

# Supplies Needed for a Sewing Box

1. Hand sewing needles, generally sizes 5 to 10, either sharps or embroidery needles are best. The difference is sharps have round eyes and keeps the thread from coming out better and embroidery have slant eyes which are easier to thread.
2. Thimble, preferably one that will fit a small finger. The metal ones work good, but there are others available as well.
3. Shears, they should be bent handled. Bent handled shears are easier to cut with and they have longer blades which make smoother cuts.
4. Seam ripper, a smaller one with a lid for smaller hands.
5. Tape measure. I like the plastic version, because they do not stretch. It should bend easily though.
6. Thread. A light, dark and neutral color is always good to have in your box. Do not skimp and buy cheap thread. It breaks often and will jam up your machine.
7. Pins. Silk pins work best on light to medium weight fabrics like cotton. They are tin fine and extra sharp. I suggest these for a young sewer, or at least a pin with large colored ends as small hands can handle better and eyes can see better. Keep in mind that plastic head pins will melt if touched by a hot iron. As you work with heavy materials, get a heavier pin. A pin's size refers to how many sixteenths of an inch long it is. A 7 pin is actually a 7/16 inch long. Always throw out broken, bent or dull pins. They will catch and ruin your fabric.
8. Small scissors or nippers to cut threads.
9. Seam gauge for measuring small areas.
10. Pin cushion. A tomato is fine, as it has a strawberry that will sharpen your needles and pins.
11. Water soluble pen (or something similar) for marking. Make sure it will disappear or can be washed out.
12. Pressing cloth. A flour sack style dish cloth works really well.
13. Tracing wheel and disappearing style tracing paper.
14. Optional items
  - i. Pinking shears
  - ii. Assortment of small buttons and closures
  - iii. Machine needles