Let's Get Organized: Week 12 - Scissors, Rotary Cutters and Other Cutting Tools

Time to go through your collection of scissors, rotary cutters and other cutting/sharp tools. Eventually, even the best cutting tools, through repeated use, develop nicks or just wear thin sharp edge. Working with dull or damaged tools can be frustrating and dangerous. These quilt studio staples need to be kept in good working order so that you perform well when needed.

- Have your scissors professionally sharpened yearly.
- Keep your scissors/cutting tools clean. Periodically wipe the blades with a soft cloth, making sure to remove lint in hard to reach areas. Also, do not clean with water as it will cause rust.
- Avoid leaving your scissors on your ironing board when you have been using the steam setting as the board retains moisture much longer than you think.
- Do not force a cut when it comes to scissors, as it may cause the blades to come out of alignment.

For more tips on cleaning and keeping your tools sharp check out http://www.thecuttingtablespoon.com.

Need your scissors or rotary cutter sharpened right away? Megan at the Sewing Geek has a method using a common household item that just might work in a pinch. Let us know what you think.

Once your sorting and sharpening has been completed, decide which is the best way for you to keep cutting tools organized. As you are trying to re-think your space, think about the area you currently work in or are trying to achieve this year. Remember, we are still in the clearing/cleaning out phase, and you can always change your mind. But, it’s good to have an idea of what works best for you! What space are you happy with? What is your stress free and most creative dream quilting studio? This is what we are trying to help you achieve.

1. Do you prefer a clean and visually clutter-free space with tools out of sight?
2. Do you prefer tools to be out and within easy reach on your cutting surface?
3. Does your entire workspace allow for large amounts of horizontal or vertical storage?

Vertical Storage

TracyW from MinnesotaMQG magnetic knife holder. Want something more colorful? Check out Serena’s fabric covered magnetic holder at TheFarmChick.
Or how about using the old Julia Child's pegboard organization trick? Outline each tool out with a colorful marker. A spray painted a discount store unit with baskets offers storage of a surprising amount of things. Get started with a spray painted a discount store unit with baskets (or fabric cutting tools and the other for paper cutting tools). A corner two tier plate unit with baskets offers storage of a surprising amount of tools.

Hidden Storage:

If you prefer and have the space, you can use a utensil drawer system like Martha Stewart does to keep these items out of sight (and away from little helping hands). The Seasoned Homemaker also uses this system in her studio.

Tip: Rubberized shelf liners also help to keep things from shifting around as you open and close the drawers. Use the left over bits for supporting your hands while machine quilting as Philippa Naylor does (Show 606).