

HNB4M World of Fashion

Handy Sewing Equipment

Tools and Fabrics - PT. 1

FABRIC SHEARS - The sharper, the better. Use whatever pair is most comfortable as you may be using them for extended periods of time.

Unless you plan on cutting multiple layers of fabric or chiffon, don't invest in the very

expensive tailors shears. \$20-\$50 is reasonable.

PINKING SHEARS - These scissors cut zigzag, fray resistant edges. They are excellent for finishing seams and raw edges.

THREAD CLIPPER - A small tool for cutting loose threads, making buttonholes or ripping seams

out.

STITCH RIPPER - The sharp, curved edge makes it easy to open seams. Rip one stitch every 3-4

stitches along the entire seam to be ripped and the thread on the opposite side should fall right out.

ROTARY CUTTER - Like a pizza cutter, the round blade slices right through difficult fabrics.

Replacement blades must be purchased from time to time. Always use with a self-healing cutting

mat.

PATTERN MAKING RULER - Clear, 2" wide flexible plastic rulers make it easy to measure

curves and to check 90 degree angles

CHALK WHEEL/CHACO PEN - Filled with loose chalk dust, the rotary wheel at the tip of a

chaco pen can mark any dark or difficult to mark fabric.

CHALK PENCIL - Favored by quilters, these pencils make thin and accurate lines which wash out

after marking.

INVISIBLE MARKERS - Marks made with this type of purple pen will wash out or fade after a

few days. Make sure you test the marker (mark your fabric and then rinse out the marks) before

using.

Handy Sewing Equipment,

And Tools - PT. 2

PATTERN TRACING WHEEL - This tool is used to transfer a pattern draft to a new sheet of paper

underneath it. It can also be used with dressmakers carbon paper to transfer pattern markings to

the wrong side of the fabric. Useful when making a pattern from an existing garment as well.

ADHESIVE TAPE MEASURE - Can be permanently attached to any work table.

NEEDLE THREADER - The wire loop on this tiny tool is inserted into the eye of the needle.

Thread then goes through the loop and is pulled back through the eye.

MAGNET - Useful for picking up pins and needles from the work table and floor.

MAGNETIC DISH - Handy and safe storage for your straight pins.

TAILORS AWL - This is a sharp, pointed tool used to make round holes used for eyelets, grom-

mets and keyhole buttonholes.

BIAS TAPE - This tape is sold ready made in several widths. It is used to bind and finish edges.

BIAS TAPE MAKERS - These devices fold bias strips into bias tape with the help of your iron.

TAILORS HAM - The ham is used for pressing shaped areas like the bust darts and curved seams.

Another firmly packed cushion is the cylindrical SLEEVE ROLL, used to press long seams and

seams in narrow areas such as sleeves.

SLEEVE PRESS- The sleeve press looks like a tiny ironing board and is used to press up hems of

pants, sleeves, necklines and especially sleeve caps.

FUSIBLE INTERFACING/FUSING - There are several different types of fusing: woven, non-

woven and tricot. Adhesive on one side of fusible interfacing has a rough feeling and must be

steamed onto fabric for it to adhere properly.

Handy Sewing Equipment,

And Tools - PT. 3

POLYESTER THREAD - All purpose thread that won't shrink in the wash. Keeps it's colour and

slight elasticity over time.

BASTING THREAD - Loosely twisted cotton thread used for basting (the practice of loosely hand

stitching a garment before machine stitching it to ensure it fits properly).

COTTON THREAD - Used by quilters to achieve a "puckered" look. Thread shrinks in the wash.

TOP-STITCHING THREAD - Tough, thick and strong thread used for the "top-stitching" seen on

denim. Also used for sewing buttons onto outerwear, and making gathers on very heavy fabric like

leather, denim or canvas. Be sure to match your top-stitching thread to your jeans when hem-

ming.

ELASTIC THREAD - Used to create ruffles and faux-smocking.

WOOLY NYLON THREAD - Used in the upper looper of the serger when sewing a rolled hem.

The fluffiness of the thread fills out the hem and hides the individual stitches.

TWILL TAPE - This tape is sewn into shoulders, waistlines and strapless necklines to strengthen

seams. It is also used to “draw” style lines onto the Dress Form.

MUSLIN - An inexpensive medium weight, unbleached cotton used to test the fit of a pattern or

practice a technique before using the good fabric. Should not replace wool when sewing up the

pattern for a jacket sleeve. Only wool should be used to test the fit of a tailored sleeve.