



Prep to Sew

Taking you from *piles and chaos* to
organized and sewing again



Time to tackle that area and get sewing again!

You're fired up!

You've got your eyes on those piles and your let's get this going look on.

You're ready to tackle those piles and start making progress on those projects that were long lost and forgotten.

You're excited to move forward, get organized and feel good about your progress.

Not only that, but **YOU WANT TO SEW!**

Quilters aren't just pile shifters and restackers - we actually like to sew!

Quilters just like you - Ready to jump into your piles headfirst and not look back!

PREP TO SEW

a quick system for keeping your sewing table organized so you can be happy and sewing at your machine again

EVALUATE YOUR SPACE

What is happening? Is there a pretty consistent habit in dumping projects, supplies and notions? After evaluating your sewing table.... What can you do that would allow you better organization and help you change your habit?

Do you need an area to take care of your notions?

Do you need a process for leftover fabrics and scraps from projects (they are piling up on your cutting mat instead).

What can you do that would allow you to keep your sewing table cleared off as best as possible?

PUT THINGS AWAY

After you have taken the time to evaluate (this should really be pretty under half an hour), now is the time for action.

Take your piles and begin to break them down into the new system you have that allows for better organization.

Organize and pack back up projects if they are unfinished. Put away the notions, rulers, threads and scraps on the table. At this point, we aren't worried about what we are working on or not. We'll leave this for another time. Right now, we are simply cleaning up and organizing what we have out that is cluttering up your sewing table.

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EVALUATE THE NEW SYSTEM

Now that you can see the table and your projects are all gathered and put away - take a minute or two to look at how you are going to keep it organized from now on.

Will it work? Will those new bins, drawers and pegs on the wall work for you?

If you think it won't, make some adjustments now. Maybe you need to move the scrap fabric bin to the other side of the table. Maybe you need to move your sewing machine to the opposite side of the table.

Take a little time to evaluate how you have your new system set up and make any adjustments to it now.

CLEAN, OIL AND WIPE DOWN

Sewing leaves a lot of lint. Now is the time to quickly do a wipe down of your sewing table while you can still see it!

Clean your table with a wet towel or wipe - making sure you get under your cutting mat, sewing machine, ruler holders and pin cushions. Pick up all that lint and leftovers from cutting so you have a nice flat surface to cut and sew on.

Oil your machine. Take a minute or two to oil the bobbin area and your machine (follow your oil instructions per your machine manual). If it's time, replace the needle and fill your bobbin.

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TIME TO SEW!

It's time to have some fun! I'm pretty sure that every time you walk into your sewing room you have a smile on your face. There is no better time or funner time to sew then right after you clean up your table! Earlier you packed a few projects away, it's time to get one out and move it forward. You are ready to unpack and sew.

There is no harm in working on more than one project at a time, but for the first day or two, try to keep yourself from opening another project.

After a few days of working on one project, re-evaluate your process of keeping things organized and your sewing table clean. Again, make any small adjustments to locations of pin cushions, rotary mats, scrap bin or whatever!

This is the perfect time to try something new - before you become overwhelmed again and can't find the sewing table!

PREP FOR TOMORROW

After your fun sewing time (this can be sneaking a few minutes here or there, or longer stretches), take 5 minutes to put things away, precut the next step, evaluate what you need - hunt down that binding fabric, or needle and thread for sewing binding on. Whatever it is, set the timer or count to 60 and set your table and project up for the next sewing session.

You'll love having fabric ready, the next step prepped - so when you enter the sewing room, you know what you'll be working on. You'll be excited to get to the machine instead of dreading it!

Wipe down everything else. Including your cutting mat and machine table if you have one. You can give your cutting mat a good scrub down in the tub, or simply use an eraser to wipe up stuck lint and threads in the cutting mat.

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Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate Your Space
<input type="checkbox"/>	Put Things Away
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate the New System
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean, Oil & Wipe Down
<input type="checkbox"/>	Time to Sew!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prep for Tomorrow

Notes

What is your plan for your prep to sew?

The Sewing Area Prep Tips

Get ready for sewing now with these easy tips:

Tip #1

Review your sewing rooms, shelves, etc. Take a look at it all, not to overwhelm you but to prep you for what is about to happen. Make note of the areas that really cause you frustration and keep you from sewing.

Tip #2

After your tour from tip #1, assess what projects or piles you are most interested in tackling first. Are there any projects that have time limits, deadlines or special dates to be completed by? These will be the projects that you'll want to give your focus to.

The Sewing Area Prep Tips Continued...

Tip #3

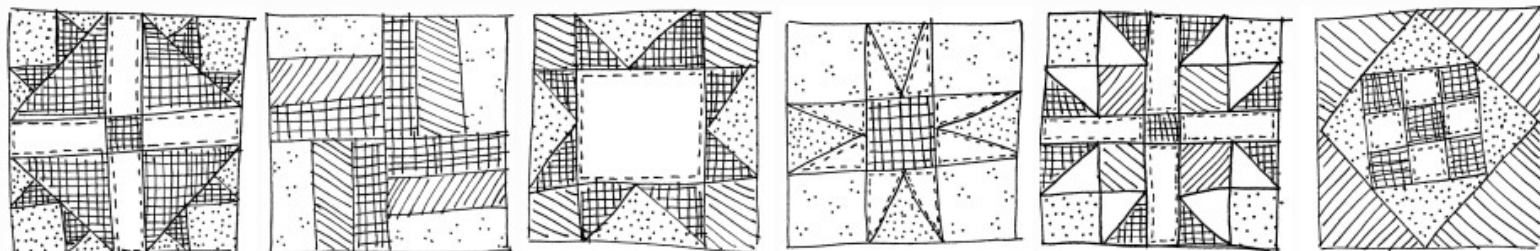
Prep your sewing area. Clean off your sewing table, put things back in their place, organize a tiny bit around your sewing machine. Work on this one area so it's ready to go when you're ready to sew. You want your sewing machine to be useable and not hidden and overwhelmed with clutter.

Tip #4

Clean your sewing machine. Take the time to really dig deep into your machine. Clean out the bobbin area, remove the lint around the machine, under the machine and inside the machine.

Give your machine a good oil (if you know what you're doing) and change your needle if it's been awhile.

You want your machine in fine working condition and ready to go!



Other ways to Learn

Patchwork Posse Blog

FB Group

Ebooks & Patterns:

Disappearing Quilt Blocks & Projects

9 Quilt Patterns Bundle

Quick Stitch Felt Animals

8 Projects for Kids to Sew

Videos:

YouTube Videos

Paid Classes:

Quilt as you Go

Journal Your Quilts

International Association of Quilters - online quilt group

