MAGIC MARKS

Marking tools are needed to transfer symbols and lines from the pattern pieces to the fabric. Accurate markings help make construction easier. The type of marking equipment you use depends on the type of fabric you are marking. Here are some of the common methods of marking:

**Tracing Wheel:** This is used by running the wheel over tracing paper to transfer markings to your fabric. A saw-toothed wheel can be used for most fabrics. A smooth-edge wheel is recommended for delicate fabrics.

**Dressmaker’s Tracing Paper:** This is a special type of waxed paper for use with the tracing wheel. It is available in several colors. It is best to choose a color that is similar to the color of your fabric, but still different enough to show. The tracing marks can be removed by washing or dry cleaning the fabric. The waxy side of the tracing paper should face the wrong side of the fabric when marking.

**Tailor’s Chalk:** This chalk is available in small squares to mark fabrics. The markings can be brushed away or they generally disappear when pressed with an iron.

**Tailor’s Pencil:** This is a pencil form of tailor’s chalk and works in the same manner. The pencils are available in several pastel colors.

**Thread:** Regular sewing thread can be used to make tailor’s tacks on specialty fabrics where you would not want to make marks.

**Water-Soluble Marker:** These pastel markers can be used on sturdy fabrics and will disappear when laundering the item.