

# Bag Maker's Thread Cheat Sheet

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## ◆ Understanding Thread Types

Thread Type	Description	Best For	Machine Type
<b>Standard Polyester (120s / Tex 25–30)</b>	Fine, smooth, soft thread used in dressmaking and light projects.	Light fabrics, linings, small cotton bags.	Domestic.
<b>Bonded Polyester (Tex 45–70 / 60s–40s)</b>	Coated for strength and smooth feeding. Less fraying, great for multiple layers.	Vinyl, canvas, structured cotton bags.	Domestic or semi-industrial.
<b>Bonded Nylon (Tex 45–90 / 60s–30s)</b>	Strongest thread with a slight stretch. Great for leather and heavy-duty bags.	Heavy leather, outdoor gear.	Industrial.

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## ◆ The Two Thread Measurement Systems

### 1. The Ticket (S) System

Used mostly in the UK and Europe for domestic threads.

- **Higher number = finer thread.**
- **Lower number = thicker thread.**

 *Example:*

- 120s → fine, light-duty sewing (dressmaking)
- 60s → medium, for most bags
- 40s → heavy, topstitching and leatherwork

This system is based on *length per gram* — the more thread you get per gram, the finer it is.

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### 2. The Tex System


Used internationally and by most industrial thread manufacturers.

- **Higher number = thicker thread.**

- **Lower number = finer thread.**

Tex measures the **weight in grams of 1,000 meters of thread.**

- Tex 35 → fine
- Tex 45 → medium (most common for bag making)
- Tex 70 → heavy duty (topstitching or industrial machines)

 *Conversion (rough guide):*

#### **Ticket (S)    Approx. Tex**

120s            Tex 25–30

60s            Tex 45

40s            Tex 70

## ◆ **Matching Needle to Thread**

<b>Thread Size</b>	<b>Needle Size</b>	<b>Example Use</b>
120s / Tex 25–30	70–90	Light fabrics, linings
60s / Tex 45	100–110	Medium bags, cotton canvas
40s / Tex 70+	110–120	Heavy vinyl, leather, topstitching

✓ **Tip:** Always test tension and stitch quality when changing thread or needle size. Thicker thread = larger needle eye and lower top tension.

## ◆ **Quick Takeaways**

- Poly = smooth & flexible.
- Bonded = strong & coated (less fray).
- Nylon = strongest, slightly stretchy.
- Domestic machines love Tex 30–45 (120s–60s).
- Industrial machines can handle Tex 70+.