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SPRING STYLING

YOUR 4-IN-1 PATTERN

IN UK SIZES 8-20

EASY-TO-SEW BATWING TOP



INSPIRATION

The bag that's changing lives

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GIRLS' SKATER DRESS



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84 FRESH FABRICS

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"Excellent customer service and product! I am so impressed with Adam Ross. I have now made at least 5 other people place orders because I was so impressed. Thank you everyone at Adam Ross" - **Elle, Sew Positivity**

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Hello

Although I love to add a splash of colour to my winter wardrobe to brighten up gloomy days, spring brings a whole new colour palette and with it the excuse to sew in fresh new hues such as a tropical brights and gorgeous earthy tones.

Alongside seasonal colours one definite new trend is the humble tie. Found on sleeves, waists and empire lines, the tie is here to stay for the summer it seems, so your **FREE Kwik Sew tie dress pattern (page 14)** is one to sew up very soon! With two skirt and sleeve options it offers a flattering fit for everyone and will work hard in your wardrobe, repaying your sewing time tenfold!

If you're short on time why not try the **Simple Sew Gwen top (page 50)**? It is brilliant for beginners and will look fabulous paired with the **Liberty lawn tiered skirt (page 74)** for a top-to-toe boho look. For a flash of colour try your hand at the **contrast-panel sweatshirt dress (page 23)**. Stylish yet super comfortable (trust me, I tried our version!), this is easy weekend wear with a difference.

I find it satisfying to make seasonal changes with quick-sew home projects. Try our **giant pompom cushion (page 58)** and **ampersand bookend (page 80)** for added wow factor, or sew the gorgeous **sewing caddy (page 84)** as a treat for yourself or your favourite sewing buddy.

We couldn't resist two bright, fun makes for kids. Madeit Patterns created the **twirly girls' skater dress (page 37)** (as modelled by my very own twirly girl!), and it's a great introduction to sewing jersey and stretch bias tape. The **monster plushie (page 46)** with his endearing duck button nose has become an instant office favourite we are all eager to make.

For more inspiration we've plenty of simple upcycling ideas, step-by-step techniques and tutorials, fabric recommendations and high-street buys. Welcome to spring the Sew Now way!

Sam

Editor

sam.sterken@practicalpublishing.co.uk

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you subscribe

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Sew up the perfect spring dress

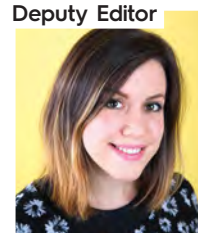
MEET THE TEAM

Editor



Sam

Deputy Editor



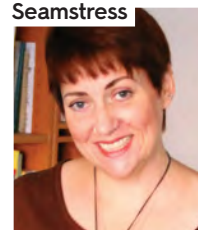
Bethany

Stylist



Jo

Seamstress



Jeanette

Editorial Assistant



Jenny

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Instantly update your look with this Simple Sew pattern

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Best patterns for kids

WHAT'S NEW?

The products, patterns and events on our radar this month



PARTY TIME!

Have you made the Colette Moneta Dress? Or are you looking to sew it? Well, why not join the Colette Moneta Dress party? To join in, all you need to do is post a picture of your handmade dress to your Instagram feed between Friday February 24th at 6pm (GMT) and Sunday February 26th 6pm (GMT) using the hashtag #Monetaparty. Hosted by Elle from Sew Positivity, Rachael Wain and Sew Abigail (also known as The Triple Stitches), and Sprout Patterns, there are also chances to win lots of fantastic prizes. To find out more about the party and how to get involved, go to blog.colettehq.com



MATERIAL GIRLS

Let's face it we are all material girls aren't we? Made from sturdy 100% cotton in cream, with black cotton strapping handles, this bag makes a great fabric carrier when you're off to the shops and it's a brilliant little gift for fellow sewists. Pick up yours for £8.95 from www.fabricsgalore.co.uk



From T-shirt to tote



NO SEW tote bags

Here at Sew Now, we can't get enough of speedy upcycling projects. Therefore, we were very excited to come across this no-sew tutorial that helps you transform a T-shirt into a handy tote bag. All you need is an unwanted knit T-shirt, a pair of scissors and a fabric marker or chalk. This is a great project to get the kids involved with too as it requires lots of knotting to join the pieces together – perfect for keeping little hands busy! Check out the tutorial at www.scatteredthoughtsofcraftymom.com





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HAPPY 50TH FISKARS!

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of Fiskars. Famous for its iconic orange-handled scissors, the company released the world's first plastic-handled scissors and they've been used for generations for everything from dressmaking, embroidery, paper cutting and general household chores. Since the scissors hit the shelves in 1967 Fiskars has sold over a billion pairs, and to mark this special occasion it wants to find out the creative stories behind every pair and share them at www.fiskars.co.uk. If you have a tale about your Fiskars scissors, email it to billionstories@fiskars.com. If your story is published on the Fiskars site you'll receive a brand-new pair of scissors too!



CREATIVE SEWING WEEKEND

Take a break from the hustle and bustle and join in the Creative Sewing Weekend. It is set in the 18th Century Dunford House, Midhurst, West Sussex where leading experts will be hosting sewing and quilting classes, and there will be evening entertainment too! Workshops include a 3D and hexagon class with Jennie Rayment, a stitching and textural decoration workshop with Wendy Gardiner and a two-day class with Claire Tyler where you can learn to recreate a favourite garment. The package costs £490 for en suite full-board, with day and partner rates available too! The event takes place Thursday 23rd – Sunday 26th March 2017. For an exclusive discount, quote SN5 to receive £20 discount per person. Contact Wendy Gardiner at wagardiner@ntlworld.com to book your spot.



WORKSHOPS

Want to build your sewing skills this year or master a new technique? Then check out the latest schedule of Janome Masterclass workshops. Each one is led by a leading sewist and will be held at the Janome training school in Stockport, Cheshire between March and November 2017. Not local? Don't worry, you can also find details of regular workshops and courses run around the UK, including a few retreats for your diary! To see the latest schedule, go to www.janome.co.uk

Join the club

The lovely folks at Sew Over It have just launched a new monthly club for PDF pattern lovers. How exciting! All you need to do is subscribe to the mailing list and then pay a £5 annual fee to join its PDF pattern club. When you sign up you can receive a free PDF pattern of your choice and then you'll get 10% off new patterns and a chance to check them out a week before they're officially released. Where do we sign up? To join the club, go to www.sewoverit.co.uk



HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS PATTERNS

Simple shapes and sublime fits make up the new patterns on the hit list from Kate and Rachel of The Fold Line



Kate



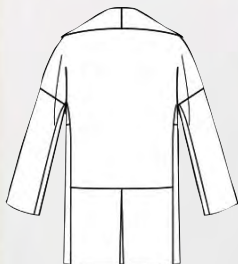
Rachel

B6423

Butterick Patterns

SKILL LEVEL: ●●●●●

We love the relaxed fit of this Butterick B6423 coat designed by Lisette. The coat includes a shawl collar, dropped shoulders and the shape is really enhanced by the princess seams. There are in-seam pockets at the front – a great detail and also perfect for keeping your hands warm in the cold weather! We'd recommend this coat for an advanced beginner as the loose fit of the coat makes for an easier sew.



Sizes UK 4-14, 16-26
Paper pattern £8.25
www.sewdirect.com



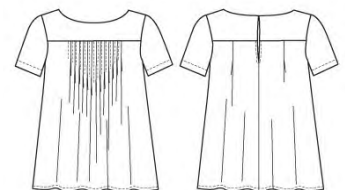
Sizes UK 6-14, 14-26
Paper pattern £8.75
www.sewessential.co.uk

M7544

McCall's Patterns

SKILL LEVEL: ●●●●●

We really like this collection of tops from McCall's and it has us dreaming of summer! The key detail of this pattern is that you have different options to gather or pleat the fabric into the yoke at the front and back of the top. There are four different looks you can make so several ways to make it your own and we particularly like the lace insert option. This would look great in cotton as well as something with more drape. We'd recommend this top for an advanced beginner looking to expand their skills.





PLUS-SIZE
PATTERN

Sizes UK 14-30, in three cup
sizes (C/D, E/F, G/H).
PDF pattern \$7
(approximately £5.61)
www.cashmerette.com

HARRISON SHIRTDRESS

Cashmerette

SKILL LEVEL: ● ● ● ● ●

This is the latest release from Cashmerette who specialises in plus-size patterns. This pattern was designed after lots of requests for a dress version of a previous pattern release, the Harrison Shirt. The dress features double princess seams, giving it a great fit through the bust (so no gape at the armholes) and additional ease has been added through the waist and hips for a flowy silhouette. This looks set to be a wardrobe staple and lots of makers have been raving about it online. It would be best made in a drapery fabric like rayon. We'd recommend this dress for an advanced beginner looking to expand their skills.



Sizes UK 6-16
PDF pattern €8
(approximately £6.88)
www.schnittchen.com

AMY PARKA

Schnittchen Patterns

SKILL LEVEL: ● ● ● ● ●

This is one of several parka coat pattern releases over the past few months and this offering from Schnittchen has some fantastic features. The coat is an oversized shape, fully lined with drop shoulders and a hood alongside some classic parka details. The pockets at the front are oversized and add to the shape of the silhouette. The coat can be made in two lengths and would be a great challenge to take your sewing skills to the next level, we'd recommend this for an intermediate maker.





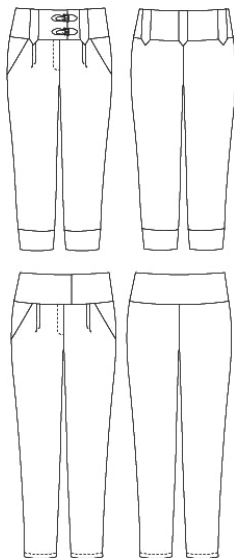
Sizes UK 2-20
PDF pattern \$11
(approximately £8.82)
www.threadtheory.ca

LAZO TROUSERS

Thread Theory

SKILL LEVEL: ⬢ ⬢ ⬢ ⬢

Thread Theory is a pattern company specialising in men's patterns and it has just released a rather great pair of trousers for women. Meet the Lazo trousers, relaxed-fit trousers with a tapered leg that comes in two lengths. They feature a wide waistband and sit just above your natural waist, there are two options for closures including a double buckle and we think these trousers would be great made up using a drapery fabric like a rayon or crepe. We'd recommend these trousers for an advanced beginner looking to practise their fitting skills.



Sizes UK 6-22
Paper pattern £16
www.theavidseamstress.co.uk

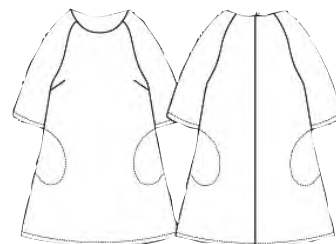


RAGLAN DRESS & TOP

The Avid Seamstress

SKILL LEVEL: ⬢ ⬢ ⬢ ⬢

This is the newest pattern from The Avid Seamstress, which is a UK-based pattern company set up last year. The Raglan dress is a simple dress with an A-line silhouette, making it the perfect project for a beginner as there will be fewer fit issues. The pattern comes with two sleeve lengths and optional inner and outer pockets, as well as a shorter top version so there are lots of options to make this pattern your own.



The Fold Line is an online sewing community with over 10,000 members. The site has a huge pattern database with sewing-specific search function plus wishlist and library profile features to store your favourite patterns. There is also a sewing resources section to inspire your next make and an active forum where you can chat to other sewists. Visit www.thefoldline.com

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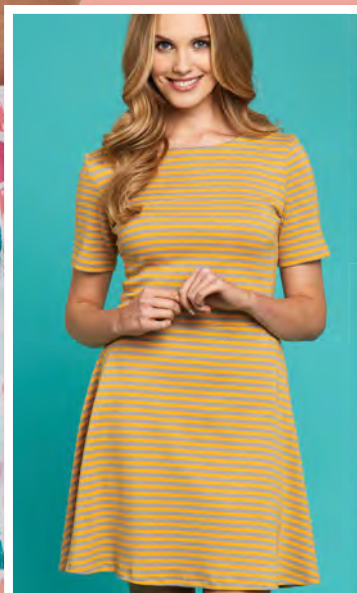
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Kiki jersey dress



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Sewing for others

Sewing Bee star Angeline Murphy is on a mission for everyone to experience wearing made-to-measure garments



Angeline

Sewing is an art and a skill that I am very proud of. The construction process of bringing a piece of fabric to life and using it to create a 3D masterpiece is what attracted me to sewing. I am forever watching fashion documentaries and I like to draw on inspiration from leading fashion houses. I'm also constantly searching online for the latest clothing trends and sewing techniques so I can adapt commercial patterns to make my creations more unique and bespoke to the person wearing them.

One of the big drivers behind my sewing journey was my desire to create my own bridesmaid's dresses. I wanted to inject personality and the handmade touch into my wedding day. I knew at the time that this was a bold move and many friends and family members warned me against it – "Planning a wedding is stressful enough" they said. However, sewing quickly became my stress outlet – a place where I could focus and shut the rest of my thoughts out.

Creating dresses for your own body shape is one thing, however taking on the challenge of fitting others can be very daunting. I started designing for friends initially before I branched out to design and create garments for clients. With my husband's encouragement I created my own Facebook page to showcase some of my designs and attract followers.

I will be the first to admit that designing for others is not always straightforward. Managing people's expectations and vision can sometimes be more challenging than creating the actual garment. This is where good consultation prior to final design is key.

The first step after a potential client contacts me is to get an idea of their expectation and budget. In a world of fast fashion it's vital that they are aware that bespoke garments, made locally, will be of higher quality and therefore demand a higher price tag. It's crucial to get to know your client – understand their personality, get to know their tastes and above all know what style suits their body shape.

"I STARTED DESIGNING FOR FRIENDS INITIALLY BEFORE I BRANCHED OUT TO DESIGN AND CREATE GARMENTS FOR CLIENTS"

Creating a mood board to portray ideas and help visualise the design for the client is so important. Allowing them to touch and feel a selection of fabrics also gives them ownership of their design. Having a dress made specifically for you is a spectacular feeling and something that I feel every woman should experience.

Over the last year, I have taken on a number of select commissions. In 2016, I was time limited with a job promotion and, of course, all the *Sewing Bee* filming! I love to design flattering dresses for ladies who aim to turn heads so I carefully select the designs I create. Some of my most memorable commissions have been formal dresses, mother-of-the-bride dresses and wedding guest dresses. I'm happy to say that they all definitely had the 'wow' factor!



Beautiful couture dresses made by Angeline, and guaranteed to turn heads



Angeline making sure every measurement is perfect



This gorgeous gown certainly has the wow factor



VIEW A



Black heels £14,
www.matalan.co.uk

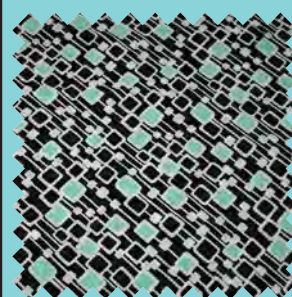


New TIES

Classic in shape, yet fashion forward, the ties on our free dress pattern add detail and instant appeal

Photographer **RENATA STONYTE**
 Model **LANNA** for BOSS models
 Hair and make-up **NINA ROCHFORD**

GET THE LOOK



Black & Mint Green Retro
 Print Microfibre Dress Fabric

Soft, drapery woven polyester
 with a striking retro print
 £5.99 per metre

www.minervacrafts.com

STEP UP YOUR SKILLS

Adventurous beginner: If you choose a plain fabric add a striking detail by sewing bias binding tape around the collar to each end of the V-neck opening

Intermediate: To make the pattern wedding worthy add a layer of lace or sheer overlay to the flared version as an elegant addition

MIX AND
MATCH SKIRTS
AND SLEEVES
FOR FOUR
FAB LOOKS



VIEW B

"Tie waists are set to be one of the big trends of SS17 and they're everywhere on the high street. Far from a one-hit fashion wonder, your free pattern offers two skirt options, so choose to suit your style. This dress will easily work for plenty of occasions, from work to weddings. It also has a comfortable fit, due to its semi-fitted bodice and the option of two sleeve styles. Try a medium-weight stable knit as we did on our super swishy lilac dress or opt for a more opulent woven fabric, such as a peachskin or crepe for a smart, luxe look"



Sam

GET THE LOOK



Lilac Roma Jersey

A heavyweight ponte roma jersey which is stable with as great swish!
£14 per metre

www.fabricgodmother.co.uk

Box heel faux suede black shoes
£14, www.primark.com

Lanna is 5' 10" and a size 10

Go casual and style with a simple Breton stripe



TRY THE KNOT TREND

THE SHIRT DRESS



Dress at Studio by Preen £85,
www.debenhams.com

THE MAXI



Lana tie-dye dress £49,
uk.monsoon.co.uk

THE COLD SHOULDER



Cold shoulder bow tie dress £14,
www.asda.com/george

THE MIDI



Kiley broken stripe dress, £69.50 (due March),
www.oliverbonas.com



Try Alison Smith's step-by-step guide to sewing the perfect V-neck on page 82

Extend the tie and hem length to create a more relaxed vibe



WEAR IT WITH...

This super versatile, figure flattering jersey dress is ideal for stepping into any spring occasion

LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET



Bella Utility Jacket, £59.95
www.whitestuff.com



Butterfly Shirt, £14
www.direct.asda.com



Poppy Embroidered Saddle Bag, £29
uk.accessorize.com



White and Navy Stripe Top, £12.99
www.tesco.com/direct/clothing



Black PU Jacket, £29
www.tesco.com/direct/clothing

NIGHT AT THE CINEMA



Gina Tote Bag, £69.95
www.whitestuff.com

SUNDAY LUNCH



Silk pompom scarf, coral, £45
www.east.co.uk



Yellow sling back heels, £59
www.topshop.com



Leather bag, £110, www.

White Floral Suit Jacket, £65
www.missselfridge.com



Pleated Satin Hardcase, £29
www.uk.accessorize.com

DAY AT THE RACES



Wrap Heeled Shoe, £40
www.very.co.uk



SEWING START UP

This month we caught up with Grace from online shop Beyond Measure that sells 'beautiful things for folks who make'

What was the inspiration for starting your business?

I love beautiful handmade things and I've worked in craft galleries since I left art college in the early 90s. I loved working with makers but I needed a change of scene and something that would fit better with family life. So I went freelance as a craft curator and, at the same time, I really got back into sewing. One evening I had a bit of a eureka! moment about how I could combine the two and the idea for my web shop was born.

Tell us what makes your business special

I try and imagine my dream craft shop and what it would sell. Then I try and find those

special products that I would want to buy. If I can't find them, I'll find someone who will make them. The products need to be well designed, good quality and different; I like to think of them as the sewing heirlooms of the future. I like to work with small companies and individuals, so I know exactly where things have come from. The things I sell are mainly useful but there is the odd bit of whimsy too.

I wanted to find alternatives to many of the plastic tools on offer. Wood is the natural answer; it's so beautiful, long lasting and environmentally sound. I work with a variety of woodturners on products such as needlecases, pincushions and tools. They are

hugely popular, especially at events where people can pick them up and feel the wood.

What are your customers loving right now?

They can't get enough of the leather wrist rulers. They are made by a small design company in Portland, USA, and meet my criteria of useful and stylish. My leather scissor and needle cases by Awl Co. have been steady sellers from the start and I can't keep up with demand for the Hugh Leishman wooden pincushions – I often have a waiting list! My tweed fabric remnants, from a local mill, are also very popular.

When did you start sewing/crafting?

When I was very young. My mum sewed, embroidered and made lace and my aunt and grandma (who lived with us) were always knitting, so I was always tinkering. When I was a teenager I used to sneak down at night to use my grandma's sewing machine (she was quite hard of hearing). I taught myself to make clothes and did an evening class when I was about 17.

"I LIKE TO THINK OF MY PRODUCTS AS SEWING HEIRLOOMS OF THE FUTURE"

Have you ever had any sewing disasters?

My first sewing disaster was when I was about 10. I got a petite toy sewing machine that came with a free child's dress pattern. I remember excitedly going to buy fabric with my mum in Bolton but then getting very frustrated when everything went wrong. The machine was useless and the pattern was far too hard; I was a sewing perfectionist even then!

What tips can you share with folks just starting out on their handmade adventures?

Start small and stick to a budget. I must admit I didn't start with a detailed business plan, though I had quite a clear vision in my head. But I was cautious, buying small amounts of stock and testing the waters on Facebook whilst my site was being built. Try and do appropriate events and fairs if you don't have a shop. It's a brilliant way to build your customer base and get face-to-face feedback. It's also essential to use good photographs and make your website look professional.



How have you expanded your business?

I moved out of the spare room into a work unit last summer. I love having a space that allows me to open as a shop to the public now and again. I took the plunge and did some larger shows last year, like the Knitting & Stitching Show in London, which was great and really helped to expand my reach.

What are the best and most challenging things about running your own business?

The best bit is feeling ownership – I can do everything the way I want to and in a way that feels right for me. I love working on new products with designers and makers. It can take a while to bring things to fruition but it's worth it to know I have something unique. You can also prioritise and get help when and if you need it. I think it can be easy to expand too quickly and get carried away, so I aim to keep it manageable and fun!

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

The customer is always right. I really appreciate my customers, my business would be nothing without their support, so I do the best I can to make their experience of shopping with Beyond Measure a good one.

What does a typical day in your life look like?

I drop the kids at school and head to the work unit, which is only a few minutes' walk away. I usually pack orders first and at busy times that's pretty much all I do! Otherwise it will be working on emails for marketing, customer enquiries, product development, ordering stock etc. If I have a fair coming up it will be more practical stuff like planning my stand, finishing and packing stock and updating social media. It's all very varied, which keeps it interesting, but I can get distracted easily and end up doing something completely different to what I planned!

What do you do to relax or take time out?

This year I am making sure I take proper breaks and stay healthy. Where I live is great as we have lots of lovely countryside for walks, it's quite hilly! I have also started doing more knitting, and I sew of course! I'd like to do more hand sewing and embroidery too.

What are your personal favourite fabric brands or patterns?

I love natural materials like cotton, wool and linen and there are some great companies such as the Draper's Daughter, Dots and Stripes and Faberwood who sell unique, well-selected fabric. Wendy Ward produces

very wearable, adaptable patterns and I plan on making more skirts from her new book. I also enjoy the thoughtful details of independent European pattern designers. My biggest love is vintage patterns from the early/mid 60s. I spend far too much time and money seeking these out.

Finally, what can we expect to see from you in 2017?

This year I'll be working on some new exclusive products, adding to my ranges and focusing on the website. The last two years have gone very quickly and things have developed organically. I want things to grow at a pace that suits me and that I can manage, so that I can enjoy my work and keep my connection with my makers and customers.



www.shopbeyondmeasure.co.uk

Find out more about Beyond Measure and its beautiful curated craft supplies, practical tools and beautiful accessories, at

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Innov-is V5

Advanced sewing, quilting & embroidery machine

- Fast 1050 stitches per minute embroidery speed
- Extra-large long arm - 11.25" (285mm)
- Colour LCD touch screen
- Large 300mm x 180mm embroidery area



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Innov-is F480

Sewing and embroidery machine

- 182 built-in stitches, including 10 buttonhole styles
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- User-friendly colour LCD screen
- Memory function
- Automatic thread cutter



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- Automatic 1 step button hole, 10 styles
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- Pivot function
- Sideways feed



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usual price
£1,299

SAVE
£300

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Long arm 8.3"(210mm) sewing machine

- 182 built-in stitches
- Automatic 1 step button hole, 10 styles
- SFDS - Square Feed Drive System
- Combine and memorise stitches
- Automatic thread cutter
- Lettering 5 styles upper and lower case



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- 50 Stitches
- 5 styles of automatic 1 step button hole
- Automatic needle threader
- Variable stitch length and width control
- Slide speed control
- Needle stop position setting up or down
- Hard case



£349

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Kit worth
£149.99

UK Dealer List

Scotland

David Drummond Edinburgh EH12 5HD 01315 397 766
The Sewing Machine Shop Fochabers IV32 7DU 01343 823 961
Karelia House Ltd Aberfeldy PH15 2LS 01887 822 027
Pembertons Sewing Machines Stirling FK8 1HA 01786 462 993

North East

Singer Sewing Centre Whitley Bay NE26 2SY 0191 2525 825
Tullys Sewing Machines Sunderland SR1 3JG 0191 5657 995
The Fat Quarters Newcastle upon Tyne NE17 7TN 01207 565 728

North West

Affordable Sewing Machines Ltd Moreton CH46 9AQ 0151 677 7755
Bamber Sewing Machines Ltd Eccles M30 7HY 0161 707 7786
Hobkirk's Sewing Machines Ltd Blackburn BB2 2AJ 01254 693 555
Hobkirk's Sewing Machines Ltd Bury BL9 0LQ 0161 764 4450
Jaycotts Chester CH1 4LT 01244 394 099
Lord's Sew Knit Centre Accrington BB5 3DE 01254 389 171
M&S Sewing Machines Heywood OL10 4NN 01706 366 943
R&T Machines Blackburn BB1 2AL 01254 520 63
Temptations Bentham LA2 7HQ 01524 261 868
Sewing Machines Direct Wrexham LL12 0PJ 0800 092 5215

Yorkshire & The Humber

Gillies Fabrics York YO1 8SW 01904 626 244
Grimsby Sewing & Knitting Grimsby DN32 9DR 01472 343 921
Woodseats Sewing Machines Ltd Sheffield S8 0RY 0114 255 2822
Sewing Machines and Crafts Keighley BD21 1AD 0153 560 9466

Midlands

Brewers Sewing Machines Wolverhampton WV2 3AF 01902 458 885
Couling Sewing Machines Lincoln LN5 8AW 01522 521 841
Creative Hands 2 Worcester WR1 2LU 01905 249 40
DC Nutt Sewing Machines Walsall WS3 3SS 01922 497 603
Grain Sewing Machines Ltd Nottingham NG6 8UY 0115 927 1155
Frank Nutt Sewing Machines Birmingham B14 7AA 0121 443 3978
GS UK Ltd Nottingham NG2 3DE 0115 844 8000
Leamington Spa Sewing Machines Ltd CV32 4RA 01926 427 572
The Lorna Knight Sewing Academy Leek ST13 7NX 01538 371 682
L & M Nutt Sutton Coldfield B73 5BS 0121 373 5497

East Anglia

BSK Ltd Bedford MK41 7LE 01234 217 096
Franklins Group Limited Colchester CO2 7DU 01206 563 955
Franklins Group Limited Ipswich IP1 3EL 01473 221 188
Franklins Group Limited Chelmsford CM2 0LG 01245 346 300
Sewing Machine World Kings Lynn PE30 5DD 01553 773 362
Sew Northampton Northampton NN1 4DX 01604 637 200
Stitch X Stitch Stowmarket IP14 1HH 01449 257 077

Wales

Cliffords Sewing Machines Swansea SA1 3JY 01792 655 928
J&B Sewing Machine Co Ltd Newport NP19 4SY 01633 284 646
J&B Sewing Machine Co Ltd Cardiff CF11 8AA 02922 402 418
Sewing Machine Direct Wrexham LL12 0PJ 08000 925 215
Sewing Innovations Techsoft UK Ltd LL18 5TQ 01745 535 007

South East

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Brighton Sewing Centre Brighton BN1 1YD 01273 621 653
British Sewing Centre Boreham Wood WD6 1FJ 0208 236 1520
Dowlings Wickford SS11 8YJ 01268 570 248
Eastleigh Sewing Centre Eastleigh SO50 5LD 02380 650 808
Fareham Sewing Fareham PO16 0EH 01329 234 641
GTS Sewing Machines Banbury OX16 9PQ 01295 701 384
Hastings Sewing Centre Hastings TN34 1RE 01424 423 108
Lewisham & Deptford S/Mcs Ltd London SE8 3NT 02086 921 077
Maidstone Sewing Centre Maidstone ME14 1ED 01622 760 254
Regent Sewing and Knitting Ltd Ilford IG1 2AG 0208 4780 669
Rona Sewing Machines Waltham Cross EN8 7BX 01992 640 250
Sew Devine Reading RG6 1JQ 01189 268 664
Studio 48.50 Billericay CM11 2UD 01268 523 780
The Sewing Centre London SW11 3BP 0207 228 3022
The Sewing Shop Canterbury CT1 2HX 01227 457 723
Tysons Sewing Machines Limited Southall UB1 3DA 0208 5741 750
Wimbledon Sewing Machines Co. Ltd SW17 7AA 0208 767 0036
Woking Sewing & K/M Centre Woking KT15 3NY 01932 352 958
CBB Sewing Machines Rochester ME1 1HS 01634 841 597

South West

And Sew to Knit Taunton TA1 1NZ 07547 006 618
Caffie Crafts Weston Super Mare BS24 6SE 01934 838 327
Exeter Sewing Machine Company Exeter EX1 2LD 01392 275 660
Franklins Group Limited Salisbury SP2 7SU 01722 554 466
Sewcraft Swindon SN1 1SD 01793 536 778
The Sewing Studio Redruth TR15 2DB 01209 216 942
D & S Sewing Machines Newton Abbot TQ12 2BS 01626 369 840

Northern Ireland

Barry Peg BT14 1AB 028 9045 6014

Isle of Man

New Generation Port Erin IM9 6AQ 01624 836 301





STYLE *files*

*standout styles we
would love to wear
or make*

Set to be the S/S17 'couleur du jour', yellow can inject some much-needed sunshine into your wardrobe, or be worn in a more tonal way. This Autograph wrap top (£45) strikes the perfect balance and will suit all skin tones. The long bell sleeves and wrap ties ooze elegance, while also cleverly covering up and creating a feminine shape.

M&S at its best! www.marksandspencer.com

Sew *STYLISH*

Keep your sewing tools close by with our pick of practical and stylish accessories



Pretty as a pincushion

Keep your pins at hand with this cute little pin ring tutorial. All you need is a ring base, a small felt ball and some glue. They're quick to make and are great gifts for fellow makers. Learn how to create yours at www.ialwayspickthethimble.com

INSPIRATION

FOR
SEWISTS
ON THE
GO!



A cut above

Finally, an excuse to buy a Tatty Devine necklace! This statement laser-cut piece uses jet black and silver mirror acrylic to create a pair of working pinking shears, for all sorts of crafting projects. £45 from www.tattydevine.com

I can sew a rainbow

Inject some colour into your wardrobe with these vibrant bobbin necklaces. Choose from different colour combos with five metal bobbins wound with co-ordinating cotton and hung from an 18" silver-coloured chain. Once you've used up the thread you can simply wind on some more to suit your next project! £6 from www.pennylanefabrics.co.uk



Bow bracelets

These slap-on bracelets are the perfect minimalist pincushion option to help you sew in style. Made from recycled wool and filled with 100% happy, these sophisticated and comfortable accessories are handmade in Helsinki, Finland and are ideal for crafters, tailors and dressmakers alike. £19.45 each from www.tikkupincushions.etsy.com

Go for gold

Wear your love of sewing for all to see with this stunning handmade bobbin necklace. Made from sterling silver, it's wound with real sewing thread so can be helpful for darning on the go too! £55 from shop.royalacademy.org.uk



Contrast panel SWEATSHIRT DRESS

*This stylish but simple dress,
with an on-trend turtle neck
and sportswear-inspired colour
flash panel will happily see you
through to spring*

Project **JULIA CLARIDGE** www.bobbinsnbuttons.co.uk

Photographer **RENATA STONYTE**

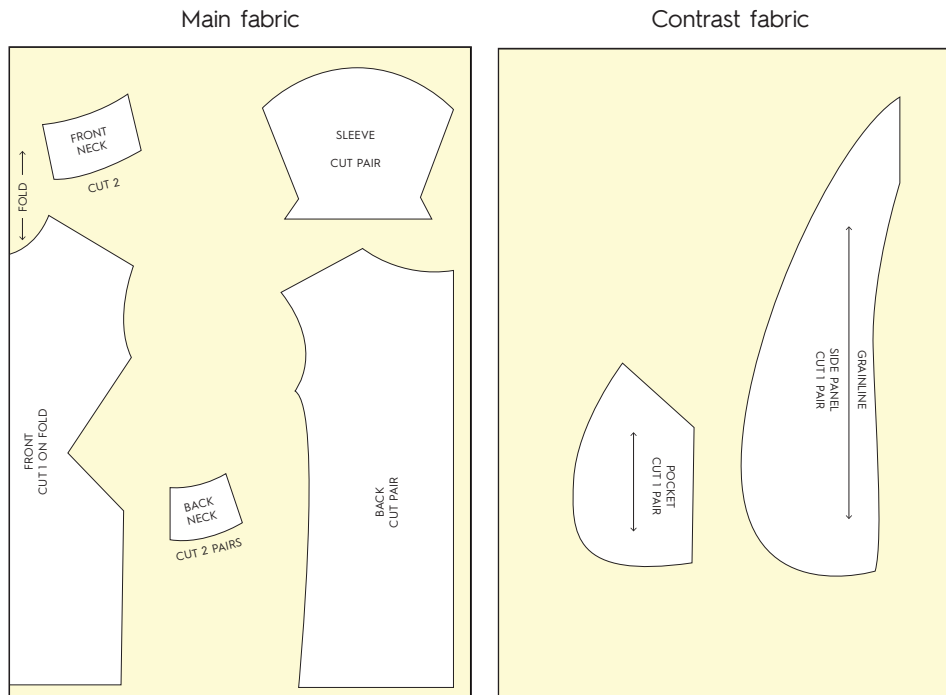
Model **LANNA** for BOSS models

Hair and make-up **NINA ROCHFORD**

DOWNLOAD
YOUR
FREE
TEMPLATE



LAYPLANS



SKILL LEVEL: ● ● ● ●

MATERIALS:

- 140x160cm sweatshirt fabric
- 65x160cm sweatshirt fabric for contrast panels
- 20" invisible zip
- free template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

FABRIC TYPES:

Sweatshirt fleece, ponte de roma, hacci

NOTES:

Use 1cm seam allowance throughout

CUTTING:

Main fabric:

- Cut 1 front
- Cut 1 pair back
- Cut 1 pair sleeves
- Cut 2 front collars
- Cut 2 back collars

Contrast fabric:

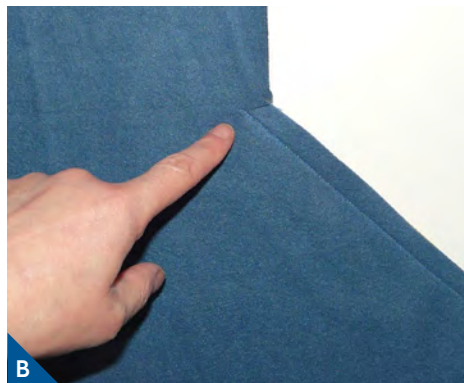
- Cut 1 pair side panels
- Cut 1 pair pocket bags

MEASUREMENTS

| | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chest | 106cm | 111cm | 116cm | 121cm | 126cm |
| Hips | 94cm | 99cm | 104cm | 109cm | 114cm |
| Length side neck to hem | 92.5cm | 93.5cm | 94.5cm | 95.5cm | 96.5cm |

HOW TO MAKE:

1 With right sides together (RST) pin the pocket bag to the pocket opening edge on the front dress. Stitch the seam 1cm beyond the edge of the panel seam, stopping 1cm before the edge of the pocket bag. (See Pic A.)



"WEAR THE DRESS
WITH TRAINERS OR
PUMPS FOR A SIMPLE
WEEKEND LOOK"



Sam

2 Make a small cut at the pocket corner diagonally towards the end of the stitching line. (See Pic B.)

3 Turn the pocket bag to the inside and press. (See Pic C.)

4 With RST pin the side panel to the front dress and pocket bag, matching notches and pocket edges. Stitch and neaten the raw edge if you like. Most sweatshirt fabric doesn't fray so can be left unfinished. Lightly press the seam inwards so the pocket bag sits flat. Tack or machine-stitch the pocket bag to the side seam quite close to the raw edge. (See pics D and E)

5 With RST join neck panels and back panels either side of the front on both sets of collar panels. (See Pic F.)



6 With RST join back and front at shoulder seam and neaten raw edges. With RST take collar piece, pin the longer edge to neck edge matching shoulder seams to collar seams, stitch. (See Pic G.)

7 Neaten centre back seam edges if desired. Pin the invisible zip to one side of the back opening, stitch, repeat on the other side, checking the collar seam is in line when zip is closed. (See Pic H.)

8 From end of zip, pin and sew remaining centre back seam closed, starting from where the zip teeth are not closely stitched to the seam. (See pics I and J.)

9 With RST place remaining collar piece upper edges together, pin and stitch, matching seams. Turn to right side and under-stitch upper edge of inner collar.

Fold collar to the inside, neaten raw edge of lower edge of inner collar, fold seam allowance in near zip edge, slip-stitch. Pin collars together ensuring seams are matched and collar is flat. (See Pic K.)

10 Tack the lower edge of the collar just below neck seam. (See Pic L.)

11 Stitch carefully from right side of dress in the neck seam line. Remove tacking stitches. (See Pic M.)

12 With RST pin and stitch sleeve into arm opening. Neaten raw edges. (See Pic N.)

13 With RST pin and stitch the dress side seam from cuff to hem, matching sleeve seam. Neaten raw edges. (See Pic O.)

14 Neaten raw edges of cuffs and hem, pin and stitch a 2.5cm single turned hem on both. (See Pic P.)

GET THE LOOK



Denim blue
cotton sweatshirt
jersey fabric



Mustard cotton
sweatshirt jersey
fabric

Both fabrics are 130cm-wide medium/
heavy weight brushed back
sweatshirt jersey

£16 per metre



GET THE LOOK

Suits you sir

*Look sharp in this smart
men's suiting fabric*



Navy blue barathea all-wool
suiting £28 per metre,
www.yorkshirefabric.com



Grey wool and polyester
suiting £10 per metre,
www.fabricsatfleetwood.com



Navy bio stretch anti-crease
polyester suiting £3.99 per metre,
www.fabricuk.com



Maroon twill all-wool suiting
£28 per metre,
www.yorkshirefabric.com



Grey poly viscose suiting
£3.99 per metre,
www.fabricuk.com



Grey stripe polyester suiting
£3.50 per metre,
www.textileexpressfabrics.co.uk

Three-piece suit £155,
Big & Tall collection at
www.burton.co.uk



The pattern REVIEW

When Grainline patterns, home of classic and simple patterns, released its Farrow Dress, Susan Young couldn't wait to try it for size

Words **SUSAN YOUNG** www.susanyoungsewing.wordpress.com



Susan loved the inset pockets

When Sew Now asked me if I'd like to review the Grainline Studios Farrow pattern, I jumped at the chance. It's the newest release from the American indie pattern company and it's a simple A-line silhouette that flares from the shoulders to a fairly wide hem.

What gives it a new twist are the diagonal seams that bisect the front and back, and the hi-lo hemline. The front seams also have inset pockets, a detail I really like. There are sleeveless and long-sleeve variations.

I chose a lovely drapery viscose crepe because it needs a fabric with a fluid quality, nothing too stiff. Because Grainline is a US brand its sizing is different making it essential to go by your own body

measurements, I came up as a US 12 and the end result is perfect for me.

The fabric requirements seemed quite a lot so I did a layplan first to check (it's in yards so you'll need to convert to metres). A one-way design would still need

more though so double-check before buying fabric if you aren't sure.

"WHAT GIVES IT A TWIST ARE THE SEAMS THAT BISECT THE FRONT & BACK"

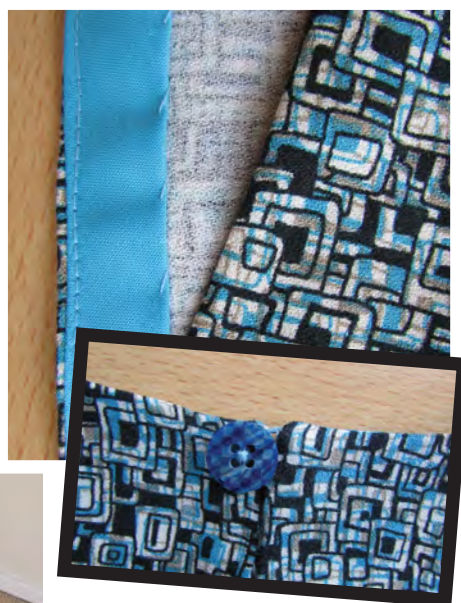
The pattern went together well and the instructions are pretty clear although the diagrams aren't that big, the seam allowances are 1/2" too, not 1.5cm so watch out for this. The pocket construction is unusual, as I mentioned, but well explained, quite quick and the finished result looks good.

I made all the facings in the same fabric but you could make them in a contrast fabric, and I replaced the hook and eye at the back neck with a button and handmade loop. I hemmed the dress with contrast bias binding for a change.

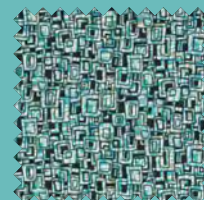
The long-sleeved version is good for cooler weather and I'll definitely make a sleeveless one for the summer, possibly in a nice linen or a soft cotton lawn.



A hi-lo hemline adds wearable detail



GET THE LOOK



Turquoise Multi

A lovely Italian light medium-weight 134cm-wide viscose crepe with a small design in red, beige, black and ivory with a small amount of turquoise
£12.99 per metre

www.dittofabrics.co.uk



STITCHING

a new lease of life

Sewing for some is not just a hobby, but for some a precious life skill. We find out more about how charity Kimbilio uses sewing, with a huge positive impact for the future of street children

How did the Kimbilio charity come about?

The vision came about when Ian Harvey, a British social worker, volunteered as an election observer for 2006 Democratic Republic of Congo. Concerned by the huge numbers of children living rough on the streets, he returned to the UK to raise the funds to set up the Kimbilio project. Leaving his job in 2008, Ian spent five years in Lubumbashi recruiting and training local carers and social workers alongside building shelter and training facilities for the children.

What type of children does Kimbilio deal with?

Any children who live on the streets in Lubumbashi. As the second city of the Democratic Republic of Congo, there are around 5,000 children on the streets, aged between six and 18 years old. We work mainly with children between 10 and 14 that arrive on the streets due to a variety of reasons, from family poverty to death of a parent from malaria or HIV/AIDS.

In what specific ways does Kimbilio help the children?

At our day centre Kimbilio (meaning safe place in Swahili), children come here for a safe place to be away from the risks of the streets. We provide them with food, clean water and soap to wash, activities as well as assessing their health and wellbeing. Where possible we try to reunite children with their families. Either in our short-term or long-term homes children can receive care and support, while we aim to have them re-accepted into their family. For those who aren't repatriated we can provide them with education and training, so that they can eventually become independent members of society.

Why was sewing seen as an important skill to teach the children?

Sewing is a skill that is highly sought after in Congo where many people make and repair their own clothes. It can enable and equip women and men to have an income and provide support for their families. This in the longer term prevents children from ending up on the streets.

Where is the sewing studio based?

The sewing centre is based in the girls' home at the Maison Kimbilio. The

surrounding population is rapidly growing and families are from a low socio-economic background, many living on less than £1.50 per day.

What kind of equipment are the children using?

The machine blend was very carefully selected to ensure the girls would be able to cope with any machines they might meet in the future. There are three electric sewing machines – a robust model designed for use in schools and workshops. We also have two overlockers to enable goods to be produced to professional standards. In addition, there are two Congolese hand machines and a treadle machine.

“SEWING CAN ENABLE AND EQUIP MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO HAVE AN INCOME AND SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES”

Readers may remember their mothers using almost identical machines, except that these feature round shuttles, as is usual in machines produced for the African market. The children are taught to press articles with both an electric iron and a charcoal iron, which is normal practice in Africa. The girls, therefore, will be able to sew at home in an electricity-free environment, but also seek employment in a workshop where they would be expected to cope with modern electrical machines. They are also taught hand-sewing skills – another very important skill.

What sewing skills are the children taught?

They begin with construction of simple articles such as totes, aprons and glasses cases, which are sold at fairs in the local ex-pat community, from which they progress to clothing, concentrating on children's dresses requiring less fitting, and clothing for themselves. In addition to machine usage, the girls enjoy embroidery in the evenings, using locally bought wool to embroider large plastic bags that can be converted into smaller handbags. We encourage the girls to learn these skills, which are taught by the mamas who care for them.

What's the most successful sewing project you've taught so far?

Financially, the smaller articles sell well,



but being conscious that we do not wish to set up a 'sweat shop' or limit the girls' potential, our aim is to give them a comprehensive sewing education. Sometimes a project will come from the girls themselves – for instance, they were recently given some second-hand jeans and wanted to remodel them into a more fashionable shape, which they did very successfully (and with great hilarity).

Who teaches the children and how do you make this part of their education sustainable?

Our main sewing teacher is Mireille, a highly confident sewist who, after receiving training in teaching methods with a UK volunteer, has evolved into an excellent sewing teacher. Kimbilio also works with a partner charity First Step International and by having a sewing workshop together we provide free participation in a sewing course for impoverished women. These women are able to sell the goods they produce at a profit. We hope that

through the development of links into the community will open up opportunities for future employment for the girls.

What positive effects will this have on the children and what will it enable them to do in the future?

Having a marketable skill will firstly improve their self-esteem, especially as sewing is directly linked to improving body image as they will be able to clothe themselves. As well as increasing their chances of future employment, they will also be able to clothe their family. Lastly, sewing is taught in French, using Swahili for reinforcement if necessary, and the practical activity greatly reinforces their comprehension of French. In a country where all commercial activities are conducted in French, this greatly increases their employment prospects.

Can you tell us more about the beautiful Congolese fabric used in the projects?

Readers would be amazed by the quantity of fabric shops in Lubumbashi!



Fabrics are generally cotton, sometimes with a peached finish but often with a shiny 'waxed' finish. In a very wide range of designs, they are often based on traditional patterns and sold in six or 12-yard lengths. Kimbilio uses this fabric for the students' work, but it is also brought back to UK where volunteers sew it into strong tote bags backed with calico for aprons, peg bags and other small articles. These articles are sold in churches and festivals and contribute significantly to Kimbilio's costs.

Where can we find out more about Kimbilio and how our readers can support you?

We mainly rely on the generosity of supporters in the UK to continue to provide the service and welcome any kind of new support. 98% of donations made go directly to the work on the ground.

You can make a one-off donation or set up a standing order at www.justgiving.com/congochildrentrust

If you are interested arranging a sponsored event to support the work of Kimbilio or wish to make a donation by cheque, please get in touch with ian@congochildrentrust.org or find out more about the charity go to www.kimbiliocongo.org

www.facebook.com/groups/kimbilio
[www.twitter.com/KimbilioDR Congo](https://twitter.com/KimbilioDR Congo)

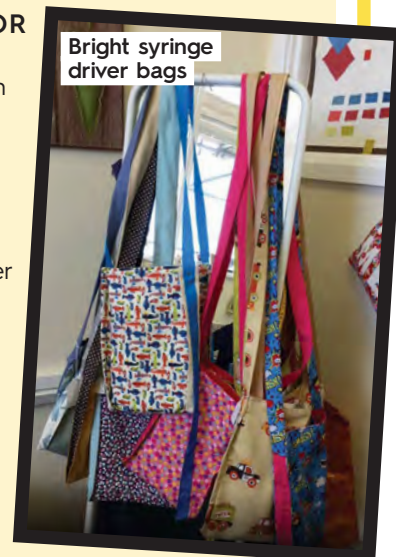
Sewing for a cause

If you want to put your own stitching to use for a charitable cause, look no further

MAKING FOR CHARITY

After seeing an advert in her local sewing shop Julia started to sew syringe driver bags for cancer patients and has sewn over 100 and involved local school too, using the project to teach children how to sew.

To get involved, go to www.makingforcharity.co.uk



PYJAMA FAIRIES

Pyjama Fairies was founded in May 2015 to bring comfort and support to young patients and their families in hospitals in the UK. Its simple goal was to create and distribute beautiful pyjamas and surgical gowns that give children an emotional boost and remind them that they are not defined by their illness and help to relieve their fear. Their pyjamas are specially designed with front opening to make dressing easier and to allow ease of access for the medical professionals. For patterns and more information, go to www.wrappypyjamafairies.co.uk



Team talk

What's on the Sew Now team's radar this month and what's inspiring us to get sewing!

Editor



Sam

WHAT SEWING TOOL ARE YOU USING MOST THIS MONTH?

A jersey twin needle for finishing all of those jersey projects I've been making recently. How I've managed without one I'm not sure! It's perfect for getting a super-professional finish on necklines and hems. I always have a quick stitch practise first on a scrap of fabric to check the tension and stitch length.



Stylist



Jo

FAVOURITE STORE FOR SS17

This has to be Next. Next encapsulates all the wonderful key trends pieces that have emerged from the SS17 catwalks, managing to make them commercial, wearable and timeless. Next is a firm favourite of mine for good-quality products at an affordable price.



Deputy Editor



Bethany

WHAT NEW CRAFT SKILL ARE YOU PLANNING TO MASTER?

I'd really like to knit with T-shirt yarn. I've got loads of old T-shirts at home that I can cut up and upcycle into chunky scarves, and if I'm feeling lazy then I'll try this readymade 100% recycled T-shirt yarn from Hooked Zpagetti. Loving that bright yellow!



WHICH WEBSITE IS INSPIRING YOU?

A Beautiful Mess is a DIY blog that a lot of people may already know, but is definitely my go-to website when it comes to inspiration! The pictures are bright, colourful and inspiring – everything I look for when I need creative motivation to pick up my knitting needles or turn on the sewing machine! www.abeautifulmess.com

Editorial Assistant



Jenny



A Beautiful Mess is full of wonderful DIY posts!

Seamstress



Jeanette

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I'm making a new draft of my favourite style of dress, a fitted bodice with a very full skirt. My adapted dress stand comes in very handy when working on a new design – it's really not easy to fit yourself!



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Fun with
fur yarn

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with colour



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Sew MACHO

The latest wave of male sewists are transforming sewing stereotypes and offering a brand-new perspective on both dressmaking and blogging. Here are few of our favourite men who sew!



Peter Lappin

Peter Lappin is the colourful man behind the hugely popular sewing blog Male Pattern Boldness. He lives in Manhattan with his partner and two Chihuahuas and was inspired to give sewing a go back in 2009 in order to alter a pair of designer jeans he picked up in a charity shop. While the jeans alteration didn't quite go to plan, he continued to get to know his sewing machine, did extensive online research and now has sewn just

about every men's and women's garment he can think of! Peter's blog is a real mix of vintage patterns, upcycled items and skills tutorial, but we're especially drawn to his love of bold and colourful prints.

➤ See more at www.malepatternboldness.blogspot.co.uk

Taylor Taylor

Taylor is based in Tennessee, where he lives with his wife and 'three crazy cats'. He's been sewing for around six years, after being determined to make himself a pair of jeans. He now blogs regularly, making everything from tailored jackets to stylish bags. After building his sewing skills and blogging confidence, Taylor has just released his first pattern, for the classic Desmond Backpack and even includes a free 10-part sew along showing all of the steps and techniques in fantastic detail.

➤ Find out more about Taylor and his quest for an entirely home-sewn wardrobe at www.taylor-tailor.com



Michael's latest book



Michael Caputo

Michael was introduced to quilting by his mum and before he knew it he was hooked! Originally from New York, he used to design children's pop-up books, but in the past few years has taught quilting, and designed and made many quilts for books, magazines, fabric manufacturers, and of course friends and family. He is a regular contributor to our sister magazine *Quilt Now* and a real jack-of-all-crafts, enjoying knitting, crochet and cross stitch too.

➤ See what Michael is up to at patchworkandpaper.wordpress.com



Project from *Quilting Basics*

Jamie Kemp

We couldn't write about our favourite men who sew without including our very own sustainable tailor, Jamie Kemp! Now a regular contributor to *Sew Now*, Jamie was taught to sew as a child by his nan. He rekindled his love of sewing in 2014 when he set himself the challenge of sewing six tweed waistcoats for his wedding. And, as you can see from the photo, he did a pretty good job. Based in Exeter, Jamie is currently a stay-at-home dad and regular sewing blogger. You may also recognise him from Series 4 of *The Great British Sewing Bee*! Jamie largely sews men's garments but will often sew patterns for his wife that he thinks she might like.

Follow what Jamie is sewing right now at www.maledevonsewing.co.uk



TURN TO
PAGE 72 TO SEE
ISSUE 1'S ZOE
TUNIC JAMIE
MADE FOR
HIS WIFE

Jamie Chalmers (AKA Mr X Stitch)

Jamie established the Mr X Stitch website back in 2008 and uses this platform to showcase new textile talent from the worlds of cross stitch, hand embroidery, machine embroidery, millinery, needle felting, quilting and weaving. He has been stitching for over 10 years, and has written many magazine articles and curated and taken part in international contemporary embroidery exhibitions. He's even taken part in a TedX to talk about the importance of cross stitch!

Follow the hashtag #xstitchersofinstagram to see more of the amazing stitch art being shared by the Mr X Stitch community and discover more about Jamie and find stitching inspiration at www.mrxstitch.com



Projects from Matt's new book



I 
mr x stitch



Matt Chapple

As the winner of Series 3 of *The Great British Sewing Bee*, Matt is one of the most recognisable men in sewing. After winning over the nation's hearts with his adorable kids' clothing on the show, he's since gone on to create a wearable

dinosaur sewing tail kit called the Sew-a-saurus and has recently released his first book, *Make it Own it Love it*. Inside the book Matt helps guide people through basic sewing, customising, altering and making clothing from scratch, providing handy tutorials and tips for sewists of every skill level.

To find out a little more about Matt and see what he has planned next, visit www.sewwhatsnew.co.uk



Matt's first book,
Make it Own it Love it

CHERRY-PICKED FABRIC

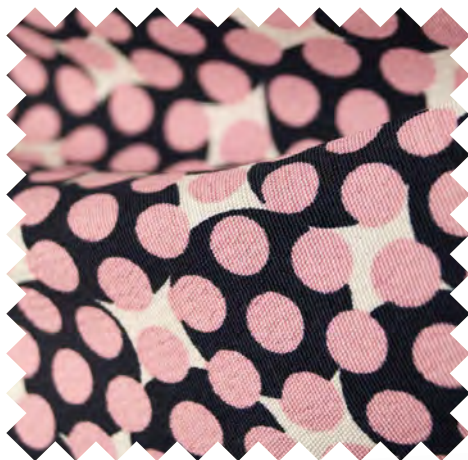
Cosy cushions or a new garment, these two fabric retailers have plenty of exciting options!



Alice

VIBRANT VISCOSE, CLOTHSPOT

"We try to balance quality, price and up-to-date fashion with new offerings on the site every Friday. We sew lots ourselves – our blog covers everything from vintage styles to fitting tips and suggestions for quick makes." www.clothspot.co.uk



**Powder pixels
pink & black
spotted viscose**
£8.95 per metre

Just arrived – perfect for this spring's love affair with pink. A lovely draping fabric, perfect for frocks and tops!



**Snake it up
bronze & violet
printed viscose**
£10.95 per metre

Our favourite snakeskin-patterned dress fabric with a beautifully soft, draping handle. Perfect for tops, dresses and tunics with an edge.



**Rosewatered
checked viscose**
£7.95 per metre

Delightfully dyed soft red checked viscose fabric. A lovely draping semi-sheer fabric – on trend for elegant overshirts and romantic dresses.



Rachel

JAPANESE FABRIC, RAY STITCH

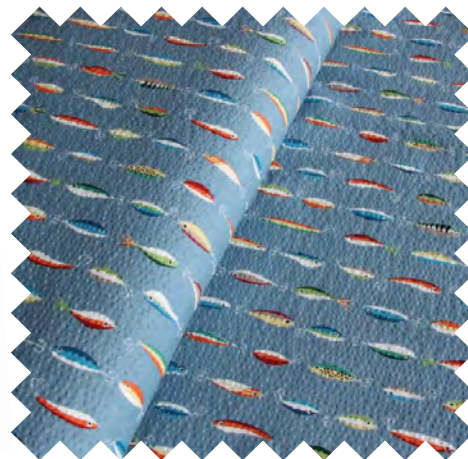
"We're the most stylish fabric shop in London! Created by Rachel Hart, an avid maker, and borne from the desire to find not only good-quality fabric but the necessary tools and accessories all in one place."

www.raystitch.co.uk



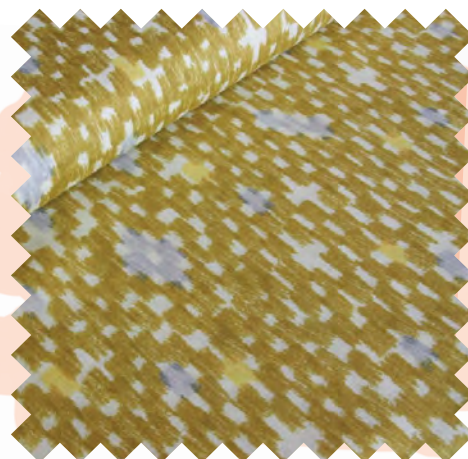
**Sevenberry
Black Cotton
Shantung
Arrowheads**
£9 per half metre

This lightweight and luxurious slubby textured cotton shantung would be perfect lined skirts and dresses, cigarette trousers and fitted shirts.



**Sevenberry
Aloha Seersucker
Lure Copen Blue**
£9 per half metre

A beautiful Japanese printed cotton seersucker, which is perfect for warmer weather as the puckered surface helps to create air flow.



**Chartreuse
Kokka Double
Gauze Crosses**
£11 per half metre

An unbelievably soft and smooth printed double gauze fabric from Kokka. This is a cotton and lyocell mix and so is very soft and drapery.

DOWNLOAD
YOUR
FREE
TEMPLATE

Twirly girls' **SKATER DRESS**

*Shouting spring loud and clear,
this girl's skater dress is the
perfect popover dress for
everyday or party time!*

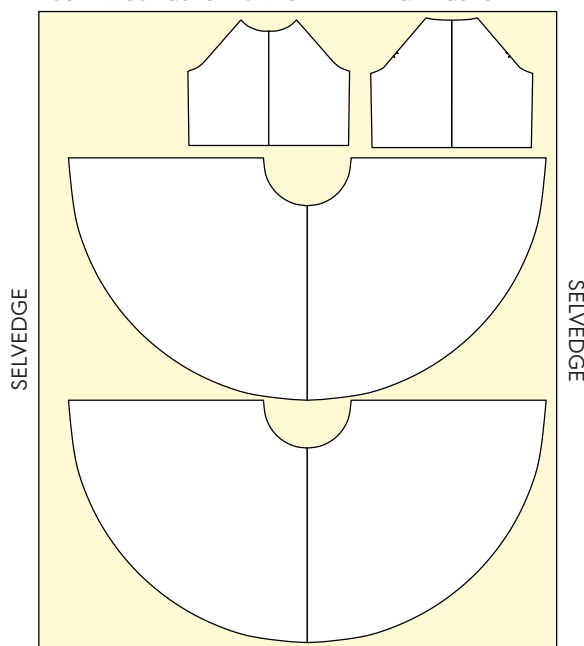


Anna

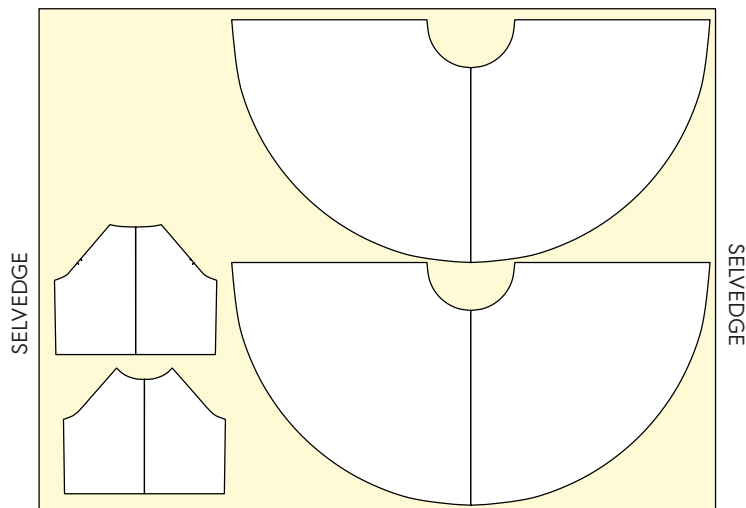
Project **ANNA BRUCE**
Photographer **RENATA STONYTE**
Model **ILSE STERKEN**

LAYPLANS

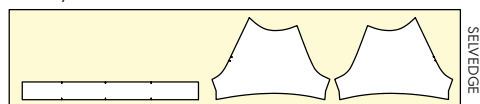
115cm Wide Fabric - UNFOLDED - Main Fabric



150cm Wide Fabric - UNFOLDED- Main Fabric



115cm/150cm Wide Fabric - UNFOLDED- Contrast



SIZING

| Body measures (cm) | 3Y | 4Y | 5Y | 6Y | 7Y | 8Y |
|--------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| To fit height | 98cm | 104cm | 110cm | 116cm | 122cm | 128cm |
| To fit chest | 54cm | 56cm | 58cm | 61cm | 63cm | 66cm |

| Finished garment (cm) | 3Y | 4Y | 5Y | 6Y | 7Y | 8Y |
|-----------------------|--------|------|------|------|--------|------|
| To fit height | 58cm | 60cm | 62cm | 64cm | 66cm | 68cm |
| To fit chest | 49.5cm | 53cm | 56cm | 59cm | 62.5cm | 66cm |

SKILL LEVEL: ++ ++ ++ ++

MATERIALS:

- cotton/elastane single jersey in 2 colours
- free template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

MAIN FABRIC:

Sizes 3-6 = 1.15m (115cm-wide fabric)
1.5m (150cm-wide fabric)
Sizes 7-8 = 1.3m (115cm-wide fabric)
1.5m (150cm-wide fabric)

CONTRAST FABRIC:

All sizes = 0.25m (115cm/150cm-wide fabric)

NOTES:

Cut sleeves and neck binding from contrast fabric, or if you prefer the dress all in one fabric cut all pieces from one colour

Always pre-wash and iron your fabric before starting - you don't want to risk it shrinking on its first wash!

HOW TO MAKE:

1 Thread your machine with thread matching the contrast sleeve and neck binding. Attach the sleeves to the front bodice by placing right sides together and sew with a 1cm seam. (See Pic A)

2 Repeat Step 1 then press seams towards the sleeve. (See Pic B)



"THE GREAT THING ABOUT WORKING WITH JERSEY IS IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE OVERLOCKED IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, AS JERSEY WON'T FRAY!"



Sam

3 Attach the back sleeves to back bodice with a 1cm seam. (See Pic C.)

4 Take the neck binding and join the short ends by placing the right sides together and stitching with a 1cm seam, press the seam open. (See Pic D.)

5 Pin the neck binding to the neck edge with the right side of the binding to the wrong side of the neck, matching up the seam in the binding to the back armhole seam on the body, and line up the notches to the remaining seams. Refer to the pattern piece to identify and place the piece correctly. Attach with a 1cm-wide seam, extend the binding slightly as you go to match the size of the neck edge. (See Pic E.)



6 Turn the garment to the right side and arrange so the binding piece lies outside of the neck. Press the seam flat. (See Pic F.)

7 Turn the loose edge of the binding over to meet up with the raw edge of the neck seam. (See Pic G.) Turn again to the right side of the garment so the folded edge lines up with the stitch line around the neck. Pin to hold in position. (See Pic H.)

8 Stitch the binding closed about 2mm inside the folded edge on the right side of the garment. (See Pic I.)

9 Turn the cuff edge in by 1cm and press then turn again by a further 1cm and press flat. Stitch through with a stretch stitch to finish the sleeve hem. (See Pic J.)

10 You might want to change your thread colour now to match the remaining part of the garment. Attach the skirt pieces to the front and back bodice, placing the seams right sides together and joining with a 1cm seam. (See Pic K.)

11 With right sides together lay the front of the garment onto of the back, lining up the side seams, match the waist seams and underarm seams by pinning if place if necessary. Join with a

1cm seam from underarm to hem or visa versa, making sure your pressed seams are running in the correct directions as you go. (See Pic L.)

12 If you are overlocking your seams, leave a 2cm thread tail at the underarm. Turn and secure this with a few back stitches under the seam to neaten and stop any unravelling stitches.

13 Double turn the garment hem by turning over to the wrong side by 1.2cm and pressing then turn by a further 1.2cm and press. After sewing press the hem nice and flat with steam that will shrink back any stretching caused when sewing.

14 A nice finishing touch is to add a label onto the back neck, you can download 'I MADE IT' labels for free from www.madeit-patterns.com, just print them onto transfer printer paper and iron onto cotton tape. (See Pic M.)

"Every little girl will love to twirl in this super simple-to-make skater dress. If you are using a sewing machine to sew the seams make sure you select a stretch stitch, you can overlock or zigzag stitch these seams after sewing if you prefer. Always use a ballpoint needle on jersey fabric to prevent any needle damage to the fabric"



Anna



Madeit Patterns offers fresh and modern clothing patterns for cool kids and stylish adults. Its mission is to take home sewing to the next level and show people how to create slick, professionally finished garments at home www.madeit-patterns.com





NEW LOOK GIRLS' SKIRT 6258

Age 3-12 years
£6.95 paper pattern
www.simplicitynewlook.com



1

2

MCCALL'S TODDLER'S SAILOR DRESSES & TIES 6913

Age 2-6 years
£7.50 paper pattern
www.sewdirect.com



3

THE ZIGGY TOP

Age 2-10 years
£5.95 PDF pattern
www.madeit-patterns.com



Little *STITCHES*

We don't think there's anything cuter than seeing our little ones running around in handmade outfits, so here are our picks of the best patterns for kids

OLIVER + S HIDE-AND-SEEK DRESS & TUNIC

Age 6 months/4 years/
5 years/12 years
\$16.95 paper pattern
www.oliverands.com



4

5

MINI COLFAX DRESS

Age 2-10 years
\$8 PDF pattern
www.truebias.com



6

MINI TANIA CULOTTES

Age 2-12 years
\$13.65 PDF pattern
www.megannielsen.com

Fashions that never fade

In the ever-changing world of fashion, The Wardrobe Angel shares the trends that will always have a place in your wardrobe

Words **STEPHANIE ROPER** www.wardrobeangel.co.uk



Butterick 6100
Misses' 5-in-1 tops
Sizes: 6-16, 16-24
£7.75
www.sewessential.co.uk



McCall's M7285
Ladies Easy Semi Fitted
Tops with Cup Sizes
Sizes: 14-22
£8.75
www.minervacrafts.com

Butterick B6100

LACE

Lace is for life, not just for Christmas: I love wearing my lace top with flares and wedges in the summer. I'd urge you to make black or navy, maybe even white to keep it fresh for spring/summer but steer away from scarlet red – in lace it always looks cheap. Think pure romantic goth heaven and forget any overtones of Miss Havisham – lace is one timeless trend that no wardrobe should be without.

Autograph long-sleeve lace top, £45
www.marksandspencer.com



Miss Selfridge White Lace Tiered Ruffle Top, £35
www.missselfridge.com



Kwik Sew K4169



Serendipity Studio No. 117 Diane Kimono Dress
Kimono Dress
Dolman sleeved drawstring waist dress
Sizes: XXS-XXL
\$11 (approximately £8.75)
www.mccallpattern.com



Kwik Sew K4169
Misses' Surplice, A-Line Dresses and Sash
Sizes: XS-XL
£8.99
www.sewdirect.com

Peter Jensen x People Tree parrot-print shirtdress in coral, £85
www.peopletree.co.uk

PERFECT SUMMER DRESS

I love it in summer when trends break down and people's style really shines. The perfect summer dress is the Holy Grail for most women in the summer. It has to be the right length, crisp, smart yet casual and pockets are a chic yet practical addition. Get the dress right and it will see you through weddings (with the right accessories), BBQs, summer holidays and beyond. Take your inspiration from a vintage pattern or print.



Pretty Eccentric Mabel dress in green wave print, £159
www.prettyeccentric.co.uk



Blush trench coat £59.99
www.bonprix.co.uk



Simplicity 8303
Women's Knit Tops, Coat or Vest & Pants
Sizes: XS-XL
\$12.57 (approximately £10)
www.simplicity.com



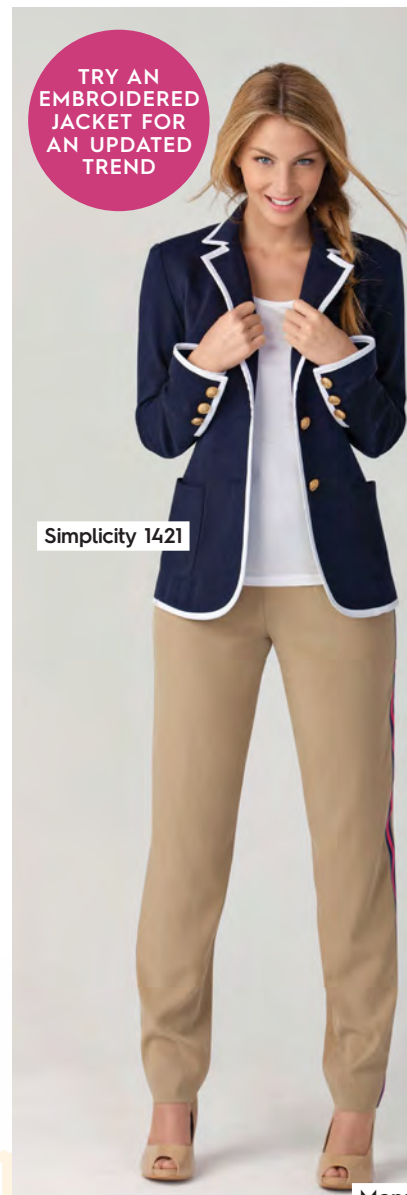
Burda 6772
Classic design trench with two different looks, Sizes: 8-18
£7.50
www.simplicitynewlook.com



Myleen Klass double breasted belted trench
£87, www.littlewoods.com



Hobbs Saskia trench, £199
www.hobbs.co.uk



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Simplicity 1421



Simplicity 1421
Misses' unlined jacket with or without collar
Sizes: 6-14, 16-24
£8.95
www.simplicitynewlook.com



McCall's M7549
Misses' Open-Front, Banded Jackets with Yokes
Sizes: 6-14, 14-22
£8.75
www.sewdirect.com

MILITARY

I lost the perfect military jacket at a festival in 2007: I still haven't forgotten the loss. Double breasted with bright gold buttons, cut in a short pea coat style, it went over and under everything. If leather isn't your bag when it comes to jackets then a military jacket may be for you. Wear with the new cropped flare jeans, a feminine blouse and a pair of block heels or with a vintage logo tee, midi skirt and trainers for a real style mash-up. And if you find my jacket please let me know.



Monsoon Myla Military, £89
www.monsoon.co.uk

Primark Military jacket, £25
www.primark.com

PARISIAN CHIC

A look that ensure sartorial success every time: ballet pumps in red or navy, blue skinny jeans, a Breton tee or crisp white shirt and to top it all off a trench coat. Classic, elegant and simple and requires no effort. The coat is the key piece and you want to make it in a camel/stone beige or navy. It has stood the test of time since it was made by Burberry and used for officers in WWI. Fashion is always trying to re-invent the trench – this season it's unstructured with bigger lapels – but stick to some of the original details if you can. My favourite detail is the waist tie which you can fasten at the back to enhance your waist.



Stephanie

Stephanie Roper is The Wardrobe Angel: an award-winning wardrobe fixer, stylist, fashion brand consultant and blogger. She is passionate about sustainability and getting more wear from your wardrobe. She has just finished filming her first TV show. For more information, go to www.wardrobeangel.co.uk

Meet Riet Van de Walle

We caught up with Belgian pattern designer, blogger and author Riet Van de Walle, to find out more about her and her sewing journey



What inspired you to start sewing?

My mother used to make some of my clothes when I was younger, so a sewing machine was a regular feature in our home. She guided me through the basics but I really caught the sewing bug when I was pregnant with my first baby, eight years ago. Searching for the right way to recover the mattress of her crib, I discovered sewing blogs and became an addict! My girls are still my muses, as is my life in general.

You're based in Dutch-speaking Belgium, how active is the sewing community over there?

When I started to sew and blog, you could count the sewing bloggers on one hand but it has grown very fast

over the past few years. Flanders is not a very large region, so the online community stretches itself to real life too. Numerous sewing events, weekends and blog meet-ups make us feel more connected as a community. The limited physical distance helps us to set up events, like 24-hour sewing days for charity, which we had lots of in the run-up to Christmas!

How do Belgian and British sewing styles differ?

There are many Belgian blogs with different styles but I think there's something special about the Belgian kids' clothes style. Belgian brands like Anne Kurris and Atelier Assemblé are playful with a vintage touch. They use a lot of bold prints and a simple, minimalistic and almost adult cut. There's no overload of ruffles, flowers and cuteness. This style can also be found in the fabric and pattern choices of Belgian bloggers.

Where do you get your pattern ideas from?

Everyday life. I was educated as a product designer and I'm a self-taught

Riet's favourite project from her book



seamstress. How things are constructed has always been one of my interests, much like customisation. Most of the things I design are based on a certain need. Sometimes this results in experiments not worth publishing but it can lead me to patterns with a twist that are very useful and popular!

What are your tips on creating original patterns from scratch?

I learned a lot from turning things inside out and looking at how they work. I make a lot of paper models before I start working in fabric. Making prototypes – sometimes 20 for one pattern – I recommend too. Second (to tenth) opinions are useful too! I would never launch something without having





it thoroughly tested: especially the cut, function and tutorial instructions.

Tell us how *Sew Snappy* came about?

Sew Snappy was first published in Dutch as *Zo geknipt!*. During a brainstorm on new subjects, someone from publishers Van Halewyck mentioned sewing and that they were an avid reader of Sanne's blog and mine. The first brainstorm session took place in April 2012 and the book was launched the following September. Meteor Books proposed taking the book to a global audience and the English translation launched in September 2016. We wanted to fill it with a variety of patterns – everything except clothes – but we also focused on clear tutorials. The clarity of text for both beginner and advanced sewists is something we see often in reviews, and each time I read about it I'm so happy that we took that job seriously.

How did you and Sanne meet and what prompted you to work together?

That's kind of a funny story. We started blogging around the same period, and since there were only a few Flemish sewing blogs at that time, we read each other's blogs from the beginning. We didn't realise we were colleagues in real life, both working on the tenth floor of the same building but we didn't blog with recognisable photos of ourselves at that time. It was only when I met Sanne at the elevator one day wearing a bag she had been blogging the day before, we realised the people behind www.eloleo.blogspot.co.uk and www.levenmetliv.blogspot.co.uk were actually meeting each other every day!

"I LEARNED A LOT FROM TURNING THINGS INSIDE OUT AND LOOKING AT HOW THEY WORK"

Who is the book aimed at?

We wanted to make a book everyone could use. The introduction is quite substantial, and the 25 step-by-step tutorials don't assume knowledge, and are ranked easy to difficult.

What's your favourite project from the book and why?

The bread basket. It adds a lovely homemade touch to any present.



You're known for making children's patterns, what are your top tips for making clothes for kids?

With my girls Zanne and Liv in mind I'd say check that the little model agrees with your fabric choice first. I often make a moodboard with five to eight possibilities. They sometimes dare me to make something I wouldn't have thought of and it's good practice in visualisation too, since I sometimes have to draw the garment before sewing, to give them a better idea.

What are you up to this year?

I enjoyed developing kids' clothes recently, and would love to make a bag. My online sewing patterns are only available in Dutch now, but I hope 2017 will give me the opportunity to launch English versions, since *Sew Snappy* and the online community are prompting more people to ask for translations, which makes me happy!

- Find out more about Riet at www.mindthewhale.com, but don't forget to hit 'translate' if you don't speak Dutch!



Riet is the co-author of *Sew Snappy* with Sanne Vanautgaerden. Packed with colourful and practical home, kids and accessory projects, it's available now for £18.95 at www.allsewingpatterns.net Published by www.meteorbooks.com



DOWNLOAD
YOUR
FREE
TEMPLATE

*Tailor your fabric
and button choice
to suit your
child's personality*



Fiona

Monster PLUSHIE

This cheeky monster is guaranteed to put a smile on your face with his starry eyes, open arms and charming stripy trousers

Project **FIONA HESFORD** Sewgirl

SKILL LEVEL: ● ● ● ● ●

MATERIALS:

- 2 18cm squares of stripy cotton fabric
- 2 20x25cm pieces of red cotton fabric
- 5x10cm piece of beige felt
- 10cm 10mm-wide gingham ribbon
- 10cm square bonding web
- 2 15mm turquoise buttons for eyes
- button for nose
- black embroidery thread
- toy stuffing
- embroidery needle
- air-erasable fabric marker
- chopstick or poking tool for turning through
- free template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

NOTES:

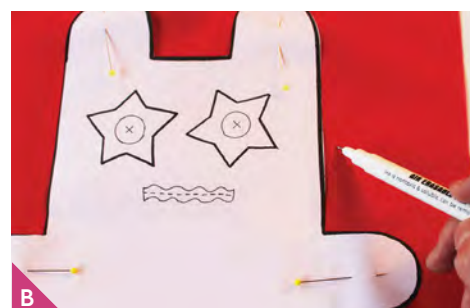
If you are making this toy for a young child, hand-stitch the eyes and nose rather than using buttons

A 1cm seam allowance is used throughout unless otherwise stated

HOW TO MAKE:

1 Cut out the monster template. Join one stripy fabric piece to one long side of red fabric piece right sides together (RST), aligning to the centre. Press the seam open. Repeat for the other fabric pieces. (See Pic A.)

2 Lay the template on the reverse side of one fabric piece and aligning the centre join line to that on the template. Pin in



position. Draw around the template with an air-erasable marker. (See Pic B.)

3 Pin the two fabric pieces RST, aligning the centre seams. Sew following the marked line all around, leaving an opening at one side as shown on the template. (See pics C, D and E.)

4 Trim around the stitch line, leaving a 1cm seam allowance. (See Pic F.)

5 Nick all the curved edges of the seam allowance and snip into the corners. (See pics G, H and I.)

6 Turn the monster inside out through the opening at the side, pushing out

"MIX AND MATCH PRINTS FOR A BOLD AND BRIGHT TOY"



Sam

the seams and arms and legs. Press. (See Pic J.)

7 Trace the star shapes on to bonding web, and iron to the beige felt. (See pics K and L.)

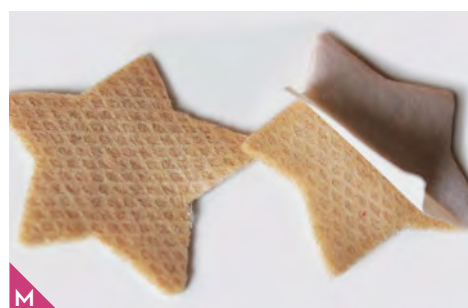
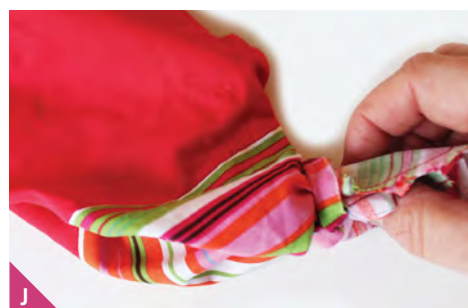
8 Cut out, peel off the bonding backing paper, lay in position, and

bond with an iron. (See Pic M.) Stitch with one strand of black embroidery thread using small stitches all around the stars. (See Pic N.) Sew on buttons for the eyes.

9 Stuff the monster with toy filling, pushing evenly into the ears, arms and legs with a poking tool. (See Pic O.)

10 Stitch up the opening with small over stitches. (See Pic P.)

11 Sew on a small strip of gingham ribbon for the mouth. This can be adhered with bonding web first. Finally, stitch on a funny button for your monster's nose. 🍌





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Simple
sew

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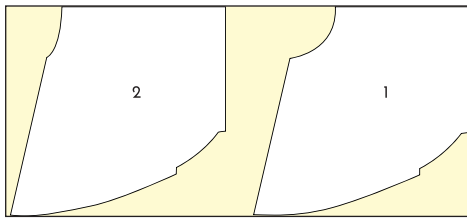
Gwen TOP

Add an instant update to your spring outfit with this super quick batwing top. Beach cover up, cosy night on the sofa or fun night on the town, this top suits them all!

Project **CLAIRE GARSIDE** Simple Sew
Photographer **RENATA STONYTE**
Model **LANNA** for BOSS models
Hair and make-up **NINA ROCHFORD**

LAYPLANS

FOLD



FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

| | Size 8-10 | Size 12-14 | Size 14-16 |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 45"-wide fabric | 1.56m | 1.57m | 1.58m |
| 60"-wide fabric | 1.57m | 1.57m | 1.58m |

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

| Descriptions/size | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 20 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|
| Full bust | 42" | 44" | 46" | 48" | 50" | 52" | 54" |
| Waist | 42" | 44" | 46" | 48" | 50" | 52" | 54" |
| Neck to bottom hem (back) | 15½" | 15⅝" | 15¾" | 15⅞" | 16" | 16⅛" | 16¼" |

SKILL LEVEL: ● ● ● ●

FABRIC TYPES:

Light to medium-weight stretch fabric with a good drape. Also suitable for woven fabric with a woven binding

MATERIALS:

- 3.6m 1.6cm-wide bias binding
- free template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

PATTERN PIECES:

- 1 – top front
2 – top back

NOTES:

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout

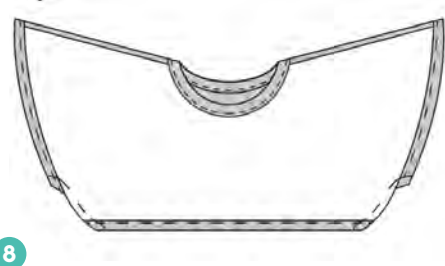
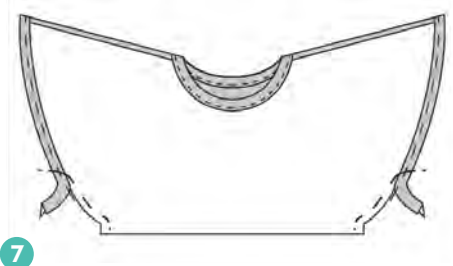
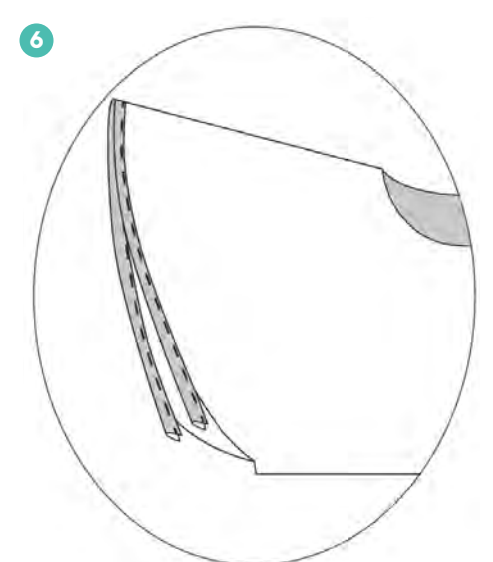
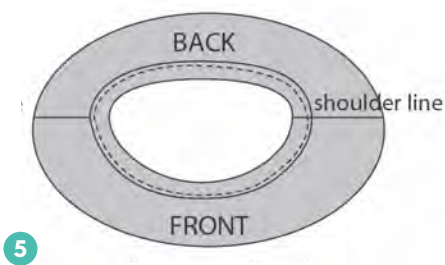
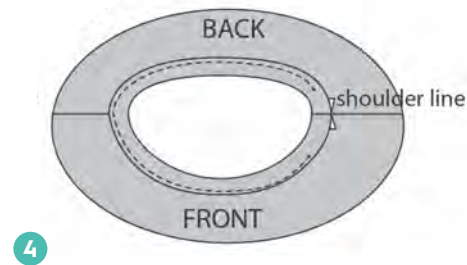
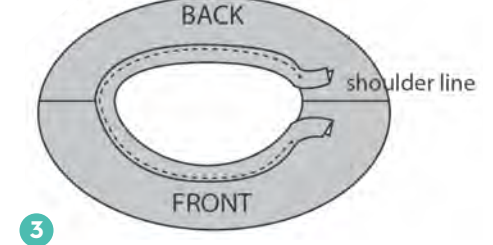
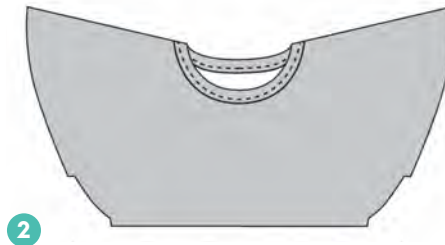
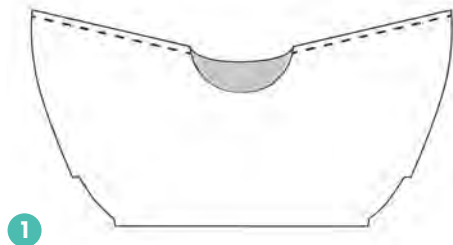
HOW TO MAKE:

1 With right sides together (RST) join front and back seam pieces at the shoulder seams. (See Pic 1.)

2 Bind the neckline with readymade binding. If you are using stretch binding prepare this so it measures 3 to 4cm shorter than the circumference of

your neckline, then add a 5cm overhang and cut. For woven bias binding, cut the binding to the exact circumference of your neckline plus a 5cm overhang. (See Pic 2.)

3 Start sewing from the left-hand side (when the top is worn) of the back piece slightly before the shoulder line. Keep 2.5cm of the binding extra



hanging over. Stop stitching just before the opposite shoulder line again, leaving another 2.5cm of binding hanging over. (See Pic 3.)

4 With RST join the loose ends of the binding with a straight stitch (still slightly pulling on the biding if it is stretch version) (See Pic 4.)

5 You will now need to close the small gap, so keep your neckline sandwiched between the binding and stitch carefully around to complete the neckline stitching. Back stitch at the end. (See Pic 5)

6 Bind the armholes in the same way and you will need a minimum of 24cm of binding. If you are using stretch binding there is no need to pull on this, this time. This can be cut to the same measurements as the circumference of the sleeve. (See Pic 6.)

Light to medium-weight stretch fabric with a good drape is ideal for this flattering top

7 With RST join front and back bodices at the lower side seams; make sure to match the armhole opening at the end of the opening. (See Pic 7.)

8 Neaten the hem edge and then press the hem up by 2cm. Secure the stitch at 1.7 or 1.8cm. Alternatively, you can finish this edge with binding if you prefer. (See Pic 8.)

GET THE LOOK

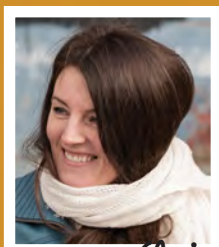


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1

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Ruffle refashion



Ruffles are big this season; they're pretty, playful and feminine and we bring you the best online tutorials so you can dress your home and yourself in more ruffles



1 We adore this tiny ruffle pattern hack that you can use on any pattern you like!

Pictured is McCall's M7095 from www.create-enjoy.com

2 Brighten up tired and old cardigans with easy, plain ruffles www.ourlifeisbeautiful.com

3 A great way to refashion on a budget by re-inventing second-hand buys www.tearosehome.blogspot.co.uk

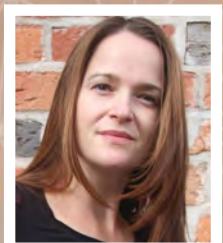
4 If you don't like big ruffles, why not transform a sweater into a subtly trimmed cardigan? www.ifonlytheywouldnap.net

5 We just love the delicate use of ruffles in these DIY curtains www.iheartnaptime.net

Giant pompom CUSHION

*Fun and fancy, this giant pompom cushion will
bring a pop of colour to any room*

Project **VICTORIA PEAT**
www.littleblackduck.co.uk



Victoria

MATERIALS:

- 0.4m 1m-wide fabric
- 60cm giant pompom trim
- 16" zip
- zipper foot for sewing machine

NOTES:

Finished cushion is 20" wide x 12" high.
Use a 2cm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

CUTTING AND PREPARATION**From Main Fabric cut:**

2 rectangles 20" wide x 12" high. On one of the rectangles mark the seam allowance on the two short edges. This will be the cushion back

HOW TO MAKE:**INSERT THE ZIP**

1 Place rectangles right sides together (RST). Place the zip centrally against one long edge of the cushion and mark either end with a pin (approximately 2" in from each side). Using a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance sew and seam to the left and right of where the zip will sit, remembering not to sew across the zip position. (See Pic A)

2 Place cushion with the back wrong side uppermost. Fold back the seam allowance of the back of the cushion to expose the seam allowance of the front

"USE TWO CONTRASTING TRIMS AT THE EDGES FOR AN EXTRA COLOUR POP"



Sam

of the cushion. Open the zip and place face down on the seam allowance of the front of the cushion. The edge of the zipper tape should be approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edge. (See Pic B) Sew zip in place close to zipper teeth.

3 Close zip and open out the cover so that it sits flat and both RS are uppermost. Pin the free seam allowance of the back of the cover to the remaining half of the zipper tape, checking the reverse as you go to make sure that you have properly caught the zipper tape and seam allowance. (See Pic C.) From the RS stitch in place, where you have pinned, with a half rectangle to secure the zip and hide the zipper puller. Open the zip part way.

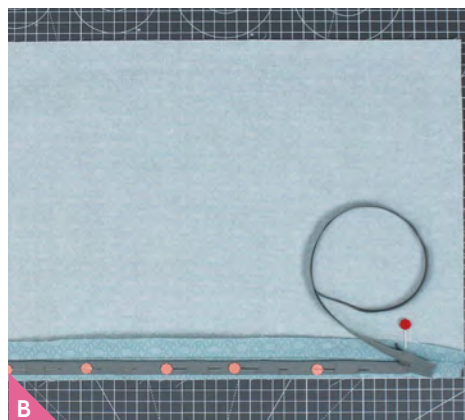
ATTACH POMPOM TRIM

4 Cut two lengths of 12" pompom trim. Place the trim along the seam lines

that you marked in the first step. The pompoms should be pointing towards the main part of the cushion and the woven section of the trim should be sitting within the seam allowance. (See Pic D.)

5 Fold the very ends of the woven part of the trim towards the raw edge of the seam allowance $\frac{1}{2}$ " before the long edge of the cushion back. (See Pic E.) Baste the trim in place along the seam line.

6 Ensure the zip is open part way. With RST sew the remaining three sides of the cushion closed. Finishes raw edges with a zigzag stitch, pinking shears or an overlocker. Turn through to right side, pushing out corners. Insert cushion pad.

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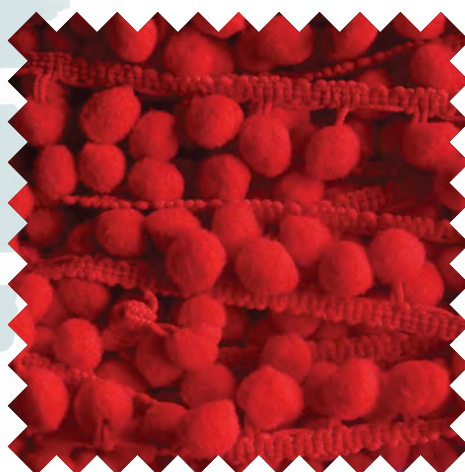
Simplicity pompom fringe trimming, £6.09 per metre, www.minervacrafts.com

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Brown faux fur, £3 per metre reel
www.hobbycraft.co.uk



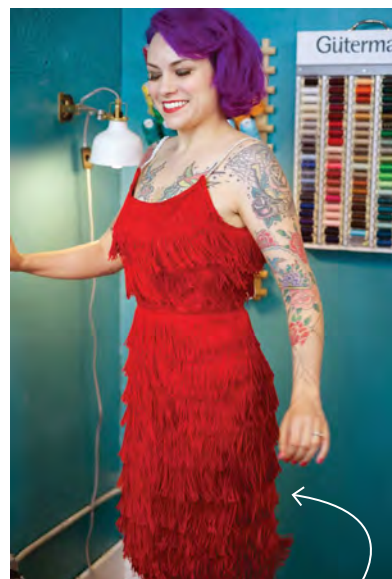
Beige box pleat trim edging, £2.50 per metre
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Yellow large pompom trim, £1.50 per metre
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Or why not refashion your clothes with some delicate trimmings?



We love Gertie's fringe dress, inspired by singer Wanda Jackson's eclectic style, www.blogforbettersewing.com



Chainette fringe wine, 12.5cm
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Add some lace to the bottom of a camisole for a stylish spring look using a great tutorial from Remnant Kings



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Tissue POUCH

*Carry your tissues in style
with this quick-make pouch*

Project **LEXIE BARNES**
Photography **KEVIN KENNEFICK**

SKILL LEVEL: ++ ++ ++ ++

MATERIALS:

- 36" canvas fabric (see Notes)
- 6x1" statement fabric strip or ribbon
- sewing pin

SIZE:

3x5"

NOTES:

To determine the size, take a pack of travel tissues and measure it. Add 1" to the length and width for seam allowances. To allow for the depth of the packet, add another ½" to both length and width for ease.

A heavier fabric such as canvas makes for a sturdy pouch, alternatively you could use a quilting cotton and interfacing

HOW TO MAKE:

1 Cut your fabric. On the wrong side of the fabric, measure, mark, and cut two pieces: one for the bottom exterior and one for the bottom lining.

For the folded tops, add another inch to the width of your bottom measurement. Cut two pieces of fabric at that size. (See pics A to C.)

2 Pin the pieces. Fold each of the top pieces in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Press, pin, and set the pieces aside. Pin together the two bottom pieces, wrong sides together.

3 To add a decorative strip, take a 1x6" strip of statement fabric, turn under and press ¼" on the long sides of the strip and edge-stitch the strip to one of the folded top pieces before assembling the pouch. If you are using a ribbon with finished edges, you can simply

edge-stitch it on without turning the sides under.

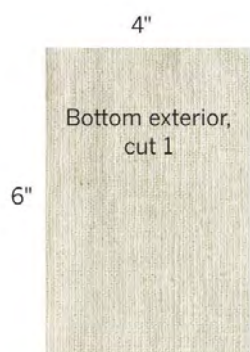
4 Assemble. Lay the pinned bottom pieces with the exterior on top and the lining on the bottom. Pin the two folded tops over the bottoms, lining up all outer raw edges. (The folded pieces will overlap in the middle.) If you are using an embellished top piece (like the one in the photo), lay it down first, embellishment side down. (See Pic D.)

5 Stitch. Run a narrow zigzag stitch around the raw edges (this will give the seam a bit of stretch). Trim the excess seam allowance, clip the corners, and turn the pouch right side out. (See Pic E.)

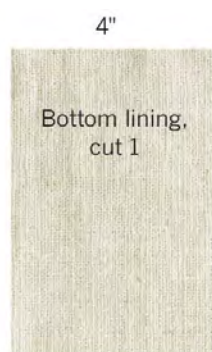
"THESE WOULD MAKE GREAT WEDDING OR PARTY FAVOUR POUCHES AND CAN BE FILLED WITH ANYTHING FROM SWEETS TO JEWELLERY!"



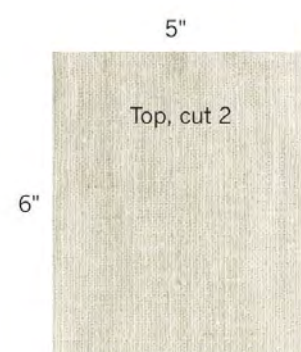
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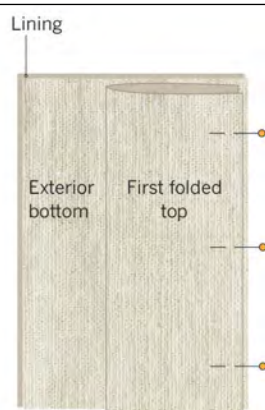
A



B



C



D



E

Adapted from
Sew What! Bags
by Lexie Barnes,
£11.99
Storey Publishing



Match your fabric weight
to the right tape type



Jamie

Sustainable tailoring: Hemming a skirt with tape

Achieving a perfect hem can really make a difference. Jamie Kemp shows us how to hem a skirt in three different ways to suit a variety of fabric

Words **JAMIE KEMP**
www.maledevonsewing.co.uk

The hem of a skirt is an area often overlooked and sometimes rushed when it comes to finishing. A badly executed hem can draw attention and let down what might otherwise be a fabulous make. The easy option is to press the hem and run a line of stitching around, but this can be unsightly on certain styles. Hemming tape offers a solution; it will help you achieve a neat finish and, if done well, add a professional touch.

Hemming tape is either fusible or sewn on. The fusible variety can be double or single sided (a bit like sticky tape) and is attached to the fabric by heating it with an iron.

Double-sided tape is useful on lighter fabric where a double-pressed hem won't cause any bulk issues. The tape is sandwiched between the hem fold and pressed.

APPLYING FUSIBLE TAPE

1 Turn the skirt inside out. Measure and press the hem over twice, ensuring the fold is a little wider than the tape. (See Pic A.)

2 Place double-sided hemming tape along the first fold. (See Pic B.)

3 Fold the hem over onto the tape, ensuring the raw edge is trapped between. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to press the hem and secure the tape. Don't be tempted to move the iron around, just press firmly in one area then lift and press the next. Use a pressing cloth if needed between the iron and fabric. (See Pic C.)

4 Continue until the entire hem is complete and allow it to cool. (See Pic D.)

USING SINGLE-SIDED TAPE

1 Single-sided tape is a quicker to use as you only need press the hem over once. It is better suited to slightly heavier fabric whereas a double-folded hem would add bulk.

2 Measure and press the hem over once. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and press the tape directly over the raw edge of the hem (adhesive side down!). Again, always use a press cloth under the iron. (See Pic E.)

"A BADLY EXECUTED HEM CAN DRAW ATTENTION AND LET DOWN WHAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE A FABULOUS MAKE"

3 This method effectively seals the raw edge whilst gluing it to the skirt. (See Pic F.)

SEW-ON TAPE

4 The double and single-sided fusible tape does have issues, such as adding a little too much stiffness to the hem, but the biggest consideration is how well it 'sticks' to the fabric. Material such as wool and knitted or heavily textured material won't allow the tape to bond well enough to perform as required.

Sew-on tape works brilliantly here and is especially good for heavy fabric.

5 I always use cotton twill tape in a suitable colour (here I am using white for clarity). Use tape between 1" and 2" wide, depending on the size of the hem and weight of fabric. Cut a length of tape and soak it well in cold water. Dry the tape using a hot iron – this causes the tape to soften slightly and gives it a little more stretch. (See Pic G.)

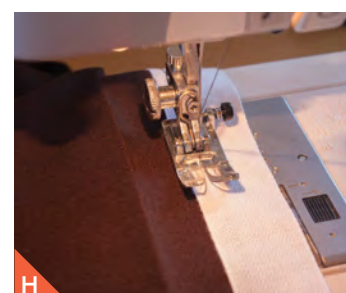
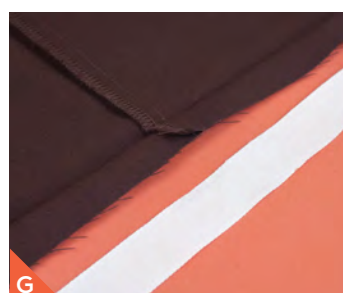
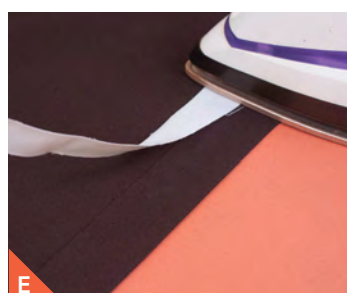
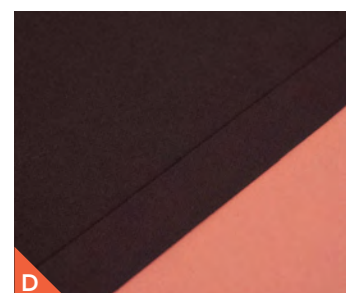
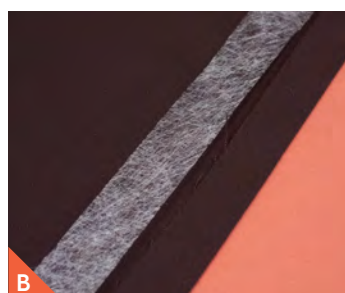
6 Press the hem once and overlap the tape onto the right side of the fabric.

7 Machine-sew the tape to the skirt with a ¼" seam around the hem. (See Pic H.)

8 Fold the hem over and attach the cotton tape to the skirt in a manner to suit the garment. You could hand slip-stitch, blind-hem stitch on the machine or simply sew a seam to the skirt.

9 The greatest benefit in this method is the use of another fabric rather than glue. The tape has more flexibility and you can 'ease' the tape without causing gathers or puckers. You don't have to use cotton twill of course, if you feel adventurous why not make some tape in a contrasting fabric to add a little fun!

10 So there are three possible solutions to help you achieve professionally finished hems, regardless of the fabric you choose. They can all of course be used after shortening a skirt or indeed to repair a hem that has come undone.





Beth



Merino wool CARDIGAN

*Transform a pullover sweater into
a cosy and flattering cardigan*

Project BETH HUNTINGTON



The original jumper



SKILL LEVEL: ● ● ● ● ●

MATERIALS:

- unloved wool jumper
- 1m black lace
- fabric scissors
- Fray Stop glue (optional)
- button
- co-ordinating sewing thread
- elastic hair bobble or 10cm strip in complementary colours

NOTES:

All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless otherwise stated

HOW TO MAKE:

1 Using fabric scissors, cut up the centre front of the jumper. (See Pic A.)

2 Cut two pieces of lace the same length as the front opening of the jumper. If you're worried the lace will fray, seal the ends with a small amount of Fray Stop glue and let it dry before doing anything else. (See Pic B.)

3 With right sides together, pin the lace to the raw edges of the jumper's new opening. (See Pic C.)

4 Select a button and a hair bobbie or strip of elastic to match your jumper. Cut the hair bobbie in half. (See Pic D.)

5 Decide where you would like the jumper to fasten. Mark the placement for the button $\frac{3}{4}$ " in from one edge. Fold the elastic in half. At the same place on the opposite side of the jumper opening, tuck the cut ends under the lace strip and pin in place. (See Pic E.)

6 Sew the lace strips to the jumper along the cut edges with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. (See Pic F.)

"LOOK FOR INEXPENSIVE JUMPERS IN CHARITY SHOPS AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO PICK UP MEN'S SWEATERS AS YOU CAN ALWAYS CUT OUT A STRIP FROM THE FRONT FOR A BETTER FIT"



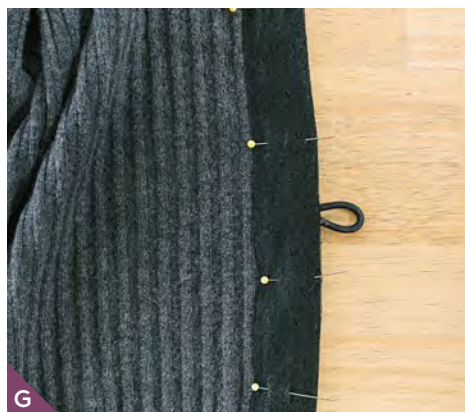
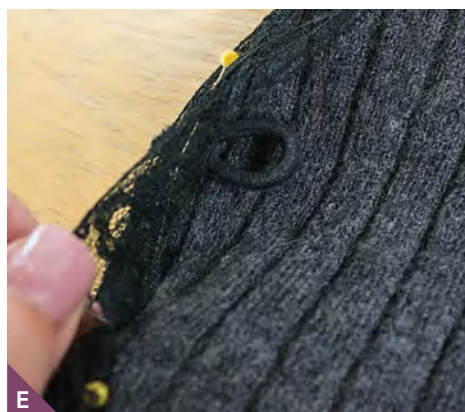
Bethany

7 Fold the lace over along the seam line to the wrong side of the jumper.

8 Pin the lace to the wrong side of the opening. Top-stitch around all four sides of the lace about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. (See Pic G.)

9 Sew on the button to finish. ⚙️

This project is from
The Refashion Handbook
by Beth Huntington,
£16.99 available from
www.ctpub.com



FIND OUT MORE

Fray Stop glue can be a great option for reinforcing hems and seams. This is especially useful when cutting into existing garments and refashioning them into something completely new. The liquid glue is suitable for most fabric and dries clear, remaining flexible. To make the glued area permanently reinforced, you can fix it by ironing it on a low setting. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Hi-Tack Fray Stop glue is available from £2.29 at www.sewandso.co.uk



WORKING WITH WOOL

Lots of sewists are wary of wool because of its tendency to shrink in the wash, but when treated with care, a wool garment can last a lifetime

WHAT IS WOOL?

Wool is quite simply a fibre which is spun from the fleece of a sheep.



Although other animals such as alpacas, goats, llamas and even bunny rabbits produce fibre which can be spun and woven or knitted into luxury fabrics, it's only sheep that can make wool! That said, all of these care tips also apply to other animal fibres, including mohair and angora, as they all behave in quite a similar way. Sometimes wool is referred to by the breed of sheep, such as Merino, Shetland or Bluefaced Leicester.



WHY CHOOSE WOOL?

Wool is a really unique fibre, which has a wonderful range of properties which sewists can take advantage of. It's remarkably warm for its weight, so a wool coat needn't be heavy or bulky. It's natural, 100% biodegradable and renewable, which makes it a perfect choice for the environmentally-conscious. Wool is also an elastic fibre, meaning that it will shape itself to your body to create a perfect fit.

CARING FOR WOOL

Modern processing techniques mean that some wool is machine-washable. If your wool is not superwash treated though,



don't worry – it's still easy to care for. We recommend a no-rinse wool wash such as Soak. Simply make a mixture of lukewarm water and your wool wash and leave your garment to soak for 30 minutes. When it's ready, take it out and roll it in a towel to remove excess moisture. Finally, lay your garment out on a flat surface and leave it to dry. It won't even need ironing!

SAFE STORAGE

The worst nightmare for a wool wardrobe is the dreaded clothes moth. Although moths can attack any fibre, wool and animal fibres are their favourites, and they've been making a big comeback in recent years. Clothes moths are very small (about 5-10mm long) and pale – if you see them in your house, take action immediately! Pheromone traps and insecticide sprays will catch and kill moths, but preventative action is best. Clean out your cupboards regularly and keep particularly precious or delicate items in Ziploc bags.



WOOL FABRIC PICKS

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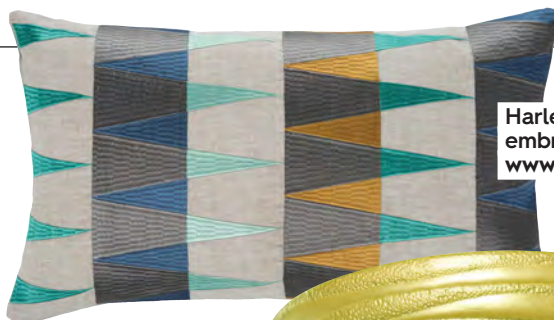


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What you've been sewing

We love to share the fabulous creations our readers have made from the magazine.

We're glad that you keep your sewing machines busy, and can't wait to see what else you make!



Our resident expert Jamie Kemp whipped up this fabulous Zoe Dress for his wife Lulu and we love the subtle effect of the contrast topstitching.



Reader Vanessa Ottley upcycled a vest top to sew her first pair of handmade knickers! *"This is my first make of the new year. I have never made knickers before. I bought a vest top from a shop to use the fabric. Thought it might be a bit odd to model them for you!"*



Dott Rachel Edwards shared her wonderful utility skirt, as featured in issue 2, with us on Facebook, and she looks very happy with the new wardrobe staple!
www.dottandthedog.wordpress.com



We love Vicky Wiseman's denim take on the pinafore dress as featured in issue 3. Great job!



The pinafore dress from issue 3 is proving to be very popular online, and reader Sharon Courtney shared this picture of hers on Instagram. *"I put myself to the test with pattern matching the checked fabric, blind hemming on the machine and getting to grips with my new serger."*



Bethany

If you've been sewing using the patterns and projects featured in Sew Now, we would love to see what you make! Share with us on Facebook and Instagram, or by email

- bethany.armitage@practicalpublishing.co.uk
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Simple sew

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Lisa wears the Peter
Pan Blouse (#SR05)



Elle wears the
Bardot Dress (#012)



Jenny wears the
Trudy Dress (#SR12)



Megan and
Beatrice
wear the
Skater Dress
(#006)

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Tiered LIBERTY LAWN SKIRT

*Embrace the warmer
weather with this beautiful
and light tiered skirt and
rock a retro peasant look*

Project **FIONA HESFORD** Sewgirl
Photography **RENATA STONYTE**
Model **LANNA** for BOSS models
Hair and make-up **NINA ROCHFORD**

DOWNLOAD
YOUR
FREE
TEMPLATE

SKILL LEVEL: ++ ++ ++ ++

FABRIC TYPES:

Cotton lawn, linen, broderie anglais, seersucker, gingham

MATERIALS:

- 2.3m 134cm-wide tana lawn or lightweight cotton fabric
- elastic 2cm wide cut to size Small=69cm, Med=79cm, Large=89cm
- reel of extra fine thread & a 70 machine needle
- free template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

“Lightweight fabric is perfect for this fabulously floaty skirt. Choose a crisp tana lawn or, for an on-trend look, cotton gingham would work really well and be a great choice for summer”



Fiona

NOTES:

Use a 1cm seam allowance throughout. The finished skirt length is approximately 95cm

CUTTING:

Cut strips across the width of the fabric or rip horizontal strips if your fabric allows it.

Yoke: cut one strip 20cm x width of the fabric. With selvedge edges folded to centre cut two pieces of the yoke template lined up to the fold of the fabric on each side.

CUTTING TIERS 1,2,3,4:

(See Pic A.)

From nine 21cm horizontal strips cut the following pieces:

Tier 1: cut two pieces (front & back)

Sm: 21x72cm
Med: 21x77cm
Lrg: 21x82cm

Tier 2: Cut two pieces (front & back)

Sm: 21x92cm
Med: 21x97cm
Lrg: 21x102cm

Tier 3: Cut two pieces (front & back)

Sm: 21x122cm

Med: 21x127cm
Lrg: 21x132cm

Tier 4: Cut two pieces (front & back)

NB. Join two strips together at short sides

Sm: 21x162cm
Med: 21x167cm
Lrg: 21x172cm

Stick a piece of masking tape on to the wrong side of each piece and mark with the tier number as a guide ie. T1, T2, T3, T4. NB. If your fabric has a direction, indicate this with an arrow. (See pics A and B.)

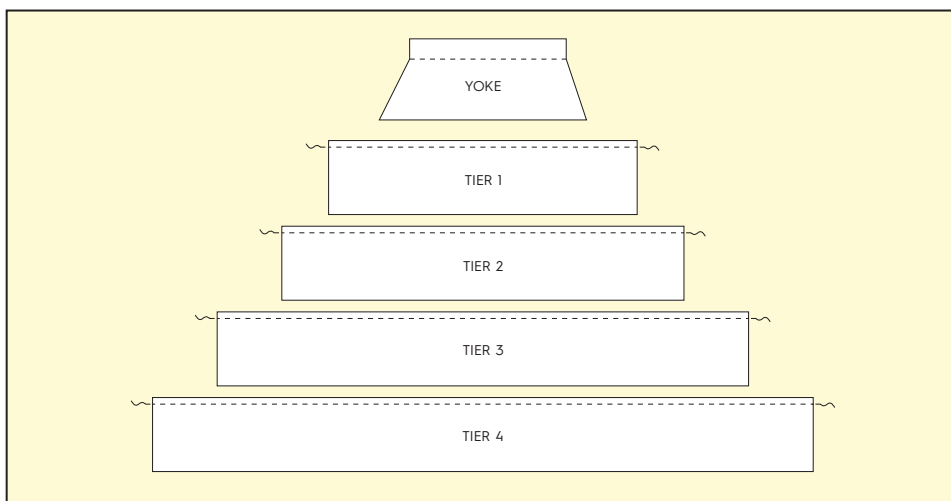
SEWING THE TIERS:

1 Finish the raw lower long edge of the yoke piece and the long raw edges of the four tier strips with an overlocker or small zigzag stitch. Press. Sew a line of machine tacking stitches along the top long edge only of the tier pieces 6mm from the edge. (See Pic C.)

2 Fold the tier pieces in half longways then in half again. Press at the fold then place a pin at each fold marker to indicate the quarter sections or mark with tailor's chalk. Repeat for lower edge of yoke piece. Pull tacking stitches and gather up the fabric evenly across width of each strip. (See Pic D.) Use the diagram below as a guide.

MEASUREMENTS

| UK SIZE GUIDE | 8-10 (Small) | 12-14 (Med) | 16-18 (Large) |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| BUST inches (centimetres) | 32-34 (82-86) | 36-38 (91-96) | 40-42 (100-106) |
| WAIST inches (centimetres) | 26-27 (65-69) | 29-31 (74-79) | 33-35 (84-89) |
| HIPS inches (centimetres) | 35-37 (90-94) | 39-41 (99-104) | 43-45 (109-114) |



3 Pin the upper long edge of tier 1 to the yoke lower edge with right sides together (RST), matching up the marker points and easing gathers evenly. (See pics E, F and G.)

4 Tack-stitch to hold. Stitch on the machine with a 1cm seam allowance. Repeat with tier 2 to lower edge of tier 1 and tier 3 to lower edge of tier 2 and tier 4 to lower edge of tier 3. (See pics H and I.)

5 Repeat for back piece. Press seam lines on RS being careful not to flatten the gathers.

6 Pin together the front and back pieces at sides with RST matching up the tier cross seams. Stitch a 1cm seam allowance. Finish raw edges. Hem the lower edge with a 1cm hem

7 Cut a piece of elastic to fit your waist measurement. Fold over and press 1cm at the yoke top raw edge all around. Fold again, press, pin a 2.5cm hem, stitch close to the fold all around hem leaving

a 2cm opening at the side seam for inserting the elastic.

8 Attach a safety pin at one end of the elastic and feed it into the waistband hem, easing through the channel and out of the same side. Sew the elastic together with a 2cm overlap. Sew up the opening. (See pics J and K.) ➕

GET THE LOOK

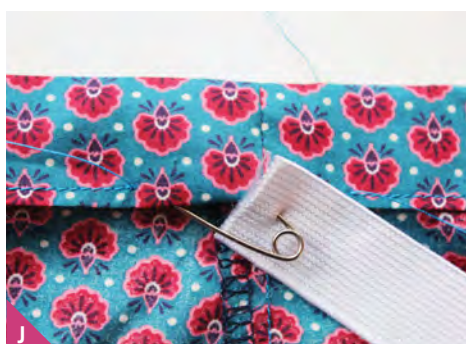
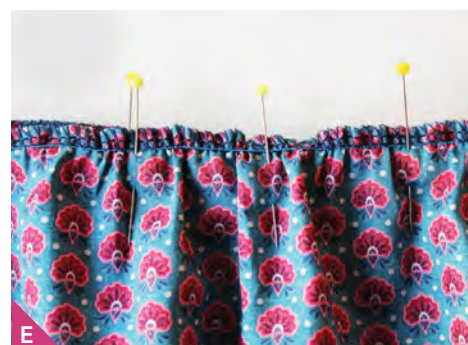
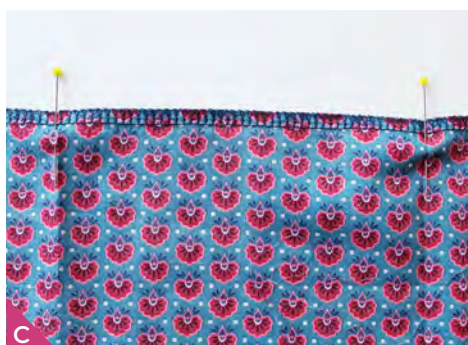


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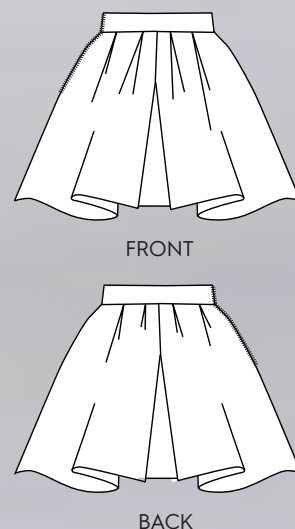
Update your wardrobe with this fun and versatile skirt pattern that has plenty of character and box pleat detailing

#SR20
The Kiera Skirt
Sizes 8-20

The Keira skirt is a cute little number, ideal for showing off those tanned pins! If you prefer your skirts a little longer, you can simply extend the length of it at the hem. If you like a shorter length you can wear it over leggings or a pair of patterned tights if the weather turns cooler. The paper pattern is multi-sized and covers UK sizes 8-20.

Previously on sale for £10, this on-trend pattern is available to *Sew Now* readers for free – all you need to do is pay P&P.

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To claim your free copy of the Simple Sew Keira Skirt pattern, head to
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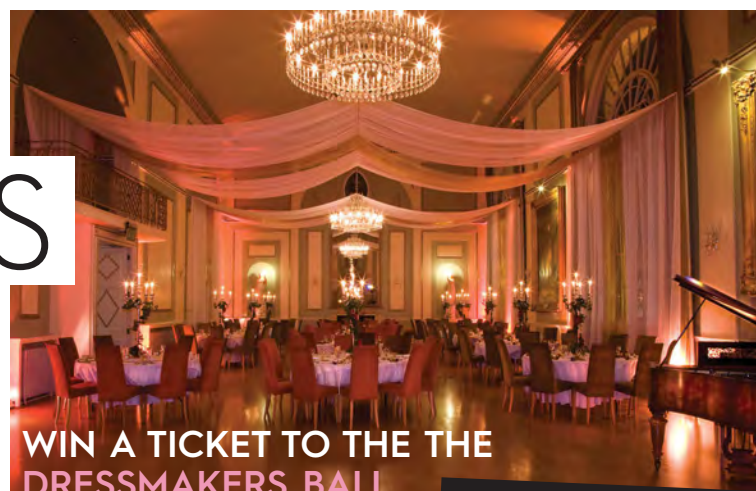
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The ball will take place 12th May 2017 at The City Rooms, Leicester. For more information visit www.thedressmakersball.com



WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO STITCHING, SEWING & HOBBY CRAFTS IN LONDON

Returning to ExCeL in London for three days of craft heaven, this show features over 100 exhibitors bringing you the latest in craft and textile products! Visitors will be spoilt for choice when it comes to stocking up their sewing room, attending talks, demonstrations, and more. We have teamed up with ICHF Events to offer 20 lucky winners a pair of tickets to this fantastic show from 20 – 22 April 2017. Make sure you put the date in your diary – you won't be disappointed!

Visit www.ichfevents.co.uk for more details and all the latest information.

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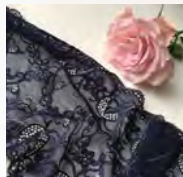
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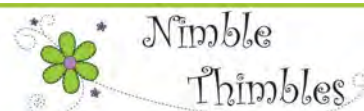
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SKILL LEVEL: ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

MATERIALS:

- 80x25cm 5mm-thick grey felt
- 2m 2mm-wide pink waxed cotton cord
- 1kg dry lentils or small plastic toy-filling pellets
- small quantity of toy stuffing
- craft knife, metal ruler & cutting mat
- hole punch
- black fine-tipped felt pen
- latex contact adhesive
- craft glue & spatula
- free template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

HOW TO MAKE:

1 Print and cut out the template. Use the smallest setting on the hole punch to punch the holes shown on the pattern.

2 Place the pattern on the grey felt and cut out the two sides of the ampersand. Position the pattern as economically as possible, as the strips to make the edges of the ampersand are cut from the remainder of the felt.

3 On the right side of one of the felt ampersands, mark all the holes through the pattern with the fine-tipped pen and, using the smallest setting on the hole punch, punch them through. Leave the other side unmarked.

4 Using a metal ruler and a craft knife on a cutting mat, cut the remainder of the felt into strips 5cm wide. Make sure that you keep the strips as long as possible – you will need at least one that is a minimum of 37cm long, so that you can use it to make the top of the ampersand with no joins.

5 To make the inner edges of the ampersand, start with the internal holes. Place the front (pierced) side wrong side up on a solid work surface and stand one of the 5cm strips on its edge. Starting at the corner of the upper hole, curve the strip around the hole. Push pins through both pieces at an angle to hold the strip in place, pinning it around the hole, flush with the edge of the felt. Where the strip crosses back on itself at the base of the hole, make a mark with the fine-tipped pen to show where the short end of the felt touches the inside surface of the strip.

6 Unpin the strip and cut it across at an exact right angle at the pen mark.

7 Use the glue spreader or spatula to scrape a 5mm-wide line of latex contact adhesive around the hole, going right to the edges. Then spread a very thin layer of craft glue along one of the long edges of the strip.

8 Leave the glue to dry completely, or speed it up with a hairdryer. The glue should have gone completely transparent before you stick it (it's opaque when still damp).

“WHY NOT USE CONTRASTING STRIPS OF COLOURED FELT FOR THE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL EDGES OF THE AMPERSAND TO MATCH THE DÉCOR OF YOUR ROOM?”



Jenny

9 Position the strip around the hole on the front piece. Pinch along the seam really hard between your thumb and first two fingers to make sure it sticks securely.

10 Spread a very thin layer of contact adhesive on one end of the felt strip across the thickness of the felt itself and another thin layer on the inner edge of the other end. Leave to dry as before and, when opaque, pinch the edges together firmly along the join.

11 Repeat the process with another strip of felt around the second hole in the front piece.

12 Now stick strips around the outside of the ampersand front, using the same technique. Use the longest strip around the top of the ampersand front, so that your finished bookend will have a smooth top, without joins.

13 Thread the pink cord through the pre-punched holes in the front in a running-stitch pattern, using one piece around each of the internal holes and one piece around the outer edge. At the end of each stitching round, tie the two cord ends together, cut the ends to 2cm and use craft glue on the ends to ensure that they won't come undone.

14 Place the ampersand face down on your work surface. Mark a gap at the top with pins, to ensure that you leave a gap for the filling as you glue the shape together.

15 As before, scrape a very fine line of latex contact adhesive around the edge of the back piece and along the edges of the strips that form the gusset of the ampersand. Leave to dry, then position the back piece over the glued edges and pinch firmly all along the ampersand's outer edge to secure.

16 Using a funnel or pouring jug, fill the ampersand through the gap at the top with the lentils or plastic toy pellets. Fill the shape roughly up to the halfway point, where the upper and lower loops meet. Fill the balance with toy stuffing, pushing small quantities into the gap until the ampersand is solidly filled.

17 Glue along the sides of the gap using latex contact adhesive. Leave to dry, then align the sides of the opening and firmly pinch closed. ☺



Adapted from *Sewing with Letters:*
20 Sewing Projects
by Nicola Tedman & Sarah Skeate
Published by Ivy Press, £12.99

Sewing the **perfect** **V neck**

*Create perfection by
sewing your narrow
V or slashed neckline
featured on your free
pattern with step-by-
step guidance from
Alison Smith*

www.schoolofsewing.co.uk



On closer inspection of your free pattern you will see that this neckline is formed as part of the centre front seam and is not as straightforward as stitching a regular V-shape neck. Choose your fabric carefully for the dress as this style requires a fabric that has a bit of body/structure such as a cotton, linen or fine wool. A thicker fabric will cause bulk at the point of the V-neck and may not lie as flat as you would like. I have chosen a linen/cotton mix, and I am stitching in a darker shade so that you can see my stitching lines, but always choose a matching thread.

1 After cutting out all the pattern pieces and attaching fusible interfacing to the front and back facings, mark the small dot on the centre front line of pieces 1 and 3 with a tailor's tack. (See Pic A.)

2 Neaten the shoulder seams on the front bodice to the back bodice, join the shoulder seam press open. Join the front and back facings at the shoulder seams and press the seam open. Neaten the outer edge of the facing. (See pics B & C.)

3 Neaten the centre front seam on the front bodice. Join the CF seam as far as the tailor tack and press open. Join the centre front seam on the facing too, just to the dot. (See Pic D.)

4 Working on the right-hand side of the dress, place the facing to the dress, matching around the neckline and shoulder seam. At the CF match the stitching at the dot. Machine carefully, so that the stitching lines meet, either side of the front tailor's tack. Repeat for the left-hand side. (See pics E & F.)

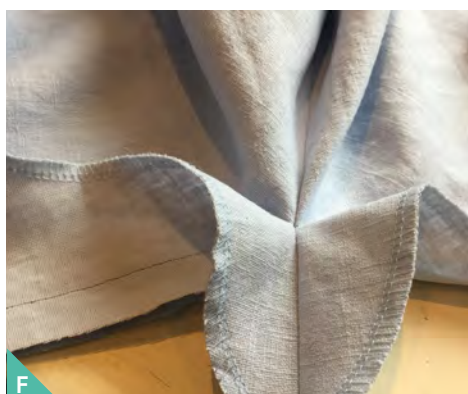
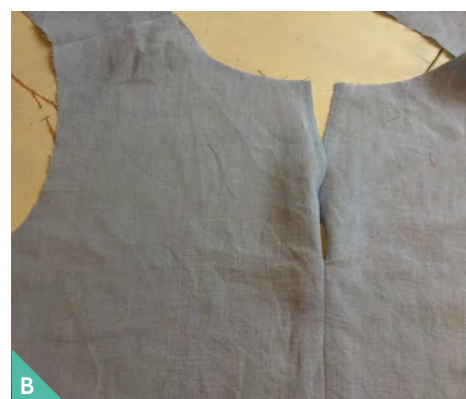
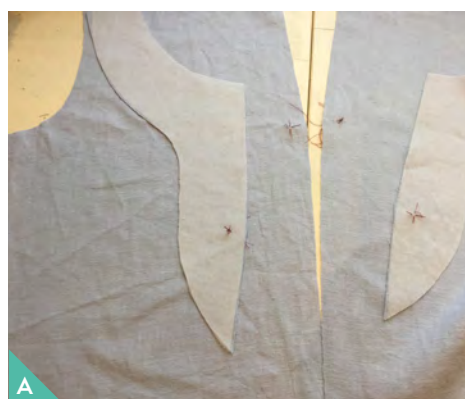
"MACHINE CAREFULLY, SO THE STITCHING LINES MEET, EITHER SIDE OF THE FRONT TAILOR'S TACK"

5 Trim the facing side of the seam allowance down by 5mm. Clip off the pointed ends at the CF and clip out notches around the rest of the neckline. Press the

seam allowances toward the facing, easing out the CF corners carefully. At the bottom of the V, you may need to very carefully snip the seam allowances to allow the seams to lie flat. Press so that the facing rolls slightly toward the WS at the edges. (See Pic G.)

6 Under-stitch the neckline. This means stitching the seam allowances to the facing. You will only be able to get to parts of the neckline but if you can under-stitch it will make the neckline smoother. (See Pic H.)

Follow the pattern instructions for the rest of the dress. It's a lovely pattern and will be a great addition to your summer wardrobe!





Sewing CADDY

If you're off to a workshop or just want to keep your sewing area tidy, this useful case will hold anything from fat quarters to patterns. It would also make a lovely vanity case!

Project **DEBBIE SHORE**



Debbie



Sewing CADDY

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Project **DEBBIE SHORE**



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Project **DEBBIE SHORE**



Debbie

SKILL LEVEL: ++ ++ ++ ++

MATERIALS:

- 1m print cotton for outer (Fabric A)
- 1m contrasting print cotton for lining (Fabric B)
- 1m foam stabiliser
- 61cm zip with two sliders
- 1m yellow bias binding tape
- 30cm circle template
- repositionable spray adhesive
- fabric clips

NOTES:

This project uses a continuous zip with two sliders that meet in the middle.

To create a 30cm circle template you can draw this using a compass or a ruler, piece of paper and some string. Alternatively, many dinner plates will measure 30cm and make great templates.

CUTTING:

From Fabric A, cut:

- 2 30x20cm rectangles
- 58.5x4cm strip for zipped panel
- 58.5x9cm strip
- 30x13cm rectangle for back panel
- 18x15cm piece for pocket
- 6.5x23cm piece for handle

From Fabric B, cut:

- 2 30x20cm rectangles
- 58.5x4cm strip for zipped panel
- 58.5x9cm strip
- 30x13cm rectangle for back panel

From foam stabiliser, cut:

- 2 30x20cm rectangles
- 57.5x2.5cm strip for zipped panel
- 57x7cm strip
- 29x11.5cm rectangle for back panel
- 2x20cm strip for handle

HOW TO MAKE:

1 First, make up the pocket by folding the Fabric A piece in half along the shorter side, right sides together. Sew around the raw edges, leaving a gap in the long side of about 7.5cm for turning. Snip off the corners.

2 Turn right side out and press. Edge-stitch across the folded side. (See Pic A.)

3 Take the 30x20cm rectangles of Fabric A, Fabric B and the foam stabiliser, and, using your 30cm circle template, draw then cut a curve to one side of each piece. (See Pic B.)

4 Trim away 5mm from the edges of the foam stabiliser pieces to leave a seam allowance around the fabric pieces. Use a little repositionable spray adhesive to adhere the foam stabiliser to the wrong sides of the outer fabrics. (See Pic C.)

5 To make the handle, wrap the fabric around its corresponding foam stabiliser, folding in the raw edges. Edge-stitch all the way round.

6 Measure and mark 7.5cm from the straight side of the lid (one of your backed Fabric A pieces created in step 4), and 7.5cm from the curved side - sew the handle in place in a box shape. (See Pic D.)

7 Sew the sides and bottom of the pocket, centrally to the Fabric B back lining piece of fabric. (See Pic E.)

8 Sew the top and bottom Fabric A outer zip panel pieces to either side of the zip tape, right sides together. Then sew the linings to the opposite sides. Press, then top-stitch along the seam. (See Pic F.)

9 Spray one side of the zip-panel foam stabiliser pieces with repositionable



ACCESSORY

adhesive and adhere them to the Fabric A outer fabric, either side of the zip. (See Pic G.)

10 Spray and adhere the foam stabiliser to the Fabric A outer back panel. Sew the Fabric A outer back panel to the zip section right sides together along one short end. Then sew the back Fabric B lining to the same seam, right side facing the Fabric B lining side of the zip panel. Press, then top-stitch. (See Pic H.)

11 Fold the zipped section over so that the opposite ends meet, and sew the Fabric A outer pieces right sides together. (See Pic I.)

12 This next bit may seem a bit tricky – fold the Fabric B lining pieces right sides together, rolling the zipped section out of the way; sew. (See Pic J.)

13 Open out this section and you'll see the shape of the case forming. Top-stitch along the remaining seam. (See Pic K.)

14 Turn this ring inside out. Use the adhesive spray to secure the Fabric B lining to the lid and base pieces from Step 4, wrong sides together. Clip the top of the case to the sides, with right sides together (this may now be too thick to pin). (See Pic L.)

15 Sew all the way round and remove the clips as you go. Apply bias tape all the way round, folding the end inwards as you start and overlapping by about 1cm when the two ends meet. (See Pic M.)

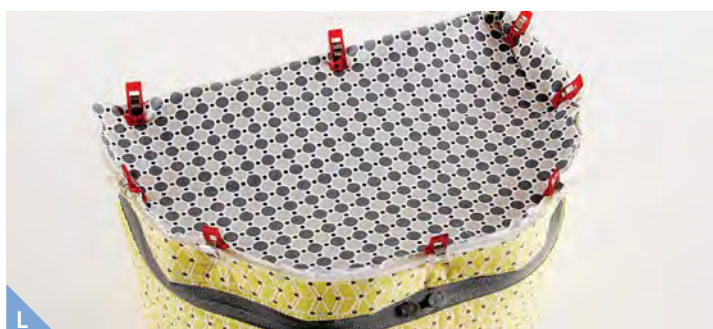
16 Fold the tape over and hand-sew with a slipstitch. Repeat at the base of the case.

17 Turn the case right side out and press.

18 Fill with fabric, scissors and thread and off you go! 🧵



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Master your MACHINE

Each machine model offers a range of features and functions, but all have the fundamental elements in common. Use this handy guide and you'll know your way around yours in no time

THREAD GUIDES

1 Two threads make up each stitch – the top thread and the bobbin thread. The top thread from the spool of cotton passes through the thread guide, which regulates the tension of the thread before it's fed through the needle.

SPEED CONTROLLER

2 A slider that sets the speed the machine will work at when the pedal is pressed, allowing control and precision when sewing.

REVERSE FUNCTION

3 Use this to set the machine working in a reverse direction, to move backwards across a stitched line. This function is used when securing the threads at the start and end of a line of stitching.

NEEDLE AND NEEDLE CLAMP

4 The needle is removable to allow you to select from a variety of types and sizes to suit your project. The needle is held in place by the clamp. Most machines include a tool for tightening and loosening the clamp to access the needle.

PRESSER FOOT LIFTER

5 For lifting and lowering to hold the fabric in place while you sew. Release it to remove the fabric from the machine.

BOBBIN CASE

6 Inside the removable cover is the bobbin case, which houses the bobbin. The bobbin is wound with thread and provides the second thread for each stitch.

FEED DOGS

7 These moving parts lie underneath the needle plate. With spiked teeth that protrude from the opening, these help to move the fabric through the machine.

NEEDLE PLATE

8 The metal plate directly below the needle and presser foot. The small opening allows the thread from the bobbin to pass through while the needle enters to make the stitches. On the plate are guide markings to assist straight sewing and measuring seam allowances.

PRESSER FOOT PRESSURE DIAL

9 Used for releasing/increasing the weight of the foot on the fabric, for example when working appliqué you can release the pressure to enable you to turn the fabric smoothly.



"IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH THE THREADING ON A NEW MACHINE, PRACTISE WITH RED THREAD UNTIL YOU GET THE HANG OF IT"



Jeanette

Trouble with tension?

Check that both the machine and bobbin are correctly threaded. If these aren't exactly right, this can cause incorrect tension. Also check that the thread on the bobbin is wound correctly. If it's too tight or too loose, it won't feed through the machine and make even stitches. Another good tip is to use the same thread in the machine and the bobbin – even slightly different threads can unbalance the tension



Easy Set Bobbin

BOBBIN WINDER

10 Winds thread from the cotton spool onto the bobbin, ensuring that the thread is fed evenly onto the bobbin and maintains the correct tension.

SPOOL HOLDER

11 This pin runs through the centre of a spool of thread, allowing it to feed smoothly through the machine.

SCREEN

12 Displays the relevant information regarding the stitch style, width and length that has been selected.

HAND WHEEL

13 Manually operates the mechanics of the machine, moving the needle up and down and engaging the feed dogs. Newer, computerised machines also have a needle up/down button which can be programmed to stay in the down position – ideal for pivoting on corners.

STITCH SELECTOR

14 Allows you to select from the different stitches on the machine and includes a menu from which you make your selection. The stitch is selected by pressing the relevant button and the number will appear on the screen

STITCH LENGTH AND STITCH WIDTH SELECTORS

15 Use to increase or decrease the length or width of your stitch. The shorter the stitch, the more stitches are worked across the line of sewing, making it stronger. The width applies to stitches where the needle moves from left to right, such as a zigzag stitch. Adjusting the width button will also move the needle position, which is important when sewing in zips and piping etc.

FREE ARM

16 This is a narrower working space created when the accessory box is removed. This is perfect for sewing smaller items or inserting sleeves.

ACCESSORY DRAWER

17 Use to store alternative presser feet, spare bobbins and maintenance tools.

START/STOP BUTTON

18 This allows you to operate the machine without the foot pedal.

THREAD CUT BUTTON

19 This will cut the threads after sewing and is highlighted in the screen with the thread cutter mark.

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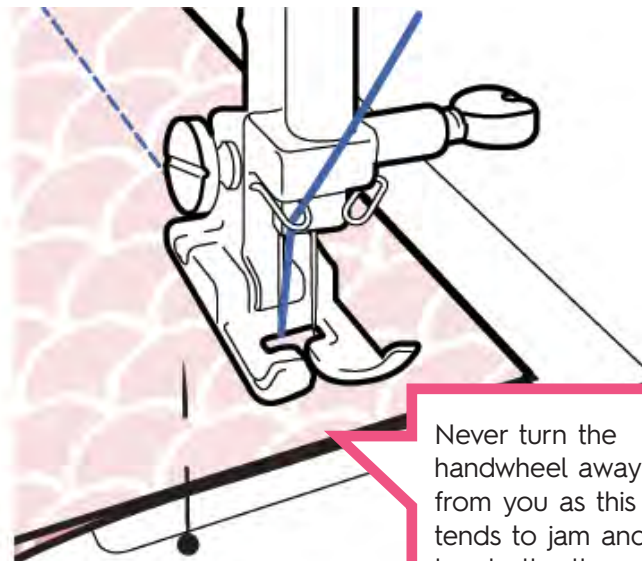
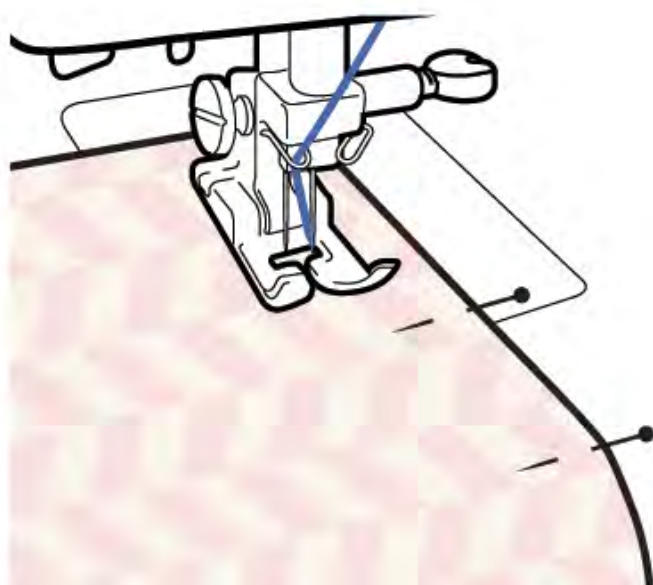
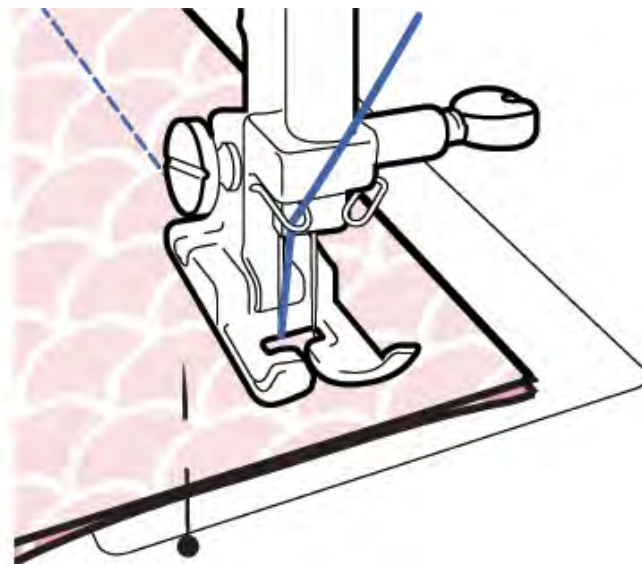
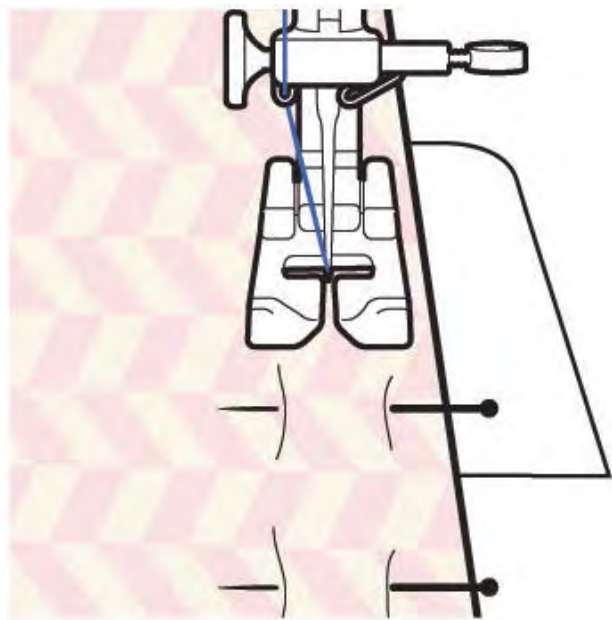


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TUTORIAL

Whether you're an established sewist or just starting out, here's a handy guide to the basics



Never turn the handwheel away from you as this tends to jam and tangle the thread

SEWING A SEAM

Lay your fabrics with right sides facing and line up the raw edges evenly. Align the fabric edges on your chosen seam allowance on the seam guide situated on the machine plate. The needle will stitch the seam the correct distance from the edge.

Start and end your seams with the needle and take-up lever in the highest position. Lower the needle in the fabric if you'd prefer to see where you will start sewing. Keep your eyes on the edge of the fabric that is following the seam guide, rather than the needle, and your seam allowances will be even. Sew slowly around curves and more quickly for straight seams.

PIVOT TURNS

Pivot turns are used for sewing round corners and angles for things such as pockets and collars.

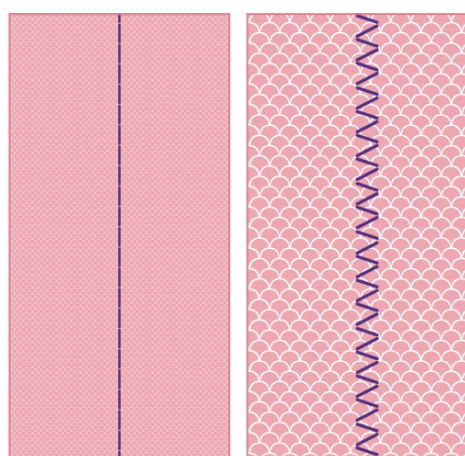
Sew your seam and when you get to 1.6cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ ") – or whatever seam allowance you are using – away from the end, stop and turn the handwheel towards you to sink the needle in the fabric. The needle will be your anchor.

Now you can safely lift the presser foot and pivot the fabric in the new direction. Drop the presser foot back down and keep stitching. There is no need to back-stitch because it's the same seam, just in a new direction.

BASIC STITCHES

LENGTH AND WIDTH

Stitch length controls the speed of the feed dog and is measured in millimetres from 0 to 4 (sometimes up to 6 for high-end machines). Higher numbers mean the feed dog moves faster in relation to the needle and the stitches are longer. Stitch width controls how far away from the centre the needle can swing. A straight stitch obviously has a width of 0mm, while a zigzag stitch can be as narrow as 1mm or as wide as 4mm.



Left: straight stitch, right: zigzag stitch

STRAIGHT STITCH

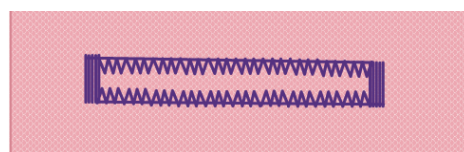
You will use this for 99% of your sewing. It is the basic construction stitch to connect one fabric to another. Use a 2.5mm length for basic sewing, 4mm or longer for tacking, 3mm for topstitching and 1.5-2mm for stress points such as corners and purse straps. Straight stitches do not stretch so do not use them for stretch knits.

ZIGZAG STITCH

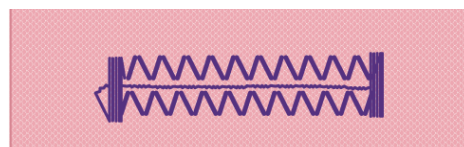
The zigzag can be used as a decorative topstitch, to finish seam allowances to prevent fabric edges from fraying, to sew on appliqué, stitch monograms and for sewing stretch knits. Use a 2.5mm length and 3.5mm width for basic sewing, 0.5mm length and 4-5mm width for satin-stitching appliqué and embroidery, and a 2.5mm length and 0.5mm width for stretch sewing.

BUTTONHOLE STITCH

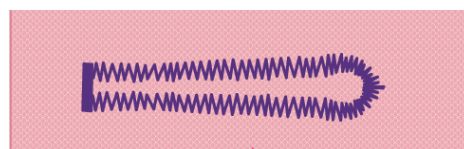
A buttonhole is a box made of tiny zigzag stitches. You can stitch a buttonhole using the zigzag stitch, but it is easier to have a buttonhole stitch. Mechanical machines have a four-step buttonhole, while computerised



Standard buttonhole



Knit buttonhole



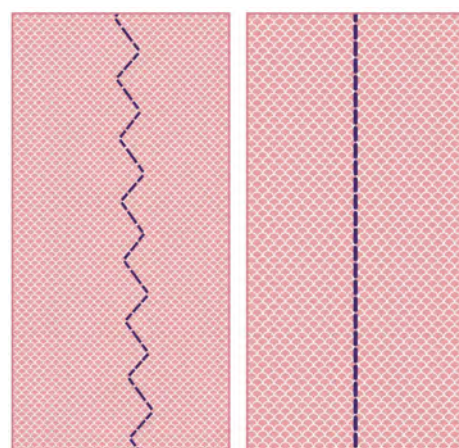
Keyhole buttonhole

Note that mechanical machines can only do regular buttonholes

machines can sew an automatic or one-step buttonhole. Regular buttonholes are standard and can be used on all types of fabric and for all types of buttons. Keyhole buttonholes have a rounded end that opens wider for ball-type buttons. Knit buttonholes have a more defined zigzag stitch to allow for more stretch.

TRICOT/ELASTIC STITCH

This stitch is also called the multi-stitch zigzag and is a zigzag stitch where each



Left: tricot/elastic stitch, right: stretch straight stitch

zig and zag is made of three straight stitches. It is used to attach elastic and stitch on knit fabric. Since the stitches are smaller than a standard zigzag, this means there is less chance of snagging and the stitch has lots of stretch.

STRETCH STRAIGHT

This is a straight stitch with one stitch forwards, one back and one forwards and is strong due to the repeated stitching. It's often used for high-stress seams such as crotch seams, but can also be used for knits as it has built-in stretch because the feed dog stretches the fabric slightly.

OVERCASTING

The overcast stitch resembles an overlocker or serger stitch and uses both zigzag and straight stitches. It is used to finish the raw edges of fabric to prevent fraying.



Left: overcasting stitch, right: blind hem stitch

BLIND HEM

The blind hem has several tiny zigzags and then one large zigzag. It is used for hemming and is practically invisible from the right side. Use your manual instructions to lay up fabric correctly.

Taken from
Stress-Free Sewing
by Nicole Vasbinder,
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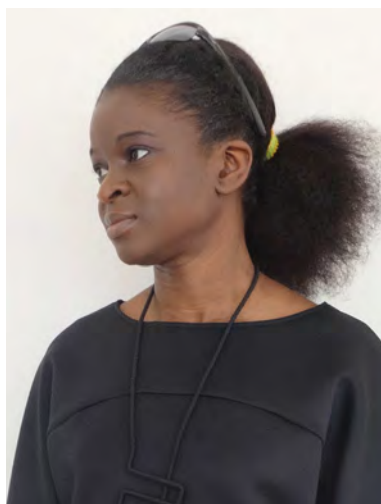


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5 minutes with... **Olu Falola**

We caught up with Olu of blog Needle and Ted, whose journey has taken her from sewing clothes for her daughter to designing children's patterns for her brand Madeit Patterns

Hi there! How are you today and what's on your sewing table?

I'm good thank you and pleased to be well underway with my sewing after the Christmas break. Although 'break' may not be entirely correct – during an eight-hour car journey up to Scotland for Christmas I did some hand sewing and completed the lining for my BurdaStyle Crossover Coat. I wasn't driving! I have a ridiculous amount of unfinished items. The next thing I'll be making is a skater dress for my nine-year-old in a beautiful dark blue jersey with gold printed splashes from www.mauds-fabric-finds.com

How would you describe your style?

Adventurous with a Rick Owens vibe; drapey cuts, asymmetrical silhouettes, black on black.

Why did you start sewing?

I started sewing in 2014 when I set myself a challenge to make my daughters' clothes for a year. I can't remember what sparked the idea, but when my eldest daughter asked why her leggings didn't go down to her ankles like everyone else's I knew that making clothes for a daughter who has the legs of a baby giraffe was the only way to ensure she had clothes that fit. I enjoyed it so much I haven't stopped sewing since, and one might say that I'm addicted.

What's on your to-sew list?

I put all my sewing plans on Pinterest boards and currently there are 594 things to sew for myself and 1,200 things to sew for my girls! I have planned a Madeit Patterns Groove Dress for myself; I've made 15 in total but none for me, so it's time I did. I am also planning a draped cardigan from my Japanese sewing book *She Wears the Pants*. For my nine-year-old I have the fabric to

make a bomber jacket using retro Simplicity 5488. And for my five-year-old I'll be making a Wiggle jumpsuit and harem pants from a yet-to-be released pattern by Madeit.

Any skills and technique that you're looking to master in the near future?

To make myself some jeans that feel amazing, look professional and fit perfectly.

What's your go-to pattern

I haven't got a go-to adult pattern, I just turn to my Japanese sewing books. But my go-to kid's pattern would have to be The Ziggy Top by Madeit Patterns. It's a basic boxy sweatshirt that you can sew as is or add detail as you like. I've made 18 so far, and I've used the pattern to make a onesie, PJs and lots of sweatshirts.

Are you a big pattern house girl, an indie girl or a mix of both?

I'm a mixture of both, but mostly indie.

What's your favourite ready-to-wear brand?

Cos. The designs are inspirational, clean and modern with a twist.

What's your favourite colour to wear?

Mostly black or grey in the winter and white or grey in the summer. Yellow is my fourth favourite colour, followed by blue.

Any advice for newbie sewists?

Be fearless and be curious. Selecting the right fabric for the garment you are sewing makes all the difference. If you only buy one sewing book, make it the *Reader's Digest Complete Guide to Sewing*.

Where can we find out more about you?

You can find out more about me on my blog www.needleandted.wordpress.com and [needle_and_ted](https://www.instagram.com/needle_and_ted) on Instagram.



Yellow, Olu's fourth favourite colour!

Splash Dusty dark blue - organic cotton jersey £21 per metre www.mauds-fabric-finds.com



The Ziggy top is the perfect go-to pattern!



Find the Grooves dress pattern at www.madeit-patterns.com



This Japanese drape dress captures Olu's style perfectly



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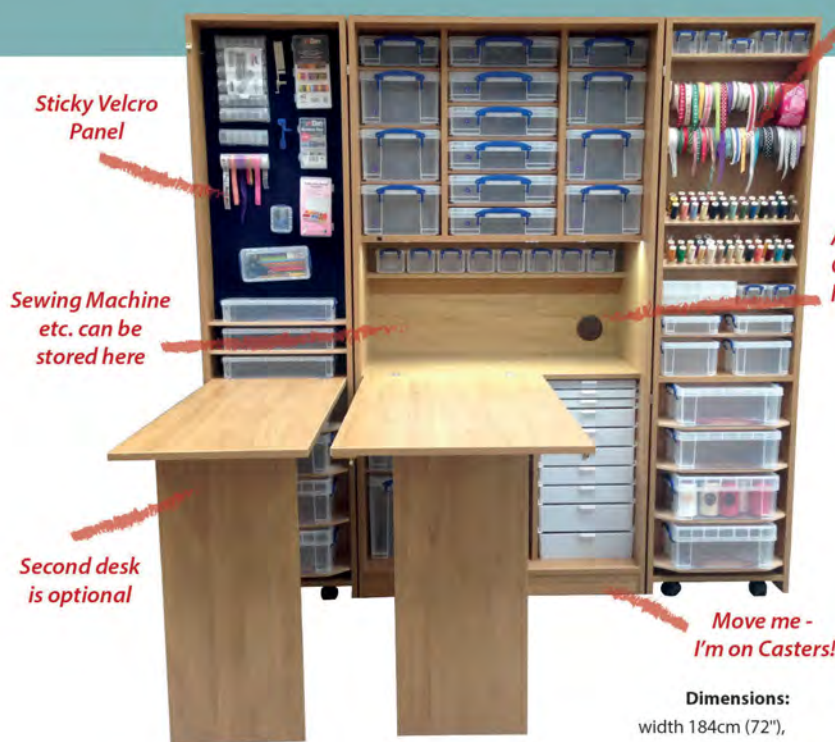
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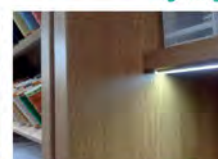


width 92cm (36"),
depth 65cm (25 1/2"),
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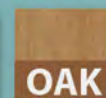


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