

Tube Turners

Part 1

1.150

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SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide
to
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Sewing

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How to Turn Fabric Tubes

Turning a fabric tube can be simple or difficult depending on what tool is used, the width of the tube, the type of fabric, and whether the strip of fabric is cut on-grain or on the bias. Slippery fabrics or wide tubes are the easiest to turn. For more information on sewing and turning tubes, see Guidelines 1.151, 11.140 and 12.246.

Purchased Tube Turners

There are several tools designed specifically for turning fabric tubes, but some common sewing items can also be used.

Fasturn

The Fasturn is a hollow brass cylinder with a separate, specially designed wire. Available in six sizes, from 1/8"- to 3/4"-wide diameters, its intended use is for light- to medium-weight fabrics. The Blue Tube is a larger version for heavier fabrics and for tubes 1" to 1 1/2" wide (1).



To use, feed the entire fabric tube onto the cylinder until the far end is over the mouth of the cylinder. If necessary, bunch the fabric up over the cylinder to make it all fit. From the "handle" end, feed the spiral point of the wire all the way through the cylinder.

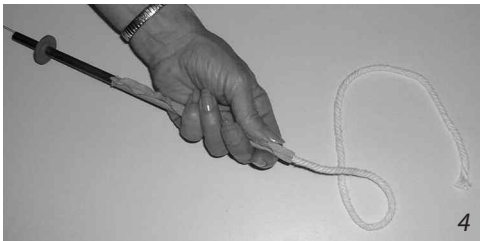
Turning clockwise, "screw" the wire point through the tube fabric; be careful not to pierce any stitching (2).



While holding the Fasturn, gently work the fabric end into the cylinder with a slight pull on the wire handle. Gently push the fabric up the outside of the cylinder while pulling down on the wire. If the finished tube is to be pressed flat, spread the seam allowances open as the tube slides over the cylinder's edge to the inside. As the fabric feeds to the inside of the cylinder, it turns right side out (3). Hold the fabric tube, and turn the wire counter-clockwise to detach it.



For filled tubes, insert the filler as the tube is being turned. Feed the fabric tube onto the cylinder, and attach the wire to it and the end of the filler. Poke the filler into the end of the cylinder as you begin turning the tube. Feed the filler evenly as you pull the tube through the cylinder (4). If necessary, attach the filler to the end of the fabric tube with a few stitches.



Turn-a-Bout

The Turn-a-Bout is a metal rod about 12" long that will turn tubes 1/8" and wider. Insert the threaded end of the rod into the tube. Follow the instructions to wrap moistened sewing thread around the tube, attaching it to the rod's threaded end (5). Pull the rod backward through the tube as you push the fabric over the turning end. You may have to poke the fabric point into the tube to get it started. For filled tubes, fill the tube as it's being turned as with the Fasturn.

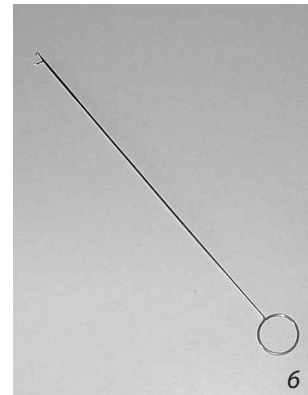


Turn-it-All

The Turn-it-All is a set of three plastic cylinders (3/16", 3/8" and 1/2") and three dowels. It's used similarly to the two previous tools. However, instead of pulling the fabric through the cylinder, the fabric is pushed or plunged through the cylinder with a dowel.

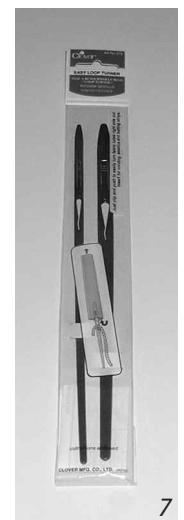
Standard Loop Turner

A standard loop turner is about 12" long with a latch hook on one end and a pull ring at the other. Insert the hook through the fabric tube, and poke it through the fabric at opposite end of the tube. Holding the ring, gently pull the loop turner back through the tube working the fabric into the tube. Work carefully, so the hook stays connected to fabric. The loop turner can turn lightweight loops 1/8" and wider (6).



Easy Loop Turner

The Easy Loop Turner can turn tubes as narrow as 3/8" wide (7). Place its pointed end into the fabric tube, slide the fabric edge under the clip, and press down on the clip until it clicks. Push the Easy Loop Turner into the tube while working the edge to turn it right side out.



See Guideline 1.151 for some common sewing items that can be used to turn tubes.