

Sharman's Sewing Centers

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Sewing Club – June 2020 (the Facebook Edition)

Tools by definition to make the Job easier – and We **LOVE** our sewing tools. Today we are going to review some of our favorite basic tools that you might need or have and need a refresher of what to do with them.



Of course, one of the most important tools is a **Good Sewing Machine** – it all starts there (because we aren't going to do it by hand). Features that have become favorites over the last few years:

- ♥ Many of the features we love – are because of the computers



in the machine – so if you are still on a mechanical machine – might be time for a change

- ♥ Drop-in Bobbins are the most requested item on surveys among people who love to sew – you can see if you have thread before you start

- ♥ OK, at most of our ages – Needle Threader can be a necessity



- ♥ Bobbin Monitor – this feature will tell you when your bobbin is running low – so you don't get caught running out in a critical location in the project
- ♥ Needle Up/Down – this feature has been out long enough that many of you take it for granted – but it will save you lots of time and gets to the needle to the correct up position to illuminate some of the problems of a mechanical machine

- ♥ Many of you require a machine to thread cut – and when you have to sew on a machine that does not have it – you realize how much you depend on it.



- ♥ One of the Newer features is a pivot feature – where the machine will raise the foot for you to pivot and when you touch the foot control – it will lower the presser foot automatically. This gives you great help when both your hands are holding on to the project and can't let go and raise or lower the presser foot.

- ♥ Of Course, there are many more that different models or brands have that might be special to your needs like:

- LED guide lights
- Sew without Foot control
- Won't let you sew without lower the presser foot (eliminates a lot of jammed up machines)
- Bobbins that cannot be put in backwards
- Won't let you thread the machine until the presser foot is lifted and the tensions are open
- Okay – big color screens for those of us with maturing eyes can see better
- And many more!!!
- Best thing is to see a demonstration of what features are now available!!

- ♥ Serger and Embroidery Capabilities are great too!!! Depending on your needs and wants **Tip – if looking for a new machine – write down what features you definitely want, what would be nice – but you could live without – and features that would be great for the future. Then you can check off the features and see if the new machine fits your needs and desires.**



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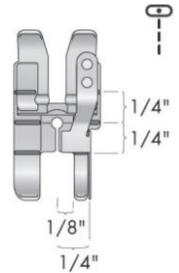
Good Cutting Tools are a must behind the Sewing Machine. A good Pair of Sewing Shears, small thread cutting scissors and a good rotary cutter and board are a must for a lot of sewing. Then extra specialty scissors and rotary cutters can just make our life easier (that's our story for all we have and we are sticking to it!!)



Here are some of the Tools – that we find we use often in Sewing Club to Review:

Clubs Most Used Presser Feet:

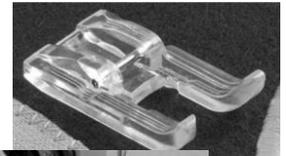
1/4" Foot – These are feet are exactly 1/4" from center needle position to the outside of the toe (not the wider back of the foot – foot get's wider in the back to cover all the feed dogs for better traction) Most Brands will have available with and without a guide. At some point you will want both. These feet have markings for 1/4" in front of the stitch and 1/4" behind the stitch – this will help with starting and stopping 1/4" from the stitch.



Edge Joining or Narrow Edge Foot – this foot has a guide right down the center of it – this is so that an edge of seam can go along the guide and you can move your needle position to either side for topstitching straight along that edge



Open-Toe Presser Foot – Open-Toe Feet are made for decorative stitching and applique – the base of the foot has a groove in them to ride over the stitches getting thicker. Most thing that would be stitched with this foot – will probably need a stabilizer like tear away. Open-toe feet are not made for general sewing – with no material in the toe and the groove on the bottom – the fabric will get a lot of bounce and will prevent the machine from forming a good stitch.



Adjustable Bias Tape Foot- This foot is available for most every machine on the market. It allows you to adjust to most any basic size of bias (or straight of the grain) bindings that you can buy pre-made or make yourself ***see bias tape makers & sashers in the next section. You can bind a quilt this way – however most quilters use a French Binding technique that allows for fabric along the edge and will last longer. This is great for craft items and clothing.



Everyone has their favorite and most used feet – and those that we don't use often – but when we need them, we need them!!!



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Many projects we make use some type of binding or fabric that we want to make a trim or decoration (or in some cases – hiding problems)

Making Bindings & Trims

Over the years we have used 2 different tools to create these out of fabrics. They both are equally good – just different ways to do it and different sizing options.

For either of the following products – always cut the strips twice as wide as the finished project. (for example – $\frac{3}{4}$ " tape maker needs a $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " stripe) Tip when sewing the pieces end to end – angled seams will make it easier to go thru the device and less bulk in the final project.



Clover® Fusible Bias Tape Maker – Clover® makes bias tape makers and fusible bias tape makers. (The better investment is the Fusible ones. You can always use without the fusible web – so more options). These are available in 5 sizes. They are color coded to help tell them apart. The stripe of fabric does not have to be cut on the bias unless the project needs to be (if needing the trim or binding to make curves)

1. Cut stripes of fabrics – twice the width of the tape maker. If multiple pieces – sew together end to end. Press the seams to one side.
2. Feed the end of the fabric – wrong sides up -into the wide end of the

tape maker. If you have problems getting to go thru all the way – there is a slot on the bottom side you can use a straight pin to help push thru.

3. When get thru – press the ends – the raw edges should be folding to the center.
4. Continue press – holding on to the finger gripe to pull ahead of the iron.

5. If making binding – fold in half again (this is what is needed for the Adjustable Bias Binder Foot

6. If you are going to work with the trim flat – then you might like to add a fusible when you are pressing. Clover makes a fusible web that fits on the slot and fuse in place while you are making the trim.

Please make sure when loading the web – paper side up (saves getting your iron dirty)

7. Peel off paper and fuse trim in place.

8. This is a great time to stitch with the Edge Joining or Narrow Edge Foot. The edge of the trim can go right beside the guide and move the needle position to the left or right to line up the top stitch.



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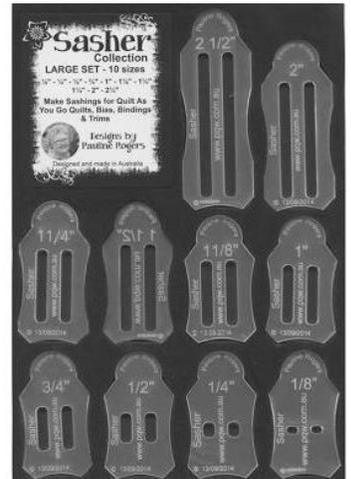
Sashers®

These are a wonderful product out of Australia – They are available in 10 sizes. These range from 1/8" to 2 1/2". They have 2 pressing options:

1. Press edges to the middle for a double fold binding, flat trim or for sashing in quilt-as-you-go techniques
2. Press in half with both edges matching for French Binding (like most quilter's use)

Like the bias tape makers – these strips can be cut straight of the grain or bias – depending on your needs and if any curves are required.

1. Press the first few inches of the end of the stripe to the middle or to one side like you are wanting to press – right sides facing out.
2. Feed the stripe into the coordinating Sasher size
3. Anchor the pressed end of the stripe to the ironing board with a Clover – Fork Pin (this has 2 pin points and will anchor both sides with equal pressure instead of 2 separate pins – this will keep from pulling un-even when pressing.
4. Continue pressing –
5. If flat to the middle and you want a double fold – fold in half again.



Since the Sasher does not have a fusible web option – Roxanne's Glue Baste It® will allow you to glue in place for stitching a flat trim.



Because you can press the strip in half – with both edges matching up – this is great for pressing Quilt Binding that is cut 2 1/4" (use the 1 1/8" Sasher) or 2 1/2" (use the 1 1/4" Sasher). Saves wear and tear on your hands and chances of burning on the iron



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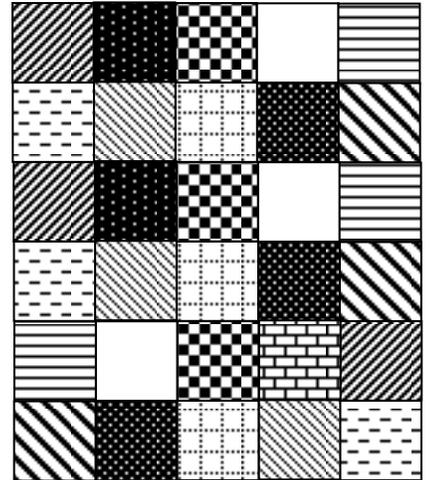
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Quick and Easy Quilt

Many times, you need a Fast Baby Project or you may be new to quilting and you are struggling with matching points. This is a fun and fast way to quilt your project and cover your sins at the same time.

Supplies Needed: approximate finished size 40" x 48" (you can vary the size of blocks and finished quilt – this size will allow you not to have to piece the back of the quilt and will keep the cost down for those that need to make several baby gifts)

- ✓ You will need 30 – 8 ½" squares –
 - This can be 30 assorted scraps
 - If using 2 fabrics – ¾ yd of each
 - 8 Fat Quarters (You can get 4 squares out of a Fat Quarter)
 - You can even add embroidery or fussy cut blocks of desire)
- ✓ ½ yd for mini sashing – needs to contrast the squares
- ✓ ¾" Clover® Fusible Bias Tape maker or Sasher®
- ✓ Clover® Bias Tape Fusible web if using Fusible Bias Tape Maker or Roxanne's Glue Baste-it® if using Sasher®
- ✓ Thread to match mini Sashing & Back (can piece with this also)
- ✓ Narrow Edge of Edge Joining for topstitching
- ✓ ½ yd Binding fabric
- ✓ Crib Size Batting
- ✓ 1 ½ yd fabric for Back



Sewing Steps:

1. The Quilt will be 5 blocks across and 6 blocks down – sew you blocks in rows. Press the rows. Then Sew the Rows together and press. Try to match points – but if not perfect – don't worry – will fix in the next step. *Just remember when matching corners – practice makes perfect.*
2. Take the Mini Sashing Fabric and cut into 1 ½" strips and sew together – lengthwise
3. Press the strip of fabric thru the Fusible Bas Tape Maker with fusible web or thru the Sasher
4. Layer the quilt Top, Batting & back fabric and pin well (you should never be able to place your hand down and not touch a pin).
5. Fuse or glue a mini sashing stripe right on the seam line of one of the long center lines – this will cover the corners.
6. Topstitch on either side of the stripe – all the way thru the layers – this will attach the strip and quilt at the same time.
7. Repeat for the other 3 log rows (do not at to outer edge)
8. Repeat for the 5 cross rows.
9. You have now added a mini sashing row and quilted at the same time (and hidden any bat corners)
10. Bind as desired

