


## TIP OF MONTH: “Needle” notes from Ann

- **DO** use either a Sharp or Topstitch needle for your quilting projects.
    - Using a sharp needle on the right fabric will produce a straight, consistence stitch.
    - I generally purchase Schmetz Sharp, Quilting or Topstitch needles. They work in all sewing machine brands.
    - I normally use a Sharp 75/11 or 80/12 for piecing.
    - A large needle (90/14) will leave bigger hole in the fabric.
  - **DO** change your needle after every 2 or 3 full bobbin changes or after 8 to 10 hours of sewing, because:
    - The point wears down and becomes dull
    - A dull needle can snag your fabric, cause thread breaks, and skipped stitches.
  - **DON'T** use Universal needles. They should only be used for mending. (I don't own any)
    - The Universal needle's sewing stitch is between a sharp and a ball point needle which produces its own unique stitch.
    - It can also produce a popping sound when sewing.
  - **DO** purchase an inexpensive tomato pin cushion as a needle holder. Use a sharpie to label the type of needle and size.
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- **DO** not throw old needles away
    - Use them as push pins on your design wall. They are sharper than regular pins
    - Place them in a pill bottle, then throw it away to avoid injury

The information is from my experience and using [www.schmetzneedles.com](http://www.schmetzneedles.com)