



The Ultimate Fabric Tool Match Checklist

How to use this cheat sheet: Keep this guide next to your cutting mat. Before slicing into your yardage, check your fabric type and project stage to select the exact tool that guarantees zero distortion and clean edges.

1. The "Always Rotary" Zone

Use your rolling blade and self-healing mat when working with:

- [] **Slippery Delicates (Silk, Chiffon, Organza):** The downward pressure prevents the layers from sliding off-grain.
- [] **Stretch & Knits (Spandex, Jersey, French Terry):** Slices cleanly without stretching or warping the negative ease.
- [] **Long Outseams (Pants, Maxi Skirts):** Ensures perfectly straight, unbroken lines along the bias.
- [] **Quilting Blocks:** Paired with an acrylic ruler for strict mathematical precision.
- [] **Fray-Prone Wovens (Loose Linen):** Compresses the threads down, sealing the edge temporarily.

2. The "Always Scissors" Zone

Pick up your high-carbon shears when dealing with:

- [] **Heavyweights (12oz Denim, Canvas, Leather):** Provides the necessary mechanical leverage without destroying delicate circular blades.
- [] **Intricate Garment Curves (Armholes, Necklines):** Allows for multi-axis maneuvering where a 45mm blade cannot physically turn.
- [] **Notch Clipping:** The micro-serrated tips allow for exact 2mm snips into the seam allowance.
- [] **Seam Grading & Trimming:** Essential for removing interior bulk after a seam is sewn.



- [] **Paper Patterns:** Use a dedicated, cheaper pair of scissors to cut out pattern blocks to protect your fabric shears from wood-pulp abrasives.

3. The Hybrid Workflow (Apparel Standard)

For standard garments (Cotton, Crepe, Blends), combine tools for maximum efficiency:

- [] **Step 1:** Lay fabric flat and secure the paper pattern with heavy pattern weights.
- [] **Step 2:** Use a **45mm Rotary Cutter** for the entire outer perimeter and long straightaways.
- [] **Step 3:** Switch to a **28mm Rotary Cutter** for gentle sweeping curves.
- [] **Step 4:** Pick up **Shears** to clip notches, trim sharp 90-degree corners, and cut out darts.

4. Pre-Cut Safety & Maintenance Checks

Never start cutting without verifying your setup:

- [] **Blade Test:** Roll the blade on a scrap piece. If it skips even one thread, replace the blade immediately.
- [] **Mat Check:** Ensure your self-healing mat has no deep, unclosed gouges that could catch the new blade.
- [] **Pivot Point:** Test your shears to ensure the central screw isn't loose (which causes fabric folding instead of cutting).
- [] **Safety First:** Is the rotary safety guard fully engaged the second the tool leaves your hand?