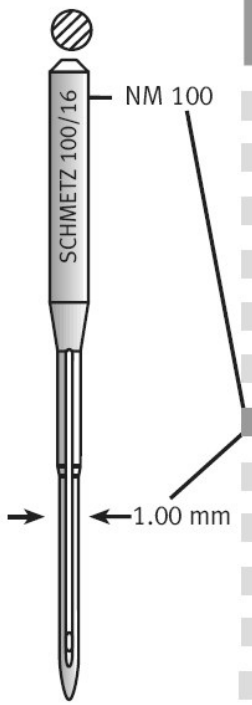
Needle size designations

In 1942, uniform needle sizes were fixed. A metric size designation under the abbreviation NM was introduced to replace the 40 or so different size designations in use at that time. This “Number metric” indicates the diameter of the needle blade in hundredths of a millimetre measured above the scarf or the short groove, but not at any reinforced part of the blade. A sewing machine needle with a blade diameter of 0.80 mm therefore corresponds to NM 80 and a needle with a blade diameter of 1.30 mm to NM 130.

However, other size numbers are still in use today. The comparison table below shows the corresponding needle sizes:



NM	SINGER/ Asia	Union Specia	System 292	System 459 F	Schiff Needles	Hook Needles	US Blin short 2	Long 251	Lewis curve	Straig	Merrow
35	2		23	22							
40	3		22	21							
45	4		21	20							
50	5		20	19							
55	6	022	18	18							3/0
60	8		16	17		2/0			2		2/0
65	9	025	14	16			0				0
70	10	027	13	15	2/0	1	1/2	05	2 1/2	10	1
75	11	029	12	14			1	10			
80	12	032	11	13	0	2	1 1/2	15	3	12	2
85	13		10				2	20			
90	14	036	9	12	1	3	2 1/2	25	3 1/2	14	3
95	15		8				3	30			
100	16	040	7	11	2	4	3 1/2	35	4	16	4
105	17							40			
110	18	044	6	10	3	5	4	45	4 1/2	18	5
120	19	048	4	9		6	4 1/2	55	5	19	6
125	20	049								20	
130	21		3	8	4	7	5				7
140	22	054	2	7	5	8	5 1/2		5 1/2		
150		060	1	6			6		6		8
160	23		0		6						
180	24	073							7		
200	25	080									