

Tools of the Trade –

Tools used in our sewing rooms that come from the hardware store (or other places)
Suggestions from many members of Bits n Pieces quilt guild

1. **Masking tape:** ‘pick’ threads out after ripping seams, mark lines for quilting, mark ruler when cutting, mark/number rows of blocks, mask when painting or decoloring fabric or using paint sticks, marking $\frac{1}{4}$ ” line for stitching on machine bed.
2. **Over the door shoe holders:** store scraps, rolls of fabrics, tools, projects
2A. **Over the door wreath hooks:** hold rulers, stencils, bags
3. Design walls: **Styrofoam insulation sheets** (3/4” x 13” x 48”) Piece them together, mount on wooden bars with wood glue and use for design wall. Can cover with flannel
A **flannel backed table cloth** for design wall
A **framed out Styrofoam covered with a polyester felted material** – large and a smaller portable one with stand alone legs.
4. **Non slide drawer liner:** put it under the sewing machine foot pedal to keep it from sliding around
5. To view your work: **Door peep hole, binoculars held backwards, camera**
6. **Magnet wands:** pick up pins, keep tools handy. Long wands to pick up off the floor.
7. Making templates or patterns: **Glasses/lids/bottle caps** for different size circles, **Manila folders** for templates or pressing guides.
8. **Seam ripper stands:** put small seam ripper into a spool of thread that stands up (larger spool) and with point up you now have a portable, stand seam ripper.
9. **Head lamp** – like what you use camping. It straps to your head when you need an extra light.
10. **Tool boxes** from hardware store for sewing tools
11. **Hemostats:** Holding needles to insert them in machines, pulling draw strings through. (Also a **squeeze & grip tweezers**)
12. **Carpenter’s chalk line** – mark batting and backing for squaring up
13. **Sand paper:** In a file folder or on a 9 x 11” piece of 1/8” paneling to mark bias lines or appliqué patterns.
14. **Chopsticks or bamboo skewers:** stuffing polyfill into corners, turning corners and poking out corners, holding small pieces when feeding thru sewing machine.
15. **Zippered pencil pouches:** hold scissors, cutter,
16. **Dental mirror or telescoping mirror:** See behind and inside machine, or for LA under the quilt
17. **Qtips:** Keep bobbins with matching spools of thread, add oil to clean out hook and bobbin areas
18. **Chip magnets:** clip to top of sewing machine to hold needles or stray pins
19. **Jewelry & bead organizer boxes:** hold small spools, specialty threads, lace, trim, buttons
20. **Children Car toy boxes:** spools
21. **Numbered or lettered beads** attached to safety pins to pin to one end of a row to keep the quilt in order during piecing
22. **Clear notebook pages:** patterns or articles in 3 ring binder

23. **Wine bottle holders:** rolls of stabilizer
24. **Plexiglas or clear shower curtain** to plan out quilting designs =- use washable markers.
25. **6 hole muffin pan:** Screw loosely to underside of your work table. Swing the pan out to put small easily lost items.
26. **Exam table paper** for tracing or drawing patterns, paper piecing
27. **Frisbees:** Hold stuff close by while working
28. **Magnetic bowls, arm bands:** pins
29. **Foam toe separator:** bobbin holder
30. **Glass pane suction cup handle:** Ruler handle
31. **Coffee filters:** stabilizers, thread catchers, iron cleaners
32. **Mouspad:** machine foot pedal stabilizer
33. **Empty bottles:** used and broken needles and pins
34. **Aquadoodble marker:** erase blue marks
35. **Elmer's School glue:** is starch based and will wash out. Elmer's Glue all – permanent
36. **Cookie cutters and coloring books:** quilting designs or appliqué designs
37. **Flat Pyrex baking dish** with a string of clear Christmas lights makes a great little light box. Turn the dish upside down and place the lights under it.
38. **Empty TP or paper towel rolls:** wrap binding around, wrap blocks around a larger roll and store in empty box.
39. **Contact papers:** sticky backed template for quilting. Cut shape, remove backing and adhere to quilt. Stitch and remove and reposition.
40. **Empty pill bottles:** poke a hole in the top, add bobbins and use as thread dispenser when traveling. Dispose of used needles and pins.
41. **Wasp spray:** Weapon of choice for intruders. Sprays 20'
42. **Hardware wire** for lettering, **PVC pipe** for scrunching fabric or to use as leg extenders on your tables
43. **Small manicure scissors** for ripping out stitches.
44. Cardboard boxes from 2# **Velveeta boxes.** Holds thread perfectly
Empty (clean) **pizza boxes** hold blocks and projects flat.
45. **Shower curtain clips or large binder rings:** Hold templates, patterns, rulers, baskets on the wall
46. **Foam brushes:** apply pouncing powder to templates for quilting designs.
47. **kitchen cabinets:** base and wall for cutting tables, storage
48. **MDF board** – cut to size for ironing board
49. Inexpensive **small paint brushes:** perfect for removing lint from around hook
50. Multiple **containers** for holding our tools: flowerpots, pegboards, jars, cans.
51. **Scrubbies:** Clean bits of fusible off Teflon ironing sheets
52. **XLarge Ziploc bags:** Hold fabrics, scraps, projects
53. **Carpenter Aprons:** wear while working on quilts
54. **Mr. Clean Magic Erasers:** Iron cleaner
55. **Seam roller** for wall paper – simple seam presser at your sewing machine
56. **Rulers:** Heavy metal for marking quilting lines, marking border edges,
Carpenter's retractable rulers for measuring borders, quilt sizes.