

## Tissue paper tears my sewing pleasures. can you help?

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I need some help! I sew as a hobby to relieve stress and to have fun. But unfortunately I'm finding that it's no longer fun and has become stressful. First of all I work off of patterns and most commercial patterns are the crappy tissue type. These tissue patterns tear easily and I hate spending money to replace these patterns over and over. Also besides them tearing which is frustrating, I have pattern pieces all over my house! I can't keep track of what pattern piece belongs to which. And of course once you unfold them they never fit back in to the original packaging. So my question is how can I make sewing a less stressful and more organized process?

You won't be stressed out for long! With regards to your tissue patterns, to keep them from tearing you can purchase butcher paper, buckram, or any other stiff but cut-able material and some spray on glue. Cut out your patterns and glue them to the stiff material and cut the material according to the pattern piece. This will allow you to keep your patterns for a good long time. You can also be more discriminating when purchasing your patterns. There are pattern makers out there that produce paper patterns. Check to see if you can find what your looking for in paper first.

Now for storing your patterns there are a few options. You can get fancy and store your patterns in file cabinets that architects use for blueprints. Whether you roll them into tubes for upright storage or purchase a flat drawer filing cabinet is up to you. It's can be a bit pricey, but a beautiful way to store your pieces, just make sure you mark everything so you know what goes together. A less expensive alternative especially for smaller patterns, is to purchase large zip top freezer bags. Just put all of your pieces in the bag, make sure to include the directions and the pouch the pattern came in. You could also purchase photo organizer boxes. Just gently fold your tissue patterns into the box and separate each pattern with the packaging it came in.

I hope that by using these tips, your sewing experience will become fun again!