

## BASIC SEWING TOOLS – MARKING TOOLS

**SAFETY WARNING – Please keep away from Children and Pets.**



Please read our T & C's – [www.rosamaycrafts.com](http://www.rosamaycrafts.com)

DISCLAIMER: Please note this is my very own guideline, there are so many guides and tips, use which one you feel works for you.

To start sewing you will need the very basic tools, each tool has variations with different tools. The list below is what I would call my starter kit for beginners. You may need more or a variation of a specific tool, but start with a few basics and as you become more confident or specialise in a specific direction, you will need more tools and variations of those tools. I have counted over 80 tools, which include the variations, such as fabric scissors – large heavy scissors, lighter smaller scissors, right and lefthand scissors. Boggles the brain.

Several tools have the same uses, with an added extra, going with the cutting tools again – embroidery scissors are great for cutting threads and buttonholes, but so are snips. At the end of the day, it your choice, I have both – embroidery scissors and snips, but find the embroidery scissors easier to use, whereas others find them difficult to use.

PLEASE NOTE: Depending on the type of sewing craft you will be doing, the tools will vary and be specific to that craft. For instance, you will need specific tools for Quilting and most tools will be different to Fashion tools. Ask and research, I am always happy to help – message me on Facebook or email me – [nadia@rosamaycrafts.com](mailto:nadia@rosamaycrafts.com).

My 'must have' additional sewing Tools

- Sewing Machine and sewing machine needles – visit – [www.rosamaycrafts.com](http://www.rosamaycrafts.com)
- Sewing needles, threads and needle threader – visit – [www.rosamaycrafts.com](http://www.rosamaycrafts.com) for more information
- Pins and safety pins
- Magnetic pin cushion
- Scissors, paper scissors and pinking shears
- Tape measure
- Marking pen/chalk
- Hem picker
- Storage containers (recycled jam jars, ice cream containers...) – perfect for storing buttons, needles
- Chopsticks – help with turning out corners
- Pony tail holders/hair bands – great for holding tools together or stopping threads from unravelling.

We will now go into a more detailed list of sewing tools

**Sewing Tools – See Tips and Tricks – please visit [www.rosamaycrafts.com](http://www.rosamaycrafts.com)**

- Sewing Machine
- Needles – Hand and Machine
- Pins & Safety Pins.
- Cutting tools
- Marking tools
- Measuring tools
- Pressing tools

## BASIC MARKING TOOLS

Please always check your marking tool against your fabric to make certain that it does not leave a mark or stain. If you are a fashion designer, then check with your fabric supplier as to which marker is best for your fabric type. It is always best to wash all markings out, then you know it has been permanently erased.

### 1. Chalk/Tailors Chalk



I have used chalk sticks, but have lost my patience with it, as it breaks and disappears quickly. Great for marking on thick and textured fabric. These days the chalk markers are more solid and do last longer than your chalk sticks, but they do have a tendency to break or crumble easily. You can use chalk on all fabrics, and the markings disappear and/wash off easily. It is safe to use, and it used to be mostly white in colour, but now comes in a variety of colours, which is useful if you have a lighter colour fabric and shapes.

The biggest con against chalk is that it disappears or rubs off quickly, if you are going to use chalk, you will need to sew your creation immediately.

### 2. Fabric Marking Pens



You can get water soluble pens, air erasable heat erasable. As with all tools supplies each has its own use. How wonderful is it to have such choices. The disappearance of these markings will be dependent on temperature, humidity, type of fabric of and dye. It can take up to 7 days before it has disappeared.

They come in a pen shape and therefore easy to use and easy to create your markings. The markings stay long enough on your fabric for you to create your project.

These are wonderful as you have a good grip as you make your marking, and they create clean and clear lines.

If changes are needed, the ink lines can be erased by dabbing off with water.

- Water soluble Fabric-Marking Pens – I love these. The markings can be erased using water.
- Heat Erasable Fabric Markers. The heat of an iron makes the ink vanish.
- Air-erasable. Also known as vanishing or magic pens. The markings on your fabric from these pens generally disappear within 48 hours.

### 3. Pencils



Pencils are very similar to your marking pens. They are water-soluble, can be used on a variety of fabrics. General only found in two or three colours – one for light coloured fabrics and one for dark coloured fabrics.

### 4. Tracing /Carbon Paper and the Tracing Wheel



I would recommend use a cutting mat when using the tracing wheels – see cutting tools – [www.rosamaycrafts.com](http://www.rosamaycrafts.com)

This tool is used mostly by dressmakers, tailors and pattern creators, I find them useful when doing hand embroidery, it helps with the stitch spacing. I use my carbon tracing paper, place over my felt or fabric project and then mark it gently with dots.



- Tracing wheel

The tracing wheel is used for tracing or transferring patterns, quilting and sewing and used in a diverse type of fabric from cottons to leather.

- Tracing/Carbon paper

This is often used in conjunction with the tracing wheel. The carbon paper comes in a variety of colours, perfect for light and dark colours. The carbon paper has a 'waxy' side and a plain side, the waxy side is the side that faces the fabric and transfer your pattern or design onto the fabric.

## 5. Basting/Tacking/Tailor's Tack - See sewing Tips & Tricks – [www.rosamaycrafts.com](http://www.rosamaycrafts.com) for basic stitches – how to



This may be time consuming, but I personally think it ticks all the boxes, it doesn't face, it comes out easily. A wide hand sewn stitch used for marking or hold fabric/patterns, etc. together and for marking – eg - where to place one pattern piece on top of another.

It is a simple sewing method using long hand stitches – can be done by machine, but I find it tends to gather.

The main reason for using this technique is when you are creating clothes and you need to fit the outfit, before doing the final permanent stitches. Adding a zip is another great way to use your tacking stitch to hold the zip in place whilst sewing and you are not sewing over pins....!

Also tack/baste with a different coloured thread to your fabric colour, when you need to remove the tacking stitch, it will be visible and therefore easier to remove.

### 5. Soap or soap slivers



You can either buy 'soap slivers' or make your own. 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. Of course, you are now recycling the little bits of leftover soap.

The small soaps you get at hotels are awesome for marking your fabrics.

One very important point is DO NOT leave the soap marking on your fabric for long or use it on expensive fabrics – satins as it does tend to leave a mar.

### Tips

1. Always test your marking tool on your fabric as some completely disappear, before you have even started. It has happened to me several times. ☺.
2. Also test your marking tool, to be certain that it does not leave a permanent mark. All fabrics are different.
3. Always do your tests on the wrong side of your fabric.
4. Use a ruler to make sure your lines are straight or cutting mat.
5. Tracing/Carbon paper must only be used on the wrong side of the fabric.
6. Sometimes you need to make a mark directly on your fabric when sewing. And when you do, you want to use a marking tool specially made for that type of fabric. The most basic is the water soluble marking pencil. These pencils are available in white for marking on dark colored fabrics, and blue for marking on light colored fabrics. Keep one of each color in your sewing kit, and always test the pencils on a scrap of fabric first to make sure it will indeed wash out.
7. You will see all kinds of specially formulated marking pens, chalk, and other tools available. As you continue to sew and build your skills, you can expand your collection of fabric marking tools, but as an absolute beginner these fabric marking pencils are all you need.

## Other Sewing Tools

There are so many of incredible sewing tools out there, you will find them as you go along, each craft, style or type of sewing you will need specific tools. Here a few others to look at.

### Bodkin



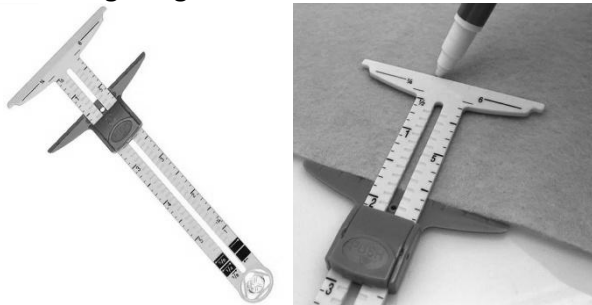
These are great for pulling elastic, cords or turning strips of fabric. You will find cord threaders, elastic threaders, fabric turners.

### Fabric Weights



Pattern weights are used to hold your fabric or patterns in place when cutting. You can either buy or make your own using large bolts or a can of food.

### Measuring Gauge



This tool is used for creating accurate hems widths, spacing between buttons holes, making pleats that all same size/width.

### Pin cushion



Fabric or metal with a magnet or make your own.

### Sewing Clips



These are useful when you are sewing a hem or creating quilts, placemats or other projects with multiple layers. It holds all the layers in place



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