



On 27 April 1689 King Charles XI of Sweden authorized Count Eric Dahlberg (architect) to build a musket manufacture. Thus, Huskvarna Rifle Factory was founded alongside the waterfalls in the village of Huskvarna. The weapons were first manufactured for the Swedish army that fought over lost territory against Denmark at the time. Huskvarna kept on manufacturing weapons for the army (for example the AK-4 automatic carbine after the second World War), and grew interested in sporting guns and produced over 100 different sporting models.



A flintlock gun made in 1735, engraved with the old Huskvarna factory emblem and the initials JJS.



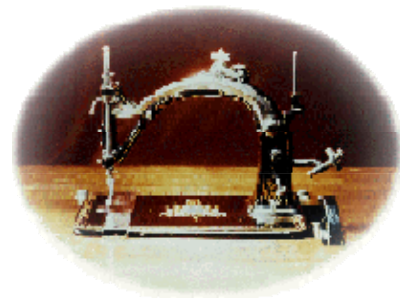
Husqvarna's first motorcycle, 1919 (500cc).

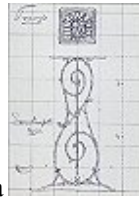


The first Husqvarna emblem

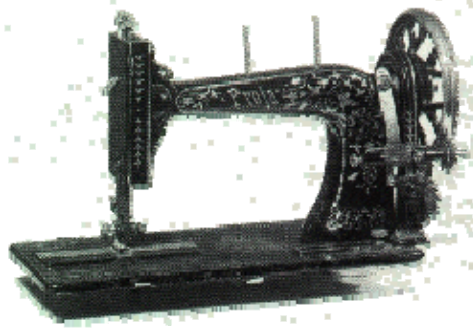
Husqvarna is also well-known for its garden tools such as lawnmowers, chain saws (still manufactured nowadays), as well as its heating stoves, ranges, irons, meat mincers, scales, dishes, crockery, ice cream machines, as well as for its motorbikes, outboard motors, bicycles...

In 1872, Husqvarna manufactures its first sewing machine called the **North Star** better known as the "**Catback**" on account of its design. Only about 500 of these machines were made. After this disappointment, Husqvarna decided to send Eskil Lindblad to the United States on a study trip.





The drawing of the sub-frame of the first Husqvarna sewing machine, the North Star, 1872.



Some thirteen years after the creation of its first machine, Husqvarna produced a second model which was to prove a great success: the *Freja*. It was this third model that was manufactured from 1883 to 1925! The longest ever period of production in the Husqvarna factory. Over 200.000 of these machines were sold. The *Triumf* was used by professional seamstresses and tailors. It was as successful as the *Freja*.

Later, the CB (*Central Bobbin*) system was introduced and allowed the machine to sew faster and to be less noisy. In 1934, the CBN Class 12 model was the first electric, Husqvarna sewing machine. It was manufactured until 1958 when the rights were sold to Egypt.

1947 was the year of the first zigzag and free-arm machine that allowed the user to sew tubular parts of clothes (sleeves, trousers legs...). The Husqvarna 2000 (1960) is the milestone of stretchable seams thanks to its automatic feed reverse system.



Poster from the 40s

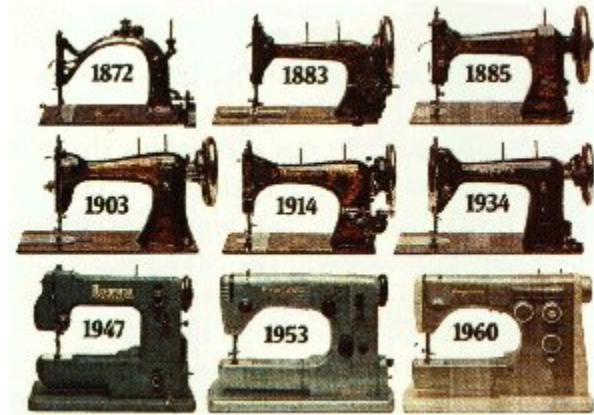


Prior to World War II output reached 40.000 machines per year. In 1946 it was 73.000. In 1951 the figure passed the 100.000 mark.

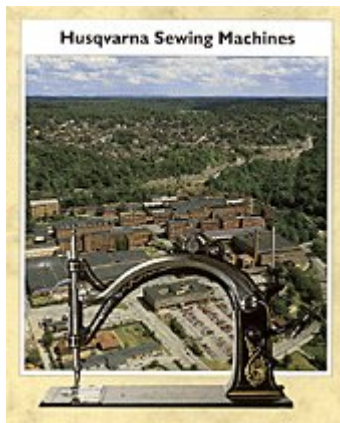
Allan Eriksson, a self-taught sewing machine technician, invented many systems. He managed to secure 4 worldwide patents and over 20 national patents. he worked for Husqvarna for over 50 years and invented, among others, the jam-proof hook whose modern version is still in use on today's machines.

As soon as 1971, Husqvarna invented the life-long lubricating thanks to the use of **sintered steel** (a Husqvarna patent) in the making of its parts. The Husqvarna 6030 was the **first self-lubricated machine in the world**. Five years later, Husqvarna produced a model containing a microchip thus marking the beginning of the electronic machines era. This next feature allowed Husqvarna to manufacture the

first "writing" sewing machine in 1980 (Linnea 6690).



Milestones 1872 - 1960



Background: The Husqvarna factory.

Foreground: The North Star,

Today, Husqvarna still produces sewing machines on the very spot that has been witnessing its long history, in Huskvarna, and keeps on innovating. The *Prisma* series, and today the *Designer I* are the worthy followers of the ***North Star***.



The Husqvarna logo nowadays

Images from various Husqvarna literature and books.
See the [Links and Bibliography](#) pages.