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My pattern picks

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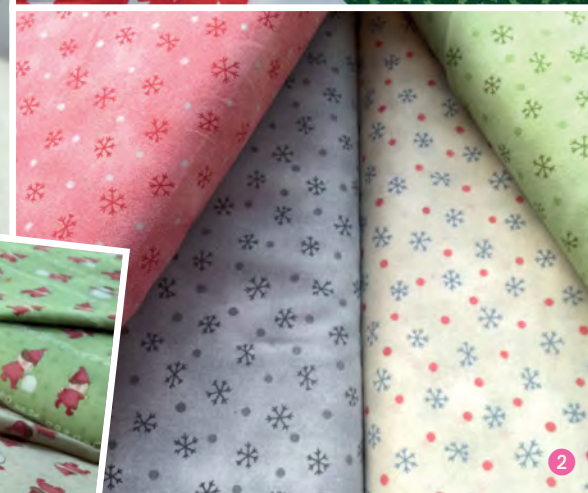


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Welcome to the new issue of *Love Sewing*...

Perhaps it doesn't feel like it, but now is the perfect time to get a head start on your festive sewing. This special edition is packed full of ingenious gift ideas for your friends and family, plus our annual gift guide starting on **page 8** that you can helpfully leave open for loved ones to see. Why not begin planning some outfits for the party season ahead? Hmmm... what to wear for the *Love Sewing* Christmas party?

If this is all feeling too soon or you're not intending on making your gifts this year, then not to worry – you'll still find all your favourite regular features to enjoy and you can happily make any of our fabulous projects as treats for yourself! Sewing really is the gift that keeps on giving.

Our cover star this month is the Threadcount 3-in-1 dress collection, which features a dazzling surplice bodice, two sleeve lengths and two skirt styles. Make sure to turn to **page 26** where we show you

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WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/LOVESEWINGMAG



Must have!

Your free Simple
Sew pattern



23

how to take this dress from work to play with only a few stylish changes.

We're excited to share articles and projects from Kirsty Hartley, Lisa Lam and Torie Jayne. Also inside issue 32, you'll find Alison Smith MBE talking you through installing lining around a skirt vent on **page 83**, perfect for couture wool pencil skirts. Jade Earley, *Sewing Bee* series 4 finalist, joins us as a new columnist and shares her top pattern picks on **page 34**. Plus Wendy Ward investigates what it's like to run your own craft business on **page 18** in her column Behind The Seams.

We loved seeing your creations as part of our recent Stitcher of the Year campaign, so there's no reason to stop getting in touch. Let us share the fun by sending photos of your projects to **letters@lovesewingmag.co.uk**

Happy sewing!

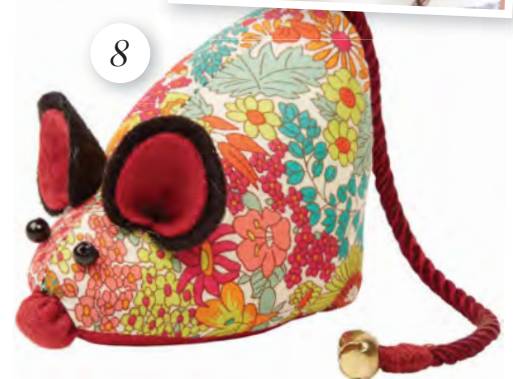
Amy x



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Kirsty Hartley

Working from her studio in the heart of the Lancashire hills, mum-of-three Kirsty runs her online clothing business and is the author of two dressmaking books. See how to make her Queen of Hearts dress on page 66.



Jade Earley

AKA The Girl With The Red Hair, Jade inspired thousands of sewists with her weekly appearances on series 4 of *The Great British Sewing Bee*. This month Jade joins us as a new columnist, sharing pattern picks on page 34.



Torie Jayne

You may know Torie from her gorgeous lifestyle blog www.toriejayne.com where she shares her passion for crafts and interiors. On page 58 you'll find a clever tutorial for a pretty woven ribbon cushion.



Wendy Gardiner

As well as being brand ambassador for McCall's, Butterick and Vogue patterns, Wendy is the author of the book that accompanies series 4 of *The Great British Sewing Bee*. Turn to page 52 for her tips on sewing with slippery fabric.

love Sewing loves...

Buys & inspiration

The patterns, people, fabric and finds getting us sewing this month

AZAIRE DRESS BY GATHER

£14 printed pattern

www.gatherkits.com

This chic, flattering top and dress sewing pattern is for intermediate sewists, sizes 8-18. It's perfect in woven fabric with drape and movement. Try cotton lawn, silk, viscose or rayon, but you could use velvet for a cocktail dress or chambray for a casual day dress.

The pattern has a panelled front, a lined, curved yoke piece, back darts for shaping, an invisible zip and lined peplum. There are a couple of petal sleeve options, which can be mixed and matched with the top or dress. We know it'll be your new wardrobe staple!



1 in 7

women could not name a single gynaecological cancer. Can you?



The Eve Appeal is determined to change this despite the fact that there are five gynaecological cancers.

www.eveappeal.org.uk/gynae

Innovation from Brother Sewing Machines

Brother is adding five feature-rich sewing and embroidery machines to its growing Innov-is series for both beginner and expert-level sewists. Starting from £349, the machines include the latest in sewing technology. Crafters can benefit from the easy-to-use LCD touch screens and advanced needle threading systems. Designed with creative sewists in mind, the machine allows users to incorporate an array of built-in designs, fonts and stitches into their projects.

Visit www.brothersewing.co.uk to find out more.



See the other new additions to Brother's exciting line of machines on page 73





£20



My Capsule Wardrobe: CITY BREAK EBOOK

www.sewoverit.co.uk/product/capsule-wardrobe-city-break-ebook

Sew Over It's latest release is an absolute belter. Lisa Comfort has created *The City Break* eBook that contains five patterns that are all perfect for a mini holiday. The patterns are designed for intermediate dressmakers and come in UK sizes 8-20.

Molly top & dress

A staple in any wardrobe, a basic jersey top is always a must-have on any city break. Style it up with a Breton stripe, or colour block for a more funky look. The perfect pattern to try sewing jersey for the first time, Molly will be a hit with anyone who likes a quick, satisfying sew. What's more, make it in a heavier ponte di roma jersey and Molly makes a perfect casual dress.

Alex shirt & dress

Two-in-one, the Alex shirt dress is a versatile, classic pattern that will take anyone seamlessly from day to night.

Mia jeans

A quintessential pair of skinny jeans, Mia is high-waisted with a front fly and back pockets, and is fun and interesting to sew as well as being flattering, stylish and chic.

Lola coat

Lola is a stylish yet comfy coat that you can throw on over any outfit! Make it short or long, and choose to wear it open or nipped in with a belt.



Lisa says:

"Living in London, we are so lucky to be able to visit so many great European cities so easily. City breaks are one of my favourite kinds of holiday. I love exploring new places, absorbing new cultures, checking out the sites and enjoying great wine and food! But my existing wardrobe, full of vintage-inspired cotton dresses and skirts, is not exactly 'city break' material. What I want to wear is something a bit more practical but still stylish. This was my aim when I designed the patterns in this eBook. There are five patterns that will take you from day to night, in any city. They are so interchangeable; your hand luggage will approve!"

SEWING MACHINE

TEA TOWEL

WWW.POPPYTREFFRY.CO.UK

We're so excited about this lovely sewing machine design by illustrator Poppy Treffry, which would brighten up any home! Sure it would be great for doing the drying up but we bet it could look fantastic framed, up on the wall in a sewing room. Remember, sewing forever, housework whenever!



From
£45

TATTY DEVINE SEWING THEMED JEWELLERY

WWW.TATTYDEVINE.COM

Get your craft on with Tatty Devine. The London-based jewellery genius has transformed sewing supplies into playful accessories that will make the perfect Christmas gift. The pinking shears and sewing box necklaces are cleverly articulated and the sewing machine necklace is even strung with real wire thread. Sew cute!



WE HAVE ONE
SEWING MACHINE
NECKLACE TO
GIVE AWAY! TURN
TO **PAGE 92**
TO ENTER

Stitchy CHRISTMAS wishlist

People often find it hard to know what to buy sewing enthusiasts so how about casually leaving these pages open in their eyeline?! We've picked our dream presents; ranging from surprises to little stocking fillers



WIN A YEAR'S
SUBSCRIPTION!
TURN TO **PAGE
92** TO ENTER

LOVE SEWING ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

WWW.LOVESEWINGMAG.CO.UK

Ever had the fear that your local supermarket has sold out of your favourite sewing magazine? Having a loved one sign you up for a year's subscription will definitely solve that problem!

You'll get your copy delivered before it hits the stands and, if you subscribe using this month's special offer, you'll be sent a FREE OLFA rotary cutter and cutting mat worth £38 that can be used for cutting out projects and trimming your work with precision accuracy. Turn to page 36 to read more about how to subscribe.

£39



DREAM WARDROBE FROM FABRIC GODMOTHER

WWW.FABRICGODMOTHER.CO.UK

Imagine getting a parcel every month, exclusively selected for you. It contains a pattern, fabric and all the required notions to make your own clothes, in your own style! Following a free style consultation, Josie of Fabric Godmother will then create a wardrobe designed especially for you. The only catch? You need to make it yourself using the bumper box of supplies delivered to your door!

It costs £39 per month and you can pay monthly, quarterly, six-monthly or if you buy a year's subscription up front you will get one month free!

FELT CACTUS SEWING KIT

£7.50

WWW.THEMAKEARCADE.CO.UK

Tap in to this season's succulent trend with this cactus sewing kit – no gardening required! This little felt cactus would make an awesome sewing room decoration. Plus you get the fun of making it included!



MERCHANT & MILLS COPPER FARTHING

WWW.MERCHANTANDMILLS.COM

A generous gift from the wages department at Merchant and Mills! Just like the days of Christmas, you get 12 chocolate farthings – the perfect stocking filler and snack!



£3.75



£54

PATCHWORK STARTER SET

WWW.EMPRESSMILLS.CO.UK

What do you need to dive into the world of patchwork? Empress Mills has it all sorted for you with this perfect gift set. You'll get all this in one pack:

- 30x45cm cutting mat
- Maxi rotary cutter
- 20g extra long yellow glass-headed pins
- Water-erasable AQUA trick marker
- 15x30cm ruler for rotary cutters
- 20-piece card of hand-sewing needles, between no. 11
- Patchwork & Quilting catalogue



£19.99

PREMAX STORK SCISSOR GIFT SET WITH THIMBLE

WWW.EASTMANSTAPLES.CO

The world-famous gold-plated Stork scissors are paired with a matching thimble and housed in a beautiful satin lined presentation case. With needle-sharp points, these delicate but sturdy scissors are an accessory you will be proud to have on display on your work table and will become an invaluable tool when clipping, notching and trimming.



£7.95

MARGARET ANNIE PRINT MOUSE PINCUSHION

WWW.LIBERTY.CO.UK

A useful companion for any haberdashery collection, this adorable mouse pincushion features a classic floral print, Margaret Annie. Standing tall at 7cm, we love the little bell on the end of the tail! You'll also find other prints and colourways on the Liberty site but be careful not to fall down a rabbit hole of beautiful fabric and haberdashery items while you're there.

Perfect HANDMADE gifts

Sewing a handmade gift can be a wonderful way to show someone you care as the time and effort will be apparent in every stitch!

CREATIVE CREATURES

TIGER TOY KIT

WWW.DOTCOMGIFTSHOP.COM

If you're looking for a quick but cute fix for a gift, this sewing kit contains everything you'll need to make a charming cuddly pal; including a printed panel, stuffing, pins, scissors, needle and thread. Take a look at the other softies in the range – the cheeky elephant, cool crocodile, impressive lion and sweet Molly doll.

£8.95



STANLEY TREE

ORNAMENT

WWW.SEWAHOLICPATTERNS.COM/FREE/

This charming stuffed tree-shaped decoration is perfect for friends and family without the space for a larger tree. You can use your favourite cotton FQs and finish with ribbon bows, metal bells, twine, ornaments or other embellishments! Choose from a 17" tall tree, or a smaller baby tree that stands 9.5" tall. So go on, let them open their gift early and show off this fab little make.

FREE



HARRISON SHIRT

SHOP.CASHMERETTE.COM

While it seems to be the obvious choice to make a shirt for a special man in your life, we say making one for a female friend or relative is just as nice. Try the latest release from Cashmerette patterns that is available in sizes 12 to 28, with three cup sizes (C/D, E/F, G/H) and priced \$18 (approximately £13.50) for a paper pattern.

£13.50



MONSTER MUNCH

SOFTIE

SHOP.SHINYHAPPYWORLD.COM

Meet Munch! This fun, easy-to-sew softie was designed by Wendi Gratz. Standing 9" tall (not counting his long legs) and 9" wide at the base, he's the perfect size for hugging. We think he'd make the perfect gift made in snuggly Cloud9 organic flannel. Find the PDF pattern at \$8.99 (approximately £7) as well as more fantastic patterns from Wendi's line.

£7



ESSENTIAL MEN'S

T-SHIRT

WWW.LOVESEWINGMAG.CO.UK

Sew up this classic men's T-Shirt pattern designed by Claire-Louise Hardie. T-shirts are easy fitting, as there are no fiddly darts or complicated panels, so it makes a great project if you are just beginning to hone your sewing machine skills. Available in sizes XS-XL, this free PDF pattern can be downloaded from our website and comes together very quickly.

FREE





VIBRANT BOHO BAG

£19.99

Pick up a copy of Amy Butler's *Piece Keeping* by talented artist and designer Amy Butler that showcases the beauty and versatility of patchwork with 20 gorgeous projects. We think this boho handbag would make a great gift and you'll be able to stash bust your scraps at the same time! The book is priced £19.99 published by Chronicle Books.



£22

EASY HEXAGON PRINT CUSHION

SHOP.THENEWCRAFTHOUSE.COM

This kit includes everything you need to make yourself an English paper-pieced cushion cover; inside you'll find high quality Dashwood and Kona cottons in pre-cut hexagons and backing fabric (a range of prints are available), paper templates and thread. It's suitable for a beginner sewist and is a great first project for trying out English paper piecing – a traditional patchwork technique – while making a stylish gift for a friend or family member at the same time.



£19.77

STAY SMART RUCKSACK

Windy City Bags by blogger and pattern designer Sara Lawson is chock full of excellent bag projects to wow your friends and family. We love this rucksack that is a great size for carrying a laptop and supplies. As well as the projects themselves, you'll find plenty of instruction and advice on technique and fabric choice to help you achieve better bag making. The book is priced £19.77 and published by Martingale.



£11.75

MINI HOOP KITS

WWW.DANDELYNE.COM

These DIY embroidery kits can be easily tucked in your handbag, allowing you to work on your gifts during your commute! You can embroider, cross-stitch or appliqué your designs to make necklaces, brooches and mini wall hangings.

SWINGY PLEATED SKIRT

WWW.SIMPLICITYNEWLOOK.COM

This clever pattern pack from Simplicity has options for two styles of inverted pleat skirts, with different length options and choices to add a lace overlay or decorative ribbon trim. Skirts work well as gifts because you only need a waist and hip measurement and in a pinch you can use an existing skirt to match finished garment measurements.

£8.15



love Sewing library

Our pick of this month's new sewing and dressmaking books

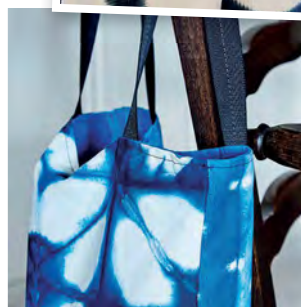
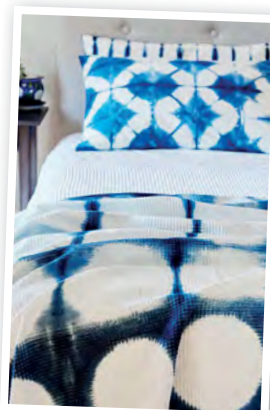


SIMPLY SHIBORI

by Fiona Fagan

£14.99 New Holland

The Japanese art of resist dyeing, or shibori, is the perfect technique for home sewists who want to upcycle plain fabric and add something unique and stunning to their home. Fiona Fagan favours earthy tones, with a vivid colour infused in her designs. *Simply Shibori* includes step-by-step instructions for every project, taking you through the construction and the dyeing process, so you can fill your home with unique pieces.



SEWN BAGS

£9.99 GMC Publications

You can never have too many bags, and with *Sewn Bags* you have 20 more timeless patterns to choose from! Bright pictures and illustrations take you through the steps to make any of these stylish bags, including everything from totes to evening bags. Templates are included for each pattern, and the fabric choices for each project are sure to inspire you to make a trendy addition to your wardrobe.



WILD THINGS TO MAKE: HEIRLOOM ACCESSORIES AND CLOTHES TO SEW FOR YOUR CHILDREN

by Kirsty Hartley

£25 Weidenfeld and Nicolson

Prolific sewist and designer Kirsty Hartley, author of *Wild Things: Funky Little Clothes to Sew*, is back with her

new book *Wild Things to Make*. This collection brings you more than 40 fabulous projects for your little one, drawing on simple shapes and whimsical imagery. Sew up one of the fun and colourful dresses or make up a pair of adorable shark dungarees for a wardrobe as durable as it is imaginative and that children will love to wear!

Turn to page 66 to make a gorgeous apron dress from *Wild Things to Make!*





Book of the month

MAKE IT OWN IT LOVE IT BY MATT CHAPPLE

£20 Jacqui Small

Our favourite read this month is the comprehensive new guide from Matt Chapple, winner of BBC 2's *The Great British Sewing Bee* 2015. We had a quick catch up with Matt about the book, sewing and life since the *Sewing Bee*

Hello! How are you today and what's on your sewing table at the moment?

Hey there, I'm doing very well thanks. On my table at the moment is a pattern for a new dress alongside some lovely floral fabric that I got from Guthrie & Ghani a while ago. However, I think it may be a week or so until I get going.

How did your journey with sewing begin?

It began when I was in the Army. I'd joined as a young lad of 16 and a half. We were taught everything from ironing and shaving to cooking and sewing. Many years later I picked up the needle and thread again when we needed some curtains, and from there my repertoire moved on to dresses for my wife Gemma and daughter; things just snowballed from there.

Tell us a bit about what sewists can expect from *Make It Own It Love It*

After hearing so many home stitchers say to me that books always expect them to be super skilled, we were determined to bring something to the market that anyone and everyone can enjoy. *Make It Own It Love It* has tips on customisation of existing garments, how to make new ones from just body measurements or general upkeep and fixes we all need to know.

How did you go about deciding how you wanted to structure the book?

Gemma and I had an idea of what we felt may work; in addition to some awesome sessions with the publishers at Jacqui Small we all came up with a format that felt fun, accessible and different to what is already out there. We are so chuffed with the result and wouldn't change a thing.



What would your top tip be for beginners just starting out?

Please don't be afraid of picking up that needle and thread or plugging in your machine. I'd say to remember to measure twice and only cut once. And by that I mean if you double-check what you're about to do, you'll begin with the right building blocks to help make your garment great.

What has life been like since you won the *Sewing Bee* last year?

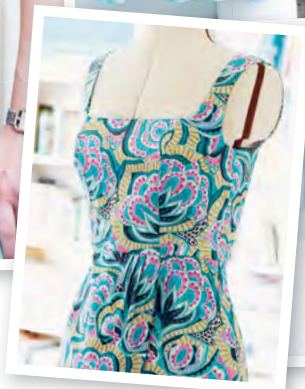
It's been fantastic. I've been fortunate enough to be able to be a part of some awesome things such as Children in Need's CarFest, Kirstie Allsopp's Handmade Fair and Create & Craft TV, not to mention all the fantastic sewing shows that I've been able to get along to and have a good old natter with lots of stitchers.

Have you ever had any sewing disasters? If so, how did you salvage them?

Oh, rest assured I've had many, some of them on TV too, but I'd like to gloss over those if you don't mind. I think the best thing when you have a bit of a mishap is to take a minute and a few deep breaths, perhaps go and have a cuppa then have another attempt or see if you can maybe take a different approach.

Finally, what can we expect to see from you next?

For now, we're just pretty excited to launch the book and enjoy the lovely feedback that we've had so far. There's still lots of activity planned until the end of the year and we'll wait and see what 2017 brings.



Discover all the ideas, **inspiration** and **crafting** supplies you could ever dream of!



AUTUMN SHOWS 2016

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2 SHOWS
FOR THE
PRICE
OF 1

Crafts for Christmas/ Stitching, Sewing & Hobbycrafts/ Art Materials Live

NEC, Birmingham - 3-6 November

4 SHOWS
FOR THE
PRICE
OF 1

Cake International

NEC, Birmingham - 4-6 November

Simply Christmas/ Stitching, Sewing & Hobbycrafts

ExCeL, London - 17-19 November

2 SHOWS
FOR THE
PRICE
OF 1

Country Homes & Interiors Christmas

Stonor Park, Henley-On-Thames - 25-27 November



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Readers' MAKES

If you've made something using the projects or patterns in *Love Sewing*, tell us about it and we'll publish it.

Share it on our Facebook page or email us at letters@lovesewingmag.co.uk. Each month's Star Make will receive a Minerva Crafts fabric bundle worth £25, handpicked by Vicki at Minerva!

Star
make

WIN A
£25
FABRIC BUNDLE



Zara Louise made this amazing cushion for her sister's birthday, inspired by issue 28's beehive tea cosy. Bee-autiful!



Keeping it in the family, **Julie Fielding** and her granddaughter both look wonderful in their Ruby dresses!



We love the delicate florals on **Sheri Wallace's** Amelia Dress



We love the bright, bold print that **Joanne Robinson** used on her Lottie blouse. Comfy and stylish!



Sue Richardson made this dapper chap from issue 28 for her friend's baby girl

Like what you see but don't have a copy of the issue?
Back issues of *Love Sewing* can be found at www.moremags.com
or in digital form at www.pocketmags.com

This month I'm making...

Vintage casual wrap-over dress

You can't go wrong with a bright and bold floral print, and Jo from blog Three Stories High has really used this cotton lawn fabric to its full potential with her flattering wrap-over dress! Visit Jo's blog at www.joeveryday19.blogspot.co.uk



The Minerva Crafts Blogger Network

The Minerva Crafts Blogger Network is a collection of amazing sewing and craft bloggers from across the world. Every month each blogger creates a unique kit from the thousands of gorgeous fabrics and notions available at Minerva Crafts. They wow us with their makes every month by blogging a project made with their kit on the network. There are new projects going live daily to inspire and educate sewists of all levels and abilities. Each blogger's unique kits are available to buy at www.minervacrafts.com

I don't own a wrap dress. They are supposed to be the most flattering dresses ever, but for people like me, who are short in the body, I can look strangely trussed up like a chicken when wearing one. So when I saw a wrap dress in my new sewing book *Gertie Sews Vintage Casual* that looked a bit different, I dived straight in.

I liked the shift dress style silhouette, and used my fabric choice for this month from Minerva to choose a vintage old school floral design with a subtle grey background. It is a cotton lawn fabric and is very fine; slightly sheer in fact. Unfortunately, all four colours will have sold out at Minerva by the time you read this. I wanted this to be a dress to wear when it's so hot you don't really want to wear anything, but society dictates that you cover your bum. It has a feather-light feel to it and I loved it as soon as it arrived. I'll definitely wear it lots.

I cut a size 12 but the photo in the book was a bit misleading in terms of the skirt. It had a gathered skirt at the back and sides and that really did nothing for me! It stuck out at the hips and made my bum look huge. I don't mind a voluptuous bottom, but gathers at the side gave it no shape – it just ended up looking too big all over. The front gaped really badly as well, so I knew I needed to shorten the bodice even more.

I set about putting the fit right. I took out all the skirt gathers and added darts to match the ones on the front and back body. I also made these longer and deeper to take some of the gape out of the bust. In the end, I added a side zip and sewed all the front parts



down to my measurements. I put it on like a shift dress so essentially it is a faux wrap dress now.

This project epitomises the reason I like to make my own clothes. I could never buy this and no one else will be wearing one – it is all mine and fits only my body!

To find out more and get hold of the materials used, head to www.minervacrafts.com/blogger-network/post/vintage-casual-wrap-over-dress

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BEHIND THE SEAMS

with Wendy Ward

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What is it really like to be an indie pattern designer?

There's never been a better time to get into clothes making thanks to the emergence of so many talented independent sewing pattern designers. The new breed of pattern designer is more accessible, and we can get to know them through their blogs and social media channels, making it more of a two-way conversation.

One of those brilliant new designers is Heather Lou from Closet Case Files (www.closetcasefiles.com), also known as the woman behind popular Ginger jeans. I was so excited that she wanted to chat with me so I could find out what life as an indie pattern designer is really like and what she loves most about her unique job.

W: How long have you been sewing?

HL: I've been sewing since I was a kid, but it wasn't until 2011 that I really dusted off my sewing machine and got serious. I was trying to get out of debt and step out of the fast fashion cycle, and committed to a year of only sewing and thrifting. My first project was from a sexy 70s knit dress pattern and I was hooked pretty much immediately!

W: Where did the name Closet Case Files come from?

HL: A friend and I were battling around blog pun names and that one just kind of stuck. At the time I thought it was pretty clever but since I've 'gone pro' I've wondered if it's a little too weird. Too late now! It's printed on thousands of patterns.

Wendy's
new book,
**A BEGINNER'S
GUIDE TO MAKING
SKIRTS**
is on sale
25th October!



About me

I design my own range of easy-to-follow modern sewing patterns called MIY Collection. I am a qualified teacher and also have a degree in fashion and spent seven years working in the fashion industry before starting to teach dressmaking from my own studio called MIY Workshop in Brighton in 2011. My first dressmaking book, *The Beginner's Guide to Dressmaking* is available now and my second book is released this month.

www.wendyward.co.uk

www.miyworkshop.co.uk

www.miycollection.com



W: What did you do before starting your sewing business?

HL: I worked in commercial interior design for six years before focusing on my business full time. I designed shops, offices, restaurants and shopping centres, which was ironic since I was trying to quit shopping at the time.

W: Tell us about a typical working day for you

HL: I start each day by walking my dog. I got Harry to help combat how deskbound I am, and he's been the best daily companion ever! I start work around 8 or 9 and work pretty much straight until 6 or 7. If I'm under deadline it's not unusual to work until 10pm or later but I'm trying to stop doing that because it's not great for my relationship or emotional health. Depending on where we are in the design process, I'm either sewing up samples, working on the computer in Illustrator and InDesign prepping instructions, or doing admin.

W: What has been your proudest moment in your career so far?

HL: I was teaching a Ginger jeans workshop and one of my students had a slightly unconventional figure; her hips and waist



were around the same size, and she struggled to buy jeans. After a little tweaking, we made her a perfectly fitting pair, and we both got a little emotional when we realised she'd never have to have that dispiriting experience in a retail store again (I may have gone to cry in the bathroom a little). I feel best and most proud of my business whenever I can help people feel good about their bodies.



W: What do you enjoy most about your work?

HL: Seeing what people make with my patterns. I work in a little bubble when getting a new pattern ready, so it's always thrilling to see how people interpret my designs. My least favourite bits are accounting and studying things like metrics and SEO. It's totally

necessary when you run an online business but I kind of hate numbers.

W: What is the process you go through to design a new pattern?

HL: I start by researching. I'll stalk people on the street and study how their clothes are assembled, and amass huge secret Pinterest folders. I then start sketching options, which get transferred into technical flats on the computer in Illustrator. I've recently hired a student designer to help me develop the pattern draft, so we'll work on designs together based on my sketches. There are a few rounds of sampling and tweaks before I'm satisfied. I then send the pattern to be professionally graded into 11 sizes, I study it carefully, walking all the lines and making sure everything fits together smoothly. Once the pattern comes back I check it again. The pattern is then formatted in Illustrator to include our line weights and titling. Each pattern must be formatted to be printed at home, at the copy shop and our tissue printer. I'm also writing and illustrating the instructions at the same time. I write a rough draft that gets proofed three or four times, before the entire thing gets sent out to our amazing pattern testers, who check the entire package for fit, accuracy and clarity.

W: Your Ginger jeans pattern was quite a phenomenon, what made you decide to launch a jeans pattern?

HL: I wanted to make my own jeans and there simply wasn't a good skinny jeans pattern on the market. I started working on my draft, one that had the fit and proportions I thought were missing. No one was more surprised than I was when that pattern turned out to be so popular!

W: What would you like to do if you weren't doing what you do?

HL: I'd probably go back into interior design, but only if I could design wonderful spaces for other creative small businesses. That, or a book editor, so I could be paid to read all day.

W: What do you do when you're not working?

HL: I'm trying to find more of a work-life balance. I've started cooking seriously again and trying to turn off and relax at a reasonable time each day. I like knitting, reading books and binge-watching TV with my boyfriend. I try taking at least a week off a few times a year, with weekend breaks in between.

W: What's next for Closet Case Files?

HL: In addition to our regular pattern line, we're hoping to start offering more fabric kits, since I have access to wonderful things you can't necessarily find in fabric stores. I'm also planning a few upcoming online courses; I love teaching what I've learned and it's a great excuse for me to explore and expand on my more ambitious ideas.

Have a look at Heather Lou's Instagram (closetcasefiles) and see just how cute Harry the dog is!



Heather Lou's recent contribution to the Refashioners project

BIG VINTAGE SEW-ALONG

news!

Have you joined in with the Big Vintage Sew-along yet? It's a fun opportunity for sewists to come together and 'sew vintage'. We're thrilled to have Rachel and Kate from The Fold Line to share all the news from the fun blogger tour. So who's been sewing up some vintage loveliness this month?



Follow the fabulous blogger tour, chat with your favourite sewists and see pattern reviews at www.thefoldline.com/blog

In March, The McCall Pattern Company in the UK chose 20 of its most popular vintage patterns from Retro Butterick, McCall's archive collection and Vogue patterns for the sew-along. A contribution from every vintage pattern sold in the inspirational edit will go towards supporting The Eve Appeal charity. Find out how to take part, plus read all about upcoming events and competitions at

www.vintagesewalong.co.uk

Kate and Rachel say:

"What better way to get inspiration for your own vintage outfit than to see what your favourite sewing bloggers are making? There is a fun-packed year with bloggers taking it in turns to make one of the 20 vintage patterns and each month we will be sharing their amazing outfits with you. This month it was the turn of **Nina Chang, Charlotte Powell, Gabby Young and Rachel Pinheiro.**"



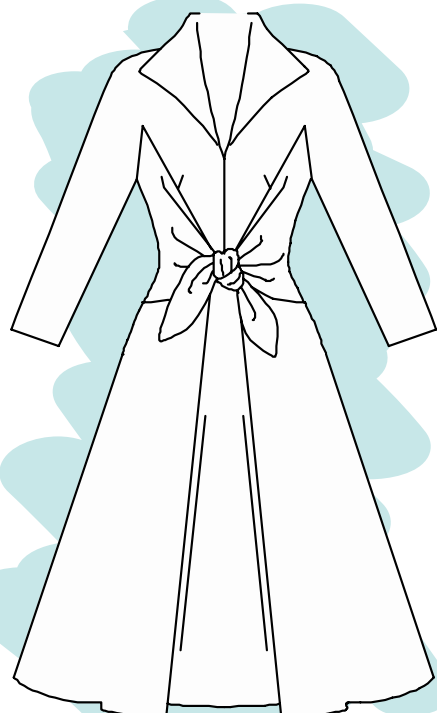
Nina chose to make Vogue 9000

and embraced the 1950s era, following all the instructions for the pattern except adding the shoulder pads. The dress has two versions – with or without cap sleeves and cuffs.

In classic 1950s style, the bodice is fitted with button up front and the full circle skirt has princess seams. Nina, who is an Agatha Christie fan, had the feeling of being straight out of *The Secret of Chimneys* in this dress and decided to take her photos in a quintessential English country garden setting. Her fabric choice was this gorgeous Liberty lawn, subtly patterned with flowers and animals. Nina found the construction of the dress simple to follow and, after making a toile, made some fitting alterations, taking length off both the bodice and skirt. The result is absolutely stunning!



www.thumblenina.wordpress.com/2016/08/12/big-vintage-sew-along-in-an-english-country-garden



Gabby had a tricky time choosing a pattern but decided upon Vogue 2903.

The dress comes with two variations, shorter sleeves and smaller yoke or long sleeves and contrasting yoke. She chose to make the shorter sleeved version from a beautiful turquoise and floral fabric.



Gabby found some parts of the instructions a challenge, particularly attaching the sleeves and yoke. She was able to find some tutorials online to help and learnt lots of new skills. The pattern uses an impressive seven metres of fabric, so there is plenty of sewing to do! The flared skirt has inverted pleats and this gives a wonder shape to the dress. Gabby looks fabulous in this dress and we love the drama of her fairytale-style photos.

www.gabberdashery.com/big-vintage-sew-long-v2903-giveaway/

Charlotte decided to make Vogue 2401,

which is also a 1950s pattern. She was inspired by the coat-dress look of this pattern, which has an over-sized collar, fitted bodice with full skirt and front tie at the waist. Charlotte chose a medium weight sateen to give structure to the skirt and collar. Although it might not first appear like it, the front ties (which are sewn into the side seams) create a wrap dress effect. The upper body is quite fitted with lots of darts on the arms and top of bodice. Charlotte found a couple of tricky bits in the instructions but enjoyed the challenge and unique vintage constructions method. Her dress is really striking in the black and white print and the fit is so flattering.

www.englishgirlathome.com/2016/08/19/7889/



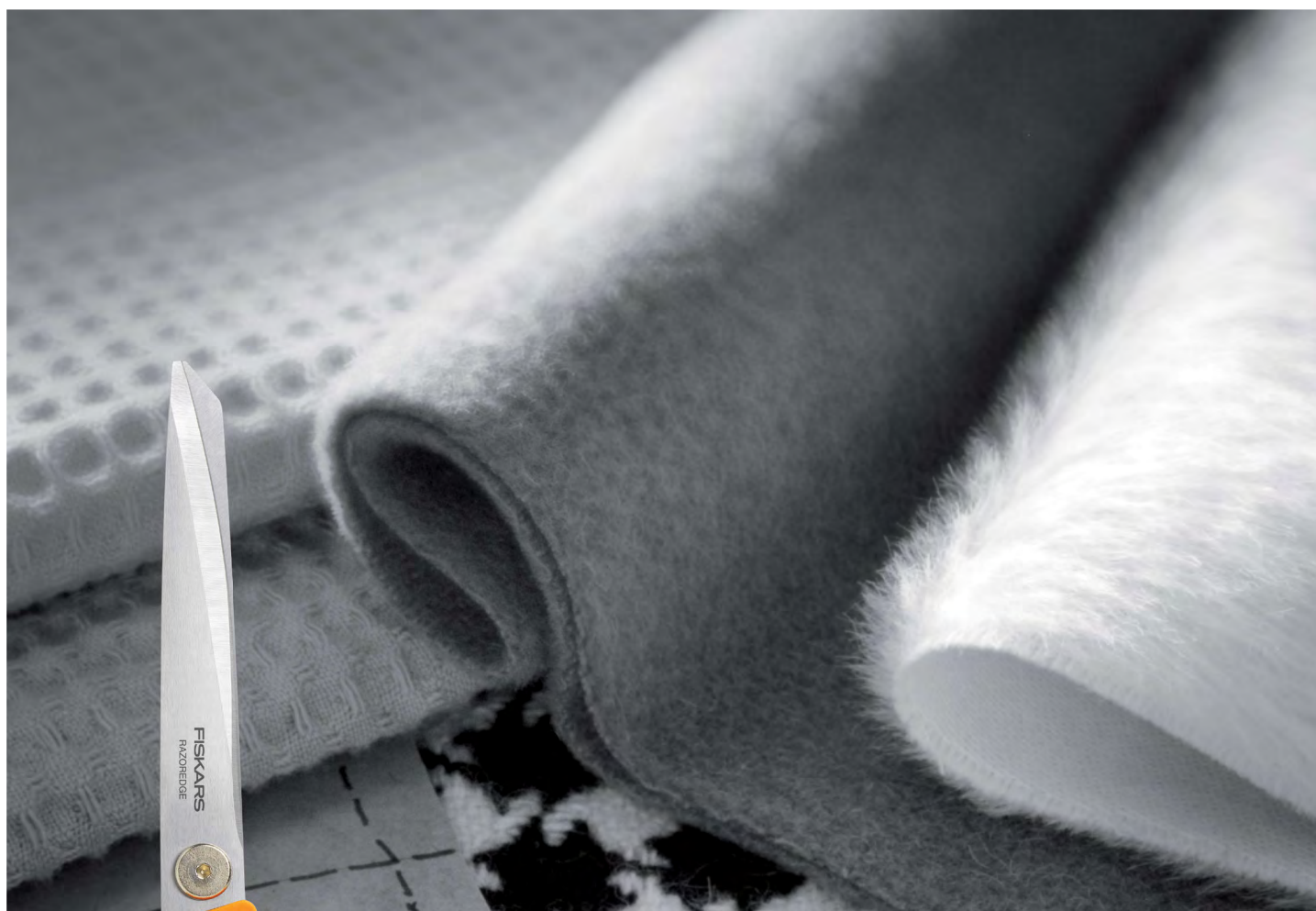
Rachel chose to make the stylish jacket from Vogue 8974.

She was excited to take part in the Big Vintage Sew-along as she likes a challenge in her sewing projects and the opportunity to interpret patterns in her own style. As Rachel mentions in her blog, separates can get easily forgotten in patterns or overshadowed by dresses. Rachel loves the details of her 1940s style jacket, such as the double sleeve dart. She adapted the style to give more of a bomber jacket silhouette by lengthening the pattern and adding elastic to gather the fullness in the back hem. Her fabric choice of a monochrome Aztec-style motif is the perfect partner for that little black dress.

www.houseofpinheiro.com/2016/09/unexpected-bomber-jacket-and-a-giveaway-v8974



Are you attending a fabulous Vintage Tea Party event at the 2016 Knitting and Stitching shows at Alexandra Palace and Harrogate? Visit www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com to find out more!



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Working with mercerised fabric

Satin is often recognised by its lustre or sheen, which is achieved by using a special weaving process known as the satin weave. In satin-weave fabric there is a complex arrangement of threads, which allows longer float threads to sit across the surface of the fabric.

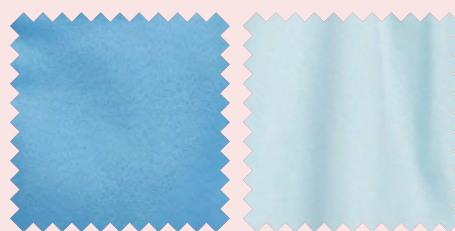
Light reflects off these long threads to create a smooth, lustrous surface with a dull and non-shiny reverse. The fabric is more delicate because these long threads are prone to snagging and will show wear from rubbing more quickly. Satin is made with silk or synthetic fibre like polyester.

Sateen may have the same satin-smooth handle but it's not the same fabric as it's always made from cotton and the threads are mercerised before weaving. The cotton is treated with sodium hydroxide to increase its lustre and affinity for dye. It also makes the fabric more mildew resistant and stronger by fluffing up the fibres so they are more snag resistant.

Sateen is thicker, more durable and can be laundered without the same fear of damaging the weave. There is often a 3% stretch which is beneficial in dressmaking for achieving a more comfortable fit and ease of movement.

Fabric shopping:

WE USED



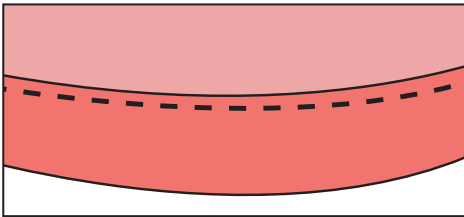
Polyester sateen suiting in turquoise, £2.99 per metre from www.minervacrafts.com
Polyester sateen suiting in mint, £2.99 per metre from www.minervacrafts.co.uk

TUTORIAL

Three hem finishes for flared skirts

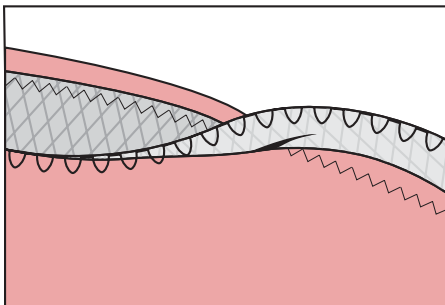
Bias-bound facing

The beauty of this technique is that it's easy to achieve while creating a beautiful finish. Sew handmade or pre-bought bias binding around the skirt hem RST, but instead of wrapping around the raw edge, press the binding to the inside like a facing, taking care to keep it unseen from outside. Top-stitch or hand-sew to secure.



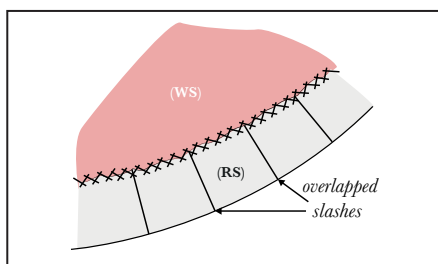
Horsehair braid

This technique is similar to the above but allows you to create a dramatic effect using a stiff braid inside the hem to make the skirt flare without a petticoat. With RST, sew the braid so that 1cm sits below the desired hem line. Flip to the inside and if necessary periodically draw the thread that runs along the top to gather the braid into a gentle curve. Secure in place with an invisible hand stitch.



Deep hem

Vintage dresses often featured deep hems when using heavier weight fabric but, when applied to a lighter weight fabric, this can help the skirt hang more attractively. Cut your skirt with a 2-3" hem allowance, then assemble as required. Press up the hem then slash into the allowance, overlapping the fabric to ease the excess into the curve. Secure in place with an invisible hand stitch.



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Shopping list:

Dress: Enchanted leaves air cotton, Katerina Roccella for Art Gallery Fabrics, see www.hantex.co.uk/mystockist **Charcoal jersey blazer:** £29.99, www2.hm.com **Charcoal court shoes:** £29.99, www2.hm.com **Make Me Beautiful Mini Lip Chubby Set:** £12, www.next.co.uk **Blush patent clutch:** £15, www.next.co.uk **Blush mules:** £24.99, www2.hm.com



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The Dressmaker's diary

Elisalex de Castro Peake, head of design for By Hand London, is the party frock queen. In this issue she's sharing her top tips for creating special touches for handmade garments that wow!



IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL...

Certainly a statement to live by, especially for us creative types. When it comes to dressmaking, my attention to detail is usually second to none. Whether that's pattern alterations for a flawless fit, always cutting

fabric from the left of the pattern paper (try it – you'll be surprised how much more accurate your cutting becomes*), to finishing off those seams so immaculately, I could wear my handmade garments inside out and you'd think it was intentional. Precision and perfectionism every step of the way, I say!

Except for one thing... as I look through some of my favourite ready-to-wear and vintage pieces, I notice that they all feature a little something extra that hardly any of my handmade dresses seem to have: design details. Embellishments, appliqué, embroidery, beading, a matching cummerbund for instance. I can only gather from this revelation that, generally speaking, the satisfaction of having made a dress from start to finish is so great, and the eagerness to get stuck right into another so pressing that any extra bells, whistles and finishing touches rarely come into consideration. Clearly, this needs to be addressed. And I know just the place to start!

*This applies to right-handed people using shears to cut fabric. If you are left handed, cut to the right of your pattern piece using left-handed scissors. If using a rotary cutter however, righties should cut to the right and lefties to the left with a left-handed cutter.

Elisalex_x

Special details and embellishments to finish your look

I begin planning and dreaming up my annual Christmas party frock around summertime. Looking back, in 2014 I made a sheer red maxi-length Kim Dress that had several layers of red pompom trim encircling the hemline (the pompoms came already stitched to the fabric, like a glorified border print – a truly spectacular find from Minerva Crafts).

I took things to the next level last year with an off-the-shoulder Elisalex dress in teal silk velvet with another floor sweeper of a skirt. To continue with this tradition of being in competition with 'past Elisalex', my Christmas party frock 2016 is going to have to be off-the-scale fabulous – and it has become crystal clear that in order to go one up, it really will have to be all in the detail...



As you may expect, the design and fabric choice will still be taken into the highest consideration. However, and unlike previous years, the final flourish will be what sets this dress apart. The plan is this: sleeveless Elisalex bodice, full-circle skirt (just below the knee). Black. Addition of a silk georgette neckline capelet and skirt overlay, both hand embroidered with gold tambour beading in a sort of linear sunburst pattern that radiates out from the neckline and waistline... are you salivating yet?

Of course, I don't yet know how to do tambour beading. But the beauty of all self-taught pursuits is that you're free and open to allow your learning process to take you off on tangents you had never before considered. Embroidery has become an estuary of sorts to



my dressmaking and pattern-designing career of late, and it's one that I'd really like to nurture and put to use alongside my garment sewing. I delved a little deeper and took a goldwork class earlier this year and fell completely in love, so naturally the next logical step is beading. The best thing about all this embellishment malarkey? I can't think of a better way to spend these chilly wintry evenings than by fishing out older makes and hand stitching new life into them and mastering a new skill all at the same time.

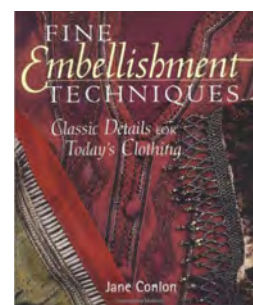
Further information



- ✓ London Embroidery School
For classes and supplies
www.londonembroideryschool.com
- ✓ The Royal School of Needlework
www.royal-needlework.org.uk
- ✓ Embroidery classes on Craftsby
www.craftsy.com/classes/embroidery

✓ *Fine Embellishment Techniques* by Jane Conlon, Taunton Press Inc (2001), £17.99

✓ *Distinctive Details: Great Embellishment Techniques for Clothing*, Taunton Press Inc (1995), out of print



Contrast cuffs!

A woman with long brown hair tied back, smiling, wearing a red short-sleeved top and matching red pants with a white heart pattern. The cuffs of the sleeves and the bottom of the pants have red and white stripes. A handwritten-style note with a red arrow points to the sleeve cuff.

*Fun and comfy,
these cosy yet
stylish PJs will keep
you snug during
colder evenings*

Project **FIONA HESFORD** Sewgirl
Photography **ALEX WRIGHT** teneight

Ultimate

**COSY
PYJAMAS**

Notes

- ✓ All seam allowances are 1cm unless otherwise specified
- ✓ Finish all raw edges with a zigzag or overlocker

Skill level ♥♥

MATERIALS:

For the top

- ♥ 60cm main jersey fabric
- ♥ 20cm stripy jersey fabric
- ♥ 50cm of fusible knit interfacing

For the bottoms

- ♥ 1m 160cm-wide printed cotton jersey
- ♥ 20cm stripy cotton jersey (alternatively cut from main fabric)
- ♥ 1m elastic
- ♥ templates downloaded from www.love sewingmag.co.uk

CUTTING:

Top

- ♥ Cut 2 pieces (one front and one back) in main fabric:
Small: 50x58cm
Med: 55x58cm
Large: 60x58cm
- ♥ Cut 1 front neck facing and 1 back neck facing pieces with the templates lined up to the fold in main fabric
- ♥ Cut two strips 7x 50cm in striped fabric

Bottoms

- ♥ Cut 2 trouser pieces on folded main fabric using the template
- ♥ Cut 1 waistband piece with the template lined up to the fold of the striped fabric
- ♥ Cut 2 ankle cuff pieces in striped fabric using the template

SIZING:

	S	M	L
BUST	82-86cm	91-96cm	100-106cm
WAIST	65-69cm	74-79cm	84-89cm
HIPS	90-94cm	99-104cm	109-114cm

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS:

	S	M	L
Top width	96cm	106cm	116cm
Top length	55cm	55cm	55cm
Bottoms length (from waistline to cuff)	100cm	102cm	104cm



How to make: TOP

- 1 Fold the front piece exactly in half widthways with the RST (and if using a one way design, facing up) then press and pin together at sides.
- 2 Place the neck front facing at the top edge and line up to the fold as indicated on the template. Pin then cut a V neckline following the upper edge only. (See Pic A.)
- 3 Mark a point with a pin or marking pen at the top side edge 2cm down from top edge. Draw a line with a ruler to meet the V neckline. Trim along this line to make the shoulder line. (See Pic B.)
- 4 Repeat for back piece using the back facing template. Trim shoulder seam and side seam in the same way as front. (See Pic C.)

- 5 With RST, join front to back at the sloped shoulder seams with a 1cm seam allowance. Finish the raw edges. Press seam towards the back piece.
- 6 Fold one sleeve strip in half mark the centre with a pin. Pin to side of body with RST and raw edges aligned, matching the shoulder seam to the centre point. Sew a 1cm seam and finish raw edge. Repeat for other sleeve. (See Pic D.)
- 7 Fuse the interfacing to the WS of each facing piece. Join the front and back facings RST at the shoulder seams. Press seams open. Fold over and stitch a small 6mm hem on the outer edge of the assembled facing.
- 8 Pin to the assembled bodice at the neckline with RST aligning the seams. Pin, and then sew a 1cm seam all around.

10 Clip the V-neck point at centre front, taking care not to snip the stitching line. Under-stitch the seam allowance to the facing. (See Pic E.) Fold the facing back to the inside. Stitch in the ditch along the shoulder seams to secure the facings in position.

11 Arrange the top with RST and starting 8cm up from the lower edge (for the side vent), join the front to back at the side seams of body and sleeve. Finish the raw edges and press open. (See Pic F.)

12 Finish the raw lower edge then sew a 2cm hem, sewing up and around the side seam vents.

BOTTOMS

1 Pin RST the two fronts at the curved edge. Sew a 1cm seam allowance, trim and finish the raw edge. Repeat for the back seam. (See Pic G.)

2 Arrange so the curved seams are in the centre and with RST pin the front to back at the inner leg, aligning the curved seams and pinning them to one side. Sew with a 1cm seam, trim and finish the raw edge. (See Pic H.) Turn pyjamas through to the RS.

3 Fold the leg cuff piece in half widthways. Pin then sew together to make a 'tube'. Fold the 'tube' over in half with the WST matching the raw edges. (See Pic I.)

4 With RST pin the cuff to the raw edge of the leg. Sew a 1cm seam, finish the raw edge and press the cuff downwards. Repeat for the other ankle cuff. (See Pic J.)

5 With RST match the short sides of the waistband and sew together. Fold the waistband half widthways with the WST aligning the raw edges and pin together.

6 Pin the waistband to the raw waist edge matching the side seam to the pyjama back seam. (See Pic K.) Sew a 1cm seam all around leaving a 3cm opening at the back for inserting elastic.

7 Cut a length of elastic to fit around your waist comfortably with 2cm extra for overlap. Attach a safety pin to one end of the elastic and feed it through the opening until it comes out the other side of the waistband channel. Make sure the elastic doesn't get twisted! (See Pic L.)

8 Sew the elastic ends together and push back into the waistband before sewing up the opening.



Fabric shopping:

WE USED



Heart print organic cotton jersey, £18.50 per metre, www.kitschy-coo.co.uk
Striped cotton jersey, £4.15 per quarter metre, www.clothkits.co.uk

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MY PATTERN PICKS

Jade Earley



*Look out for
Jade's exclusive
new column
in issue 33 of
Love Sewing!*

Jade, AKA the Girl with the Red Hair, inspired thousands of sewists with her weekly appearances on series 4 of The Great British Sewing Bee. This month Jade is sharing five favourites from her recent sewing projects

GO BACK TO GO FORWARD!

Sign Jade's petition to bring skills-based lessons back into the National Curriculum in schools. Not everyone is academically gifted, but everybody has a gift and we all deserve a chance to shine. Join the online campaign at www.change.org/p/jade-earley-go-back-to-go-forward-bring-skills-based-lessons-back-into-the-curriculum

Follow Jade's sewing adventures at www.facebook.com/thegirlwiththebrightredhair and on Instagram as [thegirlwiththebrightredhair](https://www.instagram.com/thegirlwiththebrightredhair)



BURDA 7232

I absolutely love pattern matching and I certainly needed to use my skills on this dress. The stripes had to be matched perfectly from bodice to the skirt and to the chevrons at the side. It also had a tulle skirt underneath to achieve the desired volume. The fabric I used was lightweight cotton and I lined the bodice to give it a nice feel on the body inside. This pattern is Burda 7232, which features a stunning multiple keyhole back.



LISETTE FOR BUTTERICK 6295

I've always been a fan of Lycra and made a lot of leggings for myself in the past, so after I did activewear on the Bee I thought I would make myself a yoga set (not that I do yoga!). The pattern is Lisette for Butterick 6295 and, because I love all things Disney, it just had to be Minnie Mouse ears Lycra. I finished the garments with a coverstitch machine but you can use a twin needle to achieve a similar finish.



SELF-DRAFTED SKIRT

If you follow me online you'll have seen my miniature makes. I absolutely adore creating for my sister Little Miss Boo and, as she loved my skirt from the show, I thought I would re-create a mini version. Doesn't she absolutely rock it?! I didn't use a pattern for this skirt as I drafted my own but I would love to release this pattern and spread the rock-chick look as I am the queen of tulle. The results are so dramatic.



PROJECT RUNWAY FOR SIMPLICITY 1158

Just recently I've been working with scuba quite a lot as I really love the way the fabric sews and how it looks on the body. I was going away for a few days with the girls and decided I needed a jumpsuit. I used Simplicity Project Runway 1158 and adapted the pattern slightly so I was able to get a tighter fit on the legs. This fun scuba fabric was from Fabworks Mill shop and I have a bit left over for a couple more projects!



BUTTERICK 6030

This is Butterick 6030 but the fit had to be perfect so I fitted it to myself with the help of my mum on several occasions – it's so important to get that fit just right. I loved this cotton fabric as soon as I saw it and the red buttons give it a real edge – it looks fab with black jeans. This is a top that would also work with skirts and this 4-in-1 pattern pack offers just that!



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Frill hem

PARTY TOP

This sweet ruffle-hem top can be dressed up or down depending on your fabric but we recommend using silk or satin for a frill-ing party look

Project **CLAIRE GARSIDE** Simple Sew
Photography **RENATA STONYTE**

Fabric shopping:
WE USED



Sweet print crepe de chine,
£3 per metre from
www.abakhan.co.uk,
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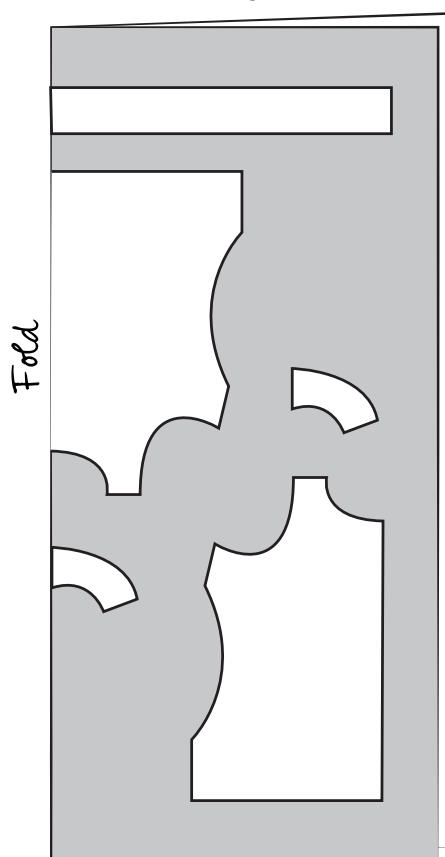
Master the
ruffle trend



SIZING:

	Bust	Waist	Hips
8	33"	26"	36"
10	35"	28"	38"
12	37"	30"	40"
14	39"	32"	42"
16	41"	34"	44"
18	43"	36"	46"
20	45"	38"	48"

45" + 60"-wide fabric



Skill level ♥

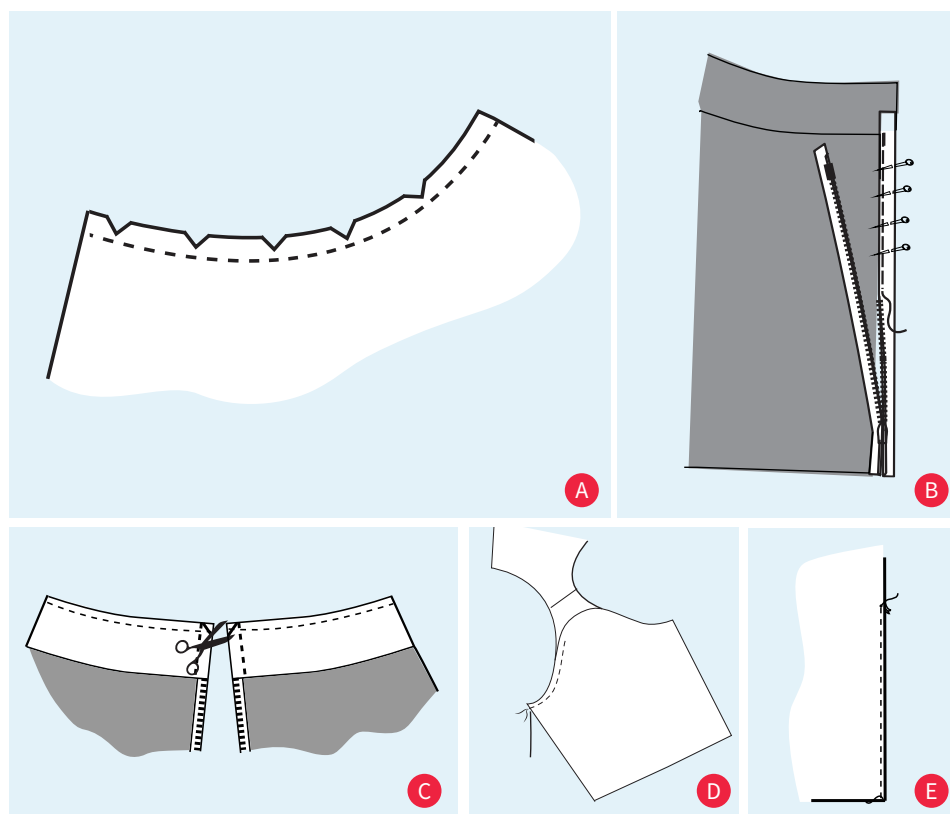
MATERIALS:

- ♥ 1.7m 45"-wide fabric or 1.2m 60"-wide lightweight woven fabric
- ♥ 16" concealed zipper
- ♥ 50cm fusible interfacing
- ♥ co-ordinating thread
- ♥ templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

How to make:

1 Fuse interfacing to the WS of the neckline facing pieces and with RST join at the shoulders. Press the seam allowances open and finish the raw edges.

2 Sew the darts on the WS of the bodice



front and press downwards. Then with RST join front and back bodices together at the shoulder seams. Press the seam allowances open and finish the raw edges.

3 Pin the assembled neckline facing in place RST and matching shoulder seams, and sew in place using a 1cm seam allowance.

4 Trim the seam allowances and notch around curves. (See Pic A.) Turn the facing through to the inside of the top and press flat.

5 Flip the facing up and, on the bodice back RS, pin your concealed zip in place. The zipper stop should sit just below the neckline seam. Use your zipper foot to sew as close to the zip teeth as you can and as far down as your foot will allow. (See Pic B.) Repeat for the other side.

6 Now fold the facing over the top of the zip so that the facing is RST with the back bodice. The end of the zipper tape should slightly point towards the seam allowances. Still using your zipper foot on, sew along the side of the zipper tape through the facing and the bodice. Snip the top corners to reduce bulk. (See Pic C.)

7 Turn the facing back through to the inside of the dress and again press flat.

8 Sew a row of gathering stitches around the sleeve head and pull the threads to gather until the sleeve will fit the armhole.

9 With RST install the sleeve into the armhole, matching notches and adjusting the gathers so they sit evenly. (See Pic D.)

10 Turn the top inside out with RST and continue your seam from below the base of the zip to the hem. Press open the seam. (See Pic E.)

11 Sew the side seams from the lower hem up past the armhole seam, to the ends of the sleeves in a single motion for each side.

12 Sew the ruffle pieces at the short ends RST and press seam allowances open. Fold the ruffle in half lengthways, with WST aligning the seams then baste the two layers together a few mm into the seam allowance. Sew a row of gathering stitches along the ruffle 1cm in from the raw edge and gather the ruffle until it fits the lower edge of the top. Pin in place, align raw edges and match side seams. Sew in place with a 1.5cm seam allowance, finish raw edge and press frill downwards.

13 Finally, finish the sleeves by sewing a 2cm double fold hem on the lower edges.

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ROEHAMPTON: THE CULOTTES, BRIGHTON: THE FRONT-OPENING SKIRT



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WIN!

A Prym sewing bag from Sew2go

One lucky reader this month will be getting their hands on this stunning Prym sewing bag, kindly donated by our friends over at Sew2go, online purveyor of all things stitching and sewing related.

This imitation leather bag comes in a rich warm red and is as stylish as it is practical, making an attractive addition to any sewing room. It is also compact and handy for taking with you on the go while also being accommodating, with cantilever compartments for your sewing equipment inside, so you can keep everything neat, tidy and organised. The compartments are also removable, so you can have them in or out depending on your storage needs.

To make taking your sewing with you on the go even easier, the bag comes with a removable shoulder strap for easy transportability, and is worth £75. You can shop this and much more fantastic sewing products at www.sew2go.co.uk!

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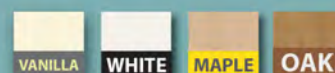
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This smart tunic is one of the easiest dresses to make and has plenty of potential for creativity. You can make it as a dress or a top, with the Peter Pan collar or without and for more variety you can create it with long or short sleeves, depending on the weather and your mood!



To get your hands on this beautiful pattern, simply head online to **www.moremags.com/ls31nancy** or call 01858 438899. The pattern is completely free – just pay postage and packing, which is £1 in the UK and from £2.50 overseas.

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THE THRIFTY STITCHER

Sew your own jeans!

If you're looking to push your skills, try a new silhouette or make something that will last, Claire-Louise Hardie shares her favourite four styles

There's something about this time of year that makes me want to try new things, and I usually start some kind of new course or training in the autumn that takes me out of my comfort zone. Sewing some jeans will be top of my new projects this year.

You may find that, while sewing pretty dresses gives you lots of quick fix wardrobe satisfaction, you are not really adding to your skill base. If you're trying to sew a handmade wardrobe, you really should have a go at sewing jeans, since they are an essential staple in most of our closets!

"Why on earth would I sew my own jeans?" I hear you shout. Well, many of us can never find the perfect jeans off the peg, or if we do, we can only source them abroad. I have some perfectly fitting jeans that I can only buy in the States, and they are expensive enough without the cost of shipping or travelling! It's true that trousers are considered a fitting nightmare for many, but jeans can offer an easier fit as you generally make them in stretch denim, so there's a lot more forgiveness in the fit process! Once you've mastered the fit on the first pair, you can keep making them again and again, and they don't all have to be denim.

On top of the fit and design aspect of sewing your own, you can make informed choices about the denim you use to sew your own jeans. There is ethical denim available from www.offsetwarehouse.com and www.wellcultivated.co.uk that will give you peace of mind about the impact your denim has made on the environment.

Sewing jeans is a big trend in home sewing, so there's a wealth of pattern options for you to choose. Here are four of my favourites.

SKINNY JEANS

1 Skinny jeans are still on trend but this season the waist is a little higher. Deer and Doe has just released the Safran pant pattern. These high-waisted stretch skinnies



are super close-fitting on the leg, and make a perfect pair of jeans for winter layering. They come with two length options and classic pockets and fly-front.

2 The Jamie jeans by Named are another great option for skinny jeans. This pattern features an unusual side pocket detail and top-stitched front princess seams that's both a nice design detail, and another place to fine tune the fit.

THE RETRO FLARED JEAN

3 The 70s trend is still really strong and the Birkin Jean by Baste + Gather is a great pattern for flared jeans. These are modern flared jeans,



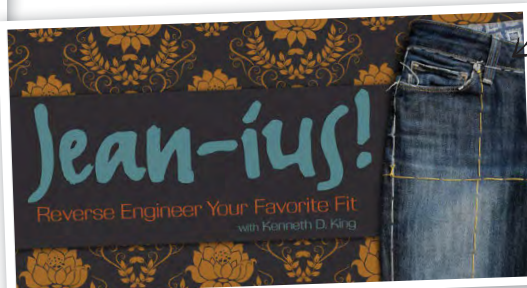
with an homage to the 1970s versions, so they will slot easily into a contemporary wardrobe. The waist is raised but not too high, and they feature the classic five pockets.

THE CLASSIC JEANS

4 Sometimes you just need to pull on a relaxed fit pair of old-school jeans for weekend slouching. The Morgan boyfriend jeans by Closet Case Files are just the ticket. Designed for woven non-stretch denim, these classic jeans fit the modern woman.

RUB OFF YOUR FAVOURITE PAIR!

5 Craftsy offers a jean-ius course with Professor Kenneth King on how to take a pattern by tracing your favourite pair of jeans so you can recreate them in any fabric. He's an excellent tutor, and if like me you have a pair that you adore, this is a great way to sew up some more!



Shopping list:

1. Safran jeans by Deer and Doe

€14 (roughly £12), paper pattern, available in sizes 6-18.

shop.deer-and-doe.fr

2. Jamie jeans by Named Clothing

£15, paper pattern, available in sizes 4-18.

www.backstitch.co.uk

3. Morgan boyfriend jeans by Closet Case Patterns

£15, paper pattern, available in sizes 2-22.

www.backstitch.co.uk

4. Birkin flares by Baste + Gather

\$12 (roughly £9), PDF download, sized by waist measurements of 24"-35".

www.basteandgather.com/shop

5. Jean-i-us course

Approx. £30, online workshop

www.craftsy.com



Claire-Louise Hardie

Top tips FOR SEWING JEANS

- ✓ **Make a toile** to test the fit using fabric of the same weight and stretch as your real pair. Otherwise you'll end up without a true fit guide
- ✓ **Practise your topstitching!** Topstitching is a key element in jeans, so you don't want to mess this up by experimenting with your actual final version. Use some scraps, test the top-stitch colours you plan to use, and try and edge stitch foot or ¼" foot to get even double rows
- ✓ **Don't be scared of rivets!** These will make your jeans look more shop bought, so have a practise first. I use the vario-pliers from prym to attach rivets, and they work like a charm. Jaycotts stocks both pliers and rivets
- ✓ **Order denim swatches** before choosing your fabric. Denim comes in so many weights, and it can be confusing to know what to buy. Order some swatches and compare to a pair of your RTW jeans. You really don't want to sew up jeans in a light chambray, or in a mega thick, rigid denim
- ✓ Use your toile to **practise sewing in the fly** if you've never done it before! There are lots of sew-alongs from the pattern designers above, so you should get a great fly first time



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KELLY CASE

This gorgeous ladylike handbag features a sweet birdie-embellished flap and a professional-looking case handle



Project **LISA LAM** U-Handbag.com

Skill level ♥♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ strong double-sided tape (I used upholstery double-sided tape)
- ♥ tapered awl
- ♥ 2 3cm-square pieces of fleece reinforcement
- ♥ case-style handle
- ♥ sew-on tongue lock
- ♥ 0.75m outer fabric
- ♥ 0.75m lining fabric
- ♥ 0.5m Vilene Decovil fusible interfacing
- ♥ large sheet stiff plastic canvas
- ♥ 4 bag feet studs
- ♥ iron on bird transfers (optional)
- ♥ templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

CUTTING:

Flap:

- Cut one from outer
- Cut one from lining
- Cut one from Decovil

Main body:

- Cut two from outer
- Cut two from lining
- Cut two from Decovil
- Cut one from plastic canvas

Sides:

- Cut two from outer
- Cut two from lining
- Cut two from Decovil

Base:

- Cut one from outer fabric

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- Cut one from lining
- Cut one from Decovil
- Cut one from plastic canvas

Lining pocket:

- Cut one 24cm (H) x 17cm (W) lining

Plastic canvas flap handle reinforcement

- Cut 24.5x4.5cm plastic canvas

Notes

- ✓ The finished bag is approximately 27cm (W) x 20cm (H) x 11cm (D)

How to make:

- 1 From the Decovil pattern pieces trim 1cm from all around each pattern piece. Also trim 13mm from all around the bag outer front and bag base plastic canvas pattern pieces.
- 2 Position and iron the Decovil to the outer fabric pieces. Use the centre pattern markings to ensure that the pieces are perfectly central to each other (See Pic A.)
- 3 Use strong double-sided tape to bond the bag base plastic grid pattern piece to the



bag outer base WS. Carefully position the plastic grid in the centre. There should be no plastic grid overlapping the Decovil. (See Pic B.) Press to bond. If you can't see the feet markings through the grid, re-mark them onto the grid.

4 Use a seam ripper to carefully make incisions for the bag feet. Make tiny slits through all layers (See Pic C.)

5 Carefully add the bag feet to the outer base by pushing through from RS and firmly opening the prongs on the base WS. (See Pic D.) Repeat for other feet.

6 Select an outer main body piece to be the front. Transfer the female lock part (the part that receives the catch) pattern marking. Apply strong double-sided tape to the lock back and bond the lock to the pattern marking (to temporarily hold it in place whilst you sew it to the fabric). Use an awl to punch the lock sew holes into the Decovil. This will make sewing through the Decovil much easier. (See Pic E.)

7 Using a hand needle and embroidery floss hand sew the lock to the bag outer front. When you get to the final hole, stitch in reverse direction to fill in the missing holes.

8 Pin/clip a side panel to the bag outer front, RST. As you stitch take care not to stitch into the Decovil. Your stitch line should be about 3mm away from the Decovil edge. Your stitches need to stop 7mm up from the bottom edge. Repeat for the other side panel.

9 Stitch the bag back outer to the bag in the same way as described above.

10 Stitch the bag base outer to the bag in the same way except you are stitching all around the base in a continuous line.

11 Turn the outer bag RS out. This will be tricky as the Decovil is very stiff, but persevere. Take your time to iron the bag to regain its flat and crisp surfaces and edges.

12 Use strong double-sided tape to bond the bag outer front plastic grid pattern piece to the bag outer front WS. Carefully position the plastic grid in the centre. There should be no plastic grid overlapping the Decovil.

13 Fuse the transfers in place onto the flap. Use a pressing cloth to protect your iron.

14 Trim 13mm from both short edges of the canvas flap handle reinforcement piece.

15 Position a handle tab on top of one pattern marking on the bag flap outer RS.

Insert a handle nut prong into the handle slits. Press firmly to make indents in the fabric then mark with pen (See Pic F.) Repeat for the other handle tab.

16 Use strong double-sided tape to bond the plastic grid bag flap pattern piece to the bag outer flap WS handle area in the same way as described above. Avoid taping over the prong markings. There should be no plastic grid overlapping the Decovil flap side edges.

17 Use a seam ripper to carefully make incisions for the handle nut prongs on your marks. Also make prong slits in the fleece reinforcement squares.

18 Place a handle tab into position on the handle markings, push the handle nut prongs in though the handle slits through all layers. At the bag flap WS, take a fleece reinforcement square and place it over the prongs. Slip a washer over the prongs and firmly open out the prongs out away from each other. To save your fingers you can use a screwdriver to press down. (See Pic G.) Repeat for the other handle tab. At the flap WS bag outer RS.

19 Pin and stitch the flap lining to the flap outer. Leave a 10cm gap in the flap bottom edge (the shorter edge) for turning out. Do not stitch into the Decovil.

20 Clip the curves to make neat curved seams when turn out. Turn the flap RS out, push the gap seams into the hole and iron.

21 Top-stitch the flap. Stitch 3mm from the edge all around the flap, stitching the gap shut as you sew.

22 Position and apply the transfers as desired to the bag flap RS according to the manufacturer's instructions.

23 Position the catch onto the flap RS bottom edge centre. Open out the lock catch flaps and slide onto the bag flap. To protect your table fold up a few layers of cardboard, place the flap on the table, grip the lock catch onto the flap and use an awl to make stitch holes in the flap.

24 Hand-sew the lock catch to the bag flap. Tie a knot in your thread with a 1cm tail. For your first stitch, push the needle through the lock front flap from the WS (See Pic H.) and ensure you sew through all layers. As we need to conceal the end-knot, for your final stitch from the flap WS, lift up the lock flap and bring your needle out from under the flap. Knot the thread as close as you can to your final stitch. Cut the thread with a 1cm tail. Tuck the knot tails down under the lock flaps.

25 Position the bag flap onto the bag outer bag RS. Baste or tailor-tack in place. Stitch in place with two lines of stitches. Stitch 3mm and 1.5cm from the flap edge. (See Pic I.)

26 Make up the bag lining pocket. Fold the pocket piece in half by bringing the short edges RST. Stitch around the side and bottom edges leaving a 7.5cm gap in the bottom edge for turning out. Clip the corners, turn the pocket out, push the gaps seams into the hole and iron.

27 Pin the pocket in place onto the RS bag lining back. Position the pocket in the centre 5cm down from the lining top edge. Stitching along the side and bottom edges sew the pocket to the lining with a 3mm seam (stitch the pocket gap shut as you sew).

28 Make the bag lining in the same way as for the bag outer. Leave a 12.5cm gap in one side seam for turning out. Press the lining side seams open. Fold and iron the lining top edge down 1cm to the WS (See Pic J.).

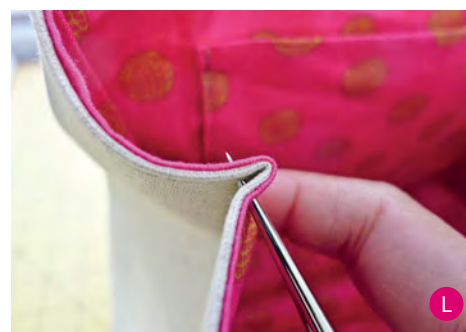
29 Place the lining into the outer bag with WST and matching the side seams and upper edges. Clip together.



30 Sew around the bag upper edge at a 3mm distance. Keep the bag flap tucked out of the way. Do not stitch through the flap.

31 Pinch together one of the bag sides so the top edge collapses and folds neatly in half. (See Pic K.) Pinch the halfway point and using an awl punch a small sew-hole 7mm along and down from the fold and top edge. Punch through all layers. (See Pic L.).

32 Hand-sew the side panel fold place using a hand needle and embroidery floss. Use the same colour thread as your lining to stitch through the hole and over the fold top edge. Stitch a few times to secure. Tie off with a neat knot behind the fold.



Fabric shopping: WE USED

Natural unbleached linen
Alison Glass Sunprint quilt-weight cotton
Case-style bag handle
Sew-on tongue lock
Bag feet, plastic canvas
All from www.u-handbag.com

Iron on bird transfers from
www.myfabrichouse.co.uk

Got it covered

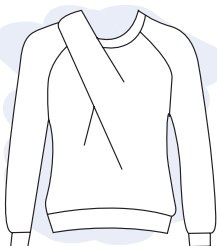
4 JUMPERS

you can sew at home!

Building a handmade wardrobe doesn't have to exclude sweaters and cardigans. In this issue we're sharing patterns and fabrics for four classic styles

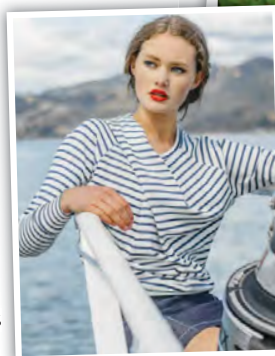
Modern sweatshirt

Papercut Patterns
Bowline sweater is both comfy and effortlessly cool with its eye-catching draped front. There are easy-to-fit raglan sleeves and self bands and cuffs. Available in sizes XXS – XL, for £14.90 at www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk



A pretty print will go with just about anything; whether it's a sateen

party skirt or your favourite jeans so we suggest using this Liberty jersey Ellie in red and cream, £9.95 per metre from www.abakhan.co.uk

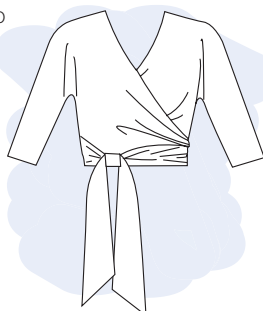


Playing with stripe placement will really showcase the design lines of this sweater so we recommend this Skool wool knit in navy, blue and red, £12 per metre, from

www.fabricgodmother.co.uk

Ballet wrap

Butterick 6285 is a new release from Gertie's line for the pattern house featuring a classic wrap cardigan. There is also a flared skirt pattern in the pack to make an instant outfit! The wrap is self-lined and comes with long and short sleeve options. Find it in sizes 6-22 for £8 at www.sewdirect.co.uk



Classic cardigan

Found inside the Butterick 6319 pattern pack, this close-fitting button-down cardigan has neckline and front bands, and topstitched hems. We love the princess

seam dress also included, as the perfect partner. Available in sizes 8-24 for £8, from www.sewdirect.co.uk



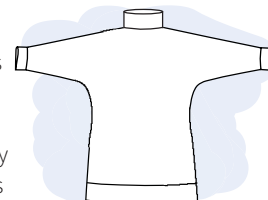
Why not use this fun bug print, medium weight cotton sweatshirting for a whimsical take on a style staple? You'll find the fabric at www.dittofabrics.co.uk

for £11.50 per metre.



Retro turtleneck

The batwing dress and jumper from Simple Sew is proving that this silhouette doesn't go out of style. Designed with a single main body piece for sizes 8-20, this pattern can be whipped up in a short afternoon. Pick up the paper pattern for £10 (or £7 for a PDF download) at www.simplesewpatterns.com



Chunky wool knit jersey in stone brown would work very well for this pattern so try some of this high-quality fabric from www.truofabrics.com

for £15.99 per metre if you need to stay cosy.

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Wendy Gardiner's top tools for working with SLIPPERY FABRIC



Slippery fabric is fabulous to wear but its slippery, delicate nature can make it tricky to sew with. Wendy Gardiner, author of The Great British Sewing Bee From Stitch to Style shares her hints and tips for success

PUT A PIN IN IT

Pin the tissue in place with fresh new pins that are lovely and sharp. Pins, like needles, will get blunt over time and can snag fabric. Try and pin in the seam allowance only, just in case pinholes are left in delicate fabric. Pin garment pieces together with lots of pins in the seam allowance, to prevent the fabric layers from shifting as you sew.

Merchant and Mills, lace pins £8 and 1oz dressmaker's pins £4.50
www.backstitch.co.uk



CUTTING EDGE

For cutting out I always use scissors rather than a rotary cutter, partly because I don't have a cutting mat big enough to cope with a garment and partly because I think you have greater control of shears. But it is important to use sharp dressmaking shears that are only used on fabric! Ones with finely serrated blades are perfect for slippery fabric as they grip the cloth as you cut. Take long slices, using the whole length of the blades and ensure you cut OUT around notches. That way, should you need to pinch a bit of the seam allowance when fitting, you have it to work with. Similarly when notching or grading seams, use fine sharp scissors like stork scissors.

Prym Professional Xact Micro Serration scissors, £22 from www.dragonflyfabrics.co.uk



Premax embroidery Stork scissors 3½", £3.99 from www.eastmanstaples.co



THIS FOOT IS MADE FOR WALKING

A walking foot will help feed the layers evenly but you also need to manipulate your fabric correctly and choose the right seam application. Choose a stitch length of 2.2-2.5 for lightweight fabric and make sure you use a new needle, size 70/10 for lightweight fabric, such as a Microtex needle.

Although it might seem like a hefty investment, the results will be worth it.

For lightweight fabric that can be pulled into the feed dogs, start at least 1cm from the end, holding the thread tails behind the needle, stitch forward for three-four stitches, then reverse to the start of the fabric before continuing forward. Take care at the end of the seam too. If the fabric still gets pulled down, start with a small piece of paper underneath the fabric, which can be torn away once the seam is stitched.



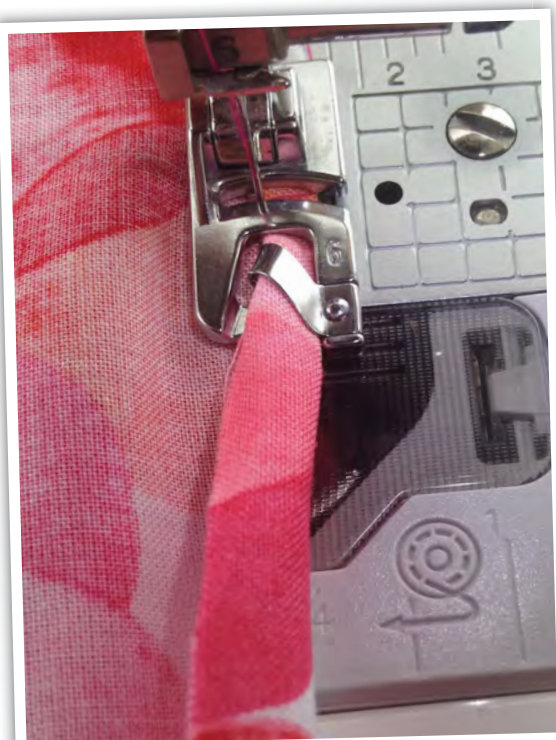
Even feed foot,
£58.50 from
www.j-shop.co.uk

ROLL WITH IT

Satin can fray easily as can georgette and silk, so raw edges must be neatened. The quickest method is to overlock or overcast the edges but there are some clever seams and hems that will prevent further fraying.

A rolled hem is definitely the hem of choice when sewing with translucent fabric such as georgette, organza and chiffon, as there is virtually no hem allowance and thus a very neat edge. It is best sewn with a rolled hem foot – the perfect accessory for fine hems. It has a coil on the front of the foot, through which the fabric is fed. It curls around itself, tucking the raw edge under just as it reaches the needle so that you sew on the inner fold. A mere 13mm or even 6mm of fabric is used in the hem allowance, depending on the size of the coil at the front of the foot. The 13mm is easier to use and results in a 6mm-wide hem allowance.

For the main construction, you can use a French seam, which is particularly good for translucent fabric where seam allowance can be visible from the RS of the garment. First sew with WST taking a 6mm seam allowance. Trim to 3mm and then turn through so RST. Press so the seam is on the very edge and sew again with a 1cm seam allowance.



Hemmer foot set
(for 4mm and 6mm
rolled hems), £24 from
www.j-shop.co.uk



GLITZY COSMETIC bag

This charming appliquéd bag is just the right size for storing nail varnish or make-up. It's the perfect cosmetic bag to give to a glamorous friend or relative

Project **FIONA HESFORD** Sewgirl

Photography **ALEX WRIGHT** teneight



Perfect for scrap busting

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

Bag

- ♥ 2 26x30cm needlecord/denim /heavy weight cotton for bag front & back
- ♥ 2 26x30cm fusible medium-weight interfacing
- ♥ 2 26x30cm patterned cotton fabric for bag lining
- ♥ 2 26x30cm wadding (optional)
- ♥ 30cm hot pink zip (or colour matching the 'sleeve' on the appliqué)

Appliqué

- ♥ 16x16cm beige felt for hand
- ♥ 10x5cm hot pink felt for nails & varnish pot
- ♥ 5x3cm pale dark grey or black felt for varnish lid
- ♥ 8x6cm white or pale grey felt for varnish pot
- ♥ 15x8cm patterned cotton fabric to match lining fabric for cuff
- ♥ black or dark grey thread
- ♥ sparkly beads or sequins
- ♥ 20cm bonding web
- ♥ darning foot attachment (optional)
- ♥ templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

How to make:

1 Fuse the interfacing to the WS of the front and back bag pieces.

2 Trace the outline of the hand on to the paper side of the bonding web. Repeat for the cuff section, nails (label as shown on the template). Trace the varnish bottle outer and inner, brush and lid separately.

3 Bond each shape with a hot iron to the reverse side of their respective fabric or felt colour and cut out. (See Pic A.)

4 Peel off the paper backing. Place in position on the bag front piece using the template as a guide. Iron carefully to fix in position ready for stitching. (See Pic B.)

5 Attach a darning foot to the sewing machine and thread up with dark grey or black thread. With the feed dog on the machine lowered, use a free-motion embroidery stitch technique to emphasise each shape with a line of stitching. (See Pic C.) (Practise on a scrap of fabric first.) Alternatively stitch around each shape with hand embroidery or a neat topstitch and give the front a quick press.





Top tip!

Cover with a piece of lightweight fabric before ironing to stop the pieces moving around

6 Hand-sew small sparkly beads to the nails and the pink pot varnish section to add a touch of glitz. A beading needle can help with this. (See Pic D.)

7 Lay a piece of wadding on the WS of the front and back pieces. Machine-baste all around approximately 6mm from outer raw edge to secure.

8 Place the front piece on a table RS facing up. Place the zip RS down on to the top raw edge of the bag. Place one lining piece at the top edge RS down on top of the zip. Pin, ensuring the top edges are aligned. Tack-stitch to hold. (See Pic E.)

9 Sew the upper edge on the machine using a zipper foot. Remove the tacking stitches and press. Open out and top-stitch on the RS catching the lining seam allowance, approximately 6mm from zip edge. (See Pic F.) Repeat for the other side.

10 Slide the zip pull about halfway open.

11 Place the lining and outers so they are

RST (See Pic G.). Pin then sew a 1cm seam all around leaving a 7cm gap in the lower edge of the lining. Take care when you stitch across the zip!

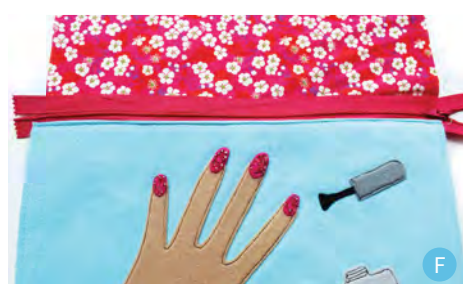
12 Pinch the corners of the bag front and back section with the seamline facing you. Pin. Mark a line 4cm down from the corner with a ruler and pencil across the corner. Stitch along this line. (See Pic H.)

13 Turn the bag to the RS through the opening in the lining. Push out the corners and press. Sew closed the opening in the lining.

14 Push the lining into the bag. There you go – you’ve nailed it!

Notes

✓ *Finished nail bar bag measures approximately 24x28cm*





Leon's Fabric Superstore
419 Barlow Moor Road
Chorlton
Manchester
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Tel: 0161 881 7960

Barry's Fabric Superstore
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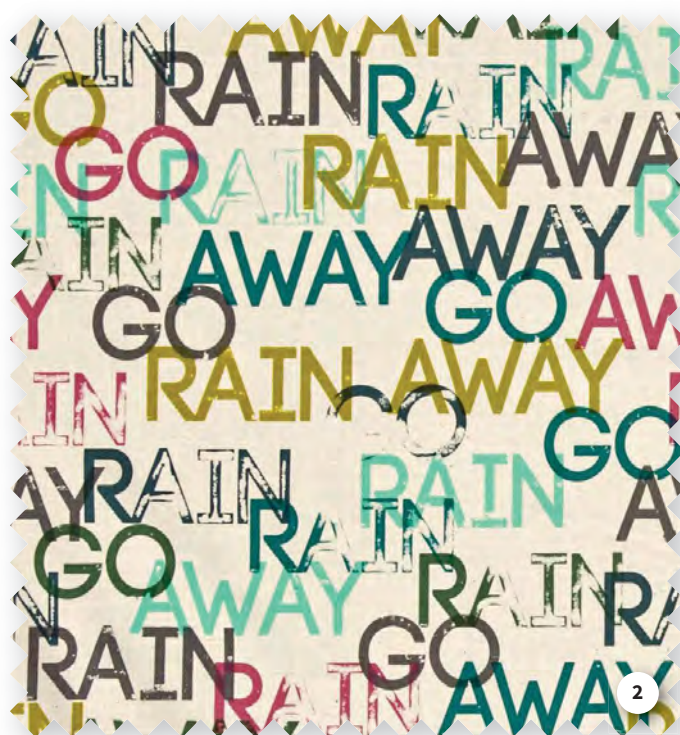
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Fabric focus

WHAT'S YOUR TYPE?

We love the creative use of typography in these gorgeous fabric picks



Fabric shopping

- 1 Sevenberry Indigos Cotton, Writing, £13 per metre www.backstitch.co.uk
- 2 Cotton + Steel Raindrop, Rain Go Away, £14 per metre www.mauds-fabric-finds.com
- 3 London Tube Map Thrifty Polyester Cotton, £5 per metre www.fabricrehab.co.uk
- 4 Lecien First of Infinity, Postcards in White and Black, £14 per metre www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk
- 5 Abstract Letters Print Stretch Cotton Sateen, £8.99 per metre www.minervacrafts.com
- 6 Academic Club Cotton, Math Genius in Black, £12 per metre www.frumble.co.uk

BASKETWEAVE

This elegant pillow looks much more complicated than it is. Just remember to keep your woven lines straight

Project **TORIE JAYNE**
Photography **SUSSIE BELL**

Skill level ♥♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ 42x27cm fusible interfacing
- ♥ 17 27cm 2.5cm-wide and 11 42cm 2.5cm-wide eyelet (broderie anglaise) trim with two finished edges
- ♥ matching sewing thread
- ♥ 2 42x20cm fabric for back
- ♥ 42cm length narrow rickrack
- ♥ 1.3m pompom trim
- ♥ 40x25cm pillow form



Torie says:

"I used a dainty, softly coloured eyelet (broderie anglaise) trim but you could substitute vibrant tartan ribbon or subtle twill tape for completely different effects"



How to make:

- 1 Place the rectangle of fusible interfacing, adhesive side up, on your ironing board, with one of the long edges at the top. Starting at the top-left corner, pin one of the short pieces of eyelet (broderie anglaise) trim along the left edge of the interfacing, pinning it at the top and bottom edges. Now place additional short lengths of trim, butting up to each other, until you have pinned all 17 vertical pieces of trim across the interfacing. (See Pic A.)
- 2 Starting at the top-left corner of the interfacing, weave one of the long strips of trim horizontally through the vertical strips, alternately over and under, keeping the upper edge of the trim even with the top edge of the interfacing. Pin the ends

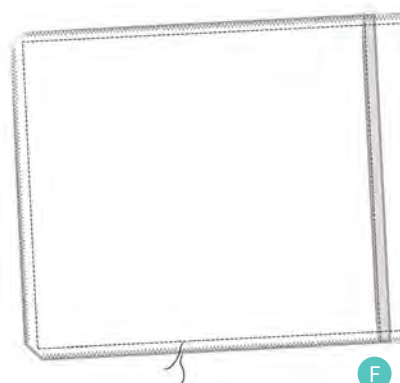
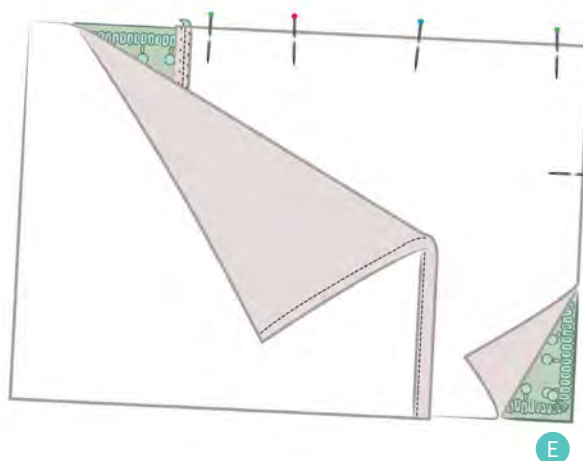
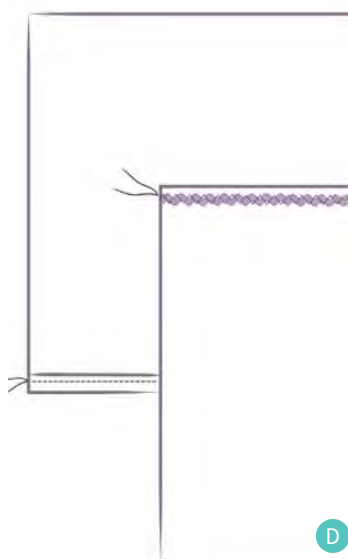
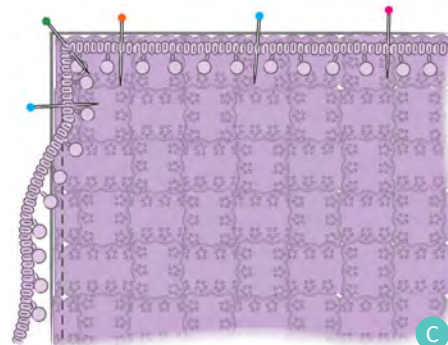
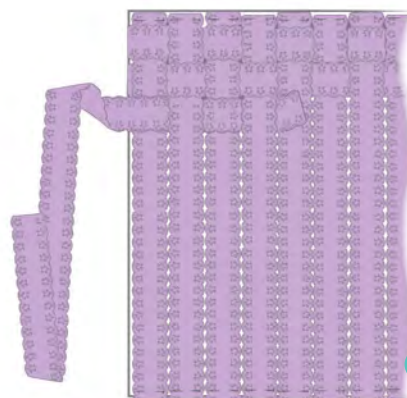
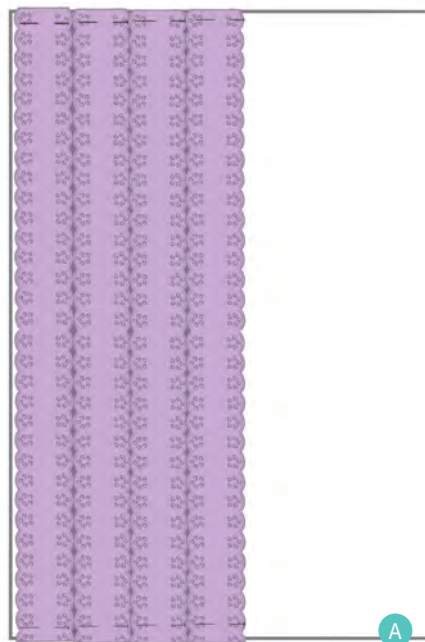
in place at the ends, so that they are even with the side edges. (See Pic B.)

- 3 Now weave a second long piece of trim through the vertical lengths, butting it up to the previous horizontal one, and going over the vertical piece when the previous horizontal piece went under, and vice versa.

- 4 Pin at both ends, as before. Weave the remaining long lengths in the same way, until all 11 horizontal pieces are woven in.

- 5 Place a pressing cloth over the woven trim and, following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the assembled trim to the interfacing. Carefully machine-baste all around, 5mm from the edges.

Use this technique to sew an eye-catching tote. Simply back your assembled ribbon with fabric for added stability



6 Now pin the pompom trim to the RS of the woven front just under 1cm from the edge, with the pompoms facing toward the centre. Stitch in place. (See Pic C.)

7 On one long edge of each back piece, press in a 1cm double hem. Pin and stitch 3mm from the inner fold. On the RS of one back piece, pin a length of rickrack over the stitching line of the hem; zigzag or top-stitch in place. (See Pic D.)

8 Pin the back piece that has the rickrack to the front piece, with RST and raw edges even. Place the other back piece, wrong side up, on top, matching the raw edges with those of the front. You'll see the hemmed edges of the two back pieces overlapping by about 24cm. (See Pic E.)

9 Sew a 1cm seam around all four edges, pivoting at the corners by dropping your needle and lifting your presser foot. (See Pic F.)

10 Snip off the corners of the seam allowances taking care not to cut into the seam line and zigzag the raw edges to prevent fraying. Turn the cover RS out and use a point turner or blunt-ended tool, such as the rounded end of a chopstick, to carefully push out the corners. Press the cover and insert the pillow form.



Torie Jayne's book *Stylish Home Sewing* is out now priced £15.99 and is published by CICO

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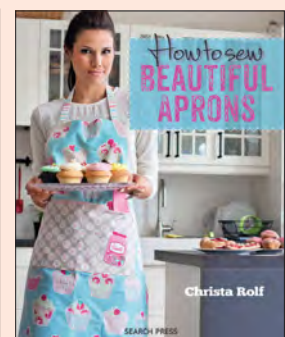
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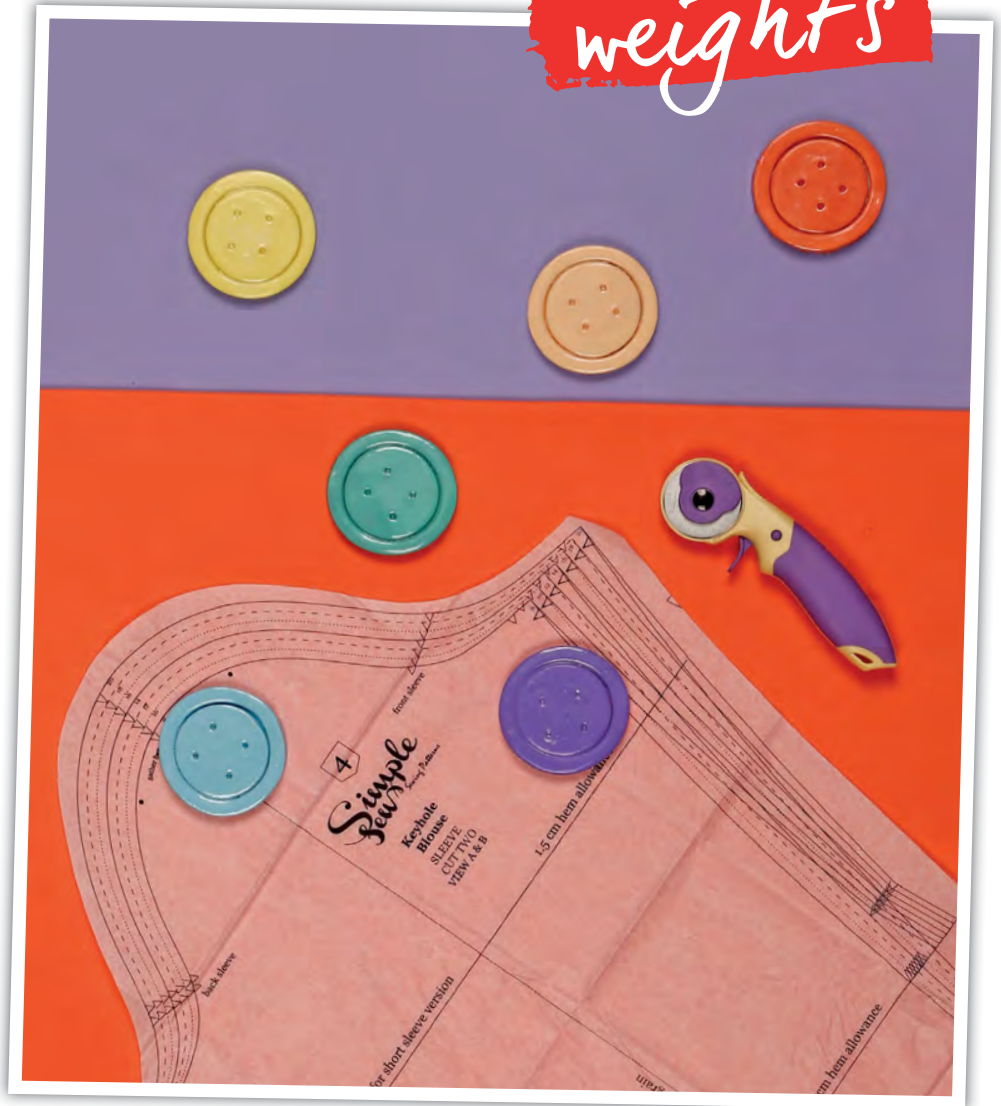
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BUTTON PATTERN

Whether you have a fellow stitcher in your life, or fancy making yourself a treat, these colourful button pattern weights will brighten up any sewing space

Project **RACHEL WAIN**
Photography **TYM LECKEY**

weights



Notes

- ✓ Palm-sized weights are good for holding large pattern pieces down, while smaller ones would be good for more delicate areas of patterns, like bodice straps
- ✓ Work in a cool space so your clay doesn't start drying out before you have finished
- ✓ Don't forget to protect your work surface – a PVC tablecloth would be perfect

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

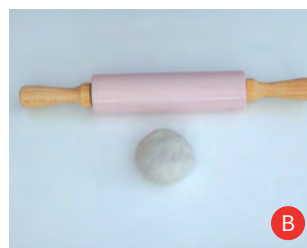
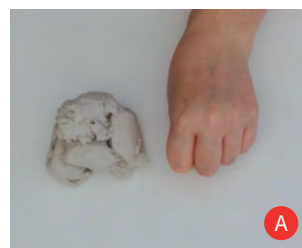
- ♥ 1kg air-drying clay (makes approximately 8 buttons)
- ♥ acrylic paint
- ♥ varnish (either shiny or silk)
- ♥ paintbrushes
- ♥ two sizes of cookie cutters
- ♥ rolling pin

How to make:

- 1 Get a piece of clay off the block about the size of your fist. (See Pic A.)
- 2 Roll the clay so it is in a relatively smooth ball. Using a rolling pin, flatten the clay until it is around ⅜" thick. (See Pic B.)
- 3 Using the larger of the cookie cutters,

press firmly down into the clay, and lift directly up. (See Pic C.)

- 4 Take the smaller cookie cutter and place it so it's in the middle of the large circle. Press into the clay, but don't go all the way through. The idea is just to have a decorative ridge. (See Pic D.)



BUTTON PATTERN WEIGHTS

- 5 Use the end of a small paintbrush; make the 'holes' in the button. Again, don't go all the way through, you just want an imprint. (See Pic E.)
- 6 Let the clay dry before painting. Follow the manufacturer's instructions so you know how long to wait.
- 7 When the clay is completely dry, mix up some lovely colours and paint the weights. Don't forget to paint the sides! Use a small brush to get in the gaps for the holes and ridge. (See Pic F.)
- 8 You may want to use a second coat of paint after the first has dried depending on the coverage of the colour.
- 9 When the paint is dry, it's time to varnish! Make sure you protect surfaces here and open some windows. (See Pic G.)
- 10 Then you're done and ready to use your cute new button pattern weights! (See Pic H.)



Tools WE USED



www.fredaldous.co.uk

*Rachel may have been sewing clothes for just under three years but she will give any project a go!
See more of her clever creations at
www.rachagainstthesewingmachine.co.uk*



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This adorable heart-trimmed apron dress can easily double as a dressing-up outfit! Kids will love the shaped pockets and rickrack trim

Project **KIRSTY HARTLEY** Wild Things
Photography **WILL SHADDOCK**

QUEEN OF HEARTS

dress

Fabric shopping:
WE USED



Flurry 2000 in Poppy
by Dashwood Studio,
£12 per metre,
www.plushaddict.co.uk

Easy fit!

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS:

	6 months – 3 years	3-5 years
45" and 60" fabric	70cm	80cm

SIZING:

Size	Length from SNP*	Chest
6-18 months	44cm	55cm
18 months-3 years	49cm	60cm
3-5 years	55cm	66cm
5-7 years	62cm	71cm

*SNP= Side neck point (measured from point on garment closest to neck)

Notes

✓ Seam allowances are 1cm unless otherwise specified

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ 115cm-wide or 150cm-wide dress fabric for outer skirt (see Fabric requirements table below)
- ♥ FQ plain fabric for pockets,
- ♥ 50cm fusible interfacing (optional)
- ♥ 30cm 2.5cm-wide elastic
- ♥ 2 buttons
- ♥ jumbo rickrack for the bib trim
- ♥ co-ordinating thread
- ♥ templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

How to make:

- 1 Cut two waistband fronts and two waistband backs.
- 2 If your fabric is lightweight, you may wish to strengthen the waistband with an 8cm-wide strip of fusible interfacing, cut to the same length as the waistband.
- 3 Cut a skirt front and back following the dimensions of your child in relation to the size chart.
- 4 Pin the patterns for the bib and straps in place then mark around the pattern using tailor's chalk, adding 1cm all around for the seam allowance. Cut out a bib front and a bib back, making sure the grain lines are parallel to the selvedge. Also cut out two straps.
- 5 Using the heart pattern, cut out four pocket pieces.



6 Pin two pocket pieces with RST, and stitch all the way around, leaving a small opening at the lower edge through which to turn or bag the pocket through. Snip the centre of the heart at the seam, turn through and press.

7 Pin in position on the skirt, and top-stitch along the sides, leaving the top open and back-stitching at the start and finish.

8 Press under 1cm on both long edges and one end of each strap. Fold the straps in half lengthwise, WST, and top-stitch close to the edges, leaving the unpressed end on each open.

9 Add the rickrack trim to the edges of the heart-shaped bib by trapping it between both layers. Trim the curves, including the point at the centre of the heart, then turn through and press. Sew away the excess rickrack at the centre front on the inside, as shown. (See Pic A.)

10 Overlock both skirt pieces at the sides and hem. Assemble the front waistband by placing the bib between the inner and outer waistband as marked on the pattern. Gather the top of the front of the skirt to size.

11 With the RS of the inner waistband facing the inside of the skirt, sew along the top to join the two layers. Now bring the waistband forward, press the remaining raw edge inward by 1cm. Pin to the front face of the skirt and top-stitch to assemble.

12 Assemble the back waistband by placing the premade straps between the inner and outer waistband, as marked on the pattern. Overlock the inner waistband raw edge.

13 Place the dress front and back together and sew the side seams. (At the waist sides, the inner back waistband will be loose.) Bring this around so that all of the raw

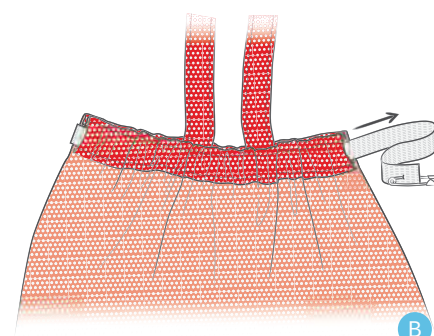
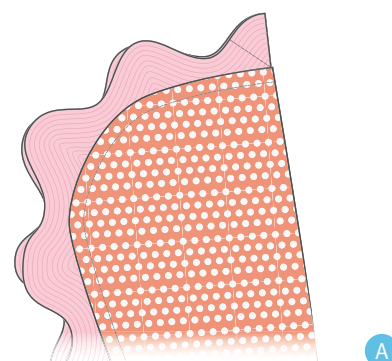
edges are trapped inside, as shown. Press the seams open.

14 Take the length of elastic and sew each end to one of the waist sides on the inside. Pin the waistband back into place. (See Pic B.)

15 Now with the RS of the skirt uppermost, gently stretch the waistband, and top-stitch through to close the waistband along the entire back. There will be sufficient stretch for your child to easily pull the skirt on.

16 Press under a 2cm hem on both the outer skirt and the underskirt, and stitch. Stitch rickrack trim to the hem of the outer skirt if desired.

17 Try the dress on your child, crossing the straps at the back. Add a buttonhole to the end of each strap, and sew buttons to the inside of the waistband.



SEWING ROOM SWOON



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Sewing room SWOON

We love sharing beautiful sewing spaces with you; whether they are whole rooms stacked with supplies or carefully organised little nooks, it's creativity that counts. In this issue, Cristy of blog Love You Sew takes us behind the scenes of her quilting and sewing space

Like most sewists, I have an eclectic mix of furniture and accessories to organise my sewing supplies and fabric. My sewing table is from my old home office days, but has proven to be perfect for storage and for an extra workspace since the tray pulls out. The WIP ladder was picked by my sister, the bureau was from my eldest son's nursery, and the DVD shelf was from a friend, which I now use for fat quarters.

I'm visual and like to keep all my most-used supplies up on the pegboard. It allows easy access and keeps my productivity high without having to get up every time I need a notion.

My most prized tool is my Juki-TL2010, named Lady T since she is the boss. Having this home industrial machine was a game-changer for my business. I use it for 90% of my sewing. My hand-me-down serger is also very dear to me. Her name is Annie since she is a 150th anniversary edition. My mother-in-law gave her to me after downsizing her home.

My mother-in-law also started my vintage notion collection. I love the old packaging and get a kick out of how much everything used to cost. Needless to say, I love picking up vintage items thrifting and through estate sales.



I feel very fortunate to have my own dedicated sewing space and love how every corner has a great background story. It makes my heart full knowing I continue the stories with each piece I sew. They are all creating new memories ahead.

See more of Cristy's beautiful quilted creations, amazing bags and dressmaking pattern reviews at www.iloveyousew.com where you'll also find details of her online shop!

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PO the panda

This friendly panda isn't going to let the winter chill get him down! He is prepared for the cooler weather with his cute striped hat and scarf made from an odd sock

Project & photography **CINTIA GONZALEZ** My Poppet

Notes

- ✓ The finished size is approximately 23cm
- ✓ Button eyes are not recommended for children under three! Instead, sew small circles of felt as eyes
- ✓ A seam allowance of 5mm is included on all pattern pieces except nose, eyes, ears and back panel

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ 20x25cm black wool felt
- ♥ 20x25cm off-white wool felt
- ♥ old striped sock, child size
- ♥ small pompom
- ♥ 2 7mm buttons for eyes
- ♥ 4 12mm buttons for limbs
- ♥ matching machine sewing thread
- ♥ heavy-duty black thread
- ♥ toy stuffing, polyester fiberfill or wool
- ♥ doll needle
- ♥ embroidery needle
- ♥ air-erasable fabric marker or water-soluble pencil
- ♥ templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

CUTTING:

From off-white felt

- Cut two bodies
- Cut one head front
- Cut one head back

From black felt

- Cut four legs
- Cut four arms
- Cut one nose
- Cut two eyes
- Cut two ears
- Cut one back panel

How to make:

HEAD

- 1 Sew darts in back and front head pieces by matching A to A, B to B and C to C.
- 2 Pin ears to the right side of the head front piece, so that the curved top of the ear is facing inwards. Refer to the pattern for placement. (See Pic A.)
- 3 Sew head front and head back right sides together, matching top darts. Leave an opening for turning.
- 4 Turn right side out and stuff firmly. (See Pic B.)
- 5 Ladder-stitch the opening closed, slightly gathering the back of neck opening.
- 6 With black thread, whip-stitch eye and nose pieces in place, using the pattern as a placement guide.
- 7 Sew 7mm buttons on with black thread for the eyes.

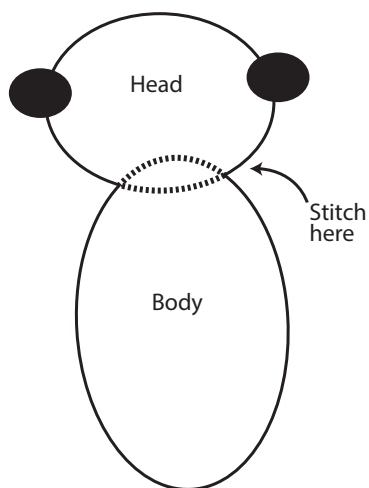




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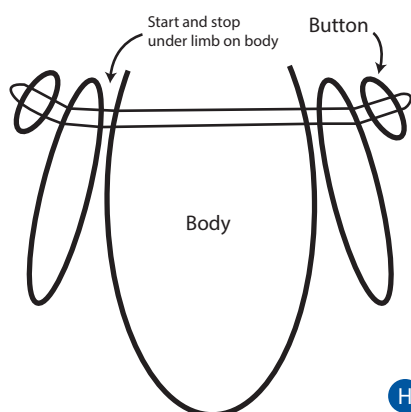
E



F



G



H

BODY

- 8 Sew darts by matching D to D and E to E on each body piece, making sure to mirror the halves so that one is the right side and one the left.
- 9 With RST and darts matching, sew body pieces together, leaving a gap for turning.
- 10 Turn right side out and stuff firmly.
- 11 Ladder-stitch the opening closed. (See Pic C.)

12 Using black thread, whip-stitch the black back panel onto the back of the body (a seam line will run through the middle of the panel). Use the pattern as a placement guide.

ARMS & LEGS

- 13 For each arm and each leg, sew two pieces right sides together, leaving an opening for turning.
- 14 Clip curves to reduce bulk. (See Pic D.)
- 15 Turn right sides out and stuff firmly. (See Pic E.)
- 16 Ladder-stitch the opening closed.

BODY ASSEMBLY

- 17 Attach the head securely to the body using ladder stitch. (See Pic F.) Press the head and body together to create a flat area and stitch where they meet.
- 18 Flatten the area on the limb where the button will be attached.
- 19 Pin limbs to the body. See the pattern for placement.
- 20 Thread the doll needle with two strands of heavy-duty thread and make a few anchoring stitches under where the limb will be attached. (See Pic G.)
- 21 Pass the needle through the body, limb and button, then back through the button, limb and body and then through the other limb and button. (See Pic H.)
- 22 Repeat a few times to make sure limbs are secured firmly. Fasten the thread off under one of the limbs. Repeat for the other pair of limbs.

HAT AND SCARF

- 23 Cut the cuff off an child's old sock about 6.5cm down from the top.

- 24 Gather the raw edge with a running stitch and secure the ends. Attach a pompom.

- 25 Cut two 3cm-wide rectangles from the heel to the toe of the sock. Join to make one long rectangle with a minimum length of 18cm.

- 26 Fold the raw edges into the centre and hand stitch to finish.

- 27 Dress the panda with the hat and scarf, securing with a few stitches if desired.

TUTORIAL

Make your own felt

Why not make your own felt? Felt made from wool sweaters is thicker, cheaper, more colourful and cleaner!

How to make:

- 1 Get an old pillowcase and fill it with wool jumpers. Cut away any seams, cuffs, collars or fancy edges.
- 2 Add a teaspoon of soap shavings. You can scrape them from a bar of old-fashioned ivory soap, but most any soap will work, just be sure it isn't 'moisturising' or 'with conditioners' or anything like that.
- 3 Add a teaspoon of baking soda. This helps the detergent really scrub and fluff up those fibres.
- 4 Place a large old towel in the bag (or anything similar with a scrubby surface) and secure the end with a rubber band.
- 5 Wash on the hottest setting possible. Adding detergent is fine but no fabric softener.
- 6 The combination of hot water, abrasive detergent and constant rotation and agitation, will make the yarn turn to felt quickly. When the wash cycle is finished, check the stretch of your felt. If it pulls apart and individual strands are still visible, put it through another wash.

Alternative method:

Place your wool in a large pan and bring it to the boil on the hob. No stirring or agitation is required in this method, but heed this warning – it could take up to an hour and will make your kitchen smell like sheep!

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New Generation Port Erin IM9 6AQ 01624 836 301



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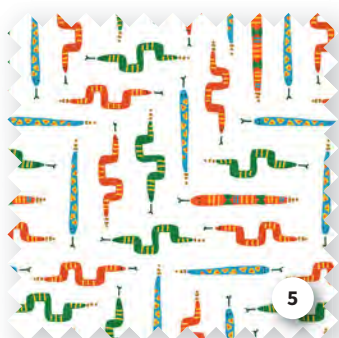
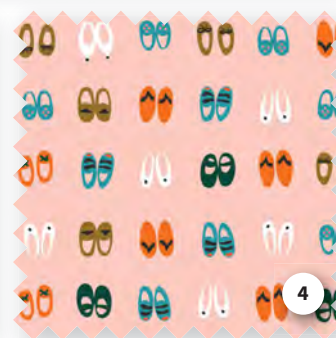
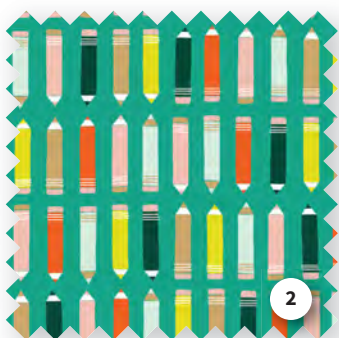
brother
at your side

Fabric focus

SIDEWALK

by Rae Hoekstra for Cloud9

Sidewalk is an ode to the sunny afternoon walk home from school, when the weather is warm and the air smells of freshly cut grass. This colourful collection of jersey prints depicts the sights of a carefree amble through well-manicured neighbourhoods and past open fields, with perhaps a little mischief along the way.



Fabric shopping

- 1 Prize Garden cotton jersey (C9SWK158013)
- 2 Art Class Green cotton jersey (C9SWK158114)
- 3 Lawn Ornament Coral cotton jersey (C9SWK158215)
- 4 Fancy Steps Pink cotton jersey (C9SWK158305)
- 5 Off The Trail Multi cotton jersey (C9SWK158433)
- 6 Bus Stop cotton jersey (C9SWK158513)
- 7 Red Rover cotton jersey (C9SWK158606)

To find your local retailer see
www.hantex.co.uk/mystockist

Top dog

Cute kawaii BEAR BAG

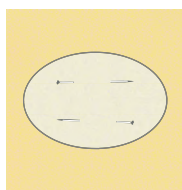
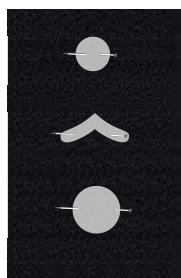
This adorable bag is simple and quick to make which means you could even let a little pair of hands help you sew!

Project **LOUISE SCOTT-SMITH & GEORGIA VAUX**
Photography **PASCAL BERGAMIN**

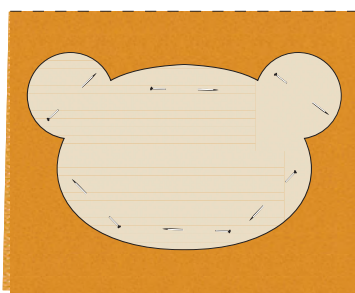
*Blanket
stitch
detail*



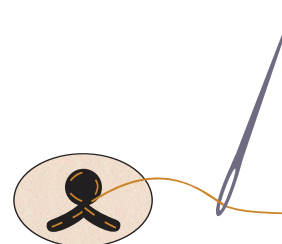
I Can Make My Own Accessories
by Louise Scott-Smith, £9.99,
Thames & Hudson



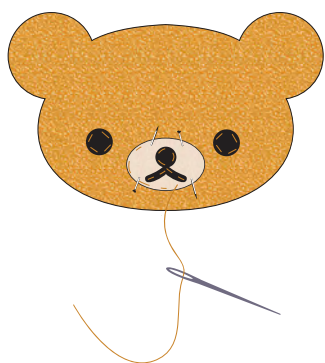
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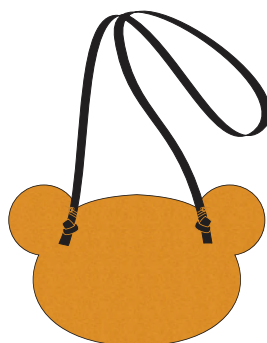
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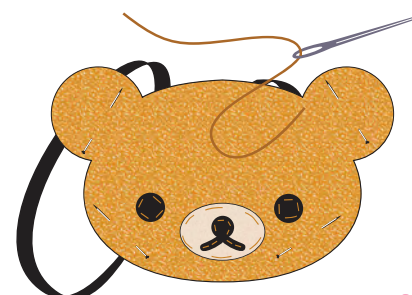
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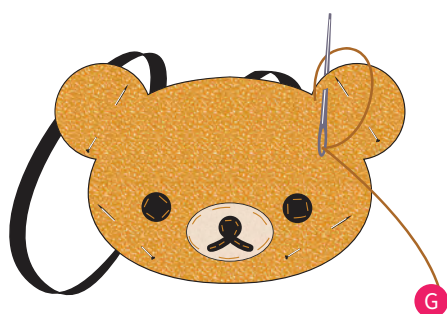
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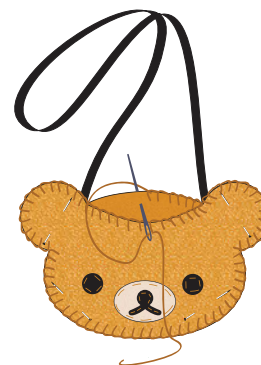
F



G



H



I

Notes

- ✓ This project can be sewn entirely by hand, making it perfect for sewing while out and about or sitting in a nice comfy armchair

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ black & light brown felt scraps
- ♥ brown old towel, piece of fleece or similar fluffy fabric
- ♥ 100cm braid or ribbon
- ♥ co-ordinating sewing thread
- ♥ embroidery needle
- ♥ brown embroidery thread
- ♥ templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

How to make:

- 1 Cut two eyes, a nose and a mouth from black felt. Then cut one snout from light brown felt. (See Pic A.)
- 2 Now fold the towel in half, fluffy sides together. Pin the head pattern to the towel well. Make sure you cut through both layers

of fabric and they don't shift as you cut. Finish the raw edges with a small zigzag stitch to prevent fraying. (See Pic B.)

- 3 Now you are ready to sew on your bear's face. Sew the nose and mouth onto the snout, using small hand stitches or top-stitch on the machine. (See Pic C.)

- 4 Pin the snout to the RS of one head in the lower centre, then pin the eyes either side of it evenly. Sew the snout and eyes in place using small hand stitches or by machine. (See Pic D.)

- 5 Lay the back piece, fluffy side down, on a flat surface. Tie a knot at each end of the ribbon and pin the ends to each ear. Make sure the ribbon lies flat and doesn't twist. Sew down the ribbon ends with three or four stitches close to the edge. (See Pic E.)

- 6 Pin the two pieces of the bag together. Make sure the ribbon knots are on the inside and the bear's face is on the outside! Now you are ready to blanket-stitch your bag together.

- 7 Start your blanket stitch at the bottom of one ear. Pass the needle through from the inside out (from the back to the front) so the knot is hidden inside. (See Pic F.) Gently pull until the knot stops the thread.

- 8 Pass your needle through again, from the front to the back this time (through both layers), about 0.5 cm further along. Now pull your needle up through the loop of thread that you have just made. Pull your thread firmly until the loop closes. (See Pic G.)

- 9 Repeat the blanket stitch, working around the outside the bear's head. (See Pic H.) Do not cut off the thread yet!

- 10 Now blanket-stitch across the top of the front piece only (the one with the bear's face). Then blanket stitch across the top of the back piece. (See Pic I.) Pass the needle back through to the inside of your bag and knot off the thread to secure.



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*Did you
know a thimble
collector is called
a digitabulist?*



Thimble collection © Kislik

A brief history of **THIMBLES**

Small and unassuming, the thimble is often overlooked by sewists but it can be a vital tool in your sewing box. We're stepping back in time to learn more about this humble piece of equipment

Originally, thimbles were used solely for pushing your needle through fabric or hide as it was being sewn. They help prevent damage to the nerve endings in your fingers during hand sewing.

They have also had many other uses. From the 1600s onwards, during courtship, a man would give the woman he was courting gifts, such as thimbles, as tokens of his love. In the early 1800s thimbles were used to measure out alcoholic spirits and gunpowder, which brought rise to the phrase 'just a thimbleful'. Upper-class women and nobility would often collect thimbles as a hobby. For instance, Queen Elizabeth I reportedly gave her lady in waiting a gold thimble studded with rubies and sapphires. Queen Victoria was also known to gift many thimbles. In the 1930s, the humble thimble was included as one of the player tokens for the game Monopoly and has managed to stay in almost every version of the game produced since.



Thimbles have been made of many different materials over the centuries, including metal, wood, glass, tropical nuts, china, leather, plastic, Bakelite and rubber. Early examples were made of whale bone or horn and

ivory. In excavations near Moscow, rings of bone were found, which were used 30,000 years ago by mammoth hunters to stitch pearl embroideries onto pieces of leather.

Some decorated versions utilised marble, semi-precious stones or mother-of-pearl. Porcelain and elaborate, decorated gold thimbles were also given as keepsakes and were usually quite unsuitable for sewing. In the 19th century, many thimbles were made from silver however, it was quickly discovered that silver is far too soft a metal and can be easily punctured by most needles.



Charles Horner solved the problem by using a steel core covered inside and out by silver. The result was still as pretty as a traditional silver thimble but more practical and durable.

For a long time, Germany was the centre of production for this object that became a finger's best friend while sewing. The Fingerhut Thimble museum in Germany may be worth a visit as it houses antique thimbles and sewing tools from all continents. It opened in 1982 with roughly 800 exhibits. Today, the museum showcases more than 4,000 exhibits from around the world. See the website at www.fingerhutmuseum.de

DRESSMAKER'S THIMBLES

A dressmaker's thimble is traditionally worn on the middle finger of your sewing hand but can also be worn on the index finger. Use to the top of the thimble to push the needle through the fabric, utilising the dimples in

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

CHAPTER 3

She sat with him on the side of the bed. She also said she would give him a kiss if he liked, but Peter did not know what she meant, and he held out his hand expectantly.

"Surely you know what a kiss is?" she asked, aghast.

"I shall know when you give it to me," he replied stiffly, and not to hurt his feeling she gave him a thimble.

the top of the thimble to gain leverage. This type of thimble is widely available and you'll find them for the bargain price of 92p at www.macculloch-wallis.co.uk

TAILOR'S THIMBLE

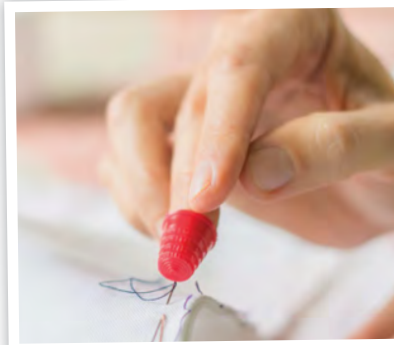
The capless tailor's thimble has an open top for tactile fabric control. It protects your finger without affecting dexterity but requires some getting used to as traditional tailors keep

their middle finger bent and push the needle with the side of the thimble (hence the open top). Merchant and Mills has tailor's thimbles available to buy for £4.50 on its website www.merchantandmills.com For a helpful guide on how to wear and use this type of thimble see Savile Row tailor Thomas Mahon's blog www.englishcut.com

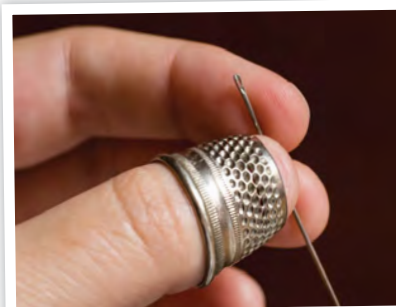
THIMBLETTES

Thimblettes (AKA rubber thimbles) are only suitable for leafing through or counting papers as they become worn over time but Prym has recently released a new version of a thimblette. This new design is made from a comfortable plastic rubber that is ergonomic and robust. Find one for £4.59 at www.minervacrafts.com

Cheat sheet



Dressmaker's thimble with dimpled top
© Jurga Jot



Tailor's thimble with open top
© nobelbunt



The new Prym ergonomic dressmaker's thimble made of flexible polymer

Couture Sewing with ALISON SMITH MBE



Lining around a skirt vent

In this issue Alison shows us how to install a lining around the hem vent of a narrow skirt, perfect for whipping up a chic wool pencil skirt

If you're interested in sewing a chic wool skirt this autumn, you'll want to line it with something luxurious that is softer on your skin. Many patterns feature back hemline vents (as opposed to seam splits) where one side of the fabric overlaps the other side. However, when a lining is involved, problems can easily arise. In my column this month we'll evaluate the stumbling blocks and look at the construction.

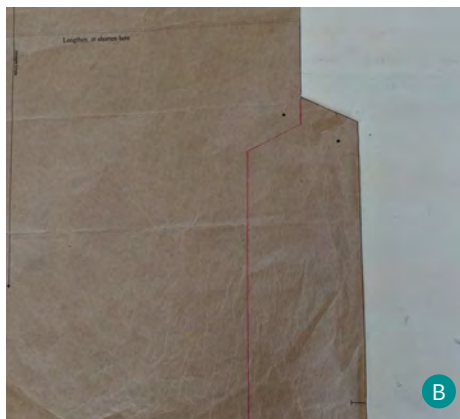
LEFT AND RIGHTS (SEE PICS A AND B)

Cutting the fashion fabric is straightforward, as both the left-hand and right-hand back pattern pieces are cut the same. The lining pieces though are cut as a left-hand and right-hand back. This is not an easy process and it's easy to get lefts and rights muddled up, as the left and right refers to the garment as worn.

Also, your pattern may or may not have separate pattern pieces for the left and right back, instead there may be a line on the pattern that states "cut here for left back". If this is the case, I suggest you trace off a right-hand and left-hand back pattern piece. A right-hand lining pattern piece should have the extension the same as the fashion fabric but, on the left-hand lining pattern piece, the extension has been cut away into the fabric.

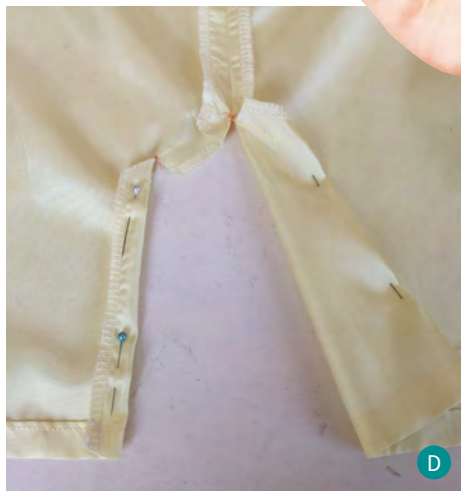
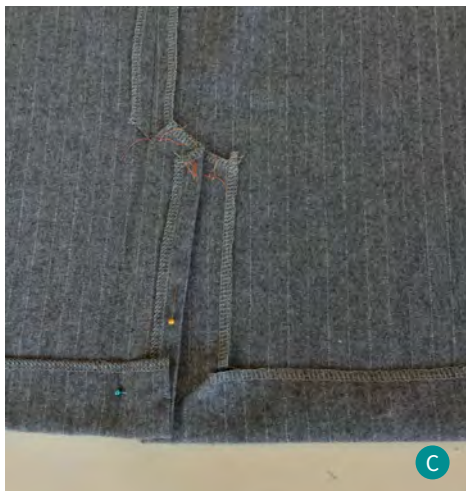
Perhaps your pattern doesn't have separate lining pieces, and so you'll need to follow additional lines or you'll need to transfer your own (shown in red).

You will need to cut all your pieces carefully and mark the WS of them with a chalk cross. If you cut any piece the wrong way, your vent will fall incorrectly or won't go together as designed.



Save 50%!

If you would like to see this technique in action, sign up for Alison's Craftsy class on Tailoring Finishing Techniques with a 50% discount using the link www.craftsy.com/ext/AlisonSmith_6952_H



PREPARATION

Carefully mark all the notches, dots and stitch lines around the vent with tailor's tacks and markings on all pieces.

THE FASHION FABRIC (SEE PIC C)

1 Sew the centre back seam, stopping at the dot above the vent.

2 Slash on a 45° angle through the seam at the dot, close to but not clipping the stitching line.

3 Working on the inside, press the seam open and the vent (the lower layer, larger piece) towards the right. Press the seam allowance of the upper layer of fabric back on itself.

4 Turn up the hem and secure with invisible hand stitches. You can mitre the corner of the under layer to reduce the bulk when you turn up the hem. Press.

THE LINING (SEE PICS D AND E)

5 Stay-stitch the angles around the top of the vent.

6 As before sew the centre back seam, stopping at the dot. Press the seam open and slash through the seam allowance. Sew a double-fold machined hem.

7 On both the left- and right-hand lining pieces, turn under the seam allowances on the extensions. On the left-hand back you will have to snip through the seam allowance to the stay stitching. Press.

8 Place the lining into the garment. Match CB seams. For the right-hand extension, tuck under the left-hand piece at the top of the vent. The edges should sit on top of the vent. Once you are happy, make sure that it does not pull when you check the RS, hand-stitch the edges of the lining to the vent.

9 On the RS of the garment you can if you wish stitch a diagonal line at the top of the vent to hold the extensions firm.

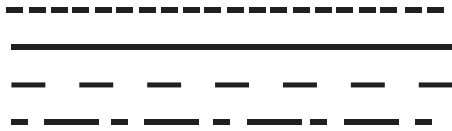
Alison

***Want to learn
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Alison's 2017 class dates will be released on Saturday 15th October! Enrolment is now open for City & Guilds 2017. Visit www.schoolofsewing.co.uk to find out more

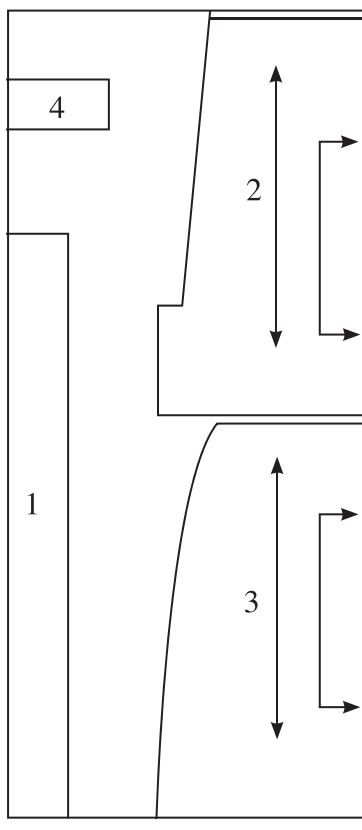
How to... Read a dressmaking pattern

A guide to basic markings and symbols



PATTERN CUTTING LINE

Each line relates to different size for the garment. There can be up to 10 sizes on a pattern sheet so you can either follow a single cutting line throughout or blend carefully between sizes to achieve a better fit.



LAYOUT DIAGRAMS

These explain how to lay each piece onto the fabric to ensure that all of the pieces will fit on the fabric quantity suggested on the envelope. Remember to follow along with the correct view and size. Don't forget to take care with directional prints; you wouldn't want a floral print top with all the flowers upside down.



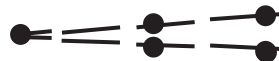
GRAINLINE

The arrow on the pattern piece must be 'on grain' with the threads of the fabric so that it can hang, move and stretch correctly. The grainline must always be parallel to the selvedge (the self-finished edges) of the fabric.



PLACE ON FOLD LINE

This edge of the pattern piece is to be placed on the fold of your fabric, making it easy to cut out a mirror image at the same time.



DARTS

Parts of the fabric to be folded for shaping, usually located at the bust, waist and neck.



NOTCHES

Make a tiny snip or chalk mark at each notch location, within the seam allowance. These marks are used to match pieces together before sewing.



LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN LINE

This indicates exactly where to shorten or lengthen the pattern piece or garment to make changes for improved fit.



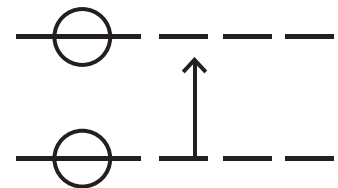
CIRCLE DOTS

These marks indicate construction details, such as zipper position, pleating, or the end-of-stitching line, as set out in the instructions. Some pattern companies will use triangles or squares in place of circle dots.



BUTTON & BUTTONHOLE PLACEMENT

The placement for a button is marked with an X. The placement for a buttonhole is marked with an edged line.



TUCKS/PLEATS

Transfer any tuck lines marked on the pattern pieces to the RS (right side) of the garment. Follow directional arrows where given.

ABBREVIATIONS

SA (SEAM ALLOWANCE)

Every project you sew has a set seam allowance. This is the distance between where you sew and the raw edge of the fabric – essentially an invisible line around each pattern piece. These lines are occasionally included on vintage patterns. You must sew at the seam allowance in order for the pieces to line up correctly. Most commonly this is 1.5cm, but check your instructions in case smaller allowances are being used. Sewing machines have marks for the seam allowance to the right side of the presser foot.

RS (RIGHT SIDE AKA FABRIC FRONT)

Instructions for placing right sides of fabric together will be written as RST.

WS (WRONG SIDE AKA FABRIC BACK)

Instructions for fusing interfacing to the wrong side of fabric will be written as WST.

MACHINE REVIEW: Pfaff

This month we're exploring four fantastic sewing machines from German company Pfaff

BEST FOR QUILTERS

Pfaff Quilt Expression 4.2

Quilting takes time and dedication, which is why it pays to have a sewing machine which can offer professional results! The Quilt Expression 4.2 fulfils the technical functions you need, while also allowing you to express your creativity!

An extra-long free arm means you can sew any size fabric with ease, making it ideal for larger projects such as quilts or curtains, and the Integrated Dual Transportation system guarantees an even fabric feed from top and bottom so you won't become unstuck.

The machine is equipped with 254 stitches and there's even a tapering feature on all 9mm decorative stitches, offering a host of creative options. Why not play around with the mirror image component too, to flip stitches for even more possibilities? Whether you're a seasoned quilter or searching for an intuitive machine to help with more ambitious sewing projects, this could be just what you're after.



BEST FOR EASE OF USE

Pfaff Smarter 260c

The Smarter 260c has been designed to take the fuff out of sewing, and after a quick set up, this machine allows you to get stitching in no time.

There's no need to search for a stitch, simply press the icon of the stitch you'd like to use and start sewing. The information system display is easy to navigate and there's even a handy tie-off button, which will tie-off and stop automatically – great for neat finishes in a hurry!

This is a real all rounder with 27 stitches included, and the adjustable stitch width means you can easily switch between appliqué, mending and decorative projects. There are five different presser feet supplied and to change them all you need to do is snap it off and snap a new one on. Plus, you can adjust the presser foot pressure for certain specialty techniques such as sewing stretch fabric and quilting.



BEST FOR AMBITIOUS SEWISTS

Pfaff Ambition Essential

Fancy challenging yourself with some larger sewing projects? Then try out the Ambition Essential sewing machine. This spacious model boasts a long free arm, making sewing any size project a breeze. The integrated dual feed is ideal for quilting and sewing and can be easily engaged or disengaged when needed, and the cleverly designed free-motion presser foot can provide greater control when quilting or free-motion stippling than a more traditional presser foot.

As we move into winter there's a temptation to choose thicker fabric such as wool. But thanks to the handy additional presser foot lift, you can raise the foot higher to allow for bulkier fabric to be placed underneath.

There are a whopping 110 stitches available to choose from as well as two different alphabet fonts, making the Ambition Essential suited for machine embroidery and more decorative sewing too.



BEST FOR RELIABILITY

Pfaff Select 3.2

The sturdy Select 3.2 is a reliable and robust machine, suitable for all-round sewists looking to move onto a more intermediate model. While it's certainly not a bulky model, this impressive machine can sew through up to 12 layers of denim with ease, a feat most machines would struggle with!

This strong machine prides itself on ease of use, and what it might lack in stitch selection (there are 27 available), it certainly makes up for in practical abilities. You can choose from 15 different needle positions, so you know you'll always be able to manage seam widths and zip placements. Plus, there's an extra-slim free arm for working on tricky tubular dressmaking sections such as trouser legs, necklines and cuffs.

With the machine itself you'll also get a selection of accessories such as a quilting guide, blind hem foot and needle box; all stored in a handy removable accessory tray – how clever!

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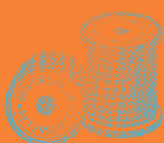
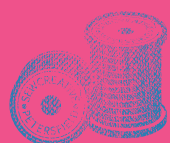


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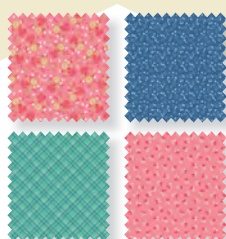


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22nd October

Christmas Advent calendar

You will learn to cut, create pleats, work with wadding and create loops to hang your Dashwood Studio Advent calendar masterpiece.

Cost: £50

29th October

Introduction to machine sewing

Learn to thread a machine, wind a bobbin, use different stitches and understand their purpose. To practise, you will make a set of coasters.

Cost: £30

2nd November

Beginner's patchwork

Learn the basics of patchwork to make a Seminole patchwork cushion cover. This class is perfect for beginners wanting a simple project.

Cost: £45

8th November

Lampshade making

This workshop requires no sewing. Learn to measure and cut fabric to attach to a fire resistant backing to your bespoke lampshade.

Cost: £40

22nd November

Free-motion embroidery

Use your sewing machine to draw. This technique can be used for quilting, to create unique appliqué finishes or free-hand designs.

Cost: £39

26th November

Introduction to zips and trimmings

You will learn essential skills, including inserting zips and creating a professional finish on a cushion cover using trimmings.

Cost: £45



Sew Creative

Petersfield, Hampshire

Stocking fine fabric and accessories, notions and kits, this shop runs workshops led by experienced tutors for all abilities.

www.sewcreative.org.uk

01730 858020

18th October

Textile printing

Learn all about textile printing using blocks, lino cutting and screens to create your own unique designs!

Cost: £35

21st October

Four-week dressmaking course

Learn to create a skirt, dress or trousers. Our tutor will work with you to ensure a perfect fit. Perfect for any ability.

Cost: £100

5th November

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Achieve great results sewing with knit and stretch fabric to make a fabulous shift dress using special stretch stitches.

Cost: £60

17th November

ZIP-e-de-do-dah

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Cost: £35

18th November

Three-week quilt course

This course will take you through a variety of traditional patchwork skills to create an Oriental Garden design quilt.

Cost: £100

26th November

Christmas table runner

Learn precision piecing and patchwork to create a quilted table runner ready for your Christmas Day.

Cost: £60



 **sewcreative.**

The Sewing Box

Carlton, Nottingham

Run by Rosa Rhodes who specialises in soft furnishings, this haberdashery is your one-stop-shop. Workshops are suitable for all abilities.

www.rosarhodesltd.co.uk

0115 9402828

14th, 17th & 18th October

Tote bag making

Learn how to make a tote bag with guidance from Rosa. All materials supplied, allow up to four hours to complete.

Cost: £35

15th, 22nd & 29th October

Curtain/Roman blind making

Learn how to make a professional, hand-finished sample Roman blind or curtain. All materials are supplied, allow up to four hours to complete.

Cost: £55

From 17th October (Mon-Fri)

The little sewing bee

In this after-school club, you will learn how to thread a machine and bobbin, sew straight and more! Materials are included.

Cost: £30 (5 1-hour lessons)

18th - 21st October

Christmas Advent making

In one workshop per day, get ready for Christmas and make your own Advent calendar, allow up to four hours to complete. Materials included.

Cost: £45

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th November

Curtain/Roman blind making

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Cost: £55



The Midhurst Sewing Room

Midhurst, West Sussex

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www.claire-tyler.com

01243 555312

4th - 6th November

Three-day Couture Sewing School

Make a skirt or dress from patterns provided, then choose interlinings and learn hand stitches, couture seams and hem finishes.

Cost: £195

8th November

Unscramble machine feet

Identify machine feet. Try 25, tame difficult fabric, create decorative stitches and neaten edges, learn how to cord, bead and pipe.

Cost: £65

9th & 10th November

Tailored trousers or jeans

Alter a pattern to fit, then make tailored trousers or jeans. Insert a fly zip, pockets, waistband, seams and hems.

Cost: £135 (includes pattern)

19th November

Drape jacket

Perfect for beginners; unlined and with or without sleeves. Learn to work with medium weight stretch fabric. Bring 2m of fabric.

Cost: £75 (includes pattern)

20th November

Pull-on sequin skirt

Using The Maker's Atelier pattern and stretch sequin fabric, learn to work with this fabric and take home a perfect party skirt.

Cost: £85 (includes pattern & fabric)

29th November

Sample portfolio - perfect pockets

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Cost: £40





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DISCOUNTS & GIVEAWAYS

Pretty sewing goodies, patterns to win and a super discount to fill your fabric stash

WIN



A PAIR OF CABBAGE ROSE PATCHWORK KITS

One lucky *Love Sewing* reader will win two new soft toy kits in the Tilda Cabbage Rose Collection. Patchwork lovers will adore both making, and the vintage charm of, the squirrel and the rabbit. Once sewn, these could make a perfect gift for a loved one, or even yourself! Full instructions are included in both these beautifully presented patchwork kits, together worth over £37.

Tilda products are available nationwide from sewing, fabric and craft suppliers. For information on your nearest stockist, email groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk



Worth
£37



£195
worth of
prizes to win!



WIN WIN ONE OF FOUR KORBOND SEWING BASKETS

Every sewist needs the perfect way to store their haberdashery essentials, and this month we have four beautiful Korbond sewing baskets to give away! The new season range has charm that will co-ordinate with any style, and you will be filled with creativity whenever you use your neatly managed supplies.

Korbond sewing baskets are available from £19.99 at Amazon, Tesco and Sainsbury's



WIN a Dorothy Dress pattern from Sew La Di Da

Inspired by the glamorous fashions of showgirls of the 1940s, the Dorothy dress is a wonderful off-the-shoulder pattern that flatters while being deceptively simple to sew. Suited for wedding guests, proms and parties alike, we have one pattern (worth £18) to give away from Sew La Di Da – purveyor of vintage patterns cut to modern sizes, accessible for all sewists! Shop the Sew La Di Da pattern collection, as well as its fabric and haberdashery selections at www.sewladidavintage.com

Worth
£18



WIN

a copy of *Make It, Own It, Love It*



We know you'll love this issue's Book of the Month from *Sewing Bee's* Matt Chapple, so that we have three copies up for grabs! Enter for your chance to win a copy of Matt's new book, *Make It Own It Love It* and learn the essentials to sewing, altering, and customising your own clothes. Wardrobe malfunctions will be a thing of the past with this book, which is available to buy from 20th October.



CODE: LOVE15

15% off at Dragonfly Fabrics

Use the code **LOVE15** before 31st December at Dragonfly Fabrics to receive 15% off modern, quality dressmaking fabric. With over 10 years experience working in the fashion industry, and a passion for sewing, Dragonfly really knows its stuff, and has put together a varied collection of fabric on its website. This code is for one use only per customer, and can be redeemed at www.dragonflyfabrics.co.uk



To enter, go to
www.ppjump.com/lovesewing32

Closing date: 10th November 2016

By entering these competitions, you accept your email address may be passed on to sponsors for marketing activities



CODE: LOVESEW



20% off Grainline patterns at Crafty Mastermind

For fresh and modern patterns, perfect for new and experienced sewists alike, Crafty Mastermind is the place to look. Readers can get 20% off Grainline patterns, designed with ease of use in mind and contemporary looks that will fit perfectly into your wardrobe.

Use the offer code **LOVESEW** when checking out at www.thecraftymastermind.co.uk before 6th November to receive your discount.



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SEW2GO

Huddersfield

This month we caught up with Andrew Kyprianou at this welcoming haberdashery store in Huddersfield to get the latest on what's in stock and what's to come



Hi there! How are you today and what's going on in the shop?

I am great thank you! There are loads of things happening in store! We have a new range of great semi-industrial sewing machines called Eastman Tailor and these are perfect for frequent users. After the success of our pink Sew2go cutting mats, we have now added some new colours. There are also some new additions to our Tulip range that we know you will love. With Christmas around the corner we have some new fabric and gift sets ready for the festive season.

To start at the beginning, tell us a bit about Sew2go and its history

It all started back in 2006, we introduced Sew2go to complement the parent company Eastman Staples Limited where we deal with all the apparel manufactures. But a few years ago we decided to give Sew2go a new push with its online stores and take Sew2go on the road to various shows throughout the UK and Ireland, sharing our message of top-quality products at sensible and affordable prices, with our no-quibble money back guarantee. With the wealth of knowledge and history accrued in Eastman Staples's 130 year history, we have been able to back our motto up pound for pound. Due to the resounding success, we have been expanding our range of products and we have now opened stores in Huddersfield, London and Glasgow to great success.

What sets you apart from other haberdashery shops?

We have an ever-growing range of products, constantly developing and looking for new products. Our customers are extremely important to us and we take extra care to listen to all of their needs, helping them discover new product and providing them

with new solutions. We have developed close links with various associations, guilds and groups where we demonstrate new product and listen to their feedback. We also work with universities, colleges and schools where they all receive student discounts on our products.

What has been the most memorable exchange you've had with a customer?

It is far too difficult to pick one as they are all important and memorable for their own reasons, but a good story has been at one of the retail shows, where I was speaking to an elderly lady who was interested in a sewing machine. We spoke for a while and I demonstrated a few of the machines that fitted her needs. I advised her to take her time, as it is important to not regret the purchase. She decided on the machine and we spoke a bit more, after which I discovered that she had parked quite a distance away from the venue. It was at this point that I insisted on carrying the machine to the car for her. Since then she has visited us numerous times in the shop and at the shows.

Tell us which fabrics you stock

We stock various brands, styles and qualities. Lecien, Gutterman and Michael Miller to name a few, but we have a vast solid colour range and a range of textiles ensuring that there is something for every project. But my advice to anyone buying fabric is to purchase some light-to medium-weight calico as well. All the major fashion houses, design studios and fashion students use it to create mock versions of their designs before using their precious more desirable fabric and finalising their designs, minimising wastage.



Finally, is there anything exciting coming up you'd like to tell our readers about?

As previously mentioned, we have our new semi-industrial sewing machines called Eastman Tailor that are absolutely fantastic; there is an overlock, coverstitch and a 500 stitch machine. We have some blue cutting mats and pink rotating cutting mats on the way that look fantastic. There's the new Tulip products coming through, a great crochet hook set that will be perfect for Christmas and there are some new pins that are really stylish. There are loads of new items in development that we will tell you about a bit later on. We always have something new coming in so pop in and see us at any time to see what we have. Alternatively, browse our website www.sew2go.co.uk that we update daily.

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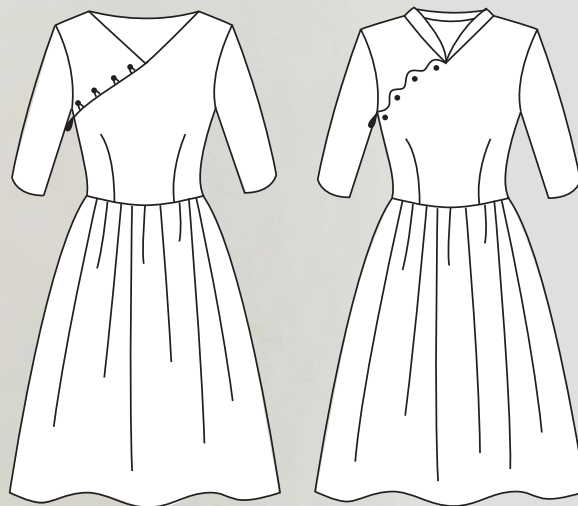
*Simple
sew*



THE LILY DRESS

8-in-1: Dress pattern

Learn to sew a diagonal bodice opening that is closed by button loops or frog fasteners, or make the eye-catching scalloped button closure. Choose between cap and three-quarter length sleeves, and add a collar to complete your look!



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ISSUE 33 ON SALE 3RD NOVEMBER

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collarless
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Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ 50cm square emerald green Linen per napkin
- ♥ scraps of tropical green linen fabric
- ♥ water-erasable marker
- ♥ iron-on Bondaweb
- ♥ templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

How to make:

1 Measure one edge of the fabric 15mm and fold under and iron. Repeat with the other three sides. Measure a deeper edge 30mm and fold over the first narrow edge. Do this on all four sides.

2 Open up the folded edge and mark from each corner with water-erasable pen (twice the depth of the deeper fold) 60mm.

3 Draw a line from the two marks across the unfolded corner. (See Pic A.) Repeat with other three corners.

4 Fold the corner in half along the line you have just drawn and pin. Sew down the pinned line and trim off excess fabric.

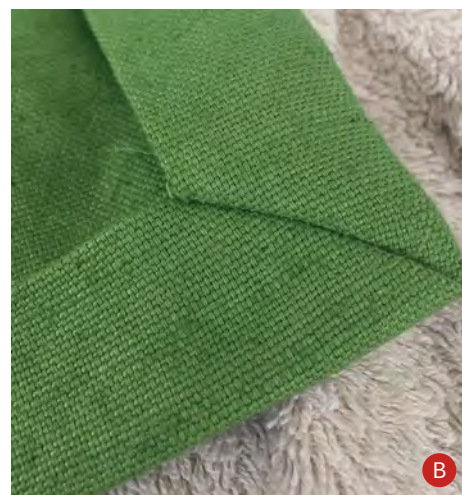
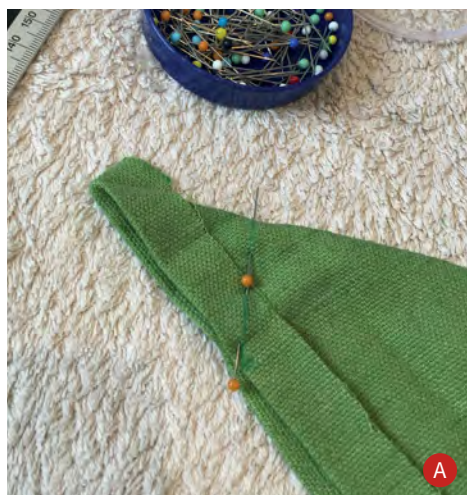
5 Fold the napkin the right way round making sure the corners are pushed out into a point. (See Pic B.) Press the edges flat. Repeat these steps with all the corners.

6 Top-stitch around close to the folded edge.

7 Trace the pear template onto Bondaweb and cut it out. Fuse to the back of the tropical green fabric remnant and cut out.

8 Peel off the backing paper and position on a corner of the napkin and then iron into position.

10 Zigzag-stitch around the shape to finish.



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AUTUMN 2016

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Sewing Machines Direct, Wrexham – 01978 851 235

WALES

The 'Sewing with Style' offers are available from Janome sewing machine retail outlets nationwide. Promotion starts 3rd September 2016 to 24th December 2016. (All offers subject to stock availability.)

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Superstitch Machine Co, Leigh on Sea – 01702 478830

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Cotswold Sewing Machines, Stroud – 01453 763660
West End Sewing Centre, Cheltenham – 01242 244025

HAMPSHIRE

Eastleigh Sewing Centre, Eastleigh – 02380 650 808
Hampshire Sewing Machines, Fareham – 01329 280499
Reads of Winchester, Winchester – 01962 850 950

HEREFORDSHIRE

Badder Fabrics, Hereford – 01432 379 137
Parrs Sewing Machines, Hereford – 01432 353 951

HERTFORDSHIRE

British Sewing Centre, Borehamwood – 0800 888 661
Chicks Embroidery, Letchworth – 01462 670 007
Hobbysew, Hemel Hempstead – 0800 077 6711
Rebecca Woollard Sewing School, Hatfield Heath – 07887 654 717
Rona Sewing Machines, Waltham Cross – 01992 640250
Sewfine Sewing Machines, Watford – 01923 693 734

KENT

Ashford Sewing Centre, Ashford – 01233 620948
Barcham Sewing Centre, Whitstable – 01227 264 271
Maidstone Sewing Centre, Maidstone – 01622 670 254
The Sewing Shop, Canterbury – 01227 457 723
The World of Sewing, Pratts Bottom – 01689 638 638
The World of Sewing, Tunbridge Wells – 01892 533188

LANCASHIRE

Etty-Lilly, Bolton-Le-Sands, Carnforth – 01524 734 713
Hobkirk Sewing Machines, Blackburn – 01254 693555
Hobkirk Sewing Machines, Bury – 0161 764 4450
Lestan Sewing Machines, Nelson – 01282 614 511
M & S Sewing Machines, Heywood – 01706 624 651/01706 366 943
Sew-Knit (Dalby & Jones Ltd), Preston – 01772 254 558

LEICESTERSHIRE

Cresswell Sewing Machines, Leicester – 07979 798 010
The Sewing Café, Hinkley – 01455 698 034

LINCOLNSHIRE

Couling Sewing Machines, Lincoln – 01522 521841
Seweezy, Gainsborough – 01427 614 570

LONDON (GTR)

Lewisham & Deptford Sewing Machines, Deptford – 020 8692 1077
Redgewell Sewing Machines, South West London, 020 8337 3444
Sewing & Craft Superstore, London – 020 8767 0036
SM Sewing Machines Ltd, London – 07850 310 518
The Sewing Centre, Battersea – 020 7228 3022
Wimbledon Sewing Machine Co Ltd, London – 020 8767 4724

MANCHESTER (GTR)

Bamber Sewing Machines, Manchester – 0161 707 7786
R. Bullock & Son Ltd, Wigan – 01942 247 836

MERSEYSIDE

Affordable Sewing, Moreton, Wirral – 0151 677 7755
Sewing & Knitting Centre, Southport – 01704 534 688

NORFOLK

Sew Creative, Norwich – 01603 305 888
Sewing Machine World, Kings Lynn – 01553 773362

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Sew Northampton, Northampton – 01604 637200

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Cresswell Sewing Machines, Nottingham – 0115 926 7572
Witney Sewing Machine Centre, Witney – 01993 704535

OXFORDSHIRE

Witney Sew & Knit Centre, Witney – 01993 702 772

SHROPSHIRE

Sewing Machine Centre, Shrewsbury – 01743 343 902

SOMERSET

Bredons Sewing Machines, Taunton – 01823 272 450
Monkton Elm Garden Centre Ltd, Taunton – 01823 412 381

SURREY

C & A Supply Co. Ltd, Cranleigh – 01483 267 777
Redgewell Sewing Machines, Worcester Park – 0208 337 3444

SUSSEX

Brighton Sewing Centre, Brighton – 01273 621 653
Clothkits Ltd, Chichester – 01243 533 180
Eclectic Maker, Worthing – 01903 681000
Hastings Sewing Centre, Hastings – 01424 423 108

TYNE & WEAR

G Tully Sewing Machines, Sunderland – 0191 565 7995
Sewing Machine Sales, Whitley Bay – 0191 252 5825

WARWICKSHIRE

Coventry Sewing Centre, Coventry – 02476 257266
Harry and Floss, Alcester – 01789 400 747
Leamington Spa Sewing Machines, Leamington Spa – 01926 338 749

WILTSHIRE

Cotswold Stitchcraft, Malmesbury – 01666 823 245
West Wilts Sewing Machine Co, Trowbridge – 01225 753 792

WEST MIDLANDS

Brewers Sewing Machines, Wolverhampton – 01902 458 885
D C Nutt Sewing Machines, Walsall – 01922 497 603
Frank Nutt, Kings Heath – 0121 444 3978
L & M Nutt, Sutton Coldfield – 0121 373 5497
S Nutt Sewing Machines, Birmingham – 0121 327 2828

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