



A few hints for using flat threads like Sulky Sliver or Holoshimmer:

1. Lower your top tension (some machines may need to go down several numbers with Sliver, probably only 1 or 2 numbers with Holoshimmer).
2. Use a vertical spool pin with a felt pad underneath. Because these are flat threads, the twisting action caused by the horizontal spool pins will cause breakage. Or position on your machine however you need to so that it stays flat and rolls off flat into the tension area. The photo below is a gizmo called a [Thread Director](#), and we do sell this on our website:



It's a great tool if you have issues that these tips don't solve. But my experience has been that most people will do fine with specialty threads with just these tips.

3. Use a 90/14 needle. ANY 90/14 needle will perform better than an 80/12 "metallic type" needle. Most metallic type needles are 80/12's, although 90/14's are now available, but not as readily. Some machines prefer a [90/14 topstitch](#) or embroidery needle, but any 90/14 will work better for most people than an 80/12 metallic type needle.

4. When all else fails, a thread lubricant, such as [Sewers Aid™](#), many times works miracles. I don't know if it just eases the path or if it cleans out some minute obstruction that's irritating the machine. But it almost always works if everything else is as it should be. This is also on our website, but readily available in many big box stores, too.