



TAP LAB SAFETY LEVEL:
MODERATE RISK

Read the safety card
Receive induction from a trainer

Overlocker

KEY RISKS:



Sharp objects



Injury



Breakage

PURPOSE:

An **overlocker** (also known as serger) is a specialised sewing machine used to do an edging stitch. An overlocker can be used with or without a blade. The blade trims the fabric as it sews.

SAFETY:

- Keep your fingers clear of the blade, especially when operating the machine. Ensure you know how to tell if the blade is out or stowed away (this is the most important thing to include in the safety induction for overlockers). Each time you use the machine check if the blade is out.
- Keep fingers clear of the needle when operating the machine.
- Ensure your hair or other loose clothing is clear of the machine.
- If threading a machine you must ensure you do it correctly. Using a sewing machine that is incorrectly threaded could damage the machine and/or break needles. There are manuals available for each machine that show how to thread them.
- Avoid sewing over pins as this can lead to broken needles.
- Don't use fabric that is too thick or heavy for the machine, it can break needles and could cause damage to the machine.
- Dispose of broken needles safely, we have a yellow sharps tin near the tools.
- Turn off when not in use or when you are performing any adjustments (e.g. changing needle or presser foot).

