

SEWING TIPS AND TRICKS FOR ALL PFAFF SEWERS

>> Here's a simple way to stabilize several layers of fabric at one time. Spray one piece of fabric then add another layer of fabric and spray again. Then place a dry piece of fabric on top, and press, using the top fabric as a pressing cloth. When the fabric has slightly dried, remove the top layer and finish pressing the lower layers. For the next spraying, place the top fabric on the base, and repeat the spraying, covering, and pressing. Repeat the procedure until all of the fabrics are stabilized to your desired stiffness.

>> For professional results always "Press as you sew". Also, pressing the seams is a great way to set the stitches.

>> Save small scraps of heavy wash-away stabilizer to use under buttonholes as stabilizer.

>> Take your favorite sewing books that get lots of use to a printer or copy store. Have them cut the glued binder off and punch holes in the pages. Then put each page in a sheet protector and place in an attractive binder. Or while you're at the printer, have them cut off the glued binder and spiral bind the book for you. It is so much easier to reference the steps you're doing when your book is open flat and readable.

>> On the [Pfaff creative 2140](#), when changing thread during embroidery, pull the needle thread tight, let it relax, then snip the thread about 1 1/4 inch from the needle. When the machine starts, the needle thread will be pulled to the back of your work.

>> Use the needle threader from the Pfaff creative 4874 coverlock or the Pfaff 4872 coverlock for threading needles for any type of sewing machine.

>> When printing designs for machine embroidery, print them on vellum paper. Placement on your fabric will be easier because you can see through the vellum

>> Sew with a friend and share the sewing FUN! It makes sewing even more enjoyable and you learn twice as much!

>> To remove paper tear-away stabilizer (such as Stitch & Ditch) from between open stitches, soak the project in lukewarm water for 10-15 minutes. Gently brush across the back of the stitching with an old toothbrush to remove the stabilizer.

>> Specialty feet give "perfect end results" making every sewing task easier. An example...use a knit edge foot to make and apply piping. It works much better than the zipper foot.

>> Hang a corkboard on the wall next to your machine. You can pin the directions for your project on it and they will always be in view.

>> Cover your lace shaping board with a pillowcase to keep it clean and to prevent starch from getting into its cover. If the lace shaping board has a carry handle, open the end seam enough to allow the handle to extend out.

>> Dispose of your old needles in 35mm film containers or old medicine bottles so that no one gets pricked when they take out the trash.

>> Spread hand lotion around the screw threads to prevent the lid from getting glued shut, when opening a new bottle or tube of liquid seam sealant or liquid pins. If you can put a straight pin into the nozzle, spread hand lotion onto the straight pin first to prevent the nozzle from getting stopped up.

>> Here's a way to always remember what size machine needle you have in your machine. When you put a new needle into your Pfaff - place the package on top of your machine so you won't forget later what size you're using.

>> Place a small pincushion on the bed of your [Pfaff sewing machine](#) for a convenient place to store pins that you remove before sewing. It's small enough to stay out of the way and SEW handy that you can remove pins and place them into the pincushion while continuing to sew. To make one, cut (2) 2" pieces of cotton fabric, seam three connecting sides, right sides together. Turn and stuff with cotton batting and sew the 4th side closed. I like to embellish the top fabric with my favorite decorative stitches before assembling the tiny cushion.

>> To use your favorite shoulder pads in different garments, use snaps. So that the complete snap set always used, use one complete set on each shoulder pad (a male and a female). Then use another complete set on each shoulder seam of the garment (a male and a female), being sure they are in opposite positions on the garment than on the shoulder pads.

>> Storing projects. Purchase 1 gallon zip closure bags to store projects for sewing in – include all notions, pattern, book, threads, cut fabric, class handout or anything else in one place until project is complete. Tape to sewing cabinet while working – a pocket with everything.

>> Use a large piece of silk organza for a pressing cloth. You can see through it and it can withstand high heat.

>> Keep track of your projects. Keep a note pad near your machine to write down changes or machine settings on your current project. Then take a photo of the finished project. Attach both to a project sheet to keep in your notebook. OR take a digital photo and create a computer worksheet and reference file right in your computer.

>> Hydro Stick stabilizer uses light spritzes of water to:

- a. Stick your fabric to the stabilizer
- b. Re-stick the fabric if you change your mind/or placement
- c. Remove the stabilizer from the fabric
- d. Remove any remaining adhesive/tear-away from the fabric or hoop
- e. Perfect for high pile fabrics like velvets! Use to stabilize all types of fabrics!

>> Save the cardboard centers of disposable bobbins for children's crafts. They're great to string on yarn or ribbons for necklaces and bracelets.

>> To keep blouses & shirts tucked in run a narrow line of puff paint along the inside of the waistband, OR stitch a narrow strip of ultra suede on the inside of the band.

>> Relax and read the directions over a cup of hot tea/coffee. But do not dip or submerge the instructions into the tea/coffee no matter how exasperated you may be. (It makes the tea/coffee taste awful!)

>> Study the pictures and diagrams. You know the old saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words."

>> Cross-reference favorite patterns – include yardage, notions needed, manufacturer, article, size, etc. in a computer file such as Excel. Print sheet to carry in purse for impulse shopping.

>> Place a piece of batting in your lap while you sew to catch all those thread snippets that inevitably end up in your lap or fall on the floor.

>> Always try changing to a new needle first if you are having problems with skipped stitches.

>> Try using a Pfaff "clamp" retractable scissors holder for your computer dongles. You won't walk away without them unless you want to. (It clamps you to your computer!)

>> To keep your [Pfaff sewing machine bobbins](#) in your sewing tray from getting tangled with each other and trailing out onto your sewing surface put the end of the thread to the other side of your bobbin and floss. The thread will go between the bobbin and wound thread and will hold securely.

>> Never, never use just any oil on your machine other than specified sewing machine oil. (3 in 1 is not sewing machine oil.)

>> When transporting your machine to a sewing class or for service protect it from falls by laying the machine down on it's back in your trunk or the seat in your car. It will ride more securely than in the upright position. If in a seat use the seat belt to add more security.

>> Plastic sheet protectors are great for putting the directions of your computer collections. For example, your Jenny Haskins collections, Raggedy Ann, etc. Then you can put them in a 3 ring binder.

>> When you purchase interfacing or stabilizer by the yard, roll it on an empty wrapping paper or paper towel tube and stand them in a box in the corner of your sewing area. A box with sections like a wine box is especially good.

>> When attaching hook and eye sets or snaps, hold the tiny parts in place with a small piece of scotch tape. When done, the tape tears away easily.

>> Use a touch of glue stick for buttons.

>> On new garments apply a fray stop product to the threads on the underside of buttons to keep them from unraveling. If you travel and don't have that product with you, use a tiny bit of clear nail polish.

>> When cleaning your machine, remove all visible lint with a brush (don't forget to clean the feed dogs). After brushing thoroughly, use canned air -
- BUT spray from the back - toward the front. This blows lint out the front instead of packing it inside the machine.

>> Before threading elastic through a casing, round of the cut end – that way, corners don't get caught on seam allowances.

>> Spools of thread don't always have to be placed on your machines in an upright direction. If your thread is breaking or twisting before it goes into the tension discs, turn your spool over (especially serger thread). You will be amazed at how this will solve your problem.

>> The storage boxes for kid's matchbox cars are the perfect size for some rayon embroidery threads.

>> Use a pants hanger to store your Perfect Pleater or rotary cutting mats. They pin up great.

>> Save small scraps of water soluble stabilizer to use to stabilize under buttonholes.

>> When trying to look at a quilt top to get the whole picture, try using a door viewer. They make everything smaller so you feel like you're seeing it from a distance.

>> Zigzag over a thick cord, yarn or buttonhole twist to gather fabric quickly and evenly.

>> When your blue water erasable marking pen begins to dry up, remove the plug at the back end of the pen. Add 4-5 drops of rubbing alcohol. Replace the plug and gently shake the pen. Your marking pen should be re-activated.

>> Use a lint brush to clean thread fibers stuck to your cutting mat.