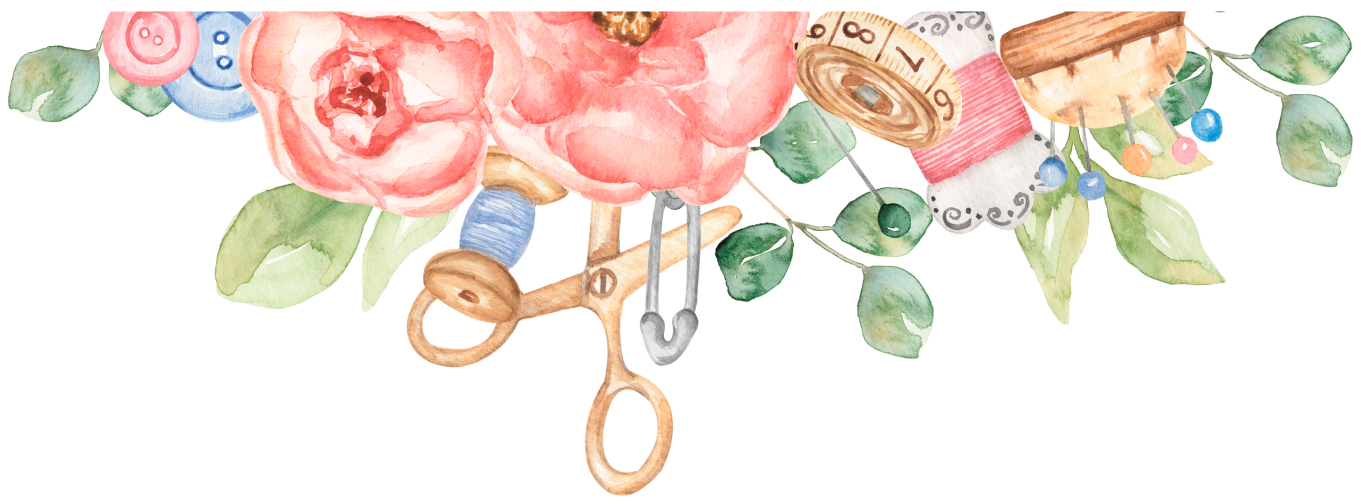
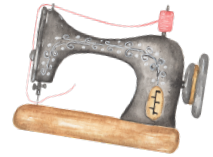




Must Have Sewing Supplies for the serious sewist



Must Have Sewing Supplies



Sewing Machine

The brand depends totally upon what you are comfortable with. I have a Brother Sewing and embroidery machine and a Pfaff. If you are just starting out get one you can afford for now. The more expensive ones just have more specialty stitches. My serger is a Bernette for Bernina FunLock. The four thread is what you need!

Bobbins

These come with your machine. Find out the size and get some extras.



Needles



I prefer Schmetz, but any sewing needles will do. Get some 70 and 80. If you are going to sew on knit, you will need ballpoint or stretch needles. Hand sewing needles are a necessity, too. There are lots of needle choices available when you need them, such as jean needles, double needles, wing needles, and leather needles.



Thread

For regular sewing, use polyester. Cotton thread has very little 'give' and is weaker, but it can be perfect for use on lightweight delicate projects as generally speaking you want the thread to be weaker than the fabric your working with, so any stress on seams causes the thread to break, rather than the fabric to tear. Quilting generally uses cotton fabric, therefore, use cotton thread for quilting. Use silk thread for very delicate fabric. Metallic and embroidery threads are fabulous for machine or hand embroidery,

creating decorative detailing on garments and home decor projects. Remember to use a specialist needle when working with metallic and embroidery threads to prevent shredding and snapping of the thread. For sergers, use a cone thread. Maxi-Lock



is my favorite for sergers.

Scissors

Get a good pair of Fiskars scissors for sewing. Only use them on your sewing. Tell the hubs and the kids they are not to be used on paper. lol. For real, though! You need a small pair of scissors to clip threads. With embroidery, a pair of cuticle scissors is handy, because they are curved.

Pins



Glass head straight pins for everyday projects. Short ones for delicate projects and longer ones for heavy fabrics and multiple layers. Use ballpoint pins for knit and jersey fabrics. If you are working with knit fabrics or jersey, then using ballpoint pins is a great way to protect the fabric. These pins have rounded tips, so they do not pierce the fibers like sharp pins do. Instead, they push the fibers aside, and then the fibers can spring back into place after you remove the pins. Use T-pins for upholstery. To hold



multiple layers, use quilting pins.



Pincushion

Have a separate pincushion for each set of pins. There are magnetic pin holders also. The traditional tomato pincushion is cute. I enjoy using a pincushion that velcros on my wrist for easy access while sewing.

Sewing gauge



A sewing gauge is a ruler, typically 6 inches long, used for measuring short spaces. It is typically a metal scale, marked in both inches and centimeters with a sliding pointer, similar in use to a caliper.

Ezy Pull Bodkin

This is for pulling elastic through a casing. You can also use a large safety pin.



Rotary Mat

These mats come in all sizes. I could not live without one. They are self healing cutting mats.

Rotary Cutter

These have a blade to be used with the rotary mat.

Clear rulers

Clear rulers are used to cut straight edges great for quilting and cutting strips, and for squaring up your material. There are also curved ones for quilting.



Seam ripper

Used for ripping out seams but not needed if you never make mistakes. tee hee! And ideal for cutting buttonholes.

Sewing Tape Measure

A measuring tape to measure the body typically 60" long. It is a soft leatherette. Used also to measure patterns to the selvage.





Iron

Ironing board

A sturdy ironing board for pressing.



Thimble

Used in hand sewing, hemming, or binding a quilt. There are metal ones and leather ones. I have a small collection of unique thimbles.

Small screwdriver

One should come with the machine you buy for loosening screws and throat plates.

Specialty Feet

If you are a quilter or want to learn, you need a quarter inch foot. I love my ruffler. Check your machine book to see what feet are available. It depends on what all you want to accomplish.

Point turner

Lightweight tool that can be used to turn points, crease seams, and take out basting stitches. Temporarily mark fabric with a crease and guide fabric when machine stitching.

Chalk marker

For marking fabric.



Wooden iron

A wooden iron is for pressing seams of a quilt block while sewing it together. Small piece of wood with a slant on one end. I made my own. It keeps you from having to get up and go to the big iron for every seam. For example, a log cabin block where pressing the seam to the side and adding another strip, and so on.



Serger Supplies

All of the above plus:

Tweezers

These need to be long handled tweezers. Used to thread the needles on a serger.

Embroidery Supplies

You will need all of the above plus:

Hoops

Your machine should come with one, but you can buy different sizes for larger or smaller projects. Different for each machine.



Stabilizer

You have to use stabilizer with your material to embroider. There are a plethora of different kinds. I have a post on my site to explain what all the different kinds are used for. It keeps the stitches from puckering the material or holding down the loops on a towel.

Designs

My machine uses PES file format. My new machine has a USB port. I have small cards from my old machine. Also have some floppy disks with designs from my first machine. I had to purchase a card reader for Brother, an external cd drive, an external floppy drive just to use all my designs. And now I've discovered all the online designs. You can purchase them one at a time instead of getting a whole card that has designs you might not use. Set up a folder on your computer and keep all your downloads in the folder. Then when you are ready to embroider, just drag the file over to your usb. Voila!

Painters tape

Blue painters tape comes in handy when you need to hold the fabric back to keep it from falling over into your embroidery area. Example would be a t-shirt. Tape the sleeves back on to the hoop to keep your hands free. The hoop doesn't get sticky using the painters tape because it is easily removed.

