DIFFERENT SEWING TOOLS

by:

Edith L. Rivera
Teacher III, Limay National High School

It may seem basic but knowing the tools needed for any project or activity is the most important thing to master. By knowing how to use each tool, it makes the process faster and more efficient. It is the same in sewing. It is important to know how everything works in order to create projects with precision and accuracy. It is also a way to prevent accidents due to misuse. In fact, it is one of the first skill that is taught to students in the TLE class.

In sewing the largest hand tool is the scissors. They are used to cut threads and fabrics into patterns and shapes. They play an integral part in project making because without these, creating projects will be impossible. Although in the passing years, there have been alternative tools used in cutting and pattern making, scissors are still more widely used and accessible to people.

In relation with pattern making, the use of measuring tapes and rulers are also advantageous for accurate measurements of the patterns and sizes. Measuring tape is a flexible tape-like tool which usually contains inches and centimeter graduation on its surface. The soft and flexible nature of the tool accommodates measuring around curved surfaces. Rulers on the other hand, are stiff and flat which are used in straight surfaces.

The next tool is needle. It is a small metal rod with a hole at the top for threading threads or also known as an eye. The pointed tip of the needle helps with penetrating the materials that are being sewn.
Threads are usually in spools, coiled in a rod or reel. It comes in all colours imaginable it is so that it can bend in with the colour of the fabric that is used. There are many types of thread, which is determined by the number of fibers intertwined or the material it is made of. Cotton threads are made of natural cotton fibbers. Elastic treads are threads that give elasticity. It is commonly used for projects and garments that need to stretchy. The polyester threads or the all-purpose threads are commonly used today, are mix of fibers, while the cotton threads, have more tensile strength and are more durable. It means it can withstand stress better. Embroidery threads are thicker, more fibers are used in their twines, although they are more on for decorative purposes. These are same for metallic and shiny threads. Upholstery threads are heavy duty threads used in upholstering furniture. These are made to carry massive stress without breaking. There is also a type of thread called invisible thread, which is made of nylon and/or rayon material, and is made to disappear in the fabric.

Some secondary tools in sewing are thimble and seam reaper. Thimble or a finger protector used to protect the fingers from the needle. On the other hand, seam reaper is used to make reaping mistakes out. In addition, chalks and pens are used for outlining and marking the fabrics or materials. Pins and pincushion are used for anchoring materials in place so that they will not shift and move during the sewing process. Finally, the tracing wheel is used to indent or leave tracing marks to the material for easy sewing guide.

There are so much more tools that are used in sewing. The aforementioned tools are the most basic tools that one need for simple sewing projects done by hand. But there are also set of tools used with machine sewing, which is a whole different aspect of sewing.

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