

# HQ Easy-Set Tension™

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 **Handi Quilter®**

Designed by a Quilter, for Quilters.®

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# Overview

The Easy-Set Tension™ shows the top tension setting as a numeric value on the display. After you establish the tension setting for a particular thread (brand, weight, and color), record the value so you can easily return to that tension setting when using that specific thread again.

This kit is compatible with the HQ Sweet Sixteen®, HQ Avanté®, HQ Fusion®, HQ Simply Sixteen®, and HQ Sixteen®. Read all instructions carefully before beginning installation.

For a video of these instructions, see the Handi Quilter product videos page on the Handi Quilter website: [www.handiquilter.com/videos/](http://www.handiquilter.com/videos/)

## Easy-Set Tension Kit Contents

\*Included velcro and instruction manual not pictured.

Kit part number: HG00800

1 Easy-Set Tension Display

2 Cable Clips (with adhesive back)

1 Easy-Set Tension Assembly



1 Charging Cable

1 Charging Adapter



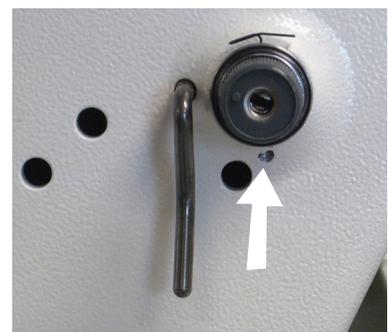
**TOOLS REQUIRED:** 2.0 mm hex tool (provided)

## Installation and Charging

**NOTE:** Some of the photos in these instructions show the Easy-Set Tension installation on an HQ Sixteen machine, and others show the HQ Avanté. However, the installation is the same for the HQ Sweet Sixteen, HQ Sixteen, HQ Simply Sixteen, HQ Avanté, and HQ Fusion. The only difference is where you'll attach the Easy-Set Tension Display (see step 5).

### To install the Easy-Set Tension Assembly and Display

1. Use the 2.0 mm hex tool to loosen the set screw for the existing tension assembly on the machine. It is located below the tension assembly.



2. Grasp the knob of the tension assembly and pull it straight out from the machine.
3. Orient the Easy-Set Tension Assembly with the take-up spring at the top and push the assembly into the machine casing. Then tighten the set screw.



**NOTE:** Move and release the take-up spring to ensure that it moves freely and returns to the end of the cutout in the tension assembly when released.

4. Without separating the Velcro, remove the paper from one side of the Velcro. Center and attach it to the back of the Easy-Set Tension Display.
5. Remove the paper from the other side of the Velcro and attach the display to a convenient place on the machine.



**NOTE:** If you have an HQ Sweet Sixteen, we recommend that you attach it to the left side of the machine casing. If you have an HQ Avanté, HQ Fusion, or HQ Sixteen, we recommend that you attach it to the front or top of the left handlebar.

6. Wrap the cable from the Easy-Set Tension Assembly around the throat of the machine to the machine's left side (to avoid any interference with the thread path).
7. Use the cable clips to control the cable position. Slip the cable into the clip, remove the paper from the back of the clip, and attach it to the side of the machine. Remove any slack in the cable as you do this.



8. Insert the cable into the port on the left side of the Easy-Set Tension Display.
9. Before using Easy-Set Tension, charge the Easy-Set Tension Display.

### *To charge the Easy-Set Tension Display using the Handi Quilter machine's USB port*

The HQ Fusion and HQ Avanté have USB ports on each side of the handlebars. The HQ Simply Sixteen has a USB port on the side of the front display. Use the USB port to charge the Easy-Set Tension if you have one of these machines.

**NOTE:** If you use Easy-Set Tension with the HQ Sweet Sixteen or HQ Sixteen, you must charge using the charging adapter. See To charge the Easy-Set Tension Display using the charging adapter on the next page.

10. Plug the charging cable into the port on the right side of the Easy-Set Tension Display.
11. Plug the USB end of the charging cable into the USB port on the Handi Quilter machine. Turn on the machine to begin charging.



**NOTE:** The Handi Quilter machine must be turned on to charge using the USB port.



### *To charge the Easy-Set Tension Display using the charging adapter*

1. Plug the charging cable into the port on the right side of the Easy-Set Tension Display.
2. Plug the other end of the charging cable into the charging adapter.
3. Plug the charging adapter into a power outlet.

 **NOTE:** If necessary, you can detach the Easy-Set Tension Display from the machine in order to move it closer to a power outlet for charging.



## Using the Easy-Set Tension

 **IMPORTANT:** Always set the bobbin tension before adjusting the top thread tension.

1. Ensure that the Easy-Set Tension Display is charged. Then turn it on by pressing the orange button on the display.

 **NOTE:** If there has been no change to the tension for five minutes, the Easy-Set Tension Display turns off. This does not affect the tension setting, but it does preserve the battery life of the display. When you need to adjust the tension again, turn on the Easy-Set Tension Display by pressing the orange button again.

 **NOTE:** Before adjusting the top tension, remember to floss, or pull, the top thread up into the tension discs so it doesn't float outside the discs, providing little or no top tension. Failure to do this could cause significant tension or thread nesting problems on the bottom side of the quilt, and no amount of tightening of the top thread tension knob will improve the tension.

2. Test the top tension by stitching on a fabric scrap on the edge of the quilt batting and backing. Adjust the Easy-Set Tension knob as follows until you have balanced tension:

### *To tighten Easy-Set Tension*

- To adjust the top thread tension to be tighter, turn the Easy-Set Tension knob **clockwise**.

### *To loosen Easy-Set Tension*

- To adjust the top thread tension to be looser, turn the Easy-Set Tension knob **counterclockwise**.

 **NOTE:** Unlike the bobbin case tension adjustment, which requires minute adjustments, the top tension knob may require turns anywhere from a quarter of a turn to two to four turns to achieve balanced tension.

 **CAUTION:** To prevent damaging the Easy-Set Tension Assembly, do not overtighten the Easy-Set Tension knob. Most thread tensions will be in the 200 to 400 range. If you have Easy-Set Tension values up to 500 or 600 and are still not achieving balanced tension, chances are good that the thread is not flossed well within the tension discs. Lower the tension to about 200, floss the thread within the tension discs, and then fine tune the tension from there.

3. As you turn the tension dial clockwise to tighten the top tension, the number shown in the display increases in increments of five. As you turn the tension dial counterclockwise to loosen the top tension, the number decreases in increments of five. The faster you turn the dial, the faster the numbers increase or decrease.



4. When you are happy with the tension balance, note the top tension value for that type of thread (brand, weight, and color). You will be able to quickly and easily set the tension when you use this thread again in the future by turning the tension knob until the noted value appears in the display.

### **To reset Easy-Set Tension**

5. Begin by loosening your tension discs by turning the Easy-Set Tension knob counter clockwise until the two tension discs move freely. This may take a few complete turns. Then turn the Easy-Set Tension knob clockwise until the tension discs come together enough to have a bit of resistance.
6. Insert an end of a paper clip into the hole on the bottom of the Easy-Set Tension Display. The Easy-Set Tension Display will now read as 0.
7. Turn the Easy-Set Tension knob three full clockwise turns to return the tension close to factory setting.

## Troubleshooting

You can correct many problems on your own. If you need additional help, contact your local, authorized Handi Quilter retailer. You can also contact Handi Quilter customer care at 1-801-292-7988 or 1-877-MY-QUILT (697-8458).

If the Easy-Set Tension isn't working as expected, first check the following:

1. Ensure that the display is fully charged.
2. Check that the cable from the Easy-Set Tension Assembly is plugged into the left side of the Easy-Set Tension Display.

### **Problem**

The display shows “---” and will not display the tension value.

### **Corrective Measures**

1. The Easy-Set Tension Display isn't communicating with the Easy-Set Tension Assembly. Check that the Tension Assembly cable is fully inserted into the connector on the left side of the Display.
2. Ensure that the display has been fully charged. This usually takes just a few hours.

### **Problem**

After installing, the HQ Fusion thread-break sensor no longer works.

### **Corrective Measures**

It's possible that the sensor was inadvertently moved while installing the Easy-Set Tension Assembly. Contact Handi Quilter customer care (telephone number above) for help readjusting the thread-break sensor.

