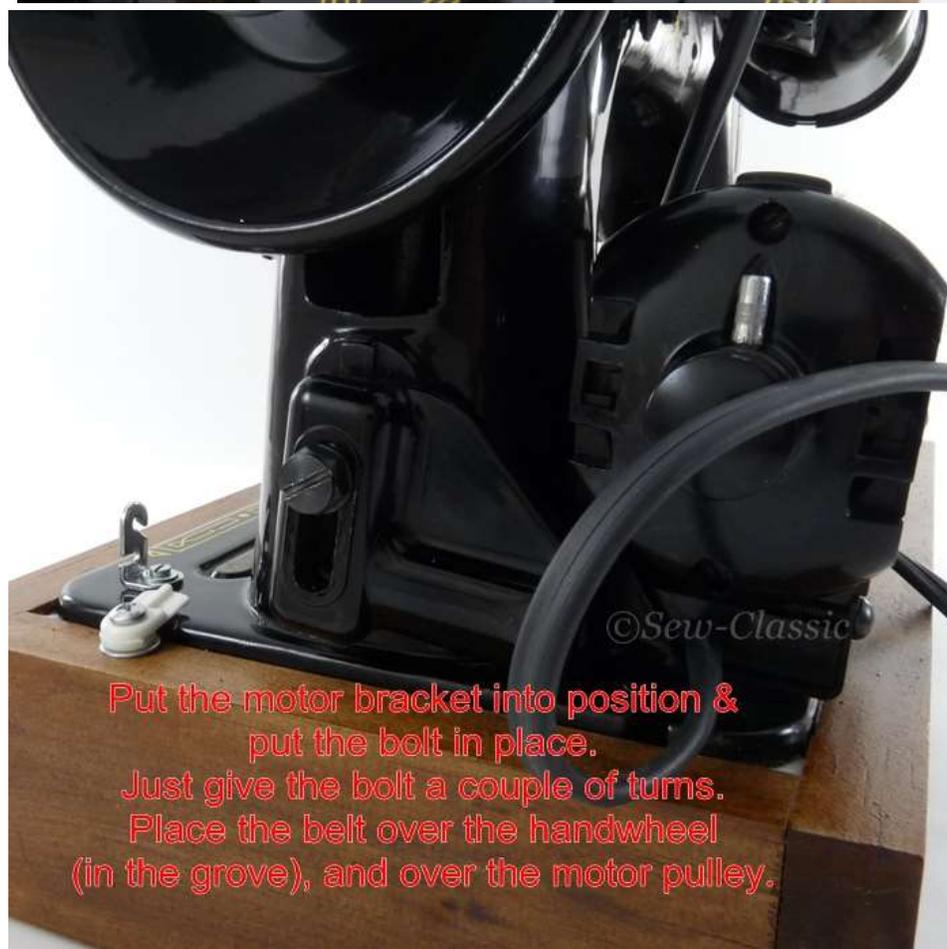
Unscrew this bolt that holds the hand crank onto the machine and remove the hand crank unit



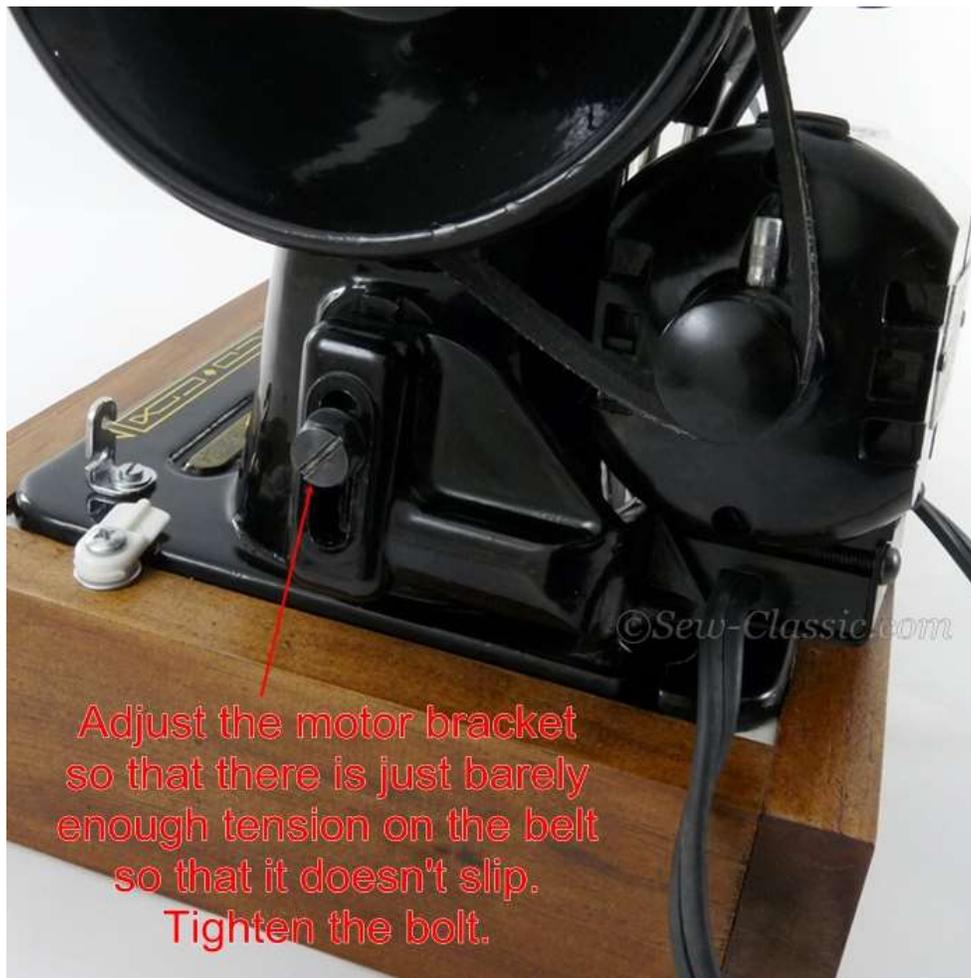
The light fixture get bolted into this threaded hole.



This is how the light fixture is installed.



Put the motor bracket into position & put the bolt in place.
Just give the bolt a couple of turns.
Place the belt over the handwheel (in the groove), and over the motor pulley.



I'm very pleased with the finished product. The machine works flawlessly both as a hand crank and as an electric, and the conversion process is quite streamlined. It provides the convenience of complete and total portability - you don't even need a power outlet to sew! How about sewing out on the patio and enjoying the mild weather and singing birds or taking it out to the boat dock, on a camping trip or to the cabin in the woods?? No extension cords and no problem!

Within a few minutes, you can easily set it up for use as an electric machine for the times that you would like to use it that way.