

# Lesson 10

## Small Equipment and Notions

### Objectives

This lesson will help you to

- list the notions, supplies, and small equipment you will need to construct your sewing project.
- identify the equipment that is available for your use and note its location in the classroom.

### Gathering Information

Before you begin to sew, you must collect and organize your supplies and equipment. You will, of course, need to bring your pattern and fashion fabric to class. Be sure to check the pattern envelope to determine all of the fabrics required to complete your project. In addition to your fashion fabric, you may need to purchase lining, interlining, and interfacing fabrics. Also, you will need to bring notions and some small equipment items. Some equipment will be provided by your school. When you have finished this lesson, you will know what you must bring to class and what will be furnished.

#### Notions

Notions are all of the extra items necessary to complete your project, such as trims, thread, zippers, buttons, lace, and elastics. You will find these items listed on the envelope back. When you shop for notions, look for new products to make sewing fast and easy.

The pattern envelope may not always indicate every notion you will need. As you progress through your sewing project, you may discover a need for additional items. With sewing experience, you will be able to anticipate these needs.

#### Measuring Equipment



In order for garments and other sewing projects to turn out right, precise measurements are essential. A number of tools can be used to help you measure accurately.

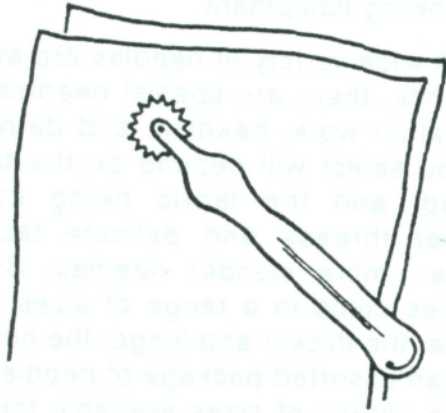
**Tape measure.** A *tape measure* is made from fabric or flexible fiberglass. It is used to take body measurements and measure fabric and pattern pieces. Tapes should be sturdy and nonstretch.



**Seam gauge.** A *seam gauge* is a ruler with an adjustable marker for measuring seam allowances and hems.

**Yardstick.** As the name implies, a *yardstick* is one yard in length. It can be used for measuring skirt hems and other tasks that require a long, rigid measuring tool.

## Marking Equipment



You can use various types of marking equipment to transfer pattern symbols to fabric.

**Tracing paper and wheel.** *Tracing paper* is coated paper that comes in an assortment of colors. Tracing paper is also called marking paper. Use the paper with a serrated edge wheel to mark firmly woven, medium to heavy-weight fabrics. Use the smooth edge wheel to mark delicate, lightweight fabrics.

**Tailor's chalk or chalk pencil.** *Tailor's chalk* is available in a limited number of colors. It comes in pencil form and as pieces. Choose a color that will be visible on your fabric. Make chalk marks directly on your fabric. Remove them by brushing before pressing over them.



**Fabric marking pen.** *Fabric marking pens* come in several colors. They may be water soluble, fading, or permanent. Water-soluble marks can be removed by wiping with a damp cloth. Fading marks will disappear within several days. Be sure to remove marks before ironing over them or laundering. Heat and some detergents may make the marks permanent. Some fiber contents and fabric finishes may also affect results. Read the package directions. Permanent marks cannot be removed.





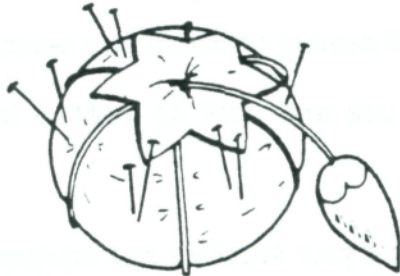
dressmaker pin



silk pin



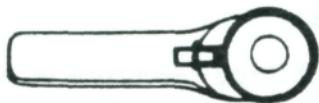
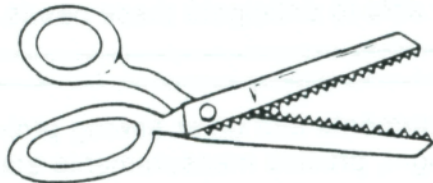
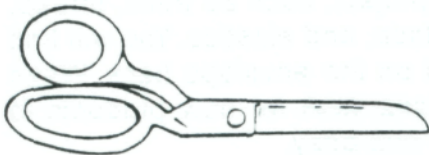
ballpoint pin



**Pins.** Pins hold patterns on fabric during cutting and marking. They also temporarily hold layers of fabric together. For easy handling, use plastic- or glass-headed dressmaker pins. For knit fabrics, try ballpoint pins, which have rounded points that slide easily between fibers rather than piercing them. Silk pins are finer pins used for delicate fabrics or easier insertion.

**Pincushion with emery bag.** A *pincushion* stores pins so you can grab them one at a time. An **emery bag** is often attached to a pincushion. It is used to sharpen pins and needles by repeatedly jabbing them into the bag.

## Cutting Equipment



Sewing projects will include such cutting tasks as cutting out pattern pieces, snipping threads, and clipping seams. Sharp cutting equipment will help you make good, clean cuts.

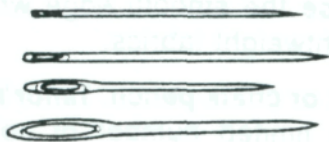
**Shears.** *Shears* are used to cut fabric and should never be used on paper. The handles are different sizes so they will fit your hand.

**Scissors.** *Scissors* have shorter blades than shears and the handles have small, matching holes. They are used to trim seams, clip curves, and open buttonholes.

**Pinking shears or scalloping shears.** *Pinking shears* make zigzag-shaped cuts and *scalloping shears* make scalloped cuts. These shears are used to finish raw edges.

**Rotary cutter.** The round blade of a *rotary cutter* turns and cuts fabric as the cutter is pushed along the pattern cutting line. Rotary cutters are available in a small size for most cutting needs and a larger size for heavy fabrics. A special plastic mat is placed under the fabric to prevent damage to the table surface.

## Hand Stitching Equipment



Securing hems and attaching buttons are just two of the hand stitching tasks that might require the following equipment.

**Needles.** A wide variety of needles are available. For instance, there are special needles for embroidery, leather work, beading, and darning. The needle you select will depend on the task, size of thread, and the fabric being used. Generally, finer threads and delicate fabrics require sharper, more slender needles. Some types of needles come in a range of sizes. The smaller the size, the thicker and longer the needle will be. Select an assorted package of needles so you will have a variety of sizes available for different sewing tasks.

**Sharps** are used for all-purpose sewing. They are medium length with small, rounded eyes.

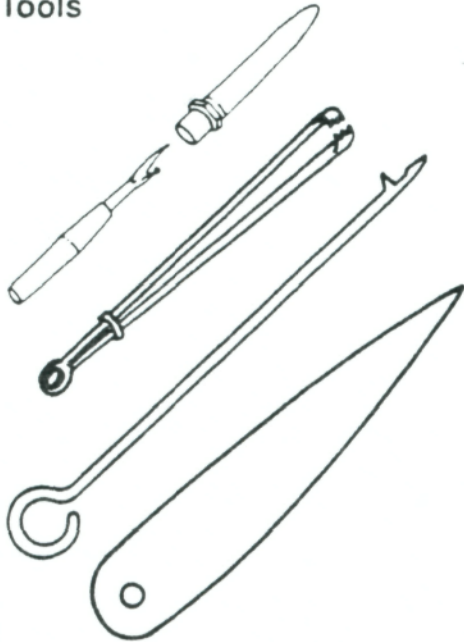
**Ballpoint needles** are for all-purpose sewing on knits. They have a special rounded tip that enables the needle to slide between threads rather than piercing them.

**Needle threader.** A **needle threader** is a small disk with a loop of wire attached. The wire loop is inserted through the eye of the needle. Thread is passed through the loop. The thread is drawn through the eye of the needle when the threader is pulled back out of the eye.



**Thimble.** A **thimble** helps protect the middle finger while guiding a needle, especially through dense or heavy fabric. Plastic and metal thimbles are available in sizes 6 to 12. Some animal skin thimbles are "one size fits all." Select a size that gives you a snug fit.

## Timesaving Tools



Some nonessential sewing tools can save you time when working on a project.

**Seam ripper.** A *seam ripper* is a small tool used for ripping out stitching.

**Bodkin.** A *bodkin* is an instrument with a large eye or special teeth clamp at one end. It is used for inserting elastic or drawstrings in casings.

**Loop turner.** A *loop turner* is a long, slim wire with a latch hook at one end. It is used to turn tubing or cording to the right side.

**Point turner.** A plastic or wooden *point turner* can be used to push out points, such as those on collars and cuffs.