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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: WINNER OF THE GREAT BRITISH SEWING BEE

**CHARLOTTE
NEWLAND**



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Welcome to the new issue of Love Sewing...

The Great British Sewing Bee has come to an end and so we'll have to find some other way to occupy our Monday nights, possibly with more sewing! I have certainly fallen behind on a few projects and I'm eager to get my machine whirring again.

It was my absolute pleasure to ask **Charlotte Newland** some questions about being crowned winner of *The Great British Sewing Bee* 2016. During the final, Charlotte impressed the judges **Patrick Grant** and **Esme Young** by creating a man's pin-tucked dress shirt, transforming a classic tuxedo into a little black dress, and finally making a made-to-measure evening gown. Turn to **page 47** to read more about how Charlotte started sewing, what it was like to be under the judges scrutiny and what she thought of her fellow Bees!

This month it's also very exciting to share our first **Simple Sew** multi-garment pattern – The Chelsea Collection. Our readers have

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Must have!

Your free Simple Sew pattern



been crying out for patterns with multi designs in a broad range of sizes. We visited Cherry Blossom Bakery in Macclesfield for our photoshoot and tried our best not to get distracted by the cakes.

With bonus projects including our **Kwik Sew** shift dress and **McCall's** bow bag, and adorable cat and mouse toy you'll find lots to sew and be inspired by in this issue. School is in session with **Alison Smith MBE** showing you how to perfect sheer hems and **Elisalex de Castro Peake** is sharing her pleating board tutorial. Get an intro to pattern drafting with **Claire-Louise Hardie** and learn all about running a crafty business as we go Behind The Seams with **Wendy Ward**. Don't miss your chance to enter our £8,000 **Janome** giveaway and step back in time to learn more about the Yves Saint-Laurent Mondrian dresses in our Brief History Of feature.

With so much to read you better get stuck in – happy reading and happy sewing!

Amy x



THE BIG
Janome
 giveaway
 page 70



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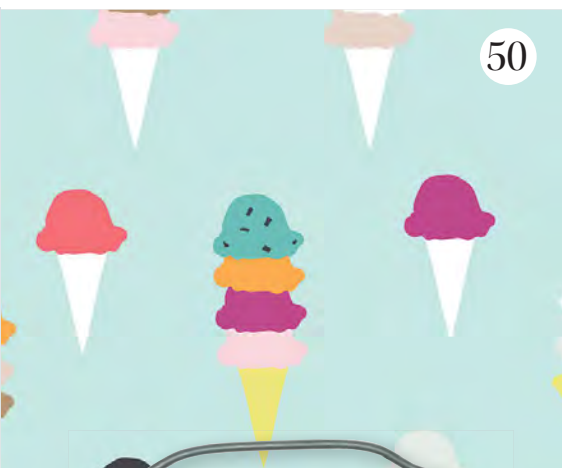
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WHEN YOU
SUBSCRIBE TO
LOVE SEWING
ON PAGE 34



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Contributors



Claire Garside

Get to know the brains behind indie pattern line Simple Sew in our special style guide, free with this issue. You'll find out all about the Design Team, see the latest patterns available to buy, and get fresh inspiration.



Sharon Everest

Sharon is a self-confessed fabric addict, designer-maker and vintage rummager, otherwise known as Modflowers. She collects vintage fabric from the 1960s and 1970s and makes dolls and textile creations to make people smile. Visit www.modflowers.co.uk to find more cute projects like the cat and mouse on page 60.



Sanae Ishida

In her new book *Sewing Happiness: A Year of Simple Projects for Living Well*, Sanae shares projects inspired by the seasons and interwoven with her own story. Her origami inspired cushion is featured on page 54.



Charlotte Newland

Charlotte made it through eight weeks of tough challenges and became winner of *The Great British Sewing Bee* 2016. We love her style and skill so it's very exciting to hear all about her time on the show in our exclusive interview on page 47.

love Sewing loves...

Buys & inspiration

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



We love!

CHEEP AND CHEERFUL

A little birdie told us that the newest pincushion available at Abakhan might be just what you need for your sewing room. This Blue Tit Pin Cushion is nicknamed Birdsong and measures 12x10x5cm. You'll find this feathery friend online at www.abakhan.co.uk priced just £5.99!



CALLING ALL FABRIC LOVERS!

We're happy to report that Fabric Land has a new website! The fabric emporium with shops across the south of the country had a phone ordering system for fabric, but now the site has been updated with online ordering and fresh new products. It's also keeping us all up to date with news stories and *Sewing Bee* episode guides. Head over to www.fabricland.co.uk to discover its gorgeous fabric and haberdashery now.

JUMP FOR JOY!

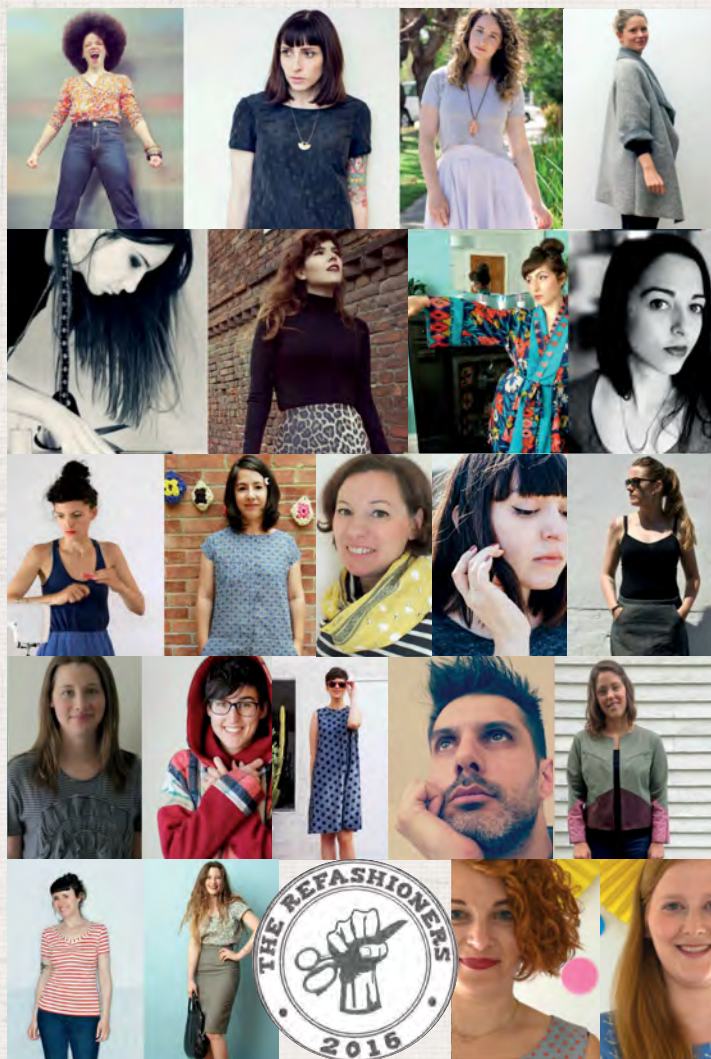
New pattern release

The Marigold jumpsuit is the latest pattern to be released by Tilly and The Buttons. Whip up a stylish jumpsuit or a pair of casual peg-shaped trousers – it's two patterns in one!

We love seeing Rosa of blog *Fancy Frugality* modelling this latest design.

Pick up the printed pattern for just £12.50 or an instant PDF download for £9.50. Visit shop.tillyandthebuttons.com to buy direct from Tilly Towers or to find your local stockist!





Mark your calendar

THE REFASHIONERS 2016

For the entire month of August you can follow the amazing creative challenge founded by Portia Lawrie of The Makery. We asked her to share what's in store for the participants this year.

"Participants are challenged to refashion a garment for your delight and inspiration, basically to highlight how cool, creative and ecologically and ethically sound refashioning old garments actually is. The kicker is, they don't get to decide what that garment is!"

You'll recognise many of the faces in this year's line up, including many friends of *Love Sewing*. This year, the plucky refashioners are tackling jeans, showing us how to turn all those unloved and ill-fitting pairs of jeans into #jeanious new garments. We can't wait to see how they reuse, rework, and reimagine this classic garment. Keep up to date with the challengers at

www.makery.uk



DARE TO BARE SOME SHOULDER?

Cynthia Rowley for Simplicity

Straight from the catwalk to your sewing room, make an on-trend shoulder-revealing top with this Simplicity pattern from Cynthia Rowley.

We've seen so many high-street versions in chambray, linen and striped shirting – this really is the new wardrobe staple for 2016. Each view has an elastic neckline and sleeve bands, plus view C is for a playsuit with additional elastic waist for a cool, effortless look. We bet you could easily lengthen the pattern into a chic jumpsuit as well.

If you like Simplicity 8124, turn to page 77 for more off-the-shoulder inspiration in May Martin's jersey masterclass!



JUST PUSH PLAY

Liberty print retro radios

Fresh sounds meet vintage styling now that Roberts and Liberty have partnered for an exclusive collaboration to release a collection of retro 1950s radios in three timeless Liberty designs all available through www.liberty.co.uk

The three prints, Besty, Wiltshire and Theodora, are part of the Liberty Flowers range which launched in 2014 and have been integrated into the retro style of the Roberts Revival portable radio fusing two iconic British brands for the ultimate sewing room accessory. Priced at £225, these radios feature full DAB functionality, excellent sound quality and 120 hours of battery life. Why not listen to your favourite songs or podcasts while you sew?



SUMMER WITH SOPHIE!

Were you inspired by our lingerie special in *Love Sewing* issue 28? Maybe you're ready to try sewing your own swimwear!

The Sophie pattern's the second swimsuit from Closet Case Patterns. While the Bombshell was a viral sensation when it was released three years ago, the Sophie pattern is a response to requests from customers for more supportive swim options.

With curvy seam lines and a three-piece balconette cup, the Sophie Swimsuit offers two unique variations. The classic one piece and elegant high-waisted bikini both feature a low cut leg and full cup, for a swimsuit that is as modest as it is sexy.

The PDF pattern costs \$16 (around £12) and available through store.closetcasefiles.com

What's more, we're happy to announce the debut of designer Heather Lou's first online video workshop, *Sewing Your Dream Swimsuit: The Supportive Swimwear Workshop*. There really should be nothing stopping you from taking on this exciting new challenge.



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 Jennifer Walker (www.gingerthreadgirl.co.uk) and Lisa Comfort (www.youtube.com/user/SewOverIt).

Jen is a newbie to sewing vintage patterns and decided to make the Butterick 5748, first printed in the early 1960s. Despite this, the dress still retains many classic 1950s design elements including a close fitting sleeveless bodice and full skirt. There is also the option to add a bow to the bodice.

Jen wanted to make the dress out of fabric with some drape and chose a stunning vivid blue spotty cotton twill. Jen made a toile of the bodice first to get the perfect fit. Although the instructions recommend fully lining the dress, she saved time by just lining the bodice because she wanted to wear the dress with a petticoat and the cotton twill had plenty of weight. She found the instructions easy to follow and, as a beginner dressmaker, thinks most sewists could take on the challenge. Jen paired her dress with a red petticoat and shoes; doesn't it look amazing?!

www.gingerthreadgirl.co.uk/dresses/the-big-vintage-sew-along-my-swinging-60s-colour-pop-dress/



Lisa chose to make Vogue 9000. The shirt dress has a long full 1950s style skirt, button up bodice, concealed zip in the side seam, grown-on sleeves and exaggerated collar. There is also the option to add cuffs to the cap sleeves and a belt. Lisa made a size 8

without any pattern alterations but did notice there was a generous amount of ease, which is quite common with vintage patterns. As a time saver, she stitched the buttons to close the front bodice, rather than doing button holes because the dress has a side seam zip. Lisa also left out the option to add a facing to the grown on sleeves, instead she just hemmed them. The only tricky bit was putting in the collar and Lisa simplified this by not adding binding. Lisa made her Vogue dress in an on-trend black and white gingham print. To see this dress in all its glory, check out the YouTube video of her make.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNuxMrQrll0>



love Sewing library

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



ULTIMATE SEWING BIBLE: A COMPLETE REFERENCE WITH STEP-BY-STEP TECHNIQUES

by Marie Clayton

£14.99 Collins & Brown

With so many different fabrics, embellishments and accessories now available on the high street and online, it is easier than ever to sew your own unique clothes and home furnishings. This fantastic book is a comprehensive and detailed guide to all you need to know about sewing, from the very basics to more advanced techniques. Hundreds of illustrations and diagrams guide you through each chapter, making this an invaluable resource you'll find yourself returning to for guidance time and time again.

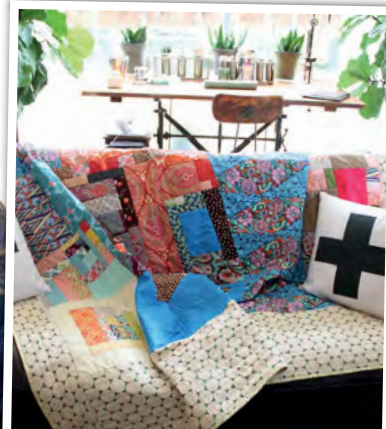


AMY BUTLER'S PIECE KEEPING

by Amy Butler

£19.99 Chronicle Books

This new book from talented artist and designer Amy Butler showcases the beauty and versatility of patchwork with 20 gorgeous projects. We love the Nesting chapter, which covers makes for your home from cushions and garlands to four full-size quilts, and there's also fantastic gift inspiration to be found under Trappings and Treasures as well as four projects for your wardrobe. The whole collection is infused with Amy's passion and love for creation, and it's infectious! Dive in to discover the potential of patchwork.



(Photo credit © 2016 by David Butler)



SEW MANY GIFTS

by Karen M Burns

£17.53 That Patchwork Place

This bright and breezy collection of gift ideas has something for everyone, and is full of ideas you'll love to make and your loved ones will adore. The projects are quick and easy to sew up, and are practical as well as pretty, from accessories and bags to special ideas for sewing buddies. While you're at it, you can always treat yourself to a little something too! After all, sewing for loved ones is most fun when it's punctuated with a little selfish sewing.





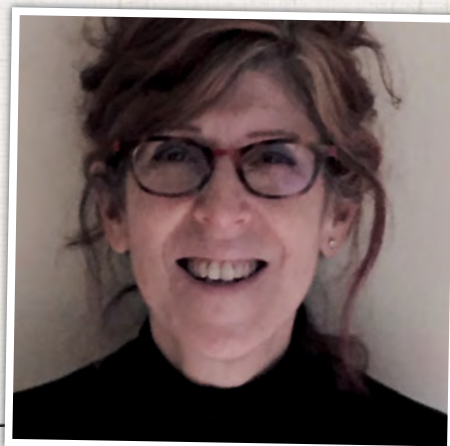
Book of the Month

FASHION DRAWING

by Michele Wesen Bryant

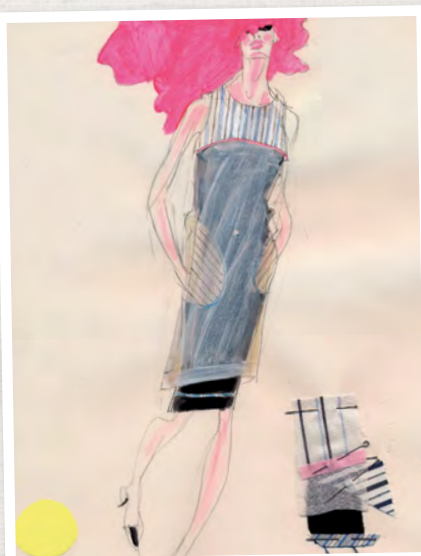
£38 Laurence King

This month we caught up with Michele to find out more about the 2nd edition of her comprehensive guide to fashion illustration, published by Laurence King



First of all, hello! How is your day going and what are you working on at the moment?

I am at this very moment enjoying a day off from teaching a month-long summer intensive course at the Fashion Institute of Technology. The focus of the class is on fashion design art, specifically material choices and rendering illustrations by hand. The students have been really dedicated to the task and this has given me an opportunity to implement in the classroom much of the new material in my book.



Tell us a bit about your career in fashion illustration – what drew you to it?

I grew up in a bedroom community for people working in New York City's garment centre. A thoughtful neighbour knew of my love for drawing and brought home back issues of *Women's Wear Daily* for me to read. Back in the day, print publications relied on illustration for reportage of new collections. The fashion illustrators whose work was featured in those magazines were my rock stars and when I went to college, I was fortunate to study with many of them – Albert Elia, Steven Meisel, Barbara Pearlman, Jack Potter, Richard Rosenfeld and Steven Stippleman.

What should readers expect from *Fashion Drawing*?

While tradition calls for elongating the limbs and the rigorous editing of visual information, the key message of this book is that there is no right or wrong way to draw fashion. The exploration of figure proportion avoids establishing set rules, and first hand observations from live fashion model drawing are used to discover the foreshortening and balancing of figures.

There's also instruction for drawing construction details and silhouettes, and demonstrations for rendering different types of fabric using a wide variety of media and techniques. Instruction is supported throughout the book with a broad array of illustration styles by many different artists. A more inclusive aesthetic is intended to encourage truly creative expression.

What's new in the updated second edition?

My goal was to fill in the gaps and address recent developments in industry and education. The new examples are representative of the seamless combination of manual and digital processes used today. Part I features new iconic historical artwork, while the chapters on drawing figures have been revised to correspond to the subtler posing now currently preferred in fashion. Androgyny and the upending of gender norms are also addressed in these chapters.

Part II includes more examples and information about technical flat sketching and many

of the new drawings featured incorporate photographic images of experimental drapes and dimensional collage elements. In Part III the chapters have been reordered and expanded to include knitted fabric. Chapter 10, newly titled *Rendering Texture*, features renderings of fabrics such as denim, faux fur and felt. Chapter 11, newly titled *Rendering Patterns*, covers printed, woven and knitted fabric, as well as a new swimwear specialisation.

What do you think the future of fashion drawing holds?

Drawing will always be a function of the design process and continue to provide prediction and context for fashion. Virtual Reality viewers and dimensional illustration via 3D printing will surely come into play, as will the resurgence of printed 'zines'. As artwork comes to be more virtual in creation and end product, artwork that is a real world object will become a rarity and (hopefully) valued accordingly.

Finally, what would your key advice be for budding designers?

Be patient, fashion drawing is an acquired skill. Visualising a garment that does not yet exist beyond your imagination can be particularly challenging. Don't prejudge a drawing just because it doesn't look like anything you've ever seen before. Keep it personal and authentic. Never stop drawing.



Introducing the Debbie Shore dressmaking range

Designed for novice and seasoned sewers alike!

The image features a collage of five Debbie Shore pattern covers and a woman modeling a dress. The covers are for:

- Classy Capelet** (DSD002): Pattern Sizes 6-14. Includes a video tutorial at www.debbieshore.tv/capelet. Create 3 looks from 1 pattern!
- Day to Night** (DSD001): Dress Pattern Sizes XS-XL. Includes a video tutorial at www.debbieshore.tv/daytonight. 2 dress styles from 1 pattern!
- 5 Style Shirt** (DSD005): Pattern Sizes 18-24. Includes a video tutorial at www.debbieshore.tv. Create 5 looks from 1 pattern!
- The Capsule Collection** (DSD004): Pattern Sizes 16-26. Includes a video tutorial at www.debbieshore.tv/capsulecollection. Create 5 looks from 1 pattern!
- The Wrap Skirt** (DSD003): Pattern Sizes 18-24. Includes a video tutorial at www.debbieshore.tv/wrapskirt. Create 4 looks from 1 pattern!

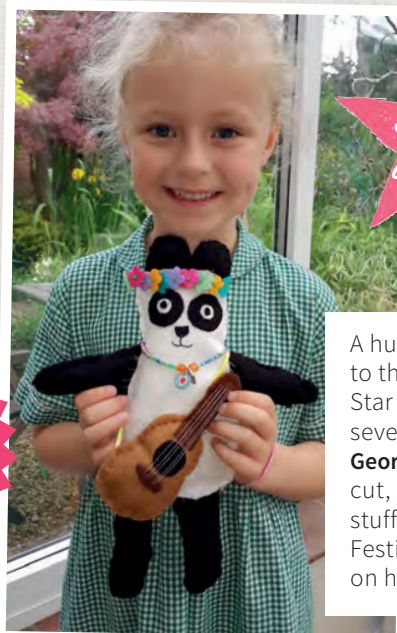
A woman with blonde hair is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored floral dress. A large blue banner at the bottom right contains the text: Patterns available in sizes 6 - 26!

See the full range at
www.crafterscompanion.co.uk

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!

WIN A
£25
FABRIC BUNDLE



Star
make

A huge well done to this month's Star Maker, seven-year-old **Georgia Tate**, who cut, stitched and stuffed issue 25's Festival Panda all on her own!



"Thank you so much for the English Tea dress pattern! My daughter looks a perfect English Rose in it."
Carol Clancy



The fabric that **Camilla** has used for her Button-Back blouse from issue 22 is to die for! Check out her blog www.pootleandmake.wordpress.com



We love **Helen Riches'** Bexley top from issue 26!



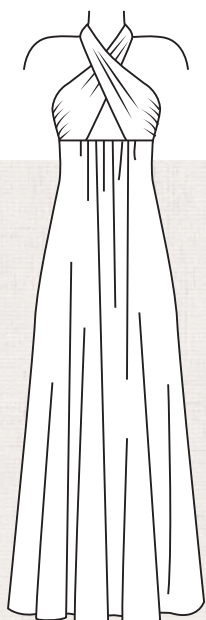
"Thank you for such a fabulous magazine. The Cath Kidston holdall is lined with iron-on waterproof fabric and is now a dedicated swimming bag! The colour-block dress from issue 25 is now top of my 'to do' pile."
Maria Leonard



"My friend bought me a subscription to your mag for Christmas and it has prompted me to take up sewing again. As the old saying goes, keep up the good work!"
Chris Mannion

This month I'm making...

Floral Maxi Dress



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

We love this bright and breezy summer dress from Louise of blog sewsensational.wordpress.com

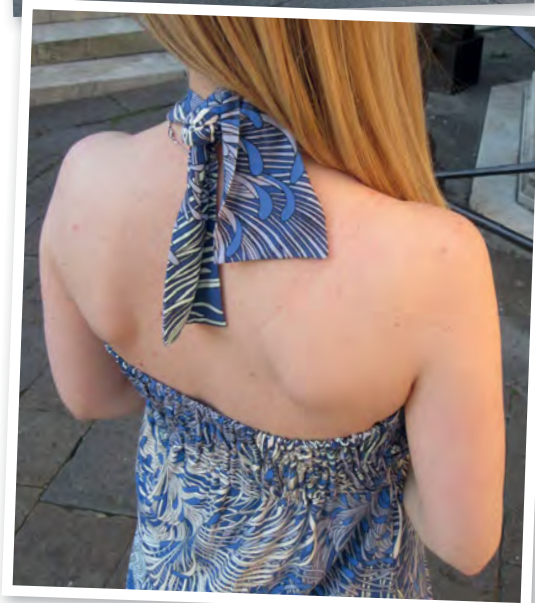
Hello summer! For this month's make I thought I'd try something I've never made before and settled on a jersey maxi dress for my holiday to Italy – what a lucky girl! I was able to model my creation in front of the Duomo di Firenze – Italy has so many beautiful backdrops but only Florence's famous cathedral was good enough for a dress this glamorous.

The pattern I used for my maxi dress is Simplicity 1804 and I chose view E which has a halter-style neck tie. Unfortunately, this pattern is now out of print but you could try New Look 6774, which has a few maxi dress options with straps, or Butterick 6051, which has a lovely kimono sleeve version.

While cutting out the pattern pieces for my dress I had real trouble trying to imagine how they would all sew together into something wonderful. There were the huge front and back skirt panels (which are a challenge for anyone's sewing/dining table) then two front and back top panels and four odd quadrilateral shapes which would make up the neck ties. I found that I really had to trust the pattern instructions when it told me to sew this to that as I just couldn't imagine the end result! At one point I was certain I'd sewn something on upside down or back to front, despite what the instructions were telling me.

But I needn't have feared – my finished maxi dress came together marvellously and, once on, it's easy to see how the straps cross over at the front with a bit of drape and then tie behind my neck. Why was it so hard to see how this would look on paper?

The fabric I used for my dress is the wonderful Large Floral Print stretch jersey dress fabric. It's in shades of summery blue with huge swirly flowers all over it and is incredibly soft to the touch (it's a viscose jersey) and comfortable to wear, although when you're carrying around so many metres of it on your body it



can get quite heavy! When assembling the dress, the back panel includes four or five rows of elastic to make it look a bit like shirring. This helps to hold up the dress and stop the weight of the skirt pulling it down, as does the halter-neck tie.

So what do you think of my finished summer dress? It's the perfect outfit for an al fresco dinner, whether you're in Italy or the UK this season.

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

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BEHIND THE SEAMS

with Wendy Ward

This issue Wendy meets sewist, podcaster and author, Abby Glassenberg, to find out more about what it takes to start and maintain your own crafty business

Photography by Lisa Neighbors

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 *A Beginner's Guide to Making Skirts* will be available in October.*

www.wendyard.co.uk
www.miyworkshop.co.uk
www.miycollection.com



WHAT IS IT REALLY LIKE TO RUN A CRAFT BUSINESS?

Do you dream of setting up and running your own craft business? For a few years now I've been reading a blog called While She Naps (www.whilesheaps.com) by Abby Glassenberg. Abby creates unique patterns for stuffed animals from her home studio in Wellesley, Massachusetts in the US and since 2005 has shared her creations, techniques and entrepreneurial ideas through her blog and podcast. She tackles thorny and controversial topics, offering a real insight into the craft industry and providing heaps of creative inspiration!

So, as a fan of Abby's, I was so happy when she agreed to chat to me so I could find out how she got started, how she works and what she enjoys most about her crafty career.



Wendy: Tell us a little bit about what you do

Abby: I'm a designer, writer, and teacher, but I wear many hats. My goal is to help creative women have the tools and information they need to succeed in the craft and sewing industry.

W: When did you first become interested in sewing?

A: I learned to sew in my eighth grade Home Economics class. I made a terrible pair of Bermuda shorts (this was 1988) in a very loud print. My seams were so wonky that I nearly failed, but I could see the potential in sewing. I used money I'd been given as a gift to buy a sewing machine that summer. It was a very basic Bernina but I had it for 23 years!

W: You run your own business, can you imagine ever working for someone else?

A: Yes! I was a public school teacher for four years and I worked as an administrator at an educational non-profit for two years before becoming a mother and starting my own business. While I do miss the interaction of colleagues, I am a pretty self-disciplined person. I also enjoy being alone so working from home as a solo entrepreneur suits me well.

W: What made you start your podcast?

A: In the autumn of 2013, Etsy made a big announcement regarding their definition of the word 'handmade.' I wrote a blog post about it and an Etsy administrator reached out to me in response. I invited her to have a

conversation that I would record and post as a podcast. I figured she'd surely say no, but she said yes. Then I had to work out how to record a conversation and post it as a podcast! It was downloaded 8,000 times in 24 hours. It broke my bandwidth and sent me a clear message that a podcast was something I should look into. I started the show a few months later.

W: You recently set up the Craft Industry Alliance. Can you tell us about it?

A: I co-founded Craft Industry Alliance, a trade organisation for craft professionals, with my friend Kristin Link of the blog Sew Mama Sew (www.sewmamasew.com). We wanted to create a place where business owners in all areas of craft could come together to receive high-quality business advice, industry news and analysis. We're proud to have over 800 members so far!

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

A: Having my second book *Stuffed Animals* published in 2013. I searched for years for a comprehensive book on soft toy design and couldn't find one. I feel so proud that I was able to write the book I'd been looking for.

W: What do you enjoy most and least about your work?

A: I absolutely love new media – blogging, social media, podcasting and live video. I think of the internet like a sandbox and I want to jump in and see what I can build. Growing up I never thought it was possible to make a living as an artist and I feel lucky to live in a time in which it truly is.



Abby sewing her latest softie design



Harper the Owl pattern, photography by Carolyn Mackin

The least enjoyable part is taxes. I used to dread bookkeeping, but now I've found a good system, I understand how powerful it is to be able to see a snapshot of the financial health of my business.

W: How do you design a new toy?

A: I start with an idea, which might come from one of my children's existing toys or from something I see at a store or online. I sketch, with lots of notes about construction, draw templates on freezer paper and cut them out. Then I sew a prototype using fabric from an old bed sheet. Typically it takes five (or more!) prototypes before I'm satisfied with the design, then I choose the final fabric and sew the pattern sample.

W: What would you recommend trying for someone who has never made a soft toy before?

A: I have a free pattern on my blog for a teddy bear called Pete the Bear. It's very simple – just a front and back with legs and arms sewn into the seam – and I think it's a great first softie to make. Watch out, though! Softie making is addictive.

W: What are your favourite craft/sewing blogs to read?

A: I enjoy www.closetcasefiles.com by Heather Lou and www.cashmerette.com by

Jenny Rushmore, mostly because I don't sew clothes myself so it's interesting to get a peek into that world. I find Alisa Burke's blog www.alisaburke.com to be visually inspiring.

A huge thank you to Abby for taking time out of her busy week to allow us to have a nosey into her world.



If you're inspired by Abby to have a go at toymaking, her latest book, *Stuffed Animals: From Concept to Construction*, published by Lark Crafts in 2013, was named an Amazon Best Book of the Year. It is available to buy from www.amazon.co.uk, along with Abby's first book, *The Artful Bird: Feathered Friends to Make and Sew*. Abby has also licensed toy designs at www.simplicitynewlook.com

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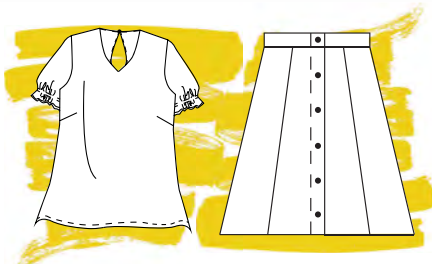
www.moremags.com

Simple
sew



THE CHELSEA COLLECTION

This charming pattern features three garments and plenty of variations. The sweet pull-on blouse has a keyhole button back, shirred cuff sleeves and an optional Chelsea collar. The high-waisted trousers have a pleated front and tapered legs



We used:

Liberty Tana lawn in Lotta A, £22.50 per metre, www.remnantkings.co.uk

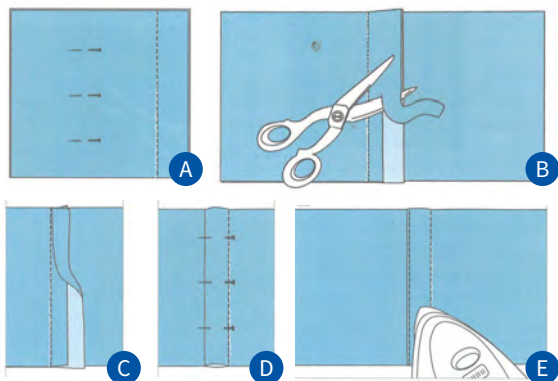
Dark blue denim, £7.99 per metre, www.remnantkings.co.uk

Pale wash 9oz stretch denim, £9.99 per metre, www.remnantkings.co.uk

Tutorial FLATFELLED SEAMS

The multiple panels of this skirt can be enhanced with decorative top-stitched seams. With denim, a flatfelled seam is wonderfully robust meaning your garment will last longer. Why not top-stitch with a twin needle for a classic mid-western look?

- 1 It's best to first work out which side you want to press the seam over to, as you may not want all the seams to point in the same direction.
- 2 Sew your seam with WST and the standard seam allowance. (See Pic A.)
- 3 If pressing over to the left, trim the left side of your seam allowance by half to 0.7mm. (See Pic B.)
- 4 Press over the right-hand seam allowance so it covers the left-hand allowance. (See Pic C.)
- 5 You can now pin and top-stitch close to the edge, enclosing the seam allowances neatly. (See pics D and E.)







Claire says:

"The blouse has been slightly cropped to make it easier to wear tucked in without creating bulk.

But lengthen lines are provided on the pattern, so by adding a few inches you'll create a blouse you can wear loose"

Tutorial SINGLE- THREAD DARTS *aka 'couture darts'*

The 'couture dart' is a wonderful method for sewing a dart that has been passed down through the generations. Surprisingly, it is not widely known, though it should be! This dart works well on all material types, and it is essential when working with sheer fabrics. There are no unsightly thread ends at the tip of the dart just a clean, graceful finish.

- 1 Mark the dart on the WS of the fabric.
- 2 Unthread the machine needle and pull the bobbin thread up through the needle from back to front.
- 3 Tie the spool thread to the bobbin thread by using a tiny knot so there is one continuous thread.
- 4 Keeping the rest of your machine threaded as normal, wind the thread back so that the knot won't get caught in the thread tension; It should wrap around the top spool several times (several times the length of the finished dart) to ensure this.
- 5 Start sewing the dart at its **tip** by lowering your needle into place before you begin; do not back-stitch! Once you have finished sewing each dart, you will have to rethread the needle for the next dart.

We used:

Chartreuse yellow crepe de chine, £3 per metre. Chosen in store, see www.abakhan.co.uk for similar



We used:

Reversible hashtag denim in blue, £6 per metre, www.fabworks.co.uk





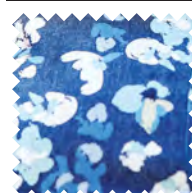
FURTHER INFORMATION

This project is from Kwik Sew 3985, sizes XS-XL. It includes an alternative view with bodice and button detail. View and buy this and more fabulous Kwik Sew patterns on www.sewdirect.com

Summer SHIFT DRESS

A cute shift dress is a wardrobe essential – perfect for casual summer days and easily dressed up for a night on the town

WE USED



Painterly wash 4.5oz denim, Art Gallery Fabrics (AGFDENP1000). To locate your nearest supplier of Art Gallery Fabrics, see www.hantex.co.uk/mystockist

SUMMER SHIFT DRESS

SIZING:

	XS	S	M	L	XL
Bust	31½-32½"	34-35½"	37-38½"	40-41½"	43-45"
Hip	32½-34"	35½-37"	38½-40"	41½-43½"	45-47"
Back length	15½"	16"	16½"	17"	17"

NOTES:

⅝" (1.5 cm) seam allowances are included.

Designed for lightweight to medium-weight woven fabric like linen, poplin, denim, cotton.

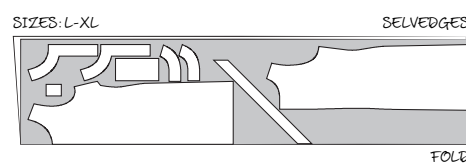
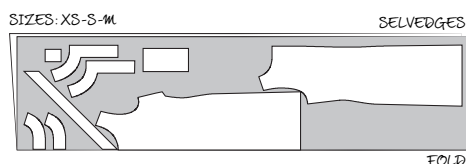
Skill level ♥♥

MATERIALS:

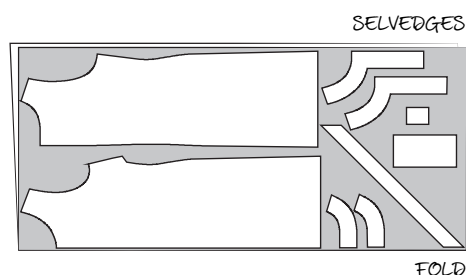
- ♥ 1.6m (XS), 2.3m (S, M), 2.4m (L, XL) 115cm-wide fabric or 1.4m (XS), 1.5m (S, M), 1.6m (L), 1.8m (XL) 150cm-wide fabric
- ♥ 0.5m fusible interfacing
- ♥ 51cm zip
- ♥ hook & eye

CUTTING:

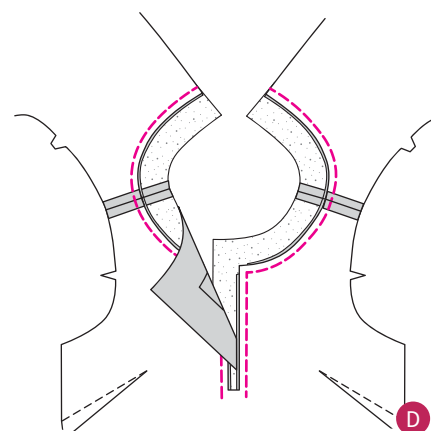
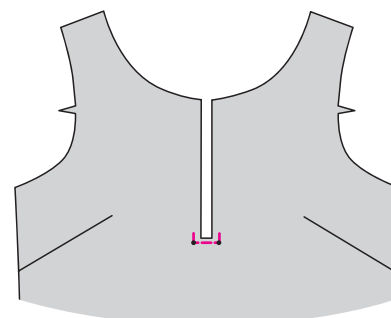
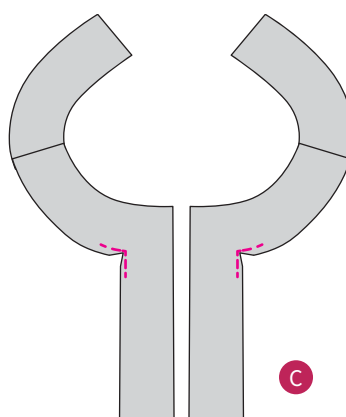
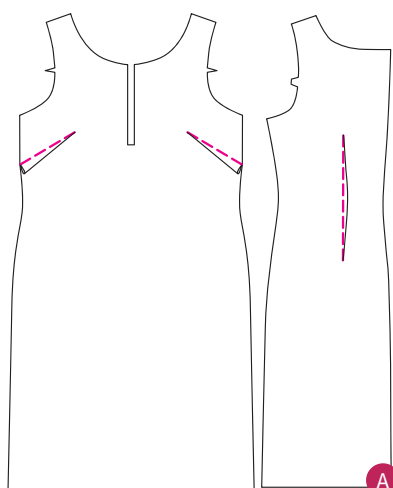
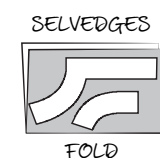
115cm layplan



150cm layplan



Interfacing layplan



How to make

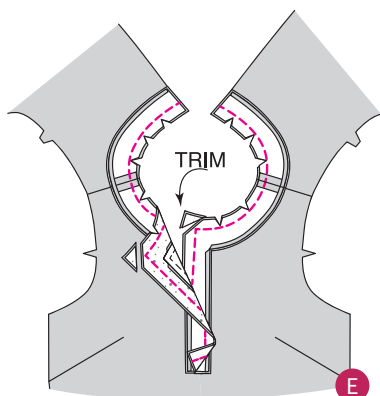
- 1 Fuse interfacing to WS of one set of front and back neckline bands.
- 2 On front, sew bust darts and press toward bottom edge. Sew waist darts on backs and press toward centre back. (See Pic A.)
- 3 On front, stay-stitch bottom of front opening following stitching lines marked. (See Pic B.) (See stay stitching tutorial on page 25.)
- 4 Sew back pieces to front at shoulders.
- 5 Sew the interfaced front and back neckline bands at shoulders (the remaining neck bands will be used as facings).
- 6 Stay-stitch corners of each front neckband following stitching lines marked, as shown. Clip to corner. (See Pic C.)
- 7 Pin neckband to neck and front opening, RST and raw edges aligned, matching dots for end of tab. Sew in ¼" (6mm) seam. Turn seam allowances toward neckbands. (See Pic D.)
- 8 Sew back neckband facings to front

neckband facings at shoulders. Trim seam allowances to ¼" (6mm). Turn in ¼" (6mm) along outer edges of facings and press.

- 9 Pin neckband facings to neckband, RST and raw edges even. Sew in ⅝" (1.5cm) seam. Trim corners and clip curves. (See tutorial on page 25.) (See Pic E.)
- 10 Fold neckband facings to inside and press. Pin folded edges over seam allowances, covering stitches. (See Pic F.) On RS at facing seams, stitch in the ditch. (See tutorial on page 25.) Sew close to finished edges. (See Pic G.)
- 11 Lap right front button tabs over the left and pin to keep in place. (See Pic H.) Push the ends of the button tabs through to the WS and pin to the front fabric, keeping raw edges together. Sew across bottom of tabs from dot to dot through all the layers, following stay stitching. (See Pic I.) Overcast or zigzag the ends of tabs together.
- 12 Sew buttonholes on the right front band at markings. Sew buttons on the left front band, along centre front to match buttonholes. We made self-cover buttons in a contrast colour.

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13 Press neckline facing upwards and install a centre back zipper using your preferred method. Finish the centre back seam by sewing from below the zipper to the hem.

14 Sew the front to the back, RST, at side seam. Repeat for other side.

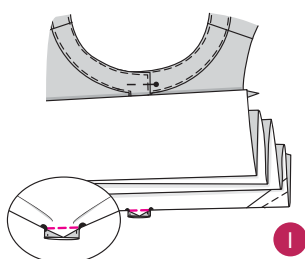
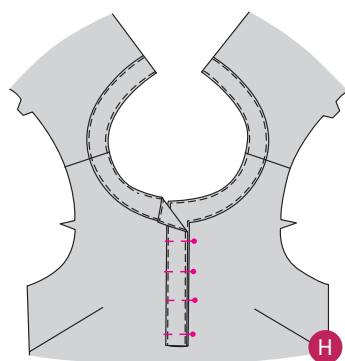
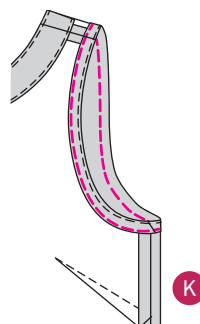
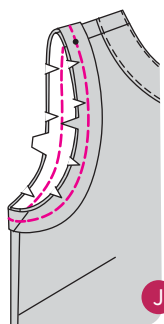
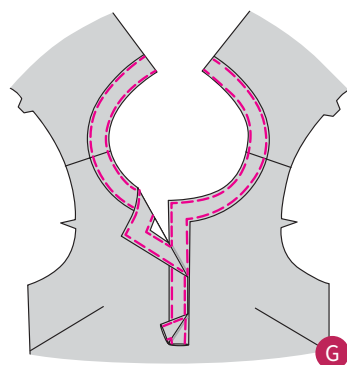
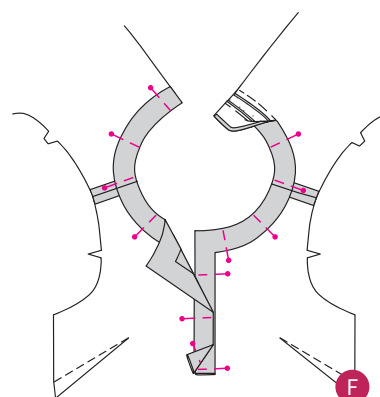
15 Fold the armhole facing, RST and matching dots. Sew the seam and press seam allowances open. Fold the facing, WST and raw edges aligned, and press to make a crease.

16 Pin the armhole facing to the RS of armhole, raw edges aligned and matching the notches and seams. Sew in place and clip seam allowances. (See Pic J.)

17 Under-stitch armhole seam allowances to facing (see tutorial on page 25). Trim seam allowances close to stitches.

18 Fold facing to WS, and sew close to edge of facing. Repeat for other armhole. (See Pic K.)

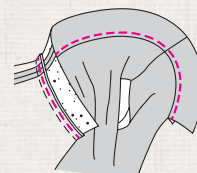
19 Overcast lower edge. Fold 1" (2.5cm) hem to WS and press. Hem bottom edge with a top stitch or blind hem.



TUTORIALS:

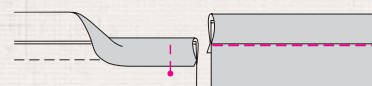
> UNDERSTITCHING

Keeps facings and bindings from rolling to the outside of garment. Fold the seam allowance toward the facing and sew on facing close to seam through facing and seam allowances.



> STITCHING IN THE DITCH

Secure inside waistbands, facings and bindings to the garment. Sew on the outside of the garment through all layers in the groove (ditch) of the seam, or as close as possible to the seam.



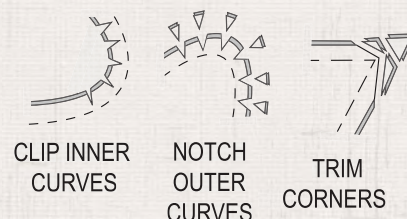
> STAYSTITCHING

Stabilises a single layer of fabric and allows the seam allowance to be clipped to a corner. Straight-sew just inside the seam line.



> CLIPPING

Clipping and notching seam allowances on curved seams will help them lie flat. It also helps to clip points to make seam allowances less bulky when turning through.



THE THRIFTY STITCHER

Could pattern drafting be the Holy Grail for better fitting clothes? In this issue, Claire-Louise Hardie talks us through the basics



Claire-Louise Hardie

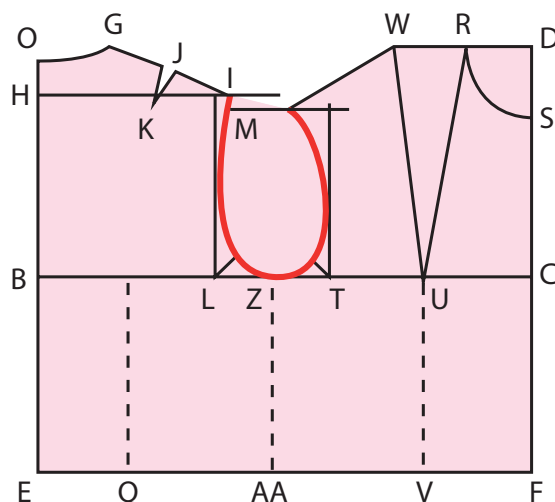
Frustrated by the fit of your home-sewn clothes? If so, you're not alone, and many of you may wonder if drafting your own patterns will create the perfect fit. Few of us will get a perfect fit without having to make any tweaks to a commercial pattern, because it's impossible for pattern companies to make one pattern work for every body nuance.

If you've got a specific project in mind, like a wedding dress or a piece of historical clothing, then pattern drafting may be the only way to get the design you want.

Let's cover the pattern drafting basics:

Draft yourself a block

What on earth is a block? Think of blocks like a plain cake recipe, a template for a specific type of garment like a dress that can then be used to new designs or recipes! Blocks have no fullness or design details. There are specific blocks for different garment types, so select the one that suits your project: for example, you wouldn't draft a T-shirt block if you wanted a fitted dress! Blocks are used in the garment industry as every brand or company uses a block based around the average measurements of their customers. This is why there is so much difference in the fit of ready-to-wear clothes between shops! Haute Couture fashion is created from blocks, drafted for each customer, using personal measurements. All drafting systems, including 'freehand' methods, involve putting a series of measurements into a template or formula, like connect the dots!



There are many, many books and tutorials on pattern drafting. Ones I've tried and tested are *Metric Pattern Cutting* by Dr Winfred Aldrich, *Pattern Cutting And Making Up* by Martin Shoben and *Pattern Cutting (Portfolio Skills)* by Dennie Chunman Lo.

Make a toile

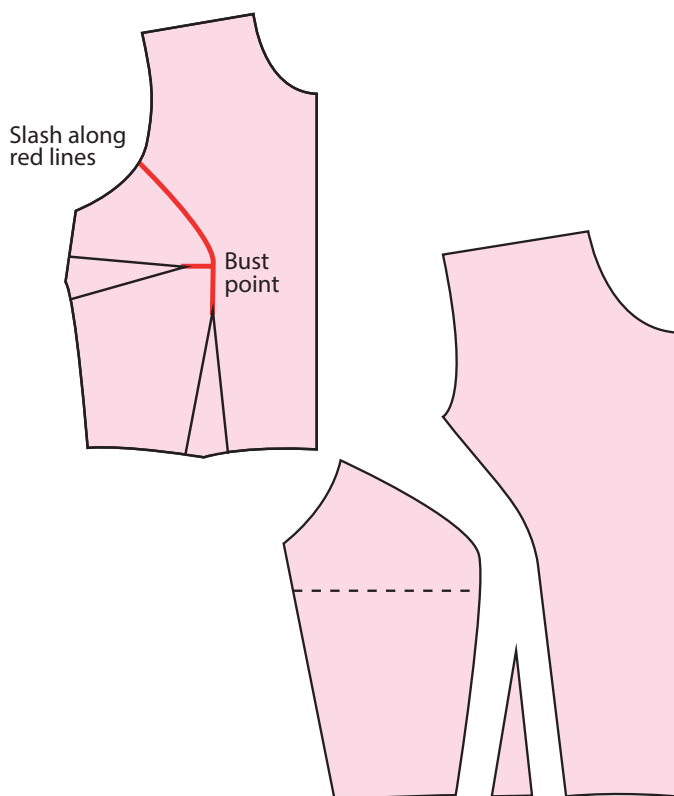
The most important step is to make up a toile from your block, before you start making any pattern modifications. It's rare that the first draft of any block system will be a perfect fit, as you can see in the photos from one of my recent tests. I used the exact measurements of my mannequin to draft this bodice block, yet there are still some fitting tweaks to be made. Once you've transferred all your fitting adjustments onto your block, you'll need to trace off a fresh copy.



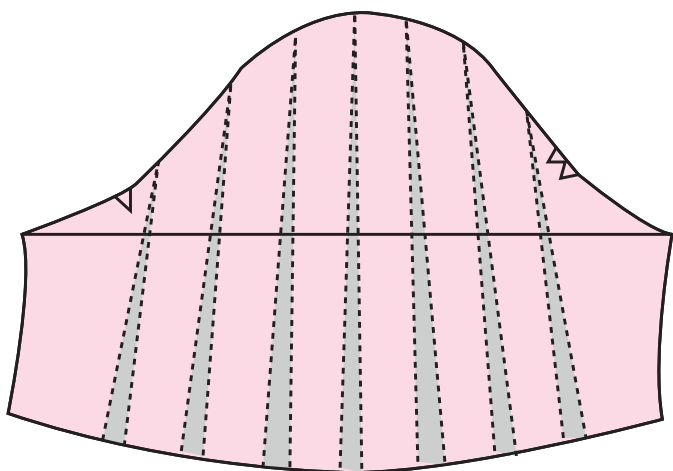
Pattern adjustments

Working on another copy of your block, you can now begin to play! The basic principle of block transformation is the manipulation or re-positioning of the darts. You can also eliminate them entirely without affecting the overall fit. Pattern adaptations to your block are done either by the 'slide and pivot', or the 'slash and cut' method. My preference has always been slashing and cutting, so I can really see the changes I'm making.

This bodice block has had the darts converted into a princess seam, a flattering curved shape that looks very different to the original.



In this second example, a sleeve block has been slashed and spread apart to add fullness that can then be gathered back into a cuff.



Adapting your block into a design or style will need practice, but there's a load of great classes available as well as advice on offer in books and online tutorials. Commercial patterns also make a great starting point for manipulation if you've already nailed the fit.

Build a basic drafting kit

You've probably got some basics like a tape measure, pencil etc in your regular sewing kit. It's easy to go crazy buying tools and gadgets, so here are my essentials.

1. Pattern paper – While it's absolutely possible to use newspaper or wrapping paper to make patterns, dot and cross paper will make the process much easier! The lines of dots and crosses mean you can easily draw vertical or horizontal draft lines.
2. Pattern master or dressmaker's ruler – Pattern drafting requires you to draw curved and straight lines, and this tool is a mega multi-tasker! Not only does it provide straight and curved edges, it has right angled corners, and guides to add seam allowances!
3. French curves – These clever tools offer a full range of curves you can use if your freehand curves are a little shaky.
4. Long point tracing wheel – You may well already own a serrated tracing wheel, but the sharper, needle points on this style work much better on paper. It's useful for marking through layers of paper when they've been folded, for example in a dart. The sharp points leave lines of holes that can be marked with a pencil once the paper is unfolded.

The best tip I can give would be to be brave and dive right in making some patterns. Happy sewing!

SHOPPING LIST

- Revolving Punch Plier, £11.94
- 5in1 Sliding Gauge Clover, £12.99
- Long Point Tracing Wheel, £5.90
- Plotter marking paper 50gsm x 50m, £10.20
- Dressmaker's Ruler, £22
- French curves (set of three), £4.46

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PERFECT POCKET SKIRT

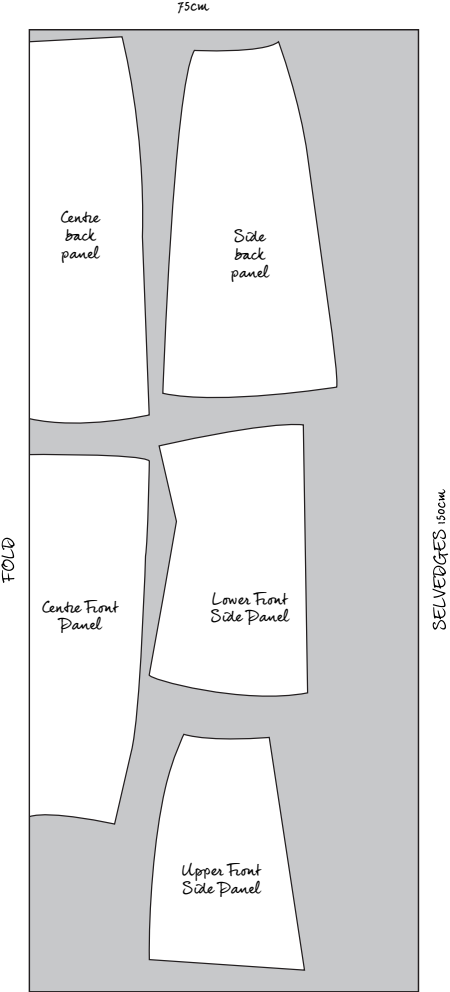
The Maude skirt is a great mod design featuring deep pockets set into princess seams. Showcase your style with contrast trim

Project **JEANETTE ARCHER** The Lazy Seamstress
Photography **DAN WALMSLEY**



PERFECT POCKET SKIRT

CUTTING:



NOTES:

Finished skirt length: 48cm

1.5cm seam allowance is included

Suitable fabric includes: medium-weight cotton, linen, denim, tweed, wool and brocade

The skirt pattern does not include a lining, but instructions are given to add a lining if you wish; suitable lining fabric includes, acetate, polyester, silk, lightweight cotton

If you can't find Petersham, grosgrain will work, or you can substitute bias binding

SIZING:

Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Waist	68cm/26"	72cm/28"	77cm/30"	82cm/32"	87cm/34"	92cm/36"	97cm/38"
Hips	93cm/36"	97cm/38"	102cm/40"	107cm/42"	112cm/44"	117cm/46"	122cm/48"



Skill level ♥♥

MATERIALS:

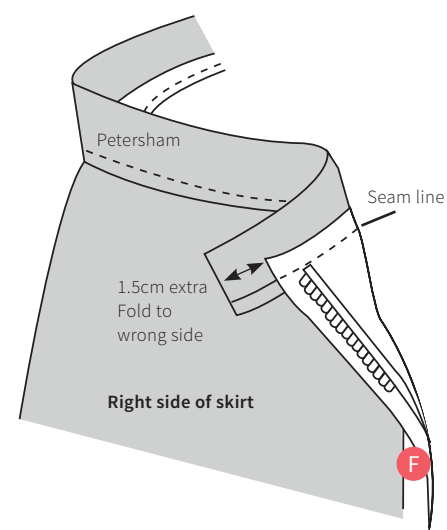
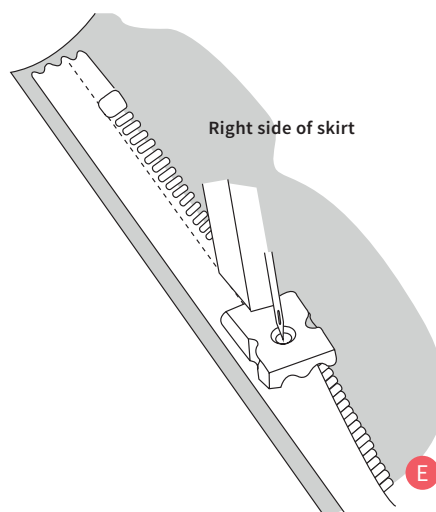
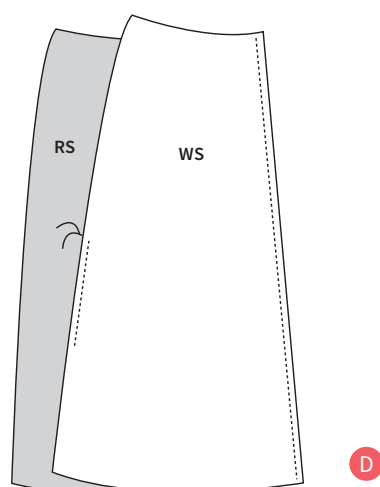
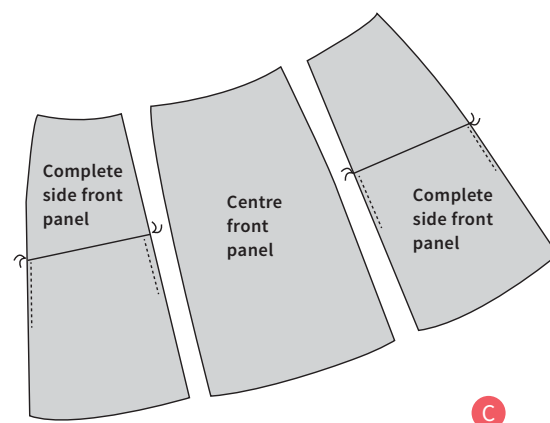
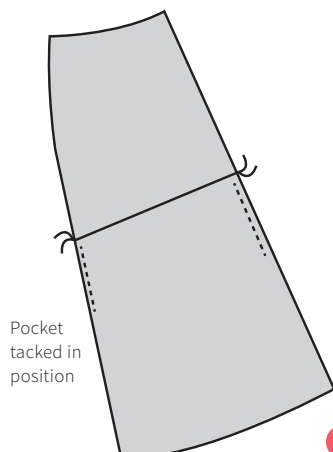
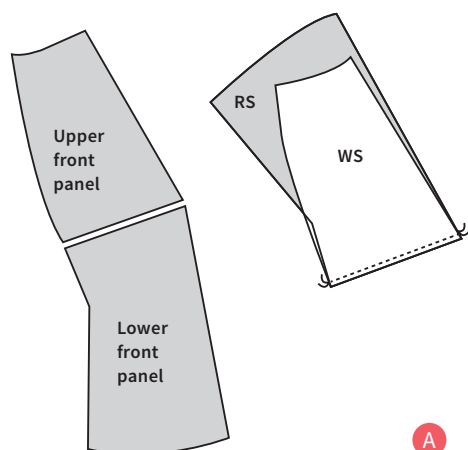
- ♥ 1.5m 145cm-wide fabric – allow more for nap/matching
- ♥ co-ordinating thread
- ♥ 21cm concealed zip
- ♥ 2.5cm-wide Petersham ribbon/curved Petersham – enough to go around your waist plus 5cm

How to make:

- 1 Matching notches, with RST sew Upper Front Side Skirt Panel to Lower Front Side Skirt Panel. Press seam together. Neaten. Press again, downwards. (See Pic A.)
- 2 Fold Lower Front Skirt Panel along the line you have marked for the top of the pocket, match with the line you have marked on the Upper Front panel. Press in place, then tack pocket sides in place. (See Pic B.)
- 3 Matching notches, with RST sew complete Side Front Panels to Centre Front Panel. (See Pic C.) Press seams open, or if working with

heavier weight fabric like denim, press towards the centre front to avoid too much bulk at the pocket edge. Grade (trim) seams at the pockets to reduce any bulk. Neaten seam edges and press.

- 4 Matching notches and with RST sew Side Back Panels to Centre Back Panel. Press seams open, neaten seam edges and press. (See Pic D.)
- 5 If you want to add a lining to your skirt, trace around your complete front and back skirt pieces from a single layer of lining pieces.
- 6 With RST, matching notches sew the skirt front to the skirt back at the right-hand side seam. Press seam open, Grade any excess fabric at the pocket edge, neaten and Press again. Repeat for skirt lining if you are making one. This is a good time to try on your skirt and make any adjustments you might need.
- 7 Neaten raw edges of left-hand side



seams, catching down the pockets. Repeat for skirt lining if you are making one.

8 Insert the concealed/invisible zip into the left-hand side seam by placing the open zip face down on the RS of the opening. The top edge of metal stopper top of the zip will be in line with the seam line at top edge of the skirt and the coils along the seam line. 1.5cm in from the edge. Stitch as close as possible to the zip coils from the top edge, stopping at the zip slider, and back-stitch. Repeat for the other side of the zip. (See Pic E.)

9 Turn skirt inside out, and pulling the unattached part of the zip gently to one side, sew the remainder of the side skirt seam. Press seam open.

Stitch down the unattached ribbon of the zip to the seam allowance.

10 If you are lining the skirt, leaving an opening for the zip, sew the lower part of the left-hand side seam, press seam open, including the opening for the zip. Tack skirt lining to skirt at top edge.

11 Stay-stitch skirt top edge on the seam line (1.5cm), and trim to 6mm. (If lining the skirt, treat the skirt and lining as one.) Cut your Petersham to the length of the waist plus 3cm. (See Pic F.)

12 Lap the ribbon over the waistline, WS of ribbon to RS of skirt. The edge of the ribbon should be on the seam line (stay-stitched line). There will be 1.5cm of ribbon over at each end, fold this inwards. Pin and tack in place.

13 Stitch ribbon into position close to the edge. Turn ribbon to inside skirt, and catch down at zip edge with a whipstitch.

14 Hem by turning 5mm along the hem edge and press, turn another 2cm and press again. Machine-stitch hem using a topstitch or hand-finish with a slipstitch. Repeat for hem of lining, but turn 5mm then 3cm. Press to complete.

CUSTOMISING YOUR SKIRT

For future makes, why not experiment with topstitching on the pockets and seams, or add in an exposed zip?

Trim on the pocket tops can add interesting detail.

Or experiment with colour blocking or pattern mixing of co-ordinating fabric.

How about adding a lace trim to the lining that hangs a couple of centimetres below the skirt hem to play with layers and texture?

WE USED



Sam & Mitzi cotton, Dotty Flower On Red, £9.50 per metre,
www.empressmills.co.uk

The Dressmaker's diary

In this issue we have a handy tutorial from Elisalex de Castro Peake, head of design for By Hand London. Make your own pleating board and com-pleat your handmade wardrobe!



Being the excitable and, dare I say it – impulsive – sewist that I am, I like to keep my stash cupboard and toolboxes full to the brim with pretty trims, embellishments and handy gizmos to make my somewhat

ambitious and often late-night sewing plans come alive, without the annoying stoppy-starty hiatus of having to dash out to the haberdashery or wait for the postman. As a result, I bulk buy pompom trim, I have homemade bias binding by the box load, and more recently, I made myself a pleating board to avoid spending hours measuring and marking and inevitably remeasuring pleats from scratch. Let me show you how...

Elisalex_x



YOU WILL NEED:

- ♥ poster board or lining paper
- ♥ hard ruler
- ♥ pen & pencil
- ♥ paper scissors
- ♥ spray adhesive

STEP 1

Cut out a piece of paper that measures approximately 15x30-40". This will result in a pleating board big enough to create things like pleated frills for cushion covers, pleated bodice panels or peplums for example, but if you plan on pleating much larger pieces of fabric, you will need a larger board.

STEP 2

Take your ruler and pencil and start marking out the hills and valleys of your pleats along the longer length of your paper. I went for average-ish sized pleats, so my markings are spaced $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ " apart, which will result in pleats that are $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. When you're happy with the spacing, go over your pencil marks in pen, and reflect them along the bottom length of your paper.



STEP 3

Using your ruler and scissors, very carefully, and without applying too much pressure, score fold lines connecting the dots at either end of your paper.



Now you can start pleating the paper! Pleat the paper along the score lines, folding one line one way, and the next the other way, and so on until you've pleated the whole piece.



STEP 4

Flip your paper over so that the WS is facing you, and open out the folds. Generously spray the adhesive all over this side, and when it's nice and tacky, reassemble the pleats so that they stick back into place.



STEP 5

When all the pleats are securely stuck down, cut out another piece of paper measuring approximately 1" bigger all round than your pleated paper. Give the back of the pleated paper another little spritz with the adhesive spray and mount it onto your second piece of paper.



STEP 6

When you flip your board over, you'll see that the individual pleats from the right side can be flipped up and down in order to get the fabric in and out, without the whole length of paper coming apart (like it did before you stuck it all into place). Now we're ready to pleat our fabric!

STEP 7

Take your pleating board over to your ironing board, armed with your fabric and one of those hard rulers that has a sort of ramped edge - this will help you to push the fabric into the paper pleats. Pin the length of fabric into place at the top of the pleating board (pleats facing downwards) and start carefully pleating and pressing the fabric.



STEP 8

Once you're done pleating, remove the fabric from the board and you're ready to apply it to your project



For this tutorial, I wanted to add a pleated peplum to stitch to the waistline of our Kim Dress bodice (available at www.byhandlondon.com for £9) to make a sweet, summery peplum top. I folded the long strip of fabric in half lengthways before pleating, then basted the pleats into place at the raw edge. Then I stitched the basted raw edge to the bodice's waistline, and Bob's your uncle – a corset-style top with a perfectly pleated peplum!

Other applications for your pleated fabric: a pleated frill for a cushion cover, a flamboyant pleated cuff for a three quarter-length sleeve, a horizontal pleated bodice panel or a pleated tennis-style mini skirt!

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Pattern picks

We're happy to report that the McCall Pattern Company has let us loose in its pattern vault so we can offer you an amazing 50% off a selection of fantastic patterns. We've picked our top 10 designs for you from fabulous summer styles to timeless classics



BUTTERICK 6208

The way to survive the sticky weather is in an easy-fitting pullover tunic or dress. We love how the back yoke extends to the front and those pin tucks are perfection!

~~£8~~ Now £4



McCALL'S 7381

How fantastic is this pattern pack for four pleated and tie front dresses with different sleeve options and hem lengths?! It's definitely our top pick for summer.

~~£8.75~~
Now £4.37



BUTTERICK 6169

Look effortlessly chic with this Lisette moto jacket and on trend high-low hem dress. It's pull on, so will sew up super quick, leaving more time to work on that amazing jacket.

~~£8~~ Now £4



BUTTERICK 6354

Summer separates have never been so stylish with this set from Gertie's collection. There's a bolero, a boned bustier, sassy shorts and a fitted sarong skirt.

~~£8~~ Now £4

*Once you've placed your order, delivery will be made via www.sewdirect.com

BUTTERICK 6331

Why not make this Lisette lightweight double-breasted trench jacket, ready for any surprise rain showers? We love the cropped tapered trousers that would look great as colourful chinos.

~~£8~~ Now £4



BUTTERICK 6330

How many garments are squashed into this bumper pattern pack?! There's a draped collar jacket, an easy-fit elastic waist jumpsuit and playsuit, plus maxi and knee-length dress options!

~~£8~~ Now £4



McCALL'S 6891

This perfect notched collar shirtdress comes with different skirt and sleeve lengths and a self-fabric belt meaning it will last you all year round.

~~£8.75~~ Now £4.37



BUTTERICK 6168

This tunic and dress pattern features a stylish keyhole and inset waist – perfect for printed and plain fabrics.

~~£8~~ Now £4



BUTTERICK 5898

You can't go wrong with a classic wrap dress! This Connie Crawford design has an optional collar and frilled skirt. Perfect summer style.

~~£8~~ Now £4



BUTTERICK 6186

Look office-ready with this Connie Crawford V-neckline princess seam dress. We suggest playing with colour blocking down the side panels for a figure-flattering new look.

~~£8~~ Now £4



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Back-to-school SEWING

It won't be long before your little ones are already super excited about all the new stationery and supplies they will need (like shiny new shoes) so we've rounded up four of our favourite back-to-school project ideas

In mid-July, perhaps it's not wise mentioning the return to school within earshot of your children, but if you are thinking of sewing something for the new school year now's the time to plan some projects. Why not take a look at our easy suggestions?



This studious tunic is top of the class and easy to put together. The pattern and templates are included with *Love Sewing* issue 17.



A new rucksack can be a lot of fun to put together, especially if you decorate the outside with something eye-catching. We love this snail appliqué bag from *Sewing Made Simple* issue 3



Put a big smile on a child's face with a colourful cartoon wallet, because every little superhero needs somewhere to carry their change! Find this project inside issue 2 of *Bagmaking Essentials*



Why not pick up issue 25 of *Quilt Now*, on sale now, for this sweet patchwork lunchbox tutorial? You can even let your child customise their bag by picking out the different prints

Missed an issue of your favourite magazine? Visit www.moremags.com to pick up a bargain during our big summer sale



Big BOW BAG

Make a statement with this beautiful bag from McCall's, featuring an eye-catching bow front, full lining and magnetic snap fasteners

NOTES:

The finished bag measures 36cm (W) x 26cm (H) x 7.5cm (D)

Seam allowance is 13mm unless otherwise indicated

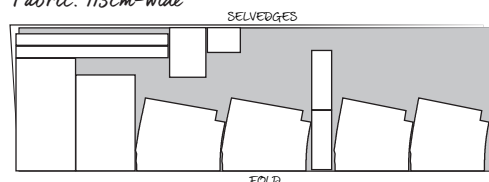
Skill level ♥

MATERIALS

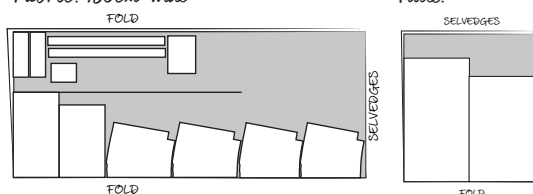
- ♥ 1.3m 115cm-wide linen, canvas or cotton sateen fabric
- ♥ 1.9m sew-in interfacing
- ♥ 50cm tulle (to interface bow)
- ♥ 50cm lining fabric
- ♥ 34.5x7cm of cardboard or plastic canvas
- ♥ 3 2cm diameter magnetic snaps

CUTTING:

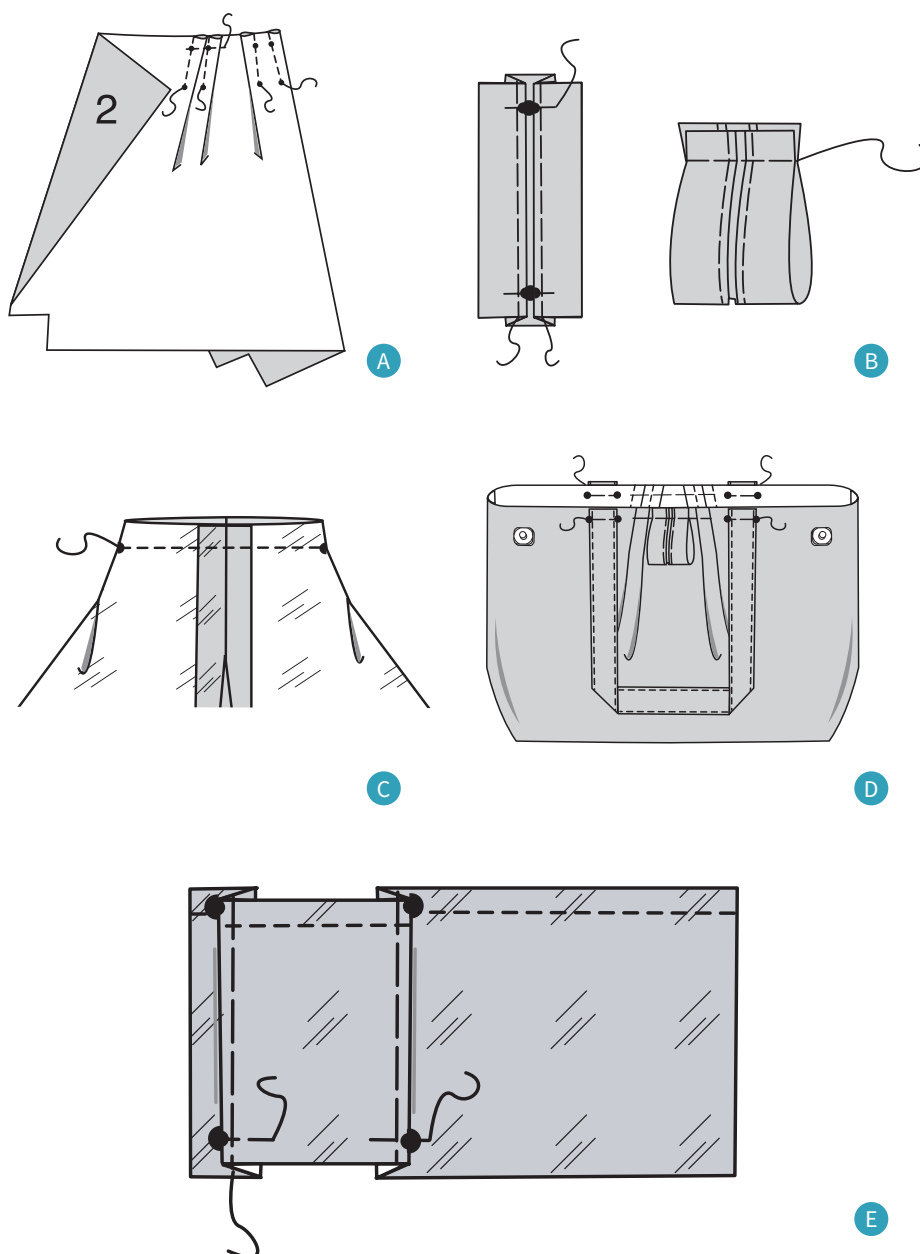
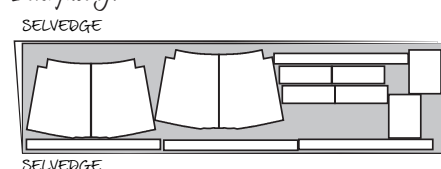
Fabric: 115cm-wide



Fabric: 150cm-wide

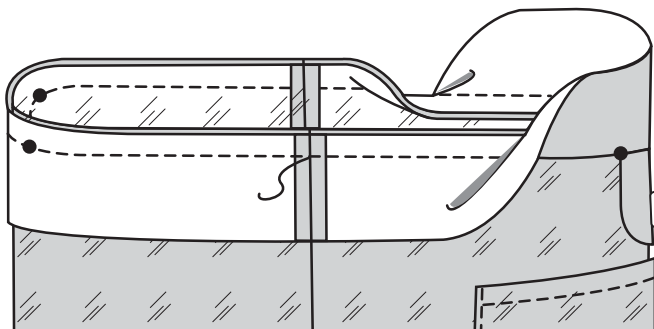


Interfacing:

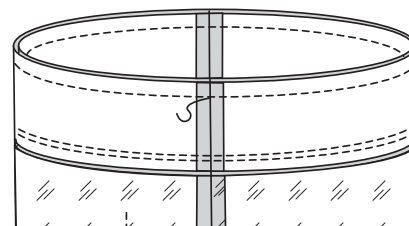


How to make:

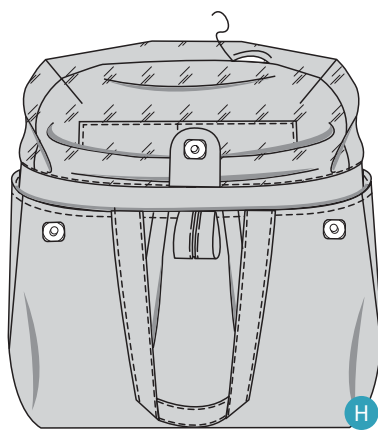
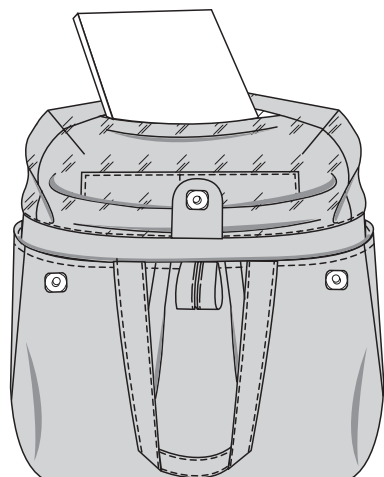
- 1 Make a paper template to preserve TAB 1 pattern tissue. Using the template trace tabs onto fabric and interfacing. Cut out sections.
- 2 Pin interfacing to WS of each matching fabric section having edges even. Baste around edges (interfacing will not be shown in subsequent instructions).
- 3 Make tucks on each front and back section, on inside bring lines of small circles together. Sew along the stitching lines to lower small circle. Press tucks towards centre. Baste upper edge. (See Pic A.)
- 4 Sew the Loop sections together at sides. Turn RS out and press. Baste raw edges together.
- 5 To make a pleat on the ends of the loop, on outside, crease along the lines following the small circles, and bring creases to large circles, and pin in place. Baste across the ends to secure. Fold the loop in half crosswise, bringing ends together, baste. (See Pic B.) Pin the loop to upper edge on your front bag piece, matching squares, baste.
- 6 With RST, sew the front and back sections together at sides and lower edges, leaving the little cutout corners unstitched.
- 7 Next fold lower corners of front and back, still RST and matching seams. Sew between outer small circles as shown. (See Pic C.)
- 8 Turn bag RS out and press. Apply magnetic snaps at small circles on front and back, following manufacturer's instructions.
- 9 For each strap, sew two strap 4 sections together along one long edge with a 6mm seam. Press seam open. Turn 6mm seam allowance on remaining long edges of strap to inside and press. Fold straps along seam, having WST and pressed edges even. Press, baste and sew close to the long edges. Pin ends of straps to upper edge of front and back, matching small circles, baste in place. (See Pic D.)
- 10 Turn upper edge of pocket to inside along the foldline, turning under 6mm on raw edge and press. Sew close to the inner pressed edge.
- 11 To make pleats on pocket, on outside, crease along the lines with small circles. Bring creased to line up with large circles. Baste lower edge and press. (See Pic E.)



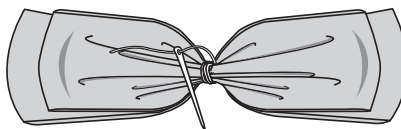
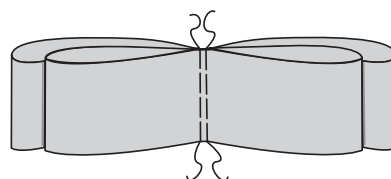
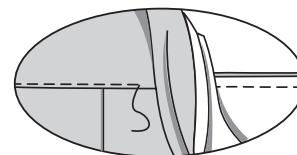
F



G



H



I

12 Turn in seam allowances on sides and lower edge of pocket, press. Pin pocket to your one lining piece, matching symbols and stitching lines. Sew close to the sides, lower edge and along the stitching line, keeping pressed edge of pleats free.

13 Apply magnetic snap to two tabs at small circles. Pin remaining tab sections to tabs with snaps, edges even and RST. Sew in a 6mm seam, leaving upper edge open. Turn RS out and press. Baste raw edges together along top.

14 Pin a tab to the upper edge of each lining section, aligning raw edges. Make sure the snap side is facing up and sitting on the large circles. Baste raw edges together.

15 Repeat steps 6 and 7 for the lining pieces. Sew the front and back lining sections together but here you need to leave a 15cm opening in the lower edge for turning. Sew corners of lining as before.

16 Sew the facing sections together at the short edges. Pin lining to edge of facing, matching large circles and seams. Press seam towards the lining. Edge-sew the upper edge of the lining, catching the seam allowances in stitching, and keeping tabs free. (See Pic F.)

17 Pin facing and lining to bag, having RST, and matching seams. Sew along the upper edge. Under-sew facing. Turn facing and lining to inside, press. Top-sew around the upper edge of the bag, 6mm from edge, keeping straps and loop free. (See Pic G.)

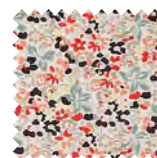
18 Insert a cardboard or plastic canvas base into bag through the opening in the lining. Sew up opening. Push lining back into bag. (See Pic H.)

19 Pin net to WS of the bow pattern pieces, and trim so edges are even. Baste in place within the seam allowance. Fold the lower bow piece in half lengthways, sew, leaving ends open. Turn RS out, press and baste ends.

20 Fold lower bow along the remaining foldlines, overlapping ends at the centre back. Baste ends in place along the centre. Press lightly. Install the magnetic fasteners on the reverse, following pattern markings.

21 Prepare the upper bow piece in the same manner as bow 8. Then centre smaller bow over the larger bow and hand gather along the centre of the bow. Adjust gathers tightly, secure thread ends. (See Pic I.) Insert bow through front loop, extending ends evenly at sides and adjusting fullness on bows as desired.

WE USED



King's Meadow, an exclusive Liberty Tana lawn, £22 per metre, only available from www.remnantkings.co.uk



FURTHER INFORMATION

This pretty bow bag is from McCall's 6977 which also includes three more variations of this bag including contrast bows and straps and asymmetrically tied bows. To browse and buy any McCall's patterns, visit www.sewdirect.com



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Monthly STASH CLUBS



In this issue, The Sewing Directory's Fiona Pullen has rounded up her favourite stash clubs filled with colour, prints and inspiration

Stash clubs are a great way to build up your stash, often giving you colours or prints you wouldn't normally buy but that encourage you to experiment. Most of them are monthly, and will send you a bundle of fabric sorted by colour, theme or designer. Some include other craft supplies like haberdashery and may come with a project or pattern too. I've shared the details of some of my favourites below – whatever your tastes there's bound to be a club to suit you.

The Village Haberdashery Fabric Clubs

The Village Haberdashery runs two monthly fabric clubs. The Baby Quilt Club gives you six child-friendly fabric prints each month, just enough to make a baby quilt or build you a kid-friendly stash. You can pick from either boy or girl selections, and can opt to have matching Kona solids too. Prices are from £20.75 a month. Its other club is the Colour of the Month Club that helps you build up a rainbow of colours in your fabric collection. You can pick from designer fabric, Kona solids or a combination of both and fat quarter or half metre lengths. Prices for this club start at £12.75. Find out more about both clubs at www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk/clubs



Craft Club Box

If you subscribe to The Craft Club Box you will get a sewing kit each month containing all the supplies and instructions you need to make that month's project. The club will introduce you to new skills and, with no obligation, you can cancel at any time. It also offers a one-month no-risk trial. It costs £10 per month plus £3 postage. Find out more about this monthly craft box subscription at www.craftclubbox.co.uk



Simply Solids Stash Clubs

Simply Solids is another company that has a selection of monthly fabric clubs for you to pick from. There is the Kona 303 club that will give you all 303 Kona solids over the course of 18 months. The Bloggers Stash Club is a monthly bundle of eight fat quarters or half metres handpicked by a well-known blogger. There's a low-volume stash club for those of you who need more low-volume prints in your life. You get five low-volume fat quarters or half metres of designer fabric. Plus, there are a couple of quilt fabric clubs which are currently fully subscribed. Club prices start from £18 a month – visit www.simplysolids.co.uk for more details.



Butterfly Bright Fabric Subscription

There are three levels to the Butterfly Bright fabric subscription, Gold, Silver and Bronze. The Bronze level gives you six fat quarters per month for £18. The silver level gives you seven fat quarters for £21, and with a gold subscription you will receive eight fat quarters for £24. There is also an annual purchase option that gives you a discount compared to the monthly price. Get the details from www.butterflybright.com



Frivols

Frivols is a monthly quilt kit in a tin club from Moda, each featuring a different Moda collection. Each pretty presentation tin contains fabric, a quilt pattern, a block pattern plus a surprise. You do need to add extra fabric to complete the quilt (backing, sashing, borders etc).

The tins are priced at around £40 and can be found in many quilt shops. We got these images from Hulu Crafts which stocks the full range of Frivols and sells the finishing kits with binding and backing fabric. Find it at www.hulucrafts.co.uk



Habdash Subscription

Pocket & Pin does a monthly Habdash club for £15 a month, with a discount available if you subscribe for a longer period. You receive a selection of craft supplies such as felt, fabric, ribbon, trims, buttons etc based around a different theme each month. Find out more about this month's box at www.pocketandpin.co.uk



Karen Lewis Charm Club

Popular fabric designer and screen printer Karen Lewis runs a bi-monthly charm club where you can receive co-ordinating charm squares, panels or half panels of Karen's hand-printed fabric. In 2016, there are guest curators choosing the fabric that Karen prints onto. Prices start at £17 a month – visit www.karenlewistextiles.com for more information.



Inspirations Club

This monthly club comes from Make and Do and starts from just £10 a month. Each month you get a carefully curated selection of craft supplies – fabric, ribbon, buttons, trim etc along with ideas for what you could make with the items in the box. Find out more about this monthly craft supplies subscription www.inspirationsclub.co.uk



Sew Hot fabric and thread clubs

Online fabric shop Sew Hot runs three different monthly clubs, a Kona solids stash club (£52 a month for fat quarters, £29 a month for fat eighths), which over the year lets you amass the full 303 fabrics in the range. It has an Aurifil thread club where you receive four 1300m spools of 50wt Aurifil in colours matching the monthly Kona solids bundles. This costs £48 a month with UK postage. The last club combines both – you get Kona solids fabric and matching Aurifil thread for £80 a month with UK shipping. Find out more about all three clubs on the Sew Hot website: www.sewhot.co.uk/



Creative Quilting fabric clubs

Creative Quilting has several different fabric clubs on offer including a pre-cut club, a fabric sample club (5" charm squares), a fat quarter club and a colour stash club. Price start at £9.50 for a fat eighths colour stash bundle. Explore its fabric clubs at www.creativequilting.co.uk



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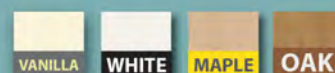
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Exclusive!

15 minutes with
**THE GREAT BRITISH
SEWING BEE WINNER**

We've loved cheering on the Sewing Bee contestants every Monday night and on 4th July we saw Charlotte Newland announced as the winner of series 4



Charlotte, 43, from London has won the coveted title in a very tough competition, beating nine Sewing Bees – Tracey, Josh, Rumana, Jamie, Angeline, Ghislaine and Duncan and the two other finalists, Joyce and Jade.

Charlotte made it through eight weeks of tricky sewing challenges and became Britain's Best Amateur Sewer of 2016. She impressed judges Patrick Grant and Esme Young by creating a man's pin-tucked shirt, transforming a classic tuxedo into a little black dress, and finally making a made-to-measure evening gown.

We caught up with her to find out more about what's next following the show's finale.

Congratulations Charlotte!! Are you still in shock after that gripping final?

I couldn't believe it, I was completely gobsmacked. I walked into the sewing room so relaxed knowing that I was going to enjoy meeting up with all the sewists again, and not thinking for one moment that I had won. I nearly fell over when they called my name out, I really thought I was imagining it – it was a very bizarre moment for me.

It must have been hard not to let the cat out of the bag

My three kids have been great about keeping it a secret, I hadn't told my mum who kept asking the kids leading questions to see if she could find out. They have been amazing and have loved every minute of it. All their friends watch it and they have been enjoying it along with them – they



Charlotte struggled with the men's pintucked shirt challenge during the final



"I find sewing very therapeutic and after a busy day at work as a scientific editor, it really calms me down as I enjoy the whole process from working in seams to the finished garment"

were sending texts all the way through the episode, it was hilarious!

How did it feel being in the final three?

I was thrilled to even get to the semi-finals and it was a great moment for me. I didn't ever want to leave as I wanted to experience the whole thing right up till the end, so I consider myself really lucky to have got through each stage.

My first challenge was a disaster; I had a special attachment for my sewing machine, which we all found difficult and it took us way too long to do it and we all panicked. I got in a tizz basically and Joyce bless her was sewing buttons on my shirt at the end, as I wouldn't have got it finished. The bonding with the Bees was incredible – we all came from different walks of life but we were a very cohesive group from the outset. We all keep in touch and those that can meet for brunch regularly.

I also loved the alteration challenge in the final, and the judges liked my little black dress made from a tuxedo. In the made-to-measure challenge, I made a purple silk satin full-length dress with a train and

a sparkly belt. The model looked beautiful walking down the catwalk in my creation, but I think she would have looked beautiful in a sack!

What was your favourite part of being on the show?

My favourite bit of the show was the camaraderie with the other Bees, I felt we were a group together having fun trying to please the judges rather than being in a competition against each other. My worst part of the show has to be that damned shirt in the final episode, I made such a pig's ear of it... it was a catalogue of errors.

One of the reasons I went into the show was because of my children. The girls in particular badgered me to apply when they saw the applications were open. They sat next to me on the sofa, one on each side, to see that I filled in the form and sent it off.

So tell us more about how you got into sewing and dressmaking!

I started sewing when I was about five, and then I learned dressmaking at school aged about nine. I made my own clothes until I went to university, and then after a long gap, I got back into dressmaking again about four years ago.

SERIES FOUR OVERVIEW

The hardest part of each episode was watching the contestants leave. Let's recap the order of those tricky eliminations as well as the all-important garment of the week awards!

I would describe my style as quite vintage; I like making 50s dresses. I would pretty much say that I make 100% of my own clothes, apart from lingerie unless I have a bit of stretch fabric lying around!

Recently, we went to a 50s birthday party, so I made a strapless dress with a big full skirt. I do get recognised now as the woman from *Sewing Bee*; it's lovely that people are excited and want to know about sewing techniques, and how I got on through the series!

I find sewing very therapeutic and after a busy day at work as a scientific editor, it really calms me down as I enjoy the whole process from working in seams to the finished garment. It's an expression of who I am, and I tend to make outfits that are quirky and unique. I like to wear something you can't really buy in the shops so I strive for a look that is slightly different.

What was it like being under the tough gaze of the judges all the time?

It was a good to hear the comments from the judges. By definition we are all amateurs and Patrick and Esme have very exacting standards, with decisions that are firm but fair. So you felt like you had won a massive prize if you got just one positive comment. It really meant something.

"I didn't ever want to leave as I wanted to experience the whole thing right up till the end, so I consider myself really lucky to have got through each stage"

So can you reveal what's next for you now the show has ended?

Life after *Sewing Bee* will be carrying on with my dressmaking classes locally, and I fully intend to carry on sewing in any spare moment that I have.

Photography for challenge garments from *The Great British Sewing Bee: From Stitch to Style* by Wendy Gardiner (Quadrille £25) © 2016 Love Productions. © 2016 Jenni Hare



6 UNUSUAL FABRICS (and how to tackle them)

We've rounded up six notoriously tricky fabrics that you might be tempted to try on your quest to becoming a better stitcher. But never fear – we're also sharing our top tips for smooth sewing!



1 Beaded fabric looks simply fantastic on evening and bridal wear but is excruciatingly delicate. It is sewn on in very long threads which if cut, will mean huge parts of your detailing will unravel.

Top tip: To preserve the design but avoid beads being caught in the seam line, gently smash the unwanted beads with a small hammer. Work on a large surface and sweep away the shards carefully.



2 Leather and pleather might not be everyone's cup of tea but they definitely are hardwearing and great for bagmaking or accent features on stylish clothing.

Top tip: In addition to not making any pin or needle holes outside the seam allowance, the best advice we can offer is to invest in a Teflon or rolling foot. If you can't get hold of one, try a piece of sticky tape attached to the underside of your machine foot with a hole cut for your needle. The glossy side of the tape will glide over the fabric as you sew.



3 Velvet and corduroy are entertainingly deceptive. They're so stable to the touch you might think they'd be a dream to sew, but the very short pile of the fabric can rub you the wrong way.

Top tip: Make sure your pieces are cut with the pile going in the same direction – imagine your fabric has a one-way print design. Invest in a walking foot to feed the layers evenly and stop the fabric shifting as you sew which would lead to rippled or misaligned seams.



4 Fake fur may end up on your sewing table one of these days and you'll need to know what to do with it! It comes in many styles but the more fluffy it is, the more you'll need to focus.

Top tip: A long pile can get caught in your seam allowance so trim back the fur close to the seamline to reduce bulk and avoid bald spots. When cutting out, use a scalpel on a cutting mat so you can part the pile and cut only the backing fabric rather than accidentally giving your fabric a haircut!



5 Plaid, check and tartan are three different beasts but they have something in common – you'll need to assess the vertical and horizontal repeats to work out if you'll need extra fabric for pattern matching.

Top tip: Cut pattern pieces out single layer and layer the cut out fabric on top of your remaining material until it disappears into the print. Then you can align your mirror image pattern piece, taking into account seam allowances to get the truest match possible.



6 Buckram gives fabric items structure. It is made by coating fabric in starches and/or resins and is used in historic costumes, accessories like hats and bags, and in curtain pleats.

Top tip: It's best to use a robust sewing machine that can handle the thick layers, and avoid using an overlocker. If you steam the fabric the starches soften, offering a window of time in which to manipulate and sew the fabric before they re-solidify.

BACK TO SCHOOL

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ZAKKA HERB HANGER



*This practical yet stylish
hanger is made in rustic
linen and edged in pretty
Liberty print bias binding*

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

NOTES:

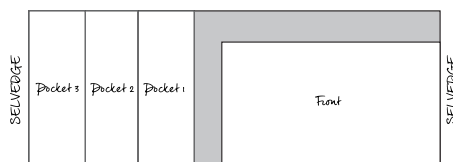
Finished hanger measures approximately 40x62cm

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ 50cm 150cm-wide Zakka style linen
- ♥ 1m medium- or heavy-weight fusible interfacing or cheap shower curtain fabric
- ♥ 30cm 140cm-wide Liberty Tana lawn
- ♥ 50cm dowling rod or baton
- ♥ 1m rope or cord
- ♥ PVA glue
- ♥ 25mm bias tape maker (optional)
- ♥ spray starch (optional)

CUTTING:



- 70x40cm linen (main)
- 70x40cm interfacing or shower curtain (main backing)
- 3 18x50cm linen (pockets)
- 3 18x50cm interfacing or shower curtain (pocket backing)
- 3 6x50cm strips Liberty print (pocket binding)
- 3 5x70cm strips Liberty print (outer edge binding)

How to make:

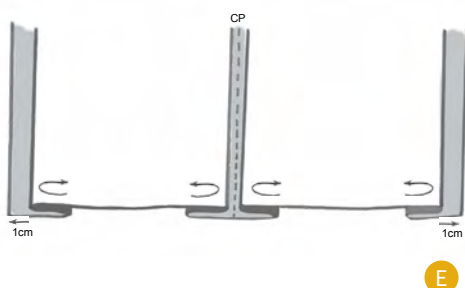
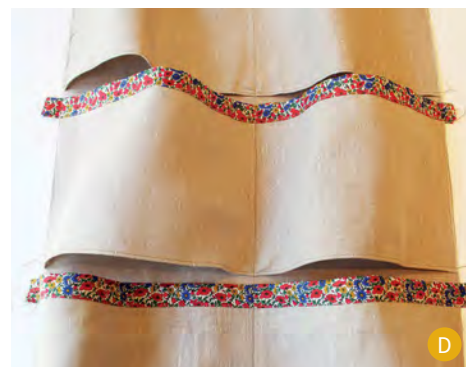
1 If you're using interfacing, iron it to the reverse side of the linen main panel and pocket pieces then zigzag finish the edges to prevent fraying. Alternatively baste your shower curtain backing pieces to the linen with a zigzag stitch around the edges.

2 Press a temporary vertical line to mark out the centre of your main panel and also the pocket pieces (or mark with an air-soluble marker).

3 On two linen pocket strips, press and sew a small 5mm hem along one long raw edge. Leave the third pocket strip unfolded.

4 Take the 6cm-wide Liberty pocket binding fabric strips, fold over and press the long raw edges by approximately 5mm or use a bias tape maker. (See Pic A.) Then press in half lengthways.

5 Position the binding so it encases the unhemmed long raw edge of the linen pocket strips. Pin then sew close to the edge and press. (See Pic B.)



6 Place the unhemmed pocket strip piece on the lower edge of the main panel, matching the raw edges and matching up the centre lines. This will leave approximately 5cm of the pocket strip overhanging at each side.

7 Pin the second and third strips across the main panel as before, matching up the centre lines, and leaving a 1cm horizontal gap between each pocket strip. (See Pic C.)

8 Sew a vertical line of stitching down the centre of the hanger, following your marked line to secure the pockets.

9 Align the pocket strip sides with the raw edges of the main panel. Machine-tack in place. (See Pic D.)

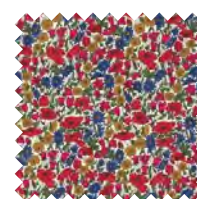
10 Starting 1cm in from each pocket edge, fold over and pin 1cm pleats either side of seam lines. (See Pic E.) Sew across the lower edge of each pocket piece approximately 4mm from the edge then press.

11 Press over 1cm on each long side of the

5cm Liberty strips. Encase the lower edge with a binding strip. Repeat on the side edges with the remaining binding pieces, tucking under the ends to keep them neat. (See Pic F.)

12 Fold over the upper edge by 1cm, then again by 5cm, before sewing close to the fold. Insert your dowling rod through the channel you've created with 1cm extending from each side. Tie a length of rope or cord to each end and dab some PVA glue to secure the knots in position and fix the fraying ends to complete!

WE USED



Petal and Bud Liberty Tana lawn, £15.95 per metre from www.sewbox.co.uk



Top tip!

Gently pull the fabric from behind as you stitch over the thick folds; you may need to manually crank the hand wheel as you work

Origami PILLOW

These pillows have geometric shapes reminiscent of the Japanese papercraft, but are much easier to make than cranes, as they use just a few straight stitches

Project **SANAE ISHIDA**
Photography **GEORGE BARBERIS**

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS

- ♥ 1½ yard woven fabric
- ♥ co-ordinating thread
- ♥ pillow insert

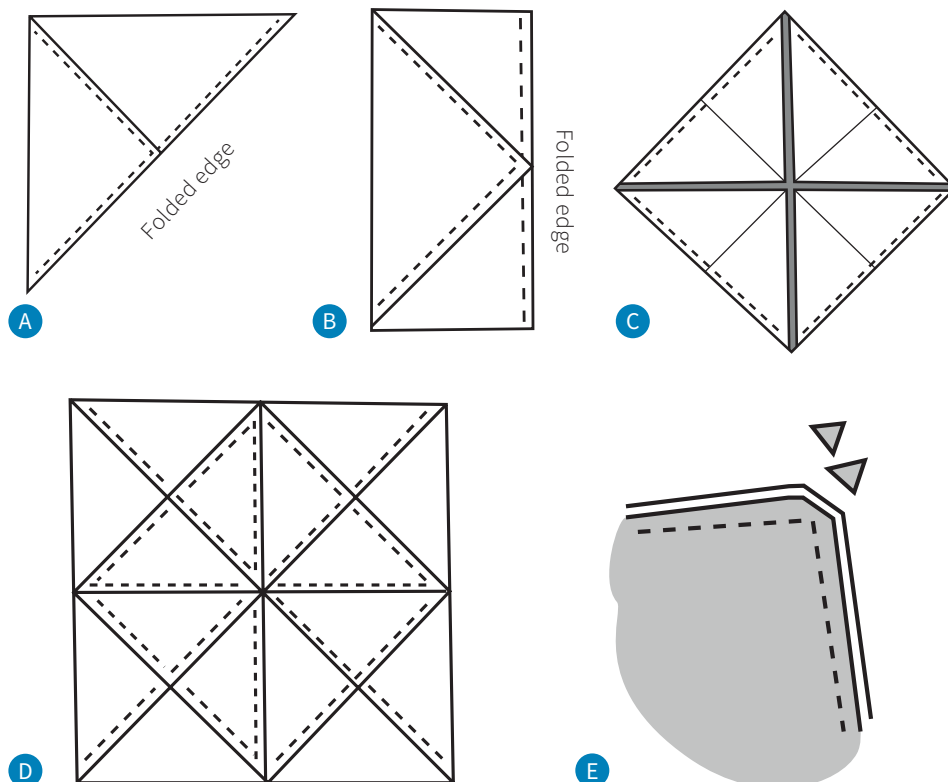
NOTES:

Linen and slightly slubby textiles work wonderfully for these pillows. Quilting cotton and lighter weight canvas are great too. Make sure to prep the fabric by washing, drying, and pressing

Finished cushion measures 20" square

How to make:

- 1 Calculate the size of the front piece by adding 1" to the actual pillow insert dimensions, and cut the fabric. For our 20" square pillow insert, we cut a 21" square piece.
- 2 You need two pieces for the back. The height is the exact same measurement as the pillow insert height. For the width, multiply the insert width by $\frac{3}{4}$. So for a 20" square insert, each back piece will be 15x20".
- 3 Fold the front square WST diagonally to form a triangle. Press the fold, and sew a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam from the folded edge.
- 4 Open up the square and on the WS press the entire length of the seam. Then, press the fold over to one side. Repeat Step 3 with the diagonal fold going the other way. (See Pic A.)
- 5 To sew the horizontal and vertical lines, fold in half, the WST, press, and sew $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the folded edge. (See Pic B.)
- 6 Open and press the pin tuck to one side as before. Repeat the steps to create the other perpendicular line.
- 7 Flip the square over so that the pintucks/raised folds are face down. Using the horizontal and vertical folds as guides, fold and press each corner toward the centre, the WST. This will create a diamond shape. Working from the RS, sew $\frac{1}{8}$ " from each folded edge. (See Pic C.) Once all four sides are sewn, flatten out the piece by unfolding all the corners. Press each fold to one side. As you rotate the square to press the folds, try to press them in the same direction. (See Pic D.)



- 8 For one of the back pieces, fold the long edge (the one that is the same measurement as the pillow insert height) $\frac{3}{8}$ " toward the WS and press. Fold this piece another $\frac{3}{8}$ ", and press again. Edge-stitch along the inner folded edge. Repeat with the other back piece. These two pieces will form an envelope closure.
- 9 Align the back pieces with the front piece, RST. Trim the edges if the front and back pieces don't exactly match up; the fabric pieces should form a square. A rotary cutter and metal ruler are handy to use for this. For reference, our back pieces overlapped about 6", but this number will depend on your pillow size.
- 10 Pin and stitch along the perimeter of the pillow $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the raw edge. Keep the needle in the fabric as you pivot at the corners to get sharp, clean right angles.

- 11 Clip the corners, taking careful not to snip into the line of stitching. Turn the pillow RS out, and use a point turner to poke out the corners. (See Pic E.)
- 12 Place the pillow insert inside the cover, and you're all set!



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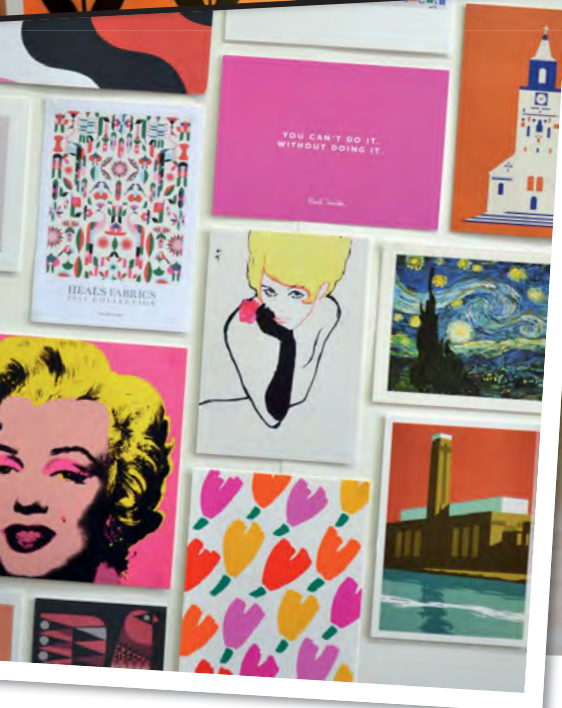
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SEWING ROOM SWOON



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, Suzie Kemner shows us round her studio where she runs her sewing and design business Suzie London

I'm so lucky to have a studio in the magnificent Hornsey Town Hall in Crouch End, North London. The Hornsey Town Hall, which is an amazing 1930s Art Deco building, features a gallery, performance space, yoga studio, bar and cafe, as well as creative studios.

My studio is a little haven. I painted the walls white, put down a wood-laminate floor, and filled it with mid-century furniture plus all my favourite things. It's so nice to have room for a cutting table, as well as a sewing desk, with space for both my Pfaff sewing machine and my overlocker. I have a vintage bookcase full of sewing and design books, and inspirational postcards from some of my favourite designers on the wall.

I use my studio for both freelance graphic design work (I illustrated half the projects from *The Great British Sewing Bee: From Stitch to Style*, the new book that accompanies the series), as well as designing and creating products for my label Suzie London, 'Pieces of Joy'.

It's a dream come true to be able to design my own textiles, have them printed, and use them to make clothes and accessories, as well as lampshades and cushions. I'm currently working on a range of dresses, which I hope to launch soon!



Photos by Melodie Telliez of SlinkyLinks Jewellery www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SlinkyLinksJewellery and Suzie Kemner www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SuzieLondonUK

Visit www.suzie.london for a dose of colour and fun. Plus you can find Suzie on Instagram and Twitter as [@SuzieLondonUK](https://twitter.com/SuzieLondonUK) and at www.facebook.com/SuzieLondonUK



Top tip!
Hemostats make turning and stuffing small or narrow items much easier. They can be purchased online from craft or fishing equipment suppliers

Pretty KITTY and mini MOUSE

This sweet feline and her friend the mini mouse finger-puppet will make a great gift for a cat lover!

Project **SHARON EVEREST** Modflowers
Photography **ALEX WRIGHT** teneight

NOTES:

Finished size 14x24cm (excluding tail)

Stitch using a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance

Skill level ♥♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ 15x20cm cotton fabric for the cat's face
- ♥ 15x20cm cotton fabric for the cat's body
- ♥ 20x25cm cotton fabric for the cat's back
- ♥ scraps of contrasting fabric for the details (eyes, pocket, tail, collar, etc) & the mini mouse
- ♥ Bondaweb
- ♥ small black press stud
- ♥ soft toy stuffing or polyester cushion filling
- ♥ embroidery or sewing threads

CUTTING:

- 2 cat body
- cat pocket
- 2 cat tail
- 4 cat paw
- 2 mouse body
- mouse face
- 4 mouse ears

How to make:

CAT

1 Place the cat's face and body fabric pieces RST and sew one long edge. Press the seam open. Pin the cat template to the joined fabric piece with the seam positioned at the cat's neckline on the template and cut out.

2 Fuse a square of Bondaweb to a piece of eye fabric. Draw eye shapes onto the Bondaweb backing paper and cut out. Remember – these shapes will be reversed on the finished cat. Peel off the backing paper and position the eyes on the face. Press with a hot iron to fix in place.

3 Using black thread and a small, close zigzag stitch on your machine, carefully sew around each eye.

4 Cut a 1" wide strip of fabric long enough for the collar. Fold long edges to the middle and press. Fold in half and press again. Pin and sew in place over the neck seam on the RS, using a decorative stitch if you wish. (See Pic A.)

5 Starting and finishing off on the WS, embroider the cat's nose and mouth by hand. (See Pic B.)

6 Cut out the pocket. Fold edges over ¼" to WS and press. Using a decorative stitch, sew across the top edge of the pocket on the RS. Pin the pocket to the RS of the body, stitched edge at the top. Sew around three sides close to the edge, leaving the top of the pocket open and starting and finishing with a backstitch. (See Pic C.)

7 Cut out two tail pieces and sew, RST, down one long side to the point and back up the other side, leaving the end open. Snip into the seam allowance on curve and trim at the tip, to reduce bulk. Turn RS out and press.

8 Cut four paw pieces and sew two of these RST, leaving the short, straight edge open. Repeat for the other paw. Snip curves, turn RS out and press. (See Pic D.) Embroider claws on the front of both paws.

9 Place tail and paws in position RS facing down and inwards. (See Pic F.) Place the cat's back on top, RST. Pin in place then sew around the edge with a ¼" seam allowance and a small stitch, leaving a 7cm (3") gap in the right hand side. Clip the curves and trim at the ears. Turn out through the gap – poking out the ears with knitting needle or chop stick – and press.



10 Stuff firmly, pushing stuffing well into the ears. Sew up the gap using tiny stitches.

11 Separate the two halves of the press stud and sew in place securely for the eyes.

MOUSE

12 Cut out mouse pieces from scraps of fabric. Fold up bottom edges of both mouse body pieces, press and sew to form a ¼" hem. Using a small, close zigzag stitch, sew the face to the RS of the mouse front. (See Pic F.) Embroider the nose and eyes.

13 Place two ear pieces WST and blanket stitch by hand around the curved edge. (See Pic G.) Repeat for other ear.

14 Pin mouse front and back RST. Sew along the two longer sides, leaving the top and hemmed bottom edge open. Turn RS

out and press. Fold in the raw edge at the top, tucking in the ears. Hand-sew the top edge closed, folding the ears slightly and securing them in position as you stitch. (See Pic H.) Pop the mini mouse into the cat's pocket – and smile at your handiwork!

See more of Sharon's cute critters at www.modflowers.co.uk and visit her shop at www.etsy.com/uk/shop/modflowers

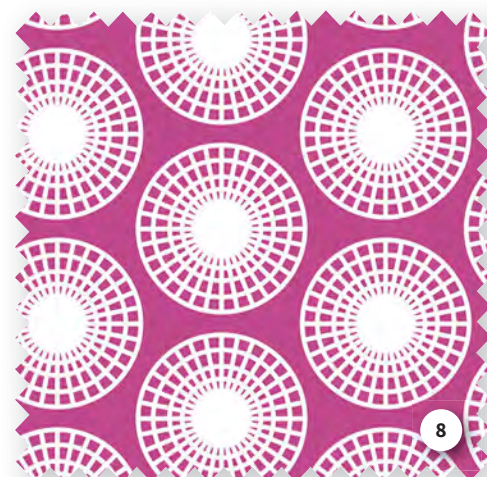
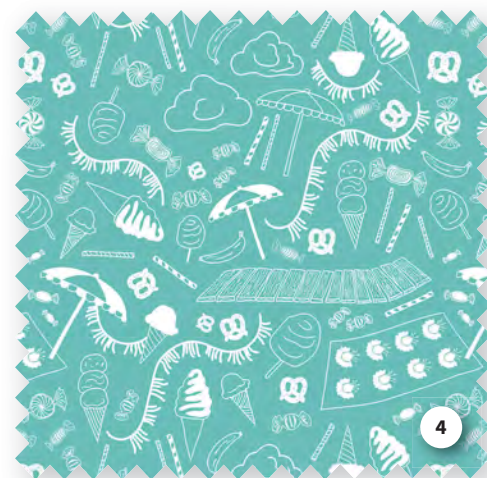
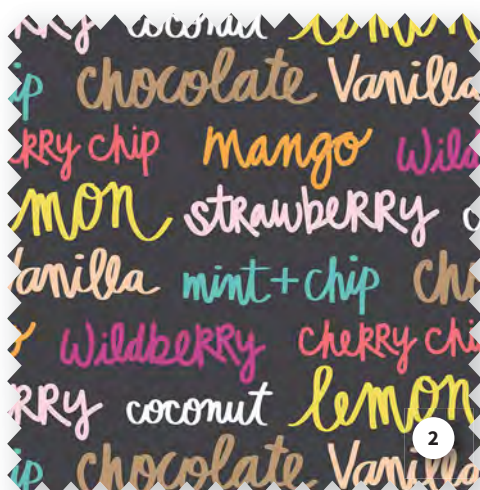
WE USED

Entryways Joyeux, Happy Home by Sew Caroline
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Window View in Spring, Happy Home by Sew Caroline for
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As seen on The Great British Sewing Bee!



Turn to
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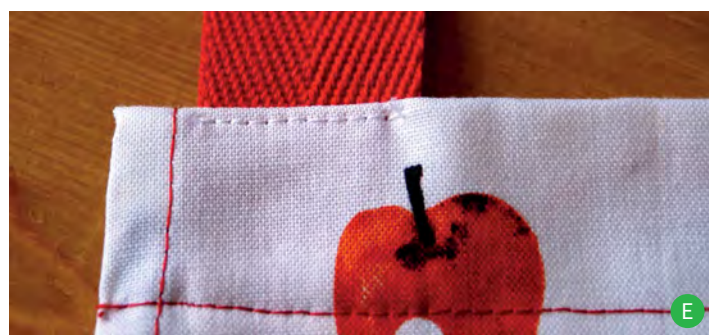




Hats off to the **CHEF SET**

Encourage little chefs to help out in the kitchen with this colourful cook's outfit

Project & photography **SARAH GLEDSON** Made by Jack's Mum



NOTES:

This pattern will fit approximately ages 3-8

Use light- to mid-weight woven fabric like quilting cotton or cotton drill

To cut the hat top you must fold your fabric into quarters and place the pattern piece so that the two straight edges are on the two folded edges. By doing this you will cut a circle

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ 65cm main fabric
- ♥ 20cm co-ordinating print/colour fabric
- ♥ 12.5cm medium-weight iron-on interfacing
- ♥ 135cm 2.5cm-wide twill tape or grosgrain ribbon
- ♥ 12cm 2.5cm-wide sew-on hook & loop tape
- ♥ co-ordinating thread

CUTTING LIST:

From main fabric, cut:
Hat top & apron pieces

From contrast fabric, cut:
Apron pocket, hat band & hat binding pieces

From interfacing, cut:
Hat band piece

How to make:

1 Mark four equal points around the edge of the hat top. Cut into the circle in a straight line, from one of these marks, stopping at the 'binding marker' on the pattern piece and attach hat binding to the edge.

2 Iron interfacing to the reverse of the hat band fabric. Fold the two short ends of the hat band under 1cm. Press. Divide the length of the band into four equal sections and mark. Sew a row of gathering stitches around the edge of the hat circle, 2mm into the seam allowance.

3 Pin the band to the hat top, RST. Start at the binding and match the three markers made in Step 2, finishing at the binding. Your band will be much shorter than the hat top at this stage. (See Pic A.) Gently pull on the gathering stitch from Step 2 to gather evenly. Pin. Sew using a 1cm seam allowance.

4 Fold up the bottom, long edge of the band 1cm. Press. Fold up the bottom of the band and match folded edge to the line of stitching, attaching to the top to enclose raw edges. Pin. (See Pic B.) Sew 1-2mm from the edge, up one short side of the band, along the long side and down the other short side.

5 Cut 6cm of hook and loop tape. Sew the hook piece to the outside of one end of the band, and the loop section to the inside of the other end of the band. (See Pic C.)

6 Fold the top edge of the apron pocket under 6mm, press, then 1cm, press again. Pin and sew.

7 Fold the three remaining raw edges of

the pocket under 1cm and press. Pin the pocket to the apron. Use the pattern as a placement guide. Sew down one short side, along the bottom and up the other short side, about 2mm from the edge.

8 Cut three 45cm lengths of twill tape. For each one, turn one raw edge over twice and stitch. Two will become apron ties and one will become the neck strap. Use apron tie placement guides and pin the raw edge of each apron tie to wrong side of the apron, with raw tie edge matching raw apron edge. Sew 2mm from the edge.

9 Fold the curved edge of the apron under 6mm and press. Fold under another 6mm and press again. Pin and sew. (See Pic D.)

10 Fold the straight sides of the apron under 6mm and press. Fold under 1cm and press again. Pin and sew.

11 Fold the bottom of the apron under 6mm and press. Fold under 25mm and press again. Pin and sew.

12 Take the neck strap and pin the raw edge to the top of the apron. Use the pattern as a placement guide. Fold the top of the apron under 6mm and press. Fold under 25mm and press again. Pin and sew. Sew the neck strap close to the edge of the apron. Repeat for waist ties. (See Pic E.)

13 Cut 6cm of the loop tape and 25mm of the hook tape. Pin. Sew the loop to the end of the neck strap and the hook to the other side of the apron top.

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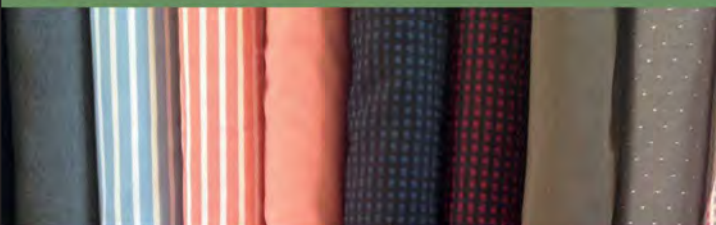
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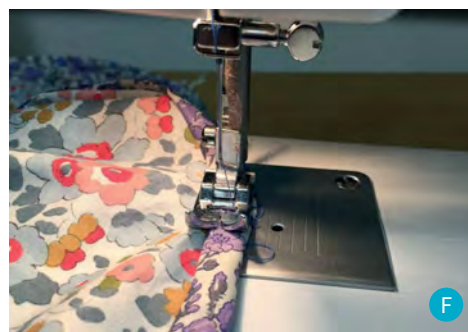
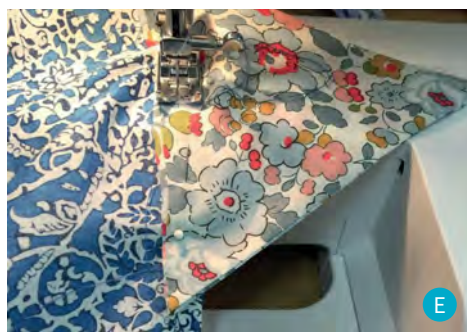
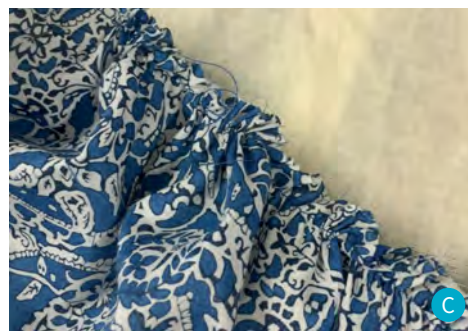
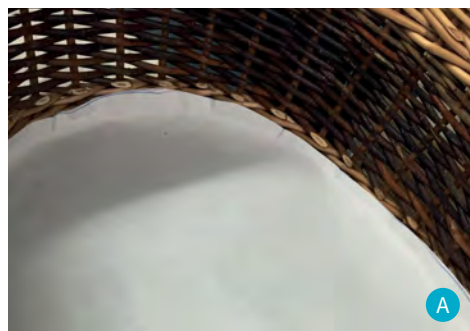


Cosy MOSES BASKET

*This simple basket lining and bed
makes a sweet gift for a sleepy baby*

Project **AMANDA RUSSELL & JULIET BAWDEN** R&B Designs
Photography **ANTONIA ATTWOOD**

COSY MOSES BASKET



NOTES:

Make your pattern before buying fabric so you can check how much you will need

Seam allowance is 1cm

Skill level ♥♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ Liberty lawn fabric in a variety of designs
- ♥ 1.2m lightweight wadding for mattress & coverlet
- ♥ blue, turquoise & white pompoms
- ♥ 2cm-wide bias binding for circumference of basket
- ♥ 5cm-wide elastic for circumference of basket base
- ♥ template paper
- ♥ co-ordinating thread

How to make:

1 Stand the basket on paper and draw round the base. Cut out the shape and place inside the basket. Press it firmly down into the bottom and draw a line just inside the edge to mark where the basket base joins the sides. This is your sewing line. (See Pic A.)

2 Measure the basket at the highest point; add 15cm for frill and 2cm seam allowance. Measure the basket circumference and double the length, adding 2cm for seam allowances. Make a rectangular pattern from these measurements. Cut an equilateral triangle paper pattern with 15cm sides.

3 Lay all pattern pieces side by side to work out the amount of fabric needed. Allow

for 34 triangle pieces to make 17 finished triangles. If making a mattress cover and coverlet, make a pattern and measure for these at the same time. The base lining pattern can be used for the mattress.

4 Lay the paper on top of the mattress and draw around. Then add a further 10cm all round. Cut the outer line to make the pattern. Pin the pattern pieces on to the fabric and, excluding triangles, cut one of each shape. Cut 34 triangles. (See Pic B.)

5 With RST, stitch short rectangle sides together. Gather one of the long sides. With RST, ease the gathered edge onto the edge of the base then sew. (See Pic C.)

6 Place the lining into the basket. Mark the handle positions with pins and cut the fabric between. Neaten raw edges with bias binding. (See Pic D.)

7 Cut 120cm bias binding with WST, fold in half lengthways and sew to make a ribbon. Cut four 30cm pieces. Sew one ribbon to the WS of the centre of each side of an opening. Tie to create a bow.

8 Make the triangles, by sewing two pieces RST on two sides. Trim seams and corners. Turn right way out and press flat. Turn under the top edge, pin and sew evenly round the lining edge. (See Pic E.) Sew pompoms to triangle ends.

9 Make a paper pattern using the basket base as a guide but add a further 10cm all round.

10 Make up three more triangles. With triangles facing inwards, sew them along one short side of the quilt.

11 With RST, sew lining fabric onto top fabric around three sides. Trim seams and corners, turn RS out, press and close the opening by over sewing. Add pompoms to the triangle ends.

12 Using your lining base pattern, cut three layers of wadding and two of fabric. Baste wadding together. With RST, sew the two pieces of fabric together all the way round, with a small gap for stuffing. Insert wadding and close the gap by oversewing.

14 Using the mattress cover pattern, cut as many covers as required. Turn under by 2mm all round to neaten. Sew bias binding round the edge, making a channel for elastic. Leave an opening to thread elastic. (See Pic F.) Place over the mattress and tie the elastic ends so it covers comfortably.

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There are four categories to enter and you can submit one photo to each for up to four chances to win.

Stitcher of the Year

1. Whatever your specialist sewing area, share your work with us. This could be your latest dressmaking, quilting, patchwork or embroidery project. Perhaps it's your favourite hand-sewn bag, home décor or cuddly toy! Anything stichy goes as long as you poured your passion into making it.

Simple Sew category

2. Are you a Simple Sew pattern superfan? Send us a photo of your finished version of any Simple Sew pattern for a chance to win. We love seeing Loretta, Ruby, Kate and Sophia, plus all the other ladies, sewn up with your own spin on things.

Homeware & accessories

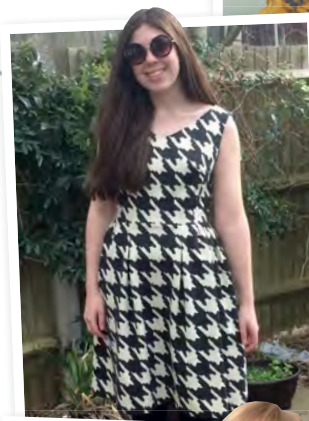
3. Do you regularly whip up new pieces for your home or wow your friends with custom-made accessories? Share your makes with us, whether they are cushions, quilts, handbags, purses or picnic blankets.

Makes for children

4. So many of our readers enjoy sewing for the little people in their lives. If you've made an adorable outfit, a much-loved toy, or special present for a young friend or relative please let us know.

What can you win?

There is a fantastic prize bundle that is currently totalling over £10,000 with machines, accessories, and course vouchers from Janome plus bonus prizes from a host of other sources including books, fabric vouchers and much more. We'll be awarding prizes to the winners and runners up of each category so everyone has a chance to win a share of the amazing prize pot.



Enter now!

To take part, send us a picture of your make with a short explanation of the pattern and supplies you used and remember to include your contact details with all entries.

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T&Cs

Contestants can enter each category for four chances to win but cannot submit the same entry to multiple categories. Entries to be received by 15th August 2016. No purchase necessary. Open to UK entrants only. The judges' decision is final.

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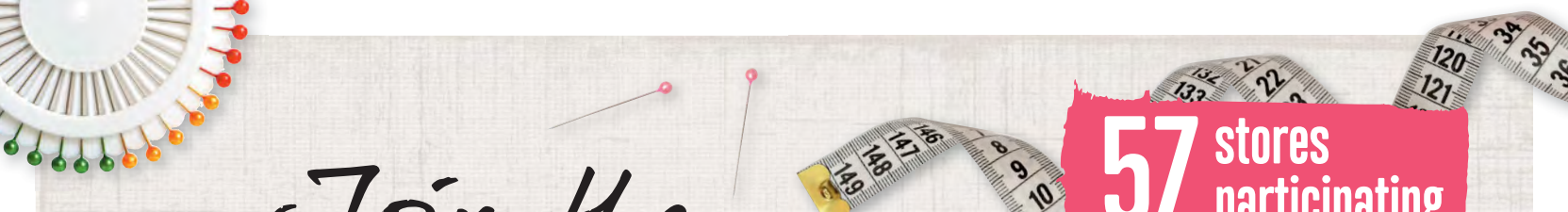
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Amy Thomas, Editor

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IDC specialises in City & Guilds Fashion and Millinery courses plus textile workshops. As part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations Jennifer Taylor, from *The Great British Sewing Bee*, has joined the team to deliver a series of sewing and pattern cutting workshops.

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Fabric focus

BLOSSOMING BEAUTY

*We're inspired by English gardens in bloom
this month with these gorgeous summery fabrics*



1 AGF Tapestry, Paper Flowers Parchment (AGFTAP82490) **2** AGF Tapestry, Eternal Elan (AGFTAP82495) **3** AGF Tapestry, Rosewood Zinc (AGFTAP72497) **4** Regency Cotton Lawn, Floral Blue, £12.50 per metre www.dragonflyfabrics.co.uk **5** Petally Sweet Cotton Voile, £15.90 per metre www.dragonflyfabrics.co.uk **6** Cloud9 Fox In The Foxgloves (C9FG150703) **7** AGF Tapestry, Stitchery Handwork (AGFTAP72500)

8 Pima Cotton Lawn, Berries Soft Pink, £12.50 per metre www.dragonflyfabrics.co.uk

To locate your nearest supplier of Cloud9 and Art Gallery Fabrics, see www.hantex.co.uk/mystockist

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We're always working hard to make *Love Sewing* the best magazine for sewists everywhere, and getting your feedback helps us to make sure we're providing you with everything you want and need!

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Make sure you get your answers in by 18th August to be in with a chance of winning!



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May Martin's MASTERCLASS

During the May Martin Masterclass hosted by Simplicity, we quizzed the former Great British Sewing Bee judge about her favourite summer patterns and her top tips for sewing jersey



During our chat with May at the Simplicity Big Blogger Meet, she shared a love for the latest trend of tops and dresses that reveal a flash of bare shoulder. She believes she's never met anyone with an unattractive shoulder but just in case you're a little shy, there are many options with sleeves for those of us uncomfortable with our arms. Here are our favourites.

Simplicity 1613

With a range of exciting (and some daring) neckline options, this pattern pack offers six stylish views to sew.

New Look 6109

Great as sports or leisurewear, you can mix and match this multigarment pattern that features four tops and two trouser designs.

Amazing fit Simplicity 1102

With a range of multi-cup and sleeve options, and different hem lengths you really will achieve the perfect fit when making this clever draped dress.



MAY'S TOP TIPS FOR SEWING JERSEY

- Be brave and **change your overlocker needles** to ballpoint or fine needles if required.
- **Create a featherstitch** or similar decorative stitch as a prettier alternative to using a twin needle for a stretch hem.
- Always set up your machine with a **matching thread weight** for the bobbin and the needle.
- **Use grey thread** in your overlocker for an easy match for a large variety of fabric colours. You can even get away with using cheap thread in your overlocker!
- May also advises **testing your stitches** on scraps of fabric. Make sure the example perfectly matches your actual sewing by practising on the right thickness, including interfacing and remembering which way the grain will sit.



"I qualified in 1972 and back then didn't have all the technical advancements we have today. For instance, they used sharp needles for everything, as there wasn't such a thing as ballpoint needles!"

The brief history of MONDRIAN & YVES ST LAURENT

Step into the wonderful world of Yves St Laurent and his stunning collection based on the primary colours and rectangular blocks of the artist Mondrian

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Yves Henri Donat Mathieu-Saint-Laurent moved to Paris, and swiftly joined the ranks of couture fashion house Dior. Thrust into the spotlight, he succeeded Christian Dior following his premature death in 1957. By 1960, Yves had moved to his own design house. He was the first to create a 'prêt-à-porter' ('ready to wear') line as well as his couture collection.

YSL was known for his love of fine art, and had an extensive collection covering a wide range of periods and styles that had important influence on his work. When Yves Saint-Laurent's mother gave him a book on Mondrian it resulted in a collection of chic dresses that looked like walking works of art.

"Mondrian is purity and one can go no further in purity in painting"
Yves Saint-Laurent

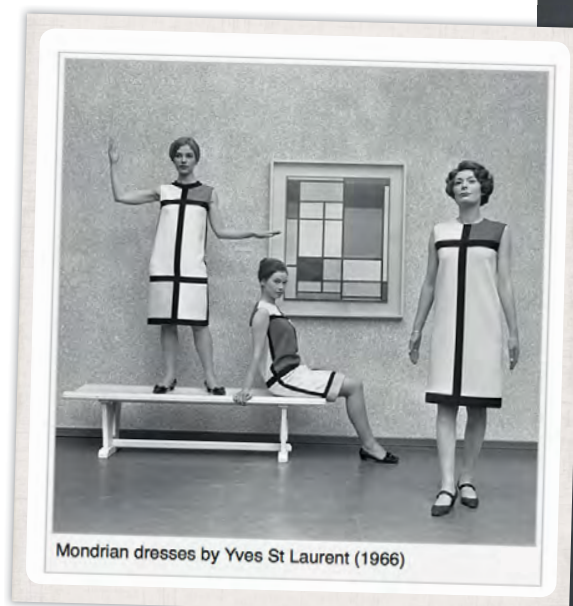
Pieter Cornelis 'Piet' Mondrian was a Dutch painter and part of the De Stijl (The Style) art movement and group. His work was focused on simplified visual compositions concentrating on the vertical and horizontal, using only black, white and primary colours, a philosophy known as neoplasticism.

"I construct lines and colour combinations on a flat surface in order to express general beauty with the utmost awareness"
Piet Mondrian, 1914

THE MONDRIAN COLLECTION

YSL's Mondrian Collection was part of a larger homage to the work of several modernistic artists but six cocktail dresses were inspired by the paintings of the artist and so the collection was named in his honour.

The six wool jersey and silk crepe A-line dresses feature graphic black lines and blocks of white and primary colour, directly referencing the work of Mondrian. Like the painter's own canvases, the dresses were far more complex than they seemed. The technique was complex and required



TIMELINE

1910s

In 1912, Mondrian moved to Paris and threw himself into the thriving creative scene. 1917 was the beginning of his key period of creativity and expression of modernist iconic art.

1930s

While working for Hermès in Paris, French designer Lola Prusac designed a range of luggage and bags inspired by the latest works of Mondrian with inlays of red, blue, and yellow leather squares.



1960s

Yves Saint-Laurent's Mondrian collection proved so popular that it inspired a range of imitations that encompassed

garments from coats to boots. In 1965 one of the six designs appeared on the cover of French Vogue and cheaper, copycat versions in similar bold geometric designs appeared across the high street.

1980s

The La Vie Claire cycling team's bicycles and clothing designs were inspired by Mondrian's work throughout the 1980s. The French ski and bicycle equipment manufacturer LOOK, which also sponsored the team, used a Mondrian-inspired logo. The style was revived in 2008 for a limited edition frame.



2010s

In 2014 we were able to see more of the man behind the designs in the biopic *Yves Saint-Laurent*. The film includes scenes depicting the inspiration and execution of the Mondrian dresses.

Sew the look!

Save 50% on the limited edition Vogue 1557 new hack with our exclusive code. See page 92 for details



Vogue Pattern Fashion News, February 1966. Image from the Vintage Goddess blog

precision cutting and work-intensive haute couture techniques to achieve successfully, making the dresses expensive.

Rather than being printed, the dresses were made of pre-dyed fabric, each colour in their design being an individual piece of fabric. Saint-Laurent experimented with the interplay of lines by integrating them in the seams of the garment, hiding all the shaping in the illusion of a seam-free construction. The weight of the fabric used ensured the dresses hung straight, without draping or movement to distort the simplicity of the effect – features that enhanced the theme of the designs.

STRAIGHT FROM PARIS TO YOU!

Yves Saint-Laurent made it possible for many woman to wear a real 'designer garment' with his ready-to-wear line but the Vogue Pattern Company published several of his designs which were perfect for home dressmakers to replicate the catwalk looks.

In 1949, Vogue Patterns announced 'A New Pattern Service – Paris Original Models, Chosen From The Collections'. The cover of that year's April/May pattern book showed photographs of the styles chosen from the eight featured countries, among them Balmain, Schiaparelli, Lanvin and Jaques Fath.

It was the first time originals from the Paris couture had been duplicated in pattern form. Vogue Patterns became the only pattern company licensed to produce designs from the world leading couturiers, establishing a precedent that continues today. Yves Saint-Laurent, along with Hubert de Givenchy, was among the company's best sellers during their publication.

As seen on
The Great British
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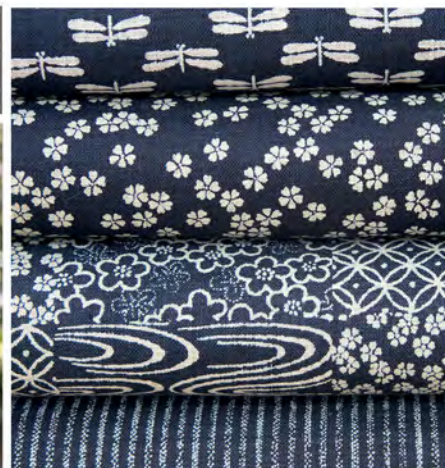
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Couture Sewing with ALISON SMITH MBE

Hemming sheer fabric



Make your garment look perfect from top to bottom with Alison Smith MBE's guide to hemming sheer fabric

With prom and bridal season upon us, hem finishes on sheer fabric such as chiffon and georgette may need to be added to your skill set.

The problem with these fabrics is that everything you do shows! At times, these hems can also seem to be impossible to level, so put the garment on your dress form and measure up from the floor and mark with pins rather than chalk before trimming. Then you'll be ready to try one of these hem finishes.



FAUX TINY HEM

You can use your machine to sew a tiny hem without making things difficult for yourself. Turn up the hem allowance 0.5mm less than required, so if you have a 2cm hem allowance, turn up 1.5cm. Pin and then machine-sew very close (0.2mm) to the folded edge. Trim back the surplus hem allowance with duck billed or embroidery scissors. Now turn up again, using your first row of stitching as a guide. Pin and machine-stitch again on top of the existing row of stitching. Press, and the result is a lovely narrow hem that has a bit of weight.



SHELL HEM

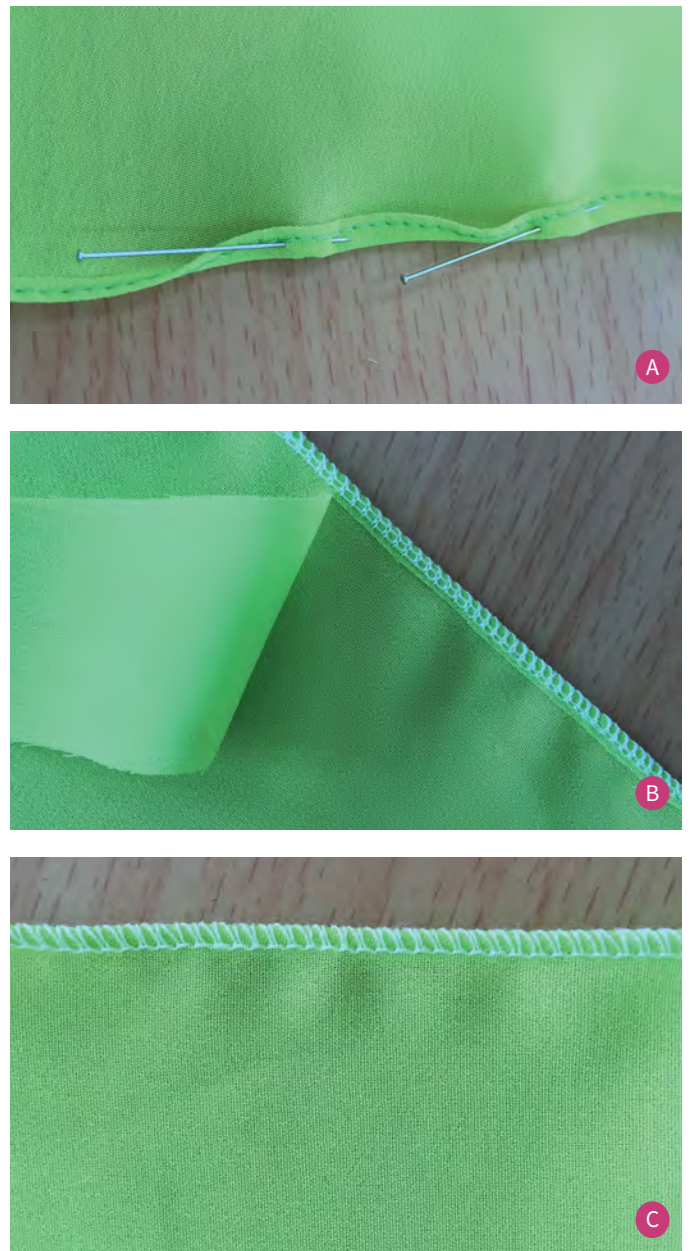
This is a hem that is often overlooked, but it can look so pretty on a prom dress or a bridesmaid's dress. It takes a bit of practice though. Reduce the hem allowance to 1.5cm and overlock off the edge. Pin the hem up and set your sewing machine to the shell hem stitch. You will have to check your manual for the stitch and the foot to use, as you need to make sure that, when the stitch swings to the right, it comes just off the folded edge.

Work this stitch through the hem from the right side of the fabric as this will give the better quality stitch.



ROLLED HEMS

The overlocker really comes into its own with rolled hems on chiffon-style fabric. However, you may find that the rolled hem can sometimes pull off the edge. To stop this from happening, try this technique. Turn up the hem allowance and press. Put your overlocker onto the rolled hem settings with the blade active and working from the RS, stitch a rolled hem through the double fabric; trim fabric as you go. On the WS trim back any surplus hem fabric that shows. If you don't have an overlocker you can purchase rolled hem machine feet that will fold and stitch the hem in one movement, but beware these require practice and steady attention as you feed the fabric into the foot.



WIN A SEW WARDROBE BELLA PATTERN!

We're super excited about Alison Smith MBE's new range of independent dressmaking patterns called Sew Wardrobe. To celebrate, we've got a gorgeous Bella dress pattern to give away this issue. To find out more about Bella and the other fabulous patterns in the collection, see www.sewwardrobe.co.uk and visit www.ppjump.com/lovesewing29 to enter before 18th August 2016



Perhaps you'll begin to enjoy sewing your chiffon and georgette fabric! I'm sure the Chelsea blouse would look fabulous on a chiffon or georgette – perfect for practising these techniques.

Alison



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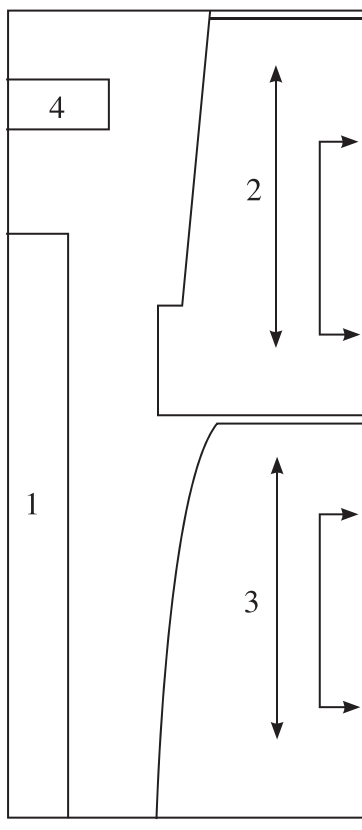
How to... Read a dressmaking pattern

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.



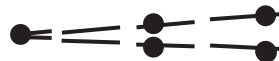
GRAINLINE

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.



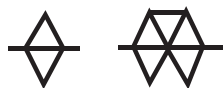
PLACE ON FOLD LINE

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 here

LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN LINE

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



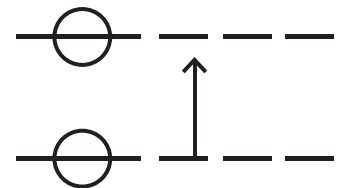
CIRCLE DOTS

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: *Coverstitch Special*

This month we're focusing on overlocking and coverstitching with a review of four fantastic machines from Pfaff, Husqvarna Viking, Janome and Elna

BEST FOR USER-FRIENDLINESS

Pfaff Coverlock 3.0

The clean design of this sleek and efficient overlocker is characteristic of German company Pfaff. This 5-, 4-, 3- or 2-thread machine comes with a wealth of handy, user-friendly functions to save you time and stress, and there's a generous 23 stitches to choose from, so you can trim, stitch, overcast and decorate in half the time, meaning you can do twice as much sewing!

The machine's large sewing space is enhanced by the Plexiglas extension table that comes with it, which adds an additional 18" to your workspace and makes it possible to work confidently on larger projects.

Find your nearest stockist at www.pfaff.com/en-gb



BEST FOR DRESSMAKERS

Husqvarna Huskylock S21

Husqvarna Viking machines are famous for their ergonomic design, and this 2-, 3- or 4-thread overlocker is no exception with innovative features at every turn. Your accompanying Threading Guide DVD provides animated step-by-step instructions to make threading a breeze, while a large sewing space accommodates bigger projects and electronic speed control enables you to overlock at any speed with full needle piercing power.

The 21 built-in stitch options include decorative stitches, and the four coverstitch options can be used for even the most stretchy fabric, making this a fantastic machine for sewing dresses and other garments with jersey or other stretch fabric.

Find your nearest stockist at www.husqvarnaviking.com/en-GB



BEST FOR THE ADVENTUROUS SEWIST

Janome 2000CPX CoverPro

This long arm, heavy duty coverstitch-only machine sews at high speed while looking and operating like a sewing machine. Its design wedges industrial capability with domestic convenience, so you'll find all of the functions you need for fast and simple sewing in familiar places.

The fabulous innovative features that will be less familiar (but that we guarantee will be very welcome) include Janome's unique Seam Tightening System (STS) and Tension Level Control (TLC) for use with fine fabric. The CoverPro's differential feed ratio is adjustable from 0.05 to 2.25mm, so there's scope for exceptional control and the creation of a whole host of special effects.

Find your nearest stockist at www.janome.co.uk



BEST FOR QUILTING AND HOMEWARE

Elna 444 Coverstitch Sewing Machine

This dedicated coverstitcher has 14 stitch options, three needles and a wide triple-cover hem stitch. It is designed around a sewing machine rather than as an overlocker, meaning it has a generous amount of arm space to handle bulkier projects (perfect for quilters and for bigger sews for your home) and a freearm facility.

The 444's different settings can handle a whole range of fabric, from the finest Lycra to the sturdiest tweed and configuration couldn't be easier – with a flick of a switch you can automatically adjust the tightness of the looper thread to suit your needs.

Find your nearest stockist at www.elna.com/en-gb

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Spaces are limited so please sign up in good time for this beautiful Block of the Month Quilt

This BOM will begin in April 2016 and run for 6 months at a cost of £18 per month. So a total of 6 Months x £18 plus Sign Up Fee £18 = £126 Postage and Packing FREE. Kits will include patterns and all fabrics needed to complete the top and binding. The finished quilt is approximately 120cm X 156cm quilt.



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Sewing workshops

Book yourself in to one of this month's top workshops and expand your sewing horizons!

Notionberry

Toddington, Bedfordshire

This friendly sewing and craft café brings together a cosy and inviting tearoom with a haberdashery stocking fabric and craft kits. Sewing, knitting and crochet workshops run regularly for all ages.

www.notionberry.co.uk

01525 874253



21st July

Free-motion embroidery

Learn a fantastic technique that can be used for quilting, freehand designs or to create unique appliqué finishes. This class covers sewing simple designs using the correct machine foot and dropping the feed dogs.

Cost: £39

26th July

Lampshade making

In this workshop, you'll learn to accurately measure and cut fabric to attach to a fire-resistant backing, which will form the basis of your own bespoke drum lampshade.

Cost: £40

13th August

Introduction to zips & trimmings

Hone the fiddly but essential skills you need for a professional finish such as inserting zips and using piping. You'll finish with a unique handmade cushion to take home.

Cost: £45



20th August

Introduction to machine sewing

Mystified by your machine? Join this class to learn the basics, from threading to understanding and using different stitches, and complete a gorgeous set of coasters in a fabric of your choice.

Cost: £30

27th August

Simple envelope cushion

This class is perfect for beginners wanting to take on an easy project. Learn to thread the machine, pivot around corners and measure correctly, as well as inserting a buttonhole.

Cost: £39

Sew Creative

Petersfield, Hampshire

Stocking fine fabric for quilting, dressmaking and home crafting as well as accessories, notions and kits, this shop runs friendly and inspiring workshops led by highly skilled and enthusiastic tutors for everyone from absolute beginners to seasoned sewists.

www.sewcreative.co.uk

01730 858020



29th July

Introduction to modern quilting

Sew a table runner in this beginner's quilting and patchwork workshop and learn precision cutting, piecing, stitching, using wadding and binding.

Cost: £55

29th July

Love your sewing machine

This class for beginners covers all the basics of using your own sewing machine, including threading, bobbin winding, tension, and stitch length and variety.

Cost: £20

30th July

Sewing with stretch

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

Cost: £60

10th August

Appliqué art

Introduce yourself to textile art and learn appliqué and free-machine stitching to create your own unique picture.

Cost: £40

18th August, 25th August & 1st September

Three-week dressmaking course

Learn all of the techniques required to create a skirt, dress or trousers of your choice, working with a tutor who will help you to ensure a perfect fit.

Cost: £100

20th August

Shift dress

Make a fabulous made-to-measure shift dress and learn pattern cutting, darts, zip insertion, facing and how to use an overlocker.

Cost: £70

Sew Pretty

Wimbledon Park, London

Feeling creative? Want to become a designer or maybe just try something different? Sew Pretty is a creative sewing studio where everyone can learn to sew, with classes and workshops running all the time for adults and children of all abilities.

www.sewpretty.me.uk

07714 252660

22nd July

Pyjama making class

Making your own pyjama bottoms has many benefits! Join this fun class to master a range of techniques and make a perfect pair of PJs for yourself, your partner or for a little one in your life.

Cost: £45

10th August

Cushion making beginner's class

Learn to use a sewing machine from scratch in this fun and relaxing class and finish your own stylish overlap cushion.

Cost: £40



Dot To Dot Studio

This inspiring and sociable sewing school in East Sussex offers a range of excellent dressmaking classes and sewing workshops for adults, children and teenagers. Expert tutors encourage and enable students to create beautiful clothes that are handmade not homemade!

www.dottodotstudio.co.uk

01825 841311

From 1st & 30th August

Three-day craft festival for kids and teens

A fantastic three days of workshops in sewing, felt making, tie-dye, bleach stencilling, and machine embroidery. Create a unique festival-ready outfit and learn loads of new skills.

Cost: £200-£240

22nd August-2nd September

Kids' holiday sewing club

This fantastic crafty club is the perfect holiday activity for children aged 7-12. You can sign kids up for full days from 10am until 4.45pm or morning or afternoon half days. Materials included.

Cost: £24 for a half day or £48 for a full day

22nd-26th August

Young designers: Teenage sewing club

This club for teens aged 13-18 focuses on sewing machine skills, making clothes, using patterns and learning more advanced sewing techniques.

Cost: £150 including materials

Dressmaking courses

Sew Pretty runs comprehensive four-week dressmaking courses for beginners, intermediates and advanced sewists. The start dates are:

Beginners' dressmaking: 27th August

Intermediate dressmaking: 13th September

Advanced dressmaking: 7th September

Cost: £140



25th July & 18th August

Appliqué cushion or tote bag

This is a great one-day workshop for kids and teens who are a little shy about making clothes. Create your own appliqué design using a range of techniques and then turn it into a cushion or a tote bag. Brilliant for both boys and girls!

Cost: £65

From 8th & 22nd August

Summer sundress or playsuit: three-day workshop for kids and teens

We'll show you how to adapt your pattern to include your own design ideas. This course is perfect for the budding fashion designer – a chance to create a unique summer one-piece! This is the course that started it all for the studio's star student and Sewing Bee contestant Jade.

Cost: £180



17th July & 21st August

Sunday sewing

Once a month the studio offers a full day of blissful Sunday sewing. This is the perfect opportunity to really get stuck into your sewing project. With class numbers limited to four people, there is plenty of space to spread out. Expert help and advice is on hand all day so you can really get the most out of your time.

Cost: £65

Year Round

Adult weekly sewing classes

We offer evening and morning classes all year round. Our small classes and flexible booking structure enable students to learn at their own pace and bring their own project. So if you just want to get to grips with a sewing machine and learn basic techniques, or you'd like to tackle something as ambitious as a wedding dress, this class will be perfect for you.

Cost: £20



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DISCOUNTS & GIVEAWAYS

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

WIN a dressmaking bundle from Hantex

This month's project inspiration prize bundle from Hantex brings together Alison Glass's Woven Essentials pattern collection with all of the wonderful Frou Frou Fleuri fabric and accessories you'll need to make your own gorgeously floral summer dress.

Woven Essentials walks you through the dressmaking process to ensure you achieve the perfect fit for your body, and there's plenty of advice on modification so you can create an entire wardrobe of beautiful pieces.

Three winners will each receive Woven Essentials by Alison Glass along with three metres of Fleuri fabric, 10 18mm and 10 25mm buttons, bias tape, spaghetti cord, iron-on ribbon, and a stunning storage case to keep everything in order! Each bundle is worth £120. To find more fabulous inspiration from Hantex, and to locate a stockist, check out www.hantex-europe.com/alisonglass

HOW TO ENTER

For a chance to win one of these prizes, enter your details, along with the name of the product you want to win, at

www.ppjump.com/lovesewing29

T&C: By entering these competitions, you accept that your email address may be passed on to sponsors for marketing activities. Closing date: 18th August 2016

£360
of goodies to win!



20% dressmaking discount at Abakhan

Pad out your stash this month with a fantastic 20% discount on dressmaking supplies when you enter the code **ABAKHAN20** at www.abakhan.co.uk before you check out! You have Abakhan's extensive selection of fabulous dressmaking fabric to choose from, which includes lace, chiffon and organza, satin, cotton and much more! Make sure you get in there quick! This exclusive discount will run for a limited time only, so bag your bargains by 31st July!

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WIN a set of Hemline snaps and fastenings

Five lucky winners this month will receive a set of Hemline snaps and fastenings, perfect for a whole range of dress and garment making projects! Hemline products are available from craft, haberdashery and sewing stockists. For stockist information, email groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk



WIN tickets to the Knitting & Stitching Show

The Knitting & Stitching Show is back this autumn with its flagship show at Alexandra Palace in October and we've got five pairs of tickets to give away this issue. This show is a dream for any stitcher, with a packed schedule of workshops and exhibitions and of course plenty of opportunities to shop! To find out more about October's exciting show, head to www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com/london



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Do you fancy getting your hands on the fabulous Vogue 1557 Mondrian Dress pattern for half price? If the answer is yes (and why would it be anything else?) then grab your phone and call the Sew Direct hotline, quoting the code **LOVEV1557**. The code is valid until 15th August and lines are open Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm and Friday 8am-1pm.

This discount is not available online.

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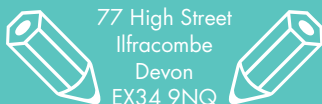
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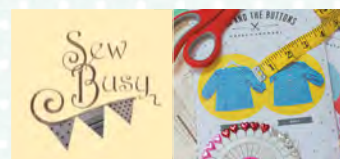
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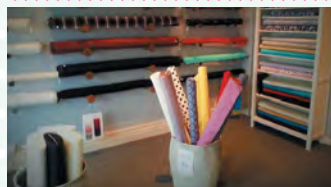
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Shop of the month

BLACK MOUNTAIN FABRIC *Abergavenny*

We caught up with Andrea Knight and Rachael Jones of the friendly Black Mountain Fabric shop in Monmouthshire this month to hear a bit about the latest exciting goings on

Hi there! To start at the beginning, tell us a bit about Black Mountain Fabric and the team

I initially set up Black Mountain Fabric from home and we started selling by travelling to a few of the local shows such as Bristol and Malvern, but my little cabin was soon full to bursting so last June we took the plunge into the high-street retail world! The team is just me and my daughter, Rachael. I have always been into sewing and I have a serious love of fabric! Rachael is relatively new to the sewing world – she has always been creative, but is now honing her talents whilst managing the store.

What sets you apart as a shop?

We pride ourselves on our customer service. There is no task or question too large or small, whether you're looking to match some thread to a fabric or need help working out a pattern. We love to talk about your latest projects, admire the fabric with you and inspire you with our displays and workshops!



Tell us about the different fabric you stock – any personal favourites?

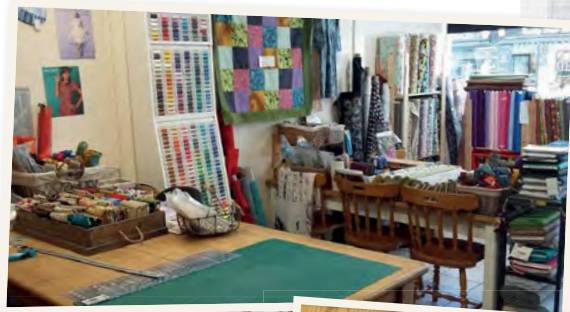
We stock a variety of 100% cotton, mainly from America and Japan, and always make sure to only stock fabric that we would be happy to use ourselves. We have expanded into dressmaking and craft, with a selection of wide cotton, jersey and much more. My personal favourites are the ones in the gold overlay collection. We started with these and are now known for having an excellent selection of these luxurious and enchanting designs.

What can customers expect when visiting your store?

Our visitors can expect to be greeted with a friendly smile and encouraged to spend time looking through our treasure trove of a shop! Every time you visit, we will have something new – we are constantly changing, expanding and creating new things.

What are the best and most challenging things about running a fabric shop?

The best thing is having access to thousands of different fabrics. Every time I see a rep to place an order it's like being in fabric heaven! It's hard only choosing a small selection of what's on offer! We also love talking to new crafters, encouraging them to take on a new project, or learn a new skill through our workshops. The most challenging aspect is predicting what our customers will like. Everyone's tastes are different, which is the main reason our range is so eclectic!



Is there anything exciting coming up that you'd like to tell our readers about?

We're very excited about our new catalogue of workshops, which has only just been released. With more buzz than ever before, we are predicting sell-out events!

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Upcoming workshops at Black Mountain Fabric!

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8th September: Beginner's Machine Sewing
See www.blackmountainfabric.co.uk
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EXPERT GUIDANCE FROM CLAIRE-LOUISE HARDIE ♥ IN-DEPTH TECHNIQUES FROM ALISON SMITH MBE

30-minute make PLEATED COIN PURSE

This design brings a crafty classic into modern times. The charming metal frame purse features sweetly appealing pleating

Project **KARYN VALINO** Make Something

NOTES:

Finished size: Approximately 4½x5"

All seam allowances are ¼"

Skill level ♥

MATERIALS:

- ♥ FQ midweight cotton for purse exterior
- ♥ FQ cotton print for lining
- ♥ 2 6x7" scraps wadding
- ♥ 4x2½" curved metal purse frame with sewing holes
- ♥ glue that bonds to both fabric and metal
- ♥ awl or similar tool
- ♥ nylon pliers
- ♥ water-soluble chalk

CUTTING:

Midweight cotton: Cut 2 pieces from exterior template; mark notches and fold lines

Cotton print: Cut 2 pieces from lining/wadding template; mark notches

Wadding: Cut 2 pieces from lining/wadding template

How to make:

OUTER PURSE

1 Fold an exterior piece along the left fold line, RS facing up. Match the fold to the left match line. Pin the pleat in place at the top and bottom. Do the same with the right fold and match lines. Repeat with the other exterior piece.

2 Press the pleats flat. Stitch the pleats down, starting at the top of the fold line and sewing 1" down, very close to the folded edge. Then sew up 1" from the bottom of the fold line, very close to the folded edge. Repeat for each pleat.

3 Align and pin the exterior pieces, RST. Start at the right side notch and sew downward, along the bottom edge to the left side notch, leaving the top curve open. Clip the curves on the seam allowance. Turn the purse RS out. Smooth out the seam allowance from the inside and press flat.

LINING

4 Baste a wadding piece to the WS of a lining piece with a ⅛" seam allowance. Repeat for the other side.

5 Align and pin the lining pieces, RST. Sew between the notches leaving the top curve open and an opening in the lower edge of the lining for turning.

ASSEMBLY

6 Slip the purse exterior (RS facing out) into the lining (WS facing out), so they are RST. Line up all the raw edges along the top curves on each side and pin in place. Sew one side of the purse at a time; starting from a side notch, sew around the top curve to the other side notch. Repeat on the other side.

7 Clip the curves. Then turn the purse RS out through the lining opening and carefully press out the curves.

8 Sew the lining opening closed by hand or machine.

9 Press flat each side of the purse's top curve.

FRAME

10 Put glue along the inside of one side of the metal purse frame. Carefully slide one side of the purse top curved opening into the metal frame. Use an awl to push the fabric into the frame on all sides. Wipe away any excess glue. Let this dry for 5-10 minutes before repeating with the other side.

11 Using a pair of nylon pliers (or cover metal pliers with tape or foam so you don't scratch the frame), pinch the frame near the hinge, on both sides, to secure the frame in place.

12 Allow the glue to dry completely, at least 24 hours, before using the coin purse.



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Amy Thomas

Welcome to the *Simple Sew* style guide

I'm very happy to share this special guide, packed full of new patterns, fabric inspiration and top tips. You'll know and love the *Simple Sew* brand from your free pattern gifts we include with *Love Sewing* but now you can try out exclusive new designs through the retail collection as well as pick up any patterns you may have missed from early issues of the magazine.

Have a look at the fabulous summer collection or take advantage of the **25% discount** on the *Love Sewing* collection and we're sure *Simple Sew* will jump to the top of your must-make pile. Without further ado, let me hand you over to **Claire Garside**, who you may know better as founder and lead designer at *Simple Sew*.

Amy_x

Editor, *Love Sewing*

Dear readers,

I had one thing in mind when I launched *Simple Sew* – to create an accessible brand that would inspire beginner sewists to create a wonderful handmade wardrobe of clothes.

As an avid dressmaker myself, I was so bored with generic high-street fashion, and I wanted to sew garments that fit me perfectly. You can trust *Simple Sew* patterns to help you gain confidence and grow your skills. We design garments that let you showcase your confidence and sense of style; perfectly suited to your lifestyle and personality.

This guide has been designed to let you discover what we've been busy working on at *Simple Sew HQ* over the recent months. I can't wait to see what you think of our new collections and find out which ones are your favourite patterns.

Claire

Founder, *Simple Sew Patterns*



Claire Garside

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Simple sew



Wein

A YEAR'S WORTH OF PATTERNS FROM SIMPLE SEW

We have one amazing bundle of 28 Simple Sew patterns to be won worth over £290!

If you like the look of the Simple Sew pattern styles showcased in this style guide then now's your chance to get your hands on every single one of them for free! Simple Sew is offering an amazing prize bundle for one lucky dressmaker, which consists of every single style in the Simple Sew retail collection. This includes all five premium patterns in the Dress Edit and the brand-new Contemporary Collection, plus you'll also be the first to receive the Summer Collection patterns, hot off the press.

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The Cara Jumpsuit
#SR07 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
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Behind the scenes with **CLAIRE** **GARSIDE!**

We caught up with Simple Sew founder and lead designer Claire to find out about the inspiration and ethos behind the brand

Hi! How are you doing today?

Hello! I'm very good thank you – our latest patterns have just been released so I am very excited! Over on page 10 you can get a first look at our exciting summer designs, including my personal favourite, the Lizzie dress.

What's on your sewing table at the moment?

Currently I'm sewing up a new style for our autumn/winter release, it's called the 'Cocoon Dress' and I am making it with some gorgeous organic wool fabric I have in my fabric stash. It's so funny to be sewing autumn garments in summer, but I've got to stay ahead!

So tell us a bit about Simple Sew! How did it come to be?

Simple Sew patterns came about because I was so intimidated with the commercial patterns that were available when I started sewing in my mid 30s. I was teaching myself and I just could not get my head around all the markings and complicated instructions. So the idea behind Simple Sew was just as the name suggests – to launch an accessible brand that would inspire beginner sewists to create with confidence.





Left: Claire discussing a toile with the team. Right: Claire sews with her daughter Ruby

What is the inspiration and philosophy behind the brand?

The inspiration was simply my desire to sew my own wardrobe in the exact size I needed it. I was also so bored with the generic and unimaginative styles and throwaway culture that came along with high-street fashion, and I wanted to distance myself from that sense of constant consumption. The philosophy of Simple Sew is to provide sewists with patterns that they can trust and grow with as a home stitcher, to enable them to gain confidence not only in their sewing skills, but also in body confidence and creating their own sense of style to reflect their lifestyle and personality.

How do you approach the design process?

I believe that our designs need to reach out to as many people as possible. We all have so many different aspects of our lives and personalities that I want people to look at our collections and think "Yes, there's something in here for any occasion or mood I am in", whether it's the school run on a Monday morning, a work outfit, a party dress or a picnic with family and friends in the park. We aim to have a style for every situation that the modern person finds themselves in and for the lifestyle they choose to live.

Tell us a bit more about the individual collections – how were the patterns selected and grouped together?

Well, we have the Capsule Collection, which is all about being able to create a working wardrobe from well-designed classic styles. The Palazzo trousers can be paired with the Peter Pan blouse, and worn with the Trench coat, the Trench coat can be worn with the Raglan or Batwing dress, the Batwing Dress can be made as jumper and paired with the high-waisted skirt or the Palazzo trousers and the Trench coat... well, you get the idea! It was all about creating a whole range of outfits from a classic set of patterns. The Trench coat has to be the simplest way to make your own coat, which makes it completely accessible to a beginner sewist. The Dress Edit was very self-indulgent and a beautiful collection to work on. I wanted a definitive set of dress patterns that would be a go-to collection, the sheer variety of combinations with the full set would keep any woman in dresses for the rest of her life!

What would you recommend for beginners just getting started?

First of all, I would suggest getting a variable speed sewing machine! From there, everything else is easy. We will be selling Beginner Start Up sewing kits soon on our

website with every tool that the eager beginner needs to sew with confidence. As far as patterns go, the best pattern to try would be the Charlotte or Trudy dress, as these patterns provide a very easy introduction to every technique needed to make most garments.

And for those with more experience, which patterns present a bit of a juicy challenge?

The Jumpsuit is fun as it has an integral drawstring waist to negotiate, I love this pattern! The best way to boost your skills is to try a pattern you're comfortable with in a more complicated fabric – why not try working with slippery silk to make a dramatic party dress?

We love the video tutorials on the website – is there more to come in terms of tips and tricks?

Yes! We have a lot more pattern tutorials and hints and tips on tricky techniques to come, plus we'll be sharing sneak peeks of upcoming patterns and from time to time we'll take you behind the scenes at our photoshoots. So be sure to keep in touch by visiting our website at www.simplesewpatterns.com, where you can sign up for our newsletter, and join us on social media for alerts as to when we have new tutorial content available.



Do you have any personal pattern favourites?

I love Trudy as she is so flattering for my body shape, and I also particularly love the Trench coat. It's so hard with every new collection as I feel like I have a different favourite every day!

Thank you for your time! We love what we've seen so far and can't wait to see what's to come!

Keep in touch at...
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Discover the SUMMER COLLECTION

Summer is a wonderful time to be a dressmaker, as it's the perfect time for lighter fabrics, which are a dream to sew with. The Simple Sew summer collection is designed to give you a range of looks to take you from weddings to picnics and the beach

THE LIZZIE DRESS

#SR17, Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS BEGINNER

Lovers of vintage or classic designs will adore the shapely lines of the Lizzie dress. A princess-seamed bodice gives you a flattering silhouette and flattering waistline, and satisfying-to-stitch box pleats add interest and volume to the lovely feminine skirt. This style works well with a wide range of lightweight summer fabric, from light-to-mid-weight cotton, Tana lawn, chambray, silk or even lightweight linen. If you've yet to give pleating a go, it's a great pattern to boost your skills on too!

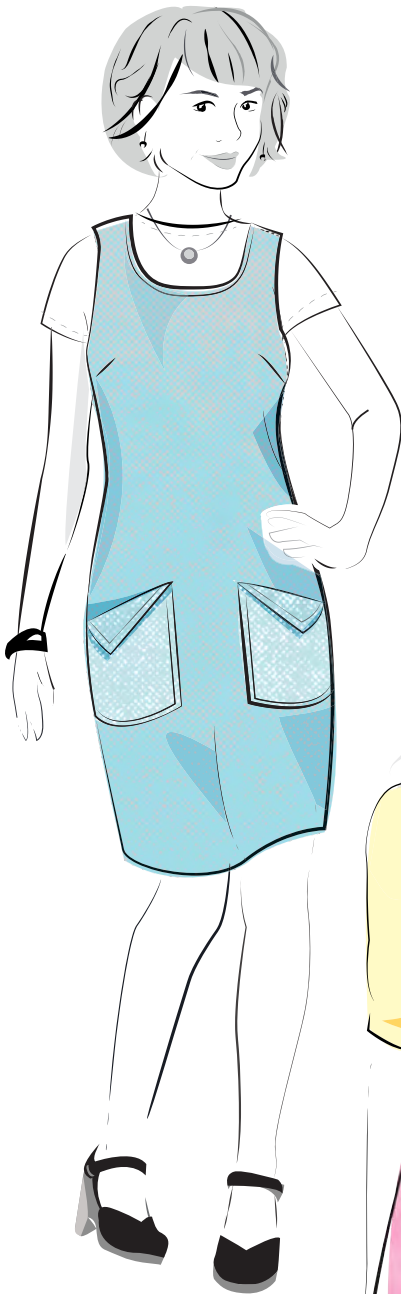
OUT
NOW



THE NICOLE DRESS

#SR19, Sizes 6-20
BEGINNER

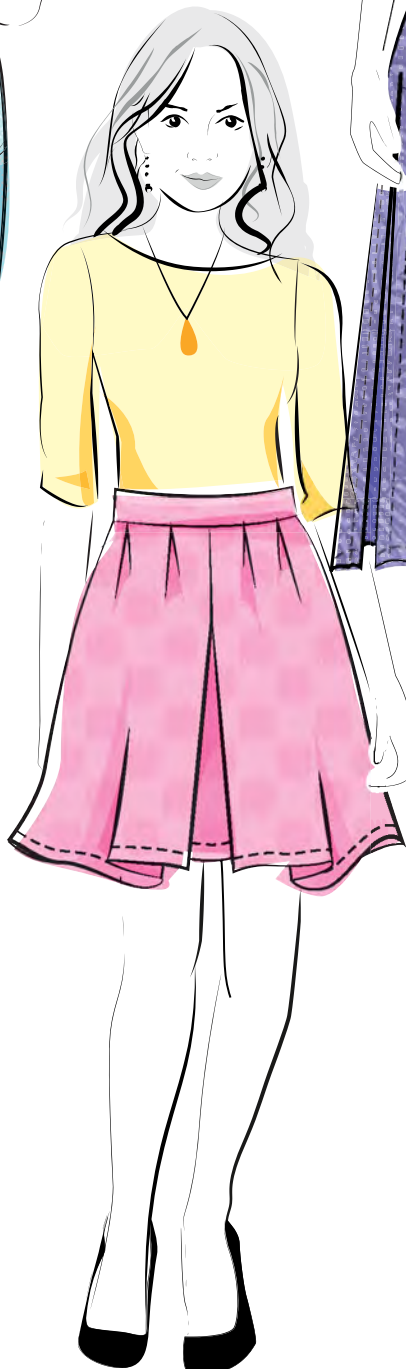
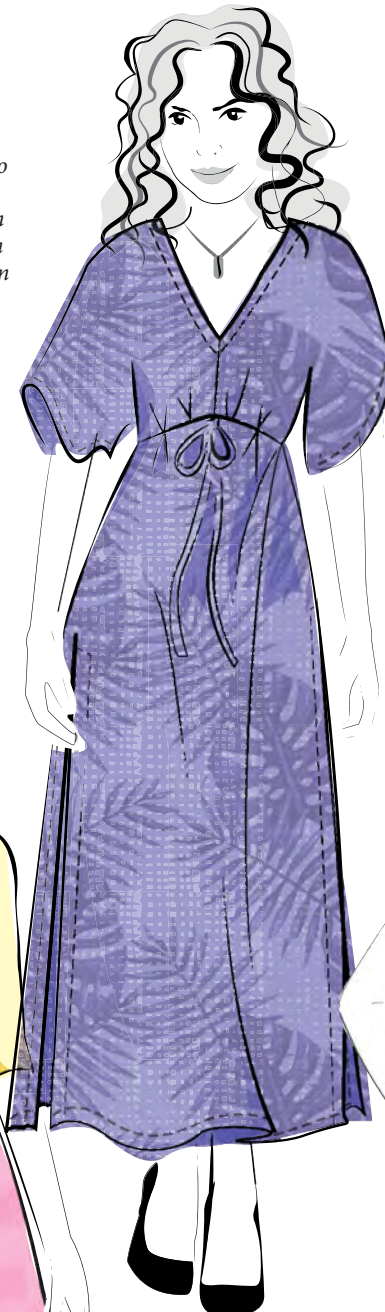
Shift dresses will never go out of fashion, and this simple yet striking design will be a pattern you can make up again and again in a range of fabric. The standout features of this dress are the statement pockets with folded corners, which are both pretty and functional.



THE KAFTAN DRESS & TOP

#SR18, Sizes 6-20
BEGINNER

This versatile pattern can be made up in a range of ways to suit your needs and style. There are options for making the kaftan as a maxi-length dress and as a simple top. Its drawstring waist and split side seams make it a comfortable summer dress for every day, but it could equally be made in a floaty light fabric as a beach cover up. It's super simple to shorten too, if you'd prefer a mid-length rather than maxi skirt.



THE KEIRA SKIRT

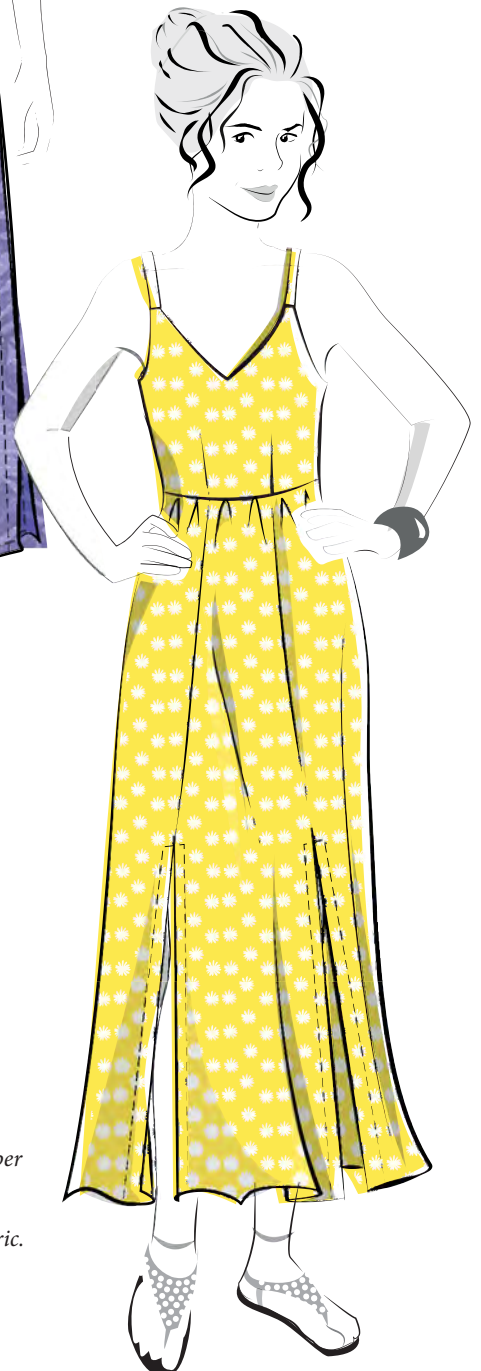
#SR20, Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER

If you're looking for a break from summer dresses then the short and flirty Keira skirt might be just what you're looking for. Inverted pleats and a lining give the half-circle skirt wonderful volume and bounce without weighing you down.

THE SERENA MAXI DRESS

#SR16, Sizes 6-18
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER

You'll be well prepared for the summer sun with the beautiful style of the Serena maxi dress. With a simple gathered waist, shirred back panel and split-seamed skirt, it's super comfortable for warmer weather and perfect for showing off stunning fabric.



Pattern SIZING GUIDE

Getting a good fit with Simple Sew patterns couldn't be easier

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY FIT?

One of the many reasons people choose to sew their own garments is to achieve the best fit possible. To help you reach that goal, all Simple Sew patterns are designed with British dress sizes in mind, and there's no size-altering ease built in – the size you sew is the size the garment will be.

Simple Sew patterns show finished garment measurements, so you can see a true representation of how roomy or snug a garment may be when made up in your size. If you prefer more ease, then choose the size that gives you the finished garment sizes and dimensions you

want (rather than adding extra to the seams, which can change the shape of the garment). A good rule of thumb is to use 1" of ease for a comfortable fit. 2-3" of ease will give a loose or boxy fit for more relaxed styles.

It's also a good idea to make a toile or muslin to check for fit and form before you cut into your main fabric. Use cheap or scrap fabric to make a quick version of your garment

BODY MEASUREMENTS

The body measurements chart shows the dimensions Simple Sew patterns are designed around!

Size	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
Bust	31"	33"	35"	37"	39"	41"	43"	45"	47"
Waist	24"	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"
Hips	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"	46"	48"	50"

MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE

While you may typically buy garments in one size in your favourite high street store, it's always best practice to measure yourself before cutting out your pattern – ready-to-wear sizing varies from store to store and you'll find sizing can vary between pattern companies too. Measure while wearing comfortable underwear. Hold the tape snug, but not too tight and remember to allow for natural breathing room. Tie narrow elastic or string around your waist then bend and stretch until it settles on your natural waistline.

Bust – Use your full bust measurement. Line up the tape so it sits around the fullest part of your bust. Take a breath to account for breathing room

Waist – Find your natural waist. This is the smallest part of your waist, usually 1" above your navel. Take a breath to account for breathing room.

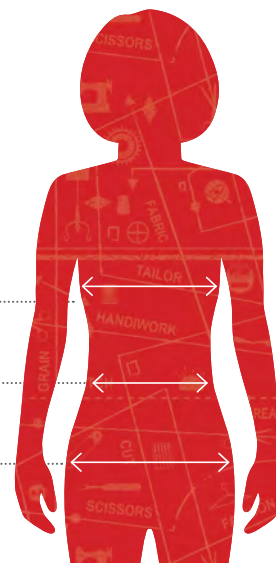
Hips – You need to measure around the fullest part of your lower body, which may be several inches below your hips.

Go to www.simplesewpatterns.com for more tips on making pattern adjustments to get a perfect fit every time.

FULL BUST:

WAIST:

HIPS:



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Discover the DRESS EDIT COLLECTION

The five patterns in the Dress Edit collection are packed with options to give you many alternative styles and views with each design. Choose from a selection of fits, sleeve styles, necklines and skirts to make a whole wardrobe of garments

CLOSE AND EASY FIT

To give you more options, the Dress Edit collection has been built around two different fits. The Close Fit, used on Veronika, Scarlett and Lucille, is designed to give you a snug and figure-enhancing silhouette. The Easy Fit option, as used on the Charlotte and Trudy dresses, gives you an additional inch of ease across the bust and hips for a more relaxed fit.

THE CHARLOTTE DRESS

#SR11, Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER

The Simple Sew Easy Fit block has been used to create the elegant and versatile Charlotte dress combi, ensuring you have superior comfort without size-altering ease. With six views to choose from, it is packed with options, including two necklines and three sleeve lengths.



Easy
fit

THE VERONIKA DRESS

#SR08, Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER

The Veronika dress pattern is a definitive collection of figure-enhancing, classically styled dress options. The five views range from a more modern shift dress with optional cap sleeves to the ever-popular vintage-inspired circle skirt option, either as a dress or a standalone garment.



Close
fit

Close
fit

THE SCARLETT DRESS

#SR09, Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER

This figure-hugging shift dress, pencil skirt and top collection features a show-stealing peplum and sleek pencil skirt, as well as offering both sleeveless and cute detailed sleeve options. It's a great option for weddings or enhancing your curves around the hips.

THE TRUDY DRESS

#SR12, Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER

With four sleeve lengths and an optional Peter Pan collar, the Trudy dress is a truly versatile pattern that you'll keep coming back to time and again. With so many variants, you can mix and match to create a wardrobe of looks.

Easy
fit

THE LUCILLE DRESS

#SR10, Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER

If you loved our Ruby dress, you will adore the Hollywood glamour of Lucille. This show-stopping style features a cleavage-enhancing pleated cross-over bodice, and the choice of either a fit-and-flare half-circle skirt or a sexy fitted pencil skirt.

Close
fit

PHOTO TUTORIAL

Head to www.nelnanandnora.wordpress.com for a fabulous photo tutorial on creating the Charlotte dress

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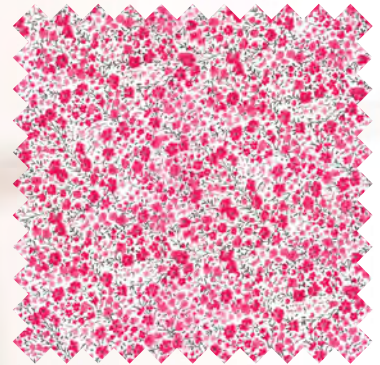
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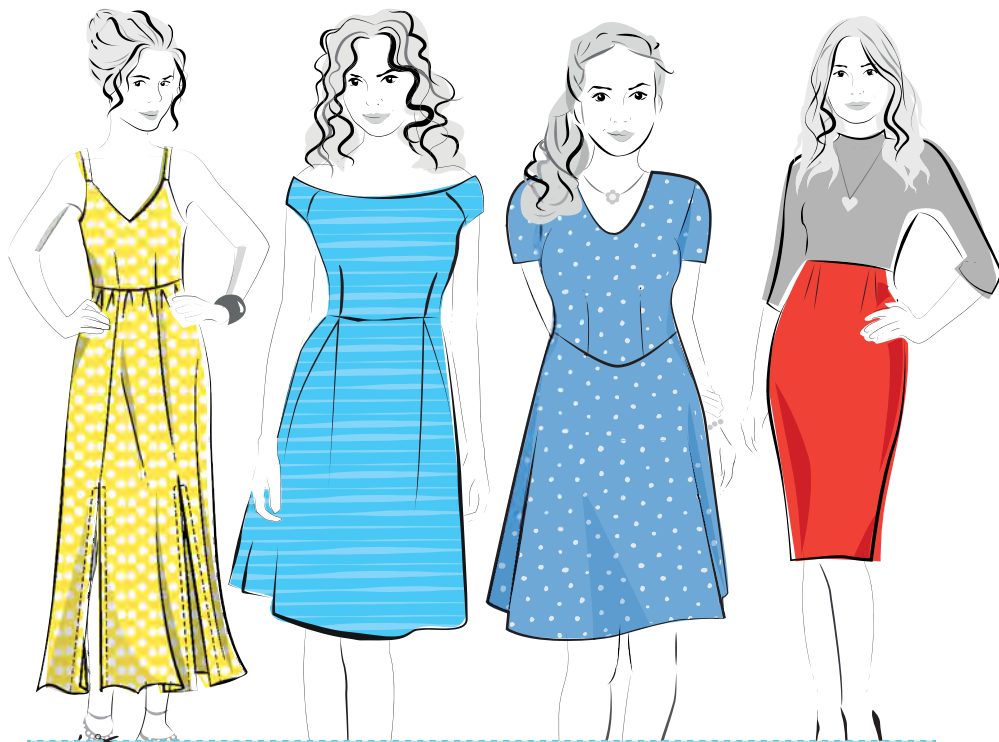
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THE VERONIKA DRESS

This classically styled dress offers optional cap sleeves, two skirt styles and a separate circle skirt.

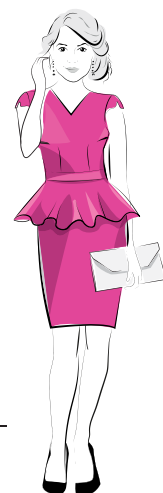
#SR08 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE SCARLETT DRESS

This figure-hugging shift dress, pencil skirt and top collection features a show-stealing peplum.

#SR09 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE LUCILLE DRESS

Glamorous Lucille features a pleated crossover bodice and two skirt options for a range of looks.

#SR10 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE CHARLOTTE DRESS

The elegant Charlotte dress has three sleeve lengths and two necklines for six unique styles.

#SR11 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE TRUDY DRESS

With four sleeve options, two necklines and an optional collar, the Trudy dress is truly versatile.

#SR12 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



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THE TRENCH COAT

This wardrobe staple features a pleated skirt with roll-back collar, and is great for newcomers to coat making.

#SRO1 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE PALAZZO PANTS

With a centre back zip, waistband and side-seam pockets, the Palazzo trousers are comfortable and easy to sew.

#SRO2 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE BATWING DRESS

Quick to sew, the Batwing dress pattern can be easily made up as a dress or a comfortable jumper.

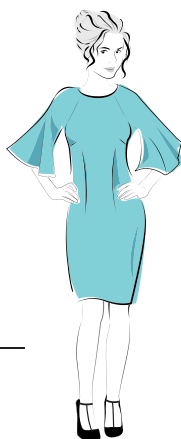
#SRO3 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE RAGLAN DRESS

This style features floaty bell sleeves, raglan construction and can be made at a range of lengths.

#SRO4 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE PETER PAN BLOUSE

This style classic is a must-have for any wardrobe with its chic Peter Pan collar and button-up back.

#SRO5 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE HIGH-WAISTED SKIRT

This sophisticated skirt features a beautifully pleated lower back skirt panel and shapely waist darts.

#SRO6 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE CARA JUMPSUIT

Step out in style with this on-trend and easy-to-sew fashion statement design.

#SRO7 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE LAPWING TROUSERS

The perfect comfortable trouser design – ideal for summer or lazy days at home.

#SR13 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE GWEN PANTS & TOP

This cute and comfortable combination pairs a relaxed top with shirred pants.

#SR14 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE ZOE DRESS & TOP

An ideal tunic pattern with eye-catching topstitched details for a relaxed yet stylish look that can be made as a dress or a top.

#SR15 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE SERENA DRESS

Get beach ready in no time with this pretty design with slit skirt panels and a shirred back.

#SR16 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE LIZZIE DRESS

Pretty princess seams and a statement pleated skirt make this a design that's sure to turn heads.

#SR17 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE KRAFTAN DRESS & TOP

Relaxed and comfortable, the Kaftan dress and top provides shape with an under-bust drawstring.

#SR18 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE NICOLE DRESS

Statement pockets make this simple shift dress a wardrobe staple you'll want to keep coming back to.

#SR19 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE KEIRA SKIRT

Perfect for bright sunny days, this flirty skirt features inverted pleats to create a pretty, full shape.

#SR20 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE LOTTIE BLOUSE & SKIRT

The beautiful pussy bow blouse and close-fitted pencil skirt make a versatile combo.

#002 Sizes 8-18
BEGINNER



THE RUBY DRESS

This vintage-inspired dress features a stylish bateau neckline and a deep V-shaped low back.

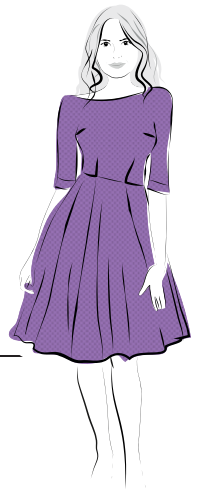
#003 Sizes 8-18
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE SKATER DRESS

The mid-length sleeves on the Skater dress make it a great option for cooler weather.

#006 Sizes 8-18
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE BELLA DRESS

Bella's bell-shaped sleeves are a nod to the 60s with the modern twist of a funnel neck.

#007 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE DUO OF SKIRTS

Choose from the ever-so-sexy Wiggle skirt or the more relaxed, contemporary tie-waisted skirt.

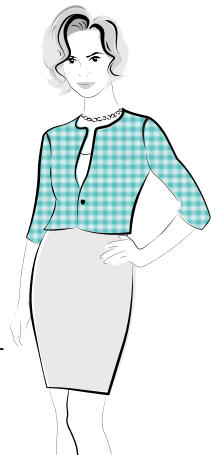
#008 Sizes 8-16
BEGINNER



THE 'JACKIE O' JACKET

Inspired by Jackie Onassis, the ultimate style icon, this is a simple version of a design classic.

#009 Sizes 8-18
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE KIMONO DRESS

A stylish and simple-to-make Kimono-style wrap dress that's ideal for any season.

#010 Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER



THE BARDOT DRESS

With its classic 'boat' neckline, the Bardot dress is a gorgeously easy dress to make and wear.

#012 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



THE ENGLISH TEA DRESS

A classic flattering bodice and two sleeve lengths make this a perfect style for summer.

#013 Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER



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Babydoll DRESS

*This button-back dress can be worn
all year round, with its flattering
lightweight cotton sleeve*

Project CLAIRE GARSIDE

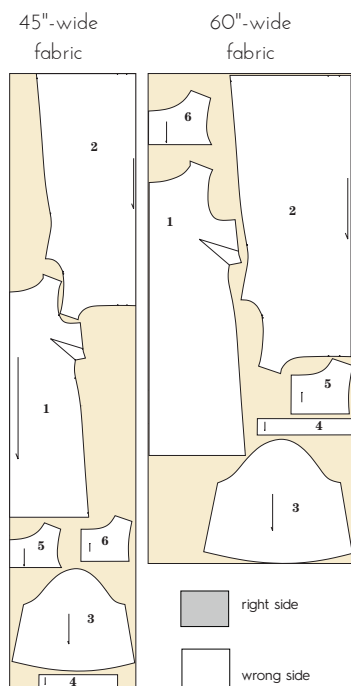
Photography ALEX WRIGHT teneight



FABRIC REQUIREMENTS:

	Sizes 8-14	Sizes 16-20
45"-wide fabric	2.7m	2.8m
60"-wide fabric	1.8m	1.8m

LAYPLANS:



PATTERN PIECES:

- 1 - Front bodice
- 2 - Back bodice
- 3 - Sleeve
- 4 - Sleeve cuff
- 5 - Front bodice facing
- 6 - Back bodice facing

MATERIALS:

- ♥ free template from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk
- ♥ 50cm interfacing
- ♥ fabric (use table above)

HOW TO MAKE:

- 1 Close front bust darts. (See Pic A.)

- 2 Join front and back dress pieces at shoulder line RST. (See Pic B.)

- 3 Apply interfacing to the front and back bodice facing pieces on the wrong side of the fabric. (See Pic C.)

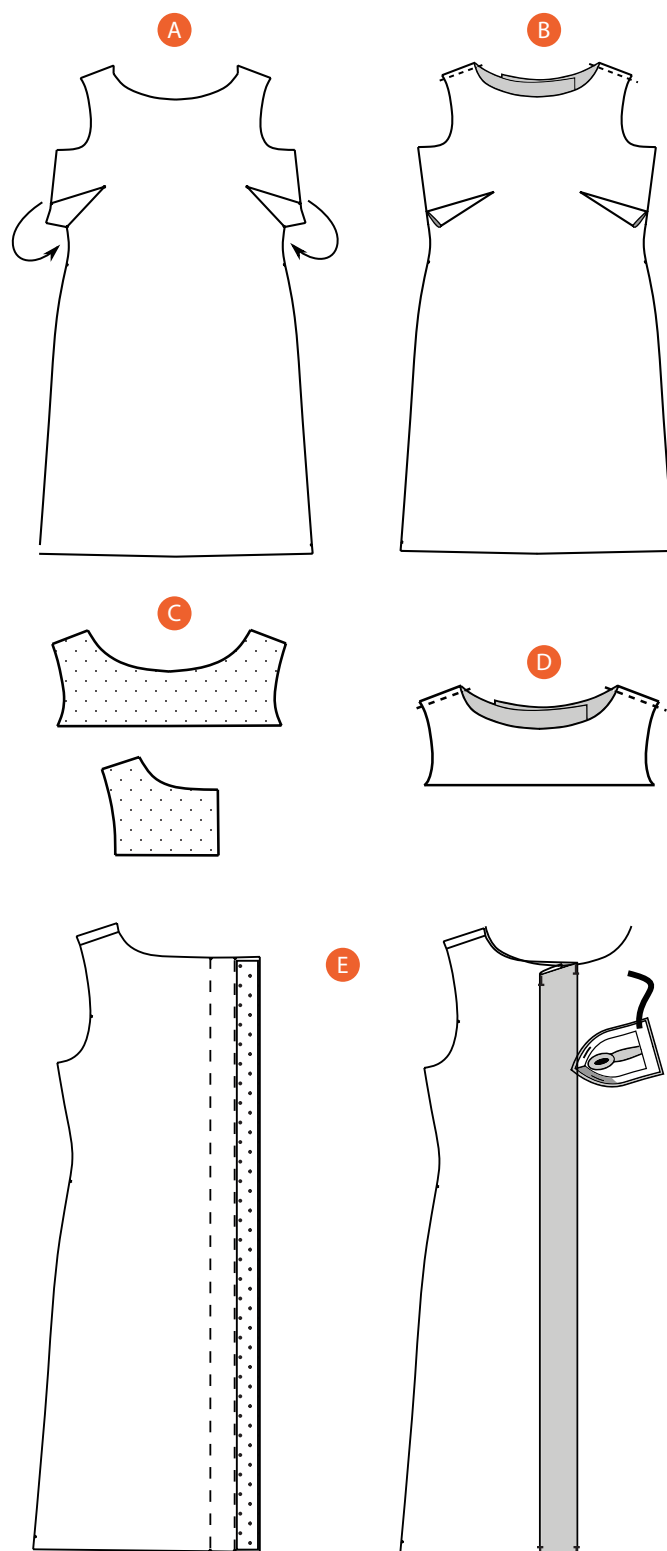
- 4 Join front and back facing pieces at shoulder line RST. (See Pic D.)

- 5 Apply interfacing to the button stands on each of the back bodice pieces. On one back bodice piece fold over the buttonhole stand and press, then fold over and press again. Use fold lines on patterns sheet as a guide for the double turn. Repeat on the remaining back bodice piece. (See Pic E.)

- 6 Unfold and open out the button stands. RST with the back bodice, attach the back facings at first notch on the neckline. (See Pic F.)

- 7 Pull over the back facing so that it aligns with the armhole as shown. (See Pic G.) Pin in place and then stitch around the neckline only. Trim seam allowance to 0.5cm and notch at curves.

- 8 Turn facing through to the inside of the dress and press flat. Now with the facing on the inside of the dress you can attach it to the dress around the armholes. Use a 1cm seam



FINISHED MEASUREMENTS:

Descriptions/size	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Full bust	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"	46"
Waist	31½"	33½"	35½"	37½"	39½"	41½"	43½"
Hips	39"	41"	43"	45"	47"	49"	51"
Neck to back hem	37¼"	37½"	37¾"	38"	38¼"	38½"	38¾"

allowance. Do not trim the seam allowance.

9 Attach the front and the back of the dress at side seam RST. (See Pic H.)

10 Run a wide stitch through the hem of each sleeve and then pull the thread to gather to the measurement of sleeve cuff, including the seam allowance. (See Pic I.)

11 Fold the cuff in half along the length and at the side seam. (See Pic J.)

12 Attach the sleeve cuff to the gathered sleeve hem. (See Pic J.)

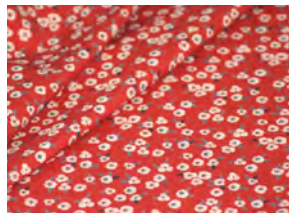
13 Sew the sleeve seam. (See Pic K.)

14 Prepare the sleeve for setting in. Sew a long machine stitch, also known as a basting stitch, along the sleeve head. Pin in sleeve RST with bodice

as shown, then if needed pull slightly on the threads until your sleeve will fit in the armhole. Be careful not to create actual gathers in the sleeve head. Pin in place. Stitch sleeve in position, removing pins as you go. (See Pic L.)

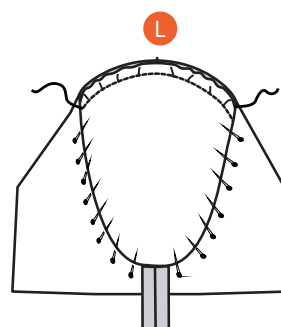
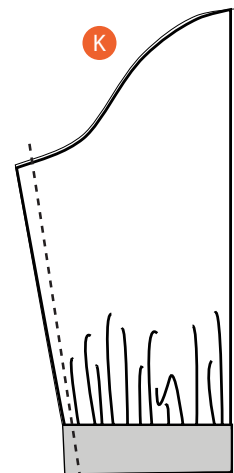
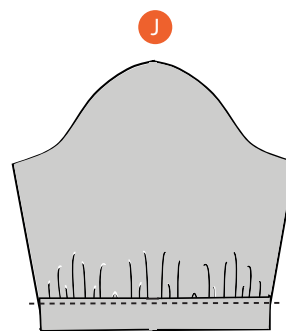
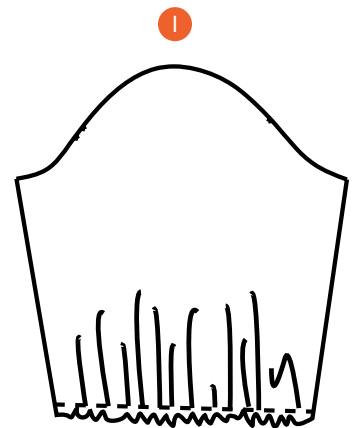
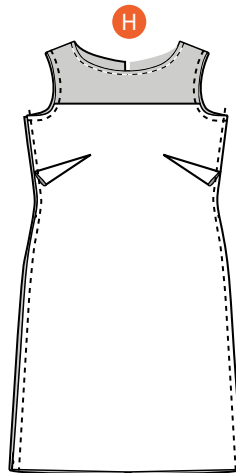
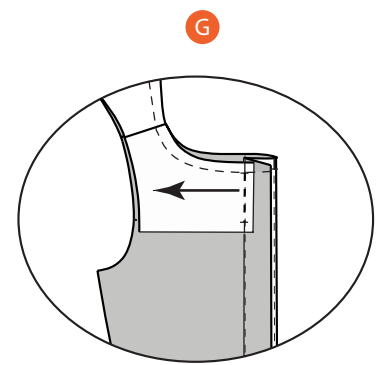
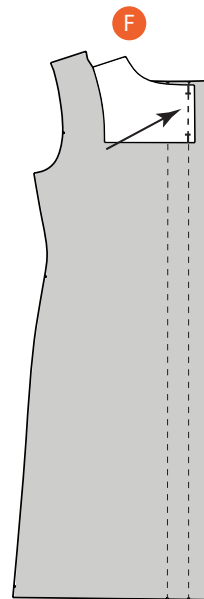
15 Fold the button band in place and sew a 2cm hem. Sew buttonholes through all layers of folded button band. Using the buttonholes as a guide, mark the button positions and sew in place. (See Pic M.)

WE USED



Garance Mini Labo cotton
£14 per metre

www.mauds-fabric-finds.com



Discover the CAPSULE WARDROBE COLLECTION

Every wardrobe needs those staple garments to take you through the season. With the Capsule Wardrobe collection we've tried to bring you a complete season's worth of designs, covering some staple dresses and tops, as well as jumpers, blouses, skirts and even a simple coat



THE RAGLAN DRESS

#SRO4, Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER

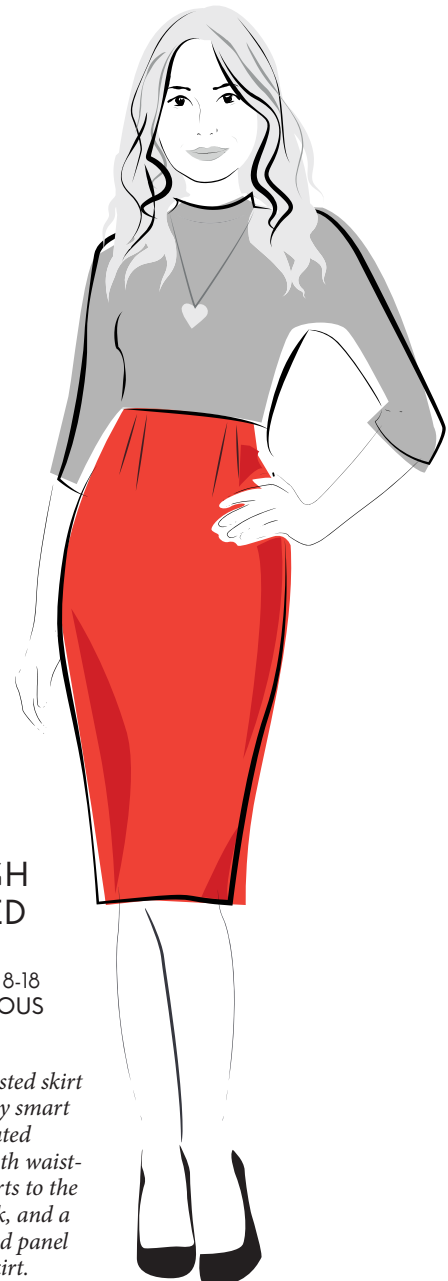
The Raglan tunic dress is a figure-enhancing diamond of a garment, with a flattering bell sleeve and the flexibility to use either a woven or stretch fabric. Wear for a night on the town or as a layering dress



THE HIGH WAISTED SKIRT

#SRO6, Sizes 8-18
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER

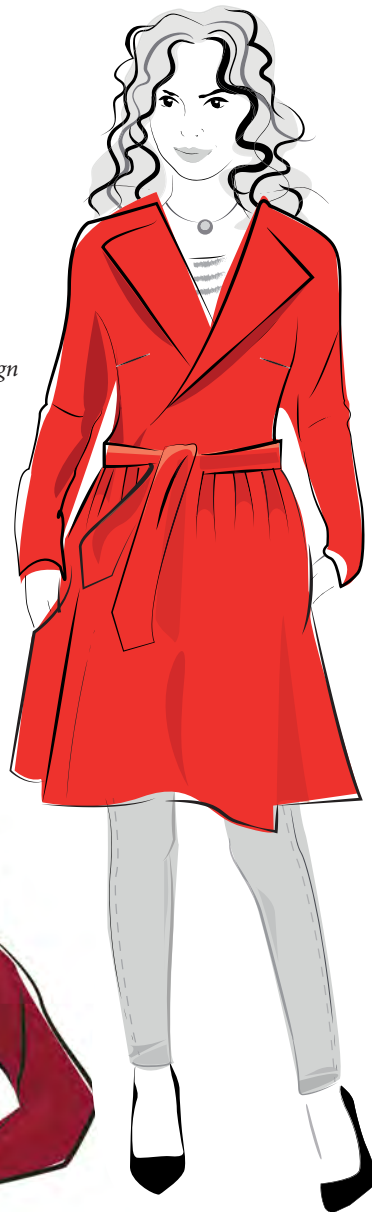
The High Waisted skirt is an extremely smart and sophisticated pencil skirt with waist-enhancing darts to the front and back, and a striking pleated panel on the back skirt.



THE PETER PAN BLOUSE

#SRO5, Sizes 8-18
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER

The Peter Pan blouse is a versatile, simple-to-make button-back blouse, which ought to be on every woman's 'to make' list. Featuring a chic rounded flat collar, this elegant design suits all occasions and is a real wardrobe essential.



THE TRENCH COAT

#SRO1, Sizes 8-20
ADVENTUROUS
BEGINNER

For those of you who haven't made a coat before, this pattern should take away that initial trepidation and fear of the unknown. The Trench coat follows the same construction as you would usually follow for a bodice and skirt of a wrap dress, with no confusing linings or tailoring required.

PHOTO TUTORIAL

Head to www.sewsweetssally.wordpress.com for Sally Kendall's full tutorials for making the Trench coat, Batwing jumper, Raglan dress and Peter Pan blouse

THE BATWING DRESS

#SRO3, Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER

The Batwing dress and jumper patterns are both comfortable and easy to wear, making them wardrobe staples in cooler weather. With grown-on sleeves, there are only a few seams to sew, making this a very quick and accessible pattern.



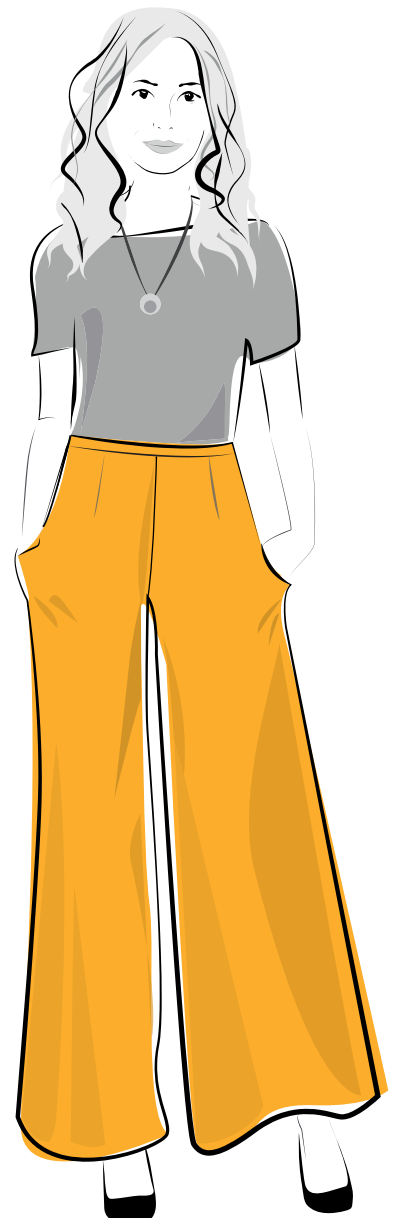
THE PALAZZO TROUSERS

#SRO2, Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER

The Palazzo trousers are an on-trend and beautifully versatile style that can take you from desk to dinner in no time. Constructed and designed for beginners, they can be made in an afternoon from a range of fabric.

PHOTO TUTORIAL

For a step-by-step guide to sewing the Palazzo trousers, see www.applebymakes.wordpress.com



FABRIC FOCUS

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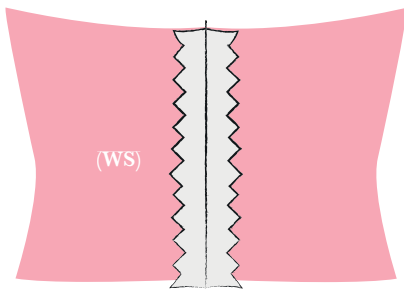
In a delicate shade of pastel pink, this Italian-made cotton would make a stunning lightweight summer jacket

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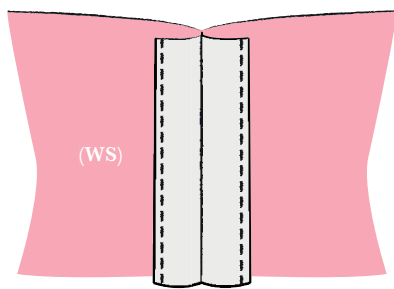
Simple seam FINISHES

A well-made garment looks almost as good on the inside as it does on the outside. Here are some popular ways to neatly finish your seams



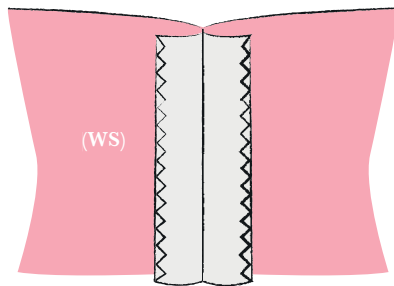
PINKING SHEARS

Simply trim your seam allowance edges with pinking shears after the seam has been sewn. Do not trim before sewing the seam unless you have marked the stitching line. The zigzag edge will prevent fabric from fraying.



TOPSTITCHED EDGES

Start with a sewn seam that has been pressed open. Press each seam allowance under by $\frac{1}{8}$ " to the WS and top-stitch each seam allowance edge to secure the raw edge underneath.



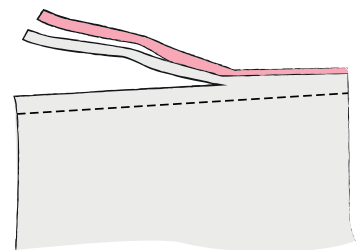
ZIGZAG FINISH

This can be used before or after a seam has been sewn. Sew through the seam allowance only, close to each raw edge with a zigzag stitch and press to set the stitches. The stitch should neatly fall at or just off the edge.

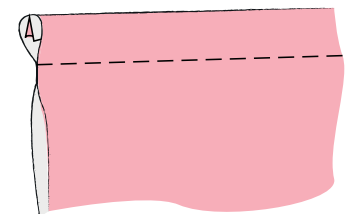
FRENCH SEAMS

This construction technique and seam finish is perfect for lightweight or sheer fabric.

HOW TO MAKE:



1 Place fabrics WST. Sew a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance from the raw edge and trim to $\frac{1}{8}$ ".



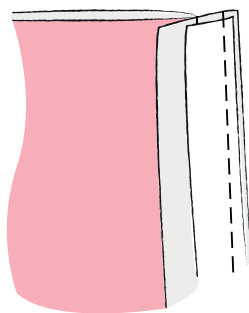
2 Press open the seam and press over with RST. Sew a second seam $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. This will trap the seam allowance edges behind the second line of stitching.

HONG KONG SEAMS

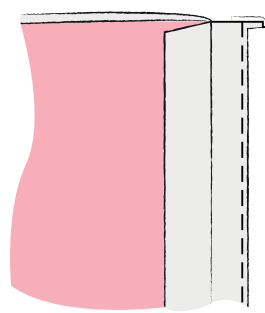
Also known as 'bound seams', this features the application of double-fold bias tape and needs to be done after every seam is sewn, before moving onto the next construction step.

HOW TO MAKE:

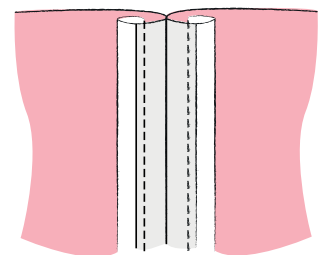
1 Sew a straight seam and press open. Press one side of the bias tape open and pin it along the edge of one seam allowance with RST. Sew along the crease to attach the seam allowance and bias tape together.



2 Wrap the bias tape around the edge of the seam allowance and pin in place so the tape sits just over the sewn stitching line.



3 Secure by stitching in the ditch or just to the inside of the original stitching to catch the folded bias tape on the back of the seam.



Sew only through the bias tape and seam allowance, not garment. Repeat on remaining seam allowance to finish.

Discover the CONTEMPORARY COLLECTION

The brand-new Contemporary collection brings you a stylish array of new designs to achieve a sharp, up-to-date look at home. Whether you're looking for relaxed casual designs or something to turn heads on a night on the town, there are patterns you're sure to love



**OUT
NOW**

THE ZOE DRESS & TOP

#SR15, Sizes 8-20
BEGINNER

The clean lines of this utilitarian-inspired dress and top pattern are perfect for making a subtle statement. The pattern's simple construction is designed to show off bold top-stitching detail, so time to break out your most eye-catching threads!

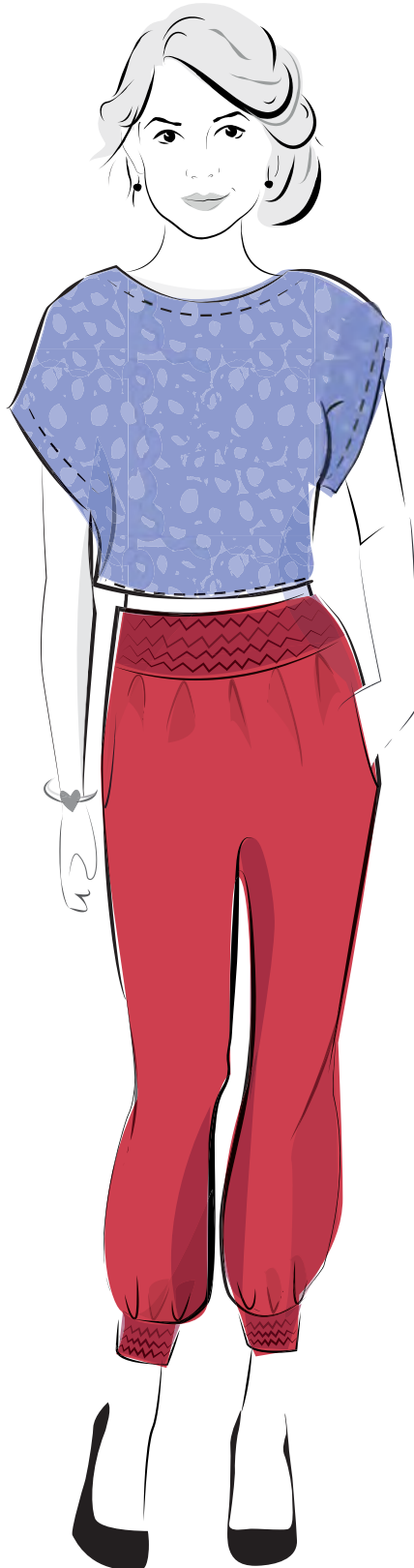


THE GWEN TOP & PANTS

#SR14, Sizes 8-20

ADVENTUROUS BEGINNER

This relaxed top and harem pants combo is a dream to wear for unwinding on those lazy days when comfort is top priority. Both garments are very easy makes and this is an ideal project for using your shirring skills.



THE LAPWING TROUSERS

#SR13, Sizes 8-20

BEGINNER

For a relaxed chic look, try your hand at these simple-to-construct drawstring-waist trousers, which sit flatteringly below the natural waist and drape gently to the floor. They are gorgeous in linen during warm weather, or why not shake things up and make a pair as stylish pyjama bottoms?

THE CARA JUMPSUIT

#SR07, Sizes 8-20

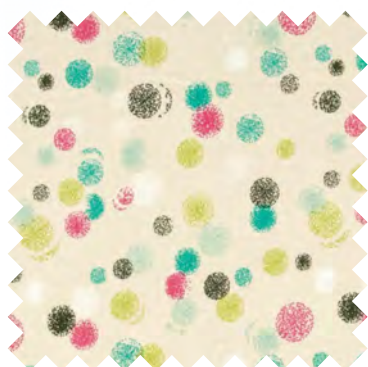
ADVENTUROUS BEGINNER

Jumpsuits are one of the hot trends of the summer, and the versatile Cara design gives you two options to choose from. For a more relaxed look, you can opt for the roomy wide-leg design, while fashionistas may want to give the sleek lines of the narrow, tapered leg version a try. The flattering and stylish, gently draping neckline is mirrored on the back view but with the addition of an elegant neck tie to add further detail to the garment.

FABRIC FOCUS

Jump for joy with these striking alternative fabric picks for your jumpsuit

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STIPPLE SMOOTH JERSEY KNIT
BY ART GALLERY FABRICS



This arty knit is easy to sew with and thanks to the random print you won't have to worry too much about pattern matching!

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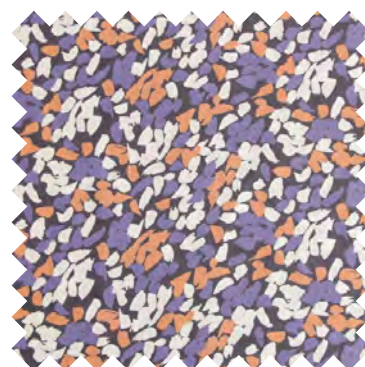
PAPAROUNES CRIMSON
SKOPELOS JERSEY KNIT
BY ART GALLERY FABRICS



Inspired by the Greek island of Skopelos, these abstract florals in poppy pink, purple blue and white are perfect for holidays

£16.50 per metre
www.whitetreefabrics.com

NIGHT BLOOM VISCOSE
BY ATELIER BRUNETTE



Featuring purple, red, ivory and black, this drapey viscose could make a great evening jumpsuit

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PHOTO TUTORIAL

For full photo tutorials to the Wiggle skirt and Bardot dress, head to Gabby Young's blog at www.livingonashoestring.net



THE BARDOT DRESS

#012, Sizes 8-20

ADVENTUROUS BEGINNER

Exposed shoulder dresses continue to be a popular trend in summer fashion. With its classic 'boat' neckline, the Bardot dress is a gorgeously easy way to make the trend your own.



THE DUO OF SKIRTS

#008, Sizes 8-16

BEGINNER

Choose from the ever-so-sexy Wiggle skirt or the relaxed, contemporary Tie Waisted skirt.



THE 'JACKIE O' JACKET

#009, Sizes 8-18

BEGINNER

Inspired by Jackie Onassis, the ultimate style icon, this is a simple version of a design classic. With no complicated lining to deal with, it's an accessible jacket even for the novice dressmaker.



THE LOTTIE BLOUSE & SKIRT

#002, Sizes 8-18

ADVENTUROUS BEGINNER

The pussy bow blouse and pencil skirt make a versatile combo – Lottie is among our most-loved patterns



THE SKATER DRESS

#006, Sizes 8-18

ADVENTUROUS BEGINNER

The mid-length sleeves on the Skater dress make it a great option for cooler weather.



THE BELLA DRESS

#007, Sizes 8-20

ADVENTUROUS BEGINNER

Bella's bell-shaped sleeves are a nod to the 60s with the modern twist of a funnel neck.



THE ENGLISH TEA DRESS

#013, Sizes 8-20

INTERMEDIATE

A classic flattering bodice and two sleeve lengths make this a perfect style for summer.



THE KIMONO DRESS

#010, Sizes 8-20

BEGINNER

A stylish and simple-to-make Kimono-style wrap dress that's ideal for any season.



THE RUBY DRESS

#003, Sizes 8-18

ADVENTUROUS BEGINNER

The Ruby dress is an online phenomenon – hundreds have sewn their own vintage-inspired dress. With its bateau neckline and deep V back, it's lovely to sew and wear in a range of fabric.

SPOTLIGHT ON RUBY!

After some inspiration? We've picked out a few of our favourite reader makes of the stunning vintage-inspired Ruby dress, which features a stylish bateau neckline, nipped-in waist and flattering full skirt with a deep V-shaped low back



ALEX HOWARD

"I finally got round to making the Ruby dress and I love it!"



DITSY TULIP
www.ditsy-tulip.com



ANGELA
www.looks-like-i-made-it.blogspot.co.uk



"My finished Ruby dress! I am so glad I got one of these patterns"



EMILY PAWLEY



GABBY
www.livingonashoestring.net



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www.nightingaleanddolittle.blogspot.co.uk



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www.afterdarksewing.wordpress.com

"I am in LOVE with this pattern!"



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I'm on Casters!

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width 184cm (72"),
depth 50cm (20")

with desk folded up, depth 150cm (59")
with desk(s) in use, height 183cm (72")

Unit pictured
in Oak finish

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which is barely larger than a
standard double wardrobe

Add Power -
Cable Access
here

Fold Away Deluxe - Watersmeet
Regular Price £1495
(excluding delivery and lighting kit)

Magazine Offer
£1195 (SAVE £300)

Mainland UK delivery £50 extra
Optional lighting kit £50 extra
Offer Coupon - WM715

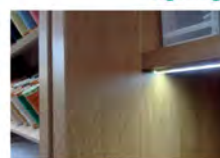


width 92cm (36"),
depth 65cm (25 1/2"),
height 183cm (72")

Ribbons

Threads

Lighting



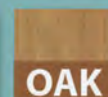
Please note all furniture items are supplied self assembly -
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Offers expire end of month following magazine publication
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VANILLA

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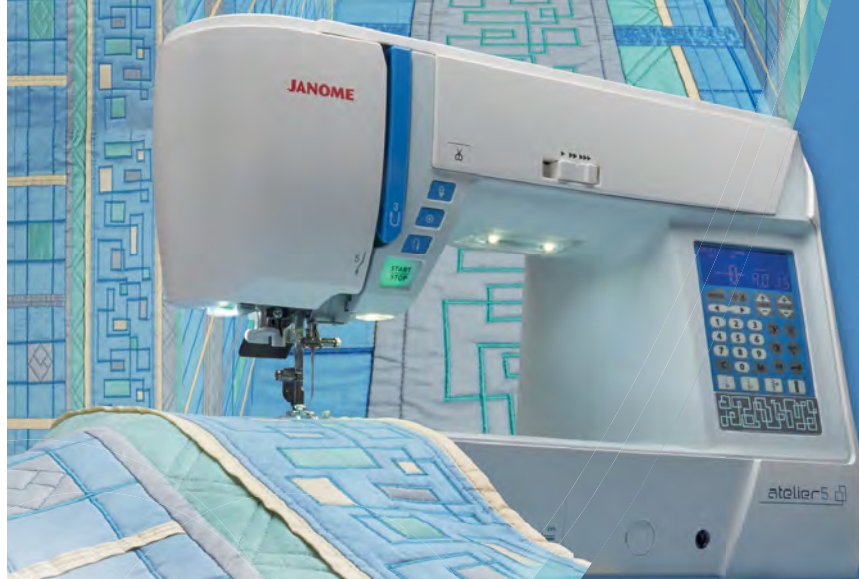
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