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How to Keep Your
Sewing Space Tidy,
Happy & Productive

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1

Don't keep a waste bin in your sewing space

You are a maker of beauty, a grower of creativity. The people and environment we spend time around have an influence on us. You don't need a bin of garbage in your vicinity influencing your creative process. Put all your discarded items in another room's waste bin.

If you must have a waste bin in your sewing space, make it a beautiful one -- a ceramic pitcher, a wicker basket. Definitely not a dirty, broken, or plastic bin.

2

Only keep 1-2 projects out in your sewing space at a time

Put all other projects away if you've stopped working on them for a while. Give yourself space for mental clarity to focus on just the one or two projects you're working on currently. No need to worry about returning to the projects you've put away -- you'll come back to them when the time is right if you really want to finish them.

3

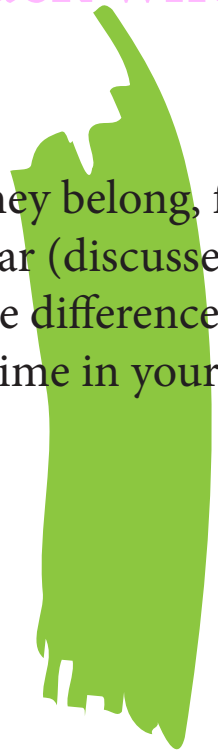
Have a designated place for your tools

It doesn't have to be a specific place for each tool. You could have a place for groups of tools. For example, a place for things you use at the sewing table and a place for things you use while cutting patterns, etc.

4

After completing each project, take 20 minutes to put everything back where it belongs

Put all the fabric away, put the scissors where they belong, fold or roll up the pattern and put it away, empty your thread jar (discussed later). Start fresh with each project. You'll be amazed at the difference this makes in mental clarity. AND you'll want to spend more time in your sewing space.



5

Sweep or vacuum often

If the floor is clean, your brain has more mental space to think clearly and make decisions swiftly. Operate your sewing space like a well-oiled machine -- with some creativity and occasional messes mixed in.

6

Keep your thread and bobbins tidy

Try to minimize the amount of loose thread trailing through your collection of thread spools.

7

Trim off jagged edges on your fabric before putting it away

There is something to be said for using fabric effectively, but if jagged edges leave you feeling unhappy and discourage you from digging through your stash to start a new project, it's a sign you would be more happy and productive with neat edges. After each project, square up the remainder of your fabric. The fabric need not be made into a perfect squarish shape, just cut the pieces that hang off after cutting your pattern.

8

Fold all your fabric with the raw edges tucked in

Fold and / or roll all the pieces in your fabric stash in such a way that no raw edges are visible. This gives a neat and tidy feeling to the room and to your creative energy.

9 Have bins for different sized scraps

Have one bin for itty-bitty scraps (if you like to keep those) and one for larger than a few inches or smaller than a yard. When you have a small project in mind, you can easily know which bin to go to and sort through to find the right color/fabric.

10 Have a place to put old muslins, projects that didn't work out, etc

Things you don't want to toss but don't necessarily want to look at -- have a designated space for them. Preferably something with a lid so they are out of sight, but you can reference again later if you want to revisit the idea.

11 Start with the tools you have and collect good quality tools as you go forward

Only use tools that work well and make you happy. Get rid of that annoying seam ripper that gives you hand cramps!

12

Get a thread jar

Whatever it is, it should be beautiful and make you happy every time you look at it. Keep it on your sewing table, and put threads and fabric snips in as you sew. This is a major help in keeping your sewing area tidy. Empty the jar when full or after each project.

13

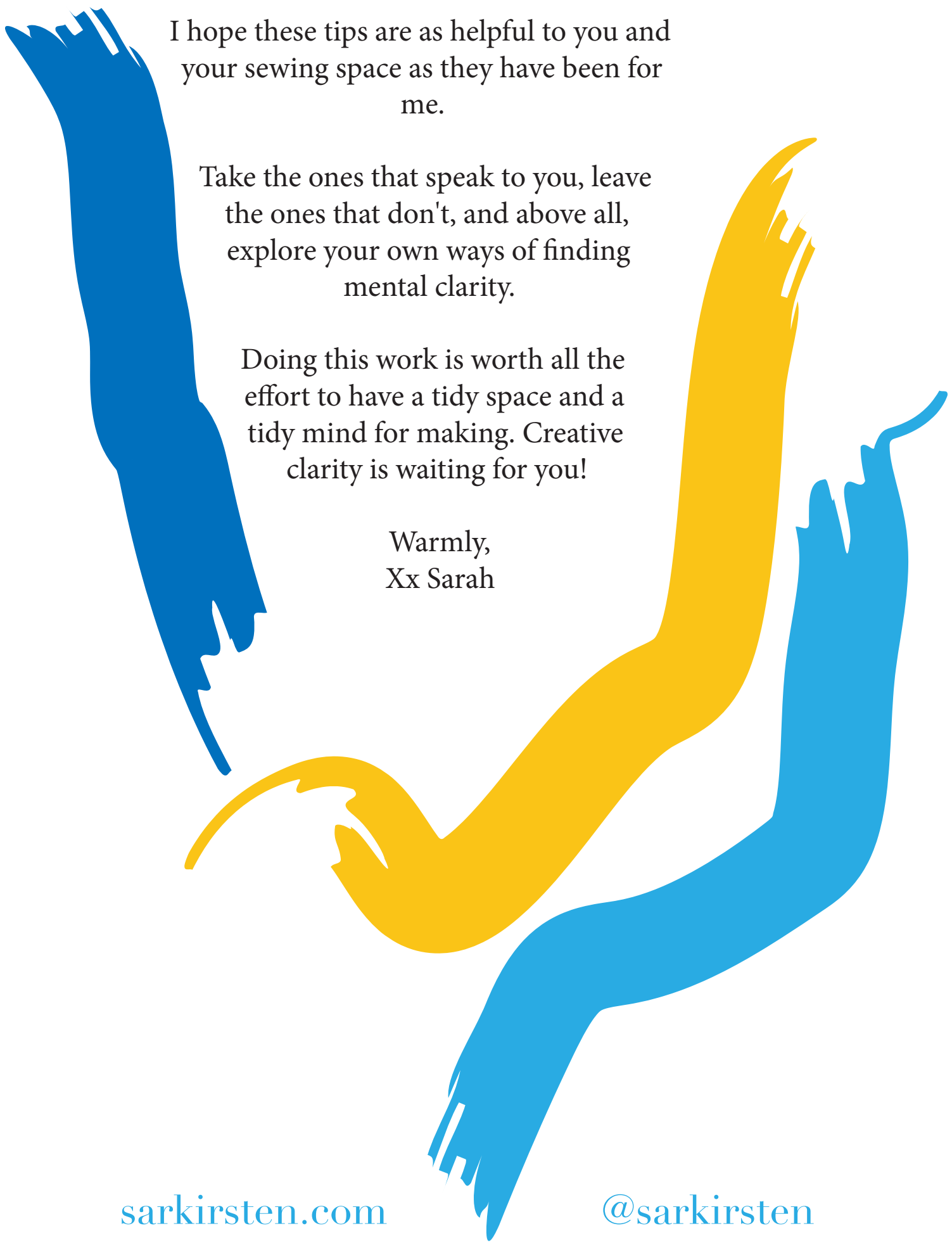
Maintain your sewing machine and tools

Oil and clean your sewing machine regularly. It's much more enjoyable to sew with a machine that runs smoothly, and it doesn't take much time to clean out the lint and apply oil. Sharpen scissors when they get dull.

14

Keep an empty aspirin container handy for broken needles

When the annoying event of a broken needle takes place, have a child-safe, cute little container on hand to place the needles in. You could even peel off the label and decorate the container to make it cheery. No use crying over spilled milk... or broken needles.

The page is decorated with large, expressive brushstrokes in blue and yellow. A blue stroke starts at the top left and curves downwards. A yellow stroke starts at the top right and curves downwards. A blue stroke starts at the bottom right and curves upwards. These strokes frame the central text.

I hope these tips are as helpful to you and
your sewing space as they have been for
me.

Take the ones that speak to you, leave
the ones that don't, and above all,
explore your own ways of finding
mental clarity.

Doing this work is worth all the
effort to have a tidy space and a
tidy mind for making. Creative
clarity is waiting for you!

Warmly,
Xx Sarah