

# Open-Toe Hopping Foot Installation Instructions

## Overview

These instructions and the Open-Toe Hopping Foot Kit include everything you need to replace the existing hopping foot with the open-toe hopping foot.

Follow these steps to ensure that there is sufficient clearance to completely remove the existing hopping foot and thread the new one into the presser bar without interference.

*Figures 1 and 2* show what happens inside the machine as you follow these steps.

**Important Note:** The hopping foot is spring-loaded and self-adjusts for the thickness of the fabric. These instructions are intended for your use in changing out the hopping foot. Once the new foot is properly installed, we strongly advise against trying to adjust the foot for different thicknesses of fabric. Improper adjustment of the hopping foot can cause serious sewing issues and machine damage.



*Figure 1*  
Normal position of  
the presser bar



*Figure 2*  
Raised position  
of the presser bar;  
spring-loaded plunger  
is compressed.

## Kit Contents

- 3mm-handle Allen hex tool and 8mm wrench (*Figure 3*)
- Open-toe hopping foot with threads and lock nut (*Figure 4*)



*Figure 3*

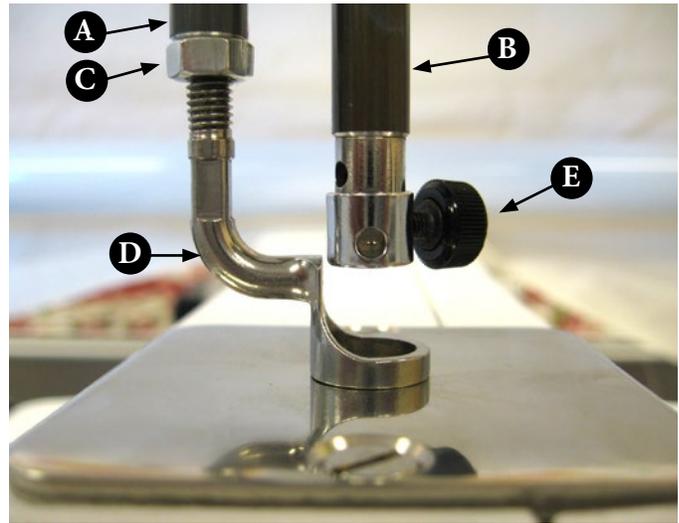


*Figure 4*

## To Change (or Remove) the Original Hopping Foot

Please read all instructions before replacing the hopping foot.

1. Remove the needle.
2. Lower the needle bar to its lowest position. In this position the spring-loaded presser bar is at its lowest position. The hopping foot is nearly touching the needle plate (*Figure 5*).
3. Place the handle of the 3mm Allen hex tool through the adjustment access hole (*Figure 6*) and loosen the screw "C" (*Figure 7*) by turning it counterclockwise.



*Figure 5*

- A: Spring-loaded Presser Bar
- B: Needle Bar
- C: Lock Nut
- D: Hopping Foot
- E: Needle Clamp



*Figure 6*



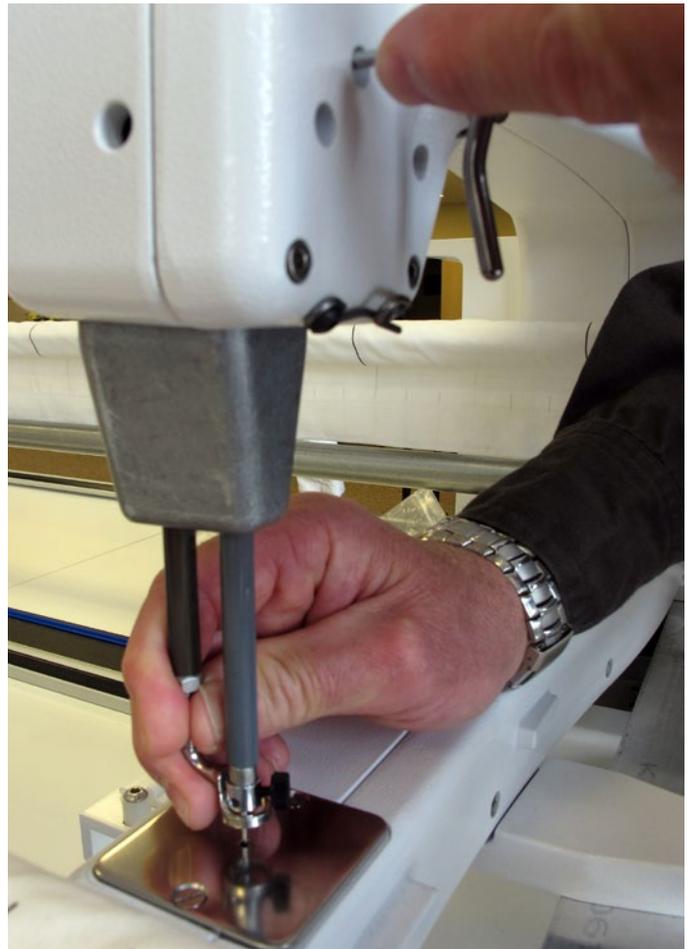
*Figure 7* Inside view of Screw "C" (cover to be only removed by authorized Handi Quilter retailer).

Keep the hex tool in screw “C” and while holding the tool firmly down, use your other hand to wiggle or twist the hopping foot and presser bar up (*Figure 8*) to raise them until the hopping foot is as high as it will go above the needle plate, almost  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” (*Figure 9*).

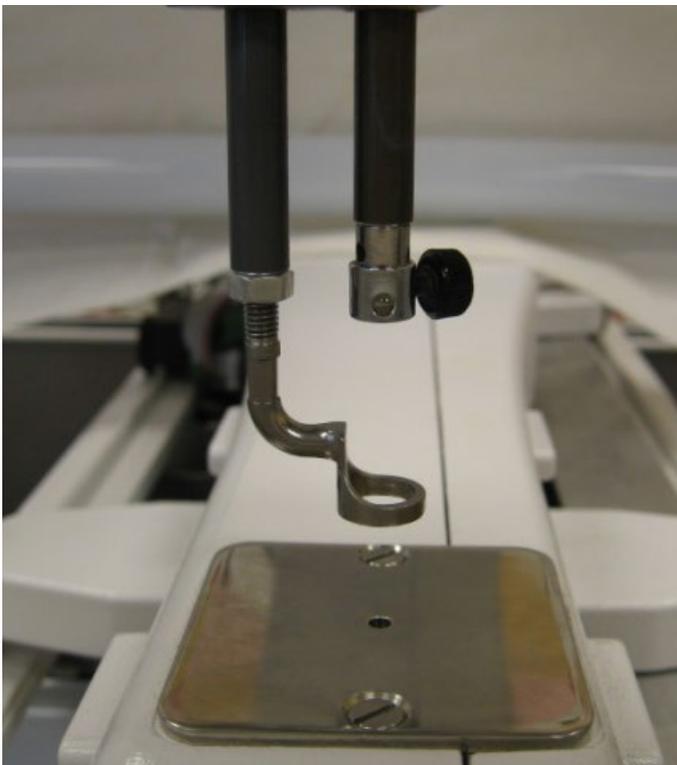
Then retighten screw “C” by turning it clockwise. This essential step raises the hopping foot high enough that it can be unscrewed completely in a later step.

4. Raise the needle bar to its highest position by turning the handwheel (*Figure 11, on next page*). While holding the hopping foot firmly, loosen the lock nut by turning it clockwise with the 8mm wrench (*Figure 10*).

**Note:** If necessary, use a wrench or pliers to aid in holding the hopping foot firmly in place. Be careful not to scratch the hopping foot with tool.



*Figure 8*



*Figure 9*  
Hopping foot is raised to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” above the needle plate. The needle bar is at its highest position.



*Figure 10*

- 5. Note:** In this step the existing hopping foot is removed. For reference when replacing the foot, count the number of complete turns it takes to remove it. It will typically take about 12 clockwise turns to fully remove the hopping foot from the presser bar.

Remove the hopping foot by turning it clockwise. Do not allow the bottom of the foot to drag across the needle plate while removing the hopping foot as this may scratch the needle plate. Remove the needle plate if necessary.

- 6.** Attach the open-toe hopping foot by turning it counterclockwise into the presser bar the same number of revolutions it took to remove the existing foot (usually 12 counterclockwise turns). Be careful to start it straight into the presser bar threads. If it starts to go crooked or is too hard to turn, remove the foot and try again making sure it goes in straight and with reasonable effort.

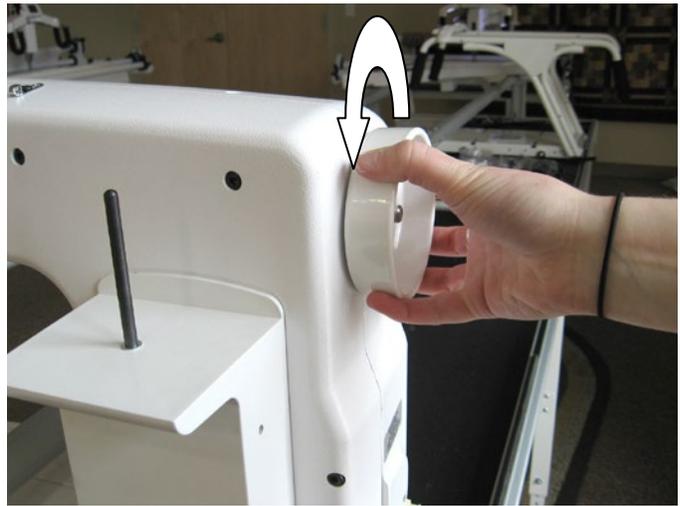
- 7.** Lower the needle bar to its lowest position by turning the handwheel (*Figure 11*).

- 8.** Hold the open-toe hopping foot securely and firmly tighten the lock nut by turning it counterclockwise using the 8mm wrench. Use another tool to hold the foot if necessary (*Figure 12*).

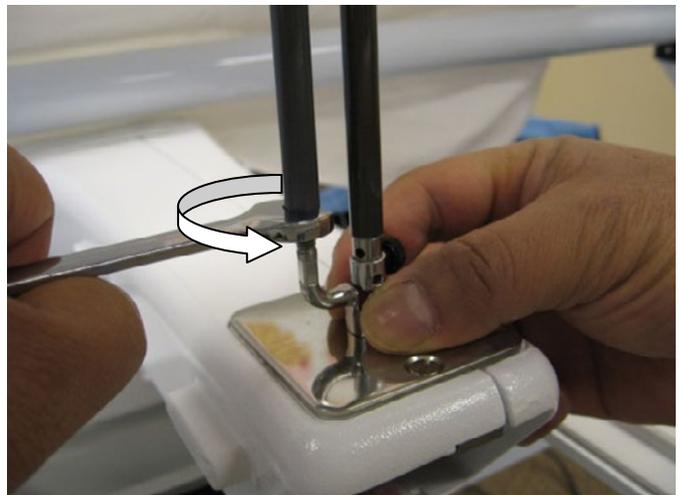
**Important Note:** If the lock nut is not firmly tightened and the hopping foot gets loose, it can rotate, allowing the needle to collide with it and cause problems.

- 9.** To lower the open-toe hopping foot back down to the needle plate, use the 3mm Allen hex tool to again loosen screw “C” by turning it counterclockwise (*Figure 13*). Then wiggle or twist the foot until it makes contact with the needle plate (*Figure 14, next page*). Do not tighten screw “C” yet.

- 10.** To set the open-toe hopping foot’s final height, lift the foot and place a .5mm feeler gauge or a business card under the open-toe hopping foot (*Figure 15, next page*). Wiggle or twist the presser foot until it rests firmly on the business card or gauge.



*Figure 11*



*Figure 12*



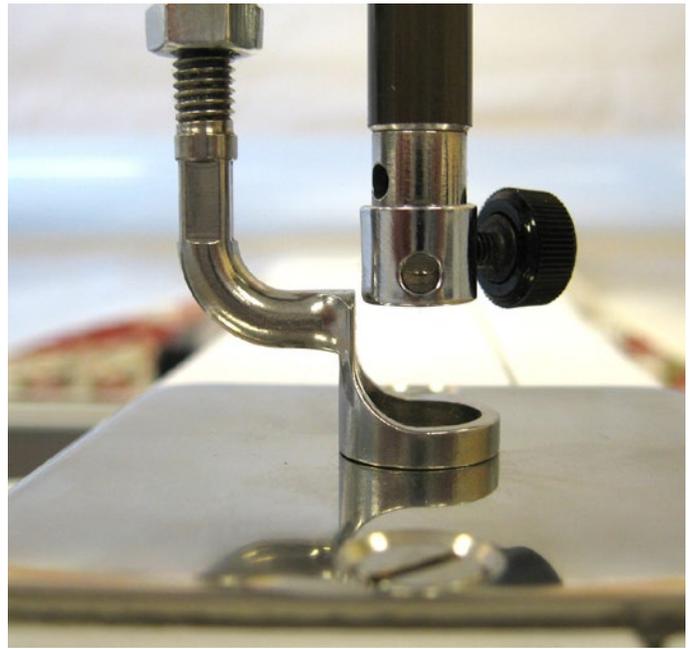
*Figure 13*

**11.** Carefully move the business card or gauge aside and center the open-toe hopping foot ring over the needle plate hole. Use the 3mm Allen hex tool to tighten screw “C” clockwise. Push down lightly on the hex tool blade while tightening. (*Figure 16*).

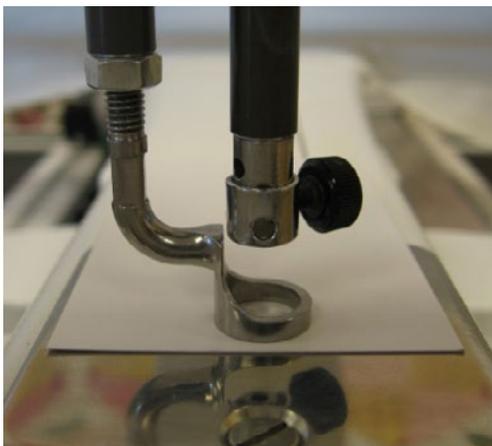
*Figure 17* is an inside view of machine. There should be no gap between the lifting link and the hopping block mechanism. Firmly tighten screw “C” (*Figure 18*).

**Important Note:** If screw “C” is not tightened firmly, the foot could rotate and the presser bar height could change and cause sewing problems and safety issues.

**12.** Reinstall the needle.



*Figure 14*



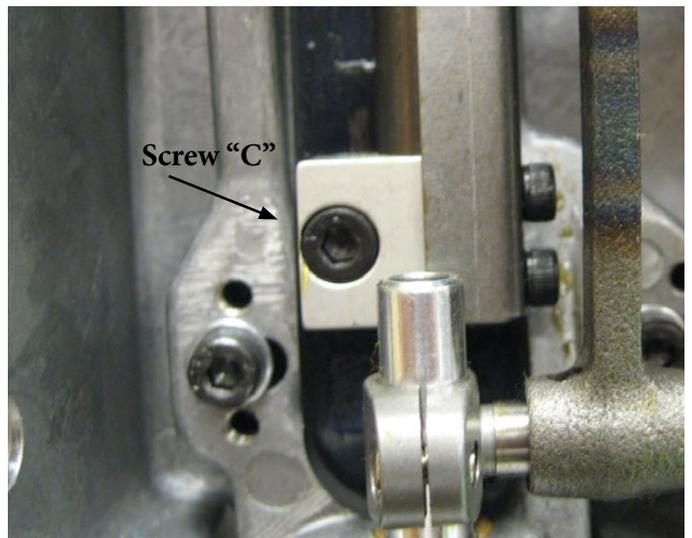
*Figure 15*



*Figure 16*



*Figure 17* Inside view of “no-gap” area (cover to be only removed by authorized Handi Quilter retailer).



*Figure 18* Inside view of Screw “C” (cover to be only removed by authorized Handi Quilter retailer).

**Final Quality Check:** If hopping foot is properly installed,

- The hand wheel will turn freely through an entire stitch cycle.
- When the needle and hopping foot are in their lowest position, the hopping foot will be no more than .5mm above the needle plate. It is allowable for the hopping foot to lightly touch the needle plate.
- The hopping foot ring will be centered over the needle plate hole.

Too much gap between the hopping foot and needle plate may cause sewing issues, including skipped stitches. **Figures 19 and 20** show correct height setting.



**Figure 19** (Shows correct height setting)



**Figure 19** (Shows correct height setting)