

Top Sewing Tips from Sew News
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1. Use the correct size spool pin cap for your thread. A spool pin cap that's too large or too small could cause the thread to catch.
2. When threading the needle, don't lick/moisten the thread end. Moisten the back of the needle hole so the thread flows right through it.
3. Use a plastic binder spine to store bobbins—great for traveling.
4. Pins & Needle disposal: Use an empty saltshaker to dispose of used machine needles. Use an empty pill bottle to dispose of broken and bent pins. Use an empty chewing gum container to dispose of dull or broken rotary blades and/or pins.
5. Use a produce bag to keep stabilizer or interfacing on the roll.
6. Transfer patterns and templates onto shelf paper liner. The gridded back helps with accuracy and the patterns can be peeled away to reveal sticky adhesive that's repositionable.
7. Use a shoelace to turn narrow fabric tubes.
8. Put a drinking straw through the center of your thread spool to add more spools on a thread rack. Also, store the matching bobbin right on top of the spool.
9. Use a baby bottle brush to clean up lint and stray thread bits from your carpet.
10. Use a wooden bbq skewer to help sew on large buttons, securing them in place and leaving room for a thread shank.
11. Use a "days of the week" pill container to store presser feet. Add labels for easy recognition.
12. Place a paint chip over the needle hole when changing needles to prevent them from going into the machine.
13. Use an eyebrow shaper to rip out serged seams. It's faster and more effective than a seam ripper.
14. Tape a scrap of boning to the end of your flexible tape measure to have a straight edge and/or measure hem or seam allowances more accurately.
15. Cut off the top of a milk bottle and use it when spraying adhesives to avoid over spray.
16. Use reusable glueless tape to secure thread ends on spools or bobbins.
17. Mark seam allowance on the machine throatplate using removable tape.
18. Chopsticks are great sewing tools. Use them to poke out fabric corners and turn fabric tubes.
19. Use a nail file to soften thread "hook" on spool.
20. Use a leftover FOE to keep stabilizer on the roll—or tie the ends together in a knot to make hair ties.
21. Use a silica gel packet to help dry freestanding lace—place the silica gel in a plastic bag with the lace and let sit.
22. Trim a pedicure toe separator to wrap it around a bobbin and secure the thread end.