Ergonomic Sewing Tools

Hands that ache from arthritis or carpal tunnel syndrome demand new ergonomic engineering. The most frequently used sewing tools have been ergonomically designed with rounded soft-grip features to make them easier to hold and handle with comfort.

Seam Rippers

No matter the sewing skill level, from time to time all sewers reach for a seam ripper to practice the task of “reverse sewing.” Choose the soft-grip shorter handle with a fine blade or the longer handle with a heavy duty blade.

Tracing Wheel

The proper way to use a marking tool is with index finger extended along the top edge of the handle. This serrated tracing wheel is designed with a flat edge on top, providing a place for the finger to rest, while reducing the strain on your hand and wrist.

Awl

An awl is used to pierce a hole in a variety of surfaces from fleece and leather to wood. The handle of this awl is comfortable even when significant pressure is exerted at odd angles. The tapered point allows the hole size to increase with the depth of the puncture.

Helpful Sewing Tools

Tools are designed for accomplishing specific tasks. The correct tool helps complete the project easier and often more quickly.

Seam Rippers

A seam ripper is a pointed tool used to remove unwanted stitches, or to open buttonholes.
- Curved Blade – Extra-sharp concave point quickly cuts through stitches created with a serger or sewing machine.
- Magnified – Heavy duty blade seam ripper with an adjustable magnifier that enlarges the view of bladed stitches.
- Lighted – Battery operated light is a combination seam ripper and threader; ideal for use on darker fabrics.

Bodkins & Threaders

Bodkins and threaders are used to guide trims or elastic through narrow casings and eyelet.
- Ball Point Bodkin – Rounded tip easily slides into casings for inserting elastic or to insert cording through eyelets.
- Drawstring Threader – Use when replacing or adding a drawstring to hoods, armholes, legs and ties.

Tape Measures

These handy tools have fabric tubes right side out.
- Quick Turn – 3 sizes of plastic cylinders and wooden rods used to push and turn fabric tubes quickly and easily.
- Clip ‘N Turn – Clips on end of turners hold delicate or slippery fabric securely as tube is turned. Can also be used for inserting cording into a tube to create fabric covered cord.

Due to seasonal nature of project, supplies are available for a limited time only. Please read all instructions prior to beginning; read and follow all manufacturers’ instructions for all tools and materials used. Provide adult supervision if children participate in this and all craft projects. Jo-Ann Stores, Inc. has no control over the use of materials and tools, or surrounding areas, during construction of projects; Jo-Ann Stores, Inc. disclaims any liability for injury, damage or other untoward results. Content of this project sheet is presented in good faith, but no warranty is given, nor results guaranteed. ©2007 Jo-Ann Stores, Inc. All rights reserved.
See-Thru Ruler
Plastic ruler with 1/8" inner grid lines and 1/16" outer edge markings designed for drafting, designing and enlarging patterns. Small holes in the center of the ruler are used for drawing circles and scallops. See-thru grid markings make it easy to draw and mark perpendicular lines.

Measuring

Accuracy in measuring is as important today as when the first tape measure was introduced during the War of 1812. Each measuring device has characteristics inherent to its design, specific to its task. Whether taking body measurements or measuring for a home décor project, there is a tool designed to make measuring easy and accurate.

Wrap 'N Stay Retractable Tape Measure
This tape is used for measuring circumferences. The case has a built-in slot to hold the tape securely so you can take your own body measurements quickly and easily.

Sewing Gauge
Handy 6" metal ruler has a sliding indicator to mark a specific measurement. Its small size and clear markings make it ideal for repeat measurements on hems and seam allowances and for setting bias, pleats and buttonholes.

Ezy-Hem ® Gauge
Metal gauge has markings to measure curved or straight hems. Simply fold fabric over the edge and press directly onto gauge. No pinning required.

Buttonhole Spacer & Sizer
Metal ruler with an attached sliding right-angle ruler used to determine the size as well as the spacing of buttonholes. Both rulers are marked with inches and centimeters.

Marking

Accurately marking a design or transferring a construction detail to your sewing project can make the difference between success and failure. Choose a marking tool that is appropriate for the fabric, stitch or function of the piece. Once you select an appropriate tool, you can take your marks to ensure your success.

Dressmaker’s Water Soluble Pencils
These pencils are useful for marking delicate lines on darks, prints and batiste. Marks can be easily removed with a brush or water.

Stapler Marker
Stapler is ideal for marking all fabric types and a ideal for marking dark fabrics. Marks can be easily removed or removed by pressing.

Mark-O-Gone™ & Disappearing Ink Pens
These pens are formulated with special ink, perfect for marking construction details as well as guidelines for surface embellishments. Washable ink can be removed with plain water. The soluble ink will disappear in 24 to 72 hours or can be removed sooner with water. The pens are available in black only and never on fabrics that are dry clean only.

Tip: To prevent a pressed-in ridge created when layered items are pressed on a flat surface.

Tailor’s Ham
A ham-shaped pressing surface used for pressing and molding darts, sleeve caps and curved seams. Garment pieces are shaped by draping fabric over the ham when pressing.

Scissor Ball
A large, rounded pressing surface designed for hard to reach areas. Use for pressing seams open and narrow areas such as collars and seam ends.

Tailor’s Hoop and Seam Rolls help prevent a pressed-in ridge created when layered items are pressed on a flat surface.

Hot Iron Cleaner
Use regularly on the soleplate of your iron to keep it clean and free of build-up caused when fusible or adhesive type products and starch are used.

Mark-B-Gone™ & Disappearing Ink Pens
These pens are formulated with special ink, perfect for marking construction details as well as guidelines for surface embellishments. Water-soluble ink can be removed with plain water. Air-soluble ink will disappear in 24 to 72 hours or can be removed sooner with water. Use pens on washable fabrics only and never on fabrics that are dry clean only.

Pants Seam Pressing Board
This long, flat board, covered with silicone-treated fabric, is designed for quick and easy pressing of pants. Slide the board inside the pants leg and press seam allowances open. It prevents impressions from appearing side seam and eliminates unwanted creases.

Pressing

Pressing matters... Pressing involves moving a steam iron (preferably in an up and down motion) to shape and mold fabric. In professional construction, the key to professional-looking clothing is pressing as you sew with the proper pressing tools and techniques.