

MUST READ! BEHIND THE SEAMS: ORLA KIELY · FAST PATTERN HACKS

**2 Patterns
6 Styles!**

SEW

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- *Clever Cover-ups*
- *Paperbag Trousers*
- *Relaxed Shifts*



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Create your own style



Best Sewing Machine Brand 2016

Hello...September



24



September is the perfect time to start stitching what I like to call, the 'inbetweeners': multi-seasonal garments that will keep you looking chic whether there's a crisp breeze in the air or an unexpected Indian summer heatwave.

Why not get the ball rolling with this month's enclosed patterns? **New Look 6125** provides super-simple shift dresses that look good whatever the fabric or occasion – start stitching in the morning and you'll be ready to rock by the evening. There's also **New Look 6397**, which offers four slouchy cover-ups that can be made up in comfortable knits and easily popped in to your bag when you're on the go.

Alongside your patterns, you'll also find **on-trend** paperbag trousers (p24), a tie-arm top that can be made for just £10 (p28) and a quilted jacket from our designer Fiona Hesford (p41). Don't forget to complete your look with our choice of bags on page 71.

Looking for a spot of inspiration? Have a read of this month's **fabulous features**. We explore the story behind design queen Orla Kiely's eponymous brand (it all started with the humble stem print...). There's also top tips and **pattern picks** from our experts in the best-ever bust hacks guide (p32), plus we delve into the fascinating history of the pencil skirt (p90).

Finally, you can make a start on our two-part project, Clementine Cat, whip up our mascot Attenborough the turtle, and transform your jeans into a one-of-a-kind denim mini quilt (p66). Phew, I'd best let you get cracking!

Lucy xx Lucy Jobber, Sew editor



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Find out how to make our adorable turtle, Attenborough, on p67

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Get 25% off ALL fabrics at Girl Charlee!

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TWO FREE PATTERNS INSIDE!



What will you make first?

sew
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sewmag.co.uk/templates

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR FREE DOWNLOADS?
Look out for our FREE templates and patterns, then download and print them at sewmag.co.uk/templates

Get in touch! Share your creations, tips and views



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sew

in your September issue...



Meet our mascot!

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FREEBIES & OFFERS



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GIRL
CHARLEE



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76

06 25% OFF Minerva Crafts
Stock up your stash with scuba fabrics this autumn!

07 25% OFF Girl Charlee
You won't want to miss out on this bargain!

76 Reader offer
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Receive a FREE **Simplicity** 8594 pattern and a choice of fabric

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Enter online at sewmag.co.uk

Dressmaking

30 pages of fashion, garments & more!

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2 FREE PATTERNS THIS MONTH!

Use your gifts to sew stunning dresses and sleek jackets



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Subscribe today...



FREE* NEW LOOK PATTERN AND CHOICE OF FABRIC



FREE GIFT

SEE PAGE 68

FREE NEXT MONTH... 89



TWO dressmaking patterns!

DRESSES & JUMPERS

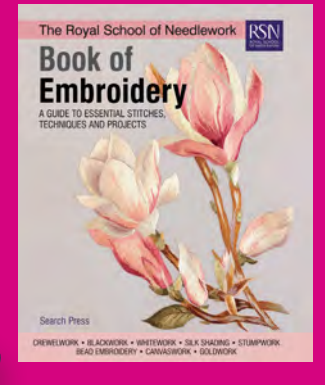
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who & what

The sewing world is a hub of excitement – keep up!

DECORATIVE TOUCH

Are you an embroidery enthusiast? This title will be right up your street! *Book of Embroidery* is rich with expert advice, projects and how-tos on different stitch types, ranging from crewelwork and goldwork, to silk shading and stumpwork. **£25, searchpress.com**



FABRIC LOVE

Stitching guru Debbie Shore has released her brand-new fabric range: A Cottage Garden. All of these prints have been inspired by her own sketches of the flora and fauna found around her home. Debbie says: "It's been so popular that I've already got my sketchbook out again to start working on my second range!". To get your hands on this exciting new collection, head over to Create and Craft, Hobbycraft and leading fabric stores.



PATTERN PERFECTION

We're simply swooning over Tilly and the Buttons' delightful new pattern. The Seren dress channels elegant seventies vibes with gorgeous button-down detailing – perfect for transitioning from strolling along the beach to an evening sipping cocktails. You can tailor this pattern to suit your style, with either a classic tie-front bodice or flirty neckline flounce.

£12.50 each, shop.tillyandthebuttons.com

Photography: Jane Looker. Model: Zeena Shah. Hair & Make-up: Laura Anne

25% off* Scuba Fabrics!

Stretchy scuba fabrics are all the rage at the moment, and not just for swimsuits – they're perfect for whipping up a brightly coloured party dress, too. If you haven't jumped on the bandwagon yet, then head over to Minerva Crafts with the extra 25% off code **SEPT18**, and delve into the extensive range of this double knit collection. minervacrafts.com

25% off!*



Three to win!

DOROTHY DRESS

We have some exciting news for you – Bobbins and Buttons founder and Sew designer, Julia Claridge has just released a brand-new pattern! Dorothy is a classic, sleeveless dress for little girls with a zip-up back and waist-tie sash. To top it off, three lucky readers will win a pattern! Enter our competition via sewmag.co.uk/giveaways. For more pretty patterns, visit bobbinsnbuttons.co.uk

*Valid from 24th July until 23rd August 2018. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

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if you buy one pattern...

Looking to kit out your closet with dresses, jumpsuits and rompers galore? Simplicity 8635 offers you the option to add strappy-back detailing, sweetheart or scoop necklines, as well as invisible pockets. Plus, you can create a dress to suit any occasion; opt for a floor-length evening gown, or a more casual, above-the-knee outfit for daytime. **£8.95, simplicitynewlook.com**



want it, need it,
BUY IT!

Want to add a new sewing machine to your collection? Look no further than Quilt Ambition 2.0 from Pfaff. This model has an open-toe, free-motion foot which is ideal for creating imaginative patterns on your projects. You'll also have the option to choose from four different font styles, plus you don't have to worry about working out the thread tension either, as the handy touch screen will recommend this once you've selected your stitch. **£969, pfaff.com**



Jumpsuit, £45, jdwilliams.co.uk

Glitz and glam

Photography © Rachel Burke



Welcome a splash of colour and sparkle to your wardrobe with a copy of Rachel Burke's latest title *Be Dazzling*. The book features 30 easy-make projects which draw on all things glitzy and glamorous, from gem-covered party shoes, to pom-pom totes. Rachel's designs even made it onto singer Kesha's tour in Los Angeles! **£8.99, hardiegrant.com**

25% off!*

25% OFF*
GIRL CHARLEE!

One of our favourite fabric houses Girl Charlee is providing a 25% discount on ALL of its material! You'll be spoilt for choice with knit fabrics: from floral patterns and bold checks, to vibrant colours and chevron prints. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to stock up your stash - you've only got until 23rd August to use your code! Visit girlcharlee.co.uk and use **SEWSEP25***.



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DAYWEAR collection

A new season is on its way, and with it brings a brand-new capsule of garments! Relaxed fits, casual basics and throw-on tops are mixed together to create a set that's worthy of every daytime occasion, from brunch with friends to a day at the office.



PAGE
10

simple
SHIFT

You'll want this simple New Look 6125 shift in every colour

**NEWLOOK
& Simplicity**
GET STITCHING
YOUR FREE
PATTERNS

PAGE
12

VERSATILE
jacket

Add the finishing touch to a plain tee with New Look 6397

our pattern **PROMISE**

*All of our patterns are available in sizes 8-20**

*Covermounted gifts may vary

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TIE-IT-UP top

Keep it chic with a
tie-sleeve style



PAGE
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TWO-TONE style

Get the layered look
with our floaty top



PAGE
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THROW-ON jacket

Follow our
photo-guide
for this easy
cover up



PAGE
24

PAPERBAG trousers

Make a statement with
classic belted bottoms



Discover the potential of your **2** FREE patterns

NEWLOOK
YOUR FREE PATTERN



potential

This month, your **TWO patterns** give you six new looks to upstyle your wardrobe. Grab **New Look 6397** to create smart casual layers, which also offer short and long sleeve options for swapping through the seasons. Get your flounce on with longer draped sides in pattern A, or **stitch yourself handy pockets** with B or C.



Klasse universal ball point sewing machine needles, **£2.09 for five**, minervacrafts.com



We used Mettler Seralon universal polyester thread in Black Peppercorn and Vanilla, **£1.59 for 100m**, minervacrafts.com

opt for cap SLEEVES

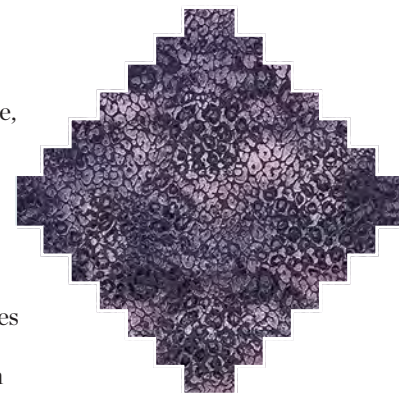
At this time of year it can be difficult to decide what to wear according to the weather. Option D and C are perfect for layering over a long-sleeved top, ensuring you don't overheat while keeping out the chill. You can even jazz up the edge of your cap sleeves with bias binding: simply pin the strip to the armhole edge, right sides facing, matching the open part to the edge of the seam allowance, then stitch in place.



We used Abstract Print in stretch jersey, **£10.99 per metre**, minervacrafts.com

give it a DRAPE

If you look at the reverse of 6397, style A's draped sides are cut square, perpendicular to the side seam of the garment. Stitching this pattern in a slightly heavier fabric such as a type of velvet, would ensure they hang beautifully. This technique is cleverly used for feminine kick flares on the sides of dresses and skirts; think of it as a horizontal extension of fabric where gravity does the hard work for you.



Leopard Velvet in Aubergine, **£11.75 per metre**, myfabrics.co.uk

choose a STITCH

When sewing with stretchy material, it's important to select the right stitch for your fabric. If your machine has a stretch stitch option, then this is your best choice, but if not, try using a zig zag stitch. Regular, straight stitches will only break when the fabric stretches, whereas the zig zag has more scope for extending along with the fabric.

TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR SECOND PATTERN HAS TO OFFER, TURN TO P13

pick your NEEDLE

Your FREE Simplicity pattern can be made up in a variety of lightweight to medium fabrics, as long as it has a good drape. From soft linens to light jerseys and even stretch velvet, your slouchy jacket will be a seasonal staple. Some knit fabrics require a ballpoint needle, but if you're opting for woven fabrics, then universal will do the trick. Machine needles in sizes 60 or 70 will work best for a professional, clean finish, but remember: the smaller the needle, the finer the thread.

choose a THREAD

When you're choosing a thread, bring a swatch of fabric to the haberdashery with you, and always look at it in natural light. If nothing directly matches the colour of your fabric, always go for a darker thread as it will blend into the seams.

flatter your FIGURE

This pattern includes a standard shortening and lengthening guide to ensure that your jacket sits at the right point on your hips. When manipulating pattern pieces, remember to adjust the lengths on all of the corresponding parts, otherwise your pieces will be uneven.

4 smart & simple jackets



why we made Style D

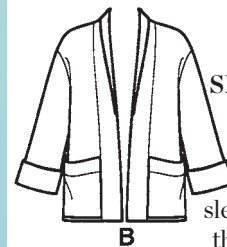
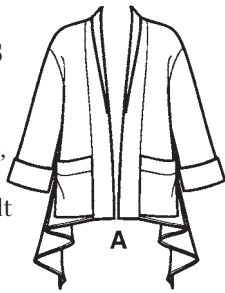
The casual drape and super soft jersey material make this a perfect garment for those wanting to build on their stretch fabric skills.

YOUR
FREE PATTERN

style selector

STYLE A STYLISH SIDES

Ideal for complementing a pear-shaped figure, the feminine side drapes look difficult to make, but are in fact an easy dressmaker's trick.



STYLE B

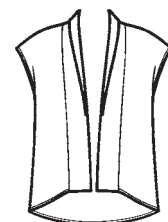
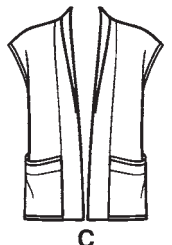
SMART AND SASSY

Take on this basic blazer to practise patch pockets, wide sleeves and a soft collar, then pair your garment with a plain top for a chic, sophisticated look.

STYLE C

TRIM-TASTIC

With shorter sleeves but more opportunity to customise, you can glamorise this version with braided or leather trimmed edges. Try this one out if you love mixing up textures.



STYLE D

SOFTER SILHOUETTE

If you're after a less structured layer, try style D. Its graduated length means it will complement your shape and it requires the least amount of fabric of them all.

the right **SIZE** the perfect fit

WHAT'S YOUR **Simplicity** SIZE?

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

CHASING WATERFALLS

With this knit jacket you can choose a straight, handkerchief or a beautiful waterfall hemline as shown in style A. To get this jacket just right, start by selecting a narrow zig zag stitch and combine this with a ballpoint needle to help glide through the loopy fabric weave. Next, choose a walking or Teflon foot so you can move the two layers of fabric through the foot evenly while stitching. Oh and remember, you only need a single-fold hem as this type of fabric doesn't fray and you don't want to add any extra bulk.

POCKET WISDOM

Patch pockets are a neat way to add a practical and decorative touch to your garment, and they're really easy to make, too. To achieve picture-perfect pockets, simply make sure you press and stitch the hem at the top first; doing this will ensure that the backstitching is hidden, providing you with a clean finish. When sewing two patch pockets, you also want to make sure they're identical; the best way to do this is to align the pocket pieces right sides together and match the topstitching and raw edges before pinning in place.

STITCHING WITH JERSEY

If you're making this up in a jersey fabric, then it's essential that you don't stretch it when you cut it. To avoid this, lay the fabric on a table and place your pattern pieces on top ensuring that the fabric doesn't hang over the side of the table, as this will cause it to stretch out of shape. Sometimes it's best to cut this type of fabric with a rotary cutter and a cutting mat rather than scissors, as you'll achieve a cleaner, more accurate edge.



Make with your **6397** pattern



get *With your* **creative** *free pattern*

Your **New Look 6125 pattern, worth £6.95**, offers up two shift dresses that are quick and easy to make and can be **embellished with your favourite trims** from the haberdashery. Pop on **simple patch pockets**, add a decorative notch to the neckline to give it a more retro feel, or simply make a plain and simple dress and **let your fabric do the talking.**



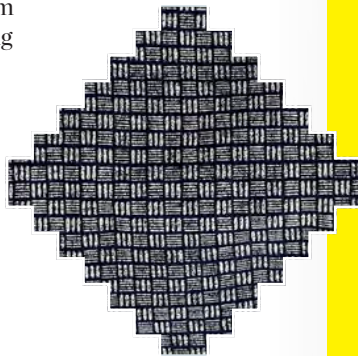
NEWLOOK
YOUR FREE PATTERN



Hemline Invisible Zipper Foot, **£4.39**, minervacrafts.com

add a LINING

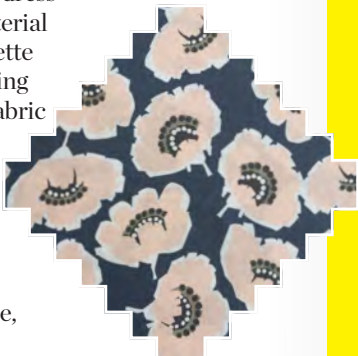
Simple garments can really benefit from adding a lining, especially if you're using a fabric, such as sequins, which can be scratchy on the skin. The lining in this dress also doubles up as a facing, so it's not necessary to finish off all of your seams as most of them are hidden. But remember, when adding the lining, make sure you're accurate with the seam allowance measurements.



Our dressmaker used Geo Lines Rustic Indigo Cotton from Sevenberry, **£16 per metre**, drapersdaughter.com

it's all about the SEQUINS

This pattern offers a variety of fabric options to stitch with, including sequined material which is typically woven quite tightly, giving it little stretch. This shift dress pattern is perfect to try this kind of material out due to its clean lines, classic silhouette and lack of print matching. Before cutting pattern pieces, identify the nap of the fabric so that all the sequins are facing down.



Try a lightweight lawn instead, such as, Lady McElroy's lawn in Dahlia Petal Salmon, **£14.90 per metre**, drapersdaughter.com

shape SMART

The ubiquitous A-line suits both curvy and slender figures. It will create the illusion of curves on a straight frame, while minimising hips and tummies on rounded shapes. If you have a pear figure, it highlights the smallest part of your waist, while the gently flared line will minimise your bottom half, especially if you select darker solid tones and delicate ditsy prints.

feather WEIGHT

Choose a lightweight fabric that will easily pass through the shoulder when the dress is turned through, and match it with a suitably lightweight lining. This should be made a little shorter than the dress itself so there is no danger of it showing when you sit down.

ZIP it up

Invisible zips are available in a variety of weights to suit different fabrics. The lighter the fabric, the lighter-weight zip you should use. You should purchase a zip 2cm longer than you need so you have excess to stitch down inside.



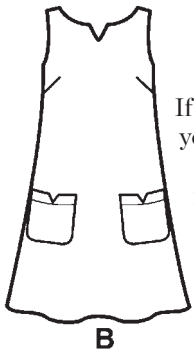
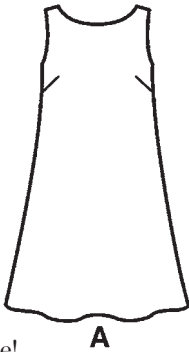
**YOUR
FREE PATTERN**

style selector

STYLE A

OH-SO-SIMPLE

Option A is a true crowd-pleaser. It's only made from six basic pattern pieces and once you've selected your fabric, that's all your big decision-making done!



STYLE B

UP A NOTCH

If you want to challenge yourself just a bit more, style B's angular neckline will flex your interfacing skills, why not choose some beautiful lace for the neckline?

TWO

**quick
+ easy
dresses**



stitch a FASTENING

Our dressmaker Sarah Oecken reveals all you need to know about fixing an invisible zip onto this pretty dress. "Working with the fastening open, start by securing the zip with a standard zipper foot. Now use the invisible zipper foot and start at the top of the zip teeth. As you gently roll open the zip tape, the coil will move open slightly to reveal a divot or trench; the invisible zipper foot will have a small pointed head which should travel down the trench. Once in place, close the bottom of the garment by using a standard zipper foot along the bottom of the zip."

choose your LINING

Don't skimp when choosing a lining fabric – the better the quality, the better the result. It's best to choose a material that's not too heavy. There are so many options to choose from: rayon is a great option as it's breathable, static-free and comes in a wide range of colours; silk dupioni and charmeuse also come in an extensive selection of colours and have a luxurious feel.

NEWLOOK

**YOUR FREE
PATTERN**



Stitch it with **brother**

make it **YOUR** way



why we made Style A

Our designer wanted to show exactly how quick and easy it is to create a dress that suits all figures!



Sizes XS-XL



Sizes 10-22 (US)

Next month's 2 FREE patterns

dream machines

UNDER £400!

£399



INNOV-IS 35

With 70 built-in stitches and seven buttonholes to choose from, you can get sewing quick with this great value model. The one-step buttonhole function also means you can create a standard fastening with one touch. The Innov-is 35 even has a LCD screen with important information on stitch width, length and what type of presser foot is required.

DOES ALL THE HARD WORK!

£899



INNOV-IS 1300

Perfect for the curtain or home upholsterer, this machine has more than 20cm of workspace on the right hand of the presser to give you plenty of room to move your project. As well as 182 built-in stitches, it has five lettering styles to personalise your projects with labels or monograms. Its automatic thread cutter, lock stitch button and adjustable presser foot pressure also mean that you need not worry about stretching or snagging fabrics.

Visit brothersewing.co.uk

AUTUMNAL EVENING

Your two FREE patterns are ideal for the new season. Sweaters and glamorous dresses will be yours!

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Catch Joy by the Seams



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My pleated trousers are all stitched and ready for our family holiday to Majorca.

Lucy Picksley

sew social

We always look forward to receiving your stitchy triumphs – this month your makes have truly excelled themselves!



I loved Sew's Tallulah Elephant patchwork project last year, so I made it up in my favourite Liberty Craft cotton. I've never created such tiny patchwork before, but I'm loving the result – your projects are always inspiring!

Andrea Barton



I stitched this fairy dress for my granddaughter, and she loved it so much that she didn't want to take it off at bed time!

Beverly Mayhew

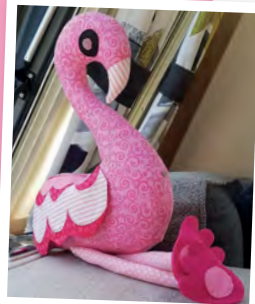
After seeing the lovely chevron quilt in your May issue, I had to stitch my own version! I taught myself how to put the quilt together, so it feels even more rewarding to see it come to life. It's not bad for a first attempt, if I do say so myself!

Sharon Dunwoodie



I present to you Flossie the Flamingo! I bought the fabric last year to make into a Christmas gift for my son's partner, but unfortunately I broke my wrist. After months of no sewing, I finally finished Flossie in May.

Kate Short



p67

CHOSEN BY YOU

Each month on Facebook, we ask you to help us choose a name for our issue's mascot.

"I chose Attenborough as the name for your mascot because of the amazing work of Sir David! He has directed our attention towards the effect that plastic pollution is having on our beautiful sea creatures." Pamela Bradley, Sew reader

Share your favourite name ideas with us for next month's toy at [facebook.com/sewhq](https://www.facebook.com/sewhq)

MADERA

Pamela has won a set of Aerofil sew-all threads from [madeira.co.uk](https://www.madeira.co.uk)



Continued overleaf

Say Hello to Attenborough!

Write in and WIN!



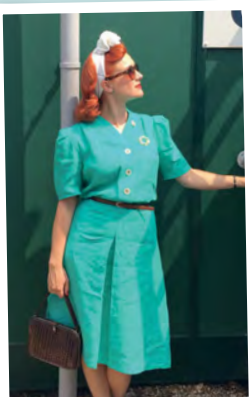
My husband has been asking me to make him some combat shorts for ages, and I finally gave in! There were a few challenging bits, like the fly zip and pleated pockets, but overall it was a success!
Beverly Mayhew

I created this memory pillow with back pockets – it was completely out of my comfort zone, but I was trusted by my friend to make it so I gave it a go. Thankfully, she loves it!
Jacqui Hannan



I made this lovely dress from Sew, just in time for my holiday to sunny Cephalonia!

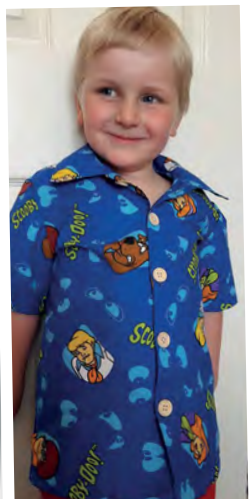
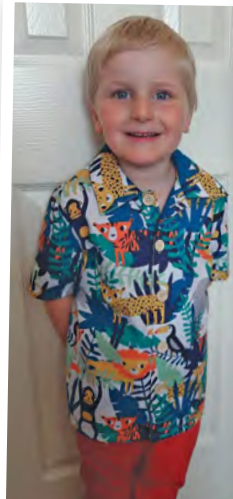
Holly Stevens




 My eldest daughter loves vintage clothes, especially ones inspired by the 1940s, so I made her this beautiful linen dress for her visit to Bletchley Park.
Carol Clancy



These two shirts were made from a Burda pattern – the left one has been created using a bed sheet and I used a Scooby Doo fabric for the garment on the right. I made them both for my cheeky little boy, Albert.
Charmaine West



on the sew blog...



Summer may be drawing to a close, but the weather is still hot, hot, hot. Stay cool with these makes.



For project inspiration and all things sewing-related, here are our top 12 Pinterest boards you have to follow!



We love a bit of denim here at Sew HQ, that's why we've lined up a collection of essential projects for you.

Read all of the latest stitchy news and more at sewmag.co.uk/blog

THIS MONTH OUR STAR LETTER WINNER WILL RECEIVE A BUMPER SELECTION OF FABRICS FROM MINERVA CRAFTS, WORTH £50. MINERVACRAFTS.COM



sew
STAR
letter



FABULOUS IN FLORALS

I've made this particular design several times already, but when I saw this gorgeous polycotton from my favourite local fabric shop, I had to turn it into a skirt! The design includes pockets which are always handy, and it has a lovely, thick waistband. I enjoy styling this piece with bold accessories and a splash of red!

Caroline Madaher



I created this dress for my daughter, Ava – it's the first thing I've ever sewed myself. Although I had a lot of guidance from my talented friends, I am so pleased with how it has turned out!

Paula Edwardes



I made my daughter, Betsie, a sheared dress for a weekend visit to the seaside. I used a guide from *The Great British Sewing Bee* book to help me along.

Charmaine West

stitch & share

Share your latest stichy creations with Sew!

RED, WHITE AND BLUE-TIFUL

I loved making this adorable dress!

Carol Dempsey



PRETTY AS A PICTURE

I stitched summer, now onto winter...

Gina Lock



TELL ME ABOUT IT, STUD

My faux leather jacket with hot pink silk lining.

Debbie Brooker



MAGIC MONOCHROME

Bunting for my friend's little boy.

Amy Davis Mahon



SILKY TOUCH

My clutch bag with a bright pink lining.

Claire Dolby



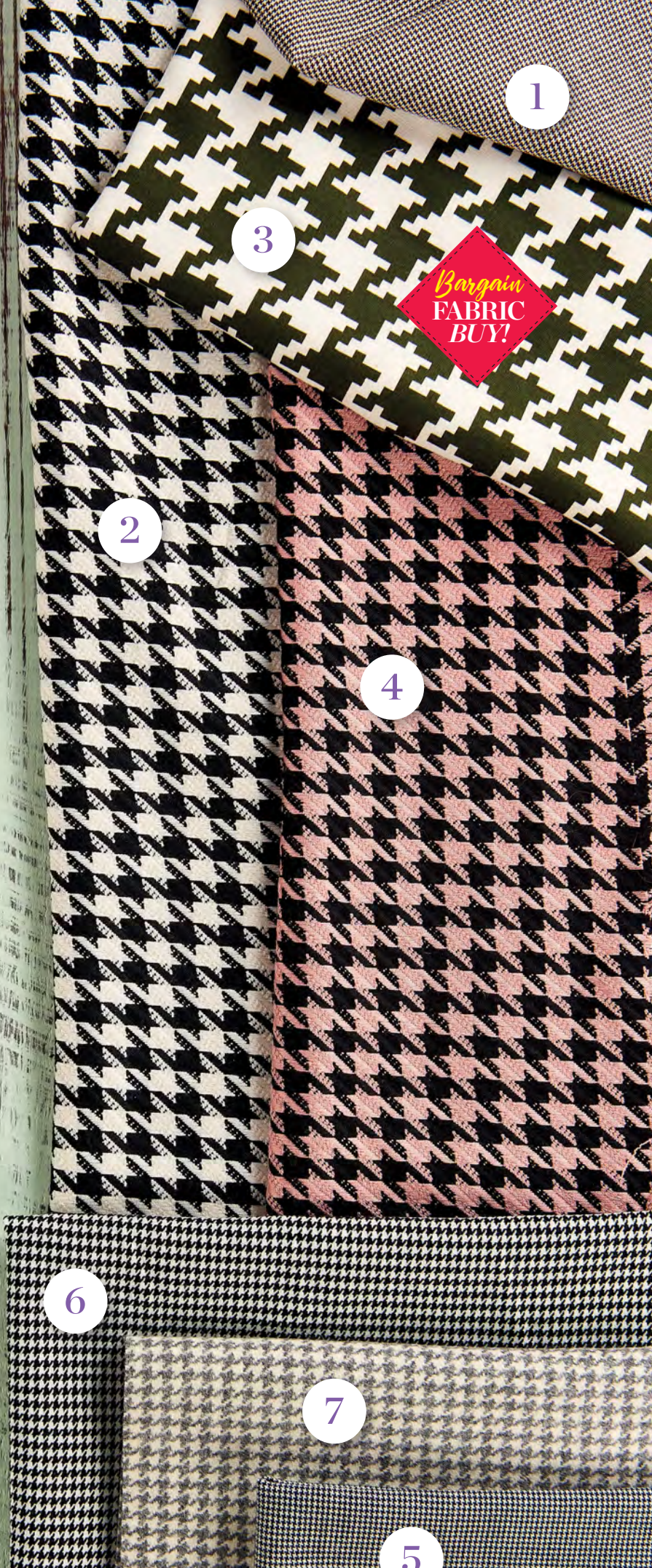
Share your makes via social media @sewhq or email to editorial@sewmag.co.uk

آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی طراحی لباس و مدشناسی

make a statement with DOG TOOTH

The duotone of broken checks that we are familiar with today is thought to have originated in Scotland, and was traditionally made from wool in a simple 2/2 twill weave. In more recent years, the iconic tessellated pattern shot to prominence in the fashion world, being used by designers such as Alexander McQueen. This classic fabric is undoubtedly everyone's autumnal staple as this pretty pattern suits curvy girls and petite women alike. Wool is ideal for the upcoming weather, and monochrome tones are always cool, so be sure to stock up on our hand-picked favourites!

- 1 Wool in brown small dogtooth print, £27.30 per metre, dugdalebros.com
- 2 Polyester, viscose and spandex in white, £12.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com
- 3 Ponte Roma in forest green, £9.95 per metre, girlcharlee.co.uk
- 4 Polyester, viscose and spandex in pink, £12.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com
- 5 Wool in fine navy dogtooth print, £27.30 per metre, dugdalebros.com
- 6 Stretch Gabardine in black and white, £15.60 per metre, dragonflyfabrics.co.uk
- 7 Lambswool in light grey and white, £53 per metre, dugdalebros.com



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Achieve the two-tone trend with our

ELLICE TOP

sew a LAYERED TOP

Get started

- Crepe fabric: pink, 1m; grey, 1m
- Fusible hemming web

Cutting guide

Note: The top is cut in two layers – the outer pink section is 6cm shorter than the grey under layer

- **Front outer piece:** cut two rectangles, 35cm x 70cm; cut one grey rectangle, 9cm x 70cm
- **Front:** Cut one on the fold in each colour
- **Back:** Cut one on the fold in each colour

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout, except on the neckline where 1cm is used.

Sizes

Note: Diagram is drafted in a size 10 (bust 83cm, hip 88cm)

8-10: add 1cm on side seams and 2mm onto the shoulder length.

12-14: add 2.25cm on side seams and 5mm onto the shoulder length

14-16: add 3.5cm on side seams and 8mm onto the shoulder length

16-18: add 4.75cm on side seams and 1.1cm onto the shoulder length

1 Draft a pattern onto paper using the diagram at sewmag.co.uk, then follow the cutting guide. Stitch the grey strip to the centre of two pink rectangles, press the seams open, then fold the piece in half through the grey. Position the pattern on the fold, then cut out the front outer piece. Match, pin and stitch the shoulder seams of the pink front piece to the back, right sides facing. Press the seam allowances open.

2 Pair together, then pin and stitch the shoulder seams of the grey front part to the back, wrong sides facing. Press the seam allowances open. Pair the neckline and armholes together, with pink, right sides facing, and grey, wrong sides facing.

3 Pin and stitch around both armholes and the neckline. Clip around the curved seam allowance, then turn right sides out by threading the back top part through the shoulders. Tease out the armhole and neckline seam allowance, then press flat.

4 Couple together the top pink layer side seams, pin and stitch from the base up to the armholes, then continue stitching half way down the side seams of the grey layer. Cut into the seam allowance at the end of the stitching line.

5 Fold the seam edges in the opposite direction and complete the seam to the base of the top. Ensure the armhole seams are open and matching when sewing, then press the seams open. Match together the back seams, then pin and stitch to the notch to create the back opening. Press the seam open.

6 Stitch from the notch halfway towards the base of the top, then cut into the



seam allowance at the finish of the stitching line. Fold the seam edges in the opposite direction and sew the seam to the base of the garment. Match each edge of the grey back opening to the pink back opening, then stitch in place. Trim the corners at the neckline, then turn the grey layer inside the top.

7 Tease out the seams and press flat. Turn and press up a 3cm hem on the pink and grey layers, and either hand-stitch or use hemming web to position it before machine sewing. Hand-stitch a hook and eye to the top of the back opening.



Core skill: MATCHING AND ATTACHING

When stitching two pieces together at the shoulder seam, match them together at the stitching line, not at the fabric cut edge.

After you've paired the pieces together, there will be a small section of material that sticks out – pattern designers do this intentionally so that when the seam allowance is pressed open, the extra piece will be caught in the next stitch.



sew SHOPPER



CAPTIVATING CREPE

This luscious grey crepe gives garments a textured effect, and the added blend of spandex makes the material ultra-comfortable too.

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abakhan.co.uk

thank you for shopping!



Wake up your
workwear with

AMELIA TROUSERS



As the season transitions from summer to autumn, it's time to start thinking about switching up the items in your wardrobe. This lovely design by Julia Claridge uses a medium-weight fabric, and the project is a great choice for anyone wanting to get to grips with darts, pleats and this season's on-trend style – the paperbag waist. This flattering design is bound to become a wardrobe essential!

sew ON-TREND TROUSERS

Get started

- Fabric, 2.1m (150cm)
- Zip, 20cm
- Hook and bar

Sizes

8-20

Cutting guide

Back: cut two

Front: cut two

Belt loop: cut one

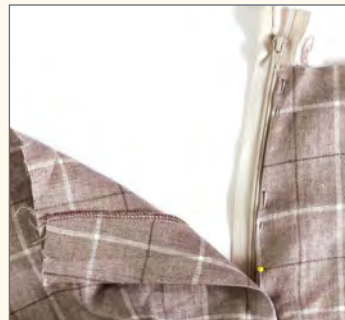
Belt: cut one

Waistband: cut one

1.5cm seam allowance used unless otherwise stated.



1 Download the template at sewmag.co.uk/templates, and follow the cutting guide. Stitch darts into the back panels, then with right sides facing, join the centre back seam and neaten the raw edges. Join the front panels below the zip, following the markings. Press the left and right zip facing and neaten the raw edges.



2 With right side up, place the zip under the right-hand folded edge; this should be set back with the zip 2.5cm above the waistband edge. Using a zipper foot, stitch the zip close to the pressed edge. Tack the folded edge on the left side so it's in line with the seam and covering the zip.



3 Tack the zip tape onto the loose zip facing on the inside. Stitch close to the teeth using a zip foot, catching the zip and facing only. On the outside, tack the zip facing onto the left slightly beyond the teeth, then stitch in place. There should be a curve below the bottom of the zip. Bring the notches together at the front to make pleats.



4 With right sides facing, stitch together the side and inside leg seams, then neaten the raw edges. With right sides together and long edges matched, sew the short edges of the waistband, trim the seam, turn and press. Press the waistband in half along its length, then make inverted pleats in the



5 For the belt carriers, stitch along the long edges with right sides facing, turn, then press. Cut into 5cm x 6cm pieces, then fold the raw edges inwards and press. With right sides facing and matching the pleats together, pin the waistband to the upper edge of the trousers. Stitch, then press the



6 At 1cm above the waistband seam, stitch one carrier at the centre back and four at each side seam and pleat. Make the tie-belt by pressing a narrow, double-turned edge around all sides. Stitch and neaten the raw edges of the leg hems, turn a 2.5cm single-turned hem and stitch. Finish with a hook



Core skill: CREATING PLEATS

Work out where you need to position the pleats, ensuring that they are evenly spaced. Fold and pin them, then press to flatten. Make sure the pleats are close to the folded edge and are 1cm above the waistband seam before sewing across the top to secure.

sew SHOPPER



CHECK IT OUT

This gorgeous mushroom grey fabric is lightweight, breathable and 100% linen. The classic check print is all the rage at the moment, making it perfect for your trendsetting makes.

£12.99 per metre,
dittofabrics.co.uk

thank you for shopping!

Dream MACHINE

IDEAL FOR DRESSMAKERS

The Opal 690Q from Husqvarna Viking has Exclusive Sensor System technology that automatically adjusts its settings when sewing with different fabrics and designs.





TILLY AND THE BUTTONS

SEWING WITH TILLY

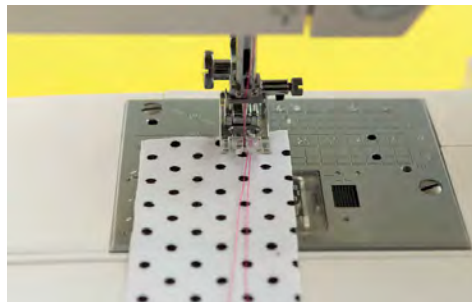
THE ULTIMATE TRICK TO TURN BACK NARROW LOOPS



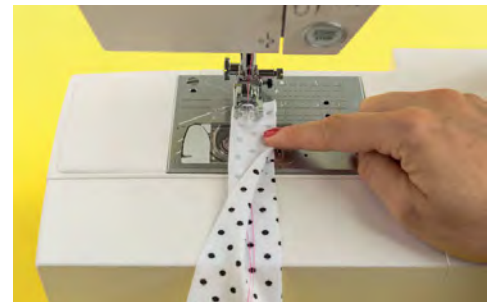
Have you ever sewn a drawstring or button loop and wondered how you're going to turn it right side out? For those of you who aren't keen on operating a bodkin or dedicated loop turner, I have a handy technique for achieving just that – and all you need is the thread from your machine!



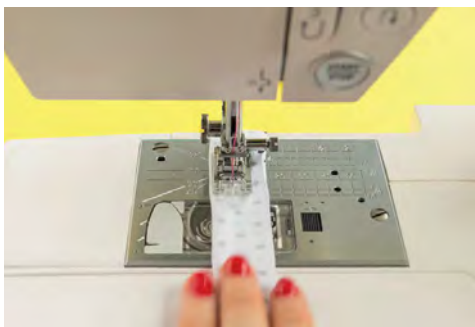
1 Use this nifty technique before you start sewing the fabric strip into a tube. Begin by pulling out the bobbin and spool threads on your machine so that you have about 5cm more thread than your chosen length of fabric.



2 Place the fabric strip flat with the right side up and position the needle close to one short edge and the long right-hand edge, in line with the 15mm seam allowance. Lower the needle to hold the fabric in place.



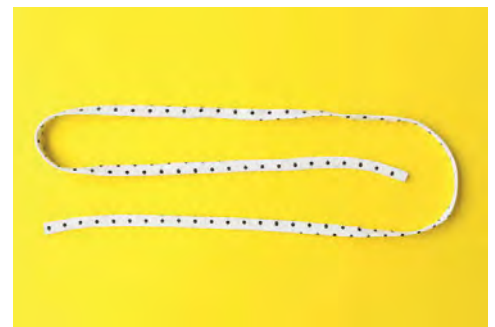
3 Pull both threads out in front of your machine and place on top of the fabric. With right sides together, fold the strip lengthways. Line up the raw edges and sandwich the long threads in between the fabric layers.



4 Lower your presser foot to hold everything in place. Sew the long edges of the strip together, back-tacking at each end. Pull the long threads towards the fold, away from the stitching.



5 Begin sewing further in from the edge of the fabric to prevent the material being chewed up. Trim the seam allowances, then gently pull on the ends of the long threads so the other end of the tube turns inside itself.



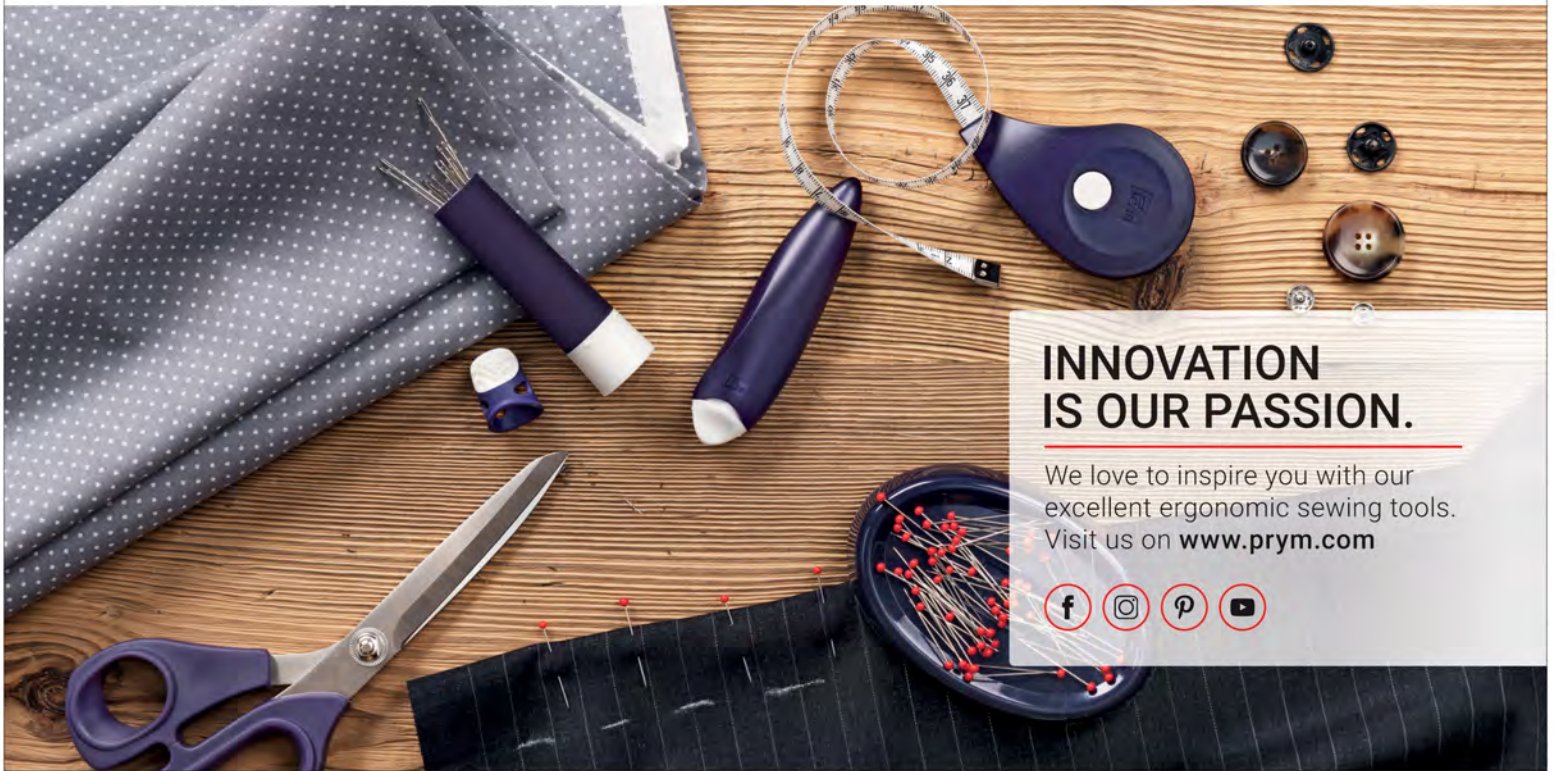
6 Continue to pull the tube through to the right side, holding the fabric in one hand and pulling the threads with the other. And there you have it! An easy trick for turning out a narrow strap, drawstring or button loop.

For patterns, workshops and more from Tilly, pay a visit to tillyandthebuttons.com

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Boost your casual wardrobe by sewing our

TINA TOP



This pretty cropped top by Amanda Walker is perfect all year round and would look great sewn in a lightweight chambray or cotton. The design involves making keyhole openings in the front and back centre seams, plus sewing two-piece sleeves with ties, and binding the neckline for a neat finish.

stitch a BLOUSE

Get started

- Fabric, 1.5m (146cm wide)
- One 1.8cm button
- Bias binding maker, 18mm

Sizes

8-20

Cutting guide

Front: cut one pair

Back: cut one pair

Front sleeve: cut one pair

Back sleeve: cut one pair

Neck binding: cut one 3.6cm x 68cm strip on the bias

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout.

1 Download and print the pattern at sewmag.co.uk/templates. Cut out the pieces according to the cutting guide and transfer any markings. Neaten the centre-front edges of the front and back pieces, then pair up each set right sides together. Match the seams and stitch – for the front pieces, sew 1.5cm down from the neckline, leaving an 11.5cm gap, then continue stitching down to the next notch marked. For the back pieces, stitch from notch to notch, leaving the top unstitched. Press the seams open.

2 Neaten the front and back at the shoulder seams, pin right sides together, stitch at the

shoulders and press the seam open. Fold and press 1cm on either side of the neck binding strip or using a bias binding maker, fold in half, then press again. Open one side of the binding strip, then position it around the neckline, leaving excess binding at each end. Pin, then stitch along the strip's fold line. Fold the strip over to the wrong side of the neckline, sandwiching the raw edge of the neckline inside, pin, then slip stitch in place.

3 Stitch along the excess binding on the left-hand side, then fold this piece back on itself to form a button loop. Neaten the edges of the front and back side seams, stitch right sides together, then press the seams open.

4 Neaten around the base of the top and press up a 7cm hem. Fold the hems back to the right side and match the unstitched parts of the centre-front and back seams together. Stitch each of these, matching the seam allowances with the centre ones. Trim the corners, then turn the hems back inside the garment. Press the splits flat.

5 Pin the hem to secure, then topstitch 1cm from the seam line. At the point where the bottom split starts, pivot on the needle (see Core Skill panel) then stitch along the top of the neaten hem edge. When you reach the centre-back seam, pivot again and stitch up to the back neckline. Repeat on the other side.

6 Pair up a front and back sleeve piece, then neaten the



parts. Fold each base along the lines indicated, matching the dots. Stitch each tie part together around the ends and the small curved areas in the centre of the sleeves. Trim the bulk and clip the curves. Turn the ties right sides out, then press flat.

7 Pin a front and back sleeve right sides together. Stitch as far as the notch, then press the seams open. Neaten the underarm seam, stitch, then press open. Pin the folded hem back up into the sleeve, then topstitch for the bodice from the head of the sleeve and

around the cuff, 4.5cm from the edge. Make the second sleeve in the same way.

8 Sew a row of gathering stitches around the heads of the sleeves from the front to the back notches. Pull the threads up to fit the sleeves into the armholes. Match the seams together, pin, then stitch. Neaten around the armholes. Fold and sew the excess binding on the right-hand side of the back neck to the inside and stitch a button adjacent to the neck binding loop. Knot the sleeve ties to complete.

Core skill: PIVOTING

Pivoting involves changing stitching direction at a corner or another angled point in the stitching line. To pivot, stop with the needle down in the fabric when you arrive at the pivot point, and lift the presser foot. Rotate the fabric to the new stitching position, lower the presser foot and continue stitching.

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SUMMERTIME BLUES

We used this lightweight polycotton chambray in pale blue for our tie sleeve top. **£4.99 per metre**, minervacrafts.com

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Dream MACHINE

GREAT FOR BEGINNERS

The Janome 725s is a modern mechanical machine that's perfect for newbie stitchers. It offers all the essential utility stitches, plus many more, together with



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sewing SOS

Discover everything you need to know about necklines and collars

QI'VE MADE A BOXY TOP, BUT I FANCY SEWING IT AGAIN WITH A DIFFERENT NECKLINE - WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU RECOMMEND AND DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS ON HOW TO GET THE PERFECT FIT?

Jessica Weaver

Kate says

Changing the neckline on something you've made before is an excellent way to create a totally different look, and it only requires some basic pattern-cutting. With a boxy top, I recommend you opt for a V-neck.

Start by tracing the bodice panel to create your new pattern piece, then try on the top you made previously and measure out a V on the centre front. Transfer this measurement onto the centre front pattern piece -

don't forget to account for seam allowances. On one side of the shoulder seam, draw one half of the V down to the marking at the centre front. Fold your bodice pattern piece in half along the centre front to transfer the line onto the other side - this will ensure you have an even V. If there is a facing, you will need to make another one: follow the line of the new neckline shape, making sure the depth is the same as the back facing you already have. Once you have mastered this technique, the world is your oyster!



135a dress, £160, bettybarclay.com

QI ENJOY STITCHING GARMENTS WITH PROMINENT COLLARS, BUT SOMETIMES THEY LOOK A BIT PLAIN... WHAT ARE SOME TECHNIQUES OR ACCESSORIES I CAN USE TO JAZZ THEM UP?

Joan Douglas

Rebecca says

There are so many simple ways to decorate your collars so they look like a design element, rather than an afterthought! One way is to add a pop of colour by using lace or ric rac on the outside bottom seam. You can also lay ric rac or a decorative ribbon flat on top of the collar, using one or two rows along the bottom edge to create a fun focal point.

Embroidery is another way to dress up your collar. Fussy cutting your collar so you can use a contrasting fabric showcasing a cute animal or other design feature works really well, too. You could also use a decorative pin - Sew Hot has great sewing-themed pins available to show off your love of stitching!

Spot The Curls vintage dress, £49.95, joebrowns.co.uk



Bluebells girls collar t-shirt, £16, cathkidston.com

RUCHED SIDE DRESS
£39
JDWILLIAMS.CO.UK



here to
help



KATE UNDERDOWN
The Fold Line co-founder, Kate, has created an online community for stitchers. You can access tips, tricks and projects on the website.
thefoldline.com



REBECCA WRIGHT
Rebecca, co-owner of Sew Hot, has searched far and wide to gather an eclectic assortment of products for her sewing store.
sewhot.co.uk



LISA COMFORT
Since passing on a passion for sewing through her shop, Sew Over It, Lisa has published three books including one bestseller.
sewoverit.co.uk

Q HELP! WRAP DRESSES ARE SO FLATTERING AND FEMININE, BUT I'M STRUGGLING TO ADJUST THE NECKLINE ON THE ONE I'VE RECENTLY STITCHED. ANY TRICKS?

Donna Fletcher

Lisa says

Wrap dresses are the ultimate feminine chic garment and feel amazing to wear, but because the necklines are typically cut on the bias, the area is prone to stretching. This can lead to a wavy neckline that falls open, perhaps a bit too much...

A quick fix for any woven wrap is to attach a press stud to the dress neckline at the bust point. If you sew this on by hand it shouldn't be visible and will keep the dress from being too revealing. If you prefer your dress to wrap higher, add a second press stud further up the neckline.

If you're trying to fix a gaping knit wrap dress, my favourite method is to create a band and ease the dress front onto it. The band will not only hold the dress closer to the body, but will raise the height of the neckline for a more modest look.

Alternatively, if the gaping is caused by the back neckline being too wide, sew a couple of darts into it to raise the front neckline – this helps it to sit flatter against your chest.

sew tip!

AFTER USING IRON-ON TRANSFERS, ALWAYS USE A COLOUR CATCHER SHEET WHEN WASHING YOUR GARMENT TO PREVENT THE COLOURS BLEEDING.

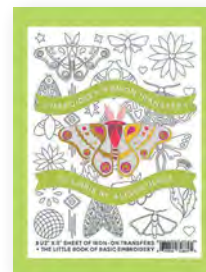
top 4

COLLAR ACCESSORIES

Dressing up your collar is a simple but effective way to bring a garment to life! Finishing a look with embroidery makes any top appear feminine, and enamel pins are quirky additions, too.

Put pin on it

Calico Cat enamel pin, £12



Beautiful butterflies

Ex Libris embroidery iron-on transfers, £8

Stitched with love

Lori Holt Bake Sale ribbon, £9.90



Jumbo-sized

Sew Together ric rac, £1.60 per 0.9m

ALL ACCESSORIES ARE FROM SEW HOT - VISIT SEWHOT.CO.UK TO PURCHASE.

Create Lisa's ultimate wrap dress, £8.50-£14.50, sewoverit.co.uk

Got a stitchey question for us? Email us at editorial@sewmag.co.uk or message us at [facebook.com/sewhq](https://www.facebook.com/sewhq) and we'll do our best to answer it!

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AN ACCURATE FBA IS KEY!

Best-Ever BUST HACKS

The key to a perfect top line? It's easier than you think...

Ladies, it's time to celebrate your curves in all their glory – and that includes your bust! While the average sewing pattern is geared up for B / C cups, that's no reason to hold you back from achieving figure-hugging finery. Simply swot up on our easy tricks...



1 Measure Up

Measuring your bust accurately is the most important step when completing a Full Bust

Adjustment (FBA). Wrap the tape measure around the fullest part of your bust, not too snugly, and take note of your measurement, then measure your high bust by pulling the tape tightly around your chest and under your arms. Subtract your high bust from your full bust and the difference is your cup size: one inch is an A cup, two inches is a B cup and so on.

2 Sew Loves

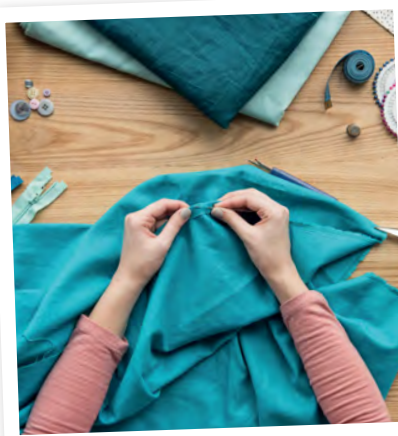
Jenny Rushmore, founder of fashion house, Cashmerette, says: "Most sewing patterns are drafted to B or C cups, so if you're larger than that you're likely to run into problems, such as gaping armholes. Investing in a sewing pattern that's already drafted for full bust sizes will make a world of difference when making well-fitting clothes." Get started with Cashmerette's curvaceous classic, The Appleton Wrap Dress, or dive in at the deep-end with the brand-new Ipswich swimsuit.



Amazing! Cashmerette patterns come in cup sizes C-H. Ipswich Swimsuit, from £10.57, cashmerette.com

3 Dots and Crosses

You have your ruler, scissors and pencil to hand, so what's missing? Dot and cross marking paper, of course! Marked with a series of pre-printed shapes, this is a must-have for the pattern-hacking dressmaker. It will enable you to clearly mark and adjust your designs at a variety of angles before you start to make your alterations.



4 Princess Seams VS. Darts

Although darts provide ease in any garment, our winner for creating the perfect FBA is princess seams. This type of seam intimately follows your shape and form in a continuous line rather than creating folds. The bigger the cuppage, the further off-grain the side seam is in a darted pattern, whereas princess seams allow any garment to drape beautifully as they balance the centre and side front panel grainlines.



5 All in the Undies

Well-fitting underwear is key for comfort and a smooth silhouette. The London College of Fashion runs a range of programmes for constructing lingerie, swimwear and sportswear, as well as courses on bra cutting and grading. Tutor Linda Wing recognises the necessity of tailored lingerie: "It's so important to care your bust with an informed choice of bra, otherwise your connective tissues will stretch. The correct band size will offer most of the support, while the remainder comes from the cups and straps."

FACT: The average bra size in the UK is a 36DD

For information on the London College of Fashion's short courses, visit arts.ac.uk/fashion/courses/short-courses.





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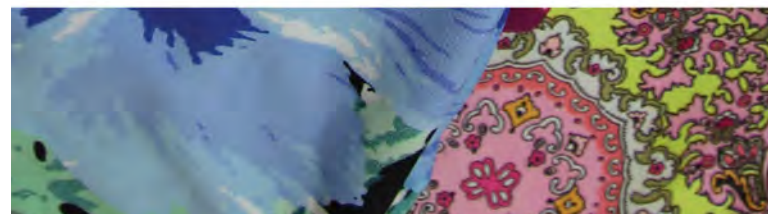
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THE BEST FROM INDEPENDENT DESIGNERS

iNDIE pattern picks



Paper



Seren Style

by Tilly and the Buttons

Difficulty: ✂✂✂

“Dolce & Gabbana’s interpretation of an alluring sundress tends to have a structured bustier and a full skirt. Why not make a breezier version

with Tilly and the Buttons’ newest pattern? The Seren Dress has the D&G signature whimsical glamour. Sew it in a monochromatic gingham, add a delicate lace trim at the straps and wear it with chunky platforms or block heel sandals.”

£12.50, tillyandthebuttons.com



Penny Shirt

by Colette Patterns

Difficulty: ✂✂✂

“This pattern is a perfect reflection of ladylike elegance. It reminds me of the cotton rose print shirt dress from Dolce & Gabbana. Make this garment with a fluid red crepe and add a pretty fabric sash at the waist in a midi length. Wear it with open-toe wedge espadrilles and a round shoulder bag, then prepare to feel like you’re walking in the streets of Capri.”

£10.60 / £13.65, colettepatterns.com



Paper



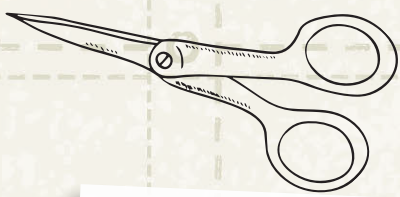
NO.12 Aalborg

by How To Do Fashion

Difficulty: ✂✂✂

“I am obsessed with wrap dresses – they make me feel so powerful and glamorous. As this style has an iconic and classic shape, be playful with your choice of print. Think fun fruit or go super minimalist with a white georgette or linen blend fabric. Wear with slingback pumps and bold earrings.”

£10.60 / £17.70, howtodofashion.com



Florence Frock

by Sew Over It

Difficulty: ✂✂✂

“This pattern has the potential to reflect everything I love the most about Dolce & Gabbana collections – feminine details and a swishy shape. I especially love the full-length version! Sew in a bright floral chiffon (remember floral fabrics don’t necessarily equal twee), and add an urban edge by pairing with Converse.”

£7.50, sewoverit.co.uk

“Dolce & Gabbana don’t believe in the concept of a ‘trend’, instead they’re interested in creating clothes with craftsmanship”



SIZES 8-20



Paper



Notes from Rachel



“There isn’t a fashion house that celebrates glamour and pop culture quite like Dolce & Gabbana, and it’s their bright,

unconventional choices of prints and feminine silhouettes that have inspired me this month. I always feel like the collections transcend the classic Italian-cut with opulence and creativity. As designers, they don’t believe in the concept of a ‘trend’, instead they’re interested in creating clothes with craftsmanship that lasts while still being relevant to today. By making our own interpretations – independent of the season – we are, after all, creating our own style.”

Rachel Pinheiro

houseofpinheiro.com

TRIED & TESTED by Rachel

Adrift Dress

by Papercut

Difficulty: ✂✂✂

“If you’re looking for a breezy frock, then be sure to try this pattern. I don’t normally make very feminine dresses, but I’ve been converted because of how gorgeous and easy to wear this is. I particularly love the beautiful ruffle on the sleeves and how the hemline moves. Leopard print is also an intrinsic part of Dolce & Gabbana’s heritage, and this blue viscose fabric is truly a perfect match for this dress.”

£15.30, papercutpatterns.com



SIZES 8-20



Paper



Follow Rachel on Instagram @houseofpinheiro



Stitch the Look

CHIC CHAMBRAY

Dress, £40,
jdwilliams.
co.uk

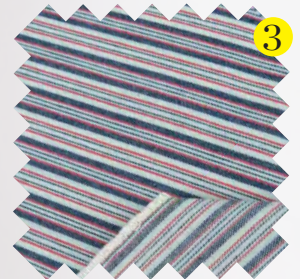
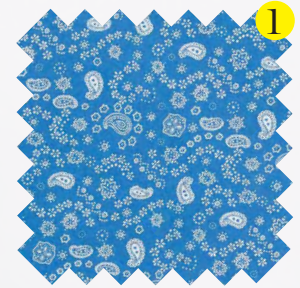
Chambray oozes potential for your upcoming creations! The plain weave material can be found in both light and heavy weights, meaning you can use it for a variety of projects. This fabric gives you the denim look with the versatility of cotton – keeping you cool in warmer temperatures and making a fantastic base garment to layer during chilly evenings.

“Chambray is a classic fabric and incredibly wearable, too. It is great for creating a casual look, or can be made into a more formal outfit with tailoring”

Laura Mellor,
Buying Co-ordinator,
Abakhan Fabrics



WHY NOT TRY?



- 1 Paisley Stretch Denim, £7.99 per metre
- 2 Cats Print, £7.99 per metre
- 3 Italian Stripe, £9.98 per metre
- 4 Paisley Mid Blue, £7.99 per metre
- 5 Butterfly Denim Style, £7.99 per metre

All of the featured fabrics are available from abakhan.co.uk

Spotlight on Orla Kiely

How the ambitious designer from Dublin redefined modern fashion by reinventing the past

Words by Rosalind Moody

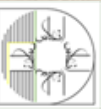
If you look through any current fashion, home or gift catalogue you'll spot an iconic Orla Kiely repeat design in the first few flicks of a page. Crowned the Queen of Print by numerous institutions such as *The Times* and *Guardian*, her career has recently been celebrated in her latest book, *A Life in Pattern*. It's not hard to

speculate that the huge demand for her fashion stems (conveniently 'Stem' is the official name for her main floral repeat print) from her nostalgia for riotous retro styles, which, with her constant updates, can never go out of fashion. *Sew* goes up close and personal to investigate how her influence has transformed wardrobes and interiors worldwide.



Images © Orla Kiely

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In 1982, when Orla graduated from the National College of Arts and Design in Dublin, she moved to New York to work for a wallpaper and fabric designer, then back to London to study at The Royal College of Art and freelance for Esprit and Marks & Spencer. It seems family and function are firmly at the heart of the brand; it was Orla's father that pointed out, at her first exhibition at London Fashion Week in 1994, that everyone was carrying a handbag, with hats (her first design venture) distinctly lacking. It was then that she revolutionised the late nineties – full of monochrome and gloss – with bright, quirky handbags made of printed laminated cloth.

CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

You might recall seeing flashes of Orla's fresh earthy tones on Citroën DS3 cars, London city buses or Brabantia waste bins. Step into a supermarket today and you'll also see yoghurt brand Danone sporting the Stem on its packaging on its exclusive collector's edition pot campaign. "Stem was designed in a moment of inspiration [and] became the seed from which our brand flourished," explains Orla. It's hard to predict which professional or promotional surfaces will be left untouched by her in a few years...



EARLY STARTS

If I am ever asked when we first started our label," Orla Kiely begins in her book, *A Life in Pattern*, "I think back to working at my kitchen table designing handbags with Robert, our baby son, on my lap". It's hard to believe that this domestic setting is how a multi-million pound brand began. In fact, it planted its creative seed far earlier, when Orla was just 12 years old and the proud new owner of a Singer sewing machine.

ROYAL APPROVAL

In the last decade, style icons from Alexa Chung to Keira Knightley have immortalised Orla Kiely's pieces in multiple press pages. In 2012, the Duchess of Cambridge wore brown wool jacquard Kiely piece, Birdie Shirt Dress, to her official engagements in Oxfordshire, which swiftly caused the dress to sell out! We don't know how a fashion designer can receive more endorsement than that!

Catwalk Curation

See Orla's work for yourself in the exhibition, *Orla Kiely: A Life in Pattern*, until 23rd September 2018. Her most famous garments and accessories will be on display alongside childhood ephemera at the Fashion and Textile Museum in London. Adult tickets cost £9.90, or you can catch the highlights for free on selected dates. To book online, go to ftmlondon.org



Orla's Spring Summer 2017 collection at New York Fashion Week © Orla Kiely

A WALK THROUGH TIME...



1963

Born in Dublin, Ireland

1975

Orla begins to make party outfits for herself and her sisters on her new Singer sewing machine

1992

Graduates at the Royal College of Art, London, with a masters in knitted textiles

1997

Establishes The Orla Kiely Partnership with husband Dermott Rowan, showing at London Fashion Week and receiving instant orders from Harrods

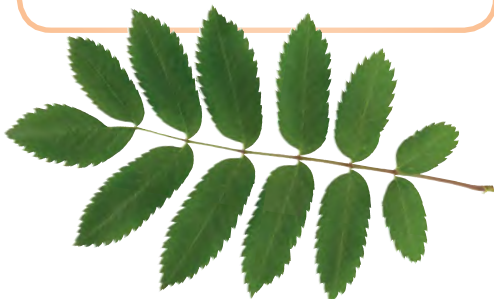




Get the Orla look

Give your stitching a retro kick with our tips and tricks

- Don't avoid earthy toned fabrics, such as browns and mustard yellows, they make a great base for bolder colours.
- Choose a simple focal design, then embrace it with repetition. This rule is perfect for stitching home décor, such as cushions and quilts.
- Always keep a sketchbook and camera to hand. You never know where inspiration will strike – it could be as simple as an autumn leaf.
- When it comes to your curated closet, clash simple shapes, such as the statement sixties shift, with bold and beautiful prints.



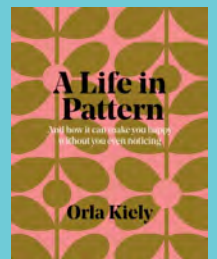
THE ROWAN TREE STEM

We can't help thinking her husband's surname Rowan was the first inspiration for Stem



get the BOOK

A Life in Pattern: and how it can make you happy without you even noticing by Orla Kiely (Conran Octopus) is firmly on our bookshelf this month. £25, octopusbooks.co.uk



2000

Designs the simple leaf motif Stem for the following Spring / Summer collection, which transforms her brand forever

2010

Creates cover for new edition of *Little Women* for Puffin Classics

2011

Stem featured on front cover of *Fifty Bags That Changed The World* by the Design Museum (£12.99, Octopus). In the same year, receives an OBE for Services To Fashion and Business

2016

Orla made a Senior Fellow at Royal College of Art

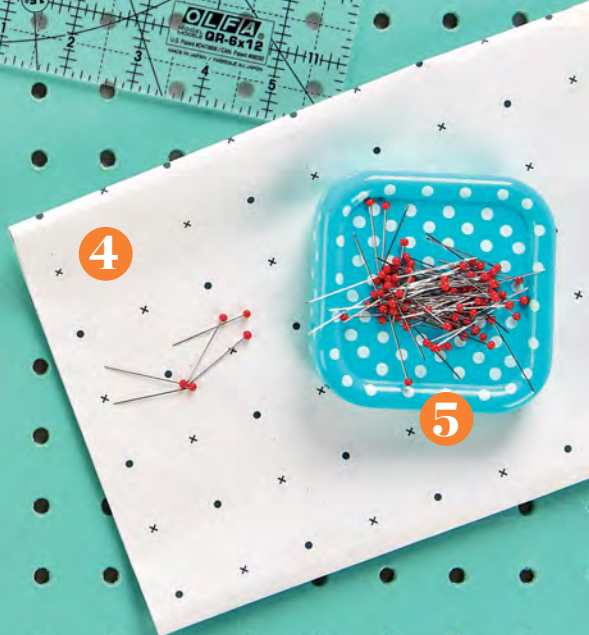
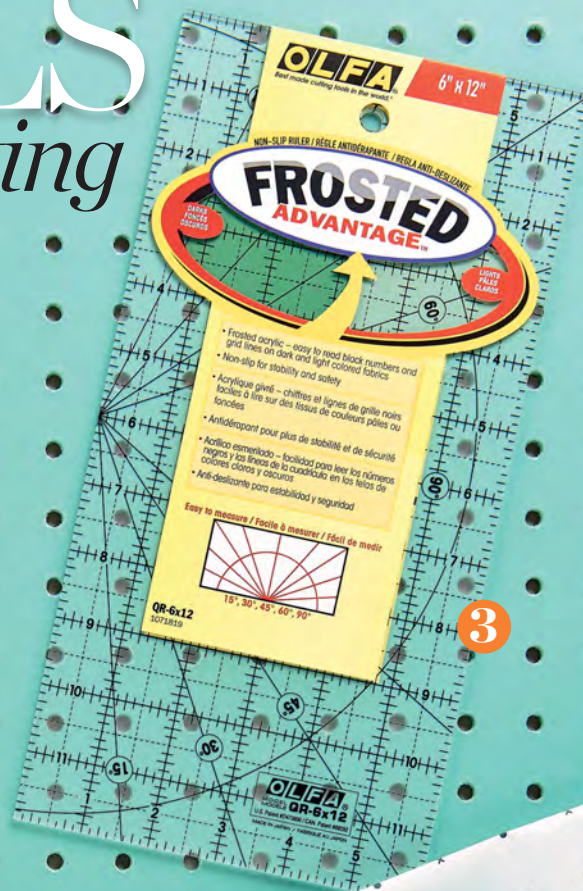
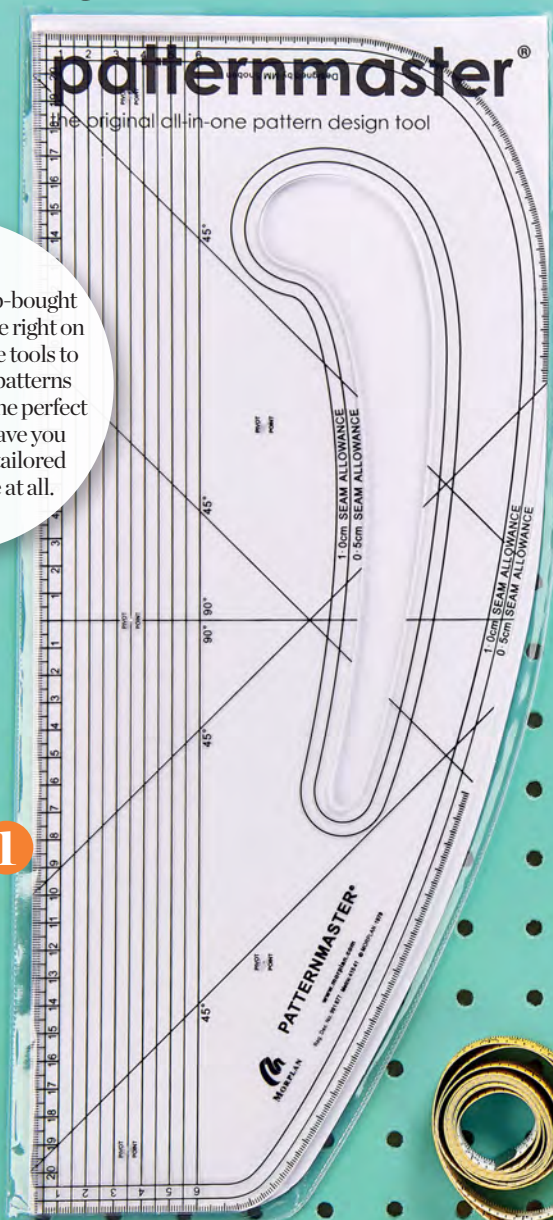
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Lauren Guthrie's TOP TOOLS

for accurate fitting

If you find that shop-bought clothes never sit quite right on you, then using these tools to help adjust sewing patterns to your own body is the perfect solution and will have you wearing gorgeous tailored clothes in no time at all.



1 PATTERN MASTER

As well as having a straight edge that's great for marking out seam allowances and drawing square lines, this tool has the curved edges needed for marking necklines, armholes and gradually merging sizes together for a smooth curve. **From £14.50, morplan.com**

2 MEASURING TAPE

Accurately measuring yourself is really important. I like measuring inches, but having a tape that displays centimetres, too, is really useful when it comes to converting between two units of measurement. **£2.65, guthrie-ghani.co.uk**

3 QUILTING RULER

A quilting ruler for dressmaking I hear you say? Yes! I use mine all the time to help me mark up my sewing patterns to get the accurate parallel and perpendicular lines needed for pattern manipulation. **£16.65, guthrie-ghani.co.uk**

4 PATTERN PAPER

I always trace my patterns onto dot and cross pattern paper before I start as it allows me to make adjustments between sizes and lengths of a pattern, and I've still got the original to go back to if I need it. **30p per half metre, guthrie-ghani.co.uk**

5 MAGNETIC PINS

No matter how simple the fitting challenge, you always need pins on hand to pinch out excess in a garment when trying something on. I usually stand in front of a mirror and do it myself, so having pins on a magnetic tin makes the job much easier! **£8.95, guthrie-ghani.co.uk**

sew masterclass

Quilt a cosy BIBI JACKET

Project
exclusive to
sew!

Early autumn days can bring a nip in the air that requires something chic and cosy: enter the Bibi Jacket! This transitional garment by Fiona Hesford offers a flattering boxy style, with quilted padding for added warmth, cropped sleeves and easy-sew pockets. Simply throw it over jeans and a tee for a classic, casual look.

Get started

- Fabric, 1.9m (110cm wide)
- Lining, 1.9m (110cm wide)
- Wadding
- Button, 20mm

Sizes

8-18

Finished length

Small: 59cm

Medium: 60.5cm

Large: 62cm

Cutting guide

Note: Do not cut out the wadding and lining at this stage

Front: cut two

Sleeves: cut two

Pockets: cut two

Back: cut one on the fold

Rouleau button loop: cut one 35mm x 20cm strip on the bias

Front edge binding: Cut diagonal strips of the main fabric, 4.5cm x 2m

1cm seam allowance used throughout.





Fiona Hesford's top tips for STITCHING & FINISHING

- Visit sewmag.co.uk/ templates to download and print the pattern, then transfer any markings onto your fabric.
- To create the quilted effect, prepare by marking your guidelines with tailor's chalk or masking tape, then use a quilting bar attachment or stick masking tape to carefully guide your lines of stitching.
- Prevent your fabric from puckering by making sure it is pinned well to prevent movement. You may find it easier to lay your fabric on a blanket to stop it sliding.
- Make a rouleau button loop by folding the strip in half lengthways, right sides together, and press. Sew a 1cm seam leaving a long thread at one end. Trim the seam allowance to 5mm, then tie the thread end to a needle and pass in and out the other end. Ease the fabric through the tube, pulling the outer fabric in the opposite direction until it has turned out. Trim the thread ends and press.

stitch a PADDED JACKET

Creating the quilt effect



1 Lay the lining wrong side up on a table and smooth out any creases. Place the wadding flat on top, then layer with the main outer fabric, right side up. Pin around each piece and within each shape. Cut out, leaving a 1cm margin.



2 Insert the walking foot attachment and machine tack around each main fabric piece, 4mm from the edge all the way around. Leave the pins within each shape to hold the body together.



3 Set the stitch length to 2.6, then machine quilt diagonal lines going one way, then the other, 6cm apart or more depending on the fabric. Remove the pins and trim the excess wadding and lining fabric up to the main fabric edge, then press.

Stitching the body and sleeves



4 Pin and sew the front to the back at the shoulders, and finish the raw edges. Press the seam towards the back, then topstitch on the right side. Pin, then sew the front to the back at the side seams below the armhole. Finish the raw edges and press. Pin, then sew the sleeve long edges right sides together. Finish the raw edges and press.



5 Turn the sleeve to the right side, then pin and sew the sleeve head to the armhole while avoiding any puckering. Finish the raw edges and press. Fold a 1cm single fold hem at the sleeve cuff raw edge, then pin, sew and press. Hem the lower edge of the jacket front and back with a single fold 1cm hem and press.



6 With binding wrong side up, fold over and press 5mm all along one long side. Pin the unfolded edge of the binding to the jacket front edge with right sides together, starting at the centre back, leaving at least 2cm over-hang at each far end. Hand-tack, then sew a 1cm seam all around. Press the binding away from the jacket, then fold over to the wrong side.

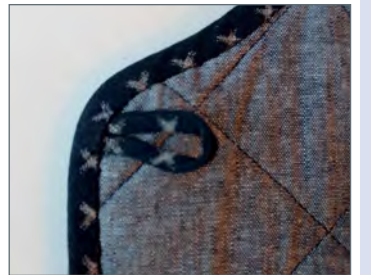
Making the pockets and loop



7 Press and pin so the folded edge aligns with the previous stitching. Slip stitch the binding edge by hand all around, inserting the rouleau loop beforehand. Tuck under the binding far ends, stitch down, then press. Finish three raw edges of the pockets: the sides and lower edge.



8 Make a double fold hem at the top edge of both pocket pieces and press. Fold over and press the three finished edges. Pin to the body, as on the template. Hand-tack, then machine 3mm from the edge around three folded edges and sew in any ends.



9 Press and pin the rouleau to the reverse of the jacket, tucking under the binding edge, and stitch. Fold over and stitch again to fix in place. Once finished, carefully line up and secure a button on the opposite side.



Before creating the quilted effect, mark your first line at a 45-degree angle with tailor's chalk

Core skill: QUILTING

It's best to cut your pattern in a slightly larger size when quilting, then take in the seams if you need to. It may seem a little large to start with, but once the quilting has been added it should fit just right. We recommend making a muslin from your pattern first so you can get an idea of how well it fits.

sew

FREE PATTERN
DOWNLOAD

sewmag.co.uk
/templates

sew
SHOPPER



LUSCIOUS LINEN

We used a printed cross design on a deep indigo from Sevenberry's Sakura Range. It's perfectly paired with Robert Kaufman's Essex yarn dyed linen range. From **£16 per metre**, drapersdaughter.com

thank you for shopping!



Sew in Brighton, Sussex

Visit sewinbrighton.co.uk

NOV

4
SUN

Kimono Robe

A chic kimono is perfect for layering over a plain top and relaxing with a cocktail (or two!) on a summer evening, plus it's really simple to create. In this class, you will select your own fabric, learn how to follow a pattern and construct your own garment. As a bonus, if you sign up at least a month before, then you can snag your workshop for just £62. Prices starting from: **£74**



DEC

2
SUN

Alter your Clothes

Do you avoid wearing certain clothes because the neckline doesn't sit right, the length is wrong, or it's just generally a poor fit? If so, then this workshop is for you! Just bring the clothing you want to alter along to the class and discover how to lengthen or shorten garments, right through to creating darts for a figure-flattering finish.

Price: **£85**



JAN

2019

Tailored Jacket

Whip up a smart, fitted jacket with this stitchy sewing workshop. In this class, you'll discover everything you need to know about how to alter a pattern, welt pockets and create a beautifully-tailored jacket. Plus, you'll even get to take the pattern home with you so you can keep on creating again and again, utilising the skills you've learnt. Price: **£189**



& learn

Stitch



Brush up on your stitchy skills with our workshop selection

Tilly and the Buttons, online courses

Visit tillyandthebuttons.com



Learn to Sew a Skirt

Want to make your own clothes but not sure where to start? Have a go at creating a floaty skirt with this online workshop and use a free

Dominique sewing pattern which you can keep after the class. The course will take you through all the skills you need, including sewing patterns, stitching seams, hemming and adding design details.

Price: **£45**



Make Friends with a Sewing Machine

Are you just beginning your stitching journey, or need to refresh your skills? With this practical online class you'll be taken

through a step-by-step guide on how to navigate your sewing machine, which will set you well on your way to becoming a confident stitcher. Price: **£25**

Sew Over It, London

Visit sewoverit.co.uk

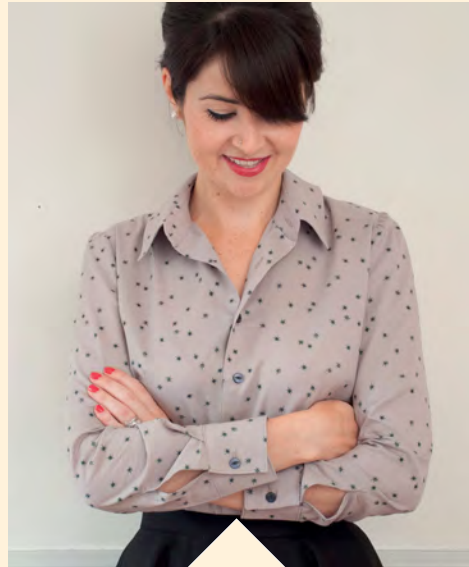
AUG
2
THUR

Intro to trousers: Ultimate Culottes

Culottes are timelessly stylish and once you know how, they're incredibly simple to make, too. With this handy workshop,

you'll have a choice of two style options: a waistband with wide belt loops for a smart look, or a neat facing for a smooth finish. You'll also learn how to sew darts into trickier fabric and insert an invisible zip.

Price: **£99**



Ultimate Shirt

Designed for all skill levels, join Lisa Comfort for this easy-to-access online course on how to make a classic shirt. The beauty of this workshop is that its

instructions are broken down into sections, so you can dip in and out whenever you want. The class will guide you through everything from measuring yourself and choosing fabric, to fixing on interfacing and sewing buttonholes.

Price: **£45**

AUG
28
TUE

Drapey Fabric: Silk Cami and Kimono

Want to learn how to sew with tricky, silky fabrics? This workshop is perfect for you! Using the pattern provided,

you'll learn how to sew French seams, create a rolled hem and so much more to make your silk cami top. The fun doesn't stop here! Next, choose a fabric to create your chic kimono which you can wear over your top for an effortless look, or pair with a little black dress and belt for an evening out.

Price: **£99**



Escape & Create, Cambridge

Visit escapeandcreate.co.uk

SEPT
18
TUE

Sewing with Oilcloth

Keep all your toiletries in one place with this practical boxy bag. We know that sewing with oilcloth can be difficult, but that's where this tutorial comes in handy. Once you've

picked a pattern of your choice, you'll find out how to stitch with this versatile fabric in different ways, using a variety of tools and products.

Price: **£30**



NOV
2
FRI

Little Girl's Dress

Kit out your little one's closet with an easy-peasy dress. In this one-day workshop, you'll use a New Look pattern to create the garment and receive

guidance on how to navigate the pattern, cut the fabric and stitch seams and hems, along with top tips and tricks to create the perfect summer essential for youngsters.

Price: **£55**

SEP
27
THUR

Sewing with Stretch Fabrics

Sewing with knitted fabrics can be tricky business, but that's where this gem of a workshop comes handy.

The four-week course will teach you all the techniques you need when it comes to stitching with stretchy knits, such as jersey and interlock. Before you know it, your wardrobe will be kitted out with a variety of super-comfy clothing, all finished to perfection.

Price: **£80**





Want to give your clothes a professional finish without the need for a lining? I've got just the answer! A facing is a separate piece of fabric cut to the shape of the

neckline, armhole, waistband or placket, created in either the same or a lighter weight material than used for the main garment. The best way to achieve a smart finish is by applying interfacing onto the wrong side of the facing; this will prevent stretching and give structure to your garment. Interfacing is available in light and dark colours, so be sure to match this as closely as possible to the shade of your main fabric. This step-by-step shows you how to add a facing to the neckline of a dress.

Debbie Shore's SHOW & TELL FACINGS



TO START

Fuse interfacing onto the wrong side of facing fabric, then cut out the pattern pieces and transfer the markings according to the instructions.



TIDY EDGES

Sew the facing pieces right sides together, press the seams open and finish the bottom edge with a zig zag or over-edge stitch.



PIN AND STITCH

Sew the shoulder pieces right sides together. Pin and sew the facing to the neckline, right sides together, and trim the seam as instructed.



UNDERSTITCHING

Press the seam allowance towards the facing. Understitch the seam allowance to the facing to ensure that it will lay flat.



FINISHING OFF

To complete the garment, fold the facing over and press. There you have it – a lovely, neat neckline for your dress.



TOP TACKING TIP

You can tack the facings to really secure them, such as on the side seam of a sleeveless dress, around two inches down from the armhole.

For more great tips from Debbie, visit halfyardsewingclub.com

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DISCOVER A BRAND-NEW STITCH WITH

Susie Johns' FLOWER SHIRT



Spanish Knotted Feather Stitch – also known as Crested Chain – creates a thick, braid-like line formed with zig zag twisted chain stitches. It's excellent for borders, and can be worked in a straight line or a curve. To display its versatility, use it to embroider a row of stylised flowers on a plain cotton or linen shirt.

Get started

- Plain cotton or linen shirt
- Erasable fabric marker
- Embroidery hoop
- Perle embroidery cotton, one skein each: plain green, variegated turquoise, variegated violet
- Embroidery needle
- Mother of pearl buttons

Embroider the flower motif

1 Spread out the shirt on a flat surface. Decide where you want the flowers to be, then place a round object on the fabric and draw around it using an erasable pen. Draw concentric circles, 6-10mm within the circle you have drawn.

2 Using a ruler, draw a straight line from the base of each circle to the hem of the shirt. Sketch a line on either side, parallel to the first line, 6-8mm apart. Stretch the fabric in an embroidery hoop, with the area inside to be stitched.

3 Start with the flower heads. Thread a crewel needle with a single strand of variegated perle cotton, and fill in the circles using Spanish Knotted Feather Stitch, as described.

4 Once you have filled in all the flower heads, embroider the stems using green thread. You can also add a few detached fly stitches to create the effect of seeds being blown in the wind. Remove the fabric from the hoop, then sew a button in each flower centre.



There is no template for this project: you just need a couple of objects to draw around, and a ruler for making straight lines

“This is a good way of making a statement with a plain garment. The high street shops are full of shirts like this, just waiting to be customised”

Susie Johns, Sew designer

Spanish Knotted Feather



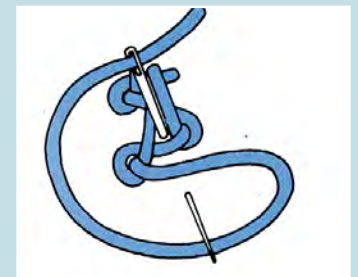
1 Draw three parallel guidelines onto the fabric using an erasable marker. Bring your needle up from the back, a little way down the right-hand line. Push it back through the fabric at the top of this line, angling the needle so that it emerges diagonally on the left-hand line.



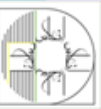
2 Wrap the thread over the top of the needle, then under it. Pull the needle through: the stitch that is formed looks like a twisted chain.



3 Push the needle down through the fabric at the apex of the crossed threads, on its centre line, then diagonally to the right, to emerge a little way down the right-hand line. Once again, wrap the thread over the top of the needle, then under it. Pull the needle through, to form a second crossed chain.



4 The next stitch is formed by working in the opposite direction. Keep repeating these steps until you come to the end of the line, then push the needle through to the back of the fabric to anchor the last stitch.



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Priced £2,999



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- ✓ 138 built-in patterns
- ✓ Colour LCD touch screen
- ✓ Quick-set bobbin
- ✓ Automatic needle threader
- ✓ 11 built-in fonts

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Brother Innov-is 800E, £1,299.

Find this machine at brothersewing.co.uk



“Looking to add an embroidery machine to your existing stitching collection? Look no further than the Innov-is 800E”

OUR
EDITOR'S
PICK!



3034DWT OVERLOCKER

This model features a three- and four-thread overlocker, which is great for sewing with all fabric weights, plus it ensures perfect seams and professionally-finished edges. The 3034DWT Overlocker also has a four-colour threading guide, a bright LED light, a blind stitch foot for finishing and hemming, plus a trim trap to collect all of your scrap fabrics.

Priced £279

SHOP of the MONTH



E.L Grain Sewing Machines

is one of the largest independent sewing machine dealers in the UK. The company supplies Brother sewing and embroidery machines and accessories, plus a range of both new and used industrial machines from various brands. Established in 1930, the business became involved in the Second World War effort, then in 1946 went on to develop the Grain Miniature Sewing Machine which was a huge commercial success. Not only did this machine ensure that the firm were able to continue trading with new peacetime products, but it also enabled the company to keep engineers in employment, redirecting their skills towards future sewing developments.

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LITTLE ONES WILL LOVE

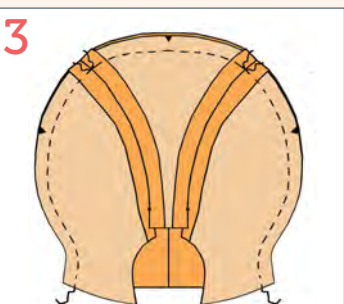
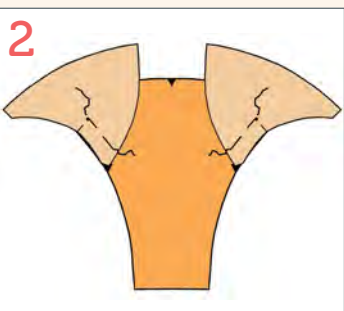
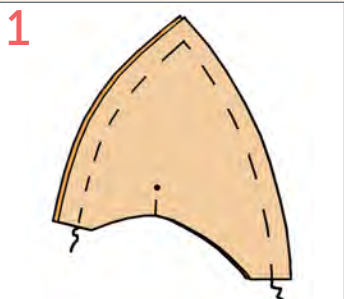
Clementine Cat

This pretty kitty by Sarah Peel is sure to steal a few hearts! Combining snugly felt, dainty Liberty fabric and moveable limbs, Clementine is a true heirloom treasure. Stay tuned for our October issue for part two...

Get started

- Felt: orange, 22cm x 92cm; white, 18cm x 23cm; black
- Fabric, cotton lawn, 25cm square
- Buttons, 15mm
- Toy stuffing
- Covering buttons, 20mm
- Elastic thread, 0.8mm x 50cm
- Waxed cord

Use a 0.5cm seam allowance, unless otherwise stated.



Stitch our Clementine Cat

1 Download the templates at sewmag.co.uk/templates, then cut out. Pin the pattern pieces for the main body onto the felt using the layout as a guide, and cut out. Mark the notches shown on the pattern with a tiny snip, apart from the ear notch which should be as long as the snip on the pattern. Cut along the small lines on the contrast nose, then mark any dots on the head with a tailor's tack. Unpin the pattern pieces from the felt, then cut out a pair of ears and a pair of footpads from the print fabric.

2 Mark the notches shown on the pattern with a tiny snip. With right sides together, match up one print ear piece with one felt ear piece and sew around two edges, leaving the bottom notched edge open (Fig.1). Repeat for the second ear – making sure

they are opposite ways to one another. Trim the seam allowance off at the points, then turn through to the right side. Use a knitting needle to push the shape out and press.

3 Line up the notch in one lower ear edge, with the tailor's tack on the upper front head piece, ensuring the print side is facing upwards. Tack in place and repeat with the other side (Fig.2). Take one side front head and match the tailor's tack to the notch on the ear and upper front, then pin and match down the front seam to the next set of tailor's tacks. Sew from the position of the tailor's tack to the lower tailor's tack using a 1cm seam allowance.

4 Repeat with the other side front head and the opposite side of the upper front head. Press the head seams open. Working one side at a time, open up the long notch in the ear and

match the far end of the ear to the triangle notch in the side of the head. Repeat with other side and tack in place.

Making the head

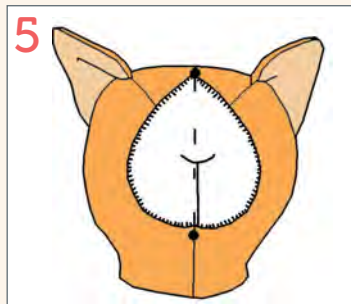
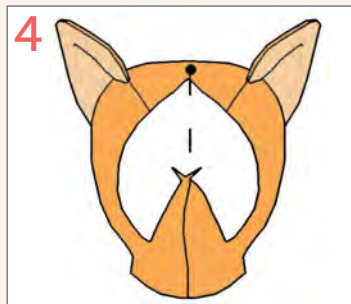
5 With right sides together, make the back dart by folding the back head in half to match the two notches on the neckline, and finger press along to the marked top of the dart. Pin in from the edge of the neck to the point.

6 Attach the back head to the front, with right sides together, then match the lower neck of the back to the front at each side. Match the notches all the way around and sew using a 1cm seam allowance. When you have moved the bulk of the ear to the side, sew across the top of the head until you reach the other centre of ear. Move the bulk of the second ear out of the way and sew down to the other neck edge (Fig.3).



7 Match the two curved edges of the side fronts and sew together from the marked tailor's tack to the bottom edge. To finish the nose, flatten the upper head nose area against the seam of the lower face. Move the seam allowance of the side front seams out of the way and sew between the tailor's tack marks. Push the head through right sides out and stretch the neck. Stuff the head through the neck opening using small pieces of stuffing to build up the shape.

8 Tuck the neck seam allowance up into the head. Take the white nose backing piece and centre the top up over



the upper head. The triangle point of the white piece should line up with the horizontal seam on the front head (Fig.4). Bring the edges of the contrast piece around so they match up with the centre seam on the lower head.

9 Hand sew the nose backing piece onto the main head around the edge using white thread. Stitch the lower edges of the nose piece to one another and down the triangle piece to lay flat against the head. Oversew all around the edge of the contrast piece to attach it to the head (Fig.5). Use the pattern piece as a guideline and position, then sew down the eye backing pieces. Secure buttons on for eyes, checking your pattern piece for positioning.

10 Sew on the small triangle of black felt for a nose (Fig.6). Using the thick cord and a tapestry needle, cut a piece of cord, 15cm long. Thread onto a needle and knot one end. Move the stuffing away from the felt and insert the needle up inside the head and bring out at one of the marked positions for whiskers. Pull through and repeat for the other whiskers.

Sewing the body

11 Take the two body pieces and stitch down the back seam, starting at the top point and sewing 4cm, then fastening off. Leave a 6cm opening and sew until you reach the notch at the base.

12 Take the tummy panel and pin one edge to one of the back pieces and stitch all the way from the point to where the notches meet. Repeat along the remaining tummy seam from the point to the notch. Stuff the body through the opening in the back seam of the body. When you are happy with the body shape, close the back opening. Push the point of the body cone

into the head. Pin to secure position. Using a large needle and double thread, sew the head to the body using a slipstitch.

Stitching the legs

13 Oversew the two leg pieces together along the back seam, starting at the foot and finishing about 7cm past the curve at the top. Starting from the foot, sew the front seam up to just over the foot. Turn the leg so that these seams are to the inside and pin the footpad in place, matching the notches on the footpad with the seams you have just sewn. Ease the footpad in and sew all the way around using a backstitch.

14 Turn the foot back out so that the raw edges of felt are enclosed and stuff the foot firmly. Resume oversewing the front leg seam, stuffing the leg firmly as you go. Stuff the top curve of the leg before you make it too full, push a covered button inside the stuffed leg so that the shank part is facing the felt, and the domed part is resting against some stuffing. The shank should be about 1.5cm down from the highest part of the leg. Use a safety pin on the outside of the felt to secure the shank in place.

15 Continue to stuff until firm and finishing sewing all the way around. Repeat with the other leg, but making sure that the shank is facing inwards to make an opposite leg. Thread a large needle with elastic thread. Cut the end of the elastic at an angle to create a pointed end to go through the needle eye when threading. Pull the end through so they are equal. Pass the threaded needle through the shank of the covered button in one leg.

16 Push the needle through the body at the cross so that it comes out at the same position on the other side. Pass the needle through the shank of the covered button on the other leg, then pass the needle through the body again to the first side. Finally, go through the shank of the first leg again.

Create the arms

17 Match two arm pieces and sew together at the back of the arm. Oversew across the arm top, down the front and down to the hand. Use a deeper stitch to define the thumb, then oversew until you are 4cm away from where you started. Stuff the arm, then close the opening. Repeat to make a second arm.

18 Stitch the arms onto the body so that the top of the arm matches the

level of the neck seam, thumbs facing forward. Position the buttons on the arms following the guide. Use a double thread and the darning to sew the arms onto the body, going through the whole body and passing through the buttons on each side, making sure not to pull too tight, then secure.

19 Lay the white tail tip over the main tail piece. Oversew in place along the jagged edge. Once this is secure, you can cut away the extra contrast coloured felt from underneath. Fold the whole tail in half and oversew the edges – leaving a stuffing gap. Stuff the tail gently, then oversew closed. To attach the tail, sew onto the back of the body with a button, about 6cm up from the seam intersection on the cat's bottom.



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get the BOOK

Find out how to make the rest of Clementine's adorable troupe in *Sewing Luna Lapin's Friends* (F&W Media) by Sarah Peel, **£15.99, amazon.co.uk**



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Stitch and snuggle these adorable pals

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1 ...to the Sew website at sewmag.co.uk for FREE. Find the tab circled at the top.



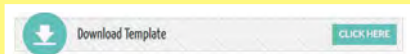
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2 ...by title, according to the project names opposite. Click on the search tab.



DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE

3 ...by pressing the 'click here' button, under the main image.



SAVE THE PATTERN PDF

4 ...by right clicking to save to your computer, then print out (DON'T fit to page!)



You can also locate the templates for this issue and all of our back issues at sewmag.co.uk/templates

'TILING' DIGITAL PATTERNS

Note that most digital patterns need to be 'tiled'. This involves placing the A4 printouts in the correct order to form the pattern, as indicated – so get some sticky tape ready in order to join the sheets!



LIONEL STITCHIE

Little ones will be dancing on the ceiling when they receive this little lion.



NIGEL DRAGON

Show off your stitching prowess with a fire-breathing mascot.



PEPE PUG

Spoil dog lovers with an adorable squish-nosed plushie.



MARVIN MONKEY

This cheeky chimp is just the mascot you've been looking for.

SEW Wish List

The team's top picks for September

Summer, you've been a blast, but we're ready for crunchy leaves, pumpkin-spiced lattes and cooler evenings. September is all about versatile clothing, one-of-a-kind gifts and picks to make your sewing life easier.

Magnified!

This modern LED lamp is designed specifically with stitchers in mind. The adjustable spring arm allows you to position the magnifier anywhere on your sewing desk, and the slim design has two brightness levels, making it ideal for projects where detail is key. £87, daylightcompany.co.uk



So sixties

We can't get enough of Orla Kiely recently, and these cushions are only fuelling our love for her designs! Amara's homeware collection showcases the Irish-born designer's signature prints. Turn to p37 to explore how this iconic stem design came to delight women worldwide! £35, amara.com



Hoopla

Embroidery hoops have gained popularity in recent years. Get involved in the trend with this Rachel & George make - it showcases vibrant colours and circus-style lettering. £29, etsy.com



Hop to it

This book is guaranteed to add a spring in your step. Sarah Peel's original rabbit, Luna Lapin was created in 2013 as a muse for tiny clothing and since then, Sarah has added some cute, furry friends to her collection. £15.99, sewandso.co.uk



TURN TO P53 TO MAKE CLEMENTINE CAT!

Dress to impress

Looking good and feeling comfortable shouldn't be restricted by size, so accentuate your curves and elevate your style with this Montrose Top pattern, available in two gorgeous variations. From £10.64, cashmerette.com



We love

Prym's decorative colour snaps look adorable on children's clothing and are incredibly practical, too; they have an easy fastening and are durable when washed and ironed. Choose from colourful stars, flowers and hearts. £3, guthrie-ghani.co.uk



Wrap it up

Allie Olson's stunning Highland wrap pattern can be dressed up or down depending on your chosen fabric - it's an ideal look for autumn, too! The dress features a faced V-neck, midi and maxi length variations and optional sleeves. From £10.64, indiesew.com

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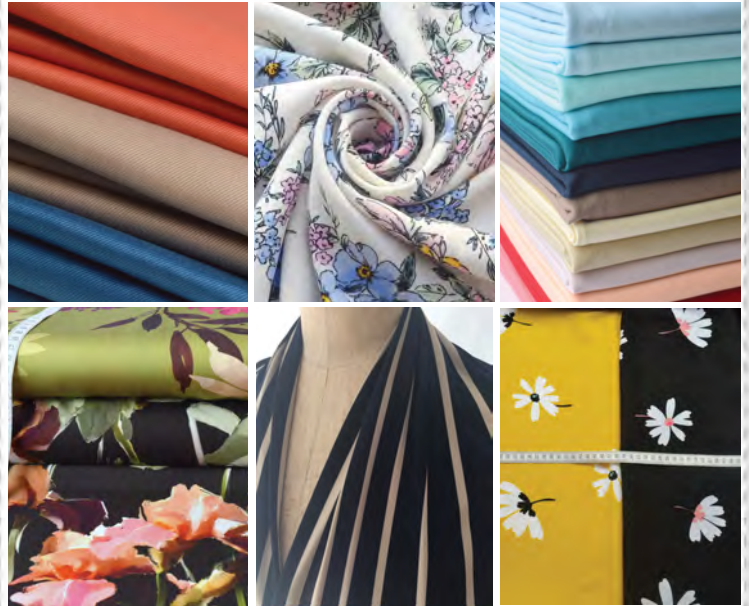


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One of our favourite stitchey events is just around the corner: Sew Saturday! For those that are not already in the know, this fantastic occasion takes place once a year across the UK to help support brick-and-mortar shops. So far, there's a whopping 250+ stores taking part in this exciting campaign!

To celebrate the occasion, we've decided it's high-time to get to know more about some of the faces behind the shops! We stopped by for a cuppa with five store owners from all over the country to give you the low-down on what to expect.

Dragonfly Fabrics

Husband and wife Simon and Dorte Heaton set up Dragonfly Fabrics when they moved to Sussex with their young family – since then, it's been a huge success!

"Alongside our store, we recently opened the Mayfield Art Trail studio in which we display and sell local artist's work and our fabrics. It's been a great way of integrating with the community and encouraging visitors to the area," says Dorte.



A sneak peek of Dragonfly Fabrics shop floor

Dragonfly Fabrics staff and cute pooch Zoe



Simon spills the beans on what to expect on Sew Saturday: "The event is a great way to bring together crafting enthusiasts and to introduce new people to dressmaking. We will be having lots of special offers on the day, as well as giveaways and, of course, free refreshments and some lovely homemade cakes!"

dragonflyfabrics.co.uk



"There's a great little

Sew goes backstage to discover more about the



Founder of Leicestershire Craft Centre, Katharine Wright

Leicestershire Craft Centre

Owner of Leicestershire Craft Centre Katharine Wright tells us all about how she got into crafting: "My mum taught me to knit and sew when I was around seven and I've been making ever since! I made my prom dresses as a teenager and I knitted jumpers for my friends at university – I always have a project on the go!"

Now Katharine has her own craft centre where she has built an inclusive atmosphere for people from all walks of life: "We want everyone to feel welcome, no matter what their ability – if we can pass on a little bit of our passion for arts and crafts, then we've done our job!"

"Sew Saturday is a great event that helps to promote our small businesses, bringing the wonderful world of sewing to a wider audience. On 6th October, we'll be running some free stitching sessions and there will be goodie bags, too!"



Katharine teaching in her stitchey workshop

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Sewilicious Fabrics

Nottingham-based store Sewilicious Fabrics was founded by self-taught stitcher Jenny Tindall in 2014. The business has grown bigger and better every year since!

Jenny told us what she has planned for Sew Saturday: "I moved the shop to a new location in January, but didn't get a chance to have an open day, so we're celebrating this on the 6th October with a three-tier unicorn cake and unicorn balloons!"

"We also have Tracy Symonds from *The Great British Sewing Bee* coming along to do a book signing and a few 'make and take' sessions, workshops on stitching unicorn keyrings and a 15% off sale, as well as having other local crafters visit the shop to do their own workshops."

sewiliciousfabrics.co.uk



Founder of Sewilicious Fabrics Jenny Tindall



Take a look inside the shop...



Save the date for the big event



Meet Gilly, owner of GillyBee Designs in Norwich

GillyBee Designs

Gilly began crafting with her nana when she was five years old and grew up in a house filled with homemade creations: "I feel incredibly lucky to have been taught so many crafts by such an incredible woman. My dad is especially proud of me and I know my nana would have been, too."

"I've found the best job in the world; my love of sewing and the enjoyment I get from passing my knowledge onto others knows no bounds!"

Sew asked Gilly how she will be getting involved with Sew Saturday: "We'll be running free workshops - this year the theme is 'Bags Galore'. I shall be designing some special patterns for the event and we'll be offering workshops on how to create a unicorn toy, alongside providing tea, cake and a free raffle!"

gillybee.co.uk

shop I know...

faces behind Sew Saturday!



Sewing expert Lorna Knight



Lorna's students enjoying a stitchy workshop

Lorna Knight Sewing Academy

Four years ago, Lorna set up her crafting shop in a converted barn house in Staffordshire which specialises in sewing classes and stitching products. A year after opening, Lorna's husband joined her in the business:

"The company grew much quicker than I expected, so I needed his help; now my husband is in charge of haberdashery, fabrics and repairs for sewing machines - working together has been a great success for us."

Sew Saturday is an exciting event for Lorna and her husband: "We love taking part in Sew Saturday! Our studio is filled with people of all ages and my regular students often come to help or make lovely cakes to serve on the day."

"At this year's event, we will give our visitors the chance to stitch a unicorn and take advantage of some special promotions, as well as a free prize draw!"

lornaknight.com



Unleash your creativity in Gilly's workshops

Find even more Sew Saturday news and stories online at sewmag.co.uk

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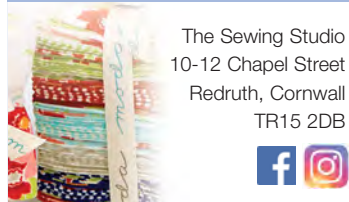
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Designer Edyta Sitar has created a brand-new collection of gorgeous fabrics, featuring soft blues, subtle creams and metallic gold tones – we're sure you'll be itching to add them to your stitchy stash! Sew designer Corinne Bradd has been busy creating four fabulous makes with these pretty prints, including dandelion décor, a beautiful wall hanging, an upcycled patchwork quilt and this month's mascot – Attenborough the Turtle!

Get started

- Fabric: Makower UK Something Blue; plain cotton: yellow, blue, white
- Embroidery thread: dark blue, variegated yellow
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- I-Deco gold foil and hot melt adhesive sheet
- DK yarn, cream
- Denim jeans
- Canvas fabric: cream, yellow
- Fabric fuser, Vlieseline Bondaweb
- Circle die, 10cm

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Create fabric art

1 To make the background, cut light coloured fabric, 12cm square, in line with the weave, and fray out 5mm along all sides. Cut several smaller pieces from different fabrics, fray the edges, and arrange on the background. Lightly stick in place with a dry glue stick when you're happy with the layout.

2 Cut cotton quilt wadding, 11.5cm square, and pin the patchwork over this. Use a pale coordinating sewing thread to stitch parallel lines running 8mm apart on the fabrics to hold all of the layers together.

3 Use a sharp quilting pencil to sketch a few stem and seed head guidelines. Use two strands of a dark coordinating embroidery thread to sew the stems in backstitch. Sew longer stitches to make a dandelion clock, taking care not to pull the thread too tightly. Use shorter stab stitches to create the seeds at the end of the stems.



"These picture-perfect fabric squares can be used for more than just photo frames – try adding them to a greeting card or making them into a quilt!"

Corinne Bradd,
sew designer



For more projects from Corinne, visit [youtube.com/user/TheCraftsChannel](https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCraftsChannel)

Stitch a wall-hanging

1 Cut a selection of fabric into 6.5cm squares, making at least six of each pattern. With right sides together, pair some of the dark colours with light shades, then draw a diagonal line across the back. Stitch 5mm either side of the line before cutting along and opening out to make half square triangles.

2 Repeat to create more half square triangles, leaving some squares whole. Arrange in rows of six, then cut the whole squares down to 6cm and stitch the rows together with a 5mm seam allowance. Sew the rows together to make a panel, matching up the vertical seams accurately. Press the patchwork and pin to wadding, then topstitch along the pattern lines with a coordinating thread, trim the edges and bind with plain cotton.

3 Cut several 3.5cm squares from a hot melt adhesive sheet, then cut in half to make triangles and iron onto the centre of the darker triangular panels on the hanging. Leave the adhesive to cool before peeling away the

backing paper, then cut several 4cm squares of gold I-Deco foil in half to make triangles. Iron over the adhesive for at least 20 seconds, then let the foil cool before peeling away the plastic carrier sheet, leaving the foil on the adhesive.

4 Make a crocheted fringe for the bottom of the wall hanging from cream yarn. Work a chain that is the width of the panel when stretched, then turn and work two rows of double crochet into the chain and fasten off. Wrap the yarn loosely around 15cm wide card. Cut the wrapped yarn along the bottom edge to 30cm, then fold a length of yarn in half and use a crochet hook to pull the loop through a stitch in the crocheted band. Catch the ends of the yarn in the hook and slip the loop over them to make a larkshead knot.

5 Tie two lengths of yarn to each stitch in the band. Lay the hanging flat and comb the fringe with your fingers. Trim the bottom of the fringe with very sharp scissors or a rotary cutter into a straight line or a point. Fix the top of the hanging into a wooden trouser hanger to suspend it.



Make a moon quilt

1 Cut the legs off a pair of jeans, then snip along the wide fell seam to flatten the fabric. Use a quilter's ruler and rotary cutter to make several 16cm squares. Save the leftover pieces to make 8.5cm x 16cm rectangles, then cut more from canvas-weight cream and yellow fabric. Lay out the pieces to make a seven by seven grid, distributing the coloured canvas pieces throughout the design and pairing each of them with a half square of denim. Flip over some of the denim to the wrong side. Sew the half squares together with a 5mm seam allowance and press.

2 Cut several 11cm squares of cotton fabric, then attach 11cm squares of Bondaweb to the back of each one. Cut both layers into 10cm circles – you can use a die-cutting machine for speed. Cut some of these circles in half and lay onto the half square sections of the layout. Arrange the remaining circles until you're happy with the design, then peel off the

backing paper and fuse each appliqué piece onto the fabric.

3 Use a yellow variegated thread to stitch the appliqué to the backing fabric with a short, narrow, zig zag stitch, and pull the thread ends to the back to be neatly tied. Sew the patchwork pieces together in pairs, with a 5mm seam allowance, stitch them together into blocks, matching up the centre seams. Continue joining pieces in this way to complete the quilt top, then press.

4 Pin the quilt top to wadding and backing fabric, then topstitch along the seam lines with blue thread. Cut several 3cm wide strips of yellow cotton and join end to end. Trim the edges and bind with the strip, stitching it to the back of the work – mitring the corners as you do so. Fold the strip over the edges, then fold in 5mm on the raw edge and topstitch to the front.

“Invest in a die-cutting machine, that's suitable for cutting fabric, and circle templates for an even speedier make”

Corinne Bradd, **sew** designer

Thanks to Pamela Bradley for helping us name our mascot! We hope you enjoy your prize – a set of Madeira threads! Help us with suggestions for next month's toy at [facebook.com/sewhq](https://www.facebook.com/sewhq)

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Attenborough the turtle

1 Cut 13 paper hexagons, 10cm wide. Cut three of the hexagons in half from edge to edge to make a five-sided shape. Pin the paper templates to the back of cotton fabric and trim, leaving 1cm all around the edge. Fold the edges of the fabric over the paper and tack.

2 Arrange four hexagons in a line, add three more to each side and fit the half pieces in the gaps to make a turtle shell shape. Join the pieces right sides together with small oversew stitches and press before removing the tacking and templates.

3 Cut a turtle body piece from blue cotton, then back it with wadding and zig zag stitch around the outline to secure. Pin the patchwork to the body and sew with a large running stitch, using two strands of yellow thread.

4 Cut two pairs of front and back flippers from contrasting fabric. Pin right sides together onto wadding and sew around the edges, leaving the ends open. Trim the wadding close to

the seam, then turn right sides out and press. Tack the flippers to the edges of the patchwork body panel, matching raw edges so they lay over the body.


5 Cut two more body pieces, one stopping 7cm from the bottom and the other 15cm from the bottom. Hem the short stopped edges, then layer and pin right sides together on the patchwork body to make an envelope back. Stitch around the edges of the turtle ensuring the ends of the limbs are well secured, then turn right sides out and remove all of the tacking stitches.

6 Pinch the fabric at the top of the head on either side of the centre, then tack the fold, making sure they're symmetrical. Stitch a small navy button over each fold to make eyes and lightly stuff the front of the head with fibre filling, leaving enough room for the neck and funnel of a hot water bottle. Alternatively, add cushion stuffing made from two body shapes cut from scrap cotton fabric and stuffed with fibre filling.

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Lucy Jobber, Sew editor

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Confessions of a sewing addict

Corinne chats about all things upcycling and reflects on how easy it is being green!

“The recent upsurge of the ‘zero waste’ mentality really appeals to me, but this motto should also apply to your precious time...”

You all know me by now... I'm that middle-aged woman whose parents grew up during the war, and had a granny that hoarded tinned peaches and knitted squares to make into blankets for children in Africa.

I'm proud to be a product of my upbringing, so the recent upsurge of the 'zero waste' mentality really appeals to me. Let's face it, being completely waste-free is tricky to achieve – even with a conscious effort, you're bound to throw stuff out just because there's not enough time or reason to reuse it. I also believe that a no waste policy should be applied to your precious time...

I love making pretty, patterned fabric food wraps, but I also have a stack of plastic takeaway boxes that I can pack my snacks into as well. However, they do just sit in the kitchen drawer along with multiple ice-cream tubs that prevent me from even opening it! Despite this, I don't throw any away.

One improvement I've made is using fabric bowl covers instead of cling film: I've created a couple from oilcloth and some from double-layered cotton, mainly because food rarely hangs around in the fridge long enough to dry out. I've found that the easiest method is to sew two circles, right sides together, and turn out through a gap, then topstitch 1cm in from the edge and thread the channel with narrow elastic before slip stitching the hole – and there you have it! These makes can be thrown in the wash with your tea towels and will last a lifetime!

UPCYCLED TEA TOWELS

While we're on the topic of tea towels, I have an embarrassing stack of incredibly disreputable ones in the cupboard under the sink. You know the ones that you use to mop up unmentionable spills, wipe out the kitchen bin and dry your paintbrushes on? Yes, those. They're also the ones that I'm too lazy to find in an emergency,



Corinne shares her nifty upcycling techniques

so the pile grows with every 'good' towel I've subsequently ruined. I think even the local charities would reject my multi-stained selection – whatever will I do with them? Well, I've found a solution! Stack up three or four tea towels, topstitch a scrappy cotton quilt panel over the top, then trim the edges and bind to make an innovative bath mat or dish-draining mat. With these makes, no one sees the underside, everything can be machine-washed and you don't have to shop-buy them.

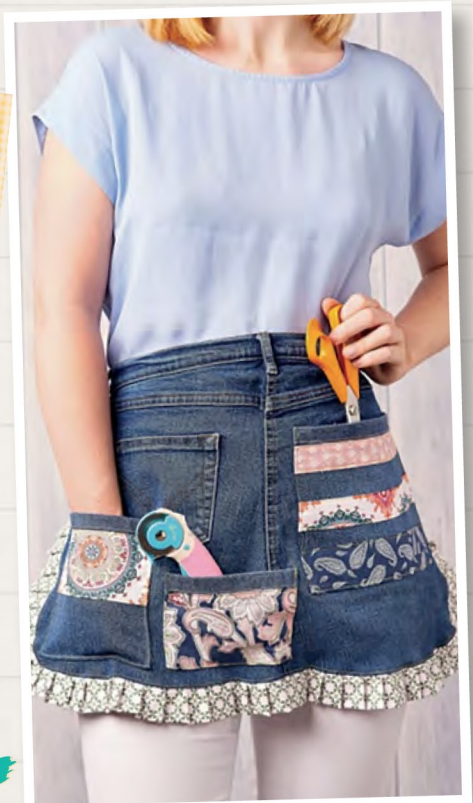
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your essential guide to **BAGS**

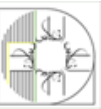


Sew yourself a collection of beautiful bags with September's project showcase! Bags of all shapes and sizes are essential for carrying around all of our bits 'n' bobs: we have wipeable pouches for make-up, canvas totes for weekend shopping sprees and, of course, larger-than-life holdalls for our fabric stash! We simply couldn't do without them, so why not stitch a colourful accessory to brighten up your outfit? Turn over to make a start on our handy bowling style!

Share your makes with us on social media @sewHQ



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Get started

- Canvas, 1m
- Plain cotton, 1m
- Craft wadding, 2oz
- Fusible interfacing, 2oz
- Zip, 35cm

Sew a bowling bag

1 Download the template from sewmag.co.uk/templates.

Add a 1cm seam allowance, and cut two pairs from the canvas, wadding and lining. Pin the panels, then sandwich the wadding between the outside fabric and lining.

2 Draw a vertical line down the centre of each stack, and topstitch with pale thread. Set a quilting bar to 2cm, then sew parallel lines either side of the centre to secure the layers. Zig zag stitch the edges, and trim the excess. Create two pairs of canvas and lining for the gusset, 6cm x 36cm, and fuse interfacing to the canvas reverse.

3 Sandwich one edge of the zip between the outer material and lining, right sides together, and sew in place. Turn out and topstitch 5mm from the seam. Repeat on the other side. Cut two canvas shapes, 4cm x 8cm, for the zip tabs, and fold in half, right sides together.

4 Sew down both sides, then turn out and topstitch. Tack the raw edge of the tabs to the zip ends. Make two pairs of canvas and lining, 11cm x 25cm, and fuse interfacing to the canvas. Sandwich each end of the zip gusset and tabs, right sides together, and sew. Turn out, topstitch, pin and zig zag stitch the side panel edges together.

5 Cut fabric, 7cm x 12cm, for the decorative strap, and fold in half lengthways, right

sides together, before sewing the long edge. Turn out, flatten and tack the strap across one side panel, then 3cm down from zip end. Fold the side and zip gusset piece in half, find the centre and pin. Repeat with the quilted panels.

6 Pin, tack and stitch the pieces, right sides together. Unzip the bag once completed. Cut rectangles from canvas and lining, 12cm x 37cm, for the base, and iron interfacing to the canvas. Pin, wrong sides together, and zig zag stitch the edges. Pin and sew the base to the bag, right sides together.

7 Take two canvas strips for handles, 6cm x 50cm, fold in half lengthways, and sew the long side. Turn out, and feed rope through each tube to create handles. Topstitch the ends to the bag. Glue 6cm leatherette discs to the ends, then attach a decorative circle with extra strong thread.

Top Tip

There are many different types of interfacing and stabilisers available, meaning you can achieve different looks with the same pattern. Sew Hot recommends you try different types to find out what works for you!



Designer: Corinne Bradd

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Designer: Corinne Bradd



Get started

- Laminated fabric

Cutting guide

Large pouch: 16cm x 26cm;
22cm x 26cm; 22cm zip
Medium pouch: 14cm x 22cm;
20cm x 22cm; 18cm zip
Small pouch: 12cm x 18cm;
18cm x 18cm; 16cm zip

Create a make-up pouch

1 Download the template from sewmag.co.uk/templates.
Cut rectangles from the

Trim two squares from the leftover. Close the zip and lay the squares face down on each end. Stitch the outermost ends to the zip, avoiding the metal closures, then fold the squares back to make end tabs.

2 Trim excess zip tape and lightly glue the fold to secure the tabs. Lay the smaller piece of lining face up on a work surface. Place the zip along the top edge, and position matching laminate on top, face down. Pin, then stitch the layers together, 5mm from the zip teeth.

3 Unfold the fabric and match up, wrong sides together to reveal the zip

4 Topstitch the seam 8mm from the teeth. Repeat for the other zip edge, using the two larger pieces of fabric. Join the bottom edges of the fabric, wrong sides together, and flatten the top of the bag so the zip sits 3cm down from the fold – trim the edges, if necessary. Pin and zig zag stitch side edges and bag base.

5 Open the zip and turn the bag inside out, carefully poking out the corners. Restitch the sides and base, 5mm in from the original seam to create a French seam. Turn the bag right sides out and push out the corners.

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ZIP UP!

This double-slide handbag zipper is available in a multitude of colours and sizes. We love this zesty tangerine shade! **£7.95, sewhot.co.uk**

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Get started

- Cotton fabric, three prints
- Zip, 55cm
- Crochet lace strip
- Iron-on interfacing

Make a portable bag

1 Download the template from sewmag.co.uk/templates. Line two pieces of contrasting fabric, 10cm x 55cm, with interfacing. Place one piece face down along the zip edge and stitch down, 5mm from the teeth, using a zipper

foot. Fold the fabric, right sides facing, and topstitch to hold flat. Repeat for the opposite fabric.

2 Cut two panels of a different contrasting fabric, 19cm x 55cm, and line with interfacing. Place one piece face down over the zip gusset and sew across the short edge. Fold out and topstitch, then repeat for the other piece on the opposite end of the zip – do not stitch through the fastener metal parts.

3 Take two sections of the fabric, 6cm x 55cm, line with interfacing, then fold in half lengthways, right sides together. Sew down the long sides, 5mm from the edge, and turn the resulting tubes right sides out. Press, topstitch, then tack the end

of the tubes to the outer sides of the zip gusset to create handles.

4 Cut another contrasting fabric, 16cm x 55cm, and purple fabric, 41cm x 55cm. Attach the two right sides together with a 5mm seam allowance to make a 46cm x 55cm panel, then press flat before lining with interfacing. Lay a length of wide crochet lace along the seam and topstitch. Make the back panel in the same way.

5 Pin the front and back panels to the long edges of the zip gusset, right sides together, sandwiching the ends of the handles between the two pieces of fabric. Sew together and fold right sides out. Topstitch to strengthen the join.

6 Pin the sides of the bag to the front and back panels, right sides together, and stitch. Undo the zip slightly. Cut the first contrasting fabric you used, 19cm x 55cm, line with interfacing and sew the long edges to the base of the front and back panels. Stitch the short edges to the sides base, and turn the finished bag out through zip opening.

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FOR YOUR STASH

Wonder clips are useful for many things: they're fabulous alternatives for pins and are great for working with heavy fabrics.

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Designer: Corinne Bradd



Get started

- Cotton fabric, four designs
- Cotton lining, 5mm
- Felt wadding, 5mm
- Zip, 50cm

Stitch a laptop bag

1 Download the template from sewmag.co.uk/templates. Make 9cm squares, three from each cotton print, lay them out in two grids of four by six. Sew the squares together in pairs, right sides together, using a 5mm seam allowance. Press the seams to the darker side, then join the pairs in blocks of four. Stitch together to make two panels, 33cm x 49cm, then press.

2 Lay right sides up on wadding and topstitch the seams, then trim. Cut two strips of cotton print, 5cm x 45cm. Fold in 5mm along each long edge, press. Finger-press the strips in half lengthways so the folds meet. Pin two strips of wadding, 3.5cm x 45cm, inside the folding strips to make handles. Topstitch both sides of the handles, 2mm from the edges.

3 Fold under 5mm at each end and pin to the patchwork panels. Topstitch through all fabric layers. Prepare two 7cm squares of scrap leather, and cut in half diagonally to make triangles. Lightly glue the triangles over the ends of the handles to hold them in place, topstitch around all three sides.

4 Crease the handles down towards the panel bottom edge, pin in place. Cut two lining panels, 33cm x 49cm, then place over each patchwork, right sides together. Slip a zip, face down, between the top edges of one set of panels. Line up the raw sides with the zip top edge, and stitch along the edges close to the teeth using a zipper foot.

5 Turn out and slip in the second set of panels, zip face down. Line up and sew, then turn out so the zip sits in the centre of the case, keeping the teeth closed. Bring the two case outers together and pin, lining up the patchwork seams accurately. Sew around three sides using a 5mm seam allowance, starting from the opening end of the zip.

6 Undo the zip before completing this seam. Pinch the bottom corners flat and sew, 3cm from the points, to make box corners. Pin the two linings together and sew in the same way, leaving a 10cm gap along the bottom edge. Squeeze and stitch box corners as before. Turn the case out through the gap so the zip raw ends remain inside the bag and lining. Fold in the raw edges of the lining gap and topstitch closed, then push the lining inside the case.



Designer: Corinne Bradd

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Get started

- Cotton prints, two, 11cm x 116cm
- Elastic, 1cm wide
- Coordinating thread

Make a tropical headband

1 Before you start, iron the fabrics flat, then lay right sides together. Stitch along both long edges and turn right sides out to make a wide tube. Press the seams accurately. Turn in 1cm at each end of the tube and pin two lengths of flat white elastic, 7.5cm, inside the folded

ends by 1cm at each side to make a continuous band.

2 Topstitch around the entire band, 3mm from the edges to neaten and secure the elastic pieces. Hold the band at the elastic end, to fold it in half. Twist the band halfway along by 360°, then bring the folded end under on itself to cover the elastic end. This will create a linked loop effect at the front of the headband.

TOP TIP!

Gently hand-wash this accessory to keep it looking fresh as the day you made it

Get started

- Patterned fabric, Dashwood, Cotton Candy
- Dried wheat or rice
- Dried lavender

Stitch a lavender heat wrap

1 Cut five 11cm squares of patterned fabric and sew right sides together to make a strip. Trim 11cm x 51cm of backing fabric and sew to the strip, right sides together along both short edges and one long. Stitch the remaining long side, leaving 4cm gaps in the centre of each square section.

2 Turn the fabric out through one of the gaps and press. Pin and topstitch the fabrics together on the square seam lines to make separate sections. Half fill each section with your choice of grain using a funnel, then add in some dried lavender. Fold the raw edges of the gaps in and slip stitch closed.

Get started

- Cotton fabric, Art Gallery Fabrics, Heart Melodies
- Embroidery thread

Create easy drawstring bags

1 Cut cotton fabric, 10cm x 25cm, and fold in 1cm on both long edges. Turn in 5mm, then 2cm on both short edges to hem and topstitch two parallel lines to make a channel. Fold the fabric in half right sides together and stitch down the sides, starting the seam as close to the folded ends of the channels as possible. Turn the bag right side out and press.

2 Thread a blunt needle with embroidery thread and pass through the channels, tying the ends into a knot. Pass another length of thread through the channels from the other side to create a second knot. The two knots can then be pulled to gather the top of the bag evenly.

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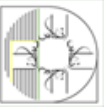


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This is my latest fabric range, Kimono, which is out this month



© Photographed by Rachel Whiting.



Seeing something come alive under my sewing machine needle is what drives my day



There's still plenty of sewing, crafting and yarn festivals to keep me going



I may not have much time to stop for tea, but I couldn't resist making this courgette cake!

At home with... **STUART HILLARD**

It's time to soak up the September sun, and bring your sewing al fresco

Here in the Northern hemisphere, September is the start of autumn: a time of gathering and harvests, laying down stocks for the winter and preparing for the leaner, colder months. Much as I love the whole 'hunkering down' aspect of cooler days and darker nights – and believe me, no-one loves a roaring fire and the scratch of tweed more than me – I'm also a great proponent of the song *It's Five o'Clock Somewhere*. This year I'm going to try and hang on to my 'summer self' for as long as possible and remember that, in Australia, they are doing the same thing! Last winter was so cold and seemingly endless, and in spite of my pessimistic predictions, this summer has been gloriously hot (mostly) and I'm determined to hang in there for as long as possible. Quilts will be taken outside and wrapped around knees to fend off evening chills, fire pits will burn and cardigans will be thrown around shoulders. I'm going to live in my garden until my husband Charlie comes home with a Christmas tree... or thereabouts!

WRITING FEVER

This year has gone by in a bit of a blur if I'm honest, I've been very focused on finishing my third book – it's filled with quilts so I know you're going to love it! Once the writing was done and dusted, I could concentrate on the really fun

stuff: making the sample quilts for photography. Don't get me wrong, I love the writing process and enjoy the technical side of the tutorials, but of course, the greatest pleasure is actually in sewing. I'm an 'up with the larks' kind of person and definitely peak sometime around 3pm, so I tend to cram as much in as early as I can. Lunch is unheard of, tea breaks are rare and the really weird thing is I don't give these moments of sustenance a second thought. I'm totally focused on my creative endeavours and seeing something come alive in my hands or under the needle of my sewing machine is what drives my day.

“Writing a book, like life, is about compromises and accepting that you can't have it all, but I think we've got pretty close!”

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Creating a book is a big task and there is a team of people who make it a thing of beauty, however I am reluctant to let anyone else sew the projects... After all, that's the best bit! I met up with my creative team in the summer holidays and had a few days artfully arranging quilts that my photographer Rachel then shot. It sounds easy, but you need to get the lighting just

right to show off the colours and fabrics, but then the quilting disappears; if you light it to show off the quilting, everything else goes to pot! We tried to get as many lifestyle shots as possible, as I want to inspire people to make the quilts and that's all about showing them being used and decorating a home. Writing a book, like life, is about compromises and accepting that you can't have it all, but I think we've got pretty close!

STITCH STYLE

September is also prime craft show season, and whilst The Festival of Quilts is past, there are still plenty more wonderful sewing, crafting and yarn festivals to keep me going. As I fill my pantry with chutneys and jams, I'll also be making sure my stash of fabrics, yarns and notions gets re-stocked. Just because the book is done, don't think I'll be idling this month away. My latest fabric range, Kimono, is out this month and we've not only done a beautiful range of cotton prints for quilts, crafts and home décor, we've also included a range of prints on jersey for dressmaking! My sewing machine is having a rest whilst I busy myself working with my overlocker to produce some special and inspiring garments.

Stuart x

You can check in with Stuart on createandcraft.com, channels Virgin 748, Freeview 23, Freesat 813 and Sky 683, or visit [@stuarthillardsews](https://www.instagram.com/stuarthillardsews) on Instagram

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Woven craft labels from Easy2Name will add a professional finish to all of your handmade items. With a large selection of background and lettering colours, motifs and font styles, these 23mm labels can be personalised to suit your style. Available at easy2name.com

We have six sets of 60 to give away. To enter, tick LABELS



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We have ten patterns to give away. To enter, tick TILLY



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PAMPER YOURSELF

It can be hard to tear yourself away from the sewing machine for a day, but by enjoying unlimited access to state-of-the-art Ragdale Hall Spa facilities – it's a bit easier! Bask in 50-minutes of indulgent treatments and a luxurious, three-course dining experience. Available at ragdalehall.co.uk

We have two spa day packages to give away for one winner and a friend. To enter, tick SPA



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ADORABLE KEYRINGS

Create three felt woodland creatures with Buttonbag's brand-new keyring kit. The pack contains all the sewing equipment you'll need, meaning you can get started right away! These furry friends are too cute not to give as a gift, but make sure you keep one for yourself, too! Available at buttonbag.co.uk

We have 15 kits to give away. To enter, tick KEYRING



FOR YOUR FABRIC STASH

Unleash your creativity with a fabric hamper from one of Sew's favourite stores! Minerva Crafts is known for its enormous range of high-quality materials, stocking everything from chambray and chiffon, to jersey and silk. Available at minervacrafts.com

We have five hampers to give away. To enter, tick MINERVA

Use code **SEPT18** for 25% off Minerva Crafts scuba fabric!



Minerva 25% off terms & conditions: Live until 23rd August, can't be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Just tick the boxes!

To enter our giveaways via post, tick the box that corresponds with the prizes you want to win and send your entry in by **06.09.18**. Mark your envelope: **Sew September Giveaways, PO Box 443, Ipswich,**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> EMBROIDERY | <input type="checkbox"/> AMNE | <input type="checkbox"/> MINERVA |
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What made you buy this month's Sew?

- FREE Simplicity pattern I Subscribe Other

(please specify).....

What are your favourite projects this issue?

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who does what...

Editor, Lucy Jobber
lucy.jobber@aceville.co.uk
01206 505420

Deputy Editor, Sophie Demetriades
sophie.demetriades@aceville.co.uk

Contributor
Rosalind Moody

Publishing Director, Helen Tudor

Group Editor, Lynn Martin

Advertisement Sales
Hannah Suttlting
hannah.suttlting@aceville.co.uk
01206 505495

Anna Spillsbury
anna.spillsbury@aceville.co.uk
01206 505932

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

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

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

Art Director, Phil Dunham

Designers
Gemma Eales, Cat Morton, Fiona Palmer

Ad Production, Angela Scrivener

Photography
CliQQ Photography, cliqq.co.uk

Models
Alex E, Nathalie Q, MOT, Chloe H, Abbie L,
Gingersnap, Ianthe, Colette, Rachel, Nevs

Fashion stylist, Boo Hill
Hair and Make up, Dottie Monaghan

Accounts, Denise Bubb
01206 505958

Subscription Enquiries/Back Issues
0330 333 0042

Website Enquiries
webmaster@sewmag.co.uk

Newstrade Sales
Marketforce 0203 148 3300

Marketing Manager, Andrea Turner

Subscriptions Executive
Jo Gould
sew@servicehelpline.co.uk

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Toy safety: please note that toys with small parts are not suitable for children under three years of age. If making a toy for a very young child omit any buttons and embroider the details instead. Babies should be supervised when playing with toys.

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your SEWING GUIDE

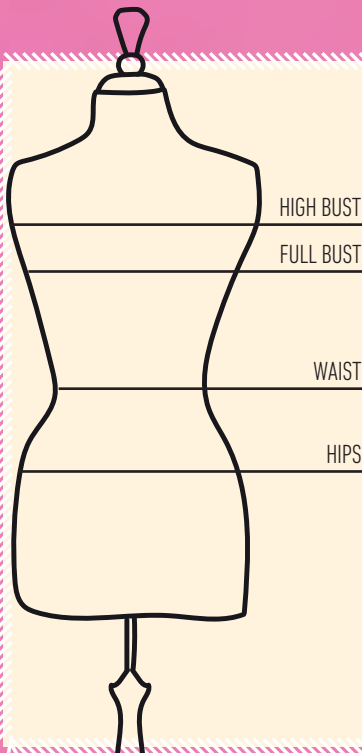
Get to grips with the dressmaking basics!

THE PERFECT FIT

The key to successful fitting is taking accurate body measurements to ensure you get the right size for you. Pattern sizes aren't the same as high street clothing sizes, so don't be tempted to skip this stage. Once you've taken your measurements, compare them to those on the pattern envelope. You can then make any alterations that are necessary.

Cut out the tissue paper according to the size closest to the measurements you have selected, choosing the best fit (for dresses, blouses and jackets) in the bust and shoulder, as this area is harder to adjust. If your waist or hip measurements are out of proportion according to the standard pattern size, then simply graduate in or out to reach the relevant waist or hip lines to your size.

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



TAKING YOUR MEASUREMENTS

Measure while wearing the usual underwear you will be wearing and hold the tape measure comfortably snug, but avoid pulling tight.

HEIGHT Standing against a flat wall without wearing shoes, measure from the floor to the top of your head.

HIGH BUST Measure directly under the arms, straight across the back and above the bust.

FULL BUST Take the tape measure around the fullest part of your bust and straight across the back.

WAIST Tie a length of narrow elastic around the waist and let it settle naturally at your waistline, then measure over it. Keep the elastic handy for future garments.

HIPS Measure around the body at the fullest part. This is usually 18-23cm below the waist.



Find this cute
A-line skirt
pattern FREE at
sewmag.co.uk

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wear with EASE

'Ease' is the amount required in a garment so you can move readily. Consider the fit you want – are you looking for a loose or close-fitting garment?



"Our fabulous 100% cotton fabrics are perfect for making a skirt. Use an 80/12 needle when sewing and finish the edges with an overlock stitch."

CAROLINE BOARDWELL REID, CROFT MILL

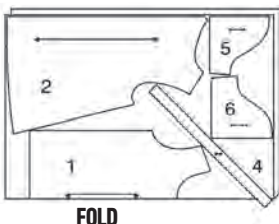
PREPARE YOUR PATTERN

Your pattern pieces can easily become crumpled when stored in the envelope, so it's a good idea to give them a press before starting. This can be done as individual pieces or as one big sheet before cutting out. Use a cool setting on your iron, being careful not to burn the paper. Pressing the pattern will help ensure your fabric pieces are accurately cut.

CONSIDER YOUR FABRIC

Before you begin to cut out pattern pieces, it's a good idea to wash your fabric first. This means that you will know how the material reacts and also reduces the chance of shrinkage in your completed garment. Once the fabric has been washed, press it with an iron using a suitable heat setting. After, lay out your fabric on a large surface, ready to begin pinning and cutting.

SELVEDGES



FOLD

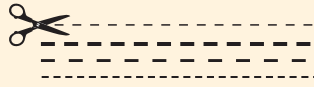
PLACING YOUR PIECES

With the paper pattern pieces facing up, place them onto the fabric. Some pieces will need to be placed on the fold of the fabric (where it's folded in half, giving you a mirrored piece), which will be indicated on the individual pattern pieces themselves. Most patterns offer stitchers a layout guide for the placement, according to the width of your fabric. This helps you get the most from your fabric, and avoids wastage. Tissue paper patterns allow the motifs of the fabric to show through, which helps with pattern matching so you can adjust if necessary.

Pattern pieces that are not indicated to be placed on the fold need to be placed on the material with the grainline arrow running parallel to the selvedge. Measure the distance from one end of the arrow to the selvedge, repeat for the other side of the arrow, and move the pattern piece slightly until both measurements are the same. Once you're happy with the placement of your pattern pieces, carefully pin to secure.

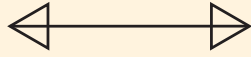
READING A PATTERN

The basic markings you will find on commercial dressmaking patterns are important to familiarise yourself with. These marks indicate various techniques or steps and are best transferred onto your fabric pieces once you've cut them.



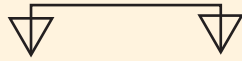
MULTIPLE SIZE CUTTING LINES

These lines indicate dress sizes. Highlighting yours can help with cutting.



GRAINLINE

Align this mark with the grain of the fabric i.e. parallel to the warp (see below).



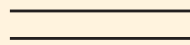
FOLD LINE

This mark indicates that the pattern piece should be positioned along the fold of the fabric, creating a larger 'mirrored' piece.



BUST/HIP INDICATORS

Located at the bust and hip points on the pattern – make any necessary adjustments if yours don't fall there.



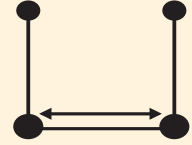
LENGTHEN/SHORTEN HERE

This is an opportunity to customise the pattern to your preferences.



MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS

These come in a range of sizes and are used as points of reference on a pattern to indicate where pieces should be placed.



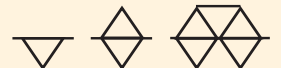
TUCKS AND GATHERS

Bring these lines together before stitching.



BUTTON / BUTTONHOLE PLACEMENTS

These indicate where buttonholes should be made on a garment.



NOTCHES

Match two pieces of fabric together at these points.



"To make neat patch pockets, start by cutting out two rectangles of fabric that are larger than the desired size of your finished pocket, then place them right sides together. Make a template according to the size you want your finished pocket to be by drawing it out with a chalk pencil on the wrong side of your double layer. Machine-stitch along the drawn line, leaving a gap in a straight side. Trim the seams before turning the pocket out through the gap."

MAY MARTIN, SEWING PERSONALITY

UNDERSTAND YOUR FABRIC

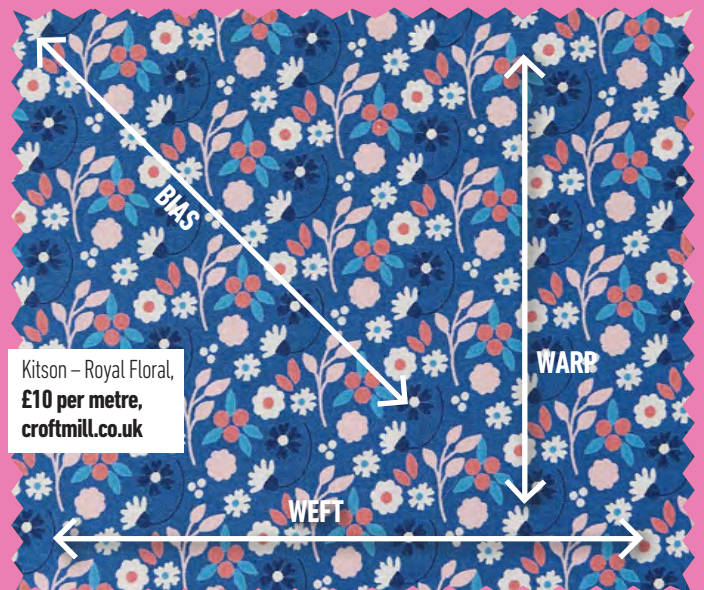
Getting to grips with your fabric is a fundamental part of sewing. Before you start, familiarise yourself with:

WARP These are the yarns that run the length of the fabric. They are stronger than weft yarns and less likely to stretch.

WEFT These run over and under the warp threads across the fabric from selvedge to selvedge.

BIAS The bias grain runs 45° to the warp and weft of the fabric. Cutting garments on the bias creates a finished piece that will follow the contours of the body.

SELVEDGE The non-fraying, woven edges that run parallel to the warp grain is the selvedge.





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the BOOKS we're loving...

After a fun day of sewing, sit back and relax with our favourite reads

Sewing Made Simple

by Tessa Eveleigh

If you're starting out on your sewing journey, this fantastic book boasts practical advice and clever tricks to help you achieve professional results. The carefully labelled illustrations are a godsend for visual learners and handy pages, such as 'Fabric Choices', consider the weight and suitability of your material, and 'Sewing Box' outlines key tools of the trade.

Jacqui Small, £16.99, quartoknows.com

A Life in Pattern

by Orla Kiely

Orla Kiely is one of Ireland's most successful designers: her work is full of big, beautiful prints and bold colours, and her iconic stem design is loved by women worldwide. The book's release coincides with the major exhibition, Orla Kiely: A Life in Pattern, at London's Fashion and Textile Museum - open until 23rd September.

Conran Octopus, £25, octopusbooks.co.uk

Easy Stack Quilts

by Paula Doyle

Do you have a stash of large printed fabrics that you're just itching to transform into something beautiful? If so, then Paula's book will be right up your street! With this read, you'll learn how to make stylish kaleidoscope quilts using only four fabric repeats and easy-to-cut strips - so you can make the most out of your favourite large-scale prints! **C&T Publishing, £20.48, ctpub.com**

Pretty City London

by Siobhan Ferguson

Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and the London Eye are the most obvious attractions in the UK's capital city, while its hidden gems are often overlooked - that's why Siobhan has picked out her favourite artisan bakeries and whimsical florists in this read. As well as being the perfect coffee table addition, the book is a great source of photography inspo. **The History Press, £25, thehistorypress.co.uk**

How to Print Fabric

by Zeena Shah

This practical book will teach you how to bring handmade quirks into your home. Zeena guides you through creating beautiful hand-printed fabrics using 20 no-nonsense techniques. The wide selection of projects are rated either beginner, intermediate or advanced, so no matter what your skill level, you can still personalise your home interior. **David and Charles, £14.99, heartzeena.bigcartel.com**

Sew Creative

by Jennifer Pol Colin

Add a sprinkle of 'you' into your creations with appliqué, embroidery, pocket shapes and more. Sew a couching stitch pillow on Saturday and be finished in time to customise your little one's tee the next day. One thing is guaranteed: you won't be stuck for ideas! **FunStitch Studio, £15.16, ctpub.com**

Craftfulness

by Rosemary Davidson and Arzu Tahsin

Mindfulness is the process of bringing your feelings to awareness, and crafting ensures those emotions are positive! Rosemary and Arzu show how crafting promotes self-confidence and they consider how the wellbeing benefits of regular making helps to relieve stress.

Quercus, £12.99, quercusbooks.co.uk

Handmade Living

by Willow Crossley

This lovely book includes 40 unique, step-by-step projects resulting in a myriad of sensational keepsakes. As autumn is fast approaching, it's time to nest in your home with makes; such as teacup candles, pillow covers and lavender bags. **MAKEetc, £12.99, makeetc.com**



Read our Orla feature on p37!



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This cute, button-up Arielle Skirt will give you a figure-flattering silhouette. **£12.50**, tillyandthebuttons.com



From office chic to post-work glam, this figure-hugging number is perfect for more than one occasion. **£25**, dorothyperkins.com

Gorgeous lace? Check. Vibrant colour? Check. Feeling fabulous? Absolutely! **£45**, next.co.uk



Keep your top half simple and let the skirt do the talking. **£30**, matalan.co.uk

STYLE STORY THE PENCIL SKIRT

PUT A WIGGLE IN YOUR WALK

In 1950, Christian Dior's 'New Look' style, which boasted fuller skirts and nipped-in waists, was dominating the fashion world. The next four years saw Dior attempting to move away from his signature style – et voilà, the pencil skirt as we know it was born! The skirt's H-line silhouette, as the letter implies, was straight to the ankle and emphasised the hip. Research Assistant at The Museum of Modern Art, Stephanie Kramer shares: "Other designers, including Pierre Balmain and Cristóbal Balenciaga, included versions of pencil skirts in their collections, too, but Dior's H-line was what crystallised the form."

The fitted garment became popular with the help of none other than Marilyn Monroe! Her strut across a smoky train platform in the 1959 comedy, *Some Like it Hot*, made Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon watch in awe before exclaiming: "Look at that! Look how she moves!" Funnily enough, the skirt wearers couldn't move much at all. So tightly did the outfit

"Gone are the days where skirts were designed to sculpt. Now, it's all about cocooning your curves and moving freely!"

cling to curves, that the pencil skirt inspired the 'twist'; the only dance move a girl could do while wearing one. Fifties pin-up model, Bettie Page was also known to show off her wiggle in the figure-hugging garment.

STYLE IT OUT

Only being able to shuffle along a centimetre at a time is a bit outdated, right ladies? Us modern-day women want clothes to flatter our shape but still feel comfortable. Gone are the days where skirts were designed to sculpt. Now, it's all about cocooning your curves and moving freely. Stephanie, who researched the pencil skirt for the exhibition, *Items: Is Fashion Modern?*, says the garment "has become a versatile basic for women, worn casually, even with a t-shirt and trainers."

Brands like Off White and Victoria Beckham are providing major summer-to-autumn style inspiration, with the stand-out garment being the pencil skirt. The designers use the lightest cotton and silk – keeping out the autumn chill but preventing overheating.

For something a little different, knitted skirts are the way to go! Focus on jersey and spandex blends to achieve an ultra-comfortable garment. To finish, try coordinating the skirt with a short-sleeved blouse for a casual appeal, or pair with a blazer for a sophisticated evening outfit. Match with cute kitten heels to elongate the calf.

MAKE YOUR OWN



This sewing pattern is ideal for confident beginners! **£12.50**, tillyandthebuttons.com

The pencil skirt kit is finished with smooth interfacing, designed to rise above your natural waist. **£35**, sewoverit.co.uk



If you loved our dogtooth dressmaking fabric on p20, why not use this gorgeous check for your own pencil skirt? **£25 per metre**, yorkshirefabric.com

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