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THIRTY-SIX

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sitting PRETTY



MAKE IT

- *Romantic embroidery ideas*
- *Patchwork picnic blanket*
- *Quirky knitted cushions*
- *Sweet amigurumi puppies*
- *Hand painted jewellery*
- *Crochet baby gifts*

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We visit the retro homes of two crafty neighbours

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There's no escaping the romance in the air – we're busy stitching a pair of nature's famous lovebirds, preparing for date night with a patchwork picnic blanket, and knitting up two feline French fancies. Of course, the best partnerships aren't always romantic, so we're celebrating friendship with a tour of pals Zoe and Natasha's homes, and getting inside the heads of business partners Plum and Sarah. We're feeling the love – can you?

♡making ♡thrifting ♡collecting ♡crafting

Mollie MAKES
LIVING & LOVING HANDMADE
issue number thirty-six
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PAIRING UP

Collaborations are the best, right? Each issue, the team and I are so proud of the projects and features we come up with when we bash heads with the hottest names in the designer-maker world. So, in honour of Two Heads Being Better Than One (and for the Valentine's issue of course), we turned the spotlight on creative couples (Arne and Carlos, page 28), friends (Natasha and Zoe, page 50) and excellent business partnerships (Sarah and Plum, page 34), whose team efforts make for impressive and inspiring outlooks on living a crafty life. Have a wonderfully loved-up month,

Lara

Lara Watson Editor



TURN TO PAGE 7 TO GET THE LOWDOWN ON THIS MONTH'S HEART BROOCH KIT

Contributors



Jeska Hearne

Interior stylist and maker Jeska writes the blog Lobster and Swan, and sells handmade gifts in her Etsy shop while trying to keep on top of the renovations in her 1930s cottage, which she shares with her husband and two cats.

Create Jeska's painted jewellery on page 78.

www.lobsterandswan.com



Zoe Power & Natasha Denness

Fine art graduate Natasha is a blogger, deer obsessive and collector of old things who once worked as a personal shopper at Selfridges. Zoe studied English at Cambridge University and has had a camera in her hand since childhood.

Go on a street tour of the girls' homes on page 50.

www.candypop.uk.com, www.zoepower.co.uk



Arne & Carlos

The Scandinavian knitting duo live in a converted railway station in the Norwegian mountains with their pet pooch, Freya. When not clicking knitting needles together, they ski and tend to their beautiful lakeside garden.

Discover the couple's creative life on page 28.

www.arne-carlos.com



Benjamin G. Wilson

Benjamin is an 'acerbic misanthrope' who likes glitter, dissipation and men's fashion. He got into knitting so he could meet boys – so far this is working excellently. He also likes contemporary dance, gardening and tattoos.

Knit Benjamin's eccentric cat cushions on page 56.

www.knityounexttuesday.com



Hollie Harris

Hollie has embarked on many careers since graduating from Central St Martins, including independent record label founder, artist and illustrator. She's now a stay-at-home mum, crafter, thrifter and Instagram addict.

Embroider Hollie's His'n'Hers specs on page 73.

www.hollieharris.etsy.com



Pinned It! Made It!

Sarah and Plum are maximalists – more neon, more pom poms, more kittens, more chai tea, more bric-a-brac and more buttons! They were inspired to create their monthly Pinterest parties by the sheer volume of ideas online.

Try out the girls' embellishment ideas on page 34.

www.pinneditmadeit.co.uk

Other contributors

Emma Block, Valerie Bracegirdle, Angela Cotton, Lucy Croft, Amy Davies, Jenny Dixon, Leah Farquharson, Leanne Garrity, Zoe Larkins, Adele Houghton @ Mustard Models, Sarah Montrose, Kerry Moyle, Lucy Rice, Charlotte Smith, Philip Sowels, Bree Weekes, Judith Wilson

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EXCLUSIVE DESIGNER KIT

HEART BROOCH

Wear your heart on your sleeve (or jacket) with Zoe Larkin's rockabilly-inspired brooch



High heels and heartbreak hotels

"I've always been attracted to anything kitsch, and I just love 1950s style. When I first started working with leather I'd been looking into the LA rockabilly scene, and I fell in love with the colourful 50s-style jailhouse tattoos all the guys and girls were sporting. I realised these tattoo designs would translate well into the bold, solid colours of leather, and personalised hearts became my signature piece.

As a bit of a romantic at heart, I love to make these brooches for customers featuring their loved ones' names. A big moment was when I created a 'Blake' one for Amy Winehouse and she was pictured wearing it constantly throughout the summer of 2008. I must have made hundreds over the years in varying colours, and some with heartbreaks down the middle. However, I don't like to think about the heartbreak too much!"

Most days you'll find Zoe sewing away in her Bournemouth studio shop. On the rare occasion that she puts down her needle and thread she can be found baking cakes, or going for walks in the New Forest with a borrowed dog in tow.
www.lovefromhettyanddave.co.uk

For instructions on how to make your brooch, turn now to page 90.

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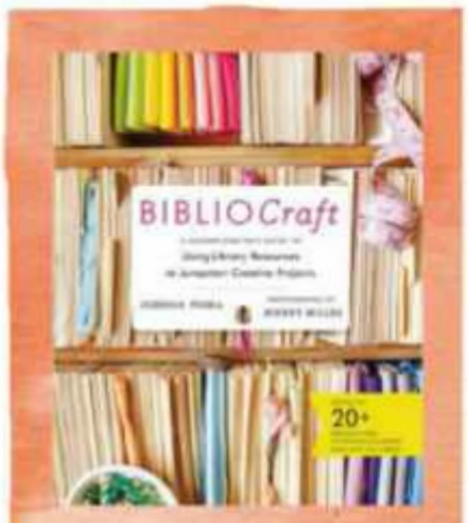
INTRODUCING...

THE LATEST IN CRAFTY GOODNESS - HANDPICKED JUST FOR YOU



May we be so bold as to suggest your next homeware purchase comes from the **striking and downright gorgeous** selection at Chocolate Creative? Our kind of sweet treat. *www.chocolatecreative.co.uk*

PHOTOGRAPH: PIERO PIERINI



TOP READ

BIBLIOCRAFT

Design*Sponge contrib Jessica Pigza is a bibliophile with **a passion for crafts.** Her latest book hits shelves in March, and she shares her library inspiration journey with us in our next issue. *www.abramsandchronicle.co.uk*



Just the floaty thing for romantic, breezy, **pretend-you're-in-a-music-video** walks – Bluebell Gray's brand new 'Archie' scarf collection. *www.bluebellgray.com*





We were so proud of our 'specs appeal' pun this issue (flick forward…) that we bought ourselves a congratulatory present from **Mollie and Fred.** A quick way to make a geek's day. *www.mollieandfred.co.uk*

THIS MONTH'S WISHLIST



Though we're big fans of sleeves, this month we've taken to wearing our **hearts on our toes.** These crochet slippers are just the thing for mornings prepping breakfast in bed. *www.littleasiagirl.etsy.com*

As lookbooks go, this offering from knitter Emma Robertson is **thoroughly adorable**. Head to her 'Knitted' webpage to flick through a digital copy and be inspired. And just a tad jealous. *www.emmadime.com*



PHOTOGRAPH: SHAUN MENARY



Ferm Living, always at the top of our 'brands we met and loved' list, have a playful new collection with 50s and 60s-influenced designer **Ingela P. Arrhenius**. Full of bears, kites and clouds, it's a fairytale world we'd love to live in. *www.fermliving.com*

WEBSITE TO WATCH

Scout & Co

Sick of pink for girls and blue for boys? Us too. Head straight to Scout & Co, an online shop with bright, beautifully curated goodies for kids run by **three London mamas** with (nearly) five little ones between them, and a heap of experience finding all the best bits, shunning plastic tat. Thank you, ladies. *www.scoutandcokids.com*





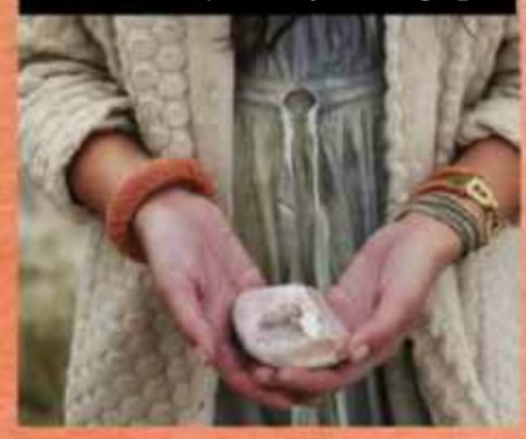
Anthro display queen, Elise Dee will demo paper perennials.

WORKSHOP FOCUS

Sweet Paul Makerie

Take magazine legend, Sweet Paul and put him in touch with Colorado's The Makerie and you get **one spectacular event**. From 15-16 March, for the first time, The Makerie will break out of Boulder and set up camp in New York City. The line-up is starry to say the least. *www.themakerie.com*

Erin Considine will be on hand to to teach her jewellery-making tips.

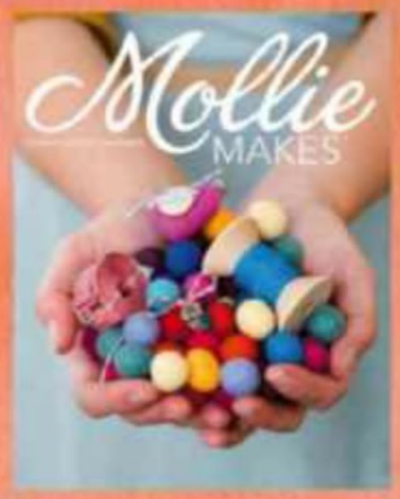




Adore our cover lovebirds? You'll love Tamar Mogendorff's class.



What kind of knitter are you? **Yeah, you are!** Take your WIPs on the road and let all and sundry know how awesome you are. *www.notonthehighstreet.com/kellyconnordesigns*



AWARDS SEASON

Show us your talents!

Yes! It's happening! 2014 will see the first **Mollie Handmade Awards.** We want to meet as many small craft businesses as poss, help you get your foot in the door with bigger retailers, put some mentoring in place and generally sing your praises. Watch this space…



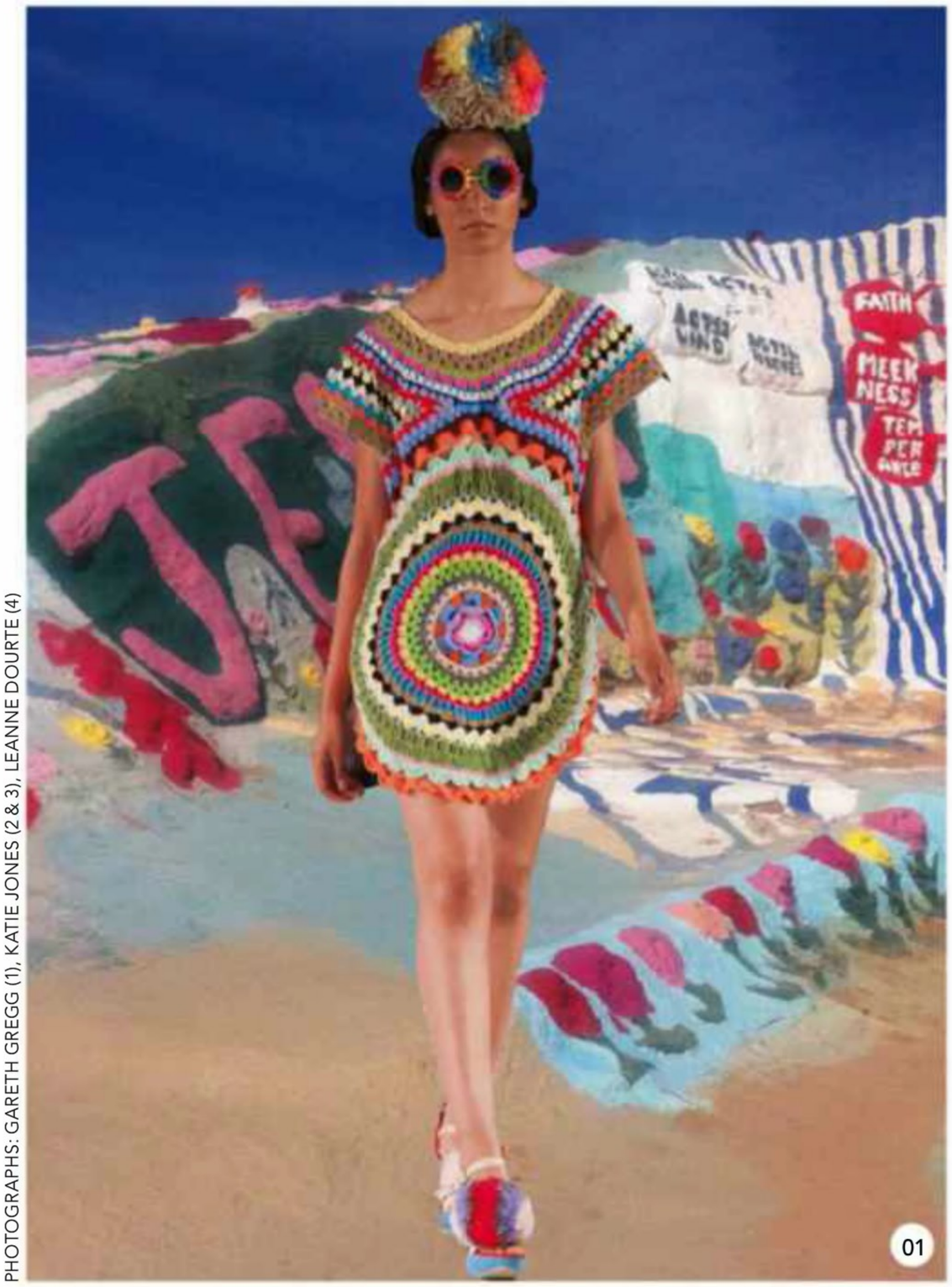
Mr and Mrs Bunny are a happy pair with **a penchant for cute home-knitted togs.** Sally Nencini's lambswool toys are handmade in the UK. Soft and cuddly and utterly charming. *www.sallynencini.com*



Husband and wife pattern design team, Abigail*Ryan continue to knock the florals out of the park with their gorgeous colourways. **Rose Garden Flamingo** is our new favourite. *www.abigailryan.com*

Here's one for the boys: Quiggleys. Head to the website and check out its One Jumper photography project – the same **classic knit** worn by passersby up and down the country. *www.quiggleys.com*





01


02


03


04

PHOTOGRAPHS: GARETH GREGG (1), KATIE JONES (2 & 3), LEANNE DOURTE (4)

DESIGNER FOCUS

Katie Jones Knitwear

You've never see yarn craft like this. Say hello to self-confessed visual magpie and Central St Martins graduate, Katie Jones



Love camping and festivals? So much so you could drape yourself in a knitted teepee? Yup, chunky handcraft and high fashion blend seamlessly in Katie Jones' first solo collection. As well as working for design houses as massive as John Galliano and Diane Von Furstenberg, she produced her own vibrant line during Brighton Fashion Week 2013.

Together with Katie's obsession with native textiles, techniques we know and love have been given a modern twist. Her latest SS14 collection tells the story of a group of nomads who leave the modern world for the desert to create a new tribe. "I find different cultures and tribes endlessly fascinating. I love that costume and traditional dress are still so prized within certain societies," she says. Influenced by Salvation Mountain in Slab City, traditional crochet costumes in Phyllis Galembo's Maske and the tribes of Tanna, Katie is open to inspiration from every corner.

Crochet and knitting runs in Katie's family, so it felt natural to use these techniques. "I think my crafty side must be genetic," she says. "I was taught to knit by my gran, my nana taught me to crochet and my great auntie taught me to sew. My mum (who now doubles up as the best crochet assistant!), rehashed my love for it when I was 16 and I haven't stopped since."

So, what's next? Katie is working on a new venture called K2TOG (*www.k2togdesign.co.uk*) that's set to launch in February. "It's a knitwear label that takes a 'waste not, want not' approach," she explains. "I'm using collected surplus product along with reclaimed garments to produce guilt free pieces." *www.katiejonesknitwear.tumblr.com*

01 Granny circles and pom poms? We want them in our wardrobes! This stunner comes from Katie's Slab City SS14 Look Book **02** Jacket detail from Katie's **SS14 collection.** **03** Katie's **final collection** for her degree earned her a lot of attention. **04** Going down a storm with her **Zeitgeist Show** at Brighton Fashion Week in June 2013.

This month we're obsessing about...

TATTOO STYLE

Relish in primary palettes, timeless motifs and retro glam

PHOTOGRAPH: LAUREN BECKI ROWLANDS, MODEL: CHARLOTTE, MAKE UP: SARAH IBGI

01


02


03

PHOTOGRAPH: PEPPER BALDWIN



Turn some heads by donning this bold nautical fascinator.
www.diablojos.etsy.com


04

PHOTOGRAPH: DANIEL SIMS WWW.DAN-SIMS.CO.UK

01

50s rockabilly meets 90s revival in this embroidered off-the-shoulder cropped sweater.
www.dollydripp.etsy.com

02

Elegant female attitude with a spiky edge – that's what this printed silk clutch says to us.
www.hooligansoup.etsy.com

03

These flowery vintage-inspired temporary tattoos have to be the prettiest pieces of pseudo-ink we've ever seen.
www.pepperink.etsy.com

04

Say hello to Etsy's coolest pup. With his collection of jailhouse tats, he's a real hound dog.
www.sophieparker.etsy.com »



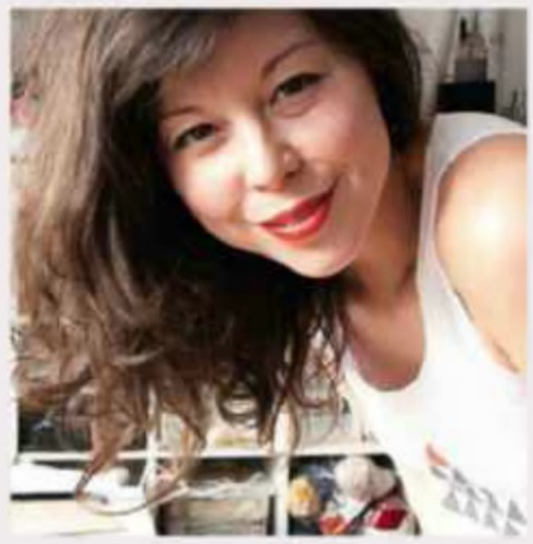
05

Stitch attitude onto a denim shirt with Leanne Garrity's rose tattoo design. Now pop that collar and dress your tresses in a headscarf to complete the look. Oh, and don't forget the red lippie…

EMBROIDERED SHIRT

You will need: a denim shirt, red and green embroidery floss or yarn, an embroidery hoop, sharp embroidery needle, scissors, tracing paper, pencil, iron, pattern transfer pen.

01 **Trace the template** on page 93 using a pencil. Turn over and trace again with your pattern transfer pen. Place the paper, pen side down, onto your shirt.
02 **Iron to transfer** the design onto the fabric.
03 Sandwich your shirt fabric into an **embroidery hoop,** thread your needle with red floss or yarn and start **embroidering the petals** in satin stitch.
04 Stitch leaves in the same way.
05 Work the vines in a **stem stitch** by bringing your needle up alongside each previous stitch for a rope effect. Revert to **satin stitch** for the leaves.
06 Tidy up by threading back through the stitches.



Leanne is a DIY blogger, writer and the designer-maker behind Chi Chi Dee Handmade.
www.chichidee.com

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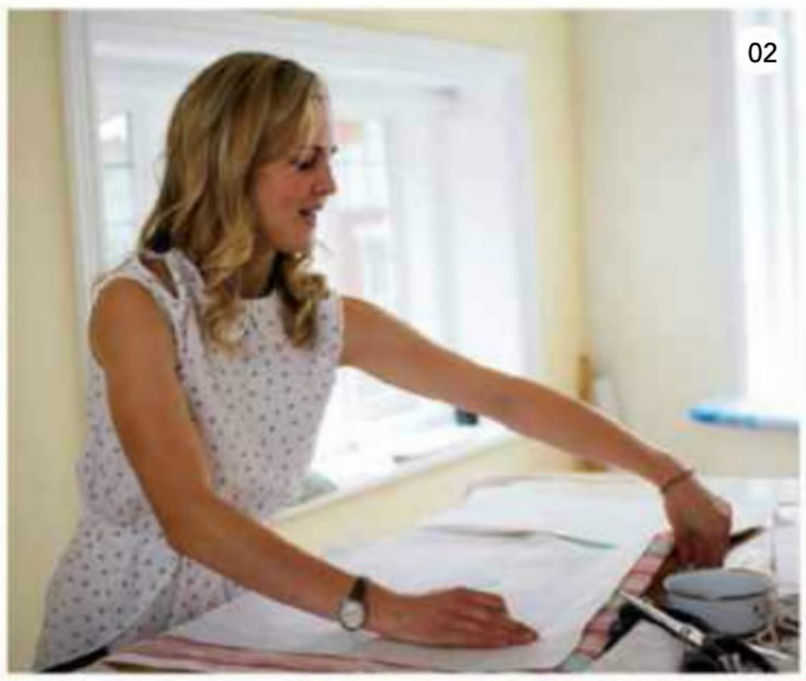
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PHOTOGRAPHS: AMY DAVIES

Guthrie & Ghani

Amy Davies takes a sewing workshop – and tops up her fabric stash – at this gorgeous Birmingham craft emporium



Just a few miles outside the bustling city of Birmingham lies Guthrie & Ghani. Run by a crafty husband and wife, Ayaz and Lauren, it houses a haberdashery, fabric and yarn shop, and craft workshop space. We joined creative director Lauren Guthrie to spend an afternoon taking an intermediate class, learning to sew a cushion cover with an inserted zip and added piping.

The venue provides all the materials you need to make the cover, so the first tricky task is picking your fabric from the gorgeous selection available. The shop also sells many others if you'd like to buy a larger amount or add to your stash. (Who wouldn't?)

Workshops are held in the bright and airy space in the upstairs of the beautiful Tudor-effect Victorian building in the centre of Moseley Village, a quaint suburb with lots of cute cafes and restaurants nearby.

Classes are small – we were joined by just seven others, all with varying degrees of sewing experience. Some had first learnt several decades earlier but had neglected the sewing machine, while others were in their teens and 20s. Lauren patiently talked us through every step, demonstrating how to set up the (mouth-wateringly fancy) sewing machine, the best way to pin patterns to fabric and, later, to the more advanced techniques of inserting a zip and creating piping for decoration.

By the end of the afternoon, everybody was one cushion cover up and we'd all picked up some useful new skills to put to good use. Now we're off to raid the fabric stash and make new covers for every cushion in the house!

Guthrie & Ghani run several workshops every week, including classes in ceramics, yarn and fabric, for beginners right up to advanced crafters. For more details visit *www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk*

01 **Guthrie and Ghani is housed in a gorgeous Victorian building.**
02 **Lauren Guthrie patiently explains the techniques.**
03 **The spacious workshop is large, bright and airy.**
04 **Cushions start to come together.**
05 **Downstairs you'll find the shop, filled with stunning fabric collections.**
06 **It's a relaxed atmosphere at the workshop.**

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Love Nest

It's that time of year again – celebrate Valentine's Day with Angela Cotton's colourful lovebirds, all cosied up in a woollen nest


COVER STAR
100 YARDS
D 323
DARK LOVEBIRD



02



03



04



07



08

HOW TO MAKE… FABRIC LOVEBIRDS

MATERIALS

- Lightweight fusible interfacing, 17 x 24cm (6¾ x 9½")
- Green fabric, 30 x 24cm (11 x 9½")
- Yellow fabric, 11 x 15cm (4⅜ x 6")
- Pink fabric, 9 x 7cm (3⅝ x 2¾")
- Red fabric, 4 x 3cm (1⅝ x 1¼")
- Four 3mm (⅛") black beads for eyes
- Thread
- Needle
- Fabric glue
- Toy stuffing

NOTE

Templates include a 5mm (½") seam allowance. Use interfacing on all parts apart from beak.

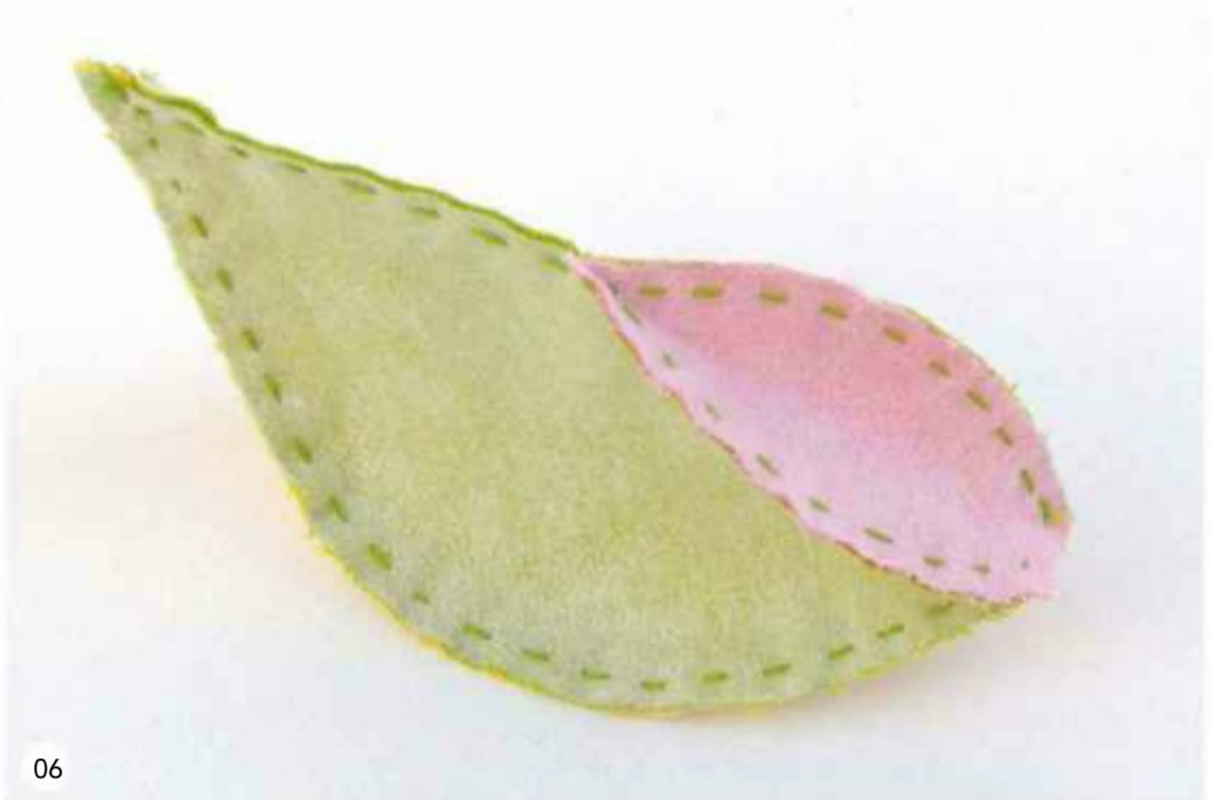
Love it or hate it, there's no escaping the romance in the air as 14 February approaches. We've taken inspiration from nature's most famous kissing couple to create this colourful duo in a zingy lime, yellow and pink palette. They've even got their own yarn and twine nest to cuddle up in and make sweet birdsong all day long. Pop them on your shelf or mantelpiece for a touch of 'awwww' factor all year round.

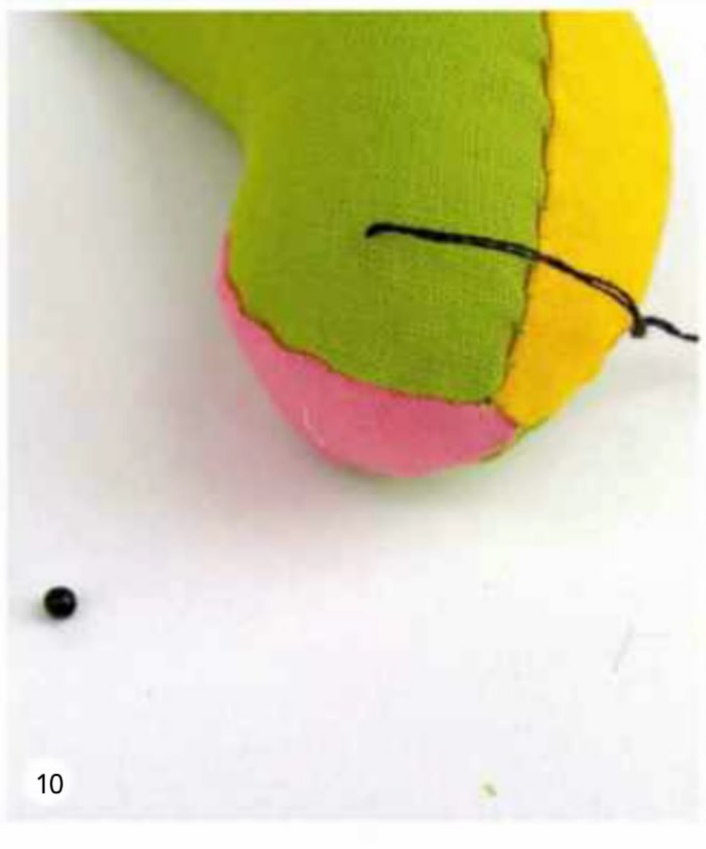
01 **Cut out your pieces** from the templates on page 92. Use green fabric for the body, wing and tail pieces, yellow for the bodice, pink for the head and red for the beak.

02 Right sides (RS) facing, **stitch side 1 of body to bodice.** Stop at the marked line, leaving an opening for turning and stuffing. **Continue stitching after the opening** all the way to the tail end.

03 Stitch side 2 of body to bodice, **all the way to tail end.**


05


06


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11


12

04 **Stitch the head to the top of the bodice.** We'll attach the beak here later on. Stitch all along one side until the end of the head.

05 Stitch **the other side of the head** to side 1 of the body.

06 Continue along the back, **joining body sides 1 and 2** all the way to the tail end.

07 **Turn bird RS out.** Use a wood dowel to reach into the beak and tail area if need be.

08 **Stuff the bird** using toy filling. Again, **use a dowel** to help fill the head and tail areas.

09 **Slip stitch** the opening closed.

10 Sew on your **black beads** to create the eyes.

11 Now to create the beak. Fold along the marked line and then shape by **carefully snipping the top corners** to make a curve. Dab a little glue on the back of the folded section and attach **just below the bodice** and head seam line. Finally, dab a little glue under the beak to hold it down.

12 Now **create the wings.** Each bird has three wings per side. Using fabric glue **attach one wing at a time,** placing on top of each other to form a fan.

13 Each bird has **three tail feathers.** Glue two each side of the tail, then one on top to finish. Repeat all 13 steps to create your second lovebird. Now, **turn the page** to find out how to create a cosy nest home for them both. »


01


02


02


02


03


04

HOW TO MAKE… A YARN NEST

MATERIALS

- Approx 40 strands of mixed yarns, wool, and twines, 1m (1 yrd) long each

01 **Lay out** the strands of yarn flat and **tie a knot** at one end.

02 Start **winding the long strand** around the knot and hand stitch into place. Keep going, **stitching into place** as you go.

03 Carry on turning and stitching **until the last strands.** Secure any loose ends to finish.

04 Gently shape your nest by hand and **stitch any loose yarns into place** if needed. Now just pop your lovebirds in for a snuggle.





Angela crafts birds from her vintage fabric stash.

Angela Cotton

Angela is the designer-maker behind Cotton Bird Designs. She uses mainly vintage textiles and papers in her work, along with upcycled mixed media. She first began creating fabric and paper birds, along with other hand stitched sculptures, in 2005 and set up her Etsy shop, *www.cottonbirddesigns.etsy.com*, in 2007. Her much-loved birds have now found happy homes all over the world and her signatures pieces are her lovebird wedding cake toppers, dressed to represent the bride and groom. You can see more of her work at *www.cottonbird.co.uk*



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ARNE & CARLOS

We find out how the lovable Scandinavian duo turned a creative 'gap year' into a new career endeavour that really snowballed

Words: **LUCY RICE** Photographs: **STUDIO DREYER + HENSLEY**

It's more than likely that one thing will spring to mind when you see the faces above: Christmas balls. Celebrated knitwear designers Arne Nerjordet (on the right, above) and Carlos Zachrison (Norwegian and Swedish respectively) formed their clothing brand in 2002, creating designs inspired by their heritage and working with big fashion names such as Comme des Garçons and Liberty of London. But when the recession hit, the pair decided to cancel all their knitwear orders and take a year out to work on a "just-for-fun project".

That project turned into the *55 Christmas Balls To Knit* book, which was such a success that they left the fashion world behind to focus on subsequent book deals. They've now authored five books, including *Knitted Dolls* and *Knit-and-Crochet Garden*.

When not touring, the couple live in a converted railway station in the Valdres mountains 190km north of Oslo, Norway, where they use skills gained from working with the elders of knitting communities around the world to create their playful new characters and designs.



Describe your style in a few words.
Carlos: Very colourful and a little childish.
Arne: I'm more traditional!

Which books and magazines are on your bedside table?
Carlos: *The World Of Interiors*, and I'm reading Haruki Murakami's *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World* and *Kafka On The Shore*.
Arne: *The World Of Interiors*, *Mollie Makes* and *Flow* magazines, and Nicole Krauss's *Great House*.

What social media channels are exciting you right now?
Carlos: We like Instagram. It's good to just take a picture and write a few words – we don't like long, endless statuses.

Describe a typical working day.
Carlos: We have many different kinds of days, depending on where we are. If we're on tour then every day is different and there's a lot of travelling. When we're at home, we work separately in our own spaces, so we meet up for lunch – in winter, we'll go skiing; in the summer, we'll walk in the woods with the dog – and we then spend time together in the evenings. It works very well.
Arne: I wake up early so I tend to start in the kitchen around 6am and knit for three

‘We don’t just want to do patterns – we want to inspire people to create’


01


02



03

or four hours. I really like to listen to music and radio while I’m working, but Carlos prefers it to be quiet. In the summer I’ll go outside and knit on the terrace or in the garden. Normally, I’ll end up in front of the fireplace or back in the kitchen.

Where do you like searching for creative inspiration?

Carlos: Flea markets and second-hand stores. Not fancy ones though – it’s always fun to hunt. Unfortunately in Norway it’s all very overpriced and the quality is bad.

Arne: The best flea markets and antiques shops are in England and France. In Norway, it’s like Carlos says – a lot of crap – but I actually like that. You can always find inspiration in old crap! I’m not so picky. I also like collecting things: sometimes I get really obsessed with different items, such as old embroideries, Volkswagen toys and vinyl records (like my Dolly Parton collection!). It could be the colour combinations, patterns, or new techniques that I haven’t seen before. All these things come in handy later. »

01 **The sitting area is home to a chest that once belonged to Arne’s great grandfather and the couple’s collection of taxidermy bugs.**
02 **A pile of projects from Arne and Carlos’ books sits on their porch, where they work in summer.**
03 **This ‘petit point’ cushion, discovered in a flea market in Malaga, Spain, is a great find for keen gardeners.**



01



02



03

01 This cosy **upstairs reading nook** features a granny square throw made by Arne and a cushion embroidered by the couple.

02 A very **Norwegian teddy** from the *Strikk fra Setesdal* book on traditional knits.

03 Arne in particular likes to work on his projects in the **big, bright kitchen.**

How do you record ideas? Do you keep sketchbooks or use online resources?
Carlos: We're not really into the internet – we like doing it by hand. We make these little notebooks from recycled paper and bind them and use them as diaries. We'll include ideas and sketches, and if we find a piece of paper on the street then we might put that in – that way we have these collages, scrapbooks in the literal sense.

Your books are translated into many languages around the world. Does travel inspire your work?
Carlos: Absolutely. We really like South America and travelled extensively in Peru when we were doing knitwear. It's wonderful for crafts and colours. There are also a lot of men knitting in South America, which is the opposite to Scandinavia. They knit to make a living.

You do a lot of tours and workshops. What's it like meeting your fans?
Carlos: We always love it when they show us their own twists on our designs. We don't just want to do patterns; we want to inspire people to be creative.

What are you currently working on?
Carlos: We have a new book out in Norway called *Strikk fra Setesdal*, which translates

‘We have a lot of knitting needles all over the house. One’s always missing!’


02


01


03

as ‘Knitting from Setesdal’. It includes modern interpretations of an old pattern from an area in south Norway. We don’t know what the English title will be, but the book will be published in the UK [later in 2014]. We’ve also been re-working projects from the old books, such as adding fingers to the dolls – we always come up with these new twists after we publish the books, so we put them on our Facebook and Instagram pages to give people fresh ideas.
Arne: Today I’ve been working on some knitting kits for Japan – and in my head I have ideas for about 10 books! One day I really want to do a book about how to create our scrapbooks, and maybe something to do with Volkswagen Beetles…

What are your favourite yarns and needles to work with?
Carlos: We’re still working with Norwegian yarn, but when we travel we’ll go to stores and buy a lot of materials. We’ve discovered some exciting stuff, such as fantasy yarns with different effects, or sometimes Lurex weaved into them. A brand called Avril »

01 **A striking painting by Thai artist Somneuk Huangtanapan hangs in the dining room along with a stunning vintage Italian Venini chandelier.**
02 **This mid-19th century chandelier was thrifted in Copenhagen.**
03 **Over the years Arne and Carlos have slowly collected 1930s Grindley plates from the UK. The collection started with a single plate from Arne’s grandmother.**



01



02

from Kyoto, Japan, has a fantastic store full of creative, colourful yarns.
Arne: I prefer to use metal knitting needles when creating dolls because I'm a really tight knitter – if I use bamboo they break. We have a lot of needles, though: everything from bone and iron to plastic and bamboo. They're all over the house, in every room and one is always missing!

What advice would you give to knitting or crochet newbies?
Carlos: Try small projects, something you can finish, because it'll give you the courage to do more. One reason our *Christmas Balls* book was so popular is because even a beginner can knit a ball reasonably quickly.

Finally, what's the best piece of creative advice you've ever been given?
Carlos: Be true to ourselves and do our own thing. People may suggest things because they want to make more money, but we've always avoided that.
Arne: Don't be afraid of making mistakes. A lot of people think they can't be creative, or they can't knit, for example – but they shouldn't be upset if something goes wrong. We saw a poster in a yarn store in Minneapolis and it said: "We don't do mistakes, we do variations." That's nice!

01 Even the **bathroom** has a unique character, with a handmade patchwork blanket and embroidered pillows. On the wall **hangs a portrait** of King Haakon and Queen Maud of Norway.
02 This bright young thing is a **'little hippie'** from the *Knit-and-Crochet Garden* book.



Knit-and-Crochet Garden

Arne & Carlos' latest book celebrates the great outdoors and encourages you to 'Bring a little outside in with 36 projects inspired by flowers, butterflies, birds and bees'. The colourful pages are brimming with ideas influenced by their life in the Norwegian countryside.
www.searchpress.com

This page: A place for everything and **everything in its place.** Arne and Carlos take pride in a beautiful home that reflects their personalities.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CARLY SCHWARTZ, GEMMA BALL FROM VENUS BLUE (WWW.VENUSBLUEIMAGING.CO.UK), RICHARD KELLY PHOTOGRAPHY (WWW.RKELLYPHOTO.COM) AND WWW.PLUMDIDDLYUMCIOUS.COM





Pinspiring: Sarah (left) and Plum

BEYOND THE PIN

The girls behind East London's current hottest craft party Pinned It! Made It! talk creative gatherings, trends and why more is definitely more

Words: **JESSICA BATEMAN**

Wander into Shoreditch's Book Club bar on the second Tuesday of every month and you'll stumble upon a gathering of creative ladies whipping up collars, necklaces and other treasures. The Pinned It! Made It! parties are for those of us who suffer from severe Pinterest addictions, yet rarely find the time to sit and make what we find online. With a different, on-trend craft to try every month, plus cocktails and live DJs, they've swiftly become one of the hottest tickets in the London crafting calendar.

The parties are the brainchild of pals Victoria Bell aka Plum and Sarah Waldie, who also both help run the Dalston Darlings WI. "We heard about Pinterest parties in the States and started holding our own round each others' houses, recreating DIYs we'd seen along with a recipe or cocktail we'd pinned," explains Sarah. After realising the potential in the events they went big, and launched their first party – featuring Peter Pan collar DIYs – in November 2012.

Both girls have strong creative backgrounds – Sarah, a freelance events manager, is currently setting up her upcycled homewares label, HUNK, and Plum works as a stylist and blogger as well as running a successful fashion events company, The Stylist's Rail. So what are their tips for hosting the ultimate craft party? "Find a venue with plenty of space… and pick a craft that's pretty easy so everybody can have a go," they advise. Projects should also be seasonal or on-trend, and finally: "Take lots of photos – it's important to capture the atmosphere!"

As for their own favourite trends, Sarah loves geometric, the cosmic *Mad Max* look and the growth of upcycling, whereas self-confessed fashion maximalist Plum loves OTT. Turn the page for three of their takes on embellishing, and book you and your pals on the next Pinned It! Made It! event on 11 February (embellished tights!) at *pinneditmadeit.eventbrite.co.uk* »









PHOTOGRAPHY: CARLY SCHWARTZ

HOW TO MAKE… EASY EMBELLISHMENTS

MATERIALS

- E600 Glue
- Needle
- Sewing thread
- Scissors
- Buttons, charms, broken jewellery pieces or other treasures

Rhinestone beanie

- Woollen beanie hat
- Rhinestones/gems

Charm and button cuff

- Long sleeved top, sweatshirt or denim shirt

Bejewelled mohair Jumper

- Fluffy or woollen jumper
- Strands of pearls or beads
- Long dress pins
- Gems, sequins or rhinestones

Time to pump up the fashion volume – grab your gems, jewels and all that glitters, and turn tired old clothes from drab to fab.

The Pinned It! Made It! philosophy is all about projects that can be whipped up easily with maximum results, and these simple ideas make great quick craft fixes.

Rhinestone beanie

Glam up the humble woolly hat with XXL-rhinestones – go as bold or subtle as you like!

01 Put the beanie on and fold it over to **create a band of the desired width,** making sure the hat's the right shape.

02 Take it off and **arrange your rhinestones,** beads or whatever else you're using onto the hat. **Experiment with different placements** – small gems work well spaced evenly over the head part of the hat, while larger gems look great as a feature on the front of the band. We went for a symmetrical look, but random arrangements can also look really **striking and handmade.**









03 Once you're happy with the positioning **either stitch or glue** the stones onto the hat, taking care not to stitch the back of the hat to the front. **We love E600 glue** as it's perfect for use on gems, studs and beads and is machine washable. You could also use a hot glue gun.

Charm and button cuff

We definitely felt the call of East London's Pearly Kings and Queens when creating this project. It's a fun way to liven up a plain top or denim shirt, and is also great for reworking those shiny magpies' treasures we all hoard – broken brooches, pendants, pretty buttons and charms.

01 **Arrange your embellishments** on the sleeves, ensuring even coverage, then divide your pieces into two piles – one for each sleeve. While you're looking for a real mixture of colours and styles, try and use **common colours or themes** that suit the piece of clothing. For example, as we used a Breton top we decided to choose plenty of nautical pieces, including anchors, swallows and even a shrimp pendant.

02 Attach the pieces using either E600 glue or a needle and thread, and **just keep adding as much as you like** until you're happy with the finished look. Team with jeans to let the jewels shine!

Bejewelled mohair Jumper

For this DIY Plum and Sarah used long pearl necklaces, which they bought, but you could use beaded necklaces or vintage pearls instead. »

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PHOTOGRAPHY: CARLY SCHWARTZ

HOW TO MAKE… EASY EMBELLISHMENTS

01 Begin by **cutting the necklace** to the desired length. Ours are 38cm (15") on the sleeves and slightly shorter on the front.

02 **Remove the excess pearls** and tie several knots in the thread to keep the remaining pearls from falling off. **Leave a little room** so the pearls can move up and down an inch or so, and leave a few inches of thread after that to **tie off at the end.**

03 Lay the jumper out flat and **pin each strand of pearls into position** on the jumper. Ensure they are **evenly spaced** and that the strands run parallel to the knitted lines on the sleeves.

04 Pin them **every six or so pearls** by tucking the needle over the thread, in between the pearls.

05 **Try the jumper on** and check positioning.

06 Thread a needle with white cotton and **begin at the top end of one strand.** Stitch up from the inside just at the start of the strand, and thread the needle through the first three pearls. Stitch down through the jumper and back up before the previous pearl, **like a backstitch.**

07 Stitch through that pearl and the next two and **continue in a backstitch style.**

08 Continue along **all strands.**

09 At the end, **tie the cotton onto the pearl thread** in two or three knots, and trim. Use a small dab of E600 or hot glue at each end of the strands, **to seal the end** and secure each onto the jumper.

10 Once finished, add gems or beads in-between the strands for **extra sparkle!**

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ILLUSTRATION: EMMA BLOCK

TO MAKE OR NOT TO MAKE?

Yes, we're about to say it – donate your yarn and switch off that Singer. You don't always have to make it yourself

Words: **SARAH MONTROSE** Illustration: **EMMA BLOCK**

Crafting is awesome. It feeds our impulses to collect and create, but sometimes the feeling of wanting to make absolutely everything can be overwhelming. "I used to make birthday cards for all my friends," recalls crafter, Emily. "After a while they became expected, which put pressure on me. One day, I decided to buy handmade ones instead. This way I still get to support the craft community, and my friends get something special – plus my other half doesn't moan so much about my stash!"

Buying and not making doesn't have to mean a departure from the world of handmade. There's a craft fair somewhere most weekends (head to *www.ukcraftfairs.com* for proof) so it's easy to get involved and give back to your crafty family. "By supporting other craftspeople… you're still living a handmade life, and also helping others to enjoy and profit from their handmade lifestyles," says Draw! Pilgrim's Pilgrim Lee (*www.drawpilgrim.com*).

BE REALISTIC

Let's admit it: many of us don't see the point in buying some items from craft fairs as we feel like we could make them ourselves. "If you're a seasoned maker – or even if you've got an ounce of common sense – you'll always think, 'I could make that' about products," says Perri Lewis (*www.makeanddowithperri.wordpress.com*), author of *Material World: The Modern Craft Bible*. "But I know I won't necessarily be able to execute something to the same standard, or I probably won't get around to doing it." Pilgrim agrees: "Most people who think 'I can make that myself' don't, or can't. Or have a room full of never-to-be-completed WIPs!"

If crafting doesn't come naturally to you, or you're just starting out, the notion of buying a handmade item is especially pertinent: "Not everyone is a master of all crafts, so sometimes making it yourself is more expensive than buying from another maker," explains Pilgrim. Indeed, there's a lot of trial and error in learning a new craft – forget Etsy, it's highly likely your first attempt will resemble something you'd find on Regretsy or Craft Fail. We've all been there! That, coupled with the special equipment you may need, means it can all add up. Renegade Craft Fair's (*www.renegadecraft.com*) Erin Dollar agrees: "Making something by hand isn't always the cheapest option," she tells us. "You might be better off supporting a handmade artisan." Perri adds: "Craft isn't always thrifty. If you're buying good quality fabric at £15 a metre, and you need at least two metres to make a dress, then you're not going to save a huge amount."

FEEL THE BENEFITS

But it's not just the money that lends value to a crafted item. "Handmade goods are often created with attention to craftsmanship that larger manufacturers can't provide," enthuses Erin, and studies have shown a handmade item (whether made by the gift-giver or not) has a larger perceived value than those bought from chains. "Amidst the same-ness of the high street, handmade items are refreshingly unique," agrees Pilgrim. It's not just buying the right gift for your recipient that matters any more. It's doing it carefully and in a sustainable way, giving something back to the community and the world around you. "For me, buying handmade is a lot about provenance," concludes Perri. "You can learn where, when and how it's made, which makes it easier to be ethical with your shopping."

LET'S GO SHOPPING!

So don't feel bad about downing tools. Instead of getting warm and fuzzy over making something as a gift, you'll get that same glow from giving back to the craft community. And this time, you'll be free from the pressure to get it perfect, hit a deadline or stress over splurging on new equipment – as Pilgrim says, "There's no prize for Miss Crafty Universe." Forget those crafty compulsions for a moment: grab that (crocheted) shopper, pack up your (stitched) purse and shop handmade.

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PUPPY LOVE

Put spare scraps of yarn to good use with these teeny-tiny Amigurumi puppies



Give a dog a home: these pups just want to be loved.



PROJECT FROM 978-4834724875 © 2013 BY BOUTIQUE-SHA, INC.

HOW TO MAKE… AMIGURUMI PUPPIES

Dog lovers, listen up. This kawaii-inspired pair can be made in any colour and weight of yarn using the right hook. Use up all your scraps and give lots of pups a home! Tension isn't important, just make sure the stitches are dense enough to hold the stuffing in.

MATERIALS

- 4 ply yarn in two shades of brown/beige: approx 10g/40m (Yarn A), approx 5g/20m (Yarn B)
- Sewing needle
- Toy stuffing
- Solid black safety eyes, 6mm (¼")
- Solid black safety nose, 9mm (⅜")
- One 2.5mm (UK 12, US B/1 or C/2) crochet hook

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

ch chain
dc double crochet
dc2tog see 'special abbreviations', right
RS right side
ss slip stitch
st stitch
yrh yarn round hook

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

dc2tog double crochet 2 together: (insert hook in next st, yrh and draw loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

SIZE

Body of puppy measures approx 3.5cm (1⅜") long.

NOTE

The puppies are made in separate pieces in the round and then sewn together. The head is made first (working from nose to back of head), then the body. The legs, ears and tail are made and sewn to the body last.

Head

Using Yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc into ring, ss to top of first dc to join. [7dc]
Round 2: Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [14dc]
Rounds 3-5: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [14dc]
Round 6: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each of next 4 dc, 2dc into each of next 6 dc, dc into each of next 4 dc, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [20dc]
Rounds 7-9: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [20dc]
Position safety nose between rounds 1 and 2 and safety eyes wide apart between rounds 5 and 6 on the head, using the image as a guide. Make sure the increase sts in round 6 are on the top of the head. Secure in place.
Round 10: Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc2tog, repeat from * around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [10dc]
Stuff head with soft toy filling.
Round 11: Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc2tog, repeat from * around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [5dc]
Fasten off and thread tail through sts in final round to close, leaving a long tail.

Body

Using Yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into ring, ss to top of first dc to join. [6dc]
Round 2: Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [12dc]
Round 3: Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc into next dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [18dc]





Rounds 4-6: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [18dc]
Round 7: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each of next 5 dc, dc2tog 4 times, dc into each of next 5 dc, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [14dc]
Rounds 8-11: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [14dc]
Stuff body with soft toy filling.
Round 12: Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc2tog, repeat from * around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [7dc]
Fasten off and thread tail through sts in final round to close, weave in ends.
Pin head into position on body, using image as guide. Using long tail from head, secure to the body.

Back legs (make 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc into ring, ss to top of first dc to join. [4dc]
Rounds 2-3: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [4dc]
Fasten off leaving a long tail.

Front legs (make 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic ring.
Rounds 1-3: work as for rounds 1-3 of back legs.
Round 4: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [4dc]
Fasten off leaving a long tail.
Pin legs into position on body.
Using long tail, sew around the legs to secure them to the body.

Ears (make 2)

Using Yarn B, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc into ring, ss to top of first dc to join. [7dc]
Rounds 2-4: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to top of 1st dc to join. [7dc]
Fasten off leaving a long tail. Pin ears into position on head. Sew carefully around the ears to secure.

Tail

Using Yarn B ch4, ss to 2nd ch from hook, ss to next 2-ch.
Fasten off leaving a long tail.
Pin tail into position. Using the long tail, sew around the tail to secure.

Finishing

Sew in all loose ends.



Amigurumi Book
We've translated this project specially for *Mollie Makes* readers from *Amigurumi Book* (ISBN 978-4834724875), the Japanese publication of Boutique-Sha, Inc. It's packed full of so-cute-it-hurts crocheted critters and creatures.
www.boutique-sha.co.jp

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Jersey Textile Showcase 2014

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5 - 11 March 2014



Jersey Textile Showcase 2014 is held at The Harbour Gallery and Creative Design Studios located in the picturesque village of St Aubin, Jersey. The associated venues for workshops, exhibitions, events, hotels and guest houses, are all within a 5 minute walk of the Gallery.

Find out more about the Open Competition, Charity Challenge, talks, demos, Gala dinner and Craft Market on the website

This welcoming and friendly event, now in its ninth year, boasts some of the best UK and European tutors for the half day and full day workshops; Val Holmes, Ineke Berlyn, Kim Thittichai, Anne Kelly, Fay Maxwell, Christine Witham, Elly Holmes, Ruth Skinner, Brenda Scarman, Shirley McCann, Fran Griffith and Anniken Allis.



With lots going on, you are guaranteed an inspirational week of textile art, meeting like-minded people and making new friends.

If you wish to receive flyers for all of the events, either email or telephone The Harbour Gallery

For further details about venues and events:

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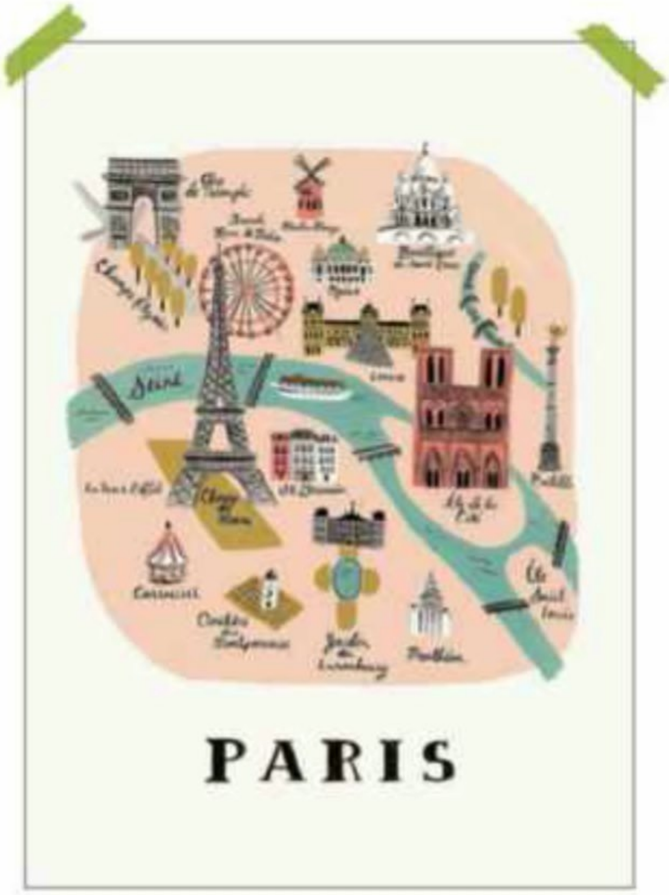
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INSPIRATION ALERT! SPACES, PLACES & NEW DESIGNERS TO WATCH



Welcome in the sweet melodies of spring with a few 'Early Bird' lamps from Alma's Room. Inspired by the humble Sparrow, these glazed **ceramic winged pretties** are handmade in an array of delicate and calming colours. *www.almasroom.com*







GET THE LOOK

ROMANTIC REMEDY

Indulge your romantic side with a little printed prettiness. We've got our hearts set on a **Rifle Paper Co** (right) and an **Old English Company** (left) print. *www.OldEnglishCo.etsy.com, www.papermash.co.uk*

A textile design graduate and pattern designer, Jennifer Lee is a gal who knows how to achieve **the painterly, Monet-inspired look.** *www.jldesigns.co.uk*







Give old lamps a healthy new glow with a shade from Quincy's Kepler Collection. A contemporary take on the **Golden Ratio** – what a bright idea! *www.quincylampshades.co.uk*

Hello, our name's *Mollie Makes* and we're addicted to pom poms. Aquarian Soul's **fanciful dreamcatcher,** woven out of chalky yarn, is feeding our obsession. Love at first sight. *www.aquariansouldesigns.com*

Surfacephilia is obsessed with pretty walls and has added six **glamorous backdrops** to its debut collection. Our fave? Savoy – the glitzy one, of course. *www.surfacephilia.co.uk*

We did it to our hair, now we're giving our homes the same colour treatment. It's official, **ombre is the new black** and what better way to transform a paper lamp from dull to dreamy? *www.idainteriorlifestyle.com, www.idayarnshop.com*

PHOTOGRAPH: ILARIA CHIARATTI



Leanne screen prints her striking patterns onto natural fabrics.

DESIGNER FOCUS

Lulu & Luca

Fashion and textile designer Leanne Lucas' gracefully bold designs are inspired by a love of geometric patterns, **mid-century textiles** and natural botanical forms. The London-based designer offers a unique range of furnishings, proudly printed and produced in the UK. *www.luluandluca.com*



Vintage fairs and markets inspire her gorgeous soft furnishings.

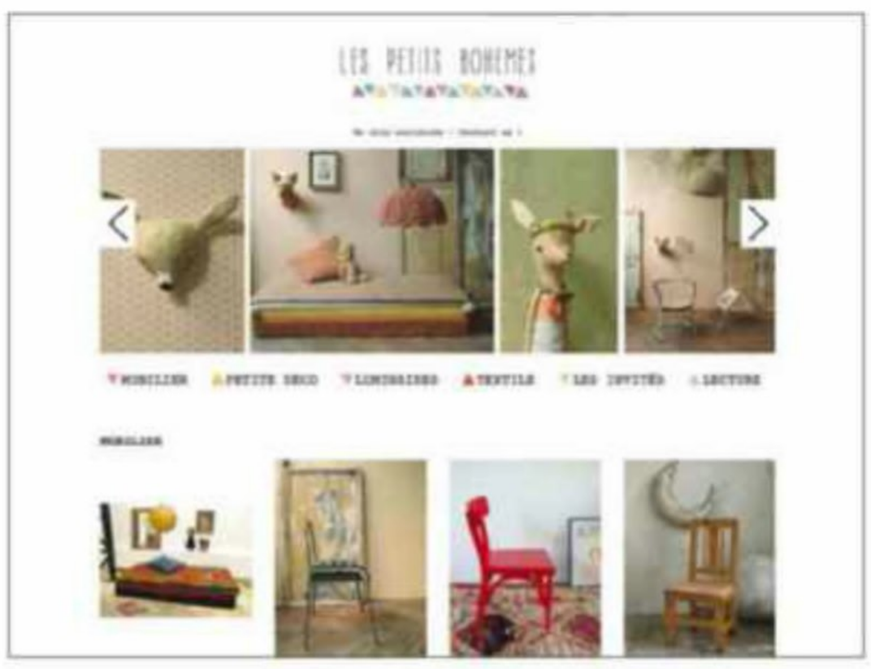


Elegant repeat patterns are inspired by bright vintage textiles.

WEBSITE TO WATCH

Les Petits Bohemes

Cute plushie rabbits and pastel crocheted lampshades galore, this eclectic online warehouse is packed to the rafters with **intriguing French style.** You'll find quirky toys for the infants, contemporary items for the modern homeowner and vintage uniques for inquisitive collectors. Get a little *Français* chic in your life. *www.lespetitsbohemes.fr*







Two houses, one street: neighbours Natasha Denness and Zoe Power love kitsch vintage treasures

Words: **JUDITH WILSON** Photography: **NATASHA DENNESS & ZOE POWER**

In today's world of blogging and virtual communities, many like-minded individuals form strong friendships, though such connections often remain online. But for Natasha Denness and Zoe Power, who met at an Oxford Flickr event, their friendship blossomed after discovering they lived in the same street. "It's so lovely to pop over for a cup of tea and a chat," says Zoe, while Natasha adds that their homes are just five »

Far left: Natasha (left) and Zoe (right) meet at **Natasha's house** for a catch-up. The tapestry on the wall is by **Paul Smith** from the Rug Company.

Left: Natasha's desk is tucked to one side of her **living room**. From here she regularly updates her blog, Candy Pop.

Right: Zoe's **craft room** is filled with fabric samples, toys and dolls. "It's such a happy space, full of colour," she says.




01


02

minutes' walk away. They both live in the heart of Oxford's Cowley area, full of buzzy vintage and charity shops, restaurants and bars.

A chance meeting is one thing, but Natasha and Zoe soon realised they shared parallel passions: retro fabrics, collecting kitsch accessories and blogging about their finds. Take a look at the neighbouring homes though, and you'll see they have pursued subtly different design directions. Zoe's Victorian mid-terrace house, which she shares with husband Al, combines pastel painted walls, flashes of candy pink and modern furniture. "Plus I love all the bold floral prints of the 60s and 70s," she explains. Natasha, by contrast, has opted for white walls, oak flooring and a heavier emphasis on classic retro furniture. "My favourite things range from 1940-1980," she enthuses. "I love Scandinavian, Bauhaus and Minimalist styles, but also the humour of the 1970s".

In an even stranger twist, until recently Zoe and Natasha both worked at the University of Oxford, Natasha as an educational fundraiser and Zoe as systems and information manager. For Natasha, her blog is "a diary of my life." She edits photos in spare moments and drafts text during her lunch breaks. But Zoe has just taken a career break: "I'd love to do something creative, perhaps freelance photography," she tells us. One look at the dreamy seascape photo in her sitting room, which she took in Devon, confirms her talent. "I usually plan my trips around places I want to photograph," she adds.

Natasha is also a constant traveller, writing up her weekend jaunts on her blog, together with evocative photos. "If I haven't planned a weekend of activity, it seems a waste," she admits. For fans of both blogs, it's the girls' enthusiasm for their quirky retro collections that comes across strongest. Natasha's interests

01 **The wall hanging above Natasha's bed was made by her mum for her sister's wedding. The patchwork cushions, using vintage fabrics, were a house warming gift from her sister.**

02 **One of Zoe's many kitsch treasures: "I love the plastic toys from the 60s and 70s."**





are wide-ranging, taking in "vintage ceramics, Murano style glass, kitsch knick-knacks… I could go on!" she says. Zoe's obsessions include owls and cult 1970s Blythe dolls. She first saw the latter at Natasha's house, started photographing examples, and is now "completely hooked!" The dolls line up on shelves in her light-filled study, adding a dash of eerie bonhomie to the space.

Natasha and Zoe both credit their love of collecting and their respective creative streaks to their families. Natasha's passion was fuelled by her parents' collection obsessions (she grew up with everything from antique dolls to kitsch Swiss chalets) and she's been trawling flea markets ever since. Zoe gets her love of photography from her Dad. As well as learning to knit and crochet, Zoe has enrolled herself onto a sewing course. "I'm looking forward to putting my pile of vintage fabrics to good use," she grins. Natasha has been stitching ever since first making a denim jacket as a teenager. Her grandmother was a professional dressmaker and her sister is a textile designer. A patchwork wall-hanging in her sitting room was a collaborative effort by Natasha, her mum and sister.

So if Zoe and Natasha have varying decorative styles, yet near identical collections, where do they think their tastes fuse? They agree that busy collections need space to breathe. For Zoe, it's all about "providing a simple backdrop to allow the vintage and handmade stuff to shine." Natasha also advises a minimal canvas, but battles more when it comes to practicing what she preaches. "There's a 'me' who loves modern minimal interiors and the 'me' that loves collecting vintage," she explains. Asked how to recreate their look, their joint advice is to have fun and "surround yourself with things you love." Natasha adds that being sensitive to the »

01 **In her kitchen, Zoe has combined a modern Ikea dining table with a candy pink painted radiator cover:** "I've loved pink for as long as I can remember."

02 **Narrow shelves provide the perfect display space for Zoe's collection of Blythe dolls.** "The Blythe community is very creative," she adds.



01



02

style of the property helps: "Compliment what you have rather than fight it."

As for what they each especially love about their own homes, the answers come thick and fast. "My displays," states Zoe, who has focused on creating bespoke storage to show them off, rather than extensive structural work. Natasha's favourite piece is a French dressing table. "Mum and I spotted it in a Herefordshire antique shop window – within five minutes it bore a sold tag!" she recalls. And while Zoe's home style veers towards the girlie and romantic, Natasha's is more about investment dressing. "I've saved for some more expensive pieces, thrifted for others," she says. It took her months to save for a Paul Smith tapestry, but "it was worth every penny."

And, with regular house visits on the agenda, what do they love about each other's homes? Zoe covets Natasha's talent for curating and displaying. "Things are constantly changing, so there's always something new to see," she smiles. Natasha admires Zoe's clever mix of different patterns, colours and textures. "She also has the most beautiful mug collection I've ever seen, so I always enjoy a cuppa from one!" she adds. With the pair of them blogging and crafting at each end of one Oxford street, what's next on the agenda? Zoe has the last word: "We have spoken about a potential joint photography exhibition," she says. "Maybe one day!"

01 Zoe has a collection of owls in various fabrics. Her mum also collected owls.
02 In Natasha's bedroom stands a vintage French dressing table. The trim phone is a reproduction.

FOLLOW ZOE AND NATASHA

Zoe blogs about her daily life and adventures at *www.zoepower.co.uk*, as well as selling greetings cards and prints featuring her photos of vintage kitsch and Blythe dolls. Follow Natasha's blog *www.candypop.uk.com* for plenty of photography, fashion, travel and interior design – all with a vintage twist, of course. Her photographs of nostalgic treasures are available to buy from her online shop.

This page: As a child, Natasha used to play with her grandmother's **animal figurines** from a 1950s display cabinet. Now she has her own **still life collection.**

Mollie MAKES



HEART ILLUSTRATION: © ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/SAMHI

Je T'aime

Perk up a kitsch corner of your room with Benjamin G. Wilson's eccentric, modish moggies







HOW TO MAKE… KNITTED CAT CUSHIONS

MATERIALS

- Debbie Bliss Rialto Lace, 1 ball each in Pool (Yarn A) and Stone (Yarn B)
- Debbie Bliss Angel, 1 ball each in Kingfisher (Yarn C), Chocolate (Yarn D) and Buttermilk (Yarn E)
- Pair of 3.25mm (UK 10/ US 3) knitting needles
- Backing fabric, 30.5 cm (12") and at least 66 cm (26") across
- Embroidery floss in beige
- Ribbons and fake pearls
- Sewing machine
- Dressmakers' pins
- Toy stuffing
- A large dry towel

TENSION

- 30sts and 40 rows to 10cm in st-st using 3.25mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

- **sts** stitches
- **st-st** stocking stitch

Ooh la la! We're simply *enchanté* to meet Pierre and Marie, two feline French fancies with a taste for the finer things in life. As well as a steady diet of caviar and Champagne (of course), they love to adorn themselves in beautiful designer accessories – a string of pearls for Marie and a sharp dickie bow for Pierre.

This is a really fun project to work on because there are a variety of techniques involved – intarsia knitting, embellishing, machine sewing and embroidery. You'll need to wet block your knitted piece in order to ensure it stretches to the right size, so be careful not to felt or damage the fabric. Pop these cushions on your sofa, your bed or even on your kitchen chairs – they'll bring a touch of *je ne sais quoi* to any room.

Knitting

01 Holding yarns A and C together, cast on 75sts. Using the intarsia method (see page 60), knit the cushions **according to the chart on the next page.** Cast off and repeat to make the second cushion.

Wet blocking

02 Gently **soak your two cushion fronts** in tepid water. Do not rub or agitate the fabric, even a little bit, as this will felt it.

03 After 20 minutes, remove the pieces from the water and **squeeze them as dry as you can** with a *single* squeeze. Do not handle the fabric heavily, it is very delicate.

04 Lay the two panels slightly apart on your dry towel. Starting from the edge, **roll the towel into a tight spiral** to squeeze out the majority of the water.

TURN THE PAGE FOR
THE CAT CUSHION CHART







05 Unroll your towel. Remove the panels, lay them flat on an absorbent surface (your carpet is perfect) and **pin the edges down** so that each square measures 30.5cm (12") across and the edges are straight. Be generous with the pins. **Leave them overnight,** or however long it takes for them to be bone dry.

Attaching the backing

06 Cut two 30.5cm (12") squares of fabric. **Press flat using your iron.**

07 With right sides facing inwards, **pin your fronts to your backs.**

08 Using small straight stitches on your sewing machine, **sew almost all the way around your cushion,** leaving a 5cm (2") gap at the bottom corner.

09 Turn the cushions right way round. Fill them with **as much stuffing as you can** without it showing through the fabric.

10 Using the machine, **sew the open edge** of the cushion closed.

Embellishment

11 Using the embroidery floss, **chain stitch** *'Je suis élégant'* and *'Je suis élégante'* on **the top of the cushions.**

12 **Sew on your pearls** to make a necklace for Marie.

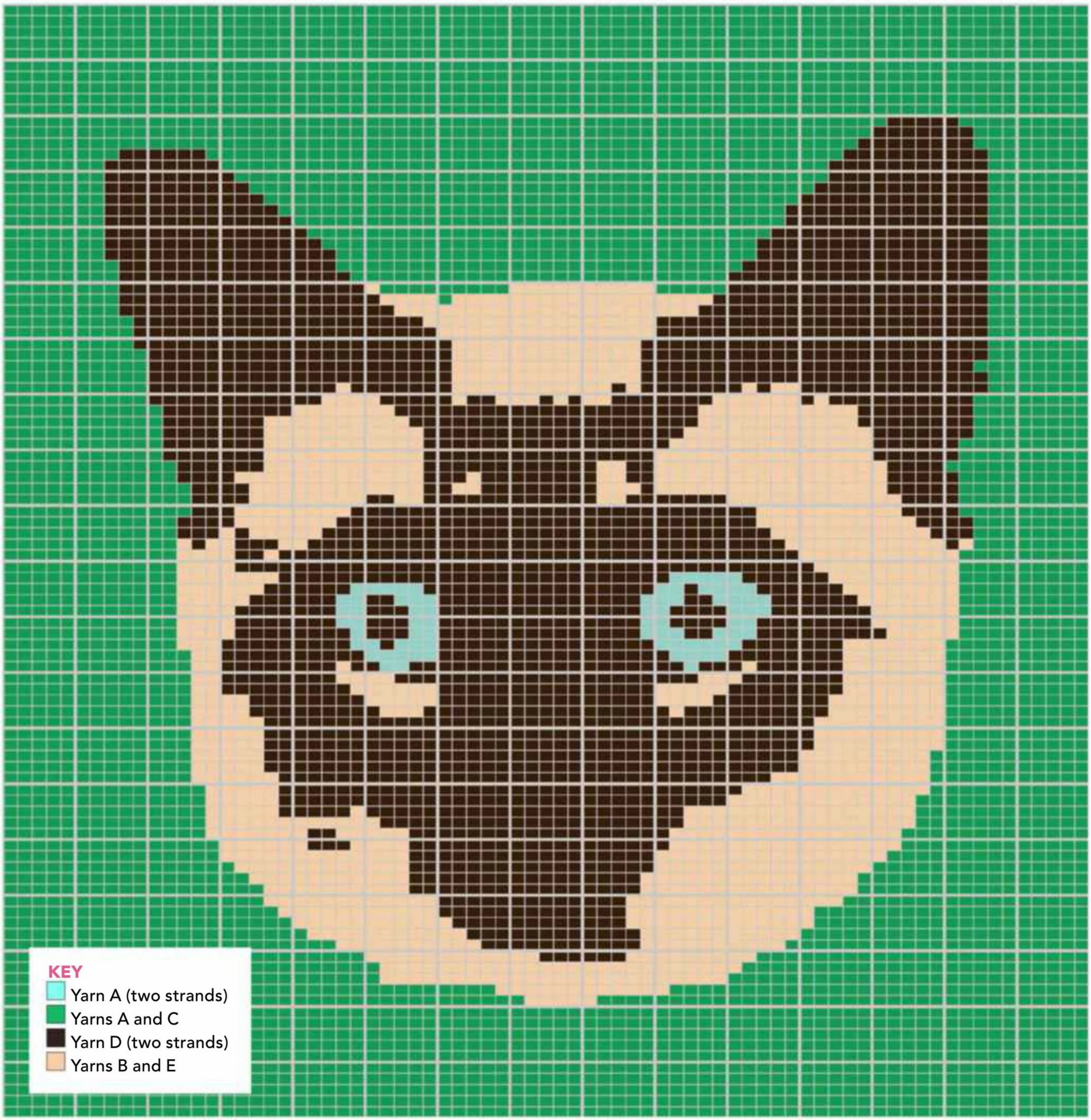
13 **Tie bows from two different ribbons.** Sew one onto Marie as a hair piece, and the other onto Pierre as a bow tie.

14 Position your finished cushions in a well lit room and **invite compliments.** *Et voila, c'est très bon, non?*



Benjamin G. Wilson

Benjamin is a knitwear designer specialising in modern menswear. His edgy, fitted designs draw on vintage, high fashion and pop culture inspirations to create kitsch statement pieces and elegant staples. He keeps a cerebral (and very NSFW!) diary at *www.knityounexttuesday.com* and works as a 'part time Twitter celebrity' using the handle @KnitYouNextTues.



BOBBINLESS INTARSIA

In intarsia, every block of colour gets its own strand of yarn. So the first row of the chin will take three strands of doubled yarn, and by the time you get to the pupil you'll be using 12. Don't worry, it's not as tricky as it sounds!

To knit the first stitch of a new colour, drop your old yarn and start knitting with the new one. You don't need to attach the yarn with a knot, and the hole you can see is entirely normal. Just make sure you leave a long tail for sewing in, and you can close the hole when you sew in your ends.

On the following rows, swap between colours that have already been introduced by dropping the old yarn and picking up the new one from beneath it. This means the two 'panels' of colour will twist together at the edges and you won't have any more holes. Take your time and untangle the yarn gently.

If things look a little wonky, that's ok. You can always tease the threads at the back to make it look more even, and the blocking will help even out the stitches.

Ooh

I COULD DO THAT...

Date night arrows



We stumbled upon these little beauties while on the annual hunt for quirky, original Valentine's ideas. Each felted arrow has a different date 'voucher' attached, so your oh-so-lucky recipient can cash in their chosen activity when they wish. **Super thoughtful, yet low on the sickly sweet factor.** Plus, they're easy and cheap to rustle up, so you can bowl over your other half without breaking the bank. Awesome. Find the full instructions at *www.sugarandcloth.com*

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Date Night

Grab your man, some pizza and a bottle of wine, and enjoy a cosy indoor date on Leah Farquharson's exclusive geometric patchwork blanket

WOOD BACKGROUND PHOTOGRAPH: © ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/QUANTHEM











HOW TO MAKE… A PATCHWORK BLANKET

MATERIALS

- 50cm (19¾") each of seven different fabrics
- 3m (3¼ yrd) coordinating fabric for the backing
- Matching thread
- 183 x 229cm (72 x 90") piece of low loft/thin 100% cotton batting
- Patchwork pins
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Gridded ruler
- Rotary cutter
- Fabric scissors
- Iron and board
- Sewing machine
- Ruler
- Quilting clips
- Small thread scissors

ABBREVIATIONS:

P1(pattern 1): grey square pattern fabric
P2 (pattern 2): red pattern fabric
P3 (pattern 3): black circle pattern fabric
P4 (pattern 4): blue square pattern fabric
P5 (pattern 5): dark grey cross pattern fabric
P6 (pattern 6): yellow pattern fabric
P7 (pattern 7): black square pattern fabric

Note: All seams are stitched using a 6mm (1/4") seam

Transform a rainy evening into a romantic indoor date with this colourful picnic blanket – just spread it across your living room floor, load up on drinks and snacks and put on your favourite tunes. Patchwork is a labour of love, and the time and care invested in a project will always shine through the finished piece. Anyone can learn the skill with a little patience, and this eye-catching triangular design is a great place to start. We've used fat quarters from the Nordika range by Jeni Baker and Squared Elements by Pat Bravo, both available from Art Gallery Fabrics and *www.hantex.co.uk/agf* in the UK.

01 Using your self-healing mat, grid ruler and rotary cutter, **cut each of your seven patchwork fabrics** into 15cm (6") strips. Then cut each strip down into 15 x 15cm (6 x 6") squares. Each fabric should yield at least 19 squares.

02 Cut **each square in half diagonally.** You'll need a total of 37/38 triangles of each colour.

03 Lay the triangles in **a rotating pattern,** 19 triangles to a row, in the following order:

Row 1: P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5

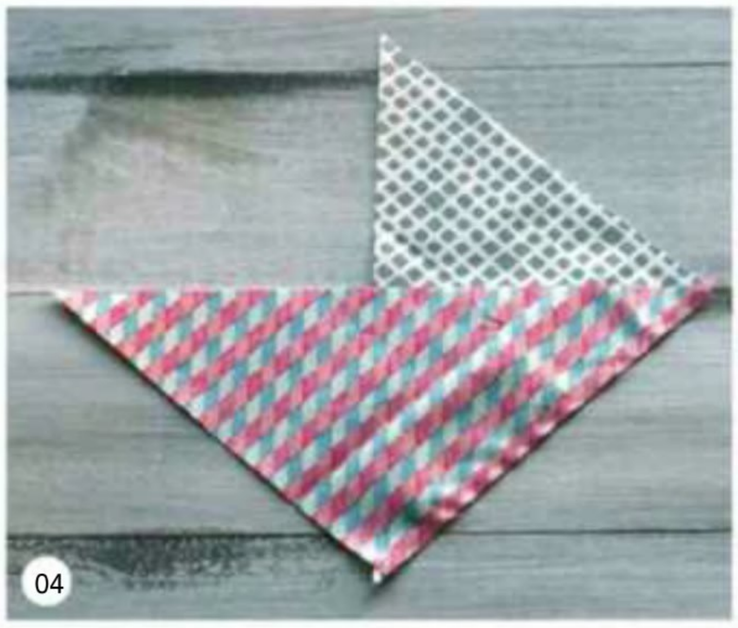
Row 2: P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1

Row 3: P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4

Row 4: P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7

Row 5: P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3

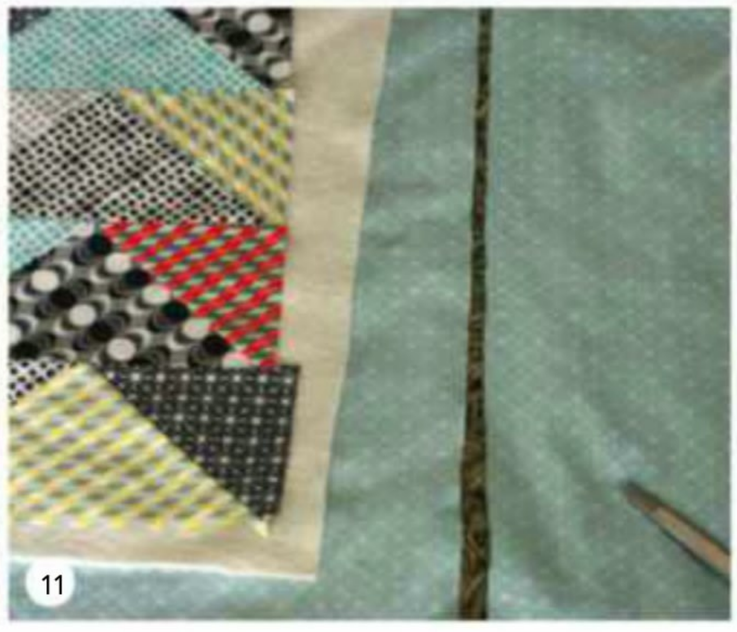
Row 6: P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3,













P4, P5, P6
Row 7: P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2
Row 8: P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5
Row 9: P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1
Row 10: P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4
Row 11: P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7
Row 12: P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3
Row 13: P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6
Row 14: P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P1, P2

04 **Gather up the pieces,** one row at a time. You may find it easiest to gather in reverse order, so the last triangle is on the bottom and the first ends up on top. **Line up the first two triangles** right sides (RS) together, with the angled edge overlapping the square edge. **Stitch the triangles together** using a scant 6mm (¼") seam, and leaving the very ends unstitched. Leaving the beginning and end 6mm (¼") unstitched allows the triangles to lie flat when pressed.

05 Open the two triangles and **lay the next piece in the pattern on top,** RS together, lining up the angled edge of one triangle with the straight edge of the other. **Stitch in the same manner as before,** leaving the edges unsewn. There should be a small amount of overlap, but try not to stitch over the other seams as this can create bumps in the fabric.

06 Open the seam of the triangle you've just stitched and **repeat for the whole row.** Press, folding the seams in one direction, not open.

07 Trim the beginning and end triangles 6mm (¼") past the seam to **square up the ends.** Place each stitched row back in your layout of pieces as you finish, to keep the pattern straight. Continue until **all 14 rows are stitched together.**

08 Grab rows one and two and lay RS together, making sure the triangles are **equally staggered**. Stitch together.

09 Stitch rows three to two in the same manner, and continue until the **entire top of the blanket** is assembled.

10 Cut two 145cm (58") long pieces **from the backing fabric.** We used a measuring tape stretched out to the full length, and placed the cutting mat where we wanted to cut. Stitch the two pieces together


14


15


Great in front of the TV – or out in the park come warmer weather.


17


18

HOW TO MAKE… A PATCHWORK BLANKET

on the 145cm (58") side and press the seam open, then place RS down in an open space. Ensure it's **lying smooth with no wrinkles.**

11 Layer the batting over the backing fabric and **place the assembled patchwork on top.** Trim some of the backing fabric and batting in the middle to make it easier to handle. Make sure to **leave several inches** on each side.

12 Starting in the middle, pin the patchwork pins **through the centre of your P1 fabric,** pinning through all three layers. The pins are specially bent to help hold all the often-thick layers of patchwork together.

13 Roll the **right edge of your blanket up.** Quilting clips are optional but they can help keep the sewing pocess manageable, stabilising the large piece as you slide it through your machine – like an extra pair of hands.

14 Place the **rolled portion of the blanket** inside your machine.

15 Begin stitching **around the edges of the triangles,** right on the seam. Start on the middle triangles and work to the outer edges. This helps prevent fabric bunching in the middle.

16 **Press all the layers** and remove the pins.

17 Trim the batting to **fit the top portion** of the patchwork blanket. Using the ruler, measure and cut the backing fabric 5cm (2") from the edge of the top portion.

18 Fold and press 2.5cm (1") under, and fold and press 2.5cm (1") under again. Pin. When you get to the corners, **fold according to the photo,** press and pin.

19 **Stitch the inner edge** of the folded portion to finish the blanket. Add an extra bit of stitching **for the angled corners** to finish off.



Leah Farquharson

Leah lives in the greater Miami area of the USA with her husband and their two sons. Her work features a refined, yet rustic feel that calls to mind her Midwestern roots. She is passionate about handmade and enjoys being a small business owner, blogger, and freelance writer. Catch up with what Leah and her crafty family have been up to on her blog. *www.bluebirdchic.com*

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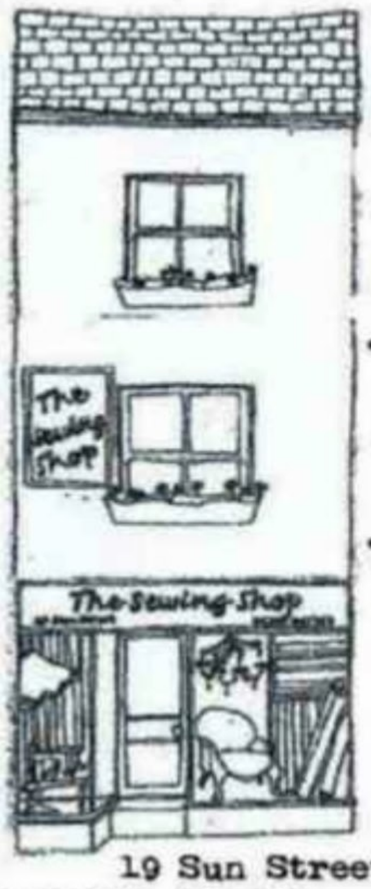
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LOVING

36

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COLLECTING



Student and photographer Briannafayde on why pre-loved glasses are the greatest of thrifted treasures



I discovered my love for vintage spectacles around the same time as developing my thrift shopping addiction – roughly three years ago. While sifting through other (perhaps more useful) items, I'd find myself continuously drawn to these abandoned optical gems. Thinking about the history of a second hand garment or furniture item is, of course, one of the most enjoyable parts of thrifting, but I couldn't help feeling these salvaged spectacles held far more detailed and interesting stories than the other items on offer. After all, people wear glasses in order to see the world clearly – often for all their waking hours. As a bespectacled person myself, I love my own glasses and the fact they've become part of my identity – something people recognise me by. I find it almost romantic that I can collect these pieces of people's lives and give them renewed importance.

At the moment I have nine pairs of specs in my collection – I would have more, but I'm fussy and try to look for designs that are unique to those I already have. My best find would have to be a vintage pair of Yves Saint Laurent frames. They're such an unusual shape, and I'm sure they'd have been quite the luxury item for the original wearer. I also love the small, but very thick, pair of children's bi-focal spectacles that were made by Metzler in Germany.

I search for new additions whenever I'm in a thrift store. I haven't had much luck in my local area, so most of my finds have been in shops I've ducked into on a whim in other towns. It's good to try different places too, especially garage sales and markets. There are also plenty of treasures online, but I prefer searching for mine by foot.

www.flickr.com/photos/butterflynecklace

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HIS & hers

Give your walls some serious specs appeal with Hollie Harris' exclusive hipster glasses hoop art




01


02


04


06


07

HOW TO MAKE… GLASSES HOOP ART

MATERIALS

- Two oval embroidery hoops, 7.5 x 12.5cm (3 x 5")
- Wool felt in grey, turquoise, pink and yellow available from *www.bloomingfelt.co.uk*
- Fabric glue
- Embroidery floss in white and orange
- Two pink beads
- Two chains, 38cm (15") each
- White cotton thread

Treat your walls to a new bit of eye candy with these fun felt hipster glasses. There's a square, thick-rimmed design for the boys and a glamorous pair of pink cat eyes for girls. Easy to make and in playful contrasting colourways, they're sure to add a touch of novelty to your walls. We particularly like the retro-inspired 3D chain elements – just like Nan and Grandad used to wear.

01 Start by **mounting your felt** in the oval hoops. Use yellow as the base colour in one and turquoise in the other. Lay the felt across the inner hoop and place the outer hoop on top. Pull the felt taut, then tighten the screw. **Trim your excess material,** cutting the felt flush to the back of your hoop.

02 **Pin the frame templates** on page 90 onto your remaining felt – use pink for the cat eye design and grey for the thick-rimmed design. **Cut out** around the frames and inside the lens areas.

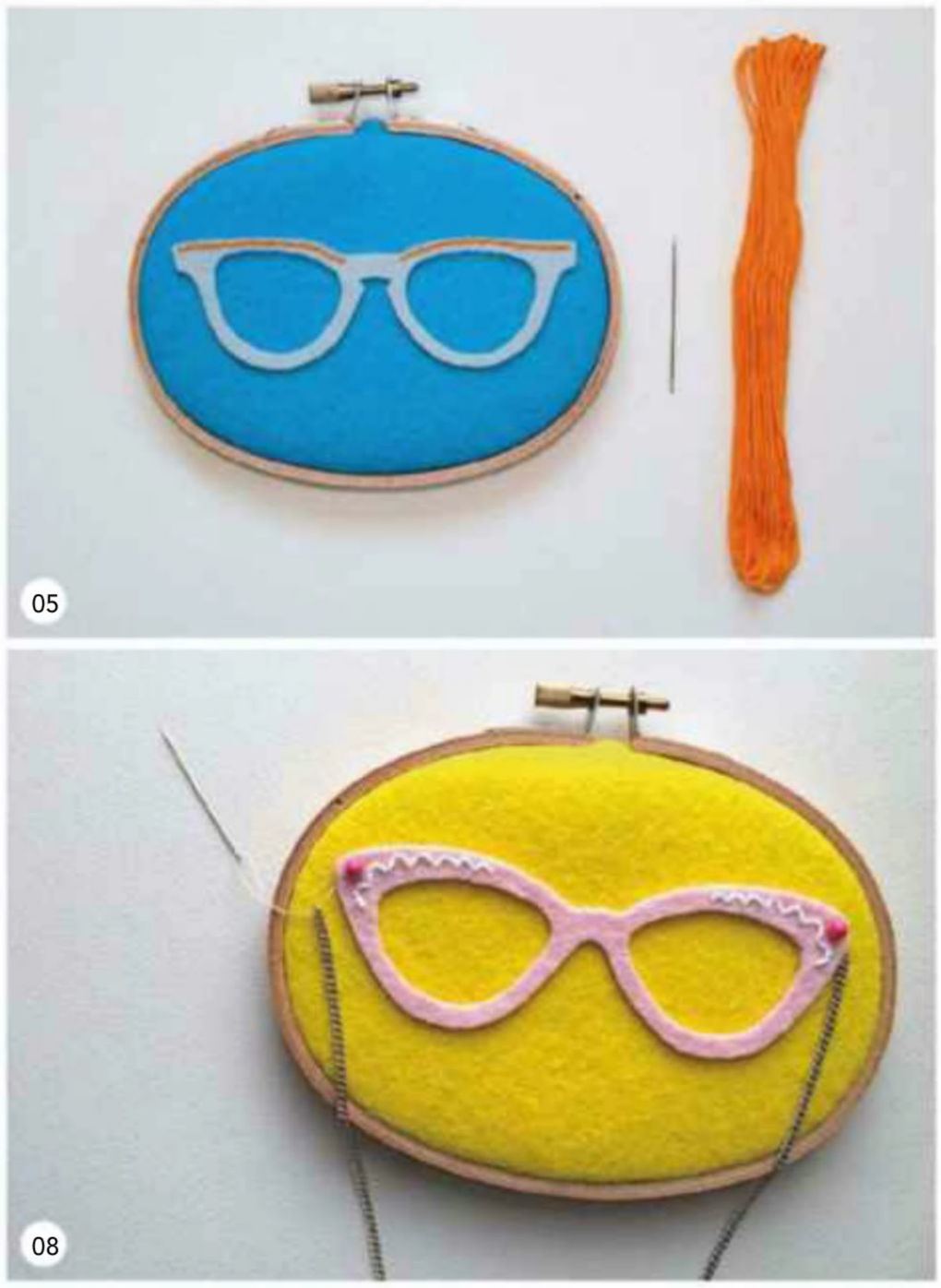
03 Dab some fabric glue on one side of your cut out frames and gently **position in the middle of each hoop.** Apply the pink frames to the yellow felt and the grey to the turquoise. **Don't apply too much pressure,** otherwise the glue will soak into your felt. Allow to dry.

04 Once your glue has dried you can **begin adding embroidered details.** Using the template as a guide, stitch a **scalloped chain stitch** (see box out, right) on the pink frames using white floss.

05 Again, using the template as a guide, **backstitch two lines** on the grey frames using orange floss.

06 **Embroider two diamond shapes** in orange floss at each corner of your grey frames.

TURN THE PAGE TO MEET DESIGNER, HOLLIE



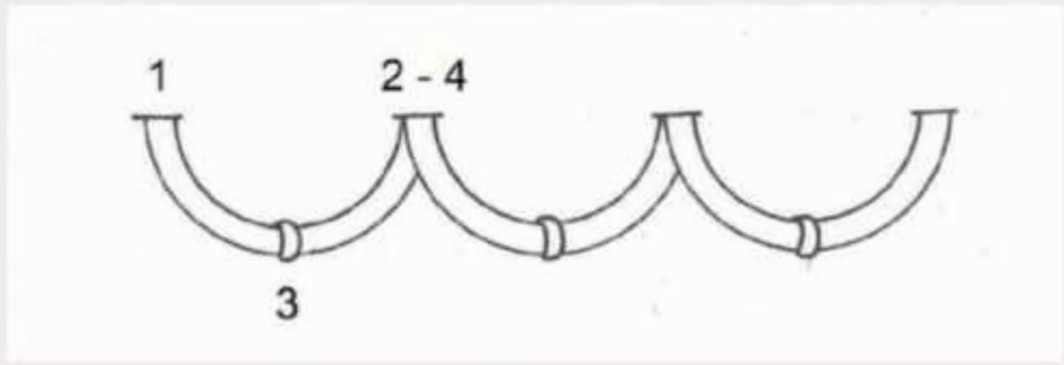


No four eyes here – just sleek, retro frames.

07 Using white cotton thread, **sew a small pink bead** at each corner of your cat eye frames. Stitch through a couple of times to ensure it's fully secured in place.

08 Now **add your chains to each hoop.** Ensure each one measures no more than 38cm (15") in length – you don't want them too long, so trim with pliers if necessary. Using cotton in an inconspicuous colour, make a number of small stitches through the background felt and the end chain link, **securing it onto each corner** of the frames and creating a hanging loop.

HOW TO... MAKE A SCALLOPED CHAIN STITCH



Make the top of the loop opening wider (1-2) and work the stitches side to side (4 comes out at 2) instead of top to bottom, as with a regular chain stitch. The thumb of the hand not holding the needle can slightly pull down the thread and shape the floss where you want it before you come back up at (3). The third stitch holds the dropped loop in place.



PHOTOGRAPH: HOLLIE HARRIS/ PETER HARRIS

CLOSER LOOK

LIFE THROUGH A LENS

Our spec-tacular (ahem) appliquéd hoop designer is a multi-crafter with a thing for vintage records as well as glasses

Words: **LARA WATSON**

Hollie Harris: Central St Martins graduate, artist, mum, independent record label founder. Yup, our latest Instagram crush is one multi-talented cookie and we can't wait to see what other surprises she comes up with in her soon-to-be-launched retro-inspired online shop.

"It became obvious during my teenage years that I was destined for an art career," says Hollie. "I dreamed of creating album covers for all the grunge and Britpop bands I adored. But upon leaving art college I came to the realisation that the demise of vinyl meant I was never going to be able to design the covers I had planned for so long," she explains. "So, heartbroken and refusing to have my dreams dashed, I set up an independent record label with a friend which we ran for a few years."

Brief spells as a graphic designer and a stint working for the London Underground followed before freelancing as an artist, illustrator and photographer and then becoming a mum.

"It was during this time I became inspired to craft a variety of retro, kitsch and colourful items to fill my family home, as well as soft toys and other items for my little boy," says Hollie. Two years on, she's now able to juggle running a small business from home, while caring for her son and completing commissions for us!

"The idea for the specs project came from a vintage design classic and my love of colour, felt and the 60s," she says. "Glasses were an obvious choice – they were there, as clear as the nose on my face, or sitting on the end of it! Furthermore, I wanted to design something that would be more than just another piece of hoop art and thought, why not add a playful element – the spectacle chain." As you'd expect, with her thick black cat eye frames worn for close crafting work, Hollie wouldn't be without her spec chain. "I'd spend half my day looking for them, if they weren't hanging around my neck!" We're so pleased they've given you more time to craft, Hollie.

www.hollieharris.etsy.com

Ooh

I COULD DO THAT...

Flower bookmarks

Ahh, paper – you never fail to impress with your many beautiful and varied uses. Rebecca Thuss and Patrick Farrell's new book, *Paper to Petal*, contains **75 inspiring new flower designs** crafted from this most simple of materials – great for adding an extra-special touch to table settings and other party decor. These delicate bookmarks are simply stunning. Published by Potter Craft, the book retails at £16.99 (RRP) and is available from *www.thegmcgroup.com*





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NEW ROMANTIC

Get revamped Victoriana style with one of Jeska Hearne's antique lace statement necklaces, updated with splashes of aqua and jewels aplenty













HOW TO MAKE… LACE STATEMENT NECKLACES

MATERIALS

- Cotton or linen lace scraps at least 20cm in length (or a vintage lace collar if you can find one – Etsy is a good source)
- Inexpensive chain necklace with clasp closure
- Dylon fabric paint pots
- Paint brush
- Mixing palette
- Sewing needle
- Beading needle
- Beads and sequins
- Cotton thread in a matching colour
- Kitchen towel
- Jar of water
- Scissors
- Waterproof surface
- Iron

We're loving lace and all the fresh new design twists we're seeing on this most classic of materials right now. These statement necklaces are so pretty, and pack just the right amount of punch with their bold colour wash and striking jewelled embellishments.

There's minimal sewing involved here, making it a great project for a quiet weekend morning or rainy afternoon. It's also a really good opportunity to use up any scraps of lace trim that have been hanging around in your stash but not yet put to use. If refreshing shades of blue and turquoise don't float your boat, there are heaps of Dylon fabric paints to choose from – perfect for experimenting with palettes.

01 Choose your lace, preferably **cotton or linen** as they take the dye in best. Vintage **lace collars** are great if you can find them, as they're the perfect half moon shape for a necklace.

02 Decide on your colour scheme and **mix up your paint palette.**

03 Place your lace on top of a **double layer** of kitchen towel on a waterproof surface.

04 Water down the colours slightly to give a more muted effect and then **start to paint,** building up the colour in layers.

05 Dab off any **excess paint** with kitchen towel then place near a radiator to dry.

06 Once dry, **iron the lace** between two clean pieces of













kitchen towel with the iron on the hottest setting to **fix the dye.**

To make a collar necklace

07 Fold the lace over at the top and stitch to **create a tube,** then feed the chain through and out the other side. **Gather and fasten in place** at each side of the chain with a needle and thread.

08 Embellish your motif with a nice scattering of **beads and sequins.**

To make a rosette necklace

09 Fold your painted strip of lace in half and **stitch across the end.** Press the seam.

10 With a needle and thread, sew a **loose running stitch** along one edge. Then, **pull thread ends gently** to gather into a rosette.

11 Decorate with **beads and sequins** – as many as you like!

12 Turn the rosette over and **secure the chain** to the middle of the fabric with stitches.

13 Put a couple of small stitches at each side in the top of the rosette at 2 and 10 o'clock to **keep it flat on the chain** when worn.

14 Now your necklace is **ready to wear** – dress up jeans and a tee or add extra wow factor to your favourite dress.



Jeska Hearne

Blogger Jeska has been interior styling-obsessed since happy childhood days spent playing in her treasure-filled Wendy house. Now she loves to share all the things that warm her heart over at her blog – from favourite recipes and decorating ideas to daily discoveries and inspirations. She strives to make her blog a happy, inspiring place.

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NEW ARRIVAL

Get clucky for this cute update on the classic crocheted bonnet, mittens and booties set

PHOTOGRAPHS: PROJECT FROM 978-4021904875 © BY E&G CREATES INC

HOW TO MAKE… A BABY GIFT SET

MATERIALS

- Woolyknit 4ply Classics 100% Merino, 50g/183m per ball, three balls in Natural
- A 3mm (UK 10, US C/2 or D/3) crochet hook
- Tapestry needle
- Clover Elastic Yarn Thread or approx 1m (1 yrd) of matching narrow ribbon

TENSION

Bonnet – 3 pattern repeats wide measure 12.5cm (5") and 9 rows measure 11cm (4") using a 3mm hook.
Mitts and booties – 23sts and 13 rows to measure 10 x 10cm (4 x 4") over pattern using a 3mm hook.

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

beg beginning
ch chain
ch-sp chain space
dc double crochet
RS right side
sp space
ss slip stitch
st stitch
tr treble
WS wrong side
yrh yarn round hook

SIZE

Bonnet – 38cm (15") around face edge.
Mitts – 11cm (4½") length.
Booties – 11cm (4½") length.

Could there be a cuter newborn gift? Keep little ones wrapped up warm in this baby-soft bonnet, mittens and booties set. Do away with the usual blue or pink and crochet in a neutral shade – you can start work before the due date and have it all finished in time.

Baby bonnet

Foundation: Using a 3mm hook, ch21.
Row 1 (RS): ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), puff st into 7th ch from hook, *miss 3 ch, v-st into next ch, miss 3 ch, 3-puff fan into next ch, repeat from * once more, miss 3 ch, (v-st, ch1, v-st) into last ch, rotate bonnet to work along the other side of the starting ch, **miss 3 ch, 3-puff fan into next ch, miss 3 ch, v-st into next ch, repeat from ** once more, miss 3 ch, (puff st, ch3, tr) into last ch, turn.
Row 2 (WS): ch3 (counts as tr), tr into same st, *3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, repeat from * once more, 3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, v-st into top of last tr of same v-st, 3-puff fan into next ch-sp, v-st into top of first tr of next v-st, 3-puff fan into centre of same v-st, **v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, 3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, repeat from ** once more, 2tr into top of beg ch-3, turn.
Row 3 (RS): ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), puff st into same st, *v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, 3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, repeat from * twice more, v-st into first puff of next 3-puff fan, 3-puff fan into centre of same 3-puff fan, v-st into last puff of same 3-puff fan, **3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, repeat from ** twice more, (puff st, ch3, tr) into top of beg ch-3, turn.
Row 4 (WS): ch3 (counts as tr), tr into same st, *3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, repeat from * twice more, 3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, v-st into first puff of next 3-puff fan, 3-puff fan into centre of same 3-puff fan, v-st into last puff of same 3-puff fan, **3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, repeat from ** twice more, 3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, 2tr into top of beg ch-3, turn.
The back is now complete. Now start the sides and top.
Row 5 (RS): ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), puff st into same st, *v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, 3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, repeat from * seven more times, v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, (puff st, ch3, tr) into top of beg ch-3, turn. [9v-sts and 8 complete 3-puff fans]
Row 6 (WS): ch3 (counts as tr), tr into same st, *3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, v-st into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, repeat from * seven more times, 3-puff fan into centre of next v-st, 2tr into top of beg ch-3, turn. [8 complete v-sts and 9 3-puff fans]
Rows 5 and 6 set the pattern.
Rows 7-13: Repeat rows 5 and 6 three (3) times, then row 5 once more, do not fasten off.
Front edging:
Row 14 (WS) ch1 (does not count as st), dc into same st, *4-puff fan into centre of next v-st, dc into centre puff of next 3-puff fan, repeat from * seven more times, 4-puff fan into centre of next v-st, dc into top of beg ch-3, turn. [9 4-puff fans]
Row 15 (RS) ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog into same st and top of first puff of 4-puff fan, *2dc into next 3ch-sp, dc into top of next puff, picot, 2dc into next 3ch-sp, dc into top of next puff, picot, 2dc into next 3ch-sp, dc2tog into top of last puff of 4-puff fan and top of first puff of next 4-puff fan, repeat from * across working last dc2tog into top of last puff of 4-puff fan and last dc, do not fasten off but turn to

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Puff st (yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop to the height of a tr) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all 7 loops on hook, ch1 to complete st.
3-puff fan (Puff st, ch3, puff st, ch3, puff st) into st indicated.
4-puff fan (Puff st, ch3, puff st, ch3, puff st, ch3, puff st) into st indicated.
Dc2tog double crochet 2 together – (insert hook in next st, yrh and draw loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook.
2-tr cluster (yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook.
4-tr cluster (yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all 5 loops on hook.
Magic ring To make a magic ring, hold thread in your hand and wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off your finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch1, then work the necessary sts for round 1 and close the ring tightly by pulling the loose end.
Picot ch3, ss to 3rd ch from hook.
V-st (tr, ch1, tr) into st indicated.

work on neck edging.

Neck edging:

Work into the ends of rows along the first side, the back and the second side.

Row 1 (RS): ch3 (counts as tr), tr into end of row 13, (ch2, 2tr) evenly round working into ends of rows, ensuring the edge doesn't bunch, work final tr into end of row 14. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Tie:

Ch200, ss to second ch from hook and each ch across, fasten off. Weave tie through neck edging using the image as a guide.

Tie Ends (make 2)

Worked in the round.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: Ch3 (yrh, insert hook in magic ring, yrh and pull up loop to the height of a tr) twice, yrh and draw through all 5 loops on hook, ch1 to complete st, picot, ch3, (puff st, picot, ch3) 4 times into magic ring, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. Fasten off and use tails to join to the ends of the tie.



Isn't this perfectly precious? Stitch a very special future heirloom.

Mitts (make 2)

The mitts are made in the round.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: Ch3, tr into magic ring, ch1, (2-tr cluster in magic ring, ch1) 7 times, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join.

Round 2: Ch1 (does not count as st), ch1, *(dc, ch1, dc, ch1) into next ch-sp, repeat from * around omitting final ch1, ss to top of beg ch-1 to join.

Round 3: Ch3, tr into ch-sp, ch1, *2-tr cluster in next ch-sp, ch1, repeat from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [32sts]

Round 4: Ch1 (does not count as st), ch1, *dc into next ch-sp, ch1, repeat from * around omitting final ch1, ss to top of beg ch-1 to join. [32sts]

Rows 3 and 4 set the pattern.

Rounds 5-11: Repeat rounds 3 and 4 three (3) times, then round 3 once more, do not fasten off.

To ensure mitts fit securely at the wrist, work some Elastic Yarn Thread together with the yarn on Round 11. Alternatively, thread narrow ribbon into Round 11 to form ties when you have completed the mitts.

Round 12: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into same st and each of next 8 sts, miss 1st, dc into next 13sts, miss 1st, dc into remaining sts around, ss to top of beg ch-1 to join. [30sts]

Round 13: Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into same st, miss next st, ch3, *dc into next st, ch3, dc into next st, ch3, miss next st, 3tr into next st, ch3, miss next st, repeat from * 4 more times, dc into next st, ch3, dc into next st, ch3, miss next st, tr into st at base of beg ch-3, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join.

Round 14: Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into top of beg ch-3, miss first 3ch-sp *ch3, (puff st, picot, ch3) 3 times all in next 3ch-sp, dc into centre tr of 3-tr group, repeat »

HOW TO MAKE… A BABY GIFT SET

from * 5 more times omitting final dc, ss to top of beg ch-1.
Fasten off and weave in ends.
Flower decorations (make 4):
Follow the instructions for the bonnet tie ends and use the tails to sew the flowers into position on the mittens using the image as a guide.

Booties (make 2)

The booties start in the round.
Make a magic ring.
Rounds 1-8 work as for rounds 1-8 of mitts. [32sts]
Fasten off.
The booties will now be worked in rows before being seamed up the back of the heel.
Row 1 (RS): Join yarn in any dc of round 8, ch3 (counts as tr), *2-tr cluster into next ch-sp, ch1, repeat from * 14 more times, 2-tr cluster into next ch-sp, tr into same st as beg ch-3, turn. [33sts]
Row 2 (WS): ch1 (does not count as st), dc into same st, *ch1, dc into next ch-sp, repeat from * across working final dc into top of beg ch-3. [33sts]
Row 3 (RS): ch3 (counts as tr), *2-tr cluster into next ch-sp, ch1, repeat from * 6 more times, 4-tr cluster working first 2tr into next ch-sp and second 2tr into the following ch-sp, **ch1, 2-tr cluster into next ch-sp, repeat from ** 6 more times, tr into last dc, turn. [31sts]
Row 4 (WS): repeat row 2. [31sts]
Row 5 (RS): ch3 (counts as tr), *2-tr cluster into next ch-sp, ch1, repeat from * 5 more times, 4-tr cluster working first 2tr into next ch-sp, miss ch-sp, and the second 2tr into the following ch-sp, **ch1, 2-tr cluster into next ch-sp, repeat from ** 5 more times, tr into last dc, turn. [27sts]
Row 6 (WS): repeat row 2. [27sts]
Row 7 (RS): ch3 (counts as tr), *2-tr cluster into next ch-sp, ch1, repeat from * 4 more times, 4-tr cluster working first 2tr into next ch-sp, miss ch-sp, and second 2tr into the following ch-sp, **ch1, 2-tr cluster into next ch-sp, repeat from ** 4 more times, tr into last dc, do not turn. [23sts]
Edging:
The edging is worked into the ends of rows along one side to round 8 and then back along the other side to the top of the heel.
Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, picot, dc) evenly around the top of the bootie working 8 picots onto each side, ss to top of first dc to join the edging.
Fasten off and use tail to seam the back of the heel.
Flower decorations (make 2):
Follow the instructions for the bonnet tie ends and use the tails to sew the flowers into position on the booties using the image as a guide.

Finishing

Sew in all loose ends.



Add a teddy for a super-sweet baby shower bundle.



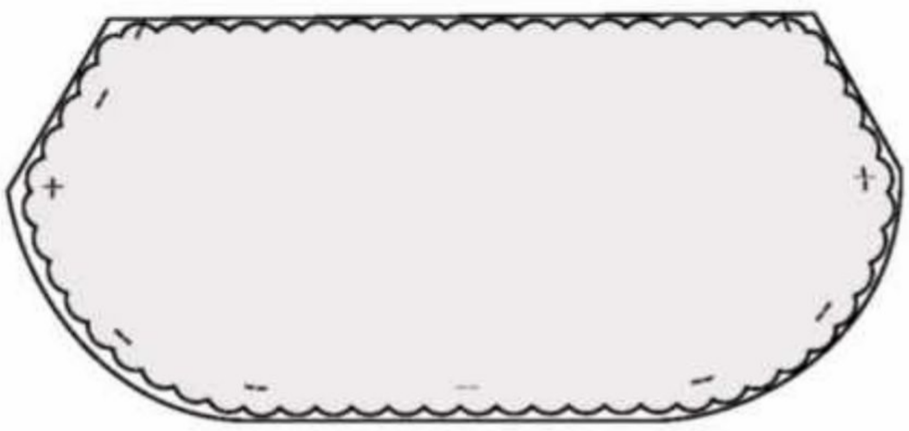
Handmade Clothes for Baby
We've translated this project specially for *Mollie Makes* readers from *Handmade Clothes for Baby* (ISBN 978-4021904875), the Japanese publication of E&G CREATES, INC, full of cute crochet projects for little ones.
www.eandgcreates.com/index.html



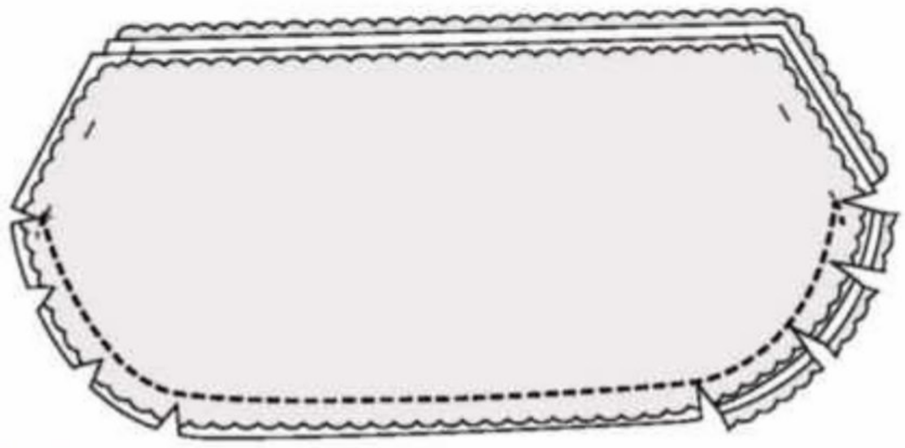
One for the gals!

All the single ladies! Get sewing these cute mini clutch bags for yourself and your gal pals this Valentine's Day – who needs flowers anyway?

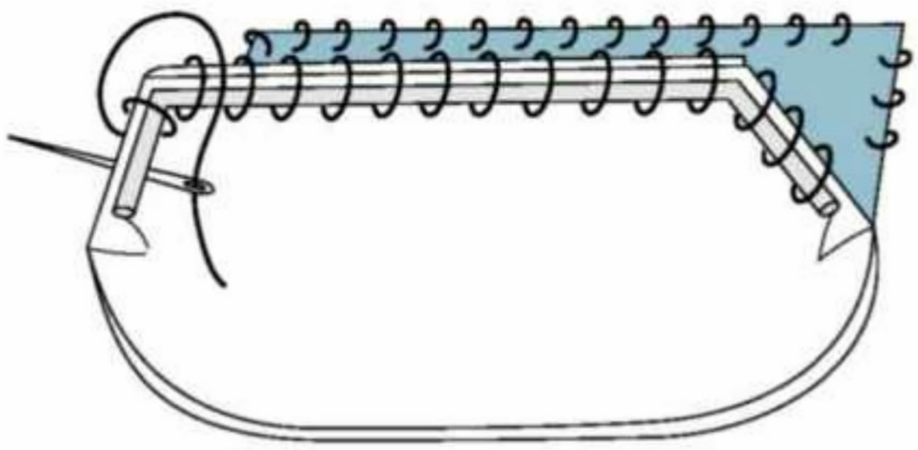
PROJECT FROM 978-4834731736 © 2013 BOUTIQUE-SHA, INC.



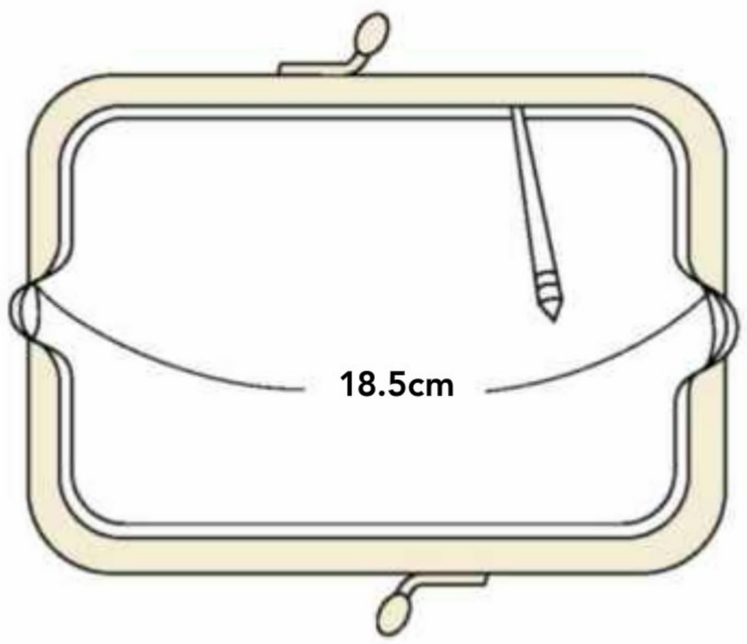
01



02



04



05

HOW TO MAKE… A MINI CLUTCH BAG

MATERIALS

- Patterned fabric, 60 x 15cm (26 x 6")
- Lining fabric, 60 x 15cm (26 x 6")
- Medium weight iron-on interfacing, 60 x 15cm (26 x 6")
- Sewing thread
- Needle
- Metal purse clasp, 18.5 x 8.5cm (7⅜ x 3⅜")
- Rolled paper string
- Clear glue

SIZE:

- 11 x 24cm (4⅜ x 9½")

We know the annual Valentine's schmaltz-fest isn't for everyone. So show yourself some love with a little self-gifting – whip up a cute clutch for your next girls' night out. These pretty petals last way longer than a bunch of flowers anyway.

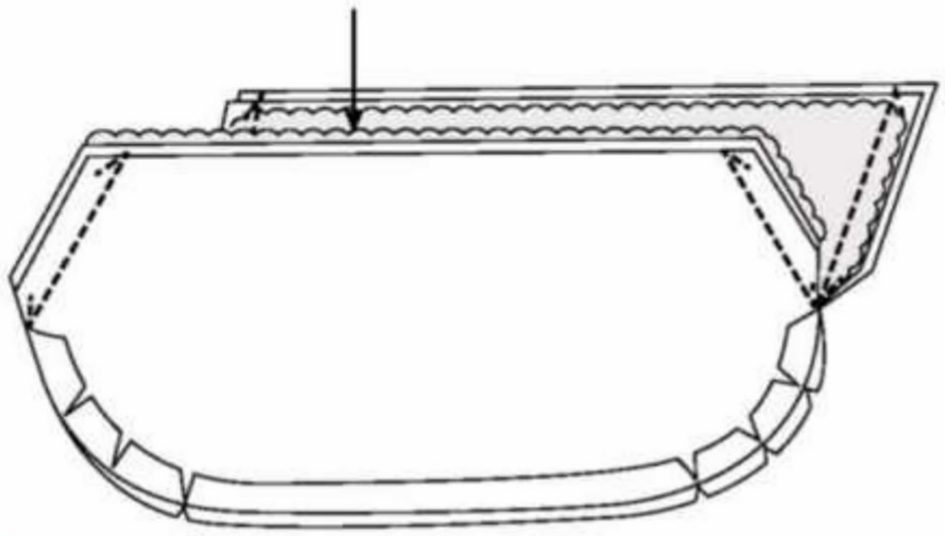
This little number can be sewn by hand but machine stitching will give it a longer, stronger life. It'll work well in a dressweight cotton fabric – or something like a Liberty Tana Lawn – as the addition of interfacing will make it much sturdier. Have fun choosing a contrasting lining, or add a little stitched message or initials inside if you're crafting it as a treat for a friend. Or you could mimic the best in vintage style and add a tiny inner pocket for a mirror. Just remember Use a 0.5cm (¼") seam allowance throughout.

Sewing the bag

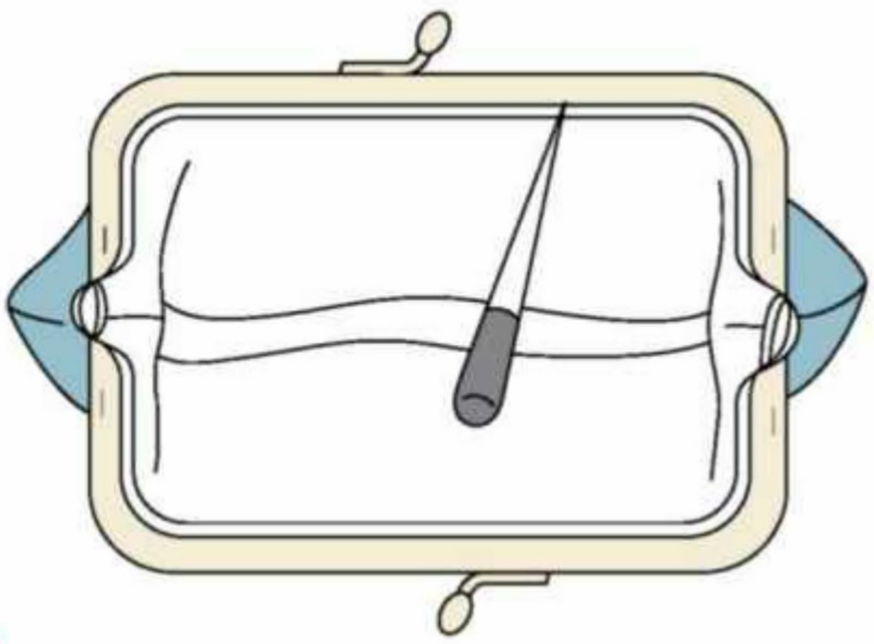
01 Add **iron-on interfacing** to your outer fabric to make it stiffer, then cut out two bag shapes using the template on page 91. **Cut out two lining pieces** to the same size. Be sure to line all the pieces up with the straight grain of your fabric.

02 To make the outside of the bag, put the two fabric pieces right sides together and **stitch around the lower curve** of the shape, stopping before the point where the sides slope inwards – this is where your clasp will fit. **Snip into the seam around the curves,** being careful not to cut through your stitching.

03 **Create the lining in the same way,** again snipping into the seams. Turn right sides out and drop the outside of the bag into the lining. The two pieces will be wrong sides together. Spend a little time **wiggling the lining and outer bag into position** so they line up exactly. Now attach the lining at the unstitched part of the side seams. There are four separate mini seams to do. **Add a few extra stitches** where these seams meet the lower curve – this will strengthen the opening of the bag.



03



06

04 Place a length of rolled paper string along the top edge of one side. Attach it by **overcasting all along the open edge.** Do the same for the other side. This is going to make attaching the clasp much easier. Turn right sides out.

05 Working one side at a time, add **a thin line of glue** inside the metal clasp. A cocktail stick is a handy way to **apply the glue sparingly.**

06 Push the edges of the clutch with the rolled paper string into the clasp. Make sure they are **well pushed inside all the way along.** Allow time to dry, then do the same for the second side. Ta-da, your clutch is now ready to take out for the evening!

Pop your cash, lippie and phone in this little beauty and go dance the night away.





Flower Print Fabric Bags and Crafts
We've translated this project specially for *Mollie Makes* readers from *Flower Print Fabric Bags and Crafts* (ISBN 978-4834731736), the Japanese publication of Boutique-Sha, Inc. It's filled with pretty project ideas, from shoppers to satchels, to accessorise your wardrobe with.
www.boutique-sha.co.jp

TEMPLATES

All the shapes for this issue's makes. Unless otherwise stated, templates are shown at 100%. You can find the full-size templates ready to download from www.molliemakes.com

YOUR FREE GIFT

BY ZOE LARKINS PAGE 7



02



03



05



07



08



09

HOW TO MAKE A BROOCH

01 Using the templates provided, **cut out the shapes** from the faux leather. Refer to the image to ensure the scroll and backing are **facing the correct way,** as they'll need to fit together. If you find cutting out the middle parts of letters a bit fiddly, use a craft knife and cutting mat.

02 Position your letters onto the scroll. Once you're happy with the spacing, **glue then stitch them in place.** Make sure the ends and corners of letters are **securely stitched down,** as these are vulnerable to lifting off once the glue wears away.

03 **Glue your scroll** onto the heart. Once in place, snip into the scroll with some small sharp scissors and **tuck the excess behind the red heart,** as shown.

04 Position the flowers and leaves, **then glue.**

05 Sew the scroll and flowers into place **using straight stitches.** Add the tiny gold beads to the flower centres, using two or three stitches each to secure.

06 Place the brooch back **just above the centre point** on the red backing. Sew two or three stitches through each hole and finish off with a knot on the back.

07 Now your two pieces should mirror each other's outline. Turn both pieces over and **paint a thin line of glue** on the back of your heart, around the edge. Remember to leave a 2cm (¾") gap for stuffing.

08 You will notice that the back piece is larger than the heart once glued, so **trim the excess** using small, sharp scissors.

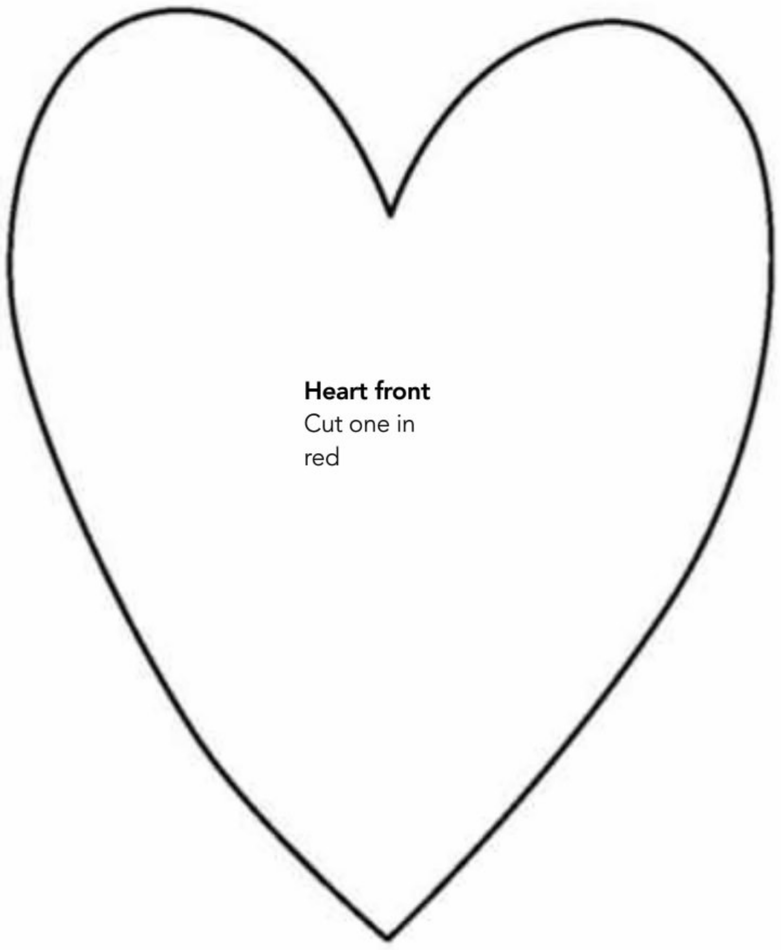
09 Once the glue has dried **find the gap and start stitching** with the thread knot neatly between the two layers, inside the heart. Sew until you meet the other side of the gap. **Gently push the stuffing in** with your little finger or a knitting needle.

10 **Sew up the gap** and, with a couple of stitches, finish off neatly on the back until you're happy that the thread won't come out and unravel. Your heart brooch is now ready to wear.

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YOUR FREE GIFT

BY ZOE LARKINS PAGE 7



Heart front
Cut one in red



Leaf
Cut four in green

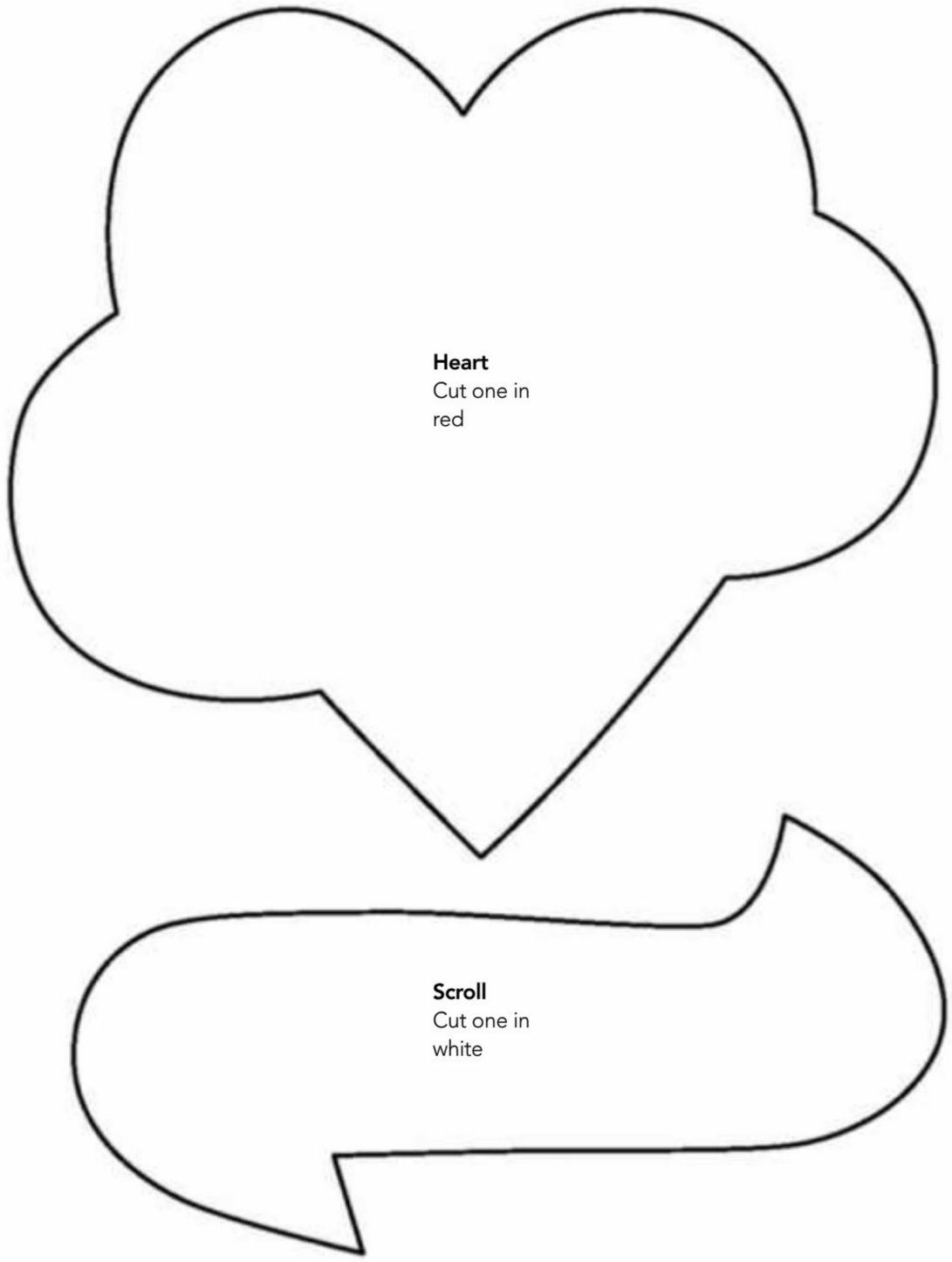


Flower
Cut two in pink

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Letters
Cut one of each in black

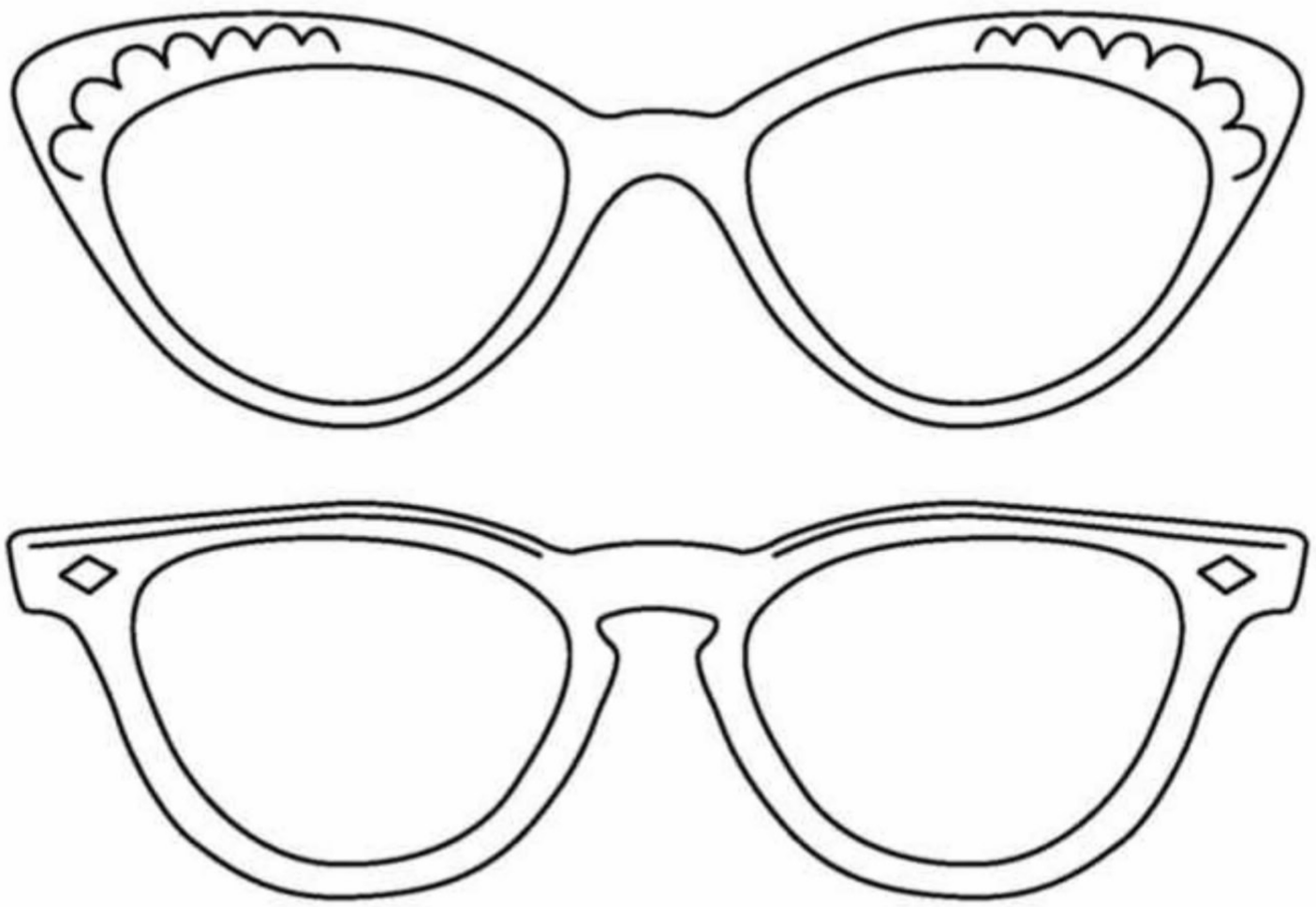


Heart
Cut one in red

Scroll
Cut one in white

HIS & HERS

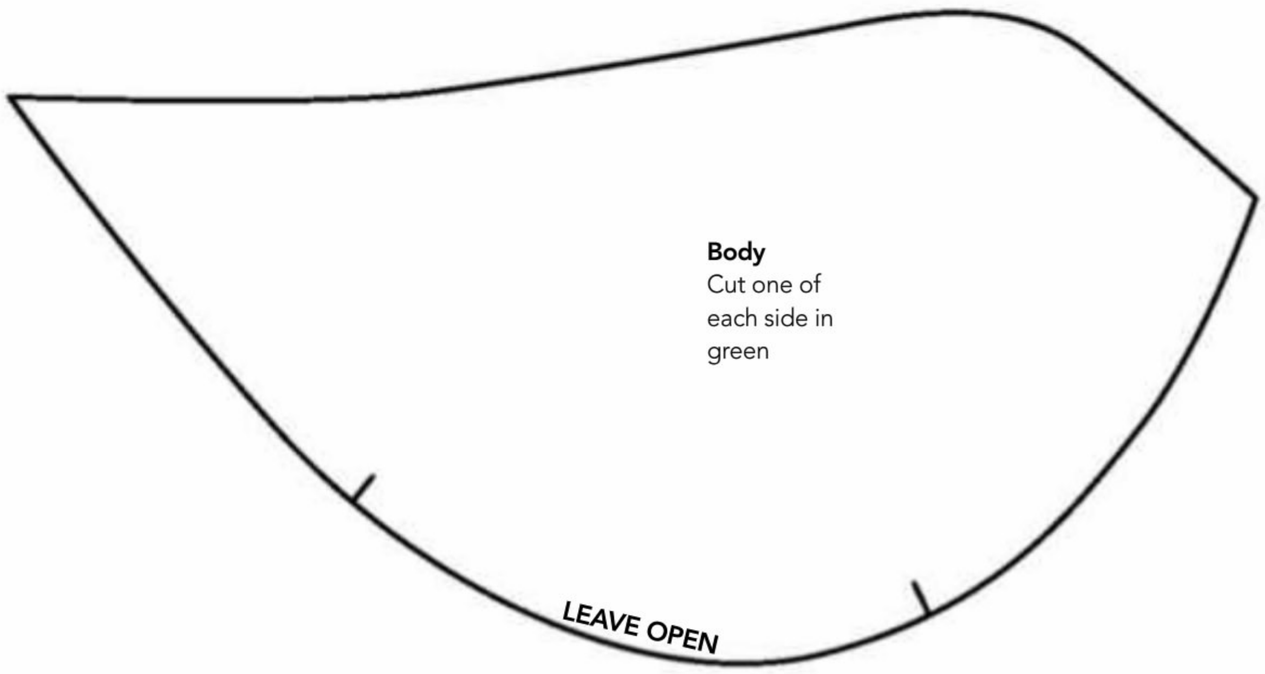
BY HOLLIE HARRIS PAGE 73



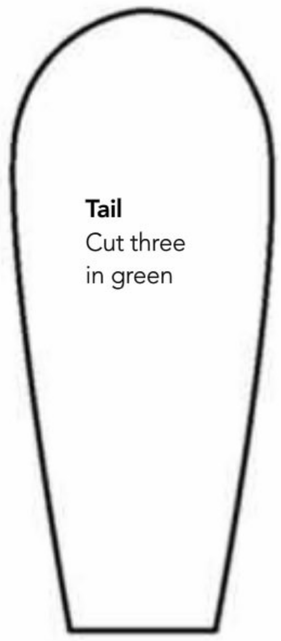
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LOVE NEST

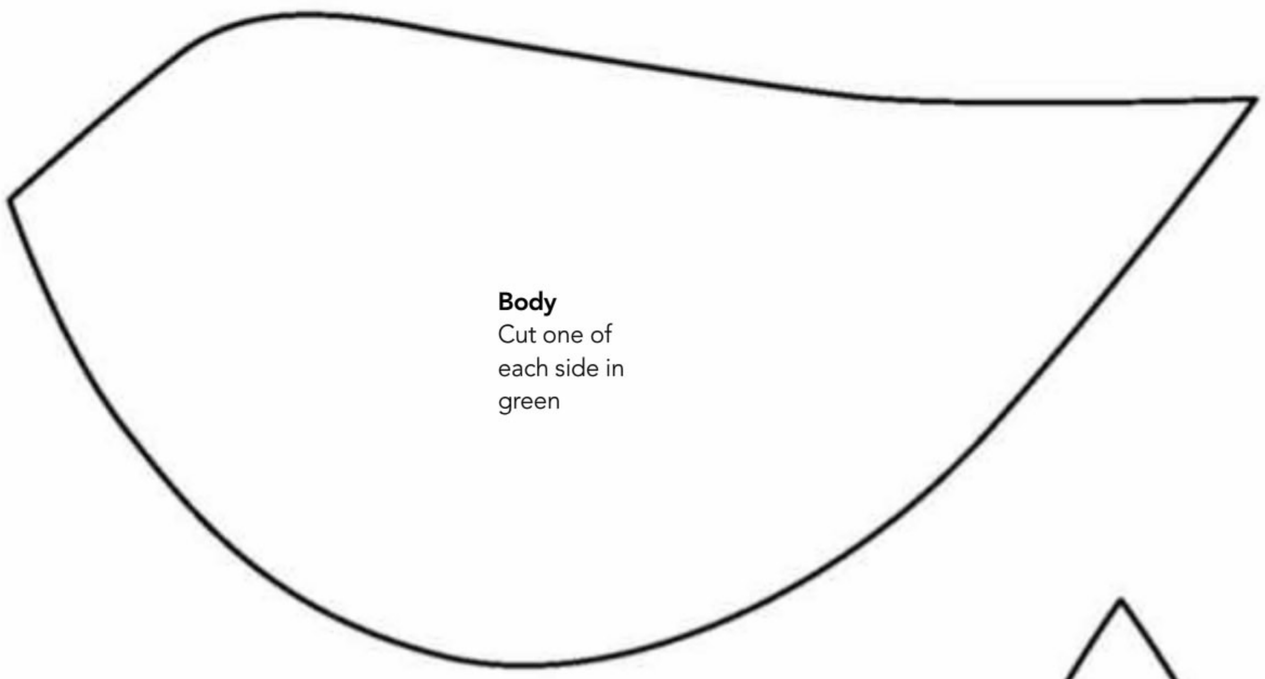
BY ANGELA COTTON PAGE 20



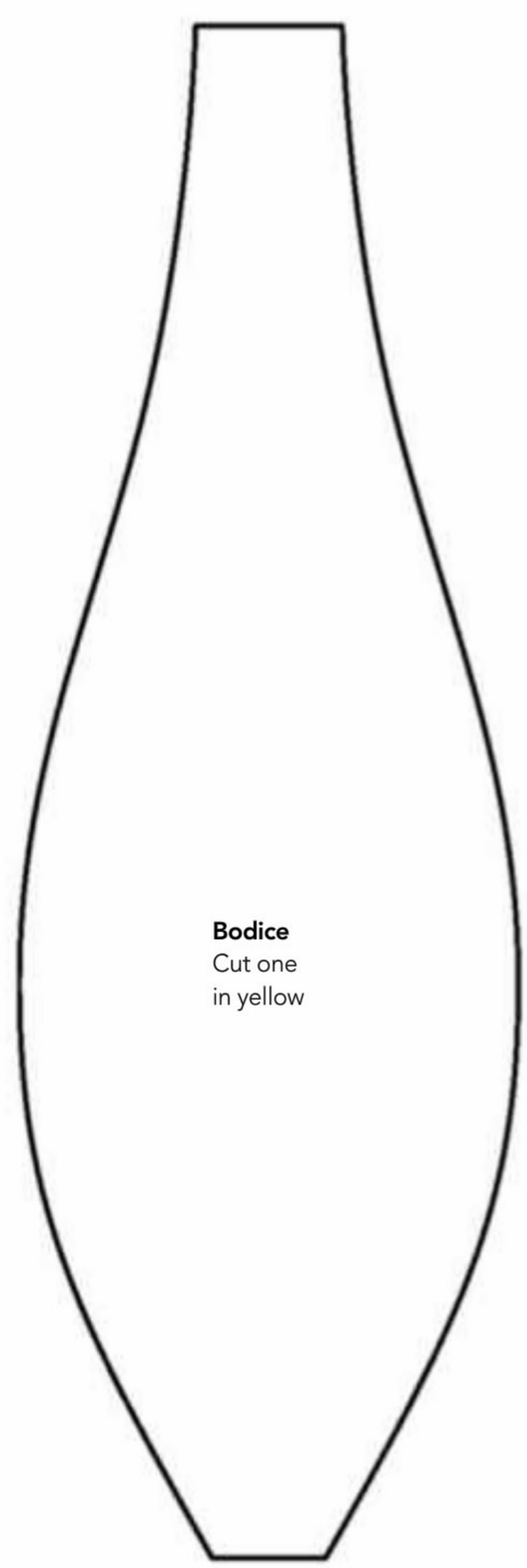
Body
Cut one of each side in green



Tail
Cut three in green



Body
Cut one of each side in green



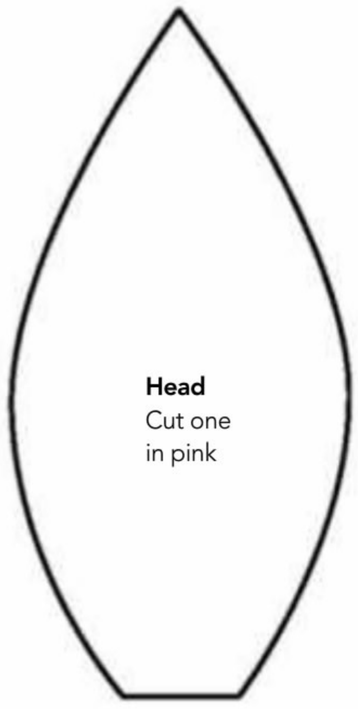
Bodice
Cut one in yellow



Beak
Cut one in red



Wing
Cut six in green

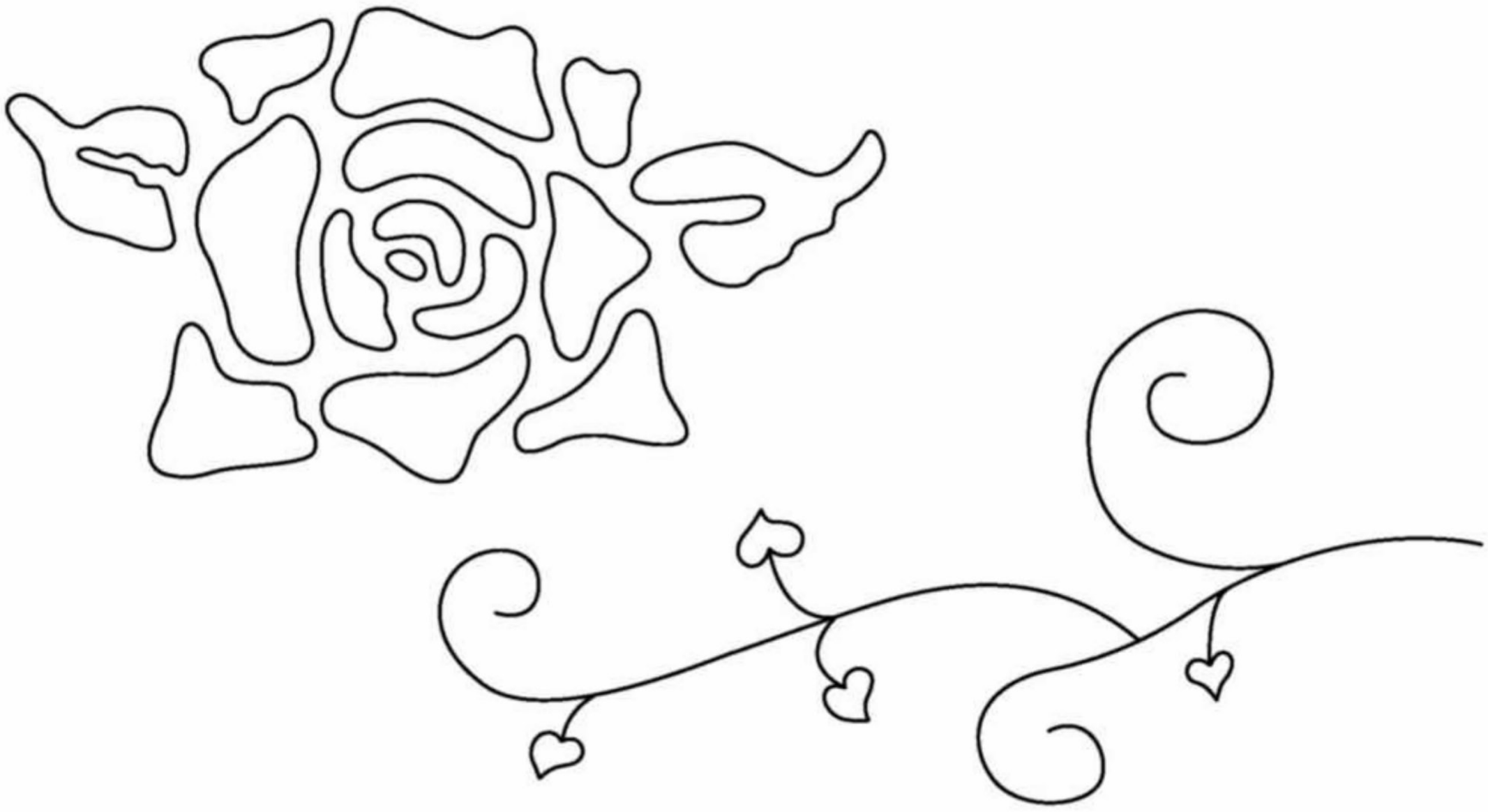


Head
Cut one in pink

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TATTOO EMBROIDERY

BY LEANNE GARRITY PAGE 16

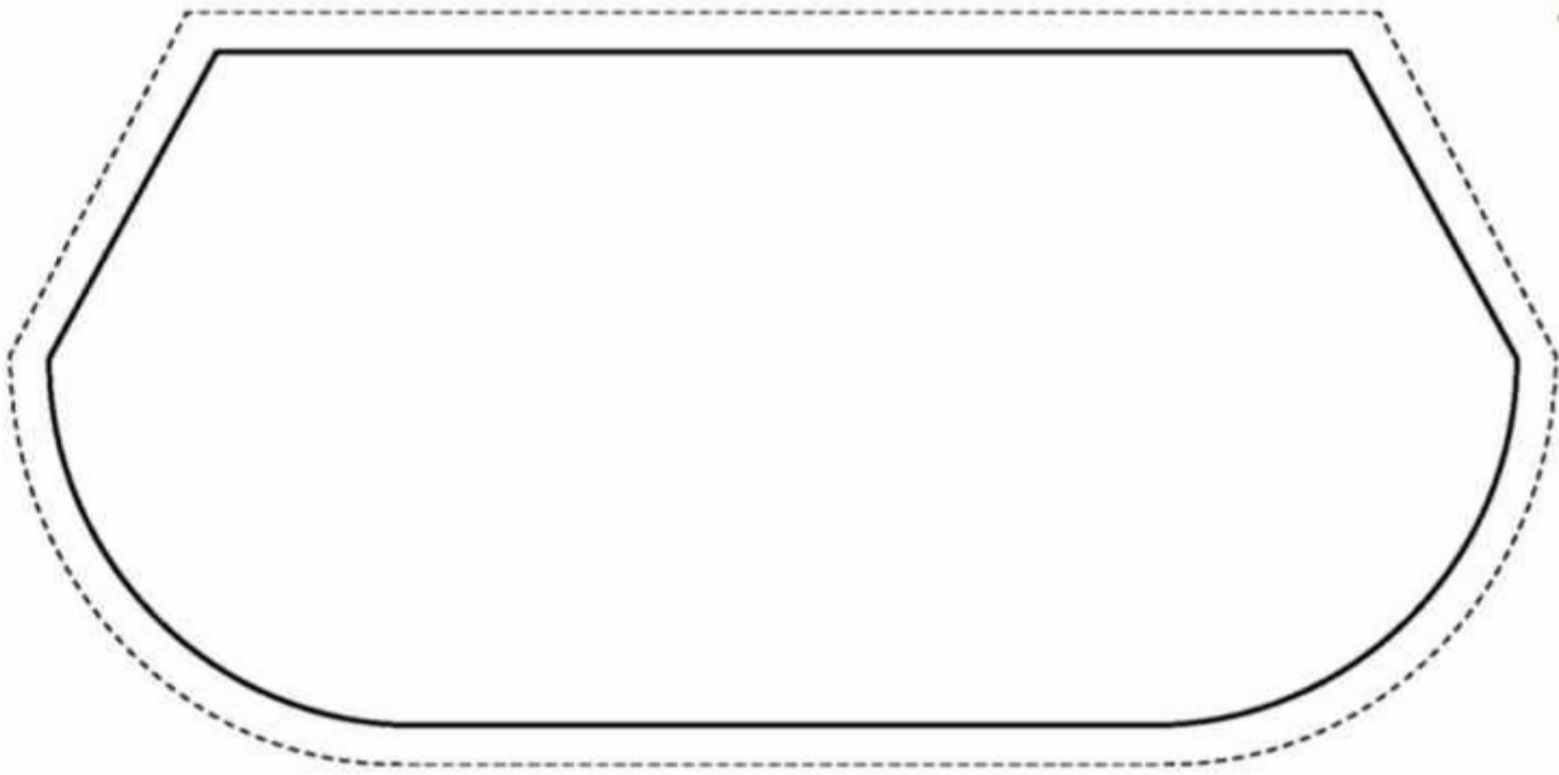


MINI CLUTCH BAG

BY BOUTIQUE-SHA PAGE 87

Photocopy at 200%

Seam allowances shown



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37

MAKE IT

- *Needlefelt kittens*
- *60s-style handbag*
- *Neon necklace*
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THE BACK PAGE PROJECT

These quieter months are the best time to get inspired, says Charlotte Smith



Name: Charlotte Smith
Occupation: Blogger, jewellery maker and magpie

I love this time of year. I used to dread the funny time **between seasons** when the glow of Christmas has faded but now, as an avid **treasure hunter,** I've realised it's prime time for collecting supplies. I can sniff out a bead shop or ribbon trim pretty much anywhere I go, but at this time of year there's no better place for **collecting** the interesting and unusual than your local high street – the sales are perfect places for **stocking up.** I plan my make list in the run-up, tearing pages from magazines, visiting stores I can't afford

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE THAN YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET

and **pinning like crazy** so I have a whole host of ideas ready to go. As soon as I see those 70 per cent off stickers and **sad-looking** broken jewellery stands I pounce, buying up neon trims, diamanté necklaces and discounted ribbon. One of the greatest joys I get from **jewellery making** is turning the forlorn into the fabulous, so this year I urge you to go on your own treasure hunt and create some jewels – there's so much out there just waiting to be turned into something **new and beautiful.**

Charlotte

Follow Charlotte on Instagram at @lottsandlots, and keep up with her creative life at *www.lottsandlots.blogspot.com*



Unloved beads are crafted into beautiful new treasures...



Relaxing walks on the beach inspire the next beaded project.





CURRENTS

- Getting lost in the pages of Sibella Court's interiors book *Gypsy*
- Loving winter walks on the beach
- I'm trying to live a less frantic life and have been recommended *meditation CDs* to slow me down

Next issue: Vintage enthusiast Kirsty Anderson

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