



WOODENBOAT SCHOOL TOOL LIST

THE ART OF THE SAILOR

The following tools will be needed for the course. I strongly encourage you to get them.

Sewing Palm – A sail palm will be supplied for you. Contact me ahead of time and let me know if you're right or left-handed. If you already own one, then bring it with you. If it's new, I will show you how to break it in and fit it to your hand. This will be your main tool for all the canvas work. A good quality palm will last you a lifetime. Unfortunately, a good palm is hard to come by these days.



- **Sewing Needles** - Wm. Smith & Son are the last company still making real sailmakers needles. Sailrite.com sell them separately and in assortments. For our class you will only need size 14 and 15. I suggest two of each.
<https://www.sailrite.com/Needles-Hand-Sewing-14>
<https://www.sailrite.com/Needles-Hand-Sewing-15>
The assorted packs are nice, if you get one, I recommend the W Smith & Son Assorted (#13-19) Sail Hand Sewing Needles Triangular Point (5 pack).
<https://www.sailrite.com/Hand-Needles-Pack-of-5>
- **Sm. Swedish Fid** - These tools are indispensable in splicing and covering work. They come in a few sizes, but a small fid, about 7 or 8in will work for most projects. They are available at the WoodenBoat Store, on Amazon, R&W Rope, and Hamilton Marine.
- **Sm. Spike** - In small hand work, this tool takes the place of a marlinspike. For someone with an average or large size hand, a scratch awl works great. Home Depot and Craftsman make them. If you have a small hand, Hamilton Marine sells a smaller version by Osborne.
- **Thread Scissors** - While any pair of fine small scissors will work, I prefer something like Fiskars micro tip scissors. They are quick and easy to use, especially for big hands.
- **Wax** - beeswax works best, but you can buy sailmaker's wax.
<https://www.sailrite.com/Composition-Wax-Cup>
- **Small tape measure**
- **T-Pins** - these are heavy duty pins in the shape of a T, sewing stores like JoAnn fabrics will carry them.
- **Disposable lighter**
- **Electrical tape**
- **Seat Cushion** - we'll be sitting a lot during this class, so be prepared.
- **Reading Glasses** - If you need them, we'll be working with some small things.
- **Gloves** – for some of the larger rope projects we will be working on, some folks prefer wearing gloves. A thin pair of leather gloves would be great, but anything that doesn't limit dexterity is fine.
- **Fabric Shears** - a nice pair of heavy duty, all metal shears are great for cutting thick canvas, but for this



class, a plain pair of scissors will work just fine.

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- **Rigger's Knife** - it might seem odd, but you don't need a knife to do any of this work. Feel free to bring along whatever you have, but it's ***not necessary***.
- **Other Tools** - I will provide the other tools you need as part of your materials. These include things like a wooden fid and bench hook. These items are either homemade or need modification, which is easier to do ahead of time.

Suggested Reading List

- **The Marlinspike Sailor** by Hervey Garrett Smith, is a better book to learn from than his other book "The Arts of the Sailor." It repeats about 90% of arts of the sailor plus more and provides a lot more illustrations. I consider this book a necessary tool for the class.
- **Des Pawson's Knot Craft** by Des Pawson's - This is the other book you should have for the class. It is one of the best collections of actual projects, and we will be doing some of them in the class.

There are a lot of books about knots. Too many actually. Most modern books are collections of the same practical knots you might use in sailing, camping, etc. I have found that a lot of the older books are more helpful because they focus on one aspect of tying, like bell ropes. The two books I mention are a good start. I will bring my collection of books with me so you can get a sense of what might interest you.

As for books about palm and needle work or canvas crafts, they are few and far between. While you don't need either of these for the class, you might look at **The Ditty Bag Book** by Frank Rosenow and **The Sailmaker's Apprentice** by Emiliano Marino. Both of these books walk you through the basics of sewing a ditty bag and will be using a lot of the concepts in the class.

I will provide all the materials (rope, canvas, thread, etc.) you will need for the class plus some extras for practice. I will also have some additional rope and canvas you can buy to take home.

Sailrite www.sailrite.com

R&W Rope www.rwrope.com Ask for Capt. Glover,

Hamilton Marine www.hamiltonmarine.com they have several stores in Maine. I suggest stopping by one if you can.

Also, in these times of supply chain issues, I recommend that you order your tools and supplies as soon as possible. It would be a shame to not have your tools or supplies in time for class. This is a newer class, and I want to make sure your expectations match what I plan on teaching. If you have any questions or concerns about what you need or how to fit your sewing palm, please contact me. Also, if you have questions about what to expect from the class, please let me know.

I'm looking forward to seeing you this summer!

José Hernández-Juviel