



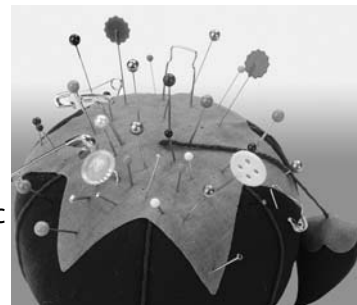
# Pins

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Page 1

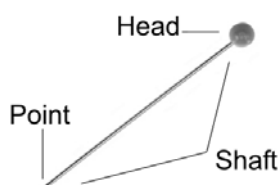
**Isn't a pin just a pin?** Who knew there could be so many different options to pick from?

Pins can be made from several different metals including brass, steel, nickel or a combination of those. Stainless steel, brass and nickel-plated brass pins are rustproof; nickel-plated steel pins are rust-resistant and they will adhere to a magnetic pincushion. Rust resistance is important if you plan to leave pins in a project for a while, or you live in a humid climate.



## Pin Anatomy

A simple straight pin has three parts: the head, shaft and point.



The head of the pin is a flat nub of the same metal used to make the rest of the pin, but there are also many specialty heads available—like plastic flowers and hearts, glass balls, metal globes, etc.

The shaft is the portion between the head and the point, and varies in diameter depending on the intended use.

The point is the section that first enters the fabric. Points can be sharp or rounded, depending on the pin type.

## Size Wise

Straight pins generally range in length from 1/2" to 2 1/8" long. Most manufacturers list the pin length on the packaging in inches or millimeters. Size numbers refer to the length in 1/16" increments. For example, a size 20 pin is 1 1/4" long.

Select a pin long enough to hold the fabric layers together, but not too long that you constantly poke yourself while working on the project. Longer pins are helpful if you have dexterity issues like arthritis in your fingers or vision problems, as they're easier to hold onto and see.

The shaft diameter varies by pin type and is usually noted in millimeters. Use narrow shafts (.5mm) for lightweight fabrics and

larger shafts (.7-.8mm) for thicker fabrics. If the shaft diameter isn't specifically listed, it may be indicated by the pin name, such as fine or super-fine.

## Pin Points

There are three categories of sewing pins: straight, specialty and safety pins; within each group, there are multiple options as well. If you're only purchasing one type of pin for sewing, dressmaker pins are an all-purpose choice.

## Straight Pins

**Appliqué:** Very short to help hold appliqués in place for hand stitching without getting caught on the thread as you stitch.

**Ball Point:** Rounded point designed for use with knit fabrics so the point slides between the loops of the knit without snagging it.

## Worth Noting

- Don't stitch over pins, as they can break a needle, harm the machine or hurt you. Just pull the pin out as you get close to it—pins with large heads make this process easier.
- If pins are bent, rusted or damaged, throw them out to avoid fabric damage.
- If you own specialty pins or a large number of pin types, store and label them separately to avoid mix-ups.

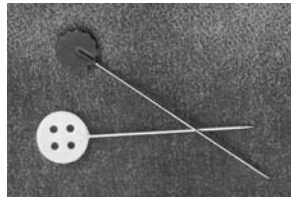
**Beading:** Slightly larger head making them ideal for beading crafts.

**Bridal and Lace:** Extra-fine shaft for use on fine fabrics to avoid damage and/or permanent pin holes.

**Color Ball:** Decorative plastic heads that are easy to see and hold onto. Caution: Pressing over these may melt the balls.

**Craft:** Extra-long for use with heavier fabrics, like home decorating weights.

**Decorative Head:** Look for molded plastic, pearlized or metallic flowers, buttons, hearts, etc. as the pin head. Some are made from no-melt plastic so you can iron over them.



**Dressmaker:** Suitable for medium-weight fabrics and general sewing uses.

**Glass Head:** General-purpose pins with a heat-resistant head that can be pressed over without melting.

**Pleating:** Fine shaft and sharp points for pinning pleats in place and use on lightweight or delicate fabrics.

**Quilting:** Long length and colorful heads for use on multiple quilt layers or heavy fabrics like fur, velvet, etc.

**Satin:** Tapered fine points help protect satin and other delicate fabrics from snagging.

**Sequin:** Extra-short fine pins perfect for holding sequins and other delicate trims in place. They can also be used to hold appliqués for hand stitching.

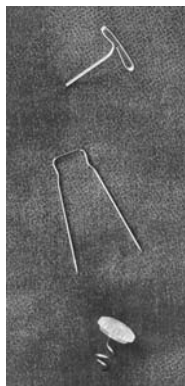
**Silk:** Rust-proof fine pins for silks and other synthetics.

**Super-fine Sharp:** Very fine shafts for very delicate fabrics.

### Specialty Pins

**T-pin:** Shaped pin for crafts, outdoor fabrics and upholstery. The T-shape head makes it easy to find and hold onto.

**Tidy:** Flat, double-prong U-shape pin used in home decorating to hold slipcovers, bed skirts and arm covers in place. It can also be used for crafting

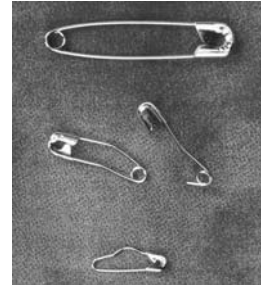


and other places where extra hold is needed, like on slippery fabrics or matching stripes.

**Twist:** Curly-shaft pins perfect for home décor uses—holding slipcovers, mattress covers, doilies, etc. in place.

### Safety Pins

Safety pins have their own sizing system, ranging from size 00 (3/4" long) to size 4 (3" long). They work well for many sewing, quilting and craft uses, like threading elastic through a casing, pin-basting a quilt, etc. In addition to ordinary safety pins, there are two specialty types.



**Curved Safety:** The shape of this pin allows for easy insertion and helps prevent the shifting of quilt layers when used as a basting tool.

**Button:** Shaped with a bump in the middle to temporarily hold a shank button in place on a garment. The buttons can be easily removed before the garment is washed or dry cleaned. 📌

*Photos courtesy of Prym Consumer USA*