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# sew

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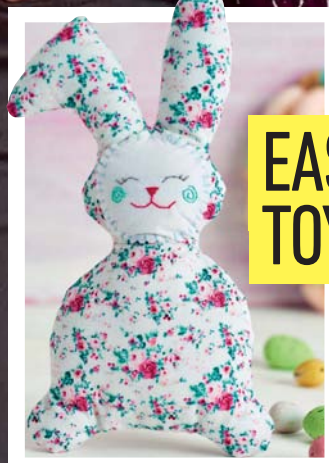


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Email: [info@rmf-moebel.com](mailto:info@rmf-moebel.com)



Editor, Jennifer Ward  
jennifer.ward@aceville.co.uk  
01206 505420

Deputy Editor, Melissa Hyland  
melissa@aceville.co.uk  
01206 505423

Editorial Assistant, Sian Whitehead  
sian.whitehead@aceville.co.uk  
01206 505917

Contributors  
Emma Thompson, Elena Thompson

Publishing Director, Helen Tudor

Advertisement Sales  
Hannah Suttling  
hannah.suttling@aceville.co.uk  
01206 505495

Anna Spilsbury  
anna.spilsbury@aceville.co.uk  
01206 505932

Sarah Collins  
sarah.collins@mspublications.co.uk  
01206 506255

Jackie Weddell  
jackie.weddell@mspublications.co.uk  
01206 506221

Jo Bluck  
jo.bluck@aceville.co.uk  
01206 506253

Art Director  
Phil Dunham

Designers  
Gemma Eales, Cat Morton,  
Fiona Palmer

Ad Production  
Angela Scrivener

Photography  
CliQQ Photography www.cliqq.co.uk

Models  
Joanna Stubbs, Hannah O'Connell,  
MOT Models, Daisy Pettinger, Nevs

Accounts  
Denise Bubbs  
01206 505958

Subscription Enquiries/  
Back Issues  
01795 592967

Website Enquiries  
webmaster@sewmag.co.uk

Newtrade Sales  
Marketforce 0203 148 3300

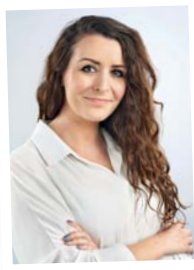
Marketing Manager  
Andrea Turner

Subscriptions Executive  
Jo Gould  
sew@servicehelpline.co.uk

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## Welcome...



It's really starting to feel like spring is here, and if your resolutions for 2017 haven't quite happened yet, this season is as good a time as any to start afresh and make them happen. Your FREE gift this month is New Look 6843, which offers five different skirt styles – each with an amazing sewing time of **one hour**. I made one recently on a Sunday evening and went for style E. It's a great pattern! One of the things I love most about skirts is that you can try them on

and adjust the hem to get the **perfect length** for you. Whether you're new to stitching or more experienced, your pattern offers plenty to entertain and is **quick to make**. Come Monday morning, I felt great wearing my new skirt... Ed Assistant Sian explores this idea on p46, and making time for your hobby.

You'll find lots more this month to inspire your **spring wardrobe** – we have a **no-pattern** sweatshirt from *Sewing Bee's* Matt Chapple on p18, and an elegant top that uses Broderie Anglaise and only three pattern pieces on p28. Our duo print dress (p40), **satin bomber jacket** (p24) and shirred blouse (p34) are perfect for this time of year too. We've explored a number of **different fabrics** this issue, so I hope you feel inspired to venture out of your comfort zone! Fancy a quick sewing fix? You'll love our **project showcase** with the Distant Dreams collection by Dashwood Studio – try our handy sit 'n' stitch caddy (p78), pretty purse (p79), dinosaur toy (p80) or adorable baby sleeping bag (p81). We have bee embroidery on p75 and a super-speedy toy that is perfect for **Easter festivities** on p72.

We also announce the winners of the *British Sewing Awards 2016* on p56 (don't miss it!) and showcase more of your **fabulous entries** to our *Dressmaker of the Year* competition (p32). The time will soon be here for me to sit down with the other judges... it's going to be a lot of fun, although extremely difficult to shortlist your entries. Whatever you decide to start stitching this month, I hope you **feel inspired** and enjoy your creative pursuits – with the evenings getting lighter, it definitely means there are more stitchy hours in the day!

*Jenny*

Jennifer Ward, Editor



YOUR  
FREE  
GIFT!

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Online this month, I love...  
... hearing all of your reasons why you want *The Great British Sewing Bee* to stay – check out on our blog! The series hasn't been confirmed yet, but I am still super hopeful that it will be going ahead.



Subscribe  
TODAY!

For your FREE Gem Master or Fabric Master, worth over £30! See p42

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# sew

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## Subscribe TODAY!

Choose your FREE\* ANTEX gift when you subscribe to Sew magazine today! With this month's subscription choose either The Gem Master or The Fabric Master. Worth £35.



# April 2017

## FREEBIES & OFFERS

### 14 50% off New Look 6106

Don't miss your discount on this great pattern!

### 39 50% off THREE essential patterns

Get your knit on and claim discounts on Simplicity 1429, New Look 6381 and New Look 6343.

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Take out a subscription to Sew and receive this fab offer!

### 74 20% off Liberty fabrics

Claim your discount off jersey fabrics at Sewbox.



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## FREE THIS MONTH...

Whatever your dressmaking skill level, you'll love stitching our FREE pattern on offer this month. New Look 6843 offers a total of five skirts for you to sew, so there's bound to be a style to suit your personality.



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FREE NEXT  
MONTH  
Easy-sew tops for  
everyday style!



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# Want it now!

*Things we're coveting in the world of stitching this month*



## MATERIAL NEEDS

Looking for a special fabric for your next project? Sew Me Fabrics offers a wide range of exclusive designs in various prints and knits, thanks to years of building contacts in the textile industry. The team sources all kinds of prototype fabrics including knits, laces, jacquards, polyester, viscose and much more. Examples include this Amy colourful scuba fabric, priced £8.95 per metre, and the Kylie black and red knitted print at £3.95 per metre. Sew Me Fabrics' stock tends to be limited as it is constantly updated, so check out [www.sewme fabrics.co.uk](http://www.sewme fabrics.co.uk) to see what's in store now.



## CIRCUS FABRIC COLLECTION, TILDA FABRICS

We always get excited at Sew HQ when Tilda launches a new fabric collection and the latest release, named Circus, has really captured our hearts. It features on-trend elephant motifs and other traditional circus imagery alongside pretty florals in flamboyant red, turquoise, green and blue. Fabrics start from £16.80 per metre, and the range also includes fat quarters, fabric bundles, ribbons and buttons, plus elephant and giraffe soft toy kits. To find your nearest stockist, email [groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk)



## STITCH IN TIME

The Brother FS210 sewing machine, now available at Create and Craft, is a stitcher's dream! It offers 210 unique built-in stitches, including eight styles of one-step buttonholes and two alphabet styles, so that you can add personalised touches to your creations in an instant. This innovative machine has an abundance of user-friendly features, plus you'll also get 13 sewing feet to tailor your clothing to different styles, a wide extension table for an extra-large work space, and much more. Visit [www.createandcraft.com](http://www.createandcraft.com) to see the latest deals.



**hot  
on the  
high  
street**

*get the  
look!*

A lightweight lined coat is an invaluable wardrobe staple during the early spring months with the inevitable April showers. This stylish number by designer Margot Bowman for River Island has something of a 60s vibe, yet the funky eye print fabric brings it right up to date. Create a similar look with Simplicity 1197, which is based on an original vintage pattern and also offers a smart shift dress option. Priced £8.95, visit [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com)



Margot Bowman coat, £65, [www.riverisland.com](http://www.riverisland.com)



## DIARY DATES

25th March

**THE SELVEDGE FAIR**

The Assembly Rooms, Bath

29th March-1st April

**THE WI FAIR**

Alexandra Palace, London

31st March-2nd April

**SPRING QUILT FESTIVAL**

Westpoint Exhibition Centre, Exeter

7th-9th April

**BRITISH QUILT & STITCH VILLAGE 2017**

Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

20th-22nd April

**STITCHING, SEWING & HOBBY CRAFTS**

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## MOUSE TALES

We're loving Cath Kidston and Disney's collaboration to create fabulous new ranges! Everyone's favourite couple, Mickey and Minnie Mouse have been combined with Cath Kidston's classic Button Spot, London, Linen Sprig and Mews Ditsy prints, to decorate fabrics, accessories and homewares. This Mickey & Minnie tote bag, priced £42, is sure to turn heads! See the full range at [www.cathkidston.com](http://www.cathkidston.com) and watch this space for a new 101 Dalmatians collection that will be launched very soon.

## BEST IN SHOW

Hochanda has partnered with Create It Events to bring you the best craft, hobby and art suppliers, plus an amazing selection of demonstrations and make & takes, all under one roof. The shows will cater to a wide variety of crafts and hobbies including sewing and quilting. You will also be able to watch Hochanda broadcast live from the event, meet your favourite presenters and take part in a live studio audience as the broadcasts take place throughout the day. The first show will be held at the Kent Event Centre from 13th-14th May 2017. Get your early bird tickets now from [www.hochanda.com](http://www.hochanda.com)







# What you're saying...

Share your crafty makes and stories with us to be in with the chance of winning a fantastic prize!



*"It's so good to hear from you"*

Sian Whitehead  
Editorial Assistant

## ★ Star Letter ★

*"I made this great jacket using tapestry fabric!"*

I wanted to share with you the jacket I made using Simplicity 8055, which came free with issue 87. I love this pattern and have made both a long and short version. I used the most incredible tapestry fabric that I found at the Knitting & Stitching Show at Ally Pally in October, and I've had so many compliments when I wear it. Everyone wants to know where I bought it, and it makes me so happy and proud to say that I made it! Although there are quite a few pieces, the construction comes together pretty quickly and I love the pockets that sit within the body darts - I'll definitely be making more of these in the future.

**Jennifer Cockcroft**

*We love your bold choice of fabric Jennifer, it looks so effective!*



*"I made this play mat from issue 61"*

This is the gorgeous Georgina relaxing on the play mat that I recently made for her, using the pattern from issue 61 of Sew. It only took a couple of afternoons to stitch and I used a lot of scrap material that I had, although I bought the lovely panda fabric from a fair last September. I had so much fun making this - I look forward to my copy of Sew each month!

**Carol Clancy**

*That's one happy customer Carol! Georgina looks delighted with her lovely new mat, well done.*



*"I stitched garments for charity"*

After reading about the charity Little Dresses for Africa, I decided to make some garments to send to them. I asked at work if anyone had any old quilt covers or pillowcases that I could have and thanks to a friend, I was able to make eight reversible dresses. I also used fabric and ribbons from my stash. I now have some fabric suitable for boys, so I will be making some shorts and even more dresses in the near future!

**Tricia Ross**

*It's great to see you were inspired, Tricia - the recipients are sure to appreciate all of your efforts!*

*"I turned my late husband's shirts into cushions"*

I knew my husband was loved by so many people so when he passed away last year, I decided that instead of sending his shirts to charity I would use them to make our boys, friends and grandchildren a cushion each.

**Sarah Smith**

*These cushions are sure to be treasured, Sarah - what a wonderful idea!*







## WIN *this bumper selection of fabrics!*

This month, our Star Letter winner will receive a bumper selection of fabrics from Minerva Crafts, worth £50. We also have £10 worth for each runner-up. For more stitching goodies, visit [www.minervacrafts.com](http://www.minervacrafts.com)



## Show & Tell

Share your latest stitchy triumphs with **sew!**

### *"I made a tote from Harris Tweed fabric"*

This is a bag I made using Harris Tweed and Essex linen from the Blue Calla Mimosa Market Tote pattern. It was a bit of a labour of love, taking about six hours in total to make. The bag itself wasn't hard to construct but there was an awful lot of cutting and fusing, which added to the time. I love it and would ideally like to keep it for myself, but sadly, this one is destined for my Etsy shop.

**Jenny Sim**

*We think it was certainly worth all of that cutting out. The fabric choice is amazing – it's a shame you can't keep this one!*



### **Wendy Cross**

I've been making dollies!



### **@Tilly\_Mint**

I made a lovely Tula Pink scissor caddy to hold my precious Tula Pink scissors – a gift from Mr. Mint!



### **Candy Arbuckle**

@SewHQ I've made this little chap as a baby gift, with very soft lightweight denim on the reverse and some felt pieces.



### *"This dress was so easy to sew!"*

I made this kimono tie dress from issue 91 of *Sew*. I have been making my own dresses for just over a year now, and this one was so easy to stitch. I wore it to a Christmas meal with my work colleagues and had plenty of compliments. I was even able to eat dessert by letting the tie belt out ever so slightly!

**Nikki Reardon**

*We knew this dress would be a popular make, Nikki. It's easy to see why you were swamped with compliments!*



### **Helen Parker**

I just finished my peacock dress (or key pock, as my son calls it!)



### **Amy Stewart**

I made this for my daughter from Dashwood fabric and a Simplicity pattern – ready for summer to get here!



**Get in touch** Write in and share your creations, tips and views



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# *your* **FREE** **NEWLOOK** *pattern!*

ONE HOUR  
MAKES

## *5 Stylish* **Skirts**

**NEWLOOK**

6843

We're loving easy-wear, easy-make skirts this month thanks to the great ONE HOUR pattern that comes **FREE** with your issue. With five design options to choose from, there's a style and length to suit all. Mix and match your choice of fabrics to suit the occasion and add a whole host of these must-stitch items to your wardrobe.



# 35 pages of dressmaking



Satin bomber jacket  
p24



Shirred floral blouse  
p34



Easy duo prints  
p40



# your **FREE** NEW**LOOK** patterns!

FIVE EASY  
STYLES



## Why use these techniques?

Adding soft pleating and darts to a garment is a great way to give your clothing shape, while allowing you to control the fabric's fullness. Inserting a dart helps create a shaped piece of fabric, which will beautifully fit the contours of your body. Darts can be applied to the waist, bust and back, and always come in pairs!



## What's your **Simplicity** size?

Remember to use your body measurements to find your pattern size, NOT your ready-to-wear size that you'd buy in the high street shops. Visit [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com) to find out more about taking accurate measurements and getting the right fit for your shape.



Style B  
Flattering Fit

Necklace, £5.99, New Look, Shoes, £19.99, New Look, Bag, £39.99, T.K. Maxx



# Your easy NEWLOOK skirts

**NEWLOOK**

offer tips on soft  
pleating and darts



## Creating a successful pleat

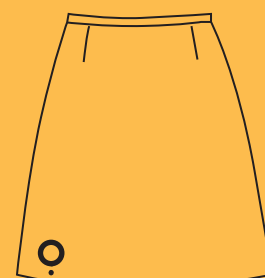
Mark the pleats on the wrong side of the fabric and transfer the marks to the right side. Using a different colour chalk marker for each, draw out the fold and placement lines. Make sure your pleats are evenly placed and when you're happy with the spacing, machine stitch across the top of the pleats to secure in place and affix to the waistband. Using a dry pressing cloth, hold the iron roughly 6cm away from the pleat. Apply gentle steam and allow to dry fully.



sew *style*

## What is soft pleating?

Pleats consist of a series of folds, which can be soft or crisp, depending on the fabric you're using. Soft pleating is perfect for fabrics such as knits and jerseys that drape well, and is a good choice for beginners. Pleating isn't difficult to do, but just requires accurate measuring, stitching, and a little patience.



Style E  
Flared skirt

## 5 tips for sewing waist darts

- 1 It can be useful to mark the lines with chalk and press the dart before sewing to help retain the shape.
- 2 Start to sew from the top of the dart at the widest end. Use the marked line to position the fabric so you sew in a straight line.
- 3 The tapering off at the bottom point of the dart is the most vital part for a crisp dart. Reducing your stitch length will help you get close to this point.
- 4 Never backstitch at the dart bottom. Instead, tie a knot in the thread to secure it in place.
- 5 Always sew your darts one after the other. This increases the chance of getting them to match identically.





# your FREE NEW LOOK pattern!



## How I made it

**Dressmaker Vie  
Millard's top tips**

**for working with New Look 6483**

- The waistband is quite narrow, so making a small button and cotton loop might make it easier to work with, compared to a button and buttonhole. Alternatively, you can cut the waistband slightly wider.
- If matching stripes or patterns, take into consideration that extra fabric may be required.
- Carefully identify the top of a print and cut each piece following the direction of the design.
- If you've never inserted a zip into a garment before, this pattern is a great introduction to the technique. You can purchase special zipper feet to help with this.

**50% off**

**Just for you!**

If you love our one-hour skirts but require a different size bracket, we're offering New Look 6106 for the special price of £3.48 (RRP £6.95), plus 85p postage. Just quote SEW6106 at the checkout when you visit [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com).

Offer available from 9th March to 6th April.



## accessorise in style

Boots from T.K.Maxx, £19.999



Sweater from  
New Look, £17.99



Handbag from T.K.Maxx, £39.99



“For a style to suit you, why not experiment with different lengths?”

**Vie Millard,  
Dressmaker**



## Material needs



**Robert Kaufman  
Chambray Cotton  
Dots in Royal**

£14 per metre,  
[www.celticfusionfabrics.com](http://www.celticfusionfabrics.com)



**Liberty Grand  
Bazaar Rossmore  
Cord in Cream**

£35 per metre,  
[www.libertylondon.com](http://www.libertylondon.com)

Jumper, £16.00, Next; Boots, £39.50, Marks & Spencer

## NEXT MONTH'S FREE 6376 PATTERN

Add a collection of versatile tops to your stitch list thanks to this New Look 6376 pattern – FREE with next month's issue. Choose from four great easy-make styles that will all look beautiful made in a variety of different fabrics. Perfect for building your wardrobe! On sale 6th April.





LOVE THAT FABRIC

# Easter extravaganza

*Charming chicks and pretty polka dots are this season's must-haves*

With a hop, skip and a jump we're frolicking into spring thanks to this array of fun Easter prints. Combine sweet fabric designs with adorably cute notions to create garments that chirp with delight!

Get 10% off\* at  
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with your exclusive  
code **SEWMAG**



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\*one discount per customer



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awesome«

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LEARN WITH...

Matt Chapple

# NO-PATTERN SWEATSHIRT

*Inspired by a poncho-style top, this stylish pullover designed by Sewing Bee's Matt Chapple is sewn from sweatshirt material for a relaxed, slouchy look. Simply draft your personalised garment with a few vital measurements, then get sewing.*

## Essentials

- Sweatshirt fabric, 1.5m
- Matching or contrasting thread
- Buttons, four
- Machine buttonhole foot

## Required measurements

Waist

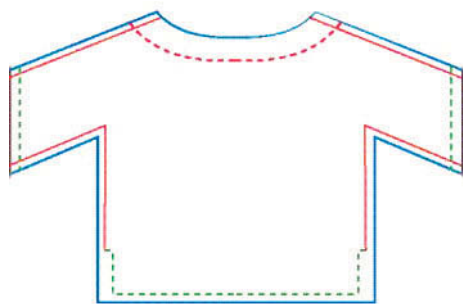
Nape to hem edge

Neck edge to sleeve hem

Preferred sleeve width

## Dimensions

Custom sized



- Seams to join
- Facing x 2
- - - Sleeve and hems
- Fabric on the double fold

## stitch a weekend top

**1** Take your waist measurement, add 25cm then halve the total. Lay the fabric right side down and centrally mark out the lower hemline according to your new waist measurement, including a 1.5cm seam allowance on all sides plus an additional 25cm at either end for the sleeves. Mark the centre point of this hemline.

**2** From the centre point of the hemline, measure your waist to nape measurement at a right angle, then add 1.5cm to this point and mark. Measure 14cm outwards each way from this central neck edge point, and

up by 3.5cm. Draw a smooth curve to join these three points. From these outer points, measure the desired sleeve length, adding on 1.5cm. Drop by 7cm and mark – this is to angle the sleeves down from the neck line.

**3** Mark out the sleeve – this is just the sleeve width measurement marked at right angles to the hem line. Make a small mark at the desired sleeve width, but carry on this line all the way to the hemline. You should have two rectangle shapes with one edge having a protruding shoulder/neck line shape to it (see the diagram). Cut out two from fabric, pattern matching if required. Pin the outer edges of the two garment pieces, leaving the neck and armholes, and try it on for size, double checking that the waist and armholes have enough room.

**4** When happy, slip in a couple of pins to mark where it felt comfortable then, using these as a guide, mark out a further two lines for each of the arms – one straight up from the waistline side seam at the hemline, and one parallel to the angle of the upper sleeve, beginning at the sleeve lower point. These two will meet at the armpit. Cut out a neck edge facing by copying the neck edge shape and the first 5cm-8cm of the garment. Cut out two of these and set to one side.

**5** Lay the two garment pieces with right sides together. Pin around the outer edge, except for the neck edge, armholes and waist edge. Mark the side seam 16.5cm up from the hemline. Join the shoulder seams together with a 1.5cm seam allowance, using either an over-edge stitch, or a straight stitch followed by zigzag. Secure the thread ends by tying off or double stitching. Beginning on the arm lower edge, join together, pivoting the corner on the armpit by leaving the needle down, turning the garment, then stitching the side seams. Stop at the mark made on the side seam – this will make the placket sections for the buttons. Secure the thread ends.

**6** Trim the excess up to the edge of the stitching. Snip the armpit corner excess, being careful not to cut the stitches. For the

placket parts, cut downwards at a 45° angle towards the final stitch of the side seam, much like an arrow head. Press back and pin the plackets to the inside so that they follow the line of the side seam. These should be 1.5cm. Stitch the plackets with a straight stitch beginning on the hem edge, and stitch up to the top of the slit. Turn 90° and stitch across, then turn another 90° and stitch back down the opposite side. If preferred, you can strengthen the placket top edge by going back over it.

**7** Fold the lower hem edge upwards to the wrong side by 2cm, press and pin. Straight stitch on a 1.5cm seam allowance. Fold the sleeve edges inwards by 2cm and straight stitch with a 1.5cm seam allowance. Place the facing sections right sides together and join on the short edges. Place the facing to the garment neck edge, right sides together, matching the shoulder seams, pin, and sew along the neck edge. Trim the excess and clip into the curve to sit flat.

**8** Turn the facing to the inside and press the neck edge from within, ensuring the seam is worked out fully. Topstitch the neck edge with a 1.5cm allowance to hold the facings in place inside. Decide on the button placement for the side-seam plackets. Using a buttonhole setting, make two buttonholes on one of the placket parts and a mirror image pair on the same placket part on the opposite side seam. Stitch the buttons to the inside of the other placket parts, so they overlay one another and sit flat.

## Learning curve

A French curve ruler is ideal for drawing the curve to join the three points marked in step 2. If you don't have one, just start shallow from the centre and steepen the curve at the outer points.





*"Try stitching this sweatshirt from T-shirt or jersey fabric to wear during spring and summer"*

Melissa Hyland,  
Sew Deputy Editor

## get the book



Sew more stylish garments and learn essential techniques in *Make It, Own It, Love It* by Matt Chapple (£20, Jacqui Small LLP). Visit [www.quartoknows.com](http://www.quartoknows.com)

## next month...

Stitch this summery wrap skirt by Nicole Smith.





# Lauren Guthrie

“I find that I'm always trying to strike the perfect work, life and sewing balance...”

**I**'m really enjoying the longer days at the moment and can't wait for spring to fully be here. With baby Sophia around during the day, it can be quite hard to get really productive with my work in the shop – not to mention my sewing – so I usually have to wait till she's in bed. She's growing up so fast and changes from month to month, so I'm always trying to find new and different ways to strike the balance between looking after her and working at the shop.

**I'm really lucky to have such a fantastic team behind me at g&g.**

My manager Claire takes care of a lot of the things I used to, which frees me up to focus on the things I enjoy the most. I love sourcing and buying new fabric and products, sewing garments, blogging, chatting to customers on social media, teaching workshops and giving demonstrations – to name just a few!

**I love demonstrating techniques,** and had a great time at the Knitting and Stitching show at Olympia in London, at the beginning of March. I can't wait to do it all again at the Edinburgh show towards the end of April! The show runs from 27th–30th April at the Royal Highland Centre and you can get discounted tickets with the code DISCS2. I'll be putting on two demonstrations a day, one on sewing with jersey fabrics and one on how to make a neat piped cushion cover. I'll also be taking a selection of g&g fabrics and notions to sell on our stand!

**To showcase some of the fabrics that I've been taking on the road,** I've been making some lovely new dresses that are both comfortable and practical... which means pockets. I always feel a little lost when an outfit doesn't have them! The new Zadie dress from Tilly and the Buttons has been a big hit with its lovely big pockets and flattering style, featuring a fitted bodice and flared skirt. The seams between the panels of the bodice help to create the illusion of a smaller waist, which is never a bad thing. I made mine using our new navy blue medium-weight flecked jersey. It's a lovely fabric to sew!



*Lauren on the perils of striking the life and work balance*

*i love...*



ZADIE DRESS PATTERN BY  
TILLY AND THE BUTTONS, £12.50,  
[WWW.GUTHRIE-GHANI.CO.UK](http://WWW.GUTHRIE-GHANI.CO.UK)

**It's usually fairly straightforward to add pockets to a garment,** even if the pattern you're making doesn't include them. You could opt for simple patch pockets and add them on at the front or back hip. If you know that you want them big enough to fit items such as your phone, for example, you can use it to help make a template – just remember to add a seam allowance all the way around.

**Making patch pockets is very simple!**

Cut out two pieces for each pocket and sew together with right sides facing, leaving a gap. Trim the seam allowance, then turn out though the gap. Carefully press the edges and topstitch in place on your garment. To strengthen the top corners, either sew a bar tack or the outline of a little triangle using straight stitch. This will prevent the pocket straining or ripping.

**Alternatively, add in-seam versions to the side of your skirt or dress.** To do this, cut two pocket pieces for each, and sew one to the front of the garment and one to the back. Then press the pocket piece out towards the side so that it almost looks like an ear sticking out. When you come to sew the front and back of the garment together with right sides facing, you sew down to the pocket piece and around it, before continuing with the rest of the seam. You'll then have your in-seam pocket!

*Happy sewing*

*My 'pocket' pattern picks*

Zadie Dress, Tilly and the Buttons

Belladone Dress, Deer&Doe

Brumby Skirt, Megan Nielsen

Browse Lauren's range of patterns, fabrics and more at [www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk](http://www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk)



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# possibilities

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# Pattern

*Exclusive style advice*

SEW A FUN

## Evening elegance

A great example of the style that can be created with lace and satin. This is a fantastic look for a night out!



Vogue 9160  
Sizes 4-20

CASUAL  
VERSIONS  
TOO!

## Summer style

This is a great jumpsuit to sew for the holidays. Make one with shorts for the beach, and a full-length version for evenings.

Simplicity 1355  
Sizes XXS-XXL



Most patterns feature international sizes which differ from ready-to-wear sizing. It is essential that you take your exact body measurements and compare with the sizing charts on each pattern.



# Picks

with May Martin

## JUMPSUIT

### Daytime wear

Princess seaming and pattern pieces to suit different cup sizes make this jumpsuit easy to fit, while the pleats create a flattering fullness across the stomach.



McCall's 7167  
Sizes 6-22

LONG &  
SHORT  
STYLES

#### STOCKIST INFORMATION

For Simplicity patterns, visit [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com), 0161 480 8734.

For McCall's and Vogue patterns, visit [www.sewdirect.com](http://www.sewdirect.com), 0344 880 1263.

Sew columnist



### Exclusive Sew columnist May Martin advises on sewing the perfect jumpsuit

I still remember the very first jumpsuit that I made in the 60s from shiny tangerine jersey! They are so versatile – a fun pattern in cotton or jersey can become smart and elegant when sewn from satin and lace.

#### Check the fabric print

Two of the patterns I've chosen this month are made in fabric with a nap or a one-way design. Care needs to be taken when placing and cutting the pattern pieces on a print. Drape the fabric and stand back to examine the pattern, then turn it round and look again – you will see fairly quickly if it is a two-way design or whether it has a distinct top and bottom.

#### Cutting the pieces

There may be a clue on the selvedge – some fabrics have an arrow indicating the correct way up. In the case of a one-way design, all pattern pieces should be cut out in the same direction so that the print travels down the body consistently on all garment pieces.

#### Napped fabrics

The Vogue evening outfit is made from lace and satin – treat both as napped or one way fabrics. Cut all the pieces out in the same direction, otherwise they may appear to be different shades when the garment is complete.

Until next month,

May Martin



For more dressmaking advice, be sure to pick up *May Martin's Sewing Bible: 40 Years of Tips and Tricks* (£25, [www.harpercollins.co.uk](http://www.harpercollins.co.uk)).



## Essentials

- Main fabric, 1.2m x 1.5m
- Lining, 1.2m x 1.5m
- Contrasting ribbing, 50cm
- Open ended zip, 45cm
- Coordinating thread

## Dimensions

Small (bust 88cm), medium (bust 92cm), large (bust 96cm)

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout.

## Cutting guide

**Front:** cut one pair in fabric and lining

**Back:** cut one on the fold in fabric and lining

**Sleeve:** cut one pair in fabric and lining

**Pocket:** cut two pairs from fabric

**Collar:** cut one on the fold in ribbing

**Sleeve cuffs:** cut two 18cm x 20cm pieces from ribbing

**Waistband:** cut a 18cm x 66cm piece from ribbing

## sew a jacket

**1** Go online to [www.sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://www.sewmag.co.uk/templates) to download and print the pattern. Cut out all of the pieces as described in the cutting guide. Position the pockets on the side edges of both the front and back jacket pieces as indicated. With right sides together, pin then stitch in place. Fold the pockets out from the side seams and press.

**2** Lay the front pieces of the jacket on top of the back piece, right sides facing. Match the shoulder edges together, pin, stitch, and press the seams open. Repeat for the lining pieces. Align the side seams and the pockets on the front and back side edges together and stitch. Press the seams towards the front jacket. Match and stitch the side seams of the lining together.

**3** Adjust the stitch length to number five and sew a row of gathering stitches around the head of the sleeves, starting from the front notch and finishing at the back notches. Match, pin and stitch the underarm sleeve seams together, right sides facing, and press the seams open. Pull the gathering threads up slightly and then place the sleeves, matching the notches into the armholes of the jacket. Align the side seams and the underarm seam of the sleeves together. When happy with the position, pin and stitch the sleeves in place. Make the sleeve linings in the same way and sew into the body of the jacket lining.

**4** With right sides together, fold the waistband in half lengthways, pin, then stitch the ends together. Turn the band to the right side, mark the centre with a pin, then mark the quarter points in the same way. Match the raw edges of the waistband and the base of the jacket together. The sewn ends of the waistband should be positioned 1.5cm away from the centre front edges, the quarter points match the side seams and the centre to the centre back of the jacket base. Pin these points together.

The rib will need stretching as you stitch to fit the base of the jacket, so sew small amounts at a time.

**5** Match and sew the width of the cuff ends together to make a tube. Fold the cuff in half, matching the two raw edges of the length together. Place the cuff over the end of the sleeves, matching the seam in the cuff to the underarm seam of the sleeve. As before,

the cuff will need stretching as you sew to fit the ends of the sleeves.

**6** Fold the collar in half along the fold line marked on the pattern. Position the ribbed collar around the neckline of the jacket, matching the centre of the collar with the centre back neck. Clip around the neckline, making it easier to sew the collar in place.

*Oh sew chic!*

# bomber jacket

Keep warm with this stitchy must-have!

Did we hear someone say biker glam? Made in a gorgeous floral satin, this super stylish jacket by Amanda Walker is sure to wow.

Use a bold print for statement appeal and build your skills by finishing the cuffs with a contrasting ribbed fabric.





# the haberdashery



**Birds printed satin**

£12.70 per metre,  
[www.abakhan.co.uk](http://www.abakhan.co.uk)



**7** Attach the right-hand side of the zip to the right-hand side of the jacket and sew in place as far as the rib. Place the zip face-down on the right side of the jacket, using a zipper foot stitch close to the teeth. The teeth of the zip should be facing in towards the jacket front. Repeat the process on the left-hand side. When the garment is finished, there won't be any stitching on the right side of the zip. Edge stitch the edges of the rib to the remainder of the zip. Ensure the waistband base edges are level.

**8** Turn the jacket to the right side, leaving the lining un-turned. Match the necklines and front edges together, pin and sew in place. The zip will be sandwiched in-between the jacket and the lining. Trim the bulk from the corners, including the top of the zip, and turn the lining inside the jacket. Match the ends of the sleeve linings to the jacket sleeve and stitch in place, stretching the rib as before.

**9** Turn the lining and the jacket inside out. Match the base of the jacket and the lining together and sew across, leaving a gap in the stitching line in the centre back of the jacket. It can be difficult to sew right to the edge of the zip so leave these parts open. Turn the jacket through the gap to the right side. Slip stitch the gap closed and the small open parts on the corner edges of the rib and zip. Give the jacket a good press to finish.





# The secrets of... THE MINISKIRT

MELISSA HYLAND  
LOOKS BACK OVER  
THE HISTORY OF THIS  
ICONIC GARMENT

**M**ention 60s fashion and you might imagine a tall, slender young lady wearing a rather short miniskirt. This statement garment raised eyebrows along with the hemlines of the time, and has retained its popularity ever since.

However, despite being such an iconic fashion keystone, the miniskirt didn't truly take off until as late as 1965, when model Jean Shrimpton caused a sensation at the Melbourne Cup carnival in Australia, wearing a Colin Rolfe white minidress. Prior to this, as fashion historians Daniel James Cole and Nancy Diehl reveal in *The History of Modern Fashion*, 'Vogue clearly decreed "NO" on March 15, 1962 to 'a skirt three or four inches above the knee.'

It was definitely a style initially aimed at teenagers and young women, whose tastes in fashion, music and lifestyle came in for derision and concern from the more conservative older generation. Yet as more people embraced thigh-length hemlines, the fashion industry was eventually forced to admit that the trend was there to stay, for a little while at least. Modelled by style icons such as Twiggy – who wore it with her trademark cropped hair and long eyelashes – a number of women helped to cement the miniskirt as an integral part of the 60s look.

## On the rise

So who invented this controversial garment in the first place? Miniskirts have long been associated with various fashion designers – particularly Mary Quant, who played a major role in the Swinging London scene and mod style. But even though miniskirts were popularised in her collections, it seems

that rising hemlines had actually been around far earlier than quaint nostalgia would have you believe. Minidresses had already been seen during the 50s and there had even been short tennis dresses during the 30s, not to mention the scanty costumes worn by 20s showgirls.

That said, Mary Quant certainly played a huge role in planting the garment firmly on the fashion map – it's rumoured she first coined the term 'miniskirt' after her favourite car, the Mini Cooper. Quant's career in fashion design began when she and her business partner and husband, Alexander Plunkett-Greene, teamed up with photographer Archie Nair to open her first boutique, Bazaar, on London's King's Road, in 1955. Offering trendy yet high-end clothing and accessories within a fun environment, Bazaar quickly became a fashion hotspot, and a second branch designed by Terence Conran was opened in 1957.

Mary wanted to offer simple, youthful clothes that were practical and liberating, allowing women to move and run around easily. With her team of machinists, she was able to make skirts to the length people wanted, and has been quoted as saying that really it was her customers who 'invented' the miniskirt – she wore short skirts herself, but they demanded that theirs should be even higher!

*"By 1966 the previously  
nay-saying Vogue  
declared that 'the  
miniskirt is the snippiest  
bit of fashion today'"*

**Daniel James Cole & Nancy Diehl,**  
*The History of Modern Fashion*



This 2009 British postal stamp commemorates Mary Quant's contribution to British fashion







Create your own mini dress with Simplicity 1609

**SEW YOUR OWN**

For 60s style Simplicity patterns, visit [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com), 0161 480 8734.

*"I love the way miniskirts were worn with bright colours and go-go boots"*

**Laura Dickson, Sew reader**

## Fond memories

One popular way to wear miniskirts was with long boots, plus bright or harlequin-patterned tights, as *Sew* reader Elaine Allwood fondly recalls. "I had many very short skirts in my teens... I'm now 62!" she says. "I also favoured bright red tights and my Dad said they looked like sticks of rhubarb – I'll never forget that."

"At nearly 62 years of age, I keep my skirts nearer my knees – however, I definitely wore miniskirts in the 60s," says *Sew* reader Di Kendall. "When I was 16, I wore a bright yellow double jersey version that had a chunky metal front zip with a large ring pull. I combined it with a purple skinny rib jumper that was sleeveless, with a roll collar. My sixth form uniform was also rather short. As a teacher today, I've often found it amusing to have to enforce rules about the length of our young people's skirts!"

## Keeping it short

Since then, the miniskirt has stood the test of time and has made many a comeback over the decades. "During the 80s I loved wearing my Mum's original 60s miniskirt to college because it was so different to what everyone else had on. I'd wear it now if it still fit me – and if I hadn't accidentally

shrunk it in the wash!" confesses *Sew* reader Megan Parkinson. "It was an orange, yellow and brown design made of wool and I wore it with thick black tights, a hand-knitted black jumper and flat black shoes – my favourite outfit!"

In fact even today, the miniskirt is still turning heads. "I wasn't around in the 60s – but I wish I had been!" says *Sew* reader Laura Dickson. "I watch *Heartbeat* all the time and it was character Gina Ward's



miniskirts that got me hooked. I've started sewing my own 60s wardrobe with very short skirts, mini shift dresses and go-go boots. I love a good short mini – I have six of them now and I'm making a few more to wear with knee-high boots in the winter, and ankle boots or retro pumps in summer."

Laura has just completed a fabulous houndstooth miniskirt and is currently working on another with a chevron pattern. "Both of these are made from my own drafted pattern, but I've also been sewing dresses using Simplicity 1609. I also like to add buttons down the front for a real 'Twiggy' look!" she says.

"As one of Simplicity's best-sellers, the 1609 pattern is a classic design that appeals to all age groups – whether you remember

the 60s and want to recreate this stylish design, or you love vintage fashion and want to embrace its retro feel," says Hannah Rogers, PR Officer for Simplicity. "It's relatively simple to sew and will never go out of style. And it's even been featured on *The Great British Sewing Bee*, with none other than

Hairy Biker Dave Myers creating it for the *Children in Need Sewing Bee* – showing it appeals to just about anyone!" It seems that high hems really will always have a place in our hearts – long live the miniskirt!





**GET THE BOOK**

Discover more about garment trends from the 1850s to the 60s – and beyond – in *The History of Modern Fashion* by Daniel James Cole and Nancy Diehl (£50, Laurence King Publishing). To order, visit [www.laurenceking.com](http://www.laurenceking.com)



## Essentials

- Broderie anglaise fabric, 80cm x 1.3m wide
- Seam binding, 2.5cm x 2m
- 1cm button, one
- Invisible marker pen
- Poking tool

## Dimensions

Small-large

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout unless otherwise stated.

## Cutting guide

Fold fabric in half, right sides together, with selvages aligned at centre.

**Front:** cut one on the fold

**Back:** cut one on folded fabric (two pieces altogether)

**Waistband:** cut two pieces on the fold



# *One-metre make!* **summer top**

Sew our stylish broderie anglaise garment

This bright and breezy top by Fiona Hesford is perfect for the warmer months, sewn from a pretty embroidered eyelet fabric. The tie waistband helps add definition and the finished garment would look great with palazzo pants or a denim skirt - why not try it with your free New Look covermount?



## *stitch a simple top*

**1** Download and print the templates and finished garments measurements at [www.sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://www.sewmag.co.uk/templates). Cut out all the required pieces, referring to the cutting guide above. Join the back pieces at the centre seam, right sides together, and sew up to the marker point. Press the seam open, then finish the raw edges with a zigzag stitch or an overlocker.

**2** Sew the darts on the front piece and press downwards. Staystitch the front and back necklines, 6mm from the edge. Join the front to the back at the shoulders. Finish the raw edges as before, then press the seam allowances towards the back. Sew the front and back together at the side seams. Finish the raw edges and press.

**3** Cut 10cm of seam binding, unfold the edges and press open. This will be the facing for the front lower slit opening. Draw a line at the centre, 8cm up from one end. Pin to the front piece at the lower edge on the right side. Stitch 4mm either side of the line and across **[1]**.

**4** Cut down the centre line and make a small V-shaped nick at the top, being careful not to cut your stitching **[2]**. Turn the binding to the reverse side and press, pushing out the corners at the top. Topstitch on the right side **[3]**.

**5** Cut a length of seam binding for the neck edge with a 1cm overlap. Unfold one edge of the binding. Stretch the folded edge only to align with the neckline curve. Pin the unfolded edge to the right side of the neck edge all around, starting at the centre back.



Overlap the ends by 1cm and tack to hold in place. Sew a 1cm seam all around and clip into the curved seam allowance.

**6** Press the binding over to the wrong side so that no binding is visible on the right side. Pin, then hand stitch the binding at the folded edge with small slip stitches so that no stitching is visible on the right side. Pin, tack, then sew the binding to the armholes in the same way as the neckline [4].

**7** Join the waistband pieces at the short sides, right sides together. Press the seam open. Press over 1cm at one long edge of the waistband piece. Pin the unfolded edge to the body piece at the lower raw edge, leaving the excess band to overhang at each side. Sew all around [5].

**8** Fold the overhang section at each side together, with right sides together. Stitch up to the front opening section at each side. Sew a slanted point at each far end as shown on the template. Trim the seam allowance and snip across the corners of the seam allowance at the pointed ends of the tie. Turn the tie inside out, pushing out the points with a poking tool.

**9** Press the folded edge over, encasing all raw edges at the lower side of the top. Pin, then hand stitch all around. Create a small loose knot with the ties. Make a buttonhole stitch loop at the back opening, then sew a button to the opposite side.



## the haberdashery



**White daisy  
broderie anglaise**

We made our top from this pretty cotton fabric, adorned with flowers. Priced £9.50 per metre, [www.stonefabrics.co.uk](http://www.stonefabrics.co.uk)







## Isla top

Featuring a back yoke, dolman sleeves, wide neckline and a finished neck band, this stylish jersey top pattern sits beautifully on the hips. With only three pattern pieces, this simple garment is quick-to-stitch and suitable for all seasons. Make up in a variety of fabric designs for a different look each time.

Isla top, from £6.16, [www.tessuti-shop.com](http://www.tessuti-shop.com)

### Why **SEW** loves...

- ✓ PDF pattern.
- ✓ Suitable for lightweight stretch jerseys.
- ✓ Simple stitching.

# iNDIE pattern news

*Top picks from  
independent designers*

Cup sizes  
C/D-G/H



## HARRISON SHIRTDRESS

Based on the best-selling Harrison Shirt, this dress version is a chic alternative that features double princess seams for a fantastic fit through the bust. With no-gape armholes and additional ease through the waist and hip, the flowing silhouette it creates is perfect for those fast approaching summer months.

Harrison Shirt Dress, £11.21,  
[www.cashmerette.com](http://www.cashmerette.com)

### Why **SEW** loves...

- ✓ Expansion pack option.
- ✓ Designed for intermediate sewers.
- ✓ PDF pattern.







### Aldaia dress

Designed with knit fabrics in mind, this no-closure dress can be pulled on easily and is comfortable to wear. The front princess seaming and back darts create a fitted-style bodice that is super figure-flattering. Have fun mixing the different necklines, sleeves and skirt options on offer to create a unique dress that suits your personality.

Aldaia dress by Pauline Alice patterns, £13.50, [www.backstitch.co.uk](http://www.backstitch.co.uk)

#### Why **SEW** loves...

- ✓ Perfect for knit fabrics.
- ✓ Ideal for intermediate stitchers.
- ✓ Printed pattern.

### TALVIKKI SWEATER

This oversized and cuddly sweater by Named Clothing features a cosy turtleneck and darts on the neckline, with dropped shoulders and extra-long sleeves. The deep vents and uneven hemline make it a fun and modern style that's perfect for medium-weight to heavy stretch fabrics.

Talvikki sweater by Named Clothing, £9, [www.girlcharlee.co.uk](http://www.girlcharlee.co.uk)

#### Why **SEW** loves...

- ✓ Flattering style for all ages.
- ✓ Stylish fit.
- ✓ Paper pattern.

UK sizes  
4-22



### Seam Detail dress

It's all about comfort (and style, of course) with the Seam Detail dress from The Maker's Atelier. The pull-over design allows for ease getting in and out of this simple garment. A perfect beginner make, the seam detailing, pockets and turned up cuffs will leave people shocked when you say you made it yourself.

Seam Detail dress, £22.50, [www.themakersatelier.com](http://www.themakersatelier.com)

#### Why **SEW** loves...

- ✓ Simple design.
- ✓ Perfect for beginners.
- ✓ Pull-on style.



### Nancy dress

Inspired by the swinging 60s, Nancy is cute and flattering with swish-factor to die for. As you sew this stylish dress, you'll be developing your stitchy skills thanks to the sleeves, bias-bound neckline, darts and the unique panels, which provide shaping at the bust and back of the dress. With no buttons or zips to contend with, this dress simply pulls on and off over your head and is closed with a hook and eye fastening.

Nancy dress, £7.50, [www.sewoverit.co.uk](http://www.sewoverit.co.uk)

#### Why **SEW** loves...

- ✓ Dress up or down with ease.
- ✓ Vintage style.
- ✓ No fiddly fastenings.







# SOME OF YOUR ENTRIES TO #Dressmaker OF THE YEAR!

## CUSTOMISING



Angela Prabhu



Berenice Gilmore

## KIDS' WEAR



Michelle Mottram



Laura Dickson



Patricia Seath



Portia Laurie



Hermione Sexter



Shirley Wardman



Jagrid Born



Catherine McWilliams



Alice Gallagher



Leanne Taylor

Keep your eyes peeled online to vote in the Reader's Choice category! [www.makeittoday.co.uk/dressmakeroftheyear](http://www.makeittoday.co.uk/dressmakeroftheyear)





The number of entries to the Dressmaker of the Year competition has been so inspiring! Launched by the *Sew* team along with our sister title *Make It Today Dressmaker*, we invited you to enter your handmade garments into a choice of four categories... and you didn't disappoint. With the competition closing on 9th March 2017, we'll soon be sitting down with the judging panel to shortlist the entries and examine your handiwork. Make sure you keep your eyes peeled online to vote for your favourite in our Reader's Choice category!

## MEET THE JUDGES



**STUART HILLARD**  
Since appearing on the *Sewing Bee*, Stuart has become a global stitching ambassador.



**THE FOLD LINE**  
Kate Underdown and Rachel Walker co-run an inspirational online sewing community, The Fold Line.  
[www.thefoldline.com](http://www.thefoldline.com)



**EDITORS OF SEW AND DRESSMAKER**  
Completing our judging panel is *Sew* editor, Jennifer Ward, and editor of *Make it Today Dressmaker*, Sarah Crosland.



### VINTAGE



Lauren Page



Jeanette Windhorst

### READY TO WEAR



Carlene Davis



Sally Kendall



Stacey Webb



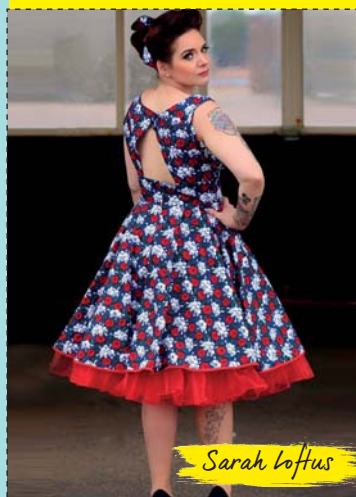
Alice Gallagher



Simona Barlow



Emma Smith



Sarah Loftus



Lizzie Anderson



Jenny Collins



Jo Woods

Keep your eyes peeled online to vote in the Reader's Choice category! [www.makeittoday.co.uk/dressmakeroftheyear](http://www.makeittoday.co.uk/dressmakeroftheyear)





## Essentials

- Viscose fabric, 1.4m (1.6m with scarf) x 1.5m
- Shirring elastic
- Lightweight fusible interfacing, 20cm

## Dimensions

| Finished Length |        | Bust  |
|-----------------|--------|-------|
| S               | 62cm   | 96cm  |
| M               | 63.5cm | 106cm |
| L               | 65cm   | 116cm |
| XL              | 66.5cm | 126cm |

## Cutting guide

**Front and back:** cut one of each from fabric on the fold

**Sleeve:** cut one with pattern right side up, and one with pattern wrong side up

**Back neck facing:** cut one from folded fabric (two pieces altogether)

**Front opening facing and front neck facing:** cut one each from fabric

**Note:** iron interfacing to reverse of all facing pieces

**Scarf:** cut one from fabric on the fold  
1cm seam allowance used unless otherwise specified.

*Step outside in style*

# shirred floral blouse

Sew a stylish top for spring!

If you love this month's FREE skirt pattern, why not go one step further and create a whole new outfit? Fiona Hesford's flattering design features a shirred waistband and cuffs, with a chic keyhole opening at the neck. It's a great opportunity to create an elasticated garment, with the option to create a matching scarf for a pussy bow neck tie or hairband. For the best results, lay your viscose onto a cloth or blanket to stabilise it when cutting, use a size 70 machine needle, and finish all the raw edges with a zigzag stitch or overlocker!

## sew a spring blouse



**1** Sew the darts on the front piece. Join the front to the back at the shoulders. Finish raw edges. Press towards back. Join the side seams below the armhole. Finish raw edges, press.

**2** Join the sleeve along the long sides with right sides together. Finish the raw edges, press. Pin the sleeve head to the armhole, aligning the side seams and matching notches.

**3** Tack, sew all around, then remove tacking. Finish the raw edges and lower the raw edges of body and sleeves at cuff edge. Make a 1cm hem at lower edge of body and sleeve.



**4** Wind the bobbin up with shirring elastic. Insert as you would a standard thread, along with normal thread in the needle. Lengthen the stitch length to 3.



**5** Sew six lines of shirring, 1cm apart, on the right side around the cuff edge and lower edge of the body. Tie the ends together at the sides then steam press all the shirred sections.



**6** Join the front and back neck facings together at the short sides. Press the seams open. Finish the outer curved edges of the neck facing piece and front opening facing piece.



**7** Mark centre line to the dot marker on the front facing. Pin to the neck edge, right sides together, aligning at centre. Sew 6mm each side of centre line and across, below the dot marker.



**8** Trim down the centre line to the dot marker, nick the corners. Pin the neck facing to the neckline, right sides together, aligning the side seams. Tack, sew all around.



**9** Nick the curved seam allowance. Turn the facing to the wrong side, push out seams. Press. Make a buttonhole stitch loop at the left side. Sew on a button on the opposite side.



## the haberdashery



### Linear floral in wine red

This pretty viscose print comes in three gorgeous colourways! £8.99 per metre, [www.minervacrafts.com](http://www.minervacrafts.com)



### Make a matching scarf

Fold over and pin the scarf piece lengthways, right sides together. Stitch down the long, slanted side, leaving a 5cm opening at the centre. Trim the seam allowance corners and turn the scarf out through the opening. Push out the corners, press. Sew the opening closed.





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### GREAT ALL ROUNDER

#### DQS 377

The DQS 377 is suitable for a wide range of techniques, offering 100 built-in stitches that include appliqué, embroidery, patchwork and 13 one-step buttonholes. This computerised model also features a digital quick threading system, an extra-high presser foot lifter and a free arm to sew hard-to-reach areas. The automatic bobbin winding clutch and top loading jam-proof bobbin also make sewing much easier.

**Price: £399**



### BARGAIN BUY

#### LIFE 157

This attractive model is very popular with children and adults as a first sewing machine. It's also a great choice for transporting to classes, being lightweight and compact with full alloy casting. In addition, it handles a wide range of fabrics with ease, from sheers and lawns to knits and heavyweights. Normally £199, it is currently available at a reduced price for a limited time - bargain!

**Price: £99**



### GOOD FOR QUILTERS

#### 492

The Jaguar 492 has a huge range of features that make quilting and sewing much more productive. The extra needle penetration power allows you to sew across heavier fabrics and multiple layers, while the speed control slider handles more delicate work. It also offers 60 stitch selections, four buttonhole styles, an automatic needle threader and extra high presser foot lift.

**Price: £179**





# "The DQS 405 is great for dressmaking, quilting, furnishings and more!"

The Jaguar DQS 405 is the perfect computerised sewing machine for beginners, experienced and professional textile crafters alike. It has a variety of different built-in stitches, allowing you to sew with ease, comfort and speed. Ideal for a vast range of materials from delicate fabrics to multiple layers of denim or soft leather, the DQS 405 also features Jaguar's digital quick-threading system, and includes a FREE extension table worth £89. Normally £549, you can now buy it for the special price of £249 until 31/03/17 - see page 38 for your exclusive promo code.

**BUY NOW  
AND SAVE  
£389! SEE  
PAGE 38**



**KEY FEATURES:** ✓ 500 built-in stitches ✓ 13 auto one-step buttonholes ✓ Programmable memory functions  
✓ 13 variable needle positions ✓ External drop feed **Price: £249, [www.gursewingmachines.com](http://www.gursewingmachines.com), 0121 359 5335.**

## SHOP of the MONTH



**G.U.R. Sewing Machines** in Birmingham has been established in the sewing industry for more than 30 years. It stocks a huge range of sewing machines and overlockers, and is a main agent for all the major brands, including Jaguar. Here, you will also find an impressive selection of fabrics, haberdashery and patterns, plus sewing cabinets, tables and chairs, and a wide range of sewing machine accessories.

### WHAT'S ON OFFER?

- ✓ Jaguar and all major brands
- ✓ Large stock of spares and accessories
- ✓ Full repair service
- ✓ Free machine evaluation

Visit **G.U.R. Sewing Machines**, 37 New Summer Street, Birmingham, West Midlands, B19 3QN.  
Alternatively, visit [www.gursewingmachines.com](http://www.gursewingmachines.com) or call **0121 359 5335**.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT MACHINE NEEDLE

- ✓ Your machine will likely come with universal point needles, which have a slightly rounded point. They can be used for sewing most woven or knit fabrics.
- ✓ Sharp point (regular) needles are great for woven fabrics like cotton and linen, as they make even stitches and won't cause too much puckering.
- ✓ Ballpoint needles have rounded points and are designed especially to sew knit and stretch fabrics.
- ✓ Embroidery needles have a larger needle eye for thicker embroidery threads, and are designed to prevent them from breaking.
- ✓ Quilting needles have a tapered point that can stitch through several layers of fabric without damaging them.
- ✓ Topstitching needles have an extra large eye and a deeper groove for heavier topstitching and doubled threads.
- ✓ Wedge point needles are for sewing leather and vinyl as they easily pierce the fabrics and create a hole that will close back up afterwards.

### EDITOR'S PICK

#### SUPA LOCK 486 OVERLOCKER

This machine does an outstanding job of creating quality seams, hems and finishing edges, and is very easy to operate. It has a dual feed, offers full control with the foot pressure regulator and can be used as a three or four thread overlocker. Normally £329, it is currently available at a great discount for a limited time, including FREE threads worth £59!

**Price: £249**



my stash  
secret...

**Sew reader, Annie McGee says...** "I invested in my Jaguar 097 overlocker a few years ago. At first it was secondary to my sewing machine, but since I started sewing knits it has become my go-to model. It's also brilliant for cotton fabrics and lingerie as you have the option of two, three or four threads depending on your project."



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Total value: £638

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## STYLE SCHOOL

*Unravel the mystery of knitted fabrics today!*

**Everybody loves wearing cosy knits, but not everyone loves stitching them.** We're here to help you face your fibre fears and realise that knitted fabric isn't the scary beast you envisioned, but a warm and cuddly creature (that, granted, can be a bit of a handful at times). We've found three stunning patterns to inspire you – they're specifically designed for knitted fabrics, and you can buy all of them for half price – so you have the perfect excuse to get stuck in!



### Feeling breezy

The perfect spring wardrobe is light and flowy, and so is Simplicity 1429, with a length for every occasion – from office-chic palazzo pants to pretty asymmetric midi skirts and shorts for hotter days. All feature elasticated waistbands with front pleats and darts in the back for a flattering silhouette. Contrast the soft drape of lightweight stretch knits with a bold and bright print for an edgy yet elegant look. There are no tricky fastenings to struggle with, simply pull on, team with your favourite wedges and go!

### Triple discount

**50%  
OFF**

Get Simplicity 1429 for £4.48 (RRP £8.95) and New Look 6343 and 6381 for only £3.48 each (RRP £6.95) from [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com) with codes SEW1429, SEW6343\* and SEW6381\*. P&P 85p. Offer valid 9th March to 6th April 2017.

\*Codes not required during on-site promotion (15th-28th March)

SIX OPTIONS



### Happy holidays

If this is your first foray with knits, New Look 6381 is easy to sew! You can opt for a sturdier material like medium-weight jersey or interlock, which is less tricky to work with. The pattern includes shorts, wide-leg trousers, plus maxi and high-low skirts, all loose enough to be your go-to even in the height of summer. You don't have to sacrifice style for comfort, though, thanks to an elastic waistband.



FIRST TIME MAKE

### Spring fling

Tunics are so versatile – perfect for this time of year with a pair of leggings, but can easily be paired with jeans and a jacket if there's a chill. The easy New Look 6343 offers three different styles, with full-length, half or no sleeves. You can add extra length, or make it up as a crop top! Don't be afraid of bold colours, geometric patterns and contrast sleeves.



THREE SLEEVE CHOICES

Shop more great patterns at [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com)



## Essentials

- Main fabric, 1.2m x 1.5m
- Contrast fabric, 1m x 1.5m
- Coordinating thread

## Dimensions

Small-large

## Cutting guide

**Front and back bodice:**  
cut two on fold

**Sleeve bands:** cut two  
16cm x 47cm pieces

**Skirt:** cut two in contrast fabric,  
57, (59, 61)cm x 78cm [small/  
medium/large]

**Hem band:** cut a strip  
21cm x 54cm (small),  
21cm x 56cm (medium),  
21cm x 78cm (large)

1cm seam allowance  
used throughout.

## sew a dress

**1** Go online to [www.sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://www.sewmag.co.uk/templates) to download and print the pattern. Cut out all of the pieces as indicated in the cutting guide. Divide the bodice pieces into two sets. Match, pin and stitch the shoulder seams together on both sets. Lay the bodice sets out flat, right sides together. Match the necklines together and pin in place. Stitch around the neckline. Clip the seam allowances around the curve, then under-stitch the neckline.

**2** Match the underarm and side seams together, first on the lining, pin, then stitch both seams and repeat the process on the outer bodice, making sure that the right sides of the fabric are facing on both sets. Clip the curved area under the arms then turn the lining inside the outer bodice. Tease out the seams and press flat.

**3** Stitch the two ends of one of the sleeve bands together, forming a circle. Open out the seam allowance then fold the band in half lengthways, matching the raw cut edges together. Press flat. Match the seam of the sleeve band to the end of the seam on the bodice sleeves, pin, then stitch in place. Neaten the seam allowance and press inside the sleeves.

**4** Neaten the long edges of the skirt rectangles. With right sides together, match the pieces, pin, then stitch down both sides. Press the seams open. Place the bodice inside the tube that has been formed, matching the raw edges and side seams at the base of the bodice to the raw edges and side seams at one end of the tube. The right side of the bodice and skirt should be facing. Stitch together, and neaten the seam. Turn the dress to the right side and press the seam allowance up towards the bodice.

**5** Sew the two ends of the hem band together to form a circle. Open out the seam allowance then fold the band in half lengthways, matching the raw cut edges together, and press flat. Match the seam of the hem band to one of the side seams on the skirt, pin and stitch in place. Neaten the seam allowance together and fold the band down. To finish, press the seam allowance up inside the skirt.

# Contrast prints duo-print dress

Sew a calf-length number using  
your favourite fabrics

Sometimes deciding what fabric to use for a particular project can be tough, so the beauty of this make is that you can pick two! Use contrasting prints to create Amanda Walker's super-comfy longline dress, which you can take from day to night in no time.





# the haberdashery



**Doopsy Daisy Multi**

£12 per metre,  
[www.plushaddict.co.uk](http://www.plushaddict.co.uk)



**Michael Miller Clip  
Dot in Grey**

£12.80 per metre,  
[www.plushaddict.co.uk](http://www.plushaddict.co.uk)



*“Always back tack  
at the beginning  
and end of a seam  
– make a couple of  
forward stitches  
then reverse. This  
will stop the seam  
from unravelling”*

Amanda Walker, designer



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- **FREE** easy New Look pattern.
- Project showcase! Seven ways with the new Tilda range.
- Stash-busting strip quilt project.
- Pattern hacking: we show you how.
- Try our mandala embroidery!





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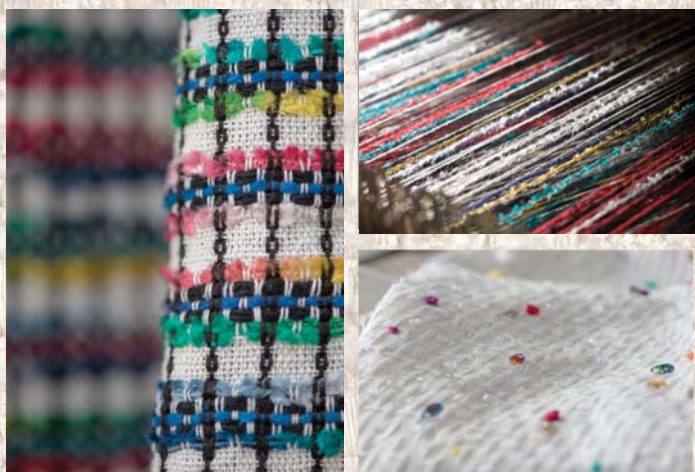


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[www.dragonflyfabrics.co.uk](http://www.dragonflyfabrics.co.uk) Tel 01892-731087



# fashion forecast

## LINTON TWEEDS

Tweed may look classic and chic, but the fabric is easy to work with and a great choice for beginners. The woollen material is closely woven and can be rough to the touch, making it well-suited for a whole host of garments in your spring wardrobe. Just bear in mind that you might need to use a stabiliser – like a lightweight iron-on interfacing – to prevent the weave unravelling. Here are some of our favourites from Linton Tweeds, which supplies to a number of designers, fashion houses and iconic brands, such as Chanel.



*“Linton fabrics are high quality and created using unique yarns sourced from all over the world. The elegant fabrics are perfect for creating ladies skirts, jackets and coats.”*

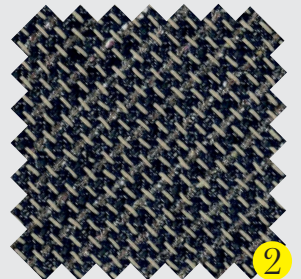
**Ross Walker,  
Linton Tweeds**

*Tweed jacket,  
£60, [www.  
next.co.uk](http://www.next.co.uk)*

### FABRIC PICKS



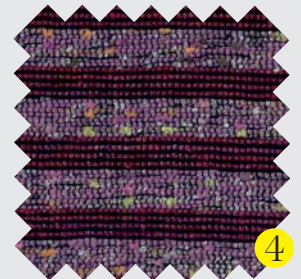
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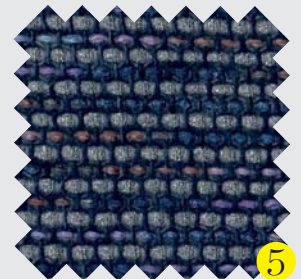
2



3



4



5

**1** Lilac textured boucle (B2691), £26 per metre

**2** Navy and cream textured fabric (Y6222), £38 per metre

**3** Yellow textured fabric (B3681), £26 per metre

**4** Pink, red orange and green textured fabric (A7321), £30 per metre

**5** Purple, blue and silver textured fabric (Y6209), £38 per metre

All featured fabrics are available from [www.lintondirect.co.uk](http://www.lintondirect.co.uk)



# 10 *stitchy ways* TO TACKLE THOSE *Monday blues*

WE TELL YOU WHY  
THE DOCTOR'S  
ORDERS ARE  
TO GET THAT  
SEWING MACHINE  
ON THE GO!

Words by Sian Whitehead



## 1 *Get pinning*

If you haven't got the time to sit down at your machine or are suffering from a case of sewer's block, but want to feel like you've accomplished something creative, then why not spare a few minutes to peruse the delights of Pinterest? It's a great place to find inspiration for your next sewing adventure and build your own virtual moodboard. See ours at [www.pinterest.com/sewhq](http://www.pinterest.com/sewhq)

## 2 *Try a quick fix*

Sewing a complex garment or larger project can be time-consuming, so a simple kit offers the perfect solution. There are many great sewing versions available, in a wide variety of styles and for all skill levels. Kits usually contain everything you need to get making, so you don't have to worry about not having all of the equipment to hand.



## 3 **SORT OUT THAT STASH**

We know you're likely hiding away more in those fabric cupboards than you'd care to admit, but maybe it's time to have a good clear out and sort through any unwanted habby items, leaving you feeling refreshed, renewed and ready to, well... add more to that stash! Why not invest in some storage boxes to pop items you're less likely to use on a regular basis to stash them out of the way, freeing up space for your more important items?



## 4 *Prepare your projects*

If you dread tackling a project on a week night due to the amount of pinning and tacking involved, and fear the dissatisfaction of what seems like very little sewing, never fear. There is a solution! Why not put some time aside at the weekend to cut out, pin and tack projects, so they're ready for you to hit the machine full speed ahead?





## 6 HOLD A SEWCIAL

Gathering like-minded friends together for a spot of stitching is a fantastic way to spend a weekend. You can sit and natter about what you've been sewing lately, and share your ideas for new creative ventures. No sewing friends to rally together? Have you checked your local newspaper or surfed the internet to see if there's a local sewcial event near you? If not, why not create an advert yourself – there's likely lots of people out there, itching to get together!



## 7 Go fabric shopping!

You heard us! We're giving you permission to put on your best clobber and hit the hottest fabric spots in town. Nothing is more inspiring than walking through the doors of an Aladdin's cave of materials and discovering the endless sewing possibilities.



## 8 Learn a new technique

Fancy tackling English Paper Piecing or want to give quilting a go? Stop what you're doing, do some research and pick up a new skill this weekend. With so many elements of sewing to enjoy, now is the perfect time to stretch your stitchy repertoire.

## 5 COMPLETE A PROJECT

There's nothing more rewarding than the satisfaction of completing a project. Whether it's one you've been meaning to finish for a while or a totally new venture, the buzz we get from starting and finishing a project is second to none. If you're in need of a little creative inspiration, why not browse the great range of FREE projects available at [www.sewmag.co.uk](http://www.sewmag.co.uk)

## 10 RESCUE A GARMENT

We're all guilty of it. A button has popped off a shirt or a zip breaks on our favourite pair of jeans and we put it in the 'I must fix that pile,' convincing ourselves that it won't still be sat there in seven months time. But who are we kidding? Think about how good it would feel to finally wear those items you love so much again. So, pull out your mending tools, sit back in the armchair with a cuppa by your side and get to work on that to-do pile. And hey, once you're finished, it'll feel like you've got a whole new wardrobe!



## 9 Take a workshop

Workshops are a great way of developing your stitchy skills while learning new techniques and meeting like-minded sewists who you can share ideas with. There are so many great skills/disciplines out there to choose from, like this embroidery class by Adam Pritchett from The New Craft House. For more information on workshops and to book your spot, visit [www.thenewcrafthouse.com](http://www.thenewcrafthouse.com)



Photography by Adam Pritchett

To get your stitchy fix, head to [www.sewmag.co.uk](http://www.sewmag.co.uk) for projects, inspiration and more!



# Q&A

*Whatever your sewing problem, our experts have the answer!*

Send your queries to  
melissa@aceville.co.uk



**W**hat is the best way to sew a pocket seam?  
**Julia Barratt**



**Kate Underdown**

Kate Underdown is the co-founder of online sewing community, The Fold Line. Visitors can search and review sewing patterns and get top tips from the blog at [www.thefoldline.com](http://www.thefoldline.com)

## Kate says

We love adding pockets to all of our dresses and there is a really simple way to do it if the pattern doesn't come with a pocket. Start with your two pocket bags (either draft your own or use a suitable one from another pattern) and take the front and back panels of your garment. Snip a notch on one of the side seams of the outfit at the top and bottom of where you want the pocket to sit. Repeat on the other side seam so that they match.

Take one of the pocket bags and lay it right side together with the front of the garment, matching it against the notches just made. Repeat on the other side. Stitch the pocket pieces in place.

*“ Depending on the pattern's seam allowance, try to attach the pocket at 2mm less than advised for a more professional finish ”*

Turn the pocket piece over and press, repeating this on the back side seams of the garment. Now lay the front and back pieces right sides together and pin the side seams (including around the pocket bags). Sew the seams together, pivoting around the pocket bags as you go. Finally, press the side seams towards the front so that your pockets will sit nice and flat.



**W**hat is a kick pleat and how can I sew one?  
**Emma Burton**

## Lisa says

A kick pleat is an opening inserted into closely fitting skirts to allow more room to walk. Stitch the skirt side seams and the centre back seam down to the kick pleat extension. At either side of the kick pleat opening only, fold the hem up right sides together. Pin in place and press.

On the left-hand side edge, draw a line from the centre back seam down to the hem. Using this as a guide, stitch the turn up in place. On the right-hand side, repeat this 1cm from the edge of the kick pleat. Turn both sides of the kick pleat right side out and push out the corners.

With the skirt inside out, fold the left-hand side of the kick pleat over on top of the right. Pin through both sides all the way down to the hem, securing them together.

*“ A kick pleat can also be known as a vent or split ”*

Sew diagonally along the kick pleat extension, from the bottom of the centre back seam to the vertical kick pleat opening, and press.

At the top of the pleat, cut a snip on either side of the seam allowance, right at the corner to release tension on the seam. Turn the hem up to the wrong side, in line with the turn-ups you've already sewn, press and stitch in place.

Find out more about sewing a kick pleat with our Intro to Fitted Skirts: Ultimate Pencil Skirt class, £99, [www.sewoverit.co.uk](http://www.sewoverit.co.uk)



**Lisa Comfort**

Lisa Comfort set up the Sew Over It sewing café in Clapham, London in 2011 and also has a second store in Islington. She has penned several books, including *Sew Over It Vintage* (£15, Ebury Press). Find out more at [www.sewoverit.co.uk](http://www.sewoverit.co.uk)





STOFF & STIL kimono  
pattern 24036



STOFF & STIL ruffle  
dress pattern 23114



STOFF & STIL shirt  
dress pattern 23123

**I** want to update my spring wardrobe – are there any garments you recommend I make?

**Zoe Hancock**

### Louise says

Dresses with ruffle details, such as STOFF & STIL's 23114 pattern, are a hot trend this season. Frills at the hemline or sleeves create a gorgeous feminine look - choose a quality woven cotton fabric in light blue with thin stripes, or go for a bold look with big flowers.

A shirt dress, like patterns 22044 and 23123, is a versatile go-to garment, being easy to dress up or down! Even the choice of fabric changes the look drastically. I love the casual look of denim, or you could try a lightweight sand-washed silk or viscose print with blue details.

Another piece that is a true wardrobe staple this season is the A-line skirt, like our 21035 and 21034 patterns. Sew one in denim with a gold zip at the front to add contrast, or choose a solid style with an elastic waistline.

*“The style of your fabric will also influence the look of your creations”*

Last but not least, a long kimono (see our pattern 24036) can't be overlooked. It makes a great cover-up on breezy summer nights or can be worn as a dress in a beautiful watercolour flower print.

Botanical and floral prints feature strongly this season, and bold animal motifs in standout colours are another way to spice up simple patterns. You can find even more inspiration, patterns and fabrics at [www.stoffstil.co.uk](http://www.stoffstil.co.uk).

### Guest expert



#### Louise Schmidt

Fashion designer Louise Schmidt has worked at STOFF & STIL for two years and brought more than 18 years of experience in the fashion industry with her. She always has her eyes peeled for the next big trend and is passionate about sewing her own outfits.



## Essentials

- Patterned cotton, 0.5m
- Plain cotton, 0.5m
- Lightweight iron-on interfacing, 0.5m
- Zips: 25cm, 30cm
- Leather strap
- D-rings

## Dimensions

Approx 28cm x 28cm

0.5cm seam allowance used throughout.

## sew a cross-over bag

**1** Cut both a 24cm x 30cm and a 10cm x 30cm piece each from plain and patterned cotton. Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of both patterned pieces for the front of the bag. Place the larger rectangles right sides together and sandwich a 25cm zip, face-down, in the centre of one 30cm long edge. Stitch in place, then open out to reveal the zip teeth. Press, then topstitch along the edge, 1cm from the teeth. Zigzag stitch around the other three edges.

**2** Sandwich the other edge of the zip between the two smaller pieces of fabric as before. Open out the lining fully, but fold the patterned fabric back over the seam to create a 2cm flap that hides the zip. Press, then topstitch along the other edge of the zip, 1cm from the teeth. Trim lining fabric to the same height as the patterned, then zigzag around the remaining sides, allowing the top of the bag front to overlap the bottom panel. The front panel should measure 29cm x 30cm.

**3** Cut one patterned and two plain 30cm squares. Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the patterned piece. Cut a 18cm x 30cm piece of plain fabric, then fold the long edge in half. Sew around, leaving a 5cm gap. Clip the corners, then turn out through the gap. Fold the raw edges of the gap inside, then press. Topstitch along this edge. Pin the panel to the centre of one piece of lining and stitch the bottom and sides to make a pocket.

**4** Place the second lining piece onto the bag front, right sides together. Sandwich the 30cm zip centrally between the fabrics along the top edge and stitch as before, leaving 2cm at each end of the fabric unsewn. Turn the fabrics right sides out, press, but don't topstitch. Stitch the lining pocket panel and the patterned back panel to the other edge of the zip in the same way.

**5** Join the patterned pieces right sides together. Pin and stitch around the three raw sides, taking care not to catch the ends of the zip in the seam. Flatten the bag outer at the bottom corners and stitch across, 3cm from the point, to make a flat base. Repeat for the lining of the bag, leaving a 10cm gap in the centre of the bottom seam.

**6** Turn the bag right side out through the gap. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed. Push the lining inside the bag. Fold in the raw edges of both fabrics on the top of the bag at the ends of the zip.

# *No templates needed* **cross-over bag**

## Stitch a casual handbag from simple rectangles

The best weekend is casual and fun, just like the perfect accessory should be. This project is simple to create and can be made with fabrics you already have in your stash. We love the contrast of rich leather with soft cotton in Corinne Bradd's design, but the materials can easily be changed to suit your style. Have fun shopping around for fastenings, statement zips and fabrics to match your look.



Topstitch around the top edge of the bag, 1cm from the zip teeth, to neaten and secure the raw edges. The ends of the zip should protrude from the edges of the bag.

**7** Cut two 7cm x 8cm pieces of patterned fabric and fold in half with right sides together to make 4cm x 7cm pieces. Stitch down the long seam and turn out the tubes. Turn in 5mm on the remaining raw edges and press so the seam lies down the centre, then pin. Fold in half, matching up the turned in edges, then sandwich the ends of the zip

between them. Topstitch across the turned in edges to create pull tabs.

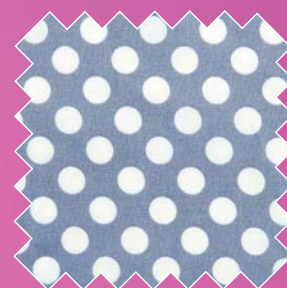
**8** Cut two 8cm squares of patterned fabric, stitch into tubes, then turn in and fold as for the pull tabs. Slip a connecting ring onto each folded tube, then tack in place in the centre. Open the bag and pin the loops to the sides, just below the ends of the zip. Topstitch the loops to the bag in a crossed box pattern. Remove the tacking stitches from below the connecting rings. Clip a leather strap to the connectors.



*“Make a hassle-free tassel by fringing a square of soft leather, rolling it up then binding a loop to the top with a narrow leather strip”*

Corinne Bradd, Designer

## the haberdashery



### Grey Polka

The timeless design looks fabulous paired with a co-ordinating block colour.  
£11 per metre,  
[www.makoweruk.com](http://www.makoweruk.com)

### Strap in

Our leather strap is practical, comfortable, and can easily be attached with a couple of D-rings or similar. £9.50,  
[www.u-handbag.com](http://www.u-handbag.com)





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At home with...

## STUART HILLARD

“It was my mum who introduced me to the world of crafting”

Spring brings two of my favourite celebrations with it – Mother’s Day and Easter. As is the case for many stitchers, my mum was the person who introduced me to the world of crafting, sewing, knitting, and generally being creative. Often borne out of a desire to keep me occupied on rainy days, she taught me many skills as we explored all number of crafts. One of the things I remember best was her ability to use what we already had around us to create something wonderful. We would cut up old pillowcases for me to practise embroidery on or make clothes for my toys. Yarn for knitting and crochet was gathered by ‘frogging’ old sweaters and cardigans that were past their best and wound into crinkly balls, ready to be given a new lease of life. Buttons were never an issue either; no self-respecting household was without its tin, and we were never short of needles and thread. This lesson in ‘making do’ has stayed with me my whole life and despite living in a world where everything is at the click of a mouse, I still try to use what I have around me first.

*“I always try to ‘make’ first, before I go to buy”*

Easter is a very special time to me, having much of the same sense of celebration, feasting and family time as Christmas but without the over-spending, over-indulgence and general over-doing of everything! My ‘Easter tree’ – a twiggy branch spray-painted white and hung with decorated eggs, bunnies and chicks – now makes an annual appearance, and I love to make something new to hang on it every year. Simple rabbit, egg and chick shapes cut from soft pastel felt make wonderful decorations, blanket stitched together in pairs and gently stuffed. As a child, my Mum and I would go walking across the fields and pick the lambswool snagged on the fences to stuff toys with. Fibrefill works just as well, but if you live near sheepy fields, why not take a stroll this spring? I wish you all a very happy Easter.

*Stuart x*



## Style Advice

Hand sewing has made a massive come-back in the last five years and this trend is set to continue for some time yet. Every quilter I know has at least one EPP (that’s English Paper Piecing to the uninitiated) project on the go and it’s gone way beyond the hexagons our grandmas stitched together! Lucy Boston, Patchwork of the Crosses, La Passacaglia... these hand-sewn quilts have swept across the globe and become the one thing any avid quilter should have in their sewing basket, until now. 2017 sees hand embroidery’s return from exile – and with it a whole raft of projects, inspirations and internet groups to join. My favourite is One Year of Stitches, started by Hannah Claire Somerville. In a nutshell, the project involves adding a few stitches or a motif every day to a piece of free-form embroidery, all contained within a hoop. Progress is photographed and shared daily on Instagram! It’s a great way to add to your knowledge of embroidery stitches whilst also keeping a record of your thoughts and inspirations.

## Stuart’s Stash

I’ve fallen in love with the new Bumble Bee range of fabrics by Tilda. It teams Tilda’s trademark florals with tiny bumble bees,



perfect for spring-time stitching! Charm pack, £19.99 at [www.createandcraft.com](http://www.createandcraft.com)

## HOME INSPIRATIONS

For a new take on the family portrait, draw around each family member’s hands onto a piece of Essex linen, overlapping the hands. This is particularly effective when there is an obvious size difference! Use a water soluble pen or a propeller pencil for the marking. Mount your linen into an embroidery hoop, then the fun begins! Use a different colour of embroidery thread for each hand and sew the outline, using either a backstitch or stem stitch. Once all of the hands have been outlined, add the date for posterity! When the stitching is complete, you can carefully press your embroidery from the back. It’s best to lay your work face-down onto a soft towel so that your pressing doesn’t flatten the stitches. Use gentle pressure or you can even hover the iron above your work and give it a little bit of steam! You just want any wrinkles to flatten really. Mount your work on acid-free board and tape to the back with masking tape or ‘lace up’ with hand stitches. Finally, frame your work of art and display with the rest of the family gallery.



Catch Stuart on [www.createandcraft.com](http://www.createandcraft.com) channels Virgin 748, Freeview 23, Freesat 813 and Sky 674 or visit [www.stuarthillard.com](http://www.stuarthillard.com)



# The Ethical EDGE

**J**ewellery, a belt, handbag or shoes... we all have our preferred finishing touches to an outfit. One of the best accessories that you can add to your wardrobe however, is a clear conscience about what you're wearing. It's one of the many perks there is to sewing your own clothing: being able to say "I made that!" and knowing exactly where it came from - that you chose the pattern, sourced the fabric and stitched the seams. Whatever your lifestyle, there are so many ways to reconnect with your wardrobe.

Words by Jennifer Ward

## FASHION CONSCIOUS

A good number of brands on the high street like Marks and Spencer and Monsoon are taking further efforts to ensure all of their manufacturing processes are in check, while you can find multiple online clothing stores with ethics at their heart, such as Rose and Willard, People Tree, and Bibico.

Mayamiko is another example of clothing with a cause. The UK-based charity works throughout Africa to support local communities and nurture their creative talents by teaching them to sew, knit and tailor. The charity gives many Malawi women the means to sew and connects them with ethical UK designers, putting all of its profits back into these communities so the cycle can continue. The result is beautiful clothing that everyone benefits from.

Browse the gorgeous range at [www.mayamiko.org](http://www.mayamiko.org)



## MAKE DO & MEND

First launched during WWII to endorse thriftiness, lower expenditure and build up volunteers, the Make Do and Mend campaign was designed to make clothes last longer in times of hardship. Today, the sentiment is experiencing a revival as more of us look at how we can make our pennies stretch further... patching holes, sewing on buttons and more thrifty fixes!

*Go through  
your wardrobe*



© Imperial War Museum



## ECO-FRIENDLY FABRICS

After struggling to find on-trend, ethical textiles, Charlie Ross was inspired to set up her own company and social enterprise, Offset Warehouse...

"There is something inherently beautiful about hand-making something, but I think it should be beautiful inside and out. In 2013, we were all horrified to hear about the 1,129 men, women and children who died in the collapsed Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh. They were working 12-hour shifts in dangerous conditions, and being paid just £25 a month. Driven by today's culture of fast consumerism and low prices, the textile industry has had to cut corners.

"Many conventional fabrics are produced by untrained, underpaid and overworked staff in unsafe surroundings, and require highly toxic chemicals to produce. I couldn't bear the thought of my creations actively harming the person who made them or destroying the environment. This is what inspired me to set up my ethical textiles company,



*Sourcing more of her ethical fabrics!*

so designers and home-sewers can shop a collection of on-trend, eco fabrics - totally guilt-free!

"Ethical fabrics are environmentally and socially beneficial. This includes fabrics that are organic, Fairtrade, made from responsibly-sourced raw materials, or recycled. Whichever you choose, the most important thing is that as long as you are doing something, it's better than doing absolutely nothing."

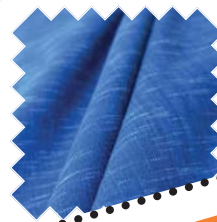
Visit [www.offsetwarehouse.com](http://www.offsetwarehouse.com)



### Charlie's Fabric Picks



**Light Pink Cotton Chambray (120-001BP)**  
Farmers of Fairtrade cotton earn 30-60% more than conventional cotton, and have been employed in good working conditions.



**Handwoven Ikat (276-008)**

Part of the handmade and hand-dyed range, with almost no carbon footprint. Each metre takes about four hours to weave.



*Charity shop version*



Love Your Clothes paired up with children's charity Barnardo's for Charity Fashion Live, at London Fashion Week

## REFASHION AND UPCYCLE



Love Your Clothes is a campaign that launched in 2014, developed together with industry organisations to help change the way UK consumers buy, use and dispose of their clothing.

The campaign is part of the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) and coordinated by WRAP, a non-profit organisation that receives government support across the UK. Every year, 350,000 tonnes of used clothing goes to landfill in the UK, which would generate around £140,000,000 if re-used or recycled. So how can we help make a difference? The movement cites that the single biggest thing that can be done to reduce the environmental impact of clothes is prolonging the life of our clothing.

This is where our sewing skills come in. The best way to give old clothing a new lease of life is to look for inspiring ways to create a fresh look from the things you already have! By altering

and accessorising, you can completely revamp your wardrobe. A number of sewing ambassadors contribute to Love Your Clothes, with useful tips and tutorials that are available online - from upcycling denim and altering at the waist to turning a dress into a top and skirt, and getting use from an old bridesmaid's dress! The campaign even paired up with Florence & Fred last year for the #MakeItNew upcycling challenge.

You'll also find care and repair tips on how to maintain the condition of your clothes, and how to deal with bobbling, remove lint, fix holes, replace sleeves and care for each garment's fabric type. Laundry accounts for one quarter of the carbon footprint of clothing, and so line drying is suggested as an alternative. With spring nearly here, we'll keep our fingers crossed for some sunny days...

For more tips, make sure you check out [loveyourclothes.org.uk](http://loveyourclothes.org.uk)



Visit [www.sewmag.co.uk/blog](http://www.sewmag.co.uk/blog) to read why you think Make Do & Mend is still important!



# BRITISH SEWING AWARDS *Winners!*

*We announce the winners of the British Sewing Awards 2016, voted for by you!*

The votes have been counted up, and we are delighted to announce the winners of the British Sewing Awards 2016. We would like to thank all of our readers who voted, and to congratulate all the shops, companies and individuals who have received these coveted awards – all greatly deserved!



## *Best thread brand*

**Winner:** Gutermann  
**Runner up:** DMC  
**Third place:** Mettler

## BEST UK CHAIN STORE

**Winner:** John Lewis  
**Runner up:** Hobbycraft  
**Third place:** Fabric Land



## BEST FABRIC BRAND

**Winner:** Liberty  
**Runner up:** Moda | **Third place:** Michael Miller

*"We're really honoured to win this award, thank you on behalf of myself and the Liberty team."*  
James Millar, Design Director, Liberty

## BEST ONLINE RETAILER

**Winner:** Minerva Crafts  
**Runner up:** Plush Addict  
**Third place:** Lady Sew & Sew



## *Best for sewing workshops/courses*

**Winner:** Craftsby, online  
**Runner up:** Lady Sew and Sew, Henley-on-Thames  
**Third place:** Crafty Sew & So, Leicester

## *Best sewing book 2016*

**Winner:** *The Great British Sewing Bee: From Stitch to Style* by Wendy Gardiner  
**Runner up:** *Sew Many Dresses, Sew Little Time* by Tanya Whelan  
**Third place:** *Half Yard Kids* by Debbie Shore



## BEST EXHIBITION/ EVENT OF 2016

**Winner:** The Knitting & Stitching Show, twistedthread  
**Runner up:** Festival of Quilts, twistedthread  
**Third place:** Sewing for Pleasure, ICHF Events

*"We're absolutely thrilled that The Knitting & Stitching Shows and The Festival of Quilts have been awarded first and second place in the Best Exhibition/Event category. On behalf of the twistedthread team, a huge thank you to the Sew readers who voted for us, and particularly to our wonderful visitors who make these events so special."*

Anna Baptiste, Event Director, twistedthread





*"All the team here at Janome greatly appreciate the Sew readers voting for us again this year. Thank you, we are so proud to be voted the winner in all four sewing machine categories."*

Deborah Shepherd, Creative Director, Janome UK

## MOST DESIRABLE SEWING MACHINE BRAND

**Winner:** Janome Horizon Memory Craft 15000

**Runner up:** Brother Innov-is XV

**Third place:** Janome Horizon Memory Craft 8900 QCP

## BEST ENTRY-LEVEL SEWING MACHINE BRAND

**Winner:** Janome

**Runner up:** Brother

**Third place:** Singer

## BEST QUILTING SEWING MACHINE BRAND

**Winner:** Janome

**Runner up:** Brother

**Third place:** Bernina

## BEST EMBROIDERY SEWING MACHINE BRAND

**Winner:** Janome

**Runner up:** Brother

**Third place:** Husqvarna

## Best Sew Saturday event 2016

**Winner:** Crafty Sew & So, Leicester

**Runner up:** Sew Creative, Petersfield

**Third place:** Abakhan, Mostyn

*"We are so proud to have won this award. Our Sew Saturday event brought together stitchers of every age and we loved every minute of it. It's great to hear our customers did too!"*

Sarah and Freya, Crafty Sew & So



## BEST FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE

**Winner:** John Lewis

**Runner up:** Minerva Crafts

**Third place:** Plush Addict



*"We are absolutely over the moon to have won three British Sewing Awards! We put a huge amount of love and attention into creating inspiring and accessible sewing resources, so it feels amazing to have our hard work recognised. It means so much to my team and I that so many people voted for us – thank you!"*

Tilly Walnes, Tilly and the Buttons

## BEST PATTERN HOUSE

**Winner:** Tilly and the Buttons

**Runner up:** Simplicity

**Third place:** Vogue

## BEST SEWING BLOG

**Winner:** Tilly and the Buttons

**Runner up:** Sew Over It

**Third place:** Plush Addict

## FAVOURITE SEWING PERSONALITY

**Winner:** Tilly Walnes

**Runner up:** Patrick Grant

**Third place:** Debbie Shore

## EXPERT JUDGE

Kate Underdown, co-founder of online sewing community [www.thefoldline.com](http://www.thefoldline.com) reveals the best new product that she thought deserved recognition!



## BEST NEW PRODUCT 2016

**Winner:** Clover Wonder Clips

*"This was a tough category to judge, but*

*eventually we decided that Clover Wonder Clips was the best of the bunch! Designed to be used instead of pins, they hold fabric pieces together really firmly without marking it. If you are a dressmaker, they are great for sewing leather or sheer fabrics. For quilters, these will speed up your binding to no end. Another huge advantage is that they won't end up all over the floor or anchored into the carpet like old fashioned pins."*



## Best independent haberdashery shop

### MIDLANDS

**Winner:** Plush Addict, Peterborough

**Runner up:** Crafty Sew & So, Leicester

**Third place:** Hollies Haberdashery, Newcastle-under-Lyme

### SCOTLAND

**Winner:** The Fabric Fairy, Golspie

**Runner up:** myBearpaw, Edinburgh

**Third place:** Mandors Fabric Store, Glasgow

### SOUTH OF ENGLAND

**Winner:** Lady Sew and Sew, Henley-on-Thames

**Runner up:** Sew Creative, Petersfield

**Third place:** Sew Busy, Fleet

### NORTH OF ENGLAND

**Winner:** Minerva Crafts, Darwen

**Runner up:** Duttons for Buttons, York

**Third place:** Black Sheep Wools, Warrington

### IRELAND

**Winner:** Sew Unique Fabrics, Bangor

**Runner up:** Craftswoman Fabrics, Carrickfergus

**Third place:** Windmill Fabrics, Saintfield

### WALES

**Winner:** Butterfly Fabrics, Cardiff

**Runner up:** Busy Bees Patchwork, Newport

**Third place:** Calico Kate, Lampeter



# Love to Sew

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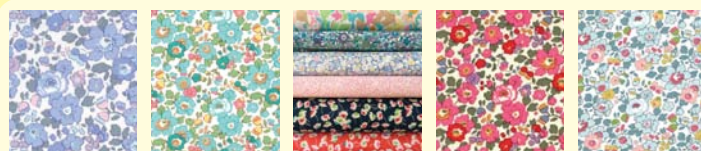
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# SPRING UPDATE

*Stitch yourself a new look with six FREE bonus downloads*

**6 BONUS GARMENTS TO SEW TODAY!**



## **1 Easy Circle Skirt**

This feminine wrap skirt is simple to make and perfect for warm weather.



## **2 No-Pattern Jersey Dress**

Create a made-to-measure shift dress from stretch fabric.



## **3 Gorgeous Tunic Top**

Sew this vibrant top in a bold print.



## **4 Corduroy Pocket Skirt**

Stitch this super-quick skirt in a bold needlecord.



## **5 Comfort Fit Trousers**

We love a simple sew! These stylish pants can easily be dressed up or down.



SIMPLE SEWS!

## **6 Wrap-Around Skirt**

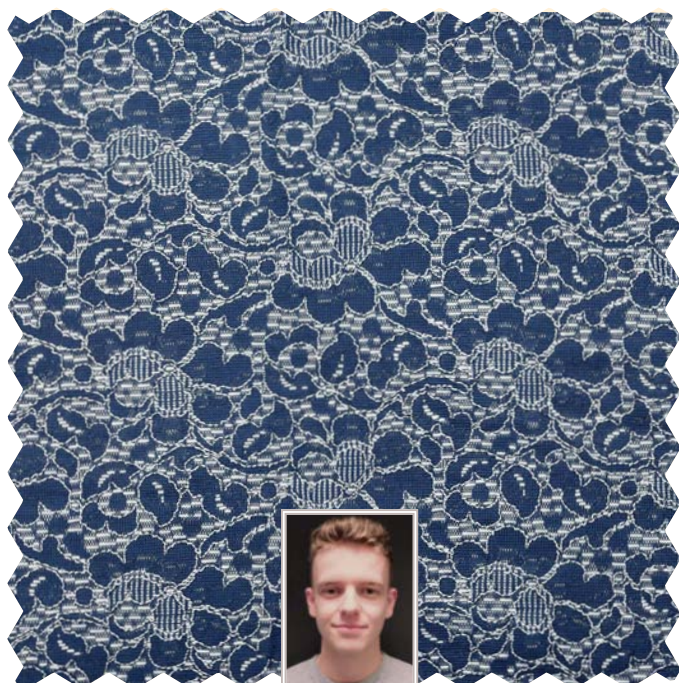
This stash-busting design only needs 1.5m of fabric and lining to make!

To download these projects and many more, visit [www.sewmag.co.uk](http://www.sewmag.co.uk)



## Out of the blue

Whoever said blue was a purely masculine colour obviously hasn't experienced the serene effect this shade can create within the home. Inspired by the Japanese fabric-dyeing technique that is shibori (find out more overleaf), this calming indigo palette creates a stylish interior scheme with long-lasting appeal. Access this trend with various shades of indigo paired with more neutral plains, or take it further with graphic blooms and traditional Japanese ornaments. Why not take a dip?



Lily denim blue with ivory lace, £6.25 per metre, [www.sewme fabrics.co.uk](http://www.sewme fabrics.co.uk)

**JACK KNOWLES, SEW ME FABRICS**

*"We believe this fabric combines two of this season's main trends for blue and denim shades! The firm drape makes it an ideal fabric choice for a variety of homewares and projects."*



Handwoven white and blue ikat, £18.99, [www.offsetwarehouse.com](http://www.offsetwarehouse.com)

**CHARLIE ROSS, OFFSET WAREHOUSE**

*"Ikat fabrics like this one have always stood the test of time and are incredible easy to sew! They are perfect for many soft furnishing projects, like cushion covers and table runners."*



Faux leather fabric in royal blue, £11.99 per metre, [www.minervacrafts.com](http://www.minervacrafts.com)

**VICKI HERRON, MINERVA CRAFTS**

*"Leathercloth is essentially faux leather! This lovely shade will add a welcome splash of colour to any room. Try cushions or seat covers, pouffes, and even use to update headboards."*



Libertine pima cotton lawn, £12.95 per metre, [www.croftmill.co.uk](http://www.croftmill.co.uk)

**CAROLINE BOARDWELL REID, CROFT MILL**

*"This lovely pima cotton lawn fits the shibori theme perfectly through its use of indigo combined with the patterned print, which you could imagine being carefully folded before dyeing."*



*Opt for similar blues shades along a spectrum*

*Pair with simple decor and homewares*

*Try furnishing with plain wood or glass accents*



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# HOW TO... *shibori dye*

## FORGET TIE-DYEING, THIS IS THE NEW TREND IN TOWN

**S**hibori is an ancient Japanese dyeing technique that dates all the way back to the 8th century. It may look similar to the childhood favourite of tie-dyeing, but there are actually a lot of differences. Shibori is the art of folding and binding fabric, then dipping it into a container filled with indigo dye to create a unique pattern of striking blue shades. Only certain parts of the material are exposed to the dye, so all kinds of clever patterns can be achieved with just wooden blocks and elastic bands. The wonderful thing is that it's all about experimenting – there are so many different techniques to try!

### Essentials

- Indigo dye kit
- Large container (with airtight lid)
- Wooden blocks
- Plastic pole
- Elastic bands
- Natural fibre fabrics
- Rubber gloves



### TIPS FOR SHIBORI SUCCESS

- The fabric you use must be made from natural fibres – 100% cotton responds really well. Try it out on different materials to see how the results vary.
- Ensure you wash your fabric beforehand so that nothing can interfere with the dye.
- When you remove the material, you will notice that it's a yellow-green shade. It will only turn blue once the oxygen has hit!
- Submerge your fabrics for around ten minutes. Try out longer or shorter amounts of time to see the different effects.
- Your patterns will depend on how tight the twists or bands are. We like to go by this little phrase: 'the tighter the whiter, the looser the bluer'.

### Shibori techniques

#### ITAJIME

One of the most recognisable shibori patterns, this technique involves concertina folding the fabric. Wooden blocks are then placed on either side and secured by elastic bands to create the grid-like design.

#### ARASHI

This is the Japanese term for 'storm'. The fabric is wrapped diagonally around a pole and bound with thread, which is then pushed down to bunch the material together – resulting in diagonal stripes.



#### KUMO

Also known as spider-web shibori, this involves pleating and binding the fabric. You fold it like an accordion to start with, then pinch small sections and wrap elastic bands around them. Keep doing this until you can't carry on further, then you're good to get dyeing.



*Turn over to make your very own quilt using a ready-made shibori print!*



## Essentials

- Patterned fabric, 10 fat quarters
- Plain cotton, two fat quarters
- 4oz wadding, 1.5m
- White cotton, 2m
- Coordinating thread

## Dimensions

1.15m x 1.5m

All seam allowances are 5mm unless otherwise stated.

## sew a striking quilt

**1** Use a rotary cutter and quilter's rule to cut the fabrics into 8cm x 22cm pieces. Our quilt uses 120 rectangles split into four columns of 30. Lay out your first column on a flat surface in a herringbone design with the rectangles pointing upwards, mixing the shades of fabric as you do so. Start from the base of the column and stitch the short edge of one rectangle to the lower edge of a second one, using a 5mm seam allowance.

**2** Open out these pieces and sew the lower edge of a third rectangle to the top edge of the joined first and second pieces, lining up the short edge of the third with the long edge of the second. Stop sewing 1.5cm from the end of the third piece as you will need extra manoeuvrability when joining the columns together.

**3** Continue stitching the rectangles together in this way, leaving 1.5cm unsewn at the end each time. Lay out and sew together three more columns, ensuring the patterns and shades are well mixed throughout the arrangement.

**4** Take the first and second column and start working from the tops of each. Line up the short edge of the first rectangle in one column with the leftover long edge from the other column. Check that the points at the ends of the columns are still level and sew together.

**5** Line up the next set of adjacent edges and sew together, carrying on from the previously unsewn sections of the seam to create a smooth line. Continue sewing columns together in this way. Press the quilt top and trim the zigzag edges from the sides. Cut across the points of the columns to straighten the top edge and stitch the resulting triangles into the recesses at the base of the quilt to create a straight edge.

**6** Layer the quilt top onto wadding, pin and trim to the same size. Pin these layers securely onto white backing fabric and trim to leave a 3cm border all around. Double fold the edges of the backing fabric over to enclose the raw edges of the quilt top and wadding. Pin and slip stitch in place, mitring the corners as you do so.

**7** To finish, lay the quilt on a flat surface and hand quilt with blue thread, working several oversew stitches across the junctions of each corner and fastening on the reverse.

*Relax and unwind*

# shibori quilt

Go a deeper shade of blue with this herringbone design

Made up of simple rectangles, this gorgeous quilt design by Corinne Bradd will have you craving a chilled night in, snuggled up on the sofa. If you don't fancy dyeing your own, this example uses a beautiful fabric range by Moda that features detailed shibori designs. It will leave you feeling far from blue this spring!

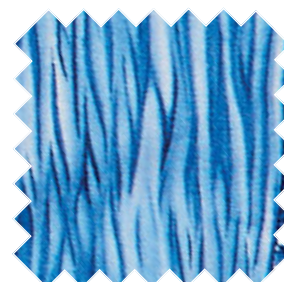


## the haberdashery



**Awase Nui  
Sora Light  
Blue**

A petal-like design in white.



**Maki Nui  
Mizu Dark  
Blue**

Contrasting wavy lines on blue.

We used the Shibori collection by Moda Fabrics, £12 per metre. Visit [www.plushaddict.co.uk](http://www.plushaddict.co.uk)



## Sew loves...

With a total of 210 built-in stitches including eight styles of one-step buttonholes and two alphabets, the Brother FS210 offers a range of personalisation options.

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# Susie's STITCH SCHOOL

*“Experiment with single or multiple rows of diamond stitches, and various ways of filling the gaps in between, plus different colour combinations”*

## Essentials

- Evenweave linen fabric
- Embroidery hoop, 20cm diameter
- Ribbon or tape, various widths, 20cm long
- Small buttons
- Embroidery thread, six stranded, assorted colours
- Blunt tapestry needle
- Sewing needle
- Thread (to match ribbons)

## Dimensions

17cm-18cm

## stitch a narrow bracelet

1 Place evenweave linen fabric in an embroidery hoop and prepare a tapestry needle with three strands of thread. Stitch a row of 12 or 13 diamond eyelet stitches (see panel), depending on the length of bracelet. The line will measure 17cm-18cm.

2 Fill in the gaps between the stitches with half diamonds, or stitch parallel rows of straight stitches in varying lengths, worked either vertically or horizontally, using the picture of the finished bracelets as a guide. You will now have a rectangular strip of embroidery.

3 Remove the fabric from the hoop and cut out the bracelet, leaving roughly 8mm-10mm of fabric all round. Fold the excess to the wrong side and press. At each end of the bracelet, create a straight or pointed end.

This array of vibrant bracelets are made using variations of diamond eyelet, a pulled stitch worked on evenweave fabric. As the term suggests, this stitch pulls the thread of the fabric, in this case simply creating a hole or eyelet in the centre of the diamond. Have fun combining colours and working just a couple of rows of stitches for a narrow bracelet or a few more for a wider version.



4 Cut a length of ribbon 2cm longer than the bracelet. Pin to the wrong side and slipstitch the long edges to the reverse of the bracelet, just below the folded edges. Fold under the ends of the ribbon before slipstitching in place. Stitch a buttonhole loop at one end and on the other, sew a button firmly in place.

## embroider a medium one

1 Follow the instructions for the narrow bracelet, but work

the embellished version of the stitch as described in step 2. Fill in the gaps with vertical straight stitches.

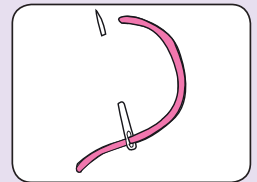
## sew a wider version

1 Follow the instructions for the narrow bracelet, but work three rows of diamond eyelet stitches, with half diamonds filling in the gaps above and below. Finish off as for the narrow design.

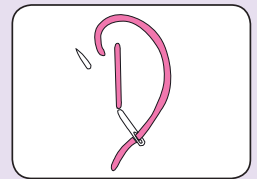
## DIAMOND EYELET STITCH

Here, the stitches are worked over four threads; make larger or smaller diamonds by working over more or fewer threads.

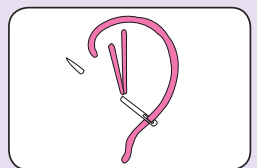
1 Start each diamond by making an upright, vertical stitch over four threads. This will be the top upright stitch of the diamond and the number of threads will determine the size. The base of the stitch is the central hole.



2 Make a second stitch by bringing the needle up in the hole diagonally to the left of the first hole and back into the central hole again.



3 Working anti-clockwise, repeat to make 15 stitches, always coming up in an empty hole and going down into the centre, slightly pulling the thread as you do so. Since all stitches go down the same hole, be careful not to split the thread from the previous stitches.



4 When the diamond eyelet stitch is completed, make another next to it, bringing the needle up eight threads to the right of the top of the first vertical stitch made in step 1 to begin the second stitch. Repeat to form a row of stitches. To embellish the basic diamond stitch, you can add straight stitches radiating out from each side, each worked over two threads.



## Stash-buster

These bracelets are a good way of using up scraps of linen fabric and threads, left over from other projects.





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## Quilter's Corner

“My creative flow had become more of a sporadic trickle!”

**After suffering a bout of sewer's block, Corinne finally gets her mojo back**

I reached a point this winter when I thought I'd completely run out of ideas. That was it. I was done. I couldn't possibly make anything different. I was grumpy, impatient and altogether pretty useless.

Then the sun came out for a while, plus I received a stack of eye-popping Riley Blake prints, and I cut the excess carbs from my diet. I'm not sure which of these things changed

me, but I feel more positive than ever and ready to face the world with my faithful Janome machine by my side (well, actually in front of me – but you get the gist!).

I finally took the time to make some things of my own, rather than what needed to be done for magazines. Those cushions that gave no comfort have been opened and their compressed fibre fill ripped up into small pieces to be stuffed back into smaller cases, so that they're plump instead of lumpy. They've then been covered with crushed velvet in scarlet and teal. The sofa finally looks inviting.



***Jazz up a plain top with Corinne's cute embroidered collar featured in issue 22 of our sister magazine Make It Today Dressmaker, on sale 9th March. Visit [www.makeittoday.co.uk](http://www.makeittoday.co.uk)***

The teenager who permanently resides on the aforementioned sofa finally has her long awaited mermaid tail blanket. Lovingly crocheted over about a month with a dodgy wrist and a 5mm hook, it has teal and sage stripes and is very cosy. I've shortened several pairs of trousers for my dad (who seems to have shrunk by a couple of inches since I pinned them up a year ago) and he

tells me there are 16 more pairs that need doing when I've got time!

Next, I've promised to stitch the hems of my daughter's curtains – they've been pinned since 2015 and she keeps getting stabbed in the ankle when she walks past them. Yes, I have suggested that she do it herself... I've also managed to make bags, pouches, toys, accessories, wallets and all manner of other stitchy stuff in between my jobs. Hurrah, I've finally found more hours in the day!



**CORINNE BRADD**



### Corinne loves...

I'm always losing my pins, so the Bordeaux Magnetic Pin Caddy from Clover is a godsend! It has a central groove that makes it easy to pick pins up, and you can stack a number of them up for extra storage. Priced £18.99, email [clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk) for stockist details.



### The Festival of Quilts

Mark 10th-13th August in your diaries, when The Festival of Quilts returns to the NEC in Birmingham. This is Europe's leading patchwork and quilting show, featuring over 300 exhibitors who are offering essential supplies, galleries of designs by renowned international artists, 350 textile workshops, talks and demos, plus a magnificent display of over 700 beautiful competition quilts.

To book tickets for The Festival Of Quilts, visit [www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk](http://www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk)





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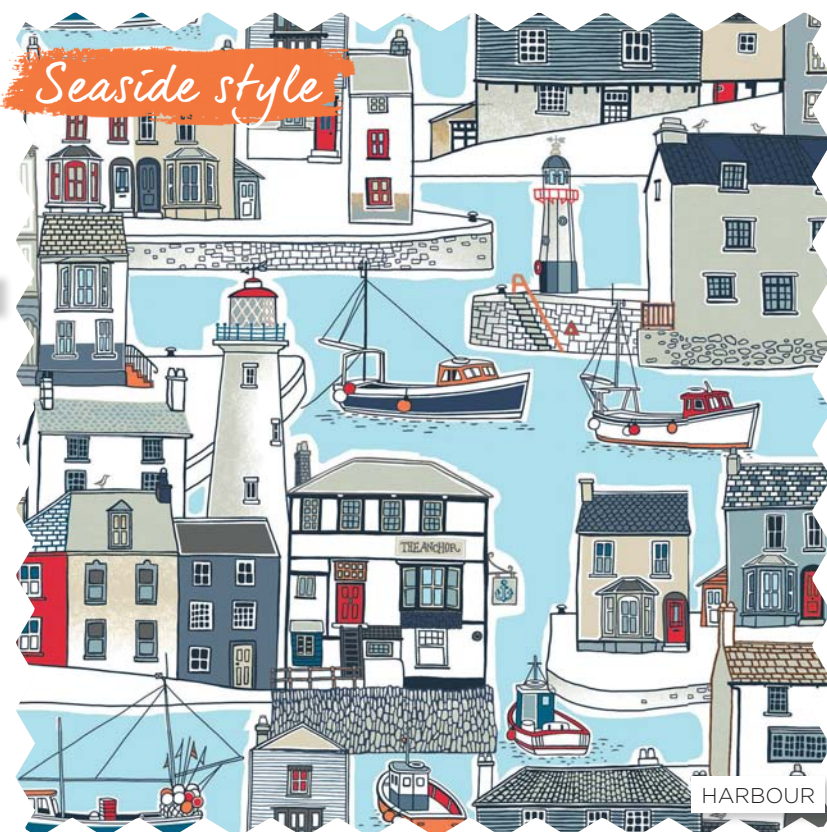
*"Marina features detailed quirky harbour scenes and classical nautical images, all in traditional colours with a splash of vibrant orange. Beach huts, boats and fish work beautifully to complete this idyllic seaside collection."*

Jayne Smith, Marketing Manager, Makower UK

# love that FABRIC

CREATE A SEASIDE FEEL WITH  
NAUTICAL FABRIC COLLECTIONS

If you're hankering for the beach already, you'll love these aquatic inspired fabrics. Underwater by Cloud9 Fabrics features shells, coral and seaweed from the ocean bed in navy, soft pink and gold. Marina by Makower UK goes above sea level with beach huts and boats, plus the odd shoal of fish in bright red, blue and orange. Hello sailor!



HARBOUR



FISHES ORANGE



MONTAGE



## Ocean motifs



OCEANFLOOR



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STARFISH



SHE SELLS SEASHELLS



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For Cloud9 Fabrics stockists, visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)



*"Underwater is inspired by a love of the sea and the world that exists just under the surface. The way the plants on the ocean floor gently dance together with the current, the fascinating mosses and reef formations, and the graceful creatures that live within it."*

Elizabeth Olwen, Cloud9 Fabrics



REEF



NO GRIT NO PEARL

## THIS MONTH'S PANTONE COLOURS

Mix pink, dark blue and rich orange



PINK SALT  
13-1511 TCX



NAVY BLUE  
19-3832 TPX



SUN ORANGE  
16-1257 TCX

The colours displayed on the Pantone swatches may be limited to CMYK printing process.



## Essentials

- Cotton fabric, white, patterned
- Iron-on interfacing
- Embroidery thread, black, pink, green
- Toy stuffing
- Pinking shears

## Dimensions

11cm x 22cm

## sew a bunny



1 Print the templates at [www.sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://www.sewmag.co.uk/templates). Back patterned fabric with iron-on interfacing. Cut a front and back.



2 Back a scrap of white fabric with iron-on interfacing. Use a pair of pinking shears to cut a 6cm diameter circle.



3 Embroider the facial features, using the image as a guide. Attach the face to the body, stuff.



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templates



4 Sew the face closed. Hold front and back right sides together and sew around, leaving a gap.



5 Turn the bunny right sides out, push out all parts and stuff. To finish, sew the gap closed.

### A POMPOM TAIL

Wrap two 15cm lengths of yarn around three fingers roughly 50 times. Remove yarn from fingers and tie a length around centre of the wrapped yarn, tying into a knot. Snip through loops opposite knot using a sharp set of scissors. Fluff, then trim neatly without cutting the long tail, then sew to bunny back.





*"As a child  
I loved a  
children's*

*book with Flopsy  
rabbit, and my own  
children also loved  
the book years later.  
Flopsy Flora just  
seemed like a fitting  
name with your  
fabric choice!"*

Amanda Jane McDonald,  
Sew reader





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Sweet like honey

# bee embroidery

Sew an inspirational quote with a sweet motif

If you love stitching a new piece of hoop art to add to your walls, this embroidered design by Sarah Bracken will certainly *bee* a winner. We've got conservation on our minds with our inspirational quote and adorable critter motif. You can use our wording or stitch your own to make it truly personal!

## Essentials

- Cotton fabric
- Embroidery thread, black, yellow
- Embroidery needle
- Carbon paper
- Pencil and paper
- Embroidery hoop, 15cm

## Dimensions

23cm diameter

## embroider a design

1 Go online to [www.sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://www.sewmag.co.uk/templates) to download and print the templates provided. Cut a piece of cotton fabric to the size of an A4 piece of paper. Place the carbon paper on top with the blue side facing down and the bee pattern on top. Draw over the pattern with a pencil, pressing firmly to be sure the carbon prints onto the cotton.

2 Secure the cotton in your hoop. Trim the excess fabric, leaving roughly 5cm spare all around the hoop, keeping the fabric tight to prevent the stitches puckering.

3 Thread your needle with three 50cm strands of embroidery thread and tie a knot in one end. Using the stitch guide on p94, begin by backstitching the yellow hexagons, then create the bee design using backstitch and satin stitch. Finish by sewing the quote in backstitch.

4 Tidy up the loose threads at the back of the design by tying knots in the ends and snipping off any excess. Fold the trim of fabric to the back of the frame and tack long stitches all around the hoop.

sew  
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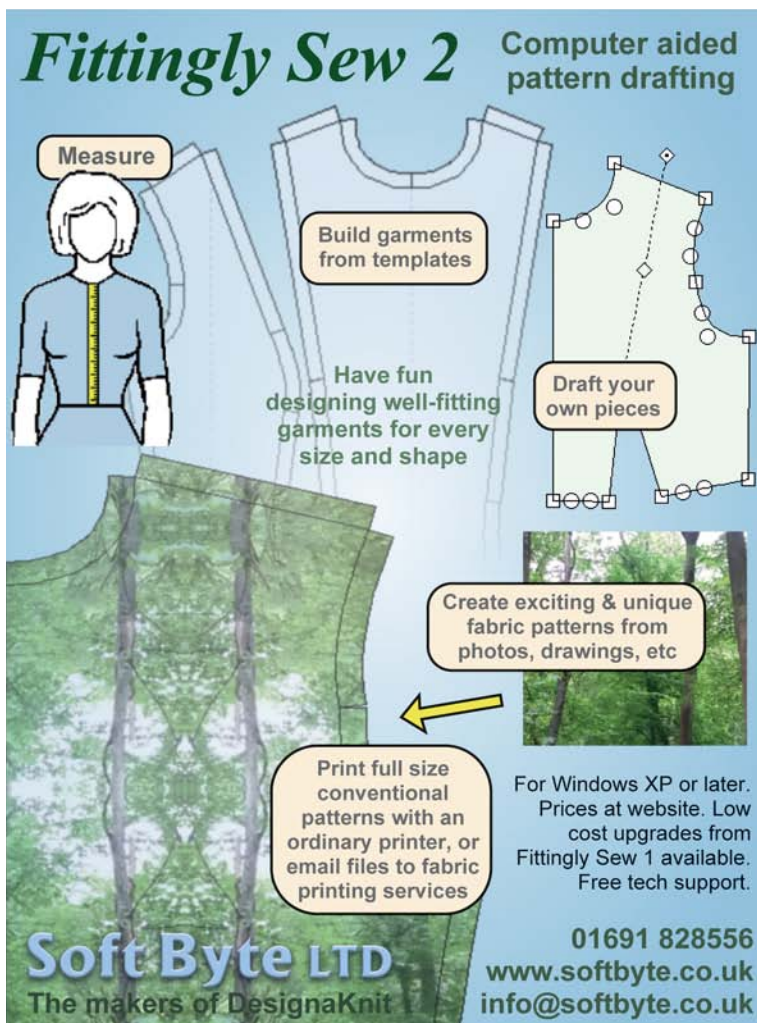
## Maker's tip

Before you start, make sure your hands are clean. Even the smallest amount of dirt can prevent your finished piece from looking its best.



# Fittingly Sew 2

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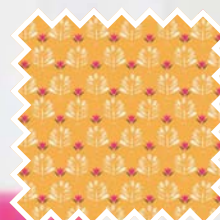
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# 5 ways with Distant Dreams

If you're looking for a fabric collection that packs a punch, look no further than Distant Dreams by Dashwood Studios. The range combines beautifully bold hues with floral motifs to create a palette that is perfect as the weather starts to warm up. It's versatile enough for everything from toy-making and quilting to accessories and baby makes!

*the*  
**haberdashery**



Gold Leaf



Blue Mandala



Butterfly Floral



Tiny Flowers



Peacocks

*Make a quilt with  
our herringbone  
design on page 64!*

To find your nearest stockist, email [sales@anbo.co.uk](mailto:sales@anbo.co.uk)



*Stash-busting make*

# *sit 'n' stitch caddy*

Enjoy sewing in front of the TV with a handy holder!

While some stitchers like to sew at a table, others much prefer to sit in a comfy chair. Corinne Bradd's useful sewing buddy drapes over the arm and features useful pockets for scissors and other essentials, plus a built-in pincushion.

Made from vibrant fabrics, it's a stitcher's best friend.



## Essentials

- Assorted print fabrics
- Plain cotton, white, coloured
- Lightweight wadding
- Stuffing
- White sewing thread
- Buttons, three

## *stitch a sewing caddy*

**1** Cut one 25cm x 40cm piece each from white cotton, lightweight wadding and plain coloured cotton. Layer and pin together. Trim two 11cm x 25cm sections of patterned cotton and pair up with two 11cm x 25cm white rectangles, right sides out. Cut 3cm wide strips of a contrast print and bind the top edge of each rectangle.

**2** Pin the bound rectangles to either end of the larger layered piece to create

pockets and round the corners. Zigzag stitch around the edges to hold the sections together, then run a line of topstitch down the centre of one pocket.

**3** Sew 12cm x 20cm of print fabric into a bag, turn right side out and topstitch across the open side, 2cm in from the edge and three-quarters of the way across. Stuff firmly and backstitch it closed to create a pincushion.

**4** Zigzag stitch the excess seam of the pincushion to one side of the large rectangle, between the pockets. Make a 3cm x 25cm length of piping from a strip of the fabric used for the binding (step 1). Pin across the rectangle 3cm above one pocket. Bind the edges of the rectangle as before, covering the raw edges. Section the piping into loops by sewing buttons over the top at regular intervals.



# *Sew with paper* **stylish purse**

Keep your money safe and sound in a pretty pouch

Using simple sewing techniques, Corinne Bradd has created this handy wallet in bold fabrics and Kraft-tex paper leather. Put your stitchy skills to the test by adding this unique fabric to your sewing repertoire, which looks and feels like leather but sews, cuts and washes like fabric – making it super easy to whip up!

## Essentials

- Assorted print fabrics
- Kraft-tex paper fabric
- Coordinating thread
- Glue stick

## Dimensions

9cm x 21cm (opened)

## sew a wallet

**1** Cut a 9cm x 21cm piece of natural Kraft-tex and 9.5cm x 22cm of patterned cotton. Fold under 5mm on each edge of the fabric, trim the excess at the corners and press. Lightly glue this to the larger piece of Kraft-tex.

**2** Trim 3.5cm x 21cm of Kraft-tex and 8cm x 21cm of patterned fabric. Fold in half and lay the Kraft-tex on top, lining up the bottom edges. Topstitch 3mm down from the top edge of the Kraft-tex.

**3** Fold 9cm x 21cm of fabric in half and lay the pocket on top. Topstitch down the centre to make smaller pockets. Fold 11cm x 21cm of fabric in half and place behind the pocket. Zigzag stitch across the bottom edge to hold the pieces together.

**4** Fold the pocket in half and trim 2mm from the raw edges. Bind the edges and bottom with fabric strips. Place the pocket inside the larger rectangle and topstitch around all four edges to hold everything in place.



## Paper play

This interesting texture is durable enough for totes, belts, book covers, luggage tags and more. You can sew, stamp, draw, fold and even inkjet print it!



*Just three steps!*

# *Dermot the dinosaur*

Stitch a prehistoric plushie today

This friendly dino designed by Corinne Bradd is sure to be a roaring success. It's the perfect project to use up any bright cotton you have in your stash and if you don't have any felt to hand, you could always try stitching pom-poms on instead. Why not let your little one stuff the body and help bring their new friend to life?

## Essentials

- Printed fabric, fat quarter
- Plain cotton, fat quarter
- Felt, yellow
- Toy filling
- Embroidery thread, yellow, navy

## Dimensions

17cm x 27cm (excl. legs)

## *stitch a dino buddy*

**1** Download and print the templates at [www.sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://www.sewmag.co.uk/templates). Cut out four arms and four legs (two left and two right) from plain cotton and sew each limb right sides together, leaving a 4cm gap in each. Clip the curves, then turn right side out. Stuff, then fold in the raw edges of the gap. Slip stitch closed.

**2** Cut two mirrored body shapes from patterned fabric (turn one of the fabrics over to do this). Cut 11 felt circles ranging from 2.5cm to 4cm. Tack in place along the right side of one body piece. Lay the other body piece on top, right sides together, then sew around, leaving a 7cm gap along the bottom edge. Clip the curves, then turn right side out.

**3** Pin the limbs to the sides of the body, then use extra strong thread to make one 5mm long stitch at the top of each. Reinforce with a couple more stitches in the same place. Stuff the body, then fold in the raw edges. Slip stitch closed. Embroider a smiley mouth and eyes using three strands of embroidery thread.



**Who makes the best prehistoric clothes?**

A dino-sewer!



# Simple quilting *baby sleeping bag*

Keep young ones cosy in this patchwork beauty

Newborns will love snoozing in Corinne Bradd's vibrant sleeping bag, sewn from fabrics in the Distant Dreams collection by Dashwood Studios. Made up from bi-coloured squares, it is secured at the front with pretty pink ties – when baby outgrows it, you can simply unfasten them and flip the bag over to use as a pushchair cosy-toes.

## Essentials

- Assorted print fabrics
- Coordinating plain cotton fabrics
- White cotton fabric
- Quilt wadding

## sew a sleeping bag

**1** Cut 10cm squares of cotton fabric, 24 patterned and 24 plain. Pencil a diagonal line on the back of each plain square and pair with a patterned piece, right sides together. Sew 5mm either side of the drawn line. Cut each pair in half along the line, open out and press to make a bi-coloured square.

**2** Sew the squares together to make an 8 x 6 panel, and press. Layer onto white cotton and quilt wadding, pin, and quilt along the seam lines. Trim the backing fabric to the edges of the quilt top.

**3** Cut several 3cm wide lengths of plain pink cotton and join end-to-end to make the binding. Stitch to the right side of the quilt on both short sides and one long one. Fold the binding over to the wrong side, hem and pin in place.

**4** Cut six 3cm x 15cm pieces of plain cotton, fold in half and sew down the long edge and one short edge. Turn out to make ties. Stitch the raw ends of the ties under the binding on the wrong side. Slip stitch the hemmed edge of the binding.

**5** Fold the sides of the sleeping bag to the middle, right side out, and sew binding to all the layers along the bottom edge. Fold and hem the binding to the back of the bag, tucking the ends on neatly, and slip stitch.





## Essentials

- Fabric, orange, beige, rust
- Iron-on interfacing, medium-weight
- Sewing thread, cream, black, coordinating
- Felt, black
- Fusible webbing

## Dimensions

19cm x 82cm

*Household essential*

# foxy draught excluder

Sew a useful accessory for your home!

Animal lovers rejoice! Our friendly fox pal by Louise Nichols has been drafted in to keep any chill at bay that may enter your home. The simple design makes it an easy stitch that can be completed in only a few short hours. Opt for our traditional choice of colours or choose shades to match your décor.

## make a draught excluder

1 Go online to [www.sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://www.sewmag.co.uk/templates) to download and print the templates provided. Cut a 16cm x 20cm piece of iron-on interfacing and

iron onto the reverse of orange fabric. Using the template, cut out one face from the interfaced fabric and one from the same fabric without interfacing.

2 Trace the side sections of the face and the inner ears onto fusible webbing. Iron the side

sections onto beige fabric and the inner ears onto rust fabric. Cut out, position, and iron onto the interfaced face.

3 Using a wide zigzag stitch, machine down both inner edges of the side sections and around the edges of the inner

ears. Using the template as a guide, cut out two eyes and a nose from black felt, and hand sew into place around the edge using black thread.

4 Place the two face sections, with wrong sides together, and machine around the edge, leaving a 7cm gap down one side for turning through. Snip and trim the seams, turn through, press, then stuff. Hand sew the gap closed using coordinating thread.

5 Cut two 20cm x 22cm pieces of interfacing and iron both pieces onto orange fabric. Using the template cut out two tails, one on the reverse. Trace two tail tips onto fusible webbing, one in reverse, then two tail middle sections, one in reverse. Iron the tail tips onto beige fabric and the tail middle sections onto rust fabric. Cut out, position and iron onto the tail pieces.

6 Using a wide zigzag stitch, machine around the top and bottom edge of the tail middle sections and the bottom edge of the tail tips. With right sides together, pin both tail pieces and machine, leaving the bottom edge open. Turn right side out, press, stuff, then hand sew the gap closed.

7 Cut two 18cm x 75cm pieces of orange fabric. Draw two 15.5cm x 18cm rectangles onto fusible webbing and iron onto rust fabric. Cut out and position in the middle of your long pieces of orange fabric. Iron on and with your machine set to a wide zigzag stitch, sew down both short edges.

8 Pin both body sections together and machine stitch, leaving one of the short edges open for stuffing. Snip the corners, turn through, press and stuff. Hand sew the gap closed using coordinating thread. To finish, hand sew the head and tail into position using coordinating thread.





*"If another furry friend takes your fancy, simply remove the tail and create your own features to suit."*

## *the haberdashery*



**Blaze**

A rust backdrop for a starry print. For stockists, visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)



**Bloom**

Bright orange with white stars. For stockists, visit [www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9](http://www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9)





# WORKSHOPS & COURSES

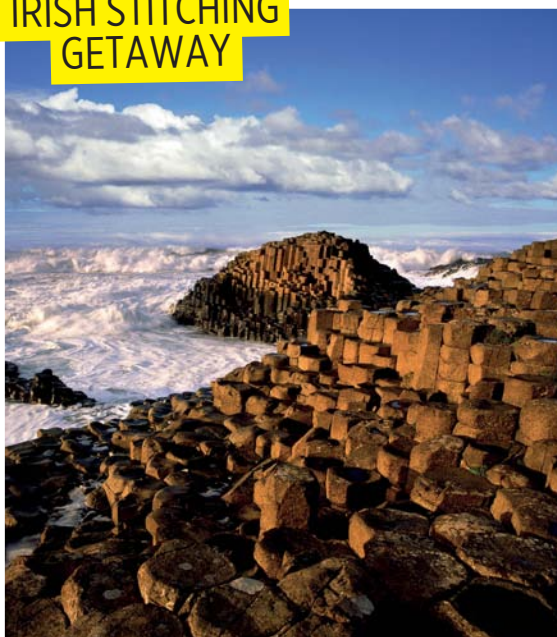
*Brush up your sewing skills and learn something new*

## workshop of the month

Join Stichtopia and Sew North on a fantastic five-night holiday in the north of the Republic of Ireland. This includes three stitching and embroidery workshops with expert Louise Kelly, where she will help you create a special project inspired by the beautiful surroundings of county Donegal. Along the way you will visit a renowned Donegal tweed mill and explore vibrant Derry, once the world leader in the linen and shirt-making industry.

The trip also includes a visit to the remarkable Giant's Causeway, a must-see for any visitor to Northern Ireland. During your stay, why not enjoy an evening in county Donegal for the chance to experience the hospitality and 'craic' that the Irish are famed for? This trip runs from 4th-9th September 2017 and costs from £1,095 per person based on a twin sharing room – a single supplement is £250.

### IRISH STITCHING GETAWAY



Irish Linen Centre

### STITCH & QUILT IN COUNTY DONEGAL

Price: **From £1,095 per person**

To book, visit [www.arenatravel.com/sewnorth](http://www.arenatravel.com/sewnorth) or call 01483 660800.

#### Why book?

- ✓ Expert sewing tuition
- ✓ Visit textile-related locations
- ✓ Enjoy Northern Ireland's scenery

## THREE MORE EXCITING WORKSHOPS

### MAKE A LEATHER BAG



#### TWO-DAY LEATHER HANDBAG MAKING COURSE

RJ Leather Sewing School, Portslade, Brighton

This popular course takes you through the basic construction techniques of making a leather handbag. On the first day you will customise your chosen pre-prepared pattern and cut the materials, before practising on the industrial machines and starting to sew the lining. The second day involves bag construction and final assembly. Priced £199, the course suits beginner to intermediate skill levels. For more details and to book, visit [www.rebecca-jane.com](http://www.rebecca-jane.com) or email [rj.leathersewingschool@gmail.com](mailto:rj.leathersewingschool@gmail.com)



#### INTRO TO SEWING COATS: THE CHLOE COAT

Sew Over It, online

Sew Over It has launched a new online class that demonstrates how to make the company's most requested pattern, the Chloe coat. Taught by Lisa Comfort, with help from Sew Over It's team of dressmaking teachers, this class suits ambitious advanced beginners who've never made a coat before, plus intermediate and advanced sewists. With the ability to start and stop, rewind or jump forward, the course can easily be worked around your life. The course is priced £40 – for more details, visit [www.sewoverit.co.uk](http://www.sewoverit.co.uk)

### FUN QUILTING RETREAT



#### PATCHWORK AND QUILTING RETREAT

justhands-on.tv, De Vere Hotel

Come for two days of sewing fun to Denham Grove in Bucks, with your choice of three leading quilting tutors. Pauline Bolt of Pauline's Patchwork will teach you how to sew layer cake quilts, Sarah Soward from Pauline's Patchwork demonstrates her Bargello quilt, while Valerie Nesbitt of justhands-on.tv is inviting you to bring your own project or be inspired by one of hers. The retreat takes place from 7th-8th October, priced £325 per person. To book, visit [www.justhands-on.tv](http://www.justhands-on.tv)



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SKU: POL180



Pink Check Polycotton- £5.99 per metre  
SKU: PC021



Silhouetted Flying Flock Chiffon- £4.99 per metre  
SKU: CH052



Lilac White Spotted Viscose- £4.99 per metre  
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Gorgeous fabric, excellent service. I ordered the Hummingbird georgette fabric, it arrived very quickly and is absolutely stunning, just as described on the web site.

I couldn't be happier!

Thanks AdamRoss Fabrics! - N. Bostock

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I'll be back! Great online shopping experience, excellent customer service and top quality fabrics, shipped in a timely fashion with good packaging. Fabric shopping as it should be. I'll be buying again! - Heather A.

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Top sewing spots in

# The North East and Yorkshire

Sew takes in the best crafty hotspots to visit in the area

Inwick Castle in Northumberland, a location for many TV and films including *Harry Potter*.

## Recharge in Northumberland

If you're thinking of exploring some of the many beautiful areas that the UK has to offer, make sure the North East and Yorkshire are top on your list! The region is certainly one of the greenest in the UK, with vast expanses of unspoilt countryside and scenery to take in. Along with this, you'll also come across fantastic examples of grand and historic architecture, and other attractions to satisfy your inner historian. In addition to these activities are a whole host of crafty spots, that are essential visiting on your journey... although each one is certainly worth the trip alone. Well, there's always room for some quality stitching time in your itinerary!



Known for its beautiful scenery and buzzing wildlife – with seals, puffins and bird-watching hotspots galore – is Amble-by-the-Sea, which offers tourists a good dose of nature, history and independent business. Nestled on the coastal town's award-winning high street is Amble Pin Cushion, an essential stop for any craft-lover. Described by visitors as 'an Aladdin's Cave', the store offers an array of fabric, yarn and haberdashery along with services from repairing, re-modelling and dry cleaning to dressmaking and tailoring. With monthly knitting and sewing groups, plus workshops covering a wide range of sewing projects (make an apron, cushion, piped cushion, winter coat, quilt – and even try millinery!) and various classes on sewing machines and overlockers, you're sure to leave feeling inspired. The team, known as the Fab Four, have a wealth of expertise to offer! It's comprised of Norma Arthur (with tailoring, dressmaking, millinery, lampshades and bridal experience), Karen Henderson (seamstress, knitting and zips expert), Irene Gibbard (seamstress) and Laurie Murray (apprentice). With exciting new fabrics and yarns coming in regularly, beautiful window displays and exciting schemes for customers, their passion is clear to see! Don't miss the shop's range of puffin kits and products either, that celebrate the area's trademark wildlife – it'd be rude not to.



## New skills in Tickhill

There's nothing better than receiving a warm welcome from a passionate team, which is exactly what you'll receive when you enter From Rags to Stitches in Tickhill. The town lies just south of Doncaster in South Yorkshire, with various historic sites adding to the area's medieval feel. No trip away is complete without its sewing fix, which is exactly what you can expect here. Peruse carefully-selected fabric ranges, then book onto a sewing workshop to discover all of the possibilities! Shop owner Jayne is even making a trip to America to learn free motion quilting so she can teach it herself. You'll also find the lively team at shows such as Crafting Live at Doncaster Racecourse in March and July, and the Knitting and Stitching Show at Harrogate in November.



*"As well as developing new skills, our sewing workshops are good for managing general well-being and development... much cheaper than therapy!"*

Jayne Maxwell, From Rags to Stitches

## Sheffield art scene



With its bustling trams and cosmopolitan feel, Sheffield is a hub of activity and indie shops. One example of the city's growing arts scene is Happy Hare, a store that started out five years ago making and selling handmade craft items. It now offers a range of essential materials and habby items on its premises just off Arundel Road, a stone's throw from Chapeltown train station. Tucked away just off the high street, customers don't

always stumble upon the store by chance but seek out this hidden gem! Housed in a beautiful barn conversion, it has all of the original beams (just mind your head!) and a lovely light workshop space. With budget through to designer fabrics, owner Lisa Birkett prides her store on the selection of sewing patterns that highlight smaller, independent companies. Beginners can also build their confidence in an introductory sewing class, then expand their skill set with workshops covering skills such as appliqué, quilting, patchwork, needle-felting and dressmaking.



## Get your puffin on

Taking place between 27th-29th May this year is the Amble Puffin Festival! Inspired by the many puffins that nest just a mile off Amble on the RSPB seabird sanctuary of Coquet Island, it's the best time of year to see newly hatched pufflings and raise awareness of this endangered species. With guided nature walks, a craft fair, food festival, bird-watching, arts and crafts, local history talks and live music to enjoy, it's set to be a fun day out for all of the family.



## Stock up in Beverley

Situated three miles from the market town of Beverley on the east of the Yorkshire Wolds is Cherry Burton, one of the few villages in the UK that has been awarded Fairtrade status. There you'll find North Bar Fabrics, the area's leading stockist that promises all of the fabrics, haberdashery and supplies you need under one roof, along with curtain-making and repairs services. With more than 40 years of experience, the team are devoted to offering expert advice and offer sewing machine tuition and beginner workshops. A must-stop for anybody in the local area!





## Be inspired in Brigg

The historic market town of Brigg can be found in North Lincolnshire! If you're in the area, make sure you pay a visit to Jaylaurs Sewing Studios. You'll find fabrics from all the major craft designers and a huge range range of haberdashery – it's basically any crafter's paradise! All of the staff are experienced seamstresses who are keen to discuss your stitchy projects and any news in the sewing world. The studio has also recently opened the Jaylaurs Sewing Room in January and has a packed itinerary of classes on offer that are suitable for aspiring stitchers of all ages. Take a look at the schedule for April (right) for a taste of what you're in for.



## Jaylaurs Sewing Studio: What's On in April



**BAG CLASS**  
Monday 10th, Wednesday 12th  
**SOFT FURNISHING CLASS**  
Tuesday 11th, Tuesday 18th  
**NEW BRIGG PATCHWORK CLUB**  
Thursday 20th (6pm-8pm)  
**MAKE A PAIR OF SLIPPERS**  
Tuesday 25th  
**BEGINNER-INTERMEDIATE DRESSMAKING**  
Wednesday 26th  
**TOY MAKING CLASS**  
Thursday 27th

## Tools & more in N.E. Lincolnshire



collection of patchwork and quilt fabrics and accessories, with a good selection of dance, dress and upholstery fabric too. In the Lincolnshire area? Make sure you pay Grimsby a visit!

Since taking over in 2007, the husband and wife team at Grimsby Sewing and Knitting have expanded the shop to offer its customers the best possible service. Specialising in sewing machine sales along with repair and servicing, the friendly team understand that purchasing a sewing machine can be a difficult decision and are happy to demonstrate any machine you want to try. Aside from this expertise, the business also has a fine reputation for its excellent range of haberdashery items, extensive

Fancy stretching your legs on your travels? In the east of Lancashire you'll find Pendle Hill, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, famous for its high summit and the notorious trials of the Pendle witches in 17th century England. It's also a popular site with ghost hunters!

## Pendle Hill

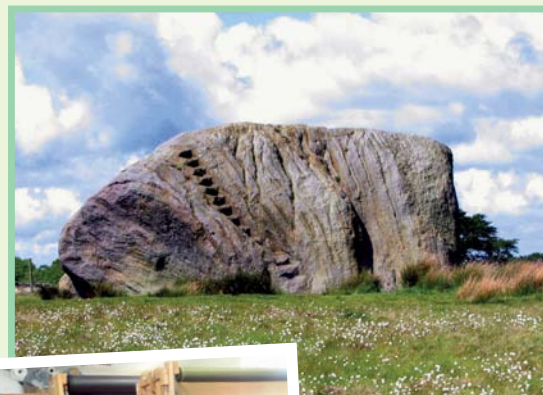


## Food for thought

*In the area? Keep your eye out for...*

- **SINGIN HINNIES** - made using flour, butter, lard, currants, salt and milk, cooked on a flat griddle
- **PARMO** - deep fried chicken or pork, covered in white sauce and cheese. Schnitzel-like!
- **YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS** - self explanatory... don't miss the chance to experience a traditional one.

**TEA** - Yorkshire and Tetley's tea come from this region, so a pitstop is an absolute must.



## The Great Outdoors in Bentham

Just off the A65, tucked away between the Forest of Bowland and the Three Peaks of Yorkshire is Pennine Outdoor in Bentham, on the edges of the North Yorkshire Dales. After trading at Bentham Sportswear, Pam Woof was inspired to take her experience sewing made-to-measure sports

clothing a step further. In 2003, she and her husband Colin were so impressed by the range of fabrics at Pennine Outdoor, they decided to purchase the company. Tapping into the outdoors market, customers now travel from all over the UK for fabric to make bespoke clothing, garden covers, boat cushions, awnings for camper vans, tents, tarps, rucksacks and more. The store also supplies fabrics

to small businesses that make bags, cases, covers, dog coats, or child and adult clothing. If you're looking for water resistant or thermal fabrics, haberdashery, buckles or webbing for your next project, this is the place to find them!



## Shop local

[www.amblepincushion.co.uk](http://www.amblepincushion.co.uk)  
[www.fromragstostitches.co.uk](http://www.fromragstostitches.co.uk)  
[www.handmadehappyhare.com](http://www.handmadehappyhare.com)  
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[www.craft-fabrics.com](http://www.craft-fabrics.com)  
[www.pennineoutdoor.co.uk](http://www.pennineoutdoor.co.uk)



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**Grimsby Sewing and Knitting** are proud to be the only authorised **Brother and Janome Sewing Machine stockist** in the North East Lincolnshire area. This status is largely thanks to the excellent high quality service provided to all our customers. We have a number of workshops and classes running throughout the year.

Please telephone shop on **01472 343921** to see what is currently available.

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Please get in touch for our March timetable and for further information.

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54 Wrawby Street, Brigg, DN20 8JE

E-mail: [Jaylaurs54@gmail.com](mailto:Jaylaurs54@gmail.com)

f 'Jaylaurs Sewing Studios'





## Simplicity patterns

We're offering one lucky stitcher the chance to win a collection of 15 sewing patterns, courtesy of Simplicity. The prize includes the latest spring/summer dress designs as well as vintage-inspired makes and classic patterns, along with a collection of haberdashery must-haves, helping you to spruce up your wardrobe with handmade creations. To enter, tick the 'SIMPLICITY' box. For more pattern inspiration, head to [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com)

**Worth  
£150!**



**5  
to win!**

## Vlieseline goodies

For all your essential needs, look no further than this fantastic selection of products from Vlieseline. Each winner will receive a jam-packed bundle worth £30 that includes Perfect Hem, Waistshaper/Bundfix, Seam Tape and more essential goodies, making any dressmaking dream a possibility! To enter, tick the 'VLIESELINE' box. For stockists, contact [crafts@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:crafts@stockistenquiries.co.uk)

# sew April giveaways!

*Enter now for your chance  
to win these amazing prizes!*



**12  
pairs to  
win!**

## Show tickets

Explore aisle upon aisle of creative delights and find everything you need to stock up on your crafty supplies as the Stitching, Sewing & Hobbyscrafts show comes to Harrogate for the first time ever! There's also the chance to enjoy a range of workshops, so you're guaranteed to leave the show feeling inspired! To enter, tick the 'ICHF' box. For more information or to book tickets, visit [www.ichfevents.co.uk](http://www.ichfevents.co.uk) or phone 01425 277988.

## Colourful stitching

Take the stress out of choosing colours for your crafting projects and let textile designer Karen Barbé show you how to transform your makes, simply by selecting the perfect colour palette. Seven Sew readers can be in with the chance of winning a copy of *Colour Confident Stitching* – read our interview with Karen on p97! To enter, tick the 'COLOUR' box. For more information, visit [www.pimperlpress.com](http://www.pimperlpress.com)



**7  
to win!**



**10  
to win!**

## Fabric bundle

We all love the chance to add a healthy stack of new and exciting prints to our stash, and that's why you'll love getting your hands on this fab fabric bundle courtesy of Kawaii Fabrics. The fun, bright cotton prints will transform any stitchy project you're planning, so you'll want to get sewing right away. To enter, tick the 'FABRICS' box. Visit [www.kawaii-fabrics.com](http://www.kawaii-fabrics.com) for more information.



## The Skirt Emporium

Packed with an array of interesting skirt styles to sew for both adults and children, *The Skirt Emporium* by Madame Zsazsa is sure to inspire creative pursuits. There are 25 different projects to work your way through, all of which can easily be customised. The full-size pull-out patterns provided are sure to make

your sewing journey an enjoyable experience. To enter, tick the 'BOOK' box. Visit [www.searchpress.com](http://www.searchpress.com) for more information.



**6**  
to win!

## Pattern kit

If you're keen to build up your dressmaking repertoire, this pattern and kit combo is sure to be a winner for you. One lucky stitcher will win a Suzy pattern by Sew Wardrobe plus the fabric kit to make it! The kit contains the fabric featured in the image along with lining, thread, zip, interfacing and the hook and bar fastening. To enter, tick the 'PATTERN' box. For more information, visit [www.sewwardrobe.co.uk](http://www.sewwardrobe.co.uk)



more than  
**£1,360**  
worth of prizes  
to be won!

## Crafty kits

Strapped for time but keen to get your creative juices flowing? By winning a fun kit from The Crafty Kit Company you can complete a project in no time and get that feeling of stitchy satisfaction. Eight winners each will receive a Sew Yourself a Pretty Patchwork Owl kit and a Felt Puppies Sewing Kit. Both packages come complete with everything required to make these adorable animal creations. To enter, tick the 'CRAFT KITS' box. Head to [www.craftykitcompany.com](http://www.craftykitcompany.com) for more products and information.



**8**  
to win!



## Ribbon reels

Here at Sew HQ we think you can never have too many ribbons in your stash, and so we're very excited to help you add to your stock pile. With so many ways to work these fun trims into your sewing, you're sure to have fun experimenting. To enter, tick the 'RIBBON' box. For stockists, contact [berisfords@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:berisfords@stockistenquiries.co.uk)



**5**  
to win!

## Needle bonanza

Needles are an essential item in our sewing stash, which is why any keen stitcher will appreciate this instant boost to their habby kit. 15 lucky Sew readers will receive a bundle of needles worth £10, that includes everything from darning to ballpoint machine needles – so no matter what project you have in mind you'll have the relevant tool! To enter, tick the 'NEEDLES' box. Visit [www.jjneedles.com](http://www.jjneedles.com) for more information.



**15**  
to win!

✓ just tick  
the boxes!

To enter our giveaways, just tick the box that corresponds with the prizes you want to win and send your entry to us no later than 20.04.2017. Mark your envelope: **Sew April Giveaways, PO Box 443, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 8WG.**

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Vlieseline | <input type="checkbox"/> PATTERN    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ICHF       | <input type="checkbox"/> CRAFT KITS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COLOUR     | <input type="checkbox"/> RIBBON     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FABRICS    | <input type="checkbox"/> NEEDLES    |

### What made you buy this month's Sew?

- ☐ FREE Simplicity pattern  
☐ I subscribe  
☐ Other .....

### What's your favourite project this issue?

- ☐ Bomber jacket  
☐ Bee embroidery  
☐ Other .....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other.....

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Daytime phone.....

Mobile.....

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**Only one entry per household please.**

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# Need to know

## Debbie Shore shows you how...

For more from Debbie, visit [www.debbieshore.tv](http://www.debbieshore.tv)

### Piping

Piping is simply where a length of cord is sandwiched into bias binding and then sewn into a seam. This technique gives a professional finish to cushion covers and can also be used on blinds, curtains, bags, clothing and even rugs. Bias binding is used so that the piping is able to go around curves without puckering. You could use pre-made tape or make your own!

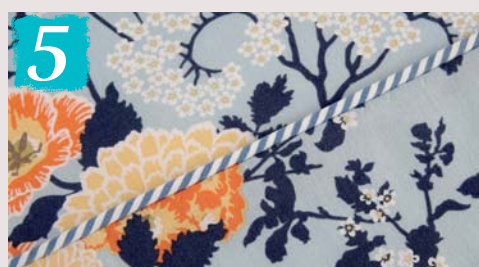
**1** To make your own piping, measure the length of cord you need and then add a couple of inches extra for joining. Cut your bias binding to the same length. If you're using pre-made tape, open up the creases and iron it flat. Fold the tape around the cord and pin [1].

**2** Put a zipper foot onto your sewing machine and sew, making sure you don't pull the cord through as you're sewing [2]. Don't sew too close to the cord at this stage. Your piping is now ready to apply [3].

**3** Place the raw edge of the piping to the raw edge of your fabric. Pin, then sew again with your zipper foot [4].

**4** Lay the second piece of fabric with right sides and raw edges together and sew again, this time as close to the cord as you can go without sewing into it. Open up the two pieces of fabric and carefully press [5].

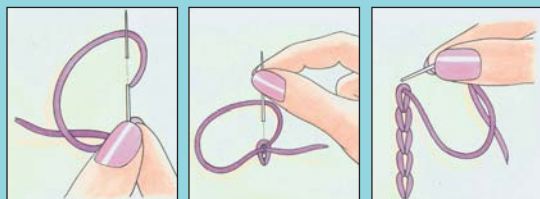
**5** This is fine for using on straight seams, but if you're going around a cushion cover, you'll need to join the piping. Start sewing on your piping but leave a couple of inches free at the beginning. Take the piping all the way around your project. When you reach the beginning, stop sewing an inch before you join and cut your cord with a couple of inches to spare. You should be able to overlap the ends [6].



### Essential stitches

USE THESE TECHNIQUES IN EVERYDAY HAND SEWING

#### CHAIN STITCH



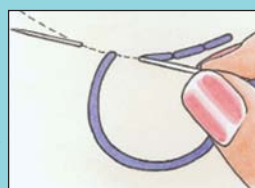
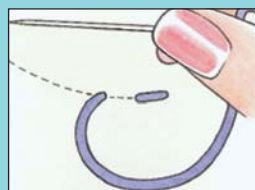
Create chain-like stitches to add dimension to an embroidered line

- 1** Bring the needle to the surface at the start of the sewing line. Take it back down very close to where it came up, then return it to the surface at the end position of the first stitch.
- 2** Take the needle back down, close to where it came up through the loop, and bring it back up at the end position of the next stitch.
- 3** Continue working along the stitching line, repeating the steps to create a series of chain links. Finish by catching the final loop with a small stitch to secure.

#### BACK STITCH

A continuous single line of stitching

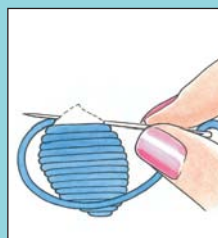
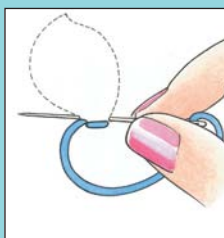
- 1** Secure the thread on the wrong side of your fabric and bring the needle through to the surface to start the first stitch. Move a stitch length backwards along the sewing line, take the needle back through the fabric and then bring it to the surface at the end position of this stitch.
- 2** Moving back along the stitching line, take the needle down through the same hole as the previous thread. Bring it to the surface at the end position of the stitch. Repeat along the sewing line to create even stitches.



#### SATIN STITCH

A decorative stitch that requires parallel lines of thread

- 1** Start by securing the thread on the wrong side of the work. Pull the needle through to the surface on the base of the outline that will be filled. Take the needle to the outline on the opposite side and push the needle back through to form a long straight stitch.
- 2** Take the needle down next to the end of the first stitch and under the work, bringing it back through at the start of the previous stitch, forming a parallel line of thread. Repeat this process until the desired area is filled.





# ESSENTIAL INFO AND ADVICE FOR SUCCESSFUL STITCHING

## Measure up

The key to successful fitting is taking accurate body measurements and comparing them to those on the pattern envelope in order to make appropriate alterations.

### STEPS TO SUCCESS

- Measure yourself in your underwear, preferably in the bra you will be wearing with your garment.
- Use a new tape measure as they can distort out of shape over time.
- Ask a friend to help you, especially with tricky measurements such as your back-neck to waist and height.
- Be honest with your measurements and remember pattern sizes are totally different to ready-to-wear high street sizes.
- Use your measurements to help you adjust the pattern to fit your shape, not forgetting to take the required ease into account.

#### My measurements

Bust .....

Waist .....

Hip .....

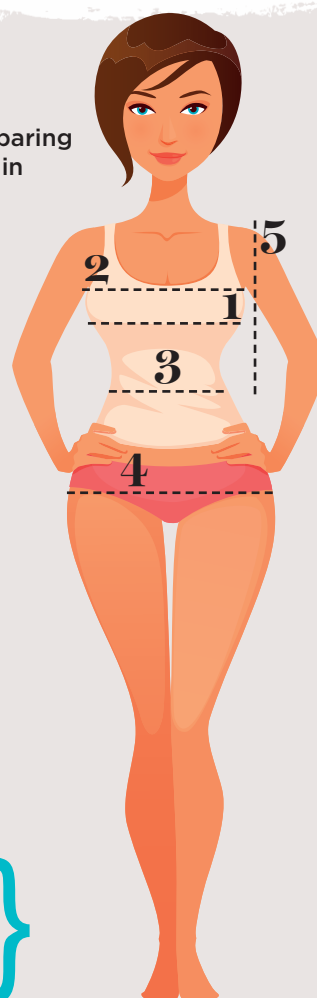
Back-neck to waist

length .....

### STITCH DICTIONARY

#### Bias

Diagonal to the weave of the fabric, 45° from the selvedge edge.



#### 1 Bust

Around the fullest part of the bust.

#### 2 High bust

Around the chest, above the bust and under the arms.

#### 3 Waist

Around the smallest part of your waist.

#### 4 Hip

Around the fullest part of your hips.

#### 5 Back-neck to waist length

From the base of the neck to the natural waistline.

#### 6 Height

Measure standing against a wall.



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### LOOKING SHARP

Ensure the blades of your scissors are sharp and ready for the task in hand. It's easy enough to sharpen your tools if needs be to create a more accurate cut.

### PREPARE YOUR WORKSTATION

Always aim to cut on a flat, smooth surface with nothing interrupting your cutting. A large table works best to give you plenty of room, whilst a cutting mat is ideal if you're using a rotary cutter.

### TAKE YOUR TIME

There's nothing that screams 'rushed project' more than bad cutting, so take your time and cut slowly, making sure you follow the correct lines as you go.

### HOLD YOUR FABRIC AS YOU CUT

If you're right-handed, place your left hand on the pattern pieces and fabric to keep it secure. Holding the scissor blades at right angles to the fabric, begin cutting around each section. Reverse the process if you're left-handed.

#### Tools of the trade

- Dressmaking shears
- Pinking shears
- Embroidery scissors
- Rotary cutter

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# READING ROOM

## Our favourite new sewing books

### meet the author



#### 5 minutes with... Karen Barbé

Karen Barbé is a textile designer who creates unique hand-embroidered pieces, inspired by "anything simple and unpretentious". In 2015 she attended an intensive embroidery course with The Royal School of Needlework and now hosts an embroidery workshop from her studio in Santiago, Chile. Her first title, *Colour Confident Stitching*, makes choosing colours and creating palettes an enjoyable part of the sewing process.



#### When did you first get into embroidery?

My mother inspired me when I was a girl. She was always working with her hands – knitting, embroidering, quilting, painting, you name it – so naturally, I learned too. My first attempt was doing half cross-stitch on penelope canvas. I still remember getting one row right, but then totally losing the grasp of it on the next one! Needlepoint remains my favourite technique to this day. There's something predictable and safe about working in a regular open weave within the constraints of a grid that challenges me to imagine a world of possibilities, which makes the craft so pleasant and fun.



#### Why a book on colour, not technique?

When I started teaching embroidery, the most common questions concerned colour. Although my students were able to make the stitches, they felt frustrated about the shades they had chosen. Many mentioned that it was a challenge they encountered in other yarn crafts as well. I then decided to teach a workshop about creating beautiful colour palettes because it's not something you can choose hastily in the craft shop; it's a project in itself and deserves time. *Colour Confident Stitching* is the expanded version of that workshop.

#### How do you find colour inspiration?

This may sound clichéd, but I find colour inspiration everywhere! I don't just wait for it to stumble upon me; every day I go out and hunt for beautiful colours and document my discoveries through a journal with samples, photos, and so on.

#### What are your go-to colour rules?

Neutrals are a great wild card for any colour palette, and I always include them because they add depth without creating too much noise. It can be tempting to incorporate too many different shades into a flat or boring palette, but I resist adding entirely new colours to the mix and open the range to other versions of the hues already there – think paler, darker or brighter tones – this gives a rich, balanced range.

#### Will you be writing any more books?

Absolutely! I think of *Colour Confident Stitching* as a guide for getting off to a good start with embroidery in terms of colours, so in the future I can focus on technique in a way that's easy to understand – and explore the visual possibilities of each stitch.



***Colour Confident Stitching: How to Create Beautiful Colour Palettes* by Karen Barbé (£16.99, Pimpernel Press Ltd) [www.pimpernelpress.com](http://www.pimpernelpress.com)**

### Stripe Quilts Made Modern

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*Stripe Quilts Made Modern* by Lauren S. Palmer (£18.99, Stash Books) [www.ctpub.com](http://www.ctpub.com)



### Stitched Textiles: Birds

The must-have third title from the hugely successful *Stitched Textiles* series inspires and encourages textile artists, containing all the information a novice needs to bring majestic birds to life with needle and thread. Techniques range from

dyeing and piecing to embroidery and working with dissolvable fabrics, which are accompanied by six step-by-step projects packed with expert advice, plus an inspirational gallery of vibrant and contemporary designs.

*Stitched Textiles: Birds* by Rachel Summer (£15.99, Search Press) [www.searchpress.com](http://www.searchpress.com)



### Mini Patchwork Projects

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and sew darts, to transform your sewing space into a creative craft studio!

*Mini Patchwork Projects* by Beth Studley (£8.99, David and Charles), [www.fwcommunity.com](http://www.fwcommunity.com)



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# NATALIE LEA OWEN

*Natural born creative and lover of quirky architecture, textile artist Natalie shares her love of illustrating and starting her creative business.*



I first discovered sewing at secondary school as part of my Design and Technology classes. I went on to study GCSE textiles and it very quickly became my favourite subject. I have loved creating things for as long as I can remember – even at nursery I was always sat at the craft table mucking around with pens and paper.

To give my business the kick-start it needed, I enrolled in the Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme, which was definitely a challenge – but I'm so glad I did it. It begins with a four-day workshop on business administration to ensure you have all the tools to run a business, such as book-keeping skills, basic information on tax returns, being self-employed and how to market your business. From there, you can choose to attend a wide range of workshops on different things that are relevant to you, from creating websites and operating social media, to search engine optimisation and even confidence building. I then had to write an 8,000 word business plan and pitch my idea to a panel of Prince's Trust executives to apply for funding.

My degree involved a lot of self-directed work, so I was already used to working independently and setting myself creative briefs and planning projects. Straight after graduation, I showcased my work at the New Designers Exhibition, which allowed me to meet so many great contacts and gain freelance work from clients such as Hallmark Cards, Waitrose and Education First.

Working from home can be quite boring, but I've made friends with lots of other freelance creatives who I keep in touch with via Instagram. We give each other feedback on designs, spur each other on, and meet at markets and trade fairs, so being part of that community really helps.

I used to describe my workspace as chaotic and messy, but I've learnt to be a lot more organised over the past year. I like to keep things clean and colourful, so all of my



stationery is quite bright! I have a big noticeboard where I stick things that I find inspiring to keep my brain thinking creatively.

Nature and my favourite places like Alexandra Palace, Kew Gardens and other quirky buildings feature in my drawings. My SS17 collection includes illustrations of numerous London parks and gorgeous botanicals.

Last year I exhibited at the Top Drawer show, which was my first big trade fair for wholesale. I'd love to continue working with my current stockists, designing more products that they'll love. It would also be amazing to see my work featured in a few more shops around the country and internationally. Another element I'd like to introduce into my work is collaborating with brands so that I can see my designs come to life on some unusual products – so stay tuned!

*"I happened to lose my unpicker the other day and I realised how annoying it was without it!"*

*Something you didn't know about Natalie...*

- I'm a classically trained clarinettist.
- I am a member of The Woodcraft Folk... a movement that helps build the confidence of children and young people.
- I'm half Israeli.

Discover more of Natalie's work at [www.natalieleaowen.co.uk](http://www.natalieleaowen.co.uk)





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