

Basic Sewing Kit

Pins & Needles

Thread – basic colors are white, beige, black, red, blue, and green

Measuring tape

Scissors – that you **ONLY** use for sewing

Pin cushion & Thimble

Safety Pins

Beyond Basics:

Magnet (helps to pick up spilled pins)

Random buttons and a zipper or two

Rotary Cutter

Seam Ripper

Basic Definitions

Baste/basting = Temporary stitching used to hold a sewing project in place and is removed when the permanent sewing is done.

Bias = Runs diagonally to the straight grain of the fabric. This is the stretchiest part on the fabric.

Count = The number of warp/weft intersections per inch in a given fabric. The higher the number, the tighter the weave.

Give = Elasticity - the fabric gives (as in stretches) a little.

Interfacing = Fabric used between layers of fabric to provide stabilization and form. Usually used in collars, cuffs, plackets, some waistbands and pockets, and facings.

Nap = Nap is the "fuzzy" part of a fabric that is usually directional in nature.

Notion = A term used for any item used for sewing other than the fabric and the machine.

Pinking shears = Shears with a V shape along the cutting edge used to cut fabric and have it remain essentially ravel-free.

Prewashing = Washing fabric before using it for a garment or project to allow for any color bleeding and shrinkage. It is best to prewash the fabric as it is to be cleaned and dried when it is in its finished form.

Raw (edge) = The edge of fabric that is not stitched or finished.

Rotary cutter = Early versions of the rotary cutter looked like pizza cutters. Today, the handles are often ergonomically designed and padded. The blade, though, remains a rounded razor, sometimes with pinked edging or other designs. These are great for cutting layers of fabric into straight strips. Many people are using them for curved lines and pattern cutting for garments as well.

Seam = The result when two pieces of fabric are sewn together along a line.