



NEW LOOK!

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ISSUE 23



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16 INSPIRING PROJECTS to sew tonight!

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- ♥ Stash-busting gift ideas
- ♥ Easy twirly girls' skirt



Your 4-in-1 pattern



Sweet patchwork storage bowl



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Easy tops you'll love

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Innov-is F420

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



Innov-is 55FE

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



Innov-is 27SE

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

Create your own style



Best Sewing Machine Brand 2016



brothersewing.co.uk

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Hello

The glorious weather we've been enjoying recently has meant I've found less time for sewing, but I'm sure this month's fantastic patterns will lure you back to your sewing table.

We've fallen head over heels for this month's easy-sew styles. The classic **English Tea Dress (page 20)** is a great all-round skill builder with three sleeve options – and you can try our **petal-sleeve tutorial (page 16)** for a fourth! For a truly on-trend garment, take your pick from four tops with **McCall's 7721 (page 10)** – all suited to knit fabric, they're a breeze to sew.

Introduce summery pastels into your home with the **Candy-stripe bolster cushion (page 46)**, or sew the **Scallop-edged clutch bag (page 42)** to match your favourite dress. I'm rarely without a notebook to jot down sewing ideas so I'll definitely be tackling the **Half Yard Challenge set (page 33)** to brighten up my workspace.

We've also got new pattern inspiration, giveaways, techniques and fresh fabric ideas, so sit back, enjoy the sunshine and let us inspire you.

Happy sewing!

Sam

Editor

sam.sterken@practicalpublishing.co.uk



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Complete your outfit with this pretty floral accessory

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50 TWIRLY GIRLS' SKIRT

An easy-to-make skirt with tonnes of twirl-ability

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52 Your chance to win lovely sewing goodies including tickets to the Handmade and Homegrown Festival and a Gemini bag-making kits from Crafter's Companion



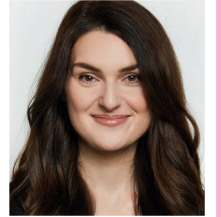
MEET THE TEAM:

Editor



Sam

Editorial Assistant



Lorna

Seamstress



Jeanette

Photographer



Renata

SKILL LEVEL GUIDE



Beginner



Adventurous beginner



Intermediate



Advanced

What's **new**?

The patterns, events and sewing goodies on our radar this month

Pattern picks

Jenny Trousers & Overall



In this fabulous reinterpretation of vintage workwear, Closet Case Patterns has created a true gem to add to your home-sewn wardrobe. The Jenny Trousers & Overall pattern includes four different garment options, all of which combine comfort and style – the perfect match! Opt for the wide-leg dungaree style with high-waist and utility pocket, pair your heels with the floaty wide-leg trousers or create sleek summer shorts with fun button fastenings. This pattern is available up to size 20 in PDF or printed format. See store.closetcasepatterns.com for more details.



Aestiva Sleeveless vest



Take your outfits from simple to stylish by layering with this statement garment from Wearologie. The newly launched Aestiva is a flattering sleeveless jacket offering a cropped version sitting just above the waist and a longer version that finishes below the knee. The shorter option features a classic mandarin collar and piping to flatter your figure and, if you want a statement piece, the longer version creates an elegant silhouette with clean lines and front fastening. This timeless garment will work for many outfits and help you to stretch your skills. The PDF pattern is £16 from www.wearologie.com



Seeing double

If you're looking for dressmaking fabric that is both beautifully stylish and soft, the new double-brushed jersey knit from Girl Charlee certainly fits the bill. This medium-weight poly spandex is available in a range of lovely designs and has an ideal amount of stretch, making it suitable for a variety of dressmaking projects. Find out more about Girl Charlee's fabulous range of knit fabric at www.girlcharlee.co.uk



MUM'S THE WORD

Motherhood doesn't mean our handmade wardrobe has to take a backseat. If you're struggling to find maternity and nursing sewing patterns the wonderful team over at Maternity Sewing has created a one-stop shop for stylish patterns specifically designed for new and expectant mums. Headed up by Lisa from Paprika Patterns and Erin from Tuesday Stitches, Maternity Sewing offers useful tutorials and advice to help you sew fashionable garments and purchase a variety of patterns on one site! What's even more amazing, the team has pledged to donate part of its proceeds to help vulnerable women around the world gain access to maternal healthcare. You can sign up for the newsletter at maternitysewing.com or follow [maternitysewing](https://www.instagram.com/maternitysewing) on Instagram.





KITTED OUT

We all know the frustration of starting a project only to realise you're missing some essential items. The clever team at

Sewisfaction has quashed our fears by creating these rather fabulous dressmaking kits to ensure you have everything to hand when you start your project. Perfect for you or as a gift for crafty friends, these nifty bundles contain everything you need to make a garment including the pattern, fabric and notions – genius! There are a variety of kits available including a coral stripe jersey dress kit using the Tilly & The Buttons Coco pattern and a 'Sew Your Own Jeans Kit' with your choice of the Closet Case Ginger Jeans pattern or the Cashmerette Ames Jeans pattern. Kits are also available without the pattern if you already have one to use. To see the amazing range of products stocked by Sewisfaction, visit www.sewisfaction.co.uk



Readers' makes

We love to see what you've been working on. Each month's star maker will receive a bundle of fabric, handpicked by Mark at Girl Charlee



Wendy
How lovely is this Cocoon Dress that Wendy has created using the exclusive Simple Sew pattern from issue 8? This is a really versatile pattern that can be adapted to suit every season.

Royal roots

Featuring a carnival of vibrant colours and prints, the new Palace Garden collection from Alice Caroline is full of surprises. Part of 2018's autumn/winter collection, Palace Garden takes inspiration from the history surrounding the former royal residence Eltham Palace. Juxtaposing bold motifs with delicate florals, the collection features a rhythmical array of prints to portray the palace's renovation from English traditionalism to dynamic art deco style. Fans of Alice Caroline will recognise the iconic floral designs whilst being treated to bold geometric prints reminiscent of the exotic travels undertaken by the palace's former occupiers. Head over to www.alicecaroline.co.uk to browse the full collection.



WIN
a Liberty fat quarter bundle on page 52!

PROJECT

#SewMyStyle

2018 Sewing Project



Laura

Every month, Laura Victoria shares what's been going on with the #SewMyStyle project

Hooray for the versatility and comfort of the kimono! The Suki Kimono by Helen's Closet was June's #sewmystyle2018 pattern. It features neck and wrist bands that you can contrast if you wish, optional waist ties, a variety of lengths and even in-seam pockets for the ultimate in practicality. I love how the long outer waist ties attach at the back – no more lost robe belts! With its wrap design it doesn't need to be fitted, and can be left entirely open to wear as a cover up instead.



Sarah, Like Sew Amazing



Elizabeth, Pins and Pinot

We've seen Suki with jeans, at the beach and in dreamy chiffon for evening wear already this month. It was also an opportunity for us all to indulge in our favourite rayon prints – nearly all the #sewmystyle2018 team went for florals in their different versions. I opted for contrast bands but many have used the same fabric throughout to help their kimonos match up with more of their day wear.

The Suki is an enjoyable make – there is a good balance of straightforward sewing with a couple of bits to get you thinking (attaching the neckbands). One of the advantages of using a design from a blogger is that Helen already has lots of advice and styling ideas on her blog, as well as a sew-along for anyone needing more support. This month the Facebook group was full of finished garments quite early because it's so speedy to whip up.

Next month is a little more challenging but features a double header. The True Bias Lander Pants and the Blank Slate Patterns Forsyth Trousers. I know these have been on a lot of wish lists for some time, so enjoy!



Maddie, Maddie Made This

HANDMADE AND HOMEGROWN

WIN Tickets on page 52!



Celebrate the joy of handmade crafts and all things homegrown by spending the day at the Handmade & Homegrown Festival in Kent. Nestled in the glorious gardens of the historic Hever Castle, the festival hosts a range of fabulous stalls selling everything from craft supplies, ceramics, jewellery, art and clothing and local food and drink. There's also a variety of crafting demonstrations taking place throughout the festival as well as the annual Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition which showcases the work of The Quilters' Guild members from surrounding areas. The festival takes place 31st August – 2nd September. find out more by visiting www.hevercastle.co.uk



Shortcut stitching

Equip yourself with some essential embroidery tools and create unique embellishments quickly and easily with the new Embroidery Stitching Tool Kit from Clover. Simply trace and transfer your chosen design onto fabric then place in an embroidery hoop and use the tool to sew along the lines with satin or back stitch. Clover products are available nationwide from all good craft, sewing and hobby shops. For stockist information, contact clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk



Fabricate

This month, we spoke to Philippa at Fabricate. This independent shop sells a fabulous range of patterns, dressmaking and quilting fabric online and in store. Visit www.fabricateshop.co.uk to find out more



Philippa



Hi Philippa! What are you up to at the shop today?

Well, as usual we've just had a monstrous fabric delivery, so I'm busy taking photos for the

website and getting everything priced up. Once that's all done, I have a few samples to get made up before I go on holiday and then I have to get the workshop ready for the last of our pattern-making sessions tonight, which I'm looking forward to. Just a normal, relaxing day!

Tell us a bit about how you came to own your own shop

Well as the owner of a kitchen ventilation company, the obvious thing to do is to then move into the world of fabric (!) The ventilation company is a family business that I still co-run but I'm also venturing out on my own to fulfil a lifelong dream of owning a fabric shop/haberdashery. The

opening of the shop probably happened earlier than planned, but I found the ideal premises, so it was too good an opportunity to pass up!

Which sewing machine would you recommend for a beginner, or an experienced sewist?

We currently use the Singer Start machines for our workshops, which are great for beginners. They do the bog-standard stitches and are more than adequate to get going with. Personally, I have a Janome DKS100, which is lovely to work with – the automatic thread cutter is a complete revelation, since I only recently bought the

machine after having my last one since I was 19...a mere *cough* 18 years!

Is there anything new or exciting coming up that you'd like to tell our readers about?

Well there are a few new fabric ranges that I've had my eye on for a while, which are quite exciting. I'm also going to be branching out with some new products, but I don't want to say much as I don't want to spoil the surprise!

Visit Fabricate, 164A Roberttown Lane, Liversedge WF15 7LT
01924 676 329
info@fabricateshop.co.uk



IN OUR GOOD BOOKS

200 Embroidered Flowers: Hand embroidery stitches and projects for flowers, leaves and foliage

by Kristen Gula

Brighten up your sewing space with some lovely embroidered flowers from Kristen Gula's new book. *200 Embroidered Flowers* (SewandSo, £15.99) features seasonal blooms, leaves and foliage perfect for those who are new to modern hand embroidery or sewists looking for a fun project. Gula offers step-by-step instructions for each project and uses no more than 10 stitches! Go to www.sewandso.co.uk to find out more.



Print Pattern Sew: Block-Printing Basics + Simple Sewing Projects

by Jen Hewett

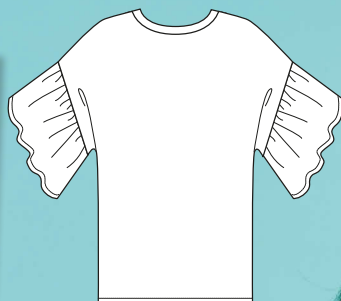
We love the freedom dressmaking gives us when it comes to developing our personal style, but have you ever thought about designing your fabric? The idea may sound daunting, but author Jen Hewett hopes to demystify the process with her new book *Print Pattern Sew* (Roost Books). Inspired by her botanical surroundings in California, Hewett shows you how to carve pretty plant motifs from soft blocks and repeat patterns on your fabric. Find out more at www.roostbooks.com



Kenneth D. King's Smart Fitting Solutions

Finding the perfect fit comes down to experience, but if you're looking for a shortcut Kenneth D. King's book *Smart Fitting Solutions* is the answer. With over 30 years' experience of pattern making, King offers sage advice for creating garments that will fit you perfectly no matter what your size. You will learn how to measure, understand fitting options, alterations and avoid sewing mishaps! Find out more at www.kennethdking.com





VIEW B

Coming out ON TOP

With four tops to choose from, your McCall's pattern offers plenty of versatility. Choose from pretty ruffled sleeves for summer or long sleeves for autumn and, even better, it's suitable for a wide range of knit fabric

Photography RENATA STONYTE
Model LANA for BOSS
Hair and make-up NINA ROCHFORD
for CREATIVES



Get the look



Blue and white floral jersey stripe

Parallel striped jersey with a colourful digital print floral bouquet makes this a modern, summery choice

£16.50 per metre

www.cottonreelstudio.co.uk

Pink skinny jeans £28,
www.next.co.uk

Lana is 5' 8" and a size 10

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A TOP FOR ALL SEASONS

Boost your confidence with knits and use your on-trend McCall's 7721 as an excuse to try out different knitted fabric

Go loopy!

With a dropped oversized sleeve, this cosy style lends itself to a knitted French terry fabric. This has a smooth surface with a looped texture on the reverse and is normally seen in casual, sport and children's wear.



Why not try?



French terry knit

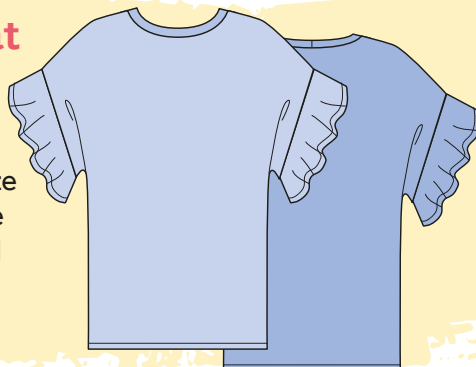
This is softer and lighter than sweatshirt jersey and instead of having a looped knit on the reverse it has piles of brushed yarn to create a surface that is comfortable against the skin

£5.90 per metre

www.dragonflyfabrics.co.uk

Super-size print

Both ruffled tops make it easy to play with print and scale, so be confident and super-size your pattern choice. We love this gingham, it will definitely add a unique touch to this style.



Go gingham!

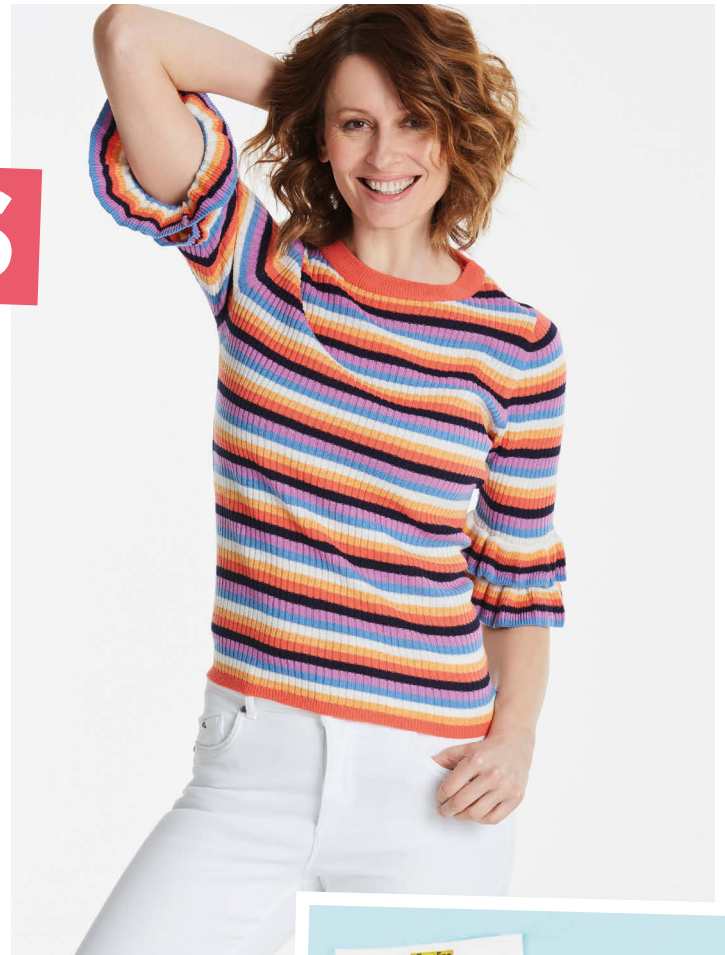


Baby pink large bias-printed gingham check

Printed to give garments the look of a bias-cut piece, this soft and light to medium-weight handle is great for summer garments

£6 per metre

www.fabworks.co.uk



Earn your stripes

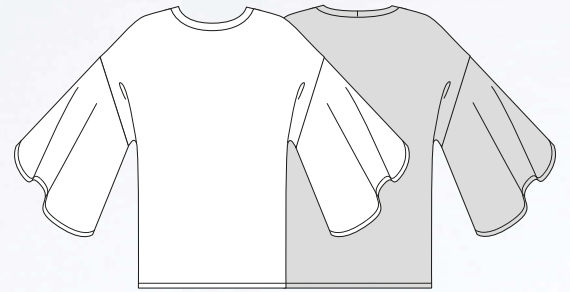
Sweater knit is just as it sounds, a knitted fabric that mimics a wool sweater but is often made of a mix of synthetic fibres. With just a few pattern pieces for each top you can experiment to create a loose-fit knit. To avoid fraying, finish your hems with Stretchfix T30.



Vlieseline Stretchfix T30 £4.29 per 3cm x 5m pack
www.myfabrics.co.uk



Try a jersey with texture to complement your top's simple design lines



VIEW C



Why not try?



Mint double-sided quilted jersey

£8 per metre

www.fabricsgalore.co.uk

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Wear it with...

Complement this issue's pattern with finds from some of our favourite high-street stores



Mac, £22.50

Bag, £29.50



Jeans, £29.50

OLIVER BONAS
www.oliverbonas.com



Bag, £34

Necklace, £49.50



Jeans, £59.59

MARKS AND SPENCER
www.marksandspencer.com



Sandals, £35

Earrings, £18



Skirt, £42



Bag, £25



Necklace, £12.50



Jacket, £38



OASIS
www.oasis-stores.com

Earrings, £6



Shoes, £35



Trousers, £35



WALLIS
www.wallis.co.uk

Shoes, £39



Petal-sleeve **HACK** with *Elisalex*

Elisalex de Castro Peake, co-founder and head of design at By Hand London, shares a sweet DIY tutorial for fluttery petal sleeves. Why not add some to your summer sewing this weekend?



Elisalex

YOU WILL NEED:

- top or dress pattern with a traditional set-in short sleeve (I'm using Grainline's Scout Tee)
- paper to trace and alter the sleeve pattern piece; I like baking paper, but Swedish tracing paper, if you can get hold of it, is best
- pens, pencils and paper scissors
- fabric and usual sewing supplies

1 Assemble the rest of your garment as you normally would, and set it to one side. Take your sleeve pattern piece and trace a copy – you'll want to keep the original intact for future use.

Using the image as a guide, sketch out how and where you want your petal sleeve to overlap. Remember to factor in the hemming allowance of the pattern in question when drawing out your overlap.

2 Trace each section of your petal sleeve individually, leaving you with two sleeve pattern pieces. Be sure to transfer all notches from the original sleeve onto both pieces (including grain line) as these will be your guide, not only for setting your sleeve, but also for assembling the petal overlap.

Get the look

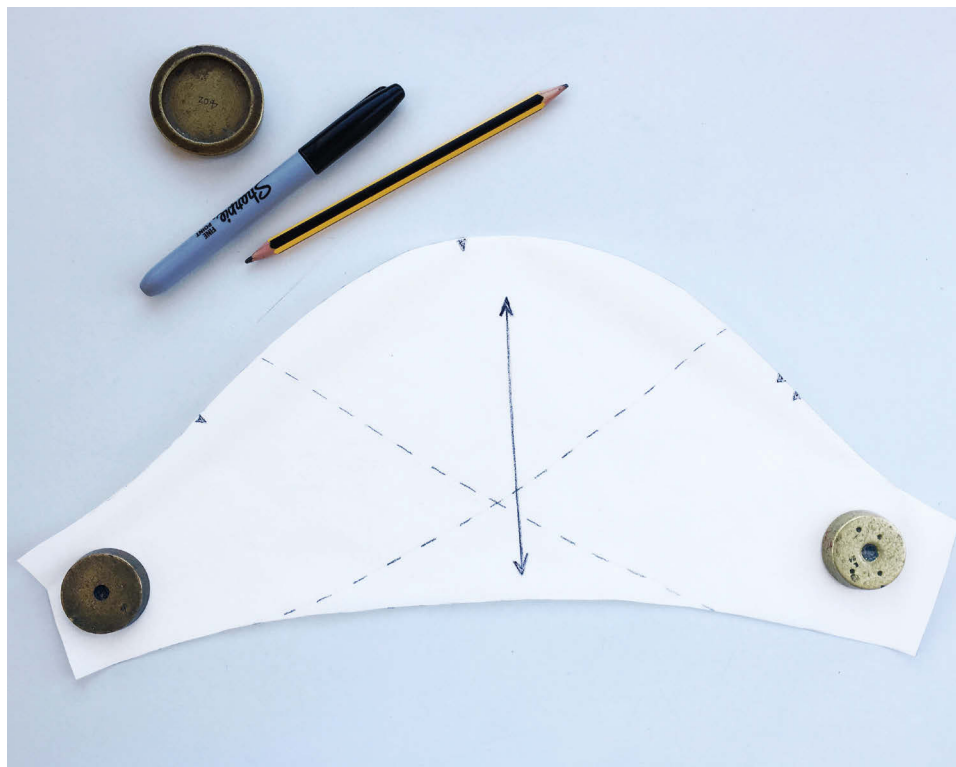


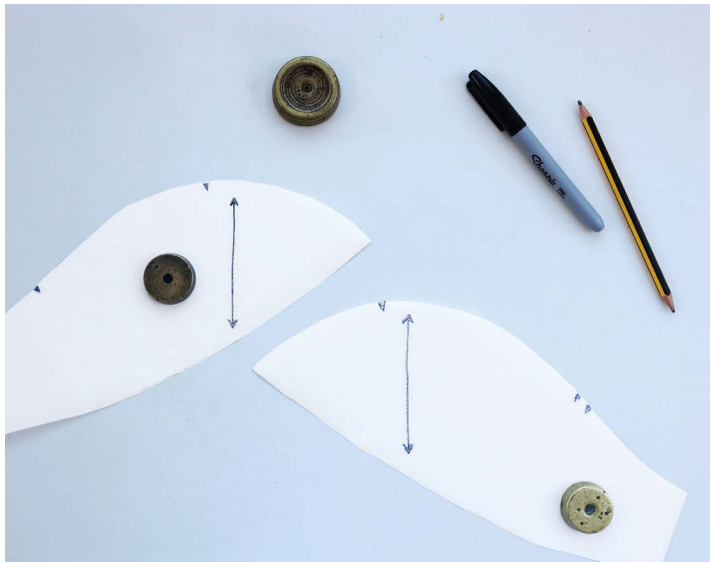
Cotton + Steel Pickup Truck
Sprinkle Basics

This medium-weight basic is great for quilt blenders or dressmaking projects

£15 per metre

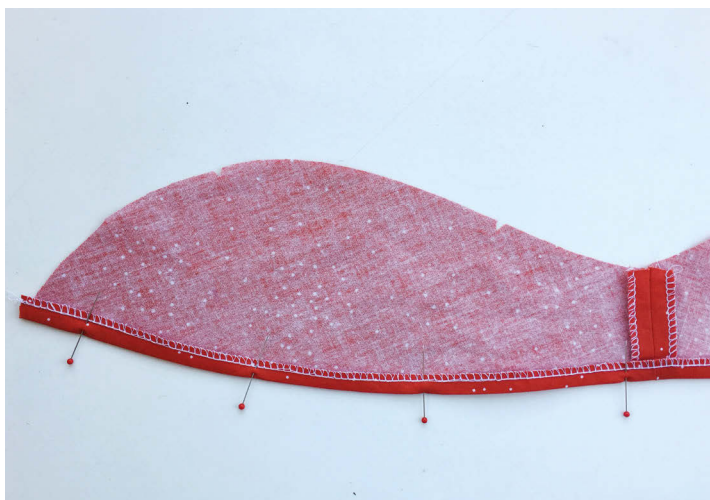
www.thecraftymastermind.co.uk





3 Use your new pattern pieces to cut one pair each from your fabric.

4 Before assembling the overlap we need to stitch the underarm seam and hem the sleeve – as the overlap originates at the armhole seam it would be impossible to hem the sleeve after setting it in! Close the underarm seam, press open and finish. Press the sleeve's hemline in by however much your pattern dictates and stitch.



5 With the underarm seam facing you, fold one petal over the other, match notches and pin into place. I chose to overlap the back sleeve piece over the front, but how you do it is totally up to you; just make sure that both sleeves come out the same!



Run two rows of basting stitches to secure your petal overlap and enable you to gently gather your sleeve head to ease it into the armhole if necessary (the Scout Tee pattern requires this; some other patterns won't). Install sleeves as normal to complete.



A Celebration of Flowers

Kaffe Fassett with Candace Bahouth

Kaffe Fassett
Seed packet quilt (detail)



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Cherry-picked **FABRIC**

Stock up on lovely new fabric with these invaluable recommendations from some of our favourite fabric suppliers



Pam

SEW HOT

Sew Hot is an independent online fabric shop that provides an extensive selection of fabric, patterns, thread and notions for the sewist and crafter. It imports fabric from popular designers such as Tula Pink, Cotton + Steel, Anna Maria Horner, Alison Glass and more!
www.sewhot.co.uk



Memoire à Paris Garden Bouquet Warm

This beautiful and soft cotton lawn by Lecien is the perfect weight for summer dresses and blouses.
£14 per metre



Dress Shop It's a Plus Knit in Eggplant

Rifle Paper Co.'s Amalfi collection was inspired by the orchards of Italy's Amalfi coast. In stunning burgundy, mint and coral rayon, it's soft and has a beautiful drape.
£22 per metre



Outback Wife Barkcloth 2018 Anna Apricot

This unique barkcloth fabric by Ella Blue has a vintage feel and style that makes it popular with retro clothing fans.
£28 per metre



James and Liana

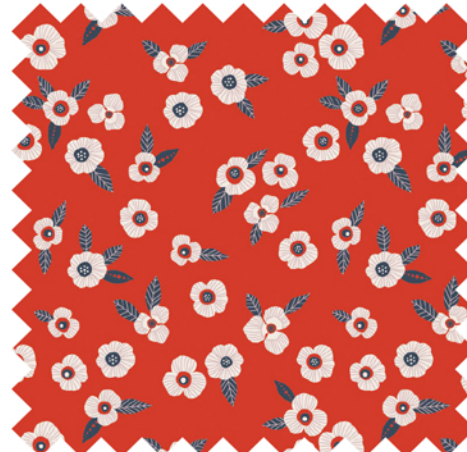
LAMAZI FABRICS

Lamazi Fabrics is a Horsham-based sewing boutique providing a handpicked selection of the finest fabric and sewing patterns. It prides itself on offering outstanding customer service and the best quality products from designers from around the world.
www.ontrendfabrics.co.uk



Iced Tea cotton lawn by See You at Six

This is the newest addition to the Playtime collection and has a delightful palette. It is perfect for lightweight tops, dresses and skirts.
£15 per metre



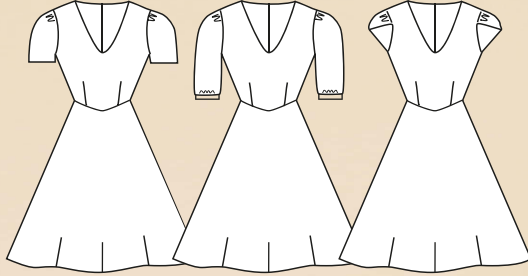
Garance by Atelier Brunette

This bestselling fabric is a pleasure to sew with and a joy of colour. The small floral design and vibrant orange/red is a match made in heaven for a variety of garments.
£16.50 per metre



Floret Sunkissed Blushed in rayon/viscose

This has a beautiful and delicate drape without sheerness. It is perfect for warm weather and transitions incredibly well into the cooler seasons because of its high-density weave.
£17.98 per metre



The English TEA DRESS

Just as it sounds, the English Tea Dress is a wardrobe classic, and with a choice of three sleeve lengths it's an easy, versatile make

Photography RENATA STONYTE
Model LANA for BOSS
Hair and make-up NINA ROCHFORD for CREATIVES

Get the look



Mirabelle peachskin crepe

This beautiful peachskin drapes well and is bursting with colour

£5 per metre

www.sewoverit.co.uk

Lana is 5'8" and a size 10

Carvela Dylan clutch bag £39,
www.debenhams.com

To view the full range of designs from Simple Sew visit www.simplesewpatterns.com

Carvela Libby peep-toe heels £49, www.debenhams.com



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Simple styling

Sometimes life needs a pretty dress, so to help you be the belle of the ball here are our tips for a perfect version

Add a lace sleeve

This guipure lace has a border finish on both selvages in a vibrant pink colourway. Switching your fabric makes a statement, so add a lace sleeve for a little luxury. Look for lace with a finished edge and cut it using the sleeve pattern piece. For more details, Beth of After Dark Sewing has a great capped sleeve tutorial at www.afterdarksewing.wordpress.com/2015/08/20/simple-sew-english-tea-dress-capped-sleeves-tutorial



Jewel Pink guipure lace
£28.99 per metre

5 TIPS FOR SEWING AN INVISIBLE ZIP

- 1 Invest in a concealed zipper foot – it really will make your life easier and help you to enjoy the process!
- 2 Start by finishing the centre back seams with a zigzag stitch or overlocker before applying the zip.
- 3 Before sewing in place, flatten out the zip tape, pressing the teeth to the outside – making it easier to sew close to the zip teeth to secure in place.
- 4 Mark the each side of the top of your zip with a horizontal pin. Use this to line up the zip with seam where the back pieces and facing join.
- 5 Where possible buy a concealed zip longer than the actual length needed. Unlike a regular zip you can't sew the end of the zip in place and the extra length will be concealed by the seam



Charlotte who blogs at Looks Like I Made it loved the English Tea Dress so much she made it twice! Her stunning versions prove the right fabric choice really makes a garment. Inspired by Ancient Egypt, Charlotte sewed her first version in stunning gold patterned polyester and created the second from a beautiful viscose. Follow her sewing adventures, tips and tricks at www.looks-like-i-made-it.blogspot.com

English ROSE

Our top fabric picks for a flattering
vintage-inspired tea dress



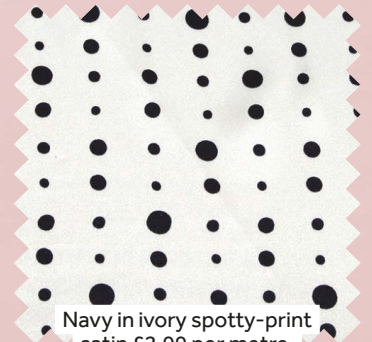
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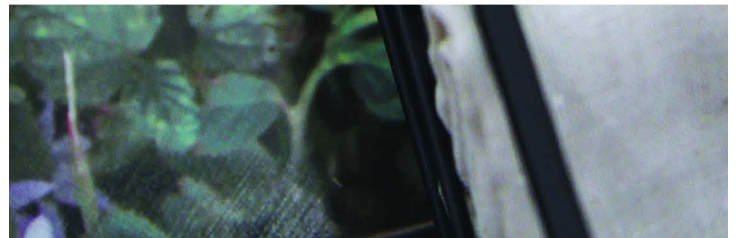
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TOP 10 WAYS to kick-start your sew-jo!

Many of us sew for the simple enjoyment of being creative, but what should you do when being creative feels more like a chore than a joy? We've rounded up our top 10 suggestions to help get your sew-jo back

It's so easy to lose the motivation to sew – struggling with a crazy work week, finishing a disappointing project, or maybe your social calendar is keeping you away from your machine! Take a look at our suggestions to get you sewing again.

1 START WITH SOMETHING EASY

Perhaps your confidence has taken a knock after finishing a less-than-perfect make. Don't let silly expectations get in the way of your enjoyment! Pick something achievable to sew like a quick and easy project or a tried and tested (TNT) garment. Choose a fabric you love and revel in every minute. It will be just the boost you need to challenge yourself next time.

Dive into your stash and repeat your most successful project to date!



2 PLAY WITH YOUR STASH

At Sew Now HQ we're definitely a little guilty of storing away patterns and lengths of fabric for a rainy day and then failing to remember we ever had them! Have a look through your stash to find forgotten gems, garments you overlooked because they weren't to your taste when you picked them up, or patterns that you wrote off as being too difficult but you now have the skills to tackle. Fondling fabric is always good fun too. Reassess your stock levels; what prints or colours are calling to you? Did you file away all your winter fabric last year and then forget you had them? What's that piece of lace doing in there when it's so beautiful?

Challenge yourself to pull out three potential projects from your stash and bump them to the top of your to-sew list.

3 TIDY YOUR NEST

It may not be as exciting as some of our other suggestions but a good old tidy up can help clear your head and make you feel refreshed for the next project. Clear out any scraps of fabric that are too small to be of any real use. Put patterns back in their envelopes. Arrange your tools neatly in a row. It might even be time to give your sewing machine an oil and a clean! If you're not confident enough to



do this yourself, take your machine in for a service to keep it in tiptop condition.

Treat yourself to some beautiful storage tins, donate a bag of unwanted scrap fabric to a textile charity or pass on unwanted patterns to another sewist to clear some space.

4 INSPIRATION IS EVERYWHERE

Struggling to identify a new sewing project? There are plenty of resources available to help get you inspired for what to make next. Obviously the internet is teeming with ideas but how can you comb through it best? Why not get inspired by what everyone else is making? Create a Bloglovin' account and use the 'sewing' category to show you new faces from around the world sharing their DIY sewing creativity. Do you want to stay on top of all the new pattern releases in one place?

The girls at www.thefoldline.com are working hard to catalogue all the new patterns on offer as they come out. And you can find thousands of reviews of past pattern releases at www.sewing.patternreview.com thanks to the 380,000+ members sharing their honest and very useful thoughts on patterns.

Double-check you haven't missed an amazing new pattern release from your favourite company.

5 SHARE YOUR WORK

Showcase your works-in-progress using social media and see what other stitchers think of your skills. A little positive reinforcement can help get you excited about a make you thought had lost its shine. Or if you're feeling intimidated about a particular technique, let people offer words of wisdom – you never know, someone may have just gotten over that hurdle themselves.

Stumped on what to sew next? Share a digital shout out for pattern and project suggestions from like-minded creatives.

6 SIGN UP TO A CLASS

Some people learn best in a classroom environment and thrive on the social connection when everyone is working together. Find a local sewing studio where you can attend a class – preferably one that serves cake while you sew! Although it may seem hard to justify the expense, you won't regret it once you're there laughing and swapping stories before leaving with a finished garment.

Investigate www.craftsy.com courses so you can learn from the comfort of your own sewing room through its video tutorials.

7 LOOK BACKWARDS

Sometimes looking backwards can help you move forwards! Revisit your previous makes and work out which projects you loved making, the techniques you'd like to improve on, maybe even discover a forgotten gem of a sewing pattern you'd like to revisit. If you love making garments but struggle to put together outfits, it can be helpful to work out what your

handmade wardrobe is missing, eg the perfect basic top to showcase your skirt collection.

Dig out the first thing you ever made and challenge yourself to do it over. Your skills will have leapt forward with every project you've done since so a revisit can be an excellent measure of your success.

8 HIT THE HIGH STREET

Window shopping can be great stimulation so head to your favourite shops or their websites to see what's new. Don't be afraid to take a picture or download a copy of any garments you like. Pinterest is a great resource as it has images for all kinds of retailers, from past and present seasons and you can catalogue your favourite ideas and return to them at a later date.

Type something random like 'colour-blocked dress' into Pinterest and see what results you get. It may spark a perfect idea.

9 TACKLE THOSE UFOs

We're not talking about little green men; these are 'unfinished objects'. Have you ever given up on a project halfway through and shoved it out of sight for another day? Maybe the instructions were too complicated, the fit wasn't right, or you fell out of love with the whole thing! We're urging you to take a second look and see if you're ready to pick things back up.

Choose a project that's close to finishing. Completing a hem or installing a zip won't take long and you'll be pleased to have cleared something from the UFO queue.

10 MAKE TIME FOR SEWING

Whether you just need to safeguard 15 minutes a day before work, book sewing into your diary, or hire a babysitter to remove distractions, make your sewing time precious to you. Even if you only get part of a hem sewn, cut out a few pieces



Find a local sewing studio - preferably one that serves cake!



Work out what your handmade wardrobe is missing

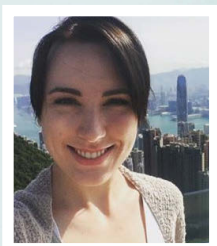
of fabric or thread up your machine and bobbins with the right colour, you'll feel better once you make progress. Your family should help you carve out some 'me time' because when you're happier, they'll be happier. It's common sense.

Set an egg timer or phone alarm and allow yourself to not feel guilty for indulging your pleasure until the time's up!

Jersey MAXI DRESS

Super quick to sew, this easy maxi dress is the ideal throw-on for home or away

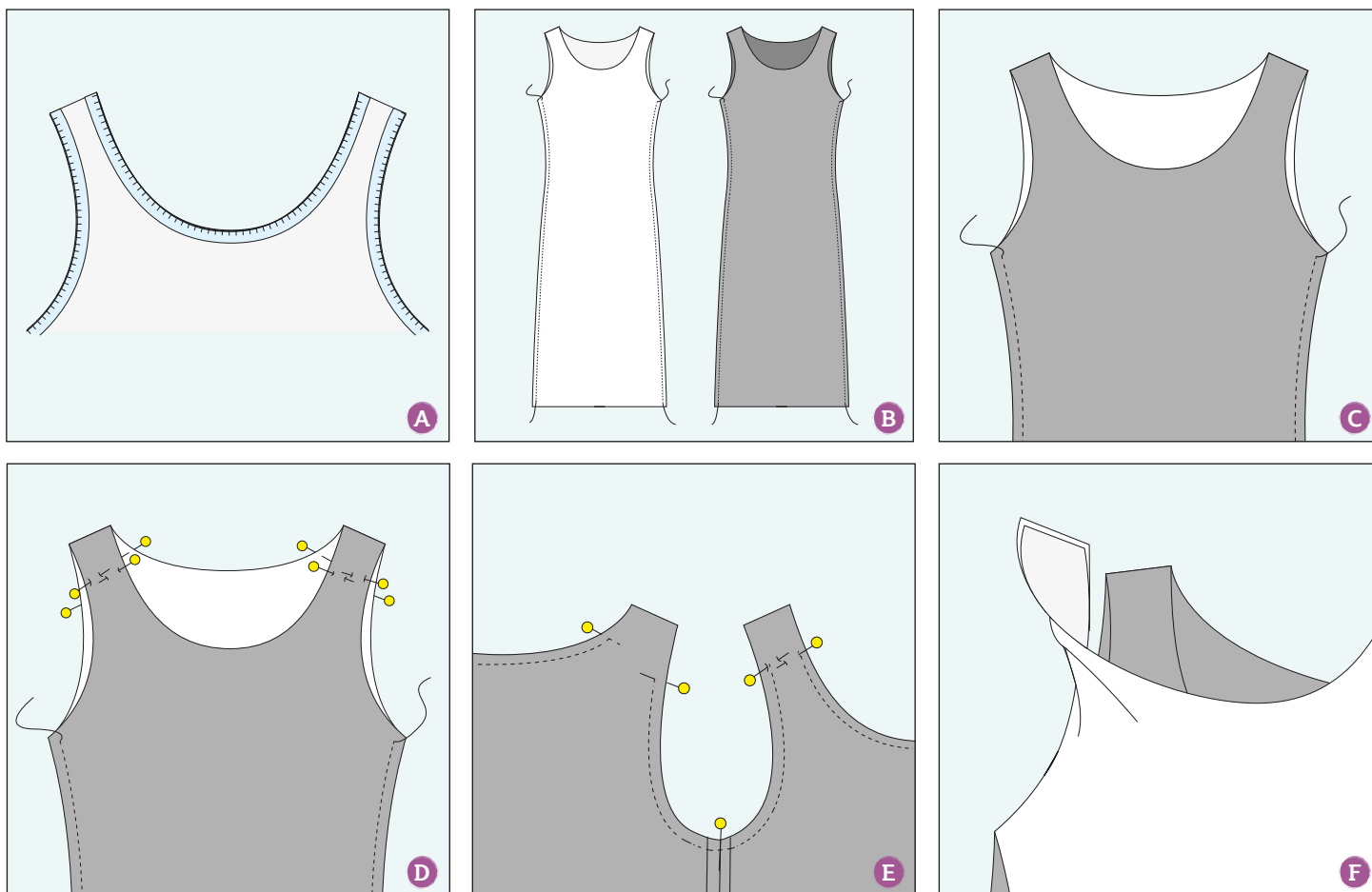
Project LAUREN ELBERT
www.sadiandsam.com



Lauren

Use your
template
download

Sadi + Sam is a pattern company that focuses on easy-to-sew childrenswear in woven and knit fabric



SKILL LEVEL: 🟡🟡🟡🟡

MATERIALS:

- 2.5m 45"- or 60"-wide knit fabric (if you are using a stripe or a plaid you will need an extra 45cm to 1m of fabric)
- 10m 9mm-wide clear elastic
- template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

FABRIC TYPES:

Light to medium-weight knit fabric with good resistance is ideal for this project, such as knits with Lycra. If you want to make a dress from heavier jersey, leave out the lining

CUTTING:

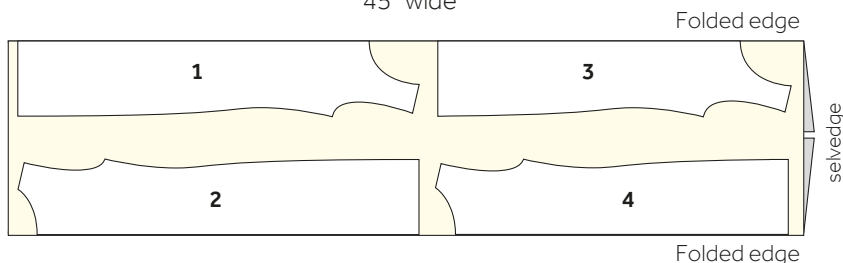
- 1 front piece
- 1 back piece
- 1 front lining
- 1 back lining

NOTES:

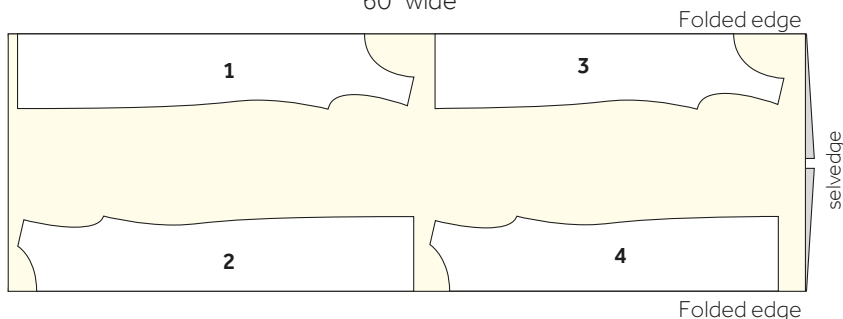
This pattern includes 3/8" seam allowance unless otherwise stated. The dress can be sewn using an overlocker or regular sewing machine. If using straight stitch, try a tricot or stretch stitch. For finishing seams try a zigzag or overcasting stitch

LAYPLANS

45" wide



60" wide



1 = Front/back skirt

| | XS | S | M | L | XL |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Bust | 33-34" | 35-36" | 37-38" | 39½-41" | 43-45" |
| Waist | 25-26" | 27-28" | 29-30" | 31½-33" | 35-37" |
| Hips | 35-36" | 37-38" | 39-40" | 41½-43" | 45-47" |

“

If you're up for a challenge, make a reversible dress by choosing two co-ordinating fabric types - a plain and a printed fabric would work well. Although the lining may be slightly visible it will make a great easy-wear holiday dress!



Sam

HOW TO MAKE:

1 On the wrong side of the Front and Back pattern pieces, sew the clear elastic along the neckline and armhole edges. (See Pic A.)

2 With RST stitch the Front and Back pattern pieces and Front Lining and Back Lining pieces together at the side seams. NB: The Front and Back pieces will be referred to as the dress and Front Lining and Back Lining will be referred to as the lining from here on. (See Pic B.)

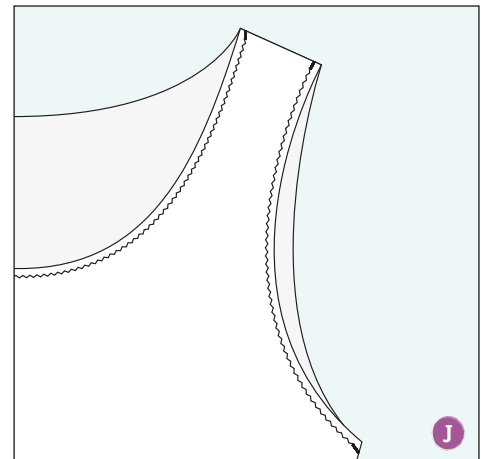
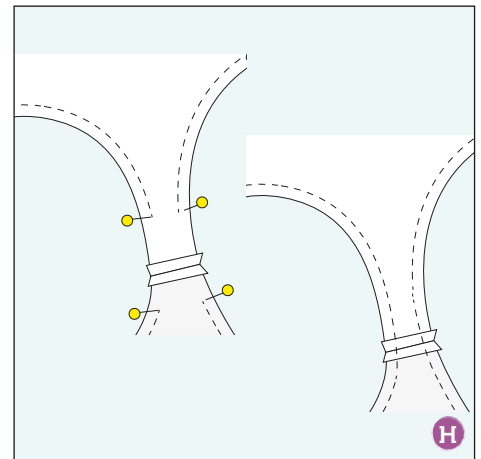
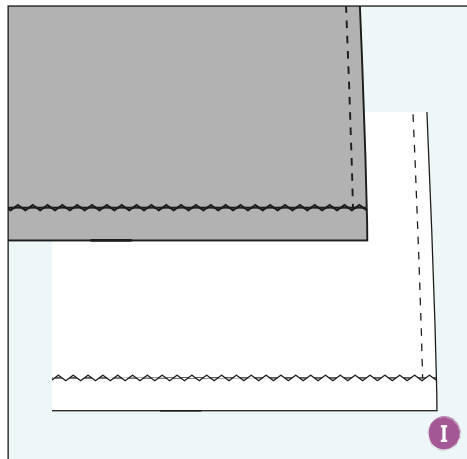
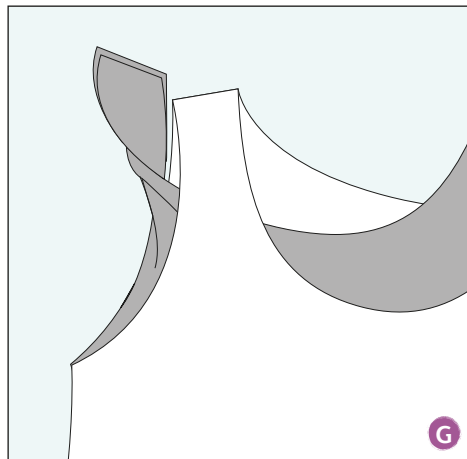
3 Turn the dress RS out, keeping the lining WS out. Slip the lining over the dress RST, lining up all neck and armhole curves. (See Pic C.)

4 Secure the lining to the dress by placing a pin 2" down from the shoulder on each side. (See Pic D.)

5 Pin the lining and dress side seams together. Bear in mind the lining is slightly smaller than the dress.

6 Sew the lining to the dress by sewing between all the pinned areas and over the side seams. The shoulder seams will be left open. Turn the dress RS out by pulling it through the bottom. (See Pic E.)

7 Twist the dress straps until they are RST, and pin. Sew the shoulder seam. Repeat for the opposite side. (See Pic F.)



8 Repeat Step 7 for the lining and sew the lining shoulder seams together.

9 Turn the dress RS out. Reach your hand up between the lining and bodice and pinch the dress and lining shoulder seams. Pull down as you remove your hand (still holding the shoulder seams) and stop when you see the two unfinished shoulder strap seams on each side and the shoulder seam is lying flat. (See Pic G.)

10 With a clear view of the sewn shoulder seams previously sewn 2" shy of the shoulder seam, position a pin where each of those seams end. Sew between the pins to connect the stitch lines and closing up the raw edges. Repeat these steps for the other shoulder strap. (See Pic H.)

11 On the lining, fold up a 1" seam allowance and pin. Using a hemming or zigzag stitch, sew down the hem edge. Repeat on the dress. If you need to make any hem adjustment, do it prior to this step. (See Pic I.)

12 Around the neckline and armholes, use either a twin needle or zigzag stitch 1/4" from the edge to secure the dress and lining layers together. (See Pic J.)

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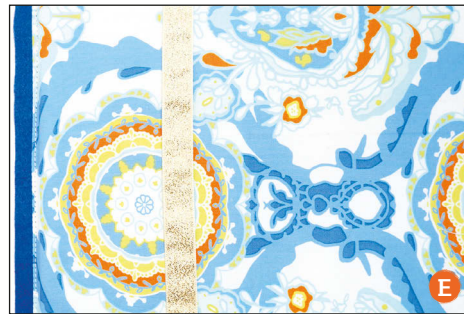
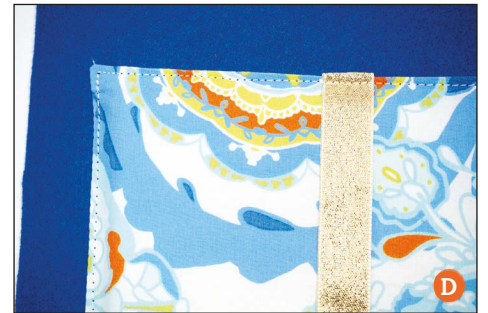
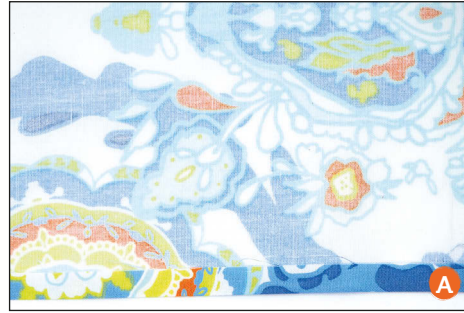
Debbie

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Desktop mat



HALF-YARD Challenge



SKILL LEVEL: ⚙️ ⚙️ ⚙️ ⚙️

MATERIALS:

- fat eighth main fabric
- fat quarter wool felt in a colour to co-ordinate with main fabric
- fat quarter Vlieseline Style-Vil foam interfacing
- co-ordinating thread
- 1m gold 15mm-wide lame ribbon

NOTES:

Seam allowance is 0.5cm for all projects unless otherwise stated

HOW TO MAKE :

1 Trim the fat eighth of main fabric so all the sides are straight. Turn the edges under by 0.5cm and mitre the corners. **(See pics A and B.)** Note that the mat will be top-stitched onto the felt so the raw edges are turned under in preparation.

2 Cut the gold ribbon in half and cut a 25cm wide x 45cm long piece of Style-Vil.

3 Lay the foam interfacing onto the felt, keeping it away from the edges. Pin

the fabric with the turned-under edges on top, come in 8cm on each end and position the ribbon with the raw ends tucked well under. **(See Pic C.)**

4 Top-stitch all the way around the fabric edge to secure it to the felt. **(See Pic D.)**

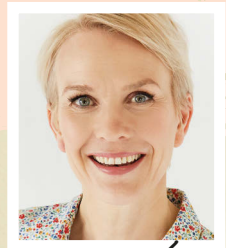
5 Trim back the felt to 1cm all around. **(See Pic E.)**

HALFYARD
challenge

Notebook cover



“
Upcycle an old
belt for the strap
by trimming
it to size



Sam

SKILL LEVEL: 🟡 🟡 🟡 🟡

MATERIALS:

- fat eighth main fabric
- fat eighth cork with gold thread
- fat quarter co-ordinating wool felt
- fat quarter Vlieseline H630 fusible wadding
- 2.5cm wide x 50cm long tan leather
- 2.5cm-wide bronze buckle
- leather hole punch
- strong thread

HOW TO MAKE:

1 To make the outer, cut two 20cm wide x 24cm long pieces of main fabric. These will cut from a fat eighth if you measure carefully, but if you're unsure buy a fat quarter to begin with.

2 Cut an 11cm wide x 24cm long piece of cork. Sew the two pieces of main fabric to the piece of cork to form the outer. Cut a 22cm wide x 47cm long piece of H630 wadding. Fuse the wadding to the WS of the outer panel, centring it so that there is 0.5cm of free fabric all around. Top-stitch both sides of the cork/fabric seams. **(See Pic A.)**

3 Fold the outer over the edge of the wadding and press. Mitre the corners. **(See pics B and C.)**

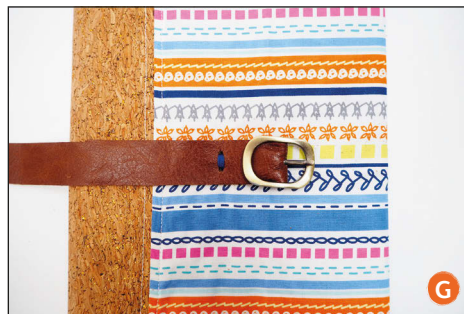
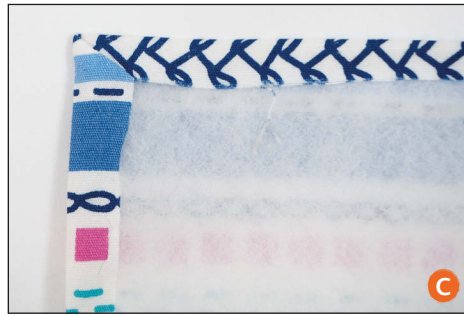
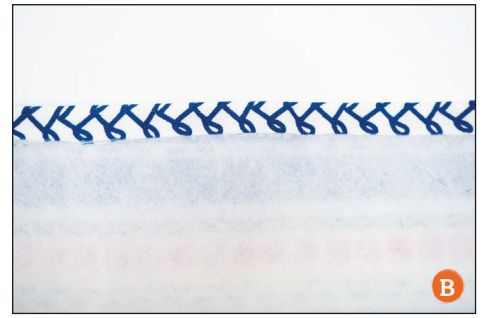
4 Cut a 27cm wide x 52cm long piece of felt and place the outer panel onto it, centring it well so that there is felt all around.

5 Top-stitch the outer panel onto the felt. Trim the felt back to approximately 0.5cm all around. **(See Pic D.)**

6 Fold each end in by 7cm and either top-stitch or invisibly hand-stitch the end flaps closed. **(See Pic E.)**

7 To make the belt, measure in 5cm from one end and make a hole large enough for the buckle post. **(See Pic F.)**

8 Put on the buckle and then make another two holes in the proximal end about 1cm apart and about 1cm in from the end. These holes go through both layers of the leather. Stitch closed using strong thread. **(See Pic G.)**



9 When you do this, take the opportunity to fasten the belt to the cover about 5cm in on the right-hand side and on the horizontal middle. Try to skim the stitches between the layers so they don't show on the other side.

10 On the other end of the belt, punch seven holes roughly 1cm apart. Shape the belt end so that it is easier to buckle (we made a little belt loop with a scrap but this is optional). **(See Pic H.)**



HALF-YARD
challenge

“

Rather than sewing the binding to the end of the zip, which can be fiddly, dab a spot of glue onto it - it will stay together beautifully



Lorna

Use your
template
download

Pencil case

SKILL LEVEL: ⚙️ ⚙️ ⚙️ ⚙️

MATERIALS:

- fat eighth gold-fleck cork fabric
- fat eighth floral fabric
- fat eighth lining fabric
- fat quarter Vlieseline H630 fusible wadding
- 18cm navy metal zip
- 15cm tan leather
- leather hole punch
- template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

HOW TO MAKE:

1 Cut a 6cm wide x 10cm long piece of lining fabric and fold in half lengthways

to make a central crease, then fold the two raw edges towards the centre to make a piece of binding. **(See Pic A.)**

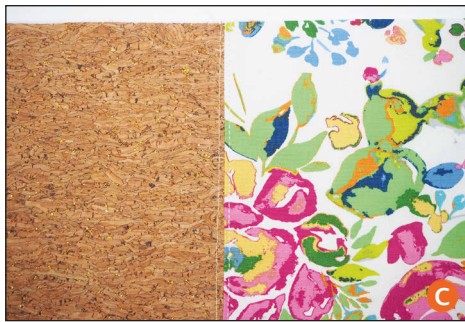
2 Bind each end of the zipper tapes with your binding. **(See Pic B.)**

3 Cut two 14cm-square pieces of cork and two 14cm wide x 19cm long pieces of floral fabric and attach the cork to the left-hand side of each. Fuse the H630 to the wrong side of each. Top-stitch each side of the seam. **(See Pic C.)**

4 Lay the template onto the panel and line up the seam between

CLEVER CORK

Cork fabric (also known as cork leather) is a surprisingly versatile product available in a number of finishes. It's perfect for everything from bags to espadrilles and great for wipe-clean homeware projects. You can use a standard needle, but as with leather or ripstop, use clips rather than pins. Cork fabric can be cut with scissors or a rotary wheel and is the perfect thickness for die-cut and appliqué products



We used



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the two fabrics with the line on the template. Cut out the two pieces. **(See Pic D.)** When you cut out the two main pieces, invert the template for the second piece so that the cork will be on the same end when you put them together.

5 Use the template to cut two pieces of lining, which should be cut in one piece.

6 Make a zip sandwich with an outer panel, a lining panel (RST) with the zipper in between and opening to the left. Sew in the zip, working from

bound zipper end to bound zipper end only (marked by the pins on the photo). The direction is important when putting the case together. **(See Pic E.)**

7 Flip open the pieces and top-stitch, also from the bound zipper end to bound zipper end. Repeat this for the other side.

8 Open out the pouch and pin outer to outer and lining to lining with RST and sew all around, leaving a gap in the lining base for turning out. Leave the zip open for this part!

9 Box the corners by pinching them together, lining the seams up and sewing across. **(See Pic F.)** Repeat for the others, including the lining.

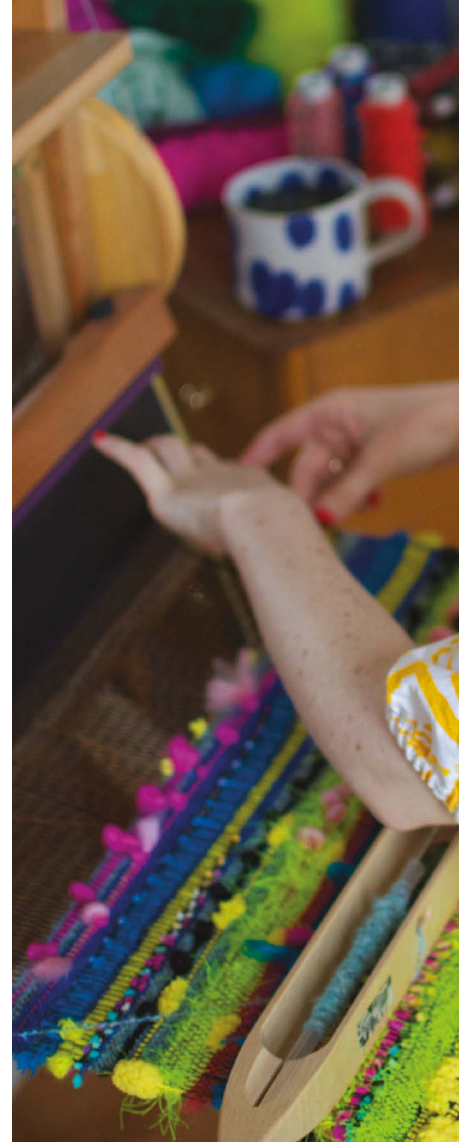
10 Turn the case out through the opening in the lining and close the gap. Stuff the lining down into the case, getting well into the corners.

11 Thread the leather through the zip pull and secure with strong thread. Use the leather hole punch on the smallest setting to make a hole very close to the zipper pull to sew through. **(See Pic G.)**



Behind the scenes at **THE LONDON LOOM**

We chatted with Francesca Kletz and Brooke Dennis, who run The London Loom, a studio teaching therapeutic, mindful and creative weaving techniques. We quizzed them about what inspired the initiative



What initially attracted you to weaving as a medium?

F I always loved working with textiles and needlecraft like knitting, embroidery and sewing. I bought my first tapestry loom a few years ago to experiment with all my leftover yarn and loved the freedom I had with it – I loved that I could put different colours and stitches wherever I wanted to. I wanted to be able to make a jumper out of my tapestries and, when I found the kind of weaving that we do at The London Loom, I loved that I had found a way to do that really easily using a creative medium that I could follow instinctively rather than by following a pattern or formula.

Do you have a creative ritual?

B I have a cup of tea and a cigarette. I have two children so when I get the house to myself and time to make something, I relish and relax and enjoy.

F I have my blinkers on when I'm creating – nothing else exists when I have a project on. I'll get an idea in my head of a dress I want to sew up or a colour range I want to use on my loom, I sit down and sort of power through. I'm usually listening to or watching something such as *RuPaul's Drag Race* – can I get an amen?

So how did you meet?

F It's a rather long story – we actually met each other on Tinder, in a roundabout sort of way... we'd rather tell you over a mint julep.

Could you tell us more about the workshops you run and what you have planned?

F The freestyle weaving practice used in the studio is based on a therapeutic, mindful, community weaving practice from Japan and is a new concept to London. Using a two-pedal floor loom, this weaving style is a cross between traditional fabric weaving and tapestry weaving where the weaver uses their yarn more freely – almost painting with the yarn rather than constructing with it. The class times are structured around you, you pick the start time, the length of session you want (two or five hours) and how many people are in your party and we'll book you in. It's almost like the Mysore yoga practice of the craft class world – you follow your own pace and we simply give you the skills to create cloth that is as unique as you are. We're also hosting tapestry weaving group classes where students will come for three hours





and construct their own frame loom and learn the basics of tapestry weaving. As well as this we also host children's tapestry weaving classes for ages six and over and the floor looms will be restricted to bookings for children. The information for all of our classes is on our website www.thelondonloom.com

"I bought my first tapestry loom a few years ago to experiment with all my leftover yarn and loved the freedom I had with it - I loved that I could put different colours and stitches wherever I wanted to"



We love the idea of mixing so many colours and textures. Where do you get your materials?

At the moment we get the majority of our yarn from a mill near Leeds. We also import yarn from an amazing yarn store in Japan that sells all the pompom, fluorescent and sparkly yarn you could dream of that we can't get at home; at some point we'd love to be able to produce The London Loom brand yarn. It's important to us to try and get as much as we can from local suppliers; our tapestry looms are made for us by a local East London carpenter and we love that. We are adding to and feeding our local creative community.



Tell us about some memorable students you've worked with

F When I was working in education I worked mostly with children with special educational needs (SEN). I had a couple of students who I worked very closely with who had various learning difficulties and I found that what the schooling system saw as a setback I saw as a unique and diverse outlook on the world. I worked with one teenage boy who had autism and designed his own animations and wrote novels in his spare time - I taught him all about the importance of feminism and loved that he would ride to school on his bike shouting "Down with the patriarchy!"

Part of my dream for The London Loom is to work with people with learning difficulties who want to work in the creative industry. In Japan, there is a huge push for children and adults with SEN to practise weaving at these community weaving studios and the things they create are beyond fantastic; some of these students have a way with colour that you can't even imagine.

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Liberty SCALLOPED CLUTCH BAG

WIN
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MEDIA DIE
See page 53
for details



Angela

If you're missing the perfect accessory for the wedding season, look no further than this stylish clutch bag. Using a Gemini Multi Media die from Crafter's Companion can help you cut everything from fabric to faux leather!

Project ANGELA HARKNESS
Photography RENATA STONYTE



SKILL LEVEL: ●●●●

MATERIALS:

- Crafter's Companion Gemini die-cutting machine
- Gemini Multi Media Scallop Clutch Bag & Flower die set
- 0.5m Metallic White Threaders faux leather
- 0.5m Lavender Rose and Hubble True Craft cotton
- 0.5m Liberty The Cottage Garden Cosmos Meadow Summer fabric
- 0.5m fusible foam
- low-tack tape
- magnetic bag clasp

NOTES:

Seam allowance is 1/4" unless otherwise stated

HOW TO MAKE :

1 Cut fabric pieces to accommodate the size of the dies in the set. Fold the outer fabric, lining and foam in half, carefully lining up the folds of each piece. **(See Pic A.)**

2 Layer the pieces on the cutting plate and position the die on the fold. The open edge of the die needs to barely overlap the folded edge of fabric. Hold in place with tape. **(See Pic B.)**

3 Layer the remaining plates for the machine and pass it through the Gemini machine. **(See Pic C.)**

4 Repeat these steps until you have two main bag pieces in outer fabric, lining and foam; one bag flap piece from outer fabric, lining and foam; and embellishments cut from spare fabric for the flowers. **(See Pic D.)**

5 Fuse the foam to the two outer fabric pieces and the bag flap outer fabric. **(See Pic E.)**

6 Take the bag flap pieces with right sides together and clip in place. **(See Pic F.)**

7 Using a 1/4" seam allowance, stitch around the scalloped edge. To get a smooth curve, stitch slowly around the scallop. Put the needle down at the inner point, lift the presser foot

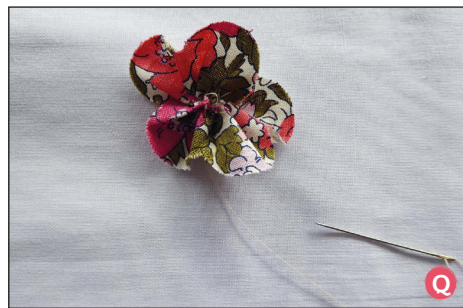
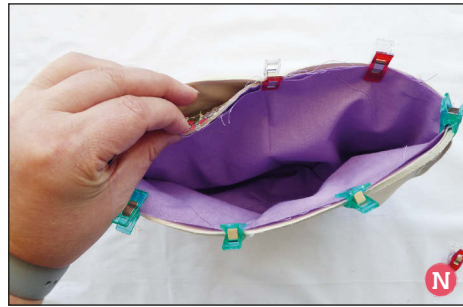
Make bag making easy with the Gemini die-cutting machine and bag-making dies – you can cut outer fabric, wadding and lining with a simple pass through the Gemini. These dies are ideal for anyone new to sewing as there is no need to cut a paper pattern and the pieces will be cut perfectly every time. The Multi Media cutting dies can be used with a broad variety of materials, not just cotton. Try them with thick leather, denim, glitter fabric, wadding and more.



and turn work to align the foot before continuing. **(See Pic G.)**

8 Clip around all the curves or trim using pinking shears then turn through and press the front. **(See Pic H.)**

9 On the main bag pieces, sew the darts on each of the 'V' section pieces. Using a 1/4" seam, stitch from the edge to the inner point. **(See Pic I.)**



10 Sew the two lining pieces together, matching the darts carefully and leaving a turning gap in the bottom seam of the lining pieces. **(See Pic J.)**

11 Clip around the curves on the bag shape. Repeat steps 9 to 11 for the bag outer pieces.

12 If you are using a bag fastening, attach the relevant pieces to the front of the bag and the inside of the bag flap. **(See Pic K.)**

13 Top-stitch around the scalloped edge of the bag flap to give a professional-looking finish. **(See Pic L.)**

14 Drop the bag lining inside the outer bag. Normally you'd sew right sides together, but to make sure the bag front and flap are in the correct places it is easier to have the bag right side facing and drop in the liner, matching wrong side to wrong side. Hold the front bag and lining in place with clips. **(See Pic M.)**

15 Carefully position the bag flap between the bag lining and bag

outer. Position centrally then hold in place with clips. Sew around the top of the bag, securing all the layers together. **(See Pic N.)**

16 Turn the bag through the turning gap then sew gap closed. Top-stitch around the edge of the bag to give a neat finish. **(See Pic O.)**

17 Make the flower embellishments by hand-sewing a running stitch along the straight edge. Gather together then add a couple of stitches in the centre of the flower to hold the gather in place. Position the embellishments as desired and sew in place or attach using a small amount of textile glue. **(See pics P, Q and R.)** 🍷

We used

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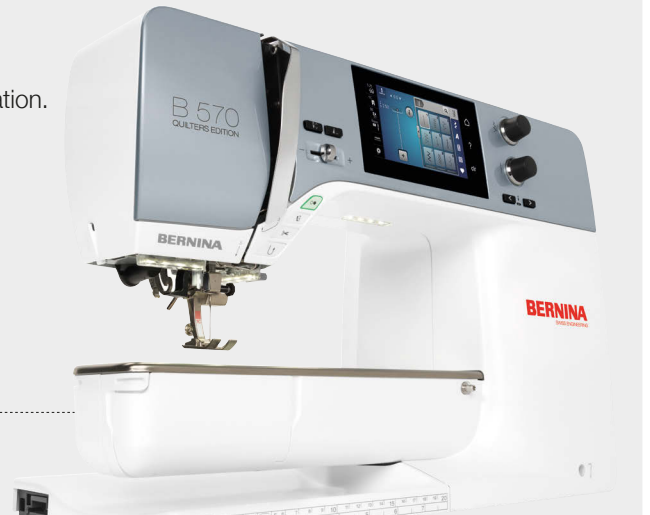
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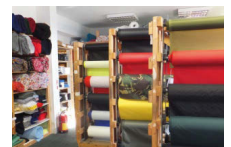
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Candy-stripe bolster pillow

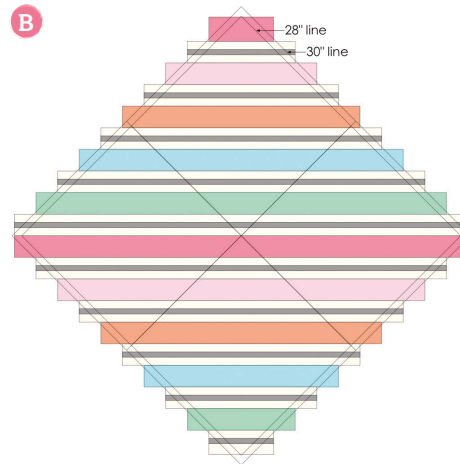
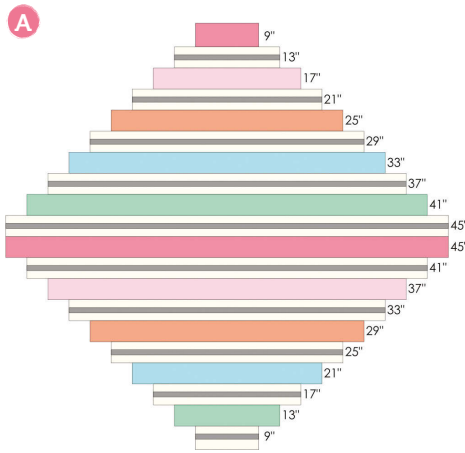
Lynne Goldsworthy's pretty pillow is as sweet as candy but without the calories!

Project LYNNE GOLDSWORTHY
www.lilysquilts.blogspot.co.uk



Lynne





MATERIALS

- fat quarter of each candy-coloured fabric (dark pink, light pink, orange, aqua & green)
- 0.5m cream fabric
- 0.5m grey fabric
- 1m square wadding
- 1m calico or scrap fabric to line the pillow (optional)
- cushion inner

NOTES:

Finished size 27x9"

WOF – width of fabric

FQ – fat quarter

¼" seam allowance unless otherwise stated

CUTTING:

Cut 3 2½x22" strips from each candy-coloured fabric FQ. Sew end to end and sub-cut into shorter lengths as follows:

Dark pink: 45" and 9"

Light pink: 37" and 17"

Orange: 29" and 25"

Aqua: 33" and 21"

Green: 41" and 13"

Cut 14 1¼" x WOF strips of cream fabric

Cut 7 1" x WOF strips of grey fabric

Cut 2 6x28" strips of grey fabric

Cut 2 1½" x WOF strips grey fabric

MAKING BOLSTER PILLOW TOP

1 Sew two sets of six of the strips of cream fabric end to end to make two long strips.

2 Sew the strips of grey fabric end to end to make one long strip.

3 Sew the three strips made in steps 2 and 3 together along the long edges so that there is a cream strip on each side of the grey strip.

4 Sub-cut the long cream/grey/cream strip into the following lengths: 9", 13", 17", 21", 25", 29", 33", 37", 41" and 45".

5 Fold each of the candy-coloured and cream/grey/cream strips in half lengthwise and press to mark the halfway point.

6 Sew the strips together as shown in the diagram, taking care to match the halfway point on each one so that the strips form a square as pieced. (See Pic A.)

7 Press seams open or towards the darker fabric at each seam as preferred.

8 Trim the pillow top to roughly 30" square, making sure you centre the 30" square on the centre of the pillow top as indicated in the diagram below where the top is trimmed to the outside line of the black square. The lines crossing the square are to indicate that the 30" square must be central on the centre of the pillow top. (See Pic B.)

9 Lay the pillow top centrally on top of the wadding and baste in place. (Lining fabric can be basted to the back of the wadding if desired.)

10 Quilt the pillow top. We used a cream Aurifil cotton 50wt thread in diagonal lines perpendicular to the fabric stripes, spaced ½" apart.

11 Trim the pillow top to 28" square, once again making sure you centre the 28" square in the centre of the pillow top.

ASSEMBLING THE BOLSTER PILLOW

12 Sew the 6x28" strips of grey fabric to each end of the pillow top using a ½" seam. (See Pic C.)

13 Press the seams towards the pillow top (away from the grey fabric).

Top-stitch along the seam approximately ¼" away from the seam.

14 Fold over (wrong sides together) and press a 1" strip along the end of each of the pillow. Press this strip in half again – this will form a ½" hem which will be the casing for the bolster ties.

15 Fold the whole thing in half right sides together and sew a ½" seam to form a long tube. Make sure to start and end the seam at the 1" hem fold lines at the ends of the grey strips and to backstitch at each end to secure.

16 Sew down the ½" hem at the end of each grey strip, creating the drawstring channel.

17 To create the two bolster ties, fold and press over a 1" strip at each end of the 1½" x WOF grey strips.

18 Press the strips in half along the length. Fold the outside edges into the centre and press again, then press the whole thing in half again creating a long strip folded in on itself.

19 Top-stitch along the length of the bolster ties and across the ends.

20 Using a large safety pin, thread the ties through each hem/sleeve at the end of each grey strip. Insert bolster form.

21 Tighten the ends of the pillow by pulling each tie as far as it will go. Tie in a bow to finish. ☺



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Twirly girls SKIRT

This three-quarter circle skirt is easy to make and works well in fun printed jersey. Let's not forget, it has excellent twirl-ability!

Project VICTORIA PEAT
Little Black Duck



Victoria

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template
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SKILL LEVEL: 🧵🧵🧵🧵

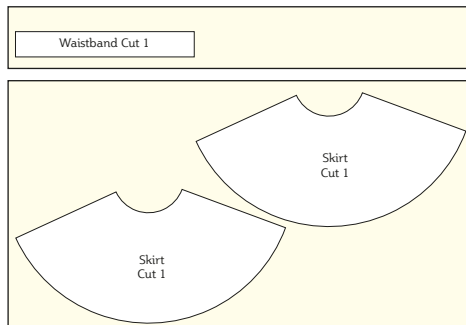
MATERIALS:

- 1m 150-wide knit
- 15x70cm knit if you would like to have a contrast waistband (optional)
- 60cm 1½" elastic
- ballpoint or stretch sewing machine needle
- twin ballpoint needle (optional)
- templates from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

SIZING:

To fit 62cm waist
Finished length 35cm

CUTTING



NOTES:

1cm seam allowances unless specified
Interlock knit or medium/heavy weight jersey will give great results
Standard T-shirt weight jersey can be used, but will give a more fluid result and has a tendency to roll more along the cut edges so can be a little more fiddly to work with
Use the stretch stitch on your sewing machine or construct using an overlocker if you have one

HOW TO MAKE:

- 1 Cut elastic to 59.5cm. Overlap ends by 2.5cm and sew ends in place.
- 2 With WST sew the short edges of the waistband together.
- 3 Wrap the waistband around the elastic with RS of the waistband fabric outermost. Align the seam on the waistband with the join in the elastic. This

will form the centre back of the waistband. Ensure raw edges of waistband are level with one edge of the elastic. Pin in place through all three layers. **(See Pic A.)**

- 4 With RST sew each of the side seams of the skirt. **(See Pic B.)**
- 5 Align the CB of the waistband with the CB of the Skirt and the remaining notches with the side seams and the CF of the skirt. Pin in place, matching raw edges.
- 6 With the waistband uppermost, sew through all four layers. **(See Pic C.)** If not using an overlocker, finish the raw edges of the waistband/skirt seam with a zigzag or stretch blind hem stitch. **(See Pic D.)**
- 7 Turn up a 1.5cm hem and stitch in place using a twin needle or a single needle and a stretch stitch. 🧵

Why not try?

Hot Pink Cats organic cotton jersey

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www.mauds-fabric-finds.com

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WIN A PIPPI PINAFORE PATTERN

Five lucky readers will win this super-stylish Pippi Pinafore pattern from Jennifer Lauren Handmade. Perfect for beginner sewists looking to stretch their skills, this flattering dress includes lots of lovely details including deep patch pockets, side-button fastening and a fitted bib that can be easily amended to suit your shape. Opt for lightweight fabric like chambray or linen to see you through the warmer months or layer up with a wool, corduroy or denim version in winter. The pattern is available in digital format for \$12.99 (approximately £9.77) from www.jenniferlaurenhandmade.store



5 TO WIN!

WIN A SASHIKO STARTER KIT

Two lucky readers will win a sashiko starter kit from Sew Easy! Originating in Japan, sashiko is a running stitch technique related most closely to embroidery. This kit contains all the materials needed to create a 40cm-square standard cushion cover; you'll receive dark blue cotton fabric, four assorted pattern templates and a 40m skein of pure cotton embroidery thread in white. There is also a fabric pencil and a pack of embroidery needles - all you need is the cushion pad! Sew Easy products are available nationwide from craft, haberdashery and sewing suppliers. For stockist information, email groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk



WORTH ALMOST £80



5 PAIRS TO WIN!

WIN TICKETS TO THE HANDMADE AND HOMEGROWN FESTIVAL

We have five pairs of tickets to give away to the Handmade and Homegrown Festival taking place 31st August – 2nd September at Hever Castle in Kent. The festival is a celebration of handmade crafts and all things homegrown and hosts a variety of stalls selling lovely craft supplies, ceramics, jewellery, art and clothing. There's also a variety of crafting demonstrations taking place throughout the festival as well as the annual Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition that showcases the work of The Quilters' Guild members from surrounding areas. For your chance to win, go to www.ppjump.com/sewnow23 For more information about the event, visit www.hevercastle.co.uk



WIN A THREAD PACK WITH SEAM GAUGE

Add cool pastel shades to your next make with these high-quality polyester threads from Gütermann Creativ. Five lucky readers will win a thread pack with eight 100m reels along with a handy seam gauge for tracing seam and hem allowances. Available nationwide in fabric, craft and hobby shops. For stockist information, contact gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk or 01453 883581

WIN A FAT QUARTER BUNDLE FROM ALICE CAROLINE

To celebrate the launch of the new Rainbow collection, we're giving away a vibrant bundle of fabric to a lucky reader. Perfect for a variety of dressmaking and home décor projects, the collection features 12 beautiful floral prints in soft pastel shades reflecting Liberty's iconic design. To find out more about the collection, visit www.alicecaroline.co.uk





WIN TICKETS TO THE FESTIVAL OF FABRIC

Five lucky readers will win a pair of tickets to the Festival of Fabric! If you love vintage-inspired crafts then this competition is not to be missed. The Festival of Fabric is a celebration of dressmaking with traders of vintage and retro-style fabric, haberdashery, patterns, thread – all you need to make fabulous vintage-inspired clothes. There is a great selection of sewing workshops, History of Fashion lectures and an exhibition of period clothes and carriage built prams from the 1900s to 1950s. The Festival takes place on 6th October 2018 at Orwell Hotel in Felixstowe. For your chance to win, go to www.ppjump.com/sewnow23 Further information, lecture and workshop tickets can be purchased on the festival website www.festivaloffabric.co.uk



WIN A BAG-MAKING KIT

New to bag making and don't know where to start? The team at Crafter's Companion has created a really easy tool to help you make professional-looking accessories and stretch your creative horizons. We have two of the new Gemini multi-media kits to give away. Use these in tandem with the Gemini machine to easily cut through a variety of fabric and create accurate pieces for making or embellishing your bags. Ideal for beginner sewists and those who want a quick and easy make, each kit includes step-by-step instructions along with a range of shapes to suit small and large-scale projects. Visit www.crafterscompanion.co.uk to see the full range.



DISCOUNTS & GIVEAWAYS

WIN AN EMBROIDERY BUNDLE

Keen to practise your hand-stitching? Equip yourself with some great tools by entering this competition to win a bundle of embroidery stitching tools and hoops from Clover. Six readers will win two embroidery hoops and a stitching tool kit to help you create a variety of stylish stitches and designs. Trace and transfer your chosen design onto fabric then place in an embroidery hoop and simply use the tool to sew along the lines with satin or back stitch. Clover products are available nationwide from all good craft, sewing and hobby shops. For stockist information, contact Clover mail clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk



WIN A BOOK BUNDLE

Three lucky readers will win a copy of Kim Schaefer's *52 Playful Pot Holders to Appliqué: Delicious Designs for Every Week of The Year* (approximately £12.81, C&T Publishing) and Aneela Hoey's *Stitch & Sew: Beautifully Embroider 31 Projects* (approximately £20.36, C&T Publishing). *Stitch & Sew* includes five stylish embroidery projects – a drawstring bag, clutch, flex case, change purse and zipper pouch – which are perfect for beginner to advanced sewists. Choose from 31 modern embroidery designs to create pretty embellishments on a variety of fabric types. Create seasonal-themed pot holders with Kim Schaefer's collection of appliqué designs. With over 50 vibrant motifs for a variety of occasions, this book is great for helping you to create unique gifts for family and friends. To see more crafty titles from C&T, visit www.ctpub.com



Exclusive discounts!

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Perfect POCKET SKIRT

The Maude skirt is a great mod design, featuring deep pockets set into princess seams. Showcase your style with contrasting trim

Project JEANETTE ARCHER
www.lazyseamstress.net
Photography DAN WALMSLEY

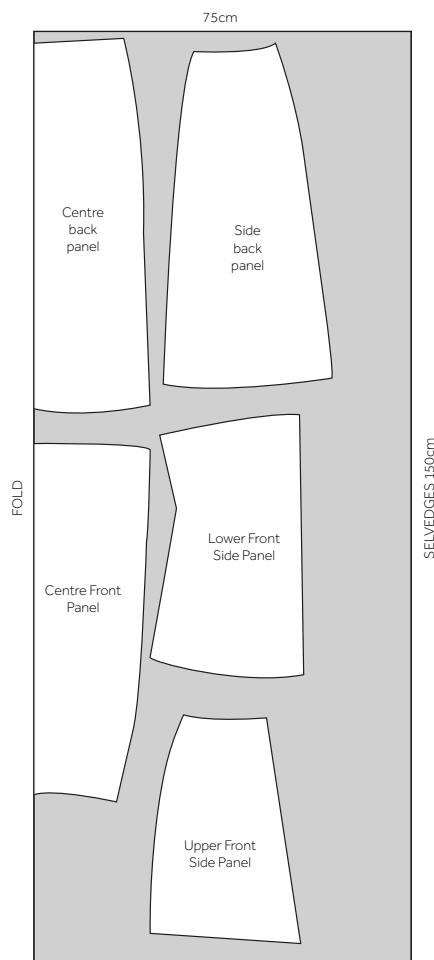


Jeanette

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template
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LAYPLAN



Pattern does not include lining. Instructions are given to add a lining if you wish; suitable lining fabric is polyester, silk, lightweight cotton

SKILL LEVEL: 🟡🟡🟡🟡

MATERIALS:

- 1.5m 145cm-wide fabric (allow more for nap/matching)
- co-ordinating thread
- 21 cm concealed zip
- 2.5cm-wide Petersham ribbon/curved Petersham (enough to go around your waist plus 5cm)
- templates from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

NOTES:

Finished skirt length: 48cm
1.5cm seam allowance is included
If you can't find Petersham, grosgrain will work, or you can substitute bias binding

FABRIC TYPES:

Medium-weight cotton, linen, denim, tweed, wool and brocade

HOW TO MAKE:

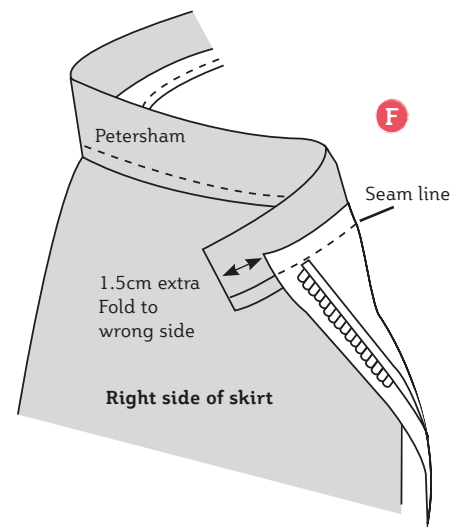
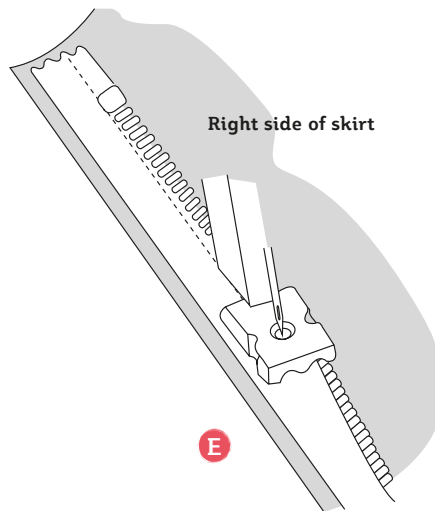
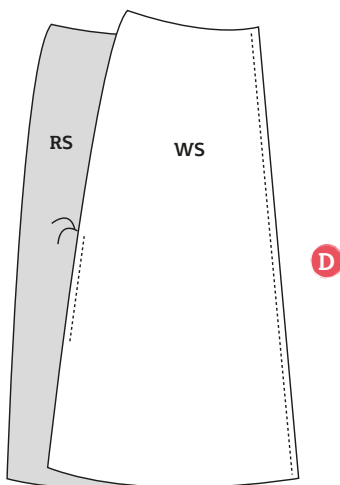
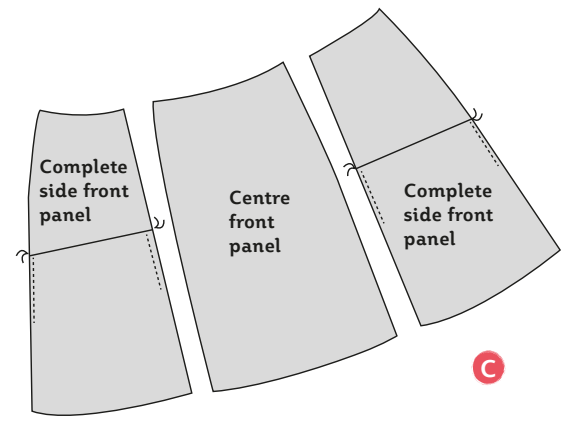
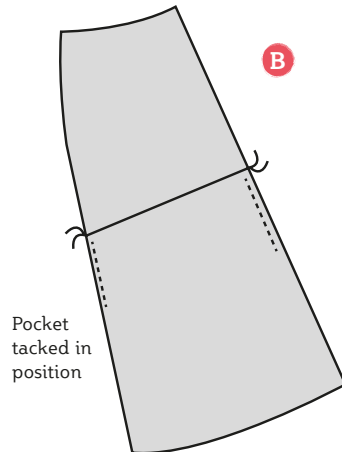
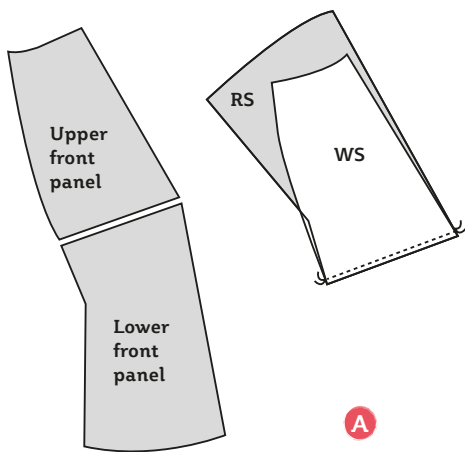
- 1 Matching notches, with RST sew Upper Front Side Skirt Panel to Lower Front Side Skirt Panel. Press seam together. Neaten. Press again, downwards. **(See Pic A.)**
- 2 Fold Lower Front Skirt Panel along the line you have marked for the top of the pocket, match with the line you have marked on the Upper Front Panel. Press in place, then tack pocket sides in place. **(See Pic B.)**
- 3 Matching notches and with RST sew complete Side Front Panels to Centre Front Panel. **(See Pic C.)** Press seams open, or if working with heavier weight fabric like denim, press towards the centre front to avoid too much bulk at the pocket edge. Trim seams at the pockets to reduce any bulk. Neaten seam edges and press.
- 4 Matching notches and with RST sew Side Back Panels to Centre Back Panel. Press seams open, neaten seam edges and press. **(See Pic D.)**
- 5 If you want to add a lining to your skirt, trace around your complete front and back skirt pieces from a single layer of lining pieces.

CUSTOMISING YOUR SKIRT

- Why not experiment with topstitching on the pockets and seams, or add in an exposed zip?
- Trim on the pocket tops can add interesting detail.
- Or experiment with colour blocking or pattern mixing of co-ordinating fabric.
- How about adding a lace trim to the lining that hangs a couple of centimetres below the skirt hem to play with layers and texture?

SIZING

| Size | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Waist | 68cm/26" | 72cm/28" | 77cm/30" | 82cm/32" | 87cm/34" | 92cm/36" | 97cm/38" |
| Hips | 93cm/36" | 97cm/38" | 102cm/40" | 107cm/42" | 112cm/44" | 117cm/46" | 122cm/48" |



6 With RST, matching notches sew the skirt front to the skirt back at the right-hand side seam. Press seam open, grade any excess fabric at the pocket edge, neaten and press again. Repeat for skirt lining, if you are making one. This is a good time to try on your skirt and make any adjustments you might need.

7 Neaten raw edges of left-hand side seams, catching down the pockets. Repeat for skirt lining, if you are making one.

8 Insert the concealed/invisible zip into the left-hand side seam by placing the open zip face down on the RS of the opening. The top edge of metal stopper top of the zip will be in line with the seam line at top edge of the skirt and the coils along the seam line 1.5cm in from the edge. Stitch as close as possible to the zip coils from the top edge, stopping at the zip slider, and back-stitch. Repeat for the other side of the zip. **(See Pic E.)**

9 Turn skirt inside out and, pulling the unattached part of the zip gently to one side, sew the remainder of the side skirt seam. Press seam open.

10 Stitch down the unattached ribbon of the zip to the seam allowance.

11 If you are lining the skirt, leaving an opening for the zip, sew the lower part of the left-hand side seam, press seam open, including the opening for the zip. Tack skirt lining to skirt at top edge.

12 Stay-stitch skirt top edge on the seam line (1.5cm), and trim to 6mm. (If lining the skirt, treat the skirt and lining as one.) Cut your Petersham to the length of the waist plus 3cm. **(See Pic F.)**

13 Lap the ribbon over the waistline, WS of ribbon to RS of skirt. The edge of the ribbon should be on the seam line (stay-stitched line). There will be 1.5cm of ribbon over at each end, fold this inwards. Pin and tack in place.

14 Stitch ribbon into position close to the edge. Turn ribbon to inside skirt, and catch down at zip edge with a whipstitch.

15 Hem by turning 5mm along the hem edge and press, turn another 2cm and press again. Machine-stitch hem using a topstitch or hand-finish with a slip stitch. Repeat for hem of lining, but turn 5mm then 3cm. Press to complete. **+**



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Sewing WORKSHOPS

*Brush up on the basics or learn something new
at a workshop near you*

Sew Sew Fabrics, Bexleyheath

If you're thinking about learning to sew or perfecting new skills come along to one of these classes. Spaces are limited to ensure everyone gets the most possible from the experience. For full details and to book, email info@sewsewfabrics.co.uk www.sewsewfabrics.co.uk

**STARTING 25TH AND
26TH SEPTEMBER**

**Evening class 7.30pm-9.30pm
(nine weeks)**

These dressmaking classes are suitable for all students with a desire to learn or develop their abilities. Students may work on any project of their choosing although it is advisable to bring along a pattern utilising new techniques.

Cost: £112.50



STARTING 26TH SEPTEMBER

**Daytime class 9.30am-12.30pm
(nine weeks)**

Can't do evenings? These longer three-hour sessions are great for completing lots of projects.

Cost: £170



30TH SEPTEMBER

Overlocker class 12pm-3pm

Have you bought an overlocker but too scared to get it out of the box? Are you worried about changing the thread? This class is the perfect start for anyone new to the world of overlayers. You will learn to thread and use your machine under the guidance of an experienced teacher. You will need to bring your overlocker along to the class and any instructions that you received with your machine. All other materials will be provided.

Cost: £25

Nimble Thimbles, Swindon

This wonderful shop provides you with everything you need for sewing, quilting, knitting and crochet including fabric, patterns, sewing machines, yarn and haberdashery, plus a superb sewing school.

www.nimblethimbles.co.uk
01793 950750



4TH AUGUST

**Tilly and the Buttons Cleo pinafore and
dungaree dress 10am-5pm**

Make this on-trend dungaree dress in a one-day workshop and take home the pattern and knowledge to make more at home.

Cost: £60

25TH AUGUST

Messenger/laptop bag 10am-5pm

The messenger bag workshop is back by popular demand. Make this very useful laptop bag with a rather special internal pocket in a one-day class.

Cost: £57

1ST SEPTEMBER

**Patchwork and appliqué cushion
10am-5pm**

Make a beautiful patchwork and appliqué 'HOME' or 'LOVE' cushion in this one-day workshop. Learn how to cut, piece and quilt,

appliqué and make an envelope-style cushion cover.

Cost: £57

8TH SEPTEMBER

**Tilly and the Buttons Coco jersey top/
dress 10am to 5pm**

During this one-day workshop, you will make a simple jersey top/dress with multiple variations. It's the perfect introduction to sewing knit fabric on a regular sewing machine.

Cost: £57

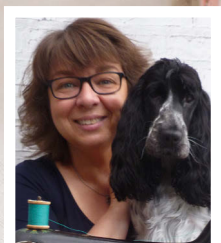


Sweet cherries fabric bowl

This roomy little basket makes a pretty addition to any kitchen dresser or table (or fill with notions and pop in your sewing room!)

Project DEBBIE VON GRABLER-CROZIER
www.sallyandcraftyvamp.blogspot.co.uk

Use your
template
download



Debbie

SKILL LEVEL: ●●●●

MATERIALS:

- 25cm strip Bake Sale by Lori Holt for Riley Blake fabric
- 45cm strip Bake Sale by Lori Holt for Riley Blake
- fat quarter plain pink fabric
- 4-5 co-ordinating fabric for the squares
- red & pink fabric scraps for the cherries
- 20cm strip natural linen
- 45cm strip thin wadding
- glue stick
- green fabric scraps for the leaves
- dark brown sewing thread

- dark brown Perle 8 cotton
- water-soluble marker
- Fray Stoppa
- 12cm 2.5cm-wide cream cotton tape
- alphabet stamp
- Leaf Green Ranger Archival Ink
- template from www.sewnowmag.co.uk

HOW TO MAKE:

1 Cut a 27cm square from the spotted lining fabric. Cut a 27cm square of wadding and place it onto a flat surface. Put the spotted fabric on top with the right side facing up. Pin and, using the water-soluble marker, draw a 25cm-

diameter circle onto the pink fabric. Using a ruler and the marker, draw a diamond pattern onto the fabric, staying within the circle. These will be your quilting lines.

(See Pic A.)

2 Quilt along the lines and then cut out the circle. Repeat for the plain pink fabric to make a second quilted circle. Mist the circles with water to remove the marker lines and put them aside for now.

3 Cut a piece of wadding measuring 80x11cm. This will form the side of the basket. From the fabric scraps, cut seventeen 5.5cm squares.

4 Lay the first square on the top left-hand side of the wadding strip and sew it down the left-hand side only, directly onto the wadding. (See Pic B.)

5 Choose Square 2 and lay it right sides together with Square 1. Sew down the right-hand side only, going through all three pieces (Square 1, wadding and Square 2). (See Pic C.)

6 Open out Square 2 and you will see that the squares are sewn and also quilted. Continue in this way until you have reached the end of the row and all the squares are sewn on. Sew the very last square down on the right-hand side to finish. (See Pic D.)

7 Cut a 7x80cm strip. Lay it onto the very bottom of the squares that you have just sewn on. Sew right along the length and then fold down to the bottom of the wadding. Finger-press the linen to crease it. (See Pic E.)

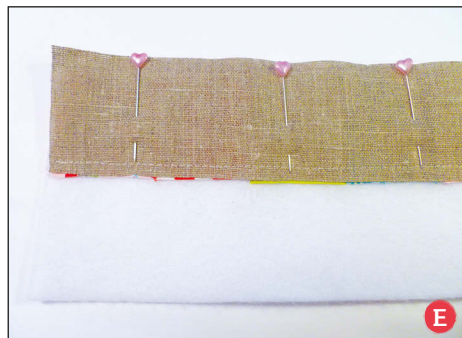
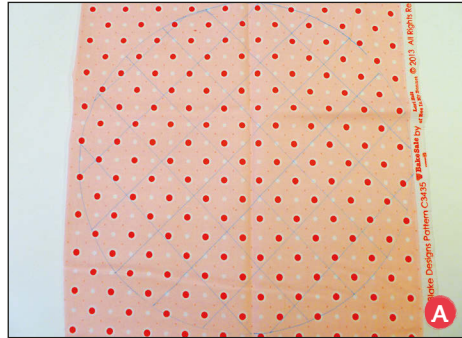
8 Use Perle 8 cotton to hand-sew a running stitch along the top of the linen strip (about 0.5cm down). This is both decorative and functional – it helps the linen to behave. (See Pic F.)

9 Make the label, if you would like one. Trim the ends of the cotton tape and treat them with Fray Stoppa. Use green ink and the alphabet stamps to spell out the word 'cherries'. Dry the label and affix to the centre of the patched strip, half on the linen and half on the patches.

10 Use the template to cut six green leaves, five pink cherries and five red cherries from fabric scraps. You have a couple of templates to choose from so that you can mix the cherries up a bit. There are pairs each side of the label, and then single cherries and pairs at intervals.

11 Glue on the cherries and leaves, half on the linen and half on the patches, and draw the stems using water-soluble marker. (See Pic G.)

12 Set up your machine for free-motion embroidery – consult your operating manual or contact the manufacturer as each machine is a little different. You need to be able to cover or drop the feed dogs,



and use a darning foot. Slowly move the fabric around to achieve an outline in brown thread. Embroider around the cherries and the leaves, adding veins, and then embroider the stems. (See Pic H.)

13 Sew the back of the panel together and then pin it to the plain pink circle with the right sides together. Sew all around and turn the right way out.

14 For the lining, cut a piece of cherry fabric measuring 80x11.5cm and

sew up the back. Sew the cherry fabric to the spotted circle.

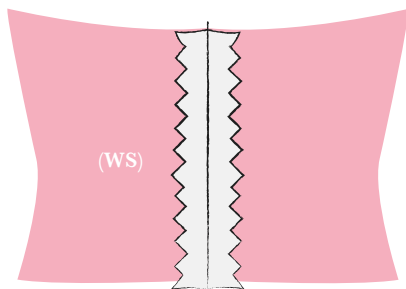
15 This is a drop-in lining, so turn it inside out and turn the bowl the right way out. Drop the lining into the bowl and align everything. You will notice that the lining is a little longer than the outer around the sides. This will form a self-binding edge. Fold the edge of the lining over the outer and stitch it all the way around. Top-stitch just under the binding too so that everything sits neatly. ☺



Behind the SEAMS

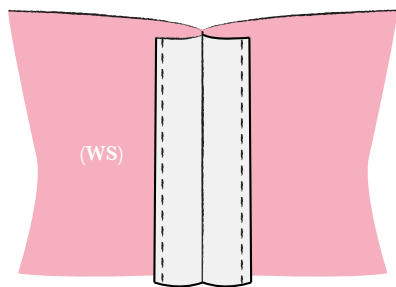
Whatever your level of expertise, step up your skills with our handy guide to seam finishes

Simple seam finishes



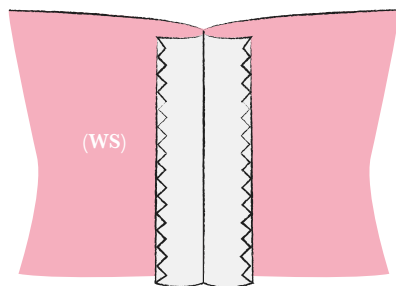
PINKING SHEARS

Simply trim your seam allowance edges with pinking shears after the seam has been sewn. Do not trim before sewing the seam unless you have marked the stitching line. The zigzag edge will prevent fabric from fraying.



TOP-STITCHED EDGES

Start with a sewn seam that has been pressed open. Press each seam allowance under by $\frac{1}{8}$ " to the WS and top-stitch each seam allowance edge to secure the raw edge underneath.



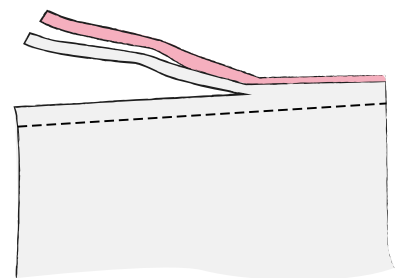
ZIGZAG FINISH

This can be used before or after a seam has been sewn. Sew through the seam allowance only, close to each raw edge with a zigzag stitch and press to set the stitches. The stitch should neatly fall at or just off the edge.

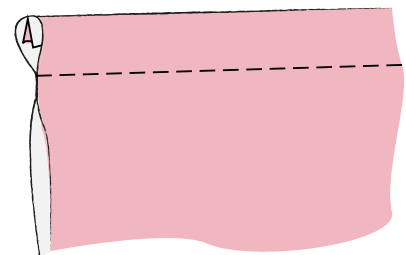
FRENCH SEAMS

This construction technique and seam finish is perfect for lightweight or sheer fabric.

How to make:



1 Place fabrics WST. Sew a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance from the raw edge and trim to $\frac{1}{8}$ ".



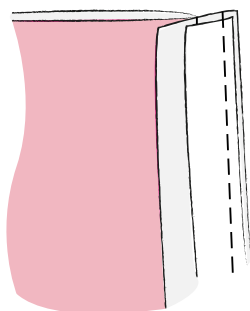
2 Press open the seam and press over with RST. Sew a second seam $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. This will trap the seam allowance edges behind the second line of stitching.

HONG KONG SEAMS

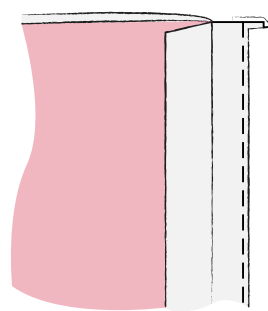
Also known as bound seams, these feature the application of double-fold bias tape after every seam is sewn, before moving onto the next construction step.

How to make:

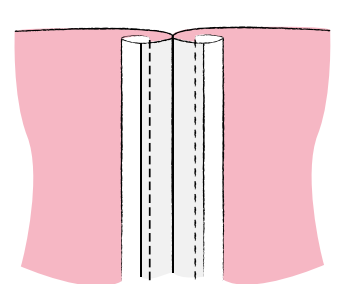
1 Sew a straight seam and press open. Press one side of the bias tape open and pin it along the edge of one seam allowance with RST. Sew along the crease to attach the seam allowance and bias tape together.



2 Wrap the bias tape around the edge of the seam allowance and pin in place so the tape sits just over the sewn stitching line.



3 Secure by stitching in the ditch or just to the inside of the original stitching to catch the folded bias tape on the back of the seam. Sew



only through the bias tape and seam allowance, not garment. Repeat on remaining seam allowance to finish.

In the next issue of

sew now

4-IN-1

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Simple Sew

Utility dress



Threadcount PATTERNS

3-in-1 dress

See page 24 for details of how to subscribe



Happy hexie bag



Tiny turtle rattle



UK SIZES 6-22



SIZES 6-20



SIZES 8-16



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5 minutes with... **The Pesky Partridge**

Here at Sew Now we're partial to some country attire so we were delighted to discover the fabulous range of bespoke clothing from The Pesky Partridge. We spoke to owner Lucy Kay to find a little bit more about the brand



Lucy

Hi Lucy! How are you? Can you tell us what's currently on your sewing table?

I am fine thank you, busy enjoying the brighter weather. I can never have just one project on the go, and am currently working

on a ladies' bespoke blazer, a bespoke evening dress from a vintage Vogue pattern, bespoke tweed suits for a bride's parents and more smaller items for stock for events and my website. I still sew for relaxation, but that's usually cross stitch or tapestry and I have a couple of these projects on the go too!

"I tend to make things that my family or I have a need for - functional items that are also stylish and a bit quirky too"

Can you tell our readers a bit more about your background and why you decided to start The Pesky Partridge?

For various reasons, after 12 years as a rural chartered surveyor, I wanted to pursue something that allowed me to have a better quality of life and more time with my family. I had always sewn from being little and, because I'm tall, found it was a way to get clothes that fitted. My husband suggested taking this further and, after a year of planning and creating designs I gave up my job and concentrated on The Pesky Partridge full time.

You've created so many lovely pieces, how do you decide what to make?

I tend to make things that my family or I have a need for - functional items that are also stylish and a bit quirky too. I am drawn to bright colours and bold patterns but love quality, longevity and sustainability so try to create garments with all these in mind.

What are the best and most challenging elements of running your own business?

The best aspects for me are being at home so if I'm having a bad day (I have Crohn's disease) I can rest. Most importantly, I can be flexible to be there for our daughter,



help at school and clubs and I can work at 5am, or whenever I want to! The most challenging part, as I'm sure many people would agree, is switching off, but I love what I do so I don't really mind too much. Also, there is never enough time in the day to get everything I have planned in my head done, despite my best intentions!

Is there anything new or exciting that you are working on over the next few months?

I will be adding more products to the website and have a number of events booked during the autumn and in the run up to Christmas; this will give me chance to talk to real people and hear people's reactions to my products.

Visit The Pesky Partridge shop at www.thepeskypartridge.etsy.com or search for The Pesky Partridge on Facebook





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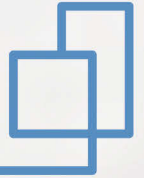
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This machine has an incredible 91 needle positions and an easy change needle plate to enhance straight stitch performance at up to 1,000 spm.



atelier 7

Quilters and designers will enjoy the AcuFeed Flex layered fabric feeding system and the automatic presser foot lift for easy pivoting.



atelier 9

The atelier 9 is a combined sewing and embroidery machine. It introduces some brand new features such as the Stitch Tapering Function and it even has Wi-Fi!

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