



Grab and Sew FAQ

1. What is Grab and Sew?

Grab and Sew is one of our newest services that brings free sewing machines for checkout to our library community. This service expands upon our exciting collection of non-traditional materials available to our patrons.

2. Why sewing machines?

San Mateo County Libraries is committed to making maker technology accessible to anyone interested in learning. We have also seen a great deal of interest during in-branch sewing experiences. Sewing machines are intergenerational and home sewing is experiencing a surge in popularity right now.

3. Which library can I checkout a sewing machine from, and do you plan on expanding?

Grab and Sew is launching as a pilot program. Currently, our sewing machine kits are available for checkout at [Brisbane](#), [East Palo Alto](#), [Half Moon Bay](#), [Millbrae](#), and [Woodside](#) libraries. If Grab and Sew is successful, we hope to expand this service to more libraries.

4. What is the minimum age to check out a sewing machine?

Patrons 18 years and older are invited to check out a sewing machine.

5. What is needed to check out a sewing machine?

Patrons will need to have a valid library card starting with "29041". A signed electronic waiver will need to be completed as well. Sewing machines are reservable on our website. Visit the Grab and Sew reservation pages for the locations listed below to get started:

- [Brisbane Library](#)
- [East Palo Alto Library](#)

- [Half Moon Bay Library](#)
- [Millbrae Library](#)
- [Woodside Library](#)

You can also always get help from our Customer Care staff by calling **1-833-YES-SMCL**. During your pick-up appointment you will be given a rolling bag with the sewing machine, thread, and accessories. Just add fabric, new or upcycled!

6. Why must I sign a waiver to borrow a sewing machine?

Like any machine, risks are involved when using a sewing machine. Among other things, signing the waiver acknowledges you understand these risks and agree to use the machine responsibly. Due to safety reasons, patrons should not make any modifications to our sewing machines. The sewing machines should be returned in the original condition it was checked-out in.

7. What does it cost to check out a sewing machine?

Just like anything else in our collection, sewing machines are free to checkout.

8. How long can I checkout a sewing machine and how do I return it?

Sewing machines are loaned for one week (7 days). They can be borrowed from Brisbane, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae and Woodside libraries and should be returned to the location where it was checked out during [Curbside Service](#) hours.

9. What accessories come with the sewing machine?

Each machine comes with a power cord and peddle, thread, extra needles, bobbins (3), zig-zag foot, buttonhole foot, zipper foot, blind hem foot, seam ripper, thread caps, and screwdriver.

10. What types of projects are these sewing machines suitable for?

The Baby Lock Joy is suitable for a wide variety of projects from hemming, clothing construction, crafts, and more.

11. How do I get started sewing?

We recommend the following videos to help you get the machine ready to sew:

[How to Thread the Joy](#)

[How to Wind a Bobbin](#)

[How to Select a Stitch](#)

For more information on the Baby Lock Joy sewing machine visit babylock.com. You can also [download the instruction manual](#).

12. Are the sewing machines regularly cleaned?

Sewing machines are quarantined and checked after each use.

13. What happens if I miss my pick-up appointment?

Sewing machines are held for 24 hours. After this period, the sewing machine will become available for others to borrow.