

## **ELASTIC FOR YOUR SEWING PROJECTS.**

**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.

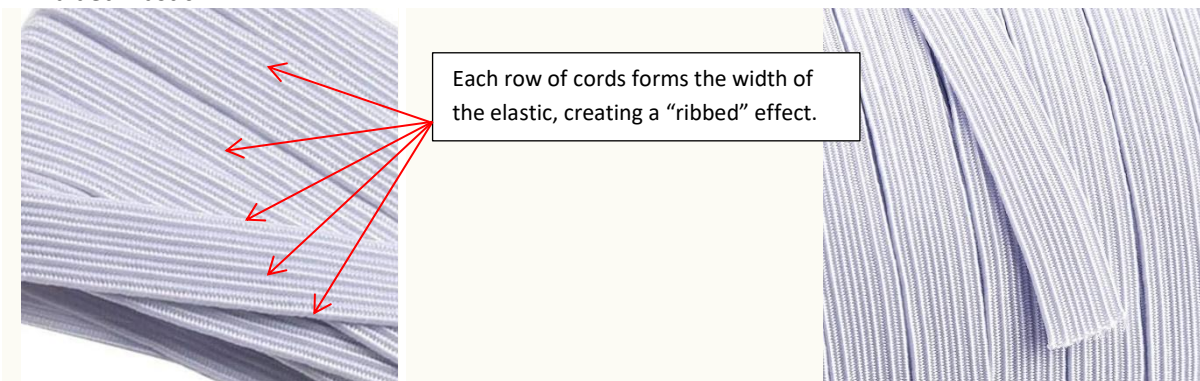
Please note that this is basic information that I have collected and used. This is a general and basic guideline. There is a wealth of knowledge out there, you only need to ask.

PLEASE NOTE: - As I use a lot of elastic, I always buy in bulk. The images shown are purely for this tutorial. I do not receive any commission from any of the companies.

### **A little bit about elastics**

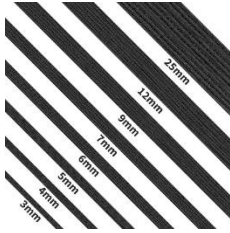
Elastic comes in various sizes/widths, colours, stretches and type of materials. Each type of elastic has its own use. The main types of elastics are braided, woven, knitted and speciality elastics. As the patterns I create are for the home, party décor and craft projects, I use a variety of elastics for their main uses, but also as a decorative feature.

#### **1. Braided Elastic**



I do believe that somewhere, sometime everyone has seen this particular elastic, whether you used in your school days or later for projects. It is a narrow elastic and commonly used in casing. You should not sew braided elastic as it will lose its stretch. It is best used on light weight fabrics, as it is not a strong and durable elastic and will stretch out of shape and lose its elasticity.

Use – this is the most versatile elastic and can be used on almost any type of clothing and DIY projects.



Braided elastic is one of the most commonly used elastics. It used to come only in black and white, but you can now find it in other colours.

Use – this is the most versatile elastic and can be used on almost any type of clothing and DIY projects.

## 2. Woven Elastic.



Woven elastic has horizontal and vertical ribs giving that woven look. It is a stronger and more durable elastic, you will find this in wider widths 20 mm upwards. You can also sew on the elastic without it becoming distorted or losing its shape.

Use – most commonly used for skirts/shorts/trouser as the elastic does not 'roll'. Great for all those wonderful dress up outfits for themed parties.

## 3. Knitted elastic



This is a much softer elastic and has a smooth look and feel to it. It is stronger, durable and has a good elasticity to it. It is non-slip, light weight and does not misshape easily. You can stitch on the elastic or place in a casing.

Use – this is not an elastic I have used before, but I believe it is for belts, clothing, furniture covers.

#### 4. Special Elastics

Some types of special elastics – Lingerie, Swim, Shirring and fold over.

Lingerie Elastic and lace elastic



The other elastic I use are lingerie, as it always looks so pretty. I use this elastic for decorative purposes.

It is more commonly used for lingerie. It is soft to the touch and made from polyester and comes in a variety of widths and colours. The lingerie elastic has the frill on one side and straight edge on the other and is mostly found in smaller widths. The lace elastic is exactly what is says, it looks like lace but has a stretch to it. This comes in a wider width.

Use – lingerie and decorative DIY projects – applique and fancy dress/dress up costume.

Swimwear elastic



Swimwear elastic is made from a pvc materials, it has a smooth feel and look to it. It is perfect for swimming as it is durable, doesn't fade easily, easy to wash and quick to dry. It is chlorine and salt water resistant.

Perfect for swimwear and gymwear.

Foldover elastic



As you see in the image above, there is a line running through the centre of the elastic, where you fold over. Most fold over elastic will have a shiny side – top/outer and a matte side - inner. This can

be used like bias binding, but with a stretch. It is great when you want to neaten raw edges – like underwear.

It is made from polyester and is flexible, stretchy, soft, durable and soft and smooth to the touch.

Use – great for headband, underwear, wedding garters

Cord and elastic thread, which I use for beadwork and adding button loops and other fun elastic.

Other elastics – beading elastic, clear elastic – used for bras or straps, shirring elastic – used for clothing and home décor, decorative elastic – decorate almost any clothing or DIY project.



#### Tips for elastic

1. Choose the correct elastic for your project.
2. If you are stitching on the elastic, use the correct stitch – either zig-zag or the elastic stitch -, thread and sewing machine needle.
3. Sewing for the body – measure your waist, body, wrist and decide how tight or loose you would your elastic to be. I tend to go for slightly looser and then cut if I feel it is too loose, adding an extra 20mm for stitch together – see point 5.
4. Don't buy cheap elastic – it loses its elasticity very quickly, unless you are creating something that does not need to last long.
5. Join your elastic with a 'X' mark. It is stronger and less chance of it fraying and coming undone
6. If you are not using the safety pin and you need to add your elastic to the top of your garment or project. Always mark or pin the project in 4 sections – front centre, back centre and seams and the do the same for your elastic. Join the pins from the garment or project to the elastic, you will then have an even stretch.



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