



There Are Rules About the Scissors.

An unnecessary survival guide for sewists and the people who live with them.

Who is ThreadedDad?

I'm a dad who likes making things by hand.

Mostly tiny clothes, sometimes questionable decisions, and occasionally the wrong sides together.

ThreadedDad is about the process as much as the finished piece: learning, messing up, trying again, and making something worth keeping.

This guide is the less serious side of that.

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For all socials and questionable decisions.

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Plus one rule nobody asked for.

Full rule index

All 51 rules with page links

Before we begin

This guide will not teach you how to sew.

It may, however, explain a few things to sewists and improve everyone else's chances of surviving around one.

The following rules have been assembled from fabric scraps, broken needles, misplaced tape measures, and conversations that should probably have ended sooner.

Read carefully. Especially the bit about the scissors.

Understanding the Situation

Fabric, time estimates and other flexible concepts.



Fabric Is Not Clutter

It is inventory.

No, there is not too much of it.

There Is Always a Project

Sometimes the project has not been invented yet.

That does not make the fabric unnecessary.

The Price Is Irrelevant

Do not compare the fabric cost to the price of a finished shirt.

You have misunderstood the assignment.

Five Minutes Is Not Five Minutes

"I just need to finish this seam" is a statement of intent.

It is not a time estimate.

The 30-Minute Project

This should only take about 30 minutes.

See you in two days.

Five Shades of Grey

The thread may look like the same colour.

It is not.

Yes, all five shades are necessary.

The Pattern Makes Sense

Eventually.

Possibly after it has been rotated three times and insulted once.

Right Sides Together

This instruction is important.

It will be remembered immediately after sewing the wrong sides together.

A Seam Ripper Is Normal

It does not mean the project has failed.

It means the project has entered negotiations.

Finished Means Nearly Finished

The garment is wearable.

This is different from finished.

We'll see what needs adjusting after some wear and tear.

A New Project May Already Be on the Table

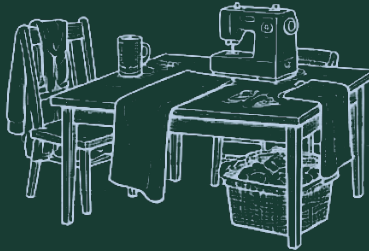
Do not ask what happened to the previous project.

Nothing happened. This is simply the next one.

SECTION 2

The Sewing Space

Technically, this used to be a home.



The Dining Table Has Changed Careers

It now works in garment production.

Meals may be negotiated around the cutting schedule.

Pins Travel

Nobody knows how.

Wear footwear.

Fabric Has a Storage System

You may not understand the system.

This does not mean there is no system.

Scraps Are Not Rubbish

That piece is six centimetres wide.

Apparently it has a future.

Thread Appears Everywhere

On the sofa. On socks. In rooms where nobody has sewn.
Accept this.

The Cutting Position

Bend over the table at a completely unreasonable angle.

Stay there for forty minutes.

Wonder why your back hurts.

Dinner in the Atelier

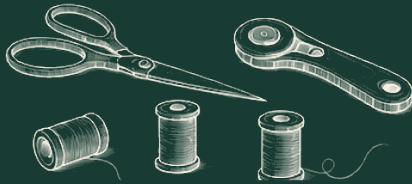
Once the dining table is covered in fabric, patterns and sewing supplies, it is no longer a dining table.

So why is everyone trying to eat in my atelier?

SECTION 3

Tools of the Trade

Objects with very specific rules attached to them.



The Tape Measure

If you move it, announce the new location.

Immediately.

The Fabric Scissors

Do not cut paper with them.

This rule has no appeal process.

There Are Never Enough Scissors

You would think one good pair was enough.

This is how we know you do not sew.

The Rotary Cutter

It is not a pizza cutter.

Looks harmless. Is not harmless.

Also: put the guard back on.

Pins vs. Clips

An eternal battle.

Just saying: clips are amazing.

They also make excellent snack-bag closers.

Cleaning the Machine

Remove the needle plate.

Discover enough lint to make a second garment.

We should probably do this more often.

Machine Maintenance

Remove the cover.

Clean the mechanism.

Oil the moving parts.

Diagnose the strange noise.

Apparently, I'm a mechanic now.

Straight Stitch, Apparently

The plan was a straight stitch.

Five minutes later, the machine is still on zigzag.

It is a zigzag stitch now.

The Presser Feet

Yes, there are many.

No, they do not all do the same thing.

The Chalk and Chalk Pens

They are not crayons.

They may look like crayons. This changes nothing.

The Handwheel

Normally, the machine does the sewing.

Seven layers deep?

We're doing this manually now.

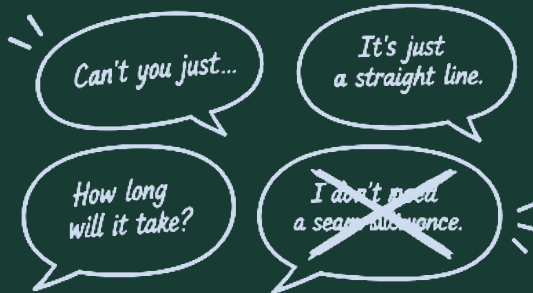
Universal Needles

"Universal" means suitable for many fabrics.

We have chosen to interpret this as all fabrics, indefinitely.

Things You Should Never Say

Silence is golden.



"That Looks Easy"

Interesting observation.

Would you like to do the buttonholes?

"Do You Need More Fabric?"

Need is a surprisingly flexible word.

"You're Still Working on That?"

Not anymore, if you keep talking.

"Why Did You Undo It?"

Because it was wrong.

We are all trying to move forward here.

"Nobody Will Notice"

They will notice.

They are the nobody in this sentence.

"It Was Cheaper in the Shop"

Yes.

And instant coffee is cheaper than coffee at a cafe.

We are not discussing the same product.

"You Sew? Can You..."

No. Stop there.

If I ever start taking requests, I will come to you.

"You Should Sell This"

Thank you.

Production costs are terrible, the inside is slightly wonky, and this business model has already collapsed.

"Can You Make Curtains?"

No.

We do not do curtains.

This is somehow a completely different profession.

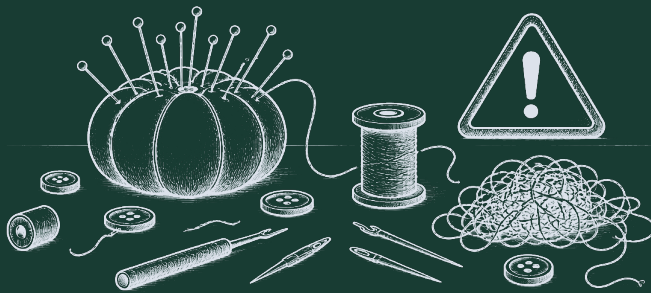
"AI Could Probably Sew This"

Excellent.

Let me know when it has sewn the wrong sides together, unpicked them, and carried on like that was the plan.

Emergency Procedures

For when everything was going perfectly five minutes ago.



The Bobbin Runs Out

This will happen with approximately seven centimetres left to sew.

Do not react.

The Invisible Seam

The garment looks finished.

Then you notice the bobbin ran out somewhere near the beginning.

Excellent.

A Needle Breaks

Needles can and will break.

Occasionally, they launch themselves across the room.

Safety goggles suddenly feel less dramatic.

The Sewist Is Frustrated

Do not talk.

Do not touch.

Place coffee - or a hot beverage of choice - within reach and back away slowly.

The Pattern Was Upside Down

Offer sympathy.

Do not laugh until they do.

Needle Replacement Schedule

The recommendation: every 6-8 hours of sewing.

Our system: when it breaks or starts tickling the fabric.

The Machine Starts Making That Noise

There are many noises.

You will know the one.

They Say "I Ruined It"

Wait five minutes.

There is a strong chance it can be fixed.

They Say "I'm Done"

This can mean finished, exhausted, or both.

Coffee - or a hot beverage of choice - is usually appropriate.

When It Somehow Turns Out Okay

You did not expect this.

Neither did anyone else.

Act natural. That was the plan all along.

Trust the Process

You started with flat fabric.

There were mistakes.

There was unpicking.

There were several questionable decisions.

And somehow, you made that.

Take the win.

One last thing.

Not everything you make will be perfect.

Some projects will work.

Some will teach you what not to do next time.

But every time you measure, cut, sew, unpick and try again,
you get a little better at making something that did not exist before.

So keep learning.

Keep making mistakes.

Keep making things with your own hands.

And make things worth keeping.



CONGRATULATIONS

You now understand almost nothing about sewing.

But you are significantly less likely to cut paper with the
fabric scissors.

That is progress.

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