

## **BASIC SEWING TOOLS – MEASURING 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 MEASURING TOOLS**

Most measuring tools are needed when creating outfits, some are needed for craft projects, home decor and quilting. No matter what type of project you are creating you will be measuring something, whether it is how much fabric, ribbon or lace you need or the right size cushion cover for your inner.

As with all the tools, start with your basics and build your collection dependent on which type of sewing you will be doing.

### **1. Tape Measure**



Who does not have one of these, even if you do not sew! I have at least 3 of them, as I always seem to leave them lying around. The tape measure is marked in centimetres and inches. It is the one essential tool needed in sewing and together with your needles, pins and thread, this tool is needed and you cannot do without.

### **2. Straight Ruler**



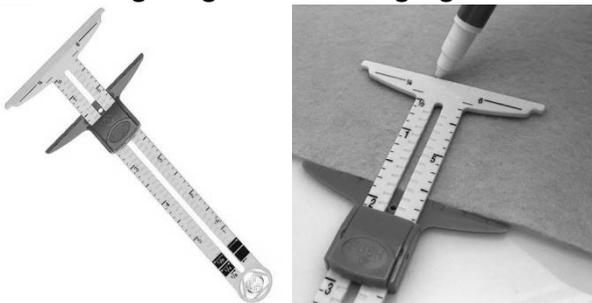
You will find plastic, metal and wooden rulers, some long and some short I use this for drawing straight lines on my project or if I need to measure distances. (You can use a tape measure, but the 30cm Ruler is solid plastic or wood). Clear and straight rulers are used for straight and seam lines, quilting and pattern marking.

Your standard stationery ruler is a goodie to keep in your tool kit. I am always using mine to check the size of a pattern I am creating – do I need to make it smaller or bigger. If doing a small project, need to add buttons, equally down your gingerbread man.

You will find other straight rulers that measure longer than 30 cm, the metal rulers are wonderful for accurate measuring and cutting are durable and heavy duty. These are often called yard sticks.

Your quilting ruler which also comes in various lengths and shapes. As quilting is all about accuracy, these rulers help you in creating the perfect quilt

### **3. Measuring Gauge and or seam gauge**



This tool is used for creating accurate hem widths, spacing between buttons holes, making pleats that all same size/width. It comes with a sliding guide. This helps to set the required length/width and then you can mark it. They are perfect for accurately checking hems, seam allowance, or buttonholes.

4. If you are heading in the fashion direction you will need several additional tools to help you create Runway outfits. Here are some basic body measurement tools to lookout for.

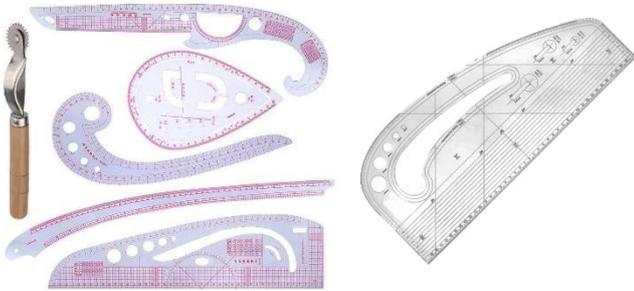
**PLEASE NOTE** that I do sew clothes, but mainly sew for little children, therefore my knowledge on these specific tools is more from research and asking a few questions.

### Hurth Ruler



With this ruler you can take depth, width, and circumference measurements easily. It has a sliding ruler and is also hinged at the base. This helps in taking accurate armhole and neck measurements.

### Curved French Ruler



I think this is so clever, you can draw or cut or measure curves. Brilliant. Our bodies are curved so why not have rulers that help create gorgeous curves. You will find them in various sizes and shapes

### Draping Style Tape



This thin tape can be used for variety of crafts and on a variety of mediums – fabric to wood. If you are adding two rows of lace and want equal distances between the two, you can then add the second row. You will find them in a variety of colours and are flexible.

## Tips

1. Plastic ruler is better than a wooden one, as it does not cause splinters and you can see through to the fabric.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Start with the basics and then expand with the additional measuring tools.
5. A ruler provides the straight edge that a tape measure can't. Longer is better for when you need to cut or mark long straight lines, but as long as the edge is solid and not flexible, you're good.
6. The thicker the ruler, the better. They are more durable and don't bend or warp over time. Thicker rulers are more durable and less likely to bend or warp over time.

## 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.

### Pin cushion



Fabric or metal with a magnet or make your own.

### Sewing Clips



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



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