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Top tips from... WAYNE HEMINGWAY, LINDA BARKER,
CAROL SMILLIE, JULIE DODSWORTH & MORE

Free Spirit



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Anna Maria Horner

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Make it

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We are on full summer mode here at HMHQ and feeling super energised by the sun's rays. So much so that we've decided to give the magazine a whole new fresh look and add even more top tips and guidance to help you create fabulous things for the home with confidence. We hope you like our little makeover – we're really pleased with it.

Talking of makeovers – you upcyclers will love our furniture transformations, plus a collection of quick and easy revamps. Carol Smillie has taken a drab old box and turned it into a stylish nautical-themed storage unit on page 26. We've also updated old glassware into opulent gold vases on page 78 and made humble table mats into gorgeous fabric-covered pin boards on page 45. They will look fabulous in any craft room or funky office.

We love yarn craft, so we're treating ourselves (and you) to some really lovely knitting and crochet makes. Get to grips with Fair Isle on page 72 with Nicki Trench's pretty knitted washcloths. Perfect your crochet chevrons by trying Emma Varnam's lovely striped blanket on page 46 and give toy-making a go with Irene Strange's nursery projects on pages 19-21.

As always we want to inspire you, so as well as a wealth of amazing and exclusive projects, all created with you in mind, we also have some top styling tips and buys to tempt and delight. Check out our collection of floral stationery on page 52 and enjoy Ellie Tennant's round-up of all things boho on page 28, before you try your hand at embroidering your own hippy-style hoop artwork designed by Lucy Pass.

We want you to really love our new look issue and our home craft ideas. We would love to hear your top homemaking tips and see your creations, so share your creative triumphs with us. Please get in touch via Facebook and Twitter – you never know, your handiwork could even be shown off in the next issue!

Happy homemaking,

Ella

ELLA JOHNSTON, EDITOR
ella.johnston@aceville.co.uk



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GET IN TOUCH



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www.homemaker.co.uk

THINK FRESH



Homemaker
ISSUE 34
JULY 2015



EDITOR'S FAVOURITES

Main image: oliverbonas.com
Bright Yellow Paper Fan Decoration, £190,
candleandcake.co.uk
Cecily Mae Love A3 Print, £11.44, etsy.com
Mint Butterfly cross-stitch kit, £14.99, flossandmischief.com
Flower Green Wine Glasses, £9.50, berryred.co.uk

Purplelinda Crafts

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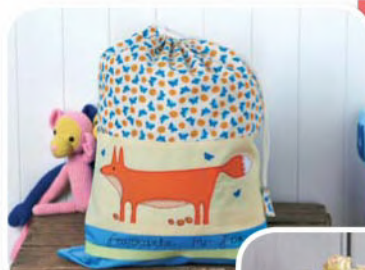
14th August 2015

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SIX MAKES TO MASTER THIS ISSUE



ADD WEAVING TO YOUR SET OF SKILLS AS WE RUN YOU THROUGH THE BASICS



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FOLLOW OUR EASY PHOTO STEP-BY-STEP TO CREATE A PRETTY FRILLED CUSHION



UPGRADE A CHEAP VASE WITH GOLD LEAF IN LESS THAN 10 MINS



UPDATE A HEADBOARD BY GETTING TO GRIPS WITH SIMPLE RE-UPHOLSTERY



PERFECT YOUR DOUBLE CROCHET BY MAKING A CHEVRON BABY BLANKET

MEET OUR CONTRIBUTORS



You'll adore Carol Smillie's nautical storage solution on page 26



Irene Strange cheers us up on page 20 with her funky monkeys



Check out Lucy Pass' fabulous wall ravamp ideas on page 38



Feel the mandala love on page 76 with Lynne Rowe's crochet how-to



Nicki Trench shows you how to get to grips with Fair Isle on page 74



Follow Corinne Bradd's modelling tips on page 86 to make cool coasters

Homemaker

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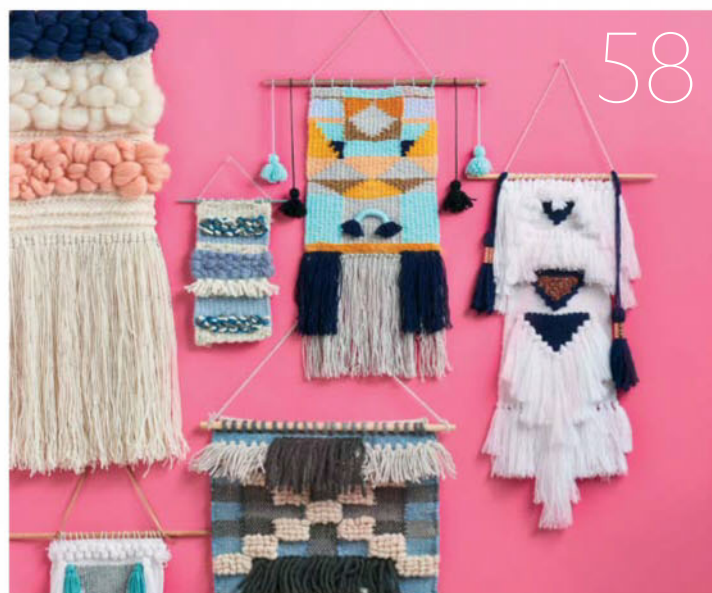
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Celebrate the spoils of a British summer and arrange classic blooms for a country garden vibe. Team big blowsy peonies in pink and cream hues with delicate hydrangeas, pretty anemones and gorgeous dahlias for a subtle hand-picked feel. Add a warm colour pop by placing a bright, orangey sunflower in your display to keep your arrangement feeling fun and informal. Keep the 'just picked' look going by placing your blooms in an old milk jug, watering can or storage jar rather than a fancy vase. Flowers from bloomsandbuds.co.uk



CREATE A
VINTAGE-INSPIRED
DISPLAY WITH
SEASONAL
FLOWERS

IN THE COUNTRY DAVID GENTLEMAN

This month in our...

HOMEMAKER HUB

JOIN OUR CLUB...

Full of homemaking pearls of wisdom? Have crafty questions that need answering or great tips for projects? Then join in our hub and become a part of Homemaker magazine by sending your comments, tips and a photo to rosalind.moody@aceville.co.uk



PHILIPPA, Chelmsford, has tips for keeping flowers fresh on p93



CANDICE, Newcastle, talks fresh bedroom updates on p33



GINA, Newmarket, gives us some knit tricks on page 73

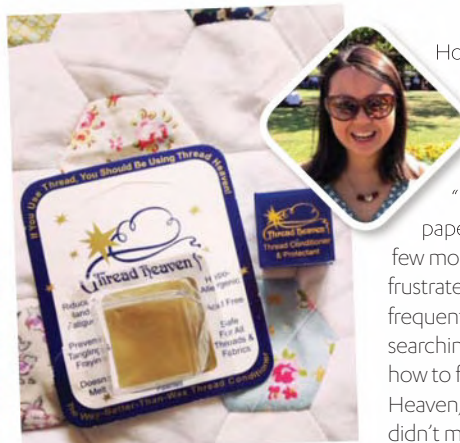
READER REVIEW...

Been to a great crafty class, had an inspiring read or used a creative product or kit recently? Send your review to rosalind.moody@aceville.co.uk to see it in print AND win a £20 voucher for Retreat Home!



♥ retreat ♥

Gifts from the heart made with love



Homemaker reader Jane Ha tried out Thread Heaven thread conditioner. Here's what she thought...

"I started my first English paper piecing (EPP) quilt a few months ago and was getting frustrated by the knots I would frequently get in my thread. After searching online for suggestions on how to fix this, I came across Thread Heaven, and for about £3 I figured it didn't matter too much if it didn't live up to all of its claims.

I've been using it for a little while now, and it really is a little box of magic. It's an alternative to beeswax and it strengthens and smooths your thread, making it easier for hand-sewing. It also creates a static charge which helps to eliminate the dreaded knotting. The thread has made my hand-sewing so much quicker I use it not only for EPP but also for hand stitching hems on dresses. I love it!"

Star letter



WIN!

JOT DOWN ALL YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS IN THESE BEAUTIFUL FOREST FEAST NOTEBOOKS (ERIN GLEESON, ABRAMS NOTERIE, £9.99).



ABRAMSNOTERIE

Dear Homemaker,

I recently upcycled my boring old brown sideboard into a shiny new craft stash cupboard. All I did was simply sand it down and then give it a fresh coat of white paint – it was so easy!

Of course, I then had to make a patchwork cushion for my chair out of some of the scraps of fabric I had kept in my stash. So far I've made a great start to my craft room and now I want to try to organise everything else to match.

Lorraine Castellari, via email



HOMEMAKER NEWSFEED

facebook.com/homemakermag



1ST JULY: Vote for our gorgeous #PimpMyDeckie specimen and crown us the winners of Out There Interiors' Summer Design Challenge.

Pinterest PICKS

A peek at a board we're currently coveting:
[PINTEREST.COM/FCSCRAFTERS/BACK-TO-SCHOOL-CRAFTS](https://www.pinterest.com/FCSCRAFTERS/BACK-TO-SCHOOL-CRAFTS)

BACK TO SCHOOL CRAFTS

The excited feeling we used to get when we buy our shiny new school stationery is back, but with a crafty edge. Take a look at how to use washi tape lengths to give plain paper and books a super cool makeover and be inspired to sew up a new pencil case with leftover fabric. The kids will be all set and excited to head back to the classroom!



Snap Happy

Send us your pics on Twitter and Instagram @homemakermag



@wennster1



@elizabeth_mary75



@classicbecca



@makingforliving

VOICE FROM THE BLOGOSPHERE

LOBSTERANDSWAN.COM

Fresh, feminine but oh so cool, interior stylist Jeska's gorgeous corner of the internet oozes elegance on each page. If you're after anything from interiors inspiration to arts and crafts projects, and even features on creative businesswomen, Jeska's Lobster and Swan blog should be your next online destination. With each post featuring bright and inviting photography, you'll be hooked.



HOMEMAKER'S WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



TILLYAIRERS.CO.UK

If like us, you think time doing laundry would be time better spent crafting, Tilly Airers is about to make you think again. Racks that come in any shape, size and colour, they can even be used to hang magazines, pictures and even flower pots, so you can make use of one in each room of your home. Peek back to *Homemaker* Issue 33 to see if you can spot ours in the shot of the tyre seat project!

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR LOVELY NEW WEBSITE FOR FREE PATTERNS, PAPERS, DOWNLOADS AND RECIPES. PLUS BONUS PROJECTS!
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• OUR READER MAKER • A CROCHETED GARDEN

Reader **Seren Worton** tells us about taking her talents outdoors

With so much creativity flying around the handmade community, it's harder than ever to think of a truly original idea.

Which is why Seren Worton's business, Design by Hook impressed us so much. Her enterprise sells crocheted garden trellises, planters and hanging baskets all made with a strong, water-resistant polypropylene twine. "I wanted to grow honeysuckle against my shed but couldn't find an attractive trellis," says Seren. "I had recently learnt to crochet and realised the holes in the pattern would make it perfect for the job. My honeysuckle has been happily growing on my shed now for three years." After the trellises received a lot of interest from family, friends and neighbours, Seren officially started Design by Hook in March 2014.

NOTHING TO LOSE

Coming from an interior design background, Seren has always been creative, but when she was diagnosed with ME a few years ago she became unable to work. "I'd had to leave my part-time job due to my health, but really wanted to try managing my own business and making products – I had nothing to lose so just went for it." Not working set hours has really helped Seren manage her work alongside her illness and also gives her time to be creative and experiment with new products and patterns. "When I looked for other similar products online all I could find was boring trellises or crochet plant pot covers that could only be used indoors. People love having crochet in their homes so why shouldn't they have it in their gardens? My trellises add fun all year round and, because I make them by hand myself, customers can choose the exact colour combinations they want."

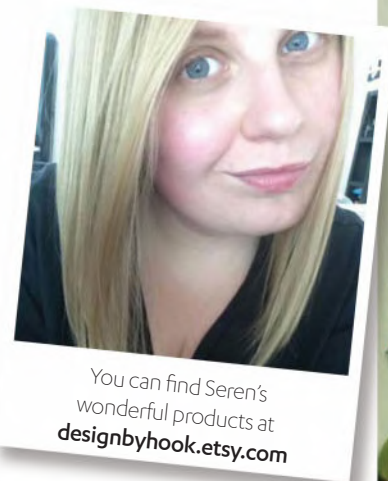
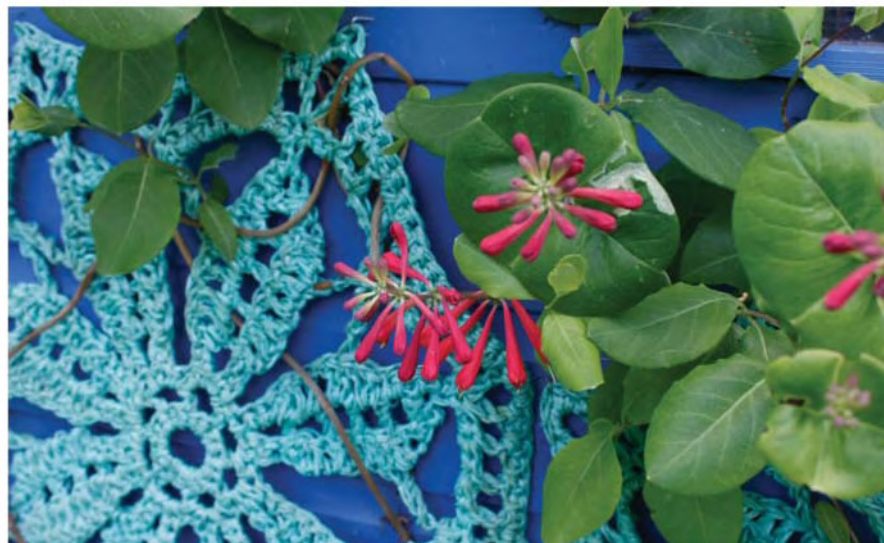
It took a while for Seren to get people's heads around her unique pieces. "Crochet is always associated with yarn and I'm regularly asked whether my products will sag or rot when it rains. As I use the polypropylene twine this is not an issue." Most of Seren's ideas come from the garden itself. "The most popular products are the dahlia trellises, which have a simple but eye-catching design. I

like industrial styles too, which is where the inspiration for the 'Cog' trellises came from, and give people another option as well as the traditional floral motifs."

LOOKING AHEAD

Now that Seren has discovered and honed her twist on this well-known craft, she's keen to establish outdoor crochet even further and is full of ideas for the future. "I have more garden decorations going into the shop this year that include all-weather bunting that you don't have to worry about when it rains, and some outdoor crochet baubles so that you can decorate your garden at Christmas. I'm hoping to create some tinsel as well." And Seren says she would love to create stand-alone trellis screens so that her work isn't limited to just fences. "My aim is for crochet to come right into the garden, rather than just around the edges."

"PEOPLE LOVE CROCHET IN THEIR HOMES SO WHY SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE IT IN THEIR GARDENS?"



You can find Seren's wonderful products at designbyhook.etsy.com



ARE YOU A READER MAKER? TELL US YOUR STORY. EMAIL ROSALIND.MOODY@ACEVILLE.CO.UK

HEADLINES

Check out our favourite finds this month



WALL TO WALL

Love your chalk paint? Launched on 1st July, Annie Sloan has a delectable new palette for you to indulge your home in. Let the sun shine and treat your walls to a light pastel coat in shades that range from duck egg blue to country grey. The best part? Dirty marks or scuffs are simply washed away. What a way to celebrate your 25th anniversary Annie Sloan! anniesloan.com



ARTISAN ADVENTURES

Never before has the term 'online marketplace' been so fitting. When we're abroad, time and travel restrictions may stop us filling our boots (and by that we mean, suitcases) with beautiful items for our home. At Home of Artisans, you can source one-off and limited edition products crafted all around the world. Promoting traditional skills and local culture, browse the site for anything from ceramics and sculpture to woodwork, and you'll find something truly special. Talk about fair trade... homeofartisans.com



SPOTLIGHT ON...

MA Textile designer Sabrina Shah Hakim hasn't yet graduated from Chelsea College of Art but her fabulous home textiles are already on our wishlist. Her seventies-inspired home accessories are so funky, and especially when they're made of faux suede, we couldn't be happier to jump on the eco-craft train. Browse her Deco collection, from £30, at designersmakers.com



SITE TO SEE
BROWSE THROUGH
ADORABLE FABRICS AT
CLOTHANDCANDY.CO.UK

ETSY TURNS 10!

Our friend Etsy has officially turned ten years old. After the site launched in 2005, we've all spent endless hours scrolling through its fab sellers. Join in the fun and share your fave crafting trend from the last decade, be it the chevron craze of 2009 or the ombre obsession of 2012, with the hashtag [#Etsy10](https://twitter.com/Etsy10), and don't forget to tag us [@homemakermag](https://twitter.com/homemakermag)

CURRENTLY COVETING...

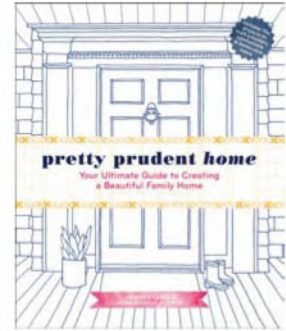


If you're planning a getaway over August bank holiday, this is just the thing in the case of a craft emergency. Vintage Crafts Travel Sewing Machine, £4.95, dotcomgiftshop.com

Harvest your summer blooms and use this adorable stamp to help transform them into a lovely gift. Round label rubber stamp, £13.71, hunterandcodesigns.etsy.com



READS WE RATE:



Pretty Prudent Home by Jacinda Boneau and Jaime Curtis, (£15.99, Stewart, Tabori & Chang)



Design Mom: How to live with kids by Gabrielle Stanley Blair, (£20, Artisan)



Bonne Maman: The Seasonal Cookbook, (£14.99, Simon and Schuster)

SAVE THE DATE...

JULY 18

AUG 15

DYFFRYN GARDENS,
GLAMORGAN

We've gone crazy for botanicals this issue! Artist Debbie Devauden will be hosting two alfresco botanical art classes in Wales. Make sure to book your place in advance, 02920 593328, nationaltrust.co.uk



JULY 29

AUG 19

ARTISTS IN THE GARDEN
01962 771305, nationaltrust.co.uk

AUG 6-9

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thefestivalofquilts.co.uk

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TOOLS OF THE TRADE

What makes home-makes so special is the detail we add to them. Now, with the help of GraphTec, we'll be getting a professional finish to boot. Their brand new Silhouette Curio™ digital imaging machine works on materials up to 0.2cm thick, and will open you up to a whole world of crafting opportunities, graphtecgb.co.uk



GIVEAWAY

IF YOU'RE A **KEEN KNITTER OR CROCHETER**, YOU'LL LOVE THIS MONTH'S **KNITPRO BUNDLE GIVEAWAY**. FILLED WITH CROCHET HOOKS, STITCH MARKERS AND LOTS OF OTHER ACCESSORIES ALL PACKED INTO A STYLISH TOTE, JUST GO ONLINE TO HOMEMAKERMAGAZINE.CO.UK TO ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN THIS GOODY BAG **WORTH OVER £80**.

Arrival of the Silhouette Curio™



GRAPHTEC

The Curio is taking giant leaps forward with its new features. Along with the new stippling and etching functions, Silhouette is proud to introduce three types of embossing methods - Path Emboss, Score & Emboss, and Print & Emboss. Because of Silhouette's new dual carriage, you can also emboss and perform other functions, like sketching or cutting all in one pass.

With Curio, you can now cut thicker material. When used with Silhouette's new deep-cut blade, you can cut up to 2mm thick materials. The Curio boasts a 5mm clearance from base to head which allows you to feed thicker materials through the machine. The higher clearance

allows users to utilise entirely new project pallets, such as wood to sketch stencils onto, or to cut thicker materials, such as foils, leather, and foam.

It's all driven by powerful Silhouette Studio® software and the Silhouette Design Store. Every design in your library can now be repurposed for embossing, stippling, and etching projects. The Curio is the only machine that can unlock the embossing, stippling, etching, and dual carriage options that will now be available in Silhouette Studio®.

Distributed in the UK and Ireland by Graphtec GB, the Silhouette Curio is the perfect accompaniment to the popular Silhouette Cameo and Portrait digital cutting tools.

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To accompany the launch of the Silhouette Curio, Silhouette are launching a new range of medias

and tools that have been chosen to work seamlessly with the Curio. These include metal stippling sheets, metal etching sheets and a range of faux leather paper.

For more information visit www.graphtecgb.co.uk for details of your local authorised Silhouette reseller.



GRAPHTEC

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for little ones

Create a space that kids will love with our crafty collection

Whether you're looking to update a nursery or child's bedroom, or simply love making for friends and family, over the next six pages we've got some adorable projects and ideas that promise to delight. Storage solutions and practicality is key when creating for a kid's space, however childhood should be filled with touches of magic and whimsy too. That's why we've come up with some great ideas for stowing away toys, clipping curtains and organising those little bits and pieces to give you story-book inspired designs that will hopefully become treasured kiddie keepsakes for years to come.



TURN THE PAGE FOR
YOUR AMAZING MAKES!

5 AMAZING MAKES

SEW A SWEET ORGANISER



YOU'LL NEED:

- Plain white cotton, 1m
- Fat quarters of far far away fabric, orange clover, pink snails, purple unicorn, from purple-stitches.com
- Kona cotton, plum, 100cm x 112cm, from purple-stitches.com
- Mid-weight iron-on interfacing, 40cm x 60cm
- Layout template from homemakermagazine.co.uk



- 1 Fuse a 40cm x 60cm rectangle of interfacing to the reverse of a 42cm x 62cm panel of plum cotton, leaving a 1cm allowance. Fold over the excess fabric all the way round and tack down.
- 2 Refer to our layout and cut rectangles of different fabric in the stated sizes. Cut corresponding sizes from plain white fabric and pair up, right sides together. Sew around all sides with a 5mm seam allowance and 6cm gap along the bottom edge of each. Clip the corners and turn each pocket out through the gap. Use a knitting needle to push the corners out fully, turn in the raw edge along the bottom, tack closed and press each pocket.
- 3 Make a 1cm wide pleat along the bottom edge of each pocket and pin. For the larger pocket make 1cm pleats at each end and double pleats at 1/3 and 2/3 the way across. Pin pockets to the backing fabric as our layout starting with the bottom edge to ensure they are level, and pinning the sides at right angles. The top edge of each pocket remains unpinned and will 'bag' out.



- 4 Using a coordinating thread, top stitch the pockets in place, 2mm from the edges and securing the pleats along the bottom as you do so. Stitch dividing lines down the larger pocket in line with the double pleats.
- 5 Fold two 6cm x 12cm fabric panels in half right sides together and sew down the long side. Turn right side out to make a tube. Press and fold the tube in half

- to make a loop. Tack the loops to the top corners of the organiser.
- 6 Take a 42cm x 62cm piece of plain white fabric and press in 1cm along each edge. Place the organiser on top of the plain fabric, wrong sides together. Pin the folded edges together, covering the ends of the loops as you do so. Top stitch all the way round the organiser, 2mm from the edges.

THREE FAVE CRAFTY KIDDIE HACKS

1 STITCH A COSY QUILT

Make a colourful bedspread or playmat by having fun with patchwork. This quilt has been made by piecing together flamboyant hexagons with plain white triangles. Make yours today in equally fresh colours by getting the how-to at sewmag.co.uk



Free download!

2 FRAME AN INITIAL

Personalise your little one's room with ease by displaying the first letter of their name in style. Simply cover a mdf initial with funky fabric and fix it into a glass free frame – it really is that simple!

3 FASHION FAB FABRIC TUBS!

Store your kids' toys stylishly and get busy with the sewing machine to whip up some storage tubs. Our designer Lucy Pass has made up a fab one for filling with laundry in our next issue (take a sneaky peek on page 56), but you could easily fashion one using kiddie-style material for toys in a playroom.

CROCHET A
CUTE MOBILE

YOU'LL NEED:

Hook, 3.5mm

Rico Essentials Cotton DK, lime green, white, lilac, purple, yellow, bright blue, pink, from lovecrochet.com

Toy stuffing

Darning needle

Two thick wooden dowels, 0.5cm



SMALL SPHERE

3.5mm hook, make 2 in Lilac and 1 in every other colour.

Using 3.5mm hook, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1: bdc into centre of ring, pull tail to close hole

Rnd 2: work 2 dc in each stitch (12 sts)

Rnd 3: 1dc in each st

Rnd 4: 1dc in each st

Rnd 5: 1dc in each st - add stuffing

Rnd 6: *dc2tog* 6 times (6 sts)

Fasten off and sew up the end.

LARGE SPHERE

3.5mm hook, make two in lilac and one in every other colour.

Rnd 1: bdc into centre of ring, pull tail to close hole

Rnd 2: work 2 dc in each stitch (12 sts)

Rnd 3: 6 times *2dc in first st, 1dc in next st* (18 sts)

Rnd 4: 1dc in each st

Rnd 5: 1dc in each st

Rnd 6: 1dc in each st

Rnd 7: *dc2tog, 1dc in next st* 6 times (12 sts) - add stuffing

Rnd 8: *dc2tog* 6 times (6 sts)

Fasten off and sew up the end.

HEART

3.5mm hook, make one in White, Pink and Purple.

First make the top halves:

Rnd 1: bdc into centre of ring, pull tail to close hole

Rnd 2: work 2 dc in each stitch (12 total)

Rnd 3: 1dc in each st

Rnd 4: 1dc in each st

Fasten off, set aside.

Make the next half to match.

Place the two halves together and sew in the middle taking 20 sts from each half.

Attach yarn to the middle and work along the combined shape

Rnd 5: Using remaining stitches work 1dc in each st (20 total)

Rnd 6: 1dc in each st

Rnd 7: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 8 st* 2 times (18 sts)

Rnd 8: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 7 st* 2 times (16 sts)

Rnd 9: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 6 st* 2 times (14 sts)

Rnd 10: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 5 st* 2 times (12 sts) - add stuffing

Rnd 11: *dc2tog* 6 times (6 sts)

Fasten off and sew up the end.

TO MAKE UP

1 Take two wooden dowels, 5mm thick or thicker, cut to the width you'd like the mobile to be (25cm or so works well) and drill a small hole in the middle and on the ends of each dowel.

You can also attach the elements using glue or simply tie them to the dowels instead.

2 Arrange all the elements into five strands, keeping the end ones similar in weight to help the mobile balance.

3 Take a darning needle and a long strand of yarn and string each sphere or heart in position by doubling up the stitches at the base of each piece. Attach the strands to the mobile, putting them through the holes and working them around the dowel.

4 Add a hanging loop to the middle of the mobile by making 40ch and securing it in the hole. You can also wrap more yarn around the middle to fix the mobile into a cross shape.



TURN THE PAGE FOR
MORE AMAZING MAKES!



5 AMAZING MAKES

MAKE MONKEY CURTAIN TIE BACKS



YOU'LL NEED:

- Hook, 3.5mm
- Rico Creative Sport DK in purple or pink, yellow, from lovecrochet.com
- Safety eyes, black, 9mm
- Toy stuffing
- Darning needle



HEAD

3.5mm hook, start with yellow. Using 3.5mm hook, make a magic ring.
Rnd 1: 6dc into ring, pull tail to close hole
Rnd 2: work 2 dc in each stitch (12 sts)
Rnd 3: *2dc in first st, 1dc in next sts* 6 times (18 sts)
Rnd 4: *2dc in first st, 1dc in next 2 sts* 6 times (24 sts)
Rnd 5: *2dc in first st, 1dc in next 3



sts* 6 times (30 sts)
Rnd 6: *2dc in first st, 1dc in next 4 sts* 6 times (36 sts)
Rnd 7: *2dc in first st, 1dc in next 5 sts* 6 times (42 sts)
Rnd 8: *2dc in first st, 1dc in next 6 sts* 6 times (48 sts)
Rnd 9: Change to purple, *2dc in first st, 1dc in next 7 sts* 6 times (54 sts)
Rnd 10-14: 1dc in each st (54 sts)
Rnd 15: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 6 sts* 6 times (48 sts) - add safety eyes along

the middle of the yellow section.
Rnd 15: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 6 sts* 6 times (42 sts)
Rnd 15: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 5 sts* 6 times (36 sts)
Rnd 15: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 4 sts* 6 times (30 sts)
Rnd 15: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 3 sts* 6 times (24 sts)
Rnd 15: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 2 sts* 6 times (18 sts)
Rnd 15: *dc2tog, 1dc in next st* 6

times (12 sts) - add stuffing
Rnd 15: *dc2tog* 6 times (6 sts)
 Fasten off and sew up the end.

NOSE

3.5mm hook, make in yellow. Using 3.5mm hook, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1-5: Work as for head (30 sts)
Rnd 6-8: 1dc in each st
 Fasten off and sew to the front of the head below the eyes, lining up the lower edge to the last row of yellow. Add stuffing when almost sewn together.

EARS

3.5mm hook, make two in purple.
Rnd 1-4: Work as for head (24 sts)
Rnd 5-9: 1dc in each st
 Fasten off, fold in half and sew to the head.

BODY

3.5mm hook, make in purple.
Rnd 1-5: Work as for head (30 sts)
Rnd 6-8: 1dc in each st
Rnd 9: dc2tog, 1dc in each rem st (29 sts)
Rnd 10: 1dc in each st
 Rep Rnds 9-10 until 18sts rem, ending after a Rnd 10
 Fasten off, stuff and sew to the head.

THREE MORE BABY CROCHET IDEAS



GO GRANNY

Granny square blankets look lovely on a cot or pram. Learn the basic pattern and either whip up one giant square or stitch lots together to make an Afghan throw. For a wealth of granny square patterns go to topcrochetpatterns.com



IN THE FRAME

Display pictures of your little treasure in a set of hand-crafted photo frames. These crochet numbers use simple stitches and will add a touch of whimsy to a space. See how to make them at homemakermagazine.co.uk



TOP TOYS

Whip up a collection of cute critters for baby by mastering amigurumi. Once you've got the hang of it you'll be creating loads of super sweet toys. Take a look at our tutorial on The Crafts Channel at youtube.com/user/TheCraftsChannel

TAIL

3.5mm hook, make in yellow.

Make a magic ring

Rnd 1: 5dc into ring, pull tail to close hole

Rnd 2: work 2 dc in each stitch (10 sts)

Rnd 3 - 39: 1dc in each st

Fasten off, add stuffing and sew to the back of the body.

Leave the tail straight or sew in a small loop so it can hook to the wall.

LEGS

3.5mm hook, make two in purple.

Make a magic ring.

Rnd 1: 6dc into ring, pull tail to close hole

Rnd 2: work 2 dc in each stitch (12 sts)

Rnd 3 - 20: 1dc in each st (12 sts)

Fasten off, add stuffing and sew to the body.

ARMS

3.5mm hook, make two in purple.

Make a magic ring.

Rnd 1: 6dc into ring, pull tail to close hole

Rnd 2: work 2 dc in each stitch (12 sts)

Rnd 3: *2dc in first st, 1dc in next st* 6 times (18 sts)

Rnd 4-8: 1dc in each st

Rnd 9: 6ch, 1dc in each st (24 sts)

Rnd 10: working along the chain as well as the other stitches, 1dc in each st (24 sts)

Rnd 11: 1dc in ea st

Rnd 12: *dc2tog, 1dc in next 2 st* 6 times (18 sts)

Rnd 13: *dc2tog, 1dc in next st* 6 times (12 sts)

Rnd 14 - 58: 1dc in each st

Fasten off, add stuffing and sew to the body.

THUMBS

3.5mm hook, make two in purple.

Make a magic ring

Rnd 1: 5dc into ring, pull tail to close hole

Rnd 2-3: 1dc in each st

Fasten off, sew to the gap in Rnd 9 of the arm to complete the arm.



TURN THE PAGE FOR
MORE AMAZING MAKES!

5
AMAZING
MAKES

FASHION A FOXY TOY SACK



YOU'LL NEED

Plain cotton fabric, orange, lemon and cornflower blue, from thevintagequilt.co.uk

Stof butterflies and daisies white cotton fabric, from thevintagequilt.co.uk

Patterned orange fabric

Iron-on interfacing

Pale green herringbone ribbon

White cord, 1.2m

Templates from homemakermagazine.co.uk



1 Take a 15cm x 43cm piece of blue fabric, a 19cm x 43cm section of lemon fabric and a 27cm x 43cm panel of butterfly print fabric. Join all three together as shown leaving a 1cm seam allowance. Press the seams open.

2 Trace the fox template onto a piece of orange fabric, back with iron-on interfacing. Trace the throat and stomach onto patterned fabric and the tail end onto white fabric, white lace and interface. Pin the fox onto the middle of the lemon fabric section and stitch to secure using dark orange thread just inside the fabric edge. Stitch the tail, throat and stomach using white thread. Iron on the reverse.

3 Cut out four flowers and three butterflies from the printed fabric and stitch as shown. Stitch curly lines in pale blue underneath each butterfly.

4 Stitch a length of the pale green ribbon across the width of the blue fabric approx. 3cm under the join with the lemon fabric. Press on the reverse before machine or hand stitching the words 'favourite Mr Fox'.

5 Cut a back for the bag the same size as the front, pin them right sides together and stitch across the bottom and up both sides, leaving a gap in the stitching of 1.5cm at the top of each side and 3cm from the top edge. Cut excess fabric from the corners and turn right side out.

6 Fold the top raw edge over to the inside by 1cm, then over again by 1cm. Stitch around the sack 1.5cm from the top. Make sure that the gap for the pull cord remains unstitched.

7 Thread one end of the cord through the gap, around the bag and back out of the same hole. Trap the raw ends in a piece of folded butterfly print fabric and stitch round to secure.

APPLIQUÉ A FOXY CUSHION



YOU'LL NEED:

Plain cotton fabric, orange and cornflower blue, from thevintagequilt.co.uk

Stof butterflies and daisies white cotton fabric, from thevintagequilt.co.uk

White/lace fabric

Iron on interfacing

Cushion pad, 42cm x 32cm

Embroidery hoop

Templates from homemakermagazine.co.uk



1 Trim a piece of plain blue fabric to 34cm x 44cm. Cut a section of the floral fabric at an angle to fit across the bottom right hand corner. Back with interfacing, pin in place and stitch across the top of it. Iron on the reverse.

2 Using the templates, cut out the two large fox pieces in orange fabric and the throat and tail sections in white fabric. Cut the chest from orange patterned fabric, back all with interfacing and cut an extra tail section from white lace. Pin them in place as shown and machine or hand stitch in orange/white thread to secure, approx. 3mm in from the edge. Iron on the reverse. Add a little detail to the body and ears in orange/white thread as shown. Use black thread to stitch the nose and eye. Iron on the reverse.

3 Trace the word 'friendly' from the template onto white tissue paper and pin in place. To keep the fabric taut while you stitch, put the fabric into an embroidery hoop and pull tightly. Machine or hand stitch over the word twice in navy thread. Repeat for the 2nd word. Remove the hoop and tear away the tissue carefully. Iron on the reverse.

4 Cut a back for the cushion in your chosen fabric the same



THERE'S EVEN MORE ONLINE!

Check out Carolyn Letten's pretty baby banner at homemakermagazine.co.uk

size as the finished front and pin them right sides together. Starting at the bottom, machine stitch a 1cm seam all the way around but remember to leave a gap at the bottom big enough to insert the pad. Trim excess fabric from across the corners and turn right side out. Insert the pad to finish.



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• SAVE OUR • INDIE STORES

Wayne Hemingway explains why we should appreciate independent retailers on our high streets

Two stories about shop closures have saddened me this year. Firstly, those behind the restaurant Food for Thought are being priced out of their Covent Garden premises after 44 years. They were next door to our second Red or Dead store, and so as well as becoming London's leading vegetarian eating destination, it was also the food of choice for all our staff on Neal St. In 1984 the rent on our shop there was less than £100 a week, so I would imagine Food for Thought's would have been similar. But prices in Covent Garden, while it was expected that they would've gone up dramatically, have far outstripped inflation. So, one of the last non-chain businesses in Covent Garden sadly has to wave goodbye to this former creative hub – a place that used to welcome new talent and ideas.

Second, it's a similar story in Sheffield's Devonshire Street, where a truly iconic and much-loved vinyl record store Rare and Racy (again adjacent to one of the first Red or Dead shops) is also on its way out.

Devonshire Street has always been the centre of Sheffield's alternative culture and low-cost indie start-ups, but this is changing due to pressure from the 'big boys' who are able to pay rents that a small business never could. It's time we acknowledge the value of these places as more than just



somewhere to buy something, because let's face it, if that's all we wanted we'd buy online. No, it's the experience of seeing the products, the knowledge of the staff, and the human interaction we can experience with people who have similar interests to us.

I can't say I'm a knitter myself, but I can imagine for those of you that do these crafts, going into your local yarn shop is about much more than just handing over money for wool – it's about feeling the texture of the materials, seeing the true

colours with your own eyes and getting tips from the shopkeepers who are passionate about their wares. This experience can't be replaced by a huge chain store who doesn't care for the individual needs of its customers.

I have written before about protecting indie shopping in the past, and the last government made a big noise with Mary Portas and her review into the future of British high streets. But all it has been is just that, noise. In my opinion it's time to allow local councils to set and collect their own business rates, and decide how they spend the result, rather than it all going back to the central government. Where local start ups get the chance to work closely and independently with local councils, you can get something really interesting and exciting going – just witness what was achieved with Blackburn is Open (blackburnisopen.co.uk). Let's hope that the new government doesn't preside over the losses of more much-loved indie businesses, and instead looks to the future with new ideas and creative thinking to save the high streets in all our towns – big and small. 🍷

“IT'S TIME WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUE OF THESE PLACES AS MORE THAN JUST SOMEWHERE TO BUY SOMETHING”



• CRAFT WITH •
Carol

Homemaker regular Carol Smillie shares her top tips for upcycling second-hand treasures

Carol Smillie is a proud face of the British Heart Foundation and loves upcycling furniture from the charity shop! Read on to discover what she's been transforming this month.

"One of my all time favourite things to do in the summer is to visit the seaside. It doesn't matter how many exotic holidays you go on or amazing places you visit, a day kite-flying and shell-collecting at a British beach will always hold some magic and charm. I will never tire of the beach-hut look – I love those sea-inspired greens and blues shades and tactile materials that go with this nautical trend.

I've been trying to incorporate the coastal feel into my crafting for a while now, but wanted to create something that would last past the summer months and not look out of place later in the year. I think with this project I finally achieved that, making something fun, fresh and useful that would sit well in any room, in any season.

The beauty of this project is that you can use any kind of table that has a small overhang – simple portholes and sturdy rope can transform a dull unit. I chose paint colour that reminds me of the sea, and a thick piping cord to weave through the eyeleted holes, but you can choose any material to fit your theme. You could even chop and change them!"

"THESE SIMPLE PORTHOLES AND STURDY ROPE CAN TRANSFORM A DULL UNIT. YOU CAN USE ANY KIND OF TABLE THAT HAS A SMALL OVERHANG"



YOU'LL NEED:

- Old unit
- Glasspaper, medium and fine
- Paintbrushes and rollers
- Masking tape
- Paint, cupboard green and spearmint, from **littlegreene.com**
- Eyelets, 14mm
- Electric Drill and 14mm flatbit
- Piping cord, 12mm



REVAMPED UNIT

- 1 Wash and clean the whole unit with warm soapy water and leave to dry. Lightly sand with the medium and then the fine glasspaper.
- 2 Paint all parts of the table in the paler shade first using a brush on the edges and a small roller on all the flat parts. Leave to dry then apply a second coat of the same colour to the top, side and inside of the table and the darker shade to the base. The base may need a third coat to achieve a flat even colour. Leave to dry.
- 3 Drill evenly spaced holes around the top surface of the table, where the small lip juts out. Mark and drill the holes using a 14mm flatbit drill piece; just the right size for the metal eyelets which then need to be pressed into each of the holes. The eyelets were from a set originally used to make eyelets in fabric.
- 4 Thread 12mm cord through the eyeleted holes and tie in a reef knot under one of the corners.



BHF Furniture & Electrical shops are ideal for anyone looking for unique items on a budget. The stores are always looking for donations of unwanted household goods – anything from chairs, beds, wardrobes, TVs and small electricals. Find out more at bhf.org.uk or call 0800 915 3000

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• WHY I LOVE •
MODERN BOHO

Author and stylist Ellie Tennant, reveals what inspires her about the trend for hippy chic



According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word bohemian refers to a person who is 'socially unconventional' and often 'involved in the arts'. The word has also become an umbrella term for designs – in fashion or interiors – and lifestyles that are eclectic, creative, exotic and artistic.

I was a teenager in the nineties, when the seventies 'boho' revival was in full swing. It was a good excuse to light lots of joss sticks, spend hours drawing the yin-yang symbol and hang six beaded curtains in the doorway of my bedroom, all bought from the ever-enthalling local boho emporium (where I got my ears pierced with moon and star studs), 'Mystique'.

This summer, boho is back – but it's now a magical mash-up of inspirations from several eras – think fashion flash-back: the seventies meets the nineties. The catwalks are awash with fringed kaftans, 'peasant' blouses, floaty kimonos, suede tassels, shibori patterns and tie-dyes. Every other outfit is lacy in a gypsy-chic way or else, covered with painterly, hippy-drippy florals.

In the world of interior design, similar styles are emerging. The seventies craft revival is in full swing, so macramé plant holders, sheepskin rugs, chunky woven wool wall hangings, and layers of colourful, eclectic and exotic textiles are 'in'. The 2015 twist on 'boho' is epitomised by the simple string macramé plant-holders at A Rum Fellow, which have been updated with eye-catching fluorescent colours, while at the oh-so-cool Urban Outfitters store, tribal-style patterns and ethnic woven wall-hangings create a multi-layered look that's perfect for a Bedouin-esque bedroom. Even H&M has some artisan-style crochet jute rugs.

In the mid 19th Century, the true 'bohémians' in France were gypsies – always on the move. Indeed, modern bohemians often travel like creative nomads, seeking out those who share their ideas and exploring other countries – absorbing other cultures. That's why, although these high street finds are pretty, to get a really 'boho' home, you have to go a bit further afield than your favourite website or shop; You have to go on an 'adventure' and bring back treasures from your travels.

Over the years, much to my husband's chagrin, I've had quite a few 'boho' moments while abroad with finds from Morocco, Turkey and the US. The result of which is a home is filled with precious finds picked up over time, each triggering a memory, a story, a smile. Perhaps being truly 'bohemian' is about following your own path to create a home that's filled with whatever you find on your journeys – whether abroad or closer to home. 🍷



Above: Boho rug, £225, lukuhome.com
 Left: Magical Thinking duvet cover, £50; Elephant pillowcases, £35 for two urbanoutfitters.com
 Below: Knot Native macramé hanging plant holders, from £40 each, arumfellow.com
 Bottom: Jute rug, £19.99, hm.com



SEW A FEATHER FEATURE!



YOU'LL NEED:

- 36cm square of plain-weave fabric
- Plain paper
- Pen and pencil
- 10-inch embroidery hoop
- Embroidery needle and thread
- Downloadable template from homemakermagazine.co.uk



- 1 Place the fabric in the embroidery hoop so it is tight like a drum, and transfer the motif onto the fabric.
- 2 This design involves five different stitches; Back stitch, satin stitch, long and short stitch, Y-stitch and French knots. Thread your embroidery needle and begin by outlining the centre/quills of the feathers using a small back stitch.
- 3 Bring the needle up through the fabric to make a single, straight stitch, approximately 1-2mm long. Continue along your pattern line, coming up another stitch length ahead and bring the needle back down into the same hole at the end of the first stitch you made. Continue to stitch, bringing the needle back to the end of the stitch before. Keep going until you've stitched over each quill.
- 4 Next use a combination of satin stitch and long and short stitch to fill in the main part of the feathers, following the pattern to create chevrons of colour. Make a long straight stitch to follow the diagonal line of a chevron. Bring the needle back up, next to the end of your last stitch and run back and forth, making parallel stitches to fill each block of colour. This will give a solid fill, which has a shiny smooth surface.
- 5 Build up the stitches to give a rough, shaggy look, where the colours blend into each other.
- 6 Use a 'Y' stitch to create the circular wreath pattern. Each 'Y' is made up of two stitches – a horizontal stitch and a vertical tacking stitch. Make a horizontal stitch, but leave it loose to create a loop. Bring the needle back up through the fabric, a little further down the pattern line and pass the needle through the loop you just made. Make a vertical stitch, which will pull the loop tight to form the top of the 'Y'. Continue to follow

the pattern line to create a continuous chain of stitches.

7 Add tiny leaves to your wreath using satin stitch. Starting at the end of one of the stems, make one straight stitch a 0.3mm long to extend the stem. Use this as a guide for the leaf, starting at one end making parallel stitches that increase and then decrease at the other end to create the leaf shape. Continue to add leaves of varying sizes at random intervals around the wreath.

8 Add little buds around your wreath by using a French knot stitch. Set the embroidery hoop down and bring your needle up through to the surface of the fabric. With your non-

needle hand pinch the thread a couple inches away from the fabric and hold it taut. Place the needle in front of the thread and wind the thread around the needle twice, continuing to keep the thread taut. Once you have a tight coil of thread around the needle, re-insert just next to, but not into, the same exit point on the fabric. With your non-needle hand, slide the coil down the needle so it is snug against the fabric. Then pull the needle all the way through to create the French knot!

9 Trim the fabric around your hoop so you have a couple of cm excess. Tuck and glue the excess fabric to your inner hoop at the back to give a neat finish.





• SEW AN EMBROIDERED •

Apron

Follow these simple steps for a stitched addition to your kitchen

Following on from last month's oven glove make, this practical-yet-pretty project would be a useful and stylish accessory for any home baker. The sweet sentiment 'be kind, work hard' is available as a downloadable template from the *Homemaker* website, so you'll be able to re-create the embroidery design and complete this apron today! If you are really pressed for time, why not make up without a pocket and just embroider a few pretty flowers around the neckline?



Lucy Pass'
top embroidery
tips...

- When embroidering, resist the temptation to work with a piece of thread that is too long – the longer the thread, the more likely you are to get in a tangle. Stick to shorter lengths and work in small, methodical sections.
- There are various methods of transferring your pattern onto the fabric: carbon papers and transfer pens are available from most craft shops, but I prefer to use black pen on tracing paper and light from a window (providing your fabric is thin enough to see through).
- If it's your first go at these embroidery stitches, practise on spare fabric before starting your apron. Mastering a few simple embroidery techniques opens up a whole new world of crafty customisation!



YOU'LL NEED:

Stripe denim fabric, 71cm x 97cm, from purple-stitches.com

Herringbone denim fabric, two pieces 28cm x 38cm, plushaddict.co.uk

NOTE: The reverse of this fabric is used as the right side here

Embroidery thread, navy, grey and cream, from sewcraftyonline.co.uk

Thread, denim blue

Cotton ribbon, for neck and waist ties, 2m

Embroidery needle and pins
Tailor's chalk

Embroidery hoop

Sewing machine, iron and fabric scissors

Downloadable template from homemakermagazine.co.uk



APRON

1 Fold the 71cm x 97cm fabric in half lengthways. Measure 15cm in from the fold on the short edge and mark with chalk. Measure 61cm up from the bottom corner on the long raw edge and mark again. Draw a line to connecting these two positions, creating a triangle, and cut this away. Open to reveal your apron shape.

2 Create a rolled hem on all edges. Fold over 1.5cm, press, repeat and pin. Start with the bottom and diagonal edges, then pin the sides and the top edge.

3 Cut three pieces of cotton tape: 58cm for the neck and two 71cm lengths for the ties. Pin the ends of the shorter piece of tape underneath the rolled hem at the two top points to create the neck strap, taking care not to twist. Pin the two longer strips at the middle two 'corners' of the apron for the waist ties so that they run towards the centre.

4 Sew hem in place with a seam allowance of 1.5cm. Press the neck strap and waist ties outwards, away from the apron, and pin in place. Hem the apron again, this time stitching 0.5cm away from the edge. Hem the raw ends of the waist ties.

POCKET

1 Remember to use the reverse of the herringbone denim as the right side. Using chalk, mark out a 28cm x 38cm rectangle on the herringbone fabric, but don't cut it out as you'll need excess to stretch over the embroidery hoop.

2 Transfer the template design onto the right side of the fabric marking with tailor's chalk. Stretch the fabric over the hoop with the design facing up. For this project three embroidery stitches are used: Back stitch for the lettering, Y stitch for the wreath, and optional 'buds' created with French knots.

4 Use a 'Y' stitch to create the circular wreath pattern. Each 'Y' is made up of two stitches – a horizontal stitch and a vertical tacking stitch. Make a horizontal stitch, but leave it loose to create a loop. Bring the needle back up through the fabric, a little further down your pattern line and pass the needle through the loop you have just made. Make a vertical stitch, which will pull the loose thread tight to form the top of your 'Y'. Continue following the pattern line to create a continuous chain of stitches. Add little French knot 'buds' at random intervals around your wreath. Go to homemakermagazine.co.uk for further instructions.

MAKE UP

When you're happy with the embroidery, remove the fabric from the hoop and press. Cut the pocket down to size and place right side up. Lay the other 28cm x 38cm piece of fabric over this, right side down, and pin together. Sew around the edge, leaving a 5cm gap at the bottom. Turn the pocket out through the hole, pushing out the corners fully and press. Pin and sew the pocket in place.

COMING NEXT ISSUE...

Our trio of kitchen-themed makes is completed with these contemporary hand-painted tea towels.



TEMPLATES

BROWSE A RANGE OF EMBROIDERY THREADS AT SEWCRAFTYONLINE.CO.UK

• STUD UP A •

Headboard

Upcycle an unloved bed head for a chic boudoir

Fit for a queen, this headboard will brighten up any bed, old or new. Choose a luxury corduroy you would use to reupholster your best cushions, then customise with braid and fabric-covered buttons in a contrasting colour for the ultimate two-tone look. Why not embroider small details onto the fabric before applying it to the headboard, too? We know you'll be calling it an early night as soon as you've finished dressing the bed with coordinating bedsheets.



BLUE FABRIC FROM CLOTHANDCANDY.CO.UK



Amanda
Walker's

maker tip...

"My headboard was in good condition and had been upholstered onto a strong, chipboard back. The foam was in decent shape too, but as it had been dented from removing the braid detail I decided to add buttons to give extra detail and shape. I also wanted to use fabric which was soft to the touch, so I chose some from sewhot.co.uk that had a nap, which means the fabric feels smooth when it is stroked in one particular direction."



YOU'LL NEED:

Corduroy and lining fabric, from sewhot.co.uk
An old headboard
Covered buttons and contrasting fabric
Contrasting braid
Nylon twine or strong thread
Long upholstery needle
Electric drill and 6mm drill bit
Staple gun
Hammer
Pliers
Staple remover
PVA glue



HEADBOARD

1 Using a staple remover and pliers, unscrew and remove the wooden bars from the headboard plus any old backing, face fabric and braid detail.

2 Mark positions where you want the buttons on the back of the headboard. Use an electric drill with a 6mm drill bit to make three holes.

3 Cut a piece of fabric big enough to cover the front of the headboard with enough to wrap around onto the wrong side. Position the cord with the nap running down the headboard in the smooth direction. Centre the fabric onto the headboard, making sure that the stripes in the corduroy fabric run vertically down the board.

4 Attach the fabric to the back of the headboard by stapling it in the centre at the top and base. Continue to stretch and staple down each of the sides at the top and base, working outwards and, stretching the

fabric to avoid making pleats or folds. Trim the excess fabric at the back of the board.

5 Cover the buttons in contrasting fabric following the manufacturer's instructions. Thread the upholstery needle with a length of twine, then next to one of the drilled holes, staple the knotted end to the back of the headboard several times. Pass the needle through the hole to face the front of the headboard, thread the covered button onto the twine and pass the needle back through the hole. Pull tight and staple the twine firmly in place. Continue to attach the remaining two buttons in the same way.

6 Use a ruler and pencil to mark a line for the braid, drawing where the foam naturally indents. Making sure that it is symmetrical and even, staple several times along the pencil lines to reinstate the dent. On the wrong side of the board, anchor the braid at the beginning of the dent

detail, then glue the braid carefully over the line. Affix the end of the braid on the wrong side to secure.

7 Cut a piece of lining fabric the same shape as the headboard and turn in the edges with an iron. Position the lining on the back of the headboard and staple in place. Reattach the wooden bars to the back of the headboard to fix to your bed base.



CANDICE SAYS, "I love dressing up my bed with throws and cushions. Even in summer, a light cotton throw or pretty sheet draped over the bedding adds a pretty touch. I also whip up new covers for my cushions every couple of months from cheap remnants of fabric for a fresh new look."



FIND MORE CORDUROY FABRICS AT SEWHOT.CO.UK

PROMOTION

ELLA'S COLOUR COLLECTION



Ella Johnston, Editor Homemaker

My colour picks to lift the mood and inspire creativity



Bring on the summer fun! Make these fun beach biscuits using Ready to Roll icing by Renshaw, available in an amazing rainbow of colours. Available from renshawbaking.com, and typically priced from £1.79 for 250g



Crochet your little one this gorgeous cotton blanket. Kit from Twisted Stitches includes everything needed to complete this project. Only £16 with 3 different colour ways to choose from. twistedstitches.co.uk



Fill your home with summer blossoms in big, bright colours with these easy-to-make paper flower kits. From £4.50, thehomemakery.co.uk

This Harbourside fabric is a timeless gem! Creations by Korbond Sewing Basket - found at selected Tesco's and The Original Factory Shop or online at Amazon.co.uk, RRP £19.99 (contents not included).



Inject confetti, charms and fun into your party with the colourful geometric pattern range from candleandcake.co.uk

Bright and bold or pretty and pastel, Plastikote spray paints are a quick and easy way to add colour to your home. plastikote.co.uk, 0844 736 2235



A set of new knobs on your storage furniture and doors is a simple way to add colour and a distinctive touch. This creative home furnishing fun is easy and begins with trinca-ferro.com

The Tilly Fish is the smallest of the Tilly Airers range. The maritime look offered by its blue colouring ensures that it will fit perfectly into any bathroom or wet room. tillyairers.co.uk, 01525 270266



These sweet boxes are a real treat for guests at an afternoon tea, dinner party or wedding. Ideal for macarons, miniature cupcakes and tiny meringues. From only £9.99 for a pack of 6 at littlecupcakeboxes.co.uk



Beautiful Indonesian Batiks add a splash of colour to any project from bags and accessories or clothing to home furnishings and quilts. See the complete range plus many designer fabrics for crafts and quilting by visiting newforestfabrics.co.uk



ZeniColor 5 is a brand new colouring system for Melt and Pour Soaps exclusive to The Soap Kitchen in the UK. This non-bleed colouring paste maintains transparency and has a downloadable app enabling ease of use for a variety of colour mixing choices. Find out more about ZeniColor 5, contact The Soap Kitchen thesoapkitchen.co.uk, 01237 420872, sales@thesoapkitchen.co.uk

Fill your nursery with a rainbow of colour with this stunning handmade baby quilt. Bespoke service, designed and handmade in Britain. hopscotchhandmadegifts.co.uk



Sew school: PLEATED EDGE

• LEARN TO SEW A • Pleated Trim

*Add a frilly flourish to a homemade
cushion cover*

This month's sew school talks you through another easy cushion make. We've already shown you how to whizz up a piped-edge cushion and a deep-buttoned pad, now sewing extraordinaire

Amanda Walker demonstrates how to add a smart pleated edge to a simple cover. Use it to incorporate a flash of colour, like Amanda has done here with a zesty yellow, or sew a trim in pastel silk for a vintage-style touch to your bedroom pillows.



YOU'LL NEED:

Fabric, for main cushion, two 43cm squares, from purple-stitches.com

Contrast fabric, for trim, four pieces 9cm x full width of fabric (at least 115cm), from purple-stitches.com

Thread, to match main fabric
Concealed zip, 40cm

Pencil

Ruler

Pins

Scissors

Sewing machine, standard
presser foot and zipper foot

DIMENSIONS:

40cm square cushion cover
with 3cm trim



CUSHION WITH A FRILL TRIM:

1 Cut out two 43cm squares of fabric. This will make a 40cm square cushion using a 1.5cm seam allowance on each edge.

2 Trim four 9cm strips from the full width of the contrasting fabric. Join the strips together across the short ends making a round. Press the seam allowances open and then press the strip in half lengthways sandwiching the raw edges of the seams inside the fold.

3 Set your sewing machine to its largest stitch and then make two rows of stitching along the raw edge approximately 5mm away from each other. Stitch each section separately leaving long tails of thread at each

end. Gather up by pulling the loose threads to create an even frill until each section is 40cm long.

4 With right sides facing, pin the frill in place on one of the 43cm squares and stitch down (use the inner line of gathering stitches as a guide and use a 1.5cm seam allowance).

5 Pin and stitch the second square of fabric right side down onto the first piece. Stitch from the frilled side using the stitching line as a guide. Leave a gap in the base of the cushion to insert the zip.

6 Stitch the concealed zip into the opening using a zipper foot. With fabric right side facing though the opening (the cover should not be turned through at this point) place the opened zip face down. Position the slider approximately

BRIGHT IDEAS:

- You only need to buy half a metre of your fave fabric for this project as most rolls are 115-150cm wide.

- Buy one metre each of two bold colours and create a pair of coordinating cushions by adding a trim on each cushion in the contrasting colour.

- Why not add a floral ditsy-print frill to a solid colour cushion, instead of a using a plain material?

- Get creative! You can make the pleated edge as wide or narrow as you like depending on the effect you would like to achieve.

- Sew tip: The largest stitch on your sewing machine is usually number five.

3cm away from the end of the stitching, back into the cover, and pin in place. You will need to uncurl the teeth with your fingertips as you stitch along the opening. Back stitch, then stitch the other side of the zip in place.

7 Carefully thread the zip slider through to the right side, and turn the cover right side out and press. The pad can be placed inside, making sure the corners are pushed well into the corners.





OUR MAKER
AMANDA WALKER

Bright IDEAS!

Four quick and easy ways to pep up your walls

PRINT A STYLISH BANNER



YOU'LL NEED:

Plain weave linen
Wooden dowel, 30cm
Mini pom-pom trim
Jute twine
Fabric shears
Craft foam
Old cork-backed square coaster
Acrylic paint
Dish sponge
Shallow dish
Small paint brush
Glue gun



- 1 Make a printing block using craft foam and an old coaster. Create the semi-circle design by drawing one large circle and one small circle on to craft foam. Make sure the largest circle fits on to the coaster. Cut out both circles and snip in half to create semi-circles. Stick one large foam semi onto the cork side of the coaster, lining up its straight edge with the side. Do the same with a smaller foam semi-circle.
- 2 Add patterns to the block by using a blunt pencil to score marks in the foam. Take care with the placement of these marks as you're carving into the surface of the foam, so be sure about your design before you begin.

Update your spaces while adding printing, stitching, spraying and stencilling to your list of skills with this collection of contemporary projects from Lucy Pass. These fab ideas are super-adaptable, inexpensive, quick and a great way to help you practise key techniques while your creativity runs wild. So don't delay, choose your favourite make and whip up one to suit your style.



- 3 Cut a 28cm x 40cm piece of plain weave fabric and cut straight along the grain. Iron out any creases. Create fringing down the long sides of the fabric by pulling out threads one by one. Keep pulling until you have approximately 5mm width of fringing. Repeat for the opposite side.

- 4 Apply an even coverage of paint to the block, turn it over and place it onto the fabric. Press firmly and evenly over the back of the block and then carefully peel away to reveal the print. Keep printing to create a continuous pattern running up the centre of the banner.

- 5 Once you're happy with the main design on your banner, create a border using a small paint brush to create simple dashes or dots. Alternatively, you could create another smaller block or stamp and print your border. When your banner is dry, give it another press.

- 6 Lay out the banner, right side down. Apply a line of glue along the top edge and stick on your wooden dowel rod – there should be around 1cm of the dowel sticking out over the edge of the fabric at either side.

- 7 Roll the dowel downwards a little, so that the fabric wraps around it. Take a 50cm piece of jute twine and place each end at either end of the dowel. Apply another line of glue, this time to the fabric covered dowel and roll it down again, sandwiching the ends of the twine inside. Glue a strip of mini pom-pom edging to the bottom edge. Leave all the glue to set fully before hanging.

WHIP UP A WALL HANGING



YOU'LL NEED:

- Scrap fabric
- Iron
- Ruler
- Tailors chalk
- Fabric shears or rotary cutter
- Sewing machine
- Thread
- Needle
- Dowel rod
- PVA glue



1 Select your scrap fabric and press each piece. Trim into 5cm strips and mark out a rough zigzag in chalk running down each strip. Cut along these lines to create your triangles. Don't worry about each shape being exactly even. Thirty triangles will give you approximately 150cm of triangle garland, so cut approximately 90 triangles to make this hanging. Once you've cut enough shapes, put them into piles of each colour.

2 Take one of the triangles and, using a straight stitch on the sewing machine, start to sew from the middle of one of the straight edges towards the opposite point. When you've almost reached the point of the first triangle, take another (in a different colour) and guide it under the presser foot as you did with the first one. Continue to stitch through your triangles, making a continuous chain. If you have an even number of shapes in each colour, you can stick to a colour pattern repeat or you can simply pick colours at random.

3 Once you have sewn all your pieces, you should have around 450cm of triangle garland. Cut this into six pieces of varying lengths and arrange them in the order you want to hang them.

OUR MAKER
LUCY PASS

4 To make the arrow for hanging, take a 40cm dowel and some extra scrap fabric. Cut two equal triangles and apply a little glue to one. Place one end of the dowel on top, followed by the other piece of fabric. The end of the dowel should now be sandwiched between the two triangles of fabric to make an arrow head. Trim two equal chevrons of fabric and glue these around the other end of the dowel in the same way as you did for the arrow head. Allow the glue to dry fully.

5 Once the glue is fully dry, attach each piece of garland to your arrow with a few hand stitches. Secure a stitch into the point of the end triangle, loop around your arrow and return the needle into the fabric, then secure and tie off. Repeat for each piece, then your garland is ready to hang!

TOP TIP:

Why not go all out and make a larger version of this hanging, using a curtain pole or maybe some copper piping? This would make a thrifty but dramatic backdrop for a photo booth at your next party!



TURN THE PAGE FOR
MORE BRIGHT IDEAS!

SPRAY YOURSELF SOME OMBRÉ WALL ART



YOU'LL NEED:

- Four 50cm square frames
- Cotton ombré fabric, 1m, from sewcraftyonline.co.uk
- Tailors chalk
- Fabric shears
- Staple gun
- Masking tape
- Spray paint



- 1 Cut a 120cm square of fabric, fold and snip into quarters to make four equal squares, with the ombré colour graduating evenly across them.
- 2 Remove glass mount and backing board from the frame and press all the metal tabs flat. Place the frame right side down on top of one square of fabric, also right side down, leaving an equal amount of fabric around the edge.
- 3 Fold the bottom edge of the fabric up and inside the bottom side of the frame and staple in the centre. Repeat on opposite edge, making sure the fabric is pulled taut. Do the same for the other two sides; the canvas around the corners should still be quite loose. Go back to the first side you secured and start to fix edges, working from the centre staple out to each corner. As you work, keep pulling the fabric taut and move around the canvas in the same order as before.
- 4 Fold and staple the corners as if you were folding hospital corners on a bed sheet. Tuck or side of the fabric under the other pulling tight, so that one straight edge is in line with the corner of the frame. Repeat for all four frames.
- 5 Tape around all the edges of the canvases with masking

tape and then lay them down together, lining up the colour gradient of the ombré fabric. Starting in one corner, begin to build up a geometric pattern. Add strips of masking tape alongside each other, leaving a 5mm gap to make stripes. For sharp edges and angles, use a ruler and pencil to mark out where to cut the masking tape. At random intervals, change directions to create chevrons and herringbone patterns.

- 6 When happy with the design, go outside to use the spray paint your canvases. Make sure all the masking tape is securely in place and spray over the canvases in thin, even coats. Leave to dry fully before carefully removing the tape.



so easy





STENCIL A MEANINGFUL MESSAGE



YOU'LL NEED:

- Old book page or found image
- Permanent marker
- Craft knife
- Plain paper
- Clear acetate sheet
- Acrylic paint
- Masking tape
- Stencil brush (or any large, flat ended brush)
- Picture frame



1 To make a stencil, print out your design on to plain paper. Using masking tape, secure the pattern/image onto the back of a clear acetate sheet. Once you've taped the paper to the back of the acetate sheet, flip it back acetate side up and trace over the design with a permanent marker. Secure the sheet to a cutting mat with masking tape and cut out the design.

2 Decide on the placement of the stencil over your chosen image and secure in place with masking tape. Pour out a small amount of acrylic paint onto a dish. Hold the brush vertically and dab just the end of the bristles into the paint – don't overload the brush.

3 Apply the paint to your stencil using this same dabbing motion. Building the paint up in very thin layers will result in a nice crisp image. Once you've painted over the whole of your stencil, peel it off. When your picture is fully dry, mount, frame and hang your recycled artwork!



GET THE AMAZILIA LOOK AT HARLEQUIN.UK.COM

Evoking EDEN

*Craft and collect beautiful greens
and blues for your home*

A fresh botanical-inspired scheme is just what we need to celebrate the changing of the seasons. We don't just mean dainty florals – we are talking about the big bold nature of botanicals, with super green hues and homeware designs that never go out of fashion. Add dimension to your space and create a feature wall with a repeat motif wallpaper, such as our chinoiserie pic. Elaborate on the theme with floral and bird cage emblems and experiment embroidering them onto cushions, or even die cutting from decoupage paper and framing. Finish by popping fresh larkspur and fern cuts around the room at various levels for eye-catching bursts of green. Finally, when you've ensured that your vivid shades complement one another, you'll have a natural, relaxed space you can bask in all day and night.



▲ Pick out your favourite shade from a statement cushion and make other home accessories to match. New lampshade cover, anyone? Harlequin Paradise cushion, £70, harlequin.uk.com



▲ Share out your homemade bakes on this sophisticated Villeroy & Boch plate. Althea Nova large plate, £49.95, villeroy-boch.co.uk



▲ Pick up these glam gardening secateurs and get pruning your garden ready for next year's floral displays. Wild and Wolf V&A secateurs, £19.95, wildandwolf.com

DIE-LIGHTFUL

Die cutting is the process of cutting a specific shape from material or paper, and saves crafters hours of time and effort. Die cuts are particularly handy for creating those fiddly floral motifs too! sizzix.co.uk



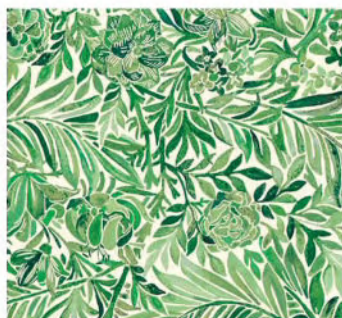
It's time to get die cutting your décor. Cut these elegant templates onto metallic wallpaper and stick on to a plain wall. Birdcage decorative dies, from £12.95, docrafts.com

Experiment with 96 different designs in this floral decoupage craft pack. Anna Griffin Antique Botanical Embellishments, £19, QVCUK.com



TAKE AFTERNOON TEA WITH VILLEROY & BOCH, VILLEROY-BOCH.CO.UK

GO ONLINE TO
HOMEMAKERMAGAZINE.CO.UK FOR
AN ORIGAMI FLOWER STEP-BY-STEP BY
LINDA BARKER FOR WORLD VISION



You could even use bright, high quality wrapping paper to make origami flowers for a wall hanging. Botanical print wrapping paper, £4.50 for three sheets, carolinegardner.com

Make one roll of this gorgeous Liberty wallpaper go further and use to decorate the front of desk drawers and backs of shelves. Wallace Orchard wallpaper, Liberty Art Gallery Interiors, £130 per roll, liberty.co.uk



TRANSFORM FABRIC INTO REMOVABLE WALLPAPER BY ADDING A MIXTURE OF CORNSTARCH AND WATER TO THE BACK BEFORE PASTING IT ON.



These fabrics are so vivid and versatile, you could make anything from cushions or place settings to a botanical quilt. Ludovika and Stockholm fabrics, from £3 per metre, ikea.com



This majestic Little Greene wallpaper makes us feel like we're in paradise. Little Greene Great Ormond Street wallpaper in Verdure, £76.50 per roll, thelittlegreene.com

TRY THESE QUICK MAKES

- Make a row of mini flower pots by sanding and glossing a plank of wood, then attaching large tea light holders and filling with your favourite green buds. Better yet, hang up along a kitchen wall and fill with herbs.
- Create terrariums out of old glassware you have lying around – even big light bulbs! Fill with small stones, exotic succulents and hang from a height. They'll add a feeling of quirkiness to the room and it's a great trick if you're short of floor space.
- Old-fashioned wicker goes so effortlessly with tropical greens, it would be a shame not to give crafting with this sturdy material a go. Why not weave a wicker bowl to accessorise your lounge? Find the easy project at homemakermagazine.co.uk

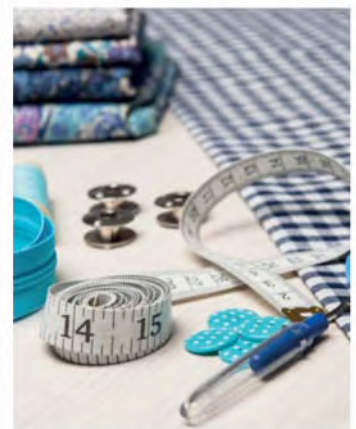
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Love sewing for your home? Then take advantage of exclusive **20% savings** on interiors fabric, haberdashery, dressmaking material, quilting cottons and so much more at Remnant Kings.



Remnant Kings was established in 1946 when it opened a small shop in Glasgow to sell fabric remnants to people looking for a bargain. Over the years, the business has grown and grown and it now caters for all your sewing needs, selling beautiful fabrics from designer names such as Liberty, Lotta Jansdotter, Ashley Wilde and Voyage. It also has a fantastic curtain and furnishing fabrics, poles and tracks plus cushion pads – it's a one-stop shop for all your home-sewing projects.



TO CLAIM YOUR **20% DISCOUNT** SIMPLY VISIT **REMNANTKINGS.CO.UK** AND QUOTE 'HOMEMAKER20OFF' AT THE CHECK OUT TODAY!

• EASY FABRIC •

pinboards

Raid your stash and transform cork placemats into handy organisers

Use a set of fat quarters and a cheap pack of standard-issue cork discs to create an attractive gift for the person who likes to display her reminders and little items of interest in style. This easy make takes minutes to whip up so you can create a whole collection of them in next to no time. These pinboards are super light too so they can be displayed on walls with a bit of tape or putty – making them a great way to quickly revamp a craft room or teenager's den.



YOU'LL NEED:

Fat quarter fabrics (one FQ makes two boards)
Cork circle placemats, 22cm
Glue gun



1 Iron the fat quarter and place right side down on the work surface. Position two placemats on top of the fabric and draw around them adding around 2cm. Cut out the 26cm circles and make 1cm snips in from the edge every 2cms.

2 With fabric right side down and placemats positioned on top. Apply a layer of hot glue on the cork and pull the fabric tightly over securing on to the glue.

GOOD IDEA!

Use this technique to cover smaller cork circles with oilcloth to make wipe-clean coasters.



• CROCHET A •

Baby Blanket

Grab your hook and make Emma Varnam's special chevron throw

Using only the simple chain and double crochet stitch, the simplicity of this fun zigzag blanket means it's an easy project to dip in and out of at your leisure. The process is speedy but the result is definitely still special! It is the ideal size for a baby blanket, but if you decide to keep on going you could make a lovely full-size throw for your home.



YOU'LL NEED:

Yarn, 12 x 50g (84m) balls
Debbie Bliss Cotton DK,
four in shade Marine (A), four
in shade Aqua (B), four in shade
White (C), from sconch.com

Hook, 4mm

Tapestry needle

DIMENSIONS:

64cm x 78cm



CROCHET BLANKET

STRIPE SEQUENCE

Work in the following four-row
stripe sequence six times, ending
with yarn A: yarn A, yarn B, yarn C

Using 4mm hook and yarn
A make 189ch

Row 1: 2dc in second ch from
hook, * 4dc, miss two sts, 4dc,
3ch in next st, rep from * to end
(finishing with a 2dc only in last st),
turn. 188 sts

Row 2: 1ch, 2dc in first st, * 4dc,
miss two sts, 4dc, 3dc in next st, rep
from * to end (finishing with a 2dc
only in last st), miss turn st, turn

Rep Row 2 until blanket
measures 64cm

Cut yarn and fasten off. Sew
in ends



5 MINUTES WITH...



Sam Conway

of **Sconch**

reveals her passion
for yarn

How did you come to love crochet?

I've been crocheting on and off
for more than 20 years, but my
real passion came in 2011 after
I took a textiles course. I came
back to crochet with a new
creative fervour, making and
designing various items – it
soon became a total addiction.

Why did you decide to open a shop?

I had been selling handmade
items and so had lots of yarn.
I was supposed to be selling it
all off to go on maternity leave,
but the buzz I got from each
sale was too exciting. I started
putting colour packs together,
and ordering more yarn. It
snowballed from there and we
opened up the retail shop to
run alongside the website.

Which yarns do you recommend for baby makes?

Yarns that are soft and washable;
these are the key things. So
many yarns get overlooked
because they aren't branded
as a 'baby yarn', but cotton
is a perfect option as it is so
breathable, and great for both
summer and winter. Don't feel
like you have to stick to the
traditional baby colours, there
are so many amazing shades,
you can really go wild. Shades
such as zingy oranges and pinks
paired with a softer apricot
make for a sweet and modern
baby colour combo.

For a range of yarns visit sconch.com



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ELLA JOHNSTON, EDITOR

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at work with **CLARISSA HULSE**

Queen of colour Clarissa Hulse is an established name in the world of textiles. Having started her own business selling hand-printed scarves in 1994, she branched into the world of interiors in 2003. Since then this side of the brand has gone from strength to strength as the public fall in love with her iconic use of colour and her signature nature-inspired prints. “I ran the fashion business for ten years but always wanted to go into interiors as there’s more room for expression and the market is less fickle. I think people buy pieces for their homes that they really love and want to live with for years as opposed to fashion where style is more ephemeral as you move from season to season.” Believing there is no substitute for experience, over the past 12 years Clarissa has evolved her designs and experimented with new materials, while all the time learning what works on a commercial level. “Being creative is who I am and what I do. It’s in my DNA,” she adds.

WHY YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

After I graduated from studying textiles in Brighton, I started up a business, more by accident than design, selling fashion accessories. We had an open day at my first studio and I printed some scarves to sell to

raise a little money to pay for materials and studio rent. Before I knew it I had sold out and had orders from Barneys in New York and Liberty in London. These initial orders gave me the confidence to strike out by myself and do my own thing. My businesses have grown organically since then, but I always make sure I design products that I truly love and that I believe will look good in customers’ homes.

WAS THERE EVER A BREAKTHROUGH MOMENT?

I didn’t have one big break as such. I’ve carefully built the brand so that a steady momentum propels us forward. My first bedding collection for House of Fraser, seven years ago, was a key step in building the textiles side, and my work with Harlequin creating a new range of wallpaper added diversity to my portfolio.

WHERE DO YOU WORK?

I work with my team in a studio in Islington, London. It’s a light airy space but it does get quite hot in summer! My shop is located at the front of the building so people can easily drop in and not only see the latest products as they would online, but appreciate the finish and materials used. It also means we are more connected to our customers.



MEET THE MAKER

HOW DO YOU STAY INSPIRED?

My designs come from the natural world, so no matter how busy we are I make sure I take time to visit the countryside, the coast and the beautiful gardens we have in the UK. When time allows, international travel provides abundant inspiration. My co-workers in the studio are always here to bounce ideas off and work through the latest concepts with me.

DO YOU CREATE IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I hardly have any spare time these days and when I do it's spent with my husband and our two lovely children. We're in the process of trying to find a new home though so no doubt I'll be inspired to get crafting and put my own stamp on a house once we move.

HOW HAVE YOU CUSTOMISED YOUR HOME?

As we are between permanent homes at the moment, this is something I will be putting into practice once we find a new space. It's always nice to have a level of personalisation in the things around you. It's these unique touches that make a house a home.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE KIND OF CRAFT?

If I had to choose I would say I am a stitcher. When time allows I try and recycle off cuts from around the studio to make simple things such as aprons or coin purses.


WHAT CRAFTY SKILL SHOULD EVERYONE LEARN?

Sewing – it's practical and fun and you can be really creative with it. I will certainly be teaching both my children. I learned core textile skills such as screenprinting when I studied for my degree, but I am always picking up new techniques and experimenting.

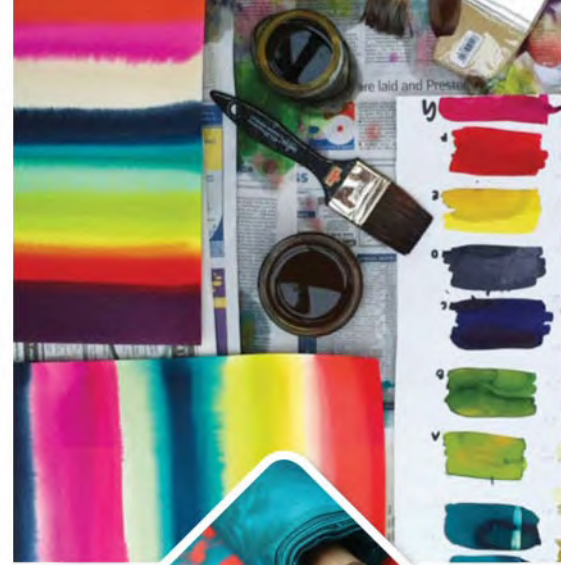
BIGGEST LESSON LEARNT ABOUT HAVING A BUSINESS?

It's really important to have the non-creative bits in place within a business. You need inspiration, great design and wonderful products but without good accounts and a business strategy it's almost impossible to operate efficiently and effectively. Like with all successful businesses it's about the team; as you grow, the people you work with are key.

YOUR ADVICE TO OTHERS WANTING TO PURSUE A 'HOMEMADE' CAREER?

Determination is the name of the game. Make sure your idea has legs and be prepared for it to take a while before you make any profit. Criticism can be constructive: always listen to the advice of those around you with more experience. You don't have to action what you are told but bear it in mind as you follow your creative dream! 

To see more of Clarissa's work visit clarissahulse.com. Her latest bedding collection is available at johnlewis.com



Quick Fire

FAVOURITE CAKE? Lemon drizzle

CREATIVE IDOL? Andy Goldsworthy

BEST SHOP FOR FABRICS?

The Cloth Shop in Berwick Street, Soho, London

FAVOURITE DESIGN?

Neisha Crossland's *Hollywood Grape* wallpaper

INSPIRING DESTINATION?

Cape Town, South Africa

• PAPER •
PERFECTION

*When it comes to stationery, floral
is the way forward*



Chalkboard, homehillout.com

Floral washi tapes, lovelytape.co.uk

Kraft boxes, kraft notebooks (decorated

with washi tape), paperchase.co.uk

Box file, 'Hello' card, note cards, floral pens

and pencils, carolinegardner.com

Ric rac tape, plastic wallets, ruler, clouds

notebook, pencil case, cathkidston.com

Bronze safety pin, plain washi tapes,

floral desk pad, 'to do' list pad, floral

notebooks, papermash.co.uk

Giant silver safety pin, coxandcox.co.uk

House pencil holder, wooden desk organiser,

chocolatecreative.bigcartel.com



Done
IN A DAY

• STITCH A SLEEPY • Owl

Whether it's a gift for a friend or a cushion to cheer up your sofa, this easy owl is a fantastic project for both speed and satisfaction. It features simple appliqué details as well as a touch of embroidery for creating the girlie lashes. For a charming look, opt for two or three bright mismatched fabrics along with one plain, softer colour. Alternately, make use of old baby clothes, pillowcases and other mementos to create a cushion with true sentimental value and a story to tell! You could also alter the size and shape of the ears and wings to give your owl it's own quirky character.



YOU'LL NEED:

- Bonding web, 25cm square
- Cotton, light blue, 10cm x 15cm, from thevintagequilt.co.uk
- Cotton light blue floral 15cm x 25cm, from thevintagequilt.co.uk
- Cotton, pink check, 35cm x 60cm, from thevintagequilt.co.uk
- Cotton, white floral, 20cm x 25cm, from thevintagequilt.co.uk
- Sewing machine
- Sharp pencil
- Coordinating thread
- Embroidery thread, dark blue
- Crewel embroidery needle
- Toy stuffing
- Templates from homemakermagazine.co.uk

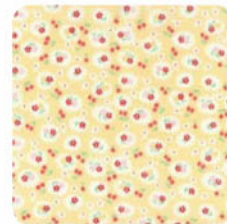


SLEEPY OWL

- Trace two eye patches, a beak and pair of wings on to the paper backing of the bonding web. Roughly cut out the pieces, leaving a small margin all around. Press the eye patches and beak to the wrong side of the plain light blue fabric. Press the wings to the wrong side of the floral fabric. Snip out the pieces neatly. Cut one pair of owls to the fold from pink gingham material, two pairs of ear tufts and two pairs of feet from white floral fabric. Use a 0.6cm seam allowance throughout and stitch the seams together with right sides facing.
- Peel the paper backing off the bonding web pieces and arrange them to the right side of one owl. This will be the front of the cushion. Press the motifs in position. Set the sewing machine to a 2mm wide zigzag stitch and sew the shapes in place using dark blue sewing thread.

- Draw the eyes onto the eye patches with a pencil, and embroider them with a stem stitch using three strands of dark blue embroidery thread and a crewel needle. Fold the owls in half and stitch the darts to the dots. Press the darts open.
- Pin and stitch the ear tufts and feet together in pairs, leaving the notched edges open. Cut to the inner corners, snip the curves and turn right side out. Lightly stuff the ear tufts and feet with toy stuffing. Pin the raw edges closed. Pin and tack the ear tufts to the top of the cushion front and feet to the bottom, matching the dots and notches at the top and bottom of the owl. Stitch the pieces in position.
- Pin the owls together. Stitch the outer edges, leaving a gap on the lower side to turn through. Snip the curves and finger press the seam open. Stuff the cushion evenly then slip stitch the gap closed.

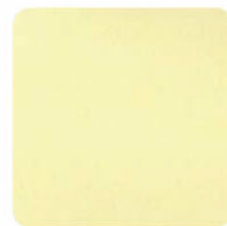
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COMBO...



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Plain Lemon Yellow, £1.95
per fat quarter



Dots Fuschia, £3.20
per fat quarter

All fabrics from
thevintagequilt.co.uk

WIN YOUR FABRIC!

Want to win the fabric for this fun project? Go to [facebook.com/homemakermag](https://www.facebook.com/homemakermag) and comment on the competition post with a name for this cute owl. The best entry wins the fabric for two cushions!

TOP TIP: It can be tricky pressing the seams of the owls open with an iron. To finger press, open the seam and run a moistened finger along it. Leave it to dry before turning the owl right side out.


TEMPLATES

OUR MAKER
CHERYL OWEN



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Season's best WITH JULIE

Homemaker's own artisan celebrates her folky heritage

Julie Dodsworth is an artisan British designer who lives and works on her narrowboat Calamity Jane on the Grand Union Canal, England. She is known for her folky designs that take the heritage of the waterways and give it a beautiful romantic twist.

My love of folk art, traditional tales and stories has been with me for a very long time and has really influenced my work. One of my favourite childhood pastimes was collecting those adorable old fashioned dolls in national dress. As a little girl I would have them all lined up and I could tell my mum all the countries these sweet dolls represented. My favourite – a little Swiss girl with her white blouse, waistcoat and apron, evoked daydreams of other countries and adventures. As a child I couldn't wait to grow up and go to Switzerland to see the mountains. Now I'm an adult with a family of my own we have made the destination a real family favourite and its lush alpine landscape and wide open vistas serve as a wonderful contrast to our waterways life.

We try to visit Switzerland in August as at this time every year a large gathering of folk performers gather in the Alps. I really enjoy the spectacle of it; as the parade passes by I wonder at the heritage of folk and national costume, and how my simple handmade artisan-inspired creations on the canals are all related and interwoven with this history of folklore, colour and tradition. It is the 'work of the people' so I love to see these men, women and children in beautiful costumes sing and dance from a moment in a tradition we all want to keep alive.

As artisans we pass on our trade to new generations adding little touches of our own to a craft. 🍷



REFRESH OLD BISCUIT TINS



YOU'LL NEED:

Old boxes or tins
Chalk or emulsion paint, white
Fabric scraps
Ribbon
Needle and thread.



- 1 Paint tins and leave to dry.
- 2 Fold fabric to fit around your tin, trim to shape and press. Wrap the fabric around your tin so it is tight and tack together at the back, folding over your open end so it's tucked out of sight.
- 3 Tie a nice ribbon around to hide your tack, with a bow to the front.



EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT

Enjoy a 15% saving just for Homemaker readers on all Julie Dodsworth products by visiting juliedodsworth.co.uk and quoting the discount code 'Welcome2jd'

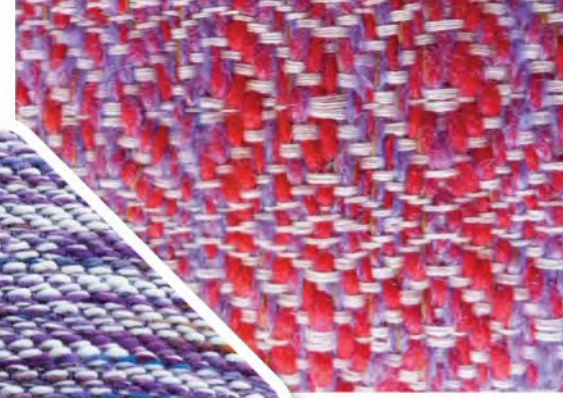
LEARN TO WEAVE

Discover the world of weaving and make a yarn wall hanging



Weaving is a long-standing craft technique that's been used to make most of the fabrics found in your home, including those in your crafty project stash. Commercial fabrics bought off the roll are mostly machine-made, but the tactile process of hand-weaving is experiencing a current surge in popularity as a modern craft. Gone are associations with the retro seventies; weaving is something that crafters of all ages are re-discovering and making their own. To find out more we talk to expert weaver **Katie Thompson** of Flowers in the Field, and learn how to create a wall hanging with maker **Chloe Medway** of Witham Weave Workshop.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ANJULI WICKENNA. ETSY.COM, THESQUIDINKCO. ETSY.COM, CLEMENTINE PEPPER. ETSY.COM, WITHAMWEAVEWORKSHOP. ETSY.COM, URBANOUTITTERS.COM, WITHAMWEAVEWORKSHOP. ETSY.COM



WE DISCOVER MORE FROM KATIE THOMPSON OF FLOWERS IN THE FIELD

BEGINNINGS?

I finished my masters degree in 2009, right in the heart of the recession when creative graduate jobs were few and far between. I was desperate for a creative outlet as I had an uninspiring day job, and that's how Flowers in the Field was born. I bought my loom, took over my parents' dining room and started developing the ideas that I had worked on at university. I had never envisioned running my own business but I loved designing and weaving, and this was the only way I could pursue these things at the time. Looking back it was the best thing I could have ever done.

TECHNIQUE

All the Flowers in the Field products are designed and hand-woven by me in my home studio in Edinburgh, on a 16-shaft Harris table loom. The process is a long one involving many hours of making the warp, dressing and threading the loom and then, finally, weaving. I'm particularly proud of the fabric I have developed and made by first weaving multiple thin

strands of wool together and then felting the resulting material. This creates a fabric that is thick and durable with a huge variety of hues. It's with this material that I do most of my upholstery work, as well as make coasters, tablet covers, and cushions.

MATERIALS?

I work primarily with wool which I love because the varieties are so diverse and because of its incredible health-giving and sound-absorbing properties. I believe that a house filled with wool is a far calmer place. I also prefer to use local materials, and luckily Scottish wool yarns are particularly beautiful and of a very high quality. I think I was drawn to yarn initially by the huge range of rich colours available, and I then became interested in the way in which you can weave it to create something truly unique.

INSPIRATION?

I take inspiration from the world around me. At art college those surroundings were the fishing villages in Fife, and over the time since they have been the places I have travelled to in Scotland and beyond. Many parts of the world have rich textile traditions and incredible handicrafts that have inspired my imagination and sparked ideas for my own work. I notice colours everywhere I go, and from these observations I develop my palettes. I take lots of photos and then paint from them to develop my ideas for new weaves.

See more of Katie's work at flowersinthefield.me



• WEAVE SOME • Wall art

Use a loom to create a tactile wall-hanging for your home



YOU'LL NEED:

Weaving loom, large, from fredaldous.co.uk
Wool, aran-weight, cream, 75g, black, 15g, turquoise, 25g, from blackeryarns.co.uk
Roving, pink, 50g, cream, 25g, from fibrehut.co.uk
Cotton rope string, 50g
Shuttle
Wide tooth comb
Wooden dowel, 9mm x 35cm
Tapestry needle with large eye
Scissors

NOTE: The warp is the group of vertical threads, and the yarn that is inserted over-and-under this is called the weft



CREATING THE WARP

Using a thin strong cotton rope, and starting at the top, wind the thread under and over the first four teeth on the loom and tie the loose end securely in place. Carry the string to the bottom of the warp bar, passing it through the deep groove on the middle section. This bar is called the shed.

Holding the string firmly, wind it under the fourth tooth at the bottom of the loom and then back up to the top of the loom, working across from left to right. Once you've reached the fifth tooth from the end work backwards, this time passing the thread through the shallow



groove in the shed until you end up back at the beginning. Tie the loose end securely, making sure the warp isn't too loose or too strained.

WEAVING THE WEFT

Take your wool and wrap it around the wooden shuttle several times (about 3m will create approximately 2.5cm of weaving). The shed will create a gap wide enough to pass the shuttle and wool through the middle of the warp threads to the other side.

Leaving a few inches of wool hanging loose at the start, use the wide-toothed comb to push the wool neatly to the bottom of the loom. This is the weft.

Change the direction of the shed, this time holding it downwards and

make the return journey with the shuttle through the warp. Once at other side, pull the wool through so that there is a neat loop at the edge and it doesn't pull or mis-shape the warp. Push down with the comb so there are no gaps between each row. Repeat this process back and forth until you are ready to change colours or the wool on the shuttle runs out.

CHANGING COLOURS

Once you have come to the end of a colour make sure you leave a few inches of thread hanging loose at the back. Reload the shuttle with either the same or new colour, again leaving a loose end. When the weaving is finished, these ends can be secured by tying them together or threading through and trimming.

MAKING TASSELS

Measure out 10 x 30cm long pieces of wool. Lay them together over the top of four strings of the warp, bring the ends behind the warp to create a loop. Combine the two grouped ends together and pull them through to the front in between the middle two warp strands. As you pull downwards the loop will tighten and hold the tassel together in a Rya-style knot. Continue to create whole row of tassels.

ADD TEXTURE WITH ROVING

Pull apart a length of roving (unspun wool) and weave in the same way as the yarn, but also gently pull it through from the front to create either uniform or irregular "bubbles". You will need nearly twice as much roving for one length of weft compared to wool. Weave in the ends at the back to secure.

CREATING SHAPES

For the turquoise pyramid begin seven warp strings in, work back and forth four times before beginning the next tier, this time starting 11 strings in and so on. Once complete, continue to weave the original colour around the shape, feeding the shuttle behind and then back through the front once clear of the triangle.

EXPERIMENT WITH THE LENGTH AND WIDTH OF YOUR TASSELS

FINISHING THE WEAVE

When you have reached the desired size, take the end loop from the top of the loom and cut. Tie the two ends together in a knot firmly so it will hold the weft snugly in place, continue one by one until the top is free from the loom. Turn the weaving over and thread the loose warp threads through and under the back using a tapestry needle. Tidy up any other ends in a similar way and trim if necessary. Pull the weave off the end tooth at the bottom of the loom to create a pair of loops. Create a tassel as per step four, this time threading the grouped ends under the weft loop and bringing them through the middle and back through itself to create a Rya knot. Continue pulling pairs of loops off the loom and securing them with tassels until complete.

HANGING THE WEAVE

Stitch the top of the weaving to the dowel with twine through each knotted strand, working up and over along the dowel and knot at the end. Take about 40cm more of the twine and attach to the dowel with a loop knot at either end. Hang, and trim tassels to the desired length.



WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS ON **HOW TO WEAVE**, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CREATE ANY DESIGN OF **WALL-HANGING** – JUST LET YOUR **CREATIVITY RUN WILD!**



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• THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF • CAKE BOY

Homemaker hero Eric Lanlard bakes indulgent muffins

As summer draws to an end, it can almost feel like we've barely had a taste of it here in London. As the evenings get cooler and we start to need a fluffy jumper to keep warm, now is the best time to make an even fluffier cake as a treat to prepare the kids to go back to school or the adults back to work. Here's the best: the classic chocolate and hazelnut muffin.

Whatever the time of day, these never fail to tempt passers-by into Cake Boy with their deliciously lingering scent. Not too sweet but gloriously rich, these cakes are always a crowd-pleaser. Back in my own school days in France, walking in from school on Saturday lunchtime to the smell of something chocolatey baking meant it was officially the weekend.

MUFFIN TIPS

Getting a muffin to look and cook perfectly is a hard feat. Start with choosing the best ingredients you can: for example, use a high-quality dark chocolate with a cocoa percentage of no higher than 70%. The darker the chocolate, the quicker it will burn, like over-roasted coffee. To obtain the perfect muffin dome, use a piping bag to carefully ease the mixture into the cases (using a spoon will make dribbles that encourage burning). Most importantly, use an oven thermometer. Don't be tempted to turn your oven below 180°C and bake your muffins for longer, as it will dry your sponge out!

BAKE SALE

If there's a birthday to celebrate this month, this recipe makes a sophisticated six-inch cake. Just use two shallow sandwich tins and more chocolate spread to stick one on top of the other. Alternatively, if you've got a cake sale coming up, you can get 12 muffins out of the mix. They also freeze well after being baked, so busy parents can cheat and make them in advance at the weekend. Just make sure to store them in an airtight container, then fully defrost at room temperature and pop them back in the oven to warm through for five-ten minutes with a sheet of foil on top. Without freezing, they'll keep for three days. Personally, I like to make them when I have guests staying for the weekend, so I'll pre-weigh the ingredients the night before. In the morning, all I have to do is creep downstairs and get baking, so by the time everyone else is up, an amazing smell is ruminating around the house. 🍪

CHOCOLATE AND HAZELNUT MUFFINS



MAKES SIX

75g dark chocolate, roughly chopped	2 eggs
50g chocolate and hazelnut spread	1 tsp vanilla extract
175g self-raising flour	5 tbsp vegetable oil
½ tsp baking powder	4 tbsp milk
25g cocoa powder	75g dark chocolate chips
50g golden caster sugar	50g chopped hazelnuts, roasted



- 1 Preheat the oven to 180°C. Line a six-hole deep muffin tin with paper cases.
- 2 Gently melt the chocolate and chocolate spread together in a heatproof bowl set over a saucepan of barely simmering water, making sure the surface of the water does not touch the bowl. Leave to cool for a few minutes.
- 3 Sift the flour, baking powder and cocoa powder into a large bowl, then stir in the sugar. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs, vanilla, oil and milk together using an electric hand whisk. When combined, stir in the cooled chocolate. Fold the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients using a rubber spatula or metal spoon, but don't over-mix. Stir in the chocolate chips.
- 4 Divide the mixture between the muffin cases, filling them until they're almost full, then sprinkle the hazelnuts over the tops. Bake in the oven for 20–25 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centres comes out clean. When cooked, transfer to a cooling rack.



FOR MORE DELICIOUS RECIPES, VISIT ERIC'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/ERICLANLARD](https://www.youtube.com/user/ERICLANLARD) AND DISCOVER HIS LATEST BAKING TIPS AND TRICKS



RECIPE TIP

For roasted hazelnuts, simply spread whole nuts over a baking tray and roast in the oven for eight to ten minutes at the same temperature as you will use for the muffins, until they are golden and crisp. Be sure to watch them as they can burn quickly. Leave to cool, then chop.



SUGARCRAFT
• SKILL •
 MODELLING

• MAKE MINI •
ICE CREAM
TOPPERS

Create fondant sculptures to top your cute cupcake bakes



Sometimes the only way to go with cake decoration is young and fun. Kids will adore these bakes topped with tiny ice cream favourites, and let's face it, this sweet design would appeal to most adults too! Making your own intricate curiosities may appear daunting, but it's actually very simple with this easy step-by-step guide.

SIMPLE STEPS...



MAKE A MINI BANANA SPLIT



Modelling paste in white, baby pink, yellow, brown, beige.
 Royal icing, small amount
 Hundreds and thousands
 Edible glue

TOOLS

Toothpicks
 Veining tool
 Small elastic band
 Small piping bag
 Small star-shaped icing tip



1 First make a sundae dish by flattening and forming a small thin sausage of white paste. Use a sausage shape of yellow paste to make the banana. Add some banana-like markings, curve slightly and taper at the ends. Ensure that it fits your sundae dish.

2 For the ice cream scoops, make three small balls of paste in brown, baby pink and beige.

3 Bunch some toothpicks together and wrap with a small elastic band.

4 Using a jabbing motion, texturise your ice cream scoops. They may flatten a little, so lightly roll back into shape.

5 Attach the banana and scoops to the dried sundae dish.

6 Place a small amount of royal icing into your piping bag, with a small star shaped tip attached.

7 Pipe three small 'swirls' on top of your 'ice cream'.

8 While the icing is still wet, sprinkle some multi-coloured hundreds and thousands on top. If you want, make a cherry from red icing and pop on to finish!

SUGARCRAFT
SUPPLIES



Sprinkles, £2.21 for 70g,
sprinklesandco.co.uk



Natural flavouring, £4.95 for 15ml,
foodieflavours.com



Sugar modelling paste, £3.55 for 200g,
squires-shop.com



Discover how to make more cute cake toppers in *Tiny Tea Parties! Cute & Easy Cake Toppers! Mini Food That Looks Good Enough To Eat* by The Cake & Bake Academy (£6.95, Kyle Craig Publishing)





DISCOVER WHERE IT ALL
BEGAN AT KATE'S BLOG
THELITTLELOAF.COM



• BAKE SOME • **CHILDHOOD FAVOURITES**

Cookbook author Kate Doran takes us on a trip down memory lane

"I'LL NEVER FORGET THE **THRILL** OF RECEIVING MY FIRST PHOTO FROM A **READER** WHO'D MADE ONE OF MY **RECIPES**"

Some baking-addicts discover the pastime later in life, but for others, such as Kate Doran, their life-long love of baking starts in childhood. "My maternal grandmother made the most amazing rock buns, chocolate cake and crumbles, and I loved baking by her side when I was little. My mum would encourage me and my brother to bake and decorate our own birthday cakes every year, something I still do to this day." Baking was purely a hobby for Kate until she started her blog *The Little Loaf* in 2011 thanks to the encouragement of her now-husband Luke. "I'll never forget the thrill of receiving my first photo from a reader who'd made one of my recipes. This type of feedback is what keeps me passionate about blogging. Getting people as excited about food as I am makes me very happy."

DEBUT TITLE

"This is my first book so everything is still very new and exciting," comments Kate, "a little while back one of my recipes was featured in *The Sunday Times Magazine* and it snowballed from there. Two different agents got in touch to see if I'd ever thought about writing a book and after a lot of phone calls, meetings and slightly nervous soul searching, I put together a proposal to send out to publishers." The recipes in Kate's book are her favourite childhood treats, reinvented with gorgeous ingredients and a little bit of love. There are classic comfort puddings like crumbles and rock buns, plus homemade versions of shop bought treats like Hobnobs and peppermint marshmallows. "These Peanut Butter Jammie Dodgers

have to be one of my favourite recipes. I also love the Malted Milk Chocolate Ice Cream Ball."

BAKING LOVE

Kate has retained that magical feeling you get from that very first bake – the wonder at putting a tin full of cake batter into the oven, and pulling out a gloriously risen creation a little while later. "I love that baking is an indulgence, it reminds us of our childhood and brings back all sorts of delicious memories. The process is so magical – the way chocolate melts and egg whites whip." Like most great bakers, she is quick to reassure that "everybody has baking fails", and adds "I don't think we should be afraid of them – it's all a learning process." 

PEANUT BUTTER & JAMMIE DODGERS MAKES 30



150g butter, softened
100g smooth peanut butter
125g caster sugar
25g light muscovado sugar
1 egg yolk
1 tsp vanilla extract
Large pinch salt
265g plain white flour, plus extra for dusting
100g jam

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Line two baking trays.



1 In a medium bowl using a wooden spoon, or in a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream together the butter and peanut butter for one minute. Add both sugars and beat for a further two minutes until fluffy. Add the egg yolk, vanilla and salt and beat until combined. Sift over the flour and mix to form a soft dough. Knead a little until smooth.

2 On a lightly floured work surface, roll the dough to a thickness of 0.4cm. The dough will be quite fragile – if it breaks apart, gently press the crumbly edges back towards the centre, then carefully continue to roll.

3 Using a 5cm biscuit cutter, cut out rounds of dough. Using a heart-shaped stamp, or another small cutter of your choice, cut a hole from the middle of half of the biscuits. Place all the biscuit rounds on the prepared baking trays.

4 Bake for 8-12 minutes until lightly golden. Keep a close eye on them – these biscuits can turn from golden to burnt very quickly. Remove from the oven, leave to cool on the trays for five minutes then transfer to a wire rack.

5 When cool, spread a scant teaspoon of jam on the underside of the whole ones. Top each with a cut-out heart biscuit and press down lightly. The biscuits keep in an airtight container for two days.





JAFFA ORANGE CAKES

MAKES 12



FOR THE JELLY:

60g caster sugar
Orange peel, from one large orange
Three sheets platinum-grade fine leaf gelatine
100ml orange juice (about two large oranges)

FOR THE CAKES:

40g browned butter, cooled
60g icing sugar
20g plain white flour
40g ground almonds
¼ tsp finely-grated orange zest
Two egg whites, lightly beaten
Pinch salt

TO FINISH:

120g dark chocolate, chopped



1 To make the jelly, combine the sugar and orange peel with 120ml water in a small saucepan. Bring to the boil then simmer for 10-15 minutes until the liquid has reduced by about half. Meanwhile, line an 18cm square tin with cling film. Place the gelatine sheets in a bowl of cold water and soak for five minutes.

2 Remove the syrup from the heat and strain into a measuring jug. Squeeze as much water as possible out of the gelatine leaves, then stir them into the warm syrup until dissolved. Stir in the orange juice before straining into the lined tin. Chill for two hours, or until firm.

3 To make the cakes, measure out 30ml of the browned butter and set aside. Use the remaining brown butter to grease a 12-hole muffin tin. Preheat the oven to 190°C. Sift the icing sugar and flour into a bowl, then whisk in the ground almonds and orange zest. Add the egg whites, salt and the cooled brown butter and whisk to a thick batter.

4 Divide the batter between the muffin tin holes and bake for 9-12 minutes until the cakes are



lightly golden and firm to the touch. Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin completely.

5 When the jelly has set, use a 4cm cutter to cut out discs from the layer of jelly. Carefully place one disc on top of each cooled cake.

6 To finish the cakes, melt the chocolate in a heat-proof

bowl suspended over a pan of barely simmering water (or in the microwave) and leave to cool for 10-15 minutes. Carefully spoon 1-2 teaspoons of melted chocolate over the top of each jelly disc, coating the top of each cake. Leave to cool completely. The cakes will keep in an airtight container for two days.



For more tasty trips down memory lane buy Kate Doran's book *Homemade Memories* (£18.99 for hardback, £9.99 for ebook; Orion books).



HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE HOMEMAKERMAGAZINE.CO.UK FOR A Q+A WITH KATE, AND A VIDEO DEMONSTRATION ON HOW TO MAKE THE JAFFA JELLY!



CREATE PERFECT BAKES

We take Stellar's new range of bakeware on a test drive



Ella Johnston, *Homemaker* Editor and resident baker, took a selection of Stellar's new bakeware products home and whipped us up some delicious treats.

I love baking; the science and the magic of creating something yummy out of basic ingredients such as flour, butter and eggs never fails to bring me joy. With baking you can't just chuck everything in and hope that it works. A little more precision is required, so you need to have the best equipment. That's why I was excited to try the new hard-anodised range of bakeware from Stellar. I decided to make classic blueberry muffins to enjoy as part of an indulgent weekend breakfast, a French apple tart for a luxurious post-Sunday dinner, and a big wholemeal loaf to see us through the week. For these three bakes I chose to test out the 12-cup muffin tin, 3lb loaf tin and the nine-inch loose-base fluted flan dish, all found at stellarcookware.co.uk.

Stellar bakeware was an absolute dream to work with; the hard anodised surface means there was none of the peeling or bubbling you can get with older non-stick tins. You can even use metal utensils with these products without worrying if it will scratch the surface. I found that the non-stick coating on the tins made it really easy to release the bakes – this has always been a problem for me when baking bread, but this loaf tin (retailing at £15) had no hard lumps of mixture baked onto the surface, which made it super easy to clean. At £27 the muffin tin would be a small investment, but the options of what you can bake in it are endless. Just think of the hundreds of mouth-watering treats you could cook week after week – my hubby will be happy!

A high-quality flan dish with a loose bottom is a must-have for any home-baker like me wanting to create perfect pies or quiches. My delicate apple tart came out of the dish beautifully, with no emergency repairs required! And I found that the pans conducted the heat really well, which provided even baking and a beautiful all-round colour on the end result – this meant a lovely golden base on my tart and no dreaded soggy bottom.

If you have good-quality bakeware like this and look after it well, it will see you through many years and will pay for itself in perfectly baked loaves, cakes and flans over the seasons. Plus you won't ruin your creations trying to prise them out of a rusty old tin. Just make sure to hand-wash them as this protects the special non-stick nature of the bakeware. As well as the promise that these tins will never rust, the whole range comes with a Stellar lifetime guarantee so you know they're products that will stand the test of time. 🍪





JUST A PINCH

These mixes contain herbs, spices and even flower petals to give your loaf the edge. Flowers of Scotland mix, £2.65 for 45g jar; Mini Moffat mix, £1.65 for 10g jar, uncleroys.co.uk



BRIGHT BOWL

Choose a heavy duty bowl with a playful apple design to mix your dough and add a pop of colour to your kitchen, £19.99, lakeland.co.uk



RISING STAR

Not just one for the adults, this artisan beer bread mix can be made with any fizzy drink, and comes in four flavours including garlic and herb, £6.95 per bag (makes one loaf), dassie.co.uk

Bakers' BOUTIQUE

Use your loaf to bake your own fresh bread

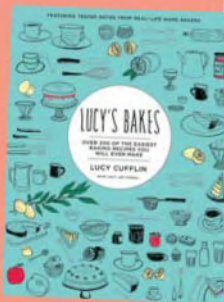


ONLINE

If you want someone to walk you through the process of mixing, kneading and proving, check out the informative videos at breadtopia.com

KNEAD TO KNOW

Our favourite bread is sourdough – you'll have to invest a little time and love in the making process, but all effort is undoubtedly rewarded by the chewy open texture of the finished loaf. To learn how to create this and a huge range of other essential bakes, from ginger snaps to brioche, get your hands on the new book *Lucy's Bakes: Over 200 of the easiest baking recipes you will ever need* by Lucy Cufflin, with Lucy Lee-Tirrel (£25, Hardie Grant). For the recipe head to homemakermagazine.co.uk.



CLEAN SLICE

Use this colourful knife from Stellar to carve through the golden crust of your homemade bread, £3.60, hartsofstur.com



MAGIC MACHINE

Let this scarlet beauty do all the hard work; it can make everything from cakes to pizza dough, and its programmable timer means you can wake to the smell of freshly-baked bread – what could be better? £59.99, andrewjamesworldwide.com



PLANT A SEED

Encourage kids to help in the kitchen with this bread-making kit by Bake at Home Kits; the seeded dough rises out of little flowerpots! £14.99, notonthehighstreet.co.uk



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Knitted Home

• WITH NICKI TRENCH •



NICKI TRENCH is a knitting designer, author, and also runs workshops in knitting and crochet, sewing and sugarcraft.

nickitrench.com

I've just returned from a knitting tour to the Shetland Islands where I taught Fair Isle and lace knitting to a tour group. The knitting skills of the Shetlanders are undisputed and our visits to local weavers, spinners, crafts people and wool mills offered heaps of inspiration.

The Shetlands are pounded on one side by the North Sea and hammered on the other side by the Atlantic, which makes the landscape dramatic and stunning. Try as I might to concentrate on my knitting during our tours, I couldn't take my eyes off the breathtaking views of steep cliffs, crashing waves, seals basking on the beaches and gannets diving into the waves. During the winter months in Shetland, the light hangs low and pale and it's hard to imagine how much intricate Fair Isle and Lace knitting was done in a time before electricity.

In October the Shetlands have a wool festival that celebrates Britain's most

northerly native sheep, the Shetland textile industry and the rural farming community. They have exhibitions, classes and events including weaving, spinning, dyeing, Fair Isle and lace knitting, and if you get 'textiled out' they have tours of the wildlife on the island too. I've travelled a lot and seen some amazing places over the years, but I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the Shetlands and highly recommend it.

During the summer months I like to concentrate on much smaller knitted projects and the lure of sunshine tends to take me outside and away from more indoor pursuits. It's hard to think of big blankets and warm knitted garments when all I want to do is enjoy the light and long days while they last.

So, inspired by my Shetlands experience I've been knitting lots of little samples turned into washcloths using Fair Isle techniques. For these I use a lovely cotton yarn so that the cloths are cool to work with and lightweight when they are wet. I like Natura Just Cotton, made by the company DMC, who have the most fabulous range of colours. The cloths are just the right size to use in the bathroom or kitchen and they're also a brilliant way of practising new stitches and techniques and then giving away as presents.



YOU'LL NEED:

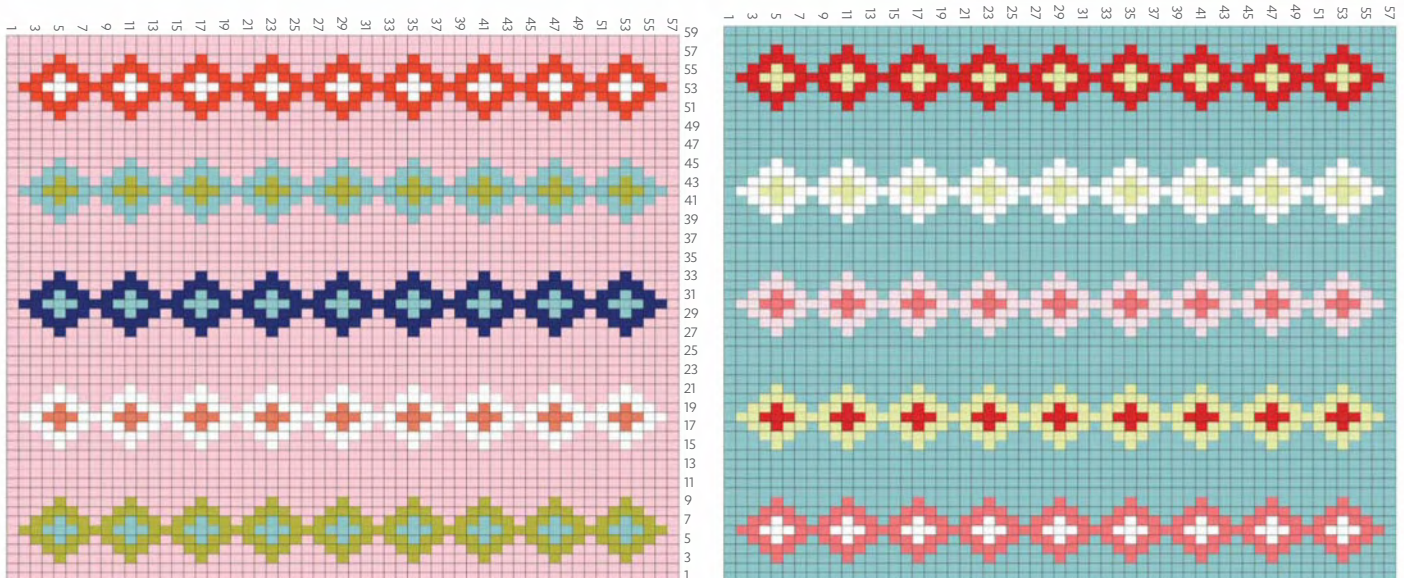
DMC Natura Just Cotton
50g balls, Rose Layette (pale pink), Bamboo (bright green), Aguamarina (turquoise), Ivory (off-white), Topaze (peach), Star Light (dark blue), Paille (pale green/yellow), Passion (orange)
3.25 mm knitting needles

TENSION

28.5 sts x 32 rows over 10 cm square working Fair Isle patt in st st using 3.25 mm needles.

FINISHED SIZE

21.5 cm square





CINA SAYS, "When I'm knitting Fair Isle or intarsia, I use zip-lock bags to keep my yarn balls separate. This prevents them from unravelling and getting tangled while working with other colours."

PASTEL WASHCLOTHS

Note: Chart is read right to left on odd-numbered (RS) rows and left to right on even-numbered (WS) rows.

Strand colors not in use loosely on WS of work.

CLOTH

Using MC, cast on 57 sts.

Work 4 rows of seed (moss) stitch as follows: [k1, p1] to last st, k1.

Follow Chart to end.

Work 4 rows of seed (moss) st.

Bind (cast) off.

FINISHING

Block and press cloths.



Yarn News

• GET THE INSIDE STITCH •

Our round up of the latest trends, events and products in the wonderful world of knitting and crochet



YARNDALE

Now in its third year, Yarndale is a glorious fibre-filled celebration of the skills and expertise prevalent in the wool industry. Discover and learn about every aspect of yarn, take a walk beneath a ceiling decorated with over a kilometre of woolly bunting, or indulge in some retail therapy – with over 180 exhibitors to browse, you certainly won't be short of inspiration!

The show takes place in Skipton across the 26th-27th of September; for tickets and more information, visit yarndale.co.uk

CRAFTY CLASSES

SEPT
3RD

INTRODUCTION TO CROCHET

Get hooked to this addictive craft with a beginner's workshop. follyfabrics.co.uk

SEPT
16TH

BABY BLUES

Enjoy Purl Alpaca Design's last workshop of the year in the company of their newborn alpacas. purlalpacadesigns.com

SEPT
19TH

IN A SPIN

Learn a new craft and try your hand at spinning marvellous yarn from raw fibres! yarn-on-the-square.co.uk

RUNWAY REPORT

With its roots in Roman history, the tunic has stood the test of time and has now become a definitive summer essential for any keen fashionista! With its delicate lacy design and loose fit, Alliemay is both a warm weather staple and a must-have for any holiday. The i-cord belt means you can adjust the positioning of the waist – empire, true or drop, the choice is yours! Find this pattern and more in *Warm Days, Cool Knits: Lighter Designs for Every Season* by Corrina Ferguson, published by Interweave, RRP £16.99, amazon.co.uk



FIND A FANTASTIC SELECTION OF PATTERNS, TUTORIALS, BLOG POSTS AND MORE AT OUR SISTER SITE [LETSKNIT.CO.UK!](http://LETSKNIT.CO.UK)

4 OF THE BEST...

Lace yarns



Elegant with a delicate halo, Debbie Bliss Party Angel combines the softness of mohair with the glamour of metallic fibres. £8.90 per 25g (200m) ball.



Drops Lace is spun from a delightful blend of 70% baby alpaca and 30% mulberry silk, making it perfect for stylish shawls. £8.10 per 100g (800m) skein.



A lovely blend of silk and merino, Fiberspates Scrumptious Lace is available in a variety of gorgeous hand-dyed shades. £15.95 per 100g (1000m) skein.



For the fibre fanatics out there, Debbie Bliss Rialto Lace is made from 100% extra fine merino wool! £5.35 per 50g (390m) ball.

All of these yarns and more can be found at loveknitting.co.uk



If you're looking for a bright and beautiful yarn that's a little bit special, look no further than Rosie's Moments. An artisan dyer based right here in the UK, she sells a wide range of luxurious hand-dyed yarns that are perfect for your next knitting or crochet project. Most of her bright and beautiful creations are made using yarns spun in British mills, meaning you won't just be supporting an independent shop owner, but the home-grown fibre industry, too. rosiesmoments.co.uk



Looking for a new cushion for your home? How about a throw? Get both with pattern 9147 from Stylecraft! These two pretty crochet projects are perfect to keep you crafting until summer is out. Malabar Aran, the yarn used to for both makes, is a delicious blend of cotton and silk, making these two accessories a truly sumptuous pair. Find the pattern and all the yarn you need to make it over at yarnpile.co.uk

Creative crochet

If you're anything like us, a little bit of yarn and a crochet hook will keep you happily crafting for hours! If you're addicted to the art and are itching to start your next project, our sister magazine Let's Get Crafting has just launched their new website Top Crochet Patterns, where you can find a whole host of patterns to download for free. From gorgeous granny squares to amazing amigurumi, you're sure to find something for you! topcrochetpatterns.com

Crochet

• COLOURFUL MANDALAS •

Create pretty mult-use circles in soft alpaca yarn with the help of *Lynne Rowe*



Originating from the Sanskrit word for 'circle', mandalas are a wonderfully meditative way to develop your crochet skills. Whether you use them as coasters, table decorations, or even as part of a bigger item such as a bag or a rug, there are endless uses for these pretty projects. We've made ours with beautiful alpaca yarn, which gives them a super soft texture too.



YOU'LL NEED:

Artesano Alpaca 4ply, (A) shade 8774 Ecuador, (B) shade 0704 Violet, (C) shade 0013 Sweet Pea, (D) shade 1492 Belize, one 50g (184m) ball of each from socialfabrictotnes.co.uk

3.5mm hook

FINISHED SIZE

22cm diameter

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Puff st – * yoh, insert hook in st, yoh, draw hook back through st (three loops on hook), rep from * twice more (seven loops on hook), yoh, draw through all seven loops on hook. One puff stitch made

Beginning cluster – 2ch, * yoh, insert hook in st, yoh, draw hook back through st, yoh, draw through first two loops (two loops on hook), rep from * once more (three loops left on hook), yoh, draw through all three loops

Full cluster – * yoh, insert hook in st, yoh, draw hook back through st, yoh, draw through first two loops (two loops on hook), rep from * twice more (four loops left on hook), yoh, draw through all four loops



PINK MANDALA

Using 3.5mm hook and yarn C, make 5ch and join with a sl st. Work Rnd 1 in centre of ring

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 15tr in ring, sl st in third of 3ch

Rnd 2: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in same st, 2tr in each st to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Rnd 3: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in same st, 1tr in next st, (2tr in next st, 1tr in next st) to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Rnd 4: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in next three sts, (2tr in next st, 1tr in next two sts) to last two sts, 1tr in each of last two sts, sl st in third ch of first 3ch

Cut and fasten off yarn C, join yarn D to any tr

Rnd 5: work one beginning cluster in same tr, 2ch, miss next tr, (work one full cluster in next tr, 2ch, miss next tr) to end, sl st in top of beginning cluster

Cut and fasten off yarn D, join yarn A to any 2-ch sp

Rnd 6: 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), 1tr in same 2-ch sp, ([1tr, 1ch, 1tr] in next 2-ch sp) to end, sl st in third of 5ch

Cut and fasten off yarn D, join yarn B to any 1-ch sp

Rnd 7: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in same sp, (3tr in next 1-ch sp) to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Cut and fasten off yarn B, join yarn C to any tr

Rnd 8: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in same st, 1tr in next 14 sts, (2tr in next st, 1tr in next 12 sts) to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Rnd 9: 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), miss next tr, (1tr in next tr, 2ch, miss next tr) to end, sl st in third of 5ch

Rnd 10: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in next 2-ch sp, (1tr in next tr, 2tr in next 2-ch sp) to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Cut and fasten off yarn C, join yarn D to any tr

Rnd 11: 1ch (not counted as st), 1dc in same st, 1dc in each st to end, sl st in first dc

Cut and fasten off yarn D, join yarn C to any dc

NOTE: Rnd 12 is worked through the back loops only

Rnd 12: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in same st, 1tr in each st to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Rnd 13: (miss next st, 6tr in next st, miss next st, sl st in next st) to last three sts, miss next st, 6tr in next st, miss last st, sl st in first st

Fasten off

Using yarn D, insert hook through front of st on Rnd 2, pull yarn through from WS (one loop on hook), rep in next st pulling loop through loop on hook, rep around rnd as shown

Using yarn B, insert hook through front of st on Rnd 3, pull yarn through from WS (one loop on hook), rep in next st, pulling loop through loop on hook, rep around rnd as shown

VIOLET MANDALA

Using 3.5mm hook and yarn B, make 5ch, join with a sl st. Work Rnd 1 in centre of ring

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in ring, 1ch, (2tr in ring, 1ch) four times, sl st in third of 3ch

Rnd 2: sl st in next 1-ch sp, 3ch (counts as 1tr), (1tr, 1ch, 2tr) in same sp, (1ch, miss next 2tr, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next 1-ch sp) five times, 1ch, sl st in third of first 3ch

Cut and fasten off yarn B, join yarn C to any 1-ch sp

Rnd 3: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in same sp, 1ch, (3tr in next 1-ch sp, 1ch) to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Cut and fasten off yarn C, join yarn B to any 1-ch sp

Rnd 4: 3ch (counts as 1tr), (1tr, 1ch, 2tr) in same sp, (1ch, miss next three tr, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] in next 1-ch sp) 11 times, 1ch, sl st in third of 3ch

Cut and fasten off yarn B, join yarn A to any 1-ch sp

Rnd 5: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in same 1-ch sp, (3tr in next 1-ch sp) to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Cut and fasten off yarn A, join yarn D to any tr

Rnd 6: 1ch (not counted as a st), 1dc in same st, 1dc in each st to end, sl st in first dc

Cut and fasten off yarn D, join yarn B to any dc

NOTE: Rnd 7 is worked through the back loops only

Rnd 7: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in same st, 1tr in next eight sts, (2tr in next st, 1tr in each eight sts) to end, sl st in third of first 3ch

Cut and fasten off yarn B, join yarn C to any tr

Rnd 8: 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), (miss next tr, 1tr in next tr, 2ch) to end, sl st in third of 5ch

Cut and fasten off yarn C, join yarn B to any 2-ch sp

Rnd 9: 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 1tr in same sp, (miss next tr, [1tr, 1ch, 1tr] in next 1-ch sp) to end,

THERE'S MORE ONLINE!

Find the yellow mandala pattern at homemakermagazine.co.uk



sl st in third of first 4ch
Cut and fasten off yarn B, join
yarn A to any 1-ch sp

Rnd 10: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in same sp,
(3tr in next 1-ch sp) to end, sl st in third of 3ch
Cut and fasten off yarn A, join yarn D to any dc

Rnd 11: as Rnd 6

Cut and fasten off yarn D, join yarn B to any dc

NOTE: Rnd 12 is worked through
the back loops only

Rnd 12: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in
next seven sts, (2tr in next st, 1tr in next seven sts)
to end, sl st in third of 3ch

Rnd 13: (miss next st, 6tr in next st, miss next st,
sl st in next st) to last three sts, miss next st, 6tr in
next st, miss last st, sl st in first st
Fasten off



Revamp Vases

• WITH GOLD LEAF •

Create a glam display by adding bling to your containers

While we love the elegance of a crystal clear vase, sometimes we need to show off our blooms in a container that makes more of a statement. That's why we love this easy project; it's great for updating glassware that has seen better days. A set of gold leaf sheets go a long way so you can quickly whip up a whole set of gold embellished receptacles – a brilliant way to create a dazzling display for a mantelpiece or celebratory table.



YOU'LL NEED:

Glass vase

Acrylic Gilding Size from goldleafsupplies.co.uk

23ct Red Transfer Gold Leaf sheets from goldleafsupplies.co.uk

Rust-Oleum Crystal Clear matt spray varnish from goldleafsupplies.co.uk

Small paint brush

Foam brush



GOLD VASE

1 Brush the gilding size (a special adhesive) to a section of the vase. Leave the size to dry a little so it is sticky but not bone dry or too wet.

2 Apply small ripped sections of gold leaf to the vase with your fingers and set down with a dry foam brush, getting rid of any excess pieces.

3 Spray with the varnish to set and leave to dry.



GO FOR GOLD:
3 QUICK UPDATES

SPRAY

Raid the charity shops for old ceramic ornaments and spray with glossy gold to create a luxe collection of curios unique to you.

DIP

Make a quirky wall display by dipping an array of different types of picture frame in gold metallic paint at various angles to exhibit your favourite pictures in.

CUT

Use a die-cutting machine or a trusty pair of scissors to cut out tried and tested shapes such as butterflies and birds from gold paper to make pretty table confetti, hanging mobiles or wall decals.

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“MY ULTIMATE **DREAM** WOULD BE TO WRITE A **MODERN CRAFT** BOOK”

Meet Nancy Straughan, a designer who loves to make and create



With an interior stylist mum and a dad in the advertising industry, it was no surprise when Nancy Straughan decided to carry on the creative family legacy. Setting up her business straight out of university means that she hasn't wasted a second in getting her dream career off the ground. Nancy says, “I love making things so my various creative projects go hand in hand with that – I'm very lucky!”

HANDS ON ART

It's important to Nancy that her patterns “have a homespun style”. She says, “I always work on a layout pad and use marker pens. I tend to draw quite wobbly, imperfect shapes that will become the motifs in the patterns, and for my more illustrative animal designs I use gouache paints (similar to watercolours but more vibrant). Everything starts with a sketchbook – ideas, notes, shapes and pattern repeats are all jotted down ready to be turned into a fabric or product.”

Nancy's work style is very hands-on, and the computer is used only at the very end

of the design process to “tidy things up a little”. Her patterns contain a depth of texture achieved by taking lots of photos, scanning found natural objects such as tree bark and lots of messy experimenting with ink to draw and mark-make.

KIND TO NATURE

Nancy works hard to ensure that all of her printed paper and fabric is produced as ethically as possible, and so decided to have her fabrics digitally printed as this is the method most eco-friendly method. “All the manufacturers I use are based in England and I have sourced some great small businesses based in the north of the country to help make up my products and print my fabrics. I feel as though I have more time to enjoy being creative now that I'm not in charge of every single aspect of the manufacturing. I adore that I am drawing more now, and I also do all of the styling and photography myself.”

These finished products are sold through her own online shop, and various stockists – mostly independent homeware and lifestyle stores. Nancy's core range of textile



MEET THE MAKER



goods ranges from tea-towels to cushions, but she also receives many special requests and commissions. “I have enjoyed some great briefs and I have been so lucky to work with some wonderful people and brands. The really great thing is being approached to design something because a prospective client understands my work, because then you know you’re on the same wavelength.”

REFRESH THE PAST

Many of the motifs seen in Nancy’s work have been inspired by pattern designers who worked in the fifties and sixties: “During my final year at university I discovered the beautiful textile prints of Henry Moore in the library and became obsessed with Mid-Century design.” Recently Nancy has also been finding inspiration from as far back as the Art Deco period. She keeps inspiration levels topped up with visits to her favourite museums. “I live quite near the Geffrye Museum which is one of my favourite places in London. It’s a wonderful space

that exhibits the history of interiors in England from 1600 to modern-day. I went there for the first time when I was about eight with my mum and I still love paying it a visit once in a while.”

Although her inspiration is often found in the past, Nancy is a maker who is very much looking forward. She has also embraced the new trend for collaborations between independent makers and big brands, having worked with contemporary homeware store West Elm. She taught a workshop in the retailer’s London showroom and also hosted a pop-up shop there. “My ultimate dream would be to write a modern craft book, but until then I’m working on lots of freelance pattern design briefs and I’ve also recently started writing a regular DIY and crafts column for *Do Something* magazine, which comes with *The Guardian* newspaper.” It looks like Nancy has plenty to keep her busy!

Don’t miss issue 35 when Nancy will be showing us how to make some shibori-dyed napkins. 📖



MAKER PROFILE

Nancy Straughan

WHO IS SHE? A talented designer creating ethical fabrics and homeware

WHAT’S HER CRAFT? Textile design, modern craft making and writing

TOP THREE TIPS FOR ETHICAL MAKING?

- » Use recycled materials for packaging your products
- » Consider digital printing – it uses less ink, water and energy
- » Think local for materials and manufacturing

FIND OUT MORE...

Go to nancy-straughan.com

CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE & GIVE NANCY’S PROJECT A GO!



NANCY'S PRINTED TRIVET



YOU'LL NEED

Cork trivet, from ikea.com

Self-adhesive white foam sheet

Acrylic craft paint

Pencil

Scissors

Old plate

Mount board or small
block of wood

Brayer (hand roller)



1 Draw out the design on the foam. Keep the motif relatively simple, silhouette shapes like this swan work well.

2 Cut out the design and peel off the backing. Stick it onto the mount board or wooden block. You can add details by using a pencil to make an indentation in the foam (that's how the swan's eyes and line for the beak have been added).

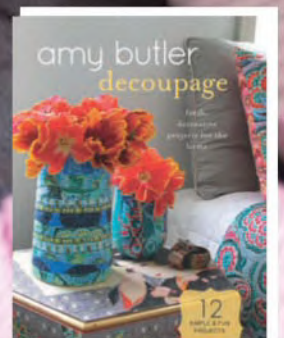
3 Roll out a layer of paint onto an old plate or a piece of plastic with the brayer. Transfer this onto the stamp carefully, you will only need a thin layer of paint, and do a test print. Make sure to apply even pressure on the stamp when printing.

4 Lay out the trivet and begin printing. You can do a random repeat like the above design, or measure out a regular layout. Make sure to ink up every time you want to stamp a motif.

5 Let the paint fully dry for about an hour. If you'd like to ensure that the paint will not fade over time you can spray with a coat of protective sealant.



Get ready
TO DECOUPAGE



Amy Butler Decoupage
by Amy Butler (£14.99,
Chronicle Books)

DISCOVER A WORLD OF PATTERNED PAPER IN AMY BUTLER'S NEW BOOK. If you are a print and pattern fan who loves to craft, you'll want to get your hands on this new book packed full of papers designed by the iconic designer. In the pack you'll get a whopping 80 paper sheets in 20 designs that are perfect for mixing and matching in your decoupage makes, as well as a booklet of 12 projects to start you off. Find more images and a review of the book on our website homemakermagazine.co.uk

Done
IN A DAY

• MAKE STRIPED •

Coasters

Craft yourself a set of stripey mats with oven-bake modelling clay

Whip up these designer coasters today as smart accessories for your coffee table, or stack and tie with ribbon to give as a thoughtful gift to a friend. Our maker Corinne has used earthy tones of clay, but why not try cool blues or greens for a brighter option? It's amazing what you can do with this versatile material, so get experimenting right now by starting out with this fabulously quirky make.



YOU'LL NEED:

Fimo, Soft and Effect, in black, white, green, gold, copper, find stocklists at staedtlr.co.uk

Metal leaf flakes

Rolling pin

Cutting blade

Ceramic tiles, for baking

Felt sheet

Adhesive

Fimo clay machine, find stocklists at staedtlr.co.uk



1 Create a base to work on from a quarter block of any colour clay (or waste clay if you have any). Condition this well and roll out on a non-stick work surface to a thickness of 5mm. Pass through the clay machine on it's widest setting, rotate a quarter turn and pass through on the next setting down, repeat until you reach setting four (if you are happy to put in some elbow grease, the same effect can be achieved with a rolling pin).

2 Place the flattened clay on a ceramic tile and cut into a 10cm square. Part-bake for ten minutes at 110C and leave to cool on the tile. Remove from the baking surface by sliding the cutting blade underneath the clay (do not try and peel off as the part-baked clay may crack).

3 Condition a quarter block each of white and black Fimo. Work the white first to prevent transferring black smudges from dirty hands. Roll both out with a rolling pin to a thickness of 5mm. Feed the clay through the machine as before, starting with the widest setting and the white clay. Roll as thin as you desire.

4 Cut a 4cm x 6cm rectangle from this white sheet. Place it on top of the black clay, smooth down to remove air bubbles and cut neat edges. Place this bi-colour rectangle back onto the remaining white clay and repeat.

5 Continue stacking and cutting until you have utilised all of the clay. Recondition the leftover clay and re-roll to the previous thickness to allow you to cut more layers. Straighten up the block with the cutting blade if necessary, and place in the fridge to chill for ten minutes.

6 Cut a slice from the long edge of the striped block with the cutting blade. Flatten this portion through the clay machine, short end first. Reduce the machine setting with each pass until you are happy with the appearance of the stripes. Make a note of this setting as all other slices will need to be processed to the same dimension for best results.

7 Lay the striped sheet onto the part-baked coaster and smooth down to remove air bubbles. Trim if necessary. Continue making striped sheets in this way to cover the whole coaster. Neaten the edges of the covered coaster with narrow strips of a single colour clay around all four edges.

8 When all pieces are smoothed down and finger marks removed, bake the coaster for 30 minutes at 110C. Leave to cool completely before sanding the surface with very fine sandpaper. Leave matt or coat with a clear gloss varnish for a high-shine finish. Glue a square of felt to the underside.



Expert tips...

Top ideas for working with Fimo from **Rachel Woolley**, Marketing Manager at STAEDTLER (UK) Ltd.

- To condition the clay, warm up by kneading with your fingertips
- Ceramic floor tiles make an excellent working surface and can be transferred directly to the oven for baking
- Use baby wipes for cleaning hands and tools to prevent the transfer of colours
- Use a make-up brush to lightly dust talcum powder inside moulds to prevent Fimo sticking
- To remove finger marks from Fimo apply a little hand lotion and rub gently to remove imprints before baking
- A Fimo Acrylic Roller or small rolling pin is useful for rolling flat. If air bubbles appear, prick with a pin and roll to outer edge
- Use a Fimo machine or pasta machine for cutting strips and strands of Fimo into regular sizes, but make sure to keep any tools separate from foodstuffs
- When using cutters cover the rolled out Fimo with cling film before cutting as this will give the shapes a nice round edge
- Save your leftover modelling clay as these can be mixed together to make new colours
- If Fimo becomes dry and crumbly blend with Fimo Mixquick to make pliable again
- Store unwrapped Fimo in an airtight container to keep fresh

OUR MAKER
CORINNE BRADD



VIEW THE WHOLE RANGE OF FIMO PRODUCTS AT [STAEDTLER.CO.UK](https://www.staedtler.co.uk)



Become a SCREEN STAR

Get to grips with screenprinting and you'll be whipping up all manner of bespoke creations!

YOUR STARTER KIT

1: SCREEN

Essentially this is a piece of mesh stretched over a frame. A stencil is formed by blocking off parts of the screen the open spaces are where the ink will appear.

2: SQUEEGEE

This paddle pushes the ink through the mesh. They come in different sizes so choose the right one to fit your designs and the size of the screen.

3: INKS

Use water-based inks that are non toxic and can be cleaned easily. These kind of inks also absorb into fabric and paper very nicely.

4: SCREEN FILLER AND DRAWING FLUID

These block areas where you do not want the ink to go through – see Shirley Scott's advice on how to use them (top left).

5: ACETATE SHEETS

A vital bit of kit. Print onto acetate first so you can position your design accurately.

6: PACKAGING TAPE (NOT SHOWN)

Another essential; this protects the edges of the screen, fixes the acetate and attaches any stencil designs.

Buy screenprinting kits from saa.co.uk or handprinted.net.



HELLO SUNSHINE: SCREENPRINTED CANVAS BEACH BAG, ALPHABET BAGS. NOTONTHEHIGHSTREET.COM

The practice of screenprinting is not limited to the realm of fine art. Once you get the hang of it, this technique will transform your homemaking projects – you can update cushions and curtains, make fantastic cards and wall hangings while also creating lovely artworks unique to your home. You may even wish to update a few wardrobe items like this lovely screenprinted canvas tote from Alphabet Bags. With a little bit of kit and a smidgen of know-how you'll be amazed how easy it is to do, so unleash your inner artist and discover a brand new skill today!



ASK AN EXPERT

Shirley Scot from handprinted.net invites us to join her in exploring her favourite printing technique

Why is screenprinting?

It is incredibly versatile. Once you have mastered the technique you can use it to create professional prints on textiles, paper, furniture – no flat surface is safe!

What do you love about the process?

The reveal – it's great when you lift your screen and see what you have created.

Talk us through the different methods

PAPER STENCILS: Simple cut paper stencils (or masks) are brilliant – these can be basic or intricate depending on how fine you can cut with a scalpel.

DRAWING FLUID AND FILLER: This a great method for people who like a more painterly approach. You paint the areas of the screen that you want to print with the drawing fluid, when the fluid is dry you cover the screen with filler. When the filler is dry you wash your screen and the areas that were painted with the drawing fluid

wash away leaving your painted stencil. **PHOTO EMULSION:** This is the most technical method but one where you can get the finest details. It requires the screen to be coated in a photographic emulsion, the image you wish to print is either drawn, painted or printed onto a transparent film. The film is placed over the emulsion and exposed to a light. The dark areas on the film stop the emulsion from hardening on the screen so the image can be revealed. Photographic emulsion is great for images created in drawing programmes such as illustrator and is absolutely fantastic for text. Handprinted provide a service where you can get an image exposed onto the screen, visit the website for more details.

What screenprinting project should beginners tackle first?

Paper stencils are an excellent place to start. They are really easy and let the beginner get to grips with the printing part without worrying about all the technicalities of exposing the screens.



UPSKILL WITH A WORKSHOP!

Learn screenprint with artist Sarah Hamilton

Explore using paper stencils, led by printmaker Sarah Hamilton. Sarah's produces gorgeous screenprinted home-wares that are joyful, fresh and contemporary, with a Mid-Century Scandinavian feel. Benefit from Sarah's experience by spending the day with her at Handprinted studios in Bognor Regis on Saturday 17th October. For more details visit handprinted.net and to see more of Sarah's prints go to sarahhamiltonprints.com

Shirley's

SCREENPRINTING TIPS

- Have everything you need before you start printing.
- Use an old sticky tape roll to rest your squeegee on.
- Tape the edges of the screens before you start printing – a boring part of the process but it helps speed up the cleaning at the end.
- Make sure you use enough ink – any leftover can always be stored for next time, but nothing is more frustrating than pulling your squeegee and the ink doesn't flow to the end of the print.

YOUR BEGINNER'S GUIDE: CREATE AN EASY PEASY STENCIL PRINT

1: Make sure the screen is secured either with a hinge to working board as shown or with clamps on to a work surface so it is able to flip up and down. Attach a panel of clear acetate on the work surface underneath the screen by securing with a strip of

packaging tape at the bottom end as you will need to lift the acetate up and down.

2: Create a stencil by using a craft knife or die-cutter to create a shape inside a thin sheet of paper. Apply the paper stencil to the outside of the screen with packaging tape. (fig. 1)

3: Place the screen down over the work surface and the acetate and apply the ink in a strip at the top

using an old spoon, fork or spatula. (fig. 2)

4: 'Flood' the screen by using the squeegee to pull the ink towards the bottom of the mesh. (fig. 3)

5: Apply some pressure to pull the squeegee down along the mesh to push the ink through the screen. Then flip the screen up.

6: The motif should now be transferred onto the acetate sheet.

Position the paper or fabric under the sheet so you can see where the design will be printed. Once you are happy with the arrangement flip back the acetate. (fig. 4)

7: 'Flood' the screen as per point four. Then pull the squeegee down along the mesh to push the ink through the screen.

8: Flip the screen up to reveal the finished print.



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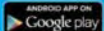


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MAKE A **FLORAL** DISPLAY

Discover simple floristry tricks for arranging your favourite blooms



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There really is nothing quite like fresh flowers to add a pop of colour and scent to your home, whether they're bought from your local florist or cut from your garden. Don't worry if you're new to flower arranging, as natural and informal floral designs are the very cool at the moment so there's no need for complicated techniques as the 'just picked from the garden' look is all the rage this year. Embrace this style further by arranging your blooms in recycled jam jars or glass bottles, or vintage jugs hunted down at charity shops. Turn overleaf as Rona Wheeldon of Flowerona (flowerona.com) shares her tips and Jay Archer (jayarcherfloraldesign.com) delivers news from the world of floristry, plus we have step-by-step instructions on creating your own bouquet.



RONA'S TOP TIPS FOR INDOOR DISPLAYS

At this time of year, I love bringing flowers and foliage in from the garden to add scent and colour to our home. A fragrant pink rose in a small vase complemented with a sprig of *Alchemilla mollis* is a lovely and simple floral touch that I often add to the desk in my office. Bud vases, which hold just a couple of stems, are ideal for using in a small space such as this; they also look great on a bedside table, dressing table or bathroom vanity unit.

It's best to cut flowers from your garden first thing in the morning or in the evening, then place them straight into water. Remember to remove any foliage which will fall below the water line once in a vase. If you don't have a garden and would like to pick your own flowers, then see whether your local garden centre has a PYO facility for flowers such as sweet peas or sunflowers. Or if you have nearby flower growers, enquire whether they hold an open day during the summer months. Two useful websites to locate growers are Flowers from the Farm (flowersfromthefarm.co.uk) and The British Flower Collective (thebritishflowercollective.com).

HOW TO CREATE A PROFESSIONAL LOOKING ARRANGEMENT AT HOME

Jars are a great vessel to fill with flowers as most of us have plenty of them lying around the house and it's a pretty use for something that would otherwise get thrown away. Follow these five quick steps and fill a jar with lovely flowers today...



YOU'LL NEED:

Scissors

Jar

Flowers, we have used peonies, astrantia, dahlias, stocks, wild sweet peas, hellebores, mint and scabious.



1 Choose a selection of flowers in all different shapes and sizes. Strip all leaves and thorns that might sit below the water level. Find a nice clean jar and fill almost to the brim with cold water. Lay your flowers out in neat groups so you can see what you have got to work with. Select a medium-sized bloom to start with and place in your left hand (the reverse if you're left-handed).



2 Pick a different flower, in colour and shape, and place on top of the first at a slight diagonal. Keep your hand relaxed as you gather the blooms, holding them gently – this will prevent them from squashing



and will allow you to reposition the flowers, pulling them up higher or down lower if needs be.

3 Continue adding your flowers at a slight diagonal in a varied order, trying to avoid two of the same flowers sitting too close together. Each time you add a few stems rotate the whole bunch using your free hand so that you are conscious of what is happening at every angle. Keep all stems slanted to the right as they are added, and the twist will become obvious.

4 Stop when you are happy with the shape and size of your arrangement (bear in mind the size of the jar). Hold the flowers in front of the vessel so you can measure how much of the stems to cut off. It is always better to be on the safe side and cut your stems a little longer than they need be, so you have the option to make them shorter.

5 Place the arrangement into the jar, letting the flowers fall naturally. You can now fiddle with the shape, adding or removing flowers are you see fit.



Florist Jay Archer's floral trend report...

There's a huge resurgence in people wanting to know where their flowers, like their food, come from. Flower growers are popping up all over the place, and Rona has mentioned helpful websites that can help pinpoint your local growers. At this time of year anything goes colour-wise but I am definitely seeing people turn more and more to deeper, richer colours – maroon scabious and chocolate cosmos are favourites of mine, as well as dark purple sweet peas and cornflowers. Scented leaf geraniums are excellent easy-to-grow leaves that last an age in vases around the home and smell incredible. We have many customers who order rose-filled vase arrangements from us, and these are a popular alternative to the usual chocolates given as a host's gift at dinner parties, or as a present for an expectant mother at a baby shower. Why not try putting together your own bouquet next time you want to say Thank you or Congratulations? See Jay's work at jayarcherfloraldesign.com



Step-by-step instructions and images from *The Flower Appreciation Society: An*

A to Z of All Things Floral by Anna Day & Ellie Jauncey (£20, Sphere)



PHILIPPA SAYS, "I make sure my cut flowers last longer by cutting the ends of my blooms at an angle so that they have a bigger surface area and they'll soak up more water. Trim again every three days, and make sure to keep in a cool place out of direct sunshine."



FLOWERS SUPPLIED BY BLOOMSANDBUDS.CO.UK

Create a low-effort, high-impact display by clustering old jars and filling with a variety of flowers. Smaller jars look lovely with just three cheery blooms, or fill a spare large preserving-style one with a bountiful bouquet made with a mix of flowers and greenery. Don't discount the humble carnation either; they can come in stunning colourways that add depth and interest to your floral creation. Our exquisite blooms were from bloomsandbuds.co.uk

Each issue we round up the best in the business to answer your homemaking woes, so if you've got a query you'd like help with, tell editorial assistant Rosalind at rosalind.moody@aceville.co.uk

PETE HUGHES IS A DESIGNER FOR SIZZIX, SIZZIX.CO.UK. AS WELL AS PRODUCING A RANGE OF DIE-CUT DESIGNS, SIZZIX ALSO MAKES THE BIG SHOT PLUS, ITS LATEST DIE-CUTTING MACHINE.



Q

I've heard lots about die-cutting and am tempted to buy a machine. I need something that works on a variety of materials as I make both quilted, paper and appliqué projects for my home – can a die-cutter help me?

TERESA WADDEL

A

"The short answer is yes. Die-cutting has been popular with the paper-crafting community for over 15 years since Sizzix® launched its first die-cutting machine. During that time it has also been embraced by other creative individuals interested in a wide range of techniques including appliqué, quilting and home décor. Sizzix® Bigz™ dies are unique in that they use steel rule blade technology. In practical terms this means that not only can you die-cut a vast range of different materials but you can also cut multiple layers at once. The main appeal of die-cutting is that it offers a blank canvas to an creative mind. You can take a flower die and create a hundred different ideas in a huge range of materials, colours and textures. One day you could be producing shapes to adorn bespoke wedding stationery, the next you could find yourself cutting out textiles to make a beautiful quilt or even a patchwork leather cushion."



CHARLES HUNT IS CEO FOR SOAK AND SLEEP, SOAKANDSLEEP.COM, AN ONLINE MARKETPLACE SELLING PREMIUM-QUALITY BED LINENS AND MATTRESSES.



Q

As we are lucky enough to live by the sea in Devon, we have a lot of family and friends come to visit – how can I make my spare room feel like a five star hotel for my guests? I want them to really enjoy their stay!

BARBARA LEE

A

"When guests are coming to stay, it's great to make them feel special, and the most important aspect of any hotel room is the bed. Starting from the bottom, a good, medium firm mattress will suit most sleepers, with enough give to provide a comfortable sleep without being too springy or engulfing. I love to add a deep mattress topper for a soft and cosy cocoon-like feel – our Supreme Canadian goose-down topper is my first choice every time. Equally as important are good pillows. To create the ultimate hotel experience, invest in heavenly feather or down pillows and your guests will feel as though they're on a cloud. The final bare essential is the duvet – thick, lofty, snuggly, it's all about sumptuous down for a premium feel. To complete the hotel look, opt for the best bedlinen you can afford. As a rule of thumb, the higher thread count, the better! Choose fabrics depending on the season – you can't beat cool linen for the warmer months. Our 1000TC Genuisa range is pure indulgence. Your guests won't want to leave!"

ALEEDAWATY ABAS IS THE SALES LEADER FOR BEDROOMS AT IKEA (UK & IE), IKEA.COM, WHERE YOU CAN FIND ALL MANNER OF NIFTY STORAGE SOLUTIONS.



Q

We've just moved into a new house, and one of my teenager's bedrooms is a bit on the small side. What can I do to make the most of every inch of space, and encourage them to take pride in their room?

EMMA ENGLAND

A

"In a small bedroom you may find that normal storage such as wardrobes simply won't fit – get around this problem with a bed that can store a wardrobe's worth of clothes, such as the MALM ottoman bed with under-bed storage. Shelves, such as the LACK floating design, the bargain EKBY STÖDIS brackets or the EKBY ÖSTEN also provide extra storage space for boxes and baskets. Placing them higher allows extra room for adding a clothes stand such as NAPEN below too.

Don't forget about using the walls to maximise storage potential – add hooks, such as the adjustable contemporary IKEA PS 2014 design, to the wall to create a funky look your teenager will love. It will also encourage them to keep their clothes off the floor! Lastly, a wall-mounted bedside light is great way to free up surface space, and a metal bar screwed to the wall is the perfect place to rest bedside essentials like their favourite book."



PAUL HERBERT IS A BUYER FOR CARPETRIGHT, CARPETRIGHT.CO.UK, ONE OF THE UK'S BIGGEST HOME TEXTILE BRANDS.



Q

We are moving into a new-build house and have the option to choose the flooring that is laid. I'm looking for a soft flooring that will not wear down too quickly. What type of carpet is best for high-traffic areas, such as hallways, stairs and landings?

ANGELA ROWE

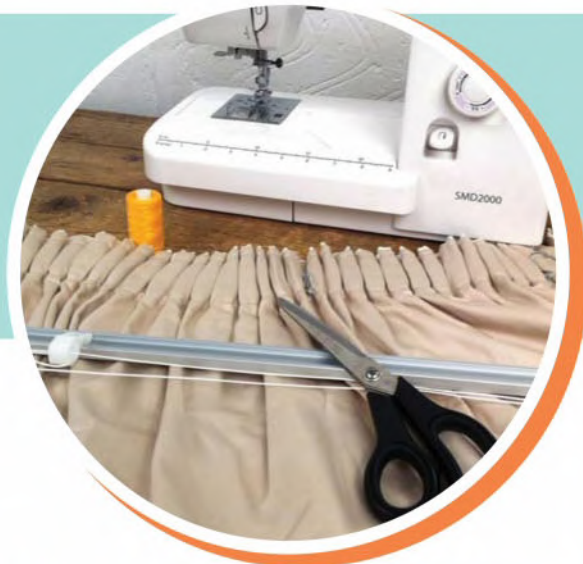
A

"When you select a carpet it's important that you make sure you choose the right fibres to suit your lifestyle. There are many options available that could help you, but it sounds like you would benefit from thinking about choosing a twist pile carpet, which is great for families as it has a robust construction that makes them hard wearing and easy to maintain. You might also want to think about wool carpets which are soft, luxurious and naturally resilient if you're looking for something that balances comfort and practicality. At Carpetright, we have a wide range of flooring to suit any home so you can be sure you're making a good investment for your home whatever you go for."



WORKSHOPS & courses

This month it's time to stitch, knit and bake your way to success!



SEW USEFUL

Always buying fabric remnants but lacking the skills to transform your home with them? The Old School Club in South West London might have the answer with their series of 'Home Revamp' sewing workshops: learn how to make a button-close cushion, curtains or a Roman blind. The next cushion tutorial is on 10th September and costs £40 for three hours – contact them on **020 7924 2931** if you want to book all three as they will provide you with a discount code for £20 off the trio of classes. You'll have to bring your own fabric, or purchase some from their varied range, but everything else is included. Techniques covered include sewing pencil pleats and making one-step button holes. Go to theoldschoolclub.co.uk for more info or to book.



GEOMETRIC GEM

How many of you know that one of our best-loved high street stores sells a fantastic range of crafty kits? The Blocks Longstitch Cushion Kit shown here is our pick of the bunch from John Lewis – with its cool geometric design it blows old ideas of embroidery out the water. We love the sophisticated colour palette and can imagine relaxing after a hard day and enjoying the meditative process of stitching away. The pack has everything you need, including cotton canvas, instructions, yarn and even a needle. Purchase for £28.35 at johnlewis.com, and browse their range of kits which include sewing sets for making a lovely drawstring bag or a cute apron.



WAX WORK

Not one to rest on our laurels, we like to add to our repertoire of crafty customisation skills as much as we can. Cool Contours in Banbury, Oxfordshire, is an inspirational arts and craft centre that runs a range of classes including this one that caught our eye – an introduction to batik. Led by practising batik artist Angela Lenman, you'll start with experiments on paper before moving onto learning the traditional technique of using hot wax and dye to create patterns on fabric. A jam-packed one day course is being held on September 6th, costing £50. Book at coolcontours.co.uk



ON THE TILES

If you happen to be down in Devon for a late summer break or are lucky enough to live in the coastal county, why not stop by Seachange Craft Studios for a creative morning learning how to mosaic? The £45 workshop runs on September 1st from 10am to 1pm, so you'll still have plenty of the day to spend splashing around in the ocean, or doing your daily errands. The price includes refreshments, a handy parking permit, and all your materials – this means get to walk away with a unique mirror decorated by your own fair hands, as well as having learnt a skill to take back home. Head to craftindevon.com to book and for details of more craft classes.

ICE IT RIGHT

Want to create professional-standard iced delights? Learn from the pros at the Biscuiteers School of Icing. On 30th August they've got a fun two-hour class planned with the theme 'Beside the Seaside'. Classes are £78, but think of all the money you'll save whipping up cookies as gifts for every occasion – from a personalised design for a newly-married couple, to Christmas gifts later in the year. With classes of no more than ten students, the workshops are intimate and hands-on, and you'll leave with a tin full of stunning biscuits as well as a lovely cotton apron to keep. Go to biscuiteers.com to book a class in one of their two London boutiques. You'll also receive a discount of 10% off anything in the shop after your lesson!



{ONLINE}



WOOL SCHOOL

If you haven't already discovered the delights of Wool and the Gang, and you love all things yarn, then you're in for a treat! This creative brand sells contemporary knitting and crochet project patterns, wool and jersey yarns in fabulous colours, as well as kits with all you need to make everything from a cushion to a clutch bag. They also have a fantastic library of instructional videos which not only take you through the basics of knitting, but cover a whole host of more tricky techniques, and also various crochet skills. Go to woolandthegang.com/videos to take your yarn craft to the next level.

AND MORE...

FOR CLASSES ON EVERYTHING FROM DRAWING TO DRESS MAKING HEAD TO UNRAVELANDUNWIND.CO.UK

Course Directory

Still searching for a craft class to sink your teeth into? Here, Editor Ella has selected several which have her personal seal of approval.

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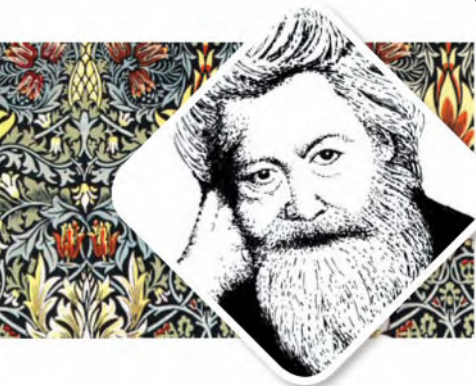
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• HOMEMAKER ICON •

William Morris

We explore how modern designers have been influenced by his countless creations... and how you can get the look too



We home crafters have a lot to thank William Morris for. The man who inspired the Arts and Crafts movement in the 19th Century, he's influenced our home décor, colour schemes and textile choices with his iconic floral motifs. Here at *Homemaker* we wanted to see how today's generation of designers have capitalised on Morris' talent, and how you can transform your home into your own Victorian palace.

When Morris launched his own interior decorating company in 1861, he blazed the trail for many a craft entrepreneur of today: he wanted to offer home decorators something new and original. Though Morris




was a designer of a brand new look for the home, he believed wholeheartedly in the traditional values exhibited by the gothic art of the middle ages. Morris' work clearly expresses utter dedication to his craft, with his trademark repeat patterns hidden within each diligently detailed design.

Carien Kremer, Curator at the William Morris Gallery, told *Homemaker* exactly how he achieved each iconic repeat print. "After poring over the original sketch [pictured, left],

a local draftsman would then design and manufacture the printing blocks. Morris would use up to 30 blocks, layering natural dye on the material then washing it, over and over again. He even spent ten years perfecting the correct recipe for his indigo dye – he would scour medieval manuals and even call professionals out of retirement to assist him." He certainly can't be accused of being a man who crafts things by halves. Even when it came to his fascination with medieval

embroidery, he was determined to master it himself, reportedly even requesting the help of his housekeeper and setting up a tapestry loom in his bedroom.

It seems his tirelessly hard work paid off; his company Morris & Co is still prominent as ever within the 21st century home interiors world. Look out for Morris' work reappearing in other designers' collections soon too, with Marc Jacobs' Morris-influenced 2015 Autumn/Winter fashion plus an upcoming home collection in John Lewis. Currently on show is perhaps one of Morris' most successful followers; the artist Jeremy Deller this summer launched his *Love is Enough* exhibition, which pairs together Morris' tapestries with Andy Warhol's prints. It's definitely one not to be missed.

The way to truly understand Morris, Carien tells us, is to understand his method. Forever a hands-on kind of crafter, Morris, according to Carien would have advised us to trial each and every art before we find the right one. Great advice for all of us makers! 

VISIT THE **WILLIAM MORRIS** GALLERY FOR FREE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR OR BROWSE MORE MORRIS PRODUCTS AT WMGALLERY.COM/SHOP/ONLINE-SHOP

WANT NEED
LOVE



Grab a bargain with this pretty-in-pink little lamp. Cute curves add attitude to a simple design, £5, wilko.com



Reminiscent of sea-glass and driftwood, this elegant light would suit a calming beachy scheme, £135, idyllhome.co.uk

Put a neutral spin on the tropical trend with this pewter-colour pineapple table lamp, £100, design55online.co.uk



Jump on board with the craze for all things blush with this sophisticated translucent option, £123, puji.com



Essential SELECTION

Light up your life with one of these stylish table lamps

STYLE ADVICE:

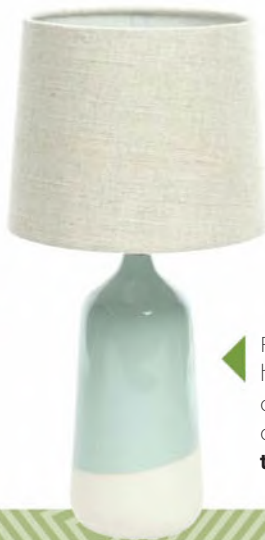
Lighting doesn't just have to be practical. With the range of designs available not only can you find a lamp to fit in your scheme, but one that also creates a design focal point in your room. Blown-glass bases are super-popular this year, and their hand-crafted look has a lasting appeal. Or go for something more quirky like the hare or pineapple lamps we've picked out here. Invest in a stunning lamp base, and it's easy to update on a budget by making your own lampshade – just check out your back issues of *Homemaker* for tutorials on different designs!



Add some country charm with this subtly-embossed design and linen-look shade, £29.99, dunelm-mill.com



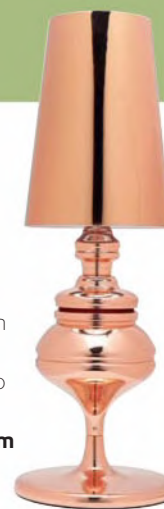
Want a bespoke-look design? Then choose a unusual base and shade combo. We love how this pleated green shade complements the amber-colour base. Base, £70; shade, £40, pooky.com



For designer style at a high street price, this on-trend dip dye design is one of our favourites, £15, tescodirect.com



We love this eccentric hare and his velveteen tassed hat! Add some furry fun to your home, £85, debenhams.com



If you haven't already noticed, copper is the current big thing in metallics. This stunning design will take any room from glum to glam, £99, marksandspencer.com

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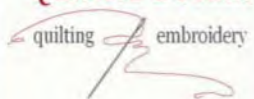
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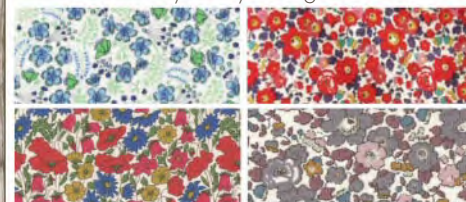
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Homemaker

NOTES

The essential guide full of tips and tricks you may find useful this month

STRUNG UP

USE TWINE TO PROTECT YOUR PLANTS AND CRAFT COOL LANTERNS

- If you have plants on a balcony it's important to secure them to bamboo supports or a trellis to protect their delicate stalks from the wind. Twine is perfect for this as it's strong and hardy, yet delicate on their fragile stems.
- Use a bright coloured string to make twine-ball lanterns by dipping lengths in PVA glue and wrapping around balloons in a random fashion, criss-crossing

around the sphere. Once the glue is hard you can pop and remove the balloon. Hang up with fairy lights for a fun homemade display.

- Find twine in a range of great colours at nutscene.com. They even have a range of neon twine in four fabulous colours for when you want to add some spark to your garden or craft project.



UPDATE WITH PAINT

GIVE FURNITURE A SHABBY CHIC LOOK WITH EASE

- Getting a vintage look can be time consuming process. However the new Americana Decor® Chalky Finish Paint makes the look easier to achieve than ever.
- The paints come in a range of classic colours that suit the shabby chic style. There is no need to sand or apply primer beforehand as the paint has a thick consistency and creamy ultra-matte finish that sits perfectly.
- To layer colours, apply a basecoat shade then rub areas with a wax resist. Paint on a contrasting color, allow to dry, then use sandpaper to remove the topcoat of paint on resist areas. Begin with light pressure to ensure only the top layer is removed. When satisfied with the finish, remove dust and apply Americana Decor® Crème Wax or Varnish to seal.

Oven temperatures

CELSIUS	FAHRENHEIT	GAS MK
110°C	225°F	¼
130°C	250°F	½
140°C	275°F	1
150°C	300°F	2
170°C	325°F	3
180°C	350°F	4
190°C	375°F	5
200°C	400°F	6
220°C	425°F	7
230°C	450°F	8

Weights and measures

If you're confused about how much of this to add, or how much of that you need, refer to our indispensable conversion chart.

1 teaspoon (tsp)	= 5ml
1 dessertspoon	= 12ml
1 tablespoon (tbs)	= 15ml
1 shot	= 25ml
1 fluid ounce (fl oz)	= 30ml
1 pint	= 568ml
1 ounce (oz)	= 28g
1 pound (lb)	= 450g
1 cup (sugar)	= 200g
1 cup (flour)	= 115g
1 cup (liquid)	= 240ml



IN GREAT SHAPE

SIZZIX DESIGNER PETE HUGHES TALKS YOU THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF DIE-CUTTING

- Die cutting is quite literally the process of cutting materials with a 'die', which is a reusable template that has a metal blade border.
- A die cutting machine uses a roller system that provides pressure to the die and blades to cut through your chosen material. It's a great alternative to using a rotary cutter or scissors, and saves time too as you can achieve identical shapes at once.
- It is fab for the multi-crafter as it can cut paper, textiles, cork, shrink plastic and balsa wood.



I'D BE LOST WITHOUT... *ceramics*

Every shelf or surface in my lounge and dining room has at least one beautiful example of ceramic art.

Quirky or trad, colourful or muted, retro or contemporary, pretty pottery is a thing of joy in our house, and because of the variety of items on offer there is always a pot, vase, plate or ornament to suit your style. I love showing off freshly cut flowers in a retro jug and arranging in a little cluster of cylinder vases for a cool still-life display.

ELLA JOHNSTON, EDITOR



Selected stockists

- The Arty Crafty place, theartycraftyplace.co.uk
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Create a kid's bedroom that will grow along with them



We all know how much children can change – and how quickly – so finding a way to decorate their bedroom without it becoming out-of-date and out-of-favour in a few months can be a challenge. Create a room that evokes their unique personality and sparks their imagination. Pick a theme, I personally love a jungle or seaside look. If you go for a 'beach shack' feel use driftwood and distressed timber furniture. As the child gets older they can accessorise with fairy lights and shells; or go nautical with boats and lighthouses.

WALLS AND FLOORS

Wallpaper is definitely back in fashion and there are some wonderful designs out there, such as bold tropical palm leaves – perfect for a jungle theme.

Put up some empty picture frames too and encourage your children to fill these with their own art. Consider using open shelves so that little ones can display the things they love rather than hiding them all away. It really is a lovely opportunity for your mini adventurers to show off any quirky 'treasures' they've gathered while out and about playing.



Children love to throw themselves around and sit on the floor, so if you can afford it go for a good carpet. Man-made fibres such as 100% acrylic are hard wearing and easy to keep clean. Avoid the temptation to put down laminate flooring without checking the floorboards first – if these can be polished up it looks so much nicer. Layer up rugs, cushions and beanbags after that to make it cosy.

SHARE AND CARE

It's always slightly difficult to decorate when children share

and can't quite agree on what they like! The key is to find a theme that all are happy with but then give them a chance to add their individual touches. You can introduce semi-physical barriers to split the room – curtains between the beds for instance (you can get ceiling fittings from ikea.com). How about a patchwork effect on the walls? I would pool

together a selection of wonderful wallpaper from Wallpaper Direct (wallpaperdirect.com), as on the website you can sort by theme. Allow each child to decorate their own space by mixing and matching sheets in any way they like, this way you create separate sections in the bedroom but with one overall scheme so the space still feels cohesive.

DESIGN AND DECORATE

Once you have created your 'base' scheme it's easy to change it simply by mixing and matching new decorative touches for an individual look. You can easily and inexpensively change lampshades, cushions and bed linen to update the overall design when necessary.

Consider magnetic paint, which I think is wonderful. It creates a surface on which magnets will stick, and turns any wall into an exciting display area that children will love. Ecos organic paints (ecosorganicpaints.co.uk) also make blackboard paint in an amazing 180 shades and is totally non-toxic – perfect for the little one's room. Let them choose the colour, and they can personalise their wall with coloured chalks anytime they want.

Get the design right and it will be an inspirational space for years to come. 📌

See Linda Barker's lovely shop, reallylindabarker.co.uk for more decorating ideas and accessories, and if you're looking for a professional tradesperson, be sure to check out her partner company checktrade.com, which has a database of reputable contacts.

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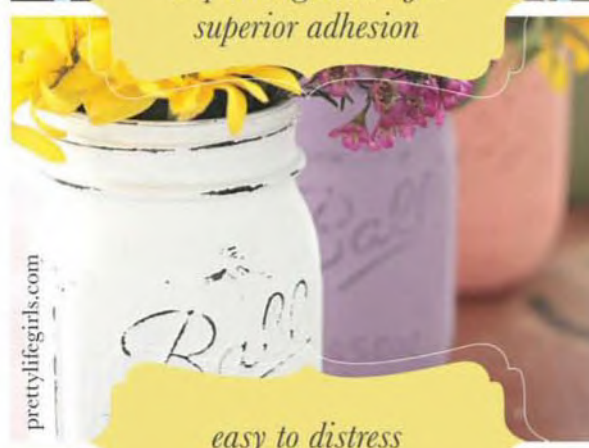
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Two stunning Computerised Long-arm Models

We've added even more fabulous features to create the amazing Memory Craft 8900QCP and the Memory Craft 8200QCP Special Edition sewing machines. The sheer length of the arm space at 280mm (11") makes them ideal for those larger projects.

With a great range of stitches and alphabets, 9mm stitch width, pattern elongation up to 5 times standard length and a built-in AcuFeed system for precise fabric handling, these models can meet every sewing challenge. Then add an easy change needle plate to enhance straight stitch performance, a new easy set bobbin system, an automatic needle threader, an easy bobbin winder, a maximum speed controller and a start/stop button if you choose not to use the foot control and you start to realise how complete these machines are. You can rest assured they offer spectacular stitch quality at speeds up to 1,000 stitches per minute and there is even a memory to store stitch combinations, a knee lifter and a remote thread-cutter port on the MC8900QCP Special Edition!

It doesn't matter whether you are quilting, dressmaking, crafting or making home furnishings, with creativity this easy you'll just want to get started.



MEMORY CRAFT 8200QCP
SPECIAL EDITION



MEMORY CRAFT 8900QCP
SPECIAL EDITION

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

The World's leading sewing machine manufacturer

JANOME