

## Basting Tape

### Selection Tips & Recommendations

Double-sided basting tapes (also called seamstick) make working with heavy or specialty fabrics easier and more accurate for both professionals and DIYers. Basting tape prevents feeding problems while sewing. Basting tape is invisible, stays in place in the seam, and is much easier and faster than pinning fabric layers together. For more information about basting tape, its benefits and how to use it, read our blogs [#300076XHT](#) and [#300456XHT](#).

#### Why Use Basting Tape?

- Easier and faster than pinning
- Water-resistant seams
- Reduce fabric puckering
- Prevent feeding problems
- Invisible and won't yellow over time

#### What Are the Types of Basting Tape?

At Sailrite, we offer four types of basting tape that work with almost any sewing project you're planning.

**Seamstick Basting Tape for Canvas:** This tape adheres canvas fabrics like Sunbrella® Marine Grade, Top Notch® and Top Gun® very well. In addition to marine canvas, this tape can also be used on woven fabrics for indoor and outdoor upholstery projects, cushions, pillows, window treatments and more. This tape is available in widths of 1/4 inch, 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch.

**Seamstick Basting Tape for Sailmaking & Vinyl:** This basting tape works on smooth Dacron® sailcloth, nylon and adding vinyl window material to sails. Woven fabrics with a vinyl coating, such as Stamoid™ Top and Light, should also use this basting tape. You should not use Sailmaking & Vinyl basting tape on canvas fabrics as it will not hold well. This tape is available in widths of 1/4 inch, 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch.

**3M™ Super Seamstick Basting Tape:** Super Seamstick is incredibly sticky and is most often used to baste radial seams on coated ripstop or coated polyester spinnaker fabrics. The adhesive is so aggressive that it can actually be used in place of sewing. If you do choose to sew through the basting tape, you will need to change your needle frequently to avoid skipped stitches. Super Seamstick won't stick to silicone coated materials. This tape is available in widths of 1/2 inch and 1 inch.

**Seamstick Mylar/Kevlar Basting Tape for Laminate Sailcloth:** As the name implies, this tape was made specifically for Mylar or Kevlar laminate sailcloth to reinforce the seams prior to sewing. The adhesive tape has a cloth matrix that strengthens the seams and allows the stitches to hold better. This tape is only offered in a 1/2-inch width.

#### Which Basting Tape Should I Use?

We've created this handy chart to help you determine which type and width of basting tape to use for your fabric or application. Here's an important tip: If basting together two materials that have different basting tape recommendations, always use the more aggressive basting tape for a guaranteed hold.

#### Basting Tape & Needle Gumming

Because basting tape is designed to be aggressive and extremely sticky, it can gum up your needle if you sew through it. There are some instances when you do want to sew through the tape, such as when adding water resistance to seams for outdoor projects like biminis, dodgers, canopies and awnings. For pillows, cushions, bags and any project that you will turn right side out after sewing, you don't want to sew through the tape. If you do, you'll be able to see the edge of the tape when you turn the project right side out.

If you are concerned with needle gumming, you can use a less aggressive basting tape for your project, depending on your fabric. Many marine canvas fabrics like Sunbrella have a protective or water-resistant coating on them, and that's why you need to use basting tape for canvas — our most aggressive basting tape. But for lightweight home decor fabrics you can use the less aggressive basting tape for vinyl. It will still hold your fabric layers together but without the risk of gumming up your needle.

FABRICS/APPLICATIONS	BASTING TAPE FOR CANVAS – ALL SIZES (#122066, #104984, #122064, #129, #122065, #104167)	BASTING TAPE FOR SAILMAKING & VINYL – ALL SIZES (#659, #20306, #20307)	SEAMSTICK MYLAR/KEVLAR® TAPE BASTING TAPE (#4515)	3M™ SUPER SEAMSTICK BASTING TAPE (#1501, #4516)
Canvas (Sunbrella®, Top Gun®, etc.)	✓			
Vinyl/faux leather upholstery	✓			
Vinyl Topping (Stamoid™, etc.)		✓		
Woven fabric cushions and pillows	✓			
Woven fabric upholstery	✓			
Zippers	✓			
Vinyl window material to canvas	✓			
Vinyl window material to sailcloth		✓		
Dacron® sailcloth		✓		
Laminate sailcloth		✓		✓
Coated ripstop		✓		✓
Coated polyester spinnaker		✓		✓
Film-on-film laminates			✓	✓
Dura-Skrim® (for patterning)	✓	✓		
Heavy/Course Leather	✓			
Woven bag fabric (Cordura®, etc.)	✓			
Catamaran trampoline with vinyl edging	✓			
Vinyl channeling fabric	✓	✓		
Webbing	✓			
Monofilament sailcloth			✓	
Marine mesh (Phifertex®, Solits®, etc.)	✓			
Heavy-weight outdoor upholstery fabric (Sunbrella)	✓			
Lightweight home décor fabrics		✓		
Lightweight fine leather (bags, upholstery)		✓		