The Singer 216G

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>
Posted 2026 xxx

It was back in 2019 that I spotted this Kijiji ad: a vintage Singer machine, priced at $75. The machine was kind of ratty looking, and it was 2200 km from me, but I happily paid the price, and asked a friend to pick it up on my behalf, because – believe it or not – this machine is a rare treasure.





I didn't get to see the machine in person until just this summer, when my friend shipped the machines he'd been storing for me.



The finish was not in great shape; there were several dings on the bed of the machine and some smaller spots here and there. It needed a good cleaning and some oil, and a bit of black enamel to touch up the gouges in the finish on the bed, and it needed a new belt. But it was working, and still well worth the $75 I paid for it.

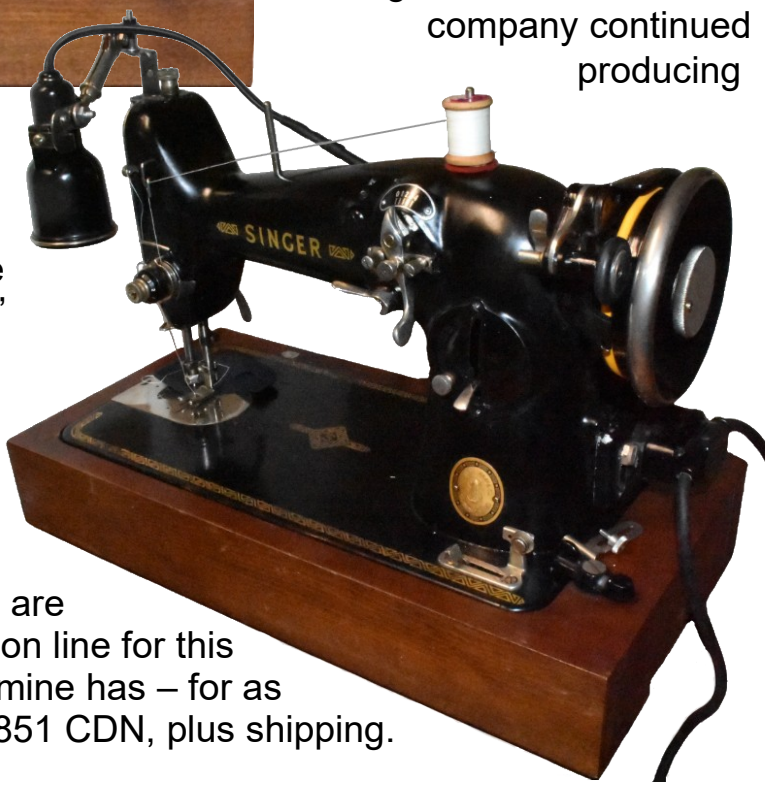
Here you can see the pitted surface of the bed, along with the severe gouges near the needle plate, which I filled in with black enamel paint.



My touch-ups aren't pretty, but at least the enamel will help to preserve the finish from further deterioration.



Although it is badged as a Singer, the design for the 216G, as well as for models 215G and 218G, was inherited from the German manufacturer Haid and Neu when Singer purchased that business in 1954. Until the factory could be re-tooled for Singer's own models, the company continued producing the Haid and Neu models, marketing them under the Singer name. (The 215 is a similar machine but straight-stitch only, while the 218 is a vibrating shuttle machine with a long bobbin and "bullet" style bobbin case, already an old technology even at the time).



I was unable to find an estimate of how many of these models were actually produced, but it couldn't have been very many, since these machines are extremely rare today. I've seen listings on line for this model – albeit with a better finish than mine has – for as high as $2000 US (at today's rates, $2851 CDN, plus shipping. And these machines are *heavy*).

Collectors love this machine not only for its rarity, but for its robust construction: you can tell by looking at it that it is a heavy beast of a thing. It's superbly engineered, with all steel innards and a cast iron body, and it is very heavy (about 50 pounds).



It's a very capable machine that will handle denim and other heavy materials with ease. Some compare it to the famed 201, which is widely acknowledged to have been the pinnacle of Singer's engineering and the very best sewing machine ever built anywhere. Well . . . this one is said to be all that *and* it's zigzag-capable, with an adjustable needle position as well. (I just love the idea of a vintage black Singer that can sew zigzag!)



If ever a domestic machine deserved the moniker "heavy duty", this is the one. It will sew through anything – I tried it on 8 layers of denim (from a pair of jeans), and it had no trouble stitching my sample. I can't wait to use it on an actual project.

Amazingly, this beautiful vintage machine doesn't require special needles or bobbins. It uses regular 15x1 needles and class 15 bobbins, which are available everywhere, and – as a bonus – low shank presser feet. Mine didn't come with any extra feet but I was easily able to make up a kit from my stash of vintage low-shank attachments.

Apart from a clean-up and touching up of the dings and gouges in the bed, the machine only needed a new belt, a bobbin-winder tire, and a bit of oil.



Just to be on the safe side, I had an electrician check out the motor and the cords, which turned out to be in decent usable condition. The machine is running beautifully and ready to sew.

Although I really need to get serious about downsizing my sewing machine collection, this machine is now firmly on the keeper list. Although the finish has seen better days, and it’s no longer a beauty, functionally it’s at the top of the queue. No matter where my sewing life takes me from here, this machine will be going along.