Needle/Thread/Backing Usage Chart

Fabric/Garment	Needle	Thread	Backing	Comment
Canton Fleece	75/11 light ball point	Rayon, acrylic or polyester #30 or #40	Light tearaway	Use polyester backing to maintain colorfastness if a garment is subjected to extensive sunlight, chlorine, salt water or industrial laundering and bleaching.
Canvas	75/11 sharp or normal round point	Rayon or any #40	Light to medium tearaway	Sharp needle are better for longer runs.
Coated or Waterproofed Fabrics	75/11, 80/12 sharp or light ball point Teflon	Rayon , acrylic or polyester #30 or #40	Light to heavy tearaway	#30 thread may be used to decrease needle penetrations and provide the same coverage, thereby minimizing damage to waterproofing.
Corduroy	75/11 light ball point	Rayon or polyester #40	Medium topping and light to medium tearaway	
Cotton Sheeting	75/11 light ball point	Rayon or polyester #40	Heavy cutaway or tearwaway/washaway	Cotton-on-cotton is great for kids' clothes.
Denim	75/11 light ball point	Rayon or any #40	Heavy cutaway or tearwaway/washaway	
Dress Shirt (Woven)	75/11 or 70/10 light ball point or 80/12 for small detail	Rayon or polyester #40	Heavy cutaway or tearwaway/washaway	Polyester is good for white shirts.
Golf Shirt	75/11 light ball point	Rayon or any #40	Light to heavy cutaway	Heavy knits require a medium to heavy cutaway; medium knits require a light cutaway.
Headwear	75/11 or 80/12 sharp	Rayon or polyester #40	Medium to heavy tearaway	Polyester thread will be the strongest.
Leather & Vinyl	75/11 or 80/12 light ball point on stiff or spongy leather (upholstery, luggage): 70/10 or 80/12 sharp on soft, supple garment leathers	Rayon #40	Black, light tearaway	#30 rayon thread may be used to minimize the number of penetration while achieving the same coverage.
Lingerie or Silk	70/10 light ball point or 80/12 depending on thread	Rayon #40	Water-soluble tearaway	#30 rayon thread may be used to minimize the number of penetration while achieving the same coverage.
Lycra or Spandex	70/10 medium ball point	Polyester, acrylic or rayon #40	Medium cutaway or water-soluble tearaway	
Nylon Windbreaker	75/11 light ball point	Rayon or any #40	Light to heavy cutaway	
Satin Jacket	75/11 light ball point	Rayon or any #41	Light to heavy cutaway	
Sweater knit	75/11 light ball point	Rayon or polyester #40	Medium to heavy tearaway	
Sweatshirt	75/11 light ball point	Rayon, polyester or acrylic #40	Medium to heavy tearaway or cutaway	
T-Shirt	75/11 light ball point	Rayon, polyester or acrylic #40	Light, water-soluble tearaway or medium cutaway	
Terry Cloth	75/11 or 80/12 light ball point on stiff or spongy leather (upholstery, luggage): 70/10 or 80/12 sharp on soft, supple garment leathers	Rayon, polyester or acrylic #41	Medium weight, water-soluable tearaway and topping	Use polyester backing to maintain colorfastness if a garment is subjected to extensive sunlight, chlorine, salt water or industrial laundering and bleaching.

Note: All apparel with the probability of skin contact should be backed with water-soluble backing if possible. These include: golf shirts, T-shirts, activewear, lingerie, towels and bedding.