

31 SEASONAL MAKES

15 FESTIVE GIFTS + DECORATIONS

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

ISSUE TWENTY THREE



NEW! COTTON + CHALK
ULTIMATE PARTY DRESS
IN SIZES 6-20

8 GIFTS TO SEW FOR CHRISTMAS



5 NEW OUTFITS TO SEW TODAY!



+
CLUTCH BAG
JERSEY DRESS
BOXY JUMPER

SEASONAL STYLE

Bold fabrics and fun Christmas makes



HOW TO: Sew with jersey • Upcycle jeans into a cushion • Make a dog coat • Sew buttonholes



Innov-is F420

The Innov-is F420 is packed with a huge range of features including 140 stitches, lettering, lock stitch button, automatic thread cutter, and Square Feed Drive System for strong, smooth, even sewing on all types of fabric.



Innov-is 55FE

The feature-packed Innov-is 55 Fashion Edition will shape your fashion dreams into reality. 81 stitches including 10 one step button hole styles plus lettering together with the included 12 accessory feet make this an excellent all round machine.



Innov-is 27SE

The Innov-is 27SE offers fantastic versatility for both the beginner and experienced sewer. With fingertip controls, 50 stitches including 5 one step button hole styles and a protective hard case; it's ideal for all kinds of sewing.

Create your own style





Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

While the idea of hosting a totally handmade Christmas may seem overwhelming, there are plenty of ways you can use fabric to add a little seasonal sparkle to your home. From easy stash-busting gift tags and fabric-covered baubles, to personalised stockings and a fun 3D deer head plaque (our personal favourite!) there's plenty to choose from. Grab your brightest fabrics, and enjoy! Share your makes with us on Facebook @simplysewingmagazine



Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

ISSUE TWENTY THREE CONTENTS

Make a set of mini trees, p20



Sew Cotton + Chalk's Katie Dress with two sleeve lengths, p34

*Paper gifts not available with digital editions



♥
**P20
PROJECTS
TO SEW
FOR CHRISTMAS**

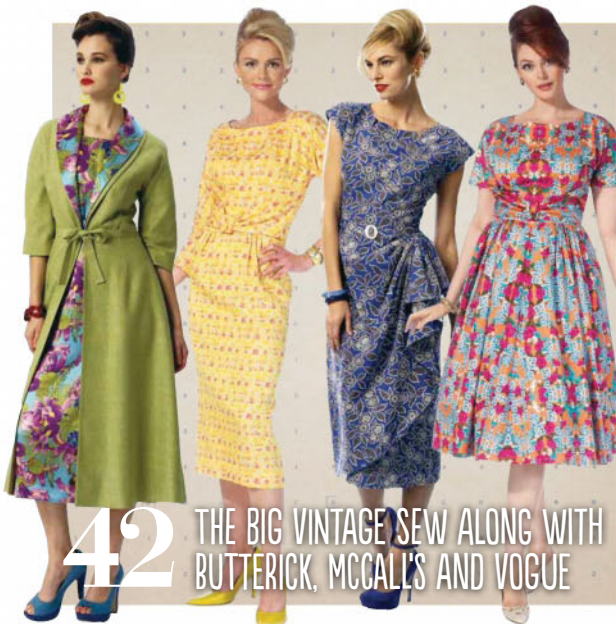


GREAT PATTERNS FOR YOU

- 20 COLOURFUL CHRISTMAS
- 34 COTTON + CHALK KATIE DRESS
- 39 CHAIN CLUTCH BAG
- 46 TWO-IN-ONE JERSEY DRESS
- 51 TRANSFORM A TEE: LACE COLLAR
- 53 DENIM UPCYCLE: PINWHEEL PATCHWORK CUSHION
- 58 REVERSIBLE DOG COAT
- 66 BOXY JUMPER
- 72 ERIN SKIRT SEW ALONG (PART 2) WITH SEW OVER IT'S LISA COMFORT
- 77 VINTAGE-STYLE BAUBLES
- 79 FAST FAT QUARTER: GIFT BAG
- 81 DEER HEAD

HOW TO...

- 56 KNOW YOUR PINS
Choose the right pins for your fabric type and project
- 85 WORKSHOP: HAND APPLIQUÉ
Learn the technique and make a hot water bottle cover
- 93 SEWING GUIDE
Tips, techniques and a glossary



42 THE BIG VINTAGE SEW ALONG WITH BUTTERICK, MCCALL'S AND VOGUE

Sew a colourful deer head, p81





51



39



66

WIN A €250 SEWING PATTERN BUNDLE
 Win £250 worth of patterns from Oliver + S, Liesl + Co and Lisette, p17



17



79

COMMUNITY MATTERS



I'm always really humbled by how lovely sewists are and how great they are at working together. From The Fold Line launching **Tribe** (p9), a new pattern company allowing members to become designers, to the lovely bunch of winners I met at Singer's sewing session with **Patrick Grant** (p13). And yes, before you ask, he's utterly charming in real life too. So, to celebrate our flourishing community we've added sewing categories to our **British Craft Awards** (p8). Vote today!

Charlie Moorby, Editor

Charlie

PS: BONUS FABRIC WORTH £35 when you subscribe (see p32)

GOOD READS & IDEAS

- 8 THE BRITISH CRAFT AWARDS
- 9 PINBOARD: Ideas, events, new fabric
- 17 WIN: £250 worth of patterns
- 18 PORTIA LAWRIE'S SEWING WORLD
- 42 FEATURE: VINTAGE SEW ALONG
- 62 PROFILE: ANNA GRAHAM
- 97 COMING UP NEXT MONTH
- 98 MY FAVOURITE THING



GREAT SUBS OFFERS! P32
 GET A £35 LEWIS & IRENE FABRIC BUNDLE WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TODAY...



46

CONTRIBUTORS

Huge thanks to these clever crafters...



ANNA GRAHAM

Anna Graham is the designer, blogger, author and sewist behind www.noodle-head.com. With a BA in art, she loves discovering new techniques and creating new sewing patterns and projects. Take a peek at her enviable sewing space on page 62.



DEBBIE HUMPHREYS

Frustrated by the lack of well-fitting coats for her whippet Bruno in the shops, Debbie decided to design her own, which led to selling her dog coat designs at www.redhoundfordogs.com. She shares her reversible dog coat project on page 58.



PORTIA LAWRIE

Essex-based Portia is a regular *Simply Sewing* contributor and the gal behind www.makery.uk, where she blogs about sewing and DIY and hosts annual sewing challenge The Refashioners, now in its fourth year. She shares how to get the best cost-per-sew from your patterns on page 18.



JO CARTER

Jo worked for ten years as a soft toy designer turning company characters into soft toys ready for factory production. Whilst taking time out with her two sons she rediscovered her love of all sewing, and especially toy-making. She shows you how to make a 3D deer head on page 81.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Art Gallery Fabrics, Lucy Barry, Samantha Claridge, Lisa Comfort, Jessica Entwistle, Leah Farquharson, Wendy Gardiner, Jennie Jones, Angela Umpleby, Rosee Woodland
Special thanks to: Sarah Malone

WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM

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

COMPETITION RULES

By taking part in one of our Competitions, you agree to be bound by these Competition Rules. Late or incomplete entries will be disqualified. Proof of posting (if relevant) shall not be deemed proof of delivery. Entries must be submitted by an individual (not via any agency or similar) and, unless otherwise stated, are limited to one per household. The Company reserves the right in its sole discretion to substitute any prize with cash or a prize of comparable value. Unless otherwise stated, the Competition is open to all GB residents of 18 years and over, except employees of Immediate Media Company and any party involved in the competition or their households. By entering a Competition you give permission to use your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for promotional purposes. All entries will become the property of the Company upon receipt and will not be returned. You warrant that the Competition entry is entirely your own work and not copied or adapted from any other source. If you are a winner, you may have to provide additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. If you are a winner, receipt by you of any prize is conditional upon you complying with (among other things) the Competition Rules. You acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Competition open 3 November - 7 December 2016

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

EDITORIAL

EDITOR Charlie Moorby
ART EDITOR Lisa Jones
TECHNICAL EDITOR Rebecca Reid
PRODUCTION EDITOR Michelle Grady
DIGITAL EDITOR Zoe Williams
FEATURES WRITER Judy Darley
PHOTOGRAPHER Philip Sowles

ADVERTISING

Call 0117 300 8206

SENIOR ADVERTISING MANAGER Penny Stokes
SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE Tiffany Jackson
CLIENT PARTNERSHIP MANAGER Beckie Pring

MARKETING & CIRCULATION

SUBSCRIPTIONS DIRECTOR Jacky Perales Morris
DIRECT MARKETING EXECUTIVE Lily Nguyen
HEAD OF NEWSTRADER MARKETING Natalie Shearer
NEWSTRADER MARKETING MANAGER Janine Smith

BUYING

Paul Torre, Karen Flannigan, Corinne Mellerup

PRODUCTION

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

LICENSING

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

PUBLISHING

PUBLISHER Liz Taylor
CHAIRMAN Stephen Alexander
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Tom Bureau
MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRISTOL Andy Marshall

DISTRIBUTION

FRONTLINE Call +44 (0)1733 555161

PRINTED IN THE UK

BY WILLIAM GIBBONS

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH?

EDITORIAL TEAM
simplysewing@immediate.co.uk
SUBSCRIPTIONS TEAM
simplysewing@servicehelpline.co.uk
0844 844 0386

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE

WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2016

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



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

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.



Fabulous fabrics and friendly sewing classes in Leicestershire

15% off fabrics - enter **SIMPLY15** at checkout



www.Bobbinsnbuttons.co.uk

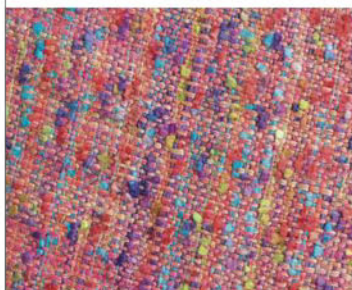
RELEASE YOUR HANDMADE



New fabrics added every week
£2.50 UK P&P shop.sewoverit.co.uk
FREE for orders £75+ 0207 326 0376



BLOSSOMSBURY SQUARE
FABRICS OF DISTINCTION



Wide-range of beautiful, luxury dressmaking fabrics for your handmade clothes.

Available in our online store at www.blossomsburysquarefabrics.com

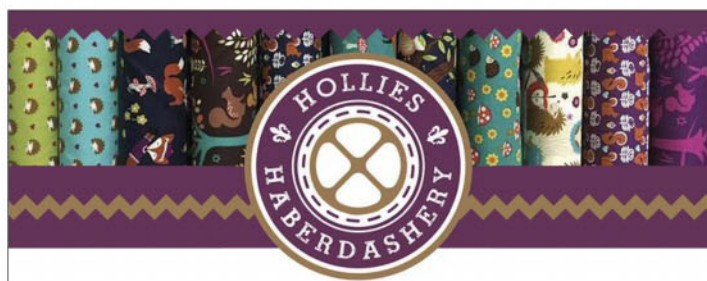


Springwood House Designs
for
all your Christmas fabrics, ribbons
buttons, kits and inspiration

Visit us at the shows or use our
fast, friendly mail order service

01937 581276

Springwood House Designs
29 Nichols Way, Wetherby LS22 6AD
www.springwoodhousedesigns.co.uk



Fabric | Haberdashery | Patterns | Yarn

11 Barracks Court, Barracks Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 1LG. Tel: 01782 610 241

www.hollieshaberdashery.co.uk

10% off all orders - enter code SS10 when you checkout



The British Craft Awards

2017

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

CHSI
STITCHES

Vote for your favourites for your chance to WIN!

We're giving
away a total of
**£500 Amazon
vouchers!***

amazon.co.uk

Gift voucher

£100

It's time to show the love and nominate your favourites in the 2017 British Craft Awards. Whether it's a product you couldn't live without, a talented designer who inspires you with amazing projects, a local store that always goes the extra mile, a must-read blog or a favourite craft brand, we want to know who you think should receive a coveted British Craft Award for their huge contribution to craft in the past 12 months.

SIMPLY VISIT

www.britishcraftawards.com

choose a craft category, and get voting TODAY!

Simply
Sewing
FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

*T&Cs apply, 1x£100 voucher up for grabs for each craft category, see www.britishcraftawards.com for full T&Cs and more information.

PINBOARD

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



JOIN THE TRIBE

The Fold Line is launching a pattern company called Tribe – and you could be one of its designers! The online forum now has over 10,000 members and its founders Kate and Rachel are taking a community-led approach to pattern design, with each one designed by a blogger or member of the community. The first, the Billie Collection has been designed by blogger Rachel of www.houseofpinheiro.com. Read more at www.thefoldline.com



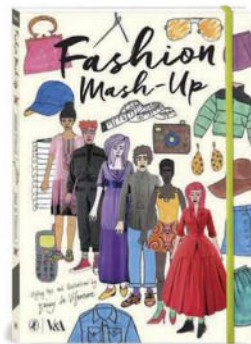
ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK

It's the season for pumpkin lattes, toffee apples, cosy fires and falling leaves, so what better time to delve into the fashion history behind the colour of the moment, orange? Read the story behind this zingy shade in the second post in our Colour Stories blog series at www.simplysewingmag.com

Photos: Lexington dress £69.50, jumper £35, www.oliverbonas.com

FASHION MASH-UP

▼ Inspire budding fashionistas of all ages with this fun book, illustrated by Daisy de Villeneuve and featuring snaps of stunning pieces from the archives of the V&A museum in London, including over 75 garments by iconic designers, plus 250 stickers, styling tips and selfie-worthy Instagram backgrounds to get snap-happy with. £17.99, www.penguin.co.uk



ENGLISH ROSE

Beautiful fabrics, unique prints and easy-to-wear, flattering shapes make up the swoon-worthy collection by family owned British lifestyle label Lily & Me. Their very own in-house design team dreams up new prints and styles for each season, from show-stopping party frocks for special occasions to big snugly jumpers for chilled-out weekends. For the former occasion, we love the Isabelle Dress' pretty floral lace and swishy skirt, £60, www.lilyandmeclotthing.com

Photo: www.lilyandmeclotthing.com

CHRISTMAS WRAPPING

There are so many ways to decorate for Christmas, from Scandi simplicity to all-out traditional, and we're always looking for fresh ideas. This year we've found a new way to deck the halls – with the joyful primary colours and contemporary festive prints of the Wrap It Up collection from Makower. Classic seasonal motifs like stars, trees, garlands, gifts and ornaments are given a geometric makeover for a thoroughly modern Christmas. Browse the full collection at www.makoweruk.com



Bold and bright is our theme this Christmas!



MINI PROFILE

LEWIS & IRENE

Fabric design is a family affair at Lewis & Irene, even down to the company name – this UK-based, family-run company is named after director Bryan's in-laws, Lewis and Irene, who, according to the brand's website, "were two very special people. They created a happy home and have left a legacy of love threaded through three generations of family." The small team at the helm includes granddaughter and creative director Hannah and grandson and sales manager Ben, along with non-family member and sales director Andrew.

They set up the business in November 2013, "and our first fabrics were delivered in April 2014. Bryan has always worked in the textiles business and we wanted to start something of our own." They have since designed more than 50 collections of cotton prints, with themes including everything from country walks (often inspired by their stunning surroundings in Hampshire, on the edge of the New Forest National Park) to vintage circuses, exotic locales and far-away galaxies.

In keeping with their family-oriented ethos, they weave their own happy memories into their designs, too. "Hannah comes up with the ideas and works on them with designer Jaynie. We are always inspired by our experiences and surroundings." One such example is the Dove House collection from the autumn/winter 2016 range, which features illustrated hearts,

trees and cottages in a calming colour palette and was based on "a beautiful place in Dorset we go to with family and close friends every summer. We all feel our most relaxed when we are there, away from it all in the middle of nowhere."

Although she's proud of all the designs, Hannah's personal favourite is another from 2016's autumn/winter collection called To The Moon And Back because they were inspired by her son Felix and his "space-themed bedroom and his love of space, helped by British astronaut Tim Peake."

So, what's the secret to this family's success? Hannah believes it's down to "our close bond as a family and our cheery outlook on life. We are also continually learning and growing, forecasting trends and listening to customer feedback." Hannah gives credit to Lewis and Irene themselves, too: "Our 'Threaded with love' motto was inspired by them."

See Lewis & Irene's latest fabric collections and free patterns at www.lewisandirene.com

We love these nature-inspired designs from the Enchanted Forest and walk in the Glen collections.



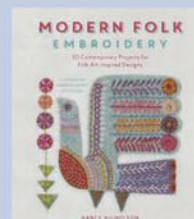
INSPIRING BOOKS



FASHION IN FILM

Christopher Laverty (Laurence King, £30) Costume and fashion writer Christopher celebrates the contributions of fashion designers to cinema through

some of the most iconic film costumes, with stunning film stills, fashion photography and stylish sketches. www.laurenceking.com



MODERN FOLK EMBROIDERY

Nancy Nicholson (David & Charles, £14.99) Fill your home with colourful folk art with this Scandi-inspired

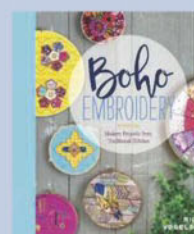
book. To get a copy for £9.99 with free UK postage, call 01206 255777 with code IM1916 (offer ends 01/01/17). www.sewandso.co.uk



SEWING ROOM ACCESSORIES

Debbie Shore (Search Press, £7.99)

Give your sewing room a handmade touch and organise your stash with 15 projects from Debbie Shore, including practical storage solutions and sewing room essentials like a pincushion and seam press. www.searchpress.co.uk



BOHO EMBROIDERY

Nichole Vogelsinger (Lucky Spool Media, £17.99)

This colourful book shows you how to embellish your space with Anthropologie-style designs. Master ten different stitches, then have a go at embroidering everything from buttons and hoops to vintage clothes. www.luckyspool.com



HELLO HARRISON

▼ Shirting, chambray, Liberty-print, flannel – the fabric options are endless with Cashmerette’s new pattern, the Harrison Shirt, a fitted style that won’t gape over curves, hurrah! It has double princess seams for a flattering fit, plus classic shirt features such as a neat two-piece collar and button-up cuffs. Pdf pattern approx £10, shop. cashmerette.com



ARTY ANIMAL

We love introducing family and friends to the joys of sewing with beginner projects like these embroidery kits from Hawthorn Handmade. The kits include everything needed to create a piece of hoop art, including fabric pre-printed with a sweet animal motif to sew, six colours of thread and step-by-step instructions. Give the kit to someone crafty, or stitch one up yourself to give as a handmade gift or to decorate your sewing room wall. £14.95 each, www.hawthornhandmade.com

THAT'S A WRAP

Sew an updated version of the classic, flattering wrap shape and a stylish new coat with two new patterns from The Maker’s Atelier. The Wrap Dress pattern is a jersey dress given a contemporary look with an elongated sleeve worn ruched up on the cuff, while the Shawl Collar Coat is pared-back, unlined and raw-edged, making it the perfect first coat project. £22.50 each, www.themakersatelier.com



3 OF THE BEST

SOFT AS VELVET

Take your pick from jewel brights, ombre pastels and gothic black in luxe velvet.

1. Strut your stuff in a pair of sumptuous jacquard velvet boots with block heels you’ll be able to dance in all night. £45. www.next.co.uk

2. Tick off two of this season’s trends in one with this soft ombre velvet cushion in baby blue and inky navy. Stack them up on your sofa for a luxurious look. £27. www.oliverbonas.com

3. This versatile little zip pouch can be used as a make-up bag or clutch on an evening out and is handmade from thick velvet with a soft satin lining. £10. www.sukisabur.etsy.com





FLARE FOR STYLE

Cooler weather often presents a sartorial dilemma – do we dress for warmth, or for style? Thankfully, though, we won't have to compromise thanks to Megan Nielsen's feminine new Dove Blouse pattern. We can't resist its statement long sleeves with an on-trend flared silhouette, flattering V-neck and curved hemline (plus the option to add shorter sleeves for summer, too). Pdf pattern approx £10.50, www.megannielsen.com

SWEET SHEARS

No, this isn't a new pair of scissors to add to your sewing kit – these realistic-looking shears are actually made of chocolate and are the perfect gift for a dressmaker (although don't be surprised if they're as protective of these as they are over their real fabric scissors!) £11.95, www.schokolat.co.uk



We'll be keeping these hidden away in our sewing box for when we fancy a snack!



OUT & ABOUT SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

17-19 NOVEMBER

Stitching, Sewing & Hobbycrafts Show at Christmas. Excel, London. Find all you need to craft your way to the perfect Christmas. www.stitchandhobby.co.uk

26 NOVEMBER & 3, 10 & 11 DECEMBER

Made in Bristol Gift Fair. Colston Hall, Bristol. Stock up on presents for friends and family by talented local designers at this annual fair. www.colstonhall.org

3-4 DECEMBER

Crafty Fox Christmas Market. Brixton, London. Find unique handmade Christmas gifts and support local designer-makers at one of several festive Crafty Fox markets. www.craftyfoxmarket.co.uk

UNTIL 5 NOVEMBER 2017

Mary Quant: Fashion Icon. Manchester Art Gallery. Get inspired by this display of Mary Quant's iconic mini dresses from the swinging 1960s. www.manchesterartgallery.org

SEWING WITH PATRICK GRANT

Editor Charlie joins Singer competition winners for sewing session with famous TV judge.



Charlie and Patrick joined the winners in the sewing room.



He's a fashion designer, entrepreneur and judge on the television series, *The Great British Sewing Bee*, but Patrick Grant still made sure he had plenty of time to spend with the winners of Singer's latest competition. Last month, at their London HQ, the lucky sewists were treated to an informal sewing session with the tailor himself, complete with individual *Sewing Bee*-style feedback at the end! "It's amazing to look at how many people have got back into sewing," he said. "I think people get great delight from making something permanent," he added. We couldn't agree more. [Keep a lookout for more Singer competitions at www.singerco.co.uk](http://www.singerco.co.uk)





MERRY MAKING

If you're hoping for a shiny new sewing machine this Christmas, make sure they take the hint by adding this sweet little felt machine decoration to the tree. All you need to make it is Betz White's pdf pattern, felt, glue and a few embroidery stitches. Pdf pattern £5.95, www.betzwhite.etsy.com



TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Korbond have teamed up with *Sewing Bee's* Jenniffer Taylor and ICHF Events to get us whipping up stylish new garments using unwanted clothes for their Creative Upcycling Challenge – with a £479 Janome sewing machine as the top prize! To get involved, you'll need to make an upcycled garment using two or more pieces of clothing by 31st January 2017. Good luck! For full details go to sew.korbond.co.uk

WIN MERCHANT & MILLS PATTERNS

▼ Draper's Daughter is giving one lucky reader a chance to get started on their perfect handmade winter wardrobe with two patterns from Merchant & Mills to give away: The Rugby dress, a semi-fitted, feminine take on the rugby shirt, and The Strand, a simple coat roomy enough for the thickest jumper. Enter at www.simplysewingmag.com, and see more patterns and fabrics at www.draperdaughter.com



NEW FROM SIMPLICITY

Sew a capsule wardrobe of show-stopping autumn/winter styles with Simplicity's new collection of must-make patterns. Designs include classics like the pussy-bow blouse (8175) and belted coat (8217) and on-trend pieces like the jumpsuit (8178) and belted skirt and culottes (8175). Add them to your stash at www.simplicitynewlook.co.uk

LIBERTY CORNER

GET KNOTTED

Jewellery maker Natalie Bosworth originally trained as a theatre designer before opening her Handmade by Bunny Bosworth Etsy shop in 2010. She now uses her knowledge of historical costume techniques to inspire her range of stylish rope jewellery, from chunky necklaces to delicate earrings and bridesmaid favours (and even Christmas tree decorations!), all made with Liberty tana lawn by hand at her home studio in Liverpool. From £5.50, www.bunnybosworths.etsy.com



Natalie makes her knot jewellery with Liberty tana lawn and piping cord.

Sew many

possibilities

Presenting the Singer 7463 Confidence

- * Easy stitch selection
- * 30 Built-in Stitches
- * Push-button stitch selection
- * Automatic stitch length and width
- * 2 Fully automatic 1-Step buttonholes
- * Automatic needle threader
- * Drop & Sew™ Bobbin system
- * 2 StayBright™ LED lights
- * Auto tension
- * 13 Needle positions

AROUND
£229



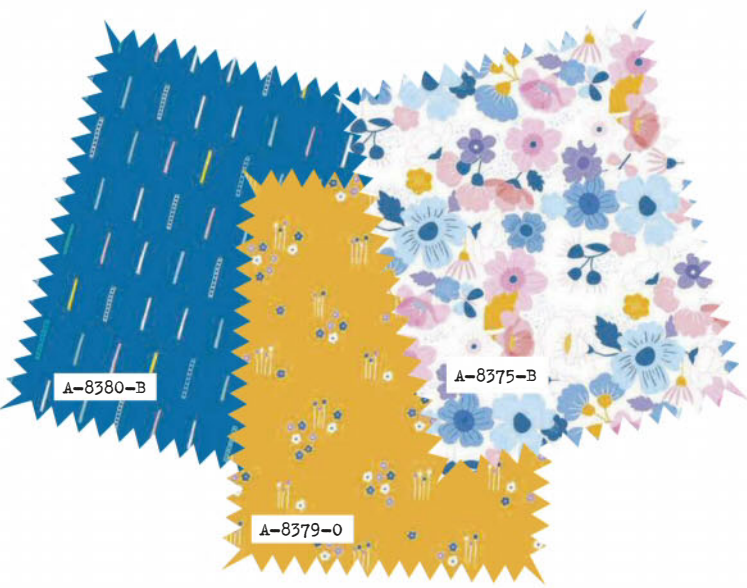
BEST SEWING MACHINE BRAND



SINGER®

Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @singersewinguk

www.singerco.co.uk



FLORAL FANCIES

FLORAL SPLENDOR BY CATHY NORDSTROM FOR ANDOVER FABRICS

Surface designer and illustrator Cathy Nordstrom's signature style is a mix of both Scandi minimalism and bold motifs, and her cheerful new collection for Andover reflects this unique blend, with a combination of bright blooms, ditsy florals and minimal graphic designs in a colour palette of golden orange, navy and soft pink. www.andoverfabrics.com

SNOW QUEEN

▼ **BLITHE** BY KATARINA ROCCELLA FOR ART GALLERY FABRICS

Designer Katarina evokes the magical changes that happen in nature when winter arrives and snow blankets the forest floor, with atmospheric prints featuring wreath, deer and bird motifs in misty blue and cool grey. www.artgalleryfabrics.com



1726/B Flowers



1727/G Heads



Joy Wreaths:
Ice



Dear Deer:
Teal

PURRFECT PRINTS

CRAFTY CATS BY MAKOWER

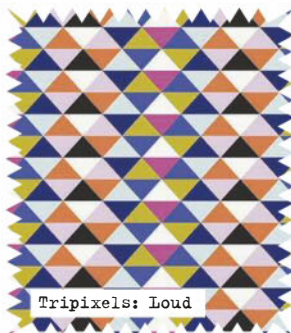
If you've ever had your feline friend 'help' you with your sewing projects, you'll appreciate this fun collection of kitty-themed fabrics. The prints capture the curious nature and laid-back lives of our cats, from lazing in the garden to getting a little too cosy amongst a stash of fabrics. www.makoweruk.com

CITY LIVING

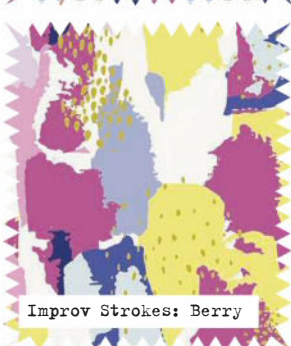
HERE COMES THE FUN BY SEW CAROLINE FOR ART GALLERY FABRICS

Inject fun prints and vibrant colours into your winter sewing with Sew Caroline's new collection for Art Gallery Fabrics, which reinvents the idea of city chic with its eclectic, street art-inspired prints.

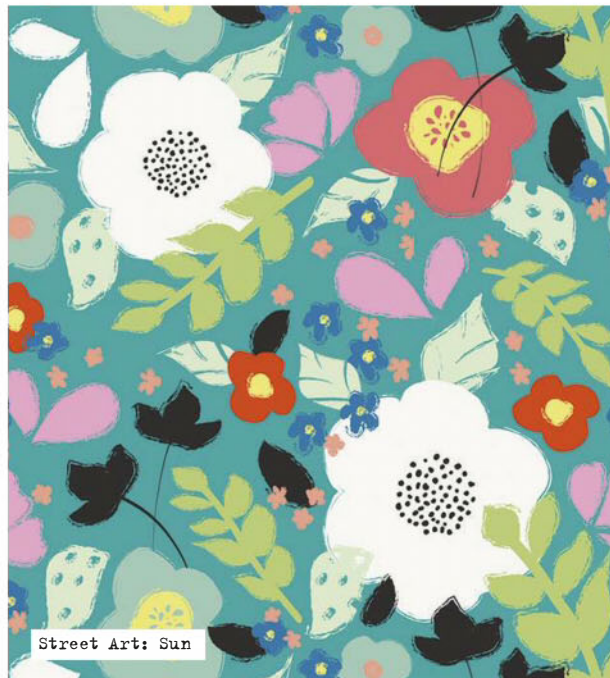
Designer Caroline evokes the creative feel of a bustling metropolitan city through a varied collection of designs that range from busy florals, doodles and abstract brushstrokes to on-trend geometrics and lettering (including a 'happy' repeat print that's guaranteed to cheer up a grey winter's day!). Alongside a riotous colour palette of just about every hue in the rainbow, there are monochrome prints to mix with the bolder designs, and many are available as knits, canvas and voile as well as cotton, so both your home and wardrobe can benefit from Caroline's playful take on city style. www.artgalleryfabrics.com



Tripixels: Loud



Improv Strokes: Berry



Street Art: Sun

WIN £250 LIESL + CO SEWING PATTERNS

WIN
£250
OF PRIZES!



Boost your stash with this book and sewing pattern bundle from Liesl + Co.

When we discover a sewing pattern brand we love, we can't resist adding as many of the designs as possible to our stash. Our latest find is Liesl + Co, which includes four pattern collections: Oliver + S, Lissette, Straight Stitch Society and Liesl + Co – and we've got a bundle of hand-picked designs from each range to give away! The winner will receive Liesl Gibson's *Building Block Dress* book, 11 Oliver + S patterns, five Liesl + Co designs, two Lissette patterns and three Straight Stitch Society patterns. Browse the patterns at www.lieslandco.com and enter at www.simplysewingmag.com

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

clothspot.co.uk

01775 640996

New fabrics every Friday



CLOTHSPOT

OUR FABRICS | YOUR FASHION

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
017 300 8203

MY SEWING WORLD

by Portia Lawrie

Portia Lawrie shares how to test, fit and hack your way to getting the best cost-per-sew from your pattern stash.

One of the upsides of the sewing revolution we have going on is the sheer range of sewing patterns now available to us as dressmakers. Along with the “Big 4” pattern brands, a veritable army of indie pattern designers now also exist to satisfy our sewing appetites. New patterns are being released almost daily, and some seem to take on a life of their own and become internet sensations in their own right. It can be easy to get swept up and buy way more than we need, which defeats the anti-over-consumption appeal of handmade for me. Plus, if you buy that iconic pattern that everyone else is buying, how do you make it individual to you and not end up dressing like everyone else you see on Instagram? (Another appeal of handmade vs high street).

When it comes to buying sewing patterns, it pays to put a little thought into your purchases in order to get the most bang for your buck, and, ultimately, to create a handmade wardrobe that suits your style and needs.

CHOOSE WISELY

Ever done that cost-per wear thing to justify an expensive purchase from a store? Yes, those designer leather boots cost a small fortune, but the purchase makes sense when you divide the cost by the number of times you are likely to wear it, right? Well, the same applies to patterns, so I have a few questions that I ask myself each time I buy a new one for my stash:

- Do I already own a very similar pattern that I already know fits, that I could adapt? If I've put the fitting and toile work into a similar pattern, I don't really want to go there again and will use or adapt what I have.
- Is it actually my style? It's possible to admire a pattern without it being something you would actually wear.
- Will I make multiples of this garment? The more times I make a pattern, the less the initial outlay matters.
- Can I hack this pattern to make lots of different variations? I don't want to look like a clone of the pattern company images. That's not why I sew.
- Will this style stand the test of time? I look for patterns that are timeless, versatile and will last me for years.

Grainline Studio designer Jen Beeman added sleeves to the Alder as a hack.

“Create a handmade wardrobe that suits your style and needs.”

GRAINLINE STUDIO



Alder Shirt Dress

Style Number 12001 | Sizes 0-18 | Intermediate

Alder is a loosely fitted sleeveless shirt dress with two options. View A falls into an A-line at the waist and features a curved hem, bust darts, and two breast pockets. View B features the same bodice as View A, but with a gathered waist at the sides and back of the garment, resulting in an incredibly flattering and fun silhouette.

grainlinestudio.com

I look for classic, versatile sewing patterns like the Alder Shirt Dress.

“Use your TNT patterns like a canvas for experimentation.”

GET THE FIT RIGHT

If you've taken the time to make a considered purchase and you've now got a new pattern to work with, then it's worth investing time to make it perfect for you. Consider subtleties like sleeve length, neckline shape and width. Are your bra straps showing? Does the hem hit you in the right spot? Do you have to keep adjusting it all day for some reason? Does it ride up every time you bend over, or expose bits you may not want exposed when you lift your arms? We have the skills and the power to deal with the niggles that high street shoppers have to live with – so why wouldn't we? I am an advocate of a wearable toile. Mock up your garment and wear it. Note any fit issues, address them with a second toile, and you'll have a TNT (tried and true) pattern. The holy grail!

PUT YOUR STAMP ON IT

Now you know you can rely on this pattern, keep making it so you become an expert. Then there will be room for your creativity to flow! Use a different and unexpected fabric, like blogger Selmin (www.tweedandgreet.de) with her denim Named Sloane sweatshirt. Slice up the pattern and add interesting seam details or use colour blocking. Use your TNT patterns like a canvas for experimentation and you will have clothes that suit your style and personality.

Of course, there will always be patterns that follow none of the above criteria; that will take you an age to make, you will only ever make one of, and will get worn once or twice at best. But, hey – we all need a few showstoppers in our wardrobes, too!

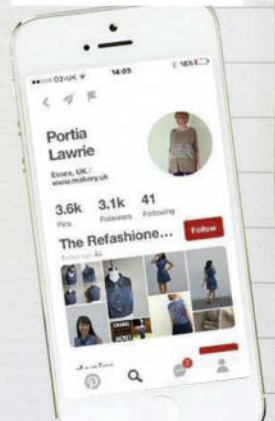
I love Selmin's denim twist on Named's sweatshirt pattern.

Once you've mastered your pattern, it's time to play!

Keeping us inspired...

I'm currently sewing a capsule wardrobe. I've identified three silhouettes that I love and feel comfortable in, so am in the process of designing and testing a few key pieces then turning them into patterns! So pattern drafting tools and Pinterest are my constant companions at the moment. I recently bought the book 'No Patterns Needed' by Rosie Martin. It centres around using simple geometric shapes as the base for a garment, a concept that really chimes with my way of thinking and sewing.

Check out my Pinterest boards @portialawrie



Pinterest is an essential for finding inspiration for my capsule wardrobe.

I've put the deep-V top from Rosie Martin's 'No Patterns Needed' on my long sewing to-do list!

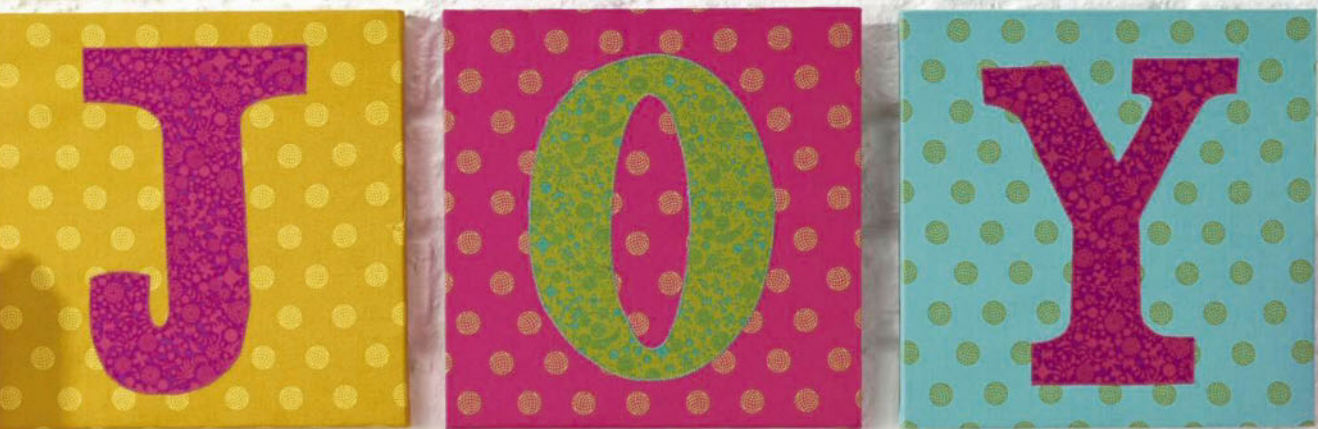


MERRY AND BRIGHT

Set a colourful scene for Santa's arrival with decorations in jolly jewel tones. Ho Ho Sew!

Designer: **REBECCA REID** Styling: **LISA JONES** Photography: **PHILIP SOWELS**





FABRIC BAUBLES

If your box of decorations is overflowing with baubles (especially those unloved ones that always end up at the back of the tree – we've all got them!) a quick fabric makeover will have them taking pride of place. All you need are some colourful fabric scraps and PVA glue. Great for a festive craft afternoon with the kids. Find out how to make them at www.simplysewingmag.com

STAR GARLAND

Brighten up fireplaces, shelves and walls (and show off your machine embroidery skills, too!) with a cheerful garland of stars featuring contrast stitching that gives a subtle hand-drawn look.



MUM

JOY

DAD



WALL ART

Fill your space with Christmas joy with our festive wall art. We've machine-appliquéd letters to create a Yuletide greeting, but you could choose your own seasonal motif.

GIFT TAGS

The Grinch may have discovered that Christmas isn't all about the ribbons, tags, boxes and bags, but we're sure even he would approve of these handmade labels, which have been given a personal touch with printed names, decorated with ric rac and topped off with bright ribbon.

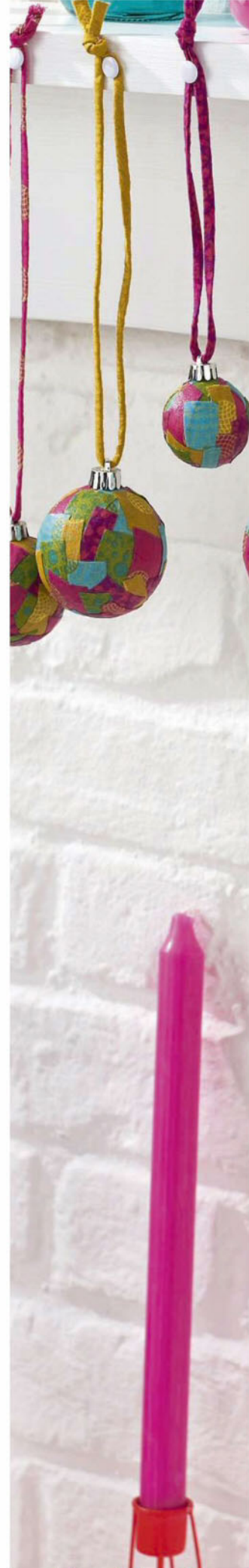


MINI TREES

We'll take any excuse to put our treasured collection of vintage cotton reels on display – and these adorable little trees are a very good excuse indeed. Raid your stash for your brightest offcuts and don't hold back on the pom pom and ric rac trims – the more the merrier!

PERSONALISED STOCKING

Hanging the family's Christmas stockings on the fireplace is one of our favourite festive rituals, made even more special with handmade, personalised stockings. We've appliquéd an initial onto a patch pocket the perfect size for stashing any sweet treats that Santa brings.







STOCKING

YOU WILL NEED

- Main fabric: 100x112cm (40x44in)
- Contrast fabric: 20x112cm (8x44in)
- Appliqué fabric: 10x10cm (4x4in)
- Bondaweb: 10x10cm (4x4in)
- Pom pom trim: 40cm (16in)
- Ric rac trim: 40cm (16in) of each colour
- Basic sewing kit

MATERIALS USED

The fabrics used are from Sun Print by Alison Glass for Andover fabrics

Main fabric: Sun Print, Pink. Ref: 2/8137P1.

Contrast fabric: Sun Print, Gold. Ref: 2/8138Y1.

Appliqué fabric: Sun Print, Blue. Ref: 2/8138T. For stockists visit www.makoweruk.com

Pom pom trim: Medium bobble fringe in turquoise from www.thestripescompany.com

NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (5/8in) seam allowance.
- You will find the templates for this project on the pull-out pattern sheet provided with this issue.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace around the stocking template from the pattern sheet and cut it out. This is just the main body of the stocking and includes a 1.5cm (5/8in) seam allowance.

Step two Cut the main fabric as follows: Outer front and back and lining front and back: four pieces 50x35cm (20x14in) each. Hanging loop: 30x4cm (12x1 1/2in).

Step three Place the two stocking outer pieces right sides (RS) together then place the stocking template centrally on top. Pin into place and cut around it.

Step four Repeat this process with the other two pieces for the lining.

Step five Cut the contrast fabric as follows: Cuff: two pieces 17x39cm (6 3/4x15 3/8in) each. Pocket: two pieces 14x14cm (5 1/2x5 1/2in) each.

MAKING THE POCKET

Step one Draw or print out your chosen initial

then trace over the reverse of it on the paper side of the Bondaweb. Cut out roughly outside the drawn line.

Step two Press the Bondaweb onto the wrong side (WS) of the appliqué fabric then cut out along the drawn line.

Step three Peel off the paper backing then press the initial to the centre of the RS of one piece of pocket fabric.

Step four Stitch the initial into place using a machine straight stitch or with a running stitch by hand if you prefer. **01**

Step five Place the two pocket pieces RS together and trim the bottom corners into a slight curve.

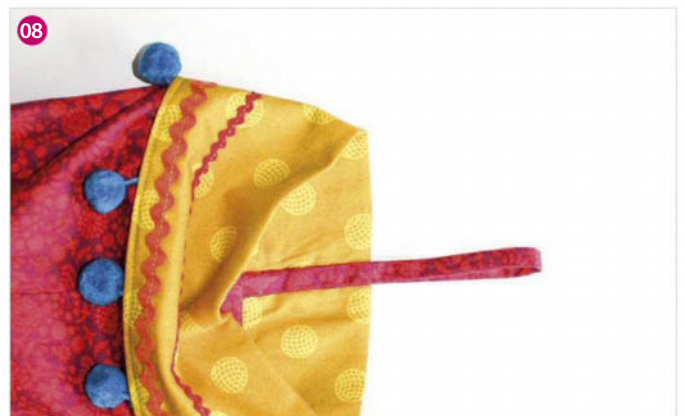
Step six Stitch the pockets together around the edge, leaving a turning gap in the centre of the straight top edge.

Step seven Turn the pocket RS out through the gap and press. Topstitch along the top to close the gap and decorate.

Step eight Pin the pocket to the stocking outer front and stitch into place around the sides and bottom edge. **02**

MAKING THE STOCKING BODY

Step one With RS together, stitch the front and back outer stocking pieces together around



the edge, leaving the top open. Turn RS out and press.

Step two Repeat this with the two lining stocking pieces, but leaving a 10cm (4in) turning gap in the centre of one side.

MAKING A HANGING LOOP

Step one Fold the hanging loop fabric in half lengthways and stitch together down the length using a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.

Step two Turn the strip RS out and press. Fold in half and pin the two raw ends together. **03**

ADDING THE CUFF

Step one Take one cuff piece of fabric and fold it in half widthways with RS together and stitch down the 17cm (6 3/4in) side to make a tube. Repeat this to join the other piece of cuff fabric in the same way.

Step two Take one cuff tube and slip over the outer joined stocking RS together and matching the seam on the cuff with the left (heel) side seam of the stocking. **04**

Step three Stitch together all the way around, press the seams open then pull the cuff upwards so it extends above the top of the stocking outer.

Step four Repeat this with the other cuff tube

and the stocking lining but slip the raw ends of the hanging loop between the cuff and lining centring it on the cuff seams and matching raw edges so the loop hangs downwards. **05**

ASSEMBLING THE STOCKING

Step one Tack the tape at the top of the pom pom trim to the RS of the top of the cuff on the stocking outer all the way around, matching the top of the tape to the raw edge of the stocking. Start and finish on the seam on the heel side of the stocking, overlapping the tape ends to fit. **06**

Step two Turn the lining and cuff WS out and push the stocking outer and cuff inside it so that they are RS together and match side seams. Stitch together all the way around the top of the cuffs. The pom pom trim will be sandwiched between them.

Step three Turn the stocking RS out through the gap in the lining then slip stitch it closed.

Step four Put the lining inside the stocking outer then topstitch around the top edge of the cuff to neaten.

ADDING RIC RAC

Step one Unfold the cuff and stitch the ric rac around the edge, making sure that when you

refold it you'll see it on the outside. We stitched two rows on ours but you can add as many rows as you like. **07**

FINISHING OFF

Step one Fold the cuff over to the RS of the stocking so that it overlaps the stocking and cuff seam a little.

Step two Fold the hanging loop upwards and slip stitch up both sides to the stocking lining on the inside of the cuff fold. **08**





GIFT TAGS

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric: 14x28cm (5 1/2x11in)
- Cotton tape: 2cm (3/4in) width x 8cm (3in)
- Ric rac trim: 8cm (3in)
- Ribbon for tying
- Eyelet
- Alphabet stamps with ink pad
- Basic sewing kit

MATERIALS USED

The fabrics used are from Sun Print by Alison Glass for Andover Fabrics. Sun Print, Gold. Ref: 2/8138Y1; Sun Print, Pink. Ref: 2/8138E; Sun Print, Blue. Ref: 2/8138T. For stockists visit www.makoweruk.com

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.
- You will find the gift tag template on the pull-out pattern sheet provided with this issue.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace around the gift tag template and cut it out.

Step two Fold the fabric in half widthways, pin the template on top and cut through both of the layers to make the front and back of your gift tag.

DECORATING THE TAG

Step one Stamp the recipient's name across the centre of the cotton tape. **01**

Step two Take one piece of fabric for the gift tag front and pin a length of ric rac trim 2.5cm (1in) up from the bottom edge.

Step three Stitch the ric rac into place through the centre of the tape. **02**

Step four Pin the printed tape on top of the ric rac so that it just overlaps the top curves.

Step five Stitch the tape into place around all four sides, close to the edge.

Step six Trim the ric rac and tape so it lines up with the fabric edges. **03**

ASSEMBLING THE TAG

Step one Place the gift tag front and back fabric right sides (RS) facing and stitch together all the way around but leave a turning gap in the centre of one side.

Step two Turn RS out through the turning gap, then turn the edge of the turning gap to the inside and press.

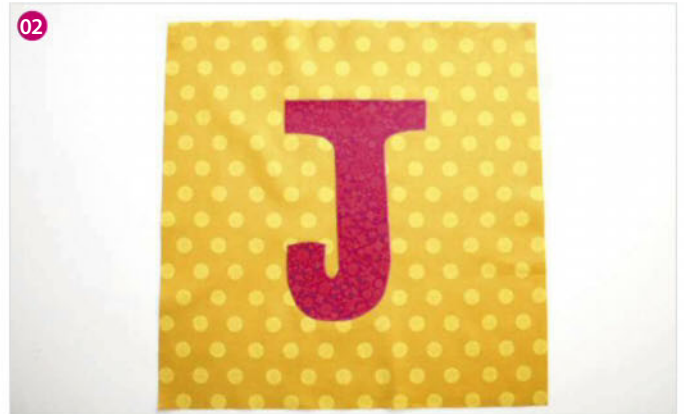
Step three Topstitch all the way around the edges of the tag to decorate and hold the turning gap closed.

FINISHING OFF

Step one Punch an eyelet in the centre of the top angled section of the tag. **04**

Step two Loop a length of ribbon through the eyelet to tie the tag to your gift.





WALL ART

YOU WILL NEED

- Background fabric: three different prints, 40x40cm (16x16in) each
- Appliqué fabric: three pieces, 25x20cm (10x8in) each
- Bondaweb: 50x40cm (20x16in)
- 3 frames: with a 27x27cm (10½x10½in) outer edge
- Mount board: white, three pieces, measuring 27x27cm (10½x10½in) each
- Basic sewing kit

MATERIALS USED

The fabrics used are from Sun Print by Alison Glass for Andover Fabrics.

Main fabric: Sun Print, Gold. Ref: 2/8138Y1; Sun Print, Pink. Ref: 2/8138E; Sun Print, Blue. Ref: 2/8138T.

Appliqué fabric: Sun Print, Pink. Ref: 2/8137P1; Sun Print, Green. Ref: 2/8137G. For stockists visit www.makoweruk.com

NOTES

- You will find the template for the letters on the pull-out pattern sheet with this issue.

MAKING THE LETTERS

Step one Trace over the letters from the pattern sheet onto tracing paper then turn it over to the wrong side (WS) and trace over the lines to create a reverse pattern.

Step two Place your Bondaweb paper-side up on top of your reversed letters pattern and trace over all the lines. Cut out the letters roughly outside the drawn lines.

Step three Place one of the traced Bondaweb letters paper-side up onto the WS of one of the appliqué fabrics and press gently into place until it is firmly stuck using a dry, medium temperature iron (don't use any steam for this). **01**

Step four Repeat this to attach the other two letters to the appliqué fabrics.

Step five Carefully cut out all the letters along the drawn pencil lines. Make sure you cut them out accurately so they are a neat shape.

Step six Remove the paper backing from each of the letters, then you are ready to stick them in place.

APPLIQUÉING THE FABRIC

Step one Place one of the background fabrics right sides (RS) up then place one letter centrally on top. **02**

Step two Work a machine zigzag around the edge of each letter, making sure the stitch goes into the letter on one side and into the background fabric on the other. This will hold it firmly in place and add decoration. **03**

Step three Repeat this to stitch the other two letters to the other two background fabrics.

MAKING A PICTURE

Step one Stick one piece of mount board to the front of one picture frame using double-sided tape.

Step two Place one piece of appliquéd fabric RS up centrally on top of the mount board and pin into place around the edges by pushing pins through the edge of the fabric and into the mount board. **04**

Step three Turn the frame over to the WS and hold the fabric in place by stapling it through the edge of the frame.

Step four Repeat to make the other two pictures in the same way. You can use three different prints as we have done or use the same fabric for each if you prefer.

TREES

YOU WILL NEED

- Patchwork fabrics: scraps of three different fabrics
- Pom pom trim, ric rac, narrow ribbon: to decorate
- Polyester fibrefill
- Wooden pencil
- Cotton reel
- Basic sewing kit

MATERIALS USED

The fabrics used are from Sun Print by Alison Glass for Andover Fabrics. Sun Print, Gold. Ref: 2/8138Y1; Sun Print, Pink. Ref: 2/8138E; Sun Print, Blue. Ref: 2/8138T. For stockists visit www.makoweruk.com

Polyester fiberfill: Carded polyester fiberfill from www.worldofwool.co.uk or call 01484 846878

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.
- You will find the template needed to make this project on the pull-out pattern sheet.

CUTTING OUT

The three different sizes of tree are all made in the same way so choose which one you want to make or stitch the set.

Step one Trace the tree template in the size you want to make, including the diagonal lines drawn across it.

Step two Take one of the fabrics and place the template centrally beneath it. Trace around the tree outline and the upper diagonal line. If you can't see the template through the fabric then tape it to a window so the light shines through then trace over the lines using chalk or an erasable pen or pencil.

Step three Cut the tree shape out along the outer drawn lines.

MAKING THE PATCHWORK

Step one Take another fabric and turn under one of the edges by 1cm (3/8in) to the wrong side (WS) and press.

Step two Place the folded over edge along the drawn upper diagonal line and stitch into place close to the folded edge. Trim this fabric to the same shape as the tree fabric beneath. **01**

Step three Trace the lower diagonal line on top of the fabric you've just stitched on, using the template for reference.



Step four Take another fabric and repeat by folding under one edge and stitching on top of the lower diagonal line.

Step five Turn the fabrics over and trim the fabric stitched on top to the same shape as the fabric beneath.

Step six Tack together around the lower edges to hold the fabric layers together. **02**

Step seven Repeat this process to make the back of the tree. This is made in exactly the same way as the front but you need to turn the template over and trace the diagonal lines in reverse so they are a mirror image of the front. By reversing the tree back it will allow the seams to match up when you stitch the front and back of the tree together.

ASSEMBLING THE TREE

Step one Place the tree front and back right sides (RS) together and stitch all the way around. Start stitching 2cm (3/8in) from the centre of the bottom straight edge and finish 2cm (3/8in) from the centre at the other side. This will give you a 4cm (1 1/2in) turning gap.

Step two Turn the tree RS out. Turn the edges of the turning gap to the inside and press.

Step three Stuff the tree firmly.

Step four Push the pencil centrally up inside

the tree, so you leave about 6cm (2 1/2in) below it for the trunk and to fit inside the cotton reel. A small natural wood pencil is ideal for this but you could choose a colour to match your fabrics instead if you prefer.

Step five Slip stitch the gap closed either side of the pencil at the bottom, making sure you work the stitches close to this to hold it securely in place. **03**

DECORATING THE TREE

Step one You can now decorate your tree by pinning lengths of pom pom trim, ribbon or ric rac and wrapping them around the tree. **04**

Step two Once you're happy with the decoration, carefully slipstitch the trims in place using matching thread to the front and back of the tree.

FINISHING OFF

Step one Push the pencil into the centre of a cotton reel. We've used some vintage reels for a more traditional look but you just need to choose one that fits. You may need to trim the end of the pencil so only a little of it is showing to form a tree trunk.

Step two Glue the pencil into the centre of the cotton reel to hold it securely in place.



STARS

YOU WILL NEED

- Bottom fabric: 14x28cm (6x12in)
- Middle fabric: 11x11cm (5x5in)
- Top fabric: 8x8cm (4x4in)
- Bondaweb: 14x33cm (6x13in)
- Ribbon for hanging
- Basic sewing kit

MATERIALS USED

The fabrics used are from Sun Print by Alison Glass for Andover Fabrics. Sun Print, Gold. Ref: 2/8138Y1; Sun Print, Pink. Ref: 2/8138E; Sun Print, Blue. Ref: 2/8138T; Sun Print, Pink. Ref: 2/8137P1; Sun Print, Green. Ref: 2/8137G. For stockists visit www.makoweruk.com

NOTES

- You will find the star templates on the pull-out pattern sheet provided with this issue.
- The materials and instructions are for making one star.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace around the three star templates separately and cut them out to make a large bottom star, a medium middle star and a small top star.

Step two Trace around each of the stars on to the paper side of the Bondaweb then cut them out roughly just outside the drawn line. You will need one large star, one medium star and one small star.

MAKING THE STARS

Step one Place the large Bondaweb star paper-side up on the wrong side (WS) of half of the bottom fabric and press firmly into place. **01**

Step two Cut out the star carefully along the drawn lines.

Step three Peel off the paper backing and place the cut out star on the other half of the bottom fabric with WS together then press into place.

Step four Cut around the edge of the star to make a double-sided large star.

Step five Place the medium Bondaweb star paper side up on the WS of the middle fabric, press it into place then cut it out along the drawn lines.

Step six Repeat this to make the small star from the top fabric. **02**

JOINING THE STARS

Step one Peel off the paper backing from the middle star and place this centrally on top of the bottom star and press firmly into place. **03**

Step two Peel off the paper backing from the top star and place this centrally on top of the middle star and press firmly into place.

Step three To decorate the stars and hold them firmly together, machine stitch just inside the edges of each of the stars. This doesn't have to be neat if you want a more handmade feel, as long as the stars are joined together, so just go with the effect you prefer. **04**

HANGING THE STARS

Step one You can use a single star to hang as a decoration. Stitch a loop of ribbon or cord to the back then hang on the tree.

Step two Alternatively, you can hang your stars in a row vertically or as a garland horizontally. Cut ribbon to the length you want and stitch the stars on top of it using small, neat stitches.

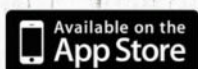
Simply Sewing

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



31 SEASONAL MAKES

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

15 FESTIVE GIFTS + DECORATIONS

ISSUE TWENTY THREE



8 GIFTS TO SEW FOR CHRISTMAS

NEW! COTTON + CHALK

ULTIMATE PARTY DRESS IN SIZES 6-20



JUST TAP HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY



SEASONAL STYLE

fabrics and fun Christmas makes



Upcycle jeans into a cushion • Make a dog coat • Sew buttonholes

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

* Free trial not available on Zinio.
The digital version of the magazine does not include the cover gift that you would find on newsstand copies.

Cotton
+CHALK



PSST:

Turn to page 37 for fabric and style inspiration, and don't forget to share your finished Katie Dress with us using #simplysewingmag



**CLICK
HERE!**
TO BUY THIS PATTERN
FOR **£5.99**
WHILE STOCKS LAST

THE KATIE DRESS

Sew a sophisticated party look with The Katie Dress by **Cotton + Chalk** in sizes 6-20, with a feminine sweetheart neckline and two sleeve options.

THE KATIE DRESS

We relish the many opportunities for getting dressed up that party season brings – mainly because it gives us a chance to show off our sewing skills with a fabulous handmade dress! And luckily, we've already found our ultimate party frock: Cotton + Chalk's The Katie Dress. The Katie Dress ticks all our perfect-party-dress boxes with its easy-to-wear, sophisticated style.

This flattering frock features a fitted bodice with princess seams, a skirt with just the right amount of swish for the dancefloor, and a pretty sweetheart neckline for wearing with your sparkliest necklace.

The step-by-step instructions will take you through sewing a fitted bodice and sweetheart neckline, and adding a zip and self-lined short sleeves (dress B) and long sleeves (dress A). You'll be ready to party in your Katie Dress before you know it!

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric: see pattern envelope
- Zip: 51cm (20in)
- Iron on interfacing: 46x60cm (18x24in)
- Matching thread

FABRIC SUGGESTIONS

- Medium weight knits and woven fabrics such as ponte roma, linen and crepe.

GETTING STARTED

First, pre-wash and dry your fabric to allow for any shrinkage. Unfold the pattern sheets included in the pattern envelope and find the line style for your size on the pattern pieces using the key provided. Follow these lines to cut your pattern pieces out – it can be helpful to mark your size with a highlighter before cutting. Turn to our guide on page 93 for more tips, plus a glossary of key terms to refer to while you're sewing your Katie Dress.

TIPS FOR MATCHING SEAMS

The Katie Dress features a seamed fitted bodice and skirt. For a professional look, follow these tips for lining up the seam lines so they form perfect intersections.

- Finish any raw edges using an overlocker or zigzag stitch before the seamed pieces are sewn together, as you may not be able to access the full seam allowance once they are joined.
- Press each seam well for a smooth finish.
- To help you line up the seams, pin directly through each one, making sure that the pin is at exactly the same point on both seams.
- Once you have pinned your pieces in place, you could tack (or baste) them to ensure the seams won't shift while you're sewing.

SWEETHEART NECKLINE

A sweetheart neckline gives the dress a feminine look.

PRINCESS SEAMS

The princess seams on the bodice create a fitted shape.

TWO SLEEVE LENGTHS

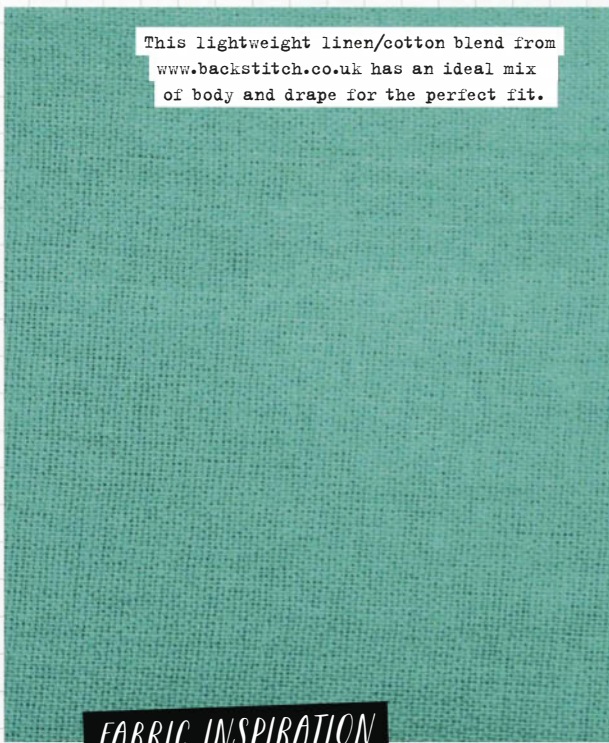
Choose from three-quarter or self-lined short sleeve styles.

EASY-TO-WEAR LENGTH

The semi-fitted knee-length skirt is comfortable and flattering.



This lightweight linen/cotton blend from www.backstitch.co.uk has an ideal mix of body and drape for the perfect fit.



FABRIC INSPIRATION



Small houndstooth ponte roma, www.girlcharlee.co.uk



Woven aztec ponte roma, www.backstitch.co.uk



Broken feathers chevron ponte roma, www.girlcharlee.co.uk

BRIGHT AND BOLD

The Katie Dress can be made in wovens and knits, so play with prints and plains in gemstone colours and monochrome.



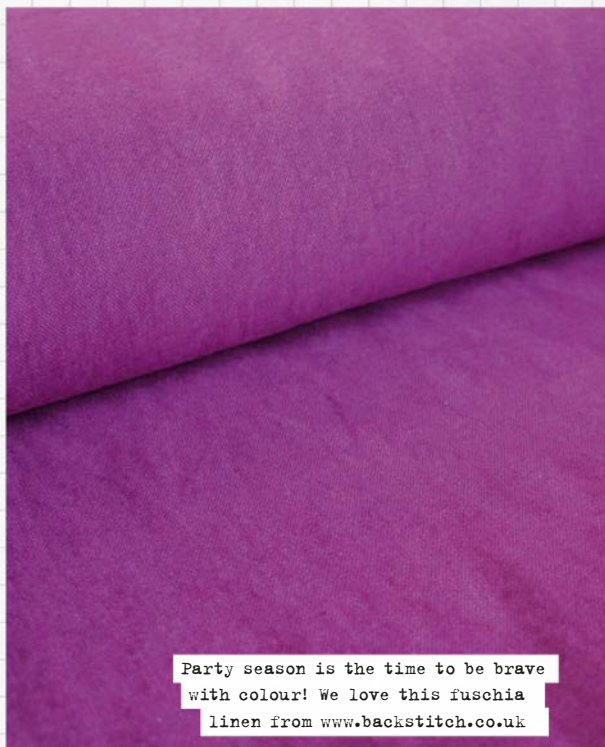
Big polka dot jersey, www.backstitch.co.uk



Chevron ponte roma, www.girlcharlee.co.uk



Jacquard ponte roma, www.backstitch.co.uk



Party season is the time to be brave with colour! We love this fuschia linen from www.backstitch.co.uk

WEAR IT WITH

GOOD AS GOLD

Make your Katie Dress shine with subtle gold accessories.

Brighten a monochrome outfit with glossy pink lipstick, £13.50, www.iconiclondoninc.com

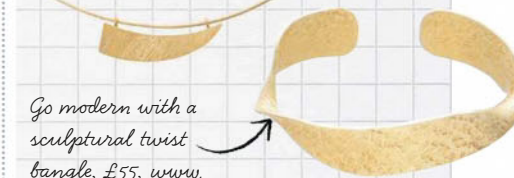


A neat manicure is a must for a polished party look, £6.95, www.benecos.co.uk

Add subtle sparkle with a minimal bracelet, £15, www.dunelondon.com



Let your handmade dress do the talking with an understated necklace, £39, www.oliverbonas.com



Go modern with a sculptural twist bangle, £55, www.oliverbonas.com



Stash all your party essentials in a stylish metallic clutch, £25, uk.accessorize.com

Wear Art Deco-inspired heels for timeless style, £45, www.topshop.com



Channel Dorothy in a pair of sparkly party shoes, £89, www.phase-eight.co.uk



Love being inspired by new crafting techniques and products?
Watch The Craft Channel!

The Craft Channel is the home of craft shopping TV in the UK and broadcasts 14 hours of live craft shows, seven days a week. It's the perfect place to spend an hour, an afternoon, or a whole day crafting along with your favourite personalities from the world of craft.



Browse the latest craft products



Created *by*
craft lovers *for*
craft lovers!

Enjoy the inspirational demos



Learn new skills and techniques



Join our crafting community

Our presenters and demonstrators are experts in their fields and their fun and informative demonstrations are sure to inspire all levels of crafter!

thecraftchannel.tv

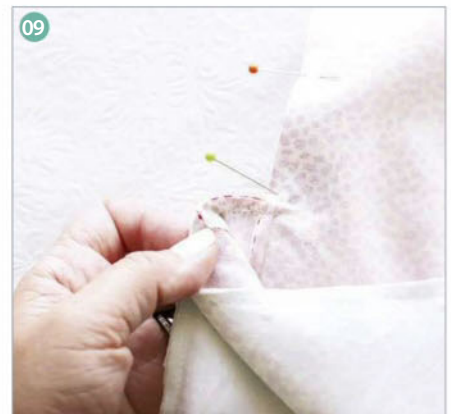
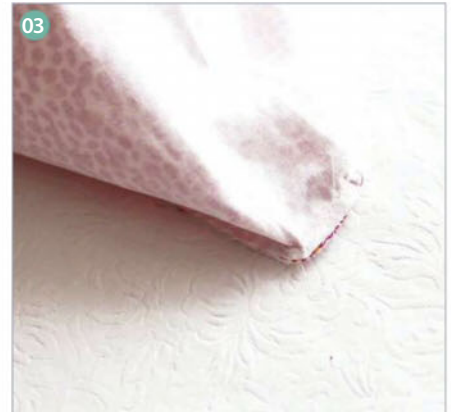
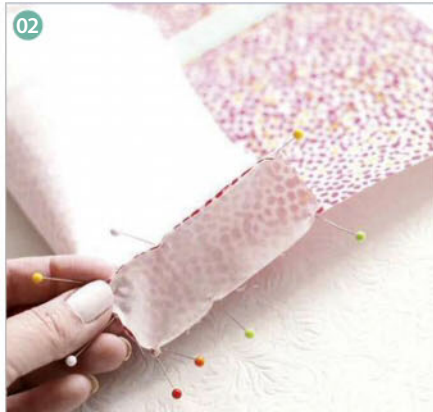
Freeview **88** Sky **679** Freesat **818**





CHAIN REACTION

Accessorise your party frock with **Leah Farquharson's** chain clutch, perfect for holding the essentials while you dance the night away!



YOU WILL NEED

- Main cotton print fabric: 40x35cm (16x14in), for the outer bag
- Contrast cotton print fabric: 40x35cm (16x14in), for the lining
- Woven, iron on interfacing: 40x60cm (16x24in)
- Medium gauge chain: 1m (1¼yds)
- 2 lobster swivel clips: 37x17mm
- Magnetic clasp
- Jewellery or needle nose pliers
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Use a 5mm (¼in) seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
- You will find the template for this project on the pull-out pattern sheet provided with this issue.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace around the bag side template and cut it out.

Step two From the main fabric cut: Outer body, 35x25cm (13¾x9⅞in). Outer sides, two pieces using the pattern. Chain tabs strip, 4x13cm (2x5¼in).

Step three From the contrast fabric cut: Lining body, 35x25cm (13¾x9⅞in). Lining sides, two pieces using the pattern. Accent strip, 35x5cm (13¾x2in).

Step four From the interfacing cut: Interfacing body, two pieces, 35x25cm (13¾x9⅞in) each. Interfacing sides, four pieces using the pattern.

PREPARING THE FABRIC

Step one Fuse interfacing to the wrong side (WS) of the outer body piece and both of the outer side pieces.

Step two Repeat to fuse interfacing to the wrong side (WS) of the lining body piece and the lining side pieces then set these aside for later.

Step three Measure 12.5cm (5in) across the top short side of the outer body piece, and 5.5cm (2¼in) down from this point, and mark with a pencil for the positioning of the negative side of the magnetic clasp.

ADDING THE ACCENT STRIP

Step one Take the contrast fabric accent strip and fold it in half lengthways with right sides (RS) facing. Stitch together down the length.

Step two Turn the strip RS out and press.

Step three Turn the main outer bag fabric so it's RS up but the clasp mark is at the bottom edge. Measure and pin the accent strip 7cm (2¾in) from the left edge all the way down. **01**

Step four Topstitch into place down both of the long edges.

ATTACHING THE SIDE PIECES

Step one Starting at the end of the bag outer fabric which you've marked for the clasp, pin one bag side piece along the long edge of the outer bag RS together. **02**

Pinch the corners as you are pinning the fabric around them. **03**

Step two Stitch together then clip the corners.

Step three Repeat this to stitch the other side piece on the other side of the bag outer.

Step four Turn the bag RS out and press.

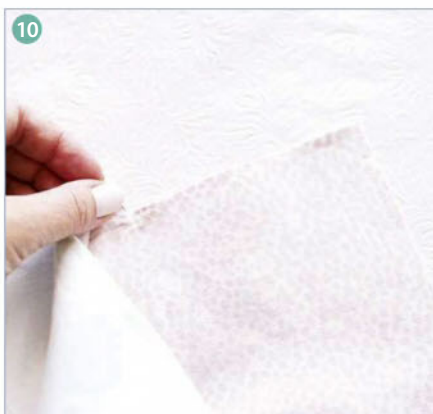
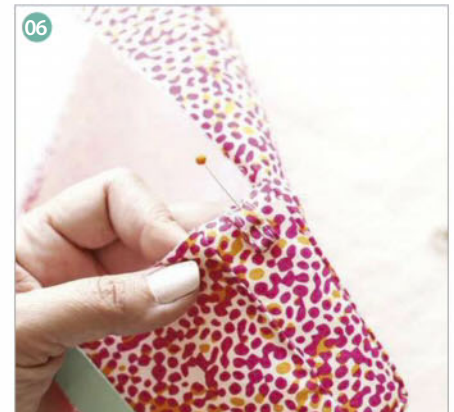
MAKING THE CHAIN TABS

Step one Fold the chain tabs strip in half lengthwise with WS together and press.

Step two Open out the fold then fold the two

FIND
MORE
FREE
MAGAZINES

[HTTP://SOEK.IN](http://soek.in)



long edges inwards to the WS to meet at the fold in the centre then press. ⁰⁴

Step three Topstitch down both long sides close to the edge to hold it closed then press.

Step four Cut the strip into two pieces each measuring 5cm (2in) long and discard the excess.

Step five Fold each strip in half, matching raw short edges, and stitch across the ends to create two loops. ⁰⁵

ATTACHING THE CHAIN TABS

Step one Place one tab in the centre of the top edge of one bag side, matching raw edges and with RS together. Tack into place to hold. ⁰⁶

Step two Repeat this to tack the other chain tab in the centre of the other bag side.

ATTACHING THE MAGNETIC CLASP

Step one Attach the negative side of the magnetic clasp by centring it over the small mark you made earlier. Using a stitch ripper or small, sharp scissors, cut small slits either side of the marking just long enough to fit the prongs on the back of the clasp piece.

Step two Fit the prongs through the slits from the RS of the fabric to the WS then place the clasp backing disk over them and bend the prongs open to secure. ⁰⁷

ASSEMBLING THE LINING

Step one Join the lining side pieces to the lining outer in the same way as you did for the bag outer pieces.

Step two Turn the bag lining WS out and press the seams open.

Step three Measure 12.5cm (5in) across the long side that will be the bag flap lining to find the centre. Then measure 3.5cm (1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in) down from this and mark with a pencil.

Step four Attach the positive side of the magnetic clasp at this point in the same way as you attached the negative side. ⁰⁸

ASSEMBLING THE OUTER AND LINING

Step one Turn the bag WS out then put the outer bag inside it so they are RS facing. Pin together, matching all of the corresponding side seams.

Step two Stitch the outer and lining together across the front pouch portion, from one back side seam to the other, encasing the chain tabs on the side pieces as you go. ⁰⁹

Step three Pin the outer bag flap to the lining flap then stitch together all the way around the flap, leaving a 6cm (2 $\frac{3}{8}$ in) turning gap in the centre of one side of the flap. ¹⁰

Step four Clip the corners then turn the bag RS out through the turning gap. Turn the edges of

the turning gap to the inside and press.

Step five Topstitch around the edges of the bag, both the front and the flap, to neaten and hold the turning gap closed. ¹¹

Step six Match the positive and negative magnetic purse snap pieces together to close.

ATTACHING THE CHAIN

Step one Measure and cut the chain to a good length for your body. I cut mine to 1m (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds).

Step two Using pliers, bend the chain links open on either end to attach the chain to the end of the swivel clips, then close them carefully so they are secure.

Step three Slip the swivel clips through the chain tabs on each side of the bag to attach. ¹²



Leah Farquharson is an artist and maker living in Miami with her two sons and husband. See her work at www.bluebirdchic.com and www.bluebirdchic.etsy.com



VINTAGE LOVELIES

The Big Vintage Sew Along aims to get us all sewing classic frocks. Its ambassador Wendy Gardiner shares why she loves vintage patterns – and you should too.



Left to right, top row: Vogue® Pattern 9127, Butterick 5813, Butterick 6211.
Bottom row: McCall's 7086, Butterick 5880, Vogue® Pattern 9082.

You may recall the frenzy of sewing prompted by the appearance of Butterick's Walkaway Dress in *The Great British Sewing Bee* series 3. Indeed, you may even have made it for yourself!

The Walkaway Dress sew along that followed culminated in a tea party at the Knitting & Stitching Show in London, with every guest wearing their own self-sewn Walkaway Dress – members of an exclusive club with a very stylish dress code!

The roaring success of the 2015 sew along prompted the folks at Butterick, Vogue and McCall's to think about how they could get even more people sewing vintage this year, and they came up with a doozie: The Big Vintage Sew Along. "When we released the Butterick Walkaway Dress last year, we were blown away by how popular it was," brand ambassador Wendy Gardiner explains. "It was an update of a Butterick vintage original, and that was what made it such a success. This time round we picked out a selection of some of the bestsellers from archives of each brand, choosing a Vintage Edit of 20 designs that perfectly portray the fashion trends of the 1930s, 40s, 50s and 60s."

A SEWING COMMUNITY

The patterns cover a range of garments from each era, mainly dresses but also a chic blouse, a dress with matching jacket, and a smart belted skirt. There's even a new version of the Walkaway Dress in the 50s section – Butterick 6211! "In addition, there are two vintage-inspired Butterick dresses – chosen because they're very popular designs," says Wendy.

"Sometimes people are put off by the word vintage – they think they will need to do a lot of resizing to adjust to modern figures, but we've already done all that for them. I always advise people to choose by measurements anyway, rather than looking for a size 10 or 12, as most of us are different sizes at the bust, waist and hips."

The other big part of the Sew Along was to allow sewists to connect through

Vogue® Pattern 8875, Butterick 5748, Vogue® Pattern 2903, Butterick 5209

their makes. "We wanted to give sewists the opportunity to be part of something," Wendy explains. "When we did the Walkaway Dress in 2015, everyone felt a connection. We held the tea party at the Knitting & Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace and I kept seeing women wearing variations of the same dress. It felt really companionable. You'd nod and smile at

"20 DESIGNS THAT PERFECTLY PORTRAY THE FASHION TRENDS OF THE 1930S, 40S, 50S AND 60S."

each other and there was a recognition that you'd experienced something in common."

There's an extra benefit, too. Last year, Sue Haft, MD of The McCall Pattern Company, decided to donate funds from the sew along pattern sales to The Eve Appeal (www.eveappeal.org.uk), raising an impressive £8300 for the women's cancer charity.

"For every pattern sold from this Vintage

Edit, we've made a contribution to the Eve Appeal," says Wendy. "When we handed over the cheque at the tea party last year, everyone there knew that they'd done their bit to help, simply by buying the pattern and making the dress. That's a really positive feeling."

To further encourage the community feel, the brands invited notable sewing bloggers – including Jane Marland (www.handmadejane.co.uk), Portia Lawrie (www.makery.uk) and Lisa Comfort (www.sewoverit.co.uk) – to get involved in the Sew Along and share pictures, ideas and tips with their followers. Their input was a crucial part in the venture's success, Wendy believes.

"Dressmaking can be a solitary occupation. Most of my friends don't dress-make, and I know a lot of sewists are in this position," she says. "Social media has made it easier to find other people who sew, and getting bloggers involved enhanced that effect. Their input made it real. It's all very well Butterick or McCall's or Vogue saying how great the patterns are, but the bloggers sew because

Left: While the 2015 sew along featured just one pattern, 2016's has 20 fab frocks to choose from! Decisions, decisions...





1930s
Stylish 1930s ladies favoured fitted, high-waisted skirts and pussy-bow blouses.



1940s
A feminine hourglass silhouette was de rigueur in the 1940s.



they love it, and offer an honest opinion that resonates with their readers."

Each blogger was given their choice of pattern, so they were sewing the garment they would most love to wear themselves. "I think you get drawn to the people who make the dresses you want to make yourself," says Wendy. "So I love Rachel Pinheiro at House of Pinheiro (www.houseofpinheiro.com) and Kate Underdown at The Fold Line (www.thefoldline.com). They provide an insight into the pattern you've opted for."

In fact, Wendy comments, choosing which of the garments to make is one of the big pleasures of the Sew Along. "I have three favourites out of the 20 patterns," she says. "I love the 5209 Butterick 1940s dress, which I plan to wear with a petticoat to give it more of a generous silhouette, the full-skirted 2903 Vogue 1950s dress, and a slinkier 5880 Butterick 1950s dress, which I'm going to make in leopard print!"

SHARING SKILLS

As part of the sew along venture, Wendy has been sharing her vintage sewing techniques and tips at www.vintagesewalong.co.uk, as well as going around the country running workshops at selected sewing shops.

"A lot of the classes have focused on general dressmaking and have been aimed at

everyone from total beginners to the more experienced dressmakers," she says. "I talk my participants through a sewing pattern and explain things like why stay stitch and understitching is recommended."

In case you're not entirely sure, Wendy adds helpfully: "Stay stitch is a straight stitch sewn just inside the seam allowance prior to putting pieces together to prevent rounded or V-neck lines stretching as you handle the fabric."

{ "I think you get drawn to the people who make the dresses you want to make yourself." }

Understitching will "help to prevent a facing or lining rolling out at neck and armholes. You need to first press trimmed and clipped seam allowances towards the facing and then stitch using a straight stitch, close to the seam along the facing, catching the seam allowances in the stitching as you go."

She adds: "Once people know the purpose of some of the common techniques, they're happy to put in the time to do them. It's worth the effort for a beautifully finished garment!"

Wendy admits that there are many pleasures to be gained from leading these dressmaking workshops. "I enjoy the fact that I'm meeting a completely different group of sewists each time, and also love spending time in the different haberdashery shops – to me that's like being in a sweet shop!" she says. "The workshops are a couple of hours or a half-day in length, and might cover dressmaking basics or be an SOS, where people can bring works in progress that they're struggling with. I've also run classes where people get started on making dresses from the Vintage Edit."

The culmination of all this will be the opportunity to attend vintage tea parties this autumn – wearing your unique vintage handmade outfit, of course – at the Knitting & Stitching Shows (www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com) in London and Harrogate.

"There will be two tea parties, one of which was at the Knitting & Stitching Show at the Ally Pally on Wednesday 5th October, with a piano playing in the corner and a glass of bubbly on arrival," says Wendy, adding, "Both offer the chance to mingle and see all the garments everyone else is wearing. Meeting all those other people who have been doing a similar thing to you, and seeing how each individual has made it their own, is lovely."

At Harrogate's Knitting & Stitching Show,



1950s

The 1950s were all about twirl power, with petticoats worn under fit-and-flare frocks.

1960s

Early 1960s fashion took inspiration from style icons of the era like Jackie Kennedy.

the vintage tea party is on November 24th. You can buy a combined tea party and show ticket from www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com, so you'll get to explore all that the Knitting & Stitching Show has to offer while looking out for other similarly stylish sewists to share a nod and a smile with.

"It's really celebratory," says Wendy. "We're hoping the people from Eve Appeal will be there as well, so attendees get a chance to feel part of that and know that through indulging their love of sewing they have actually made a positive difference."

Even with the single pattern in 2015, she says that the variations of that one dress on show were astonishing – and this year there won't just be one style for those joining the sew along to choose from, giving even more opportunities for creativity, individuality and, of course, plenty of fabric shopping.

"This time, there will be 20 different outfits on all those different people, who will each have chosen different lengths, fabrics, and whether or not to wear it with a petticoat, all of which makes for a vast array of finished looks!" In fact, to ensure the maximum amount of individual expression and style, each of the pattern brands deliberately haven't recommended particular fabrics beyond the weights that will suit the styles best, such as linen, satin, crepe or damask.

"We want the dressmakers taking part to have the freedom to choose the fabric they love," Wendy says. So, where does she find beautiful fabrics for her sewing stash? "Lots of my favourites come from Makower fabrics as I really like patchwork cotton for big dresses – they have beautiful prints in quality materials that are going to last. I also buy from Geoff Rosenberg at the Knitting & Stitching shows, who always has fabulous designer pieces at great prices, as well as by mail order from Craftswoman Fabrics in Ireland (www.craftswomanfabrics.com) – who have a great range of quality dressmaking fabrics."

Fabric choice is a crucial detail, she says, pointing out that "the dresses aren't difficult, but they're not quick to sew either. You invest time and effort in a project like this, so invest in the materials that will make sure you can wear it for years to come."

That's the beauty of vintage clothing. As well as being both wonderfully flattering and a dream to wear, it isn't the latest fashion and it doesn't date, meaning it'll be a treasured garment in your wardrobe for years to come. Timelessly chic ticks all our style boxes, and, ironically, at the moment that's really on trend.

Find more details on how you can get involved in The Big Vintage Sew Along at www.vintagesewalong.co.uk

Written by Judy Darley.



WENDY'S VINTAGE SEWING TIPS

- Read through the step-by-step instructions before you start as you may find some techniques in vintage designs are unusual. A read-through will help with the construction process.
- Consider wearing the full skirted retro dresses with big petticoats for a truly vintage look. They also give the illusion of a nipped-in waist!
- Add horsehair braid to the hemline to give it body and help the dress to hang nicely.

PSSST:

*You can fill your wardrobe
with quick-to-sew jersey
dresses and tees using this
nifty measuring technique!*





TWICE AS NICE

Mix and match jersey prints from your stash to sew up **Art Gallery Fabrics'** two-in-one dress, made to fit like your favourite tee.

TWO-IN-ONE DRESS

YOU WILL NEED

- Knit fabric for top dress: to fit pattern, see instructions
- Knit fabric for under dress: to fit pattern, see instructions
- Fusible hem tape – see instructions for details
- Your favourite sleeveless T-shirt
- Pattern paper
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

The fabrics used are from Skopelos by Katarina Roccella for Art Gallery Fabrics. For stockists visit www.hantex.co.uk/agf

Top dress: Chora Winds.

Ref: K-44609.

Under dress: Greeka Skouro.

Ref: K-34608.

DRAWING THE BODICE PATTERNS

Step one Take a sleeveless T-shirt that fits you well and fold it in half lengthways.

Step two Place the folded edge on one of the straight edges of your pattern paper. If your T-shirt has a shoulder measurement smaller than 5cm (2in) then enlarge it to this.

Step three Trace half of your front bodice, drawing in the front neckline and the higher back neckline. **01**

DRAWING THE UNDER DRESS PATTERN

Step one Find your natural waist measurement by finding the point where your side bends.

Measure from your high shoulder point down to this point and make a note of this measurement.

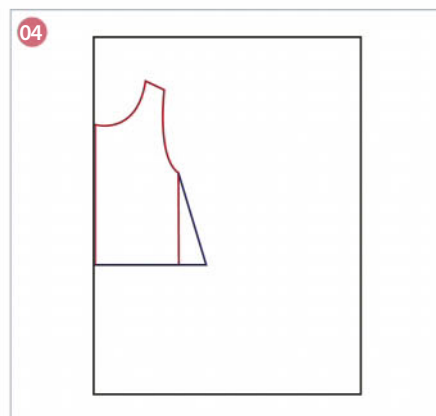
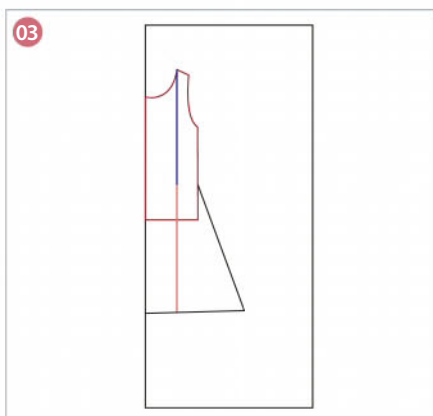
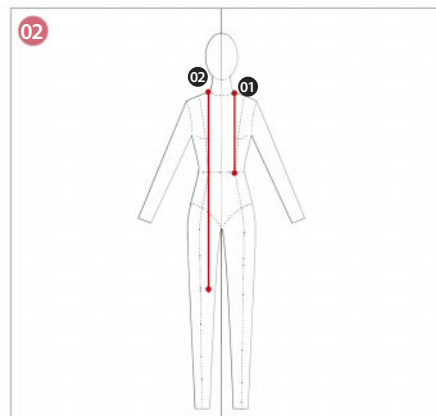
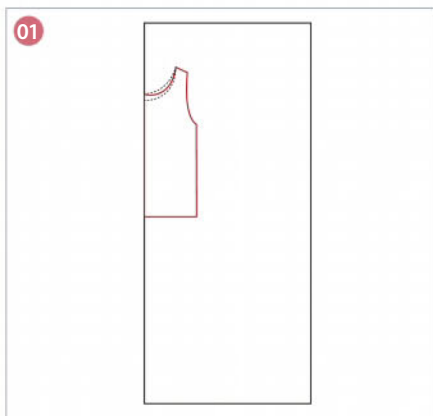
Step two Measure from your high shoulder point to the length you want your dress to be. Write down this finished length. **02**

Step three On your pattern paper, mark your high shoulder point on the bodice then mark down to your natural waist and also the finished length. Draw a horizontal line across the bottom of the finished length.

Step four Draw a diagonal line from your natural waist to your finished length line. This will create an A-Line skirt for your dress and will give it a flattering flowy lower edge. For a more fitted look, make less of a diagonal line. Blend the point where the waist meets the skirt. **03**

Step five Add 5mm (¼in) seam allowance all the way around except for the lower hem which needs a 1.5cm (½in) seam allowance.

Step six Trace over the pattern following the front neckline edge and cut it out to make your front pattern. Repeat to trace and cut out the pattern but this time following the back neckline edge to make your back pattern.



DRAWING THE TOP DRESS PATTERNS

Step one Trace the front bodice pattern on a piece of pattern paper.

Step two From the bottom of your armhole make a diagonal line as you did for the skirt. Stop at the waist and draw a straight line across.

Step three Repeat this with the back pattern, drawing the same diagonal line. **04**

CUTTING OUT

Step one Fold the top dress fabric in half right sides (RS) together, matching selvages, then pin the top dress patterns to the fold and cut out.

Step two Fold the under dress fabric in the same way. Pin the under dress patterns to the fold and cut them out.

ASSEMBLING THE DRESS

Step one Stitch the two top dress pieces RS together on the shoulder and side seams. Use an overlocker or work a small zigzag stitch.

Step two Join the two under dress pieces together in the same way.

Step three Place the under dress inside the top dress so the RS of the under dress is facing the WS of the top dress. Match the seams.

Step four Stitch the top dress to the under dress at the neckline and armholes to help prevent the fabric from moving when attaching the binding.

BINDING THE EDGES

Step one For the arm bands, cut two top dress fabric strips 4cm (1½in) wide and the length of the armhole circumference, minus 1cm (¾in) so they fit nicely. Cut these from selvedge to selvedge so they stretch in the correct direction.

Step two Place the two short ends of one strip RS facing and stitch together.

Step three Fold the strip in half lengthways wrong sides (WS) facing and press to create the arm band. Spray with starch to stiffen the fabric.

Step four Pin the seam on the arm band to the side seam of the armhole RS together. Pin at the shoulder seam then pin between the two, so the band is evenly stretched between the seams.

Step five Overlock or zigzag stitch the arm band to the armhole. Press seams towards the inside.

Step six Repeat to bind the other armhole.

Step seven Bind the neckline as before but with the neckband seams in the centre back.

HEMMING THE DRESS

Step one Overlock or work a machine zigzag along the bottom of the dress.

Step two Press the hem under by 1.5cm (½in), place the fusible web tape inside the fold then press to secure to make the hem easier to sew.

Step three Stitch the hem into place all the way around to finish.

FREE! 28 GIFT TAGS
& GREETINGS CARDS



Mollie
MAKES

110 GORGEOUS GIFT
& DÉCOR IDEAS

WE LOVE CRAFT

CHRISTMAS

CROCHET • KNITTING • SEWING • PAPER CRAFT • JEWELLERY



JUST
£9.99!*



The team behind *Mollie Makes* brings you a collection of seasonal makes for **stylish crafters**. Be inspired to give **handmade gifts** and style a **festive home** with over **110 exciting projects and ideas**. Packed with crochet, knitting, sewing, papercrafts, jewellery-making DIYs and so much more!

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

Call 0844 844 0388 and quote 'Mollie Christmas 16'

Online www.buysubscriptions.com/craftspecial

Lines open weekdays 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. Overseas please call +44 (0) 1795 414 676.
EUR price £12.99, ROW price £13.49. All prices include p&p.



Must follows



Grab your tablets, phones and computers and follow these six fantastic companies!

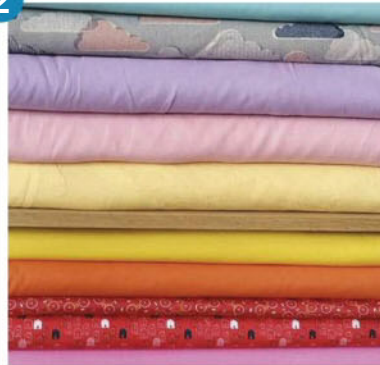
1



CLOSS & HAMBLIN

[f](#) @candhfabrics [t](#) @candhfabrics

2



BOBBINS AND BUTTONS

[f](#) /Bobbins-n-buttons

[i](#) /bobbins_and_buttons

3



REMNANT KINGS

[f](#) /remnantkings [i](#) @remnant_kings

4



CLOTHSPOT

[f](#) /ClothSpot [i](#) @clothspot

5



GROVES

[f](#) /GrovesLtd

6



SEW FRIENDLY

[f](#) /sewfriendlyBourne

[t](#) /Sewfriendlyshop

1. Closs & Hamblin C & H have been providing home, haberdashery, knitting, and craft products since 1933. Follow us in store or online for news, offers and inspiration! candh.co.uk **2. Bobbins and Buttons** offer an online selection of best quality dressmaking and craft fabrics and Leicester based sewing classes for all levels. bobbinsnbuttons.co.uk **3. Remnant Kings** Scotland's best selection of dressmaking, interiors, quilting fabrics & haberdashery since 1946. remnantkings.co.uk

4. ClothSpot Follow us for news of latest arrivals (every Friday!) and offers – including our online Remnant Box. Also our fashion inspirations – whether classic, eccentric, modern or vintage! clothspot.co.uk **5. Groves** beautiful selection of Christmas fat quarters, motifs, trims, ribbons, buttons, bunting and gift kits provide for all your festive crafting needs. groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk **6. Sew Friendly** stocks an extension range of gorgeous quilting/crafting fabrics, dress making fabrics, as well as on trend soft furnishing fabrics. Follow our amazing journey on Facebook and Twitter! sewfriendly.co.uk

PLAIN TO PRETTY

Jennie Jones shows you how to prettify a tee with a vintage-inspired lace collar.



TRANSFORM A TEE



YOU WILL NEED

- 1 T-shirt
- Lace collar
- Basic sewing kit



Designer Jennie says: "What better way is there to spend an autumn evening than by doing a bit of hand sewing? Using a ready-made lace collar (found on eBay) makes this T-shirt transformation super quick and easy!"

PINNING THE COLLAR IN PLACE

Step one Fold your T-shirt in half lengthways to find the centre point of the back neckline and front neckline and mark both of these positions with pins.

Step two Fold the lace collar in half widthways to find the centre point and mark this with a pin as this will be used for positioning.

Step three Match the centre point of the collar to the centre point at the back of T-shirt and pin together. **01**

Step four Continue to pin the lace collar around the T-shirt neckline. Angle the collar down at the front to create a V neckline making sure that it meets at the centre front and that it slopes evenly down both sides of the front. **02**

TRIMMING THE NECKLINE

Step one Trim the T-shirt neckline following the edge of the lace collar. Cut carefully to make sure you don't snip into the lace. The cut edge of the T-shirt should sit a tiny fraction below the edge of the lace so that it doesn't poke up above it. **03**

Step two You won't need to trim off the back neckline as the collar will sit on top of this, just the V-shape at the front.

STITCHING THE COLLAR IN PLACE

Step one Stitch the lace collar into place by hand or machine using a thread to match the lace rather than the T-shirt as these stitches will show on top of the lace.

Step two If you're sewing by machine, use a zigzag stitch and take it slowly as the lace tends to slip around.

Step three If you're sewing by hand, use small neat stitches so it is held securely. **04**

Step four Your T-shirt is now finished and ready to wear.



COLOUR WHEEL

Use jeans in every hue, from baby blue to inky indigo, to sew up this pinwheel cushion by **Jessica Entwistle**.

DENIM UPCYCLE



YOU WILL NEED

- Denim scraps: in different colours, to fit 24 pattern wedges
- Denim strips: two pieces 10x64cm (4x25in), we used a jean leg
- 2 self-covered buttons: 38mm (1½in) diameter
- Polyester fibrefill
- Air erasable pen
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance.
- Find the template for this project on the pull-out pattern sheet provided.



CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace around the template and cut it out. The dotted lines are stitching lines and the solid line is the cutting line.

Step two Pin the template to your denim scraps and cut around it to make 24 wedges.

Step three There are 12 wedges on each side of the cushion so arrange them in your chosen order and number them for reference later. **01**

JOINING THE WEDGES

Both the front and the back of the cushion are made in the same way as follows.

Step one Pin wedge '1' and wedge '2' right sides (RS) facing and stitch together. Sew from the top of the wedge circular edge down to the point shown on the template.

Step two Press the seams to one side.

Step three Repeat this to stitch the other wedges together in pairs, (3/4, 5/6, etc).

Step four Take two adjacent pairs, sew them together then add another pair to that. **02**

Step five Repeat this so that you have two semi-circle sets of six wedges.

Step six Snip off the excess fabric where the denim points meet, so the point isn't so bulky.

Step seven Pin the two semi-circles RS facing then stitch together. **03**

ADDING THE SIDE STRIP

Step one Sew the short ends of the two denim strips RS together to make one long strip.

Step two The strip is longer than you will actually need as it's easier to cut and fit it at this stage. To check the length, pin the centre seam of your strip to the outside of one circle on one of the wedge seams with RS together.

Step three Pin the strip all the way around the circle to the opposite side of your strip seam. Repeat to pin the strip around the other side of the wedge circle.

Step four Draw a line on each end of the strip where it meets the opposite wedge seam. **04**

Step five Unpin your strip then pin the short ends RS together matching the drawn line.

Step six Stitch the ends together but just 2cm (¾in) from each end to leave a gap in the centre for turning the cushion RS out later.

Step seven Cut off the excess strip fabric 1.5cm (¾in) outside the seam and press open.

Step eight Re-pin the strip to the circle as before, then sew together all the way around.

Step nine Repeat this process to stitch the other wedge circle to the other side of the denim strip. **05**

FINISHING OFF

Step one Turn the cushion RS out then stuff and slip stitch the turning gap closed.

Step two Cover both buttons with denim.

Step three Stitch one button to the centre of each side, pulling the thread between them to create a depression in the centre. **06**

Step four Finish off the thread securely.



HOCHANDA

HOME OF CRAFTS HOBBIES AND ARTS

HOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE BRANDS

FREEVIEW 85 (24/7)

FREESAT 817 (24/7)

SKY 663 (24/7)

Debbie
HORE

CO
notir



Leonie
Pujol



PowerTex

STAMP
ENDOUS

all

SPECTRUM noir™

THE UK's
INSPIRATIONAL
CRAFT TV CHANNEL



Claritys

Sizzix



Crafter's
Companion

Stamps
by Chloe

Die'sire
BY CRAFTER'S COMPANION



TUNE IN TODAY...
OR WATCH ONLINE AT
WWW.HOCHANDA.COM

FAVOURITE
BRANDS



WIN A £45 SET OF PINS!
ENTER TODAY AT
www.simplysewingmag.com
 UK only, see competition rules on p.6



KNOW YOUR PINS

Pins are needed for every step of your sewing project, from cutting out to construction. Here are six types you'll find handy to have in your stash.

A box of pins is one of the most vital pieces of sewing equipment any stitcher should own – in fact, you should have several, as different pins will be suited to different projects. When it comes to choosing and using pins, making sure you have the right ones for the job so that they won't damage your fabric is essential. Follow our guide to find the perfect pin for your next project.

CHOOSING PINS

There are so many pins to choose from. All have different names and dimensions and specific uses. They are labelled by type, and there are several variations of each one, too. First look at the head type – they're either ball shaped or flat head. The flat heads are just tiny metal heads, which are ideal for hand sewing as the thread doesn't get caught on them. The ball heads can be made from plastic, metal or

glass. The plastic heads can melt if they are ironed over, whereas the glass won't, though it does get very hot! Wide flower-shaped heads are also available.

Pins have different types of points, and you should choose one that slides easily into the fabric without snagging it and leaving marks. Sharp point pins are all-purpose and used for medium and heavy weight fabrics. Extra sharp points are perfect for more delicate fabrics, and ball point pins are used for knit fabrics.

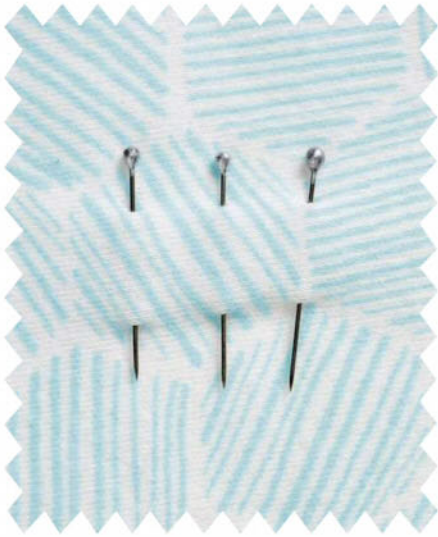
Pins are available in a variety of lengths. In general, use short pins for thin delicate fabrics and longer pins for thicker fabrics.

Use the finest pin you can that won't bend when it goes through the fabric so that it doesn't create holes. Pin thickness is described in mm, which ranges from 4mm for the finest patchwork pins, to 6mm for general dressmaking pins and 8mm for using with thicker fabrics.

HOW TO PIN

When you're stitching straight lines, place the pins at right angles to the fabric edge to allow a little movement so you can gently ease the fabrics together. This is the best way to pin hems as well as it allows more flexibility when stitching. For curves, it's best to place the pins parallel to the fabric edge to hold the curves together more securely. Always remove pins as you're stitching, as the needle will probably break if it hits a pin. Try to keep the pins within the seam allowance in case the pin holes mark the fabric. For straight seams you'll need one pin about every 5cm (2in), but for curves, fiddly seams or slippery fabrics use more pins to hold the fabrics securely. For a selection of pins email clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk or groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk. Pins are also available from John Lewis, Hobbycraft and independent retailers.

PINS KNOW-HOW



DRESSMAKING PINS

These come in a variety of lengths and thicknesses and usually have flat metal heads. They're perfect not only for dressmaking but most home sewing projects as well. Choose a length to suit your fabric weight and test the thickness on your fabric to make sure it doesn't leave marks. The glass-headed pins can be used for dressmaking and are ideal for pinning hems as you can press over them.



SILK PINS

When stitching with silk you need to use extra fine pins as the silk fibres are delicate and can easily be broken by thicker pins, which will create holes or slight runs in the silk. With silk pins, the shaft is thinner and the points are extra sharp to enable them to slide through the fabric. They are often longer than normal pins to ensure they will stay in place, and are ideal for pinning other types of fine fabric.



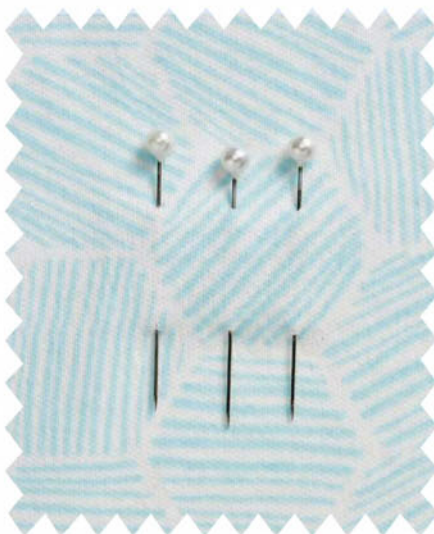
BALL POINT PINS

In the same way that you should use a ballpoint needle for sewing knit fabrics, you should also use ballpoint pins. The rounded point will slide through the fabric, separating the threads rather than splitting them to stop runs and tears. Knit fabrics are woven with a continuous thread which once broken will unravel when the fabric is stretched while it is being worn, so ball point pins will help to prevent this.



PATCHWORK, QUILTING AND APPLIQUÉ PINS

Patchwork pins are fine, long and extra sharp so they pierce the fabric easily and keep the fabric layers stable. Quilting pins are longer and stronger than ordinary pins so they go through the layers of fabric and wadding without breaking. They have plastic or glass ball heads to be easily seen. Appliqué pins are short so ideal for pinning small fabric pieces without overlapping.



BRIDAL AND LACE PINS

These pins are rustless and made from stainless steel or brass. Steel pins can rust over time, especially if the air is damp, and this could leave a mark on the fabric. So, when using expensive bridal fabric or lace, especially vintage fabric, it is best to use these pins so they won't mark it. These can be bought in different thicknesses, so choose the one which slides most easily through your fabric or lace.



FLOWER HEAD PINS

These pins have wide, flat flower-shaped heads and are sold in a variety of colours. They are ideal for pinning lace, net or open weave fabric as the larger heads won't slip through and so will hold the fabric in place. The longer length makes them the perfect choice if you need to pin several layers of fabric together. They are sold in several thicknesses so you can choose the best one to suit your fabric.

PICTURE PAWFECT

Keep your dog warm on winter walks with **Redhound for Dogs'** cosy reversible coat, with a secure webbing strap to keep your pup snug. They'll be the most stylish pooch in the park!





YOU WILL NEED

- Main fabric: 50x90cm (20x35in)
- Lining fabric: 25x150cm (10x60in)
- Webbing: 60-100cm (24-39in)
 - measure your dog's tummy, and add 10cm (4in) for overlap
- Bias binding: 180-250cm (71-98in)
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance throughout unless stated.
- You will find the pattern needed on the pull-out pattern sheet.

SIZING

- Small:** Neck 38cms (15in).
Chest 38-41cm (15-16in).
Length from neck to top of tail 33cm (13in).
- Medium:** Neck 42cm (16½in).
Chest 46-50cm (18-20in).
Length from neck to top of tail 40cm (15½in).

CUTTING OUT

Step one Measure your dog then trace around and cut out the pattern to the required size (As a guide: 'Small' should fit a dog the size of a Border terrier and 'Medium' should fit a larger Boston terrier.)

Step two Fold the main fabric in half right sides (RS) together. Pin the pattern to it and cut around it to make one pair of pieces.

Step three Repeat this to cut one pair of pieces from the lining fabric.

Step four Cut two 4.5cmx11cm (1x3¾in) strips from both the main fabric and the lining fabric for the webbing strap loop.

ASSEMBLING THE COAT

Step one Stitch the two main pieces RS together along the centre back seam.

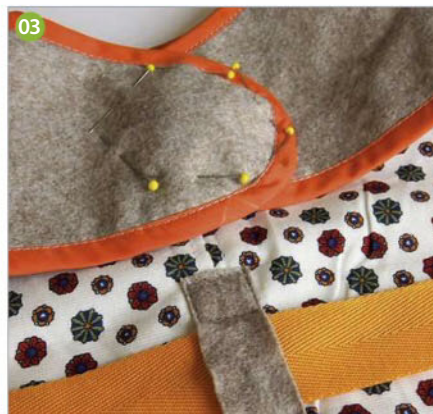
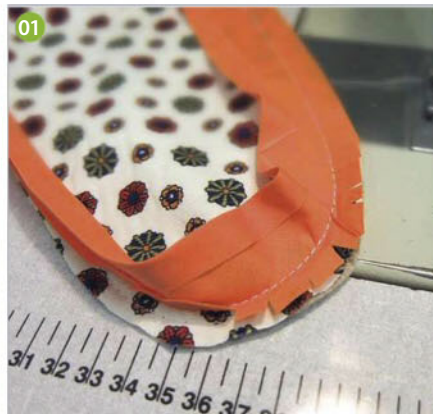
Step two Working from the RS, topstitch 1cm (¾in) either side of the seam.

Step three Repeat this to join the two lining pieces together and topstitch.

Step four Place the main fabric and lining fabric wrong sides (WS) together, matching at the seams. Sew all the way around just 5mm (¼in) from the edge to hold them in place before you attach the binding.

BINDING THE EDGES

Step two Open out one folded long edge of the binding then place it RS together with the lining fabric side, starting at the centre back seam. Pin in place all the way around and snip



the binding around the curves so it lays flat.

Step two Start stitching 5cm (2in) from the short end and stitch the binding in place all the way around along the opened out fold of the binding. **01**

Step three Stop stitching when you get to 5cm (2in) from where you began.

Step four Join both ends of the bias RS together, measuring and trimming so that it will fit exactly across the gap.

Step five Repin this section of the binding to the edge of the coat and stitch in place.

Step six Fold the binding over to to the main fabric side with the long edge folded under.

Step seven Neatly topstitch the binding in place close to the edge.

ATTACHING THE STRAP LOOP

Step one Try the coat on your dog and overlap then pin the centre fronts together so that it will easily slip over your dog's head. Also mark the centre on the coat central seam where the strap will best fit around the tummy.

Step two Take the two strips you cut from the main fabric and place them RS together. Stitch all the way around, leaving a turning gap.

Step three Turn the strips RS out, turn the edges of the turning gap to the inside and

press then slip stitch the gap closed to make the strap loop.

Step four Pin the strap loop to the centre of the main fabric seam in the position you marked so that it runs lengthways. Stitch this into place with a square with a cross in it at either end, leaving a gap between the ends for the webbing to slip through. **02**

Step five Repeat this to make a strap loop from the lining fabric strips then attach them to the lining side of the coat in the same way so that you can reverse the coat.

JOINING THE FRONT

Step one Pin then tack the centre front panels so they overlap in place. **03**

Step two Topstitch these panels together. **04**

ATTACHING THE STRAP

Step one Try the coat on your dog. Thread the webbing for the strap through the strip in the centre seam and around your dog's tummy.

Step two Pin the webbing together where it fits comfortably, with a 3cm (1¼in) overlap.

Step three Take the coat off your dog and finish the strap by sewing the loop side of the Velcro to one side, and the hook side to the other so that it will fit securely.



the *knitter's* year

JUST £7.99 INC P&P*

FOUR SEASONS OF FABULOUS KNITS!



YOUR FAVORITES FROM **knitting**

Cute Advent calendar

the *knitter's* year

FOUR SEASONS OF FABULOUS KNITS!

GET INTO CRAFT

SUNNY CUSHION

IMMEDIATE MEDIA

BE INSPIRED BY A SIMPLY GORGEOUS COLLECTION

Such a sweet idea

52 PATTERNS
One for every week of the year!

PLUS! TOP TIPS FOR SEASONAL KNITTING



COSY IN WINTER



SWEET FOR SPRING



BRIGHT IN SUMMER

KNITS FOR WOMEN, MEN & KIDS + HOMEWARES, ACCESSORIES & DECOR IDEAS



SNUG FOR AUTUMN



Find the perfect project any time of year with this gorgeous collection of favourite projects from *Simply Knitting* magazine. From lacy summery knits to snug winter warmers, you'll find something for every season – including gifts, accessories, home décor ideas and clothes for kids, for him and for you!



ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

CALL 0844 844 0388 and quote 'The Knitter's Year'
ONLINE www.buysubscriptions.com/craftspecial

Lines open weekdays 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. Overseas please call +44 (0) 1795 414 676.
EUR price £9.99, ROW price £10.99. All prices include p&p. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.



Anna's blog, Noodlehead, has oodles of inspirational sewing projects, from colourful quilts to this chic monochrome skirt.



BAGS OF CREATIVITY

We love blogger Anna Graham's gorgeous patterns, free tutorials and passion for creating, so just had to nip over to Noodlehead central to find out what's next.

There's a subtle impression of strength in Anna Graham's designs. Her makes are often practical, elegant and beautifully structural – bags and baskets are a theme, as though to contain the looser elements of life and allow for more clear space and time.

Anna started out sewing garments when she was a child under her mum's watchful eye, then "dabbled a bit in college," before really beginning to sew seriously when her daughters were tiny in 2007. "I wanted to make them so many things!" she exclaims with a smile. "I often found myself wanting something I could buy in the store, but it wasn't exactly my style. Sewing it for myself was the perfect answer."

CHALLENGING MAKES

The kinds of projects she got stuck into reveal Anna's have-a-go attitude. "I tried making just about anything you can sew," she says. "If it was something that could be sewn, I would try it, from crib bumpers (buffers to prevent babies' limbs slipping between cot slats) to hats and dresses."

Anna particularly relished making clothes for her small girls. "I even made a flower girl dress, which turned out so beautifully that it's one of the few things I'll keep forever," she says. "I also sewed them each quilts, which were the second and third quilts I ever made. I have learned so much since then, but it's fun to look back on those first projects."

Since those early days, Anna's passion for

sewing has subtly changed in direction.

"I find that sewing is something that really challenges me," she says. "I love working through the design and construction of new projects." Hence all of the beautiful totes and purses littering www.noodle-head.com!

Anna launched the blog in 2009, just two years after giving herself wholeheartedly to sewing. "I started it after being inspired by awesome bloggers like Dana (www.made-everyday.com) and Rae (www.made-by-rae.com)," she recalls. "They were making so many awesome things for their children it was hard not to be inspired and I had to join along. That's what started my own journey."

Anna's oldest daughter, whose ultra-curly blonde hair when she was little prompted

the nickname Noodlehead, inspired the name of the blog. "It's fun and a little goofy – just like us," Anna says on the blog, explaining how the name came to represent the creative and imaginative qualities that the blog encompasses.

Just like Anna, the blog also has a more serious, grown-up side as well, offering up an abundance of tutorials as well as patterns to buy. "I started out right away sharing tutorials," says Anna. "It made me feel connected to the online community and it was fun to share projects."

Anna published her first blog tutorial in 2009. It was for her Zippy Wallet, "a cute little zippered pouch with an outside pocket. It was honestly just a fun thing to do and I didn't have any expectations. I can't recall what the response was like, but I do remember really loving getting a handful of supportive and encouraging comments."

"I STARTED OUT RIGHT AWAY SHARING TUTORIALS. IT MADE ME FEEL CONNECTED TO THE ONLINE COMMUNITY AND IT WAS FUN TO SHARE PROJECTS."

PROGRESSING HER CRAFT

Anna began selling her own patterns in 2010. "After doing many tutorials, I felt that it was a natural next step and progression of my craft," she says. "Because I was working as a graphic designer at that time, it made the transition a pretty painless process – I had one less thing to learn about!"

Anna's graphic design background helped immensely, she says. "Having the knowledge to illustrate diagrams, draft pattern pieces and layout documents made the step from blogging free content to being able to offer a high quality product for sale much less intimidating," she explains. "I honestly don't think I would be selling patterns now had I not already had that knowledge base."

The first pattern she sold was the Gathered Clutch pattern. "It was nice to be able to turn a tutorial into a pattern and add all sorts of fun details and options," she says. "My first stand-alone pattern was the Runaround Bag,

Roomy pockets, pretty piping, sturdy straps and a secure zip closure mean Anna's Super Tote pattern lives up to its name!



Above: In between creating new patterns and tutorials and sewing lovely things for herself, her home and her daughters (we have no idea how she fits it all in!), Anna loves spending her spare time outdoors with her family.

We love the contrast bias binding on Anna's Divided Basket pattern – one of her favourite decorative finishes.



which I still love. I really enjoy projects that don't take a ton of time or fabric to make. It's always extra satisfying to me when something comes together in just a few hours of sewing."

In 2011, Anna was approached by a publisher who'd seen her designs and tutorials on the blog and was keen to print a book of her work. "Things didn't work out that time around, but that's when

I started compiling a list of projects that eventually made up the ones in my book, *Handmade Style*," she says. "Susanne Woods of Lucky Spool Media (www.luckyspool.com) was really great and very supportive of my work. She had previously worked for a large publishing company where I first got to know her, but then she opened Lucky Spool – her own publishing company – and I put together a book proposal."

Handmade Style came out in February 2015. "I love that all the projects went from sketches on paper or ideas in my head to a real life thing that I could use in some way,"

says Anna. "My hope is that people can take the projects and add their own twist. That's the fun part for me – to see all the creative touches that people add."

As a die-hard bag and accessory lover, Anna says, "if I had to pick a favourite, I think it might be the double zip wallet." Anna is also a fan of using binding, both as a decorative element and as a neat way to finish seams. "Anything with bias tape or binding really draws my eye," she enthuses. "I love the way that it breaks up large pieces of fabric and highlights a specific part of a design. I also just love making it! My Clover bias tape maker is one of my favourite tools. I couldn't leave home without it!"

LIVING, DESIGNING, CREATING

A busy family life coupled with the love for designing and making means working and creating from home is an essential ingredient for a happy, well-balanced life.

"An average work day involves a lot of emails, but really it's quite varied," she says. "I like to focus on designs whenever the inspiration strikes, so it's nice to have a dedicated workspace in my home. It has

"MY HOPE IS THAT PEOPLE CAN TAKE THE PROJECTS AND ADD THEIR OWN TWIST. THAT'S THE FUN PART FOR ME – TO SEE ALL THE CREATIVE TOUCHES THAT PEOPLE ADD."

Anna's Caravan Tote pattern is the perfect holiday carry-all and comes with a bonus matching zip pouch.



the best light in the house and for that I am grateful. The space has enough storage for all my fabrics and notions, as well as a large cutting table that my husband made for me. Any day when I get to sew something is just the icing on the cake!"

As it happens, however, Anna's design work is rarely confined to that space, especially in the early stages. "I love to dream up designs just about anywhere, so I have many pieces of paper with sketches all over in my bag and notebooks."

Other time-eaters include "blogging and taking photos, and packing wholesale and distributor orders. Also, I love being a part of



Photos: www.noodle-head.com

Left: Anna feels lucky to have a dedicated (and enviously tidy!) workspace at home, with lots of natural light and plenty of storage space. Its centrepiece is a huge cutting table made by her husband.



Weekends away just got crafty! Take your sewing kit with you with Anna's Maker bag, which can be sewn up in two sizes.



Above: The Maker Tote for on-the-go crafters is a spin on the classic doctor's bag and features plenty of pockets and Anna's trademark bias-bound edges.



Photos: www.noodle-head.com

ANNA'S TOP SEWING TIP

"It's really valuable to know that when you're trying something new – whether it be a new technique or new pattern, or a type of project you're not used to – your first try isn't going to be amazing.

Sure, there are definitely things that'll come more easily or naturally to you, but be patient. It's so easy to get caught up online seeing gorgeous finished projects, but the reality is that the people who made those gorgeous projects have probably spent many years honing their craft. So be kind and gentle on yourself!"

the sewing community, so I spend quite a bit of time interacting online as much as I can. Because I've been around the blogging world for what feels like so long, I have a big list!"

Current blog favourites "to name just a few!" include Made Everyday (www.madeeveryday.com), Made by Rae (www.made-by-rae.com), Crazy Mom Quilts (crazymomquilts.blogspot.co.uk), In Color Order (www.incolororder.com), True Bias (www.truebias.com), nanaCompany (nana.company.typepad.com), Hey June Handmade (www.heyjunehandmade.com), Grainline Studio (www.grainlinestudio.com), and Delia Creates (www.deliacreates.com).

Anna is also keen on a wide range of creative pastimes beyond her work duties. "I've been really into hand lettering and using brush pens lately," she says. "It's been a fun little project for me. I love getting to know the brush pens I've amassed over the last few years. Hand lettering has been a great way to explore each pen and its unique qualities. It also gives me a chance to get inspired by lettering quotes. I'm a huge

fan of quotes and find them so inspiring, as you can see on my Pinterest board (www.pinterest.com/noodlehead/words/."

And when she's not working or creating? "I love being with my family, swimming, running, and mountain biking." In fact, all of these family-fuelled activities feed into Anna's creative endeavours. "Getting outside and doing outdoor activities really inspires me!" she exclaims. "I think that escaping my usual routine and getting exercise is what makes the creativity flow."

What sound advice! Anna is already looking forward to what 2017 will bring. "I have a fun teaching event, Sewtopia (www.gosewtopia.com/denver), coming up in next spring in Denver, Colorado, which I'm really looking forward to. I'm also looking forward to releasing more new patterns!"

We can't wait to see (and sew!) the next designs in the Noodlehead collection.

Written by Judy Darley.

Get inspired by Anna's creations and browse her range of sewing patterns at www.noodle-head.com



WINTER WARMER

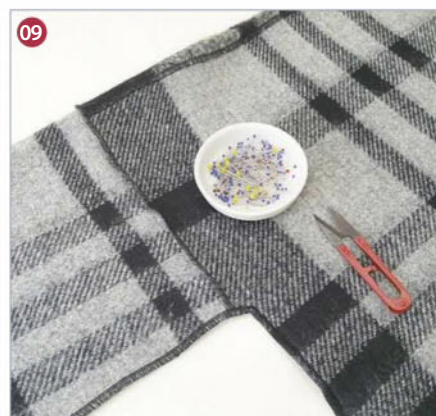
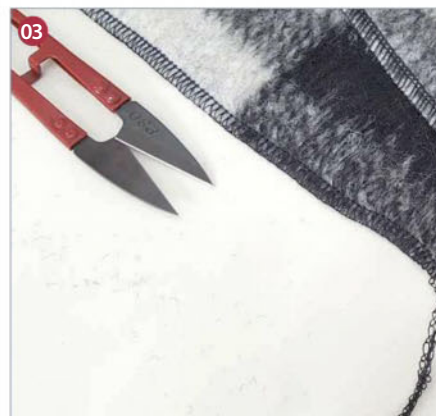
Get toasty in **Portia Lawrie's** boxy jumper, made in a wool knit for maximum warmth. It's like wearing your cosiest blanket!

PSST

Make yours in a thick knit fabric like scuba or ponte roma to create a boxy shape, or try lighter stretch fabrics for a less structured look.



BOXY JUMPER



YOU WILL NEED

- Heavyweight knit fabric: 150cm (60in) width x 150cm (60in)
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRIC USED

We used a check boiled wool knit in grey which you can buy online from www.fabricgodmother.co.uk

NOTES

- Use a 1.5cm (3/8in) seam allowance unless otherwise stated.



The coldest weather is no match for this cosy boiled wool!

Designer Portia says: "Take the chill off in style with this super quick and simple boxy sweater made from four rectangles of knit fabric."

MEASURING UP

Step one You will need to take your bust, hip and shoulder to wrist measurements and write them down.

Step two Add 7-10cm (3-4in) to your bust measurement (depending on how loose or fitted you want your top to be). Divide this number by two then add 3cm (1 1/4in) for a 1.5cm (3/8in) seam allowance on either side. This will give you the width of your pattern piece.

Step three Measure from the nape of your neck to wherever you want your top to finish. Add 5cm (2in) for the hem and neckline allowances. This will give you the length of your top.

NOTE

If your hip measurement is substantially larger than your bust, then you can use your hip measurement instead of your bust measurement to establish the width of your rectangles. However, this can lead to the garment being too big at the shoulders, depending on your overall proportions. An alternative is to stick with the bust

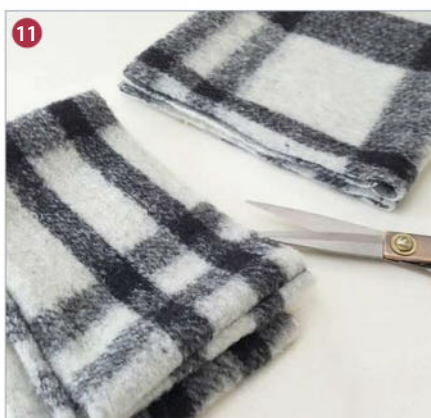
measurement and either go for a cropped shape where the top sits on/above the hips or widen the rectangles at the bottom to create a more trapezoid (flared) shape. Use the calculation in step two when measuring up to establish the width of the top. From the centre of that line square down by your desired length, then repeat the calculation in step two with your hip measurement to establish the width of the bottom. Join the ends of both lines to create a more flared (trapezoid) pattern piece.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Cut two rectangles from your fabric using your measurements. **01**

I cut my pieces on the cross grain because the degree of stretch on the cross grain was more akin to what I wanted. Also, I preferred the positioning of this bold check on the final garment, and I could use the selvedge as a feature on my hem. I should point out that unless there are compelling reasons not to, you should normally cut on the grainline when it comes to knits! However the fabric I chose was more stable, and due to the looser fit of the style, I was able to get away with it. **02**

Step two For the sleeves, cut two rectangles that are 28cm (11in) wide (this includes the



seam allowance) and as long as your shoulder to wrist measurement. No hemming allowance is required here as the drop shoulder that this method creates will lower the sleeve hem past the wrist point you measured anyway, so you'll have plenty to play with.

MAKING THE SHOULDERS AND NECK

Step one Overlock or machine zigzag along the top width edge of each rectangle. This isn't entirely necessary on a knit but it provides some stability to the raw edge on the neck and shoulders and, because this is quite a 'hairy' fabric, it looks a little neater too. **03**

Step two Place both of the rectangles right sides (RS) together.

Step three Pin from the outer top edges towards the centre, leaving a 25cm (10in) gap in the centre. This will be the neck hole. 25cm (10in) is probably the minimum size hole you will need to get your head through but you can add up to 2.5-5cm (1-2in) if you prefer a wider slash neckline. **04**

Step four The pins are essentially your shoulder seams, so go ahead and sew those up on a standard sewing machine using a 2.5cm (1in) seam allowance.

Step five Press the seams open and flat on the

wrong side (WS) all the way along the shoulder seams and press then pin the open neck section under between them to the WS by the same 2.5cm (1in). **05**

Step six Using a needle and thread, catch stitch the entire pressed under seam allowance and neck section in place on both sides. Take care not to make your stitches too tight or visible on the RS. The aim is a clean finish on the RS with a little movement to the stitching on the inside as this is a knit garment that may be required to stretch a little as you pull it over your head. **06**

ATTACHING THE SLEEVES

Step one Pin one sleeve RS together on top of your joined sweater front and back and centred on the shoulder seam. Machine stitch or overlock in place. **07**

Step two Repeat this for the other sleeve.

Step three You will end up with what looks like a cross shape with a horizontal slit in the middle for your head. This is literally four rectangles of fabric sewn together. **08**

STITCHING TOGETHER

Step one Fold the whole thing in half, with RS together, aligning the bottom hem. Pin it together all the way along the side seam and

underarm seams.

Step two Machine stitch or overlock each side in one continuous motion. You should start off at the wrist and work all the way around, finishing stitching at the hem. **09**

Step three Press all the seams and then secure and bury the thread tails if you have used an overlocker. I knot mine, then thread the tail onto a yarn needle, pass it through the overlock stitches (inside the seam if I can get in there!) then emerge about 5cm (2in) up the seam and snip off. **10**

FINISHING OFF

Step one Try your jumper on and check the sleeve length. Trim if necessary, remembering to leave yourself a 2.5cm (1in) seam allowance. I cut several inches off these sleeves because I decided that I preferred the look of three quarter sleeves as opposed to the full length sleeve I'd originally planned. **11**

Step two Finally, hem the sleeves and the bottom hem using a 2.5cm (1in) hem allowance if you didn't opt to use the selvedge like I did. I used a zigzag stitch to work this hem but, if you have one on your machine, you can use a stretch stitch or twin needle stitch. That's it – you're done! **12**

QUICK QUILTING

We're always looking for new tools to speed up our sewing! Our latest find is the AccuQuilt GO! Fabric Cutter for easy, quick and precise cutting out.

SEARCH FOR THE
ACQUILT NOW
USING 360041

This time of year has us dreaming of cosy quilts sewn up in our favourite fabrics. Often, though, we find ourselves doing too much dreaming and not enough sewing thanks to the time-consuming fabric-cutting process, which is why our craft room is filled with helpful tools like the AccuQuilt GO! Fabric Cutter. Making a beautiful quilt starts with accurate cutting, and the AccuQuilt can precisely cut up to six layers of cotton fabric at a time – leaving you with more time to get your quilt on!

ACCUQUILT GO! FEATURES

The easy-to-use AccuQuilt GO! Fabric Cutter reduces hand and arm strain while cutting out and is 90% faster than rotary cutters. Create and Craft's Starter Kit also includes a 20-page pattern booklet featuring 12 block patterns and a sampler quilt pattern, plus a value die set, a cutting mat and a die pick, so you can get started on your next quilt right away.



The GO! Fabric Cutting Dies will precisely cut out patchwork squares or triangles with seam allowances.

The AccuQuilt GO! has a double roller design for clean cuts, rubber feet to hold the cutter in place when cutting, and a comfortable and safe roller handle.

This clever little machine folds up and weighs just 15lbs, so it is portable and easy to store away neatly in your sewing room.



**Sky 674, Freeview 23
Freesat 813, Virgin 748**

**WANT TO GET STARTED ON YOUR NEXT QUILTING PROJECT?
TUNE IN OR VISIT WWW.CREATEANDCRAFT.TV/ACCUQUILT
TO BUY THE ACCUQUILT GO! FABRIC CUTTER.**



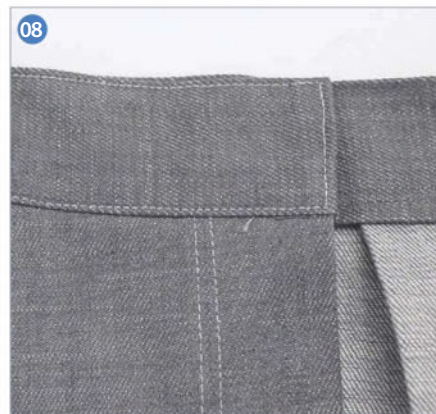
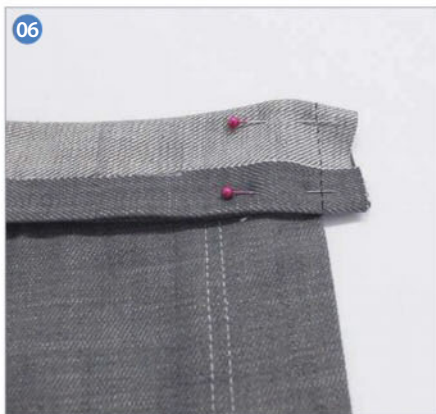
Sew along with
SEW OVER IT

In part two of our Erin Skirt sew along with **Lisa Comfort**, we're finishing off by constructing the skirt, sewing a neat hem and adding the waistband, buttons and buttonholes.



PART TWO

- Construct a skirt
- Add buttonholes
- Attach a waistband
- Sew a neat hem



WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR

You will find the pattern pieces and fabric requirements for the Erin Skirt (from Sew Over It's new eBook *My Capsule Wardrobe: City Break*) on the pull-out pattern sheet provided with issue 22 of *Simply Sewing*. Buy a copy at www.buysubscriptions.com or download and print at www.simplysewingmag.com.

In part one of the sew along, we took our measurements, chose the fabric, cut out the pattern pieces, stitched the darts and added pockets. In part two, we're finishing the skirt off by hemming the front pieces, joining the skirt fronts and back together, adding the waistband, hemming the skirt and adding buttons and buttonholes to finish.

HEMMING THE SKIRT FRONTS

Step one If you are working with a lightweight denim then you will need to interface the skirt front pieces first. Take one strip of interfacing you cut in part one of the sew along and press it to the wrong side (WS) of the straight front edge of one skirt front. Repeat to interface the edge of the other skirt front piece.

Step two Press under one front skirt straight edge 1.5cm (5/8in) to the WS. **01**

Step three Press under a further 4.5cm (17/8in) to create the button band. Pin this into place all the way along.

Step four Topstitch 4cm (15/8in) from the turned under edge then topstitch another line 3.5cm (13/8in) from the edge in two parallel lines from the waist to the hem. **02**

Step five Repeat this to hem and topstitch the other front skirt piece. Make sure your topstitching is the same distance from the edge for a neat and even appearance.

JOINING THE SKIRT FRONTS AND BACK

Step one With right sides (RS) together, stitch the front and back skirt pieces at the side seams, matching the notches. **03**

Step two Overlock or machine zigzag the seam allowances together then press them towards the back.

ATTACHING THE WAISTBAND

Step one If you are working with a lightweight denim then press the waistband interfacing to the WS of the waistband fabric piece.

Step two Press one of the long edges of the waistband under by 1.5cm (5/8in) to the WS. **04**

Step three With RS together, pin the

unpressed edge of the waistband to the top edge of the skirt front and back pieces. The waistband should extend from the front edges of the skirt by 1.5cm (5/8in) on both sides. **05**

Step four Stitch the waistband in place.

Step five Trim the seam allowance down to just 5mm (1/4in) wide to reduce bulk and press it towards the waistband.

FINISHING THE WAISTBAND

Step one Fold the waistband in half RS together so that the folded edge is in line with the waist seam.

Step two Pin the ends together and stitch them closed using a 1.5cm (5/8in) seam allowance. **06**

Step three Trim the seam allowance down to 5mm (1/4in) and trim off the corners and turn back through.

Step four Press the waistband in half WS together and align the folded edge so that it sits 1mm (1/16in) over the seam on the skirt. Pin in place from the inside. **07**

Step five Transfer the pins, one by one, to the RS of the skirt.

Step six From the RS, topstitch the waistband in place at 2mm (1/8in) from the edge all the



way around, starting and finishing at the left side front edge. This is because this side will sit under the right side front edge when it is buttoned up. ⁰⁸

HEMMING THE SKIRT

Step one Check you are happy with the length of the skirt and make any necessary adjustments. Overlock or machine zigzag the hem to neaten.

Step two Press the hem under by 1.5cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ in) and topstitch in place 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) from the bottom edge of the skirt. ⁰⁹

ADDING THE BUTTONHOLES

Step one Mark buttonholes on the right hand side of the skirt front as shown by circles on the pattern piece. Remember that the buttonhole on the waistband is horizontal and the rest are vertical.

Step two Stitch the buttonholes in place. They can be worked either by hand or by machine following your machine's instructions.

Step three Hand-stitch your buttons onto the left-hand side of the skirt, in line with the buttonholes on the other side. ¹⁰

Step four Give it all a final press to finish.

SIZE CHART

BODY MEASUREMENTS

(UK SIZE)		8	10	12	14	16	18	20
WAIST	cm	66	71	76	81	86	91	96
	in	26	28	30	32	34	36	38
HIPS	cm	91	96	101	107	112	117	122
	in	36	38	40	42	44	46	48

FINISHED GARMENT MEASUREMENTS

WAIST	cm	69	74	79	84	89	94	99
	in	27	29	31	33	35	37	39
HIP	cm	94	99	104	109	114	119	124
	in	37	39	41	43	45	47	49
WAIST TO HEM LONG SKIRT (back length)	cm	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
	in	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½	28½
WAIST TO HEM SHORT SKIRT (back length)	cm	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
	in	19	19	19	19	19	19	19



Ticket Offer: Quote **SIMPSEW for **£2.50 OFF!*****

The
**Knitting
& Stitching**
Show

Harrogate International Centre
24th - 27th November 2016

The definitive event for anyone with
a love of textile based crafts.

Supplies, workshops and textile art.


www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com

0844 581 1302 (+44 (0) 121 796 6100 from outside the UK)

Image: Alice Kettle - Pause 2009 (detail) Photo: Joe Low

Workshops in association with:

UPPER
STREET
EVENTS

 **twistedthread**

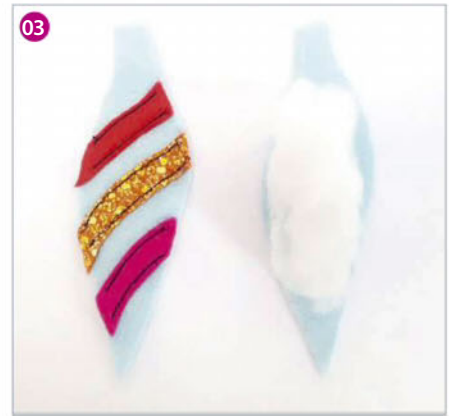
Hamline  **PONY**
by GROVES

*Valid on adult tickets in advance or £1.00 off concessions. Terms and conditions and £1.50 fulfilment fee applies.



VINTAGE CHRISTMAS

Jennie Jones takes inspiration from vintage glass baubles to sew classic decorations you'll love to hang on the tree year after year.



YOU WILL NEED

- Felt: various colours to fit the bauble templates
- Grey felt scrap: for the crown bauble tops
- Glitter fabric: small scrap
- Ribbon: black, 3mm (1/8in) width x 20cm (8in)
- Polyester fibrefill
- Air erasable pen
- Basic sewing kit

NOTE

- You will find the templates needed on the pull-out pattern sheet provided with this issue.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace around your chosen bauble template and cut it out. There are three different sizes and shapes of bauble crowns, so choose the one you prefer and trace around that, too.

Step two Use the template to cut out your felt pieces and glitter fabric. Trace each of the sections of the bauble separately to pin to the different coloured felt pieces then cut out all the shapes. The crown is cut from grey felt.

Step three The back of the bauble is left plain so cut out the whole bauble shape from felt in the same colour as the front.

Step four Cut a rectangle of felt, the same colour as the main body and slightly larger than your chosen bauble crown for the crown back. This is cut bigger than the crown front as it's easier to stitch it in place and then trim it to shape afterwards. **01**

DECORATING THE FRONT

Step one Sew the contrasting felt and glitter material accents onto the felt bauble front, with a double row of stitching, referring to the template for positioning. Backstitch at the start and the end of your sewing to secure.

Step two Snip off the loose threads after you've sewn each accent detail. You won't

need to use pins for positioning as the felt pieces will stick together. **02**

STUFFING THE BAUBLE

Step one Take a small amount of polyester fibrefill and sandwich it between your decorated bauble front and plain bauble back. You need just enough to give it some body. **03**

Step two Pin the front and back of the bauble together and sew it closed all the way around with a double line of stitching about 2mm (1/16in) in from the outside edge.

ATTACHING THE CROWN AND RIBBON

Step one Fold the ribbon in half to make a loop and sew the ends onto the top of the bauble front, about 5mm (1/4in) down from the top edge. It will be hidden by the crown when you stitch it in place later.

Step two Pin the bauble crown on top of your stuffed bauble and the rectangular felt back piece behind so that the top of the bauble is sandwiched between them. **04**

Step three Sew the grey crown sandwich together using a double line of stitching in the same way as for the bauble. **05**

Step four Finally, snip off the excess felt from the back of the crown, cutting it into the same shape as the crown front. **06**



QUICK
PROJECT
USE 1 FAT
QUARTER

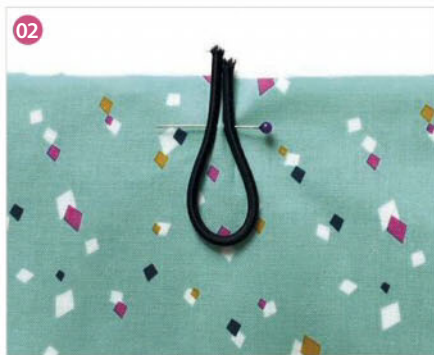


IN THE BAG



Good things come in small (handmade) packages like this little gift bag by **Jennie Jones**, made with one fat quarter.

FAST FAT QUARTER



YOU WILL NEED

- 1 fat quarter
- Medium weight interfacing – 60x30cm (24x12in)
- Elastic: 10cm (4in)
- Button
- Basic sewing kit

NOTE

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

FABRIC USED

Dance Blue from the Cotton Candy collection by Susan Driscoll for Dashwood Studio. Available from www.backstitch.co.uk

Designer Jennie says: "This fabric bag is a nice grown-up way to wrap up your gifts (and it will be reusable afterwards) so put down the wrapping paper and pick up your sewing machine – Christmas is coming!"

CUTTING THE FABRIC

Step one Cut the fat quarter in half lengthways.

Step two Take one piece and press the interfacing on the wrong side (WS). This will be the outer bag.

Step three Fold the outer bag fabric in half widthways with WS together and draw two boxes in the corners along the folded edge, 5cm (2in) wide and 4cm (1 1/2in) deep. **01**

Step four Cut out the boxes along the drawn lines through both layers of the folded fabric.

Step five Repeat this with the other piece of fabric, which will be used for the bag lining.

ADDING THE BUTTON LOOP

Step one Fold the elastic in half to make a loop then pin the ends to the right side (RS) of the back of the outer piece of fabric, positioning it centrally across the top edge. The ends of the elastic should match up with the raw edges of the fabric.

Step two Stitch across the ends. **02**

JOINING THE OUTER TO THE LINING

Step one Open out the outer and lining pieces of fabric and place them RS facing.

Step two Stitch along both of the top edges. **03**

Step three Open out the fabrics and match the seams together.

Step four Sew together along the side edges, leaving the cut out boxes in the corners unstitched. Leave an 8cm (3in) opening in the centre of one side unstitched for turning your bag RS out later. **04**

MAKING THE BOXED CORNERS

Step one Working on one corner of the outer fabric, open out the corner, matching the side seams with the bottom fold and press it flat.

Step two Pin across the corner then stitch. **05**

Step three Repeat this to box the other corner of the outer fabric and the two corners of the lining fabric in the same way.

Step four Turn the bag RS out through the turning gap then slip stitch it closed.

Step five Press the bag well.

FINISHING OFF

Step one Pinch the sides together 4cm (1 1/2in) from the side seams at the top, then pin and press into place. **06**

Step two At the top of each of the gathers, work a few holding stitches with your machine. This will hold these sides in place to give the bag some shape and rigidity.

Step three Fold the top of the bag over then stitch the button into place to match up with the end of the loop. Now fill with treats!



OH DEER!

Try hoop art with a difference with **Jo Carter's** characterful deer head. Choose colourful fabrics for a bambi that will brighten up your space!



DEER HEAD



YOU WILL NEED

- Printed fabric A: 40x40cm (16x16in)
- Printed fabric B: 30x28cm (12x11in)
- Printed fabric C: 12x9cm (5x3½in)
- Grey felt (for antlers): 23x31cm (9x12½in)
- Black fabric scrap: 8x6cm (3x2½in)
- Lining fabric: 30x30cm (2x12in)
- Pair of plastic safety eyes: black, 12mm (½in) diameter
- Polyester toy filling
- Embroidery hoop: 15cm (6in)
- Stranded cotton
- PVA glue
- Water erasable pen/pencil
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

Fabric A: Sippy Straws, Strawberry by Michael Miller.

Fabric B: Spot, Silver by Kaffe Fassett.

Fabric C: Twist, Rose by Dashwood Studio.

NOTES

- You will find the templates needed on the pull-out pattern sheet.
- Use a 5mm (¼in) seam allowance unless otherwise stated.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace and cut out all the template pieces. The templates include seam allowances, and the arrows indicate the pile or print direction. When the pattern specifies to cut two or more of a template, mark half of the pieces required, then turn the template over to mark out the remaining half as mirror images.

Step two Draw out the pattern pieces onto the wrong side (WS) of the fabric and cut out:

Fabric A: middle face, cut 1; side face, cut 2; neck, cut 2; ear, cut 2.

Fabric B: mount, cut 2.

Fabric C: ear, cut 2.

Grey felt: antler, cut 4.

Black scrap: nose, cut 1.

Lining fabric: cut a circle measuring approximately 28cm (11in) in diameter.

MAKING THE ANTLERS

Step one Place two antler pieces right sides (RS) facing and sew, leaving the bottom open.

Step two Clip the seam allowance and notches at internal and external curves.

Step three Turn the antler RS out, lightly stuff with polyester filling and tack the end closed.

Step four Repeat to make the other antler. ⁰¹

MAKING THE EARS

Step one Place two (alternate fabric) mirror-

image ear pieces RS together, and sew together around the sides.

Step two Clip V-shaped notches around the curves and then turn RS out and press.

Step three Sew across the ear from the bottom corner of the open end to the tip to create a channel in the top half of the ear.

Step four Stuff the channel lightly and then tack the end closed.

Step five Repeat this to make the other ear, which should be a mirror-image of the first. ⁰²

MAKING THE FACE

Step one Close the dart in the top of the middle face with RS together, then sew the top of the nose onto the bottom of the middle face.

Step two With RS together, close the dart in a side face piece and then sew it to the corresponding side of the nose.

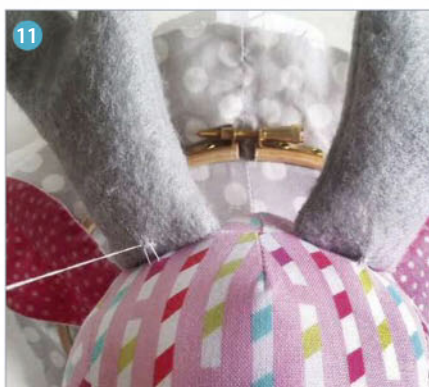
Step three Repeat this to attach the remaining side face to the nose. ⁰³

Step four With RS together, bring together the dart on one side of the nose so that the top and side seams of the nose align and pin.

Step five Sew from the bottom fold for the nose dart up, joining one side of the face together. Repeat to join the other side. ⁰⁴

ATTACHING THE EARS AND ANTLERS

Step one With the front of the ears against the



RS of the side face, tack the ears in place in between the seam and the marker.

Step two Tack the antlers against the RS of the middle face in between the seam and marker so the antlers are facing the correct way. **05**

JOINING THE NECK

Step one Stitch the two neck pieces RS together and stitch together at the top front with a short 5cm (2in) seam to fix them together. **06**

Step two Line up the central dart in the middle face with the central seam in the top of the neck pieces RS together and from this top point sew the face and neck together down one side.

Step three Return to the top point and sew the remaining side together from the top. **07**

ADDING THE EYES

Step one Make holes for the shank of the eye in the side face pieces where marked. Add a small square of neutral fabric over the shank on the reverse of the face for extra support.

Step two Fit the eyes in place according to the manufacturer's instructions.

ATTACHING THE NECK TO THE MOUNT

Step one Make small clips in the seam allowance around the internal curve in one mount piece to make fitting the neck easier.

Step two Find the corresponding side of the

neck to the mount (the slightly wider part of the internal curve is at the bottom of the neck) and then with RS together sew the back edge of the neck piece around the curve in the mount. **08**

Step three Repeat this on the other side.

Step four With RS facing, sew the upper neck and mount together.

Step five With RS facing, sew the lower face, neck and mount together. **09**

STITCHING THE LINING

Step one Press the lining fabric circle in half, open it up then cut in half along the fold.

Step two Place the two halves RS together and sew along the straight edge, increasing the stitch length to the longest setting for the central 8cm (3in) of the seam only (to allow for ease of opening the seam later). Press open.

ATTACHING THE HEAD TO THE HOOP

Step one Turn the deer head RS out and stuff until almost full.

Step two Place the deer head on top of the lining WS together so the long stitches in the seam of the lining lie centrally behind the neck.

Step three Fit it into the embroidery hoop with the top seam in the mount, lining up with the opening in the outer ring. Pull the fabric taut and tighten the hoop.

Step four Using co-ordinating stranded cotton,

work a running stitch around the outside of the deer's neck to fix the lining to the mount.

Step five Cut open the long stitches in the lining at the back. **10**

Step six Stuff the head and neck fully and then close the seam again.

ADDING THE FINISHING DETAILS

Step one To hold the antlers into more of an upright position, stitch them to the middle head about 5mm (¼in) out from the seam. **11**

Step two Embroider a mouth on the face using black stranded cotton.

Step three Sew some shaping between the eyes by bringing the needle out at the inside of one eye, secure the thread, then back through the face. Take it to the other eye and back to the first eye and then back again to the second. Don't make the stitches too small as they may damage or pull the fabric.

Step four Pull lightly on the thread to draw the eyes together slightly, giving the face a little more character. Secure the thread, take the needle back into the head and out again at any point and then snip away the excess. **12**

Step five Trim the excess fabric around the hoop to approximately 1.5cm (½in) outside it.

Step six Apply glue to the inside back of the embroidery hoop and stick the leftover fabric to the hoop to finish.

**ONLY
£9.99**



Swishy
poncho



Vintage
tea
dresses



Sweater
coat
duo

DRESSMAKING ♥ HOME STYLE ♥ CHRISTMAS GIFTS & DECS
sew inspired
ISSUE 6

Build your skills today!
with expert **Debbie Shore**

26 STYLISH
PROJECTS
TO SEW

Fantastic Christmas gifts -
pamper set, pretty purse,
men's tie & more

10 fab ideas with buttons

Bag-making - box corners
made easy

Clever bathroom storage



Ernest the elephant



Sweet baking bag

Brought to you by the craft experts **Crafter's Companion**

Plus We meet Kaffe Fassett ♥ WIN

WIN!
an Elna sewing
machine



**sew
inspired**

Brought to you by sewing
expert Debbie Shore
Perfect for beginners
and experienced sewers!

Update
your
winter
wardrobe

FREE!
2 three-in-1
patterns
worth
£24!



Issue 6 on sale 9th November
www.crafterscompanion.co.uk

Simply
Sewing
FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

WORKSHOP

— • HAND APPLIQUÉ • —

*Every issue, our sewists present
classic projects and techniques.*



LEARN THE TECHNIQUE

Appliqué is used to describe a technique used in many different crafts, but, in sewing terms, it is used to describe a smaller fabric shape that is cut out and then stitched to larger piece of base fabric. It can be worked by hand or sewing machine, and with hand appliqué there are different methods to try.

RAW EDGE METHOD

This is the simplest appliqué method but does require neater stitching when you work it. If the shape you want to appliqué isn't regular then you need to reverse the shape. To do this, trace the shape, then turn the tracing paper over and draw over the lines on the back. Use the resulting reversed pattern shape for your appliqué.

Step one Trace around the pattern shape onto the paper side of a piece of fusible web.

Step two Cut out the shape, leaving approximately 5mm (1/4in) around the shape.

Step three Place the fusible web shape, paper-side up, onto the wrong side of your chosen appliqué fabric. Place a damp tea towel on top of the fusible web and press into place – this will help to protect the web and stick the glue. Let it cool. **01**

Step four Cut out the fabric along the traced lines.

Step five Remove the paper backing, then fuse the appliqué pieces to your base fabric, again using a damp tea towel on top of the fabrics.

Step six You can now stitch your appliqué shape into place for a more permanent fix. You can work a blanket stitch around the edge or make small straight stitches that cross from the base fabric to the appliqué shape. Alternatively, experiment with other embroidery stitches such as a running stitch to hold the appliqué shape in place. **02**

WHAT IS FUSIBLE WEB?

Fusible web (more commonly known by one of its trade names as Bondaweb) is a man-made fibre that will melt when heated. Basically, it is the fabric version of double-sided sticky tape! It comes with a paper backing on one side, which you can draw a shape onto. The paper backing protects one sticky side while you press the other on the appliqué fabric. You then remove the paper backing to stick the other to the base fabric.

TURNUED-UNDER EDGE METHOD

For this method you need to hem the edges of the appliqué shape before you stitch it to the main base fabric. The best product to use for this is freezer paper, but you can also use any thick paper.



Step one First trace the appliqué shape onto paper, remembering to trace it in reverse if it's a non-symmetrical shape. For freezer paper, trace the shape onto the matte side. Cut out the shape.

Step two Pin the shape onto the wrong side of your appliqué fabric. If you are using freezer paper lay it shiny-side down on and press gently into place so it will stick to the fabric.

Step three Cut your appliqué fabric 5mm (1/4in) bigger than the paper shape all the way around.

Step four Turn the edges of the fabric over onto the paper and iron them into place, snipping curves and corners as you go if needs be.

Step five Tack the turned-over fabric edges into place through the paper. **03**

Step six Turn your shape over to the right side and pin it into place on to your base fabric. Stitch it in position using small neat stitches just through the very edge of the turned-over appliqué fabric, taking care not to stitch through the paper. **04**

Step seven You can remove the paper shape in one of two ways. The first is to leave one edge

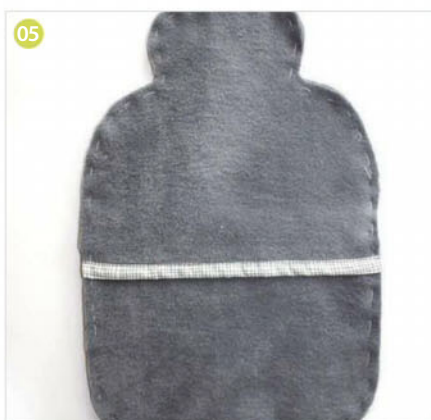
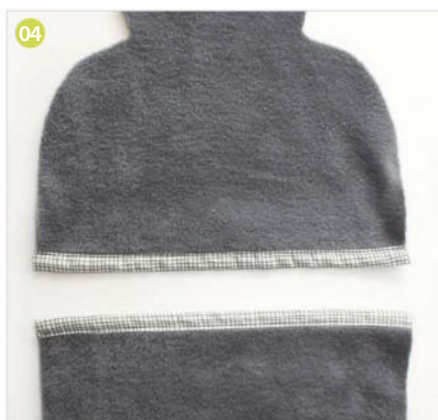
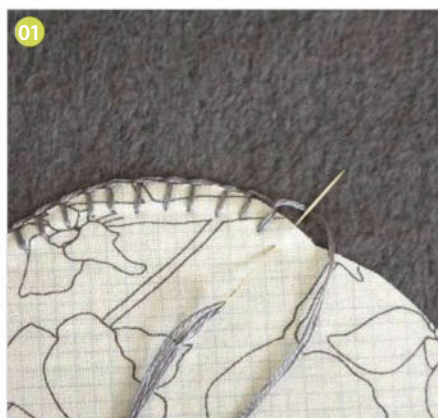
unstitched, undo the tacking stitches and pull out the paper. Next, turn the edge back under and finish stitching it to your base fabric.

For a more intricate shape, make a small snip in the base fabric behind the centre of the appliqué shape and remove the paper through this hole. Obviously this will only work if you are then going to put a backing fabric over the back of your base fabric to hide the cut. This method works well for complicated appliqué quilts.

WHAT IS FREEZER PAPER?

Freezer paper has a waxy finish on one side and is used in the USA to wrap and protect frozen food. However, it has a wonderful secondary use for appliqué as you can cut patterns out of the paper and lightly iron it to fabric. If you lay the shiny side down, and then heat it with a dry iron it sticks to the surface you have ironed it to. Once you're finished, the paper can be easily peeled off and it won't leave any residue on your fabric. It can be bought in the UK from patchwork and quilting fabric suppliers.

MAKE A HOT WATER BOTTLE COVER



YOU WILL NEED

- Main fabric: fleece, 50x60cm (20x24in)
- Appliqué fabric: 28x20cm (11x8in)
- Binding fabric: 12x60cm (5x24in)
- Bondaweb: 28x20cm (11x8in)
- Stranded cotton
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Use a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
- You will find the template on the pull-out pattern sheet with this issue.
- Use the hand appliqué technique and tips from the previous page to make your hot water bottle cover.

CUTTING THE FABRIC

- Step one** Trace around the outer line of the template and cut it out for the bottle front.
- Step two** Trace around the outer line from the top of the template down to the line marked 'back upper' and cut it out for the back upper section.
- Step three** Trace around the outer line from the bottom of the template up to the line marked 'back lower' and cut it out for the back lower section.
- Step four** Cut the binding fabric into: Back binding, two strips 4x26cm (1½x10in) each. Edge binding, two strips 4x60cm (1½x24in) each.

WORKING THE APPLIQUÉ

- Step one** Trace around the stag head onto the paper side of your Bondaweb.
- Step two** Press the Bondaweb to your appliqué fabric paper-side up, then cut it out.
- Step three** Place the cut out shape right side (RS) up centrally on top of the bottle front and press.
- Step four** Stitch into place with blanket stitch and four strands of stranded cotton. ⁰¹

BINDING THE EDGES

- Step one** Pin the binding strip RS together with the upper bottle back along the lower straight edge, matching raw edges, then stitch into place. Trim to fit at the ends. ⁰²
- Step two** Fold the strip over to the wrong side (WS), turn the other long edge under to meet up with the line of machine stitching. Topstitch into place. ⁰³
- Step three** Bind the upper straight edge of the lower bottle back in the same way. ⁰⁴

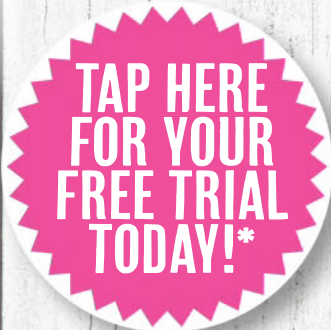
ASSEMBLING THE COVER

- Step one** Place the bottle front RS down then place the bottle lower back RS up on top. Place the bottle upper back RS up on top so it overlaps the other back piece. Tack the three pieces together. ⁰⁵
- Step two** Join the edge binding strips RS together at the short ends to make one long strip.
- Step three** Starting at the centre of the bottom edge, bind the edges through all layers of the back and front pieces. At the start and finish, turn the short ends under, trim and overlap to fit. ⁰⁶

FREE
TRIAL FOR
YOU!

DOWNLOAD YOUR ISSUE OF SIMPLY SEWING NOW!

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



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

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



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

*Free trial not available on Zinio

STASH SHOPPING

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



CROFT MILL

Selling fabrics by mail order for over 40 years, we have 100s of fabrics of all qualities and price points to suit any project.

croftmill.co.uk



SEW FRIENDLY

Fabric, Haberdashery & Sewing Classes. Dress making, soft furnishing, quilting & crafting. Follow us on Facebook: /sewfriendlybourne.

sewfriendly.co.uk



SIMPLY HABERDASHERY

Online haberdashery & quilting store selling fabrics by the metre, fat quarters and all sewing essentials.

Use code SS10 for 10% off first order!

simplyhaberdashery.com



READS OF WINCHESTER

Sales, services and repairs. All makes of sewing machine, new and reconditioned, plus a small haberdashery.

reads-of-winchester.co.uk



SEW SEW FABRICS

Based in Bexleyheath, we have a wide range of fabrics from just £3 per metre and free UK delivery on orders over £20.

sewsewfabrics.co.uk



CRAFTY SEW & SO

Crafty Sew&So have everything you need for your next sewing project! Use code CRAFTY10 to get 10% off your first order online!

craftysewandso.com



SOMERSET SEWING MACHINE

We are a family-run business supplying Juki, Toyota and Singer Sewing Machines. Singer, Britannia & Happy Embroidery machines. Repairs & Servicing.

01278 453502



HAZEL'S FABRIC CRAFT

Patchwork & Quilting Supplies and workshops. Open Fri & Sat 09:30-16:30, Sun 10:00-14:00.

10a Main Street, West Calder EH55 8DA

hazelsfabriccraft.co.uk



STITCHED BY YOU

An independent fabric and haberdashery shop that also runs informative workshops by passionate tutors.

stitchedbyyou.co.uk



BECKFORD SILK

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

01386 881507.

www.beckfordsilk.co.uk



INCHES FABRICS

Fabrics, wools and haberdashery. Buttons, ribbons and patterns. Knitting and sewing lessons.

39 Parsonage St, Dursley, Glos, GL11 4BP

inchesfabrics.co.uk



LEICESTERSHIRE CRAFT CENTRE

Craft kits that really work! Our kits are based on our popular workshops and include the same high quality materials.

leicestershirecraftcentre.co.uk

Simply
Sewing
FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC



- **40% of readers** shop at specialists stores, just like yours
- **4 in 10 readers** have gone to a course in the last month
- **5 in 10 readers** intend to go to a course this year, why not with you?
- **91% of readers** keep the magazine as a key reference guide in their sewing rooms

UP TO 50%

subscription this Christmas*

**MORE
TITLES
AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

for everyone



SAVE 40%
£46.99 - 13 issues



SAVE 43%
£43.99 - 13 issues



SAVE 35%
£41.99 - 13 issues



SAVE 40%
£46.99 - 13 issues



SAVE 43%
£43.99 - 13 issues



SAVE 40%
£46.99 - 13 issues



SAVE 35%
£41.99 - 13 issues



SAVE 43%
£29.99 - 12 issues



SAVE 35%
£34.99 - 12 issues



SAVE 40%
£39.99 - 26 issues

Take the hassle out of your Christmas shopping and give a gift that lasts all year

Order a magazine as a gift subscription before 9th December and not only will you save up to 50% on the price but we'll also send you a free Christmas card to personalise!

Remember ordering online is safe and secure, choose from any of these payment options

VISA

MasterCard

PayPal

DIRECT Debit

Call the hotline now on
01795 414746
and quote X16PA

Order online at
www.buysubscriptions.com/christmas
and quote X16PA

Complete order form below and send to:
FREEPOST IMMEDIATE MEDIA
(Please write in block capitals)

INCLUDES
PATTERN
GIFTS

BACK ISSUES

ONLY
£5.99

INCLUDING
FREE UK P&P



ISSUE 22

Sew The Fold Line's Joni Dress, Lisa Comfort's Erin Skirt sew along (part 1) and a cute baby gift set.



ISSUE 21

Make Cotton + Chalk's Sunday Set dungarees and pinafore, work accessories and a weekend bag.



ISSUE 20

25 projects including a retro baking set, maxi dress, three skirt styles and The Overture dress and top.



ISSUE 19

Sew your dream sewing space, achieve the perfect fit and make the Betty Blouse and Olivia Dress.



ISSUE 18

Make a pocket shift, knit tee and jersey dress, plus picnic accessories, plushie toys and a dog bed.



MAGAZINE
SLIP CASE
£7.50

GET ORGANISED

Each slip case can hold a year's worth of magazines (13 issues) and ensures your growing collection remains in perfect condition for future reference. To order a slip case please visit www.buysubscriptions.com/binder

2 WAYS TO ORDER

Visit the website: www.buysubscriptions.com/backissues
or call us on **01784 414729**

*Lines open weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturdays 9am-1pm. Overseas please call +44 (0)1795 414729. EUR price £6.99, ROW price £7.99 USA £7.99. Binder price EUR £9.60, ROW £11.50. All prices include p&p. All orders subject to availability. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Never miss an issue again, turn to page 32 and subscribe today!

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

THE GUIDE

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

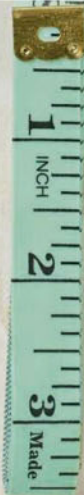
MARKING PEN

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



TAPE MEASURE

A flexible fabric tape measure will take accurate measurements.



FABRIC CLIPS

Use these instead of pins when sewing thicker fabrics.



TAILOR'S CHALKS

Chalk temporarily marks fabric and can be easily brushed away.



SEAM RIPPER

This sharp blade cuts through and unpicks stitches.



THIMBLE

Wear to protect your fingers when handstitching.



PINS

Stainless steel pins with sharp points are best.



PINKING SHEARS

These cut a zigzag edge on fabric to neaten.



SHEARS

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



SMALL SCISSORS

Use for snipping threads and cutting notches.



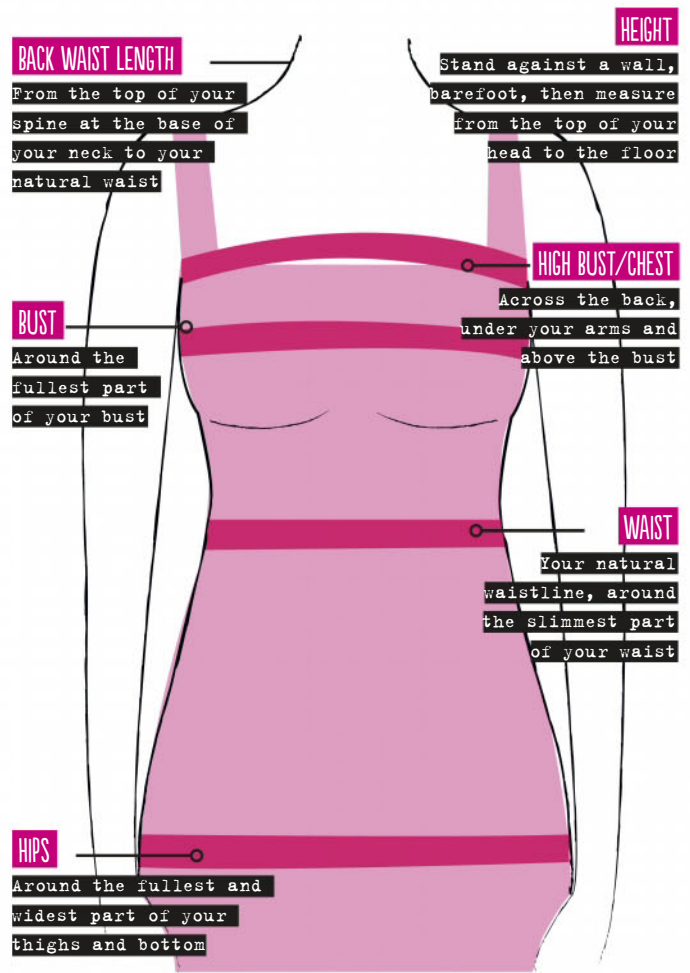
HOW TO MEASURE YOURSELF ACCURATELY

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

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

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

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



HOW TO USE A PATTERN

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

PREPARING THE PATTERN

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

CUTTING OUT THE PATTERN

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

CUTTING LAYOUTS

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

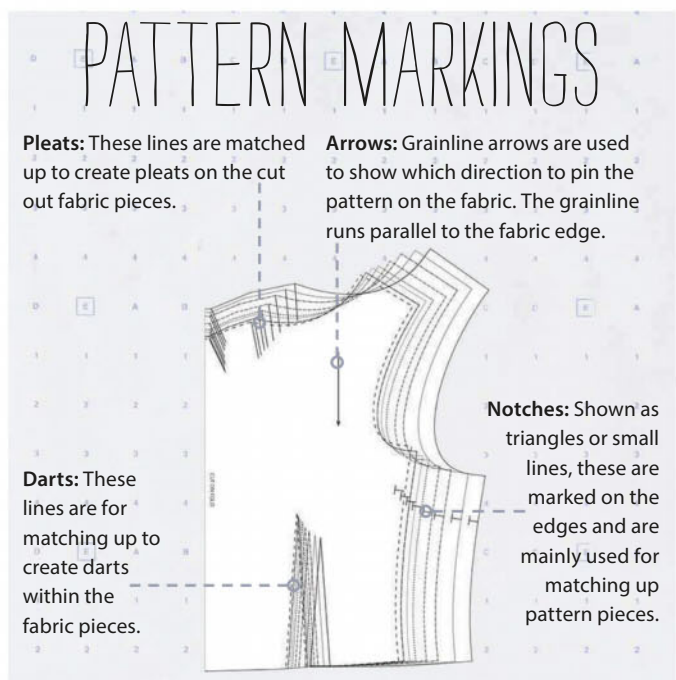
size you're cutting and the style of garment. Many patterns have more than one option (or view) and each one can have a different layout.

CUTTING OUT

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

TRANSFERRING MARKINGS

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



CHOOSING AND BUYING FABRICS



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FINISHING SEAMS

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

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

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

MACHINE NEEDLES

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

UNIVERSAL

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

BALL POINT

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

JEANS

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

SHARPS

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

LEATHER

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

STRETCH

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

QUILTING

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

TOPSTITCH

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

TWIN

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

NEEDLE SIZE GUIDE

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

GLOSSARY

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

DRAPE

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

EASE

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

EDGE STITCH

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

FACING

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

FAT QUARTER

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

FINISHING/NEATENING RAW EDGES

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

GRAIN/GRAINLINE

The lengthwise fabric grain, running parallel to the selvedge.

NAP

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

NOTIONS

Small tools or accessories used

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

RIGHT SIDE (RS) / WRONG SIDE (WS)

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

SEAM ALLOWANCE

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

SELVEDGE

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

STAYSTITCHING

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

TACK/TACKING

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

TOPSTITCHING

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

UNDERSTITCHING

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

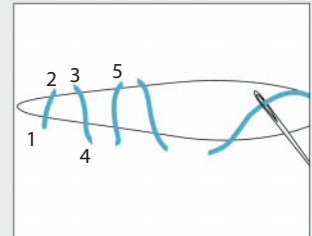
STITCH GUIDE

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

LADDER STITCH

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

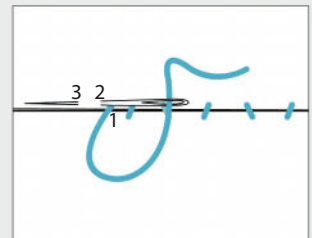
Push the needle back in the opposite side at 4 and out at 5. Repeat this to close the edges.



SLIP STITCH

This stitch is used most often for hems where you need to stitch a turned-under edge to a flat piece of fabric using small, almost invisible stitches. Bring the needle up at 1 on the turned-under hem then back in at 2 and out at 3.

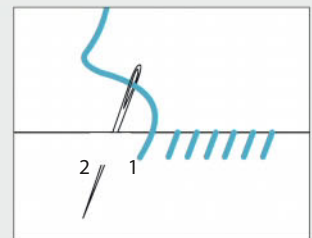
Make this horizontal stitch as small as possible so it can't be seen from the front. Repeat this by making a vertical stitch back into the turned-under edge then continue in this way to complete the hem.



WHIP STITCH

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

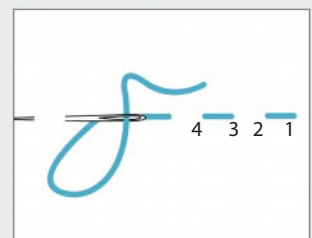
Continue to work small stitches close together over the top of the two fabric edges.



RUNNING STITCH

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

You can work several running stitches on your needle at once.



S

NEXT ISSUE

Pleated dress
 Linen tableware
 Polar bear plushie
 Quick-sew mittens
 Alphabet key fobs
 Fashion embroidery
 Fleece slippers
 Camera strap
 And more...

+ 2 FREE GIFTS!

DRESS PATTERN + PRINTED FABRIC

Choose from 8 projects to make with your exclusive piece of screen-printed fabric!



ON SALE WEDS 30TH NOV

WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM

*CONTENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PAPER AND FABRIC GIFTS NOT AVAILABLE WITH DIGITAL EDITIONS.



MAKING MEMORIES

Blogger Lucy Barry shares a special picnic-print dress inspired by cherished memories of her husband.

“ONE OF THE BEST THINGS about making my own clothes is being able to create a unique outfit using fabrics that have a personal meaning or story. I lost my husband Michael in March so finding ways to treasure memories is especially important to me, like turning special moments into a dress.

This Cotton + Steel picnic basket print dress is my favourite as it was inspired by something Michael used to say. He was a quirky guy and had lots of little ways to bring fun into every day, and one of his sayings if you asked him a question and the answer was obviously yes was: “Does Yogi Bear like picnics?”

He loved to pack a picnic and go off on an adventure, and one of the best gifts Michael gave me was a vintage Brexton picnic set, so

whenever I wear this dress I can hear his voice and cheeky laugh, and I’m transported back to carefree summer days. Another reason I love this dress is because it showed me what I could achieve if I was brave enough to try. I started making my own clothes at the end of last year and the Emery Dress by Christine Haynes was my dream pattern, but I wasn’t sure I could pull it off (sleeves terrified me!). By taking the plunge and trying this pattern, I realised I could create clothes I love to wear and feel proud to have made them myself!”

Follow Lucy’s sewing blog at www.smileandmake.com, and support The Michael Barry Fund in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity through Lucy’s shop, www.smileandmake.etsy.com, and at www.justgiving.com/themichaelbarryfund

Stay in touch!

WWW.SIMPLYSEWINGMAG.COM • #SIMPLYSEWINGMAG

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



AVON Direct Sewing Machines, Bristol – 0117 977 8216
 BEDFORDSHIRE Tudor Rose Patchwork, Oakley, Bedford – 01234 824 983
 BERKSHIRE Sew Devine, Reading – 0118 926 8664
 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Alans Sewing Machines, High Wycombe – 01494 527600
 Threads and Patches, Milton Keynes – 01908 649687
 CAMBRIDGESHIRE Sew Creative Ltd, Cambridge – 01223 350 691
 CHESHIRE All Fabrics, Stalybridge – 0161 478 8236/01706 624 651
 Jaycotts, Chester – 01244 394 099
 J & P Sewing Machines, Warrington – 01925 633 831
 Phil Morton Sewing Machines, Macclesfield – 01625 433 131
 CORNWALL The Sewing Studio, Redruth – 01209 216 942
 DERBYSHIRE Elegance, Derby – 01332 382 292
 Ilkeston Sewing & Janome Centre, Ilkeston – 01159 307 664
 DEVON Exeter Sewing Machine Company, Exeter – 01392 275 660
 Hulu, Modbury – 01548 831 911
 Soft Touch Needlecrafts, Tavistock – 01822 617 673
 DORSET Hansons Fabrics, Sturminster Newton – 01258 472 698
 Paulines Patchwork Ltd, Dorchester – 01305 261 022
 So N Sews, Weymouth – 01305 766 411
 DURHAM UK Sewing Machines, Darlington – 01325 463 630
 ESSEX Home of Sewing by Regent, Ilford – 0208 478 0669
 Superstitch Machine Co, Leigh on Sea – 01702 478830
 GLOUCESTERSHIRE Cotswold Sewing Machines, Stroud – 01453 763660
 West End Sewing Centre, Cheltenham – 01242 244025
 HAMPSHIRE Eastleigh Sewing Centre, Eastleigh – 02380 650 808
 Hampshire Sewing Machines, Fareham – 01329 280499
 Reads of Winchester, Winchester – 01962 850 950
 HEREFORDSHIRE Badder Fabrics, Hereford – 01432 379 137
 Parris Sewing Machines, Hereford – 01432 353 951
 HERTFORDSHIRE British Sewing Centre, Borehamwood – 0800 888 661
 Chicks Embroidery, Letchworth – 01462 670 007
 Hobbysew, Hemel Hempstead – 0800 077 6711
 Rebecca Woollard Sewing School, Hatfield Heath – 07887 654 717
 Rona Sewing Machines, Waltham Cross – 01992 640250
 Sewfine Sewing Machines, Watford – 01923 693 734
 KENT Ashford Sewing Centre, Ashford – 01233 620948
 Barcham Sewing Centre, Whitstable – 01227 264 271
 Maidstone Sewing Centre, Maidstone – 01622 670 254
 The Sewing Shop, Canterbury – 01227 457 723
 The World of Sewing, Pratts Bottom – 01689 638 638
 The World of Sewing, Tunbridge Wells – 01892 533188
 LANCASHIRE ETTY-LILLY, Bolton-Le-Sands, Carnforth – 01524 734 713
 Hobkirk Sewing Machines, Blackburn – 01254 693555
 Hobkirk Sewing Machines, Bury – 0161 764 4450
 Lestan Sewing Machines, Nelson – 01282 614 511
 M & S Sewing Machines, Heywood – 01706 624 651/01706 366 943
 Sew-Knit (Dalby & Jones Ltd), Preston – 01772 254 558
 LEICESTERSHIRE Cresswell Sewing Machines, Leicester – 07979 798 010
 The Sewing Café, Hinkley – 01455 698 034
 LINCOLNSHIRE Couling Sewing Machines, Lincoln – 01522 521841
 Seweezy, Gainsborough – 01427 614 570
 LONDON (GTR) Lewisham & Deptford Sewing Machines, Deptford – 020 8692 1077
 Redgewell Sewing Machines, South West London, 020 8337 3444
 Sewing & Craft Superstore, London – 020 8767 0036
 SM Sewing Machines Ltd, London – 07850 310 518
 The Sewing Centre, Battersea – 020 7228 3022
 Wimbledon Sewing Machine Co Ltd, London – 020 8767 4724
 MANCHESTER (GTR) Bamber Sewing Machines, Manchester – 0161 707 7786
 R. Bullock & Son Ltd, Wigan – 01942 247 836
 MERSEYSIDE Affordable Sewing, Moreton, Wirral – 0151 677 7755
 Sewing & Knitting Centre, Southport – 01704 534 688
 NORFOLK Sew Creative, Norwich – 01603 305 888
 Sewing Machine World, Kings Lynn – 01553 773362
 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Sew Northampton, Northampton – 01604 637200
 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Cresswell Sewing Machines, Nottingham – 0115 926 7572
 OXFORDSHIRE Witney Sewing Machine Centre, Witney – 01993 704535
 Witney Sew & Knit Centre, Witney – 01993 702 772
 SHROPSHIRE Sewing Machine Centre, Shrewsbury – 01743 343 902
 SOMERSET Bredons Sewing Machines, Taunton – 01823 272 450
 Monkton Elm Garden Centre Ltd, Taunton – 01823 412 381
 SURREY C & A Supply Co. Ltd, Cranleigh – 01483 267 777
 Redgewell Sewing Machines, Worcester Park – 0208 337 3444
 SUSSEX Brighton Sewing Centre, Brighton – 01273 621 653
 Clothkits Ltd, Chichester – 01243 533 180
 Eclectic Maker, Worthing – 01903 681000
 Hastings Sewing Centre, Hastings – 01424 423 108
 TYNE & WEAR G Tully Sewing Machines, Sunderland – 0191 565 7995
 Sewing Machine Sales, Whitley Bay – 0191 252 5825
 WARWICKSHIRE Coventry Sewing Centre, Coventry – 02476 257266
 Harry and Floss, Alcester – 01789 400 747
 Leamington Spa Sewing Machines, Leamington Spa – 01926 338 749
 WILTSHIRE Cotswold Stitchcraft, Malmesbury – 01666 823 245
 West Wilts Sewing Machine Co, Trowbridge – 01225 753 792
 WEST MIDLANDS Brewers Sewing Machines, Wolverhampton – 01902 458 885
 D C Nutt Sewing Machines, Walsall – 01922 497 603
 Frank Nutt, Kings Heath – 0121 444 3978
 L & M Nutt, Sutton Coldfield – 0121 373 5497
 S Nutt Sewing Machines, Birmingham – 0121 327 2828

AUTUMN 2016

Sewing with STYLE



MODEL 216-S

- 14 Stitches
- Auto 4 step buttonhole
- Variable stitch length
- Convertible free arm
- Quick change snap on feet

WORCESTERSHIRE

Creative Hands 2, Worcester – 01905 24940
 Inkberrow Design Centre, Redditch – 01527 69100
 Topstitchers, Kidderminster – 01562 822 698

YORKSHIRE

Arcade Sewing Machines, Huddersfield – 01484 429 808
 C & G Sewing Machines, Bradford – 01274 306352
 Electra (DA) Company, Doncaster – 01302 340 369
 Flynn's@ Browns of York, York – 01904 561234/611166
 Knit & Stitch, Doncaster – 01302 366 022
 Knit & Stitch, Rotherham – 01709 817 944
 Lennox Sewing Machines, Rotherham – 01709 377 797
 MKC Services, Leeds – 0113 245 3156
 Sewing Centre, Scarborough – 01723 363 167
 White Rose Sewing Machines, Harrogate – 01423 503767
 Woodseats Sewing Machines, Sheffield – 0114 255 2822
 Joan's Wools & Crafts, Onchan – 01624 626 009

ISLE OF MAN

Sew N Knit Belfast, Belfast – 0289 045 6015
 Sew N Knit Lisburn, Lisburn – 0289 267 0908
 Singer Sewing Centre, Ballymena – 0282 564 0034

SCOTLAND

David Drummond, Edinburgh – 0131 539 7766
 ESC Sewing Machines, Keith – 01542 887 000
 N.J. Sewing Machine Services, Brightons Falkirk – 01324 711 333
 Pembertons Sewing Machines, Stirling – 01786 462 993
 Quilt Creations, Inverness – 01463 719 369
 Sew Materialistic, Ayr – 01292 285 801
 The Stitchery, Glasgow – 0141 237 9690

WALES

Calico Kate, Lampeter – 01570 422 866
 Clifford's Sewing Machines Ltd, Swansea – 01792 655 928
 J & B Sewing Machine Co Ltd, Cardiff – 01633 281 555
 J & B Sewing Machine Co, Ltd, Newport – 01633 284 646
 Quay Street Sewing Centre, Haverfordwest – 01437 762 355
 Sewing Machines Direct, Wrexham – 01978 851 235

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

www.janome.co.uk

JANOME

The world's leading sewing machine manufacturer