



10

Must Have Sewing Tools ~ CHECKLIST ~

- ☐ STRAIGHT PINS
- ☐ SHEARS
- ☐ SEAM RIPPER
- ☐ SOMETHING TO MARK WITH
- ☐ FABRIC
- ☐ THREAD
- ☐ STEAM IRON
- ☐ FLEXIBLE TAPE MEASURE
- ☐ HAND NEEDLES
- ☐ SEWING MACHINE





10 Tools You Need To Start Sewing



What You Need To Get Started

Hey, so glad you're here!

As a beginner, trying to figure out where to start your sewing journey can be over-whelming. That's why I've written this tools list to be:

Easy To Understand + Comprehensive

so that at the end of it, you can confidently grab your tools and get started!

TOOLS YOU NEED TO GET STARTED SEWING:

STRAIGHT PINS

SHEAR

SEAM RIPPER

SOMETHING TO MARK WITH

FABRIC

THREAD

STEAM IRON

FLEXIBLE TAPE MEASURE

HAND NEEDLE

SEWING MACHINE

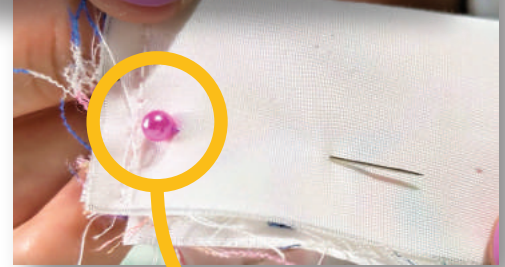
1. Straight Pins

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

Straight pins hold fabric in position while you're sewing. They're used exactly like safety pins, minus the safety part.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- 1.5" is a great beginner option. If you have thicker fabric, shorter pins won't make it through all the layers :(And longer pins can be tricky to work with
- A big, easy to grip topper! Toppers make it easier to find and remove pins.
- 250 Count or more. These little suckers get used up FAST!



Topper

~ OTHER THAN THAT, JUST FIND ONES YOU LIKE BECAUSE YOU'LL BE SEEING THEM THE ENTIRE TIME YOU'RE SEWING ~



Option 1 : Plastic Toppers

These are the most common and they have lots of different shapes and colors.

- + Easy to Find
- + Wide Variety
- + Cheapest Option



Option 2 : Glass Toppers

These can be tricky to find locally and only come in this style but they won't melt if you iron over them.

- + Won't melt and stick to your project/iron
- A little more expensive
- Difficult to find locally



Option 3 : Clips

These are more expensive but some people find them easier to use. Think clothespins.

- + No risk of stabbing yourself
- Most expensive option

Pro Tip: These are not used in the fashion industry.

2. Shears

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

Shears are a special type of scissor. Scissors have two equal sized holes for your fingers, whereas shears have one long and one short hole.

Shears are used to cut fabric, patterns, and anything else you need during your sewing project.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Comfortable.** Cutting out patterns can take some time and you don't want your hand cramping.
- **3-4" Blade Length.** The longer the blade, the less cuts you have to make. But, long blades make cutting smaller parts more difficult. 3-4" is a good in between length for most projects.



~ SOME OTHER HELPFUL SHEARS ~



Small Scissors

There are two popular types:

- Embroidary Scissors
- Thread Snips

These make cutting threads and inside corners much easier.

Both work the same, so pick the one that's more comfortable/easy to use for you.



Pinking Shears

These strange looking shears are a quick way to finish fabric edges (without sewing) so that the fabric doesn't fray.



Fabric ONLY Shears

Many professionals swear by a good pair of fabric ONLY scissor.

All that means is buying a nice pair of shears and only ever using them to cut fabric.

For everything else, use another pair of shears.

3. Seam Ripper

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

This is basically the “eraser” of the sewing world. It’s used to tear out stitches, a.k.a. things you didn’t sew right the first time.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Comfortable to hold.** If you make a really hard to reach mistake, or a really long mistake, you could be holding this tool for a chunk of time.
- ~~7/7/1~~ Maybe a bigger size or a bright color? Either way, you always wanna know where this is. It’s no fun messing up then spending the next hour looking for your seam ripper instead of finishing your project.



~ OTHER TOOLS THAT ARE USEFUL, BUT NOT NECESSARY ~



Pincushion

This is the best place to store your pins.

They stick straight out so they’re easy to grab.

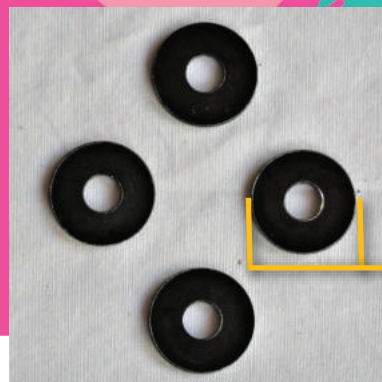
Plus, if you push it off the table on accident, pins aren’t going to get scattered everywhere.



Needle Threader

If threading needles isn’t your super easy for you (Hint: it’s not for most people) this tool can be a real time saver.

- Push the little wire loop through the eye of the needle
- Put the thread through the loop
- Pull needle threader out of the needle



Pattern Weights

Straight pins can be a little tricky to get used to.

Pattern weights are an easy + commonly used alternative for tracing patterns.

2” washers from your local hardware store work great!

4. Something To Mark With

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

Pins, marker, chalk, pencils, whatever you can find to mark with. You're going to need to mark your fabric with cut lines and sewing instructions.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Variety.** A pencil might work great on a light colored fabric, but won't show up at all on dark colors.
- **Easy to erase.** When you're done sewing, you're going to want all the marks you made to disappear, or at the very least, not be seen while you're wearing your new outfit.
- **Test the erasability on scrap fabric.** Before marking, check if your marker of choice really does erase or disappear.



I honestly use Pencils
90% of the time

~ SOME OTHER COMMON MARKING TOOLS ~



Washable Markers

Yes, just plain Crayola washable markers. Lots of colors, easy to find, and all the marks come off in the wash.

- + Easy to find
- + Cheap
- Verify marker comes off in the wash!



Tailor's Chalk/ChalkWheel

Chalk is amazing for dark fabric. However, it fades really quickly so you have to be very careful, and work quickly, with your fabric after marking.

- + Great for dark fabrics
- Easily removed



Disappearing Ink Pens

These pens have special ink that turns invisible via contact with water or heat - depending on the marker.

Frixion pens are the most popular at the moment.

- + More precise marks
- + More expensive

5. Fabric

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

This is what you're going to make your garment out of! This can literally be any color, fiber, pattern, or texture that you want. It's totally up to you.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Make sure the fabric matches your project.** You probably don't want to make a summer dress of out sweater material. Just saying.
- **Look for less stretch.** For your first few projects, try to find fabric that doesn't stretch too much when you pull on it. More stretch = higher difficulty.



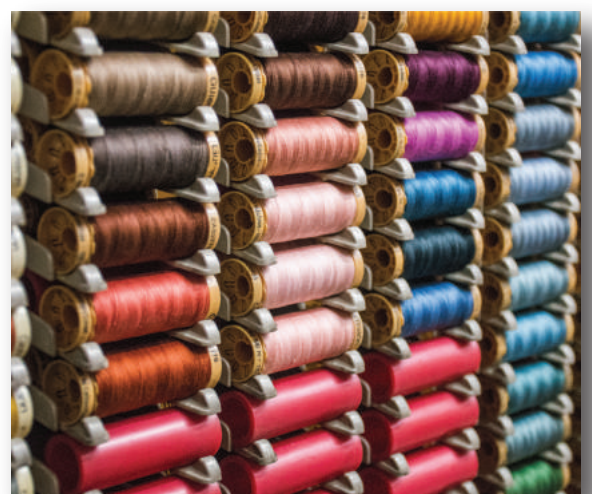
6. Thread

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

This is what's going to hold your fabric pieces together. Sort of like glue for craft projects.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Color.** Typically you want to match the thread color to the primary color of your fabric so that it blends in/isn't too noticable.
 - Pro Tip 1:** Find thread that's a shade or two darker than your fabric color so that it blends in even better.
 - Pro Tip 2:** Pick a contrasting thread color to make your stitching stand out as unique design element.
- **All Purpose Thread.** This is a great option for most projects



7. Steam Iron

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

Ummmm, it's used to iron things?

Before you begin cutting your fabric you'll want to make sure it's smooth .

And if you're trying to finish a project you'll want to iron out the edges for a crisp, professional finish.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Steam.** Most irons have this feature, but make sure the one you're using definitely has it. Steam makes ironing 10x's easier.



8. Flexible Tape Measure

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

This is used to measure things!

You'll definitely need this to take body measurements, but it can also be super useful to measure curved lines.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Flexible.** It needs to be able to easily bend around curved edges and your body.
- **Retractable.** If you have OCD at all like me, having a tape measure that retracts is a must. Also, it prevents the tape from getting into a tangled, unusable mess.



9. Hand Needles

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

While the sewing machine will be doing most of the work, you will still have some hand stitching to do.

And no, you won't have to handstich cats, unless you just want to.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Variety.** Tightly knit fabric will need tiny needles, and thick fabric will need long needles. Grab a pack with a variety of sizes so you'll always be prepared.



10. Sewing Machine

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

This is the most important sewing tool on the list. Without this (and thread), you can't sew anything.

That being said, pretty much any machine will work but there are definitely a few features you'll want to have.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- **Top Load Bobbin.** This is the fastest way to thread your machine.
- **Speed Control.** As a beginner, this feature really helps you stay in control as you master new sewing techniques.
- **Auto Needle Threader.** You don't want to thread that needle by hand do you?
- **Free Arm.** This is critical for small openings like sleeves and collars
- **Automatic Button Holes.** This takes the headache out of putting buttons on a garment.

