

## **BASIC SEWING TOOLS – PRESSING 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 PRESSING TOOLS**

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

Believe or not ironing is different to pressing. This is something I learnt recently, we have all come across both terms and asking around most of us thought it was the same 'thing'.

Ironing is moving your iron from top to bottom or side to side of your project and

Pressing is more an up and down movement.

For me personally, it depends on the project you are creating. For example: An applique placemat, as I am creating the applique I will use the up and down movement, but once I have completed my placemat, I will use the side to side/top to bottom movement

### **PLEASE NOTE THAT AS WITH ALL TOOLS THERE ARE VARIATIONS, IMAGES USED ARE FOR TUTORIAL PURPOSES ONLY**

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. Choose an iron that has various settings for your different types of fabrics



2. Ironing board – It speaks for itself. Either buy or make your own cover with extra thickness, If you do not have one, use a table with a blanket and then place cotton tablecloth over.



3. Spray bottle – for the stubborn wrinkles.



4. Spray starch – this stiffens the fabric, helps to control or slow the fraying process and of course give you that perfectly pressed fabric. If using spray starch, firstly spray your project on a towel and then lay a folded old cotton sheet on your ironing board, so that the ironing board cover does not absorb the starch. A personal preference.



5. Pressing cloth – I have always used an old plain colour cotton pillowcase. This is very useful for pressing delicate fabrics or when you are testing the iron temperature on a fabric.



6. Pressing or Tailor's Ham

This is used more in garments making for pressing curved seams such as sleeves, darts, collars, cuffs etc.



### Tips

1. Check that the setting on your iron is correct for the fabric type and test on a scrap piece of fabric. For more delicate fabrics, I still use my pillowcase pressing cloth over the fabric.
2. Always make certain that your iron is cleaned regularly.
3. In areas where the water is hard or high in lime scale, use bottled stiller water.
4. Press fabric before cutting patterns out.
5. Be careful not to press on pin heads, as it will leave a mark or if you have a plastic head it will melt.

## OTHER USEFUL TOOLS

### **Bodkin**



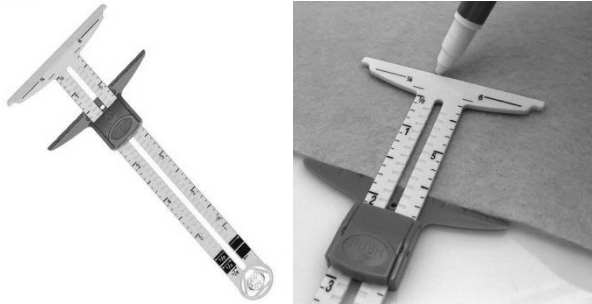
These are great for pulling elastic, cords or turning strips of fabric. You will find cord threaders, elastic threaders, fabric turners.

### **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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