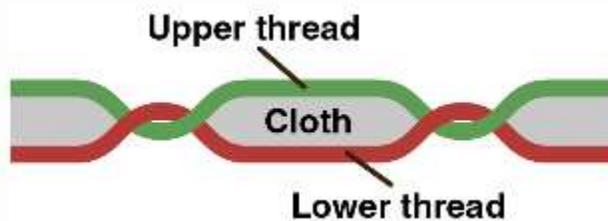


Troubleshooting Thread Nests, Wads, Knots, Loops & Tangles on the Bottom of your Fabric & in the Bobbin area - What's wrong with the sewing machine!?

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This is SO frustrating!! But, it's usually not a major issue with the machine. A simple, step by step approach will probably have you and your machine getting along fine in no time.

Thread nests on the underside of your fabric are almost always the direct result of improper threading or a problem in the thread path or upper tension.

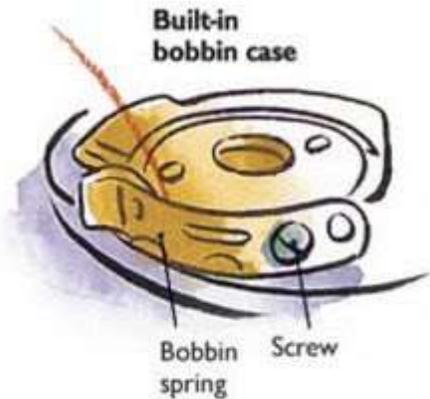
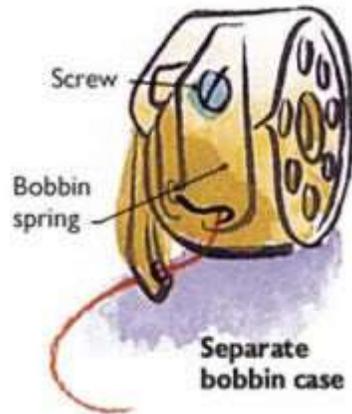


Let's first look at what is actually happening in the stitch formation process to cause these wads of thread. Ideally, the thread should form a neat coil (stitch) in the "center" of your fabric. When you get these thread wads on the underside, that is telling you that for some reason, the upper thread is NOT pulling up the bobbin thread and forming

that snug, balanced stitch.

Here is the recommended check list for solving this problem:

1. Unthread everything
2. Clean out the bobbin area, and feed dogs of all fuzz, thread and lint . Inspect your bobbin for burrs and defects and make certain that it is wound evenly.
3. Put in a fresh needle that is correct for the thread and fabric you are sewing. Make sure that the needle is inserted correctly- double check you manual.
4. Get out your manual.
5. Reset your upper tension to the default setting for your machine (usually 3 or 4).
6. Carefully and meticulously re-thread the entire machine. When threading the upper portion, **MAKE SURE THE PRESSER FOOT IS UP** until you get to threading the needle. If the foot is down when you thread, the upper thread will not seat properly in the tension discs, and you will get those dreaded thread nests/wads.
7. Be very careful to thread and install your bobbin correctly. Make certain that you do NOT have too much bobbin tension.
8. When beginning your sewing, hold on the thread tails for the first couple of stitches.



If you still have problems:

1. Clean or floss your upper tension assembly. Lift your presser foot and try and have a look between the discs. Sometimes a stray thread or lint build up will jam up the works and prevent the tension from operating properly. Page three of [This Sewing Machine Maintenance Booklet](#) has instructions for cleaning the upper tension discs.
2. Change your needle to a new one. If you are sewing with heavier thread be certain to use either a topstitching needle or a large size needle. Thicker thread requires a needle with a larger eye.
3. Watch to see if your upper thread is coming out of the take up lever while you sew. Some models with the slotted take up levers (arm thingy that is near the tension and swings up & down) are more prone to this than others. A small piece of tape will address the issue if this keeps happening.
4. Try a different spool of thread. Sometimes there are burrs on the edge of the spool that can cause headaches, and at this point it's worth a try.

Hmmm.....not fixed yet? Perform the following test:

Unthread the needle. With your presser foot up, gently pull on the upper thread. Now put the presser foot down and gently pull on the thread. You should feel more resistance with the foot down. If you don't then either your tension release mechanism is stuck. and will need to be repaired or, more likely, the thread is still not seated properly in the discs. Also your upper tension may be set much too low. Refer to your machine's manual for how to test and adjust your tension balance.