

# Not Molly

## Rebelling in Very Small Ways

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### A Sewing Mini-Kit for Times of Desperate Need

September 10, 2014 by [NotMolly](#)

So, we sometimes have extra young fellows around our place, because I have this very bad habit of feeding ~~strays~~—erm, missionaries. After noticing one fellow had a shirt pocket in the process of ripping off (and I sympathize, because I was the girl who lost her dress pockets more than once, due to the abundance of pretty rocks at the beach), and mentioning said pocket, I heard this in response:

Oh, I think I have some dental floss at home. It'll be fine.

Oh.

My.

Heavens.

This just cannot, will not, must not be.

In real life, I (in part) teach dressmaking and handsewing. So, I have a few odd resources others might not have, but since they are indeed MY resources, I can easily make them available, so here's what I put together for a sewing mini-kit, suitable for small clothing repairs and other needful situations. It stores very compactly, and if airport security does look squinch-eyed at you, at least you can delight them all with impromptu sewing lessons, and a delightfully wee instructional booklet.

For each kit, you will need:

- **One empty Altoids tin.** It was *such* a struggle to get an empty one around here. I had to open it, and wait about 14 seconds. The mints vanished, and my Little Girls smelled refreshingly minty for several hours. Give the tin a good wash and dry it well. I also primed it, and sprayed

it with hammered metal spray paint, because obviously, I can't leave well-enough alone.



(<https://notmolly.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/paintedtin.jpg>)

Recycled tin, plus hammered metal paint.

- Two or three *thin spools of Gutermann's all-cotton thread*. Since this kit is intended for someone who wears primarily business-type clothing (suits/ties), I included *white, black*, and an *indeterminate medium warm grey* (this is not the official color name) (though, it probably ought to be). Those three colors will serve for repairs to most business-type clothes by blending nearly perfectly, even if they are not a precise match. Vary the colors by intended uses of the recipient. Obviously, if you're giving a sewing mini-kit to a Goth kid, three nice shades of black will be most welcome. Browns for Steampunks, etc.



(<https://notmolly.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/unpacked.jpg>)

The contents, shown with the original booklet. The file you'll download doesn't need staples.

- *Small bit of wool felt* for a Needles-and-Pins page. Wool felt retards rusting and won't dull the points. You can buy wool felt at many crafting stores, or get a thrifted wool sweater, and let your Tall, Dark, and Slightly Neaderthal Husband do the wash.
- 3-5 *#9 or #10 Crewel needles*. These are a nice size to hold onto (not too big, not too small), and crewel eyes are longer than sharps eyes, so they're easier to thread.



(<https://notmolly.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/crewels.jpg>)  
Crewel needles have a longer eye, and are easier to thread.

- A *small beeswax disc*. Now, I make these by the hundreds because I use them in my class kits, but you can buy larger beeswax bits from Wawak (<http://www.wawak.com/products/product.cfm/pid/2932/Bees-Wax/>) quite cheaply (a 1-ounce disc is a lot of wax!), melt it in a glass bowl set over boiling water, and spoon that into small flat candy molds to make your own. You could even make a little cornstarch bed, press in an item about the diameter of a quarter coin, and make your own snazzy waxer.
- A *thimble*, sized to fit the dominant-hand middle finger of the recipient. An XL metal thimble will lay on its side in an Altoids tin.
- A standard aluminum *needle threader*, if you know the recipient may get frustrated trying to thread needles.
- The *instructional mini-booklet*. Download my mini-book here (<https://notmolly.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/mini-book-pdf1.pdf>). Go here for additional instructions on How To Fold It Up (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAb31rIeGZo>). Keep in mind that I had to sit down and draw the illustrations myself, and write the words, and everything, so don't be a jerk and court foul karma: give this away with gifts, but don't sell it!

Assemble everything, fold up the booklet, and play a bit of sewing-supply Spatial Geometry Challenge to fit everything in (embiggen the pic to see how I suggest making it work.) Then keep it for yourself or give one to a Person In Need of Useful Sewing Basics.



(<https://notmolly.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/packedtin.jpg>)