

Air, Flow, Go!

AirThread 2000D
PROFESSIONAL

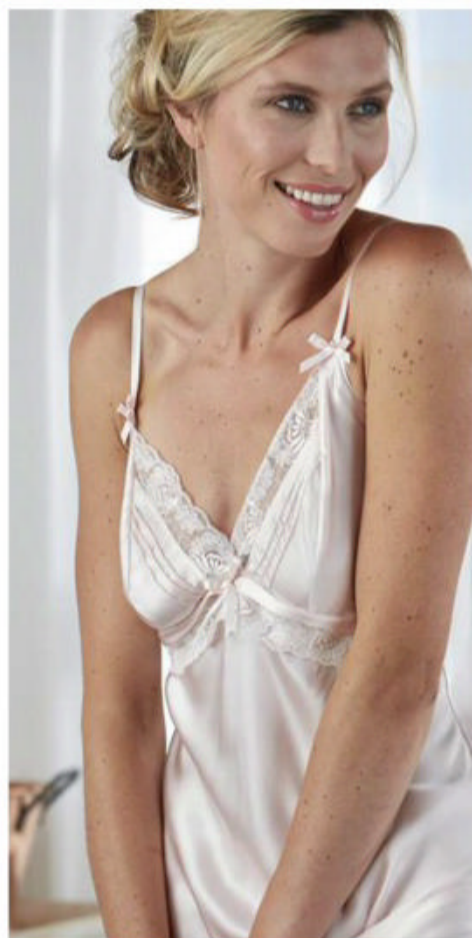


The JANOME AirThread 2000D PROFESSIONAL unites ease-of-use with the specialised functionality of an advanced overlocker. It's our easiest to thread overlocker ever!

Ask for a demonstration!

For further information:
Telephone 0161 666 6011
or visit www.janome.co.uk

JANOME
janome.co.uk



WIN
£639 SEWING MACHINE
*T&Cs apply

Simply Sewing

**6 ON-TREND
LLAMA MAKES**



ISSUE FIFTY FIVE

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC



**+ MIY COLLECTION
KELHAM SKIRT**

NEW PATTERN!

THE LEILA DRESS SET

IN SIZES 6-20



*Maxi skirt +
shirt refashion!*



OVERLOCKER KNOW-HOW

How to use your machine
+ troubleshooting tips

SUMMER READY

10 easy wardrobe updates to sew for the season!

NEW SKILLS: Patchwork • Couching stitch • Hemming jeans • Make waxed fabric

INNOV-IS V5

Advanced sewing and embroidery machine

- Fast 1050 stitches per minute embroidery speed
- Extra-large long arm - 11.25" (285mm)
- Colour LCD touch screen
- Large 300mm x 180mm embroidery area
- SFDS - Square Feed Drive System
- 473 built-in sewing stitches
- Pivot function



£2,799
usual price
£2,999

£200 OFF
+ free premium
upgrade 1 & 2
worth £259.98

INNOV-IS 1800Q

Sewing and embroidery machine

- 234 built-in stitches, 10 styles of one step button holes
- SFDS – Square Feed Drive System, delivers smooth strong feed
- Pivot function
- Includes large wide table and wide range of accessories
- Hard case
- Plus, much more...



£999
usual price
£1,299

£300 off

With an extra-large 210mm (8.3") of working space to the right of the needle. The Innov-is 1800Q will handle any quilting or large sewing project with ease.

INNOV-IS 27SE

Sewing machine

- Easy to use Electronic Jog dial, makes stitch selection simple
- 40 built-in stitches, 5 styles of 1-step automatic buttonhole
- Automatic needle threading system
- Drop feed - for free motion sewing
- Start/Stop button and speed control



£349

+FREE
Creative Sewing
Quilt kit worth
£159.99

Ideal for both beginners and experienced sewers.

INNOV-IS 800E

Embroidery machine

- 260mm x 160mm embroidery area
- 138 built-in embroidery patterns
- Colour LCD touch screen
- Quick-set bobbin
- Automatic needle threader
- 11 built-in fonts



£999
usual price
£1,299

£300 off

Dealer List

Scotland

David Drummond Edinburgh EH12 5HD	0131 539 7766
Karelia House Aberfeldy PH15 2LS	01887 822 027
NJ Sewing Machines Brightons FK OUF	01324 711 333
Pembertons Sewing Machines Stirling FK8 1HA	01786 462 993
Quilt Creations Inverness IV1 1EP	01463 719 369
The Sewing Machine Shop Fochabers IV32 7DU	01343 823 961

North East

Sewing Machine Sales Whitley Bay NE26 2SY	0191 2525 825
Tullys Sewing Machines Sunderland SR1 3JG	0191 565 7995

North West

Affordable Sewing Machines Moreton CH46 9AQ	0151 677 7755
Bamber Sewing Machines Eccles M30 7HY	0161 707 7786
Cumbria Sewing and Craft Barrow-in-furness LA14 1DS	01229 823 714
Ettly Lilly Bolton Le Sands LA5 8DB	01524 734 713
Fabrics at Fleetwood Fleetwood FY7 6DU	01253 870 470
Hobkirks Sewing Machines Blackburn BB2 2AJ	01254 693 555
Jaycotts Sewing Machines Chester CH1 4LT	01244 394 099
Lord's Sew Knit Centre Accrington BB5 3DE	01254 389 171
M&S Sewing Machines Heywood OL10 4NN	01706 366 943
Temptations Bentham LA2 7HQ	01524 261 868
Weaverdee Middlewich CW10 0GF	01603 339 818

Yorkshire & The Humber

A61 Woodseats Sewing Machines Sheffield S8 0RY	0114 255 2822
Fabric Mouse Richmond DL10 7SN	01748 811 593
Grimsby Sewing & Knitting Grimsby DN32 9DR	01472 343 921
Sewing Machines and Crafts Keighley BD21 1AD	01535 609 466

Midlands

Brewers Sewing Machines Wolverhampton WV2 3AF	01902 458 885
Couling Sewing Machines Lincoln LN5 8AN	01522 521 841
Creative Hands 2 Worcester WR1 2LU	01905 249 40
DC Nutt Sewing Machines Walsall WS3 3SS	01922 497 603
Frank Nutt Sewing Machines Birmingham B14 7AA	0121 443 3978
Grain Sewing Machines Nottingham NG6 8UY	0115 927 1155
GS UK Ltd Nottingham NG2 3DE	0115 844 8000
L & M Nutt Sutton Coldfield B73 5BS	0121 373 5497
Leicestershire Craft Centre Market Harborough LE16 7NJ	01858 466 692
Sewing Machine Centre Shrewsbury SY1 1XJ	01743 343 902
The Lorna Knight Sewing Academy Leek ST13 7NX	01538 371 682

East Anglia

Backstitch Cambridge CB23 7EY	01223 778 118
Beccles Sewing Machines Beccles NR34 9TB	01502 714 234
Bedford Sew & Knit Bedford MK41 7LE	01234 217 096
Franklins Group Chelmsford CM2 0LG	01245 346 300
Franklins Group Colchester CO2 7DU	01206 563 955
Franklins Group Ipswich IP1 3EL	01473 221 188
Sew Something Northampton NN1 4EH	01604 626 998
Sewing Machine World Kings Lynn PE30 5DD	01553 773 362
Stitch X Stitch Stowmarket IP14 1HH	01449 257 070

Wales

Cliffords Sewing Machines Swansea SA1 3JY	01792 655 928
J&B Sewing Machine Cardiff CF11 8AA	02920 402 418
J&B Sewing Machine Newport NP19 4SY	01633 284 646
Sewing Innovations Bodelwyddan LL18 5TQ	01745 586 845
Sewing Machines Direct Wrexham LL12 0PJ	0800 622 6224

South East

Brighton Sewing Centre Brighton BN1 1YD	01273 621 653
British Sewing Centre Boreham Wood WD6 1FJ	0800 065 4004
C & A Supply Cranleigh GU6 8NE	01483 267 777
CCB Sewing Machines Rochester ME1 1HS	01634 841 597
Dowlings Wickford SS11 8YJ	01268 570 248
Eastleigh Sewing Centre Eastleigh SO50 5LD	02380 650 808
GTS Sewing Machines Banbury OX16 9PQ	01295 701 384
Hastings Sewing Centre Hastings TN34 1RE	01424 423 108
In Stitches New Haw KT15 3NY	01932 352 958
Lewisham & Deptford Sewing Machines London SE8 3NT	0208 692 1077
Maidstone Sewing Centre Maidstone ME14 1ED	01622 670 254
Regent Home of Sewing Ilford IG1 2AG	0208 4780 669
Rona Sewing Machines Waltham Cross EN8 7AP	01992 640 250
Sew Devine Reading RG6 1JQ	0118 926 8664
Stitched By You Alton GU34 1BN	01420 544 033
Sueco UK Portsmouth PO3 5BZ	02392 697 621
The Sewing Centre London SW11 3BP	0207 228 3022
The World of Sewing Orpington BR6 75Q	01689 638 638
The World of Sewing Tunbridge Wells TN1 2QP	01892 533 188

South West

And Sew to Knit Taunton TA1 3PT	01823 762 789
Bits & Bobs Weymouth DT4 9AD	01305 773 966
Caffle Crafts Weston Super Mare BS24 6SE	01934 838 327
D & S Sewing Machines Newton Abbot	01626 369 840
Exeter Sewing Machine Company Exeter EX1 2LD	01392 275 660
Franklins Group Limited Salisbury SP2 7SU	01722 554 466
Sewcraft Swindon SN1 1SD	01793 536 778
The Sewing Studio Redruth TR15 2DB	01209 216 942

Northern Ireland

Sew N Knit Belfast BT14 1AB	028 9045 6012
Sew N Knit Lisburn BT28 1AG	028 9267 0908

Offers valid from 1st April to 31st May 2019

For full details visit your www.brothersewing.co.uk or visit your local Brother stockist.



brothersewing.co.uk



Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

Whether it's sewing with a notoriously difficult fabric, hacking a pattern to fit you better or refashioning an old garment into something brand new... that's what sewing is all about, right? Just going for it whole-heartedly and learning something new. "Don't overthink it," says Norris Dánte Ford, a creative individual who's pushing the boundaries of DIY fashion for guys (see page 58). We're not saying you should 'wing it' (Patrick and Esme certainly wouldn't agree), but if you can try one thing that's out of your comfort zone this month – do it!



WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM • [#SIMPLYSEWINGMAG](https://twitter.com/simplysewing)

[facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine](https://www.facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine) twitter.com/simplysewing [pinterest.com/simplysewingmag](https://www.pinterest.com/simplysewingmag) [instagram.com/simplysewingmag](https://www.instagram.com/simplysewingmag)

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

ISSUE FIFTY FIVE CONTENTS

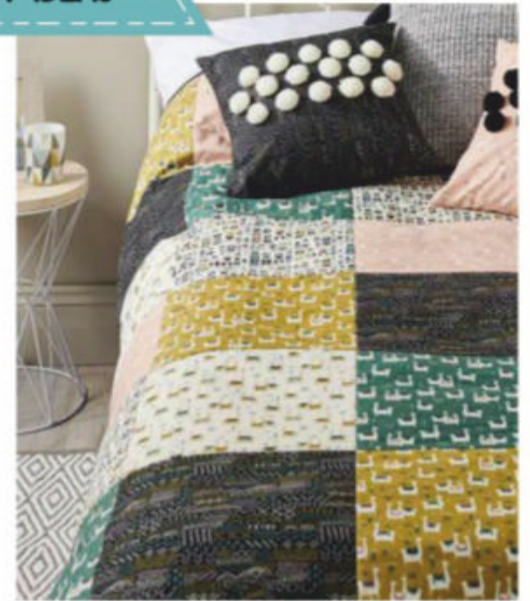
On-trend llama accessories for your home, p16



Sew The Leila Dress, p36



P16
8 BOHO
BEDROOM
EASY-SEW IDEAS



GREAT PATTERNS FOR YOU

- 16 BOHO BEDROOM MAKES
- 32 PATCHWORK CUSHION
- 36 PATTERN: THE LEILA DRESS
- 42 PATTERNLESS: MAXI SKIRT
- 48 PATTERN: THE KELHAM SKIRT
- 53 HEM JEANS WITH SASHIKO
- 55 QUICK FIX: DRAPEY PONCHO
- 62 REFASHION: TURN A MAN'S SHIRT INTO A STYLISH SUMMER TOP
- 67 FABRIC SCRAPS BANNER
- 69 WASHABLE FABRIC POUCH SET
- 79 ECO-FRIENDLY SANDWICH BAG
- 83 KIDS: FOX PLUSHIE PILLOW
- 85 QUICK GIFT: COAT HANGER

HOW TO...

- 40 WORKSHOP: OVERLOCKER
How to get a professional finish using your overlocker, plus troubleshooting
- 77 STITCH: COUCHING STITCH
Make a handy needlebook
- 88 WORKSHOP: EPP
English Paper Piecing basics
- 93 SEWING GUIDE
Tips, techniques and a glossary



58 SELF-MADE MAN: FIVE CREATIVE GUYS SHARE WHY THEY SEW

Sew a fox pillow, p83





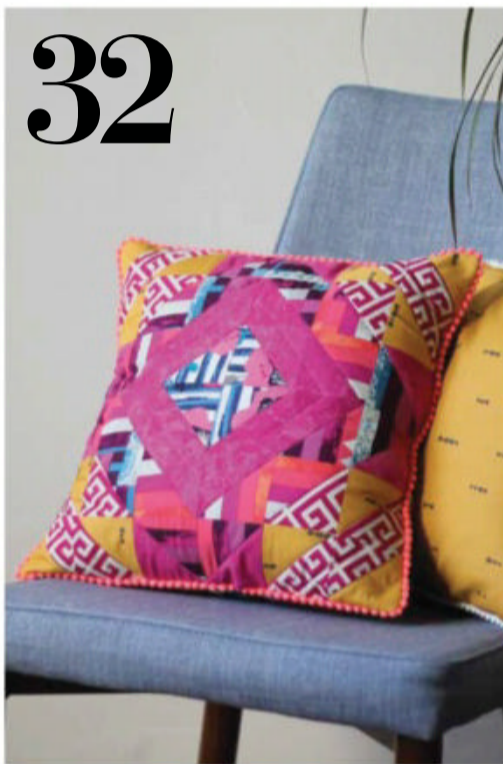
42



67



69



32

WIN JANOME SEWING MACHINE + KNIT FABRICS!
 Enter to win a Janome M200 QDC machine worth £639 and a 12 metres of knit fabric from Girl Charlee worth £120
Enter on p14-15

READY FOR SUMMER?

This month we've been invigorating our wardrobes ready for some sunshine... and boy are we ready for it! Transition from jeans to summer skirts with our maxi (p42) made using just your measurements and sew a wear-with-anything slouchy poncho (p55) for those days of unpredictable weather. Plus, don't miss Wendy Ward's A-line Kelham Skirt (p36), which comes in two wearable lengths and has pocket, pleat and waistband options to mix-and-match. Now, where did I put my flip flops...



Charlie

Charlie Moorby, Editor

GOOD READS & IDEAS

- 9 PINBOARD: Ideas, events, new fabric
- 14 NEW! PATTERN SHOP
- 15 WIN: JANOME SEWING MACHINE
- 46 COLUMN: LAUREN GUTHRIE
- 57 PIN UP: FOLD-UP TOTE BAG
- 58 FEATURE: SELF-MADE MAN
- 72 PROFILE: GABRIELA LONGFISH
- 92 BACK ISSUES TO COLLECT
- 97 COMING UP NEXT MONTH
- 98 MY FAVOURITE THING



GREAT SUBS OFFERS! P30
 SAVE TIME, MONEY AND HASSLE WITH AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION



55



62

* GIFTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PAPER GIFTS ONLY AVAILABLE ON UK NEWSSTAND.

CONTRIBUTORS

A huge thanks to these clever crafters...



KATARINA ROCCELLA

Katarina Roccella is an artist and textile designer for Art Gallery Fabrics. She works in a variety of creative mediums, including calligraphy, linoleum printing, illustration, photography and sewing. Try her bright patchwork cushion project on page 32.



WENDY WARD

Wendy's sewing pattern brand, MIY Collection, is designed to enable makers to create everyday go-to garments, and she has also written three bestselling sewing books. Sew her staple Kelham A-line skirt (with 20 ways to make it!) on page 48.



AMANDA WYATT

Amanda Wyatt is a trained teacher with over 17 years' worth of experience. She teaches weekly sewing workshops and is the co-owner of a fabric and haberdashery shop and blog, The Sewcial Studio. Sew her patternless poncho on page 55.



ALISTAIR MACDONALD

Alistair set up his own womenswear label, House of Alistair, in 2008, and now works on a variety of projects, including fashion, film costume and his haberdashery collection. Make a padded hanger from his book, *Quilting on the Move*, on page 85.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Sarah Dawson, Jessica Entwistle, The Fold Line, Sarah Gane, Debbie von Grabler-Crozier, Anna Johnson, Mollie Johanson, Portia Lawrie, Jessica Marquez, Debbie Maxwell, Angeline Murphy, Lana Red, Rebecca Reid

Special thanks to: Nicky Gotobed

WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM

facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine twitter.com/SimplySewing pinterest.com/simplysewingmag instagram.com/simplysewingmag

COMPETITION RULES

By taking part in one of our Competitions, you agree to be bound by these Competition Rules. Late or incomplete entries will be disqualified. Proof of posting (if relevant) shall not be deemed proof of delivery. Entries must be submitted by an individual (not via any agency or similar) and, unless otherwise stated, are limited to one per household. The Company reserves the right in its sole discretion to substitute any prize with cash or a prize of comparable value. Unless otherwise stated, the Competition is open to all GB residents of 18 years and over, except employees of Immediate Media Company and any party involved in the competition or their households. By entering a Competition you give permission to use your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for promotional purposes. All entries will become the property of the Company upon receipt and will not be returned. You warrant that the Competition entry is entirely your own work and not copied or adapted from any other source. If you are a winner, you may have to provide additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. If you are a winner, receipt by you of any prize is conditional upon you complying with (among other things) the Competition Rules. You acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Competition open 18 April - 23 May 2019.

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

EDITORIAL

EDITOR Charlie Moorby
SENIOR ART EDITOR Lisa Jones
PRODUCTION EDITOR Michelle Grady
TECHNICAL EDITOR Roisin McKenna
DIGITAL EDITOR Zoe Williams
PHOTOGRAPHY Philip Sowels

ADVERTISING

Call 0117 300 8206
SENIOR ADVERTISING MANAGER Penny Stokes
SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE Tiffany Jackson
CLIENT PARTNERSHIP MANAGER Beckie Pring

MARKETING & CIRCULATION

SUBSCRIPTIONS DIRECTOR Jacky Perales Morris
SENIOR DIRECT MARKETING EXECUTIVE Kate Jones
HEAD OF NEWSTRADE MARKETING Natalie Shearer
NEWSTRADE MARKETING MANAGER Helen Seymour

BUYING

Paul Torre, Karen Flannigan

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Derrick Andrews
PRODUCTION MANAGER Sian Rodgers / Emma McGuinness
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Sarah Powell

LICENSING

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL LICENSING
& SYNDICATION MANAGER
Tim Hudson tim.hudson@immediate.co.uk
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS MANAGER
Anna Brown anna.brown@immediate.co.uk

PUBLISHING

PUBLISHER Liz Taylor
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Tom Bureau
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR Andrew Gabriel
MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRISTOL Andy Marshall

DISTRIBUTION

FRONTLINE Call +44 (0)1733 555161

PRINTED IN THE UK

BY WILLIAM GIBBONS

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH?

EDITORIAL TEAM
simplysewing@immediate.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS TEAM
simplysewing@buysubscriptions.com
03330 162 149

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE

THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2019

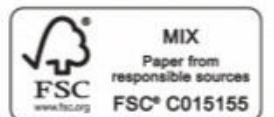
No gift included? Ask your newsagent.
Covergift may be unavailable overseas.


IMMEDIATE MEDIA^{CO}

Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited (company number 05715415) is registered in England and Wales. The registered office of Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited is at Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, London W6 7BT. All information contained in this magazine is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of going to press. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. Readers are advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/services referred to in this magazine. If you submit unsolicited material to us, you automatically grant Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited a licence to publish your submission in whole or in part in all editions of the magazine, including licensed editions worldwide and in any physical or digital format throughout the world. Any material you submit is sent at your risk. Although every care is taken, neither Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited nor its employees agents or subcontractors shall be liable for loss or damage.



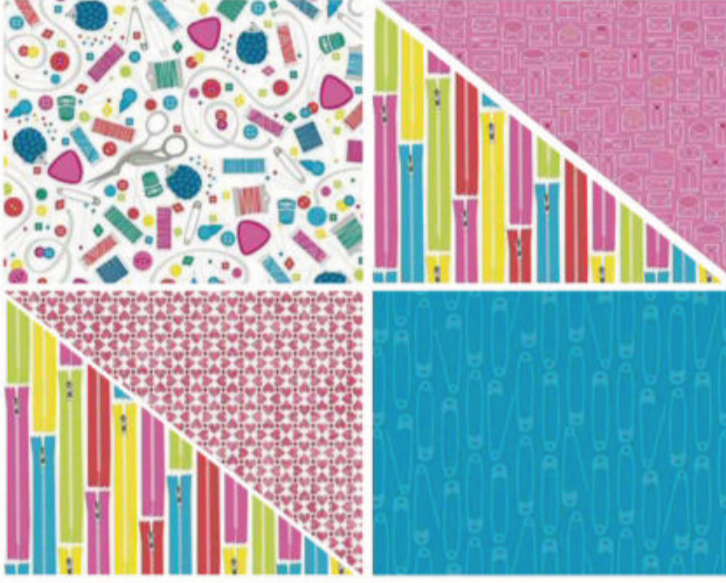
When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.





The Fabric Loft

Fabulous Modern Quilting Fabrics
Why Not Take a Peek?



Studio E: So Much Fun, Hugs & Kisses, Riley Blake Designs: Lovebug

www.thefabricloft.co.uk

pin & sew

THE KNIT FABRICS BOUTIQUE



BEAUTIFUL KNIT FABRICS
SEWING PATTERNS
GIFTS & ACCESORIES

PINANDSEW.CO.UK

10 % OFF NEXT ORDER WITH CODE SS10

yarn fabric needles & hooks haberdashery buttons ribbons



WOOL WAREHOUSE

Get **10%**
OFF EVERYTHING!
Discount code:
SS55

All 343 shades in stock!

£2.24
per fat quarter

Robert Kaufman:
Kona Solids

£2.99
per fat quarter

Dashwood: Stitch



We're proud to stock all these leading brands!

All 310 shades in stock!

£1.99
per fat quarter

Moda: Bella Solids

£2.99
per fat quarter

Makower: Fern Garden

£3.79
per fat quarter

Liberty Fabrics:
Hesketh House

FREE UK DELIVERY
on orders
over £25

www.woolwarehouse.co.uk
01926 882818 or 0800 505 3300 | hello@woolwarehouse.co.uk

No minimum order. £2.95 delivery charge for UK orders under £25.
* Discount code not valid on sale items.

THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

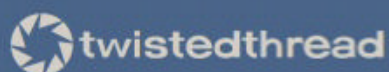
EUROPE'S ULTIMATE
QUILTING DESTINATION



Baltimore Album (Quilt Museum and Study Center, Nebraska). Maker unknown, circa 1845-1855

1st – 4th August 2019
NEC, Birmingham, England

www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk



*Save £2 on Adult tickets, £1 on Concessions. Not valid on Two Day, Child or VIP tickets. £1.95 fulfilment fee and T&Cs apply.

PINBOARD

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



FABULOUS FEARNE

What do you get when you mix the cool, whimsical style of presenter and style icon Fearne Cotton with the retro charm of Cath Kidston? Our dream wardrobe, that's what! Expect fanciful fairytale-inspired prints, novelty motifs and playful-yet-practical frocks, blouses and accessories designed with a busy lifestyle in mind. See more at www.cathkidston.com



PERFECT MATCH

▼ Dressmaking is all about the details, from neatly sewn hems to beautiful buttons, and now we can finish off our projects to perfection with the new zips and buttons from Atelier Brunette, designed to coordinate with its existing fabrics and bias bindings. Our pick are the Glitz buttons, which are mother of pearl edged with glitter – swoon! Visit www.atelierbrunette.com



ALL-SEASON STYLE

A long-sleeved tee under a pinafore is our failsafe spring outfit, so Sew Me Something's Ursula is a pattern that'll see us through this season and the next. Make in cotton for the summer, sew up in medium-weight denim for autumn, or pick a heavier cord or wool for winter. www.sewmesomething.co.uk



UP THE VOLUME

The me-mades we wear the most are often simple styles with unique details that make them a little bit special, and Assembly Line's Puff Shirt pattern is ticking those boxes! With a chic shift shape, a feminine overlapped shoulder design and elegant floaty, voluminous sleeves, it's our perfect everyday blouse with a chic twist. Find the pattern at www.theassemblylineshop.com

SUNNY SIDE UP

Summer is one of our favourite sewing seasons – all the happy colours and joyful prints! And fabric designer Dana Willard captures the sunny vibe of this time of year in her trademark novelty illustration style for her Summer Side collection for AGF. Motifs include retro sunnies, rainbow swimwear, smiling ice lollies, summer berries and breezy blossoms, all in a zingy colour palette of fresh mint, peach and juicy orange. Available in 100% cotton and knit, we can see these sewn up into everything from breezy frocks and comfy tees to travel bags and patchwork quilts. See more at www.artgalleryfabrics.com



Sun's out, fabrics out!
Get sewing for summer with
Dana Willard's new prints.



5 FAB FINDS

Stash-busters

Inspired by *GBSB's* upcycling episode? Use your offcuts for these patterns and projects.



WORTH THE WEIGHT

Make a set of handy sewing helpers using one fat quarter or scraps with the free tutorial at www.simplysewingmag.com



MINI PROFILE

SVETLANA SOTAK

We love having the skills to fill our daily lives with handmade joy, be it a useful tote bag, cushion or casual dress, so we can't wait to start making the projects in designer Svetlana Sotak's beautiful new book. *That Handmade Touch* (£23.99, Lucky Spool Media) features 20 everyday essentials for you and your home, all in her signature boutique-inspired style.

This self-taught sewist first discovered the craft in 2011. "I was a stay-at-home mom, and while I greatly enjoyed being able to spend time with my kids, I also realised I needed to find something for myself that was fulfilling and enjoyable, but also something I could do while being at home." Sewing was just the thing. "I learned from reading blogs, books, and mostly by trial and error and by simply sitting at my machine and sewing pretty much every spare minute I could find. I also started blogging over at Sotak Handmade and I loved sharing my experiences with other sewists."

Having developed her confidence and skills, she started designing her own bag patterns in 2014. Ideas are sparked, she says, by "what kind of bag or pouch I'd like to use. I like my designs to be straightforward, approachable, and, most of all, useful and functional." Taking a new design from concept to reality often means lots of tweaking to get it just so. "Once I decide on a specific idea, I usually start by making a first prototype of the project," she explains. "I then evaluate the size, dimension,

features, etc, which most of the time means I need to make at least two prototypes before I'm completely happy with the design. And then it's onto more sewing, drafting, and then photographing and writing the pattern itself." Although mainly known for her stylish bags, her book showcases "a collection of different sewing projects perfectly representing my everyday work. The book includes pouches, bags and home decor items, as well as a few super fun items for one's furry babies."

Svetlana fits designing and sewing around family life. "I start once I'm home from school drop-off and spend my mornings working. Afternoons and evenings are mostly spent with my family, but I usually do a bit of sewing after dinner as well. And I always try to have a hand-sewing project for when we watch Netflix with the kids, too." As someone who always seems to have a project on the go, it's no surprise her advice is to "keep sewing as much as you can. Just keep at it and you will definitely get better." Indeed, what better place to start than her inspiring book?

See more at sotakhandmade.blogspot.com



"I like my designs to be approachable, useful and functional."



KARRI ON

The panelled Karri dress gives you the chance to play with pattern and colour blocking, and is super-flattering, too. From www.megannielsen.com

TO INFINITY

Need a last-minute gift? Raid your offcuts stash and make this stylish patchwork infinity scarf with the how-to at www.simplysewingmag.com



IN BRIEF

Transform your jersey scraps into cute undies with the Nixie Briefs, with two styles to make. Visit www.jenniferlaurenhandmade.store

JEAN GENIUS

Named's Maisa is perfect for denim remnants (even the sample is made in offcuts!) and you'll wear it for years. From www.namedclothing.com



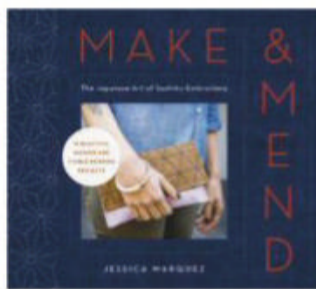


BLAZER AHEAD

Step-up your skills and master tailoring techniques with Closet Case's Jasika Blazer, a timeless tailored design with lots of satisfying-to-sew details, from a notched collar to welt pockets. The instructions use modern speed tailoring methods for a challenging but accessible make, so we can all fix up and look sharp! Go to www.closetcasepatterns.com

MADE TO LAST

▼ As much as we love making new clothes from scratch, it's so satisfying to refresh, revitalise and renew a favourite garment or home accessory. Jessica Marquez's book *Make & Mend* (£12.99, Octopus Books) is filled with inspiring ideas for giving your wardrobe and home a new look with sashiko, a hand-sewing technique that uses a simple running stitch to create decorative patterns. The book includes both new projects to make and ways you can give old faves a new look. Try it with Jessica's three pretty sashiko hem ideas from the book on page 53. www.octopusbooks.co.uk



BUNDLE OF FUN

Is there anything as pleasing as a stack of colourful fabrics, pre-cut and ready for us to start sewing with? We don't think so! Art Gallery Fabrics' collectible Colour Master bundles have been curated by design and colour to help crafters to get creative easier and faster, with fat quarter boxes or half-yard boxes available in dreamy coordinated palettes. Find out more at www.artgalleryfabrics.com, and turn to page 30 for details of our Color Master subscription offer.

3 OF THE BEST

NO PROB-LLAMA

Take inspiration from our boho bedroom makes on page 16 with this on-trend llama loot.

1. Sorry, traditional bunting triangles – our summer parties are going to be adorned with garlands of llamas, pom poms and glittery cacti for a fiesta vibe. £6.99 for 2.5m, from www.gingerray.co.uk

2. Hand-crafted by maker Marie, this quirky llama comes as a hanging decoration or cake topper, with the option to add a personalised neck banner, too. From £17, www.heartfelthandmade.etsy.com

3. Get cosy llama-style with this super-soft throw blanket. At 100x80cm, it's the perfect size for a little one's bedroom (although we might be tempted to 'borrow' it). £53, www.beaumonde.co.uk





MADE FOR MEN

Inspired by our men's sewing feature on page 58? I AM Patterns' menswear designs have all the style staples covered. Included in the range are the comfortable Apollon sweatshirt, simple-sew long-sleeve Milor tee, practical Artemis longline coat and classic Colibri overalls – we're thinking his-and-hers me-made dungarees! Find the pattern collection at www.iampatterns.fr

BOP TO IT

Shake, rattle and twirl! Vintage-inspired womenswear brand Lindy Bop has just launched their own range of fabrics, perfect for sewing up into swishable retro frocks to dance the night away in. Lindy Bop's ten designs are taken from their bestselling styles and are printed on scuba and drapery crepe de chine. Available in one and three-metre lengths from www.lindybop.co.uk



Sew up a wardrobe of retro frocks with Lindy Bop's vintage-inspired prints.

OUT & ABOUT

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

16-19 MAY

Quilts UK. Malvern Showground. Get inspired by the beautiful quilts on display, find new fabrics for your stash and learn new skills from the experts. www.grosvenorshows.co.uk

11 JUNE

Quilt Basics: Jelly Roll Quilt. Backstitch, Cambridge. Bring along a Jelly Roll of pre-cut strips (or buy one from Backstitch's selection) and sew them up into a modern quilt at this three-hour class. www.backstitch.co.uk

22 JUNE - 22 SEPTEMBER

Madge Gill. William Morris Gallery, London. A display bringing together drawings, large-scale embroideries and textiles by artist Madge Gill. www.wmgallery.org.uk

UNTIL 1 MARCH 2020

Glove Stories. Fashion Museum, Bath. See exquisite examples of historical gloves from the past 400 years, including gauntlet gloves from the 1600s. www.fashionmuseum.co.uk



COSY LIVING

Transform your home into a haven of cosiness, tranquillity and beautiful fabrics with Gütermann's Cosy Mood collection. Its lush florals and modern geometrics, in a palette of powdery pinks, soft blues, fresh mint and sage green, have us dreaming of making summery quilts and floor cushions for lazy afternoons in the garden. All 36 designs are available by the metre or fat quarter bundles, along with matching haberdashery. www.guetermann.com

WIN: KNIT FABRICS WORTH £120

Win an amazing £120 bundle beautiful jersey fabrics from Girl Charlee.
(Think of all the dresses and tops you could make with this lot!)



How do you fancy getting your mitts on £120 worth of stunning fabric from Girl Charlee? In this amazing bundle you'll find 12 metres of high quality knit fabric. There's a tropical floral print (perfect for The Leila Dress on p36), two essential plains, a classic polka dot, a subtle anchor print and iconic navy stripe. You'll be in your element using these to sew-up your new summer wardrobe!

Not only do Girl Charlee stock an incredible selection of the most unique designs (printed on their signature cotton blend in California, USA) but the quality of their fabrics is second-to-none. They're soft to touch, have just the right amount of stretch and feel fabulous to wear.

Want in? Enter this competition at www.simplysewingmag.com and shop the rest of their fabric collection at www.girlcharlee.co.uk

Simply Sewing pattern shop NOW OPEN!

Our pattern shop has had a makeover!

Now you can get instant access to your favourite patterns from the *Simply Sewing* collection, alongside our latest releases. Each design comes with a graded PDF pattern in UK sizes 6-20 (US 4-18, EUR 34-38), step-by-step instructions, colour photos and size chart.



Find the launch collection online now at
<http://bit.ly/simplysewingpatterns>

WIN: JANOME SEWING MACHINE WORTH £639

Enter today for your chance to win a brand new Janome M200 QDC computerised sewing machine.

To support you on your sewing journey, every sewist knows you need a machine that's going to grow with you – and encourage you to take your hobby to the next level. Whether it's dressmaking, home sewing, or quilting, the Janome M200 QDC will last you a lifetime. With more functions than a regular machine, the Janome 'M Series' have an impressive range of quality tools and accessories – such as this extended table, which you'll find super-handful for quilting, or sewing with bulky fabric. Supporting

you as you learn with 200 built-in stitches (including an alphabet and buttonholes), and an auto de clutch bobbin winder (easy-peasy!) you'll be stitching your way to a handmade wardrobe in no time at all. Find out more at www.janome.co.uk, and enter our competition to win this amazing prize at www.simplysewingmag.com



JANOME

See www.simplysewingmag.com to enter today! (UK only, see competition rules on p6.)



WILDEST DREAMS

For a bedroom with a wanderlust vibe, mix pom pom trims, travel-inspired prints – and llamas!

Designers: **JESSICA ENTWISTLE** Styling: **LISA JONES** Photography: **PHILIP SOWELS**



PYJAMA SHORTS

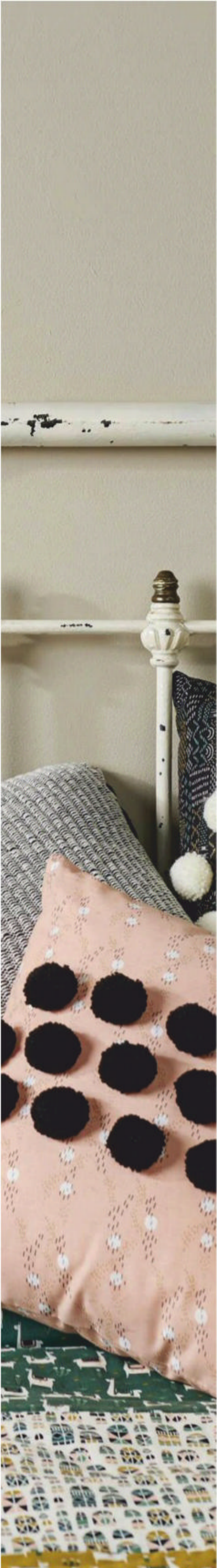
Sew cute-and-comfy pyjama shorts for summer lounging – all you need is a pair of PJ trousers or shorts that fit you to trace your own pattern from (and some pom pom trim, of course!). Now we've got the perfect shorts pattern, we'll be using it to whip up a chambray pair for wearing at the beach, too.

PATCHWORK THROW

Get a stack of statement fabrics at the ready: this throw's large-scale squares are just the thing for showcasing bold patterns, not to mention being an easy project for patchwork newbies. Frame your pieced-together prints with a contrasting bound edge for a professional finish. Of course, now we'll *have* to make a set of matching cushions to go with our new quilt, right?







HANGING STORAGE

From good reads to comfy slippers (and even the odd llama or two!), keeping bedside clutter in order will be a breeze with this clever hanging storage. And it's not just for the bedroom! We'll be making this nifty design for kids' toys, crafting supplies and more – or even in waterproof laminates for a bathroom caddy.

GLASSES CASE

This easy-sew case is a real specs-saver! With a layer of fusible fleece, it'll protect your everyday glasses or fave sunnies from knocks and scratches at home and in your handbag. Don't need a glasses case? Just adjust the measurements to make it as a clutch bag, make-up case, travel wallet, tech pouch... the options are endless.

— BOHO BEDROOM —



LLAMA DECORATIONS

Yes, it's the finishing touch every bedroom needs – an adorable llama duo! Made from two pieces of felt and decorated with scraps and embroidery, it won't take long to sew up a couple of these characterful critters.

POM POM CUSHIONS

From mini pom pom trims to jumbo poms made from chunky yarn, we can't get enough of these colourful balls of fluff! And now we've found a new way to use them, all lined up in neat rows on handmade cushions. Play with different colour combos for an eclectic look.







PYJAMA SHORTS

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric: 1m x 115cm (1 $\frac{1}{8}$ yd x 45in) (see notes)
- Pom pom trim: 2m (2 $\frac{1}{4}$ yd)
- Elastic: 25mm x 1m (1in x 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ yd)
- Pattern paper, for the template
- Shorts or trousers that fit you
- Erasable pen
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

The fabric used is from the Faraway Places collection by Elizabeth Olwen for Cloud9 Fabrics. Far Above. Ref: 208201. For stockists visit www.hantexonline.co.uk

NOTES

- Use a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance.
- Fabric and elastic quantity will be dependent on the size of shorts you are making.

CREATING THE PATTERN

Step one You need to create two pattern pieces – the front of the shorts and the back. Lay the paper flat with your shorts or trousers folded in half vertically, so that one side of the front of your shorts/trousers is showing. **01**

Step two Smooth out the sides to mark the true outline. As the top of the final shorts will be elasticated, the pattern piece from both sides will go straight up and not curve inwards. Draw around your existing garment, adding a little extra to the sides 2.5-5cm (1-2in) if your current pair are tight fitting. If you are using trousers as the template, mark the point on your paper where you would like the hem to be – ours measure approx 10cm (4in) from the crotch seam to hem.

Step three Repeat for the back of the shorts. The shorts crotch seam is probably longer at the back, so note how much longer. Also, the shorts back will most likely be wider.

Step four For both front and back, add 8cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) to the top seam and 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) to the bottom seam, as well as a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance to both the side seams and the crotch seams.

Step five Cut out your paper patterns and use them to create a mirror pair for both the front and back pieces from the fabric. Mark the two front pieces as F (front) and the two back pieces as B (back), then mark 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) and 8cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) down

from the top edge and 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) up from the bottom edges with the erasable pen. **02**

SEWING THE FRONT AND BACK

Step one Take the two front pieces and pin them right side (RS) together along the curved crotch seam and sew from top to bottom. Finish the raw edges of the seam to prevent fraying. **03**

Step two Repeat for the two back pieces. Press both seams to the same side (so that when you join the front and back the seams will nest).

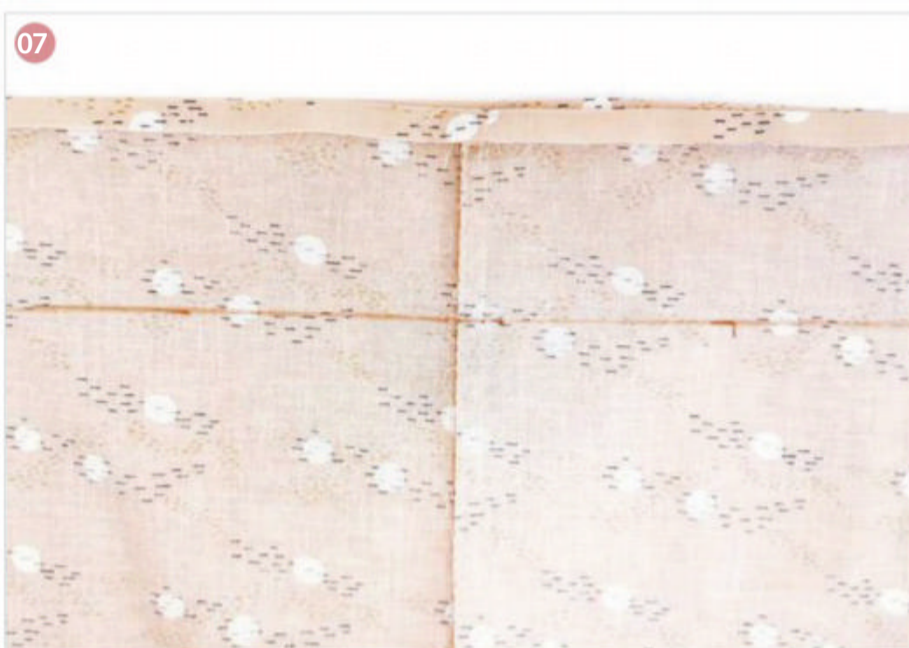
Step three Pin the shorts front to the shorts back RS together along the side seams. Sew together as before. Press the seams to the back. **04**

Step four Pin the crotch front and back together, aligning the front and back central seams. Sew together as before. Press the seam to the back. **05**

ADDING THE POM POM TRIM

Step one Fold up the raw edge of one of the shorts legs by 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) to the wrong side (WS). Press. Fold and press again so that the raw edge is enclosed and the bottom edge of the shorts is along the 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) marked line. Topstitch along the edge of the folded seam. Press.

Step two Pin the pom pom trim inside the shorts leg along the folded edge, starting near the crotch seam at the back of the shorts. Cut off the excess trim when you get to the beginning of your



stitching. Sew the pom pom trim to the shorts.

Step three Repeat for the second shorts leg. **06**

ADDING THE WAISTBAND

Step one Fold over the top edge of the shorts to the WS by 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in). Press. **07**

Step two Fold the pressed edge to the 8cm ($3\frac{1}{8}$ in) marked line on the WS and press. This is the elastic channel and should be just over 2.5cm (1in) wide.

Step three Starting near the back seam of the shorts, sew the elastic channel to the shorts, leaving a 6cm ($2\frac{3}{8}$ in) gap to insert the elastic. Sew close to the folded-over edge. Topstitch close to the top edge of the shorts as well.

Step four Measure the waist and work out how you would like the shorts to fit. Our elastic is approx 12cm ($4\frac{3}{4}$ in) longer than the waist measurement so that the waistband will sit below the natural waist but can still stretch over the hips. Mark the elastic accordingly.

Step five Using a safety pin, thread the elastic through the elastic channel all the way around and out the other side. **08**

Step six Pin the elastic to check fit, then cut off any excess and sew with two rows of stitching along the overlap for strength. Stretch the waistband outwards so the elastic sits back inside the channel. Stitch the opening closed to finish, pulling the fabric straight as you go.



PATCHWORK THROW

YOU WILL NEED

- Main fabric: six fabrics, 60x115cm (24x45in) for each fabric
- Binding fabric: 50x115cm (2¼ydx45in)
- Backing fabric: 4m x 115cm (4½ydx45in)
- Wadding: 185x185cm (2⅞yd)
- Temporary fabric adhesive
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from the Faraway Places collection by Elizabeth Olwen for Cloud9 Fabrics. Llama Life, Green. Ref: 207701. Llama Life, Mustard. Ref: 207702. Llama Life, Ivory. Ref: 207703. Woven Tales. Ref: 207801. Lookout. Ref: 207901. Far Above. Ref: 208201. For stockists visit www.hantexonline.co.uk

NOTES

- Use a 6mm (¼in) seam allowance.
- Use a walking foot if you have one.

CUTTING OUT

Step one From each of the six main fabrics cut six 30cm (12in) squares.

Step two From the backing fabric cut two 2m x 115cm (2¼ydx45in) pieces. Sew together along the selvedge to create the wide backing.

Step three From the binding fabric cut seven 6x115cm strips.

PIECING THE QUILT

Step one The quilt is made up of 36 squares of fabric in a six-by-six grid. Lay the fabrics out on the floor and decide your preferred layout. We used all six fabrics per row but mixed them up in a random pattern. Take a photo as a record to refer to whilst sewing. Group each row into a separate stack and number the stacks.

Step two Take one of the rows and, using your photo as a guide, sew the row together.

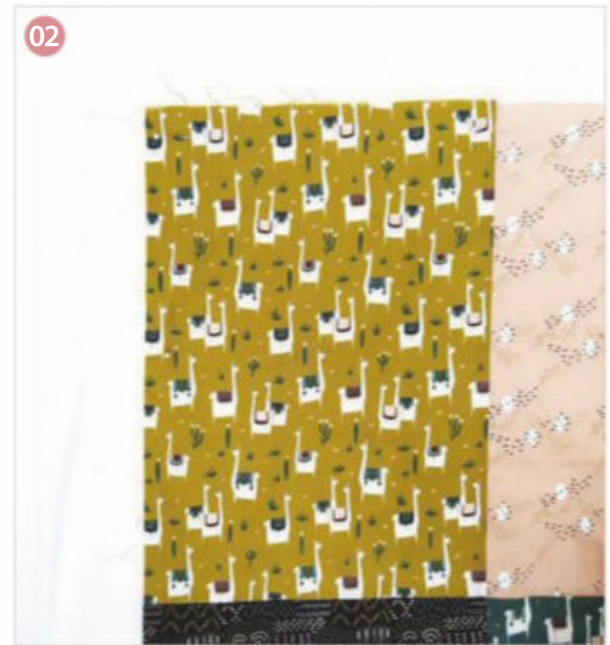
Step three Repeat for each of the six rows. Press the seams to one side for each row in the opposite direction to the row above.

Step four Sew the six strips together, making sure you line up the seams as you sew. ⁰¹

TACKING AND QUILTING

Step one Tack using your preferred method – we used a repositionable tacking spray and tacked our quilt on a table.

Step two Lay the backing fabric wrong side (WS)



up flat on your work surface and place the wadding on top, leaving 3–4cm (1¼x1½in) extra fabric outside of the wadding. Place the quilted top right side (RS) up on top. ⁰²

Step three Lengthen the stitch length on your sewing machine and quilt the throw as you wish – we stitched in the ditch to blend the stitches into the seam for a neat finish – and press.

Step four Trim any excess wadding and backing.

ADDING THE BINDING

Step one Join the binding strips together by placing two strips at 90-degree angles to each other with RS facing and raw edges matching. Sew along the diagonal from the top left corner to the bottom right corner. Trim off the excess fabric, press the seam open and trim off the pointed ends.

Step two Fold the long strip in half lengthways WS together and press.

Step three Place one end of the strip 15cm (6in) in from a corner. Make sure you align the binding and quilt edges.

Step four Sew the binding to the quilt with a 6mm (¼in) seam allowance, starting 15cm along from the binding short edge. Stop 6mm from the first corner, backstitch to secure and then take the quilt off the machine.

Step five Fold the binding up at an angle where the stitching ends. Fold the binding back down

along the next side of the quilt. Pin in place.

Step six Start sewing from the top edge, sewing over the folded corner and down the next side. Repeat until you reach the start of the sewn-on binding. Stop sewing 10cm (4in) from the start.

FINISHING THE BINDING

Step one There will be some excess binding. Cut off a 10cm (4in) strip from the excess and open it out so you can see its 6cm (2⅜in) width.

Step two Lay the original binding flat with the excess binding on top of it, place the 6cm (2⅜in) wide cut strip on top so that the right side of the 6cm (2⅜in) is lined up with the original binding end. Mark the left side of the 6cm (2⅜in) where it joins the excess binding and the cut off the binding excess. ⁰³

Step three Open out the two binding strip ends and place them RS together at a 90-degree angle as you did when joining the strips. Pin, then sew them together from corner to corner. ⁰⁴

Step four Pull the quilt flat to check the sewn binding is correct, then cut off the excess outside of the seam and finger-press the seam open. Finger-press the binding in half then sew the unsewn binding to the quilt.

Step five Press the binding to the WS of the quilt and either slip stitch by hand or machine-sew all the way around to finish.

HANGING STORAGE

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric A: 50x115cm (20x45in)
- Fabric B: 50x115cm (20x45in)
- Fabric C: 50x115cm (20x45in)
- Canvas: 1mx115cm (40x45in)
- Sew-in foam batting: 1mx72cm (1½ydx28½in)
- Dowel: 21mmx38cm (¾x15in)
- Twine: 1m (1½yd)
- Paper, for the template
- Erasable fabric marker
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from Faraway Places by Elizabeth Olwen for Cloud9 Fabrics. Llama Life, Mustard. Ref: 207702. Woven Tales. Ref: 207801. Far Above. Ref: 208201. Visit www.hantexonline.co.uk for stockists. Vilene Style-Vil foam from www.ladysewandsew.co.uk

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance.
- Download the templates from www.simplysewingmag.com/downloads

CUTTING OUT

Step one Download and cut out the template.

Step two From Fabric A cut:

Bucket base: cut two using the template.

Bucket outer: two 20x45cm (7⅞x17¾in).

Step three From Fabric B cut:

Bucket base: cut two using the template.

Bucket outer: two 20x45cm (7⅞x17¾in).

Step four From Fabric C cut:

Bucket base: cut two using the template.

Bucket outer: two 20x45cm (7⅞x17¾in).

Step five From the foam wadding cut:

Bucket base wadding: three using the template.

Bucket outer wadding: three 20x45cm

(7⅞x17¾in).

Step six From the canvas cut:

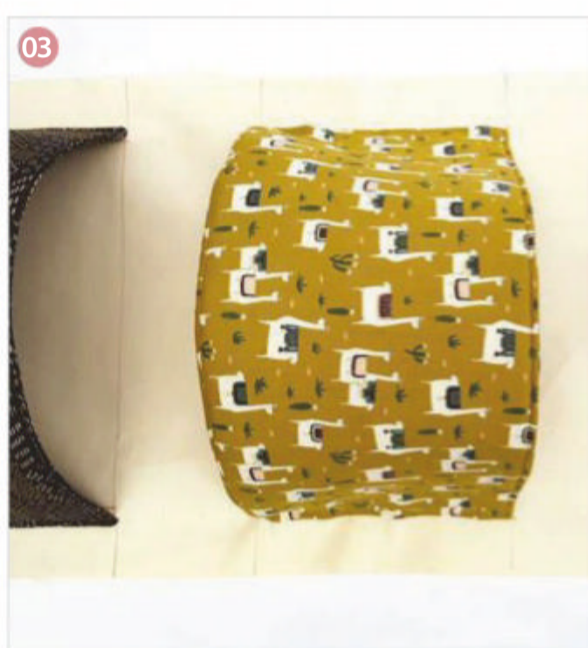
Backing panel: two 34x96cm (13⅜x37⅞in).

Hanging tabs: 10x15cm (4x6in).

MAKING THE STORAGE POCKETS

Step one Staystitch the bucket outer wadding pieces to the wrong side (WS) of one of each design of the bucket outer fabric pieces. Repeat for one of each of the bucket base wadding pieces and one of each of the base fabric pieces.

Step two Mark the 1cm (¾in) seam allowance on the reverse of both the foam/fabric sections and remaining fabric pieces. Also mark the middle points and the quarter points along the bottom long edge of the outer bucket pieces and the bottom straight edge of the base pieces.



Step three Clip within the seam allowance along the bottom edges of the bases and bucket outers. Pin or clip the matching bases and outer pieces together, matching marks, then sew together. This will create three foam/fabric outers and three fabric linings. **01**

Step four Trim any excess fabric/foam. Clip the matching lining to the corresponding fabric/foam pieces right sides (RS) together. **02**

Step five Sew around the outer edge, leaving a turning gap along the base long edge.

Step six Trim away excess foam/fabric. Turn RS out through the turning gap and push out the corners. Press, then tuck the turning gap fabric/foam inside then topstitch all the way around. Mark the middle point along the straight edge of the base.

ATTACHING THE STORAGE POCKETS

Step one Using an erasable fabric marker, mark horizontal lines along the short width of one of the canvas backing pieces. Starting from the top edge and working downwards, mark 16cm (6⅜in) down from the top edge, then 18cm (7⅞in) below that mark, then 10cm (4in) below that, then 18cm (7in), then 10cm (4in), then 18cm (7in). You should have 6cm (2⅜in) left between the last line and the bottom edge. The three 18cm (7in) gaps are where the pockets will be sewn.

Step two Starting at the bottom line, mark the

middle point along that line, then mark 14cm (5½in) away from that point on both sides and draw vertical lines up from those side marks to the next line – these lines will be 18cm (7⅞in). This is where the bottom pocket sides will be sewn onto the canvas. Repeat for the other pockets.

Step three Pin the sides and bottom edge of the bottom pocket to the canvas along the marked line. The topstitching should be pinned and not tucked inside. Sew the pocket to the canvas just inside the topstitching. Backstitch at the top of the pocket sides. Repeat for all pockets. **03**

FINISHING OFF

Step one Fold a hanging tab in half RS together to create a strip 5x15cm (2x6in). Sew along the long edge. Press open with the seam in the centre. Turn RS out and press with the seam central. Topstitch down both sides. Repeat this for the second tab.

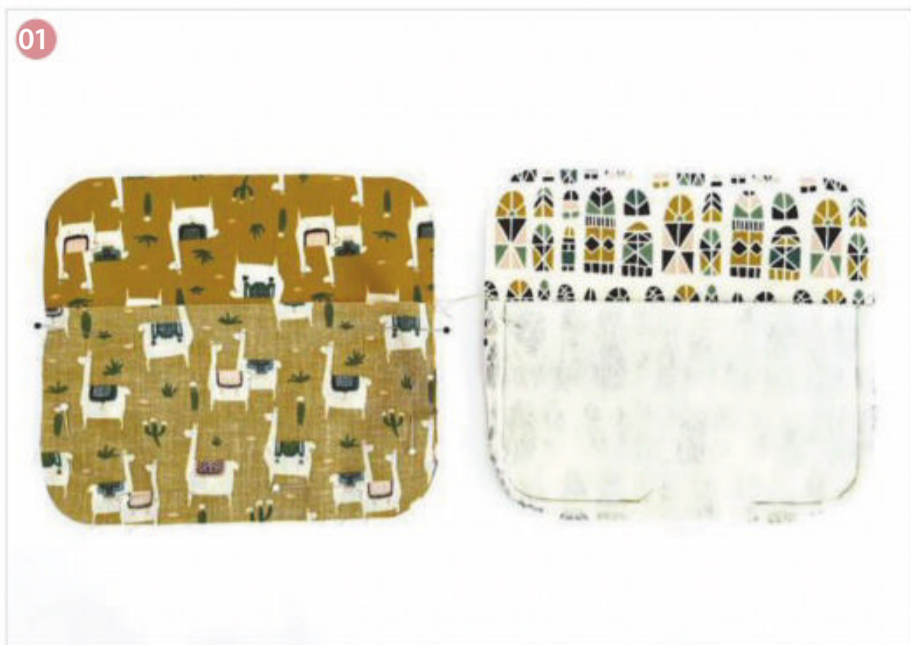
Step two Fold each strip into a loop (with the seam inside) and staystitch along the short edge.

Step three Staystitch the loops to the canvas outer – 7cm (2¾in) in from the top outer edges. **04**

Step four Place the canvas back RS facing the canvas/pocket front and pin all the way around. Sew, leaving a turning gap at the bottom edge.

Step five Clip corners then turn RS out. Tuck the turning gap in, press and topstitch all around.

Step six Insert the dowel and tie with twine.



GLASSES CASE

YOU WILL NEED

- Outer fabric: 20x40cm (8x16in)
- Lining fabric: 20x40cm (8x16in),
- Iron-on fusible fleece: 20x40cm (8x16in)
- Snap fastener
- Egg cup, for rounding corners
- Erasable fabric marker
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from the Faraway Places collection by Elizabeth Olwen for Cloud9 Fabrics. Llama Life, Mustard. Ref: 207702. Lookout. Ref: 207901. Woven Tales. Ref: 207801. For stockists visit www.hantexonline.co.uk

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.
- We used a snap fastener to close our glasses case, but a magnetic fastener or hook and eye could also be used.

CUTTING OUT

Step one From the outer fabric cut:

Case back: one 16x18cm (6 3/8x7 1/8in).

Case front: one 10x18cm (4x7 1/8in).

Step two Press the iron-on fleece onto the wrong side (WS) of the lining fabric, then cut:

Case back lining: one 16x18cm (6 3/8x7 1/8in).

Case front lining: one 10x18cm (4x7 1/8in).

ASSEMBLING THE CASE SECTIONS

Step one Use the egg cup to draw curves on the corners of the case back pieces and the bottom two corners of the case front pieces. Cut away the corners around the curves.

Step two Pin the case front pieces right sides (RS) facing with the matching case back pieces along the bottom long edges. The outer fabric back piece needs to be upside down as in the image so that the print will be facing the right way up when the glasses flap is closed.

Step three Sew together around the two short sides and along the bottom, removing the pins as you sew. Leave a turning gap along the bottom of the fabric/fleece lining. ⁰¹

PUTTING THE CASE TOGETHER

Step one Clip the corners. Place the outer fabric inside the lining fabric/fusible fleece lining with RS together aligning all edges. Pin the case front

pieces together along the straight edge.

Step two Sew from side seam to side seam along that edge only. ⁰²

Step three Pin the fabric together along the top half of the sides and around the top.

Step four Sew together, pushing the seams out of the way and removing the pins as you do. Trim off excess fabric and clip the corners. ⁰³

Step five Turn RS out through the turning gap. Push out the corners and push the lining into place. Press.

Step six Close the turning gap with a neat ladder or slip stitch.

Step seven Attach a snap fastener, making sure you only sew through the lining/fleece and not the glasses case outer. ⁰⁴

TIP:

This design could be made as a clutch, too - use an existing bag as a size guide.



POM POM CUSHION

YOU WILL NEED

For each cushion:

- Fabric: 50x115cm (20x45in)
- Pom pom maker: 35mm (optional)
- Yarn: 1 ball
- Cushion pad: 40cm (16in)
- Erasable fabric pen
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from the Faraway Places collection by Elizabeth Olwen for Cloud9 Fabrics. Woven Tales. Ref: 207801. Far Above. Ref: 208201. For stockists visit www.hantexonline.co.uk

NOTE

- Use a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.

CUTTING OUT

Step one From the main fabric cut:

Cushion front: 42x42cm (16½x16½in).

Cushion back: two 42x28cm (16½x11in).

EMBELLISHING THE CUSHION

Step one Make sixteen 35mm (1½in) pom poms. Make sure you leave two long tails for each pom pom so you can attach them to the cushion. **01**

Step two Take the cushion front and work out where you want the pom poms to go. We placed a row of six in the middle and a row of five either side. Mark your chosen placement on the cushion front with an erasable fabric marker. **02**

Step three Thread a large-eyed needle with one of the pom pom 'tails', then sew it through the front of the cushion where you have marked. Repeat for the second pom pom tail a couple of millimetres away from the first tail.

Step four Tie the pom pom tails tight into a double knot on the wrong side (WS) of the cushion front. Check the pom pom is secure then cut off the excess tail yarn. **03**

MAKING THE CUSHION BACK

Step one For both of the cushion back pieces, fold over one of the long edges to the WS by 1cm (3/8in) and press. Then fold over by 1cm (3/8in) again to enclose the raw edge. Topstitch in place. If the

fabric you are using has a directional print, make sure the sewn edges match so the pattern flows across the back of the cushion.

Step two Place the envelope backs right sides (RS) facing the cushion front so that they overlap. Pin, then sew all the way around. **04**

Step three Turn the cushion RS out through the envelope back and insert the pad to finish.





HANGING DECORATION

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric A: 25x35cm (10x14in)
- Fabric B: 25x35cm (10x14in)
- Felt: 30x50cm (12x20in)
- Stranded cotton in black and pink
- Black ribbon: 3mmx40cm (1/8x16in)
- Bondaweb: 10x10cm (4x4in)
- Toy stuffing
- Erasable fabric marker
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from the Faraway Places collection by Elizabeth Olwen for Cloud9 Fabrics. Llama Life, Green. Ref: 207701. Llama Life, Mustard. Ref: 207702. Woven Tales. Ref: 207801. Far Above. Ref: 208201. For stockists visit www.hantexonline.co.uk

NOTE

- Download and print the templates from www.simplysewingmag.com/downloads

CUTTING OUT

Step one From the felt cut:

Llama: cut one pair using the template.

Step two Transfer all markings using an erasable fabric marker – for the embroidery, appliqué and ribbon insertion.

Step three From Fabric A and B, trace a mirror image of the appliqué template for both layers of the carpet onto the wrong side (WS) of the Bondaweb, then press it onto the WS of Fabric A and B. **01**

EMBELLISHING THE LLAMA

Step one Cut out the Bondawebbed fabric and press it onto the llama.

Step two Using three strands of stranded cotton, embroider the llama's facial features and the carpet edges and fringing. **02**

ASSEMBLING THE LLAMA

Step one Place the embroidered llama felt front WS facing the llama felt back. Fold the ribbon into a loop and then pin it into the position marked on the template. **03**

Step two Pin both llama sides together. Leaving a gap for stuffing along the neck, sew the llama together using a small stitch on the sewing machine and using a 2mm (1/8in) seam allowance. Backstitch where the ribbon is attached for

additional strength.

Step three Stuff the llama carefully, making sure you don't stretch the felt. **04**

Step four Close the stuffing gap by hand using stitches that are the same length as the machine sewing to blend.



The power to

create

Your chance
to win a
sewing
class with
Patrick Grant

Ends 31st May 2019, for full
terms and conditions see
www.singerco.co.uk/patrick



The **Singer Heavy Duty Range**

- * extra power motor
- * high sewing speed
- * stainless steel bedplate
- * heavy duty metal frame





(MODELS: 4411, 4423, 4432)

Available from **Argos, Create & Craft, Hobbycraft, John Lewis, Littlewoods, Very** and independent sewing machine retailers.



SINGER®

The world's favourite sewing machines

   @singersewinguk

www.singerco.co.uk

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC



START YOUR FREE TRIAL TODAY*!

- Download the latest issue straightaway, for free
- Your next issue is free too
- Get a further 12 issues in your first year
- All issues download automatically
- Download it once... read it offline forever



iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.

NOOK is a registered trademark of Barnes & Noble, Inc. NOOK Tablet is a trademark of Barnes & Noble, Inc

*Free trial not available on Zinio

SAVE TIME, MONEY AND HASSLE WITH AN ANNUAL SIMPLY SEWING SUBSCRIPTION



WIN
£639 SEWING MACHINE
*T&Cs apply

6 ON-TREND
LLAMA MAKES

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

ISSUE FIFTY FIVE



NEW PATTERN!

THE LEILA DRESS SET

IN SIZES 6-20



Maxi shirt re



**JUST TAP
HERE TO
SUBSCRIBE
TODAY**



SUMMER READY

10 easy wardrobe updates to sew for the season!

NEW SKILLS: Patchwork • Couching stitch • Hemming jeans • Make waxed fabric

SUMMER READY

wardrobe updates to sew for the season!

ork • Couching stitch • Hemming jeans • Make waxed fabric

**TO SUBSCRIBE SIMPLY VISIT:
WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM/DIGITAL**

* Free trial not available on Zinio.

The digital version of the magazine does not include the cover gift that you would find on newsstand copies.



DIAMOND BRIGHTS

Sew a rainbow with **Katarina Roccella's** diamond cushion made in mood-boosting brights and simple half-square triangles.

**SUBSCRIBE
AND GET FABRICS
TO MAKE THIS -
WORTH £45!**
Go to p30.



GEOMETRIC CUSHION



YOU WILL NEED

For one cushion:

- Fabric A: 1 fat eight (28x46cm)
- Fabric B: 1 fat quarter (46x57cm)
- Fabric C: 24x45in (60x115cm)
- Fabric D: 1 fat eight (28x46cm)
- Fabric E: 1 fat eight (28x46cm)
- Mediumweight, one-sided fusible interfacing or wadding: 16x16in (41x41cm)
- Cushion insert: 15x15in (38x38cm)
- Pom pom or decorative trim: 65in (2 yds)
- Erasable fabric marker
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from the Skopelos, AvantGarde, and Imprint collections by Katarina Roccella for Art Gallery Fabrics. For stockists visit www.artgalleryfabrics.com

- Fabric A: Paprounes Crimson.
- Fabric B: Uninhibited Fashion.
- Fabric C: Steps Above Prism.
- Fabric D: Greeka Fouxia.
- Fabric E: Morse Dot Sun.

NOTES

- Use a 5mm (1/4in) seam allowance.
- The finished size 15x15in.
- HST = half-square triangle.

CUTTING OUT

- Step one** From Fabric A cut:
HST squares: two 4x4in squares.
- Step two** From Fabric B cut:
HST squares: ten 4x4in squares.
Envelope back: two 17x22in rectangles.
- Step three** From Fabric C cut:
HST squares: ten 4x4in squares.
- Step four** From Fabric D cut:
HST squares: eight 4x4in squares.
- Step five** From Fabric E cut:
HST squares: six 4x4in squares.

HST CONSTRUCTION

- Step one** Place two HST squares in corresponding prints, right sides (RS) together. **01**
- Step two** Align all raw edges and then use an erasable fabric marker to draw a diagonal line across the wrong side (WS) of the fabric.
- Step three** Sew a 1/4in seam on both sides of the drawn line.
- Step four** Cut along the drawn lines. This will produce two HSTs.
- Step five** Press the seams open to eliminate bulk and make it easier to match the seams.
- Step six** Trim the HSTs to 3x3in. **02**

MAKING THE CUSHION FRONT

To make the cushion front, there are total of 36 HSTs. Guided by the cutting and fabric requirements, make the following HSTs:

- Step one** Using Fabrics A and B, make 4 HSTs.
Step two Using Fabrics B and C, make 16 HSTs.
Step three Using Fabrics E and D, make 12 HSTs.
Step four Using Fabrics D and C, make 4 HSTs. **03**

ASSEMBLING THE BLOCKS

- Step one** Sew the HST units right sides (RS) together with 1/4in seam allowances, as shown in the images. Initially, you just need to create the horizontal rows. After sewing, press the seams. Align the composed horizontal rows as shown in the image. **04**
- Step two** Pin the horizontal rows together, working from the top down. Stitch along each seam, then press the seams open. This will create the assembled cushion front. **05**
- Step three** Fuse the interfacing onto the WS of the block/cushion front, or pin the piece of wadding in place and quilt it. If necessary, trim and square the cushion front. **06**

ADDING THE TRIM

- Step one** With the RS of the cushion facing up, start pinning the trim all the way around, starting from one corner. Carefully turn the trim slightly on all corners so that it is rounded and lays flat. **07**
- Step two** Sew the trim in place with the smallest seam allowance possible, finishing where you started and overlapping the trim's edges. Note that depending on the thickness of your trim, you may not be able to round the corners neatly – if



this is the case, you will need to cut the trimming into pieces the length of each edge and overlap the edges at the corners. ⁰⁸

MAKING THE ENVELOPE BACK

Step one Fold and press the envelope back pieces in half WS together along the longer edge. This will result in two 17x11in pieces.

Step two Overlap the back pieces to create a square equal to the side of the front piece. ⁰⁹

ASSEMBLING THE CUSHION

Step one Place the cushion front RS facing with the overlapped backs. Pin all layers together and trim the edges of the back piece if necessary to the size of the cushion front, 15.5x15.5in. ¹⁰

Step two Sew around all edges with a 1/4in seam allowance, rounding the corners slightly, to prevent protruding. ¹¹

Step three Turn the cushion cover RS out and place the cushion insert inside. ¹²



This cushion and fabric is by Katarina Roccella, an artist and textile designer for Art Gallery Fabrics. See more of her collections at www.artgalleryfabrics.com



PSST!

Turn overleaf for fabric and styling inspiration, and be sure to share your finished Leila Dress with us tagged #simplysewingmag





THE LEILA DRESS

Sew your new favourite summer dress! **The Leila Dress** is a comfy T-shirt style with a tie belt and faux wrap detail for easy wear.

THE LEILA DRESS

Packing clothes for your summer break is so much more fun when they're all me-made, right? If your holiday wardrobe is in need of a boost, though, you're in luck – The Leila Dress is super-comfy, super-chic, and super speedy to sew.

With a relaxed T-shirt style, an optional tie belt and a chic faux wrap midi skirt that's sewn in place for easy wear, this dress is going to be our go-to outfit for holidays, barbecues and parties. We're going to need more than one, that's for sure!

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric, for all sizes:
 - 3.5m x 115cm (4yd x 45in)
 - 3m x 140cm (3¼yd x 55in)
- Clear elastic or flexible seam tape: 9mm x 8m (8¾yds)
- Ballpoint needle
- Twin ballpoint needle
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRIC SUGGESTIONS

Light to medium-weight knit fabrics with at least 30% stretch. We used knit fabrics from AGF. Find more details at: www.hantexonline.co.uk/ss-i55

NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (½in) seam allowance throughout.

GETTING STARTED

First, pre-wash and dry your fabric to allow for any shrinkage. Find the line style for your size and follow these lines to cut out the pattern – it can be helpful to mark these with a highlighter. Get your sewing kit ready, press your fabric – and you're ready to start your Leila Dress!

Sewing jersey fabrics on an overlocker will give a professional, durable finish – turn to page 40 for our guide to overlocking.

Includes an optional tie belt – and all-important pockets!



SIMPLE MAKE

Designed for stretch fabrics for a quick sew.

EASY WEAR

Features an elastic waist and tie belt for a flattering fit.

FAUX WRAP

The faux wrap skirt is stitched into place for extra security.





This feminine blossom design could be dressed up or down, www.sewingquarter.com



Diamonds Navy, www.cloud9fabrics.com



Stripe Navy, www.cloud9fabrics.com



Scattered Floral, www.cloud9fabrics.com

FABRIC INSPIRATION

SUNNY SEWING

Take inspiration from summer's azure skies and beautiful blooms with eye-catching florals, sea greens and turquoise blues.



Matchmarks, www.cloud9fabrics.com



Triangles Blue, www.cloud9fabrics.com



Aqua Green Stripe, www.girlcharlee.co.uk



When it comes to flowery prints, we say the busier the better! www.sewingquarter.com

WEAR IT WITH

BRIGHT SPARK

Freshen up your look with these sunshine shades.

Go matte for a modern way to wear a bright lipstick, £3 from direct.asda.com



Give a plain outfit some punch with hot-pink beads, uk.accessorize.com

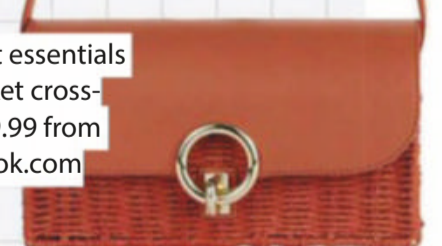


Work the woven trend in these multi-hued hoops, www.marksandspencer.com



Swap your usual tote for a roomy bucket bag in a tangerine-dream hue, £10, www.primark.com

Carry girls' night essentials in a retro basket cross-body bag, £19.99 from www.newlook.com



Add platform heels for a 1970s vibe, £36, www.evans.co.uk



OVERLOCKER TENSION

Getting the tension right on your overlocker is key to achieving the best possible seam finish. Find out how to adjust the tension settings on your machine with our troubleshooting guide.

Overlockers are machines used to finish raw fabric edges. They have grown in popularity in the last 50 years since domestic overlockers have become widely available and affordable to the home sewist. For complete beginners to dressmaking, there are lots of stitches available on a domestic sewing machine (such as zigzag and overcast stitch) that can be brilliant for finishing raw edges and making sure garments last a long time. However, many sewists are interested in overlockers as they bring a professional level of finishing to garments in a quick and easy manner. As well as producing a series of stitches over the raw edge, overlockers also cut away the raw edge of the fabric as you sew for a neat and precise finish. You can also use an overlocker to stitch the seam and finish the raw edges all in one go – this means that the time taken to sew and finish one seam can be halved!

If you have decided to invest in an overlocker or are considering making the leap then you will most likely find that one of the biggest hurdles (aside from threading up the machine!) will be getting the tension correct. As with a regular sewing machine, the tension will most likely need to be adjusted with each different fabric that you sew with. Having good knowledge of thread tensions is important if you want to produce

Thread your overlocker following your model's manual to make sure it is done in the correct order.



Using the correct needle type will ensure the best stitch quality.



neat overlocked edges in a range of fabrics.

As a general rule, if the tension is too loose you will need to increase the number on the tension dial and if the tension is too tight you will need to reduce the number. The tension on an overlocker is controlled by four dials which are outlined here – note that we are outlining issues with standard four-thread overlocking which is commonly used to finish raw edges in dressmaking projects.

It can be helpful to thread your machine in colours that match the dials or illustrations on your machine to test the stitching. In our case, this is orange for the left needle, blue for the right needle, red for the upper looper and green for the lower looper.

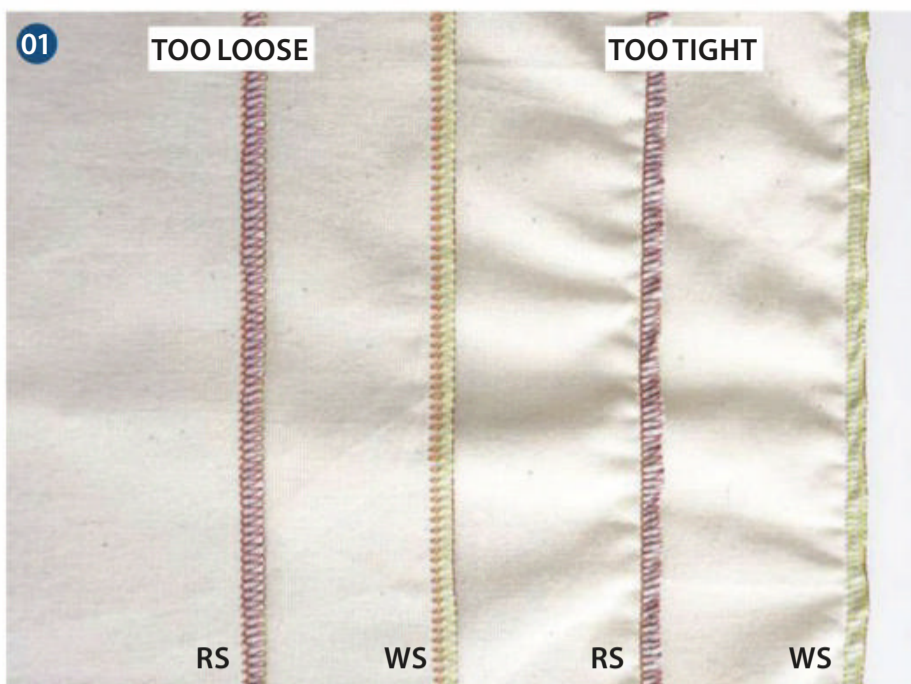


Our Technical Editor Roisin McKenna loves the satisfaction of a neatly overlocked seam! Here she shares which settings to use for best results.

TOP TIPS

Finish your seams like a pro with Technical Editor Roisin's overlocking tips for stress-free sewing!

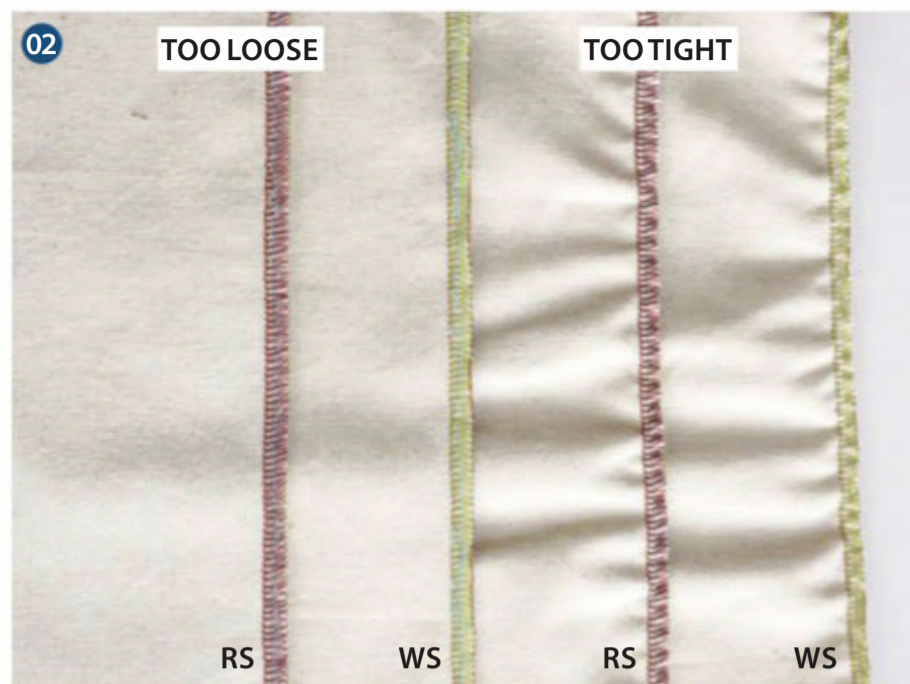
- 1 Use the correct needle for the fabric you are sewing, e.g. a ballpoint for stretch fabrics, sharps for fine fabrics and jeans needles for denim.
- 2 If your machine comes with a clip-on collection tray use it help to prevent scraps of fabric creating a mess!
- 3 Use the correct size tool to change the needle on your overlocker. Using the wrong tool can damage the screw.
- 4 Keep thread snips or small scissors handy to trim excess threads.
- 5 If you are using two needles in your machine always use the same size and type of needle for both the left and right needles. Using different needles will affect the stitch quality and could cause your fabric to snag.



LEFT NEEDLE

The left needle creates the leftmost straight stitch. In the example it is the orange thread. If this stitch is too loose you will notice loops of thread on the left-hand stitch line instead of nice flat stitches. If this stitch is too tight it will cause puckering in the fabric and the overlocked edge will not lay flat.

Test your stitch on a scrap of fabric and make a note of the ideal left needle tension when starting a new project. You can slowly move the dial as you sew to find the tension that is producing the best stitch. Watch the stitch that is being produced carefully to know when you have reached the optimum tension. Tension numbers will change depending on the weight and type of fabric you are working with so make a note of the fabric you are using too. ⁰¹



RIGHT NEEDLE

The right needle creates the central straight stitch. In the example it is the blue thread running centrally parallel to the left-most stitch and the raw edge. If this stitch is too loose you will notice loops of thread along the central stitch line instead of flat stitches. If this stitch is too tight it will cause puckering in the fabric and the overlocked edge will not lay flat.

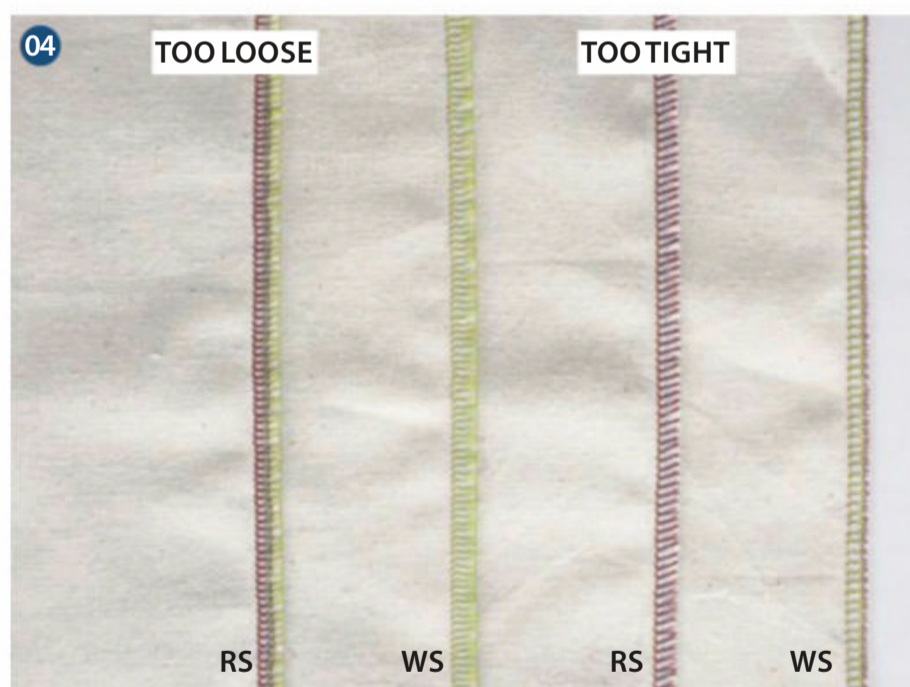
Test out your right needle tension on a scrap of fabric, gently moving the dial as you sew if necessary until you get a stitch that is sitting flat on both sides of the fabric and not looping or puckering on either side. Sewing with threads that are being pulled through the tension disks too tightly can cause threads to break. Always use a high-quality thread for overlocking, as poor-quality threads are more likely to break even if the tension is correct. ⁰²



UPPER LOOPER

The upper looper creates the back and forth looped stitch on the right side (RS) of the fabric. In the example it is the red thread. If this stitch is too loose there will be noticeable looping in the upper looper threads (red in the images) and from the wrong side (WS) of the fabric the upper looper will dominate with less of the lower looper thread (green in the images) visible.

If this stitch is too tight the lower looper thread (green in the images) will be pulled over to the RS of the fabric and the upper looper thread (red in the images) will appear narrower. Test the upper looper tension on a scrap of fabric, slowly moving the dial as you sew until the stitches are sitting flat on both sides of the fabric and not looping or puckering on either side. ⁰³



LOWER LOOPER

The lower looper creates the back and forth looped stitch on the wrong side (WS) of the fabric. In the example it is the green thread. If this stitch is too loose the lower looper thread (green in the images) will be visible on the right side of the fabric. On the WS of the fabric the lower looper (green in the images) will be loose and will not sit flat.

If the lower looper (green in the images) tension is too tight the tightness will pull the upper looper thread (red in the images) over to the WS. Test the tension on a scrap of fabric and adjust the dial slowly as you stitch to achieve a balanced stitch. In a perfect 4-thread overlocker stitch the upper looper and lower looper threads will meet and join at the raw edge with neither one being pulled or pushed to the other side of the fabric. The stitches will also lay flat with no loose threads or puckering. ⁰⁴



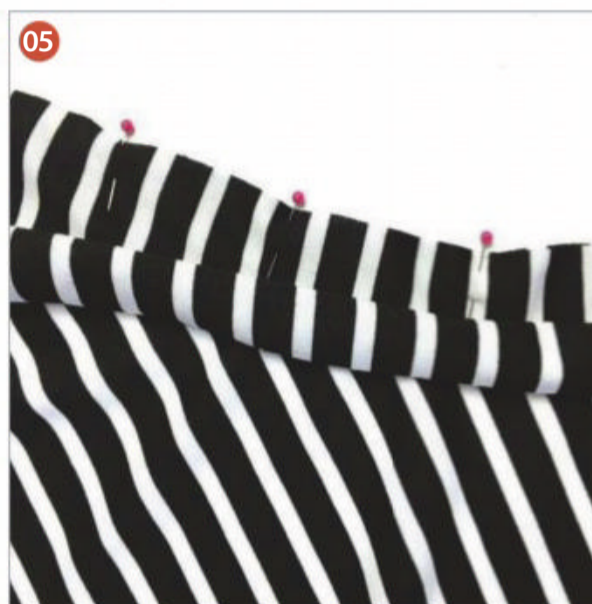
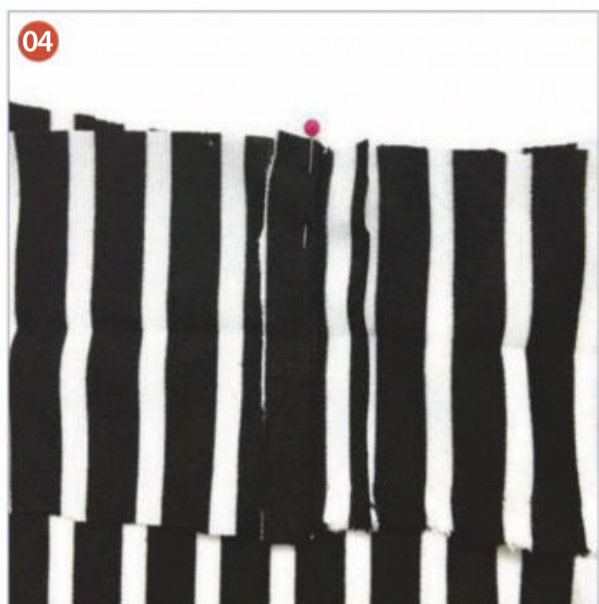
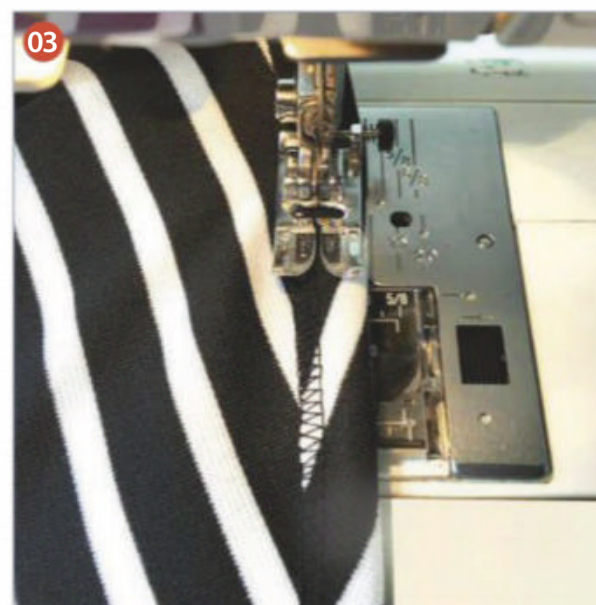
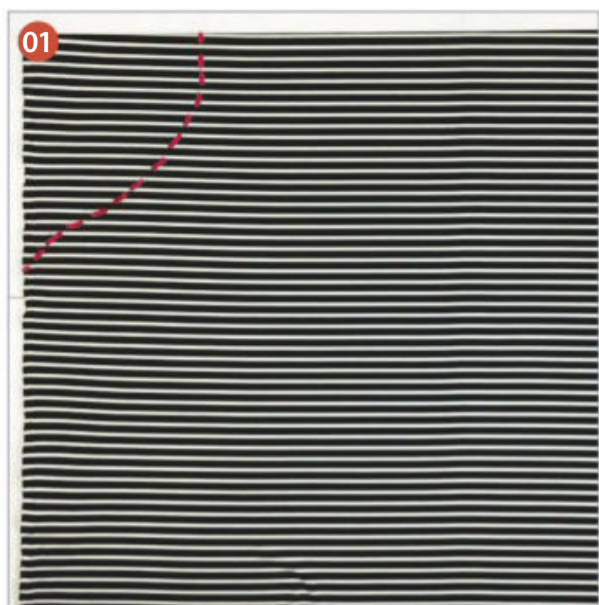
MAXIMUM STYLE

A few simple measurements are all you need for **Debbie Maxwell's** easy-wear maxi wrap skirt. Maximum style, minimum fuss!

NO PATTERN
NEEDED!



MAXI SKIRT



YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric: 2mx150cm (2¼ydx60in)
- Ballpoint sewing machine needle
- Rotary cutter and cutting mat (optional, see notes)
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Using a rotary cutter and a cutting mat can help when cutting jersey.

FABRIC SUGGESTIONS

- Light to medium-weight knit fabrics such as cotton jersey, ponte di roma and viscose jersey.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Measure your waist and then add half on again – we used the following measurements: 66cm (26in) waist + 33cm (13in) = 99cm (39in).

Step two Measure how long you would like the skirt to be, starting at your waist line.

Step three Fold the fabric in half and, with the fold line at the top, mark out a semi circle which measures the total of your waist measurement divided by 3.14. For example, 99cm (39in) divided by 3.14 = 31.5cm (12½in).

Step four Taper the line out towards the outer edge and turn the curve into a straight line. This creates the waistline for the wrap. **01**

Step five To mark the hem, measure the length of the skirt down from the waist circle and mark the fabric. Maintaining a curved line of equal length, draw the entire hem. Measure from your waist line where you would like the curve of the wrap skirt to start – ours is at 71cm (28in). Draw a straight line down from the waist semi circle to the edge of the fabric using this measurement and connect this to the hem line. **02**

Step six Cut out using scissors or a rotary cutter.

MAKING THE SKIRT

Step one Finish all raw fabric edges.

Step two Hem the curved edge with a 1.5cm (⅝in) seam allowance. **03**

Step three Make a waistband by cutting two strips each measuring the width of the fabric x 10cm

(4in). Sew the strips together along the short edges. Press a 1cm (⅜in) hem on both long sides of the waistband then press in half. **04**

Step four Match the centre-back of the skirt and the centre of the waistband and then pin together all the way around. Stitch the waistband to the skirt, right sides together. **05**

Step five Fold over the waistband and topstitch in place along the whole length. Neaten the ends by turning them in and topstitching in place. **06**



Think Overlock...

...think MADEIRA!



Aerolock

Available in 125
and 180 weight

Available
in 100 weight

Aeroflock

Colour matched to Sewing Thread

For ever-
lasting seams

Ask for it in store

Distributed in the UK & Eire by

GROVES

Groves, Eastern Bypass
Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3FU . United Kingdom

Find your local stockist
groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk

100 Years

MADERA

www.garne.madeira.de



 **recycle**

The
Possibilities
are
Endless



Recycle your magazine and seven days
later it could come back as your newspaper

www.recyclenow.com

MY SEWING WORLD

By Lauren Guthrie

Sewing shop owner and *Great British Sewing Bee* alumni Lauren Guthrie shares her tips for mindful making.

When I started setting up Guthrie & Ghani, my fabric and haberdashery shop and sewing workshop, six years ago it was because I loved sewing and making my own clothes so much. I wanted people to get that same sense of joy and satisfaction from sewing; that sense of achievement you feel when you not only have fun doing the sewing part, but you get a lovely garment to wear at the end of it all, too.

I had been contemplating a career change for a while and sewing had been a big stress-reliever for me, so I knew it would be able to help others, too. Self-care and looking after our mental health are so important and sewing can have such a positive impact on that. I know it does for me. When you are fully immersed in the process of cutting out your pattern and fabric, seeing the components come together and listening to the gentle hum of the machine (and your favourite crafting playlist) it can be quite meditative.

FINDING TIME TO SEW

I often get asked whether I still have time to do any sewing while running the business, and the answer is yes, absolutely – I have to, it's my thing! I've had the business for years now and, of course, there are times when I can't sew as much as I would like to due to the demands of the business and life in general, but carving out time in the day where I can sew is still really important to me. It's all about finding a balance and it's what keeps me sane. I've always got lots of projects lined up that I want to make and something's gotta give – usually housework – so that I can still get in some quality sewing time.

The line between sewing and work for me can be a bit blurred sometimes as most of the things I make are then featured on my Instagram, blog or Youtube channel, so when I'm not sewing to relax I love a chilled yoga class in my local studio. To help the students that come to my classes get that same sense of relaxation from sewing that I get, I've been running sewing retreats. These are more intensive three-day workshops have been designed to give attendees the chance to really immerse themselves in their sewing projects, take a break from all the distractions of day-to-day life and, crucially, get a bit of balance.



Find out more about my three-day sewing retreats at www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk



"When I'm not sewing

I love a chilled yoga

class in my local studio."



Fancy making your own trainers? Try Sneakerkit soles from my shop.

"Carving out time in the day where I can sew is still really important to me."

We schedule in a relaxing yoga class as part of the retreat to break up the long sewing days. And with social sit-down lunches, dinner and an afternoon tea at the end, they are a great way to get to know other sewing pals and just chill. The next scheduled retreat is at the end of May and takes place on an Abbey Home Farm (www.theorganicfarmshop.co.uk), which is a fully organic farm in the Costwolds. It's a beautiful location to spend three days sewing and all accommodation and meals are included in the price so I know it will feel like a lovely little holiday for me and the attendees!

MINDFUL MAKING

My advice for anyone who would like to try using dressmaking as a form of relaxation would be to choose a simple project that still pushes you slightly out of your comfort zone. The extra concentration you'll need for a make that's a bit of a challenge will mean there won't be a chance to think about other stresses in your life. Don't rush – just enjoy the process and don't worry about how long something might take to make. Take your time over every step of the project, even if it means just sewing for a short amount of time each day, and don't be hard on yourself and your skills – there aren't any sewing police out there! The sense of satisfaction you'll get when you wear your handmade garment and get lots of compliments will boost your confidence no end – and have you itching to pick out your next project!

Keeping me inspired...

I love the Megan Nielsen Dawn jeans pattern and we have the perfect non-stretch denim in the shop to make them. I'm also seeing coral colours everywhere and so couldn't resist making a pair of new trainers (left) using the Sneakerkit soles we stock and run workshops with. Animal print isn't usually my style, but I love these metallic accented leopard-print jerseys we are stocking in the shop at the moment.

Next on my sewing list are the Megan Nielsen Dawn Jeans in a non-stretch denim.

My Closet Case Patterns Clare Coat (right) was the first proper coat I made. It took me a while to sew and I loved breaking it down into manageable chunks.

My Kelly Anorak – the most challenging project I've made!

PSST.

Turn overleaf for fabric and styling inspiration, and be sure to share your finished Kelham Skirt with us tagged #simplysewingmag





**CLICK
HERE!**
TO BUY THIS PATTERN
FROM **£6.99**
WHILE STOCKS LAST

THE KELHAM SKIRT

MIY Collection's staple A-line **Kelham Skirt** has pleat, pocket and waistband details to mix and match for 20 ways to make it.

MIY[®]
collection
created by a designer | tested by a teacher

make the clothes you love to wear

THE KELHAM SKIRT

Bespoke, couture, made-to-measure – thanks to our sewing skills, they're all words we can use to describe our own wardrobe! And now we can add another unique-to-us creation to our collection with this issue's Kelham Skirt pattern. This classic A-line style by MIY Collection (www.miycollection.com) has a whopping 20 variations to make, with two lengths and pleat, pocket and waistband options – how you combine them is up to you!

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric:
 - 115cm (45in) width x 2.5m (2¾yds), for sizes 1-5*
 - 140cm (55in) width x 2m (2¼yd), for all sizes
- Medium-weight iron-on interfacing: 25x90cm (10x35in)
- Closed-end zip: 20cm (8in)
- Bias binding: 3m (3¼yd)
- Basic sewing kit
- Matching thread

FABRIC SUGGESTIONS

Medium-weight woven fabrics such as denim, cotton, cotton poplin, corduroy and linen.

We used woven cotton from www.stoffstil.co.uk

NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (5⁄8in) seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
- *115cm (45in) width fabric is not wide enough for sizes 6 and 7.

GETTING STARTED

There are 20 variations for making this skirt, so choose the length and design features before cutting out the pattern. The pleat and pockets are optional, however you will need to choose either a waist facing or a waistband to finish the top edge of the skirt. Follow the instructions relevant to your chosen design features.

Pattern includes two lengths and 20 variations to make.



BESPOKE STYLE

Make it in 20 different ways for a unique look.

SKILLS BOOSTING

Learn to add a pleat, pockets, waistband and waist facings.

2 LENGTHS

Choose from a midi or knee length skirt.





Sew a staple denim skirt with a difference with this pinstripe design, www.bobbinsnbuttons.co.uk



Arborescent Seasons, www.artgalleryfabrics.com



Overshot Haze, www.artgalleryfabrics.com



Mystical Woods Solar, www.artgalleryfabrics.com

FABRIC INSPIRATION

THE A LIST

This skirt's simple A-line style is a blank canvas, so get creative with stripes, florals, botanicals, geometric prints and plains.



Panache, www.artgalleryfabrics.com



Aquarelle Study Wash, www.artgalleryfabrics.com



Medium weight denim, www.sewingquarter.com



Dainty blooms stand out on the textured look of this cotton print, www.sewingquarter.com

WEAR IT WITH

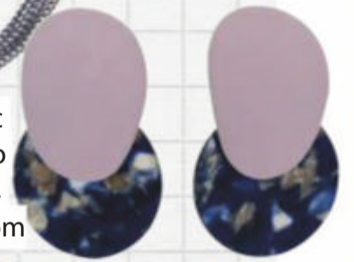
PASTEL PRETTY

Soften up your summer look with delicate pastel shades.

Clash textures with wood and metallics. Necklace £22, www.whitestuff.com, bracelet £14, www.oliverbonas.com



Resin and lilac disc earrings tick of two trends in one, £22, www.oliverbonas.com



Lace detailing adds a sweet twist to a plain T-shirt, £22.50, www.whitestuff.com



A slinky cowl neck top is the perfect day-to-night style, £35, www.oliverbonas.com



Imagine all the new fabrics we could fit in this cute basket bag...£30, www.oasis-stores.com



Treat your feet to comfy flats and wedges. Trainers £39.95, www.whitestuff.com, sandals £45, www.marksandspencer.com



CLASSIC CRAFT
SPECIAL SERIES

Beginner's guide to DRESSMAKING



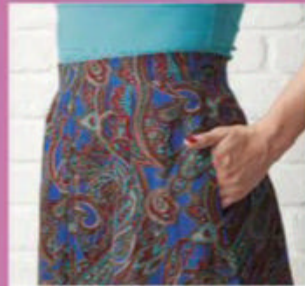
Get started with expert help & step-by-step guides

**+FREE
PDF DRESS
PATTERN!**
WORTH
£8.99



MADE WITH
LOVE

Sew a classic
tulip dress –
how-to inside!



37 Skills Workshops



Helpful How-Tos



26 Easy Proj



Machine Know-How

**JUST
£9.99!***

INSIDE: Measuring ✓ Fitting ✓ Tools ✓ Seams ✓ Pockets ✓ Hemming ✓ Zips

**START DRESSMAKING TODAY WITH MORE THAN 60
STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIALS AND EASY PROJECTS!**

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

ORDER ONLINE www.buysubscriptions.com/dressmaking

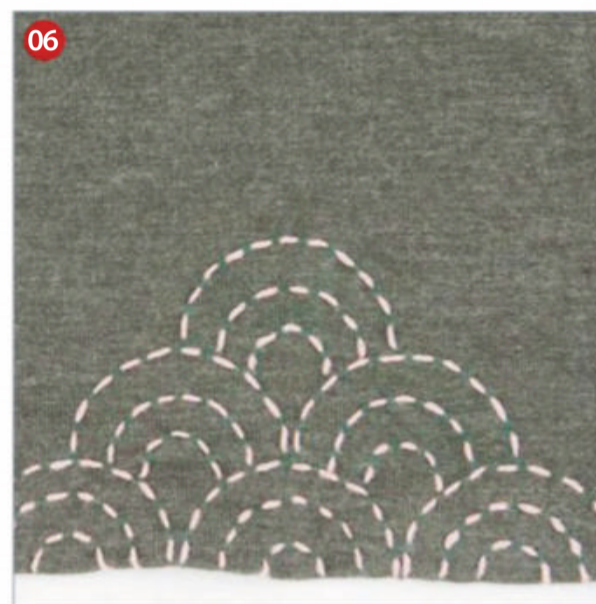
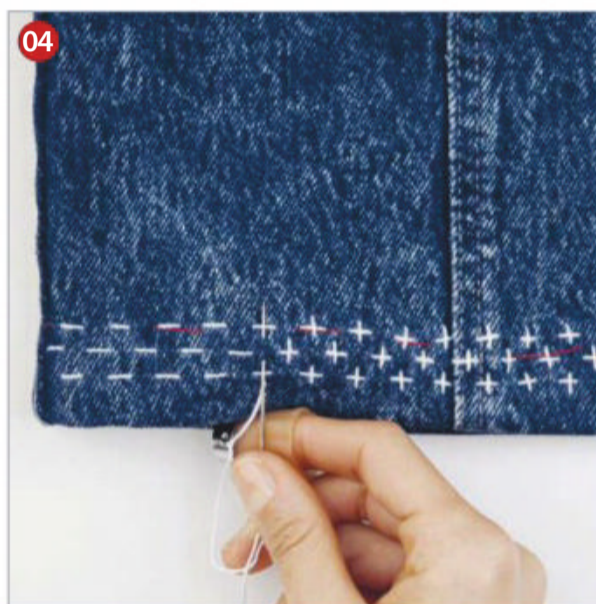
OR CALL 03330 162 138 and quote 'Beginners Guide to Dressmaking Print 1'

*UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff).
Outside of free call packages call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 55p per minute. Lines are open Mon – Fri 8am-6pm and Saturday 9am-1pm for orders only.
Overseas please call +44 (0)1604 973 746. Price applies to UK orders only. EUR price £11.99, ROW price £12.99. All prices include P&P. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.



ON THE MEND

Use sashiko stitches to jazz up your jean hems with Jessica Marquez's three visible mending ideas.



YOU WILL NEED

- Item to repair or alter
- Sewing and sashiko needles
- Sashiko thread
- Sandpaper (optional)
- Sewing gauge (optional)
- Erasable fabric marker
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Download the templates from www.simplysewingmag.com/downloads
- We used Olympus sashiko thread in #1 white, #20 black and #25 peach.

HORIZONTAL ROWS CUFF

Step one Cut the cuff or hem to the desired length, fold and pin then tack into place.
Step two Create stitch guidelines using a ruler and erasable fabric marker. Our three lines are 3mm (1/8in) apart and start 3mm (1/8in) from the top of the cuff. Adjust the spacing and number of rows as desired. **01**
Step three Stitch several tightly stacked rows where you have marked, tucking the knots in between the layers of the cuff. Use a thimble to help you stitch through thick layers of fabric. Once the stitching is complete, remove the marks or tacking stitches. **02**

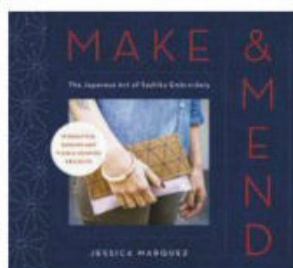
CROSS STITCH HEM

Step one Try on the garment and mark where you'd like the hem to fall.
Step two From this mark, measure and mark an additional 4cm (1 1/2in) down towards the original hem. This is the new hemline. Mark as the new hem and cut. Using a sewing gauge or ruler, measure the distance between the edge of the garment and the new hemline. **03**
Step three Mark around the circumference of the garment and cut off the excess material.
Step four Turn the garment inside out. Fold and press 1cm (1/2in), then 3cm (1in) to the wrong side (WS) of the fabric. Tack the hem in place.
Step five Transfer the pattern lines onto the hem. Draw a 5mm (1/4in) grid starting just above

the top of the newly made hem to make sure it's stitched over, securing it in place. The grid is 1cm (1/2in) wide and drawn around the circumference of the hem.
Step six Tie knots to start and end a length of thread, tucking them in between the fabric layers to hide. First, stitch staggered horizontal rows, then repeat the same pattern vertically with the same spacing, crossing over the horizontal stitches. Remove any tacking stitches and marks to finish. **04**

OCEAN WAVES HEM

Step one Unpick a section of the hem (or work on a ripped section) and then from the WS tack the unpicked/ripped section back in place.
Step two Transfer the Ocean Waves template design using the circle stencils and an erasable fabric marker to transfer the pattern onto the garment over the tacked hem. Trace 1cm, 2.5cm and 4cm (1/2in, 1in and 1 1/2in) half circles, centred and descending in size. Build the pattern up as desired. Use sandpaper under the fabric to stabilise the garment as you draw. **05**
Step three Tie knots to start and end a length of thread. First, stitch the row of the largest half circles as a continuous line. Next, stitch the inner rows. If the pattern extends upwards, jump from circle to circle, leaving a bit of slack on the back side. Carefully cut away the tacking thread and remove markings to finish. **06**



These three ideas for hemming your jeans are from *Make & Mend* by Jessica Marquez. £12.99, published by Ilex. Photos by Erin Scott.

QUICK FIX

Make an elegant drapey poncho for chic summer layering with **Amanda Wyatt's** no-pattern project.

MAKE YOUR OWN IN AN AFTERNOON!



Designer Amanda says: "This poncho is one of those garments that has so much versatility and scope, taking you through every season with style and comfort."

YOU WILL NEED

- Main fabric: 50x150cm (20x60cm)
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Use a 6mm (1/4in) seam allowance.
- If you wish to make a smaller or larger poncho, do this by increasing or decreasing the depth by 5cm (2in) increments.

SUGGESTED FABRICS

Linen knits, cotton knits, sweater knits, linen, cotton rayon and any other fabric with drape.

MAKING THE PONCHO

Step one Measure across your body, from shoulder to shoulder. Double this measurement and, starting from the right-hand edge, mark this length along the top edge of fabric.

Step two Take the top corner of the right-hand short edge and fold it over towards the marked measurement, with the RS of the fabric together, and pin in place.

Step three Now bring the bottom corner of the right-hand edge to align the short edge with the top left-hand edge of the rectangle. Pin from the left-hand marked point to the left edge of the fabric.

Step four You will probably have extra fabric overhanging the left-hand short edge. Draw a line at the over-hang point at the top edge at an angle to meet the bottom left-hand corner. Trim the excess fabric away.

Step five Stitch along the pinned section of the short right-hand edge and top left-hand edge. Neaten the raw edge as desired.

Step six Finish the top and bottom edges of the poncho using a narrow hem or with a narrow stitch on an overlocker.

Signature
COLLECTION
BY SARA DAVIES



Available
now!



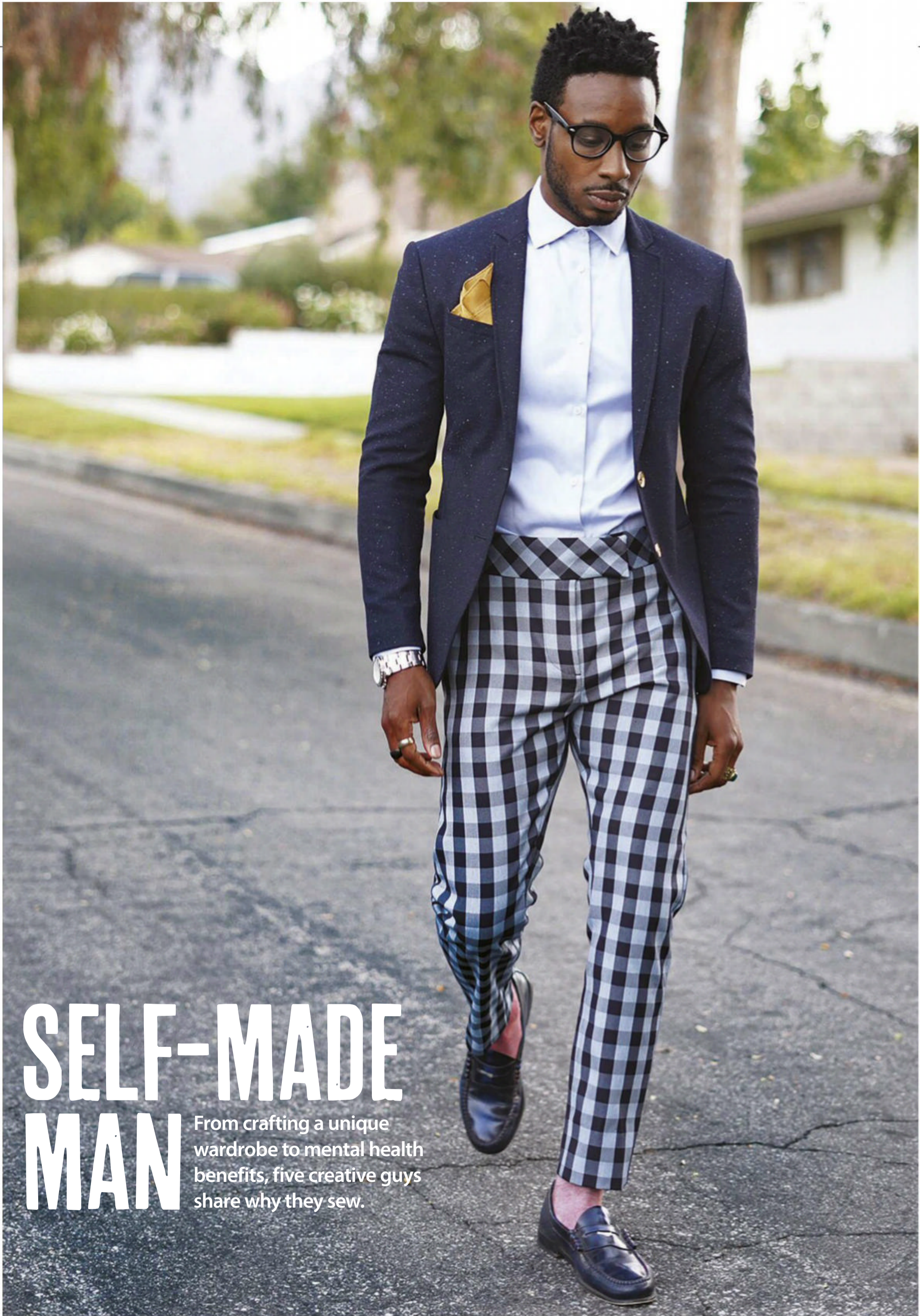
INCLUDES FABRIC, ZIPS ON A ROLL, METAL CHARMS, FAUX LEATHER, BAKER'S TWINE, THREADS, DIES, EMBOSSING FOLDERS, STAMPS, PAPER PADS AND MORE!

VISIT WWW.CRAFTERSCOMPANION.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

PINUP

Make a clever fold-up tote bag for your next fabric-shopping trip.

We might already have a collection of canvas tote bags – but none of them are like this one! This issue's Fold-Up Tote has a clever zip-up design: just fold it, zip it up, and pop it in your handbag ready to head to the shops with. This project will give your skills a boost, too: you'll learn how to add sturdy straps, a lining and that nifty zip fastening, plus a mini zip pocket perfect for stashing your shopping list. Pick a durable fabric like denim or canvas for a hard-wearing tote (all the better for filling up with fabrics!).



SELF-MADE MAN

From crafting a unique wardrobe to mental health benefits, five creative guys share why they sew.



Carl Frisk sews made-to-measure clothes from his own sloper. "Right now I'm in the middle of a cardigan-jacket-hybrid influenced by US military jacket liners."



One of the many things this year's series of *The Great British Sewing Bee* has taught us – including the fact that clothes really can be made from just about *anything* – is that there's an increasing number of men taking up the craft of sewing. Historically, soldiers and sailors would make and mend their clothing out of necessity, but more recently sewing has become a valuable creative outlet, made even more popular thanks to *GBSB*, YouTube and social media. From bow ties, button-up shirts and simple T-shirts, to sleek tailored trousers and smart suit jackets, modern men's sewing is full of stylish possibilities.

Norris Dánte Ford (www.norrisdantafor.com) is one creative individual who's really pushing the boundaries of DIY fashion for guys. He's gained a large following online and it's easy to see why. The garments he makes are slick, original and dapper to say the least. Although this stylist, model and designer was already passionate about fashion, it was actually his partner and now-fiancée, MimiG (www.mimigstyle.com), who showed him how to bring his ideas to life. She started working with Simplicity back 2014, going on to set up her own school, www.sewitacademy.com, in 2016, as Norris explains. "MimiG had already established her brand in the DIY fashion world and it was the first time seeing someone take fabric and make these fantastic garments themselves. People knew me for my personal style and I would get booked for work as a wardrobe

stylist to dress celebrities, athletes, artists, etc., but to see someone make clothes from start to finish just blew me away."

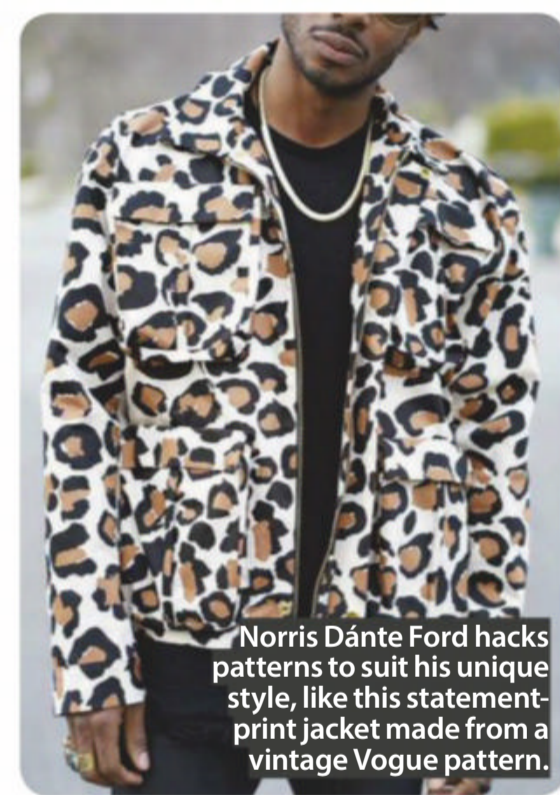
#MENWHOSEW

Norris' creativity and sense of style meant he was keen to customise garments to create something truly unique. Now, he regularly posts his pattern hacks, how-tos and DIYs on Instagram and his blog, encouraging fashion fans to get involved. "I started modifying existing patterns out of necessity because

"I PAY ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS I REALLY LIKE, SUCH AS STITCHING, POCKET SHAPES AND HARDWARE."

I couldn't find that many men's commercial patterns that I loved or ones that had all the details I wanted. One of my most recent favourite projects is a trench coat, made by modifying Vogue Pattern 8720." Keen to follow suit and hack an existing pattern? "Don't overthink the process," he advises. "When you see something you want to change up, pick out the things you like and dislike first, then think about details in the pieces you own and already love to add."

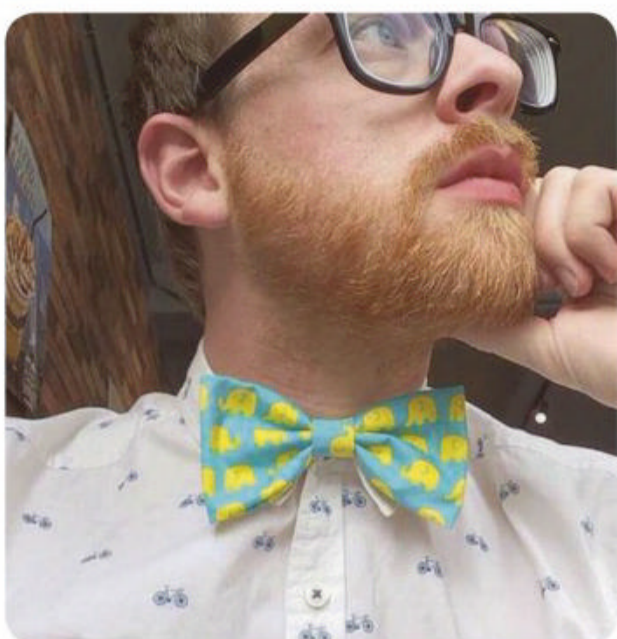
Carl Frisk's (www.carlfriskworkshop.com) approach to making has been similar. He



Norris Dánte Ford hacks patterns to suit his unique style, like this statement-print jacket made from a vintage Vogue pattern.

creates his own designs based on different styles he's seen. "I've been paying attention to the details I really like for a long time, such as fabrics, stitching, pocket shapes and hardware," he explains. This inspiration-gathering has then informed his process when it comes to drafting his own patterns. "I'm still fairly new to pattern-making. All of mine are based on the sloper I developed from my measurements directly, so I only have them in my size. Grading is one part of the pattern-making process where I'm really still learning the basics."

This product developer and designer's love of sewing started out with vintage clothing,



MEN'S PATTERN ROUNDUP

Add to your stash of patterns with these skills-boosting designs, from a casual tee to an everyday coat.

1 THE FOREMAN JACKET BY MERCHANT & MILLS

Inspired by traditional workwear of the early 1950s, this boxy-cut, unlined, practical jacket can be made in a variety of fabrics, including canvas, denim, moleskin or wool. Go to www.raystitch.co.uk

2 COLETTE PATTERNS' ALBION COAT

A classic unisex duffle-style coat with toggles, yoke details and a three-piece hood. Make it in wool coating or a waxed canvas for a gorgeous finish. Visit www.colettepatterns.com

3 SIMPLICITY 8613

A raglan-sleeve men's T-shirt pattern by MimiG for Simplicity, even featuring Norris on the packaging! It includes options to mix and match in different ways, with two sleeve lengths and three neckline styles. Go to www.sewdirect.com

4 COLETTE NEGRONI SHIRT

This button-up shirt is a classic design with a vintage twist and a modern cut – something you could make in a variety of fabrics, from light cotton to denim or corduroy, to see you through the seasons. Find it at www.colettepatterns.com

5 COMOX TRUNKS BY THREAD THEORY

Thread Theory's men's patterns are stylish and functional. These form-fitting trunks are designed with comfort in mind and part of the brand's Alpine Outdoors Collection. Visit www.threadtheory.ca

shirts and jackets. "I've been selling vintage clothes for many years and have come across a lot of incredible things that never seem to fit. I even tried to tailor some vintage clothes myself, but that was a disaster... eventually, I got on the sewing machine to make my first button-down shirt." Like Norris, it was Carl's partner that had a big influence: "Marissa's really the one responsible for showing me that you can make really incredible things yourself... I've been soaking up as much knowledge from her as I can when we're helping each other with projects. Right now I'm in the middle of a sort of cardigan-jacket-hybrid using duck canvas lined with a cotton-linen blend and a heavy-duty exposed zipper on the outside. It's loosely influenced by jacket liners from various US military jackets. I'm hoping it will be a cool layering piece."

Sewist Julius Honorio (www.instagram.com/sewitsurstyle) also favours making outerwear. Fed up with the fit of his shop-bought clothes, he attended a short dressmaking course to learn the basics. He began making simple shirts and trousers before venturing into jackets. "I think I am the only one who knows how to sew among my friends," he admits. Nevertheless, with a combination of following countless YouTube videos, written instructions and helpful tips and tricks, he made his first ever blazer. "From then on, jackets have been my favourite projects to take on." Although the learning curve was a steep one, he realised that a big part of the appeal is the process itself. "I discovered that creating and developing a garment is often more enjoyable than wearing it!"

"I DISCOVERED THAT CREATING A GARMENT IS OFTEN MORE ENJOYABLE THAN WEARING IT!"

Sewing is more than a hobby for Ben Beggs, who creates dapper bow ties for his Etsy shop. "It's a fantastic outlet to help me cope and feel like I'm creating something unique."

MORE THAN JUST CLOTHING

For landscape and bow-tie designer Ben Beggs (www.smithbeggsdesign.etsy.com), making is also as much about the feel-good factor as it is the finished result. "My journey into sewing is a winding one. I spent endless hours as a little boy watching my granny sew, mend and make things on her sewing machine. She always had a shaky hand, and she would get me to thread the needle for her." Yet, it wasn't until he was in his twenties that he figured out how his machine worked (with the help of YouTube) in order to make things he loved.

Now, in addition to running his Etsy store, he divides his time working in landscape design with teaching craft and creativity to groups of young people, on community

projects and theatre work. "I'm open about my struggle with depression and my mental health since I was a teenager," he tells us. "Sewing has become a fantastic outlet and medium to help me cope and feel like I'm creating something unique. It's incredibly satisfying to produce a finished item, and even better when a customer likes it, too."

Designer-maker Ben Partridge (www.theowlery.co.uk) agrees: "What I love most about sewing now is how relaxing and



For designer-maker Ben Partridge, "what I love most about sewing is how relaxing and enjoyable it can be."

enjoyable it can be. For years I have made home and giftware under the name The Owlery. More recently I have been adding new giftware products to my range, and experimenting with a range of messenger and large tote bags. I draw up my own patterns and ensuring they are sized correctly can be a challenge."

"I have a couple of male friends who sew, but not many," he continues. "The guys that I do know who sew tend to do so as part of a creative business as well as for fun... I think some men just think of it as something that women tend to do, which is a really outdated view – after all, a sewing machine is a really interesting piece of machinery and you really have to know the ins and outs of the machine as a sewer to tackle some of the problems you might face along the way!"

His next task is to develop a roll-top bag, using fabric designed by fellow illustrator, printmaker and studio buddy, Lydia Mary (www.lydiamary.co.uk). "These roll-top bags have been challenging to design, and I am currently refining the pattern, but they will be impressive in the long run." Meanwhile,



Printmaker and textile artist Ben Partridge makes stylish gifts for his label The Owlery, including a range of messenger and tote bags.

Carl has the perfect pair of trousers on the to-tackle list: "My white whale? Pants. My previous two attempts have gone straight into the garbage, so I'm hoping to finally figure them out soon. Fingers crossed!"

Ben Beggs encourages anyone and everyone to give sewing a try. "Start simple! Pick a wee project that you're interested in, and pick up a sewing machine and get stuck in!" he enthuses. "Don't be daunted by not being an 'expert', because it's amazing how much you'll learn as you go along... YouTube, Instagram and lots of websites are incredible resources to get ideas and advice on anything you're not sure about."

For any newbies keen to get started, Carl has this advice: "Stay patient. You're going to make plenty of mistakes, but that's part of learning a new skill. If you have an old shirt that fits perfectly, take some measurements and use that as a base for choosing a pattern size." He continues: "Also, your local fabric stores are a really good resource if you need advice. Don't be intimidated to go in there and ask a ton of questions. Everyone is always more than willing to help."



GET INSPIRED

Kick-start your sewing journey with inspiration and advice from these makers, blogs and online classes.

@_SLOW_PROCESS_

Sam Zollman, aka www.slow-process.com, creates beautiful handmade menswear. His striped and floral shirts and denim jackets are really cool.

@HARDENCO

Producers of premier, small batch, denim, leather and canvas goods. Essentially functional workwear with a difference. shop.hardenco.com

@_DONNYQ

Donny's collection of self-drafted and modified coats are a thing of beauty. Super-slick and great use of pastels.

@MAINELYMENSWEAR

Duane has a great sense of style and his Instagram feed also includes helpful hints. His choice of using bold patterned facing fabric on a pair of Thread Theory's Jedediah pants is gorgeous!

SEW MACHO

If you're Glasgow-based, check out Sew Confident's Sew Macho class. You'll learn how to use a sewing machine, mend clothes and hem trousers and jeans. www.sewconfident.co.uk

INTRODUCTION TO SEWING SHIRTS

Sew Over It's online workshop includes two classic patterns – the Ultimate Shirt for women and the Hackney Shirt for men. www.sewoverit.co.uk

A WHOLE NEW WARDROBE

The Sew It Academy is an online sewing school that offers subscriptions to easy-to-follow menswear or womenswear classes, or both, for a set fee every month. www.sewitacademy.com

FREESEWING

This creative community offers made-to-measure patterns to its members. It's free to join and you can choose from patterns for hoodies, shirts, trousers, trunks, hats and more. freesewing.org/patterns

THE SEWCIALISTS

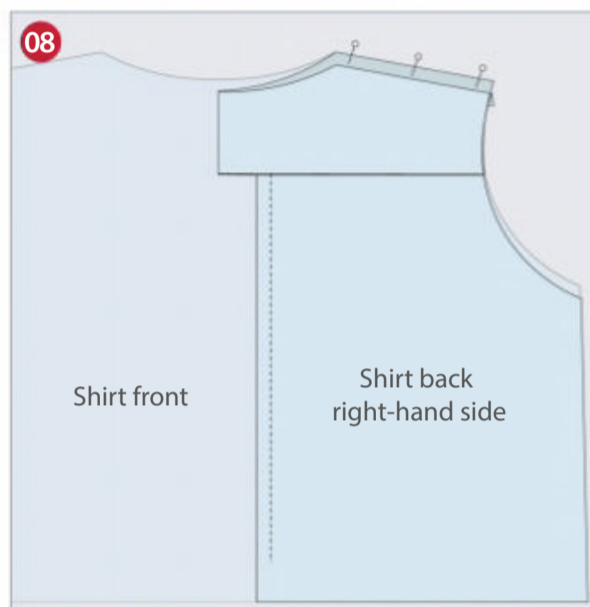
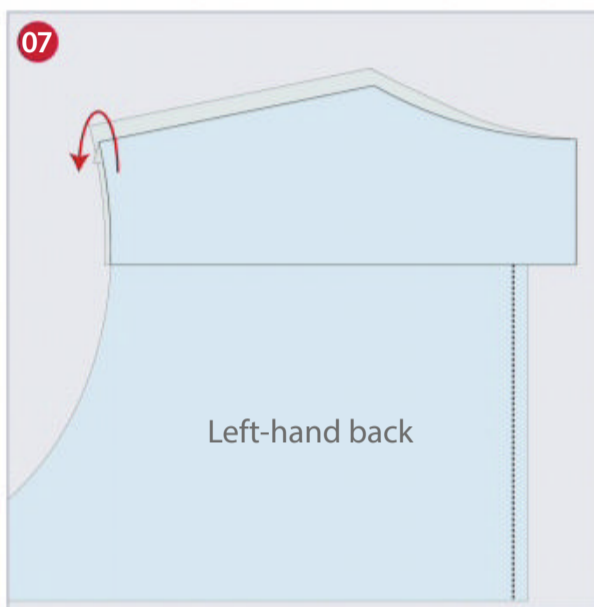
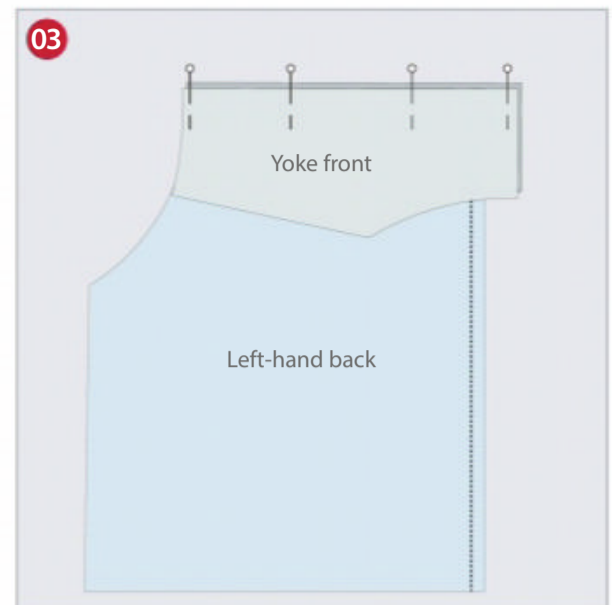
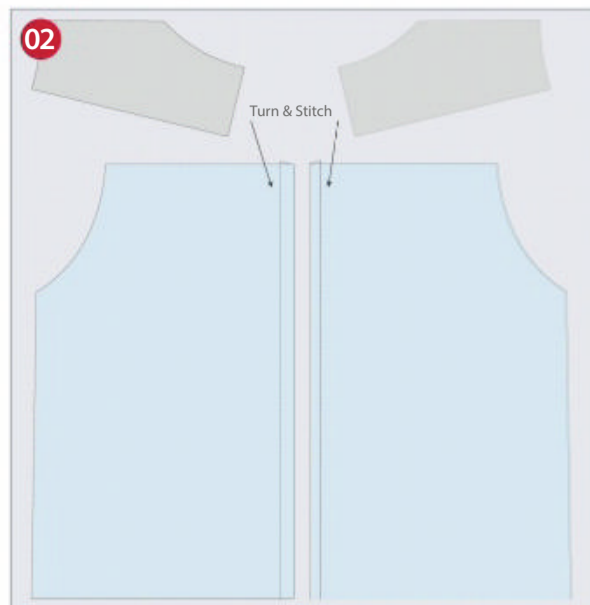
This inclusive blog has a great post dedicated to plus-sized guys' sewing patterns, and we also love its recent #sewmenswearforeveryone challenge. www.thesewcialists.com



HIP TO BE SQUARE

Pick a men's work shirt in summery gingham for **Portia Lawrie's** boxy top pattern hack with a tie-back detail.





YOU WILL NEED

- Men's shirt that fits you loosely
- Top sewing pattern to use as a template, see notes for details
- Bias tape (optional), for the neckline
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Use a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
- Choose a top sewing pattern with a loose, boxy silhouette.
- We recommend reading the instructions through before starting on your top, as certain sections may differ depending on the sewing pattern and men's shirt style you have chosen.
- The front of the men's shirt will become the back of the new refashioned shirt, and the back will become the front of the new shirt.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Begin by cutting up the shirt, close to the seam lines, into the component parts shown in the diagram. Cut away chunky seams, cuffs, button plackets, collars and other parts that add bulk so you are only left with the fabric itself.

Step two If you have taken apart a standard shirt you should be left with the following:

Yolk: two pieces taken from the upper back.

Shirt back: one piece taken from the lower back.

Shirt front: two pieces that are the mirror image of each other, from the front of the shirt.

Sleeves: two pieces. **01**

PREPARING THE FABRIC PIECES

Step one Take the two front pieces of the shirt and measure to approx halfway down the armhole curve. Make a mark at this point and then square across at 90 degrees to the centre front (CF). Cut across this line.

Step two Finish the raw edges of the CF, where the plackets once were. Then turn the edges under and stitch a scant 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in). **02**

Step three Take the back yoke pieces. You should have two yoke pieces: the outer yoke and the yoke facing. Carefully unpick these two sections apart if you haven't done so already. Press them both flat, then cut each piece in half, so you have four pieces – left outer and facing and right outer and facing.

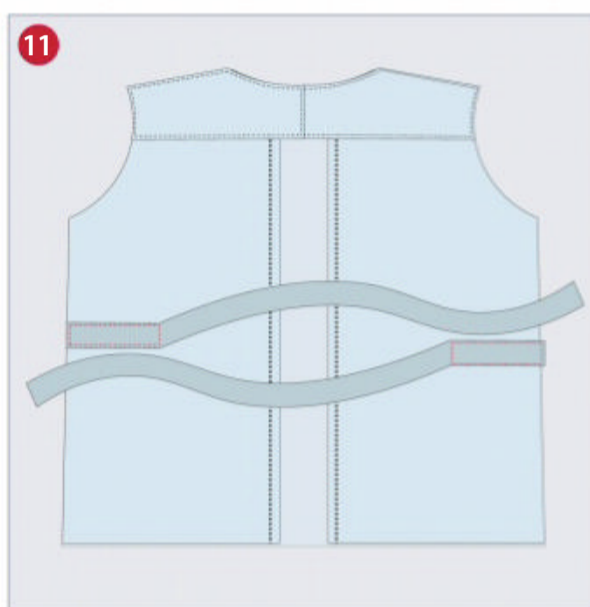
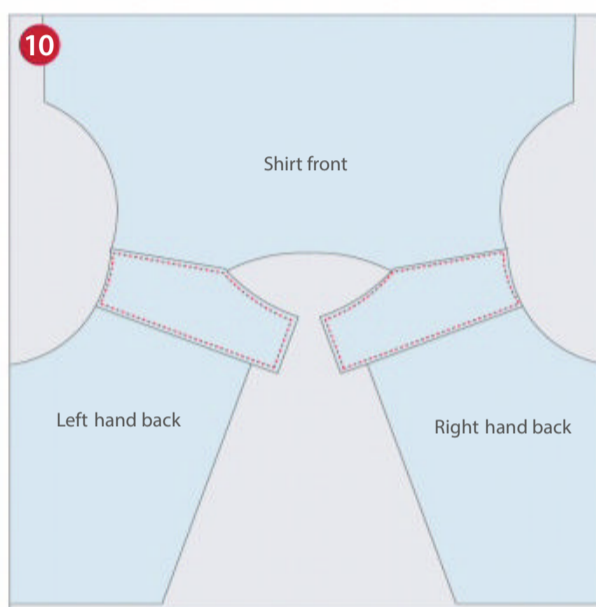
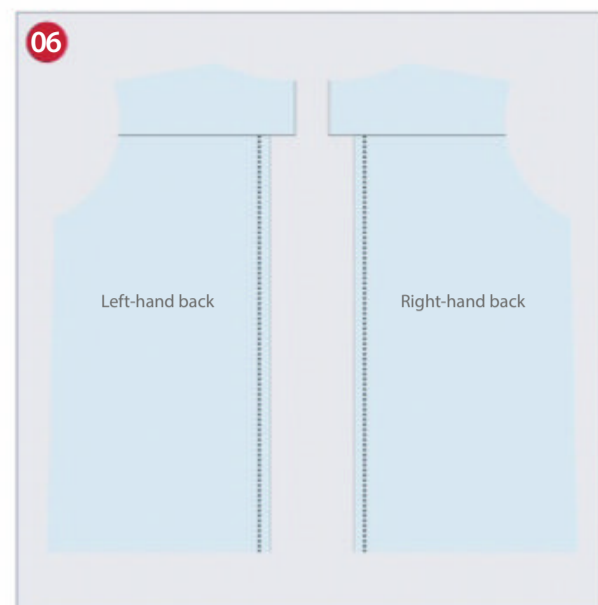
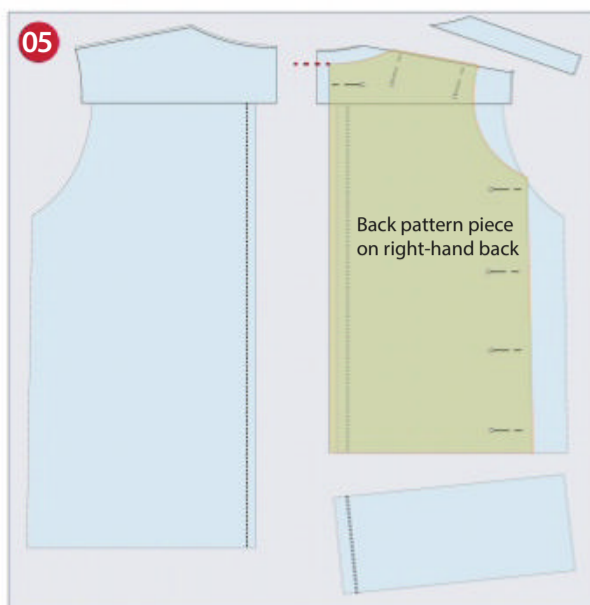
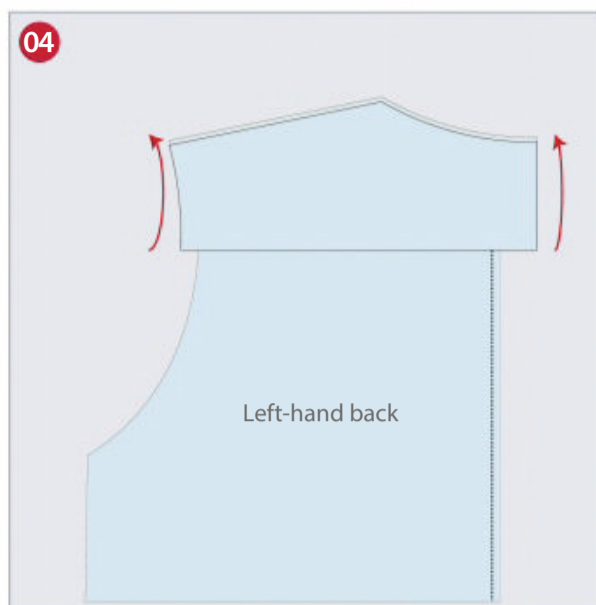
Step four Sandwich the left shirt front piece between the left yoke front and the left yoke facing as pictured, with the straight raw edges all aligned at the top, and pin in place. The right side (RS) of the yoke front should be facing the RS of the shirt front and the RS of yoke facing should be facing the wrong side (WS) of the shirt front, with the yoke pieces extending approx 3cm ($1\frac{1}{4}$ in) past the CF. Repeat for the right front pieces. **03**

Step five Sew across the top edge through all layers, then down the short edge of the yoke extension. Snip away the corner and grade the seam allowance. Repeat on the other side.

Step six Turn both pieces RS out, poke out the corners and press. The raw edge of the shirt front pieces are now enclosed between the yoke pieces and the yoke extensions are closed. The two yoke extension pieces will overlap by at least 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) on the finished garment to allow for the button fastening. These two back pieces will form the back of the finished top. **04**

Step seven At this point you will need to take an existing top or a pattern for a top and use the back piece as a guide to make the back pieces better fitted to your size and shape. Use this as a template to cut two back sections. Position the template garment/pattern so the centre back (CB) seam/fold is 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) in from the raw edge of the yoke extension as pictured. **05**

Step eight You should now have two back



pieces that resemble the illustration. **06**

MAKING THE FRONT

Step one Take the men's shirt back piece and cut the front section of your new top from it, using the pattern as a template. The leftover scraps will be used to make the tie back.

Step two Finish the neckline of the front section with a bias tape facing.

STITCHING THE SHOULDER SEAMS

Step one Press under the outward facing yoke shoulder edge to the WS by 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in). **07**

Step two Pin the RS of the yoke lining shoulder, to the WS of the front piece shoulder. Repeat on both sides. **08**

Step three Sew the front and back shoulders together on both sides. **09**

Step four Lay everything out flat RS up on your ironing board. Press the shoulder seam just sewn away from the front section and into the yoke sandwich. Press the curved edges of the neckline into the yoke sandwich, too. Topstitch the yoke sandwich closed all the way around. **10**

MAKING THE STRAPS

Step one Make two straps from the scraps of the shirt front and back with one closed end and one open end. The way that you assemble the straps will differ depending on the size of your scraps. We used seven scraps per strap, each

6cm ($2\frac{3}{8}$ in) in width, and assembled them with a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance to create a strap approx 4x80cm ($1\frac{5}{8}$ x31in) in length.

Step two Turn the strap RS out and press. Topstitch around all edges, approx 2mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) from the edge.

SEWING THE SIDE SEAMS

Step one Pin the front and back together at the side seams with the open end of your straps sandwiched in the seam – we positioned the lower edge of our strap approx 20cm (8in) from the bottom edge of the shirt front and back pieces. If there is a RS and a WS to your straps then the WS needs to be facing the shirt back.

Step two Stitch along the side seam, leaving the last 17cm ($6\frac{3}{4}$ in) unsewn if you would like a side slit for both an interesting design feature and for comfort when worn. Backstitch at the end of the stitching if you are leaving a side slit.

Step three Stitch a box around the side slit from the RS of the fabric, leaving the bottom unstitched. Working from the RS of the shirt, topstitch close to the side seam of the shirt along the length of the seam. Start topstitching at the bottom edge of the side slit and sew up until the underarm. Repeat on the other side.

Step four Turn the straps towards the back of the shirt and sew a reinforcement box around the edges close to the edges as pictured. This box will anchor a section of the strap to the

garment back as shown. **11**

STITCHING THE BUTTON CLOSURE

Step one Lay the shirt out with the open back facing upwards. Pin the yoke overlap section together so that the overlap is even on both sides and the left-hand edge (as you are looking at the shirt) overlaps the right-hand edge. Mark the position of two buttonholes on the left-hand overlap, then mark matching points on the underlap to indicate button placement.

Step two On the left-hand side sew two buttonholes in the marked positions.

Step three On the right-hand side (as you are looking at the shirt back) stitch two of the shirt buttons in place. It is best to sew the buttonholes first as then you can alter the position of the buttons slightly if necessary.

INSERTING THE SLEEVES

Step one Cut the sleeve pieces from the original men's shirt sleeve using your pattern as a guide. Some of this leftover fabric could be used for the straps or binding as explained previously.

Step two Assemble and insert the sleeves. **12**

FINISHING OFF

Step one Along the bottom edge of the shirt, press 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) to the WS, then press a further 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in). Stitch to secure the hem.

Step two Trim any loose threads and press.

TRY 3 ISSUES FOR £5* WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



**Today's Quilter – your favourite magazine with
a fresh take on traditional quilting**

—★—
PROJECTS by stars of the quilt world
—★—

BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHY that showcases stunning quilt creations

Subscribe online, it's quick and easy!

Visit www.buysubscriptions.com/TQHA2019

or call 03330 162 154[†] QUOTE CODE TQHA2019

Lines are open 8.00am-6.00pm weekdays and 9.00am-1pm Saturday (orders only on Saturday)

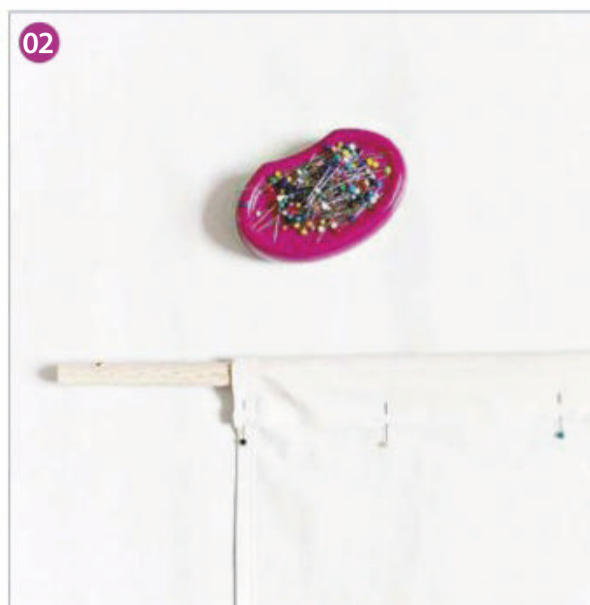
*This introductory offer is for new UK Direct Debit subscribers only. You will receive your first 3 issues for £5 and then save 18% on the shop price with a Direct Debit step up of £29.49 every 6 issues. Full details of the Direct Debit guarantee are available on request. Prices correct at point of print and subject to change. Offer ends 31st December 2019. UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). Outside of free call packages call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 55p per minute.



CUT AND SEW

Show your favourite sewing tool some love with **Lana Red's** colourful scissors banner made from patchwork scraps.

PATCHWORK BANNER



YOU WILL NEED

- Cotton fabric, for the backing (see instructions for details)
- Scrap fabrics, for the patchwork
- Stranded cotton
- Embroidery needle
- Wooden dowel
- Rope
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Download the templates from www.simplysewingmag.com/downloads

Step one Cut a piece of plain fabric in your desired banner shape and size. Press the fabric flat. Double-fold the edges, pressing each fold. Sew the sides and bottom of the banner **01**

Step two Place the banner right side (RS) down on a flat surface. Place the dowel at the top of the banner and fold the top edge over the dowel. Pin the fabric into place and remove the dowel. Sew along the pinned line – this will create a channel for the dowel. **02**

Step three Cut the fabric scraps into small pieces and press them flat. **03**

Step four Randomly pin a few of the scrap pieces together. Sew the pieces together and then continue to add more pieces to create an abstract patchwork design. Once you have created a patchwork piece large enough to cut the scissor template out of, press all of the seams flat. **04**

Step five Scale the template if necessary to fit your banner size. Pin the template to the patchwork and cut 5mm (1/4in) away from the template edge. **05**

Step six Thread a needle with stranded cotton and stitch the patchwork scissors to the banner with a blanket stitch. **06**

Step seven Slide the dowel through the opening in the top and tie a piece of rope to each end of the dowel to hand.

Step eight If desired, decorate the banner with pom poms or add a trim along the edges.

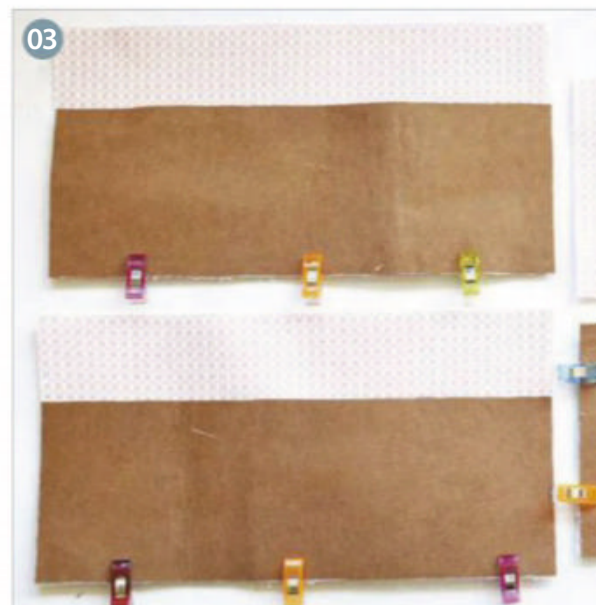
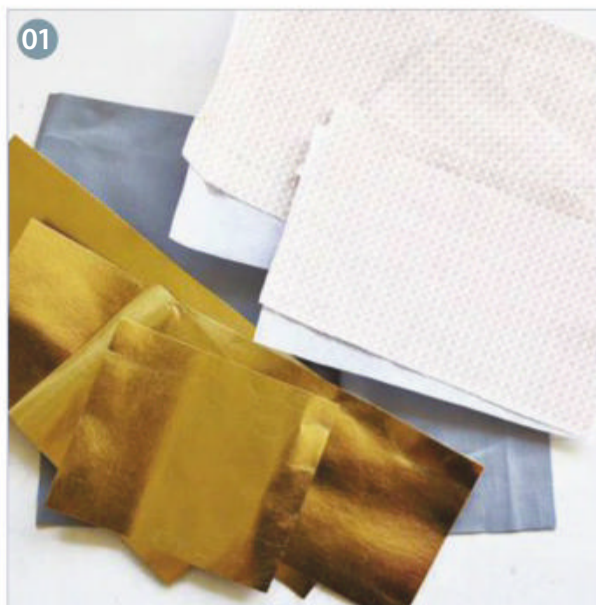


LITTLE LUXURIES

Treat yourself to **Anna Johnson's** make-up bag set, with shiny gold hardware and washable paper for a luxe texture clash.



MAKE-UP BAG SET



YOU WILL NEED

- Outer fabric: 40x55cm (16x22in)
- Lining fabric: 50x60cm (20x24in)
- Gold washable paper: 30x45cm (12x18in)
- Stiff interfacing: 35x55cm (14x22in)
- Two 25cm (10in) gold teeth zips
- Fabric clips
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.

CUTTING OUT

For the large bag.

Step one From the outer fabric cut:

Bag front and back: two 15x29cm (6x11½in).

Zip tabs: four pieces, 6cm (2¾in) x width of zip tape – approx 3cm (1¼in).

Step two From the stiff interfacing cut:

Front and back interfacing: two 15x29cm (6x11½in).

Step three From the gold washable paper:

Bag base front and back: two 10x29cm (4x11½in).

Step four From the lining fabric:

Bag lining: two 23x29cm (9¼x11½in).

For the small bag.

Step one From the main fabric cut:

Bag front and back: two 13x20cm (5¼x7¾in).

Zip tabs: four pieces 6cm (2¾in) x width of zip tape – approx 3cm (1¼in).

Step two From the stiff interfacing cut:

Front and back interfacing: two 13x20cm (5¼x7¾in).

Step three From the gold washable paper:

Bag base front and back: two 13x11cm (5¼x4¾in).

Step four From the lining fabric:

Bag lining: two 13x29cm (5¼x11½in). ⁰¹

MAKING THE PANELS

Step one Lay out the interfacing pieces shiny side up and place the corresponding pieces of outer fabric face-up on top. Press to fuse the interfacing

to the back of the fabric. ⁰²

Step two Lay out all of the interfaced pieces in landscape position. For the larger bag, on the two outer pieces lay a washable paper base piece on top, right side (RS) down, so that the bottom edges align. Use fabric clips to hold together along the bottom edges as pins will mark the gold washable paper.

Step three For the small bag, lay a bag base washable paper piece on top, RS down, so that the right-hand edge matches up, and clip along that edge. Repeat with the second of the small bag fabric pieces, this time aligning the gold washable paper with the left-hand edge and clipping along that edge. ⁰³

Step four Sew 1cm (3/8in) in along each of the clipped edges, removing the clips as you go.

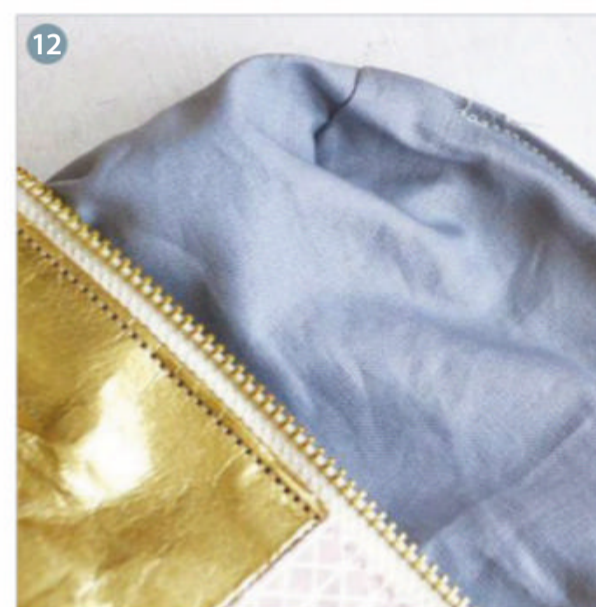
Step five Fold out the gold washable paper, so that both the fabric and washable paper are RS up. Turn the pieces over and, using a pressing cloth, press the seam open on the wrong side (WS). ⁰⁴

PREPARING THE ZIP

Step one Take the four zip tabs and lay them out RS down on your ironing board. Fold the shorter edges in to the WS by 8mm and press.

Step two Fold this whole piece in half WS together so that the shorter folded edges meet and then press again. Sandwich each end of the zip inside one of the zip tabs and pin in place.

Step three Sew along the open edge of each zip



tab approx 2-3mm (1/8in) from the raw edge. ⁰⁵

INSERTING THE ZIP

Step one Take one of the lining pieces for the small bag and lay out RS up. Lay a zip on top, RS up. Finally, lay an assembled small bag outer piece on top, RS down. Clip along the top edge to hold all pieces in place. ⁰⁶

Step two Using a zip foot on your machine, sew along that top edge about 4mm from the zip's teeth. The zip foot will allow you to get this close to the zip teeth.

Step three Fold the pieces of fabric back the other way so that they are WS together and the zip becomes visible.

Step four Lay the other small lining piece RS up and place the zip RS up on top again, with its unsewn edge along the top edge of the lining.

Step five Place the other outer piece RS down on top, making sure that the gold washable paper pieces are both at the same end. Clip and then sew as before. ⁰⁷

Step six Open out and fold this side, as you did with the other side, so that all of the fabric pieces are now RS out. Press along the seams, using a pressing cloth to protect the washable paper from the hot iron.

Step seven Change back to a regular sewing foot and sew along the fabric on either side of the zip, approx 2mm from the seam. You may find it helpful to clip the lining and outer pieces together

at the bottom while you sew to ensure they stay in place without pinning them. ⁰⁸

Step eight Unzip the zip for the next steps.

ASSEMBLING THE BAG

Step one Fold the fabrics so that they are RS together, but this time make sure the outer pieces are face-to-face and so are the lining pieces. Make sure the zip teeth are facing the lining side. Clip around all the edges.

Step two At each corner, cut away a 3cm (1 1/4in) square. This will allow you to create a box base. ⁰⁹

Step three Sew along each of the panel's edges, except for the edges of the cut-out squares, leaving a 10cm (4in) gap in the middle of the bottom edge of the lining.

Step four Fold the edges of one of the cut-away corners together so that the seams meet and create a straight edge. Pin or clip together. Repeat for each corner. ¹⁰

Step five Sew along each of the corners, 1cm (3/8in) in from the raw edge. ¹¹

Step six Turn the bag RS out through the turning gap left in the lining. Sew up the gap by sewing on the machine or by using small, neat hand-stitches. Tuck the lining down inside the bag and push out all of the corners. ¹²

Step seven Repeat these steps with the pieces for the larger bag. This time, make sure the gold washable paper is at the bottom edge, furthest away from the zip.



Anna is a craft writer and designer-maker behind label A Alicia. Anna has a craft book out later this year, with Quadrille. Visit www.aalicia.bigcartel.com



CLICK FOR CREATIVITY

Gabriela Longfish of modern sewing pattern brand Chalk & Notch shares how she turned a simple idea into a worldwide business, and why her stylish friends always inspire her.

Written by Sarah Dawson.

Technology – love it or hate it, there’s no denying it has opened a whole host of doors for home dressmakers wanting to immerse themselves in their favourite pastime. Whether it’s meeting like-minded crafters on our *Simply Sewing* Facebook page (www.facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine), losing hours of your day scrolling through all the gorgeous Instagram pages of your favourite designers, watching online tutorials to hone your skills or downloading amazing patterns at the click of a button, it’s never been easier to learn, be inspired and get creative. When it comes to digital patterns available online, Chalk & Notch’s (www.chalkandnotch.com) founder, Gabriela Longfish, is leading the way in style. Yes, it’s fair to say we’re obsessed with her oh-so-wearable and covetable designs for women and girls.

Although not a natural sewer to begin with – “My mom sews and I was probably about eight years old when I took my first sewing class. The only thing I really remember from that class was that a girl sewed through her finger!” – it was a love of fashion that set Californian girl Gabriela on the path to designing. “At 18 I didn’t know much about fashion design, but I thought it sounded exciting!” she smiles. “My high school home economics teacher suggested I check out my local options and I decided to enrol at West Valley College in Saratoga. They have a great



Left and below: Discovering the online sewing community was a turning point for pattern maker Gabriela, and led her to launch her own sewing pattern brand. "It was the first time I had heard about the home sewing world – I'd never sewn with PDF patterns."



Fashion Design and Apparel Technology program, and the campus was absolutely beautiful, located right next to the Santa Cruz Mountains." After falling in love with pattern design, Gabriela knew it was the right career for her. "My first job after college was as an intern, working as a pattern maker for a designer, mostly making custom special occasion and bridal dresses," she reveals. "I loved working with all of the lace and silk! I was included in all of the fittings and the owner taught me everything I know about pattern making and fitting." After that, she then worked as a product developer for a larger company, before she left to have her first child. "Once I became a mom I decided to stay at home with my kids," she says, "but I often took on freelance work. One of my favourite jobs was as a pattern maker for a boy's designer clothing company, which I worked for on three collections."

As much as Gabriela enjoyed the freelance life, the work was unreliable, and so she knew she had to make a choice about the future. "I wasn't interested in going back to working in the apparel industry, so I decided working for myself was my best option," she recalls. "I knew I didn't want to start my own fashion

line, but as I spent time reading a lot of interior design blogs and scrolling through Pinterest, I came across sewing blogs." This was Gabriela's lightbulb moment. "It was the first time I had ever heard anything about the home sewing world – I'd never sewn with

"I REALISED I COULD DO WHAT OTHER INDIE PATTERN COMPANIES WERE DOING, IF I COULD JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET MY PAPER PATTERNS INTO THE COMPUTER!"

PDF patterns and the last time I had purchased a tissue pattern was in high school. I realised I could attempt to do what other indie pattern companies were doing, if I could

just figure out how to get my paper patterns into the computer!" Gabriela signed up for Lauren Dahl's Pattern Workshop (www.patternworkshop.com), a comprehensive online course that taught her everything she needed to know, then seven months later, in 2015, Chalk & Notch was born.

SMALL BEGINNINGS

Initially, Chalk & Notch was all about making girls' fashion – "I started by designing girls' patterns as I was inspired by what my own daughters liked to wear," Gabriela smiles. "After releasing the Girls' Waterfall Raglan, I received so many requests to turn it into a women's version, so I did. It ended up being even more popular than the girls', so I then designed more patterns for women and they



All photos: www.chalkandnotch.com



When designing her patterns, Gabriela says she tries "to stay true to what I would want to wear myself. The patterns are all pretty feminine, comfortable and stylish – much like my personal style. Having said that, as my style is always evolving, I suppose the Chalk & Notch patterns will, too!"



continued to out-sell the others. In 2017 I switched my focus to women's patterns – although you'll still find some cute girls' patterns in my online shop."

Today, Chalk & Notch is packed with the kind of designs that are true wardrobe staples – stylish midi dresses that would look just as good with a pair of trainers as they would with

heels, floaty tops, cute and casual jackets and relaxed summer dresses. The overall vibe is fresh, modern and fashionable.

But how would Gabriela describe the 'Chalk & Notch woman'? "I don't exactly have a specific woman in mind when I design my patterns," she explains, "but I try to stay true to what I would want to wear myself. The Chalk & Notch patterns are all pretty feminine, while being comfortable and

stylish – much like my personal style. Having said that, as my own style is always evolving, I suppose Chalk & Notch patterns will, too!"

When pushed to pick a favourite design, Gabriela struggles.

"I wouldn't say that I have a favourite design, if I'm honest. But I'm usually the most excited about whatever pattern I am working on next!"

Chalk & Notch fans,

on the other hand, have a clear favourite from the collection: "The Fringe (a woven dress and blouse design, shown above right) is my most popular pattern by far."

Constantly dreaming up new things to add to Chalk & Notch's online pattern collection, Gabriela is always on the lookout for ideas. "I look for pattern inspiration all over," she says. "I try to think about what I am missing in my closet and I talk to my girlfriends – who

are far more stylish than I am! – to see what they are loving, especially since they will likely get samples, too."

COMMUNITY MINDED

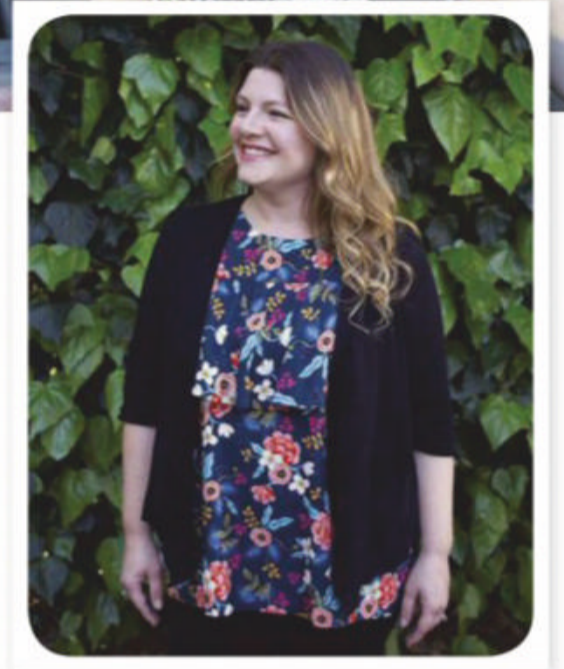
Coming up with new patterns is undoubtedly a labour of love for Gabriela, and only the very best ideas and styles will make the final cut. "If I don't love a design, it's really hard to invest the amount of time that's required to produce it as a sewing pattern," she explains. "Because of that, I like to take my time and make lots of samples before finally settling on a design." This integrity and passion is at the core of Chalk & Notch, and one of the reasons why Gabriela and the business have built up such a loyal following.

Chalk & Notch is so much more than just a place to buy new PDF patterns. Gabriela has poured a huge amount of effort into the company's blog, which includes a friendly and helpful 'Sew Along' series, to take you step by step through how to sew these

"I TRY TO STAY TRUE TO WHAT I WANT TO WEAR MYSELF. THE CHALK & NOTCH PATTERNS ARE ALL PRETTY FEMININE, WHILE BEING COMFORTABLE AND STYLISH."



Left and below: Chalk & Notch's chic and versatile Fringe Dress has been "the most popular pattern by far," says Gabriela. "I look for inspiration all over and I try to think about what I am missing in my closet. I also talk to my girlfriends – who are far more stylish than I am! – to see what they are loving."



patterns. With photos and videos to guide you through the trickiest parts, and even suggestions for what kind of material would work best for the designs, it's thoughtful touches like this that help instil confidence in even the most nervous sewer.

Chalk & Notch's Instagram page (www.instagram.com/chalkandnotch) is a colourful showcase of all the many ways that Gabriela's patterns have been interpreted and styled – it's seriously inspiring and will make you want to download your very own Chalk & Notch patterns pronto! Gabriela loves being able to meet and interact with fellow sewers and her regular customers in this way: "Our sewing community is truly global," she says, "and I have made friends that I wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet otherwise."

It's obvious that Gabriela gets a huge amount of joy from running the business – especially when she spots other people wearing their own versions of her Chalk & Notch patterns. "It's really cool and never

gets old," she enthuses. "It still kind of blows my mind that people sew my patterns!"

SEW INSPIRING

With so much to juggle, no two working days are the same. "My day often varies, based on where I am in the pattern development process. I may be drafting a pattern, sewing a pattern sample or – most often – on my computer working on a tutorial or running a pattern test." And what is it about her job she loves the most? "I love pattern making, that's my favourite part," she smiles. "I was worried that after I had kids I wouldn't be able to use any of the skills I had acquired, so I am super thankful that I can be a pattern maker outside of the apparel industry."

Of course, it hasn't all been easy. "The biggest hurdle I've faced, career-wise, was just feeling confident enough to start my own business in the first place," she reveals. "Looking back, I had always wanted to have my own company, but for the longest time

I didn't think my personality was a good fit to be an entrepreneur – actually, I'm still not entirely sure that it does, but I'm very proud of Chalk & Notch!" And so she should be. Chalk & Notch is inspiring people the world over to have a go at stitching their own clothes, and helping to make cool, modern sewing patterns accessible to everyone. All you need is a computer, your sewing kit and machine, and a desire to get creative.

Never one to rest on her laurels, Gabriela is excited about what the future holds for her business: "I would love to continue to grow Chalk & Notch to include a large library of patterns for all of your wardrobe needs, while building a welcoming community around my company," she says. "One day it would be nice to have a dedicated studio and to hire a team, so that I could produce more sewing patterns." If anyone can make it work, it's Gabriela – and we predict big things for her and Chalk & Notch this year!

See more at www.chalkandnotch.com

164 PAGES OF EASY-SEW INSPIRATION – GET STITCHING TODAY!

Mollie
MAKES

WEEKEND



MAKE US
TODAY ON
PAGE 113!

SEWING

QUICK IDEAS FOR EVERY SKILL LEVEL



FUN GIFTS TO MAKE



INSTANT STYLE UPDATES



EASY-SEW ACCESSORIES



FRESH DÉCOR IDEAS



57
PROJECTS
+
TEMPLATES



GET INTO CRAFT

JUST
£9.99!

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES • SEWING MACHINE TIPS • EXPERT ADVICE

The team behind *Mollie Makes* bring you a collection of quick-make **fabric projects**. From **wardrobe updates** and **unique accessories** to handmade gifts and **fresh décor** ideas, our **step-by-step guides** make it easy to get creative in no time!

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

Call 03330 162 138 AND QUOTE 'MOLLIE WEEKEND SEWING PRINT 1'
Online WWW.BUYSUBSCRIPTIONS.COM/WEEKENDSEWING

UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). Outside of free call packages call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 55p per minute. Lines are open Mon to Fri 8am-6pm and Sat 9am-1pm. Overseas please call +44 (0)1604 973 746.
* Price applies to UK orders only. EUR price £11.99, ROW price £12.99. All prices include P&P. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Nº 25
COUCHING STITCH

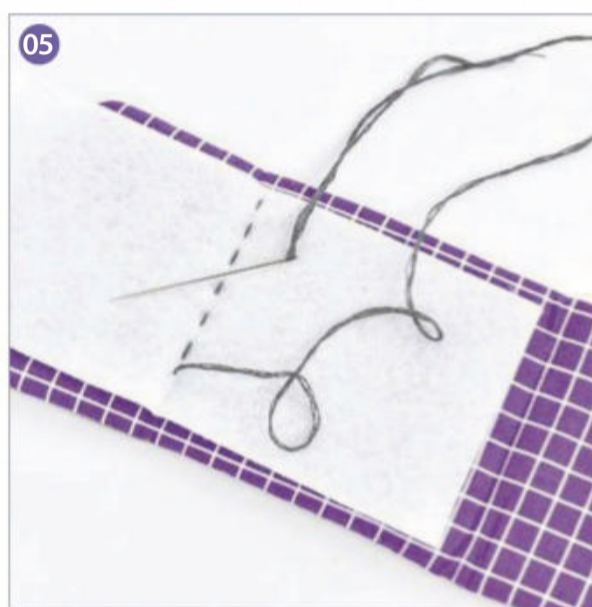
STITCH

library

Where would we be without our needles?
Learn couching stitch and sew a cute case
for them with **Mollie Johanson's** tutorial.



CUT OUT & KEEP



YOU WILL NEED

- Linen fabric: 20x20cm (8x8in), see notes for details
- Wool felt: 10x15cm (4x6in)
- Embroidery hoop
- Stranded cotton in dark grey and purple
- Snap fastener
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.
- More linen will be required if you are using a large embroidery hoop.
- Download the templates from www.simplysewingmag.com/downloads

WORKING COUCHING STITCH

Step one Couching stitch uses two working threads. With the first thread, which will go along the line of your pattern, come up at one end of the line and down at the other end. If you are forming a complete shape, go down at the starting point. Keep this thread loose so you can shape it along the line as you add stitches in the next step. You do not need to secure the end yet. **01**

Step two Bring the second working thread up next to the line of the first thread. Go back down through the fabric, tacking the working thread in place. When you reach the end, secure both working threads. You can space the tacking stitches however you prefer, but for best results keep the spacing even. **02**

MAKING THE NEEDLE BOOK

Step one Use couching stitch with six strands of stranded cotton to embroider the circles, working with two shades of purple thread. Use back stitch with two strands of dark grey thread for 'needles'. **Step two** Cut out the embroidered piece with the template, with the embroidery centred and the curved end at the top. Cut a matching piece from quilting cotton and wadding. **03**

Step three Sew the fabric layers and wadding together with the fabric pieces right side (RS) together. Trim the corners to reduce bulk and turn the piece RS out. Sew the opening closed with ladder stitch. **04**

Step four Cut a 6x12cm (2 3/8x4 3/4in) piece of wool felt. Fold and press the felt in half. Fold the ends of the outer needle book to the centre and then overlap the curved edge slightly. Hand-stitch the crease of the felt to the top crease of the folded needle book. Use four strands of grey stranded cotton and a running stitch. **05**

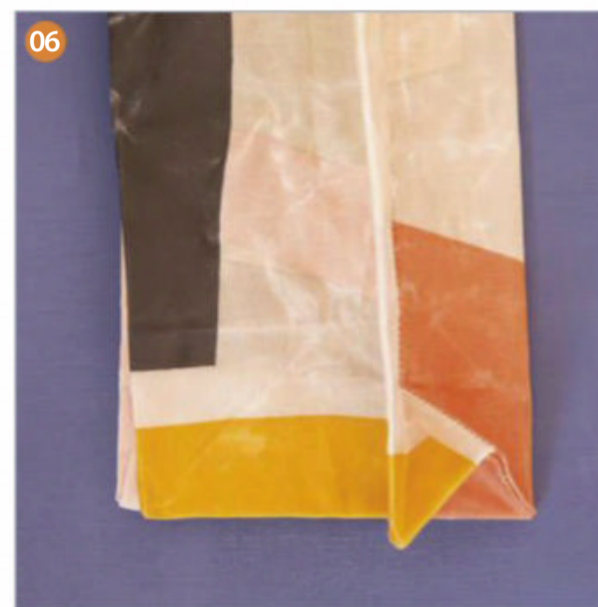
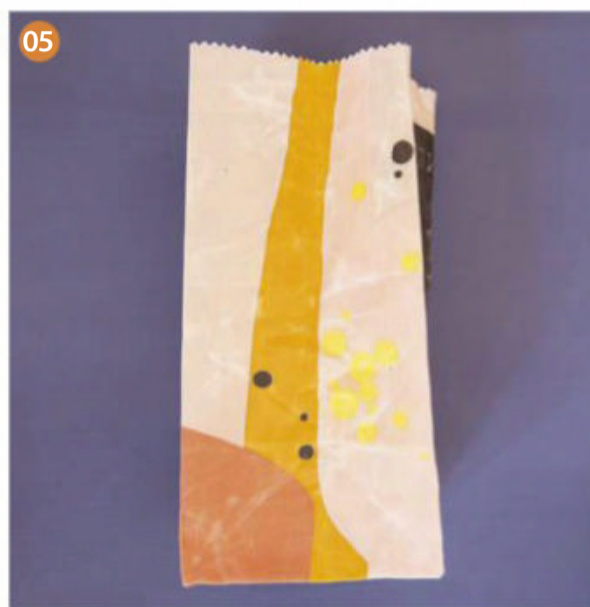
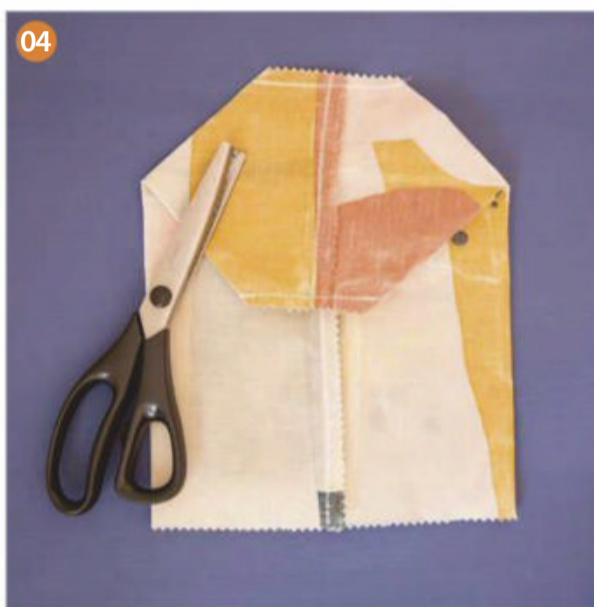
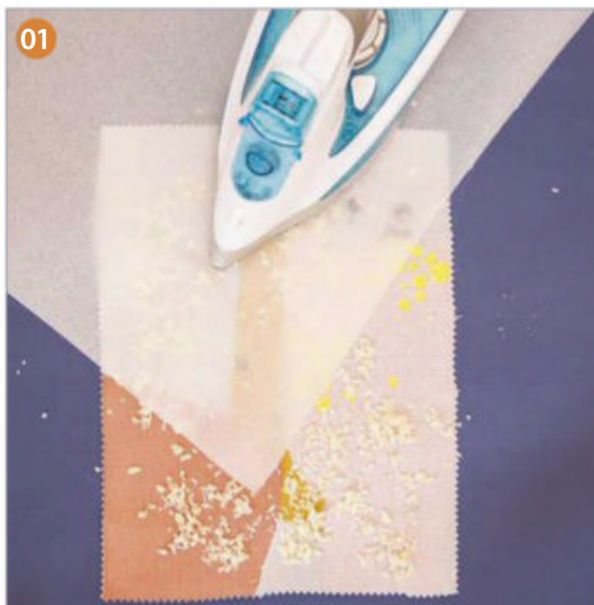
Step five Attach a snap fastener to the overlapping ends of the needle book to finish, aligning the fastener pieces. **06**



WAXING LYRICAL

Wrap picnics, lunches and leftovers the sustainable way with **Juliet Bawden's** waxed lunch bag. Make it from fabric offcuts for extra eco-friendly points!





YOU WILL NEED

- Cotton fabric: two pieces measuring 33x24cm (13x10in), see notes for details. We used Abstract Shapes from www.clothandcandy.co.uk
- Beeswax block (or beeswax pellets)
- Cheese grater (if using a beeswax block)
- Baking parchment
- Pinking shears
- Paper clips (optional)
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- If you choose to use a white fabric for this project the beeswax will give it a slight yellow tinge, so bear this in mind when selecting fabrics.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Using pinking shears, cut two pieces of fabric measuring 33x24cm (13x9½in) – this is a good size for a lunch bag, but you can adjust this to your preference.

BONDING THE BEESWAX TO THE FABRIC

Step one Using a medium-size hole on a cheese grater, grate some beeswax. The wax will wash off the grater afterwards using hot water and some dish washing detergent.

Step two Sprinkle the beeswax evenly over the fabric and then cover with baking parchment and run a hot iron over the parchment until the wax has melted into the cloth. Hang the fabric up to dry while you wax the other piece of fabric. If you are using your ironing board, put baking parchment under the fabric as well to prevent getting wax on it. **01**

MAKING THE BAG

Step one Once both pieces are dry, place them right sides (RS) facing and sew them together to form a bag. Sew along the two long sides and one short side. **02**

Step two Fold the edges to the centre to create a diamond shape on the bottom. **03**

Step three Mark 4.5cm (1⅞in) away from the points on either side and sew with a running stitch. Trim off the overlap. **04**

Step four Turn the bag RS out so that the seams

are on the inside of the bag.

Step five Fold the front and back of the bag so that front and back of the bag are 15cm (6in) wide and the sides are 7cm (2¾in) wide. Flatten the bottom edges with a crisp fold and check that they are the same width as the bottom and side seams. **05**

Step six Fold the base of the bag as shown to create a neat base so that the bag will stand on its own. **06**

Step seven Line up the two top edges of the bag and fold over 2cm (¾in) and then again by 2cm (¾in) to close.



MAKE YOUR OWN SUPER-CUTE TOYS WITH EASY PROJECTS AND EXPERT GUIDES!

CLASSIC CRAFT SPECIAL SERIES

Beginner's guide to TOY MAKING

A collection of simple sewing projects by Jo Carter

Simply cute ideas for all seasons!

28 TOYS TO SEW
INCLUDES ALL TEMPLATES!

JUST £9.99!*

PASSION FOR CRAFT

Easy-to-make toys

Sweetest softies

Fun nursery makes

INSIDE: Machine stitching ✓ Hand finishing ✓ Cutting ✓ Stuffing ✓ Templates



ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

ORDER ONLINE www.buysubscriptions.com/toymaking

OR CALL 03330 162 138 and quote 'Beginners Guide to Toy Making Print 1'

*UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff).
Outside of free call packages call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 55p per minute. Lines are open Mon - Fri 8am-6pm and Saturday 9am-1pm for orders only.
Overseas please call +44 (0)1604 973 746. Price applies to UK orders only. EUR price £11.99, ROW price £12.99. All prices include P&P. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Really Maria

The Award-Winning Haberdashery Shop



For your fabric, yarn & haberdashery needs. Over 1000 fabulous fabrics for quilting dressmaking & crafts. Stockists for Riley Blake, Michael Miller, Liberty, King Cole, Stylecraft, Prym and Groves. Workshops for all levels. Really Maria's unique pouffes, doll kits and Really Maria's own line of fabrics
BREAKING THE BOUNDARIES OF COLOUR



www.reallymaria.com

15 Lordship Lane, East Dulwich,
London, SE22 8EW

0203 581 0909

Find us on:



Knit Fabric Specialists...



www.girlcharlee.co.uk

Tel: 01635 522530



New fabrics every week!
100s of exclusive
printed & plain knit fabrics,
indie patterns & more!

10% off with code
SIMPLY10

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

Simply Sewing is a magazine that is creative and innovative, inspiring yet practical – it's both a teacher and a friend to our readers.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE CONTACT TIFFANY JACKSON

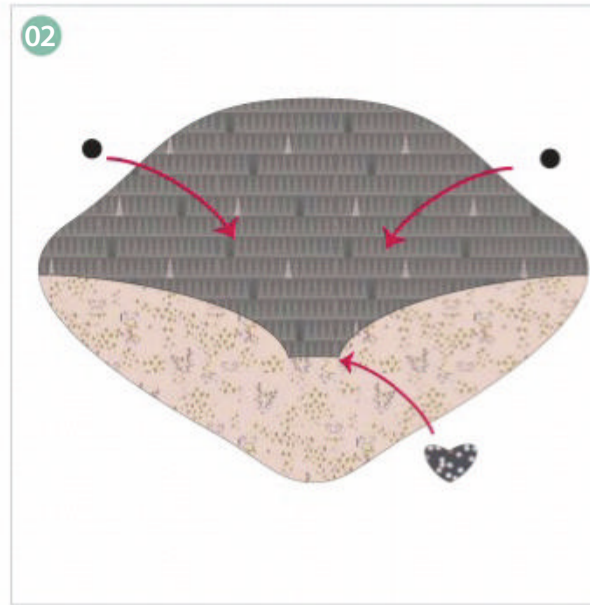
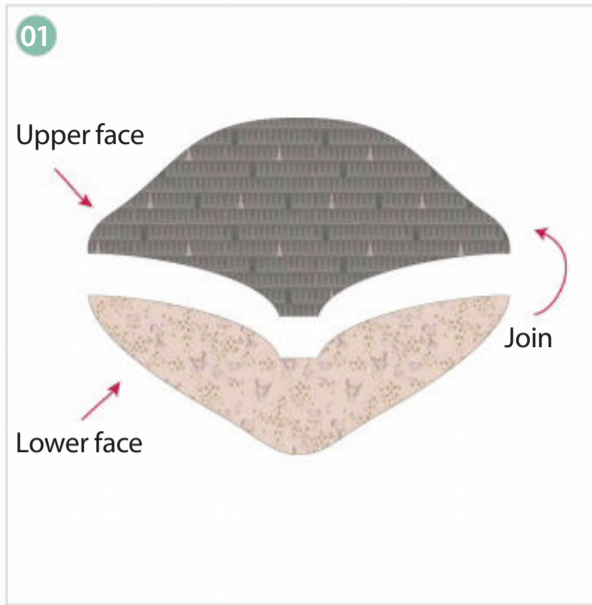
TIFFANY.JACKSON@IMMEDIATE.CO.UK
0117 300 8203



CRAFTY FOX

With its little heart nose and friendly felt eyes, it's the cute details that make Art Gallery Fabrics' fox pillow so huggable.

FOX CUSHION



YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric A: 1 fat quarter (45x56cm), for the upper face
- Fabric B: 2 fat quarters (45x56cm), for the lower face and backing
- Fabric C: 1 fat eighth (28x45cm), for the nose and ears
- Felt scrap: 5x5cm (2x2in), for the eyes
- Wadding
- Bondaweb: 10x10cm (optional), for the eyes and nose

NOTES

- Use a 5mm (1/4in) seam allowance.

FABRICS USED

The fabrics are from the Sparkler Fusion collection by Art Gallery Fabrics. For stockists visit www.artgalleryfabrics.com

Fabric A: Starbright Sparkler. Ref: FUS-SK-1308.

Fabric B: Tree Farm Sparkler. Ref: FUS-SK-1302.

Fabric C: Chads Sparkler. Ref: FUS-SK-1307.

FINISHED SIZE

- Approx 45x33cm (18x13in).

CUTTING OUT

Step one From Fabric A cut:

Upper face: cut one using the template.

Step two From Fabric B cut:

Lower face: cut one using the template.

Backing: cut one using the template.

Step three From Fabric C cut:

Left ear: cut one pair using the template.

Right ear: cut one pair using the template.

Nose: cut one using the template.

MAKING THE CUSHION FRONT

Step one Place the upper face lower edge on top on the lower face upper edge, overlapping by 5mm (1/4in) and tack in place with a long machine stitch. Once the pieces are attached sew over the overlap using a narrow width zigzag stitch. ⁰¹

Step two Attach the eyes to the upper face, using the finished cushion image for reference. If you are using Bondaweb, press the eyes in place first and then zigzag stitch around the edge to make sure the appliqué is secure. If you are not using Bondaweb, simply pin and then zigzag stitch the eyes in place.

Step three Attach the nose to the lower face in the same way. ⁰²

Step four To make the ears, place the two left ear pieces right sides (RS) together and place wadding in between the layers. Pin in place and then sew, leaving the bottom flat edge open to allow you to turn it RS out. Repeat to create the right ear.

Step five Turn the ears RS out and pin in place, aligned with the upper face top edge notches. ⁰³

ASSEMBLING THE CUSHION

Step one Place the backing RS facing with the assembled front piece and sew all the way around to secure the ears in place, but leave a turning gap of approx 15cm (6in) to allow for turning the cushion RS and stuffing. ⁰⁴

Step two Fill the fox with stuffing until it is firm. ⁰⁵

Step three Neatly close the gap by hand. ⁰⁶





PRETTY PIECING

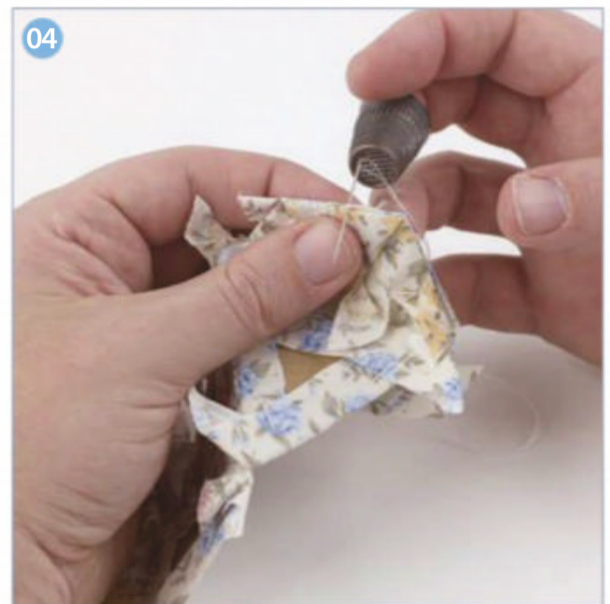
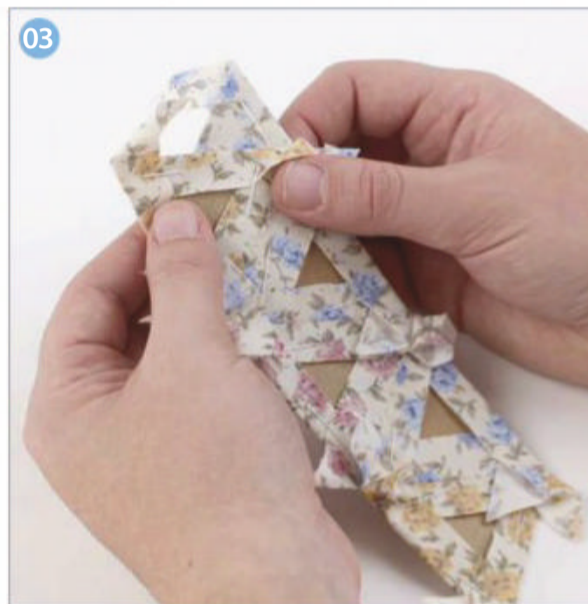
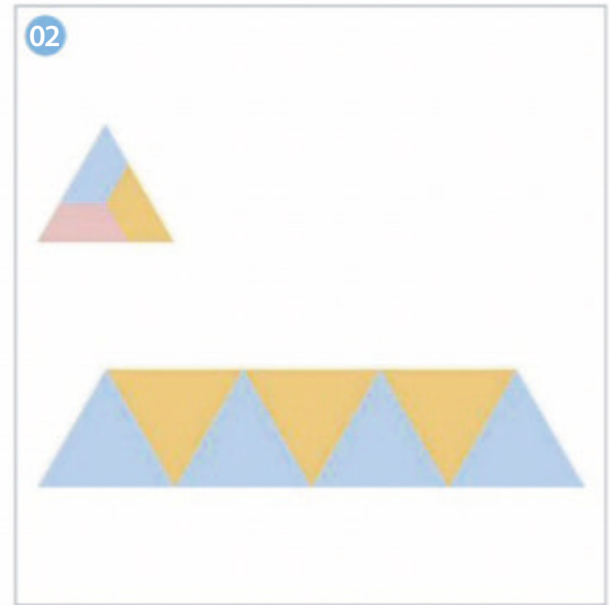
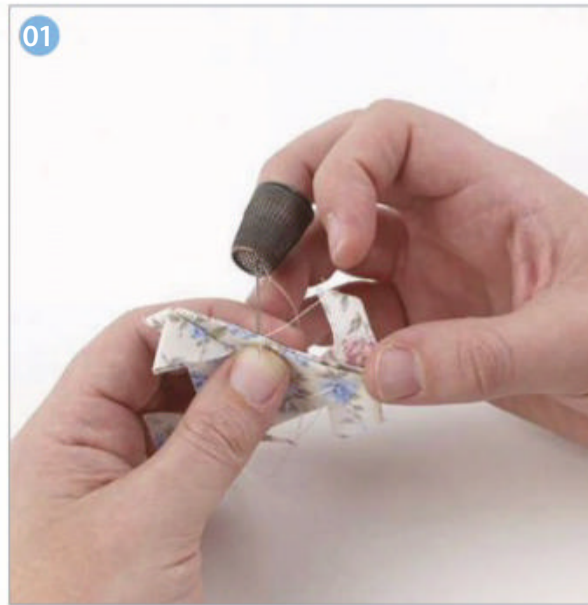
Sew a luxe padded hanger for your handmade frocks with **Alistair Macdonald's** EPP how-to.

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric A: 20x40cm (8x16in)
- Fabric B: 20x40cm (8x16in)
- Fabric C: 20x40cm (8x16in)
- Foam: 82x3cm (32¼x1¼in), 1cm (½in) thick
- Double-faced satin ribbon: 1m (39½in) x 2.5cm (1in) wide
- Card, for the templates
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing paper

NOTES

- You may need more fabric if your hanger is slightly longer; simply continue by adding triangles.
- The fabric quantity given is to cover a hanger 38cm long and 1cm thick (15in x ½in).
- You can use the same EPP technique to make a matching hanging scent sachet to fill with lavender. Cut 12 half-hexagons and whip stitch them together following the top triangle diagram, then sew together to create a pyramid. [02](#)
- Download the templates for the hanger and scent sachet from www.simplysewingmag.com/downloads



ENGLISH PAPER PIECING

English paper piecing, also referred to as EPP, is the technique of folding fabric over paper templates and hand-sewing these together. The paper template stabilises the fabric, ensures that the patchwork shapes are accurate and also makes it easier to piece the angles of the shapes together. You can use this technique to piece together hexagon, triangle or diamond shapes. See page 88 for more information.

Step one Cut the required templates out of card or paper. Place one of the shapes on the fabric and mark around it with tailor's chalk, leaving room for a seam allowance.

Step two Mark a seam allowance around the shape of approx 1cm (¾in).

Step three Cut around the seam allowance line. Place the template back in the centre of the fabric and use a paperclip to fold over the seam allowance edge and hold it securely.

Step four Fold over the opposite edge and bring your needle through from back to front using a fairly large tacking stitch.

Step five Work around the shape, using your needle to achieve a nice, crisp fold, and tack the edges all the way around.

Step six When you have tacked the whole shape, take your needle out through the middle and cut the thread. Repeat, making all of the required shapes in the same way.

Step seven To sew the shapes together, hold them with right sides (RS) facing and neatly

whip stitch them together along one edge only, working through both layers of fabric. [01](#)

MAKING THE HANGER

CUTTING OUT

Step one Download, print and cut out the EPP triangle templates – you will need 28 triangle templates in paper or card.

Step two To cut out each triangle fabric piece, place the triangle template on the fabric and mark out a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance around the triangle – this will be the cutting line.

Step three From Fabric A cut:

Triangles: 10 using the template.

From Fabric B cut:

Triangles: 9 using the template.

From Fabric C cut:

Triangles: 9 using the template.

ASSEMBLING THE HANGER

Step one Make up 28 triangles following the previous English paper piecing instructions.

Step two Assemble the triangles according to the pattern in the diagram, with right sides (RS) together and using a whip stitch. You will need to make up four rows of seven triangles. [02](#)

Step three Place two strips RS together so that the edge with four triangles is aligned with the edge with three triangles and pin in place.

Step four Bend the edges of the left-hand triangles inward so the points touch the middle of the opposing triangle's side. This creates

a point for the edge of the hanger. [03](#)

Step five Whipstitch along the top edge, around the point and along the bottom edge, leaving one end open.

Step six Remove all of the tacking threads and papers. Turn the work through.

Step seven Repeat with the other strips to make a second casing. [04](#)

Step eight Fold the foam in half lengthways to find the centre and pierce a small hole in the middle of the strip. Thread the hook of the hanger through the foam and cover the hanger. Secure the loose ends of the foam with a small stitch. Trim off any excess if the foam overlaps.

Step nine Insert the hanger into the casings and ease towards the hanger hook, where they should meet. If there is any excess fabric, tuck this into the casing.

Step ten Carefully draw the casings together and neatly slipstitch into place around the centre of the hanger.

Step eleven Neatly wrap a piece of double-faced satin ribbon around the centre of the hanger, including the hook, and tie off with a bow to secure in place.

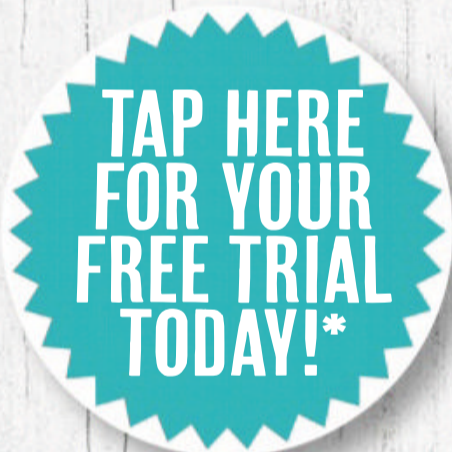


This EPP project is from *Quilting on the Move* by Alistair Macdonald. Photos by Paul Bricknell. £7.99, www.searchpress.com

FREE
TRIAL FOR
YOU!

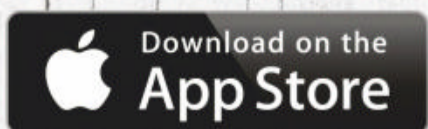
DOWNLOAD YOUR ISSUE OF SIMPLY SEWING NOW!

You can buy a digital edition of *Simply Sewing*, ready to read whenever you want. Single issues and subscriptions are available and every issue you purchase is stored in your magazine library permanently. Once your magazine has downloaded, an internet connection is not required so you can take your magazine with you, wherever you go.



To buy your digital copy of *Simply Sewing*, visit
www.simplysewingmag.com/digital

On Android or PC/Mac? Find us on
www.zinio.com/simplysewing



iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. NOOK is a registered trademark of Barnes & Noble, Inc. NOOK Tablet is a trademark of Barnes & Noble, Inc

*Free trial not available on Zinio



ENGLISH PAPER PIECING

This quilting technique is simple to learn and a great way to use up your scraps. Try it with our guide to the EPP basics, then make a hexie cushion.

English paper piecing, known as EPP, is a traditional quilting technique that originated in England in the 1700s. It was the original make-do-and-mend of home crafts. Small scraps of fabric or old clothing were used to create large heirloom pieces that were warm, decorative and could be passed down through families for years to come. Put simply, EPP is the process of tacking a scrap of fabric around a paper shape. These shapes are then sewn together and when finished the papers are removed, leaving accurate shaped patchwork.

Hexagons are probably the most popular shape, but many others are used, too. Once the shapes are made they are then stitched together randomly, or in patterns. In recent years, EPP has really grown in popularity. This wonderfully precise form of patchwork is a relaxing and thrifty way to recycle fabric scraps into something beautiful.

GETTING STARTED

To start off, decide what shape you would like to use and what pattern you're going to arrange your shapes in. Unless you would like a random design, it is worth taking time to plan your pattern in terms of colour and arrangement. Print out some on paper and create your design, then number the pieces on your pattern sheet and paper templates to refer to.

MAKING PAPER SHAPES

Precut paper shapes can be bought from craft shops, or you can make them yourself using scrap paper. You can also use freezer paper to cut out your shapes. This is shiny on one side, and you iron it to your fabric to temporarily hold the fabric in place whilst you tack. There are several websites with templates to print out – try this one for templates in various shapes and sizes: www.incompetech.com/graphpaper ⁰¹

CUTTING THE FABRIC

The fabric shape needs to be around 1cm (1/4in) bigger than the paper shape all the way around so that the edges will fold around the paper template easily. Make a pattern by adding this extra allowance to one of your paper shapes and pin this onto

your fabric and cut around it. Fussy cutting works well with EPP – this is when you cut your fabric so that a particular motif is centralised. To do this, use a clear acrylic template or cut your own from tracing paper and place it centrally over your motif then cut around it. ⁰²

TACKING THE FABRIC IN PLACE

Lay your cut fabric shape right-side down then pin the paper shape centrally over it. To hold the fabric in place, you can fold the fabric over onto the paper then tack it down. There is also another method that means you don't have to remove the tacking stitches at the end – make a small stitch at each corner, stitching the two edges together then work a running stitch through the fabric only to the next corner and repeat. Alternatively, glue the fabric onto the paper with washable glue. ⁰³

CHOOSING YOUR THREAD

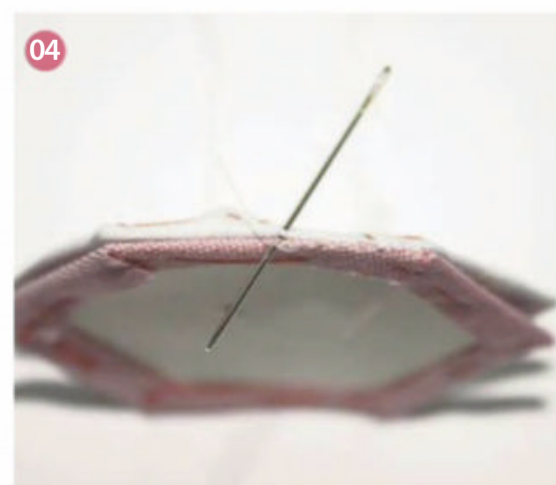
Your stitches will be very slightly visible from the right side, so choose a colour of thread that will blend well with your fabric. With the constant pulling through the fabric, cotton thread can break. A thread called The Bottom Line by Superior Thread is ideal for this task – this is a strong polyester thread that is virtually invisible when stitched. Visit www.superiorthreads.com for more information.

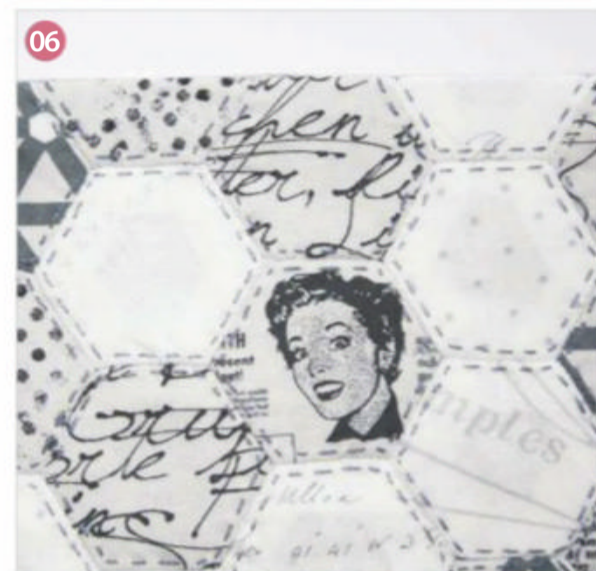
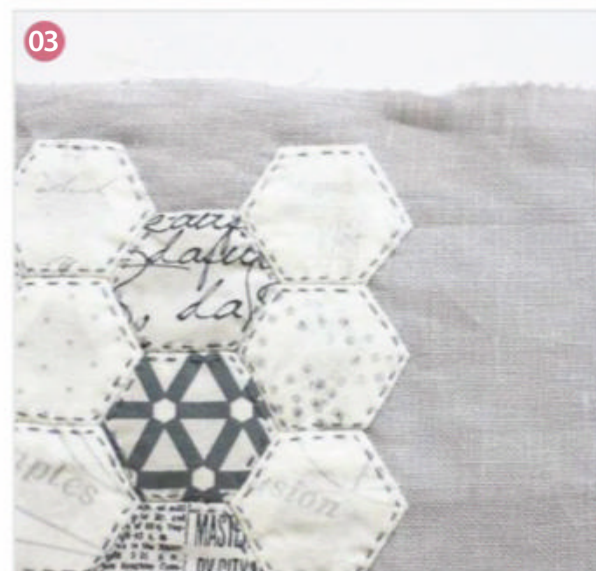
STITCHING THE PIECES TOGETHER

When you have tacked all your shapes, you are ready to sew them together. Place two shapes right sides together and then, using a small whip stitch, sew the pieces together, being careful to only stitch through the fabric – don't sew through the paper, just the fabric edges. The smaller your stitches are the less visible they will be, but it's not an exact science and you'll get neater and quicker as you progress. ⁰⁴

REMOVING THE PAPERS

The paper shapes should stay in place until all of the surrounding edges of the shape have been joined to another shape. Press the piece well to set the block, then undo the tacking stitches and carefully remove the paper shapes to finish.





YOU WILL NEED

- Cotton fabric: scraps for the hexagons, see instructions for details
- Linen fabric: 50x90cm (20x35in), for the cushion back and front
- Paper: for the hexagon shapes
- Zip: 35cm (14in)
- Cushion pad: 40x40cm (16x16in)
- Stranded cotton in a matching colour
- Matching sewing thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

We used a selection of fabrics from Modern Background Paper by Zen Chic for Moda fabrics. Find out more at www.modafabric.co.uk

NOTES

- Download the templates from www.simplysewingmag.com/downloads
- Use the instructions on page 88 to make the hexagons.

CUTTING THE TEMPLATES AND FABRIC

Step one Download, print and cut out the hexagon templates. The larger hexagon is for the fabric, the small one is the paper templates.
Step two Plan which fabric you are going to use for your patchwork then cut out the fabrics and paper hexagons using the templates. **01**

WORKING THE PATCHWORK

Step one Tack the fabric to the paper templates.
Step two Stitch all the hexagons together. **02**
Step three Remove the papers and press. For individual hexagons, remove the papers and press the edges under and pin to hold.

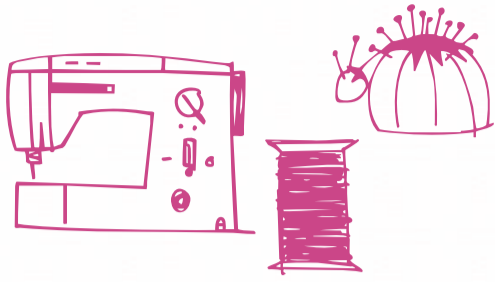
ATTACHING THE PATCHWORK

Step one Cut the linen fabric to the following sizes: cushion front, 43x43cm (17x17in); cushion back, two pieces 23x43cm (9½x17in) each.
Step two Work running stitches just inside the edge of each hexagon using a slightly darker thread for emphasis. We used a dark grey stranded cotton.
Step three Pin the joined hexagon piece into the left corner of the cushion front fabric so that it is positioned 1.5cm (5/8in) in from the edges.
Step four Stitch the edge of the joined piece to the cushion front by hand. **03**
Step five Lay the individual hexagons on the fabric until you are happy with the positioning, then stitch these into place. **04**

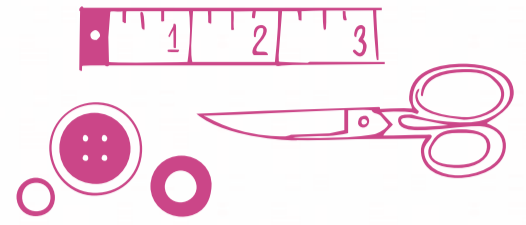
MAKING THE CUSHION COVER

Step one Place the two cushion back pieces right sides (RS) together and stitch 3cm (1¼in) from each edge to make the side seams. Tack between these side seams then press open.
Step two Pin the zip RS down centrally on top of this then stitch into place using a zip foot. **05**
Step three Remove the tacking stitches.
Step four Place the front and back RS together then stitch together around all four sides.
Step five Press the seams open, clip the corners, then turn RS out and press. Put the cushion pad inside the cover and close the zip to finish. **06**





Simply WORKSHOPS



We've highlighted 6 new workshops for the New Year for you to slip your scissors into and explore a new skill or technique



1



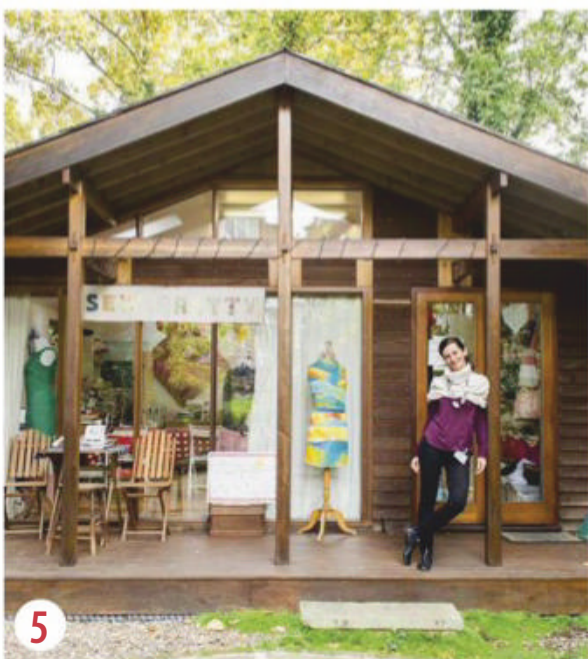
2



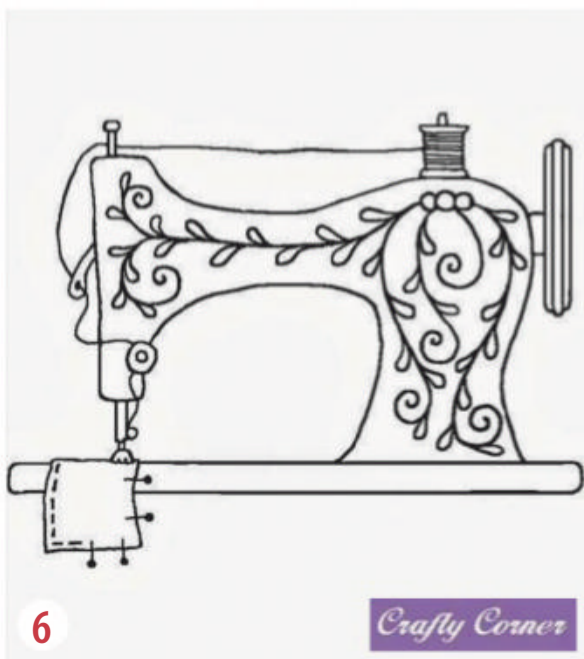
3



4



5



6

Crafty Corner

1 LEICESTERSHIRE CRAFT CENTRE

Our friendly venue in Market Harborough offers the widest range of sewing and craft workshops in the East Midlands. Classes are available for all abilities, and we cater for hen parties, groups and corporate events too.

leicestershirecraftcentre.co.uk

2 BAGSBYCARMEN

BagsbyCarmen runs small friendly and relaxed sewing workshops in Milton Keynes. Offering bag making and various sewing projects for all abilities with step by step help all the way.

bagsbycarmen.com

3 GATHER 'N' SEW

Take a peek at the wide range of popular workshops that we run, from dressmaking to bags, sewing techniques to patchwork. Exciting new workshops will be added throughout the year. Why not join us!

gathernew.co.uk

4 BOBBIN SEWING SCHOOL

Bobbin welcomes you to enjoyable small friendly workshops and courses for all abilities in a tranquil setting in Stockbridge Hampshire.

bobbinsewingschool.co.uk

5 SEW PRETTY-SEWING SCHOOL LONDON

A SW London based studio, offering workshops, sewing classes for adults & kids, hen parties, girls' get-togethers, corporate craft events, sewing & craft birthday parties and sewing camps. Email bookings@sewpretty.me.uk

sewpretty.me.uk

6 CRAFTY CORNER

Crafty Corner, South Shields, offers sewing classes for the complete beginner to the more advanced. Dressmaking, curtain making and much more, all with step by step tutorial handouts. Contact Mrs Irene Thompson.

01914254425 or 07971681224

STASH SHOPPING

Fill up your stash with fabric, patterns and more from these fabulous shops!

SOUTH

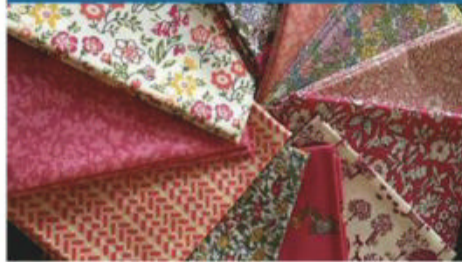


SEW BUSY

Stockists of Makower, Robert Kaufman, Clothworks and Windham, ribbons, haberdashery, sewing goods and classes.

sew-busy.co.uk

SOUTH WEST



SEW AND FABRIC

Family-run fabric & haberdashery, quality dressmaking & craft fabrics as well as lessons – now stocking new Liberty cotton collection.

01726 75385

SOUTH WEST



BECKFORD SILK

Silks & velvet. Natural, printed and dyed. Small quantities at wholesale prices.

01386 881 507

beckfordsilk.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS



HOUSE OF SMOCKING

Exclusive Swiss fabrics, piques, batistes, sea island lawns and wool blanketing. Patterns, transfer dots, mini piping, kits, tuition in hand smocking. Code SS05.

houseofsmocking.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS

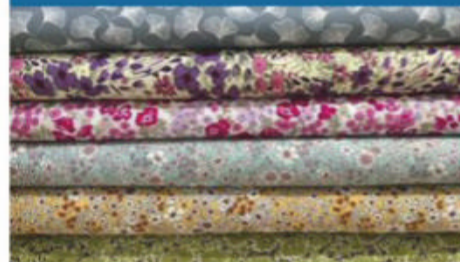


ONLINE FABRICS

Largest selection of textiles at your fingertips. Samples available of our whole range. No minimum order level.

online-fabrics.co.uk • 02476 687 776

EAST



GATHER 'N' SEW

Whatever your project, we have a wonderful selection of luxury dressmaking and patchwork fabrics, sewing supplies and workshops.

gathernew.co.uk

EAST MIDLANDS



LEICESTERSHIRE CRAFT CENTRE

Workshops and courses for adults and children of all levels, craft supplies, patterns and fabric available online and in store.

leicestershirecraftcentre.co.uk

NORTH

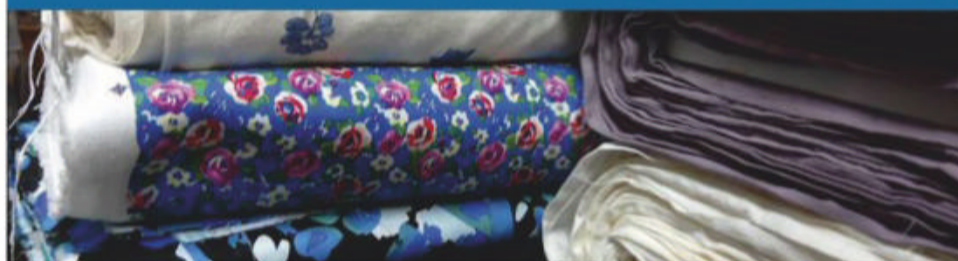


HAPPY HARE

An independent sewing store in Chapelton, Sheffield, stocking a range of fabrics, including Michael Miller, Riley Blake and Tula Pink.

handmadehappyhare.com

SCOTLAND



THE SEWING STATION

Create your summer wardrobe with the latest fabrics and yarns. New stock arriving all the time. Visit *The Sewing Station 110 Grey Street, Broughty Ferry Dundee*. Find us on Facebook *Sewing Station Broughty Ferry*.

01382 732 734

SCOTLAND



PEMBERTONS

Everything for the Quilter, fantastic selection of machines, cabinets, habby, fabrics & notions. *Friars Street, Stirling*.

psmc.co.uk • 01786 462 993

SCOTLAND



ROMY'S SEWING ROOMS

Bright, friendly shop for all sewers, selling patterns, fabric and notions. Sewing classes for all ages and abilities.

180 Irish Street, Dumfries, DG1 2NJ

romys-sewing.co.uk

SCOTLAND



ABBEY SEWING MACHINES

Tailored to meet your personal needs whether you are a seasoned sewer or buying your first machine. Elna, Janome, Singer, Husqvarna.

01387 249 580

Simply
Sewing
FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

To advertise here contact

Rebecca: 0117 300 8547

or

rebecca.janyshiwskyj@immediate.co.uk

To advertise here contact Rebecca Janyshiwskyj on 0117 300 8547

INCLUDES
PAPER
GIFTS

BACK ISSUES

FROM
£6.99
PER ISSUE



ISSUE 54

Add The Wrap Dress, Sew Over It's Cora Set and The Kimi Satchel to your pattern stash.



ISSUE 53

Make The Amélie Dress and By Hand London's Sarah Shirt, plus get our fold-out fitting guide.



ISSUE 52

Sew patterns for a beginner's tee and kid's pinafore and read about the new series of the Sewing Bee.



ISSUE 51

Collect patterns for a top, dress and bag – plus, a copy of our *Essential Guide to Dressmaking* book.



ISSUE 50

Make a button-up skirt, cosy knit jumper, metallic clutch bag and on-trend faux fur homewares.



ISSUE 49

Sew an unlined coat and pinafore, Named blouse, snowman toy, advent calendar and home projects.

2 WAYS TO ORDER

Visit the website: www.sewingquarter.com
or call **0800 112 4433**

*Calls will be charged at your local call rate, calls from mobiles may vary. All prices exclude p&p. All orders subject to availability.

Never miss an issue again, turn to page 30 and subscribe today!

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

THE GUIDE

You'll find essential information, useful stitches and key sewing techniques on these pages.

MARKING PEN

Transfer markings to your fabric, then wash them out when finished.



WATER ERASABLE PENCIL

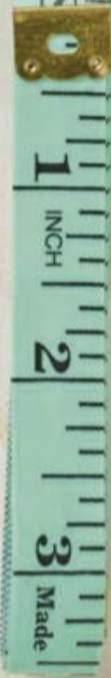
WATER ERASABLE PEN

MARKING PENCIL

Choose a colour that shows up on your fabric.

TAPE MEASURE

A flexible fabric tape measure will take accurate measurements.



1 INCH

2

3

Made

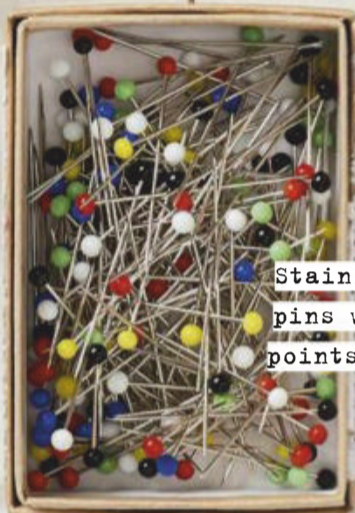
TAILOR'S CHALKS

Chalk temporarily marks fabric and can be easily brushed away.



SEAM RIPPER

This sharp blade cuts through and unpicks stitches.



PINS

Stainless steel pins with sharp points are best.

FABRIC CLIPS

Use these instead of pins when sewing thicker fabrics.



SMALL SCISSORS

Use for snipping threads and cutting notches.



PINKING SHEARS

These cut a zigzag edge on fabric to neaten.



SHEARS

Keep a pair of sharp shears just for cutting out your fabric.



THIMBLE

Wear to protect your fingers when handstitching.



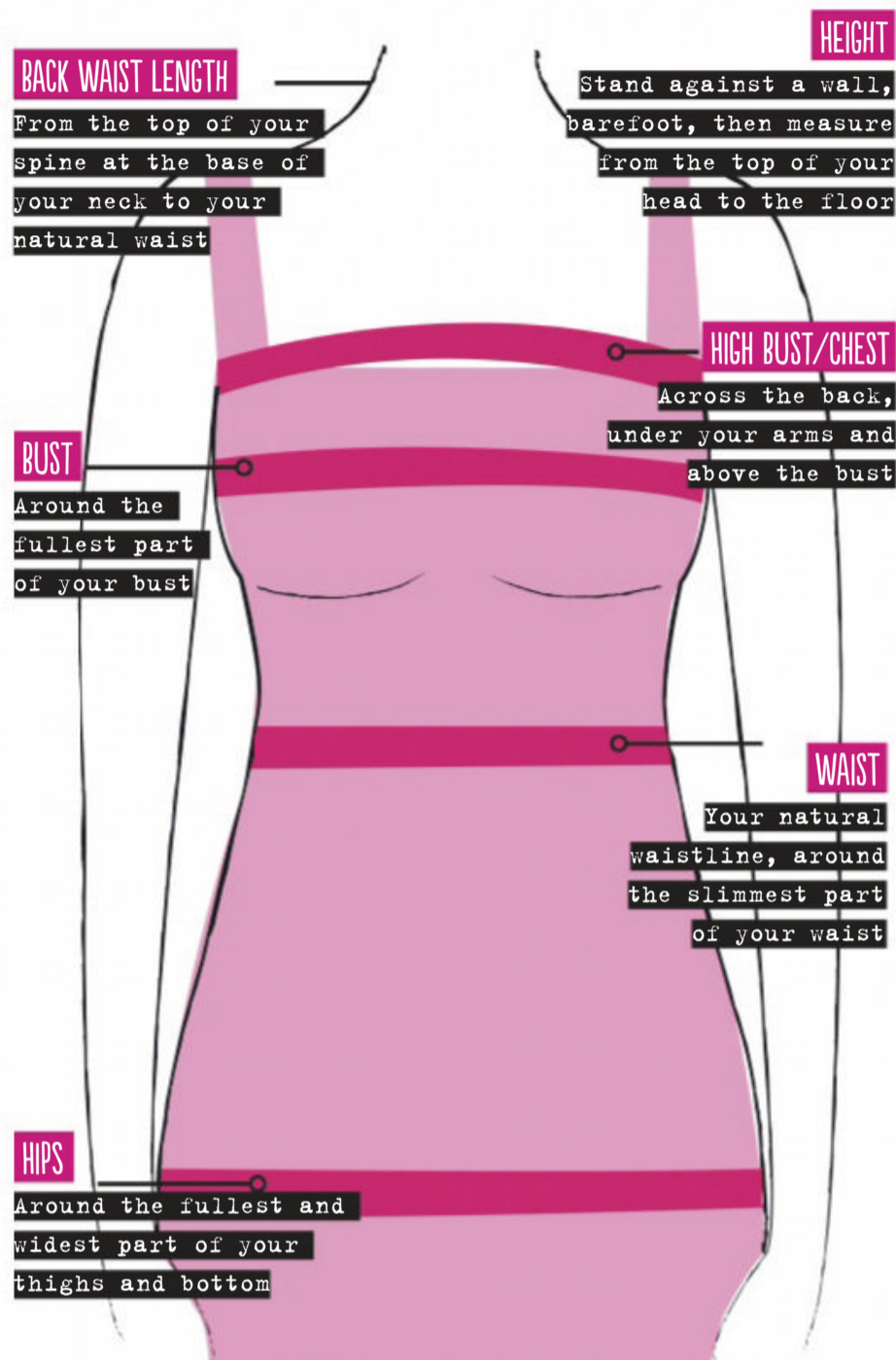
HOW TO MEASURE YOURSELF ACCURATELY

ALWAYS MEASURE YOURSELF BEFORE you choose a pattern size to cut out. The sizes do vary greatly from pattern to pattern, so it's always best to measure yourself accurately and then refer to the pattern's size chart to find your size. The chart will usually be printed on the pattern envelope or on the instructions inside.

Measure yourself in your underwear and preferably in the bra you'll be wearing underneath

your garment as this can alter the measurements slightly. Use a fabric tape measure as it'll curve around your body well for accuracy. You can measure on your own if you stand in front of a mirror, but, for best results, ask a friend to help so they can check the tape measure is sitting in the right places. Make sure the tape measure sits snugly around you but is not pulled tight.

Take the measurements shown in the diagram and note them down.



HOW TO USE A PATTERN

Preparing your fabric and cutting out your sewing pattern accurately is just as important as the actual sewing. Wash your fabric before you begin as fabric can shrink and run. Once dry, press it well.

PREPARING THE PATTERN

Patterns often come with several options of different finishes so you may have more pieces than you need. The instruction sheet will tell you which pieces to use. Roughly cut out all of the pieces outside the lines then press the pieces using a dry iron on a low heat to remove the folds and creases.

CUTTING OUT THE PATTERN

Choose your size using your measurements and the size chart. Cut along the corresponding lines on your pattern. When you reach any fiddly curves, take care to cut along the correct size lines.

CUTTING LAYOUTS

Choose the correct one for the width of fabric you're using, the

size you're cutting and the style of garment. Many patterns have more than one option (or view) and each one can have a different layout.

CUTTING OUT

Lay your fabric flat and smooth it out. Fold or place the fabric as shown on the cutting layout. Lay the pattern pieces in the order and right side or wrong side up as shown. Check to make sure that the grainlines on the pattern are parallel with the selvages by measuring. Pin your pattern pieces carefully in place and cut around them through the fabric using a pair of dressmaker's shears.

TRANSFERRING MARKINGS

The markings on the pattern pieces need to be transferred to the fabric. They're really important for matching up fabric pieces later and for positioning elements such as darts and pockets. You can mark these with chalk, fabric markers, snips on the fabric, or with small tacking stitches.

PATTERN MARKINGS

Pleats: These lines are matched up to create pleats on the cut out fabric pieces.

Arrows: Grainline arrows are used to show which direction to pin the pattern on the fabric. The grainline runs parallel to the fabric edge.

Darts: These lines are for matching up to create darts within the fabric pieces.

Notches: Shown as triangles or small lines, these are marked on the edges and are mainly used for matching up pattern pieces.

CHOOSING AND BUYING FABRICS



IT'S IMPORTANT TO CHOOSE the correct fabric for your pattern. Most patterns give suggested fabric types that will work best with the style of garment. Use this to guide you as some patterns need more drape, body or structure than others.

Fabric can be made from natural fibres such as cotton, linen, wool and silk or synthetic fibres such as acetate, acrylic, nylon, polyester, rayon and viscose. All these fabric come in different weights, or thicknesses, which suit different garments.

Lightweight fabrics are ideal for lingerie, nightwear and summer clothing, and include cheesecloth, chiffon, crepe-de-chine, georgette, lawn, muslin, organdie, organza and voile.

Medium-weight fabrics, which work for dresses, shirts, trousers and childrenswear, include calico, cotton, crepe, dupion, linen, poplin and finer wool.

Heavy-weight fabrics are used for garments or projects needing more strength, like coats, jackets, winter wear and bags. Canvas, corduroy, denim, tweeds, velvet and wool are all in this category.

Some patterns require fabrics that are quite fluid and have a good drape to make them hang properly, such as a circle skirt or blouse. Synthetic or synthetic mix fabrics such as rayon, challis, chiffon or lightweight jersey have a better drape to them.

Stretch and knit fabrics such as jersey and lycra are virtually crease free and comfortable to wear. They

can be bought in a variety of thicknesses and qualities depending on their use but are ideal for sportswear and casual clothing.

Interfacing gives an extra layer of support to your fabric – for example, to stiffen facings and collars. Choose an interfacing that's slightly lighter than your main fabric, and if you're using a fusible (iron-on) option then always test it on a scrap of the fabric first as it can melt if the iron is too hot.

Interfacing is available in different weights and as an iron-on (fusible) or sew-in version. With fusible interfacing, press the shiny side to the wrong side of your fabric. Tack sew-in interfacing to the wrong side of the fabric pieces around the edges.

If you're buying fabric off a roll (or bolt) then you'll usually buy it by the metre. This is only the length of the fabric you're buying – the width depends on the width of the roll. Fabrics are sold in standard widths, which vary according to their purpose – for example, dressmaking or quilting fabric generally comes in standard widths of 112cm (44in) or 150cm (60in). Curtain or soft furnishing fabric is normally 137cm (54in) wide and is really useful for bags and aprons as it's thicker and stronger than dressmaking fabrics. The fabric requirements on the pattern instructions will tell you what length of fabric to buy, usually with two width choices. Some patterns, such as large circle skirts, can only be cut from the wider fabrics.

FINISHING SEAMS

ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED stitching your seam, it's best to press it open on the wrong side so it lies flat. Sometimes it's better to press it to one side to reduce bulk but the pattern instructions will tell you this.

Usually the seam allowances are left as they are as they help to strengthen the seam, but sometimes they cause too much bulk so they are trimmed to half their original width.

If your fabric has a tendency to fray you should neaten the raw edges after you have worked the seam. There are several ways of doing this. To machine-finish them, set your sewing machine to the zigzag stitch then stitch close to the raw edge all the way along. The zigzag must be small enough to stop the fabric from fraying but large enough to enclose the bulk of the fabric. Practise a few lengths and widths before you begin. Alternatively, you can trim the raw fabric edges with a pair of pinking shears. If you have an overlocker then you can stitch, cut and finish the seams all in one process.

MACHINE NEEDLES

There are many different needle types and they vary by the shape of the point, eye and shaft thickness. Choose the correct one for smooth stitching.

UNIVERSAL

A great multi-purpose needle which can be used for woven fabrics and has a slightly rounded point for stitching knit fabrics, too.

BALL POINT

This needle has a more rounded point than the universal needle so you won't get snags, ladders or holes. Perfect for knit fabrics.

JEANS

A strong needle, ideal for stitching several layers of fabric or tightly woven fabrics like denims.

SHARPS

With a sharp point, these are for sewing very fine and delicate fabrics and neat buttonholes.

LEATHER

This needle's wedge-shaped cutting point is used to work strong seams on non-woven fabrics like leather, suede and vinyl.

STRETCH

Designed for sewing two-way stretch knits such as lycra and silk jersey. It prevents skipped stitches on fine knit fabrics.

QUILTING

This will pierce multiple layers whilst keeping straight stitches so it is ideal for patchwork and machine quilting.

TOPSTITCH

This has an extra-sharp point and eye, so thicker topstitching thread can be used. It's perfect for straight stitching with thicker threads on any type of fabric.

TWIN

Used for parallel rows of stitching such as pintucks and hems.

NEEDLE SIZE GUIDE

UK SIZE	US SIZE	FABRIC
60	8	Silks
70	10	Lightweight fabrics
75	11	Medium weight fabrics
80	12	Medium weight fabrics
90	14	Medium weight fabrics
100	16	Heavy weight fabrics
110	18	Upholstery fabrics/denim
120	20	Heavy canvas

GLOSSARY

For a full glossary of sewing terms visit www.simplysewingmag.com

DRAPE

A term used to describe the way a fabric hangs under its own weight. Different fabrics have different drape qualities.

EASE

The addition of extra fabric in a pattern to allow the finished garment to fit the body well.

EDGE STITCH

A row of stitching on the very edge of a garment, usually 2-3mm (1/16-1/8in) from the folded or seamed edge. Used to hold the fabric edge neatly in place.

FACING

This pattern piece is cut separately to stabilise and create a neat finish on the edge of a garment, such as the neckline.

FAT QUARTER

A term used to describe a cut piece of fabric often used for patchwork projects, usually measuring 46x55cm (18x22in).

FINISHING/NEATENING RAW EDGES

This is done to stop the fabric edges, particularly of a seam, from fraying. It can be done by machine zigzag stitch, using an overlocker or trimming the raw edge with pinking shears.

GRAIN/GRAINLINE

The lengthwise fabric grain, running parallel to the selvedge.

NAP

Fabrics like velvet, corduroy and fur have hairs or loops which all lie in one direction and are called the nap, or pile. When cutting out pattern pieces make sure the grainline arrow always runs in the direction of the nap.

NOTIONS

Small tools or accessories used

in sewing such as zips, fasteners, lace and buttons.

RIGHT SIDE (RS) / WRONG SIDE (WS)

The right side of the fabric, also called the 'public' side, has the design on it. The wrong side is the other side – this is usually a little duller or faded on plain fabrics.

SEAM ALLOWANCE

The fabric between the raw or cut edge of the fabric and the seam is called the seam allowance. Your pattern will tell you the required seam allowance measurement. This is usually 1.5cm (5/8in) for dressmaking, but can vary.

SELVEDGE

The finished woven edge of fabric, often with the fabric name printed on it. The grain runs parallel to this and the bias diagonally. Called selvage in the US.

STAYSTITCHING

A line of regular machine stitching usually worked 3mm (1/8in) inside the seam line, often used to stabilise curved edges to stop them stretching out of shape.

TACK/TACKING

A line of temporary stitching used to hold fabric pieces together before machine sewing, worked in the same way as running stitch. Known as basting in the U.S.

TOPSTITCHING

A line of stitching worked 5mm (1/4in) from the folded or seam edge. Used to hold the seam in place and as a decorative finish.

UNDERSTITCHING

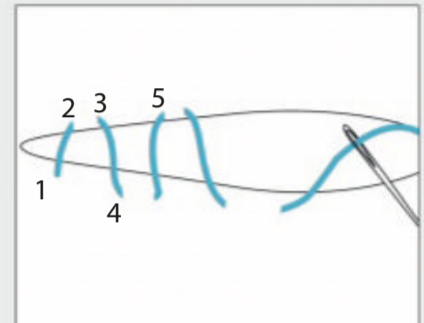
A line of stitching worked through the facing and seam allowance 3mm (1/8in) from the seam to stop the facing rolling to the outside of the garment. Understitching will not be visible on the outside.

STITCH GUIDE

Use these basic hand stitches to complete your home and dressmaking projects.

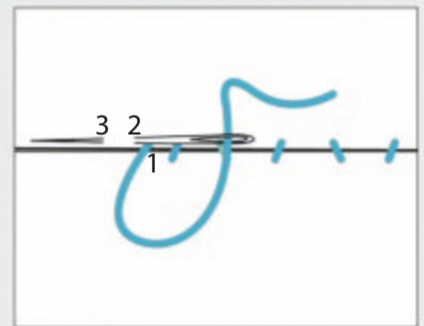
LADDER STITCH

Used to join together and close two turned-under edges invisibly, such as on a dress lining or soft toy. Bring the needle up at 1 on one side of the seam, then in at 2 on the opposite side and out at 3, so the stitch is 3mm (1/8in) long. Push the needle back in the opposite side at 4 and out at 5. Repeat this to close the edges.



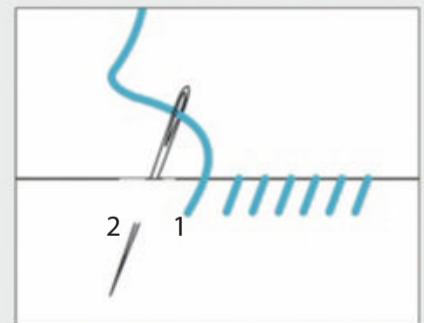
SLIP STITCH

This stitch is used most often for hems where you need to stitch a turned-under edge to a flat piece of fabric using small, almost invisible stitches. Bring the needle up at 1 on the turned-under hem then back in at 2 and out at 3. Make this horizontal stitch as small as possible so it can't be seen from the front. Repeat this by making a vertical stitch back into the turned-under edge then continue in this way to complete the hem.



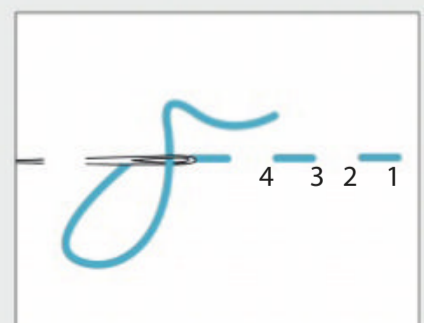
WHIP STITCH

Whipstitch is used to join the edges of two fabrics together, such as felt and other fabrics that don't fray. With the right sides together, bring your needle out at 1 on the front of the fabric, then over to the back of the other, and through and out at 2. Continue to work small stitches close together over the top of the two fabric edges.



RUNNING STITCH

This can be used to gather fabric and as a decorative stitch worked around the edge of a finished project. Bring the needle out at 1, in at 2, then out at 3 and in at 4, and so on. Make the length of the stitches the same length as the gaps between them for an even finish. You can work several running stitches on your needle at once.



NEXT ISSUE

S

Shirt dresses

Long-sleeved top

Toy aplaca plushie

Table runner set

Retro-style wrap shirt

Girl's sun dress + hat

Ruffle neckline dress

Laptop case

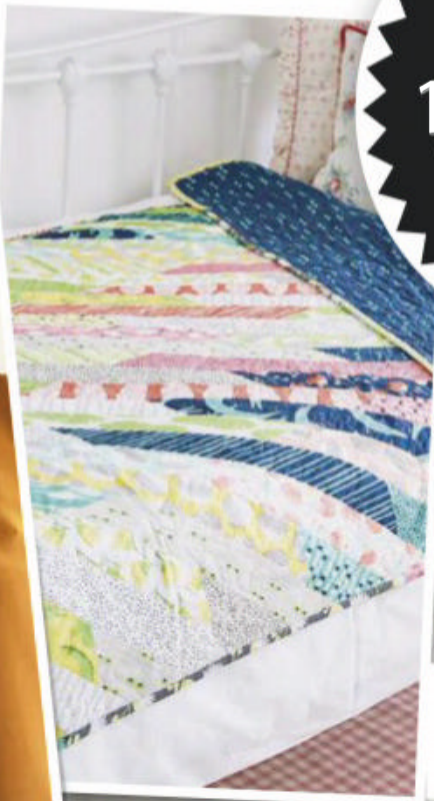
and more...

SHIRT DRESS
WITH 2 LENGTH
OPTIONS!



+ 2 PATTERNS
& BOOK WORTH
£20.99

EXCLUSIVE TOP
PATTERN FROM
IAM

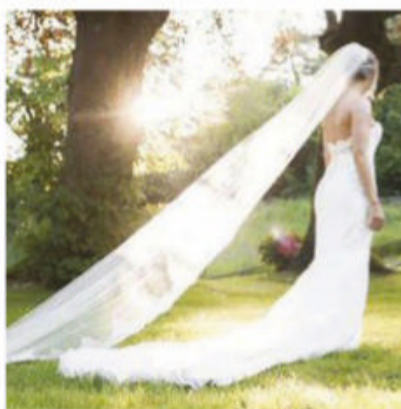
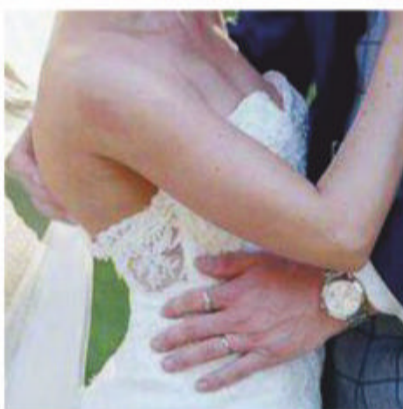


BONUS
12 MAKES FOR
YOUR HOME



ON SALE THURSDAY 16 MAY

WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM



COOUTURE BRIDE

GBSB's Angeline Murphy created her first bridal gown in luxurious Italian lace with the help of her trusty Janome.

"I learned to sew on a very basic machine that always skipped a stitch. It was so frustrating and I didn't know how to fix it. As a beginner it's so important to get a good, solid machine. I love my Horizon for so many reasons, but my number one is because it is reliable.

My fellow Sewing Bee Josh got married last year and his fiancée Hannah asked me to sew her dress – my first ever wedding dress. I was honoured to make a special dress for such a beautiful lady. It was important to get it right and make sure it stood the test of late-night dancing. My Janome never let me down and even with 12 solid hours of sewing my machine never flinched once! The dress was created from ten metres of satin, lace and interfacing. The hem was finished with horse

hair and the train was hand-stitched with lace appliqués. It was based on a Simplicity 1183 bodice pattern which was fully boned and structured to achieve a close fit to the body. The rich Italian lace gave it a couture feeling.



I have made many wonderful garments on my machine over the years, including my son's Christening gown from my mother's wedding dress, bridesmaids dresses, evening gowns and mother-of-the-bride dresses. Looking back on all my creations, I see how far I have come and how much I have learned. From turning up trousers to stitching up wedding dresses, I really feel sewing has enhanced my confidence and self-esteem. Together, me and my Janome can create anything!"

See more at www.angelinemurphy.com

Stay in touch!

WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM • #SIMPLYSEWINGMAG

 facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine  twitter.com/simplysewing_

 pinterest.com/simplysewingmag  instagram.com/simplysewingmag

