

# DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

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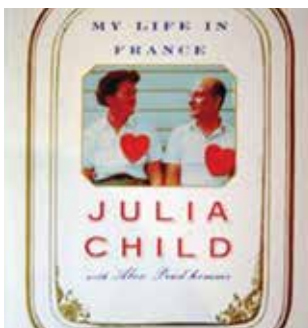
Serving the Custom Home Furnishings Industry since 1993

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From the Bookshelf



**Michele Fugazy**, owner of Michele Fugazy Designs for the Home, operates a retail and wholesale workroom in Ridgefield, CT, since 2001. She holds a degree in English Literature from Skidmore College. Prior to opening her workroom, she worked as a fashion executive in NYC, traveled extensively in Europe and Asia, and designed fabrics and accessories for the retail market. Her website is [www.michelefugazy.com](http://www.michelefugazy.com).

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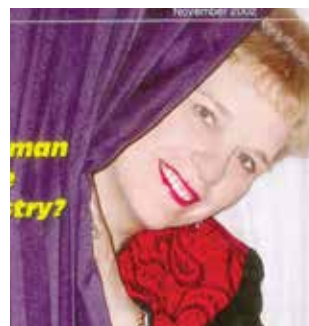
How to Maximize Your Studio Space



**Liz Hawkes**, CWTC, owns and operates Windows by Liz in Harvard, MA, a home-based workroom that serves retail clients and design professionals. Liz hails from England where she earned a degree in Home Economics before moving to the US in 1984. She is a WCAA member and former VP of her local chapter. She is also a member of WAOA, and CHF alumni showcase winner. Learn more about Liz at [www.windowsbyliz.com](http://www.windowsbyliz.com).

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Celebrating 20 Years of Knowledge and Sharing



**Terri Booser** is executive director of Custom Home Furnishings Academy. Before moving to Charlotte, NC, to run day-to-day operations at CHFA, Terri owned An Interior Stitch, a wholesale drapery workroom in Wattsburg, PA, established in 1990. She joined CHFA as an instructor in 2005 and became the curriculum development manager in 2010. Terri is the Construction Zone coordinator for Vision-IWCE.

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**Laurie Medford** is the business development manager/expert services for Rowley Company. Before joining Rowley Company, Laurie owned Centsible Creations, a professional design, fabrication and installation company for both wholesale and retail customers. Laurie is an instructor for Custom Home Furnishings Academy and is a member of WCAA and WFPC.

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# The Grommet/Button Cutter Buying Guide

How to choose the right cutters to maximize your job flexibility and minimize your investment.

By Laurie Medford  
Charlotte, NC



If you're thinking about fabricating with buttons or grommets, or have recently purchased a grommet/button press, this article will provide some helpful recommendations on the most cost-effective way to stock the cutters you'll need for a variety of jobs, as well as provide you with important care instructions to help you protect your investment for years to come. Button and grommet sizes are standardized throughout the industry, so purchasing one cutter to do multiple sizes of embellishments will help maximize storage space and reduce the number of cutters you'll need to purchase.

## Choosing the Right Cutters and Setters

While the inside diameter (ID) of grommets and the outside diameter (OD) of button forms are standardized, slight variations are accepted across the industry. In other words, a button form is designed to fit a specific button setter, so not all setters from all companies will work with all forms. The same holds true for grommets; some forms may be manufactured in metric measurements but published in English conversions — just enough difference so they're not universal to all setters.

Your best bet is to purchase the setters and cutters from the company where you purchased your crimp-

ing/setting machine and forms — that way you're guaranteed everything will work smoothly.

The chart at the bottom of the next page is for cutters only. Read across the columns for the cutters that are multipurpose. As an example, the #8 grommet cutter is the same as the #24 crimp button cutter. When looking specifically at the buttons, it makes more sense. The snap-together buttons take more fabric to wrap around the button form so they need a larger fabric circle; that's why the #30 crimp is the same as the #24 snap-together. This size chart specifically applies to cutters for the Rowley Company grommet/button machine, but you may find that there are similarities among cutters if you already have different button making and grommet setting systems.

## Cutter Care and Maintenance

Properly storing your cutters is very important. When you unpack your cutter for the first time, you'll see that it's wrapped in a protective foam wrapping (Photos 3 through 5 at right on the next page) and the cutter itself has been covered in a layer of grease to protect it from rusting in transit and during storage; therefore the foam wrapping is also covered in grease. This is a good thing!

Before the first use you must clean the grease from the cutter. Use a soft cloth, paper towel or a lining scrap, to gently clean around the outside and inside edges of the cutting surface. Be very careful as the cutting edges are factory sharp. If you need to do a deeper cleaning, we recommend using 91 percent isopropyl alcohol. Once the cutters are cleaned, they're ready to use.

After using and before storing the cutters, you'll need to re-grease the edges. Use the original greased foam wrapper to lightly coat the edges, then wrap the cutters in the greased paper and place in the original box. If you're missing the foam wrapper you can use machine oil and a small scrap of lining. Reusing the original packaging is best, since you don't want to store the cutters in an air-tight container.

When the cutters become dull from use, you could ship them back to Rowley Company to be resharpened, but I highly recommend finding a tooling company in your area. Any company that has tools that frequently need to be sharpened will have the ability in-house. With good care before, during and after use, these one-time purchases can last for many years. ✕

#### Sizes and SKUs

Refer to the following SKUs when ordering cutters from Rowley Company:

**Grommet cutters** GL8/C (#8), GL10/C (#10);

**Crimp Button cutters** GLA24/GLH24 (#24), GLA30/GLH30 (#30), GLA36/GLH36 (#36), GLA45/GLH45 (#45), GLA60/GLH60 (#60);

**Snap-Together Button cutters** GL24/C (#24), GL30/C (#30), GL36/C (#36), GL45/C (#45).

Grommet Cutter	Crimp Button Cutter	Snap-Together Button Cutter
#8	#24 (FCA24)	---
#10	#30 (FCA30)	#24 (FCB24)
---	#36 (FCA36)	#30 (FCB30)
---	#45 (FCA45)	#36 (FCB36)
---	#60 (FCA60)	#45 (FCB45)

The #20 grommet cutter is slightly larger than the #60 Crimp Button Cutter.  
The #20 grommet cutter also cuts the 2¾-inch plastic grommets.

