

The TOOLS we use

A review

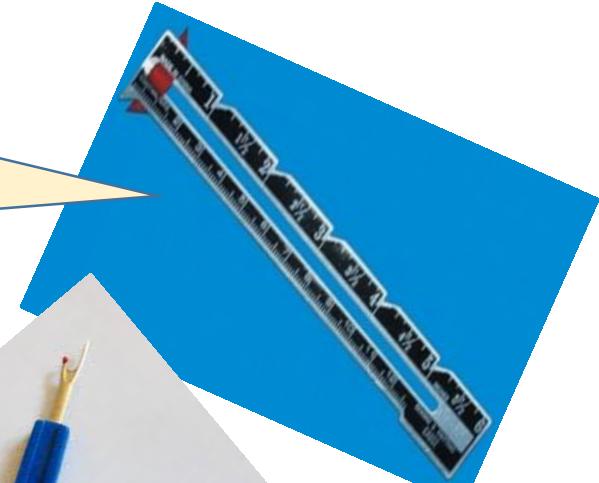
If you have ever seen the notions wall at a fabric store it can really overwhelm you. There are so many great tools but we only need a few basics to get you started. Try learning how to use the others as you get better and better at sewing.



Measurement tape. When you're measuring yourself make sure you start at the beginning inch. When buying any pattern be sure to follow the measurement chart on the back of the envelope, pattern sizes are different than the sizes you buy in the retail shops. If you buy a size 4 garment you may need a size 10 pattern. Trust their size charts.

Measurement gauge. We use this frequently at FFD. It's an easy to use ruler with a tab to keep your spot.

Just move the tab to the measurement you want, from the end of the tab to the top of the ruler is that measurement.



Clippers, small simple blades designed to easily fit in the palm of your hand. Use them at your machine for clipping off your project and for getting a fresh blunt clip on your thread to easily thread your needle.



Seam Ripper

A great tool to take out mistakes easily. Also when altering clothes or redesigning garments.

It is very sharp and pointed to help you get under the stitch easily. There is a sharp blade edge in the curved edge helping it rip through a seam. They do dull out quickly, so buy a new one every year or so.



Pin Cushions and Pins

We like the magnetic ones, they are more efficient and help keep your area tidy and free of roaming pins. The tomato ones are cute, but you need two hands, 1 to hold it, the other to get your pin out.

We like the long yellow balled quilters pins too, much easier to handle.

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Shears, otherwise known as scissors. But did you know that scissors are for paper and shears are for fabric. Scissors are not sharp enough to cut thru cloth. Its best to invest in a good pair of shears and don't use them on anything other than cloth to keep them sharp.

Shears come in many variety's, they even have ones for little hands.

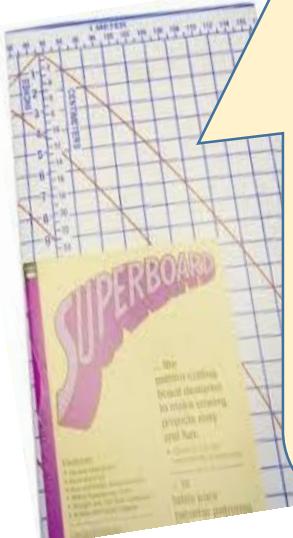
There are also **Pinking Shears**. They have a function other than just cutting zig zag shapes, when you trim off just a bit off your seam with the pinking shears the zigzag shape will keep your cloth edge from fraying. The zigzag interrupts the grain of the fabric preventing it from fraying. Although after many washings you'll have to trim it again.



Marking tools,

Chalks and wax chalks. I like the wax ones best, (they are called tailor crayons, it's what the tailors use to mark on wool suits, heat from the iron clears the marks and they are less messy than the chalks).

The chalks are easier to find in the stores but do not disappear until the project is washed.



Invisible markers.

These are so cool! They are AIR erasable, meaning the air slowly makes the ink disappear. You can draw right on your fabric and it will soon be gone, sometimes up to a day later. If you want to mark where something goes this marker makes it much easier and less fearful about making a mistake. And water erases it right away.

Cutting Board

One of my most important tools. I use the cardboard ones that unfold and layout to be 2 yards long and 1 yard wide. It helps in laying out your fabric and helping the fabric line up on its grain line so you can properly layout your patterns.

There are measurements along the sides, helping you to have measurements at your finger tips. The square boxes are not there to make you dizzy but to help with measurements, each box is a 1 inch square. Making it easy to mark inches. If you can see thru your fabric it's even easier

Frixion Pens

These are even cooler! They are new and can be found right in the pen section. They are an ink pen that is erasable on paper and disappears from the heat of the iron on fabric. Making you able to draw right on your fabric without damaging it with ink. And they come in a bunch of colors.

