

Vinyl Sewing Guide

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WWW.SEWHUNGRYHIPPIE.COM

My goal is to help YOU be successful.

Find tons of FREE tutorials and sewing vinyl videos on my website and YouTube channel.

Website: <https://sewhungryhippie.com/>

Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SewHungryHippie/videos>

#1 Use a teflon sewing foot for the best experience.

Tape underneath a normal foot is ok if you're making one thing, but not if you're planning on making two or more. No -- for real.

Some people like using a roller foot, but it's not quite the same in my opinion. A teflon foot is meant for sewing vinyl, a roller foot is meant for lots of things.

Buy a quality foot meant for your machine, NOT an impostor. I made this mistake before and nearly broke my machine. If you have a Bernina Sewing machine, get the Bernina teflon foot for your model. A local sewing shop can help you, or do a quick Google search and write the foot number down.



Here is a link showing you a 1-minute video demo of the difference a teflon foot makes. You can see I'm trying to sew vinyl with and without a teflon foot.

<https://www.facebook.com/sewhungryhippie/videos/579402405917550/> .

#2 Warm the vinyl with a hair dryer, radiant heat, or by setting it in a sunny windowsill to make it more pliable, or before trying to turn it right side out.

It only takes 20 seconds to make the vinyl more pliable and easier to bend.

*Warming vinyl is ok, **BUT NEVER touch a hot iron directly onto vinyl.**

Pressing from the wrong side of a soft backed vinyl is ok usually, but test a swatch first. I will press from the right side in quick bursts IF I HAVE a Teflon coated pressing sheet handy. This is trickier, so test first.

If your vinyl isn't smooth or has some wrinkling, just heat it up a few seconds and the wrinkles come right out! Here is a video demo: <https://vimeo.com/279067374>.

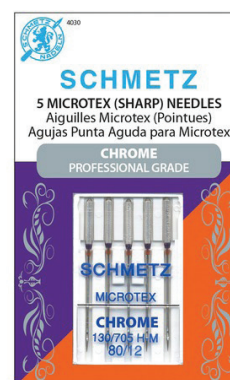
#3 Use the right tools.

Wonder clips are meant for vinyl, pins are not. Those holes are forever.

Use **quality thread** that doesn't break. I prefer Gutermann all purpose thread (100% cotton breaks more easily).

Use a chrome universal or microtex needle. They make a huge difference just because they are stronger. I usually just use what's in my machine which is almost always a Universal size 80 needle, but the correct needle DOES make a difference.

Clover



#4 Use a longer stitch length.

I tend to normally sew at 2.5 - 3 mm , so when I sew VINYL I use a minimum 3.0 and often a 3.5mm stitch.

Sometimes I will go around the corners of a bag twice for strength. Not too close though, don't want to perforate the seams! Play around and see what works for you. This can be a trial and error thing according to the type of vinyl you are sewing.

#5 HAVE PATIENCE.

Walk away and call a friend if you are frustrated. You can do this, sometimes new things feel difficult only because we are so hard on ourselves. Start with the easy projects (key fobs, bunting, tissue cozie) and move on from there. You MAY need to consider purchasing a better quality machine, there are certain brands I won't touch with a 10 foot pole. Research, ask questions, watch what your sewing heroes are using. You will never look back once you invest in quality tools, promise.

My video tutorials are on YouTube. Thank you for subscribing! [shorturl.at/ervL5](https://www.youtube.com/c/SewHungryHippie) .



easy vinyl envelope case



vinyl case
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I love seeing your makes!
tag me on instagram [@sewhungryhippie](https://www.instagram.com/sewhungryhippie)

There are tons of sewing tutorials on my YouTube channel at
<https://www.youtube.com/c/SewHungryHippie>



Every Sunday I send out an email with links, tutorials, and other fun stuff. If you're into it, sign up [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What sewing machine do you use to sew your vinyl projects?

I use a Bernina 1008 almost all of the time. It was the first machine I learned to sew on, and therefore, my most comfortable machine. It's also a workhorse and doesn't have silly extras or computer chips.

2. What needles should I use to sew vinyl?

As mentioned in the Guide, I use chrome Universal or chrome Microtex needles by Schmetz in size 80 and 90 depending on vinyl thickness. If things get REALLY thick, I reach for the size 90.

3. Can I use my regular scissors to cut vinyl?

Yes you can, but I like to reserve a special pair for my vinyl cutting. I also use a rotary cutter a lot, and it's marked for vinyl as well. My cutting tools of choice are by Havel's Sewing. I use the non-stick shears and the 45mm rotary cutter.



4. Do I need to interface the vinyl when using it in bag making?

No, you don't have to, but it does depend on the pattern and the intended finished look.

For example, I've made at least 15 Santorini Totes and about half of them have no interfacing. They still stand up and have body and look great. However, I tend to prefer interfacing them with foam, because I like a more rigid bag, so I cut the foam 1/4" smaller than the body pieces and baste stitch it to the vinyl. The basting is within the seam allowance, so it never will show.

You can always use a wacker (hammer) to smash seams flatter (or zig zag stitch along the edge of the foam) before sewing if you forget to cut the foam smaller. I do this often with success!

5. How much vinyl do I need to buy to sew a bag?

Depends on the size of the bag - but this is the reason I sell rolls of vinyl 18" x 54" . I can cut a large Santorini Tote + a few smaller Easy Zipper Cases from a single roll of vinyl.

6. Where can I get sewing quality vinyl?

YO! I have a shop at sewhungryhippie.com

Feel free to join my Makers Group (more private than my Page) to ask more questions. We have true experts in there to help you! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sewhungryHippie/> .

SEWING VINYL

Sew Hungry Hippie Vinyl includes
Faux leather / TPU / Jelly / Glitter

TOOLS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1

GET A TEFLON (NON-STICK) SEWING FOOT FOR YOUR MODEL OF SEWING MACHINE

- This is a key tool that is worth the money, it will change your vinyl experience.

USE A CHROME MICROTEX NEEDLE SIZE 80 OR 90 DEPENDING ON THICKNESS

- I always use a size 80 but play around and see what works best for you & your machine.

2

3

USE QUALITY ALL-PURPOSE THREAD

- I use Gutermann Sew-All thread, the poly content makes it stronger for vinyl sewing. Experiment and see what works in your machine best.

USE CLIPS INSTEAD OF PINS

- Pins make holes, so use clips instead. The exception to this rule is Sew Hungry Hippie SOFT vinyl - it's a collection that is like fabric.

4

5

POUND THE SEAMS WITH A NYLON MALLET FOR EASIER SEWING

- This is amazing in how well it works! You can see me do this on a live show and I'm so shocked how well it works.

USE A LONGER STITCH LENGTH 3MM-3.5MM

- You don't want to perforate the vinyl, so use a longer stitch length.

6

7

WARM THE VINYL BEFORE TURNING RIGHT SIDES OUT TO MAKE IT MORE MALLEABLE

- I will often sit the vinyl or project in a windowsill in sunshine, use a hair dryer for a few seconds, OR iron using a teflon pressing cloth to make it more bendy!