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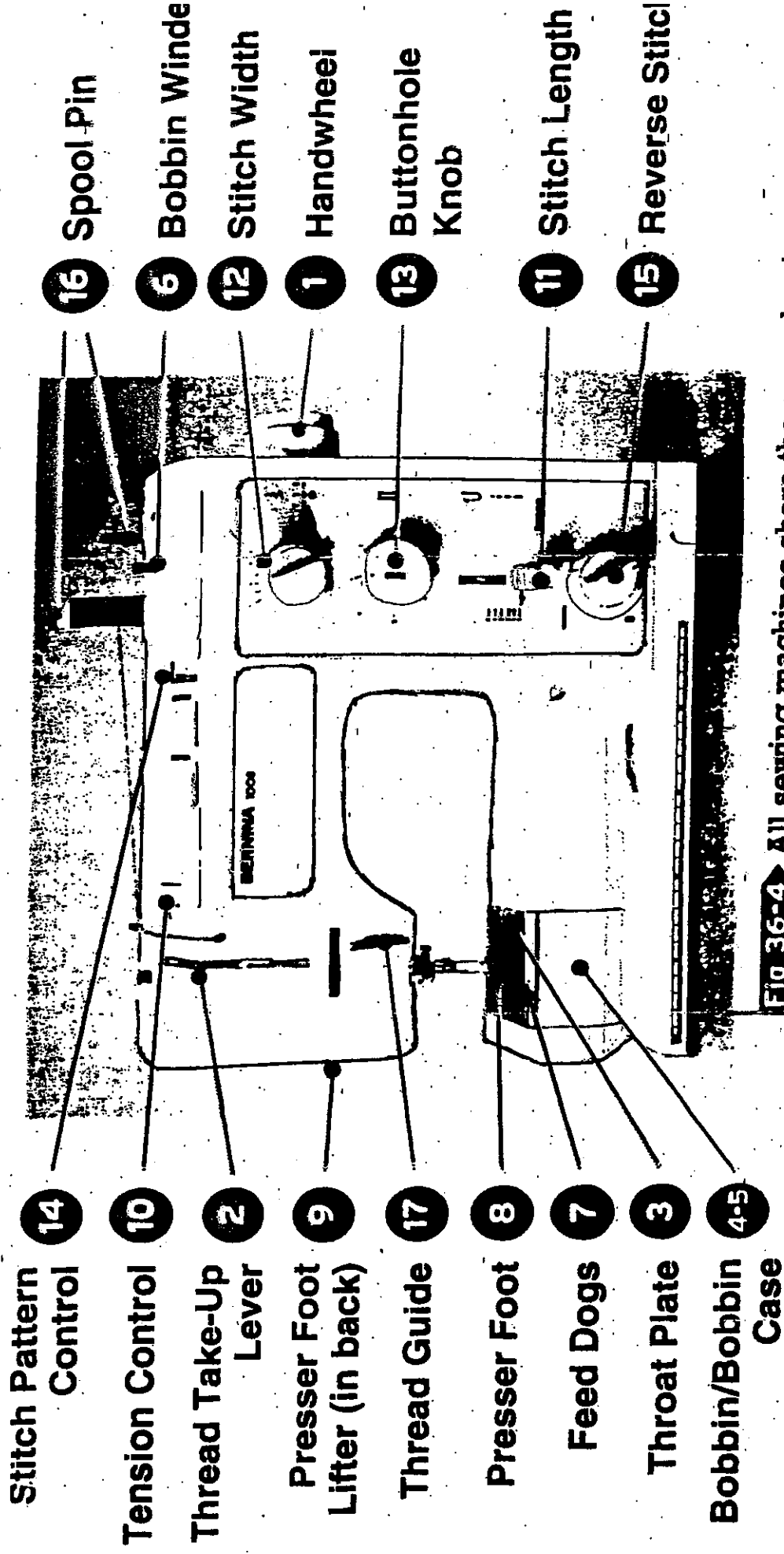


Fig 36-4 All sewing machines share the same basic parts.

Parts of a Sewing Machine

All sewing machines operate in a similar manner. Knowing the major parts helps you operate it successfully and safely. The parts shown in Fig. 36-4 are found on most machines. Check your manual to see where they're located on your machine. Machines that embroider and monogram have additional parts or components.

1. **Hand wheel.** This large wheel on the right side of the machine controls up-and-down movement of the needle and thread take-up lever.
2. **Thread take-up lever.** This lever feeds thread from the spool to the needle.
3. **Throat plate.** This is the metal plate under the machine needle. On most machines, the throat plate is also etched with seam allowance markings for accurate sewing.
4. **Bobbin.** This small, flat spool holds the bottom thread.
5. **Bobbin case.** This holds the bobbin and is found beneath the throat plate.
6. **Bobbin winder.** This spindle holds the bobbin while thread is wound from the thread spool to the bobbin. The location of this spindle varies with each machine.
7. **Feed dogs.** The feed dogs are a set of metal "teeth" that move the fabric during stitching.
8. **Presser foot.** This holds the fabric firmly in place against. The feed dogs for sewing.
9. **Presser foot lifter.** This lever raises and lowers the presser foot.
10. **Tension control.** This dial adjusts the tightness or looseness of the needle thread.
11. **Stitch length control.** This is used to adjust the length of stitches from short to long.
12. **Stitch width control.** This is used to adjust the width of other stitches, such as the zigzag stitch.
13. **Buttonhole control.** The built-in buttonhole maker creates perfect buttonholes.
14. **Stitch pattern control.** The stitch pattern control can be adjusted to make different stitching patterns.
15. **Reverse stitch control.** This button or lever allows backward stitching.
16. **Spool pin.** This pin holds the spool of thread.
17. **Thread guides.** These guide the thread as it travels from the spool to the needle.
18. **Foot or knee control.** This control regulates the starting, running, and stopping of the machine. (not shown)