

Wendy F: **Marking Rulers**

When doing a repetitive square-up task on quilt blocks, marking lines on your ruler with tape helps get consistent results. When trying to center a line diagonally down the middle, I put a diagonal line of tape on my square-up ruler to easily line things up.

Marianne B: **Quilt Dusting**

Using a piece of soft window screen will help with dusting a quilt. Place the window screen on top of the quilt, then vacuum gently using the brush attachment through the screen to clean your quilt. This will protect the quilt from damage.

Kathy N: **Handy Pincushion**

A simple tube pincushion with ribbons can be tied around your sewing machine. The ribbon ties make it adjustable for any machine. This keeps the pins and the pincushion easily accessible when sewing.



Barb P: **Easy Half-square Triangles**

Triangle papers or “thangles” are both easy ways to make many half-square triangles quickly. The paper lines make the piecing precise and sewing many at once makes the process quick.

Charlotte S: **Easy Pressing Tool**

When pressing $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seams open, the fabric often gets hot and fingers get too close to the iron. Take a wooden clothes pin apart and use one of the wooden pieces, curved side down, to “press” the seam open before pressing with the iron.

Lorraine F: **Hexagon Projects**

Pre-cut hexagon fabrics and hexagon papers are a fun and relaxing project to do anywhere and everywhere. The oversized hexagon fabrics do not need to be precisely cut because any excess is folded to the inside and extra seam allowance makes the project have more body.



Pat A: **Quilt Line Marking**

Painter’s tape is ideal for marking straight quilting lines. The tape is easily applied, easily moved and can be left on for long periods with no damage. I left it on for 1.5 years and it lifted off with no residue.

Great Ideas Worth Sharing – Group 1

Brenda S: **Cute Tool Bag**

Cut a fabric tape measure into pieces, zig zag the edges together to make a front and back, insert a zipper and lining to make a cute bag for sewing tools.



Faith M: **Sewing Bag**

Use a manicure case with plastic windows to hold sewing and/or quilting supplies

Faith M: **Hexagon Tips**

Use a glue stick to fold down the seam allowance to the paper rather than basting. Paperpieces.com is a great online resource for affordable precut paper shapes for English paper pieces.



Dotti H: **Easy Clipping**

Clover clips are a great alternative to pins for holding fabrics together.

Holly S: **Favorite Ruler**

Hex N More Ruler is a great ruler to cut hexagons in many sizes and piece blocks and the triangles that fit with the hexagons. Jaybird quilts has many great patterns that use the ruler.

Judy C: **Curved Binding**

When applying binding to a curved edge, such as on a neckline or armhole of a dress or a curved quilt edge, lay the binding along the curve and steam heavily before doing any sewing. The binding will keep the curved shape.

Barbara G: **Favorite Rulers**

The Tucker Trimer and Wing Clipper rulers by Deb Tucker are both great rulers that make many quilting projects easier.

Gail T: **Favorite Quilt Shops**

When traveling to Cape Cod, I discovered two wonderful fabric shops:

Quilter's Palette, 45 Gingerplum Lane, Eastham, MA 02642, 508-255-4038

Tumbleweed Quilts, 1919 Main Street, West Barnstable, MA 02668, 508-362-8700

Great Ideas Worth Sharing – Group 1

Barbara C: **Wrist Pincushion**

When doing hand applique, I always need a place to put the pins I remove as I sew. Cut off the top of a sock, fold in half and slip over the wrist of the hand you do not sew with. This cuff is perfect for holding the pins removed as you applique. Use a thicker sock or cut a longer piece of the sock to triple fold the cuff for a thicker pincushion.

Phil G: **Sewing Miniatures**

When sewing miniature blocks, holding the pieces together with needle nose tweezers with a 90-degree bend at the end keeps things from shifting and enables holding the pieces until the tweezers are very close to the sewing needle.

Phil G: **Quilt Binding Corners**

Take a piece of paper and fold back a corner to make a 45-degree angle. Use this paper and align along the edge of the quilt to determine the point to stop sewing the binding at the corner to get a sharp 45-degree angle.



Julie G: **Quilt Clips**

Instead of the expensive clips available at quilt stores to hold your binding when hand stitching, purchase binder clips from an office store for considerably less money.

Unattributed: **No-slip Trick**

Adhesive medical tape, such as CVS Nexcare brand, works well to keep rulers from slipping. Put several small pieces on the underside of your quilting rulers.

Dottie H: **Easy Pick-up**

For picking up pins, the magnet on a telescoping pole (available at Sears and other hardware stores) is a great tool to use next to the sewing machine.

