

How to Use the Sewing Tool Set

What are the Sewing Tools and what is their purpose?

Sewing involves many techniques, each using different tools, often repeatedly throughout a project. These tools are designed with ergonomic styling and features to minimize hand stress while working. They are not just practical for basic sewing, they are also specially designed for your comfort and ease of use!

The **Seam Ripper** is used to remove stitches, open seams, and cut open buttonholes. Ergonomically designed with large handle and soft finger grips to eliminate hand stress and strain. Cap attaches to lengthen handle, then covers blade when not in use.

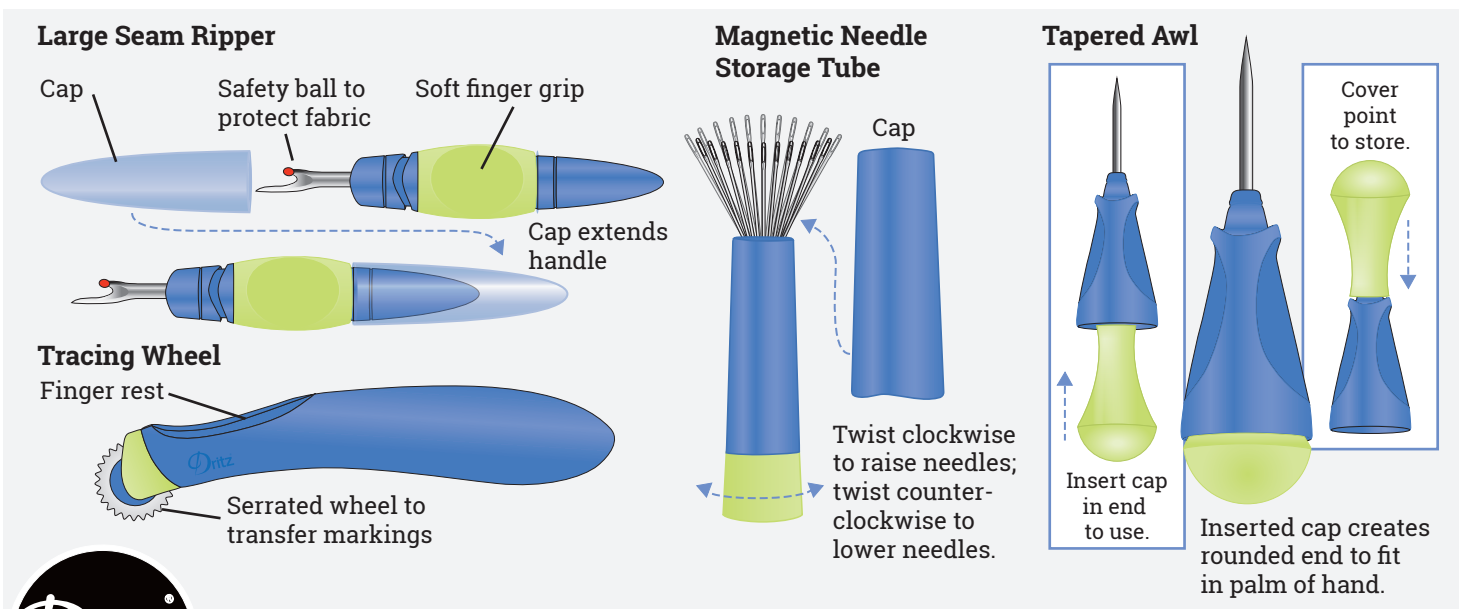
The **Tracing Wheel** has a serrated wheel that transfers marks from tracing paper to multiple layers of fabric. Gently curved shape forms a built-in finger rest making pressure application easier on fingers. The toothed wheel leaves clear, well-delineated markings.

The **Magnetic Needle Storage Tube** saves time and frustration when picking up tiny needles. Its internal twisting feature lifts hand needles to top of tube, securely holding and fanning them out for easy selection. The cap secures tightly over tube for storage.

The **Tapered Awl** creates holes in various types of fabrics and creative materials. Also use as a stiletto when machine stitching to assist in guiding fabric. The thick handle, with its soft rounded end sits comfortably in the palm of your hand.

You will need:

- Sewing Tools: Large Seam Ripper, Tapered Awl, Serrated Tracing Wheel, and Magnetic Needle Storage Tube
- Your project



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How to Use a Seam Ripper:

To Rip Out Stitches:

We all make mistakes; patience and care is required to rip out stitches. With this easy-to-handle ripper, the process will be completed before you know it! It can be done in two ways.

For Seams That are Pressed Open: Pull stitched seam apart gently until you can see the stitches. Use the point of the ripper to lift an individual stitch. Once you have released one, the next will be easier to pull loose. Use the blade (the inner curved edge) to cut the thread.

For Top Stitching or for Seams That are Pressed to the Side: Use the point to lift the stitch slightly; then slide the ripper further into the stitch to cut the thread.

TIP: sometimes stitching is looser on one side than the other. Examine stitching before ripping. Work on the side with the loosest stitches.

To Open Buttonholes:

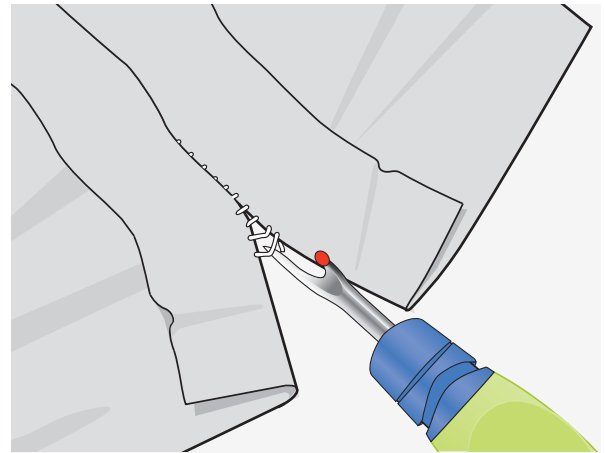
The ripper is an easy way to open a buttonhole, but use caution to not cut through the ends or to accidentally clip stitching.

To Help Prevent Clipped Stitches: Turn the ripper so long end is down and red ball faces up. Draw the ripper toward you starting at the far end of the buttonhole. Do not pierce the fabric. This is meant to simply score the area between the stitches to help separate them.

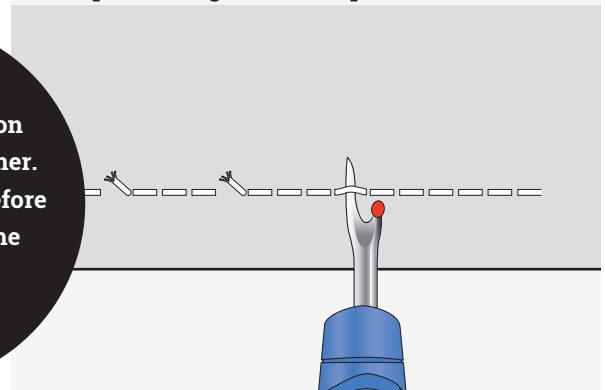
To Cut the Buttonhole: Insert the point of the ripper into fabric between rows of stitching in the end closest to you. Firmly, but gently, push the ripper away from you.

TIP: To prevent cutting through the bartack, place a straight pin across end of buttonhole just inside bartack. Push ripper until it hits the pin.

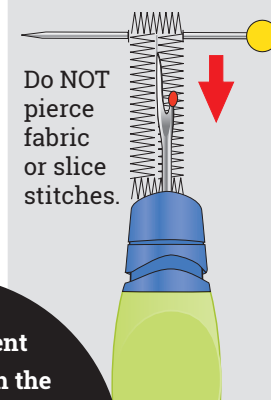
For seams pressed open flat:



For topstitching or seams pressed to the side:

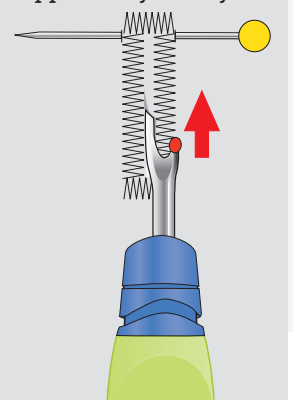


Draw ripper toward you, gently scoring fabric.



Do NOT pierce fabric or slice stitches.

Insert ripper between rows of stitching; push ripper away from you.



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How to Use a Seam Ripper:

To Distress Jeans and T-shirts:

A ripper is the easiest way to create distressed jeans or re-fashion t-shirts.

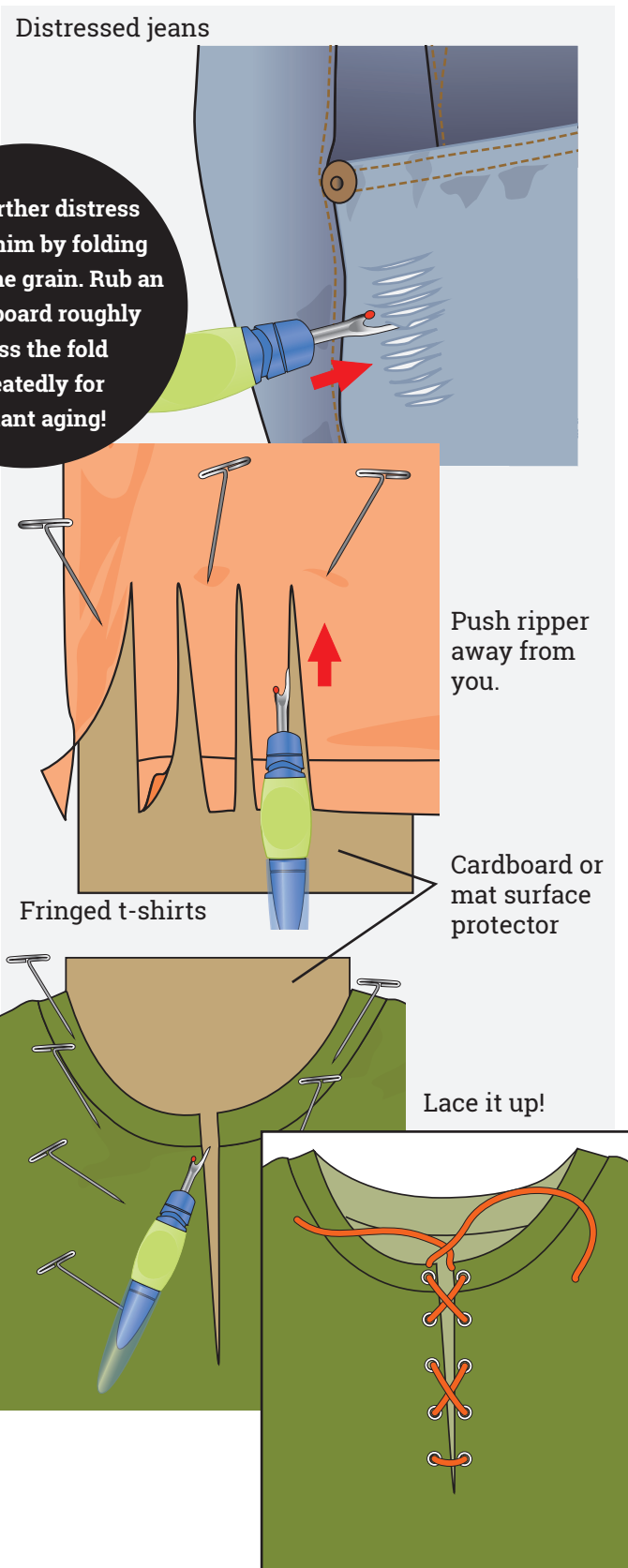
For Jeans: Simply decide where you want a rough hole. Insert ripper into fabric. Push the ripper along the grain for even raveling. Push it diagonally for ragged cuts.

IMPORTANT: Always push the ripper away from you.

For T-shirts: Use t-pins to secure your t-shirt to your work surface. Be sure to protect the surface from scrapes by placing cardboard or a mat under the area to be cut!

For Ragged Fringing: Clip the edge of the t-shirt with a scissor snip. Then insert the ripper into the slit and push away from you in parallel lines.

For Center Cuts: Do the same as for fringing, always pushing the ripper away from you. To accent the rip, place a contrasting piece of fabric under the hole. Hand or machine stitch to hold. Or, place eyelets around the hole and lace it! Safety pins also work for a punked-up appearance.



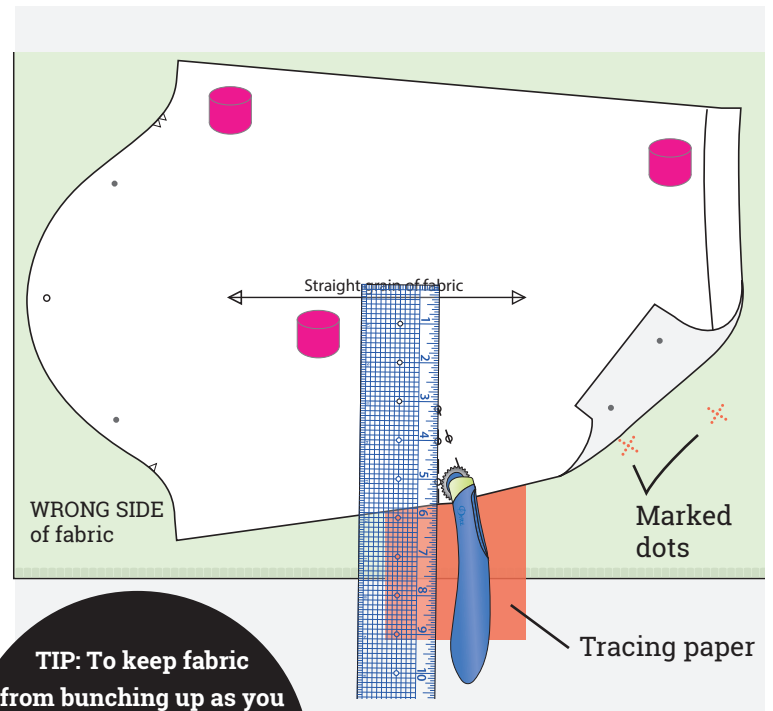
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How to Use a Serrated Tracing Wheel:

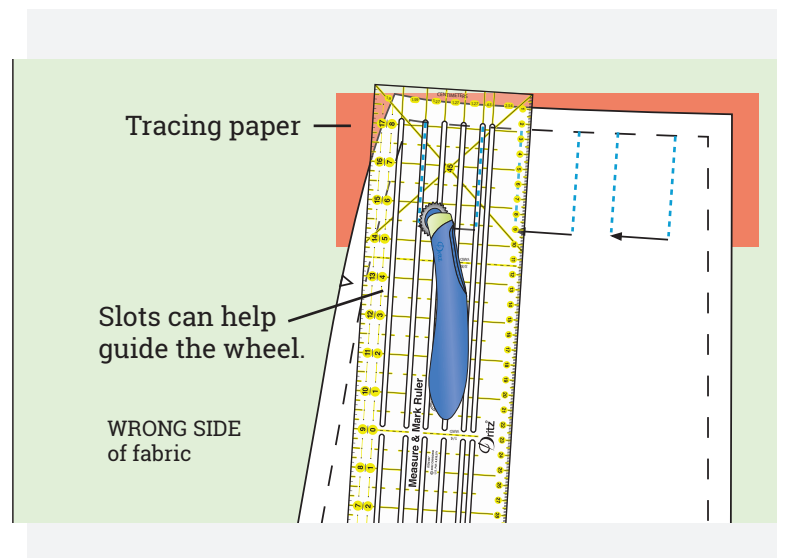
Transfer Pattern Markings:

Patterns have markings for a reason—pieces must be aligned for both fit and fashion, so there are marks for you to follow. Dots, squares, dart and pleat lines all must be transferred to your fabric. Most patterns do not have seam lines indicated, but you may also wish to use a ruler to mark these as well. Transfer all marks from the pattern to your fabric to ensure a great results.

1. Always test first on a scrap of fabric to be sure that the wheel will not damage the fabric.
2. Work on a protected hard surface. Apply even pressure.
3. Use pins or pattern weights to secure position of pattern on fabric.
4. Choose a color of tracing paper that contrasts best with your fabric. Place the tracing paper between pattern and fabric with the chalky side toward the fabric.
5. Mark on the wrong side of fabric only, following instructions on tracing paper package.
6. For straight lines, use a Measure & Mark Ruler or a See-Thru Ruler as a guide. The Measure & Mark Ruler has slots that hold the wheel in position for additional guidance.
7. Hold fabric taut in front of the tracing wheel for transfer.



TIP: To keep fabric from bunching up as you mark, roll blade with a forward, then slightly backward motion as you trace along the line.



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How to Use a Serrated Tracing Wheel:

Pattern Making:

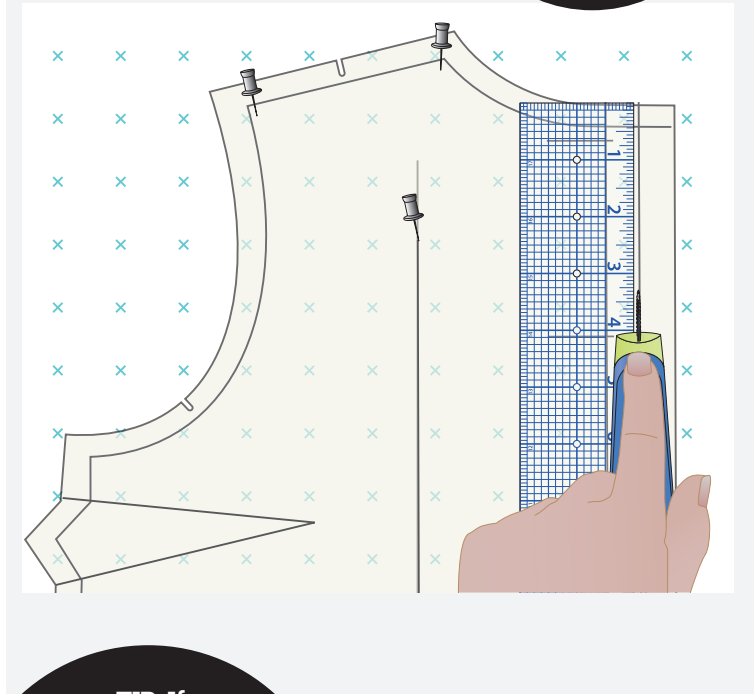
If you are making your own patterns you know that the first draft is not always the one that works. Once you have test-fit the muslin made from your initial patterns, you will want to make a final pattern traced from the working pattern.

1. Use a yardstick to draw a long line on the new sheet of pattern paper. This is your grainline and must align to that of the working pattern.

2. Place the working pattern on top of the pattern paper, aligning the grainlines by placing a push pin or strong straight pin into the grainlines to align. If you have a surface you can push pins into, secure the patterns with push pins at integral points, leaving them in place until you are done. Otherwise tape the working pattern to the pattern paper.

3. Transfer your lines. Tracing wheel will make rows of dotted indentations where lines are transferred. When complete, separate patterns and use a sharp pencil to draw lines connecting the tracing wheel dots. Use rulers as needed to guide you. A 12" Curve Ruler, 24" Hip Curve Ruler, Styling Design Ruler, Measure & Mark Ruler, and See-Thru Ruler are all useful when transferring lines. This is true both for patternmaking and garment making.

TIP: Work on a large cutting mat for great marked line quality as well as extra guidelines!



TIP: If indentations are not deep enough to show on your new pattern paper, place tracing paper between working pattern and new pattern. Redraw so that lines are visible.



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How to Use a Magnetic Needle Storage Tube:

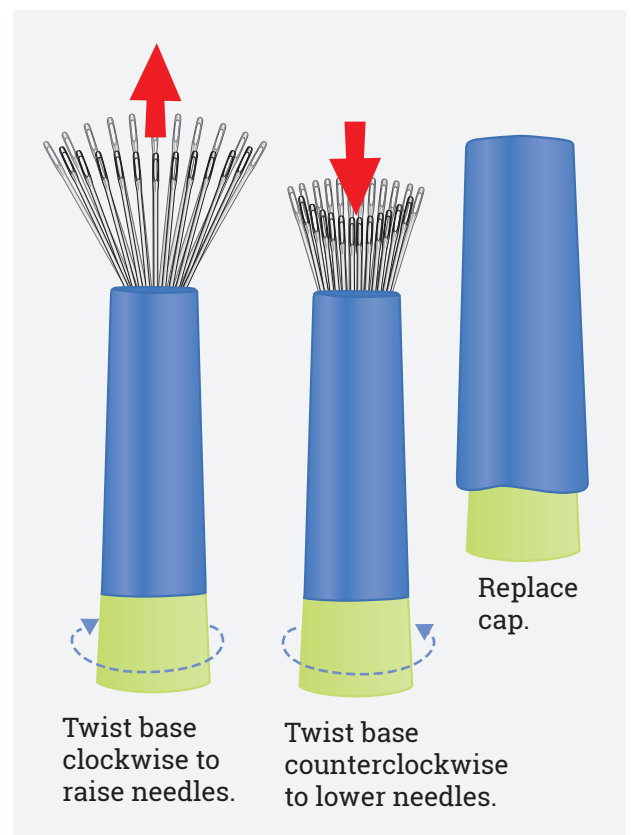
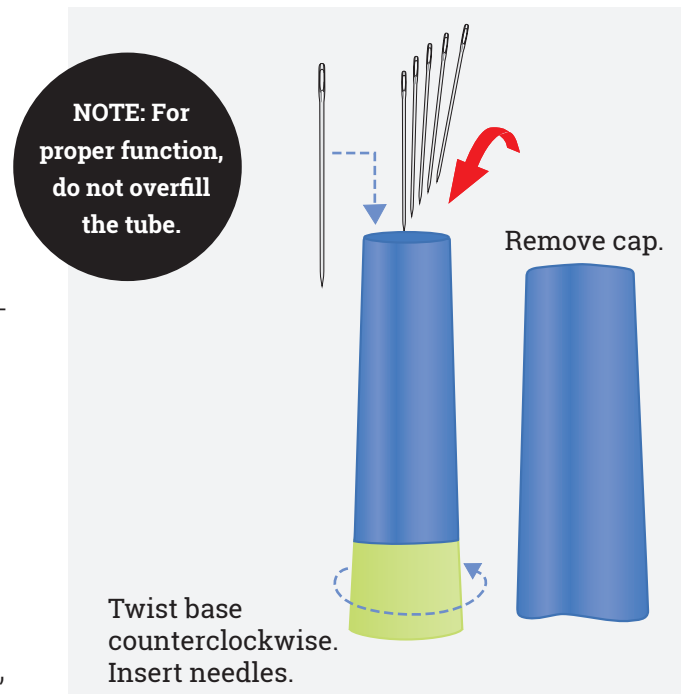
For Your Sewing Room or Travel:

Hand sewing is a fact of life for any sewist. They must be handy, and yet no one wants to lose one and accidentally step on it! A magnetic storage tube is the answer. Not only is it a safe place to store your needles, the internal magnet lifts needles to the top and actually fans them out for easy selection! What could be better?

The tube holds various sizes and types of needles up to 2.25 inches in length. Buy more than one tube to keep types of needles (sharps, betweens or embroidery, for example) separate for easy retrieval. With the cap in place, the tube is secure for travel to your favorite class or for table top storage in your sewing room.

To use:

1. To fill tube with needles, remove cap and twist green base counter clockwise so magnet is at bottom of tube.
2. Insert hand needles into tube with points facing down; replace cap on tube.
3. To select a needle, remove cap and hold tube opening away from face. Slowly twist base clockwise to raise needles to top of tube.
4. Select needle; twist base counter clockwise to lower needles back into the tube.
5. Replace cap for storage.



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How to Use a Tapered Awl:

For Creating Holes for Belts or Straps:

An awl is one of those tools that may not get used every day, but when you need it, it is indispensable. This tapered awl has a strong smooth point for insertion into fabric, leather, strapping or vinyl to create holes for belt or snap prongs, or rivets, when the material being used is stiff and unyielding. Conversely, it is great to use with fleece, where the fabric is almost too soft to form a definite hole.

The soft lid serves to protect the point when not in use. When removed, it is inserted into the open end to create a rounded soft handle that fits comfortably in the palm of your hand. This ergonomic design allows you to push as needed without creating hand stress.

For Starting Small Holes in Woodworking Projects:

Tiny screws are hard to hang onto and difficult to get started. Use the awl to create a starter hole. Simply press the point into the wood, pressing down on the handle. Insert the screw in the indentation created by the point. Use a screwdriver to finish the job.

For Use as a Stiletto:

Fabric sometimes hits the front of your presser foot and bunches up, refusing to move smoothly through the machine. Use the awl to hold fabric in place or to gently ease fabric under the foot and needle while sewing. It is a tool you never knew you needed!

To Store:

Simply pull the soft end out of the handle. Place it over the tip and snap into place. The closed tool sits flat on your work surface or securely in your sewing basket.

