






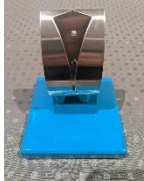


## Tools We use in Bag Making

<p>Thread</p> 	<p>We prefer to use thread that is strong and can withstand the rigors of a project that is used to carry weighty objects. This is mainly some form of polyester or poly-cotton blend. As these threads have a higher tensile strength.</p> <p><i>Tensile strength can be defined as the maximum stress that a material can bear before breaking when it is allowed to be stretched or pulled.</i></p> <p>We stock a small range of Rasant Thread in store, the is poly core with cotton outer and is used a great deal in patchwork as it is a good all-rounder. Look around at other stores and you will find a fabulous range of colours and thread weights in other stores.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/rasant-thread-1000m-0413-light-beaver-grey/">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/rasant-thread-1000m-0413-light-beaver-grey/</a></p>
<p>Machine Needles</p> 	<p>We recommend use the Schmetz Brand of needles. They have a huge range of needle types and their website has an inordinate amount of information on all these types of needles. We stock Universal, Jeans, Mircrotex &amp; Topstitch needles in a variety of sizes. We also find that we have greater success when sewing bags with layers of interfacing and stabiliser that a Jeans needle is best. It is recommended that you use no larger than a 100 in a domestic machine. The Jeans Needle penetrates the thick layers more effectively and the Schmetz brand is a consistent brand. Please refer to the article I wrote about why you should use different needles in you work. And remember that the needle is a consumable in your work, that is the needle needs replacing every six to eight hours of sewing, depending on what you are sewing.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/machine-needles-what-to-use/">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/machine-needles-what-to-use/</a></p>
<p>Stiletto or Pressing Tool</p> 	<p>Again, we stock this tool. The tip is quite sharp and you can shift one layer of fabric to align with another using it. It is a third hand so to speak. Other features include a slightly rough surface on the shaft of the metal which can help with slight movement of fabric layers, the wooden end has a flat surface to allow you to press a seam open &amp; one attribute that I really like is that it has a flat surface on the side of the wooden handle so it does not roll away on your work surface. A great tool to have in your kit.</p>
<p>Fray Stopper</p> 	<p>This is a very hand item to have in your possession. It is a brush dispenser with a fray stopper fluid in the squeeze handle. It works well when I punch wholes in projects to fit bag feet, rivets, Chicago screws and also on strap ends when they could fray.</p> <p>Many people use it in general sewing as well. For overlocking ends and places you can't back tack.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/?s=fray&amp;posttype=search=post%2Cpage%2Cproject%2Cproduct%2Ctips%2Cyoutube%20contents">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/?s=fray&amp;posttype=search=post%2Cpage%2Cproject%2Cproduct%2Ctips%2Cyoutube contents</a></p>

<p>Hump Jumper</p> 	<p>We stock two types of hump jumper, jean a magig or bulky seam clearance tool.</p> <p>The Birch one has a point turner also while our branded one has two thickness.</p> <p><i>It is a piece of plastic which you slip under the machine foot to even out the foot when going over seams or thicker parts of your project.</i></p> <p>You lift the presser foot on your machine place the forked part of the tool around the needle -either front or back- lower the presser foot and this then allows the presser foot to sew level with the work.</p> <p>This is great when hemming jeans but also fabulous when bag making as thick stabilisers can make some seams and top stitching uneven. This is one of those little inexpensive pieces in your tool kit which can make a huge difference in the finish of your work.</p>
<p>Japanese Style Twist Punch</p> 	<p>We punch many holes in our work to rivets, Chicago Screws, bag feet and other related bag hardware. This is the tool I have the greatest success with. It is small and can fit into small places. You push down on it with a cutting surface like a small cutting mat -not a rotary mat- the pushing action twists the punch which cuts a hole in whatever is underneath. It may take a couple of pushes but it gets through. There are a variety of hole size to chose from and these are included in the package. The punch die is easy to change over by twisting the very top brass piece and slipping the selected required punch die into position</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/japanese-style-twist-punch-multi-tip/">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/japanese-style-twist-punch-multi-tip/</a></p>
<p>Screw Driver</p> 	<p>This is the model we stock. The bits are held into the driver portion via a magnet. And the other bits are stored in the handle of the driver. This does ensure you don't lose the pesky little bits. There are both Phillips Head and Flat type bits. All products sold in our shop can be fitted with this tool. These include zip ends, strap ends, twist locks &amp; screw in bag feet.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/mini-pocket-8-in-1-multi-tools-pen-precision-screwdriver/">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/mini-pocket-8-in-1-multi-tools-pen-precision-screwdriver/</a></p>
<p>Zip Jig</p> 	<p>Another product exclusive to Electric Needle Girls. Made in Victoria. This is a tool that holds the zip pull in the V while you bring the two sides of the opened zipper tape down onto the pull. It is all done from the back of the pull and zipper tape.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/?s=zip+jig&amp;posttype_search=post%2Cpage%2Cproject%2Cproduct%2Ctips_and_tricks%2Cyoutube_contents">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/?s=zip+jig&amp;posttype_search=post%2Cpage%2Cproject%2Cproduct%2Ctips_and_tricks%2Cyoutube_contents</a></p>

Binding clips



These are wonderful tools that can be used in place of pins when bag making. They do not puncture the work and are easy to remove when sewing. If you place them coloured side up for sewing, the flat side is on the bed of the machine. This means you can simply slide it off your work with your index finger as your move along your work. Many people use dozens around the base of a bag as they like the stability and holding power of them. Keep them safe as you will get years of use out of them, I gave some to my grand-daughter for her sewing kit as she can use them and does not stab herself with them.

[https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/?s=clips&posttype=search=post%2Cpage%2Cproject%2Cproduct%2Ctips%2Ctricks%2Cyoutube contents](https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/?s=clips&posttype=search=post%2Cpage%2Cproject%2Cproduct%2Ctips%2Ctricks%2Cyoutube%2Ccontents)

Loctite



*Loctite 243 is long recognised as the industry's leading medium strength threadlocker.*

I use this on the thread of products we use that are screwed into place on our bags. Such as Chicago Screws, Strap & Zip Ends, Twist Locks & screw in bag feet.

I bought mine at Bunnings but is readily available in hardware and on-line outlets.

I like to apply it with a tooth pick as it is quite runny and I use such small screws I need only a small amount.

Machine Feet








We have some in our show shop but only in small numbers. I have two machines I sew on. One being a high-end Brother with clip on feet -that are very easy to change- and one a semi-industrial straight stitch -with feet that take a bit to change-.







What these have in common is that I have many feet which I use for bag making. Zipper, open toe, bi-level or compensating, stitch in the ditch, Teflon and what I call the standard foot. The Teflon one is fantastic for sewing over vinyl – especially clear- or other tacky substrates. Open toe, if I want precise needle placement. Zipper for when I need to sew very close to a bump in my work, not just a zipper pull but it can be a sew-in magnetic closure for example. Stitch in the ditch, I place the guide against the fold, move the needle to where I want to sew and this can give me a straight line of top stitching. Bi-level feet, I have a right & left again I can put the step in this foot against a fold and move the needle to position I want to sew at and get a straight top-stitching line often at 1/8", which seems to work well. The standard foot on the Brother is called the J Foot, this allows me to move the needle from 0-7mm, I find this great for getting an arcuate seam allowance. All of these attributes, I believe give me greater control over the finished product which makes me happy.






Teflon Sheet



This product as the name suggests is not stick. I use one when I am adhering iron on interfacings/stabiliser to the reverse side of bag pieces. I don't want to have the glue on my iron or ironing surface. They last for years and just sit in the draw rolled up ready to be used again and again.

<p>Sew Slip 2</p> 	<p>This is a product that is simply placed on the bed of the machine with a small hole for the needle and feed dogs to operate through. It has a tacky side with is down to stop it moving around and a very smooth and slippery side on top. Designed for quilters while free-motion quilting, it is wonderful when using a tacky substrate in bag making as it allows this to move under the presser more easily. This combined with a Teflon presser foot and you will minimise your getting stuck issues.</p>
<p>Double-sided Water-soluble tape</p> 	<p>We both use this in bag making on a regular basis. We baste zips into place with it, as it does not leave residue on the machine needle when sewn through. It may remain in the project but if it does show it can be dabbed away with a small amount of water.</p> <p>I also use it to baste decoctive ribbon into place as I don't like using pins on this as it can pucker. Along with this I use it to baste vinyl in place and any other place I can not use clips and I don't want pin marks to show.</p> <p>This a very handy addition to your bag making kit.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/double-sided-water-soluble-tape-6mm-x-10m/">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/double-sided-water-soluble-tape-6mm-x-10m/</a></p> <p>There is also what I would call standard double-sided tape and while this is fab.it can gum up the needle on your sewing machine. It seems to work on industrials but not very well on domestic. So, I would recommend it to be used only when you will not be sewing through it, if you are sewing on a domestic machine.</p>
<p>Lighter</p> 	<p>I simply have a cheap disposable lighter in my sewing room. And a few more floating around the space as well. As less and less people are smoking especially around sewing no one has a lighter any more. You can't light birthday candles or a wood BBQ out in the bush without this – ask me how I know.</p> <p>Any way what do I use it for? It is to singe the ends of nylon zip tape, strapping and other synthetic substrates I use in bag making. This is to stop these from fraying.</p>
<p>Thread zapper</p> 	<p>As we use mostly synthetic thread for bag construction and want to have a neat thread tail free finish, I like to eliminate tails while the project is under construction. I do this by pressing the button on the side of the device, this puts a currant through the wire which when touched onto the threads melts them away and seals them from future fraying.</p> <p>I also often tie of my threads at the back of the work again to keep the front neat as a pin, with no back tacking on top stitching.</p>
<p>Circle templates</p> 	<p>These are very handy when making By Annie projects. These patterns often call you to cut a rectangle shape and then trim the corners with a certain size circle template. Having these in my stash is invaluable.</p> <p>Along with this the beauty of the Creative Grids brand is that they have a non-slip on the back to hold them in place while trimming the piece to size.</p>

<p>Washi Tape</p> 	<p><i>It is a decorative tape that you can tear, reposition, remove, stick, colour, and even write on.</i></p> <p>We use this for hold zip pulls out of the way while constructing a bag. I also use it when making in the hoop projects on my embroidery machine. Another use is to baste overlay objects in place while top stitching, the tape can be sewn through and is easy to remove from the project after use.</p> <p>It is available in the supermarket and at stationary outlets.</p>
<p>Sewtite Magnets</p> 	<p>These come in various sizes and EPP sewers use them a lot. But they do work well in bag making when you can't pin, clip, tape etc. A bit of an investment but I think you will find they can help you out of a sticky situation.</p>
<p>Basting Spray 505</p> 	<p>We stock this at shows but as it is a spray can, we do not post it at this stage. It is a fabulous basting spray and the best I have used. If you are going to quilt your bag project, basting the pieces together prior to quilting and cutting is recommended as cutting then quilting can lead to pieces shrinking. I like to take the pieces outside and baste them on my picnic table then quilt. Works well and I use a surprisingly small amount of the product. Less is more as the saying often goes.</p>
<p>Sewline Glue Pen</p> 	<p>We stock this in our shop along with the refills. Again, EPP people love it. but in bag making we can baste zips, seams, zip overlays and many other parts of the bag construction process.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/sewline-glue-pen/">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/sewline-glue-pen/</a></p>
<p>Sewline Trio Colors</p> 	<p>Love, love, love this tool. I have mine with white, pink and charcoal leads in it. We also stock one that has two colours and a scoring tool. This can be to leave a crease rather than visible mark on your project.</p> <p>I find the colours I have show on most projects. I mark lines on zip tape, and many other parts of the bag making process.</p> <p>You will also use this in patchwork, quilting and other fibre-based projects.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/sewline-trio-colours/">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/sewline-trio-colours/</a></p>
<p>Pinking Shears</p> 	<p>These shears work well when clipping curves. This saves clipping notches in curves that need to have bulk removed from them. Helps with making the curves we so often sew into our projects and want them to look smooth and neat. If you have an old pair these can be sharpened and work really well after this. Look in Grandma's sewing tools you are likely to find a pair.</p>

<p>Rotary Cutter</p>  	<p>We have a variety of these tools in our shop. The two that I have pictured have advantages. The Olfa one is good because it has an easy grip handle and can be used by both right- and left-handed people with no change to the device. It also has a simple quick change blade system.</p> <p>The second one is a Martelli Ergo Cutter. These come in both Right and Left models. It is a very different action and can be great for people with hand or wrist issues.</p> <p>A rotary cutter can give you much more accurate and speedy cutting of bag projects.</p> <p>Happy creating</p>
<p>Roll &amp; Press</p>  	<p>This is a great tool for press a crease into your work. Great especially if you are making project with mixed substrate, such as vinyl, cork or other that you do not want to apply heat to.</p> <p>Simply roll over the seam you want to put a memory into. It is a light and easy to use tool. With an ergonomic grip &amp; bright colour so you do not lose it in the bottom of a pouch.</p> <p><a href="https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/clover-roll-press/">https://electricneedlegirls.com.au/product/clover-roll-press/</a></p>
<p>Seam Guide</p>	<p>We have a new Electric Needle Girl exclusive tool. It is again made in Victoria and will enable you to mark an accurate seam allowance from <math>\frac{1}{8}</math>" - <math>\frac{3}{4}</math>".</p> <p>We believe this will help you with setting up your machine for straight top stitching and the variable seam allowances called for in bag making.</p> <p>Keep an eye out on our website for this item when we have it in stock.</p>
<p>Permanent Fabric Adhesive</p> 	<p>I use this glue in some instances when I want to adhere two pieces of my bag together permanently. This takes some minutes to dry but this brand stays flexible when it does so the bag or other project will stay pliable and it can be sewn through. Available on line with in AU</p>