

**NEW!**

# Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

ISSUE SEVEN



**QUICK  
BABY GIFTS**  
EASY-APPLIQUÉ AND  
FAT QUARTER MAKES

**32 PROJECTS TO MAKE  
WARDROBE  
UPDATES!**

*Refashion  
a sarong!*

**PRETTY  
HANGERS  
SIMPLE SEW**



**PATTERN  
CUTTING**

**YOUR HANDY  
BEGINNER'S GUIDE**

# LIGHT & BRIGHT

Transform a bedroom with charming prints



**WIN! £250 fabric & dress patterns!** • Pillowcase skirt • Kid's bean bag • Quilted bed runner





# *Simply* **Sewing**

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

This month, we're all about squeezing in as many summery makes as possible while the rays are still shining. Nothing says summer quite like the deliciously sweet pastel fabrics we've used to sew contemporary accessories for a girl's room. We've packed this issue with inventive home and wardrobe updates and new techniques, too. Let's end our summer of sewing on a high note!



# Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

ISSUE SEVEN

## CONTENTS

Make me on p59



Refashion a sarong into a summer top. See page 40



P20  
BEDROOM  
MAKEOVER  
FOR THE GIRLS



### GREAT PATTERNS FOR YOU

- 20 GIRL'S BEDROOM REVAMP
- 40 REFASHION: SARONG TOP
- 45 DENIM UPCYCLE: BIRD BUNTING
- 48 COATS CRAFTS' QUICK KIMONO
- 51 FAST FAT QUARTER: BABY GROW
- 59 TOY PUPS PLUSHIE AND CUSHION
- 64 PILLOWCASE AND T-SHIRT SKIRTS
- 72 SEW ALONG TULIP SKIRT PART 3
- 80 TRANSFORM A TEE: HEADBANDS
- 85 CHAIR BACK SEWING CADDY

### HOW TO...

- 33 KNOW YOUR: THIMBLES  
Choosing and using the right ones
- 61 STITCH: CROSS STITCH CHEVRONS  
Give cross stitch a modern update
- 78 KNOW YOUR: SEWING PATTERN  
Understand the dressmaking basics
- 87 WORKSHOP: PATTERN MATCHING  
Master the art of matching patterns
- 91 THE GUIDE  
Useful stitches & techniques
- 95 TEMPLATES



63

Transform a bold floral T-shirt into a knotted headband p80





85



48



72

WIN! £250  
FABRIC + PATTERNS  
from Fabric Godmother.  
Page 53



54



PATTERN  
CUTTING 78

### FABRIC ADDICT



While the sun is still shining, we're continuing our obsession with colourful fabrics to end our summer sewing on a high. We've gone all girly with a pretty range of pastel bedroom accessories on page 20, not to mention the chic peacock feather kimonos on page 48. We've been finding out how world-renowned fabric printers, Spoonflower, came about on page 68 too. So if your fabric drawer is full, it's time to get creative and make space for the next batch, right?

*Charlie*

Charlie Moorby, Editor

PS: Share your makes with us using #simplysewingmag



51

### GOOD READS & IDEAS

- 09 FREE GIFT: Pyjama pattern
- 11 PINBOARD: Ideas, events, new fabrics!
- 36 TILLY WALNES' SEWING WORLD
- 39 PINUP: NEW PATTERNS TO TRY
- 54 PROFILE: AUTHOR JANE BULL
- 63 PINUP: WAYS WITH CROSS STITCH
- 68 FEATURE: SPOONFLOWER'S STORY
- 83 PINUP: RECYCLED FABRIC SCARF
- 98 MY FAVOURITE THING



**GREAT SUBS OFFERS! P34**  
LIMITED TIME OFFER! GET THE BEST BENEFITS WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE...

# CONTRIBUTORS

A big thank you to this talented bunch...



*"I love the 1960s and breathing life into neglected fabrics."*

## CHLOË OWENS

Modern-day hippie chick Chloë Owens collects psychedelic vintage fabrics and stitches them together to create unique textile art. You can see her work at [www.chloeowens.com](http://www.chloeowens.com), and her vintage pillowcase skirt upcycle on page 64.



*"I harbor a fairly serious fabric buying habit!"*

## JENNIE JONES

Jennie Jones discovered sewing when she had children, and now sells her creations through her company, Say No to Beige. We love her appliquéd babygrow and dummy strap on page 51, and her T-shirt headbands on page 80.



*"I thrive seeing people create something by themselves."*

## KATE SMITH

Kate Smith founded The Makery, a haberdashery and workshop space, in 2009. She has since published two books and opened a second workshop in Oxford Street's John Lewis. She designed this issue's exclusive free pyjama pattern. Read all about it on page 9.



*"I encourage everyone to have a go and have fun!"*

## JANE BULL

Jane has combined her love of craft with a career designing books. Her step-by-step guides appeal to beginners of all ages; the latest introduces them to the joys of machine sewing. Read our interview with Jane on page 54, then turn to page 59 to make her soft toy pups.

## OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Katie Allen, Coats Crafts, Lisa Comfort, Judy Darley, Jessica Entwistle, Adam Gasson, Portia Lawrie, Mariko Nakamura, Zoë Patching, Annabell Ratter, Debbie Shore, Tilly Walnes, Jesse Wild  
Special thanks to: Sarah Malone, Becky Skuse

[WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM](http://WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM)

[facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine](https://www.facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine) [twitter.com/SimplySewing](https://twitter.com/SimplySewing) [pinterest.com/simplysewingmag](https://www.pinterest.com/simplysewingmag) [instagram.com/simplysewingmag](https://www.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. Competitions in issue 05 are open 18 June 2015 – 16th July.

# Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

## EDITORIAL

EDITOR Charlie Moorby  
ART EDITOR Lisa Jones  
TECHNICAL EDITOR Rebecca Reid  
PRODUCTION EDITOR Michelle Grady  
DIGITAL EDITOR Nina Camacho  
PHOTOGRAPHY Philip Sowels

SENIOR ART EDITOR Louise Day  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Debora Bradley  
GROUP SENIOR EDITOR Julie Taylor

## ADVERTISING

Call 01117 300 8206  
SENIOR ADVERTISING MANAGER Penny Stokes  
ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVES  
Tiffany Jackson, Beckie Pring

## MARKETING & CIRCULATION

SUBSCRIPTIONS DIRECTOR Jacky Perales-Morris  
DIRECT MARKETING MANAGER Elizabeth Daly  
HEAD OF NEWSTRADE MARKETING Martin Hoskins  
NEWSTRADE MARKETING MANAGER Richard Jefferies

## BUYING

Paul Torre, Karen Flannigan, Corinne Mellerup

## PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION CONTROLLER Derrick Andrews  
PRODUCTION MANAGER Louisa Molter / Rose Griffiths  
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Sarah Powell

## LICENSING

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL LICENSING & SYNDICATION MANAGER  
Tim Hudson [tim.hudson@immediate.co.uk](mailto:tim.hudson@immediate.co.uk)  
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS MANAGER  
Anna Brown [anna.brown@immediate.co.uk](mailto:anna.brown@immediate.co.uk)

## PUBLISHING

PUBLISHER Liz Taylor  
CHAIRMAN Stephen Alexander  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Tom Bureau  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRISTOL Andy Marshall  
TEL +44 (0)1173 008127

## 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](mailto:simplysewing@immediate.co.uk)  
SUBSCRIPTIONS TEAM  
[simplysewing@craft.buysubscriptions.com](mailto:simplysewing@craft.buysubscriptions.com)  
01604 828745

## NEXT ISSUE ON SALE

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2015

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.

# Creative Summer Offers



## UK Dealer List

### Innov-is V5

Sewing, quilting and embroidery machine

- Extra large long arm – 11.25" (285mm)
- ICAPS continuous automatic pressure system – continually detects fabric thickness for superior stitch quality
- 10" (258mm) full-spectrum LED lighting
- Large 300mm x 180mm embroidery area – ideal for larger projects
- High-speed sewing and embroidery
- Extra wide stitches up to 40mm



### Innov-is 750E

Embroidery machine

- 136 embroidery patterns
- Automatic thread cutter
- Automatic needle threader
- LCD touch screen
- Start/Stop button
- USB port for memory stick



### Innov-is 1100

Computerised sewing machine

Feature packed sewing machine with large work area for big projects.

- Long arm 8.3" (210mm)
- 140 built-in stitches excluding lettering
- 5 Styles of lettering
- 10 Styles of automatic 1-step button holes
- SFDS – Square Feed Drive System
- Quick set bobbin
- Combine and memorise stitches
- Automatic thread cutter



### Innov-is 35

Computerised sewing machine

Feature packed sewing machine with easy jog dial stitch selection and one touch needle threading

- 70 stitches
- 7 styles of automatic 1 step button holes
- Advanced automatic needle threader
- Variable stitch length and width control
- Start/Stop button
- Needle stop position setting up or down
- Drop feed
- Twin needle setting



Offers valid from 1st Aug to 30th Sept 2015

#### Scotland

David Drummond Edinburgh EH12 5HD 01315 397 766  
 ESC Keith AB55 5HF 01542 887 000  
 Karelia House Ltd Perthshire PH15 2LS 01887 822 027  
 N J Sewing Polmont FK2 0UF 01324 711 333  
 Pembertons Sewing Machines Stirling FK8 1HA 01786 462 993

#### North East

Singer Sewing Centre Whitley Bay NE26 2SY 0191 2525 825  
 Tully Sewing Machines Sunderland SR1 3JG 0191 5657 995  
 The Fat Quarters Newcastle upon Tyne NE17 7TN 01207 565 728  
 UK Sewing Machines Darlington DL3 7JY 01325 463 630

#### Northern Ireland

Sew n Knit Belfast BT4 1AB 07799 268 258

#### North West

Affordable Sewing Wirral CH46 9QA 0151 677 7755  
 Bamber Sewing Machines Ltd Eccles M30 7HY 0161 707 7786  
 Hobkirks Sewing Machines Limited Blackburn BB2 2AJ 01254 693 555  
 Hobkirks Sewing Machines Limited Bury BL9 0LQ 0161 764 4450  
 Jaycotts Chester CH1 4LT 01244 394 099  
 Lord's Sew Knit Centre Accrington BB5 3DE 01254 389 171  
 M&S Sewing Machines Heywood OL10 4NA 01706 366 943  
 R&T Machines (Domestic Sales) Blackburn BB1 2AL 01254 520 63  
 Temptations Bentham LA2 7HQ 01524 261 868  
 New Generation Isle of Man IM9 6AQ 01624 836 301

#### Yorkshire & The Humber

Gillies Fabrics York YO1 8SW 01904 626 244  
 Grimsby Sewing & Knitting Grimsby DN32 9DR 01472 343 921  
 Woodseats Sewing Machines Ltd Sheffield S8 0RY 0114 255 2822

#### Midlands

Brewers Wolverhampton WV2 3AF 01902 458 885  
 Binders Sewing Centre Peterborough PE1 5BA 01733 340 449  
 Couling Sewing Machines Lincoln LN5 8AW 01522 521 841  
 Creative Hands 2 Worcester WR1 2LU 01905 249 40  
 DC Nutt Sewing Machines Walsall WS3 3SS 01922 497 603  
 E L Grain Nottingham NG6 8UY 0115 927 1155  
 GUR Sewing Machines Birmingham B19 3QN 0121 359 5335  
 Leamington Spa Sewing Machines Ltd Warwick CV32 4RA 01926 427 572  
 Sewing Machine Centre Shrewsbury SY1 1XJ 01743 343 902  
 The Lorna Knight Sewing Academy Bradnop ST13 7NX 07970 345 628

#### East Anglia

Beccles Sewing Machines Beccles NR34 9TB 01502 714 234  
 Bedford Sew & Knit Limited Bedford MK41 7LE 01234 217 096  
 Franklins Group Limited Colchester CO2 7DU 01206 563 955  
 Franklins Group Limited Ipswich IP1 3EL 01473 221 188  
 Franklins Group Limited Chelmsford CM2 0LG 01245 346 300  
 Sewing Machine World Kings Lynn PE30 5DD 01553 773 362  
 Sew Northampton Northampton NN1 4DX 01604 637 200

#### Wales

Cliffords Sewing Machines Swansea SA 3JY 01926 427 572  
 J&B Sewing Machine Co Ltd Newport NP19 4SY 01633 284 646  
 Sewing Machine Direct Wrexham LL12 0PJ 08000 925 215  
 Tailor Made Rhos on Sea LL28 4RS 01492 544 118

#### South East

Art of Sewing Eastleigh SO50 5LD 02380 650 808  
 Ashford Sewing Centre Ashford TN23 1JH 01233 620 948  
 Brighton Sewing Centre Brighton BN1 1YD 01273 621 653  
 Bobin Along Worthing BN11 3EG 01903 200 771  
 C & A Supply Co Ltd Cranleigh GU6 8NE 01483 267 777  
 CCB Sewing Machines Rochester ME1 1HS 01634 841 597  
 Cooper Sewing Machines Ltd Borehamwood WD6 1FJ 0208 2361 520  
 Dowlings Wickford SS11 8YJ 01268 562 022  
 Eastleigh Sewing Centre SO50 5LD 02380 650 808  
 Fareham Sewing Fareham PO16 0EH 01329 234 641  
 Hastings Sewing Centre Hastings TN34 1RE 01424 423 108  
 Lewisham & Deptford S/Mcs London SE8 3NT 02086 921 077  
 Maidstone Sewing Centre Maidstone ME14 1ED 01622 670 254  
 Owl & Sewing Cat Eastbourne BN21 4EJ 01323 325 342  
 Regent Sewing and Knitting Ltd Ilford IG1 2AG 02084 780 669  
 Rona Sewing Machines Waltham Cross EN8 7BX 01992 640 250  
 Sew Devine Reading RG6 1JQ 01189 268 664  
 The Sewing Centre Battersea SW11 3BP 0207 2283 022  
 The Sewing Shop Canterbury CT1 2HX 01227 457 723  
 Tysons Sewing Machines Limited Southall UB1 3DA 0208 5741 750  
 Woking Sewing & K/M Centre Woking KT15 3NY 01932 352 958  
 The World of Sewing Tunbridge Wells TN1 2QP 01892 533 188  
 The World of Sewing Orpington BR6 75Q 01689 638 638

#### South West

And Sew to Knit Taunton TA1 1NZ 07547 006 618  
 Bredons Taunton TA1 3NB 01823 272 450  
 Caffle Crafts Weston Super Mare BS24 6SE 01934 838 327  
 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 2BY 01209 216 942  
 Social Fabric Totnes TQ9 5SQ 01803 866 144  
 Stewart's House of Fabric Wareham BH20 4AG 01929 551 191



# Maud's Fabric Finds

Specialist in French and Spanish textile and hand printed fabrics

Monaluna Haiku collection and Inkalily fabrics now in stock.



**15% off all orders, at checkout enter SIMPLY15**

Secure and safe shopping at: [www.mauds-fabric-finds.com](http://www.mauds-fabric-finds.com)



Introducing the Fold Away Petite - Dunster Edition small but perfectly formed! With a small footprint when closed and a folding work table there is a spacious work area and plenty of storage.

fold away Petite

Dunster Edition



- § Folding desk offering a generous work space
- § Choice of storage racks to keep supplies
- § Cable access to enable integrated power
- § Optional built in lighting pack

Regular Price £995 (excluding delivery and lighting kit)

**Magazine Offer**  
**£850 (SAVE £145)**

Mainland UK delivery £35 extra  
Optional lighting kit £50 extra  
**Offer Coupon - DUN715**



Unit pictured in Vanilla finish

Please note all furniture items are supplied self assembly - assembly can be arranged please call for further details and charges

Call us free on 0800 048 8606 - [www.storage4crafts.co.uk](http://www.storage4crafts.co.uk)

[mail@storage4crafts.co.uk](mailto:mail@storage4crafts.co.uk)

Storage 4 Crafts, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon. EX36 3LL

WorldMags.net



Offer expires end of month following magazine publication (eg. Jan Issue expires end of Feb)

# YOUR FREE GIFT

An exclusive pyjama pattern designed by The Makery.

There's something oh-so-luxurious about new nightwear, so we're particularly excited about this issue's free gift – a fun and flattering pyjama pattern designed by Kate Smith of The Makery. These are an ideal beginner's project and will be a treat to lounge around in after a busy day. We made ours with Meadow Flowers fabric by Dashwood Studio and some neon orange grosgrain ribbon, both from The Makery shop. Find our pattern marking guide on page 78 to get started and share your makes using #simplysewingmag.

**PSST:**

Use the code *SSPJ20* for 20% off all purchases made at [www.themakery.co.uk](http://www.themakery.co.uk), including workshops, until the end of September 2015.



\* Gift not available with digital editions.

# The & Knitting Stitching Show

The definitive events for anyone with  
a love of stitch and creative crafts.

Supplies, workshops  
and textile art.

Alexandra Palace, London  
**7-11 October 2015**  
Open 5 days

Simmons Court, RDS, Dublin  
**12-15 November 2015**

Harrogate International Centre  
**26-29 November 2015**

Tickets and information from  
[www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com](http://www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com)  
**01473 321 872**

**£2 OFF!\*** Quote IMMED15

\*Valid on adult tickets in advance only,  
or £1 off concessions. Terms & conditions  
and £1.50 booking fee applies.

Knitting - Crochet - Dressmaking - Embroidery - Patchwork & Quilting  
Sewing - Home Furnishing - Beadwork - Cross Stitch  
Feltmaking - Lacemaking - Tapestry - Weaving, Spinning, Dyeing

Image: Michala Gyetvai

Workshops and Lectures  
in association with:

UPPER  
STREET  
EVENTS

 **twistedthread**

WorldMags.net

*HeMline*  **PONY**  
by GROVES

# PINBOARD

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



## QUEEN OF QUIRKY

The Royal Caballito clothing brand was founded in 2012 by Diana Saldaña, a photo curator and art historian turned designer. Her designs are made in a small studio in Spain and the name (caballito means 'little horse') is inspired by her multicultural upbringing and the whimsy of carousels. From £58. [www.royalcaballito.com](http://www.royalcaballito.com)



## INDUSTRIAL WORKSPACE

▼ Blueprints for Sewing design architecture-inspired dressmaking patterns, and this comes across in their airy, industrial-looking workspace. We crave the vintage Singer, and the metal lamp caught our eye too. Get the look for just £12 with IKEA's mint-green Foto pendant lamp. [www.blueprintsforsewing.com](http://www.blueprintsforsewing.com)



## TOP MARKS

Made by Rae is one of our favourite stitchers and bloggers so we were thrilled to see her bloggers' favourite Beatrix pattern finally released. Featuring an on-trend button back, this versatile top can be made with different sleeves and hems for a look to suit you. Check out Rae's blog for a Beatrix stitchalong soon. £10. [www.made-by-rae.com](http://www.made-by-rae.com)

## POCKET PERFECTION

The new Xerea pattern from Pauline Alice is ideal for summer days drifting into autumn. This 60s-inspired dress comes as both a shift dress with short sleeves and as a sleeveless tent dress. We love the useful pockets on the front. From around £6. [www.paulinealicepatterns.com](http://www.paulinealicepatterns.com)

## BEACH BEAUTIES

These gorgeous designs from Extex makes us think of sand, sea, surf and chilled-out family days at the beach. Blissful.

Made by Marina Mill, a family business based in Kent, this is Extex's first range of outdoor upholstery fabrics. They are stain-resistant, water-repellent, light fast and machine washable – so there's no need to worry if you drop your ice cream! £85/m. [www.extex.co.uk](http://www.extex.co.uk)





"I'd love my brand to continue to grow and be enjoyed"

MINI PROFILE



MIESJE CHAFER

"My look could best be described as bright!" says printmaker, textile designer, illustrator and maker Miesje Chafer. "I love fabrics that stand out in a room – I like that a repeated, simple pattern in a single colour can achieve this, but I also enjoy contrasting pattern, colour and fabric – sometimes it's like a visual poke in the eye!"

Miesje designs everything from logos to wedding invites, and she also turns her (very capable) hands to designing and printing textiles, then stitching them up as clutches, purses and hairbands. Miesje, who credits her love of doodling for her abstract designs, also sells fat quarters so you can get making with her pretty prints, too.

"I've always loved textiles," she says. "Even though I took a detour and trained to be



a nurse, I still ended up returning to fabric. I love the world of possibility that printing my own fabric opens up – it's not just about creating the designs themselves, but being able to turn them into something beautiful and functional."

The business developed "organically" from selling at fairs. "I love the flexibility of doing what I do. If I fancy popping out for a walk or a spontaneous buying expedition, then I can – I'm not tied down to anyone else's timetable."

"Although I'd love my brand to continue to grow and be enjoyed, I'd like to keep it small," she says. "I haven't yet made the step of employing someone else as I like doing everything, but maybe one day. My plan is to start teaching some small workshops, but above all to keep having fun!"

[www.miesjechafer.com](http://www.miesjechafer.com)  
[www.folksy.com/shops/miesjechafer](http://www.folksy.com/shops/miesjechafer)



INSPIRING BOOKS



**PRETTY, ORGANISED**  
 Jane Hughes (£12.99, Apple Press)

Sort out your stash and get tidying with this cute collection of 30 home projects. This lovely book is packed with storage solutions you can make yourself. It's not all sewing, but each make is perfect for decluttering your craft space.



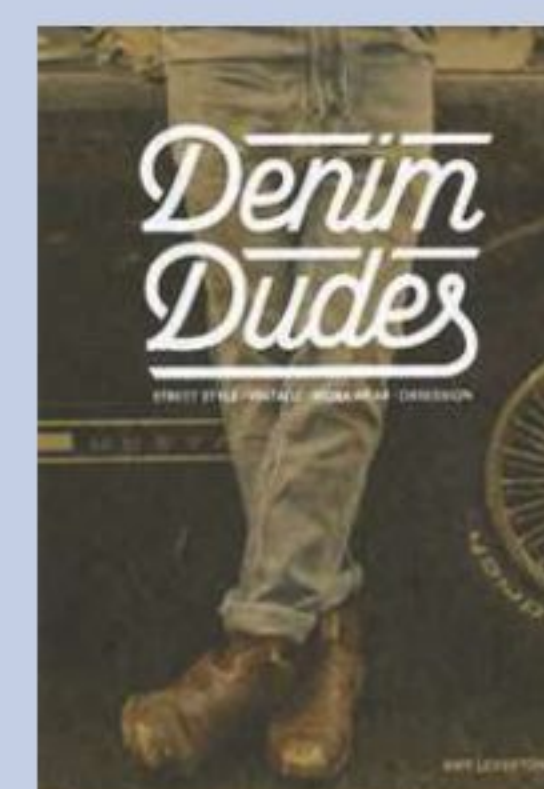
**COMPLETE PLEATS**  
 Paul Jackson (£22, Laurence King)

Get inspired by fabulous folds with this super-cool book. There are dozens of ideas from the worlds of architecture, fashion and product design, plus step-by-step guides to the amazing creations you can make with a simple piece of fabric.



**DRESS YOUR TECH**  
 Lucy Hopping (£12.99, CICO Books)

We've all got gadgets – but how can we keep them safe from scratches and spills? This fun book is full of projects on decorating and protecting your tech as well as keeping it safe and secure – from an ice lolly phone cosy to oilcloth tablet case.



**DENIM DUDES**  
 Amy Leverton (£16.95, Laurence King)

This beautiful book is not just an excuse to look at handsome chaps – honest! Designers, makers and style-lovers alike will love this focus on that most versatile fabric – denim. It covers everything from bikers and punks to jean geeks around the world. A Denim Dudes follow-up is in the works too. They read our minds!



## GIRLY STYLE

We're quite jealous of these summer patterns designed for little girls aged from six months to 12 years. The Limon dress and top feature pintucks on the front and back, making them super-cute for daywear and parties. Around £6. [www.willowandcopatterns.com](http://www.willowandcopatterns.com)

## LINEN LOVELY

▼ Brighton's The Maker's Atelier has launched its own range of elegant kits. The first three contain everything you need to create its newest patterns: The Utility Coat, The Utility Dress and The Holiday Top, including matching thread and gorgeous pure linen fabric. £60-£82.50. [www.themakersatelier.com](http://www.themakersatelier.com)



### TIPS & TRICKS

## FINISH THE NECKLINE OF A KNIT FABRIC TOP

**M**easure the opening of your T-shirt and add 3cm (1in) – this is your neckband width. Cut a piece of fabric as long as your neckband width and 10cm (3in) wide to create your neckband. Sew this together at the short ends to make a tube. Fold the neckband so the raw edges are matched, wrong sides together. Place pins at the four 'corners' of your neckband, then match the pins to the shoulder seams, front centre and back centre of the T-shirt neckline. Pin right sides together and match the raw edges. Sew all the way around the neckline using a zigzag stitch. Press. This tip comes from [www.randomlyhappyblog.com](http://www.randomlyhappyblog.com).



## 3 OF THE BEST

## CUTE ANGLES

**Zigzag stripes always look sharp. Swap the straight and narrow for these fab finds.**

1. This super-bright 100% cotton rainbow stripe fabric from Fabric Godmother is perfect for making frocks, blouses and skirts. £14/metre. [www.fabricgodmother.co.uk](http://www.fabricgodmother.co.uk)

2. These gorgeous geometric-print recycled notebooks are ideal for scribbling down notes for your next fabric shopping trip. As if we need an excuse! £4.50 each. [www.mulk.co.uk](http://www.mulk.co.uk)

3. Add some chevron chic to your outfit with this wooden necklace made by Amy Hall. This contemporary necklace features a hand-drawn geometric design. [www.notonthehighstreet.com/redpaperhouse](http://www.notonthehighstreet.com/redpaperhouse)





BE A DESIGNER

FLIP FASHION

Designer fashion is no longer the stuff of dreams (ish) with this fun flip book, which helps you style your own high-end outfits from hundreds of designer and catwalk looks, from Vivienne Westwood to Marc Jacobs. We love French designer Lucille Clerc's illustrations too. Published by Laurence King, £9.95.

5 FAB FINDS

Sewing Room Signs

Let everyone know what you're up to with these fun studio signs



RETRO RULES

Add some vintage chic to your craft room with this handmade wooden sign. From about £9. [www.katemueninghoff.etsy.com](http://www.katemueninghoff.etsy.com)

SEWING



WISE WORDS

Simply print your own crafty sign with this retro download design. A perfect quick fix! Around £4 each. [www.threegypsypsouls.com](http://www.threegypsypsouls.com)

CLOTH QUEEN

These fun sign adds instant studio sass! A fab gift for sewers with a sense of humour. Around £6. [www.rhondavousdesigns2.etsy.com](http://www.rhondavousdesigns2.etsy.com)



PRETTY PATTERNS

Stitch your own sign with Kimberly Oumet's sweet downloadable motifs. Around £3 each. Go seek at [www.kimberlyouimet.com](http://www.kimberlyouimet.com)



CREATIVE FUEL

This hand-lettered sign is the perfect gift for the busy maker in your life. Around £6. Find heaps more at [www.designsbynicolina.etsy.com](http://www.designsbynicolina.etsy.com)



CUT IT OUT!

Salme Sewing Patterns always come up with the goods and their newest pattern is no different. Available as both a paper pattern and digital download, the Cut Out Halter Top is just the thing for catching those last rays of summer. From £4.48. [www.salmesewingpatterns.com](http://www.salmesewingpatterns.com)



OUT & ABOUT

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

**29 AUGUST** Brighton Craft Fair, Brighton. All the best local makers from Brighton's crafter community. [www.brightoncraft.com](http://www.brightoncraft.com)

**10-12 SEPTEMBER** Stitching, Sewing & Hobbycrafts Show, EventCity, Manchester. The latest on your favourite crafts, plus plenty of free workshops and creative demonstrations to enjoy. [www.stitchandhobby.co.uk](http://www.stitchandhobby.co.uk)

**UNTIL 13 SEPTEMBER** Riviera Style: Resort & Swimwear since 1900, Fashion & Textile Museum, London. An exhibition of 100 years of leisurewear, from swimsuits to sarongs. [www.ftmlondon.org](http://www.ftmlondon.org)

**18-20 SEPTEMBER** The Handmade Fair, Hampton Court Palace, Surrey. Join Kirsty Allsopp for a day of crafting – there will be plenty of stalls to browse too. [www.thehandmadefair.com](http://www.thehandmadefair.com)



Photo: Megan Nielsen

## GET READY!

▼ We're so excited The Refashioners is back for 2015. Organised by Portia Lawrie (of [www.makery.uk](http://www.makery.uk)), the challenge will see blogger stars refashioning that wardrobe staple, the man's shirt. Those contributing this year include Ginger Jeans-creator Heather Lou, Sew Over It's Lisa Comfort and Dixie of Dixie DIY. Discover more at [www.makery.uk](http://www.makery.uk) and see the results in our future issues...



## TIPS & TRICKS

### SEWING STRETCHY FABRICS

You don't always need an overlocker to sew with stretchy fabrics! Set your machine to sew a narrow zigzag stitch with a short stitch length, and don't stretch the fabric as you sew. A special stretch needle will help prevent skipped stitches, and a walking foot can keep slippery layers from shifting around. Always test on scraps first and give them a good stretch – if your stitches pop, then decrease the stitch length. This tip comes from [shop.fehrtrade.com](http://shop.fehrtrade.com)

## TIME FOR T

We're big fans of Megan Nielsen, so when we spotted her understated Maker tee we were super excited. As well as being a stylish gift for any, er, maker, the T-shirts are handmade and screen printed in Kolkata, supported by Fairtrade business Freetset, which helps women trapped in sex work. [www.megannielsen.com](http://www.megannielsen.com)



## ON THE SPOT

We're dotty over this glitter fabric, made exclusively for [www.creativecraftsupplies.co.uk](http://www.creativecraftsupplies.co.uk). It comes in white, red, green, royal blue, pink, and pastel shades of pink, lilac and blue. It can be stitched, embroidered and die cut – perfect for all kinds of craft projects. From £1.50 per sheet, you'll be wanting them all.

## LIBERTY CORNER

### CHIC KIMONO

A project from *And Sew to Bed* by Caro London (CICO Books), this elegant kimono dressing gown was made by Alice Caroline. The fabric is Peony Pavillion C from Liberty of London's autumn/winter 2015 collection, which was curated by designer Anna Sui. Find more Liberty prints and sewing tips at [www.alicecaroline.co.uk](http://www.alicecaroline.co.uk)



*Free Spirit*



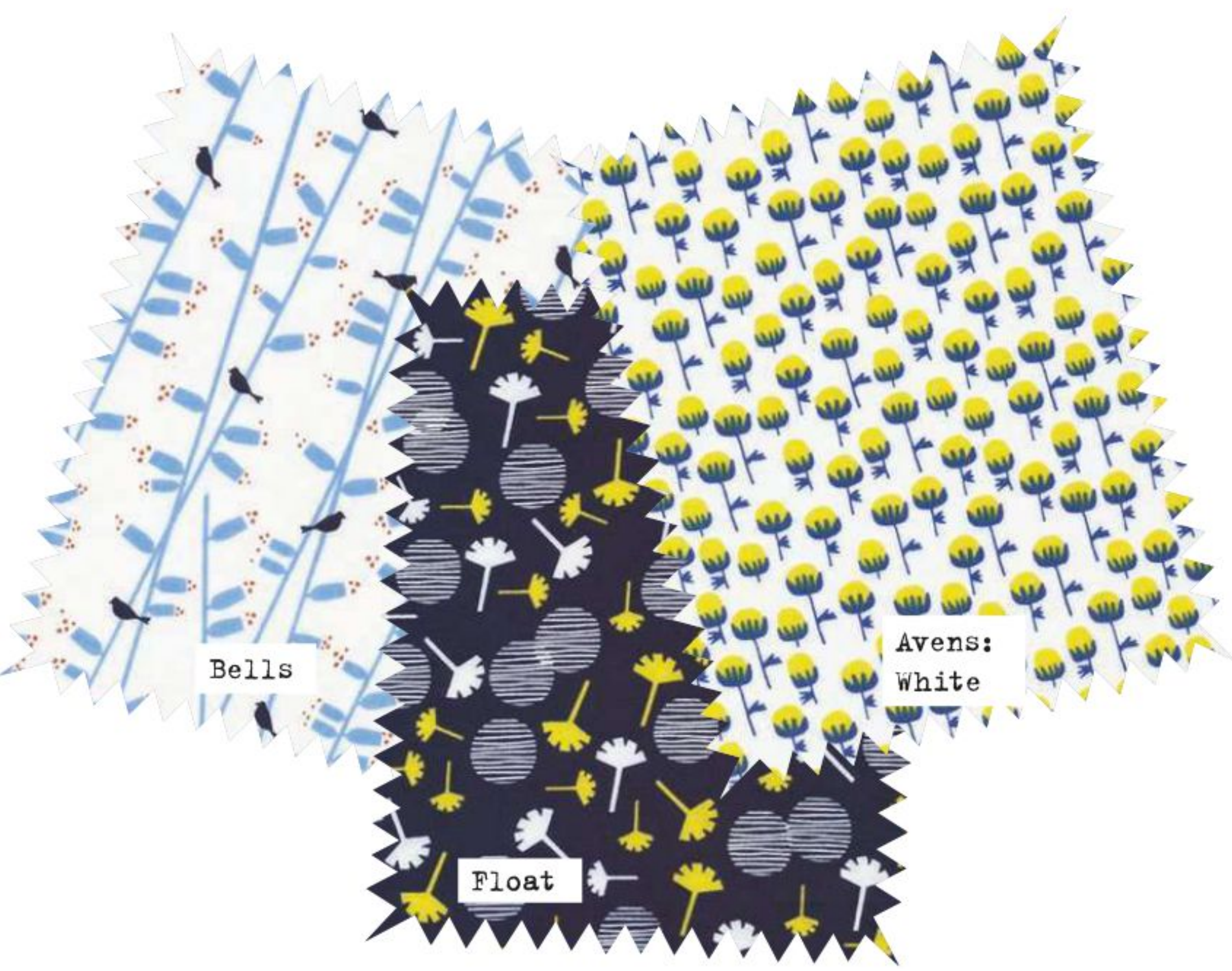
Amy Butler

Search for Amy Butler in the Product Explorer section on [makeitcoats.com](http://makeitcoats.com) to find out more about her latest fabric collection 'Bright Heart'.

*I Am a Freespirit!*

Make it  
  
COATS

[makeitcoats.com](http://makeitcoats.com)



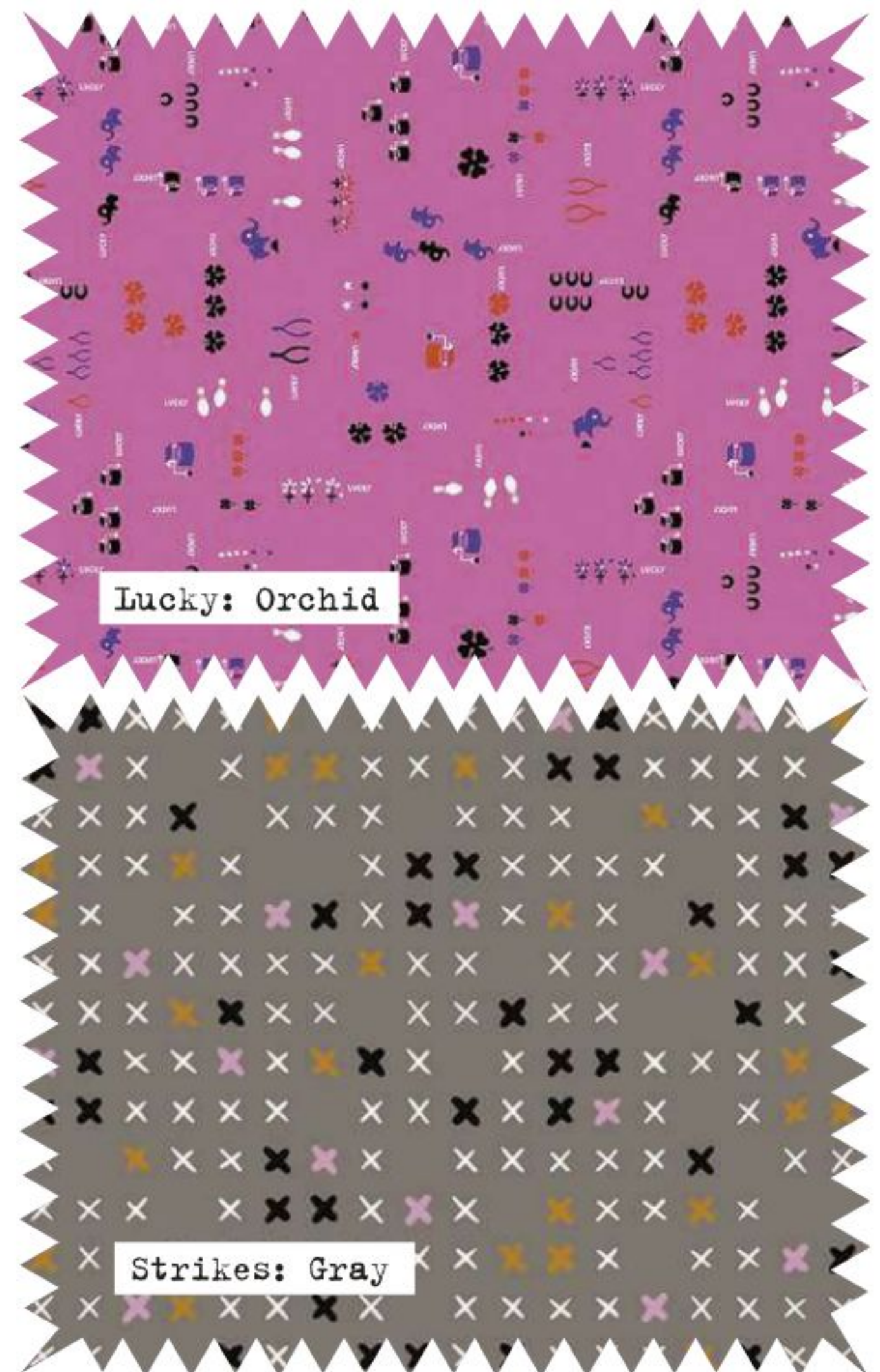
# BACK TO NATURE

WATER LAND BY JESSICA NIELSEN  
FOR CLOUD9 FABRICS

Beautiful geometric water-related designs feature in this fabulous collection, printed on 100% organic cotton. Natural motifs include reeds, florals, floating leaves, fish, geese, birds and more, in 12 vibrant designs using yellow, green, red and (of course, given the theme) blue. Perfect for dressmaking and home décor projects. See more at [www.cloud9fabrics.com](http://www.cloud9fabrics.com)

## SUBTLE LOOK

▼ DARING BY  
CAMELOT DESIGN  
STUDIO  
Made up of florals and geometrics, each of these designs are available in soft pink, grey and navy, all of which complement each other wonderfully. The simple yet dynamic patterns are ideal for adding a subtle touch of colour to your makes. Visit [www.camelotfabrics.com](http://www.camelotfabrics.com)



## BOWLING CLUB

LUCKY STRIKES BY KIM KIGHT FOR  
COTTON + STEEL

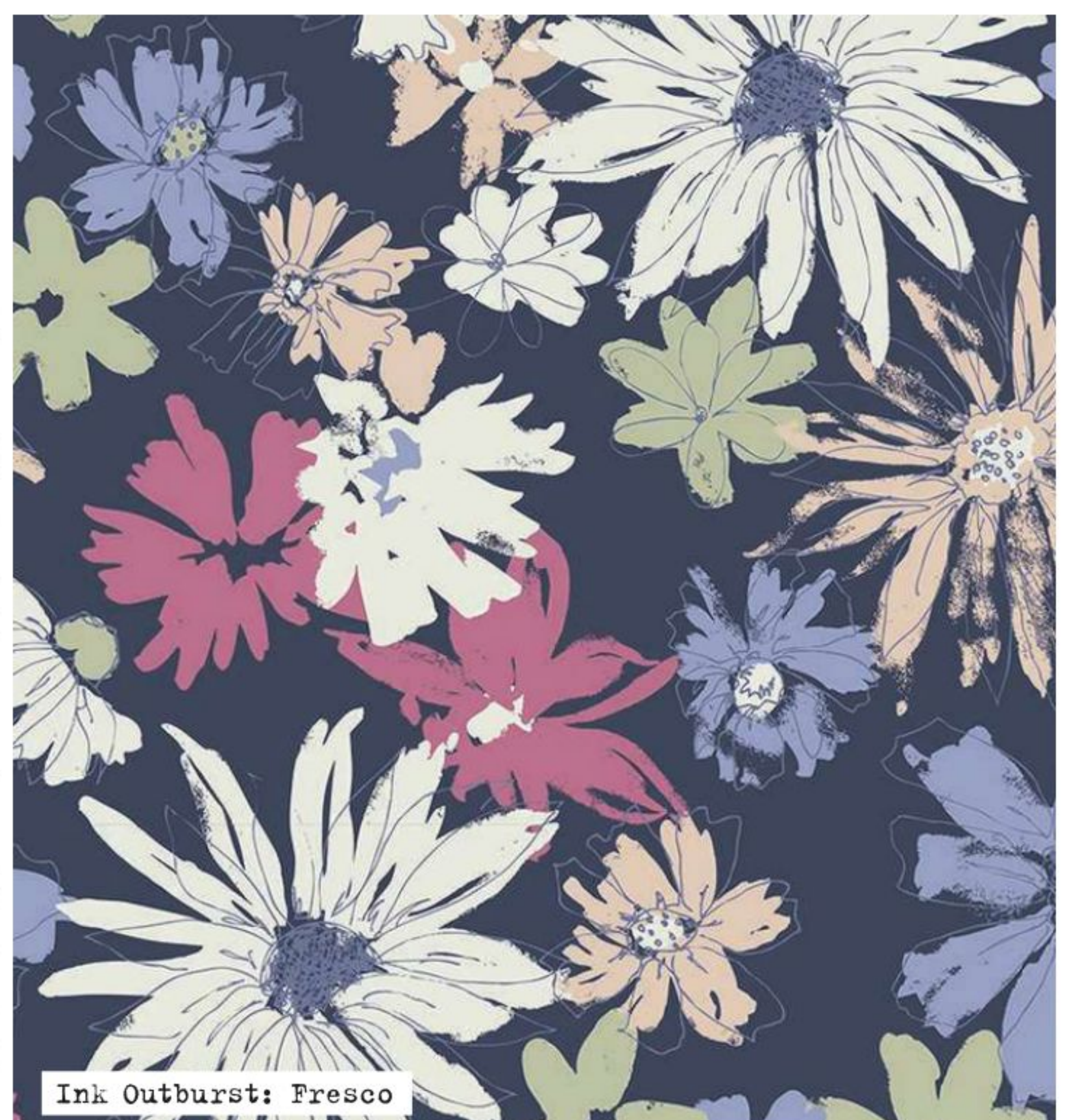
Inspired by Kim's childhood memories of watching her parents play in bowling leagues in the 1970s, this charming range pays a striking homage to the sport. There are 18 cottons, two cotton lawns and two cotton-linen blend canvases. See more at [www.kight.kim](http://www.kight.kim)

# FLORA & FAUNA

SKETCHBOOK BY SHARON HOLLAND  
FOR ART GALLERY FABRICS

This graceful fabric collection almost looks like it's been lifted from the pages of a vintage sketchbook, with beautiful flora and fauna in abundance.

Nature is the primary source of inspiration for Sharon Holland's stunning new Sketchbook fabric collection. It features motifs of birds, flowers and leaves, as well as dots, swirls, doodles and textured circles, all hand-drawn by Sharon. The colour palette includes on-trend hues of indigo, spruce, berry, bark and flax. The key design, Ink Outburst in Fresco (see right) is available in cotton, knit, voile and canvas fabrics, making it perfect for any project. To complete the look, two Aurifil thread sets, designed to coordinate with the collection, are also available now. Just go to [www.liveartgalleryfabrics.com](http://www.liveartgalleryfabrics.com)



sew  
crafty



CHECK OUT  
OUR SISTER  
BLOG  
[LIVEITLOVEITMAKEIT.COM](http://LIVEITLOVEITMAKEIT.COM)



NOW HOME TO FANTASTIC UK INDIPENDANTS  
NEW CRAFT SOCIETY, REBECCA STONER DESIGNS,  
THE MAKE ARCADE, TILLY AND THE BUTTONS  
AND RAGGED LIFE.

SIGN UP FOR NEWS AND EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

[SEWCRAFTYONLINE.CO.UK](http://SEWCRAFTYONLINE.CO.UK)

3 HIGH STREET, MAIDENHEAD, SL6 1JN  
01628 620703

SEWCRAFTYSEWINGCENTRE SEWCRAFTYSC



Use code  
**SIMPLY15**  
at the checkout  
to save 15% off  
your order  
online!

Here at **Fabric-Online.co.uk**  
you will find a wide range of high quality fabrics for  
all applications, from fun cotton prints to a variety of  
furnishing fabrics and luxurious faux furs.

Faux Suede is available in over 30 colours. We have a  
comprehensive stock of baby care fabrics which include  
Anti Pil fleece, Bamboo, Cuddlesoft and more...

Our new range of craft fabrics include hessian and calico  
along with cotton poplins and novelty prints.

Visit our website [www.fabric-online.co.uk](http://www.fabric-online.co.uk)  
to order free samples!



☎ 0871 423 2806  
[sales@fabric-online.co.uk](mailto:sales@fabric-online.co.uk)



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](mailto:TIFFANY.JACKSON@IMMEDIATE.CO.UK)  
017 300 8203



## PRETTY IN PINK

Give your girl's bedroom a pastel makeover that she'll love now and in years to come, too.

Designer: **REBECCA REID** Styling: **LISA JONES** Photography: **JESSE WILD**

### ON CLOUD NINE

Pretty up crisp white bedsheets with cute, easy-to-make cloud cushions in fresh pinks and greys. These lend the phrase 'head in the clouds' a whole new meaning!

### QUILTED BED RUNNER

This bed runner gives you a chance to practice simple quilting, binding and pattern-matching techniques. And it'll keep toes warm whilst keeping the bed looking lovely.







#### GOT IT COVERED

Doodles aren't the only way to personalise your notebooks! These fabric-covered jotters look really sweet huddled together on the shelf, and the notebooks inside can be easily replaced once full.

#### CHILL-OUT ZONE

Create the ultimate chill-out corner with this snug bean bag chair, made from two gorgeous (and durable) canvas fabrics. All her friends will want one, too!



## TRINKET TRAYS

Keep special bits and bobs safe and sound in these candy-hued fabric trays. They're easy to put together and would be a fab gift for a jewellery-loving pal.

## HANG IT UP

Cover plain wire hangers with matching fabrics for a coordinated, pulled-together look – perfect for hanging up this soft flannel kimono, which you can learn how to sew up on page 48.







## BED RUNNER

### YOU WILL NEED

- Top fabric: 70x112cm (28x44in)
- Backing fabric: 80x112cm (32x44in)
- Binding fabric: 32x112cm (13x44in)
- Cotton Wadding: 45x170cm (18x67in)
- Matching sewing thread
- Basic sewing kit

### MEASUREMENTS

The finished runner measures 35x160cm (13¾ x 63in).

### FABRICS USED

**Top fabric:** Spring Woodland in pink. Quilters weight cotton ref: C9FL133605 from First Light by Eloise Renouf for Cloud 9. For stockists visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)

**Backing fabric:** Kona cotton solid in graphite ref: K295 from Robert Kaufman. Buy online from [www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk](http://www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk)

**Binding fabric:** Kona cotton solid in bubble gum ref: K2261 from Robert

Kaufman. Buy online from [www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk](http://www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk)

**Wadding:** Sew Simple Super soft 100% cotton. For stockists visit [www.eqsuk.com](http://www.eqsuk.com) or call 0116 271 0033

### WADDING USED

We used a 100% natural cotton wadding with scrim, which is available in pre-cut pieces or by the metre. Cotton wadding is very soft and drapes well so is perfect for a bed runner. It also has the benefit of being machine washable once the quilting is finished, but it's best to hand wash it before you start to allow for shrinkage.

### NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (5/8in) seam allowance and press all seams open as you go.

### CUTTING OUT

**Step one** Cut the top fabric into a centre section measuring 35x93cm (13¾x36½in), and two side sections, each measuring 35x36.5cm (13¾x14¾in). Make sure you cut the side sections so the pattern matches up with the centre section when you join them together. You may need to buy extra fabric to do this – turn to page 87 to learn how to pattern match and calculate fabric.

**Step two** Cut the backing fabric into a centre section measuring 45x93cm (17¾x36½in), and two side sections, each 45x45cm (17¾x17¾in).

### JOINING THE FABRIC PIECES

**Step one** Take one side section and place it right sides (RS) together on top of the left side of the centre section, matching raw edges. Stitch together down the short side. **01**

**Step two** Place the other side section RS together on top of the other side of the central section and stitch together as before.

**Step three** Join the three backing pieces together in the same way.

### QUILTING THE BED RUNNER

**Step one** The backing fabric and wadding are slightly bigger than the top fabric to allow for any shrinkage or movement whilst quilting; they



are trimmed before you bind your bed runner. Place the backing fabric RS down, then place the wadding on top of it, and finally the joined top fabric RS up on top to make a sandwich.

**Step two** Tack all three layers together in a grid formation starting from the centre and working outwards so they are joined together securely. Make sure you tack all the way around the edge too to hold this in place when attaching your binding later. <sup>02</sup>

**Step three** You can quilt your bed runner in whatever pattern you prefer. Simple squares look good, or you could quilt around some of the printed patterns on the fabric. We quilted our bed runner in two parallel rows along the length of the runner then worked diagonal lines spaced 12cm (4¾in) apart across these. A really simple way of doing this is to stick strips of masking tape on top of the fabric in the position you want your quilting to be. You can then quilt your line right up to this tape. Once you have finished stitching a line, simply remove the length of tape and you will have a neat row of quilting.

Quilting can be done either by machine or by hand. If you want to quilt by machine, simply stitch through all three layers following the edge of the tape. To quilt by hand, use quilting thread and work a row of small running stitches through

all three layers beside the edge of the masking tape. With a little practice you will be able to work several stitches at a time. <sup>03</sup>

**Step four** When you have worked all the quilting lines in one direction, remove the tape then stick more tape in the opposite direction and quilt along these lines to create your pattern.

**Step five** When the quilting is finished, trim the backing and wadding so it lines up with the edge of the top and leaves a nice crisp edge. Remove any frayed threads.

## BINDING THE EDGES

**Step one** Take two of the binding strips, place them RS together at right angles and stitch together diagonally. Trim the seam, open out and press. <sup>04</sup>

**Step two** Join all four strips together in the same way to make one long strip.

**Step three** Fold your long binding strip in half lengthways wrong sides (WS) together.

**Step four** Place the short end of your folded binding strip on top of the centre of one short side of your throw, matching the raw edges. Turn the short end over by 1cm (¾in) and pin into place. Sew the binding to the runner using a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance.

**Step five** Stop stitching when you are 1cm (¾in)

from the corner, reverse stitch to secure then remove from your machine. <sup>05</sup>

**Step six** Fold the binding up so that it is at a 90° angle to the quilt top, making sure that the edge of the quilt and binding run in a straight line. <sup>06</sup>

**Step six** Now fold the binding back down, aligning the sides and the top edge and pin into place down the next side.

**Step seven** Start stitching at the top edge then stitch the binding in place all the way down. Stop 1cm (¾in) from the next corner and repeat this folding and turning process. <sup>07</sup>

When you reach the point where you started, overlap over the turned over end by 2cm (¾in), trim the excess and stitch in place.

**Step eight** Turn the binding over to the back of your throw and fold the corners into a mitred point. Slip stitch the binding into place by hand, or topstitch by machine if you prefer. <sup>08</sup>

**Step nine** Remove all the tacking stitches to complete.

*You'll find it easier to hand quilt using a thimble - see our guide on p33.*



## CLOUD CUSHIONS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Large cloud fabric: 40x112cm (16 x44in)
- Small cloud fabric: 35x112cm (14x44in)
- Polyester fibrefill
- Basic sewing kit

### MEASUREMENTS

The large cushion measures 37x50cm (14 $\frac{5}{8}$ x19 $\frac{3}{4}$ in). The small cloud measures 28x38cm (11x15in).

### FABRICS USED

**Large cloud:** Passing Clouds in grey. Flannel fabric ref: C9FLF138150 from First Light by Eloise Renouf for Cloud 9. For stockists visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)

**Small cloud:** Branch in pink. Flannel fabric ref: C9FLF138205 For stockists visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)

**Polyester fibrefill:** Carded polyester fibrefill, from [www.worldofwool.co.uk](http://www.worldofwool.co.uk)

### NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm ( $\frac{5}{8}$ in) seam allowance and press all seams open as you go.
- You'll find both cloud templates (plus a bonus XL size) on the pull-out sheet provided with this issue.

### CUTTING OUT

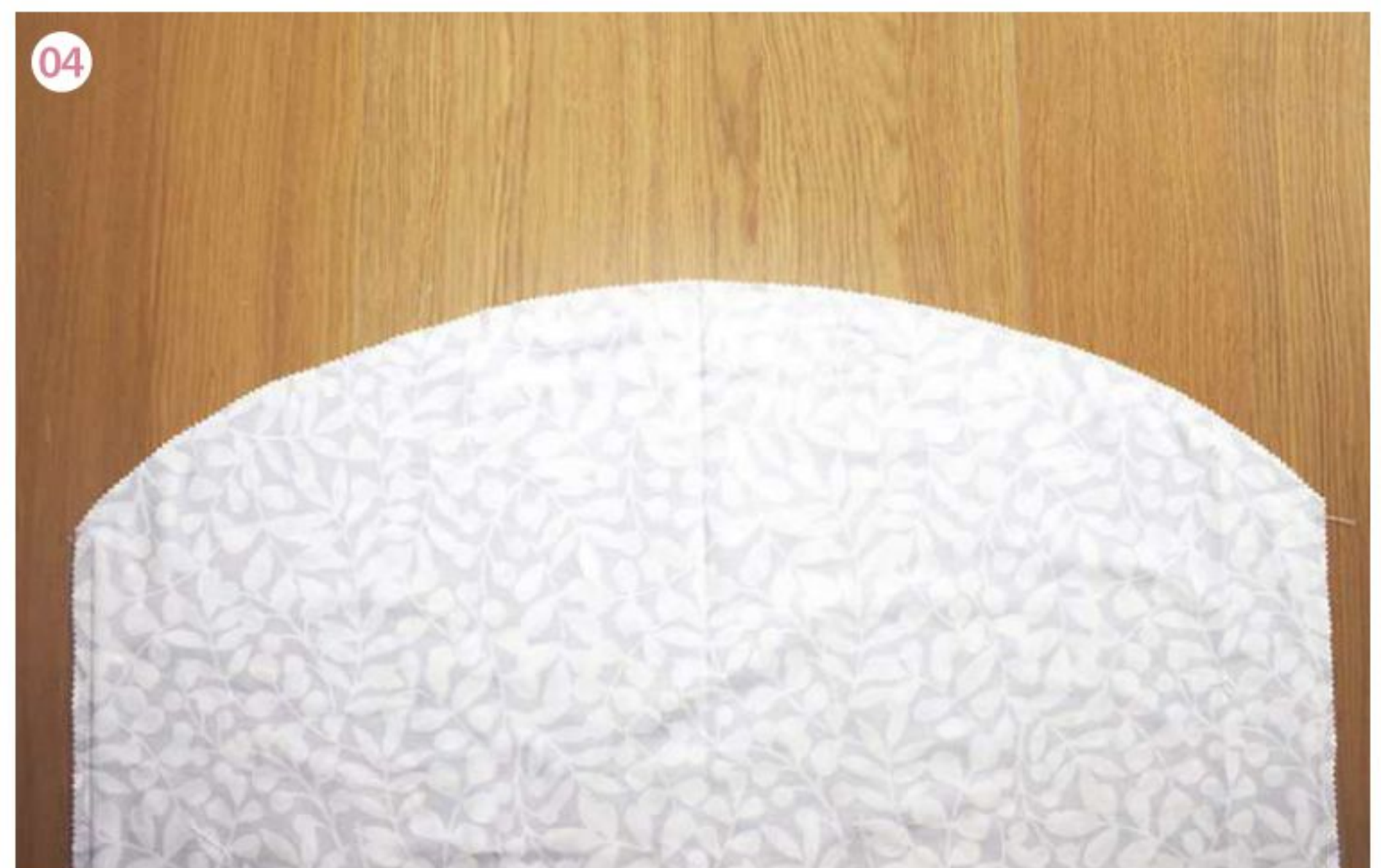
**Step one** Trace around the template on the pull-out pattern sheet for whichever cloud size you want to make, then cut it out.  
**Step two** Fold your fabric piece in half widthways with right sides (RS) together then pin your template centrally on top. Draw around it, then cut through both layers of fabric 1.5cm ( $\frac{5}{8}$ in) outside the line all the way around the drawn line. **01**

### STITCHING THE CUSHIONS

**Step one** Pin the two layers of fabric together keeping them RS facing. Stitch the two pieces together starting 5cm (2in) from the centre of the bottom edge.  
**Step two** Stitch together all the way around, finishing 5cm (2in) from the centre point to leave a 10cm (4in) gap for turning and stuffing the cushion. **02**

**Step three** Clip notches in all the curves to help the fabric lie flat. Press the seam open. **03**  
**Step four** Turn your cloud RS out and press, ensuring that you press the excess fabric at the edges of the turning gap through to the inside of the cushion.  
**Step five** Stuff your cloud cushion fairly firmly, pushing stuffing into all the curves to give a nice rounded shape.  
**Step six** Slip stitch the turning gap closed. **04**





## BEAN BAG

### YOU WILL NEED

- Main fabric: 81x112cm (32x44in)
- Contrast fabric: 81x112cm (32x44in)
- Zip: 46cm (18in) to match fabric
- Polystyrene beans: 130 litres (4.5 cubic feet)
- Basic sewing kit

### MEASUREMENTS

The finished beanbag measures 109x78cm (43x30in).

### FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from First Light by Eloise Renouf for Cloud 9. For stockists visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)

**Main fabric:** Branch in grey.  
Canvas fabric ref: C9FL134650

**Contrast fabric:** Branch in citron.  
Canvas fabric ref: C9FL134604

### NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (5/8in) seam allowance and press all seams open as you go.

### ASSEMBLING THE PIECES

**Step one** Place your two fabric pieces right sides (RS) facing then stitch together along the two long edges. Work another line of stitching 5mm (1/4in) inside this to strengthen your seam and help prevent the beans coming out. Finish the fabric edges by either cutting with pinking shears or with a machine zigzag stitch to stop them fraying.

**Step two** Fold the two joined pieces in half lengthways, matching the raw stitched edges.

**Step three** You now need to cut one short end into a curve to create the curved bottom edge of the seat. To do this, mark in pencil 15cm (6in) in from the right hand side at the top. Draw a curved line from this mark to the bottom right hand corner then cut along this line. **01**

**Step four** Unfold the fabric but leave this edge unstitched for the moment.

### INSERTING THE ZIP

**Step one** Take the opposite unstitched short end and open it up. Refold this end so that the side seams match and the fabrics remain RS together, then press.

**Step two** Measure 15cm (6in) in from each end and mark with a pin. Stitch up to the pin marks

from each end, leaving a gap in the middle.

**Step three** Now stitch the central seam between the two side seams using a long machine stitch or tack by hand, as the zip will be stitched into this gap and you will need to remove these stitches once the zip is inserted. **02**

**Step four** Press the seams open and place as flat as you can wrong side (WS) up. Pin the zip RS down centrally over the central seam then stitch into place from the WS. You may find it easier if you tack the zip in place before you stitch it as this stage can be a little fiddly. Remove the tacking stitches between the two seams and undo the zip. **03**

### FINISHING OFF

**Step one** Pin the curved edges that you cut earlier together. Stitch a double seam by stitching another line of machine stitching 5mm (1/4in) in towards the fabric edges from the first one and finish the edges in the same way that you joined the two pieces of fabric together at the beginning. **04**

**Step two** Turn your beanbag RS out and press all the seams.

**Step three** Pour in your beans and close the zip to complete.



## COVERED NOTEBOOKS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Basic sewing kit

(Large notebook)

- Outer Fabric: 26x46cm (11x18in)
- Lining Fabric: 26x46cm (11x18in)
- Wadding: 26x46cm (11x18in)
- Narrow elastic: 30cm (12in)
- A5 notebook
- Matching sewing thread

(Small notebook)

- Outer Fabric: 20x37cm (8x15in)
- Lining fabric: 20x37cm (8x15in)
- Wadding: 20x37cm (8x15in)
- Narrow elastic: 25cm (10in)
- A6 notebook
- Matching sewing thread

### FABRICS USED

The print fabrics used are from First Light by Eloise Renouf for Cloud 9. For stockists visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)  
Leaf Line Up in pink. Quilters weight

cotton ref: C9FL134205  
Branch in citron. Quilters weight  
cotton ref: C9FL134504  
Leaf Sampler in pink. Quilters weight  
cotton ref: C9FL134105  
The plain fabrics used are Kona cotton solids. Buy online from [www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk](http://www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk)  
Graphite ref: K295 B  
Bubble gum ref: K2261  
Curry ref: K1677

### NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (5/8in) seam allowance throughout and press all seams open as you go.

**Step one** These notebook covers are made using the same method whichever size you are making. To begin, place the outer fabric right side (RS) up then mark 10cm (4in) for the A5 notebook or 9cm (3 5/8in) for the A6 notebook from the left short side at the top and bottom with a pin. Tack the ends of the elastic at these points so that it lies flat on the fabric, then knot the ends to strengthen it. This will stop it from pulling through the machine stitches when you sew it in place later. **01**

**Step two** Place the outer fabric RS up on top of the wadding then place the lining fabric RS down on top of the outer fabric. The wadding will give your book a soft padded appearance but you can leave this out if you prefer.

**Step three** Starting on the left short edge, stitch the fabrics and wadding together all the way around but leave an 8cm (3 1/8in) gap in the centre of the left side for turning. When you reach the elastic sandwiched between the fabrics, reverse stitch over it to strengthen the seam to make sure it doesn't come out later.

**Step four** Clip the corners then turn the book cover RS out. **02**

Tuck in the excess fabric at the turning gap, press, then slip stitch the opening closed.

**Step five** Fold the fabric cover centrally around your book with the flaps on the inside of the book cover. Pin into place at the top and bottom so that it fits snugly then take out the book.

**Step six** Topstitch along the long top and bottom edges to hold the flaps in place and to neaten the edges too. Hold the elastic out of the way as you stitch to make sure you don't sew through it. **03**

**Step seven** Slip your notebook covers into the flaps and put the elastic over the front to hold your notebook closed. **04**

## STORAGE TRAYS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Basic sewing kit

#### (Large Tray)

- Outer Fabric: 33x33cm (13x13in)
- Lining Fabric: 33x33cm (13x13in)
- Mount board: 20x40cm (8x16in)
- Matching sewing thread

#### (Medium Tray)

- Outer Fabric: 26x26cm (10¼x10¼in)
- Lining Fabric: 26x26cm (10¼x10¼in)
- Mount board: 15x31cm (6x12½in)
- Matching sewing thread

#### (Small Tray)

- Outer Fabric: 19x19cm (7½x7½in)
- Lining Fabric: 19x19cm (7½x7½in)
- Mount board: 10x22cm (4x9in)
- Matching sewing thread

### MEASUREMENTS

The large tray measures 20x20cm (7⅞x7⅞in). The medium tray measures 15x15cm (6x6in). The small tray measures 10x10cm (4x4in).

### FABRICS USED

The print fabrics used are from First Light by Eloise Renouf for Cloud 9. For stockists visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)

Leaf Sampler in pink. Quilters weight cotton ref: C9FL134105

Spring Woodland in pink. Quilters weight cotton ref: C9FL133605

Leaf Line Up in pink. Quilters weight cotton ref: C9FL134205

The plain fabrics used are Kona cotton solids. Buy online from [www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk](http://www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk) Curry ref: K1677

Graphite ref: K295 B

Bubble gum ref: K2261

The mount board is from [www.craftcreations.com](http://www.craftcreations.com). ref: CMB11

### NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (⅝in) seam allowance throughout and press all seams open as you go.



**Step one** Cut the mount board into the following sizes. These are used to give your storage tray structure.

Large Tray

- Base 20x20cm (7⅞x7⅞in)
- Sides: 4 pieces 5x20cm (2x7⅞in)

Medium Tray

- Base 15x15cm (6x6in)
- Sides: 4 pieces 4x15cm (1⅝x6in)

Small Tray

- Base 10x10cm (4x4in)
- Sides: 4 pieces 3x10cm (1¼x4in)

**Step two** All three sizes of tray are made in the same way. Start by turning one side of the outer fabric under by 1.5cm (⅝in) and press. Repeat by turning one edge under on the lining fabric.

**Step three** Place the outer and lining fabrics right sides (RS) together, making sure the turned over edges are touching, and stitch together around the three sides that aren't turned over. Turn the fabric RS out and press. **01**

**Step four** To make it easier to stitch the channels for inserting the mount board in the correct positions, draw these lines using air erasable pen or tack them on the RS of your outer fabric before you assemble the storage tray.

**Step five** Mark a vertical line all the way down the fabric. This should be placed as follows: large

tray 5cm (2in), medium tray 4cm (1⅝in), small tray 3cm (1¼in) in from the left hand side.

**Step six** Mark another vertical line the same distance from the RS of the fabric.

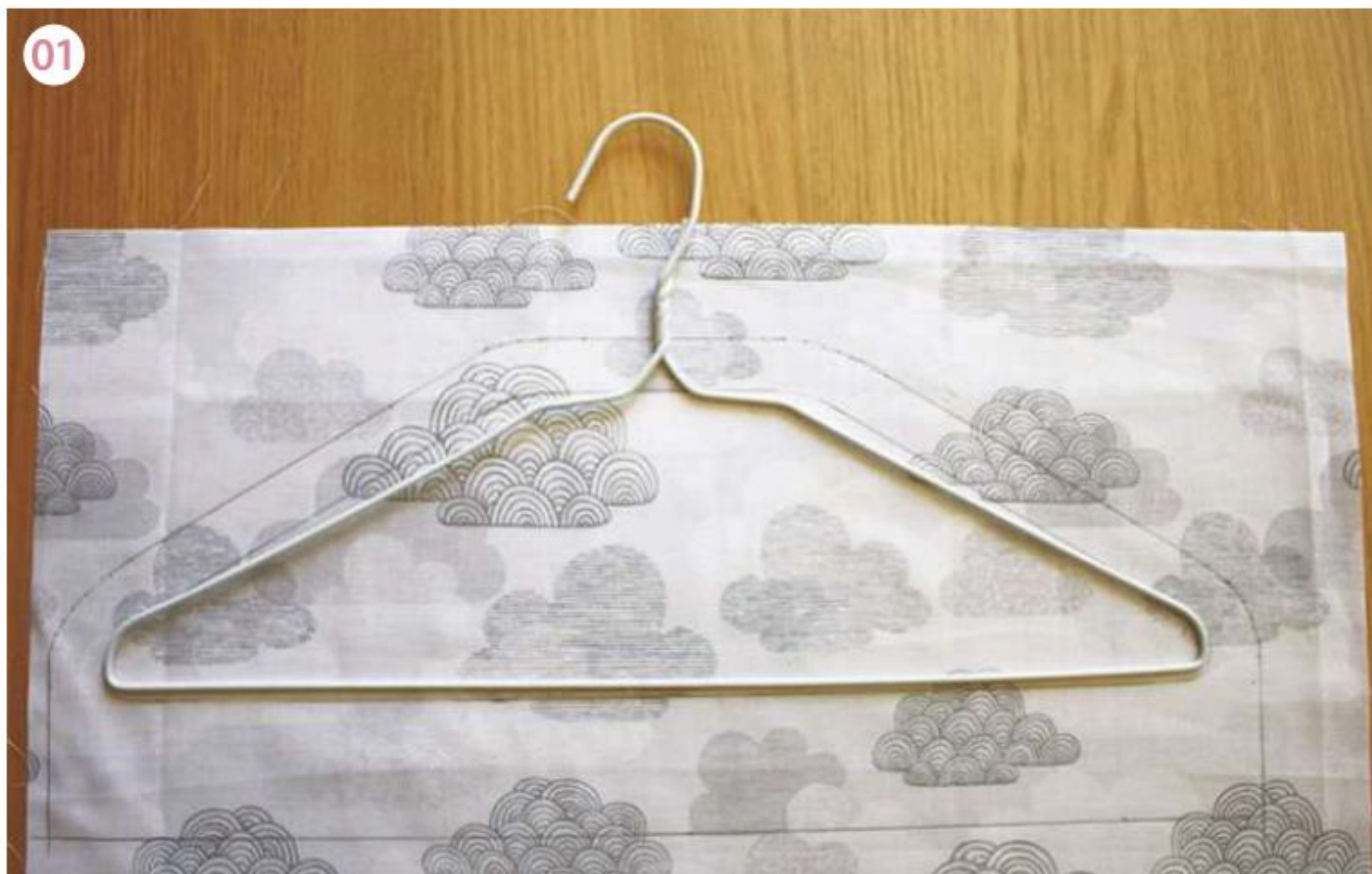
**Step seven** Turn your fabric around by 90° and repeat this exactly, marking another two lines to make a grid. **02**

**Step eight** With the open ends of the fabric facing towards you, stitch the two vertical lines by stitching through both layers of fabric. Use the marked lines to keep your stitching straight.

**Step nine** Slip one side piece of mount board between the stitched lines so it sits at the opposite end of the fabric - this will fit quite snugly. Now stitch the horizontal line to hold this in place. Slip the two side pieces then the base piece in and stitch the two horizontal lines to hold these in place. **03**

**Step ten** Finally, slip the top side piece of card in, then slip stitch the open sides closed to hold this in place.

**Step eleven** To assemble one corner, fold the sides up then fold the corner fabric into a triangle point and stitch together down the side. Use the same thread as you used to stitch the channels and work small backstitches on top of the already worked machine stitches. Repeat with the other three corners to complete. **04**



## COAT HANGERS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Cotton fabric: see instructions for details
- Wire coat hanger, white
- Matching sewing thread
- Basic sewing kit

### FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from First Light by Eloise Renouf for Cloud 9. For stockists visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)  
 Passing Clouds in grey. Quilters weight cotton ref: C9FL133750  
 Branch in citron. Quilters weight cotton ref: C9FL134504  
 Spring Woodland in pink. Quilters weight cotton ref: C9FL133605

### NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (5/8in) seam allowance throughout and press all seams open as you go.

### MEASURING UP

**Step one** Measure the length and height of your coat hanger (not including the hook). You'll need to cut two pieces of fabric that are each 10cm (4in) longer than the coat hanger length and 10cm (4in) wider than the height.

**Step two** Place one piece of fabric wrong side (WS) up then place your coat hanger centrally on top and draw around it lightly in pencil. Draw another line 2cm (3/4in) outside this at the top and sides and 5cm (2in) below the bottom edge. Then cut out your fabric along this line. **01**

**Step three** Place the cut fabric right sides (RS) down on top of the other piece of fabric, pin together within the drawn lines and cut around it to make two shapes the same size.

**Step four** Measure and mark in pencil the centre of the top of the cut fabric. Now measure and mark 2.5cm (1in) either side of this to make a 5cm (2in) gap at the top (this is where you will thread the coat hanger hook through later).

### STITCHING THE COVER

**Step one** Stitch the two fabric pieces together down the angled edges and short sides,

starting at the ends of the marked 5cm (2in) gap for each side. **02**

**Step two** Keeping the fabric WS out, turn the top opening between the seams under by 1.5cm (5/8in) then turn the raw edge under this to make a double hem. Topstitch this into place to neaten the top gap. **03**

**Step three** Turn the bottom edges of the front and back fabrics under by 2cm (3/4in) and press. Turn the fabrics RS out and press flat.

**Step four** Slip your coat hanger inside the cover, thread the hook through the gap at the top, then pin the turned under lower edges together and topstitch to complete. **04**



*Thumb thimbles have a deep dimple to hold the needle in place.*

*Leather thimbles have a natural curved shape which fits closely to your finger.*

*Metal thimbles come in a variety of sizes – choose one that fits exactly.*



## KNOW YOUR THIMBLES

**Thimbles are a must if you want to defend your digits from sharp sewing needles. Our guide has all you need to know about this handy tool.**

Every sewist knows how painful it is to stab a finger or thumb with a sewing needle (ouch!), but not all regularly use a thimble. Many only dig one out of their sewing kit when they can sew no more without one. However, it's best to get into the habit of sewing with a thimble to protect your fingers and help you sew faster.

### USING, WEARING AND BUYING

You may find you need to train yourself to use a thimble, but it shouldn't take long for it to become second nature. Thimbles are usually worn on the middle finger. Press gently with your thimble-covered finger until the needle is through the fabric – a slow, gentle pressure works best. When hand quilting, rock the needle using your thimbled finger through all layers of fabric, loading three or four stitches on the needle.

Some thimbles are listed by the diameter

in millimetres and others in small, medium and large sizes. It's important you use a thimble that is the right size, as it will be easier to manipulate. Always try a thimble before you buy – it should be comfortably snug and shouldn't fall off the finger easily. To find your nearest thimbles stockist, email [clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk) and [groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk).

### METAL THIMBLES

Metal thimbles have a raised rim to prevent the needle from slipping. They're the most commonly used thimble for hand quilting.

### LEATHER THIMBLES

Leather thimbles are mostly used by hand quilters who do not like the bulkiness of metal thimbles. Some have a dimpled metal piece or 'coin' inside. Use the side or ball of your finger to push the needle through.

### RUBBER AND METAL THIMBLES

These thimbles have a metal cap and flexible rubber sides that ensure a close fit, and a scalloped side to let your finger breathe.

### OPEN-SIDED THIMBLES

Also known as a tailor's thimble, this is for general sewing and can be used with long fingernails. You can buy fixed or adjustable ones, and the open top stops your fingers getting hot and sweaty!

### THUMB THIMBLE

These are ideal for sewers who prefer to push the needle through the fabric using their thumb. Perfect for heavy-weight fabrics.

### FULL-LENGTH FINGER THIMBLE

These thimbles cover the whole length of the finger so you can use the end or the sides to push the needle through.

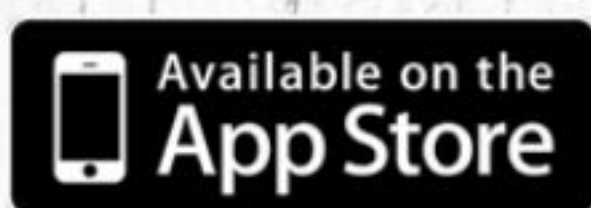
# Simply Sewing

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



NEW!

# Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

ISSUE SEVEN

QUICK BABY GIFTS

32 PROJECTS TO MAKE WARDROBE UPDATES!

NEW!

# Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

ISSUE SEVEN

QUICK BABY GIFTS  
EASY-APPLIQUE AND  
FAT QUARTER MAKES

32 PROJECTS TO MAKE WARDROBE UPDATES!

PRETTY HANGERS  
SIMPLE SEW

LIGHT & BRIGHT

Transform a bedroom with charming prints

WIN! £250 fabric & dress patterns! • Pillowcase skirt • Kid's bean bag • Quilted bed runner

JUST TAP  
HERE TO  
SUBSCRIBE  
TODAY

& BRIGHT

Bedroom with charming prints

patterns! • Pillowcase skirt • Kid's bean bag • Quilted bed runner

TO SUBSCRIBE SIMPLY VISIT:  
[WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.CO.UK/DIGITAL](http://WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.CO.UK/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.

# MY SEWING WORLD

by Tilly Walnes

Tilly Walnes offers her top tips on finding time to sew and be creative, even with a chock-a-block diary.

**C**reativity is good for the soul. It's relaxing, fulfilling, nourishing even. But do you sometimes feel like you're just too busy to sew? It's a common feeling, as we strive to create balance between work, emails, household chores, kiddos, commuting, socialising, exercise... And I know it well myself, even as a sewing business owner. It's a common misconception that if you run a sewing business you get to sew all day, but actually most of my time is taken up with admin, accounting and emails. I'd never have time for sewing if I didn't make time for sewing. And if I didn't sew, I'd go crazy!

So, how do you set aside time for sewing when you're super busy? Here are my top tips for ensuring you can fit creativity and plenty of sewing into even the most jam-packed schedule.

## SEW IN SHORT BURSTS

There's nothing more indulgent than a whole Sunday spent in pyjamas, sewing up a storm and stacking up the tea cups. But for many of us, getting a whole day free to sew is a rare luxury. So how about just sewing for a few minutes a day? Set aside just enough time to insert a zip, sew a collar or set in a sleeve, one mini session at a time. If you sew for 15 minutes a day, five days a week, you'll surprise yourself with how quickly your projects come together.

## FIT IN SEWING WHENEVER YOU CAN

Related to the above point, if you think of sewing as a short burst activity, you can schedule it into pockets of time during your day. With a continuously increasing workload, I make sure I still have time to sew by getting up a little bit earlier in the mornings. My new routine is to get up at 6.30am and sit down at my sewing table straight after I've eaten breakfast. I can get 25 minutes of lovely sewing time, just for me, before getting sucked into work, emails and the rest of



*If you like my style, take a look at my fab sewing book, Love at First Stitch*

**"I'd never have time for sewing if I didn't make time for sewing"**

**Sewing in short bursts means you'll always be able to fit it in.**



**My Fifi PJ pattern will only take a few sewing sessions.**

*So much gorgeous fabric, so little sewing time...*



*Having a craft space means I don't need to tidy it all away!*

**“Create a dedicated sewing space where you can leave your sewing”**

the day. There's something so satisfying about knowing I've got an essential dose of creativity in before the day has properly begun!

**CREATE A DEDICATED SEWING SPACE**

Let's face it – setting up and packing away your machine and all the bits and bobs you need for a project can take at least ten minutes. That's ten minutes you could be using to sew! If you can create a dedicated sewing space where you can leave your sewing machine, essential tools and work-in-progress between sewing sessions, it will make such a difference to your levels of productivity. You don't need a whole sewing room – just a small table in the corner of a room, with a bit of storage space for your sewing kit, will do.

I hope these tips help you to make more time to be creative. If you have your own advice, I'd love to hear – you can tweet me or Instagram me @TillyButtons.

*Tilly Walnes, from Tilly and the Buttons, creates gorgeous, easy-to-use patterns and teaches dressmaking online and at her wonderful South London studio. You can find the pattern collection at [shop.tillyandthebuttons.com](http://shop.tillyandthebuttons.com)*



*I'm coveting Red Valentino's resort 2016 collection!*

**Keeping me inspired...**

*We've been having fun in the studio painting washers with nail polish to make pattern weights that look like Party Rings (of course!). I'm bingeing on cucumber-infused drinks to keep cool. Whizzing it up in the juicer with apple, lemon and mint for a vitamin kick, or adding it to soda water for a refreshing tonic. The resort 2016 collection by Red Valentino is making me swoon and offers some serious sewing inspiration.*



**My fave cucumber drink keeps me cool...**



**Fun DIY Party Ring pattern weights**

HURRY  
OFFER ENDS  
31.10.2015

# TRY 3 ISSUES FOR JUST £5 when you subscribe today!\*

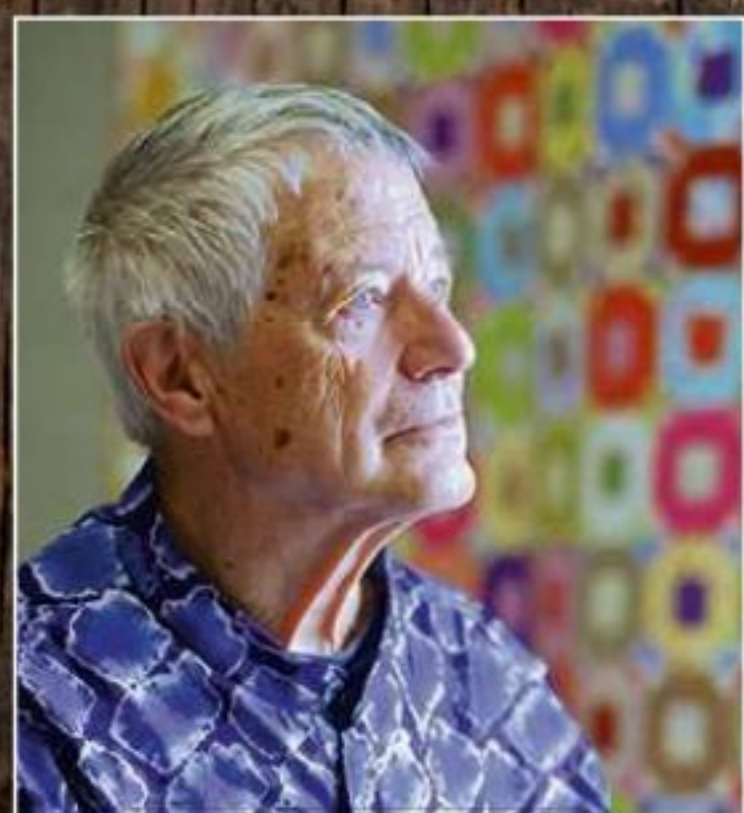


Today's Quilter is the **NEW** magazine with a fresh take on traditional quilting

**PROJECTS**  
by stars of the quilt world

**BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
that showcases stunning quilt creations

FREE GIFT WITH EVERY ISSUE



Exclusive **KAFFE FASSETT** supplement with Issue One



YOUR **BRAND NEW MAGAZINE** PACKED WITH PROJECTS, INSPIRATION & EXPERT ADVICE

# TODAY'S QUILTER

ISSUE ONE £5.99

Meet our troubleshooter **LYNNE EDWARDS**

Create beautiful quilts for your home

## CALMING PASTELS

WELCOME A SOFT NEW COLOUR PALETTE INTO YOUR HOME



**MASTERCLASS**  
TACKLE CURVED PIECING WITH CONFIDENCE

**EMBRACE FRESH FLORAL PRINTS**

**CREATE A FAMILY PICNIC BLANKET**

**PRETTY PETUNIAS!**  
SEW THE SEEDS WITH PAM LINTOTT'S JELLY ROLL QUILT

## THE HERITAGE TRAIL

EVERY QUILT HAS A STORY... WE REVEAL YOURS

*Expert advice*

Pick the right thread, start Jen Kingwell's BOM, and how to machine quilt!



Order by 17th September to start with Issue One

Subscribe online, it's quick and easy!  
Visit [www.buysubscriptions.com/tqui](http://www.buysubscriptions.com/tqui)  
or call 0844 249 0223 QUOTE CODE TQ116

Lines are open 8am-9.30pm weekdays and 8am-4pm Saturdays

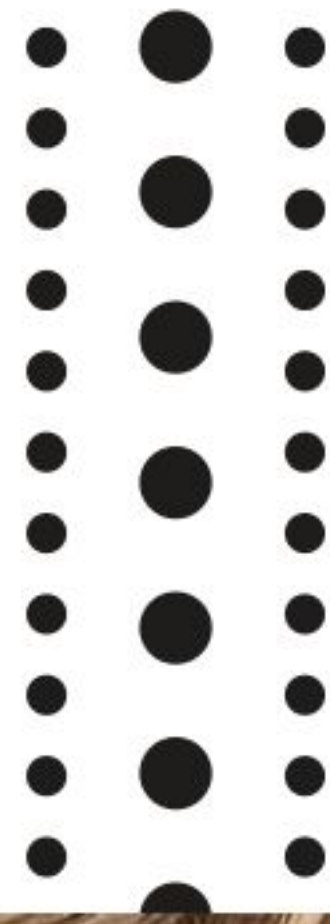
\*3 issues for £5 available to UK Direct Debit orders only and is subject to availability. After your first 3 issues your subscription will continue at £29.49, saving 18% on shop price. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. Issue One goes on sale 17th September 2015.

# PINUP

Sew up Tilly and the Button's summery new patterns.

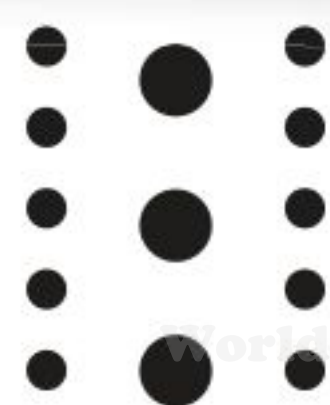


Two must-sew patterns have been added to the Tilly and the Buttons collection, and both are sure-fire summer staples. We can imagine wearing the versatile Bettine dress while exploring sun-drenched city streets, strolling along the beach or heading out for cocktails. It's got no fiddly fastenings or set-in sleeves so is a dream to sew for beginners, and its effortless style means it'll suit countless lovely fabrics. There's also a pretty Fifi pyjama pattern for more confident stitchers. Find all the patterns at [shop.tillyandthebuttons.com](http://shop.tillyandthebuttons.com).



# SPOTTY SUN TOP

Whip up a wear-with-anything top with **Portia Lawrie's** speedy, simple and super-stylish sarong refashion.



TECH TIPS

*You could sew a channel at the hem and make another matching sash for a tie-waist top, or piece together two different sarongs for a chic colour-blocked look.*





GET STARTED

THE UBIQUITOUS SARONG. Odds are you have one stashed in a drawer somewhere, right? (We know we do). Designer Portia says: "What's great about sarongs in refashioning terms is that they are flat panels of fabric – no seams, darts, collars or such like to work around. This project combines a beach staple with a grown-up take on that children's classic, the pillowcase dress. It's quick and straightforward to make, and, thanks to the lightweight nature of sarong fabric, is the perfect top for sunny picnics and balmy evenings."

**YOU WILL NEED** Sarong, basic sewing kit, safety pin, sewing machine, overlocker (optional).

## REFASHIONING TIPS

- 1 You could **use shop-bought ribbon** instead of making your own sash, or make it in a piece of contrasting fabric.
- 2 You can easily **lengthen or shorten** where the top sits on you by adjusting how tightly you tie the sash at the shoulders.
- 3 **Use the same technique** to refashion skirts, shirts, tees or pashminas into new summer tops. If you can make a tube of fabric out of it, then you can make one of these!



CUT IT OUT

**Step one** The top I'm making is to fit an 86cm (34in) bust. My sarong is 101cm (40in) wide, which gives me 15cm (6in) of play for wearing ease and seam allowance. When selecting a sarong, take your bust or hip size (whichever is the largest) and add 15-20cm (6-8in) – that's how wide your sarong will need to be. Fold the sarong in half lengthways. Measure 70cm (28in) down from the folded edge and cut straight across at that point. Set aside the excess.



SEW IT TOGETHER

**Step two** Open up your main fabric piece. Fold it in half lengthways with right sides facing, then sew together to create a long tube of fabric. Fold the tube back on itself so that your stitching is enclosed between the two layers of fabric. You'll end up with a shorter tube consisting of a double layer of fabric. One end will have a folded edge (this will be the hem), the other end will be your raw edges aligned – like a pillowcase that is open at both ends.



CUT AN ARMHOLE

**Step three** Lay the tube out flat then arrange it so that the seam line runs down the centre of the back. Fold your tube in half from one side over to the other side. It will help you press it lightly at this stage to keep it all flat. Now you need to cut out a shallow armhole shape about 5cm (2in) in from the outer edge and 12-15cm (5-6in) deep. You could draw this out onto tracing paper first to use as a pattern.



MAKE A CHANNEL

**Step four** Overlock or zigzag along each of the armholes and top edges to neaten them and prevent them from fraying. Turn under the armhole edges by 1cm (3/8in) and topstitch in place, stitching carefully to make sure that the fabric lies neatly in place. Now, turn over the straight top edges on the front and back by 3cm (1 1/4in) and press then pin into place. Stitch these turned down edges to create a channel for the shoulder tie.



CREATE THE TIE

**Step five** Take the offcut from step one and use it to make a shoulder tie. It needs to be around 12cm (4 3/4in) wide and 150cm (60in) long so you may need to piece the leftovers together. Fold it in half lengthways and sew together along the length and ends, leaving a 8cm (3in) gap for turning. Turn, press and stitch the opening closed. Sarong fabric is flimsy, so I used spray starch to temporarily stabilise the fabric, as well as masking tape for a sewing guide.



TIE UP YOUR TOP

**Step six** Attach a safety pin to one end of your shoulder tie and thread it through the front and back neckline channels. Pull the shoulder tie through so that both ends are the same length. Now put your top on and tie the shoulder tie with a pussy bow effect over one shoulder so that it hangs evenly. Tres chic, oui?

GET INTO CRAFT

A NEW TAKE ON KNITTING

# TWIST *it*



Update your wardrobe for autumn with over 30 modern knits. From shawls and jumpers for warmer days to gorgeous dresses and cosy mitts for colder weather, we've got it covered!

And with patterns for kids' clothes and menswear, plus home décor updates, there's a new look for everyone. Clear instructions and beautiful photos mean even novice knitters will be bang on trend in no time!

A NEW  
TAKE ON  
KNITTING

ONLY £7.99\*



ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

Order online [www.buysubscriptions.com/craftspec15](http://www.buysubscriptions.com/craftspec15)

Or call 01604 828744 and quote 'Twist It 2'

Lines open weekdays 8am to 9.30pm and Saturday 8am to 4pm. Overseas please call +44 (0) 1604 828744.

\* EUR price £9.99, ROW price £10.99. All prices include P&P.

# 3 ISSUES FOR £5

## WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



**SUBSCRIBE TODAY: GET 3 ISSUES FOR £5!**

<https://craft.buysubscriptions.com/SCR2H>

OR call +44 1604 828 741 & quote code SCR2H

Lines open 8am-9.30pm weekdays 8am-4pm Saturdays

 [facebook.com/simply\\_crochet](https://facebook.com/simply_crochet)

 [twitter.com/SimplyCrochet\\_](https://twitter.com/SimplyCrochet_)

 [pinterest.com/simpcrochetmag](https://pinterest.com/simpcrochetmag)

 [ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet](https://ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet)

This trial offer is for new print subscribers only subscribing by Direct Debit. You will receive 3 issues for £5 and then save 25% on the shop price with a Direct Debit step up of £22.49 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 2015.



# BIRD BUNTING

**Jessica Entwistle** gives traditional triangle bunting a bright denim makeover with miniature flags and a clever appliqué twist.





## YOU WILL NEED

- Scraps of denim in various blue shades
- Backing fabric: dark blue, 25x112cm (10x44in)
- Branch fabric: woodgrain print, 1x10cm (3/8x4in) for each triangle
- Appliqué fabric: bird print, 1 Fat Quarter
- Bondaweb: see instructions for details
- Bias binding: bright pink 2cm (3/4in) wide x 2.5 metres (98in)
- Matching sewing thread
- 2 brass curtain rings
- Card or paper for the templates
- Basic sewing kit
- Air or water erasable pen

## FABRICS USED

Woodgrain fabric: Aviary 2 by Joel Dewberry, woodgrain in bark Ref: JD42. For stockists visit [www.joeldewberry.com](http://www.joeldewberry.com)  
 Bird Print: Echino Birds in natural by Etsuko Furuya for Kokka.

## NOTES

Use a 1.5cm (5/8in) seam allowance throughout.  
 You will find the triangle templates on p95.

Designer Jessica Entwistle says: “Beautiful blue bunting, adorned with colourful birds – what’s not to love about that? It’s made with different scraps of denim decorated with some appliqué – I used five large triangles and six smaller ones. The resulting bunting is pretty and unique, and will look lovely wherever you hang it, be it in a bedroom, child’s playroom or craft space.

I made mine with lots of different blue shades of denim (from various pieces of leftover scraps in my stash), but you’d easily have enough with a single pair of jeans. You could also swap the birds for appliquéd flowers and leaves, or any motif you like.”

**Step one** Trace both of the bunting templates onto paper and cut them out. Iron your denim scraps and decide on your colour layout, then draw around the templates onto the wrong side (WS) of your denim fabric, so you have five large triangles and six small ones. Cut out with a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance around each side of the triangles.

I numbered my triangles front and back with the erasable pen to keep track of their order. Press your dark blue cotton fabric and again cut six small triangles and five large ones to the same size as your denim triangles – these are for the backs of the flags. Take one of your larger denim triangles and one of the larger blue triangles, pin them right sides

(RS) facing. Stitch them together down each long side of the triangle, making sure you leave the top unsewn. **01**

**Step two** Trim the seam allowance and turn the sewn triangle RS out, making sure you push out the points carefully - a knitting needle is ideal for this. **02**

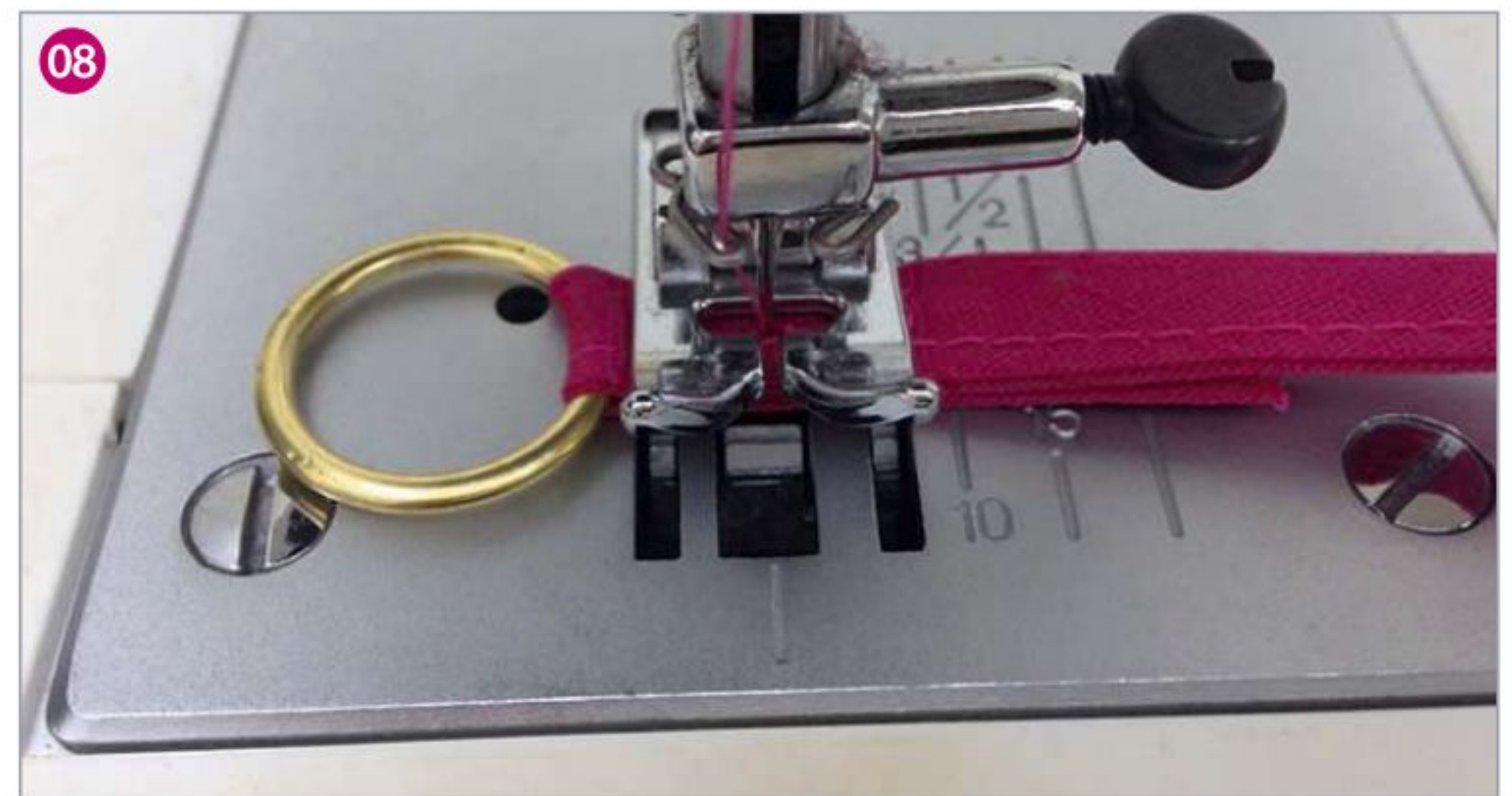
Repeat for all triangles and press them flat. **Step three** You need to neaten the tops of your sewn triangles so they are easier to join up. Trim off any excess fabric with scissors or using a rotary cutter and mat if you have one. **03** Repeat this step with the six smaller triangles. **04** You now have eleven bunting flags ready for appliqué.

**Step four** This is the fun part! Take your bird fabric and work out which birds you’d like to put on your flags then cut them out roughly outside the actual motif. Cut out a piece of Bondaweb to the same size and iron onto the back of the fabric to cover the motif. Turn the fabric over to the RS and cut carefully round each bird. The Bondaweb will fix the edges and help stop it fraying

Iron some Bondaweb onto the back of your woodgrain fabric and free-cut out some ‘branches’ for your birds. Ours are 1cm (3/8in) wide but you can vary the width. **05**

**Step five** Taking one of your large flags, peel off the backing paper from the Bondaweb and iron your branch onto the flag. Cut off any overhanging fabric from the edge of your

# DENIM UPCYCLE



flag. The branch is now bonded to the fabric, but to give extra security to the appliqué (and to add interest) thread your machine with pink thread and sew your branch onto the flag, sewing along each long edge. Trim off the loose threads to neaten. Peel off the backing paper and iron your bird on top of your branch and sew this in place. **06**

Repeat for the other four large flags. Remember that if you decide to have your bird sitting behind your branch (as one of ours does) then you need to attach your bird first, and then your branch.

**Step six** Take your bias binding and fold the binding in half lengthways and press. Take your first small flag and pin it into the folded bias binding 20cm (8in) in from one end. Leave a 5cm (2in) gap and pin in your first large flag, and then leave another 5cm (2in) gap and pin in your second small flag. Continue for all the other flags, leaving a 20cm (8in) long strip of bias binding at the other end. Sew the bias binding closed. **07**

**Step seven** I prefer to finish off bunting with a brass ring sewn into each end of the binding – this makes it easier to hang it up. Take a brass curtain ring and thread it onto the end of your sewn bias binding. Fold the bias binding over the ring by 3cm (1¼in) and sew it together. Repeat by attaching a curtain ring at the other end of the strip. Now hang up and wait for the compliments **08**



Vibrant hues and blue denim are a perfect pairing!

PSST:

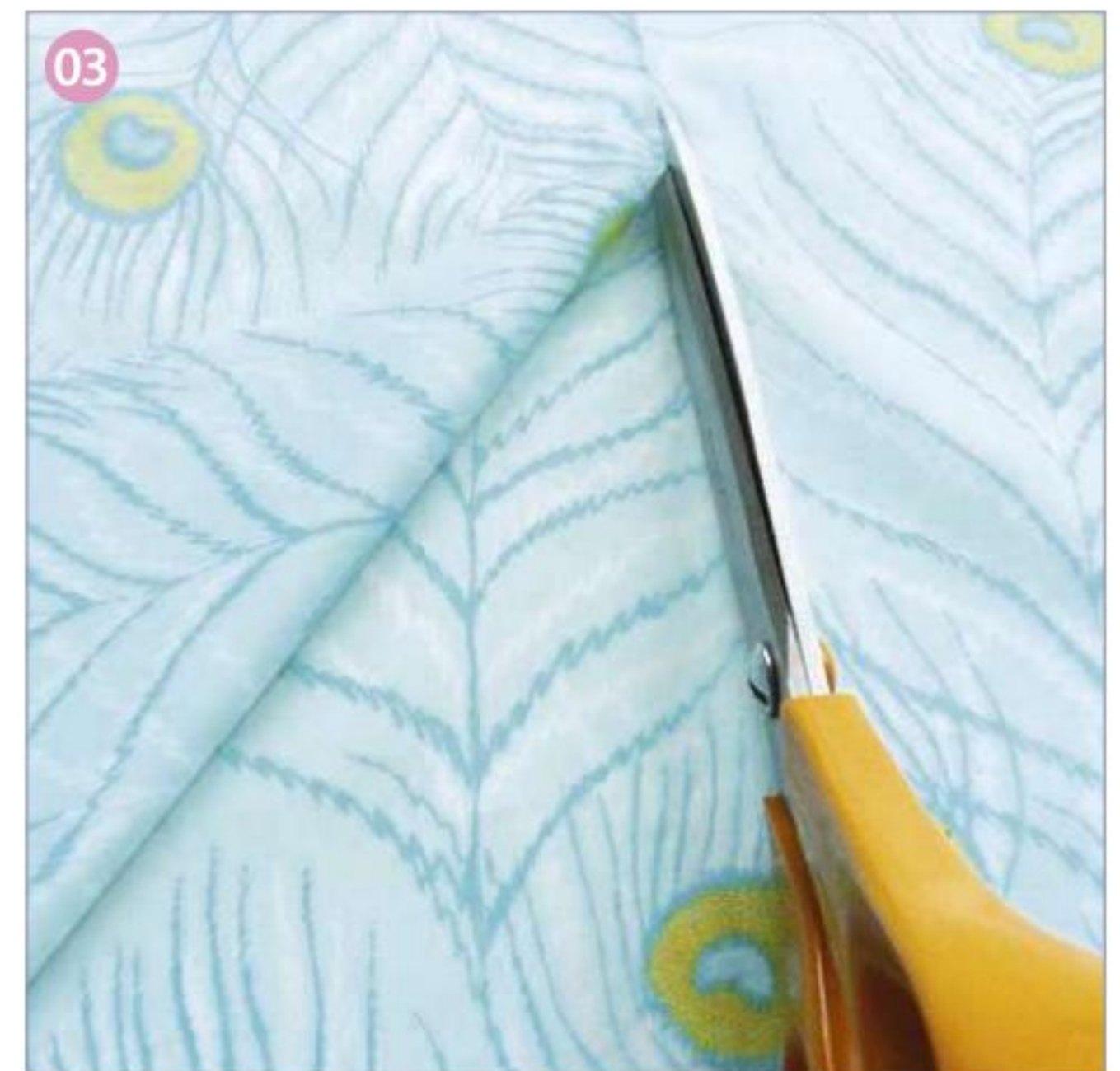
Don't just save your kimono for the beach - throw it on over a plain tee and jeans for a casual weekend look.





# KIMONO COVER-UP

Taking you from beach to bar, the kimono is a holiday essential. Whip up a few with **Coats Crafts'** simple design.



## YOU WILL NEED

- 150x137cm (60x54in) of fabric
- 6m (6½ yds) of trim (optional)
- Basic sewing kit

## FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from Zandra Rhodes flower garden collection - Feathers in denim ref: VOZR004-8DENI and teal ref: VOZR004-8TEAL. Find your nearest stockist at [www.makeitcoats.com](http://www.makeitcoats.com)



**Step one** Fold your fabric in half lengthways with wrong sides (WS) together, matching the two selvedge edges. Your fabric will now measure 150x68cm (59x27in). **01**

Fold in half again but in the other direction so the selvedges remain together and press to create a centre fold. Your fabric will now measure 75x68cm (29½x27in) **02**

**Step two** Open out the whole fabric piece and place it so the selvedges run vertically. Cut along the pressed centre line from the lower edge to the centre. **03**

**Step three** Create a double folded hem along this cut centre line and stitch. Work an additional line of stitching at the centre. **04**

**Step four** Continue to work a double folded hem along the remaining edges. If you choose to use a trim, pin this on and stitch in place. **05**

You will now have a shawl, so you just need to close up the sides, leaving a gap of around 20cm (8in) each side for your arms. **06**

Style with wavy hair for max poolside cool.



*Give your kimono a boho vibe by adding a tassel trim.*

—• FAST FAT QUARTER •—

QUICK  
PROJECT  
USE 1 FAT  
QUARTER

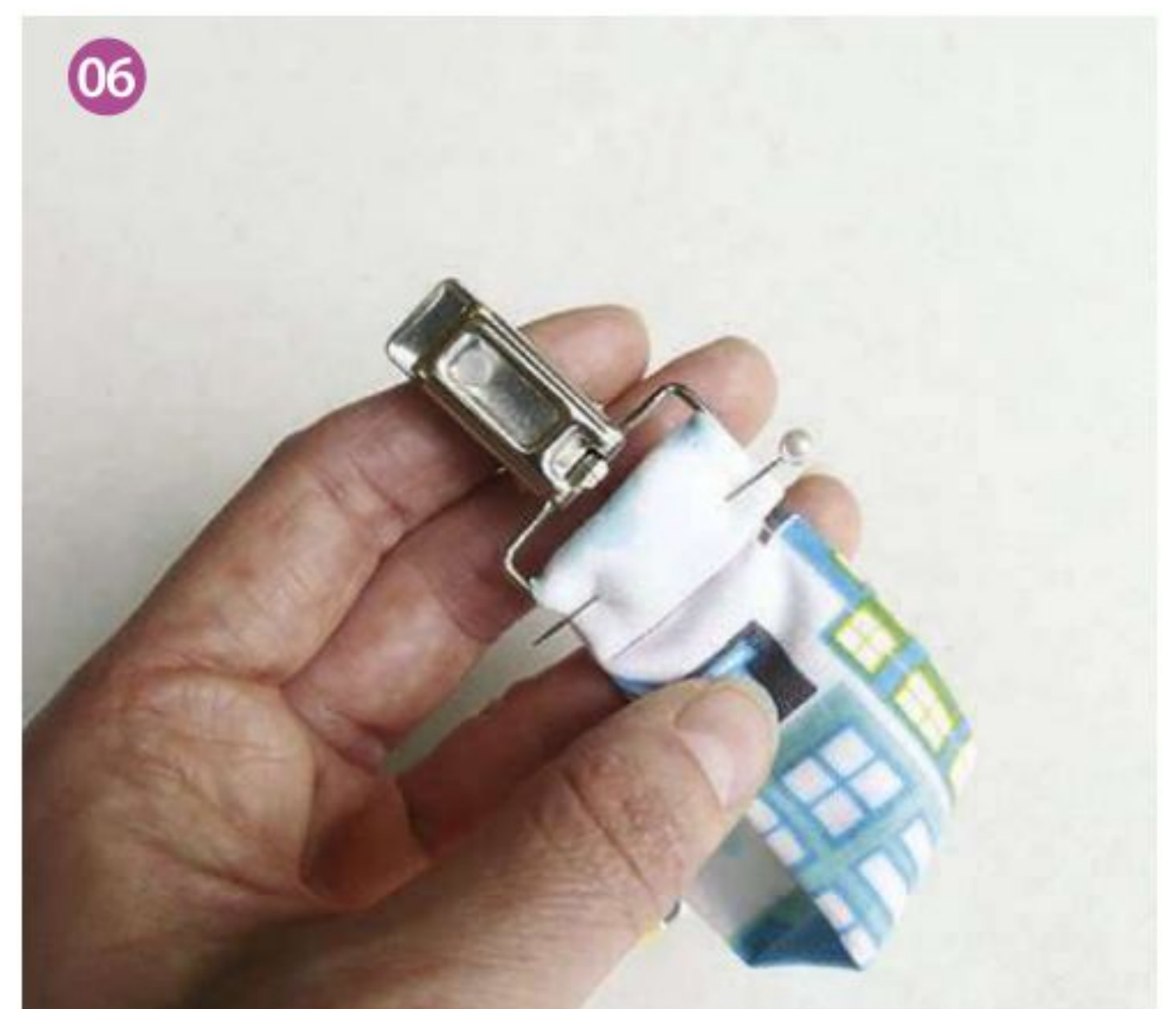


SEW CUTE



**Jennie Jones'** matching baby grow and dummy strap are made with a little simple machine stitching and appliqué.

# FAST FAT QUARTER



## YOU WILL NEED

- 1 fat quarter (we used White City Panorama - turquoise, by Michael Miller USA).
- Bondaweb, see instructions for size
- 1 baby grow
- Elastic, 8cm (3in) or a hair band
- 1 clasp
- Basic sewing kit

Designer Jennie Jones says: "This month I'll be showing you how to make a dummy strap and a matching baby grow appliquéd with a piece of the same fabric.

This is a simple project, but the appliqué can be a little fiddly. If this is your first time appliquéing, choose a simple shape, as you will need to lift the sewing machine foot and turn the fabric as you go to attach it to the baby grow; the more intricate the shape, the more turns you will need to do. Set your stitch length to around 2-2.5."

## APPLIQUÉING THE BABY GROW

**Step one** Cut approx 2cm ( $\frac{3}{4}$ in) outside the shape you want to appliqué all the way around. Turn it over to the wrong side (WS) then place your Bondaweb paper side up on top, trimming it to the same size. Press gently into place until it is firmly stuck using a dry, medium-temperature iron. Turn your fabric over to the right side and carefully cut round the edge of the shape. **01**

**Step two** Remove the paper backing from the Bondaweb and place on the front of the baby grow in your chosen position. Press carefully into place until it is firmly stuck. **02**

**Step three** Stitch around the shape to hold it in place, raising and lowering the machine foot at tight curves and corners. **03**

## MAKING THE DUMMY STRAP

**Step one** Cut a strip of fabric 12x40cm ( $4\frac{3}{4}$ x15 $\frac{3}{4}$ in). Fold in half lengthways with WS facing and press. Open, then turn the long edges inside to meet at the centre crease. **04**

**Step two** Take one of the short ends and fold to the inside by 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ in). Fold the elastic in half then pin over this end. **05**

**Step three** Fold the strip in half again along the folded crease then sew it together starting at the elastic end and down the long edge. You'll find that doing a few reverse stitches will really help to secure the elastic into place. Fold the remaining open end under by 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ in) then pin it around the clasp. Stitch down, and you're done! **06**



Pair the baby grow and strap together as a personalised gift.



# FABRIC, PATTERN AND KIT GIVEAWAY!

Enter now to win these sewing goodies from **Fabric Godmother**.

One lucky reader will receive a fantastic sewing bundle from Fabric Godmother, worth £250! You'll get a very generous selection of grey chambray, Elk Farm jersey, Julliet seersucker, lime linen and cotton mix, and bird-print voile fabrics to add to your stash. You'll also receive two sewing patterns – the Sew Over it Pussy Bow Blouse pattern and Sewaholic Renfrew pattern – as well as a chic leather saddlebag kit in navy blue.

Fabric Godmother is an online shop selling a wide selection of handpicked fabrics, including everything from cotton prints and luxurious silks to wool suiting, along with patterns from independent brands and an extensive range of haberdashery. Find out more at [www.fabricgodmother.co.uk](http://www.fabricgodmother.co.uk).



See [www.simplysewingmag.com](http://www.simplysewingmag.com) to enter today!  
(UK only, see competition rules on p6.)



[WWW.FABRICGODMOTHER.CO.UK](http://WWW.FABRICGODMOTHER.CO.UK)



Jane at work, surrounded by her colourful creations.

Photo: Ant Jones © DK

# MADE BY JANE

**What does it take to be a successful craft author? We talk to Jane Bull, who has a passion for writing books that share her skills with generations of new crafters.**

For designer and author Jane Bull, sewing has been a lifelong love affair that began when she was just a child. "It all began with my mum, really," she recalls. "Mum taught needlework and cooking to secondary school students, and the house was often full of half-made projects she was marking – half a blouse, a sleeve or something. I was taking it all in and becoming fascinated by it all."

Fortunately for Jane, her mum was happy to let her have a try at any technique that caught her fancy, showing her the basics but then allowing her to put her own ingenuity to the test. "I'd watch how she'd do things, then find my own way," she adds.

## A PRACTICAL PASSION

At that time (the 1970s), affordable, fashionable clothes were hard to come by,

so Jane and her three elder sisters often used their burgeoning skills to create the clothes they wanted. "We'd go to the department store in Watford on a Friday and go through the patterns, then make something for the weekend."

Crafting spilled out into all areas of Jane's early life, including making gifts at Christmas time, but dressmaking was the passion that took hold. As she grew into a teenager, then left for college, where she studied graphic design, Jane carried on making her own clothes. "At home I used to sew with Mum's ancient Singer sewing machine from the 1950s

– it was always out, ready to run something up," she says. "Then I inherited my grandmother's hand sewing Singer, which I used for many years – it served me well."

Later machines included a Frister and Rossmann Beaver. "I made my wedding dress on that, so it's very special to me. I saw a Christian Lacroix wedding dress on the cover of a magazine and made up my own version, figuring it out for myself."

These days her go-to machine is an Elna 280, though she admits she got herself a very basic Singer when working on her most recent book, *My Sewing Machine*. "I wanted something really simple so I could work with it as my

"AT HOME I USED TO SEW WITH MUM'S ANCIENT SINGER SEWING MACHINE FROM THE 1950S – IT WAS ALWAYS OUT, READY TO RUN SOMETHING UP"

readers hopefully will.”

The book is a cheery guide to sewing machine use, aimed at beginners of all ages. It’s just one of many bright and breezy craft books Jane has produced over the years. “After leaving college, I got into publishing and became a creative director at DK, which meant I was in the position of presenting ideas for activities books. Then someone suggested I write my own.” It was the beginning of a new outlet for Jane’s appetite for making, with her most popular titles including *Make It!*, *Made By Me* and *Crafty Creatures*.

**IDEAS AND INSPIRATION**

The majority of Jane’s books are based around the kinds of projects she relished as a child, as well as those her three children, Charlotte, Billy and James, enjoyed when they were small.

“The idea for *My Sewing Machine* came about because I realised there was nothing like that already available, and I wanted to

show people, children and adults alike, that there’s no reason to hold back,” she explains. “A sewing machine should be treated with respect, but providing you do that there should be nothing holding you back. A full-size sewing machine is a good thing for people of any age to get used to.”

She points out that being able to use a sewing machine opens up your options as a sewist immensely. “People really seem interested in using sewing machines now, and it felt like the perfect time to move my book series on from hand sewing,” she explains. “I’ve included lots of patterns that can be achieved quickly, including a set of designs that start with a basic tea towel and can be adapted into five completely different items.”

She’s also included the kinds of projects she likes to work on herself, such as cute bobtail bunnies, bunting, colourful cushions, and the puppy toy featured on page 59 of this issue. “I think about what would attract you if you were just starting

out, and try to come up with simple, engaging projects,” she says.

Jane seeks inspiration in various places, including “strange shops that sell all sorts of things – and I’m a bit of a sucker for things out of scale, such as giant scissors or pencils, or, equally, miniatures.” She admits to having saved old toys discarded by her children, “even Kinder Surprise prizes – the weirder the better!”

Happily for Jane’s family, she has a room dedicated to her curious collections, where she can keep things spread out, pin layouts on the walls and move things around however and as often as she wishes, as “I like to have everything in front of me.” She also keeps various treasures in here, ranging from drawers full of sumptuous swathes of fabrics, to jars housing the button collection she inherited from her mum. It all adds up to a fantastically vibrant space overflowing with potential ideas and inspiration.

Jane’s other pleasures include “trawling

Photos: Andy Crawford © DK and Jane Bull



Top: Jane’s fun trimmed cushions would brighten up any room and are easy to make. Above: A clever use of pom poms to make fluffy bunny tails!



Jane’s books feature the types of makes she loved as a child, like these cute pup toys

**PUPS!**  
FIND OUT  
HOW TO MAKE  
THESE ON PAGE 59



Left photo: Ant Jones © DK; Right and bottom photos: © DK and Jane Bull



Above: One of the many projects for budding young sewists from Jane's latest book. Left: Jane made sweet dolls of her children, Charlotte, Billy and James, for her popular book, *Crafty Dolls*.

around the internet and seeing what's out there" as well as "just going around the shops. I'm absorbing all the time – looking at work by Wool & The Gang or paper cutouts by Rob Ryan, or noticing fabrics, thinking how they would work with different projects and finding myself drawn to particular ones."

Creatively, her working methods include drawing out "little sketches of layouts and designs – I think visually and this helps me make sure I include everything I want to and get the pacing right."

#### FAMILY TIME

Swatches, sketches and moodboards help Jane to "get into the flavour" of each book – a crucial part of her process. Her children have been part of the mix too, not least due to the fact that early on she created three dolls based on them, which featured in the book, *Crafty Dolls*. "They've had to be very obliging over the years," she comments. "When they still lived at home I often hung my layouts all over the kitchen

walls and they'd just put up with not being able to get into cupboards."

Being surrounded by so much craft and creative productivity clearly had an impact, as all three went on to study graphic design, and Charlotte, Jane's eldest, recently joined her team at DK. "We've often sewn together, but she was the designer on *My Sewing Machine*, and it was lovely to work together in a very different way. When I'm launching a new book I run craft workshops at events like Cheltenham Literature Festival, and Charlotte comes along – she's brilliant with the kids who take part."

As well as the younger pupils, Jane loves to see their mums, dads and grandparents joining in. The skill levels can be just as varied as the age-ranges, too. "You teach some to literally thread a needle, while

others are happy to set about adapting patterns to add their own twist," she says. "I find it exceedingly satisfying. To have someone who's brand new to sewing come in for an hour and a half then go away having learnt something is wonderful."

The lines certainly blur between Jane's family life and career, and, indeed, her work and leisure time. "I'm very fortunate to work in a profession I enjoy

so much – I don't think of it as work," she says. "When a book deadline is approaching, I make items in the evenings and do photoshoots during the weekends, so my spare time really is part of it."

In fact, if she did have more hours in the day, she's fairly adamant that she'd spend them making, although the type of sewing might change a little. "I'd really like to make my own clothes again," she says.

"TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO'S BRAND NEW TO SEWING COME IN AND CONCENTRATE FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF THEN GO AWAY HAVING LEARNT SOMETHING IS WONDERFUL."

Top right and bottom left photo: © Jane Bull Top left photo: Ant Jones © DK Middle photo: © DK and Jane Bull



Top middle: You'd never guess this bag was made from a tea towel! Jane's new book will show you how to make your own.  
Top right: Jane's sketches form the starting point for her books and projects.



"There are so many lovely materials around, and I find the whole process very satisfying. But what gets in the way of dressmaking is sewing other things, so I'm really very lucky."  
*Written by Judy Darley.*

**JANE'S TOP STITCHING ADVICE**

"Don't worry if it's not perfect. Just have a go, don't rush it and be pleased with what you've achieved. You can always fine-tune it next time."

*My Sewing Machine* is published by DK. You can find out more about Jane at [www.dk.com/uk/jane-bull](http://www.dk.com/uk/jane-bull).



Photo: © DK and Jane Bull

# MAKE YOUR HOME BEAUTIFUL



STEP-BY-STEP  
PRACTICAL  
GUIDE



CUSHIONS • BLINDS • CURTAINS • SEAT COVERS



A WORLD OF IDEAS:  
SEE ALL THERE IS TO KNOW

www.dk.com



WorldMags.net

# PLAYFUL PUPS

Children will cherish Jane Bull's huggable hound plushie, which can easily be upsized to a cuddly canine cushion.



## YOU WILL NEED

- Cotton fabric, 2 pieces 25x30cm (10x12in) for the body
- Black felt, 8x10cm (3x4in) for ears
- 3 buttons for the eyes and nose
- Soft toy filling
- Basic sewing kit

## TEMPLATES

- You will find the template needed to make this project on the pull-out pattern sheet with this issue.

## NOTES

- The instructions and measurements are for making the toy pup. To make a cushion-sized pooch, use the larger template and buy 43x34cm (17x14in) of fabric.

**Step one** Lay tracing paper over the template. Trace around it, marking the turning gap dots, and cut it out. Place the two pieces of cotton fabric with right sides (RS) facing. Pin the template to the fabric and cut out. Remove the template and mark the turning gap dots onto the fabric with chalk. **01**

**Step two** Pin then stitch the two pieces RS together, leaving the turning gap open. **02**

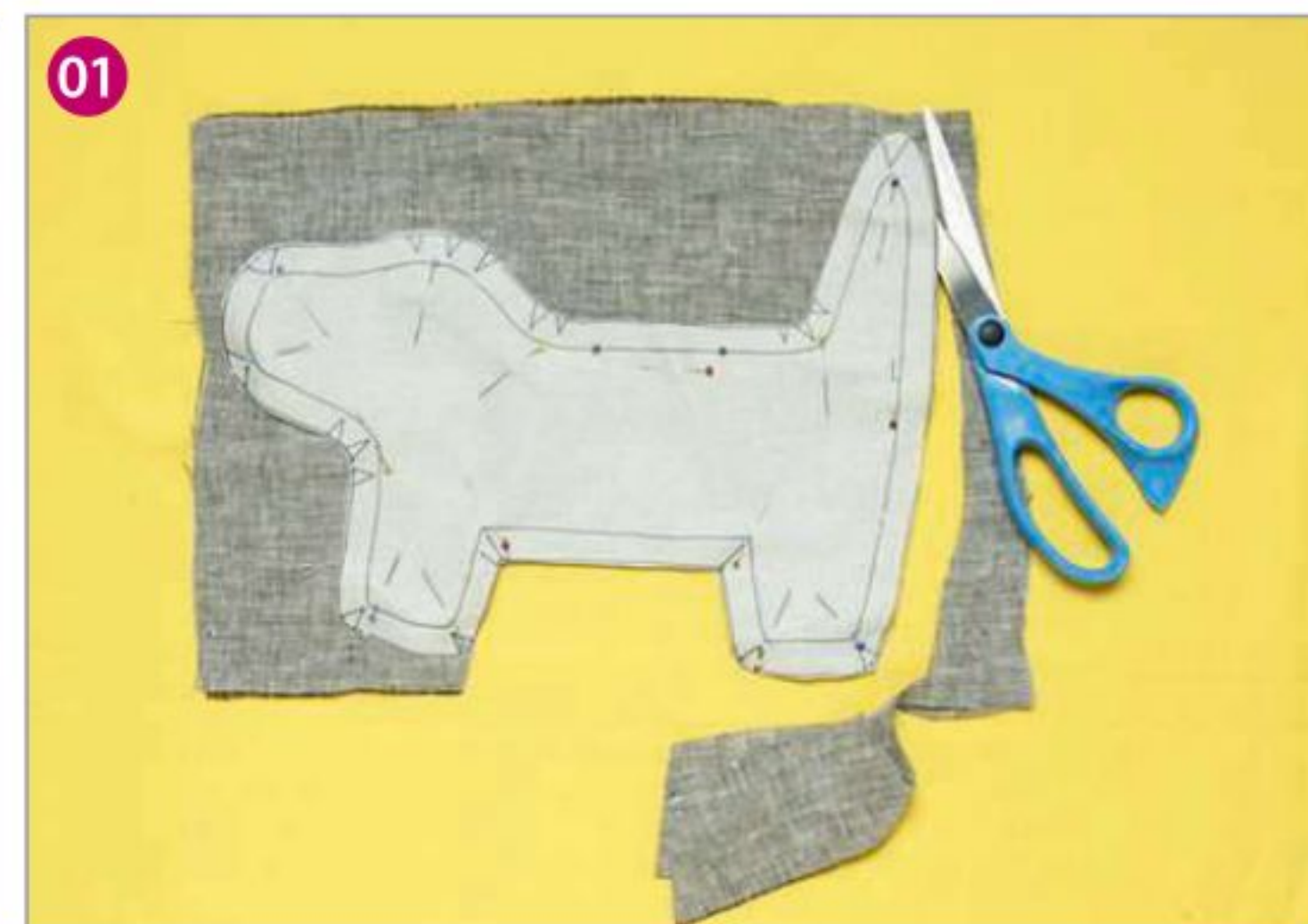
**Step three** Snip notches into the fabric around the curves and cut off the corners, taking care not to cut through your stitches. **03**

**Step four** Turn the shape RS out. **04**  
Use a knitting needle or other blunt object to work into all the corners. **05**

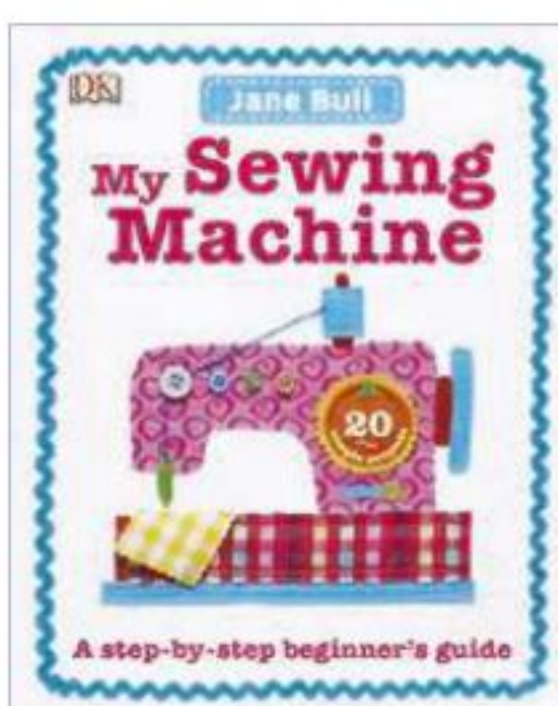
**Step five** Stuff the shape, starting with the tail, head and legs. Use the needle again to stuff the corners. **06**

**Step six** Tuck in the excess fabric at the turning gap and close up using slip stitch. **07**

**Step seven** Sew on the button eyes and nose. Draw a mouth with a felt pen. Cut out two felt ears using the ear template and stitch them onto the head. **08**



Add a colourful felt collar and button to jazz up your pup!



This is just one of the fun projects featured in *My Sewing Machine*, published by DK, £12.99. For more information, go to [www.dk.com](http://www.dk.com)

# WORKSHOP

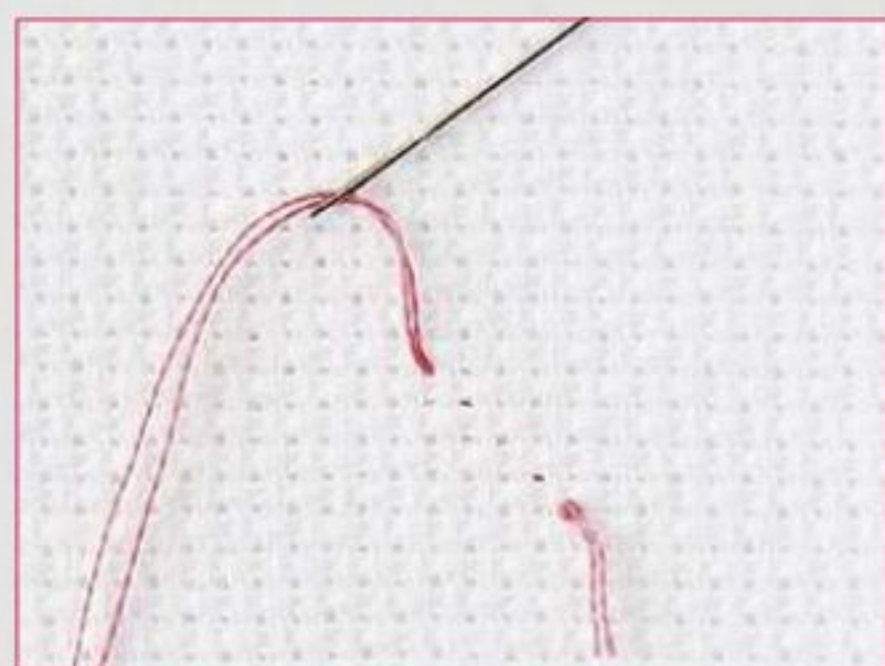
## CROSS STITCH

Discover a new embroidery stitch each issue. This month, we're giving classic cross stitch a try.



*For the neatest finish, cross your stitches over in the same direction.*

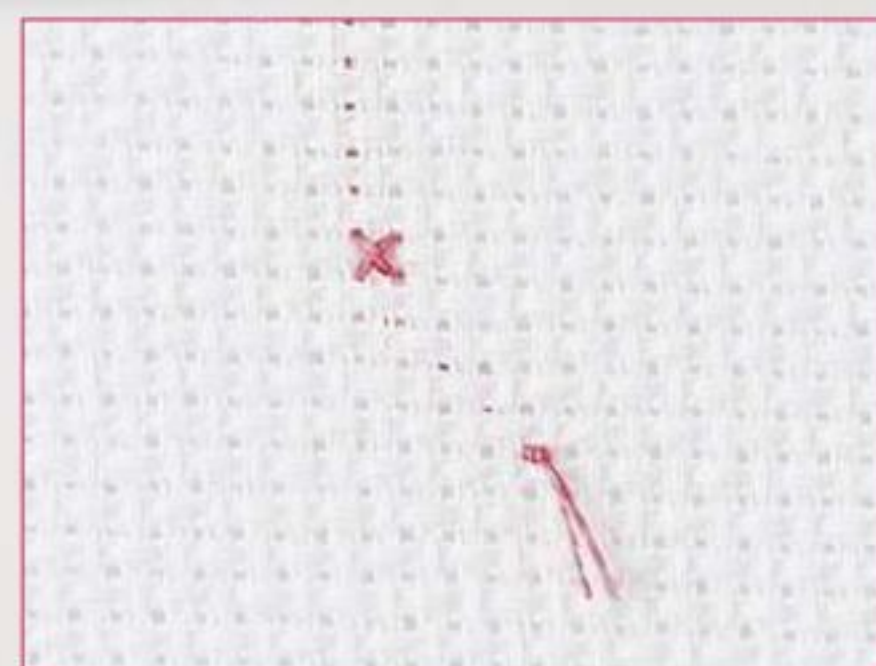
*Beginners will find 14 count aida the easiest fabric to stitch on.*



**1** Start by threading your tapestry needle with two strands of stranded cotton and knot the opposite end. Take your needle down through the aida, short distance from where you want to start stitching then back up where you first stitch will start, leaving the knot on the surface.



**2** You can now stitch towards your starting knot, following the chart on p95. Each symbol on the chart represents one cross stitch on the fabric. Work the first part of the stitch by making a diagonal stitch. This should sit from the bottom left to top right over a single aida block.



**3** To complete this cross stitch, make a second diagonal stitch, this time working it from bottom right to top left, crossing over your previous stitch. The different coloured chart symbols represent different colours of stranded cotton - choose whichever colours you prefer.



**4** Continue working towards your starting knot - your stitches will secure your starting thread on the reverse of your work. Once you reach the knot, snip it off. To finish your thread, simply pass it through the reverse of your stitches a few times so it's secure then cut off the end.

# 3 ISSUES FOR £5

when you subscribe today\*

Have you seen our full range of stitching magazines? Don't miss out, subscribe today!



We have 3 lovely magazines to give you cross-stitching inspiration direct to your door! You're bound to find something you love, from adorable teddy bears to classic wildlife scenery.

## GREAT REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE

- ✓ Get 3 issues for just £5\*
- ✓ After this, save up to 25% on the shop price
- ✓ Free UK delivery direct to your door - never miss an issue!

SAVE  
67%

## SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE TODAY

CALL NOW on  
**0844 844 0388**  
and quote code X1337

Order online at  
[www.buysubscriptions.com/stitchp](http://www.buysubscriptions.com/stitchp)  
and enter code X1337

\*3 issues for £5 is available to UK Direct Debit orders only. After your first 3 issues your subscription will continue at just £22.49 every 6 issues thereafter - saving 25%. If you cancel within 2 weeks after receiving your fourth issue, you will pay no more than £5. Offer ends 31st December.

# PINUP

Cross stitch chevrons onto white linen for a graphic look



Cross stitch may be thought of as quite a traditional technique, but that doesn't mean it can't be used in a modern way – just look at these contemporary chevrons! Bring this classic embroidery technique up to date by using it in unexpected ways, like we've done here with this stitched panel on a crisp white linen – backed and framed with white cotton fabric. It's a creative way to incorporate graphic prints into a modern home. See our colourful chevrons in a hoop on page 61 for how to perfect this versatile stitch.



# STRIPES & FLORALS

**Jennie Jones** and **Chloë Owens** transform a stripy tee and vintage pillowcase into cute skirts. Take your pick!



FYI:

Cotton pillowcases  
are easy to sew  
with and ideal for  
refashion newbies!

# UPCYCLED SKIRTS



## STRIPY TEE SKIRT

### YOU WILL NEED

- 1 long sleeve T-shirt to fit your waist
- Basic sewing kit



Choose the size of the T-shirt to fit your waist – we used a size UK 10 to fit a size 10 waist. For a looser fit, you could use a men's T-shirt.

Jennie Jones says: "This super-easy, super-comfy skirt is the ideal companion for flip flops and vest tops. The T-shirt I used only cost a few pounds so won't break the bank if you're experimenting. I would recommend using an overlocker, but, if you don't have one, then take it slow and practice on the T-shirt offcuts with your machine on a zigzag setting, or use a double needle and a walking foot. And always, always pin!"

**Step one** Begin by cutting off the neck and sleeves. I cut as close as possible to the under arm for a knee-length skirt; if you want a mini or shorter length skirt, then cut more away. **01**

**Step two** Take one of the sleeves and, keeping it folded together, trim the long folded edge so it is the same length as the skirt waist. Keeping right side (RS) out, measure a straight line around 5cm (2in) deep away from the folded edge of the sleeve. Pin then trim through both layers 1.5cm (5/8in) outside the pin line. Repeat on the remaining sleeve – these will become the waistband. **02**

**Step three** Taking the top raw cut edge of the T-shirt, unpick the seam for around 4cm (1 5/8in) on both sides, creating two

openings. **03**

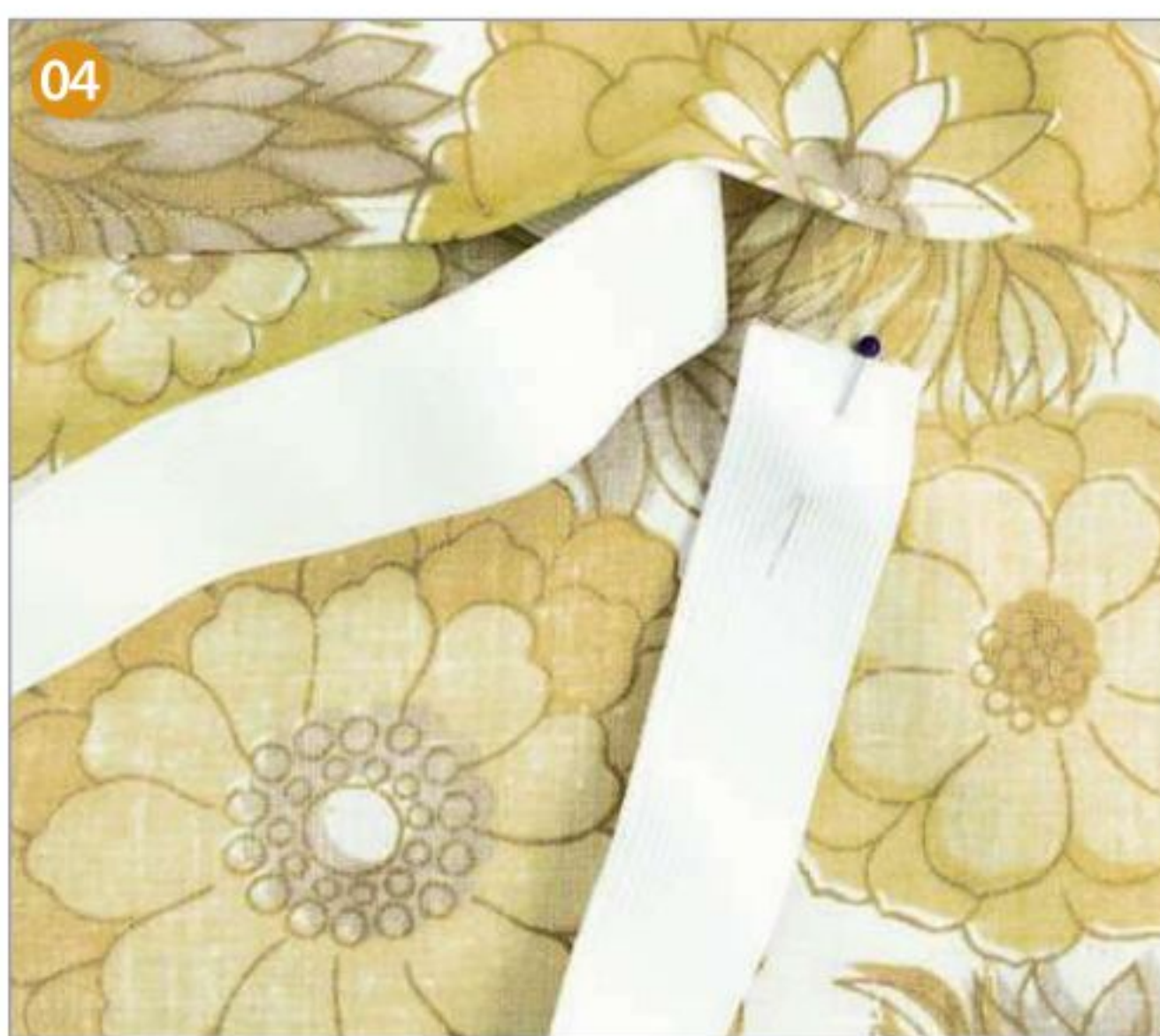
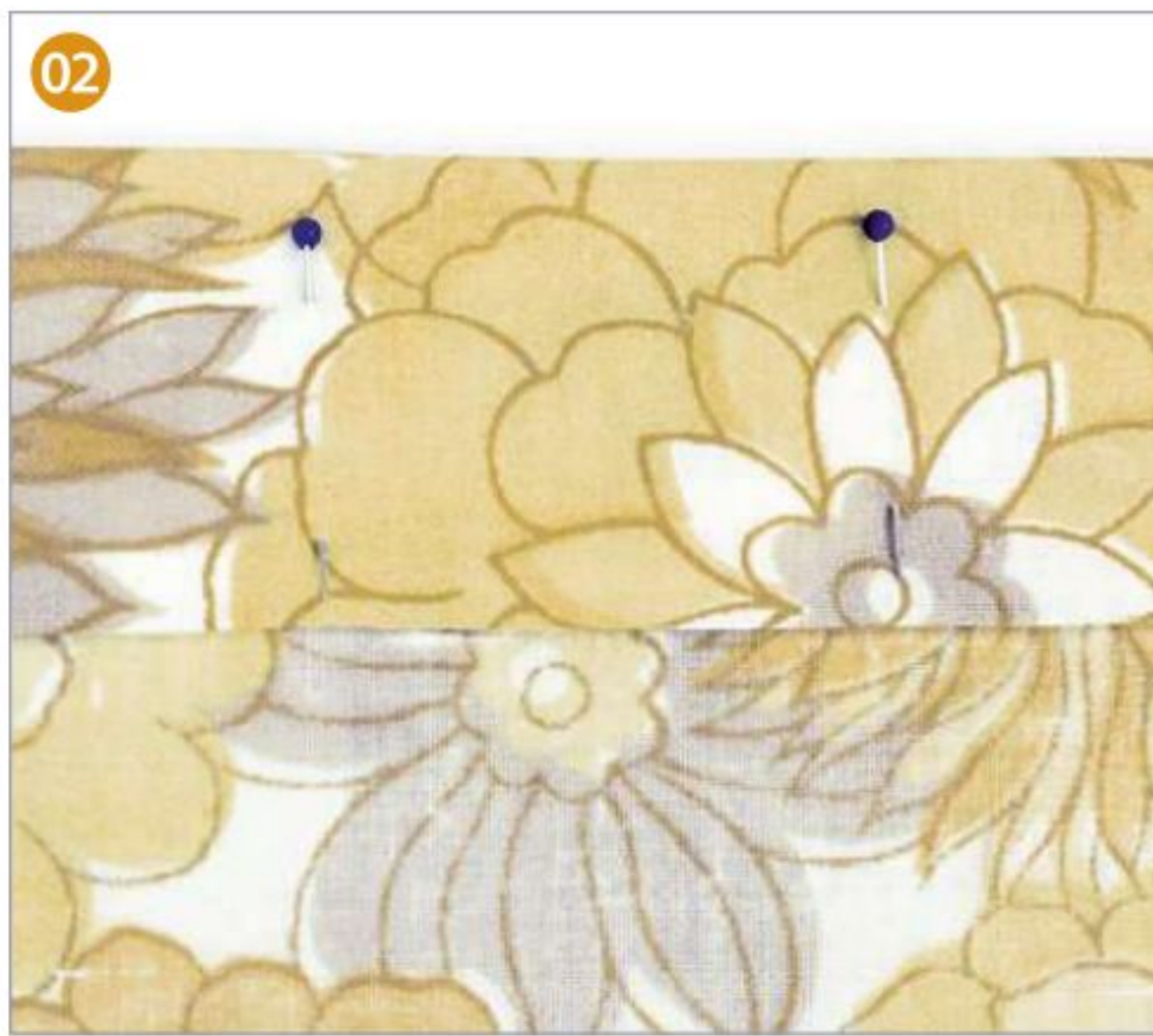
**Step four** Take one of the waistband pieces and matching raw edges pin, RS together across the front of your trimmed T-shirt matching up the side edges. Overlock or stitch into place, along the line of pins you placed in your sleeves earlier. Repeat with the other waistband piece on the back of your T-shirt. If you're using an overlocker, use scissors to cut the thread from the machine rather than pulling it and using the machine cutter – this will reduce stretching the fabric. **04**

**Step five** Pin the side openings together and sew or overlock closed. Start sewing from the top of the waistband and down to just beyond the place you unpicked from earlier– this will reduce pulling the fabric and throwing out the alignment of the join. If you're using a sewing machine, backstitch to secure. **05**

Depending on the shape and style of skirt you prefer, you may have it just as you like it at this point. If you wanted to make a pencil skirt, then follow the existing seam, narrowing to the bottom of the skirt.

**Step six** Once you're happy with your fit, finish the seams by hand stitch the raw seams flat at the hem and waistband for a neat finish. **06**

# UPCYCLED SKIRTS



## PILLOWCASE SKIRT

### YOU WILL NEED

- 1 pillowcase
- Elastic: 2.5cm (1in) wide, see instructions for length
- Basic sewing kit
- Trim (optional)



This project is the perfect way to indulge a love of vintage. A pretty print like this shouldn't be hidden away in a drawer!

Chloë Owens says: "If, like me, you're a self-confessed fabricoholic, and have mountains of vintage pillowcases stashed away that you don't quite know what to do with, this project is perfect for you. Vintage pillowcases can't always be found in pairs, but the spares can easily be transformed into a pretty summer skirt, suitable for both children and adults. Just join extra panels together if you need a larger size."

**Step one** Measure the length you'd like the skirt to be, then add 11cm (4½in) for casings and hem. Iron your pillowcase wrong side (WS) out and lay it down on a flat surface. Trim the bottom flap off then cut the remainder to the measurement you calculated earlier. **01**

**Step two** Hem the lower edge of your trimmed pillowcase by turning the raw edges over by 1.5cm (5⁄8in) to the WS then 5cm (2in) to the WS. Stitch in place all the way round.

**Step three** To make the casing for your elastic, fold over the top edge of your fabric by 1.5cm (5⁄8in) to the (WS) then over 3cm (1 ¼in) and press along the length. Pin the folded edge in place.

**Step four** Topstitch a line 5mm (1⁄8in) from the top folded edge all the way round,

backstitching a couple of stitches at the start and end. Now place pins 3cm (1¼in) apart on the casing to mark a gap for the elastic to go through. **02**

**Step five** Starting and finishing at these pins, stitch another line 5mm (1⁄8in) up from the lower folded edge. **03**

**Step six** Measure around your waist, add 4cm (1½in) to this length, and then cut your elastic to this measurement. Attach a safety pin to one end of the elastic, and secure the other end of the elastic to the skirt with a straight pin to stop it being pulled into the casing. **04**

**Step seven** Insert the safety pin into the casing and shimmy it along until it comes out the other end. Pin the two ends of the elastic together, and sew a straight line 2cm (¾in) from the edges, backstitching a couple of times for extra strength. Fold down the two raw edges of elastic so they lay flat and add pins to keep in place then stitch both these ends down too. **05**

**Step eight** Push the elastic back into the casing and sew the opening closed, continuing along the stitched line, backstitching at each end.

**Step nine** Finally, add a trim to the skirt if preferred, a few inches from the bottom, and sew with matching thread. **06**



One colour, endless possibilities! We love these pink-hued prints.



Photos: Spoonflower www.spoonflower.com

# PRINT PERFECT

We chat to entrepreneur Stephen Fraser to find out how a little fabric-printing business called Spoonflower became a global crafting phenomenon.

When sewist Kim Fraser commented to her husband Stephen how much she'd love to make curtains using fabrics she'd designed herself, she had no idea she was sowing the seeds of an idea that would benefit crafters across the world. That was a little over seven years ago, and marked the beginning of Spoonflower, a company that allows people worldwide to design, print and sell their own fabric, wallpaper and gift wrap.

Without that conversation all those years ago, it wouldn't even have occurred to Stephen that such a thing was needed, or, more pertinently, that it didn't already exist. "Kim is an avid quilter and crafter," Stephen explains. "The idea for Spoonflower came about because she had a vision for a set of curtains for our house, but no way to print the design she had in her mind. I had a bit of

a background in internet companies that allowed people to print customised products on demand, so I found it surprising there wasn't a website that allowed people to design their own fabric."

Being an entrepreneurial-minded sort, Stephen began mulling over the possibilities, and, a couple of months after Kim's initial comment, sat down with his friend Gart Davis. The pair had met while working at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com), where they formed part of the team that built the website into a successful self-publishing tool. This experience would prove crucial when it came to making Kim's concept a reality.

The first challenge was to deduce exactly

what they needed to build a site that would help people to create and sell their own fabric designs. "This was in 2008, and we both had pretty good knowledge of the internet side of things, having worked on start-ups before," says Stephen, "but we knew nothing about textiles or printing,

and neither of us had experience of manufacturing, never mind building a manufacturing business from scratch."

To overcome this, Stephen and Gart turned to Kim and

other sewists to answer questions about crucial details such as "the qualities of the fabric, how it would be used, and so on."

Fortunately, Kim and other early customers were happy to share their

"WE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT TEXTILES OR PRINTING, AND NEITHER OF US HAD EXPERIENCE OF MANUFACTURING, NEVER MIND BUILDING A MANUFACTURING BUSINESS"



Photos: Spoonflower [www.spoonflower.com](http://www.spoonflower.com)



Top: Stephen and his team worked hard on getting the printing process just right. Right: Why stop at fabric? Spoonflower print wallpaper and gift wrap too!



thoughts on how the service should develop and what it should offer.

"The process of learning to print, to maintain printers and colour, and to understand ink chemistry and similar issues, was much harder," Stephen says. "We relied on vendors, as well as on experts from the North Carolina State University College of Textiles, [TC]<sup>2</sup> and other organisations, to help us in technical areas. Gart – who is a formidably intelligent guy – figured out how to write software to support a manufacturing process over time. And we hired great people, as well, who helped us work through all these issues."

They launched the site slowly, "using an invitation-only system for creating accounts. But the idea took off right away. Artists all over the world, as it turned out, were attracted to the idea of creating repeating, seamless designs, and

Spoonflower offered many of them their first opportunity to play with seamless design as a form, and fabric as a medium."

Originally solely creating fabrics, Spoonflower has branched out into printing wallpaper and gift wrap as well, and two years ago added Allison Polish to the team as a third executive partner. "She brings terrific experience in consumer goods to our strategic planning."

#### WAY BACK WHEN

The first design ever printed by Spoonflower was a reimagining of a vibrant green, red and grey vintage fabric with a repeating abstract floral motif. "It was such a thrill to see those first printed fabrics," Stephen recalls. "Back then, our website didn't have pages that allowed anyone to view or browse designs, so the only way to communicate the excitement of what was

happening behind the scenes was through our blog and through a Flickr group ([www.flickr.com/groups/spoonflower](http://www.flickr.com/groups/spoonflower)), which I created solely for that purpose."

During that beta period, Stephen and Kim, often joined by Gart and his wife, would stay up late once a week cutting and packing the orders from the previous seven days. "We were beside ourselves with excitement. I used to take photos as we packed the fabric so we'd have something to share with all the people who were following our progress from afar."

Seven years on, Spoonflower still has that same passion at its heart, but in more practical ways is almost unrecognisable. "Our first office, in Mebane, North Carolina, was a single, dusty room in a building that once housed a sock mill," Stephen says. "The room had no air conditioning, or heat, and our only furniture was a tattered old

couch from Gart's attic and a picnic table."

When Spoonflower launched, it was Stephen's responsibility to print and cut the fabric, while Gart focused on writing the code for the website. "Today, 130 people work for Spoonflower, and you'll find us in an office with a lovely lobby featuring furniture covered in Spoonflower fabric, with designs created by members of our online community."

Attached to this lobby is a classroom called the Spoonflower Greenhouse "where we host community events, including free sewing classes, craft nights, and lectures. We regularly host tours for students and customers interested in seeing how their fabric is printed."

The Spoonflower team do a wide variety of jobs, ranging from writing for the website, helping customers, dealing with finance, product development, procurement, marketing and, most importantly of all, Stephen says, the printing, cutting, folding (or rolling) and shipping the fabric, wallpaper and gift wrap. "The most important quality we look for in new employees is compatibility with our community, so we've been lucky

enough to end up with a building full of creative people – from sewists, designers and artists to budding fashion designers and micro-entrepreneurs."

Right from the start, it was vital for Spoonflower to be as eco-friendly as possible. "One of the advantages of digital fabric printing, in contrast with mass-manufacturing, is that it's far less wasteful than the conventional ways of producing fabric," Stephen explains. "A company like Spoonflower prints only what you order, which means that there's no leftover printed fabric that we can't use. We also use pigment inks, for the most part, instead of dyes, and all of our colourants are water-based, including the ink we use on wallpaper and gift wrap." There are organic fabric options among the base fabrics available for printing, "and one of our synthetic fibre options, Eco Canvas, is partly made from recycled materials."

When, as inevitably happens occasionally, print errors result in fabric that can't go out to the customer, those flawed pieces end up on the scrap pile, but don't go to waste. Stephen explains: "Every few months we send these off to a fabric

recycler who shreds them into tiny, unrecognisable bits, which then get used for car upholstery and furniture stuffing, bedding and flooring."

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Over the last seven years, this verve and ethos has enabled Spoonflower to grow into a successful global business. "We now run one of the largest digital textile printing facilities in the world, with hundreds of thousands of customers who live in every corner of the globe," says Stephen.

"Spoonflower is still growing quickly, and our biggest challenge continues to be how to scale up the manufacturing side of the business in a way that allows us to print

efficiently and to a standard that supports the use of our fabric in many applications."

Spoonflower's community aspects are a massive part of

the business' appeal. "Our goal in building Spoonflower has been to give individuals access to tools that allow them to create new products and express themselves in new ways," says Stephen, "But we've also tried hard to create a business that's a community, one that's supportive and

"OUR GOAL IN BUILDING THE BUSINESS HAS BEEN TO GIVE INDIVIDUALS ACCESS TO TOOLS THAT ALLOW THEM TO CREATE NEW PRODUCTS AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES"



Photo: Allie Olson www.indiesew.com

Above: Talented sketcher Allie Olson of Indiesew loves printing her own designs. Right: We wish our sewing room shelves were this well-organised!



Photos: Spoonflower www.spoonflower.com



Right and below: Spoonflower's lobby is decorated with their gorgeous fabrics. Bottom: The first ever Spoonflower design!



experimental and enjoyable to visit." He adds: "It's been said much more eloquently by other people, but one of the great strengths of the internet is its power to create communities around interests, where circles of connection aren't restricted by geography or acquaintance."

With a section dedicated to tips and tutorials, plus opportunities to connect to other community members through Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Flickr, Twitter and Vine, there are plenty of ways to ensure you get the most out of Spoonflower. You can buy fabrics that catch your eye, with print options ranging from dachshunds to steampunk motifs. Even just browsing the site is a visual delight that may well prompt your own original designs. "It's also fun," Stephen points out, "and a great way to discover new, independent artists. As much as anything else, our marketing efforts are designed around providing creative inspiration."

Users of the service include Allie Olson of [www.indiesew.com](http://www.indiesew.com), who fell in love with screenprinting through a workshop she took in her early twenties. "As a side effect, I fell in love with designing my own repeating patterns," she says. "While others in the class were sketching intricate flowers, I was placing geometric leaves in a Swiss repeat. When I learned how to use Photoshop and Illustrator just a few years



Bright colours and geometric prints equals chair envy!

Photos: Spoonflower [www.spoonflower.com](http://www.spoonflower.com)

later, it's what I spent my free time doing."

Allie's business, Indiesew, is a one-stop online sewing resource, featuring patterns by independent designers and a platform where Indiesew's customers share images of what they've sewn using the patterns sold by Indiesew. "Just recently, we launched the Indiesew Fabric Shop, which features high-quality garment fabrics for all sewing skill levels and projects."

Allie was invited by Spoonflower to try out their new cotton lawn substrate: "I jumped at the chance to design my own print. I began with some random doodling that I scanned into illustrator. Then I went to town moving things around and getting my repeat nailed down."

For Allie, designing fabrics is the culmination of a lifelong desire. "Having sewn for most of my life, I've always had a deep love for fabric and surface design," she says. "I use Spoonflower to help me work through that process. It's very easy to upload your design and order a swatch.

And seeing your doodles printed on fabric is such an awesome feeling."

Find out more at [www.spoonflower.com](http://www.spoonflower.com).  
Written by Judy Darley.

### GET YOUR PRINT ON!

To give Spoonflower a go for yourself, you just need to register, then upload the designs you want to print. You can order a test swatch for as little as \$5, and get an instant preview of your design in a variety of repeat patterns. Tah-dah!





*Sew along with*  
**LISA COMFORT**

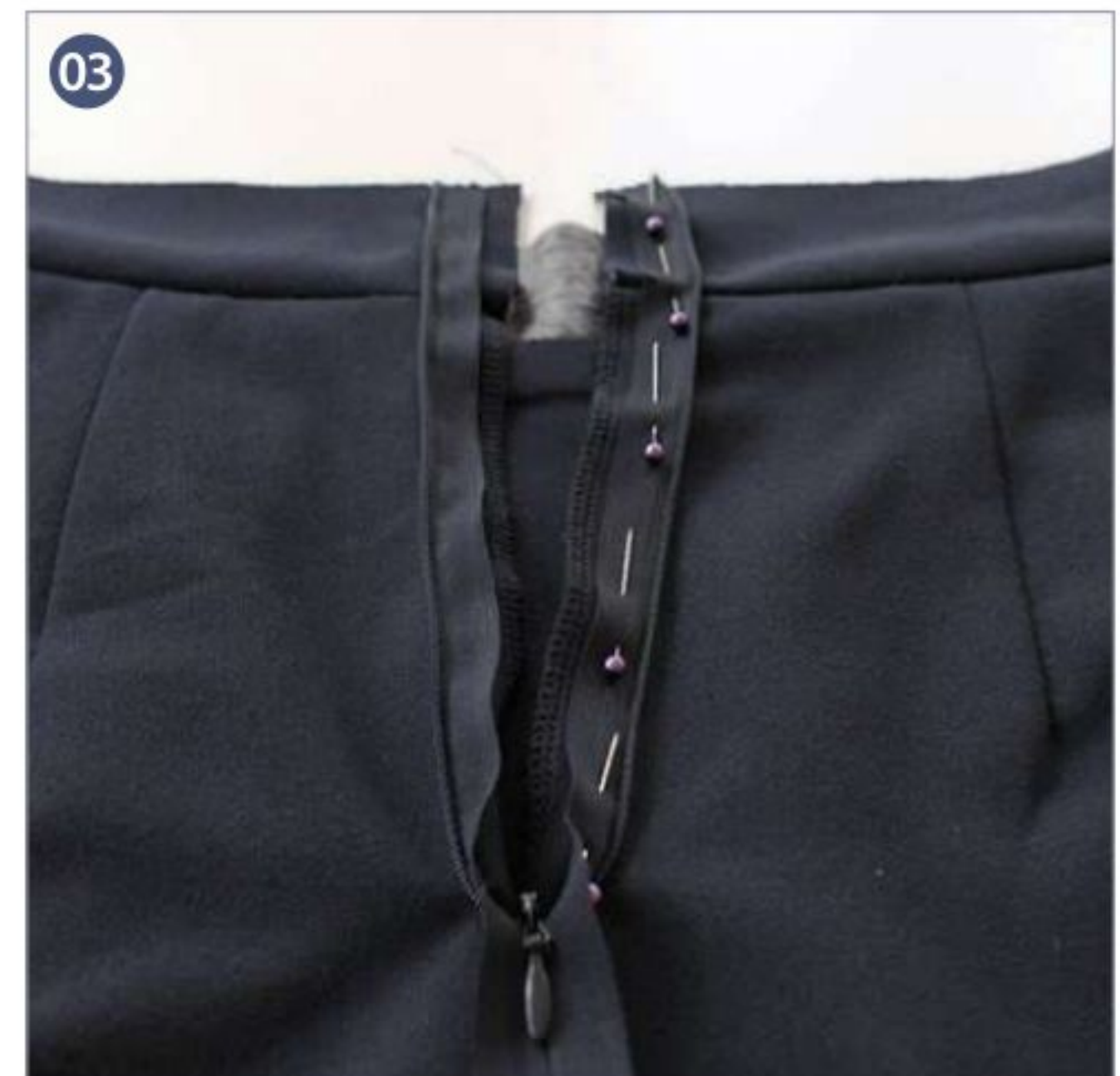
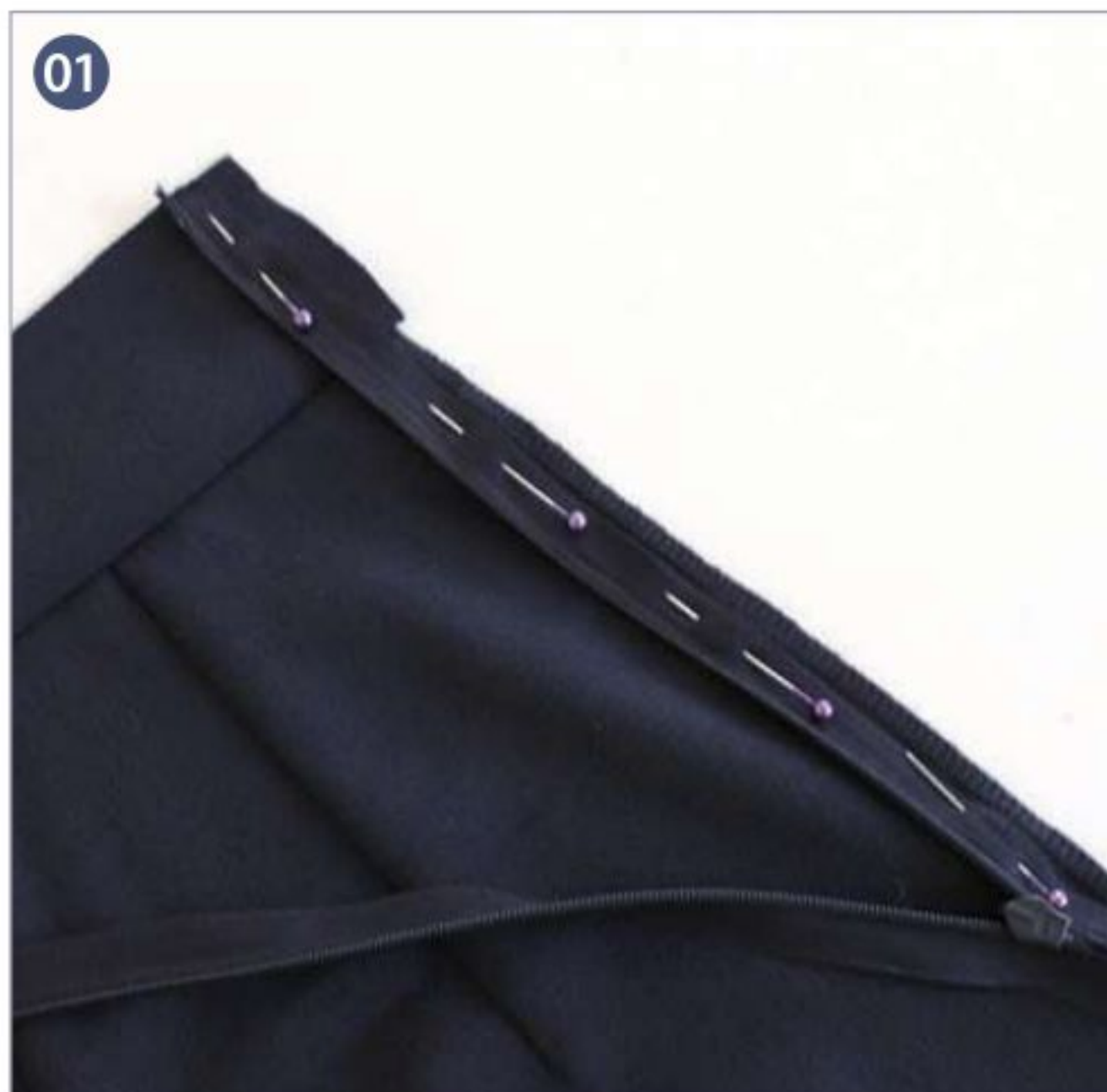
In the final part of our series, **Lisa** shows you how finish her lovely tulip skirt and suggests great ways to style it!

Words: **ALEX WHATLEY** Technical drawings: **RACHEL WALKER** Photography: **KANGAN ARORA**

*PART THREE*

- Insert the zip
- Add lining (optional)
- Finish the waistband
  - Hem the skirt
- Add a lace trim and other styling tips!





## WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR

You will find all the template pieces you need to make this skirt in issue 5 of *Simply Sewing* magazine. Or visit [www.simplysewingmag.com](http://www.simplysewingmag.com) to download an A4 printable document.

By now, you will have taken your measurements, chosen your fabric, cut out all your fabric pieces, stitched the pleats and darts, attached the pockets, constructed the body of the skirt, prepared the waistband, added belt loops and piping (if desired), and attached half the waistband.

*You'll soon have your skirt finished and ready to wear! Share your pictures with us using #simplysewingmag*

## INSERT THE ZIP

**Step one** Before you insert the zip, it's a good idea to carefully fold the teeth away from the tape slightly, using an iron. This will make it easier when you come to sewing, because it will allow the needle to get closer to the teeth. Make sure your iron is set to a low heat for this, to avoid melting the zip teeth.

**Step two** Open up the zip and, starting on the left-hand side of the skirt, line up the top of the tape with the top of the waistband. Make sure right sides are together and that the teeth are 1.5cm away from the raw edge of the centre back. Pin all the way down. **01**

**Step three** Attach your invisible zip foot to your sewing machine. We're going to sew the left-hand side first, so make sure the teeth will be travelling through the left hand groove on the foot. Starting at the top of the skirt, backstitch at the beginning and then sew down the length of the zip, stopping and backstitching when you get to the zip pull. **02**

**Step four** Pin the other side of the zip to the right-hand side of the skirt, with right sides together and starting at the top. **03**

**Step five** Sew this side of the zip in place, as before, stitching from the top towards the

hem using the invisible zip foot. This time, the zip teeth need to be going through the right-hand groove.

Close the zip and switch to a standard presser foot on your sewing machine. **04**

**Step six** Pin the rest of the skirt's centre back seam together. **05**

Keeping the 1.5cm seam allowance, sew down towards the hem starting a few centimetres below the end of the zip.

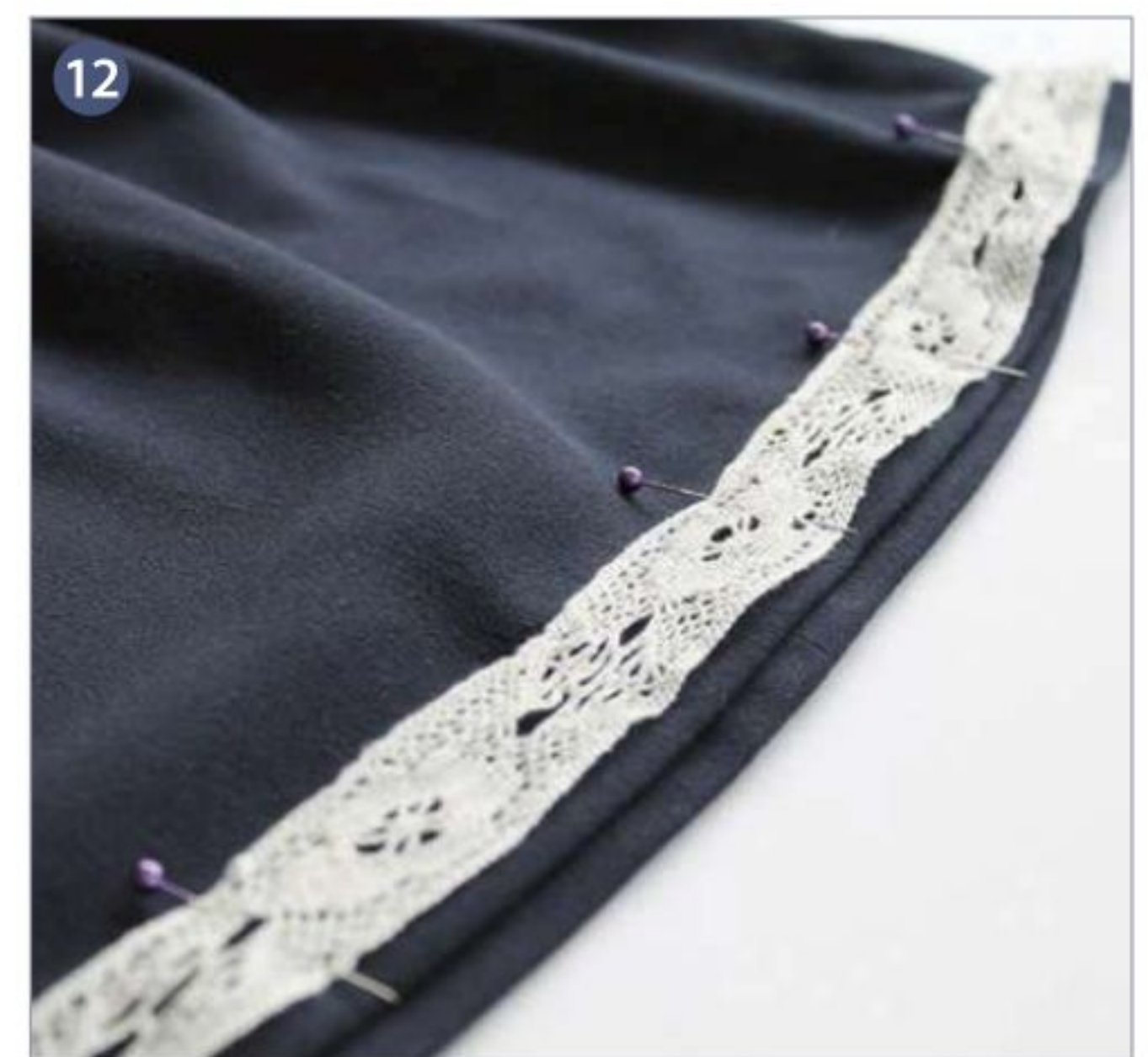
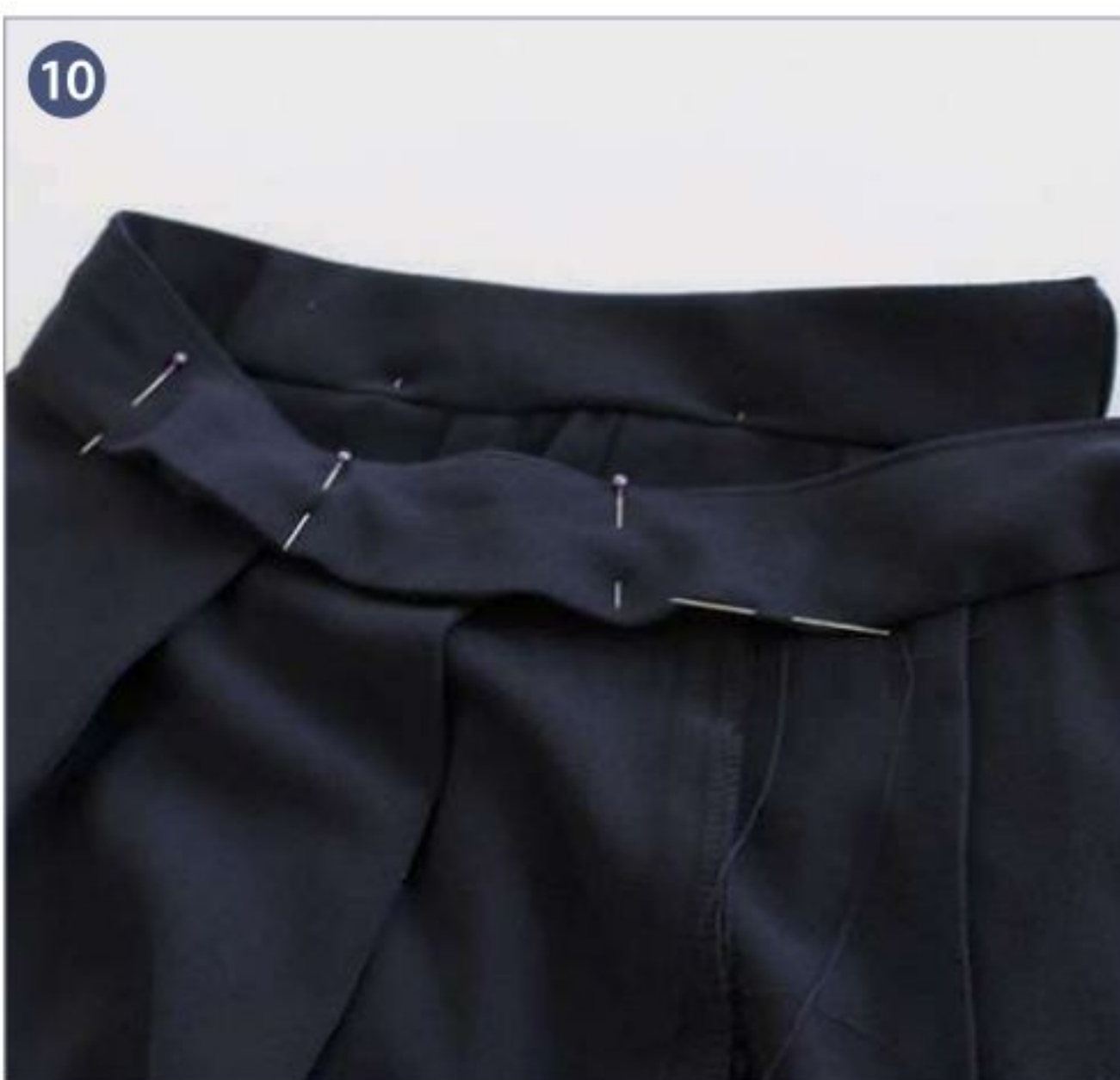
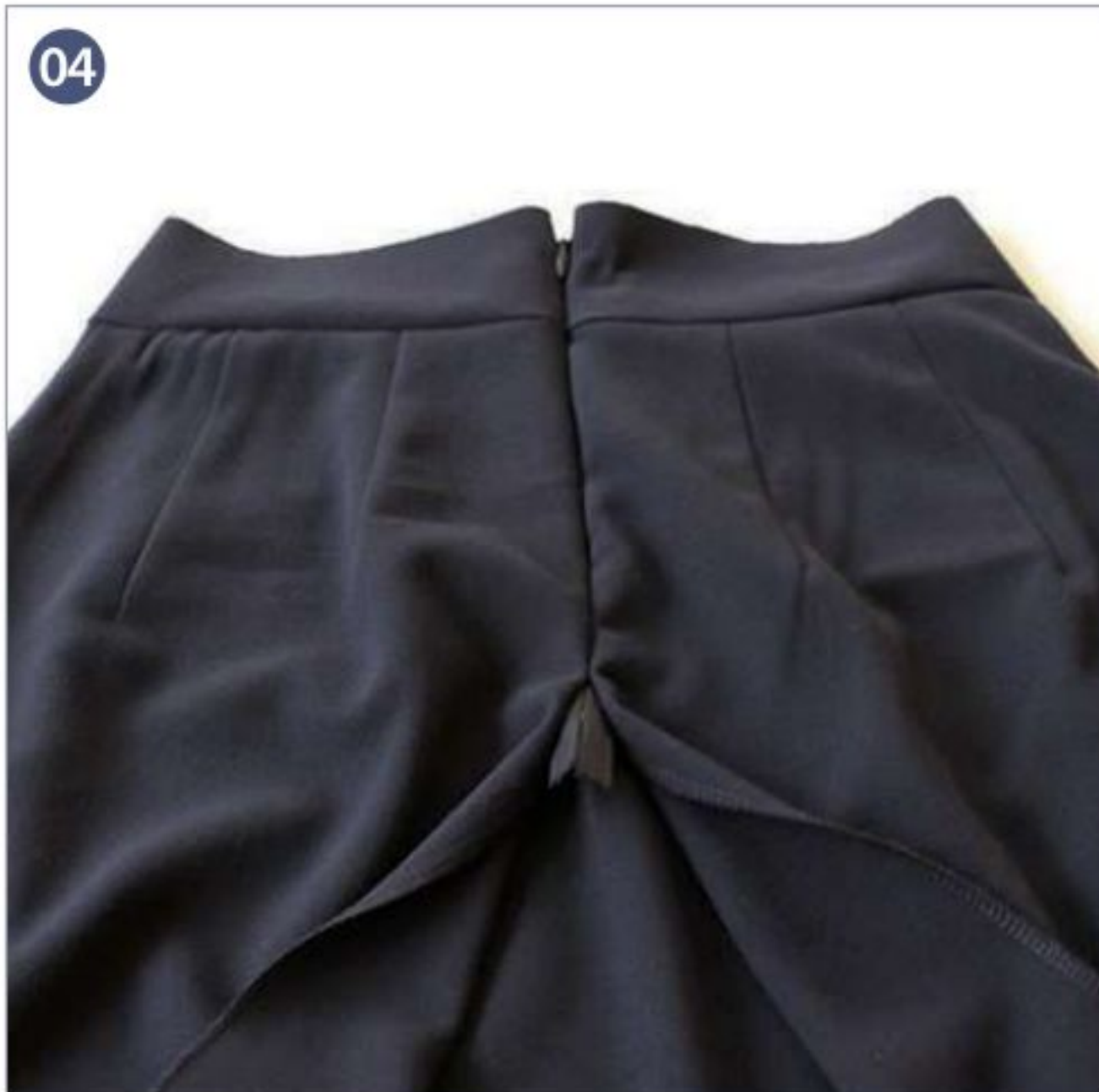
**Step seven** To close the little gap left at the bottom of the zip, swap your presser foot to a standard zip foot, which will allow you to get right up close to the zip teeth with your stitching. With the zip teeth still closed and with the hem furthest away from you, join your two lines of stitching together. Backstitch at the beginning and end.

Press the centre back seam open.

## ADD LINING (OPTIONAL)

If you'd like to add a lining to your skirt, now is the time to add it.

**Step one** Take your lining fabric and cut two back skirt pieces and one front skirt piece on the fold. Sew the pleats and darts in the same way as the main skirt, and sew the side seams



together, leaving the centre back open. Insert the lining inside the skirt, with wrong sides together, and line up the top skirt edges. Loosely pin in place.

**Step two** Mark the bottom of the zip on both sides of the centre back, using pins. Remove the lining from the skirt and sew up the centre back seam (with the fabric right sides together) to the pin mark, using a 1.5cm seam allowance. Press the seam open and continue to press the fabric up to the top in line with the seam, 1.5cm from the raw edge. Pin the folds in place on both sides of the zip and hand stitch down.

If desired, you could make the pockets from the lining fabric, to match.

#### FINISH THE WAISTBAND

**Step one** Take the remaining waistband piece (which is now the waistband facing piece) and pin it to the waistband you've already sewn. Make sure right sides are together and match up the notches. **06**

**Step two** Stitch the two waistband pieces together, and then press the seam allowance upwards. **07**

Understitch the seam allowance to the

waistband facing piece, approx 2mm away from the seam. This will help to keep the waistband facing in place and prevent it from rolling out. **08**

**Step three** To create a neat finish inside the skirt, press the waistband facing's long raw edge to the wrong side by 1.5cm. **09**

**Step four** Fold the waistband facing to the inside of the skirt, making sure all the seam allowances are hidden on the inside. Press and pin in place. Slip stitch the folded long edge of the waistband facing in place by hand for a neat finish. **10**

**Step five** At the open short ends of the waistband facing, fold the fabric to the wrong side by 1.5cm and press. Slip stitch the folded ends of the waistband facing to the zip tape, using tiny hand stitches.

#### HEM THE SKIRT

**Step one** Turn your skirt inside out and fold 1cm of fabric to the wrong side at the hem. Press and fold up a further 3cm. Press again, then pin in place. **11**

Stitch the hem in place, either by machine or by hand. If you added a lining to your skirt, hem this as well, making sure it sits approx

1.5cm above the main skirt hem.

Congratulations, that's your Tulip Skirt all sewn up! You could stop here, or add a trim.

#### ADD A LACE TRIM (OPTIONAL)

Jazzing up your skirt can be as easy as sewing a pretty trim around the hem. We've picked a lovely crocheted lace, but there are so many gorgeous ribbons out there – let your imagination run wild!

**Step one** To add a trim, sew up your skirt as given in the main pattern instructions. Once it's finished, decide where you want your trim to sit on your skirt – we chose to place it just above the hem, but around the waistband would also look lovely.

**Step two** Measure the circumference of the skirt at the place where you want to attach the trim. Cut the trim to this size, plus a few centimetres so you can neaten the ends. Pin the trim to your skirt, folding the raw short ends to the wrong side and making sure they look neat. **12**

Sew the trim in place by hand, using small stitches in a matching thread. It's as easy as that! Now your skirt is finished, turn the page for some super-styling ideas from Lisa.



Wear it with tights and it will take you through all the seasons.



Choose a bold colour fabric for impact on a night out.

SEW ALONG WITH LISA

STYLE YOUR SKIRT

This tulip skirt is such a versatile piece. Here's a few styling tips from Lisa to maximise its wearability. Have fun!

Share your style with Lisa using #simplysewingmag



Cropped plain or striped T-shirts work well and show off the skirt's shape.



Lightweight knitwear tucks in easily...

INCLUDES  
COVER  
GIFTS

# BACK ISSUES

ONLY  
**£5.99**  
INCLUDING  
FREE UK P&P



## ISSUE 6

Fresh prints for the home, must-try refashions, curtain-making basics and fun makes for kids.



## ISSUE 5

Alfresco accessories, expert tips and quick sews, as well as the first skirt sewalong with Lisa Comfort.



## ISSUE 4

Thrifty ideas, a sewing room revamp and summer sewing projects, plus a Roman blind workshop.



## ISSUE 3

Brights for the bedroom, new stitching skills, creative refashions and easy-to-sew projects.



## ISSUE 2

Contemporary dining, clever clothing upcycles, new season styles and a hand-stitching how-to.



## ISSUE 1

Colourful Easter ideas and beginner's projects, plus a useful guide to buying your first sewing machine.

## 2 WAYS TO ORDER

Visit the website: <http://craft.buysubscriptions.com/Back-Issues/>  
or call us on **01604 828745**

\*Lines open weekdays 8am-9.30pm, Saturdays 8am-4pm. Overseas please call +44 (0)1795 414 676. EUR price £6.99, ROW price £7.99 USA £7.99.  
All prices include p&p. All orders subject to availability. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Never miss an issue again, turn to page 34 and subscribe today!



**MAKE  
THE MOST OF  
YOUR PATTERNS!**

# KNOW YOUR SEWING PATTERN

**Preparing your fabric and cutting out your pattern correctly is just as important as the actual sewing. Follow our guide for superb results.**

**B**eginning a new sewing project is exciting, and, if you're anything like us, you'll be eager to get going on the sewing machine. However, before you even sew a single stitch, it's important to prepare both your pattern and fabric correctly to ensure your finished project is one to be proud of.

## WASHING YOUR FABRIC

This is one of the most vital steps in dressmaking. Fabric can shrink and its dye can run, so it's best to pre-wash it either by hand or machine depending on the fabric type and how you intend to wash the garment when it is made. This will ensure any shrinkage will have happened before you start to stitch.

## PRESSING YOUR FABRIC

It's important to press your fabric to ensure that it's flat and wrinkle free. This

makes it so much easier to lay out, pin, and cut accurately. Press cotton fabrics whilst still slightly damp; for other fabrics, test a small section first to get the temperature right.

## PREPARING THE PATTERN

Many patterns come with different style options. Read the guide sheet that comes with the pattern to work out which pieces you'll need for your chosen style – these are usually numbered. Roughly cut out all the pieces outside of the lines, as it's easier to do this first.

Press your pattern pieces to remove any folds and creases, so they will lie flat on your fabric. Use a dry iron on a low heat, but check the ink doesn't run on a small section.

## FINDING YOUR SIZE

Most patterns come in multiple sizes, with a different type of line used for each. The guide sheet or sleeve will have measurements on it to help you find out which size you are.

## CUTTING OUT THE PATTERN

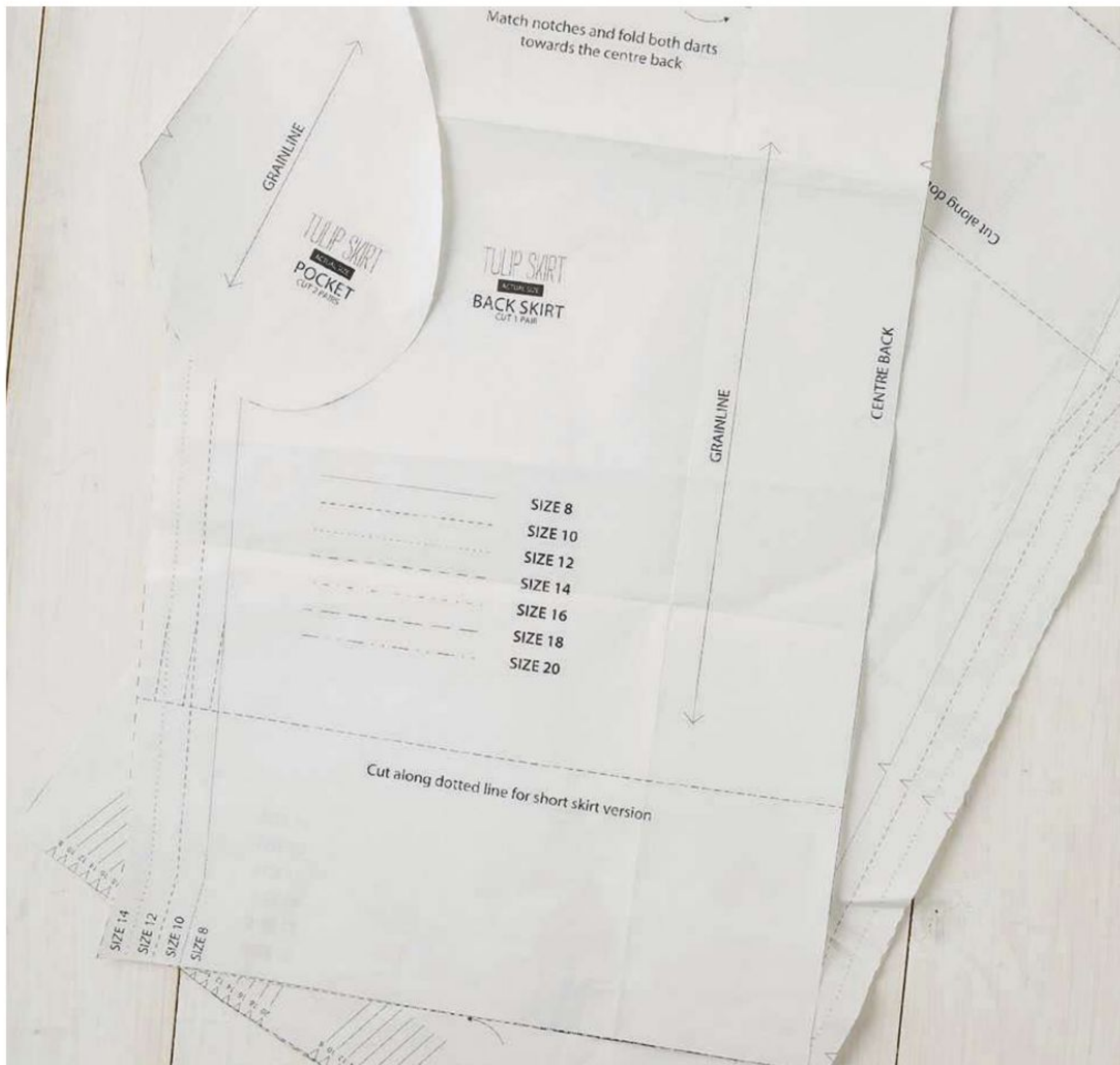
Cut along the lines on your pattern that correspond to your size. Take care to cut along the correct lines when you reach any fiddly curves, particularly on bodice pieces.

## CHOOSING A CUTTING LAYOUT

Pattern guides often have different cutting layouts for different width fabrics, or with nap or without nap. The nap is the textured surface of a fabric such as fur, fleece, velvet and corduroy. If you gently stroke the fabric, you'll feel the direction it lies flat in – this is the nap direction. It's good to always take notice of the nap, as it is also present on silks and satins, even though it will be less easy to spot. Use the 'with nap' layout if you have a print that only faces in one direction.

## LAYING OUT THE FABRIC

The best place to lay out your fabric is on



a table, as it's easier to lay out, pin and cut out your pattern pieces. If you don't have one big enough, then you can use the floor – just make sure it's clean! Smooth the fabric out so there are no wrinkles and creases and it's as flat as possible. Take a close look at your selected cutting layout and see how the fabric is arranged.

## UNDERSTANDING PATTERN TERMS

Your pattern's cutting layout will be labelled – these are the terms you will encounter most often.

**Selvages** The selvages are the woven edges of the fabric and are often labelled on the cutting layout.

**Wrong side and right side** The layout will show either the right side or the wrong side of the fabric. The right side is the front of the fabric. If it's a plain fabric, then sometimes it's hard to tell which this is, so just choose a side and stick to it.

**Single layer** Just place the fabric down as a single layer either right side or wrong side up, depending on the instructions.

**On the fold** Often you need to fold your fabric either right or wrong sides together, so follow the layout on the pattern sheet.

Some pattern pieces need to be cut on the fold so they will open out as a bigger symmetrical piece once cut. Press the fabric gently to make sure you pin your

pattern right up to the fold and to ensure it's straight. Other pattern pieces are pinned to a folded piece of fabric so that once cut you get two separate pieces.

## LAYING OUT THE PATTERN

Following the cutting layout you have chosen, lay the pattern pieces in the order shown. The layout will show you if they need to be right or wrong side down.

Most patterns include a standard 1.5cm ( $\frac{5}{8}$ in) seam allowance on the pattern pieces, but check whether your pattern includes this. If you need to add a seam allowance yourself then make sure you space your pattern pieces far enough apart to allow for this.

Once you are happy with the layout, check to make sure that the grain lines of the pattern are parallel with the selvages. You can judge this by eye but it's better to measure to be sure. To do this, simply measure from one end of the grain line to the selvedge, then from the other end of the grainline to the selvedge, making sure the measurement is the same. You can now pin your pattern pieces in place.

## CUTTING MARKINGS

All the markings on your pattern pieces need to be transferred to the fabric. Don't miss out this step, as these are really

important for matching up fabric pieces later on and for positioning elements such as darts and pockets.

**Notches** These are the triangular marks on the cutting lines and are used for matching fabric pieces accurately. Cut small triangles to mirror the notches on the pattern outside the cutting line.

**Dots** These indicate where darts, zips or pockets are going to be positioned. The placement of the zip is usually indicated with a zigzag line. Mark these on your fabric with a fabric marker, pins or tacking.

## CUTTING OUT YOUR PIECES

Use a sharp pair of large dressmaker scissors. These have a long blade, which will give you a much smoother cutting action and therefore greater accuracy. Some sewists prefer to cut with the pattern on the left and some with it on the right, so try both to see which gives you greatest accuracy. If there are any small, fiddly sections then use a pair of smaller, sharp scissors to cut these parts accurately. Cut smoothly along all the cutting lines, snipping the triangular notches as you go.

## READY TO SEW

Keep all your pattern pieces pinned on the fabric until you need them. Now you are ready to start sewing!



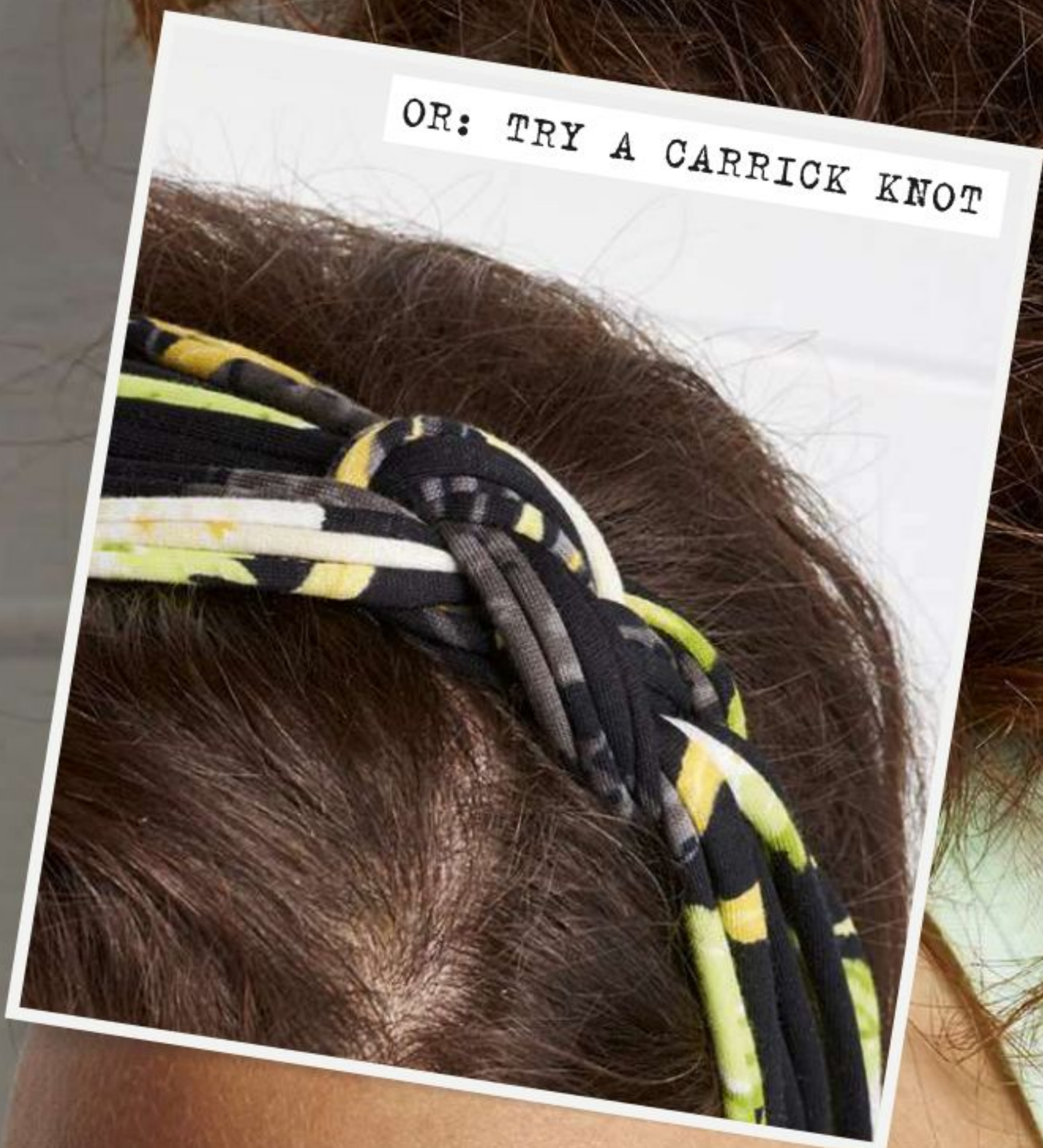
# HAPPY HAIR DAY

Tame your tresses with **Jennie Jones'** sailor's knot and turban-style headbands in bold floral prints.

FYI:

*You can wear your  
turban headband  
as a scarf too!*

OR: TRY A CARRICK KNOT



# TRANSFORM A TEE

## YOU WILL NEED

- 2 XL men's T-shirts
- Basic sewing kit

Designer Jennie Jones says: "These easy T-shirt transformations are quick solutions to bad hair days and great for festivals or the beach. I've opted for a big floral print that's on trend for this summer."

### TURBAN HEADBAND

**Step one** Take an XL men's T-shirt and cut a horizontal tube – mine is 15cm (6in). **01**

**Step two** Take the tube and, holding both ends, twist them twice to make a figure of eight shape. **02**

**Step three** Bring the ends together and you'll have your finished headband. **03**

### SAILOR'S KNOT HEADBAND

**Step one** Cut four vertical strips approx 5cm (2in) wide through the front and back of the T-shirt. **04**

Trim off the top and bottom seams so that you now have eight strips.

**Step two** Pull the strips so they roll up, then section into two lots of four. Create a loop with one lot of strips and a U-shape with the other. Overlay the U-shape on top of the loop. **05**

**Step three** Create a Carrick Knot by threading first the U-shape ends then the loop ends under and over each other. Look closely at the photo to see in which order this is done. **06**

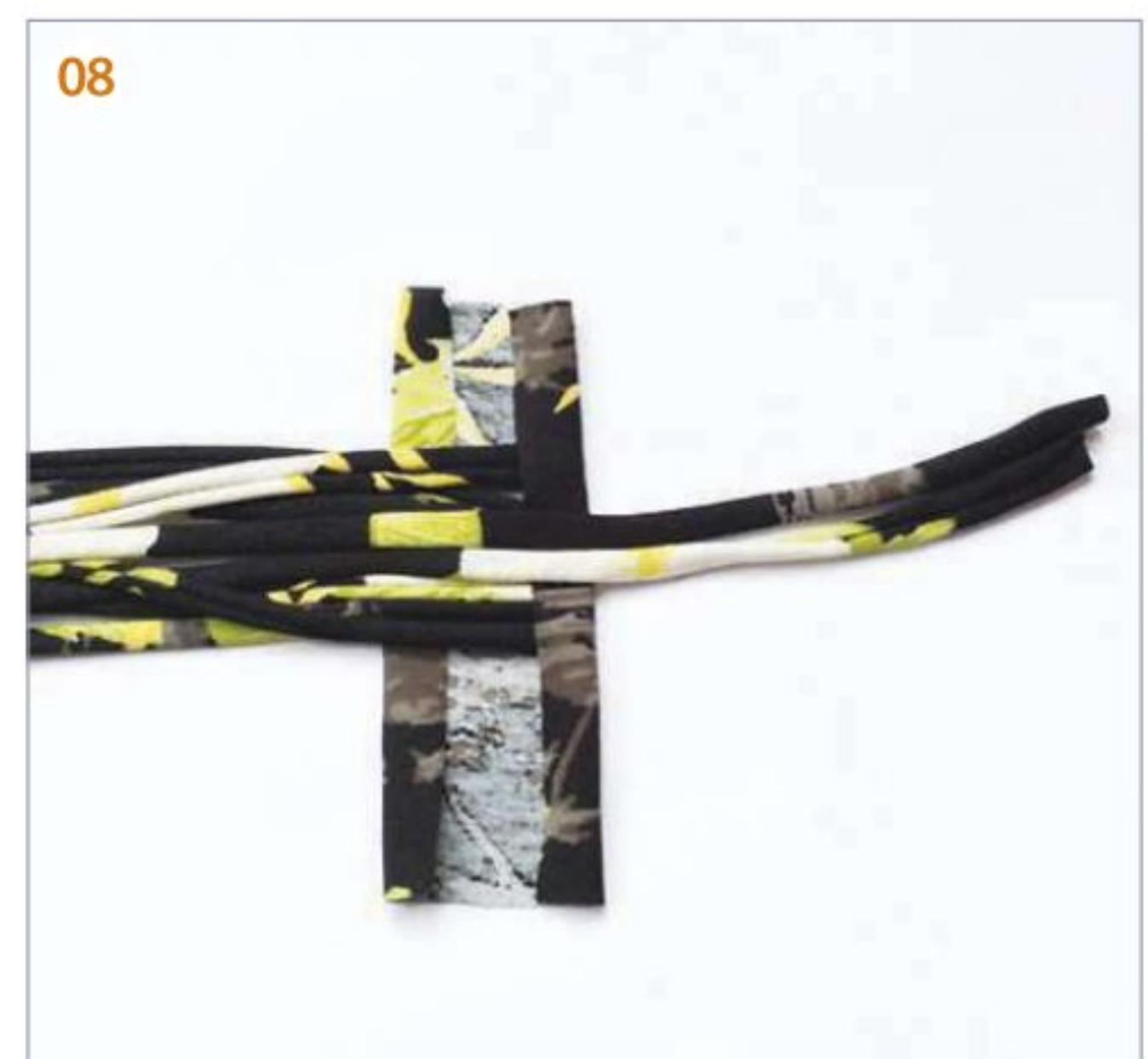
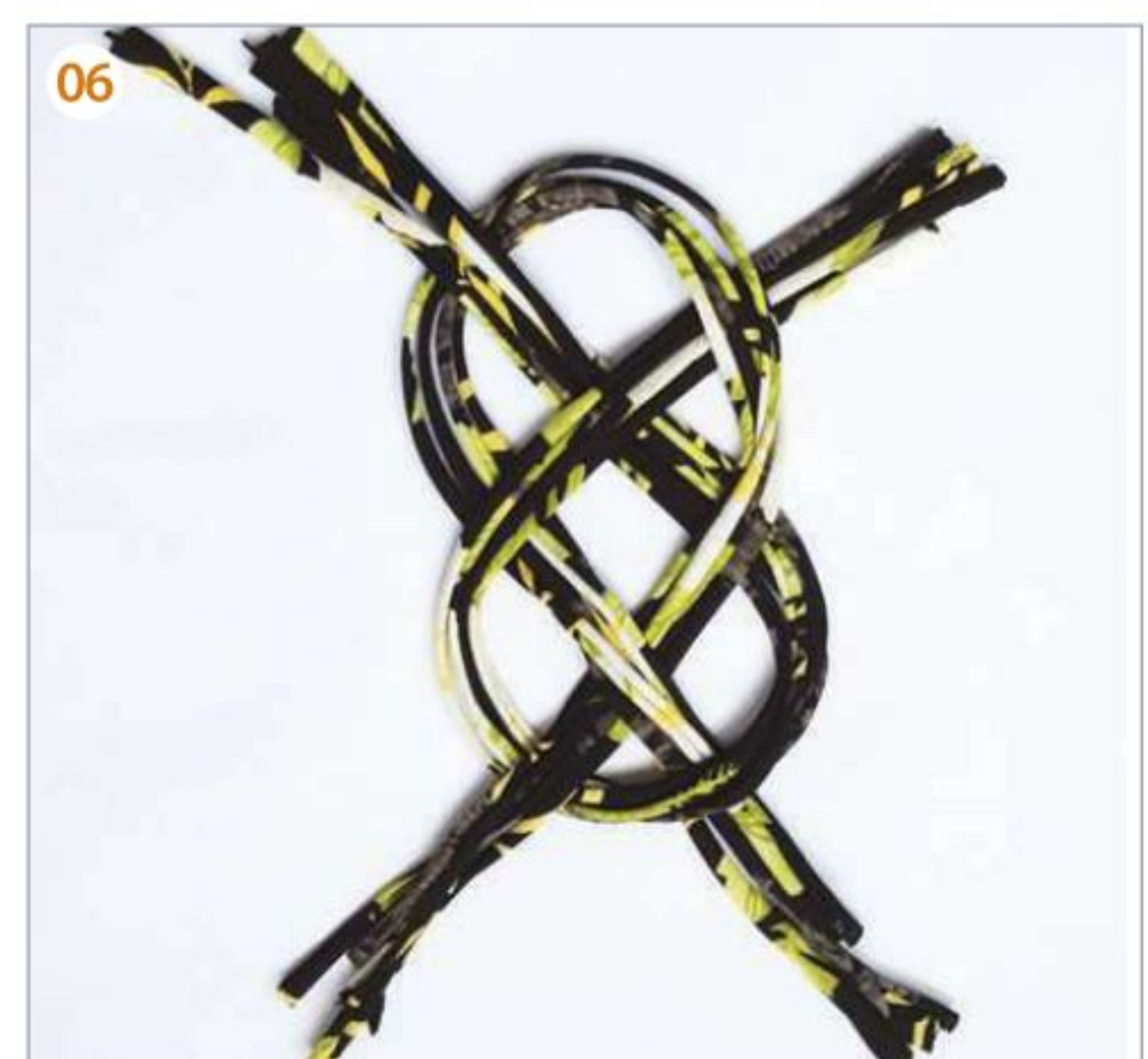
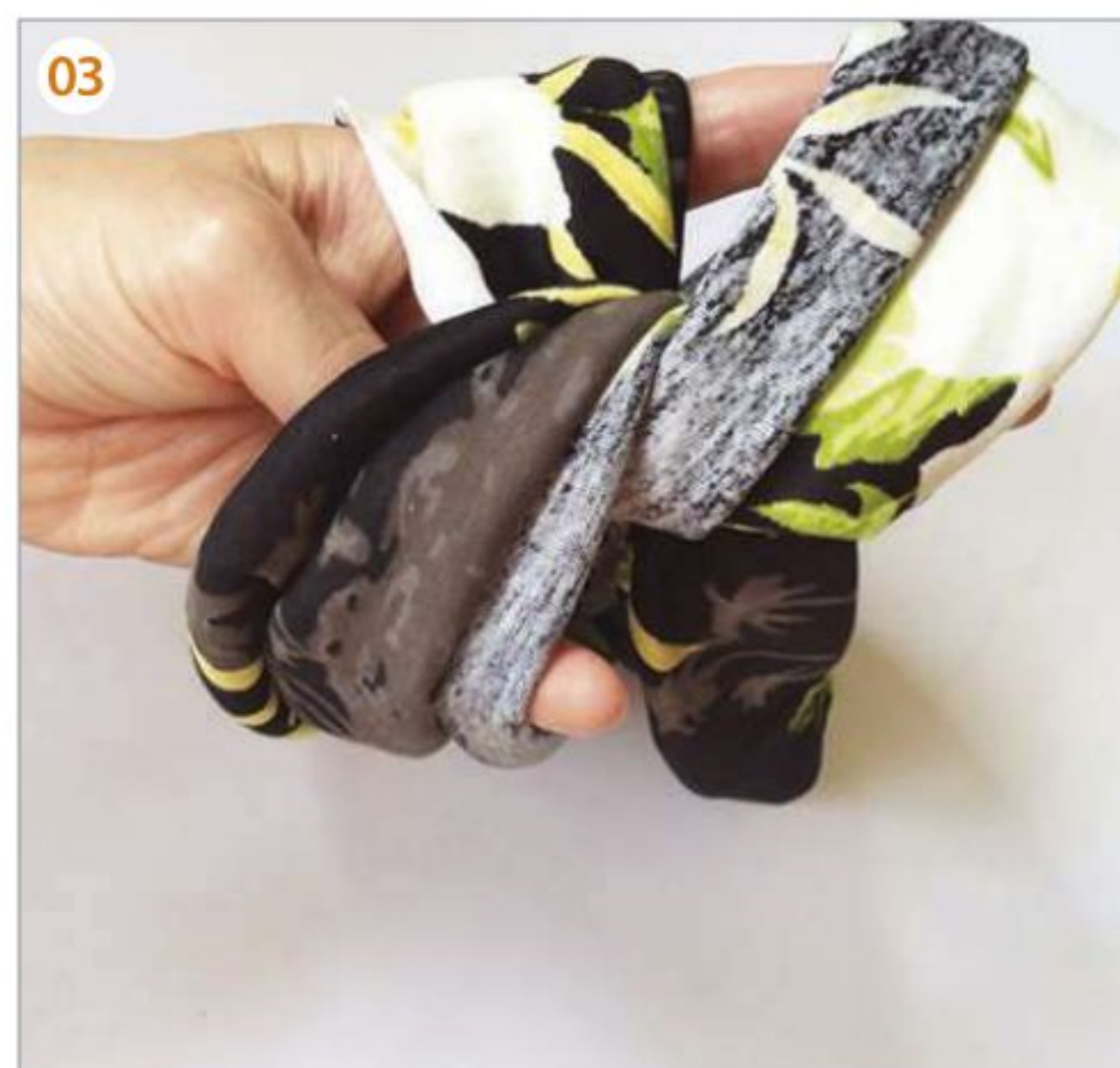
**Step four** Making sure you keep the whole knot flat, hold all four ends and slowly and carefully pull them gently – this will create the knot. **07**

**Step five** Try your headband on and cut the strips so there is a gap of around 5cm (2in) at the back when on - this will close once the headband is tied. Leave two strips 15cm (6in) longer than the others from each bunch. These will be the ties which you'll use for tying your headband on when you've finished.

**Step six** Cut a binding piece of fabric, 6x8cm (2 $\frac{3}{8}$ x3 $\frac{1}{8}$ in) and turn the long edges under by 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ in) to the wrong side. Place the short strips flat inside, tucking them under one turned over edge. **08**

**Step seven** Fold the binding piece round the short strips, turning the short ends under, then pin and sew into place to secure the strips. Repeat with the strips at the other end of your headband.

**Step eight** Tie the long tie ends together and your headband is now ready to wear.



# PINUP

Challenge fabric waste  
with upcycled  
accessories

Refashioning, upcycling, revamping – whatever you want to call it, we’re always excited to stumble across makers who love it as much as we do, and Saako Design is one such find. This accessories company, based in Barcelona and San Francisco, was created by award-winning graphic designers Inês Brito and Joana Gouveia. Passionate about ecologically conscious fashion, their design team upcycle excess fabrics from garment factories in Portugal into unique pieces like this braided scarf. See more at [www.saakodesign.com](http://www.saakodesign.com).

**NEW SPECIAL PRICE OF £11 PER METRE**

# ROOFTOP FABRICS

Rooftop Fabrics are proud to offer our ever expanding range of fabrics, including over 100 different designs of the highest quality Plush style fabric plus various Cuddlesoft, Jersey and Cotton Print fabrics!

[www.rooftopfabrics.com](http://www.rooftopfabrics.com)  
**01420 260036**

**THE Make & Do Emporium**

[www.mymakeanddo.co.uk](http://www.mymakeanddo.co.uk)  
 83 Sandy Park Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3PG

# DOWNLOAD YOUR ISSUE OF SIMPLY SEWING NOW!

Buy a digital edition of *Simply Sewing* and have it ready to read whenever you want! Subscribe today and download directly onto your tablet or smartphone.

To buy your digital copy of *Simply Sewing*, visit [www.simplysewingmag.com/digital](http://www.simplysewingmag.com/digital)  
 On Android or PC/Mac? Find us on [www.zinio.com/simplysewing](http://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





# CHAIR BACK CADDY

Keep your sewing kit neat and tidy in a handy four-pocket chair caddy. Storage has never looked so pretty!



## YOU WILL NEED

- Main fabric: 80x93cm (32x37in)
- Contrast fabric: 52x73cm (21x29in)
- Iron-on interfacing: 96x96cm (38x38in)
- Fusible wadding: 35x35cm (14x14in)
- Bias Binding: 2.5cm (1in) wide x 3 metres (118in) to match fabric
- Cotton tape: 60cm (24in), for straps
- Hook and loop fastening: 7.5cm (3in)

## CUTTING OUT

Cut the main fabric into the following pieces:  
 Back: 2 pieces 35x35cm (13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in)  
 Pocket Two: 2 pieces 26x45cm (10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x17<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in)  
 Pocket Four: 2 pieces 15x35cm (6x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in)  
 Cut the contrast fabric into the following pieces:  
 Pocket One: 2 pieces 30x35cm (11<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in)  
 Pocket Three: 2 pieces 20x35cm (7<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in)  
 Iron on interfacing: Cut one piece to the same size as each of the pockets.

**Step one** Iron the interfacing to the back of one piece of each pocket. Iron the fusible wadding to the back of one back piece. **01**  
**Step two** Place the two fabric pieces for each pocket wrong sides (WS) together (the interfacing will be sandwiched between them) and sew bias binding across the top of each of them.  
**Step three** Using a small plate for a template, cut each of the corners of the back section to round them off.  
**Step four** Take pocket one and place pocket two across the front. Pocket two is wider so that it can be pleated to add more space for storing things. Pin, then tack down each side of the pocket, close to the raw edge. **02**  
**Step five** Fold the loose fabric into equal pleats and sew the edges of the pleats together. **03**  
**Step six** Cut the cotton tape in half to make two straps. Stitch a strip of bias binding down the

centre of each strap as a decorative feature. Stitch a piece of hook and loop fastening to each end of the straps with the hook side on one end and the loop side on the other.  
**Step seven** Position the straps onto the back of the bag and pin into place. Measure the position of the straps against the chair to make sure they are in the right place then stitch. **04**  
**Step eight** Turn the back fabric over to the right side then lay all the pockets in place. Pin, then tack all the way round, close to the edge. **05**  
**Step nine** Pin the bias binding all the way around your caddy to hold the pockets in place and neaten the edges. Start and finish at the centre of the lower edges, overlapping the short ends. Now stitch the binding into place all the way round.  
**Step ten** Hand sew a piece of hook and loop tape inside gusseted pocket two to stop it gaping and keep the contents secure. **06**  
 You can sew a button onto the bottom pocket as a divider if you wish.



This project is from *Sew Useful* by Debbie Shore, £9.99, published by Search Press. Find out more at [www.searchpress.com](http://www.searchpress.com).

# WORKSHOP

## PATTERN MATCHING

*Every issue our sewists present projects for your or your home.*

We just can't get enough of prints and patterns. Florals, geometrics, stripes, checks – you name it, we love it. We especially enjoy filling our homes with prints – it's so inspiring and a great way to add personality to a room. Our lovely bed runner from page 26 is a prime example; just looking at its delicate pastel pattern makes us feel cheerful. Accurate pattern matching is key to giving projects like this a professional finish – we've matched up the print so you can barely see the seams, and this is something you can easily achieve yourself. All it takes is a little care and know-how, the latter of which we've got covered in our two-page guide to pattern matching overleaf.

# HOW TO PATTERN MATCH

IF YOU'RE MAKING CURTAINS or other soft furnishings and need to join patterned fabric pieces together, then it's important to match them properly. This does take a little time and patience, but by following the correct method your fabric will match exactly and you won't be able to see the joins.

You need to pattern match whenever your finished item needs to be wider than a fabric width. For most items such as curtains, blinds and bed linen, it's best not to join fabric widths down the centre of the finished item, as it can look messy. Instead, keep a whole fabric width in the centre and join two equal-width lengths of fabric down the sides to make up the full required width.

## VERTICAL PATTERN REPEATS

Before you buy your fabric you'll need to work out how much you need, and this is where the pattern repeat comes in. Fabrics can have a vertical pattern repeat as well as a horizontal one. The vertical pattern repeat is the one you should pay attention to when matching lengths of fabric – it's the measurement of one whole pattern as it is printed down the fabric. Many fabrics have their pattern repeats listed or labelled on them, but it's always a good idea to check this yourself to make doubly sure.

To measure the pattern repeat, lay the fabric out flat and mark a prominent point of the pattern with a pin. Find the next place that this is repeated and mark this with a pin too. The space between these pins is the pattern repeat. You'll need to buy fabric in whole pattern repeats so you can be sure that the cut widths will join up. The pattern at the top of each width needs to start in exactly the same place.

For example, if you need to cut a length of 150cm and the pattern repeat is 47cm, then you need to buy 188cm. This is 4x47cm, as three pattern repeats wouldn't be enough. Obviously, this does mean that you will have some fabric wastage, but it ensures your pattern will be matched perfectly (and you'll have some offcuts left over for other projects!).

## HORIZONTAL PATTERN REPEATS

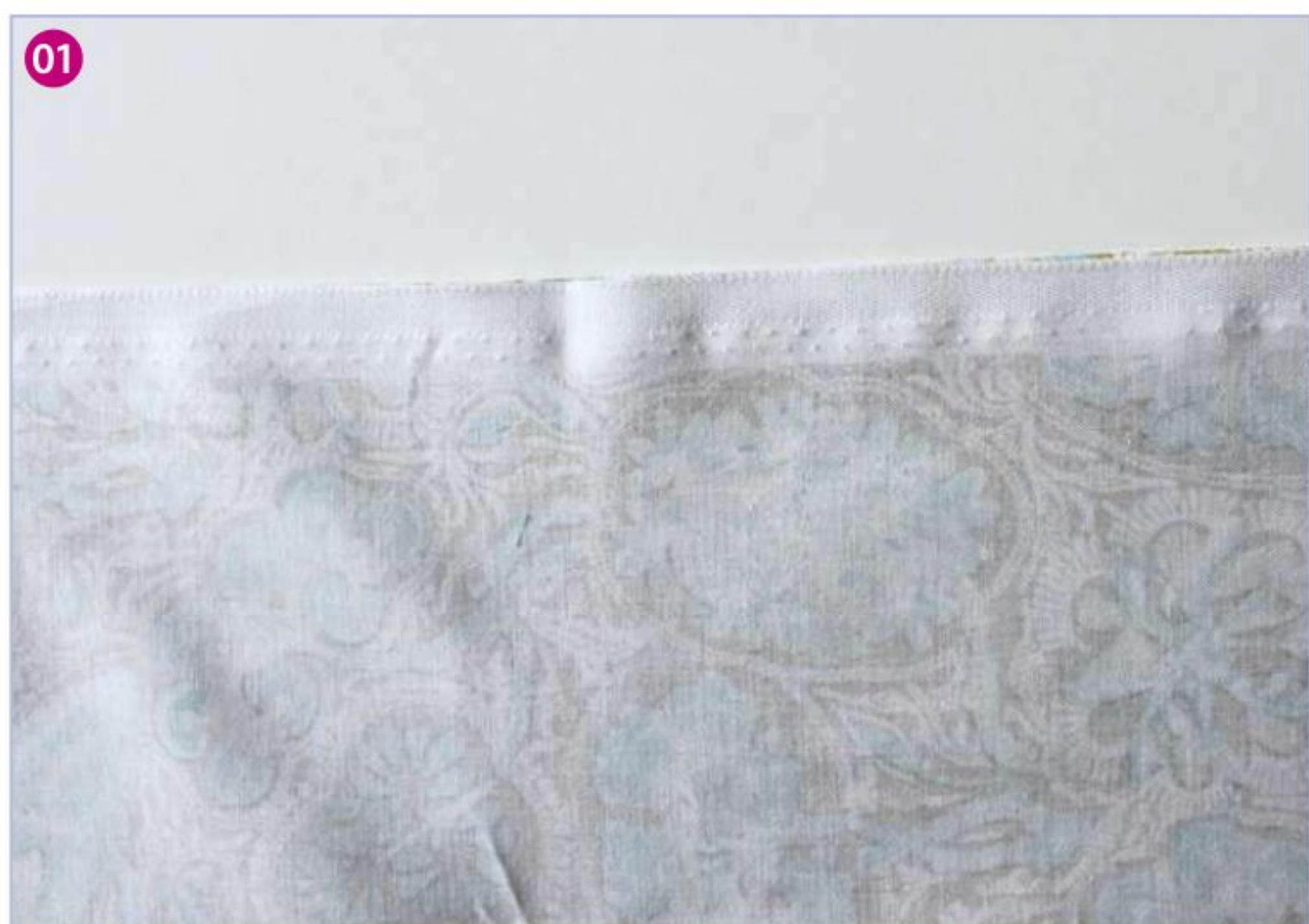
The horizontal pattern repeat is the width of the pattern as it is repeated across the fabric. This is important to know when you are folding your fabric over to match up (see step two). When you're calculating your finished curtain width, it's worth checking the horizontal pattern repeat so you can be sure your joined fabric fits.

## LARGE PATTERNS

If you have a large pattern, then it's best to have a full pattern at the hemline and a part pattern at the heading. This is because the heading is mostly gathered so is less noticeable and your eye will be more drawn to the hem. So, in this case, cut your fabric lengths from the bottom of the pattern up and cut in exactly the same place each time.

## LOOSE WEAVES

Loose weaves are trickier to pattern match as they are less stable and shift as you're working with them. Try spraying the fabric edges with spray starch before you match, pin and cut. Tacking your fabric lengths together as well as pinning will help to keep them stable.



**Step one** Cut each length of fabric to the measurement you need, making sure that you cut the top or bottom (if it's a large pattern repeat) of each length at exactly the same point of the pattern. You are now ready to join the lengths together and begin to pattern match.

Lay one piece of fabric right sides (RS) up and place the other piece RS down on top, matching the top edge and selvages. If you are joining a half width to a whole width, always join selvedge edges rather than the cut edge. This will give you a much neater finish as the fabric will lie flatter due to the more tightly woven edge nearest the selvedge.

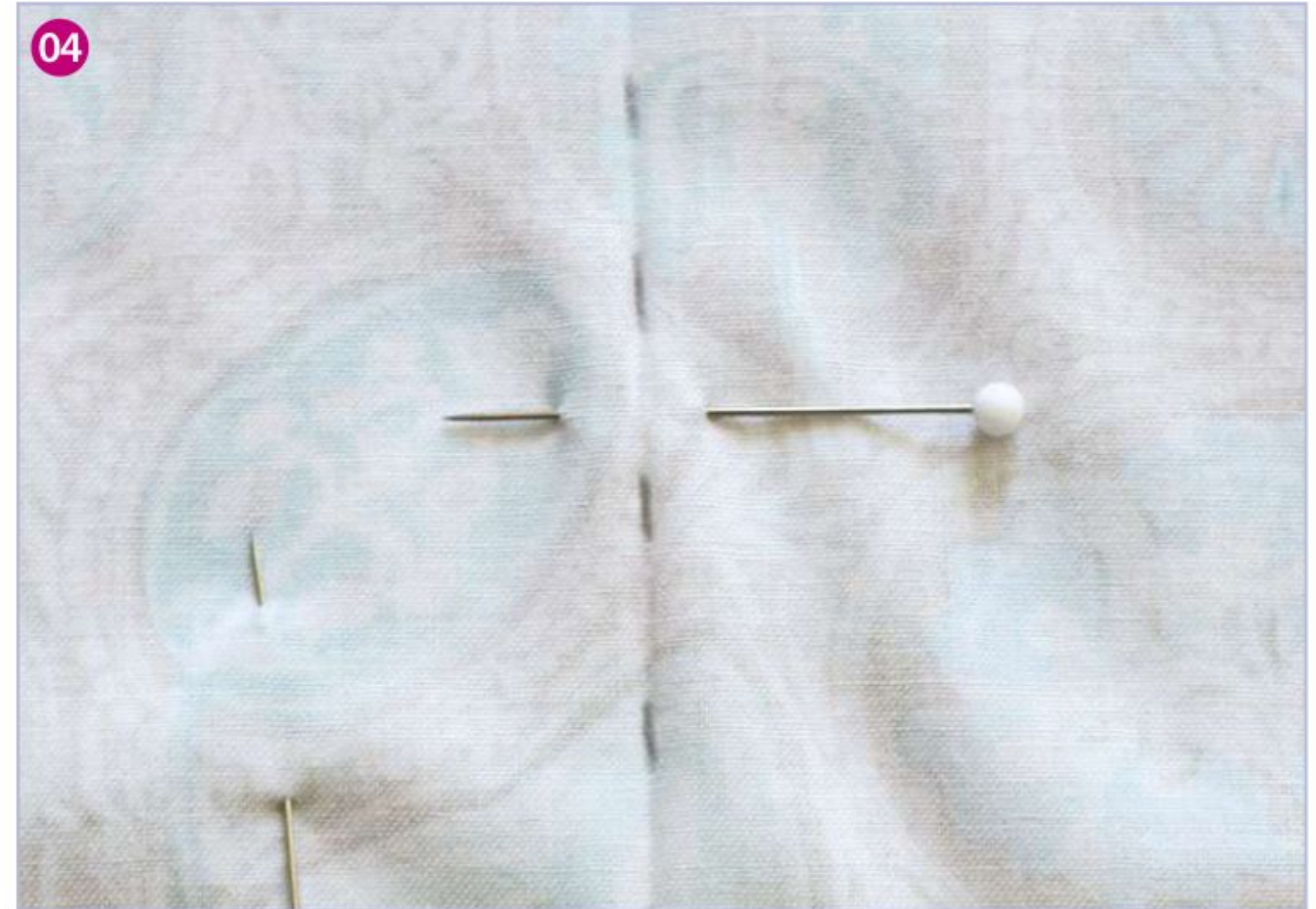


**Step two** When pattern matching, it is best to start in the centre of the fabric length, then pattern match up to the top then down to the bottom. This will give you a more accurate match as you are starting from a central matching point which is more stable than the cut fabric ends.

Fold back the top piece of fabric until you can see the pattern matching up with the bottom piece. You may have to move it up or down a few millimetres and play around with it so that it matches perfectly. Some fabric will need folding back more than others, depending on the type of pattern. It's worth taking your time to get the best result, trust us!



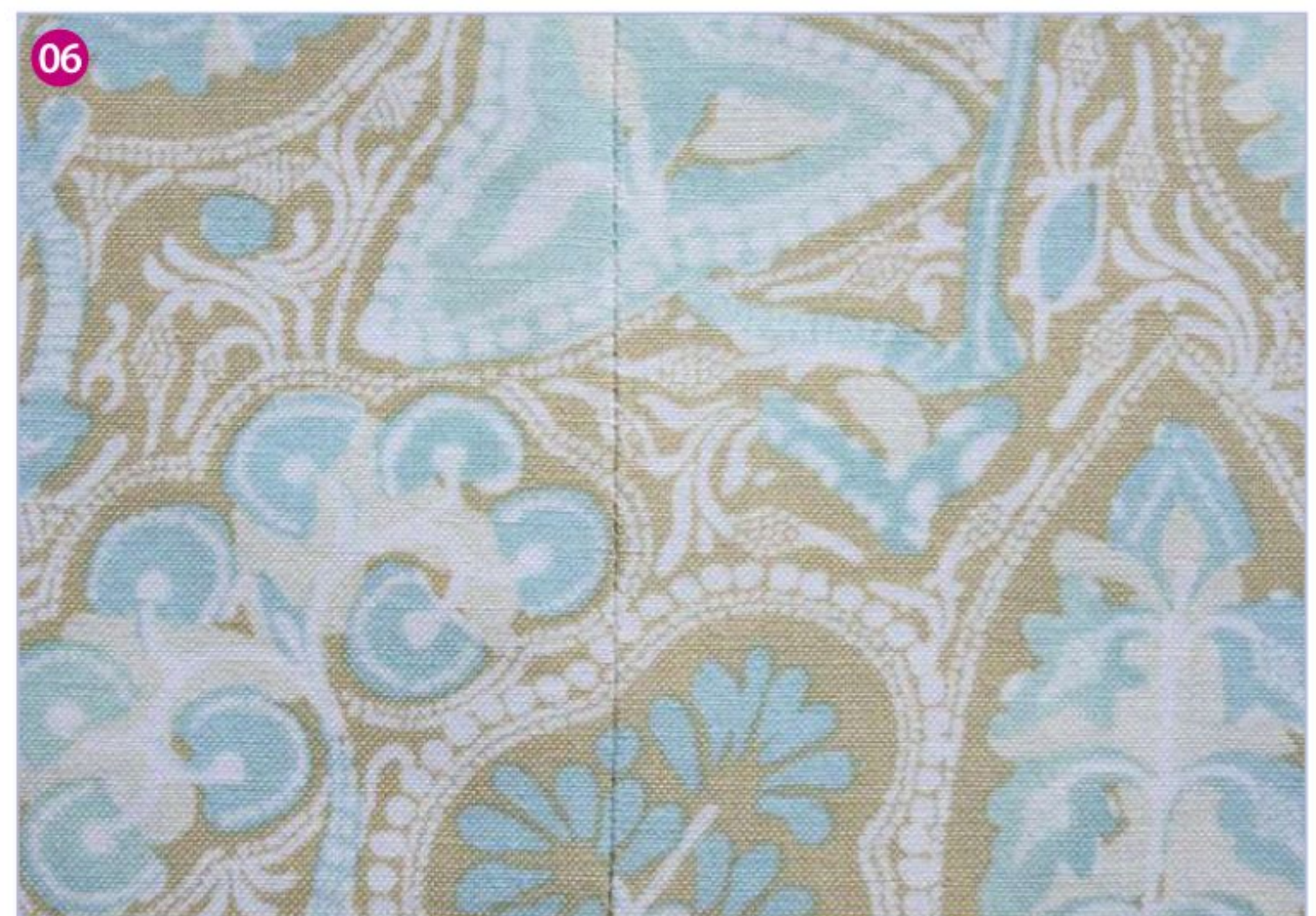
**Step three** Smooth the fabric out and pin through all three layers of the folded top fabric and single layer bottom fabric, just in from the folded edge. Working from this pin you have placed in the centre, fold the top fabric back the same amount all the way up to the top of the fabric then all the way down to the bottom. You can do this by eye, matching the pattern as you go. Finger press this fold really firmly so it has a good strong crease and stays in place. Take the pin out from the centre and unfold the top fabric, and you'll see a crease on the wrong side (WS). Mark a dashed line along it using an air erasable pen or tailor's chalk so you can see it to sew along.



**Step four** Now come back to the centre of your fabric edge and fold the crease back on the top fabric, and, again, move it into position to check the folded edge matches the pattern exactly on the bottom fabric. Making sure the fabric stays absolutely still, fold the top flap back down again. Pin both layers of fabric together through the crease that you've marked, at right angles to the selvedge – this will stop the fabric from slipping. Continue this up to the top of the fabric, turning the flap over, matching the pattern and placing a pin about every 5cm (2in). You can also place further pins vertically between each pin a little further in from the fold to stabilise the two fabric layers.



**Step five** You can now sew the two fabrics together along the dashed line you have marked earlier. It's really important to keep the two fabrics still so they don't move around as you stitch. This is where you'll find that plenty of pinning really counts! When you remove the pins as you sew, do this gently so as not to shift the fabric. It's possible to stitch over the pins when you reach them, but you can only do this when they are placed horizontally and it's important to stitch slowly as your machine needle can catch them at an angle and snap.

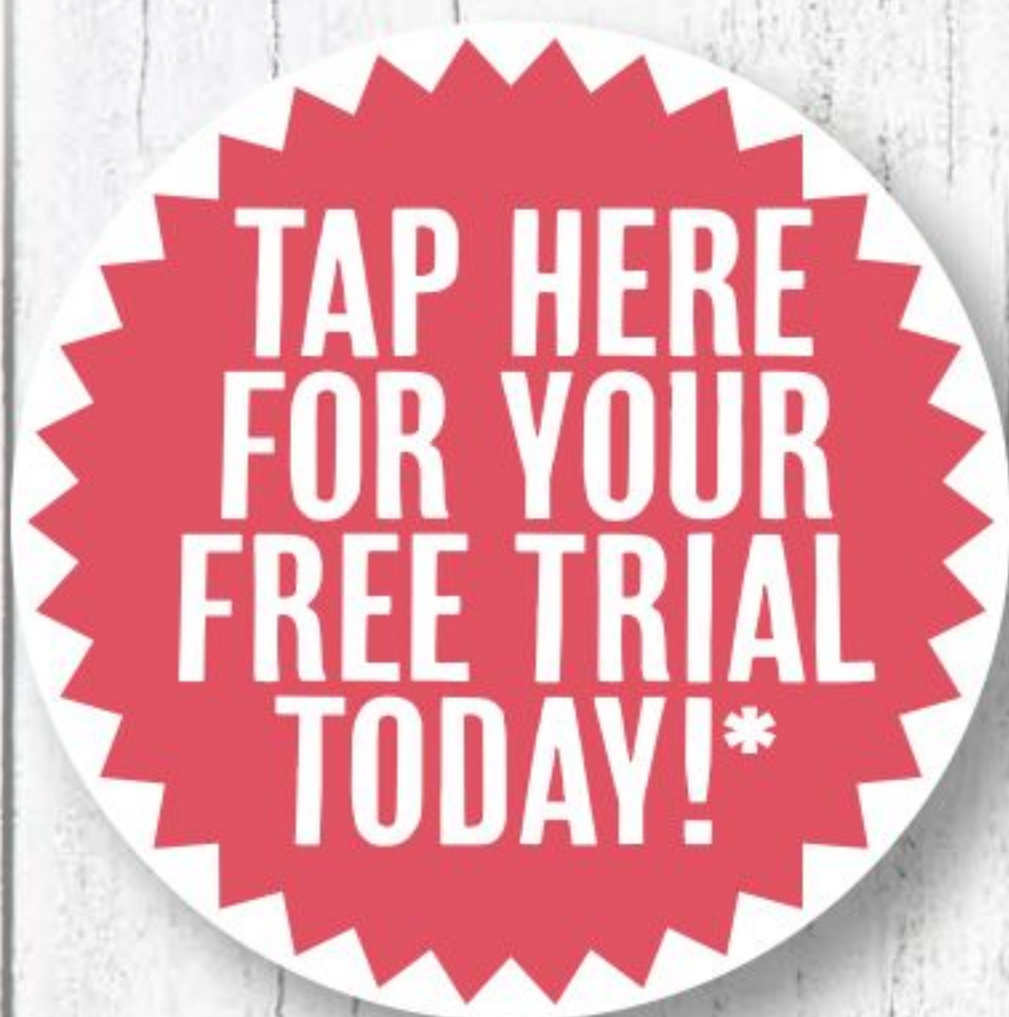


**Step six** Now for the moment of truth! Unfold the seam and press it open. Turn the joined fabrics over to the RS and press again, pulling the fabrics apart gently to make sure you don't have any small folds or creases near the seam. You should now have a perfectly matched seam; once your matched-up fabric is made into curtains, blinds or soft furnishings, you won't be able to see the joins. Once you have checked you have a perfect join, trim the two seams to remove the selvedges so that the seam lies flatter, and you're done!

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](http://www.simplysewingmag.com/digital)

On Android or PC/Mac? Find us on  
[www.zinio.com/simplysewing](http://www.zinio.com/simplysewing)



Download on the  
**App Store**

GET THE MAGAZINE ON  
**Google play**

**nook**

**zinio**<sup>™</sup>

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

# THE GUIDE

## KNOW HOW

*You'll find essential information and useful stitches and techniques in these pages.*

### SEAM RIPPER

You'll find this odd-looking tool invaluable for cutting through seams and removing stitches. The hook slips under the stitches while the sharp blade at the back cuts the thread. Replace it if it's getting blunt – they're cheap.

### MARKING TOOLS

Tailor's chalk and water- or air-erasable pens and pencils make pinning and tacking much easier as you can see where you're meant to be sewing. They come in different colours to contrast with your fabric.

### ROTARY CUTTER

If you want to get into patchwork or dressmaking, these make short work of cutting out a lot of fabric and pattern pieces. Always cut away from yourself as they are very sharp. You'll need a cutting mat and special ruler to use these.

### PINS AND NEEDLES

Indispensable stainless steel pins have a sharp point. Invest in glass-headed pins too if you do a lot of sewing. Needles come in many forms – sharps are the most useful for hand sewing, though machines need their own types.

### SCISSORS

Get a large pair of scissors just for cutting fabric. Some are angled so the bottom blade sits flat to a surface, useful for cutting large pieces of fabric. Buy a small pair of scissors or snips for detail work.

### THREAD

You can hand stitch with almost any thread, but for machines, your thread needs to be strong enough not to break. Sew-all/all-purpose thread is 100% polyester and a good place to start.

### TAPE MEASURE

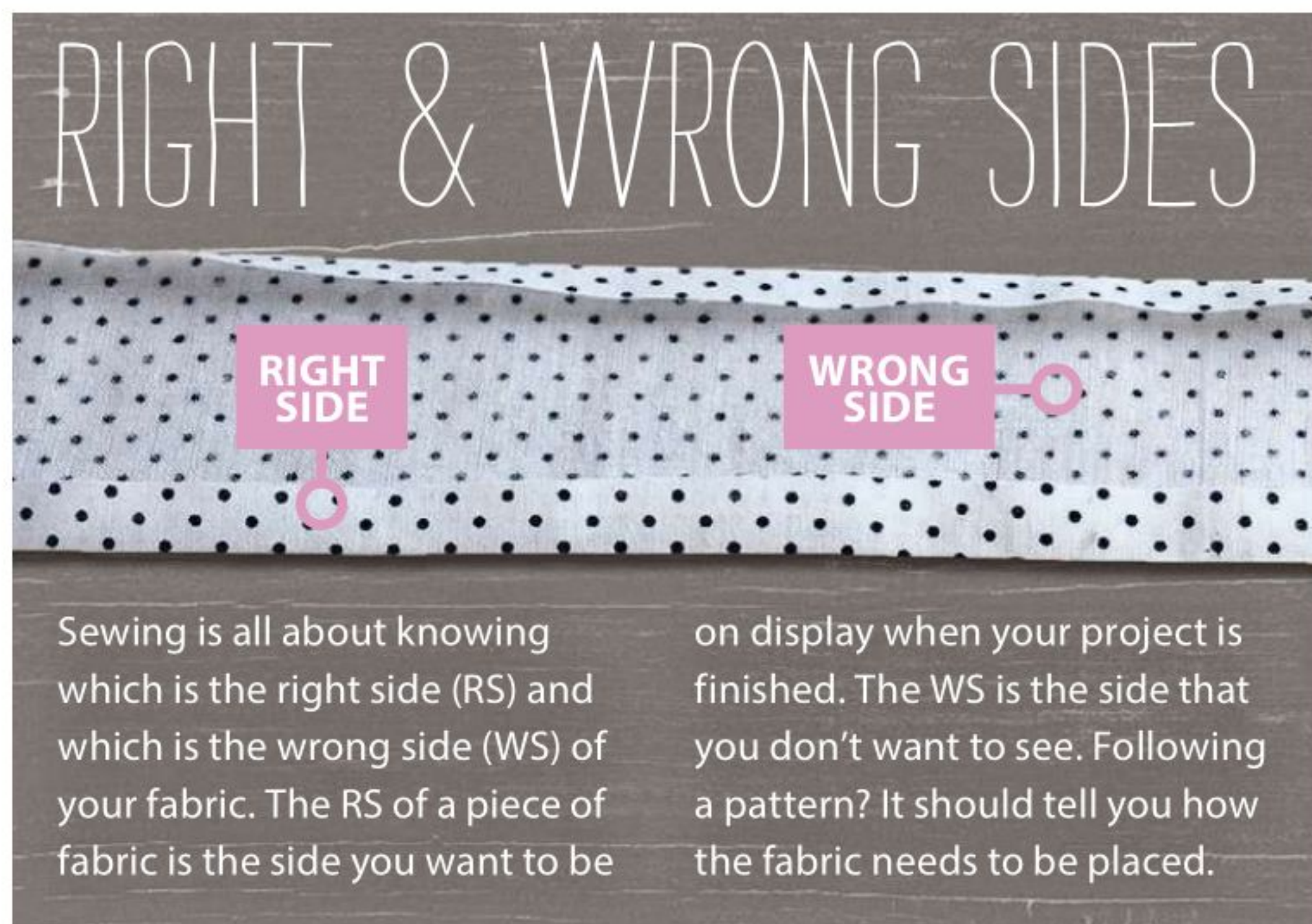
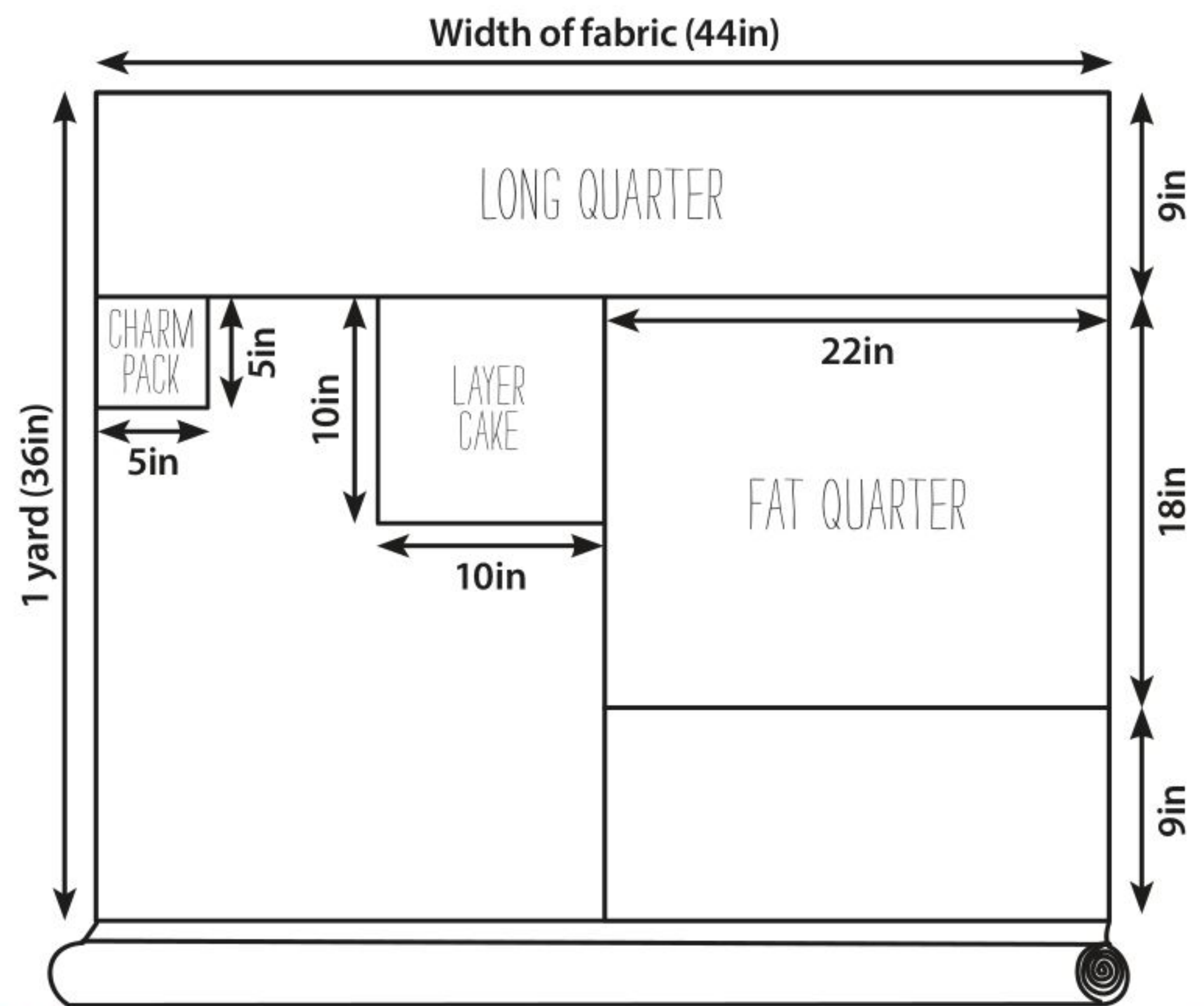
Spend a bit extra and get one with a plastic coating that won't stretch, to keep your measuring accurate. Ones with metal ends are useful for dressmaking and you can get extra-long ones for patchwork.



## HOW TO BUY FABRIC

The measurements by which fabric is sold can seem baffling when you first hit the shops. If you're buying fabric off a roll (or 'bolt') then you'll usually buy it by the yard (36in/91cm) or the metre (100cm/39in). This is only the length of the fabric you're buying – the width depends on the width of the roll, which can be a yard wide but is also often 44in (112.5cm) wide, or even sometimes a little longer. Check

the information on the end of the cardboard tube inside the fabric or ask the shop to measure it for you so you can be sure how much you're buying. In the UK you'll buy fabric in centimetres or metres, rather than inches and yards, but this diagram still applies to the proportions. You can also buy pre-cut pieces, such as fat quarters, charm packs and jelly rolls, which save time measuring and cutting regular shapes and sizes.



Sewing is all about knowing which is the right side (RS) and which is the wrong side (WS) of your fabric. The RS of a piece of fabric is the side you want to be

on display when your project is finished. The WS is the side that you don't want to see. Following a pattern? It should tell you how the fabric needs to be placed.

## SEAM ALLOWANCES

Most patterns tell you what allowances to use.



Tacking makes seaming easier.

To sew two fabrics together, you layer them up with right sides facing, then sew along one side – open them up and they will be neatly joined down one side. The excess fabric on the wrong side is called the seam allowance. The width of this depends on where you place your stitch line – the closer to the raw edge you stitch, the narrower the seam allowance.

## MACHINE NEEDLE SIZES

Choosing the right needle to suit your fabric.

SIZE	WHAT'S IT USED FOR?
70	Delicate fabrics: silk and chiffon.
80	Cotton, linen, wool, polyester.
90	Cotton, linen, wool, polyester.
100	Sturdy fabric such as cotton canvas, drills and twills, heavyweight wool, heavy linens and denim.
110	Sturdy fabric such as cotton canvas, drills and twills, heavyweight wool, heavy linens and denim.
Ballpoint or jersey	For jersey and other knitted fabrics, tends to have a blunt tip so it doesn't catch the fine threads.
Leather	Has a built-in knife to cut through the leather. (If you use one, you will also need a walking foot to slide over the leather or a special presser foot which has a Teflon sole.)
Industrial	Has a rounded shank at the top (domestic machine needles are flat on one side).

## FABRIC TERMINOLOGY

Helping you understand sewing fabric jargon.

	UK, AUS, NZ	US
<b>Calico</b>	Equal weft and warp plain weave fabric, usually unbleached cotton in different weights. Often used for toiles.	Cotton fabric with a small floral print
<b>Muslin</b>	Very fine, light plain weave cotton fabric.	Equal weft and warp plain weave fabric, usually unbleached cotton in different weights. Often used for toiles. OR as UK usage.
<b>Muslin gauze</b>	See Muslin	Very light, open weave muslin.
<b>Gauze</b>	Extremely soft, fine cotton fabric. Very open plain weave.	Any very light fabric, usually plain weave.
<b>Cheesecloth</b>	See Gauze	Extremely soft, fine cotton fabric. Very open plain weave.

# AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO COMMON FABRIC TYPES

Useful information on fabrics you'll use in dressmaking and sewing for the home.

FIBRE NAME	FABRIC TYPES	STRENGTHS	PROBLEMS	CARE INFORMATION
<b>NATURAL FIBRES</b>				
<b>Cotton</b>	Batiste, broadcloth, calico, corduroy, denim, flannel, seersucker, terry, cotton velvet	Absorbent, cool, strong	Shrinks unless pre-treated, some wrinkle badly	Machine wash, tumble-dry, can be bleached, use steam iron or iron while damp
<b>Linen</b>	Damask, handkerchief, lawn	Absorbent, cool, strong, very durable	Can shrink, wrinkles	Dry clean to retain crispness, or wash to soften
<b>Silk</b>	Chiffon, crepe-de-chine, organza, raw silk, satin, velvet. Often found in combination with other fabrics such as cotton and wool	Absorbent, adapts to body temperature, drapes well	Prone to moth damage, wears along seams, weakened by sunlight and perspiration	Dry clean although some can be hand washed. Iron on the wrong side at a low temperature
<b>Wool</b>	Crepe, flannel, gabardine, jersey, tweed	Absorbent, warm, flame, water and wrinkle resistant, provides good insulation	Can shrink, prone to moth damage, knits stretch during wear	Dry clean although some can be machine washed, press with a steam iron and a cloth
<b>SYNTHETIC &amp; SEMI-SYNTHETIC FIBRES</b>				
<b>Acetate</b>	Satin, silk-like fabrics, taffeta, twill	Silk-like lustre, drapes well, dries quickly, low cost	Fades, relatively weak, exhibits static cling, wrinkles	Dry clean or gently machine wash, tumble dry (low), iron low temperature
<b>Acrylic</b>	Double knits, fleece, pile fabrics, wool-like-fabrics	Warm, resists wrinkles, mildew, moths and oily stains	Sensitive to heat, static cling	Machine wash, tumble dry, doesn't need ironing
<b>Nylon</b>	Net, tricot, two-way stretch knits, swimwear	Strong, warm, light weight, resists moths, wrinkles and mildew	Has static cling, holds body heat	Hand or machine wash, tumble dry, iron at a low temperature
<b>Polyester</b>	Cotton, silk and wool-like fabrics, crepe, double and single knits, fleece, georgette, jersey, velvet, satin taffeta	Strong, warm, very wrinkle resistant, holds shape and a pressed crease	Has static cling, holds body heat	Machine wash, tumble dry, doesn't need ironing
<b>Rayon/Viscose</b>	Challis, crepe, cotton and linen-like fabrics, jersey, velvet	Absorbent	Relatively fragile, holds body heat, wrinkles, shrinks	Dry clean or gently machine wash, iron at a moderate temperature, can be bleached
<b>Spandex</b>	Stretch wovens, two-way stretch knits, Lycra (swimwear and active wear fabrics)	Excellent stretch properties good durability, no static cling	White fabrics might become yellow from prolonged exposure to air	Wash or dry clean



## CUSHION PAD VARIETIES

Buying the right filling for your cushion can make a big difference to the finished look and feel.

Cushion pads are widely available either online or in your local craft shop. There are various shapes available, but one of the most popular is the standard square cushion pad. Cushion pads are filled with either a synthetic or feather filling, and tend to have a different feel to them. Feather

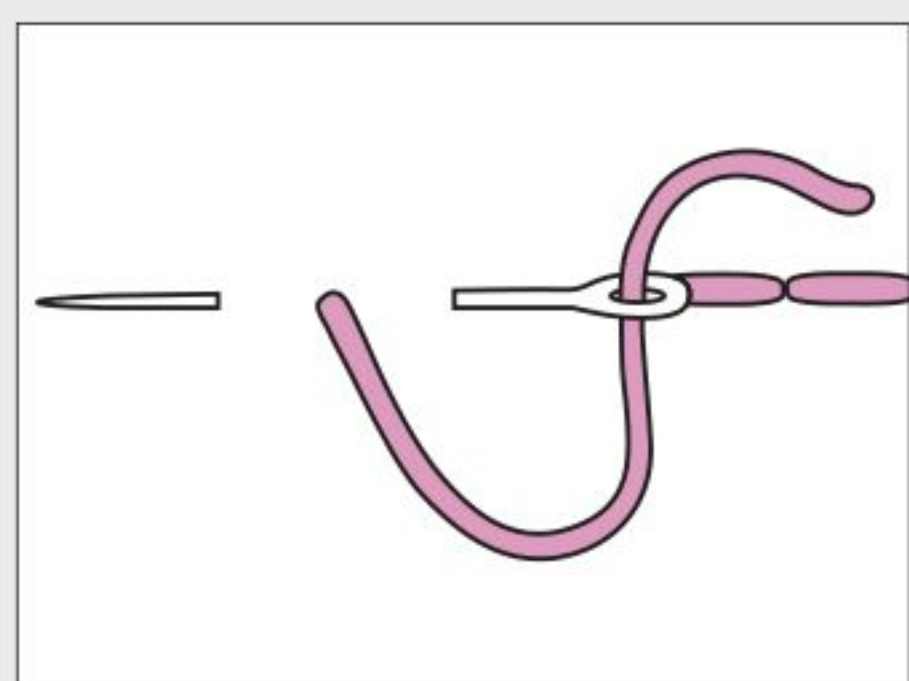
filled pads have a more luxurious feel and are squishier to touch, while synthetic cushions tend to remain plump as they will 'spring' back into shape. They're also better for those with allergies. Here's a list of standard cushion pad sizes. Keep a note of them to help with future projects...

### STANDARD CUSHION PAD SIZES

- 30x30cm (12x12in)
- 35x35cm (14x14in)
- 40x40cm (16x16in)
- 45x45cm (18x18in)
- 50x50cm (20x20in)
- 55x55cm (22x22in)
- 60x60cm (24x24in)

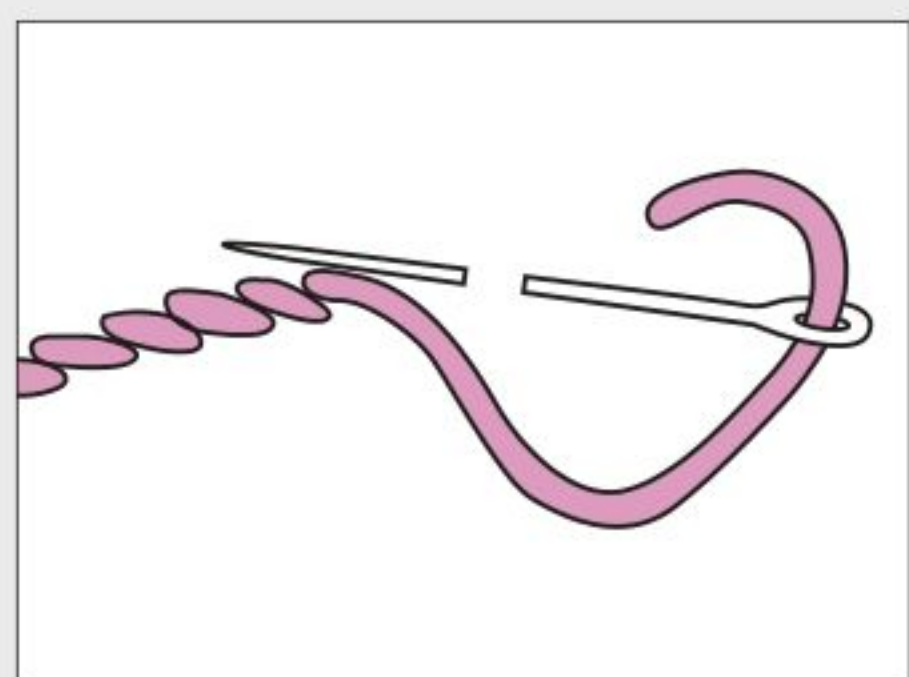
## EMBROIDERY STITCHES

You'll need stranded embroidery cotton and a sharp or tapestry needle, depending on the fabric you use. See below for a guide for transferring a design – one of the simplest ways is to trace it directly on to your fabric. We use a pale blue coloured pencil – very forgiving against a light-coloured fabric if any lines remain once the design is complete.



### BACKSTITCH

Use backstitch for a neat outline. Bring the needle up and take it back over the fabric, as shown. Push the needle back up in front of where you started, making sure you keep all the stitches neat and even.



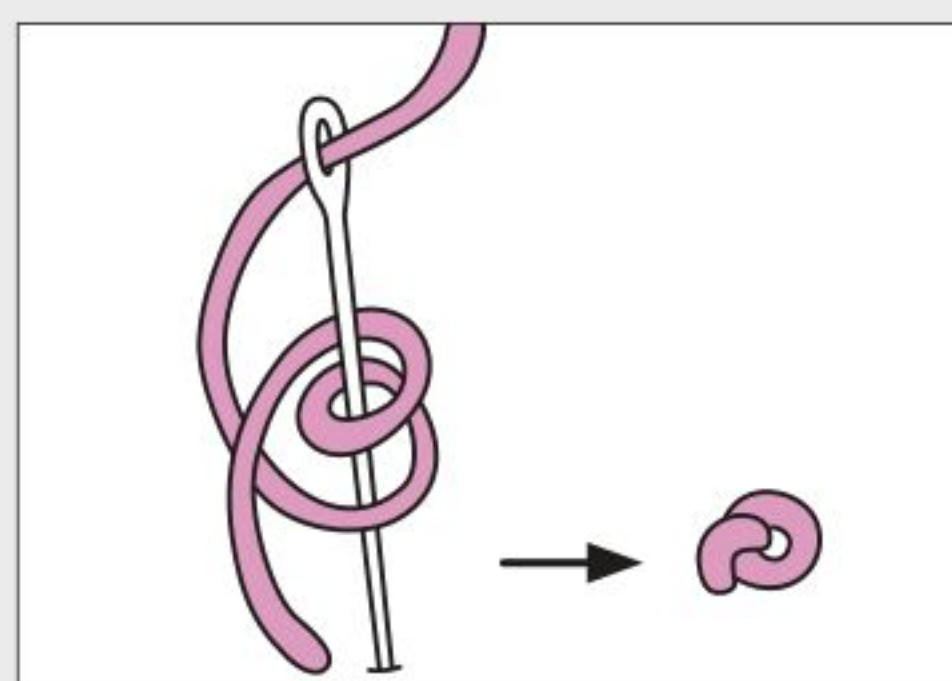
### STEM STITCH

With stem stitch, work from left to right, in regular small stitches along the line of the design. The thread always emerges on the left side of the previous stitch. This stitch is used for flower stems, outlines and so on.



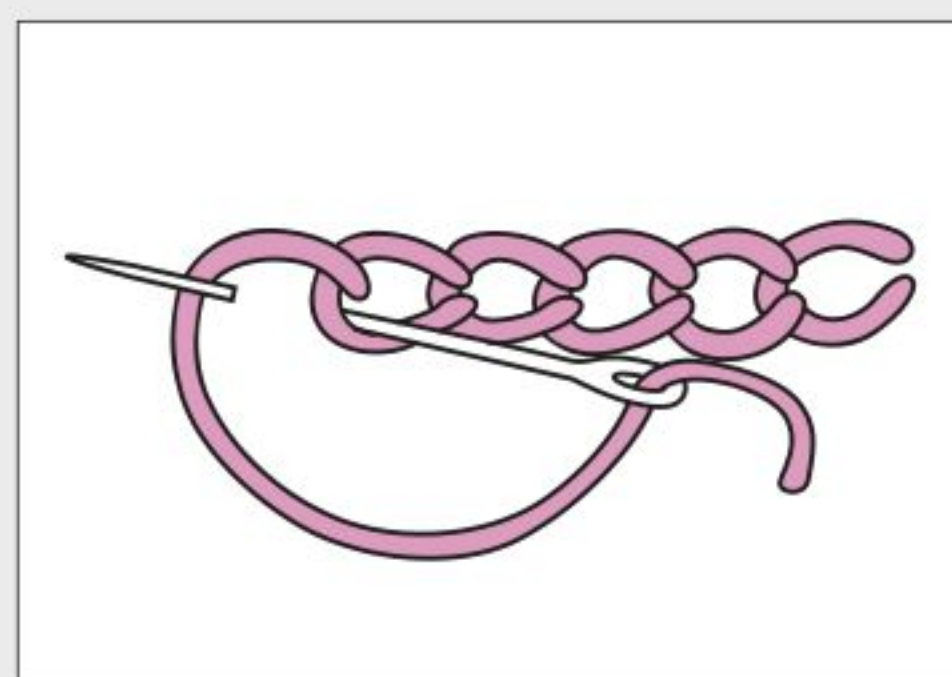
### SATIN STITCH

For filling in blocks of colour, satin stitch gives some stunning results. Follow the outline using straight stitches made very close together. You can neaten things with a backstitch around the outline before you start.



### FRENCH KNOT

For a French knot, come up through the fabric and wrap the thread around the needle, now take the needle halfway back in. Slide the thread down the needle with your finger, and push the needle back down.



### CHAIN STITCH

To make a chain stitch, bring the needle up and then back down into the same hole. Before you pull it through, catch it at the top of the loop and repeat so that the stitches seem to interlock in a chain.

## HOW TO TRANSFER YOUR EMBROIDERY DESIGN

Follow these four simple steps to start embroidering.



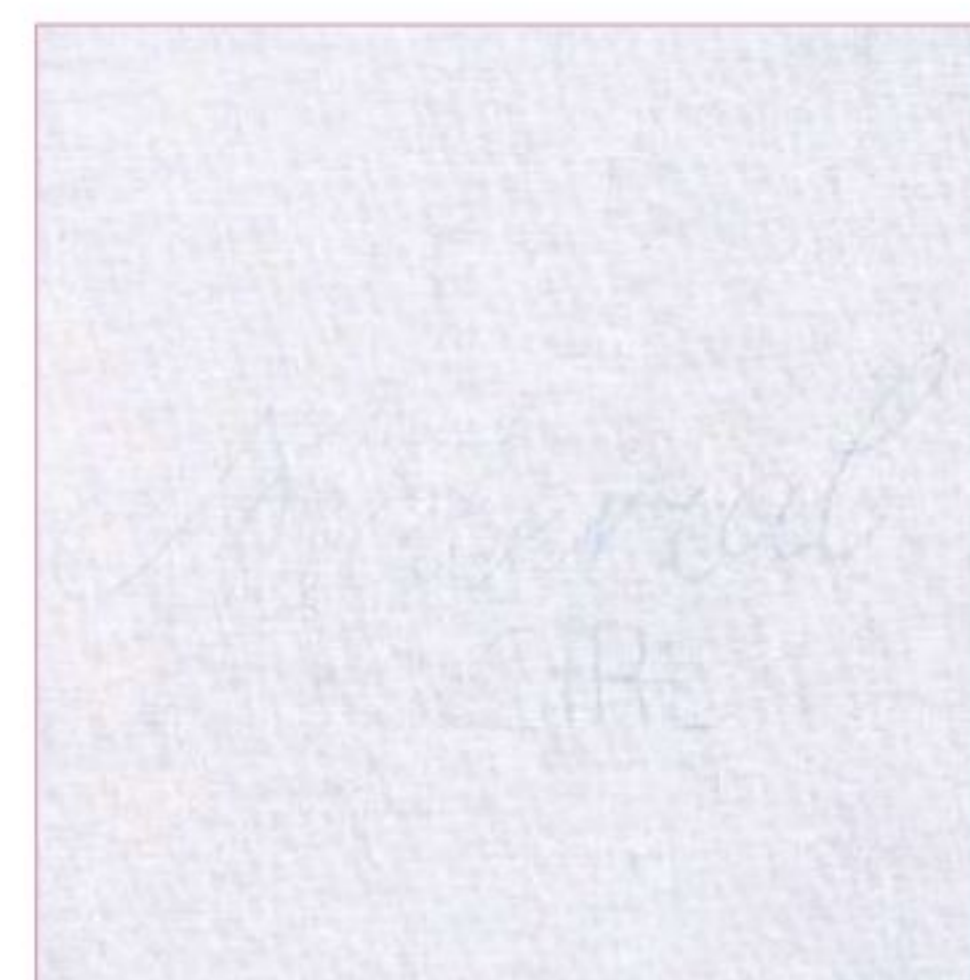
**Step one** Depending on the thickness of your fabric, you may need the help of a lightbox to help illuminate the design through the fabric. Or you can use a window and trace against it. Either way, tape the design securely in place.



**Step two** Place your fabric in a ring frame with the right side of the fabric face down. Now turn the frame over so the right side of the fabric is face up and place the frame over the design so that it sits flush with the flat surface. Using a ring frame or 'hoop' helps to keep the fabric taut.



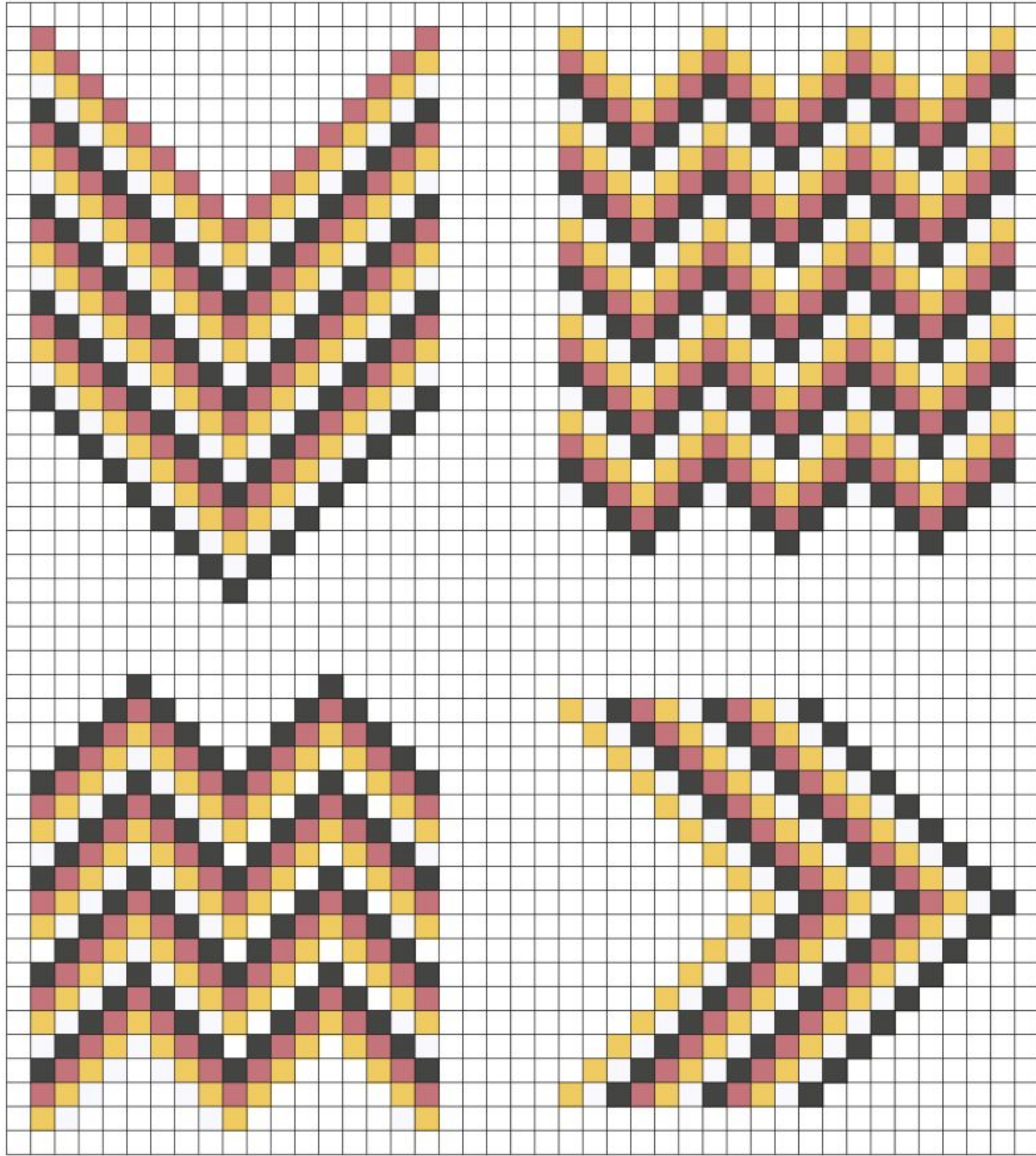
**Step three** Check the fabric is square to the design and start to trace the design using a light blue coloured pencil or water soluble pen. Try to keep each line continuous to keep the design lines smooth and fluid.



**Step four** Once the design is complete, take the fabric out of the frame and reposition face up, ready to start stitching. If you're using a stretch fabric, avoid using a frame, as the design will only become distorted.

# TEMPLATES

Here are the pattern pieces you'll need to make the smaller projects in *Simply Sewing* issue 7.



## CROSS STITCH CHEVRONS

**PAGE 61**  
**HOOP CHART**  
NOT TO SCALE

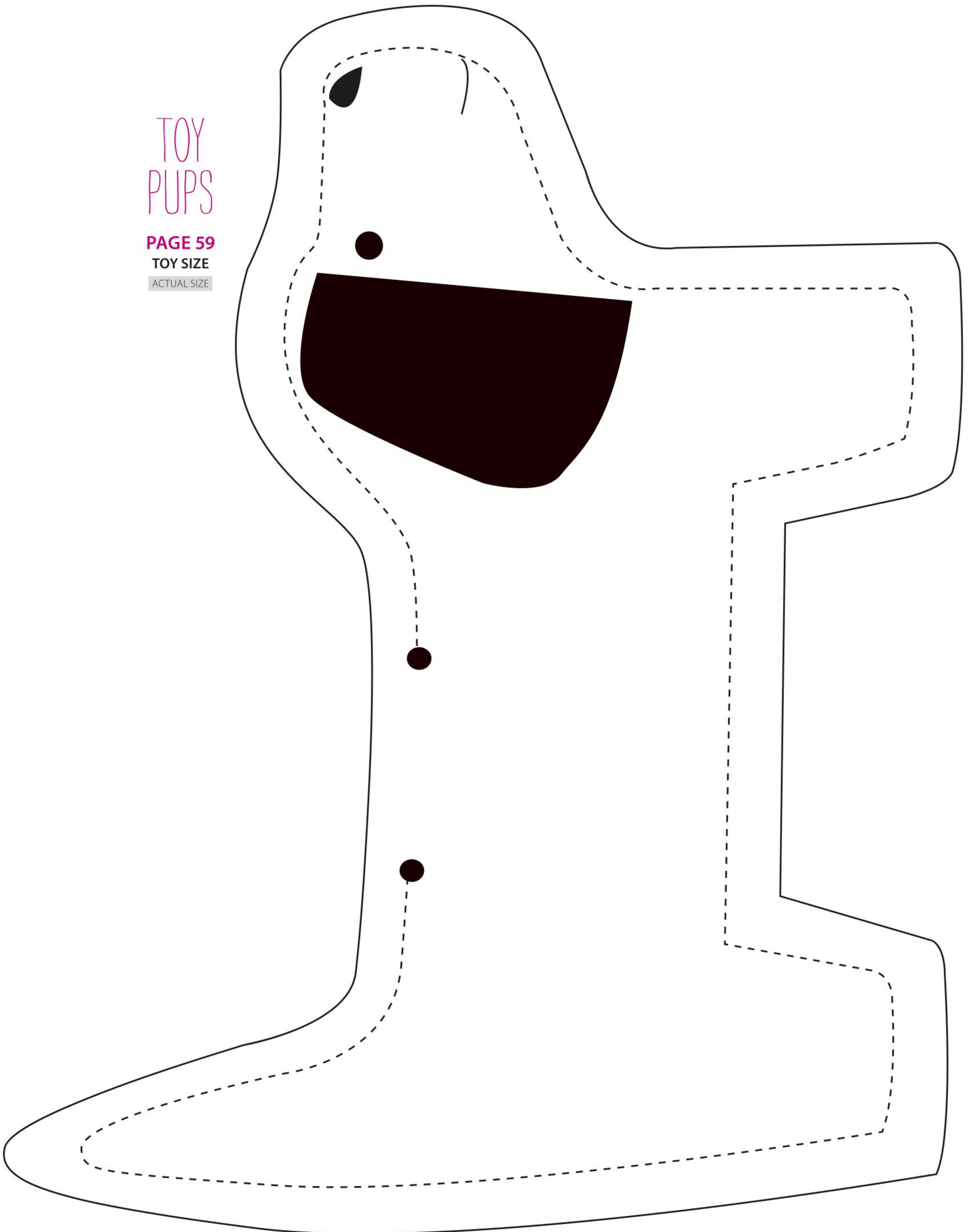


## BIRD BUNTING

**PAGE 45**  
**MAIN OUTLINES**  
ACTUAL SIZE

TOY  
PUPS

PAGE 59  
TOY SIZE  
ACTUAL SIZE



Thank you for making these projects from *Simply Sewing*. The copyright for these templates belongs to the designer of the project. They work hard to create projects for you to enjoy, so please don't re-sell or distribute their work without permission. Please do not make any part of the templates or instructions available to others through your website or a third party website, or copy it multiple times without our permission. Copyright law protects creative work and unauthorised copying is illegal. We appreciate your help.

S

# NEXT ISSUE

T-shirt refashion  
Camera strap  
Kid's play tent  
Denim crowns  
Tunic dresses  
Pannier bike bag  
Seaside keyrings  
Gadget sleeves  
Shopper bags  
And more...

+ FREE!

WATER  
ERASABLE  
PEN AND  
PENCIL SET

*Add them to  
your stash!*



ON SALE THURS 10TH SEPTEMBER

[WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM](http://WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM)



# MATCHING STYLE

Author Mariko Nakamura loves creating simple outfits with matching design details for her children.

**“WHEN I DESIGN children’s clothes, I always think about how they could be combined with other items. I love this pair of matching tops, worn here by my son and daughter for my book, *Sew Japanese*.**

The tops are simple in shape but have little hand-stitched details around the neck to make them special. I often use hand stitching in this way – you can play around with different colours of threads to change the look of a garment, and I find it far easier than embroidery. I also love the navy skirt and shorts the kids are wearing in these photos – if you know how to make an adjustable

waist it’s really easy to adapt these kinds of clothes as children grow, which makes them really practical too.

Each of these four items can be worn with many other tops and bottoms, giving you loads of options. For example, my children wear simple white T-shirts with the short trousers and skirt, still matching. The hats and sandals finish the ensemble off so sweetly. My children love to wear outfits together like this, but I think they’ll only enjoy this while they’re small – I know it won’t last!”

*To see more of Mariko’s beautiful handmade children’s clothes, visit [www.aquarela.co.uk](http://www.aquarela.co.uk)*

*Stay in touch!*



WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM

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

# THE ATELIER SERIES

These contemporary styled, well illuminated, free-arm sewing machines with easy to use computerised features are perfect to take your sewing to a new level. The larger arm space and superior feeding system ensure they are equally suited to both larger projects and precision sewing.

## DESIGNED FOR EVERY TYPE OF SEWING



### ATELIER 3

A clear LCD screen helps you select from the 120 stitches including 7 auto 1-step buttonholes and alphabet. LED lighting, an easy set bobbin, a needle threader, a speed control slider, a start/stop button, auto lock and auto thread cutter help make your sewing easier.



### ATELIER 5

Packed with 170 stitches including 10 auto 1-step buttonholes, it has an incredible 91 needle positions and an easy change needle plate to enhance straight stitch performance at up to 1,000 spm, a knee lift to help pivot on corners and there's even a remote thread cutter port!

**For further information:**

**Telephone 0161 666 6011 or visit [www.janome.co.uk](http://www.janome.co.uk)**

**The World's leading sewing machine manufacturer**

# SMART ELEGANT SOPHISTICATED



# JANOME

ISSUE 7  
TEMPLATES  
MAKE!

# Simply Sewing

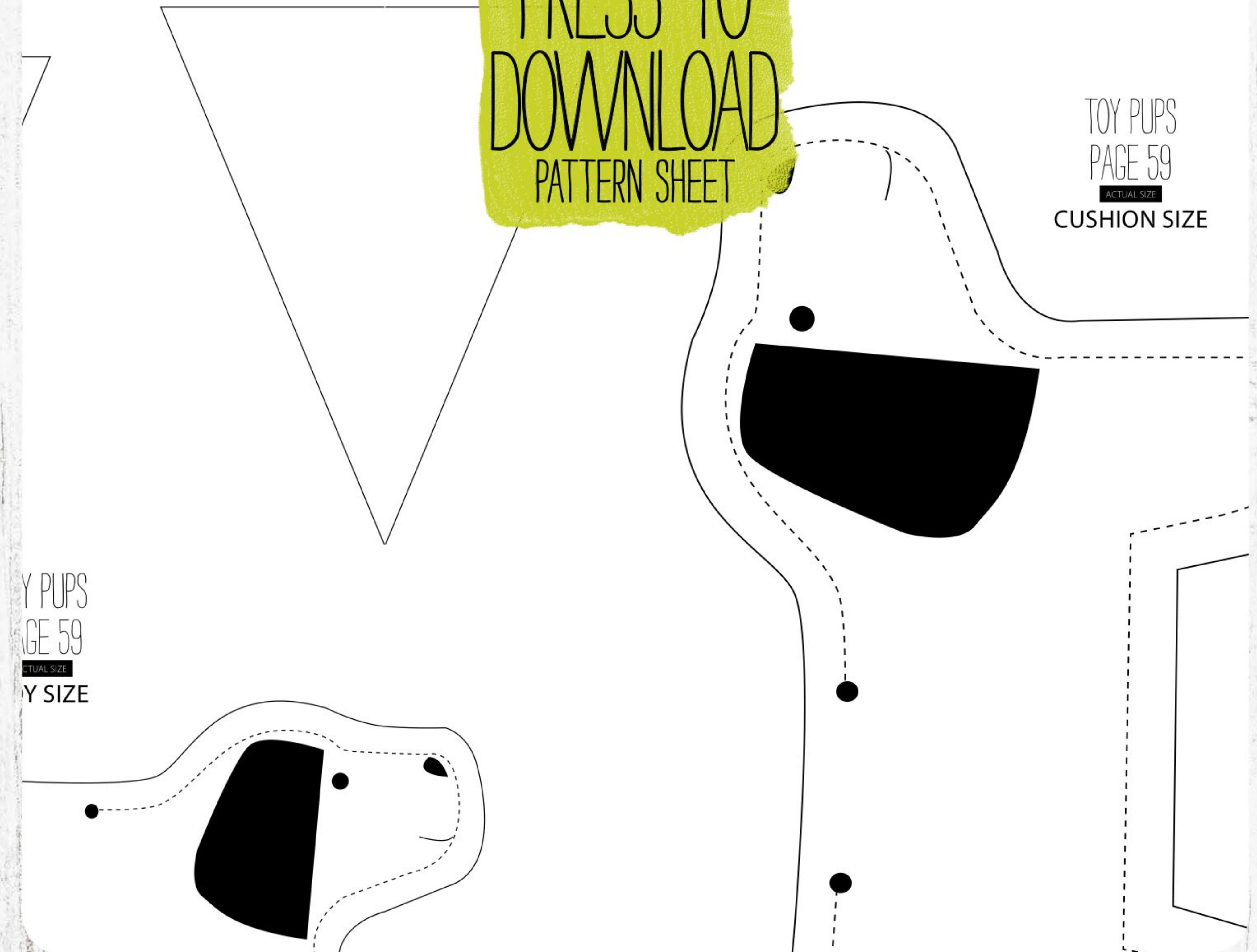
FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

BIRD BUNTING  
PAGE 45  
ACTUAL SIZE  
LARGE TRIANGLE

PRESS TO  
DOWNLOAD  
PATTERN SHEET

TOY PUPS  
PAGE 59  
ACTUAL SIZE  
CUSHION SIZE

TOY PUPS  
PAGE 59  
ACTUAL SIZE  
TOY SIZE



OR DOWNLOAD ISSUE 7 PATTERN SHEET AT  
[www.simplysewingmag.com/category/downloads](http://www.simplysewingmag.com/category/downloads)