

3. Sewn on label

Materials

Tyvek (spun bonded polyolefin)

Permanent markers or Rotring pens and permanent black ink

Washed or unbleached cotton tape in various widths (to wash cotton tape soak it very hot water)
tie on tags

fine cotton or polyester thread

fine needles

Tyvek pros and cons

Tyvek Pros	Tyvek Cons
Water resistant	Not all pens write on it. Some inks float off on immersion in water, so test
Cheap to buy as a sheet and cut to size	Risk of static charge which could attract particles from the object surface e.g. pigment
Available in a range of weights. Soft weights are more sympathetic to soft, fragile objects	
Smoother to write on than cotton tape for textiles and do not need hemming.	

Method

- 1) Assess the object and decide whether to sew on a label, attach a tie on label, or make a special tag. If you are going to sew on a label it must be possible to stitch into the textile without causing damage. Tie on labels should be attached through a buttonhole, or similar, so that the fabric is not damaged.
- 2) Choose a location. Bear in mind whether the label needs to be visible when the textile is in storage. If the textile is going to be rolled it may be worth marking a long cotton tape with the same number and tying it round the rolled textile.
- 3) Choose a tape width or label size appropriate to the object size
- 4) Write the label neatly. This is easier with a marker.
- 5) For a standard flat cotton tape sewn-in label cut the tape approximately 5mm longer at each end than the finished length of the label, Turn under the raw ends and stitch in place with several long stitches at each end in a fine thread, preferable one that matches the textile not the label. The procedure for a sewn-in Tyvek label is the same, except no turnings are needed.

- 6) Tape and Tyvek can also be used to make looped labels sewn to the textile at one end only. This is particularly suitable for flat textiles with a hemmed edge. The loop can be arranged so that the number can be seen with the textile flat in store, but tucked beneath for display. The stitching can be concealed in the hem so that it cannot be seen from the right side.
- 7) Special Tyvek tags are used for fragile textiles, where a stitched label or a tie-on tag would cause damage. The number is written on a small piece of Tyvek and a fine needle is used with a length of fine polyester thread which is passed through the Tyvek and through an existing hole in the textile or between the threads from which it is woven. The ends of the thread are then knotted. This lightweight label puts little strain on the textile.