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What type of tape measure should I use?

Using a range of suitable tools for taking measurements helps to produce successful results when making up items. Measuring tools are needed for obtaining both pattern and body measurements in order to make any adjustments that are necessary on pattern pieces. Making these adjustments ensures that the finished item is a good fit. Some tools are designed for a variety of general sewing purposes and are required each time a garment is made up. Others are useful for more specific purposes, such as making adjustments to necklines and other curved pattern parts, adjusting hemlines or measuring pleats, this is where the tape measure comes in as one of the most commonly used sewing notions available today.



Tape measures come in all shapes, colours and sizes and it can be a little confusing when you new to sewing and you are starting out on your first sewing project. Thoughts are what is the best tape measure for me and how often will I use one. Well there various types of tape measures on the market at the moment which include the retractable tape measure which when released will automatically retract back into a coiled cylinder housing as to keep the tape measure tidy at all times. There is an adhesive tape measure which is used for permanently attaching to a work table, these are commonly seen in fabric shops for measuring how much cloth a customer would like to purchase. They are also found on the edges of pattern construction tables for the ease of measuring your fabric when cutting out the panels. The most common tape measure that you are going to see and most likely use for your sewing projects is the flexible tape measure, usually made from a thin plastic and is the absolute necessity when it comes to sewing. There are two forms, one comes with centimetres on both sides and one comes with inches on one side and centimetres on the other. These tape measures also vary in length but the most common tape measure seen would be 150 centimetres.

In my personal opinion i would go for a tape measure which has got centimetres on one side and inches on the other rather than having centimetres on both sides. It is best to have the two different types of measurements because if you are working on something that states inches, for example on a pattern,you can then test it against your centimetres so I would recommend to purchase a tape measure which has got centimetres on one side and inches on the other. I would also recommend to buy two sets of tape measures and have one by the iron and the other by the sewing machine, that way you will never be without your tape measure and will make life so much easier when it comes to sewing the project that you are on. The amount of times that you are at the sewing machine just after pressing and you just need to measure the length of a sequence of stitches that you are about to sew and you then realise that you have left your tape measure at the iron. You then need to get up again, get your tape measure, bring it back to the sewing machine, to carry on with the task in hand. So having two sets or even three sets of tape measures is great and saves time as well.

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