

Basting Tape

Selection Tips & Recommendations

Double-sided basting tapes (seamstick) make work with heavy fabrics easier and more accurate for amateurs and professionals alike! Basting prevents feeding problems while sewing and assures that cloth panels will come out evenly. Basting tape is invisible, stays in place in the seam, and is much easier than pinning fabric in place. Here are a few important things to consider when selecting and using basting tape.

Why Use Basting Tape?

- Accurate, even sewing
- Easier than pinning
- Water resistant seams
- Reduce puckering
- Prevents feeding problems
- Invisible

Which Basting Tape Should I Use?

SEAMSTICK TAPE is not very sticky but bonds well on smooth, Dacron sailcloth. It generally causes no problems with gum on the needle or skipped stitches.

ACRYLIC BASTING TAPE has more holding power and works well with coarse canvas products like Sunbrella or Top Gun. Acrylic basting tape can be used on sailcloth but may lead to more gum on the needle.

3M SUPER SEAMSTICK was developed with the intention of eliminating sewing in laminates. It is very aggressive although it has a tendency to slide apart in hot sunlight. Sewing is still recommended, especially in seams with stress that runs from side to side. Can be used for seams in any fabric (sailcloth, spinnaker cloth or canvas) for very strong bonds.

MYLAR/KEVLAR BASTING TAPE is specifically designed for use with fabric laminates. The cloth matrix holds stitching better and reinforces sewn seams.

Basting Tape Tips

- Basting tapes have a tendency to leave a gum residue on the needle when sewing. Although a well-adjusted machine should not be affected, run the needle through a bar of Ivory soap to help prevent build-up or use a cotton swab with rubbing alcohol to keep the needle clean. Many professionals use a thread lubricant, like Sewers Aid, on a cloth pad clipped over the upper thread in the machine or a device like the Magnetic Oiler to keep a consistent coating of lubricant on the top thread.
- Some fabrics have a tendency to stretch more than others. When basting two panels of fabric together, it is important to make sure both the top and bottom fabric layers are stressed evenly. Even though the panels start out at equal lengths, they can stretch unevenly while basting. Although the actual seam may not look bad if the lengthening was done gradually and evenly along the length of the fabric, the resulting seam is inadequate if one side is now longer than the other.
- Use basting tape even for simple projects. All adhesive basting tapes help to reduce puckering from sewing and also make seams more waterproof.



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