

**PRICING GUIDE
FOR
VINTAGE
SEWING MACHINES**



PRICING GUIDE FOR VINTAGE SEWING MACHINES

WELCOME

This guide is a starting point to help you get the right vintage sewing machine at the right price.

Although price is a big consideration when looking for a vintage sewing machine it is important that you find the model that meets your need first and then evaluate the condition of the specific machine before landing on a final price.

This guide is divided into three sections:

- Price Ranges
- Price Adjustment Checklist
- Price Setting Tips

Each of these sections contains information to help you negotiate a fair price for the model you want.

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PRICE RANGES

When you first start looking for a vintage sewing machine you'll notice that there are a variety of models at a dizzying array of prices. It can all be quite intimidating! Not to worry – we'll be providing you with the information you'll need to sort it all out.

- Decide which model you are interested in. This will limit the number of machines you'll have to consider and help you focus on learning all you can about that one particular model. Once you are knowledgeable about that one model, you'll be ready to consider the price you want to pay for it.
- Decide what price you want to pay for that particular model. You'll need to consider the condition of the machine you want, your ability and the amount of effort you want to put into restoring the machine and where you will search for it. All of these factors will have a huge impact on the price you will end up paying. For example, if you want a fully restored machine in showroom condition, you will have to pay a premium price for that particular vintage sewing machine. You will most likely be buying this on eBay or from a knowledgeable collector. If, on the other hand, you are more concerned with that machine's ability to sew, rather than its perfect appearance, you can expect to pay a more reasonable price. You can find these types of machines at local thrift stores or from sellers who have little knowledge of the value of the machine.

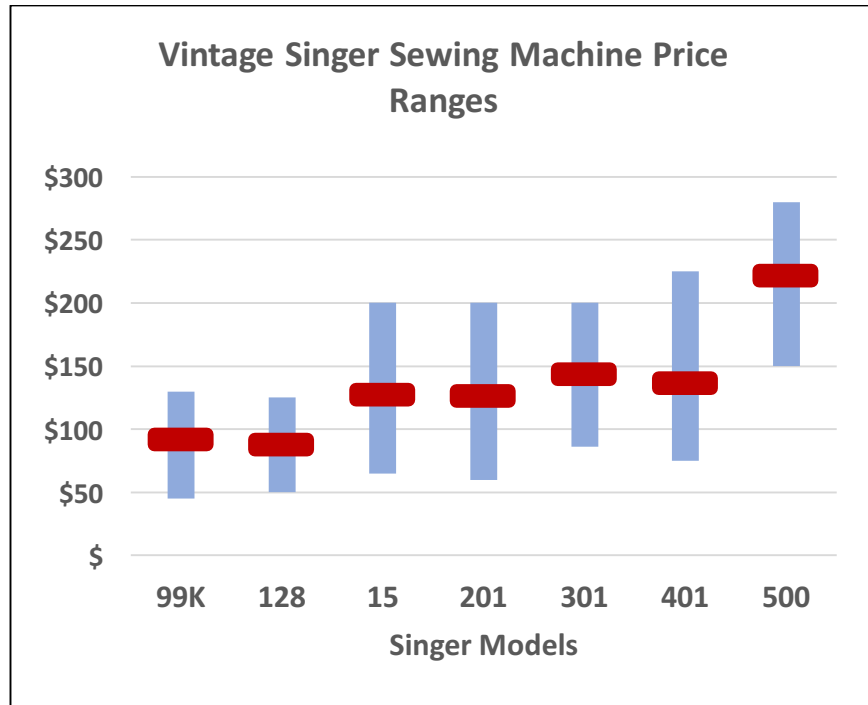
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- Refer to the **Price Range Charts** in this guide. There are two of them: **Price Range Chart 1** shows price ranges for various common Singer sewing machine models and **Price Range Chart 2** indicates those for Singer Featherweight models, as these are typically more difficult to find and higher in price than other models.
- The blue vertical bar shows the range between high and low prices and the red horizontal bar indicates the average price. The higher prices are typically for sewing machines that have been somewhat restored, while the lower prices are for machines that will need some TLC. Machines in this condition are those for which you can find the best deal.
- The price ranges are developed from “reasonable” prices in Canada in January 2017, so they may be somewhat different from what is typical in your area. You will have to do some research to see what is “reasonable” in your part of the world.

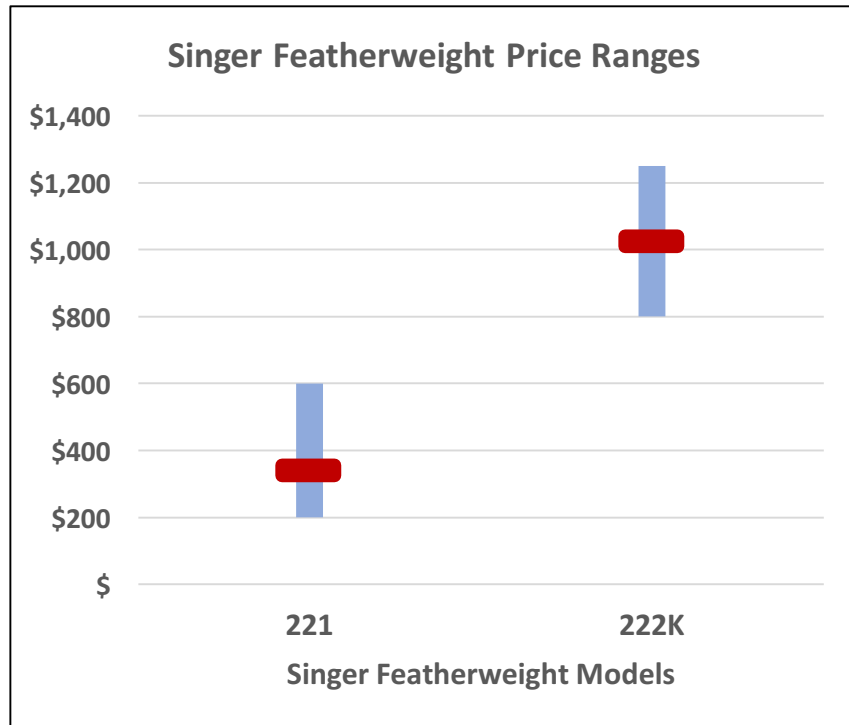


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PRICE RANGE CHART 1



PRICE RANGE CHART 2



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PRICE ADJUSTMENT CHECKLIST

The price you will pay for a vintage sewing machine is highly dependent on its condition. Once you've seen the machine "in person", you'll need to determine a fair price for it.

The **Price Adjustment Checklist** provides a simple checklist of major considerations that you can use to negotiate the right price for your machine.



"Good-to-Go"



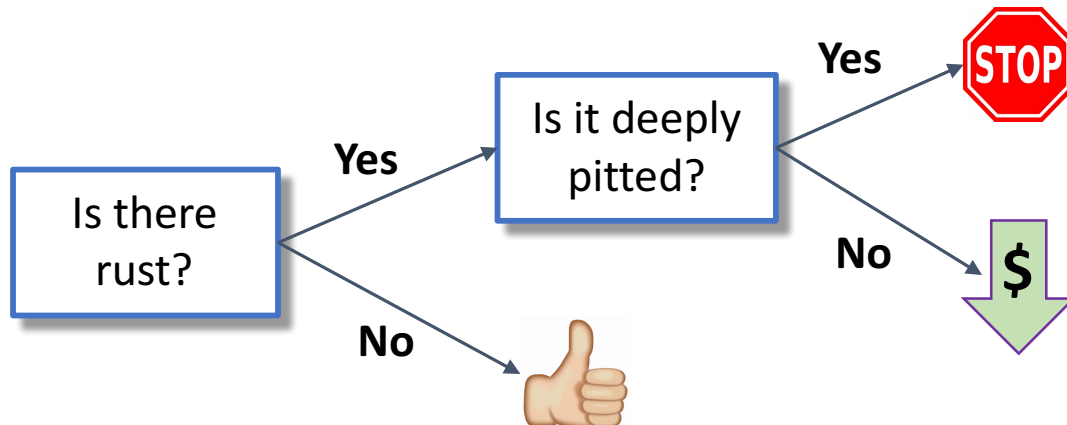
Negotiate a lower price



Probably not worth looking at

RUST

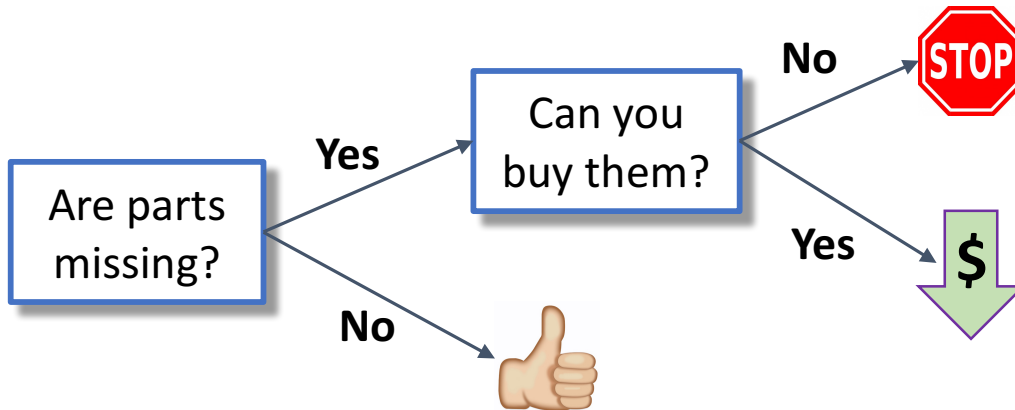
A rusty sewing machine can be a "bad news story". It can indicate water damage to the machine internals and electrical parts. A little surface rust can be polished away, but a severely rusted machine should be avoided.



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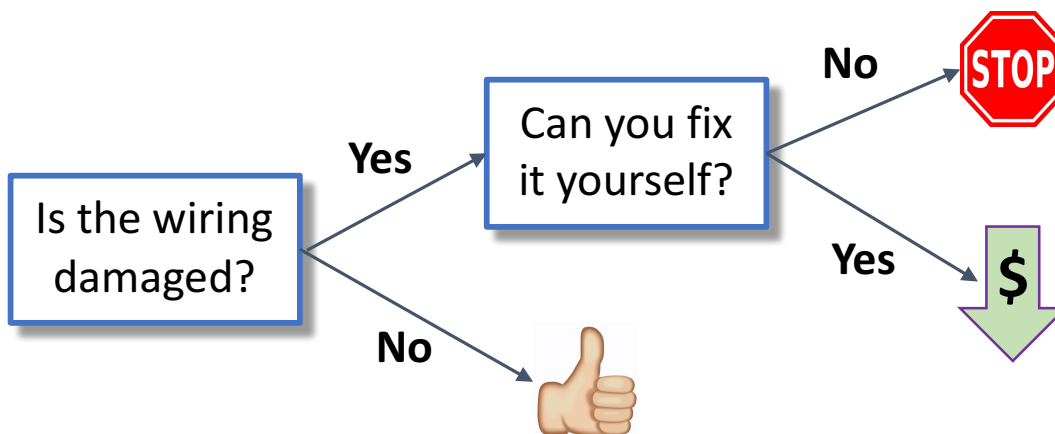
MISSING PARTS

Many sewing machine parts (slide plate, bobbin case, etc.) can be purchased online, but you'll have to do your research and pay the price for them, which can be expensive depending on the part and machine model.



DAMAGED WIRING

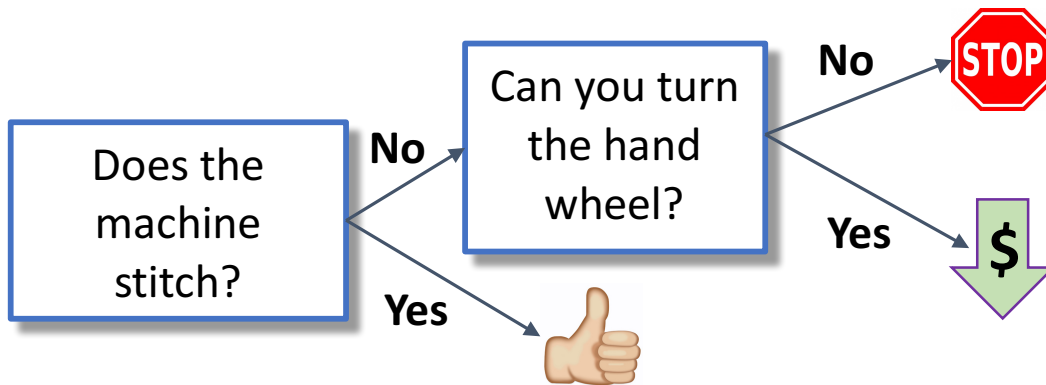
Damaged wiring is usually obvious and not too difficult to repair if you have the right tools. It does, however, require a deeper level of commitment than just cleaning the surface of the sewing machine.



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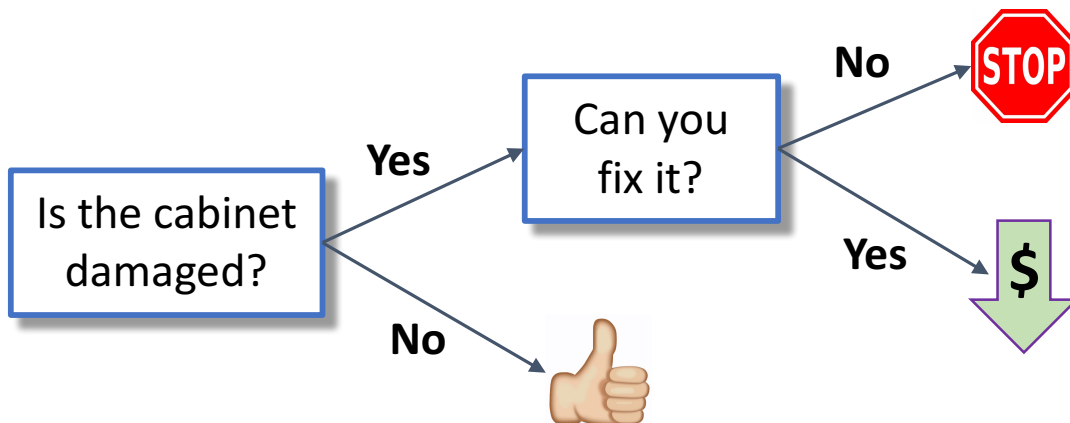
STITCHING

You'll definitely want to ensure that the machine actually forms a stitch. Just because the needle goes up and down does NOT mean the machine will sew. If the machine you are considering actually runs, try sewing with a scrap of fabric. If the machine doesn't run (faulty wiring or other issues), you can manually turn the hand wheel to try the same test.



CABINET CONDITION

Most cabinets or cases will have some wear to them so it is a personal choice as to how much and what kind of damage is acceptable. A cabinet with structural damage or severe delamination should be avoided unless you are handy with wood restoration.

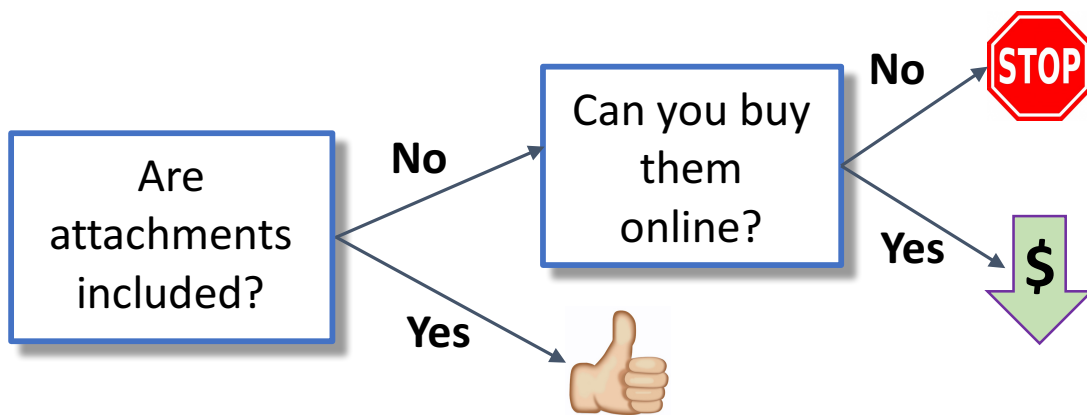


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ATTACHMENTS

Singer sewing machines came with many attachments as a standard feature. While I prefer to have the standard attachments included with my machine purchase, this is really a personal choice. At a minimum, the regular stitching foot should be on the sewing machine. Even if you don't do anything but straight stitching, you'll definitely need this foot!

You can sometimes find a machine that includes additional accessories, such as a buttonholer or zigzag attachment. You can sell these extra accessories separately should you not have a use for them.



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PRICE SETTING TIPS

Price Setting Tips provides you with suggestions on negotiating a better price for your sewing machine.

- **Is the machine dirty?** A dirty, neglected machine can give you a great opportunity to negotiate a lower price. It indicates that the seller probably doesn't know much about the machine, doesn't value it, and doesn't know how easy it is to clean up.
- **Is the surface of the machine worn?** Of course there will be wear on a vintage sewing machine – it's old! The machine bed is often scratched or decals worn as fabric passes over it again and again during the sewing process. These marks don't affect the functionality of the machine, but the machine doesn't look as "pretty". You can definitely negotiate a lower price if the machine is very worn.
- **Is there an easily replaceable part missing?** This can be a huge negotiating factor. If the part appears to be major, but is easily and inexpensively replaceable from an online source, you can negotiate a fantastic deal. The seller won't know this, but if you've done your research, you will!
- **Is this a machine from a private seller?** This is where the best opportunities for a good deal are found. Most private sellers do not have an appreciation of what they are selling, nor knowledge of its worth. This is where your knowledge gives you a huge advantage.

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- **Are there additional sweeteners?** You may be negotiating for a vintage sewing machine that has additional accessories, such as a button holder or zigzag attachment. It may be worth buying the machine just for these accessories: they can later be sold separately. You may even find a rare attachment coveted by collectors that can be worth hundreds of dollars. If the seller isn't aware of its value, you can make a fantastic deal.

