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Installing a Treadle Belt

1. Make note of where the existing belt sits and is fed on the machine & treadle.
2. First, unless it broke, you will need to open the staple and remove the old belt. Open the staple and remove the old belt. Use two pairs of pliers rather than a screw driver to avoid stabbing and injuring yourself. It's a good idea to clean out the belt grooves on the machine and the treadle to make certain there is no oil or grime that could cause the belt to slip.
3. Pre stretch the new belt by placing one end under your foot, and pulling the other end taut over your shoulder. This will give you more time before you have to readjust or tighten the belt if you can work some of the stretch out beforehand.
4. The new belt WILL BE TOO LONG. This is how they come. Feed it on the treadle and machine and pull the two ends alongside each other until the belt is just barely snug. Do not make it too tight. A looser belt is easier to treadle. You want it as loose as possible with it only tight enough to engage the wheel. Mark the correct length and cut it off there. Don't cut the end with the staple. Use a small nail, ice pick, awl, heavy needle, etc. to pierce a hole in the newly the cut end to accept the open end of the staple. Put the staple through the hole, roll the belt onto the wheel and try the action. (It is helpful if you don't bend the staple closed for this trial. It may require a bit of trial and error to get the length just right so try to avoid repeatedly opening and closing the staple. Doing so may cause it to snap. Once you achieve a good length, bend the staple closed. Remember, a slightly loose belt is much better than too tight. Better than too tight.
5. If further shortening is required, cut the end off exactly at the staple hole (which should be about 1/4" in from the end.). This small adjustment can make a big difference.

The belt should turn the machine smoothly and easily. In a week or two of use, the belt may well stretch and you will have to make another fitting adjustment. It is still very important to not over tighten.