

# BASIC SEWING TOOLS:

***SAFETY WARNING – Please keep away from children and pets.***



Please note that this is basic information that I have collected and personally used. This is a general and basic guideline. If you have any questions about the below tools, please don't hesitate to contact us, we are here to help!

### **SEWING TOOLS:**

- Needles – Hand and Machine
- Pins & Safety Pins.
- Sewing Machine, Overlocker/Serger (optional)

Must haves:

*additional sewing Tools\**

- Needle Threader – I cannot do without this
- Rotary Cutter Mat/Cutting Mat
- Sewing Tweezers, though normal facial tweezers can work on a temporary basis
- Thimble – Most sewing enthusiast will not go without one. I have over the 30 years of sewing, cannot get used to it.
- Pony Tail holders – great for holding sewing tools and equipment, stop threads and bobbins from unravelling.
- Chopsticks – These are wonderful for corners inside out.
- Glues – Glue gun; Fray Glue – stops fraying; Fabric Glue.
- Containers – For storage. Recycle Ice cream container, mason jars, etc.
- Pens, pencils, eraser, sharpeners.

\*I have not put them under any specific group for various reasons.

### **BASIC CUTTING TOOLS**

1. Sewing Scissors – use only for cutting fabrics, felt, wadding and threads.
2. Paper Scissors – use only for cutting out paper patterns and other paper products.
3. Small sharp scissors or small embroidery scissors – great for clipping, smaller projects, motifs, trimming.
4. Pinking Shears – one of my favourite. The zig zag stops fabric from fraying and perfect for finishing off the edges of your project
5. Rotary Cutters – great for cutting layers of fabric at one time and for cutting faux fur. Do not use to cut paper.
6. Seam Ripper – great for unpicking, buttonholes (though you can buy buttonhole scissors – I have found this works perfectly).

### **TOP TIP:**

- It is best to have a variety of scissors, which have specific uses. (See basic list above).
- Try to not cut “pins” as this will cause “nicks” in the blades.
- Always wipe your cutting tools clean, once your project is completed.
- Keep the in a container, when not in use. (Used Ice cream containers are wonderful.)
- Place a drop of oil on the screws and then wipe off. I also use the oil on the blades, I personally feel this wipes off any excess “fluff”. Oiling will depend on how much you use your scissors and also the area you live in. A rust and dusty area will need your scissors to be wiped and cleaned regularly.
- Sharpen your scissors by professional if you have expensive scissors. Again, personally, as sewing scissors are so cost effective where I live, I buy new scissors as soon as I feel the blade is blunt. Blunt scissors damage fabric. If you are fashion or home décor business, I would highly recommend you purchase good quality scissors.

## **BASIC MARKING TOOLS**

Please note that these tools only make temporary and NOT permanent markings.

1. Chalk/Tailors Chalk - I have used chalk, but have lost my patience with it, as it breaks. Great for marking on thick and textured fabric.
2. Water soluble Fabric-Marking Pens – I love these. They come in a pen shape and therefore easy to use and easy to create your markings.
3. Tracing /Carbon Paper and the Tracing Wheel – These papers come in a variety of colours, which is wonderful when using a variety of colours of fabrics. (White tracing paper for Black fabric). Your tracing wheel is used to mark the fabric with the tracing paper.
4. Basting/Tacking/Tailor's Tack (See sewing Tips & Techniques) - Another favourite. A wide stitch is hand sewn where markings are required.
5. Soap – now who does not have white soap in their home. Cut the soap into strips and create your markings. Easy to use and always available. Soap will leave a mark on your fabric, but it will come out in washing.

### **TOP TIP:**

- Always test your marking tool on your fabric as some completely disappear, before you have even started. Happened to me several times. ☹️
- Also test your marking tool, to be certain that it does not leave a permanent mark. Always do your tests on the wrong side of your fabric.
- Use a ruler to make sure your lines are straight.
- Tracing/Carbon paper must only be used on the wrong side of the fabric.

## **BASIC MEASURING TOOLS**

1. Tape Measure – who does not have one of these, even if you do not sew! I have at least of them, as I always seem to leaving them lying around
2. Stationery Standard Ruler – I use this for drawing straight lines on my project or if I need to measure distances. (You can use a tape measure, but the 30cm Ruler is solid plastic or wood).
3. Sewing Measuring Ruler – which is made of clear plastic and comes in various lengths. This is used for straight lines, seam lines and other pattern markings.
4. Depending on which direction of sewing you are going – other measuring tools are - Seam Gauge; T-Squares; Curved Ruler

### **TOP TIP:**

- Plastic ruler is better as it does not cause splinters.
- Start with the basics and then expand with the additional measuring tools.
- The basic tape measure is so versatile and has many uses. You can buy a plastic or fabric one, I have found that both are very similar in durability and use.
- Always keep your unused tape measure rolled up and place in a small zip lock or bank bag. Your tape will last longer and not get kinks in it.

## **BASIC PRESSING TOOLS**

Ironing/Pressing will give your project that high quality and professional look.

1. Iron – Most households have an iron. I would recommend a steam iron. If you do not have a steam iron, fill a spray bottle with distilled or bottled water.
2. Ironing board – It speaks for itself. If you do not have one, use a table with a blanket and then place cotton tablecloth over.

### **TOP TIP:**

Always make certain that your iron is cleaned regularly.

Make certain you have the correct temperatures for your fabric type. Press fabric before cutting patterns out.

Use bottled water to fill your steam iron.

As you grow in your chosen field of sewing – clothing, curtaining, etc, I would recommend your purchase the additional accessories/tools – Seam Roll; Tailor's Ham and so forth.

Make certain that your iron board is well padded, the padding does wear overtime and you can either make your own cover or purchase.

*“Use a thick piece of paper under your seam allowances before pressing them open to prevent a ridge from forming on the outside of your garment.*

*Don't press over pin heads or they could melt, or leave an indent in your fabric.*

*When in doubt, press on a scrap piece of the fabric first to see how it reacts to heat before pressing your final garment.”Some great tips from <https://www.mybluprint.com/>*

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