

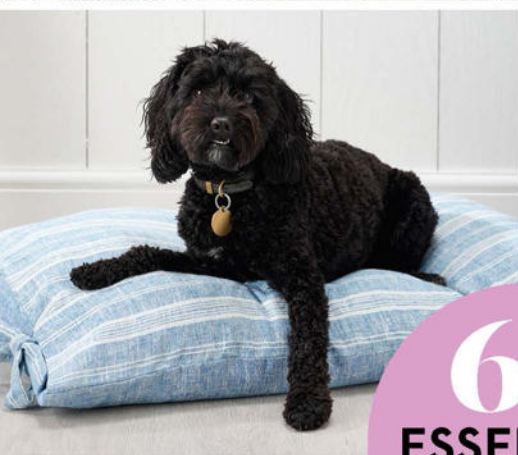
NEW

Quick *and* Easy

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SEWING PROJECTS

PERFECT MAKES TO GET STITCHING



64
ESSENTIAL
TUTORIALS
INSIDE



Digital
Edition



SECOND
EDITION

CLOTHING | ACCESSORIES | DECOR

WELCOME TO

Quick and Easy

SEWING

PROJECTS



There's no feeling better than finishing off that perfect sewing project. Whether you're stitching a trendy T-shirt, a gift for a loved one, a pretty storage solution or even a simple repair, we know all about that cosy satisfaction. In this special bookazine, we've compiled a selection of over 60 tutorials which will be sure to satisfy, inspire and leave you with the perfect final product. Get ready to embark on a new sewing adventure!

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12



106



50



71



100



66



87



64



14

Your basic sewing kit



Fill your sewing box with the essentials, and
pick the right needle for your chosen fabric.
Then you're good to go...

This checklist covers the equipment that you will find indispensable as you learn new sewing techniques and improve your quilting skills. There's nothing more frustrating than sitting down to start on a project and realising that your scissors have gone missing and your needles have been led astray, so keep it all together in a workbox next to your sewing machine, so that everything is nicely close to hand when you begin.

SEWING MACHINE

You only need a basic straight-stitch sewing machine for most of the projects in this bookazine – even a well-maintained hand model will do. Make sure to use a sharp, universal needle, and change it regularly. Most sewing machines are supplied with a foot that has seam allowance measurements marked on the right edge, so you can maintain a regular seam. Specialist quilting feet have an additional guide that butts against the edge of the fabric. A walking foot has rollers, which prevent the layers from distorting when machine quilting.

ROTARY CUTTER

Great for cutting curves and also for use on more stretchy fabrics, choose one with a handle that sits comfortably in your hand, and make sure it has a safety guard. A 45mm blade is standard, and a 60mm cutter helps when cutting multiple layers of fabric. Use a 28mm blade for accurate curves. Keep a stock of spare blades and replace at the first nick or sign of bluntness.

CUTTING MAT

This has a self-healing surface designed for use with rotary cutters. Cutting mats are available in many sizes, and it's good to have two: a large one for strips and a small one which you can turn round easily as you cut out. Use the

printed grid as a guide for quick squares and rectangles.

TAPE MEASURE AND RULER

Choose a tape measure with metal ends so it's nice and sturdy. A long metre-rule is also useful for cutting fabric freehand.

QUILTER'S RULER

These clear, sturdy acrylic rulers are marked up with a grid and angled lines. Start off with a small rectangle for patches and add a much longer one for strips and bindings. A large square is great for neatening blocks, and there are also shaped rulers for cutting right-angled triangles and even circles.

SCISSORS

It's best to have three pairs: medium-bladed shears for cutting fabric, a pair of household scissors for paper only and sharp, pointed embroidery scissors for clipping seams and trimming threads. Never use your sewing scissors for cutting paper or anything else or you will blunt them.

NEEDLES

There are two types that are used for quilting: Medium-length sharps with extra-sharp points and small eyes are good for hand sewing seams, and short, fine quilting needles slide easily through layers of fabric and wadding. For other sewing, you can buy a selection pack of different-sized hand sewing needles that will work for hand sewing hems, buttons and fastenings.

SEAM RIPPER

We all make mistakes when we are sewing or quilting, so this pointy little tool is bound to come in useful for quickly unpicking seams and stitches that are in the wrong place.

PATCHWORK TEMPLATES

A selection of these clear acrylic or metal shapes are

necessary for accurate English paper piecing (EPP). Cut your own from template plastic or stock up on a selection of ready-made shapes, such as triangles, hexagons and octagons.

PINS

Fine, glass-headed dressmaker's pins show up against patterned fabrics and don't leave holes in the fabric. Use thicker, longer pins with large heads when basting quilts or go for safety pins – those with a bend are the easiest to use.

THIMBLE

A workbox-essential for hand quilters who want to avoid needle-punctured fingers! Modern silicon versions are comfortable on the thumb, or you can find plenty of old steel ones in charity shops.

MARKING TOOLS

Use an air or heat-erasable pen for marking out shapes, quilting designs and seam allowances onto light fabrics, and a dressmaker's chalk pencil on darker shades.

IRON AND IRONING BOARD

Essentials for pressing seams and garments flat.

Buying thread

Never stint on quality as cheap brands snap easily and shed lint. A multi-purpose polycotton or a 100%-cotton spool can be used for sewing by hand or machine. With a mix of fabric colours, go for a mid-grey, or use white if it's the main background shade. Use a heavier 40-weight cotton to make machine quilting stitches stand out. Hand-quilting thread is thicker than sewing thread, with a glazed finish that glides through fabric and batting (don't use it in your machine!), while fine perlé embroidery cotton produces chunkier hand stitches.

HANDY OTHER BITS

- ✦ **SEAM ALLOWANCE GAUGE**
This makes measuring small hems and any fiddly little measurements much easier.
- ✦ **TRACING PAPER**
To copy patterns from magazines or books.
- ✦ **DRESSMAKER'S CARBON PAPER AND TRACING WHEEL**
Use these together to transfer markings onto fabric.
- ✦ **CURVED RULER**
For tracing patterns.
- ✦ **SLEEVE BOARD**
Good for when you have a tube of fabric to press.
- ✦ **OVERLOCKER**
Helps to produce beautifully finished seams when you are a more experienced dressmaker. If you prefer to sew garments, an overlocker is a worthwhile investment.

- ✦ **OVERLOCKER PRESSER FOOT**
Useful for getting zigzag stitching spot on.
- ✦ **TAILOR'S HAM**
Looks like a little stuffed pillow. Use one to keep the shape of darts when they're being pressed.
- ✦ **HEMMING CLIPS**
Can be used instead of pins to hold quilt binding in place, and come ready marked with a seam allowance. Metal hairclips (the sort that snap together to fasten) are a good alternative to purpose-made hemming clips.

Sewing know-how

We're sharing our top techniques, tricks and tips to get you started on making your sewing projects



All in the prep

Taking the time to pre-wash your fabric can save heartache further down the line, as your finished project may shrink slightly once it is washed. Use the temperature and programme on your washing machine that you'll use for the finished piece. Likewise, once washed and dried, give your fabric a good press, to make cutting out more accurate. Check the iron temperature on a small patch first, especially if using a delicate fabric.

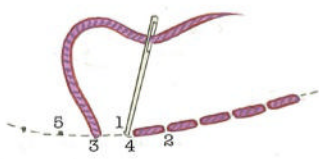
What's a fat quarter?

Half a yard of fabric that's been divided vertically in half, this cut gives you a versatile shape that measures 50 x 55cm (18 x 22in). Buy singly, or in made-up bundles.

Embroidery guide

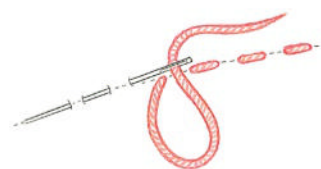
* Backstitch

Bring the needle up through the back of the fabric a stitch length along the sewing line, then take a stitch backwards. Bring the needle up again a stitch length in front and repeat to create a line of backstitch.



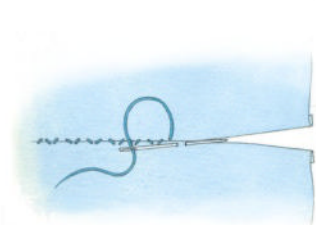
* Running stitch

Bring the needle up through the back of the fabric, insert the needle back into the fabric a short distance away and then bring it back up again, leaving a similar gap. Repeat to make a line of stitches.



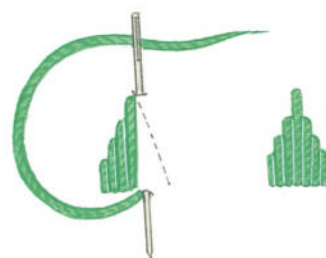
* Slipstitch

Bring the needle up at the start of the opening and insert in the folded seam edge directly opposite. Bring it out in the fold 5mm along and pull through. Return the needle to the first fold and continue to make small stitches.



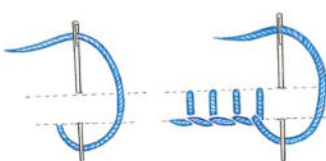
* Satin stitch

This is best used for filling in motifs. Following the outline of the shape, work straight stitches close together. Keep the tension even and stitches close for a smooth, flawless finish with no background fabric visible.



* Blanket stitch

Take the thread up below fabric edge and make a stitch to the right, 3-5mm from the edge. Bring the needle out below the edge. Loop thread around the needle and pull. Re-insert needle to make a stitch diagonally to the right, 3-5mm in from edge. Again, loop thread round needle.



Toy safety

If making for a little one, omit any small embellishments, such as buttons, that may be swallowed and use embroidery instead. A smaller stitch length will ensure stitching is strong and prevent filling from escaping.

Binding basics

Binding is a folded, continuous strip of fabric that covers the raw edges of a quilt or project. A 6cm-wide strip is standard, but you can go wider if you prefer deeper edging. The length of the binding strip equals the perimeter of your quilt or project, plus extra for the corners and overlap. Do a bit of maths: add twice the width to twice the length, then add an extra 15cm.



Tool tip

When using a rotary cutter on fabric, always push the cutter away from yourself, and keep a constant, even pressure on both the blade and your ruler. Standing up will give you better balance and hand control than working in a seated position.



PATTERN MARKS

* CUTTING LINE

Usually a single line for a project, but there can be up to 10 lines on a garment pattern – each line represents a different size for the garment.

* DARTS

Parts of the fabric that need to be folded to give shape, usually at the bust, waist and neck on a garment, or to shape the face of a toy. Use tailor's tacks to mark their position.

* PLACE ON FOLD

Usually marked with a dashed line. The edge of the pattern piece needs to go on the fold of your fabric, so you'll cut a mirror image in one go.

* NOTCHES

Mark with chalk or cut outwards (to prevent cutting into your seam allowance). These help match up pieces before you start sewing.



* GRAINLINE

This mark needs to align with the grain of your fabric as you position your pieces before cutting.

Fashion & Accessories

12

BAGS OF STYLE

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14

CIRCLE SCARF

-

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SPEC SAVER

-

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TOASTY TOES

-

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SLEEPING BEAUTY

-

19

FLOWER CLUTCH

-

20

BASIC TEE

-

22

BABY BRIGHTS

-

24

SIMPLE SHOPPER

-

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HAIR SCRUNCHIES

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PETAL AND PATCH BAG

-

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QUICK-SEW APRON

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MAKE SAIL

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SEW UP A SWEAT

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HOLIDAY HELPERS

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JERSEY SURE

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QUICK-SEW SHOPPER

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BAG TIDIES

-

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FLORAL FIT

-

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BEACH HOODIE

-

42

LEAF APPLIQUE
WASHBAG

-

44

CHILD'S PINAFORE

-



Bags of style

Sew this handy tote for your next shopping spree – it's also a great way of using up leftover fabric remnants

TIP
Add a snap fastening to the inside of the bag to secure it closed



Cutting out

*** For the bag:** From the floral fabric and foam, cut two bag centres on the fold using the enlarged template. From the blue fabric and foam, cut two bag sides on the fold using the enlarged template.

*** For the handles:** From the blue fabric, cut four strips measuring 5 x 55cm. From the foam, cut two strips measuring 5 x 55cm.

*** For the lining:** From your lining fabric, cut two bag sides on the fold and two bag centres on the fold.

*** For the binding:** From the orange fabric, cut two 5 x 50cm pieces. Join together at one short end to create one long strip.

*** For the piping:** From the orange fabric, cut two 4 x 80cm pieces. From the piping cord, cut two lengths measuring 80cm.

To make the lining

1 Pin and sew the bag centres together along the bottom edge with right sides together.

2 Pin and sew the two bag side pieces on either side of the centre piece, right sides together.

TIP
Sew the handles in a matching thread



To make the handles

1 Pin two of the handle strips together with right sides facing and a foam strip placed on top. Round off the short ends with a pair of scissors.

2 With a 5mm seam allowance, stitch all the way around the edge, leaving a 10cm gap in the centre.

3 Clip into the curved ends and turn the handle right-sides out. Give the handle a good press.

4 Trim the foam at the open edge by 5mm and turn the fabric under by 5mm. Pin together and stitch closed.

5 Fold the handle in half, so the side seams are aligned and pin together. Top stitch all the way down the handle, about 3mm from the edge, making sure to stop stitching 8cm from each end. Repeat to create a second handle.

To make the bag

1 Pin and sew the floral bag centres together along the bottom edge with right sides together. Repeat for the foam, trimming away the seam allowance to help it lie flat.

2 Scatter-pin the bag centres and foam piece together with right sides facing out and zig-zag stitch all the way around the edge. Repeat for the bag side fabric and foam pieces.

3 Quilt the bag centre with a series of straight lines at 4cm apart. Draw the lines with a vanishing marker if you need some guidance.

4 Sandwich the piping cord inside the fabric piping strips, with right sides out and, using a piping foot on your sewing machine, stitch the fabric as close to the cord as you can.

YOU WILL NEED

- * 40 x 50cm floral fabric
- * 50 x 55cm blue fabric
- * 20 x 80cm orange fabric
- * 40 x 100cm lining fabric
- * 50 x 100cm non-fusible foam
- * 160cm of 6mm thick piping cord
- * Binding tape maker
- * Sewing machine
- * Piping foot
- * Matching thread
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * Hand-sewing needle (optional)

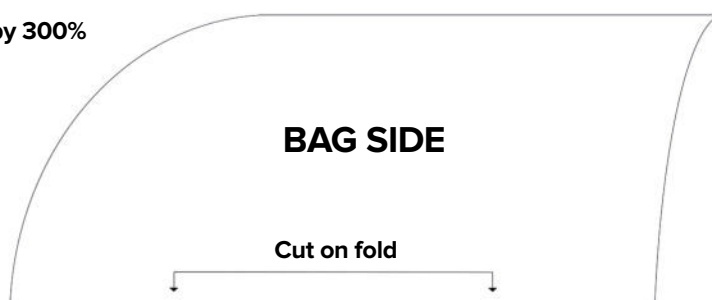
5 Pin the piping to the edge of the side pieces and stitch in place. Pin and sew the bag side and bag centre pieces together, still using the piping foot. Turn right-sides out.

6 Position the handles about 8cm from the top edge of the bag and 3cm in from the piping. Stitch in place by following the curve of the handle base.

7 Place the lining inside the bag. Pin and sew along the top edge to secure.

8 Run the binding fabric through a binding-tape maker and press. Wrap the binding around the top edge of the bag and topstitch or slipstitch in place.

Enlarge by 300%



BAG CENTRE

Cut on fold

TIP
Use leftover fabric scraps for the lining, as it won't be on show





Circle scarf

This quick-stitch project makes the perfect gift for friends – or keep it for yourself!

1 Cut two 25x45cm pieces from each fabric. Take four of the pieces and arrange into your preferred order. Sew right sides together along the short edges with a 1cm seam allowance to form a strip. Press seams open. Repeat with the remaining fabrics in a different order.

2 Matching the seams, pin and sew the two strips

together along the long sides, with right sides facing and a 1cm seam allowance, to make a tube.

3 Turn the tube right side out and match up the seam allowances at the open ends. Pin and sew the openings together, with right sides facing and 1cm seam allowance. You will only be able to sew about three-quarters

of the way around. Turn the remaining raw edges under by 1cm and topstitch the gap closed.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Four fabric fat quarters
- * Matching sewing thread

Spec saver

Keep your glasses protected
in this handy, cushioned case



- 1 Stack the lining and exterior fabrics together with right sides facing, then top with the foam batting. Line up the pieces along the bottom 18cm edge, then pin and sew with a 2.5cm seam allowance.
- 2 Open out the pieces, keeping the foam batting next to the exterior fabric. Fold the fabrics in half with right sides facing, across the just-sewn seam. Line up the edges, then pin and sew all the way around them with a 1cm seam allowance, leaving a small gap in the lining for turning through.
- 3 Turn right sides out, turn the gap edges under by 1cm and topstitch or slip-stitch closed. Push the lining inside the glasses case, creating a small cuff of lining fabric that overlaps the foam's seam allowance.

YOU WILL NEED

- * 18 x 19cm patterned fabric for exterior
- * 18 x 24cm lining fabric
- * 18cm square of foam batting
- * Matching thread

Toasty toes

Stitch a pair of slippers in a pretty patterned fabric

NOTE
Slippers are
size 5; see right
for adjusting
the pattern

★ ★ ★
**Difficulty
level**



YOU WILL NEED

- * Access to a photocopier
- * Tracing paper, pencil and ruler
- * 30cm of 110cm-wide patterned fabric
- * 30 x 60cm rectangle of medium-weight wadding
- * 30 x 30cm square of heavyweight calico fabric

- * 30 x 30cm square of firm, flexible iron-on interfacing
- * 30 x 30cm square of sew-in heavy, firm interfacing
- * 30 x 30cm square of lightweight white cotton fabric
- * 1m 80cm of 1.8cm-wide bias binding
- * Matching sewing thread

Stockists: Tilda Bloomsville Flowertangle cotton fabric, £3.75 per fat quarter, hollieshaberdashery.co.uk. Heavy, firm sew-in interfacing £4.09 per metre and firm, flexible, iron-on interfacing, £10.99 per m, both Minerva Crafts; minerva.com

Making patterns

Enlarge patterns by 130%. Trace onto folded tracing paper, matching broken lines to the fold. Mark arrows, dots and crosses. Cut out and open out flat.

Adjust the pattern

If the inner sole is too short, cut along the 'Lengthen + shorten' line of the sole pattern and tape a strip of paper between the gap to lengthen. Trim edges level. If the inner sole is too long, fold under the excess along the same line. Tape in place and trim edges.

Cutting out

From patterned fabric, cut a 30 x 30cm square and two pairs of uppers. From wadding, cut a 30 x 30cm square and a pair of uppers. From calico, cut a pair of outer soles. From firm, flexible and heavy, firm interfacing, cut a pair of inner soles.

Quilting the soles

1 Draw a line on the right side of the patterned fabric square diagonally between two opposite corners. Draw parallel lines 3cm apart either side of the first line. Repeat to draw lines at right angles in the other direction. Place the wadding square on the lightweight white

cotton square. Place the patterned fabric square right side up on top. Smooth the layers out from the centre and pin.

2 Stitch along drawn lines to quilt the fabric, stitching the rows of lines in the same direction and not stretching the fabric.

Making it up

1 Draw around the outer sole pattern on the quilted fabric twice. Cut out the outer soles. Press the firm, flexible interfacing inner soles to the heavy, firm interfacing inner soles. Place the inner soles centrally on the calico outer soles, and pin the quilted outer soles right side up on top. Tack the outer edges to enclose the inner soles.

2 Tack the wadding uppers to the wrong side of one pair of the fabric uppers. The remaining uppers will be the linings. Fold the

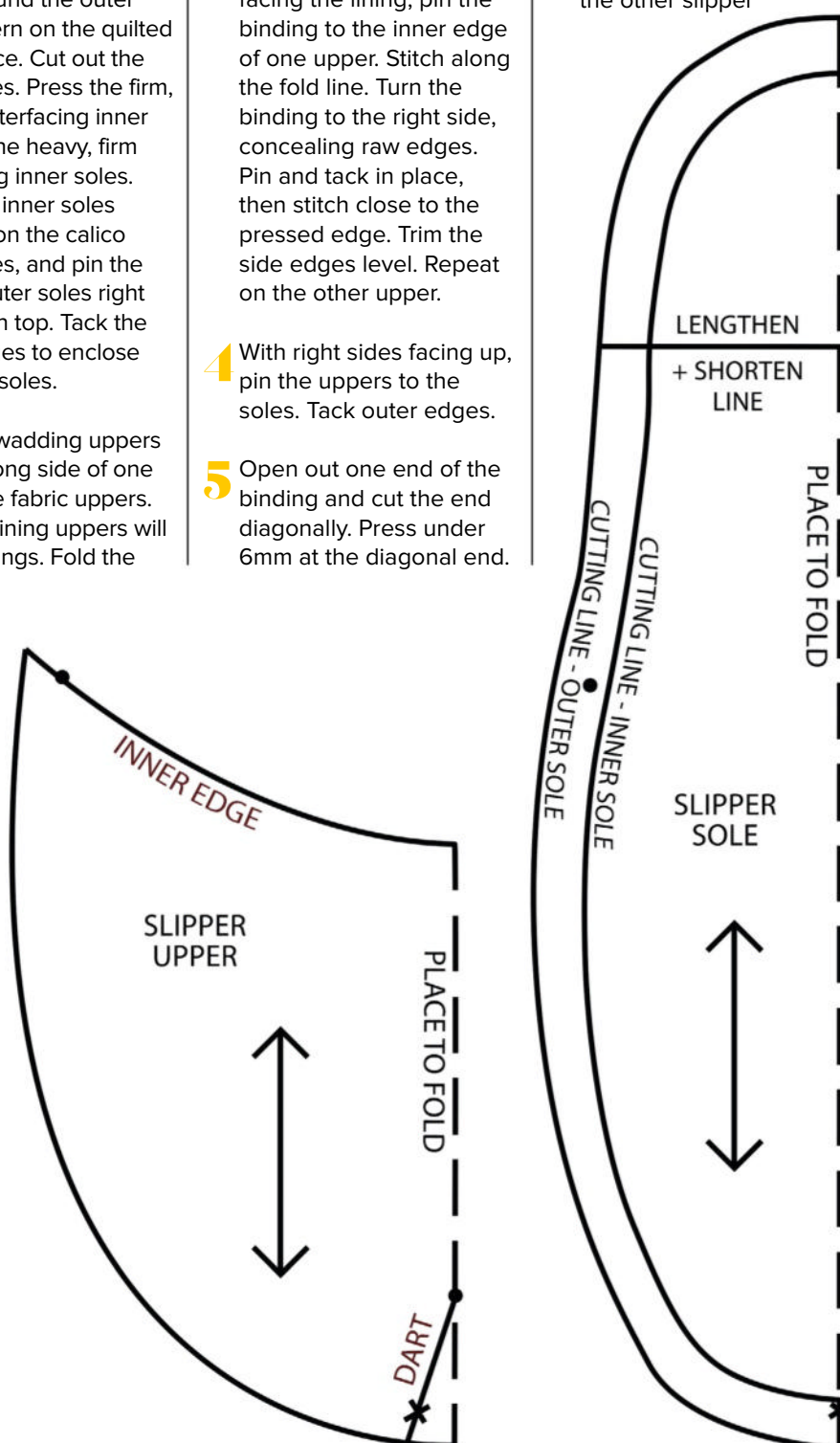
uppers and linings in half with the right sides facing; stitch the darts. Press the darts on the uppers in the same direction and the darts in the linings in the opposite direction. Pin and tack the uppers and linings together with right sides facing out.

3 Open out one edge of the bias binding. With the right side of the binding facing the lining, pin the binding to the inner edge of one upper. Stitch along the fold line. Turn the binding to the right side, concealing raw edges. Pin and tack in place, then stitch close to the pressed edge. Trim the side edges level. Repeat on the other upper.

4 With right sides facing up, pin the uppers to the soles. Tack outer edges.

5 Open out one end of the binding and cut the end diagonally. Press under 6mm at the diagonal end.

Starting at the diagonal end, open one edge of the binding. With the right side of binding facing the underside of the slipper, pin binding to outer edge. Overlap ends by about 1.5cm and cut excess. Stitch along fold line. Turn binding to the top side, concealing raw edges. Pin and tack in place then stitch close to the pressed edge. Repeat on the other slipper



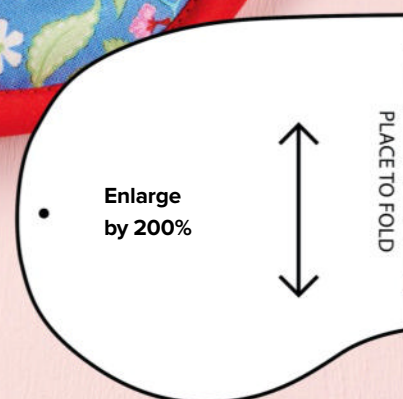
Sleeping beauty

Stitch this simple eye mask with whatever fabric scraps you have to use up from your stash

YOU WILL NEED

- * Tracing paper and pencil
 - * Access to a photocopier
 - * 40 x 40cm square of patterned fabric
 - * 25 x 15cm rectangle of medium-weight wadding Bodkin
 - * 60cm of 1.8cm-wide bias binding
 - * 37cm x 1.5cm wide elastic
 - * Matching sewing thread
- Stockist:** Tilda Bloomsville
Flowerangle cotton fabric, £3.75 per fat quarter,
Sewing Direct;
sewingdirect.co.uk

SIZE
21 x 11cm



1 Trace the template (right) onto folded tracing paper, matching the broken lines to the fold. Mark the arrows and dots, then enlarge on a photocopier. Cut out and open out flat. From patterned fabric, cut one 48 x 5.5cm bias strip for the elastic channel and one pair of sleep masks. From wadding, cut one sleep mask.

2 Fold the elastic casing lengthwise in half with right sides facing. Stitch the long edge, taking a 1cm seam allowance, then turn right side out. Attach the bodkin to one end of the elastic. Start to thread the elastic through the casing; when the elastic end and end of the casing become level, pin together. Move the casing down the elastic, then pin the other elastic end and casing end level.

3 With right sides facing out, pin and tack the wadding mask between the fabric masks. Pin and stitch the ends of the casing and elastic securely to one side of the mask at the dots.

4 Open out one end of the binding and cut the end diagonally. Press under 6mm at the diagonal end. Starting at the diagonal end, open out one edge of the binding. With the right

side of the binding facing the side of the mask with the casing, pin the binding to the outer edge of the mask. Stitch along the fold line. Overlap the ends by about 1.5cm and cut off the excess. Turn the binding to the right side, concealing the raw edges. Pin and tack in place, then stitch close to the pressed edge.



Flower clutch

With its vivid felt flowers and beads, our 3D bag could be straight off the shelf of a high-end boutique

YOU WILL NEED

- * 5 x A4 felt sheets in White; Orange; Cherry; Baby Pink; Bright Pink
- * Dusty Pink cotton fabric
- * 30cm zip
- * Die cutter and flower dies (optional)
- * Mixed Colour Pear plastic beads
- * Yellow Seed beads
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Hand sewing needle

1 Draw around an A4 felt sheet onto the pink fabric twice and cut out, making two rectangles. Pin right sides facing, along one long edge. Machine stitch the first and last 2cm with a short stitch length, and the middle section with a long basting stitch, using a 1cm seam allowance.

2 Press seam open and lay the zip face down along the basted seam, with the zipper lined up with the start of the basting stitches. Pin and tack (a) the zip through all thicknesses to the seam allowance. Remove pins, change to a zipper foot and top stitch around the

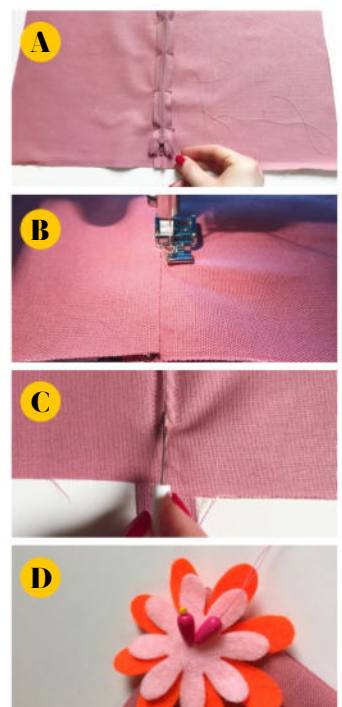
zip (b), 5mm from zip's teeth. With a seam ripper, remove the basting stitches (c) and undo the zip.

3 With right sides facing, pin and machine stitch the open three sides using a 1cm seam allowance. Turn the bag right sides out and press flat.

4 Cut out 40 small and 40 large flowers using a mix of felt colours. Either use a die cutter or draw flower shapes onto the felt and cut out by hand.

5 Hand-stitch one large flower layered over with a small flower in a different

colour to one corner of your bag. To add the beads, thread one pear bead onto the needle, followed by a seed bead and then thread the needle back through the pear bead (d). Secure with a stitch in the flower and repeat until each flower has three pear beads. Stitch the neighbouring flower to the bag and repeat the beading. Repeat, forming rows of flowers to cover the bag.



Basic tee

Draft your own pattern using our simple diagram, then set about making this easy-to-sew top

SIZE
Fitting a size
10 to 14 (but
can be scaled
up, to fit)



YOU WILL NEED

- * Dressmaker's pattern paper or tracing paper
- * 1.4m bird print cotton dress fabric
- * Light-weight fusible interfacing
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Scissors
- * Pins

Our simple top will soon become a wardrobe staple. Once you've drafted the pattern, have fun adding pockets, different fabrics or trims. Make in cotton for relaxed style, or why not try chic velvet?

Draft the pattern

Stitch up a stylish top using the below diagram

YOU WILL NEED

* Dressmaker's pattern paper or tracing paper

Draw a W44 x H70cm rectangle on paper, then measure and copy this pattern. On a separate sheet, make facing patterns by tracing the neck and shoulder lines, then add a second curved line 5.5cm below the upper curve and join up the two.

1 Cut the fabric into two 70cm x WOF pieces. Fold in half widthways, then place your pattern on top with the centre front on the fabric fold, making sure the birds are the right way up. Cut out, then repeat with the second piece of fabric using the lower curve at the neck edge. Cut out facings in fabric and interfacing.



2 With right sides facing, pin and stitch the top shoulder seams together and press open. Fuse the interfacing to the facings, then place right sides together, stitch the shoulder seams and press seams open.

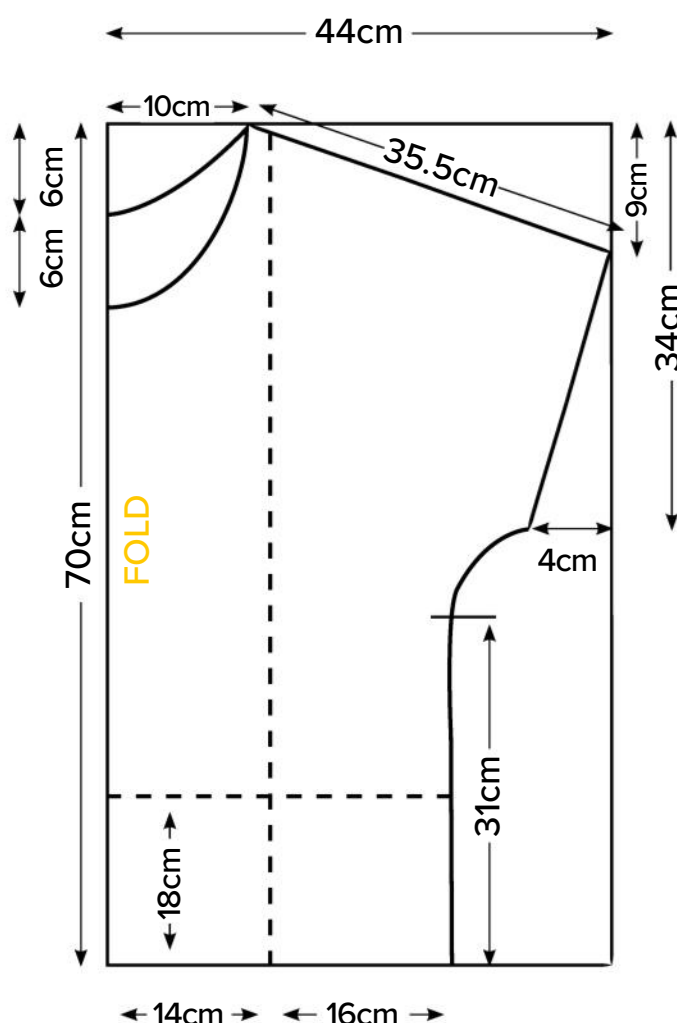


3 Press under a 5mm turning around the lower edge of the neck facing and machine stitch for a neat finish.

4 With right sides of the top together and shoulder seams matching, pin the facing to the top neck edge matching the shoulder seams. Stitch, then clip into the seam allowance up to the stitch line. Press the seam allowances towards the facing. Understitch, then press well.



5 With right sides together, sew the side seams, neaten, then press open. Clip at the underarm curve. Press 1cm then 2cm on both hem and sleeves and stitch. Turn right sides out and press.



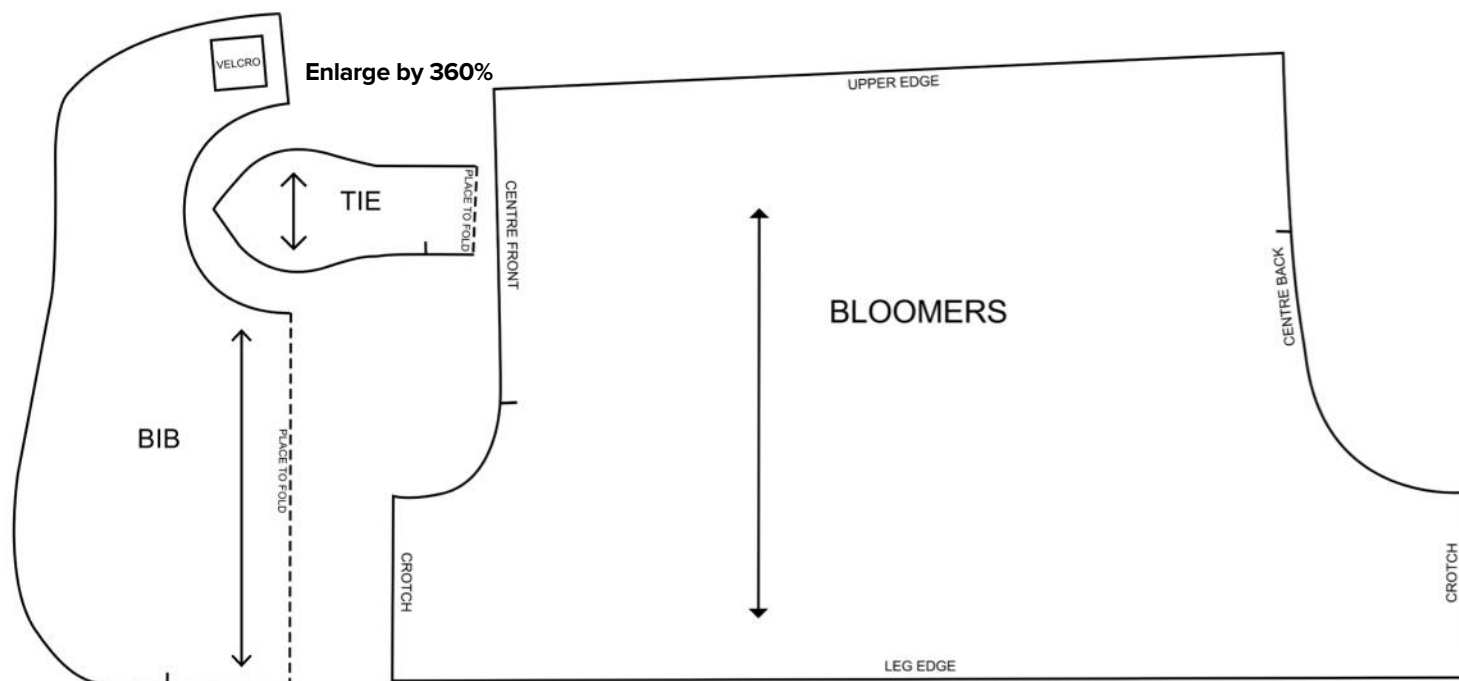
Baby brights

Stitch this sweet bib and bloomers set for a new arrival



SIZE
Newborn





Making paper patterns

On a photocopier, enlarge the patterns by 360%, then place under folded tracing paper, matching the broken lines on the bib and tie to the fold, and draw out the outlines. Mark the arrows, notches and the position for the Velcro. Cut out all the patterns and open out flat.

Cutting out

From patterned jersey fabric, cut one pair of bloomers and ties. From interfacing, plain jersey and terry towelling, cut one bib.

Note: Join the pieces with right sides facing. Stitch on a sewing machine using a ballpoint needle.

Making the bloomers

Note: Take a 1.5cm seam allowance. Stitch the centre and crotch seams with a arrow zigzag stitch to allow the seams to stretch.

1 Pin the bloomers together. Stitch the centre front and centre back seams. Snip the curves, press the seams open. Press under 7.5mm then 1cm on the upper edge of the bloomers. Topstitch close to the lower pressed edge

to form a channel, leaving a 3cm gap at the back to insert the elastic.

2 Matching the front and back seams, stitch the crotch seam. Press the seam open. Press under 7.5mm then 1cm on the leg edges. Topstitch close to the inner pressed edges to form channels for elastic, leaving a 3cm gap at the back to insert elastic.

3 Measure baby's waist. Cut one piece of elastic to the waist measurement. Using a bodkin, thread the waist elastic through the upper casing. Overlap the ends by 2cm, stitch securely together, adjust the elastic to sit inside the casing. Stitch the gap closed.

4 Measure around the top of baby's leg. Cut two pieces of elastic to the leg measurement. Using a bodkin, thread one leg elastic through one leg casing. Overlap the ends by 2cm, stitch securely together, adjust the elastic to sit inside the casing. Repeat on the other leg. Turn the bloomers right-side out. Stitch the gaps closed.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Access to a photocopier
 - * Tracing paper and pencil
 - * 30cm of 140cm wide dinosaur-patterned jersey fabric
 - * 30 x 25cm rectangle of soft iron-on interfacing
 - * 30 x 25cm rectangle of plain jersey fabric
 - * 30 x 25cm rectangle of terry towelling
 - * 20 x 10cm rectangle of bonding web
 - * 2 x 2cm square of sew-on Velcro
 - * 90cm of 6mm wide elastic
 - * Bodkin
 - * Matching sewing threads
- Stockist:** Dinosaur leaves blue cotton jersey fabric, £14.90m, plain jersey, £9.90m, both Little Legs Fabrics; littlelegsfabrics.co.uk

Making the bib

Note: Take a 6mm seam allowance.

1 Press the interfacing to the wrong side of the jersey bib. Roughly cut out a dinosaur motif from the remaining fabric, leaving a margin all round. Press the bonding web to the wrong side of the dinosaur. Cut out the dinosaur. Peel off the backing paper. Place dinosaur centrally on the right side of the plain jersey bib. Press in place.

2 Set the sewing machine to close zigzag stitch 2.5mm wide. Zigzag-stitch along the outline of the dinosaur. Pin and stitch the bibs together, leaving a gap between the notches.

Snip the curves and turn right side out. Press the bib. Slipstitch the gap closed. Topstitch 6mm from the outer edges.

3 Tack and stitch one section of Velcro to the bib's right side and the other section to the bib's underside.

4 Stitch the ties together leaving a gap between the notches. Snip curves and clip corners. Turn right side out and press. Fasten the tie in a knot at the centre. Fasten the bib by pressing the Velcro pieces together. Pin the knot of the tie to the right side of the bib at the centre of the overlapping Velcro. Undo the bib and sew the knot securely to the bib.

Simple shopper

It's amazing what you can make with some cotton rope and a zigzag stitch



YOU WILL NEED

- * Two 40cm squares of patterned fabric
- * 50 x 100cm plain fabric
- * Matching thread

Stockists: Into the Wild large floral fabric in Aqua, £14.50 per m, Warp & Weft Honey wovens cross-weave fabric in Goldenrod, £16 per m, both sewhot.co.uk

1 Take the first 40cm of rope, fold in half and pin along the length. Set your sewing machine to a wide zigzag stitch, then place the folded piece that forms the bag's base under your sewing foot, so that the needle comes down on either side of the join. Sew along the join in the darkest fuchsia pink thread.

2 Stitch to the end of the join, then begin

turning the bag base, so that the rope wraps around the previous piece, stitching as you go. Repeat until the base measures approximately 14 x 30cm.

3 Now, turn the base on a 90-degree angle to your needle plate and continue stitching to form the sides. Swap your threads as you go, from dark to light to form an ombré effect.

Continue sewing until the sides measure approximately 24cm from the base.

4 To form the handles, measure 15cm in from each side of the bag and mark with a pin. Continue sewing the rope rows until you get to the pin marker, backstitching to secure, and measure a 40cm length for the handle. Rejoin the rope at the

end of this length to the next pin marker. Repeat on the opposite side of the bag, then continue stitching as before for three rows to complete the handles.

5 Use a tassel maker and embroidery thread to make a pair of pink and orange tassels. Thread wooden beads on the ends, then tie them to the handle of the bag.

Hair scrunchies

Sew a set of matching hair ties from pretty scrap fabric and elastic

YOU WILL NEED

- * A piece of plain or patterned fabric
- * 6mm-wide piece of elastic
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * Safety pin
- * Hand-sewing needle (optional)

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

1 Cut a 10 x 50cm strip from the fabric. Make sure to press the fabric before measuring and cutting.

2 Fold the fabric in half lengthwise with right sides facing. Pin and sew along the raw edge with a 1cm seam allowance, by hand or machine. Turn the right sides out and press.

3 Cut a 20cm piece of elastic and attach a safety pin to

one end. Thread the elastic through the fabric tube and tie the ends together in a double knot.

4 Fold one end of the fabric tube under by 1cm. Tuck the other end of fabric inside and pin the layers together. Either machine-stitch across the seam to secure. Or, for a neater finish, hand-stitch along the turned edge for an almost invisible seam.

Petal and patch bag

Use up vibrant scraps of fabric to create the floral patchwork appliques on these colourful cosmetic bags.

Finished size

Vertical bag
20 x 21cm
Horizontal bag
9 x 23.5cm

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

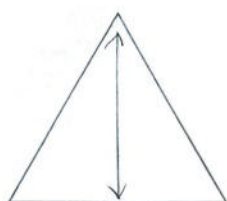


YOU WILL NEED

- * Tracing paper and pencil
- * 25cm of 112cm wide lightweight denim fabric
- * 25cm of 110cm wide mustard patterned cotton fabric
- * 30cm square of three coordinating patterned cotton fabrics
- * 45cm of 90cm wide lightweight wadding
- * One 20cm zip for vertical bag
- * One 22.5cm zip for horizontal bag
- * 20cm of 1cm-wide ribbon
- * Matching sewing threads

Making the pattern

Trace the petal pattern on to tracing paper. Mark the arrow. Cut out the pattern.



Cutting out

For each bag

Cut a total of 12 petals from the patterned fabrics. Cut two 5 x 2.5cm rectangles for zip end covers from mustard patterned fabric.

For the vertical bag

Cut two 24 x 24cm squares from the denim, wadding and mustard patterned fabric.

For the horizontal bag

Cut two 26.5 x 14cm rectangles from the denim, wadding and mustard patterned fabric.

Making the patchwork

Note: Join pieces with right sides together and edges level. Take 6mm seam allowance.

- 1 Fold each fabric petal shape in half, then straight stitch along the resulting short edge (as illustrated). Use scissors to clip the corners. Press the seam



open. Turn right side out. Press the petals flat with the seams centred.



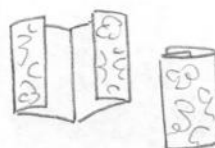
- 2 Arrange six petals in a circle, abutting different patterns side by side. Stitch two petals together along one raw edge.
- 3 Press the seam open. Stitch the next petal to the second petal along one raw edge. Press the seam open. Repeat with the other three petals.
- 4 Stitch the two sets of stitched petals together, matching seams. Press the seam open to form a flower. Repeat to make a second flower.
- 5 Pin the flowers to one bag, right side up, keeping the tip of one petal 6mm in from the side edges and at least 2.5cm below the upper edge and at least 4cm above the lower edge. Handsew to the bag with small, neat stitches in matching thread.

Making each bag

Note: Join pieces with right sides together and edges level. Take a 1cm seam allowance.

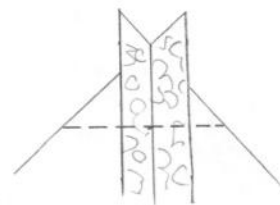
- 1 Tack the denim bags right side up on the wadding bags. Press under 1cm on the short edges of the zip

end covers. Press the covers in half parallel with the pressed edges, wrong sides facing. Trim an equal amount off each end of the zip to make the overall length for the vertical bag 20.5cm long, and the horizontal bag 23cm long. Slightly open the zip. Slip each end of the zip into a zip end cover with the raw edges of the covers level with the long edges of the zip. Tack in place through all the layers.



- 2 With the zip centred, pin one long edge of the zip to upper edge of one bag. Use a zipper foot to stitch in place. Repeat to stitch the other long edge of the zip to the other bag. Press the bags away from the zip. Topstitch close to the pressed edges.
- 3 Open the zip. Pin the bags together, stitch raw edges. Press seam open by running tip of an iron along it to avoid flattening the wadding.
- 4 Fold one lower corner with right sides together, matching the seams. Mark a line across the corner

with a row of pins at right angles to the seam, 2.5cm from the corner. Stitch along pinned line. The seam will be 5cm long. Cut off the corner, leaving 1cm seam allowance. Repeat on other lower corner.



- 5 Press under 1cm on upper edges of the mustard bags for the lining. Pin and stitch linings together along the raw edges. Press the seam open. Repeat step 4 to stitch across corners and trim the seams.
- 6 Turn lining right side out. Insert bag into the lining, matching the seams. Pin and slipstitch the pressed edges of the lining around the zip and upper corners of the bag. Turn the bag right side out.
- 7 Cut the ribbon in half. Insert a ribbon through the hole in the zip slider. Adjust ribbon until ends are level. Stitch across the ribbon, then trim diagonally.



Quick —sew apron

Stitch this simple design with fabrics from your stash

Note: Use a 1cm seam allowance throughout.

1 Cut the plain fabric into one 18 x 40cm piece for the bottom edge and two 16 x 100cm pieces for the waist ties.

2 Pin and sew the patterned squares either side of the plain bottom-edge piece, with right sides together. Press the seams towards the patterned fabrics and topstitch 5mm from the seam to secure. Fold this panel in half widthways with right sides together. Pin and sew sides together. Clip the corners, turn right sides out and press.

3 To make the waist tie, sew the two strips together at one short end and press the seams open. Fold the strip in half lengthways with right sides together. Trim the ends to a point and sew. Clip the corners, turn right sides out and press the raw edges under by 1cm. Sandwich the apron inside the tie and topstitch 5mm from the edge.

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

YOU WILL NEED

- * Two 40cm squares of patterned fabric
- * 50 x 100cm plain fabric
- * Matching thread

Stockists: Into the Wild large floral fabric in Aqua, £14.50 per m, Warp & Weft Honey wovens cross-weave fabric in Goldenrod, £16 per m, both sewhot.co.uk

Make sail

Sew this quick and easy boat applique purse from fabric scraps



YOU WILL NEED

- * 12 x 20cm plain blue cotton
- * 20 x 20cm red stripe cotton
- * 12 x 20cm fusible interfacing
- * 10cm blue zipper
- * Matching and contrasting thread
- * Zipper foot

1 Cut two 10 x 12cm pieces from the plain blue cotton, the red stripe cotton and the interfacing. From the leftover red stripe fabric, cut out two sail shapes, using our photograph as a guide.

2 Fuse the two interfacing pieces to the wrong

sides of the blue cotton pieces. Place the two sails on the front of one of the blue pieces and stitch around them a couple of times to secure – the messier the better with this freehand look. Stitch a mast and the boat in the same way, following our photograph as a guide.

3 Pin one side of zipper tape to the top of one blue rectangle, right sides facing. Top with a piece of lining, matching up raw edges. Sew together using a zipper foot. Repeat on other side of zipper with the remaining blue rectangle and lining. Press open and topstitch either side of the zipper.

4 Match the lining pieces together and the outer pieces together, with right sides facing. Sew around the edge with a 1cm seam allowance, leaving a 5cm gap at the base of the lining for turning. Turn right sides out, topstitch the gap closed and press.

Sew up a sweat

Stitch this comfortable classic from an existing sweatshirt

★ ★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

STARS & STRIPES

Choose one print for the sweatshirt body and another for the arms, then tie the two together with details in the starry cuffs and stripy pocket

YOU WILL NEED

- * Old sweatshirt
- * Safety pin
- * Scissors
- * Stars print soft sweatshirt dress fabric
- * Cotton jersey stripe sweatshirt fabric
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Pins



Draft the pattern

Use an old sweatshirt to create a template.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Old sweatshirt
- * Safety pin
- * Scissors

- 1 For a set-in sleeve, place a safety pin to mark the point of the shoulder seam, then remove the sleeves by cutting just inside the stitching line around the armpit.
- 2 Cut the cuffs off the sleeves and cut down the stitching to open flat. Repeat with the neck binding and the hem cuff. Snip just inside the stitching of the underarm seam to flatten the sleeve.
- 3 Cut just inside the stitching of the side seams and shoulder seams (for the set-in sleeve) to separate the front and back pieces. Unpick any front pockets.

Making the top

YOU WILL NEED

- * Stars print soft sweatshirt dress fabric
- * Cotton jersey stripe sweatshirt fabric
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Pins
- * Scissors

- 1 Pin the body, cuff and neckband pieces to the star fabric and cut out adding a 1cm seam all round. From the stripes, cut sleeves in the set-in sleeve pattern and a kangaroo pocket.
- 2 Press 1cm on the diagonal sides of the pocket and stitch. Iron the top and straight sides 1cm to the back, then pin the pocket to the front body piece, matching centres and cut lower edges. Stitch along the top and side edges.



- 3 With right sides facing, pin and stitch shoulder seams together, then press. Fold neck band in half to make a hoop and stitch the short edges together. Fold lengthways with wrong sides together and pin to the neck opening, with the seam at the centre back and halfway point to the centre front. Stretch the band as needed to fit, then pin and stitch. Press.



- 4 Pin the sleeves to the body with the safety pin at the shoulder seam and stitch. Press the seam allowances towards the sleeve. Sew the side seams of the garment from the wrist, down the sleeves and body to the hem.



- 5 Fold a cuff piece with right sides facing and stitch the short ends together to make a hoop. Fold in half wrong sides together and slip the cuff over the sleeve with all raw edges together. Match up the cuff seam to the underarm seam and pin, stretch as necessary, then stitch.



- 6 Cut a waistband 14cm wide x the width of the lower edge and attach in the same way as for the cuffs. Press, then topstitch.



Holiday helpers

Stitch our handy travelling set to take on your next trip away



YOU WILL NEED

- * 50 x 60cm navy stamp fabric
- * 30 x 50cm orange stripe fabric
- * 50 x 50cm plain navy fabric
- * 15 x 25cm plain orange fabric
- * 28 x 38cm wadding
- * 28 x 38cm medium-weight sew-in interfacing
- * Cutting mat, quilter's ruler and rotary cutter
- * Matching thread
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * 9in zipper
- * 2.5cm wide button
- * 15cm of 3mm wide round elastic cord in Orange
- * 130cm orange bias binding
- * Sewing machine

Stockists: Bon Voyage Postage Stamps in Red and Navy, both £15.50 per m, Camont Cabana Stripe in Orange, £15 per m, Spectrum Vienna in Orange, £9 per m, Artisan Solid in Dark Navy, £16 per m, YKK designer accents 9in zipper in Apricot, £3, 3mm round elastic cord, 48p per m, all sewhot.co.uk

Cutting out

- * Cut two 28 x 38cm pieces from the navy stamp fabric for the outer and inner covers.
- * For the back pockets, cut two 25 x 30cm pieces from the orange stripe fabric.
- * For the passport pockets, cut one 20 x 25cm piece from the plain navy fabric.
- * For the credit-card pockets, cut a 10 x 25cm piece from the navy stamp fabric and a 15 x 25cm piece from the plain orange fabric.
- * For the zipper pocket, cut two 24 x 25cm pieces from the plain navy fabric.

Travel wallet

- 1 Sandwich the wadding and interfacing between the inner and outer cover pieces with right sides out. Pin the layers together, then quilt. Trim down to 25 x 35cm.
- 2 To make the zipper pocket, fold the pockets in half along the 24cm length and press. Open the piece out and mark 3cm down from the fold on the wrong side of one of the pockets and copy the diagram below to draw a rectangle and cutting lines over the centre of the original marking. Place the pockets right sides together and sew all the way around the rectangle edge. Cut along the cutting lines through both fabric pieces, turn the pocket right sides out and press. Pin the zipper into the opening and topstitch to secure.
- 3 Fold the rest of the pocket pieces in half along the edges that don't measure 25cm and press. Layer the small credit-card pocket on the large credit-card pocket with raw edges aligned and topstitch down the centre. Place the passport pocket over one of the back



pockets with raw edges aligned and topstitch down the centre.

- 4 On the outer side of the travel wallet, stitch a button about 2.5cm from one edge. On the opposite side, pin and stitch a loop of elastic, so that when the wallet is closed the loop and button line up.
- 5 On the right-hand side of the travel wallet cover with the inner side up, stack the back pocket and passport pockets with raw edges aligned. Use a small zigzag stitch to secure the edges together. On the left-hand side, position the other back pocket with the zipper pocket on top, followed by the credit-card pockets, and zigzag stitch as before.
- 6 Finish the travel wallet by binding the edges. Stitch the bias binding around

the inner cover on the sewing machine, then turn the binding to the front and slipstitch in place.

Luggage tag

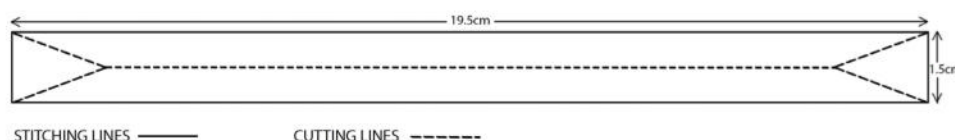
You will need

- * Scrap of fabric
- * Firm sew-in interfacing
- * A4 plastic wallet
- * Heat-transfer vinyl
- * Cutting mat, quilter's ruler and rotary cutter
- * Sewing clips
- * Hole punch
- * Matching thread
- * Matching ribbon
- * White card

- 1 Cut two 7 x 12cm pieces from the fabric, one 7 x 12cm piece from the interfacing and one 7 x 10cm piece from the plastic wallet.
- 2 Apply the heat-transfer vinyl to the right sides of the two fabric pieces, following the manufacturer's instructions.

- 3 Sandwich the interfacing between the two fabric pieces, and top with the plastic wallet piece, aligning the bottom and side edges.

- 4 Sew 5mm from the edges, all the way around it, then trim off any excess. Use a hole punch to make a hole in the top and thread through a piece of ribbon and knot to secure. Cut a piece of white card to slot into the plastic wallet pocket to write your details or message.





Jersey sure

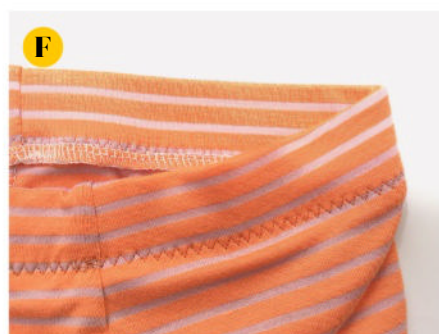
Use an old pair of leggings to create a pattern,
then stitch this stripey set

1 To make a template from old leggings, unpick the waistband stitching to undo the top fold and release the elastic. Cut along the stitching on the inside leg seam and crotch seam, and press the piece flat.

2 Pin onto a double layer of fabric and cut out, adding 1cm at the side and crotch seams and 1.5cm at the hems (a). With right sides out, fold the leggings in half to work out the position of the patches. Pin these in place, then sew or iron to adhere (b). Re-fold the pieces with right sides facing and sew up the inside leg seams (c). Turn one leg right side out and slip this inside the second leg. Match at the waist and crotch seams, then pin and stitch (d).

3 Either re-use the waistband elastic removed from the old leggings, or cut a new piece to the same size and stitch the ends to make a loop. Fold this in half and pin the halfway points to the front and back seams on the leggings. With edges together, overlock the elastic and the fabric together.

4 Fold the elastic to the inside and stretch the waistband to remove any gathers, then pin (e). Sew near the lower edge of the elastic using a triple zigzag stitch on a sewing machine (f). Fold 1.5cm over at the hem of each leg and sew using a triple zigzag stitch.



YOU WILL NEED

- * Stripe jersey fabric
- * Iron-on patches
- * Elastic
- * Overlocker
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Scissors
- * Pins

Quick— sew shopper

Stitch this simple bag in bold fabrics



1 Stack a piece of lining fabric right side up on top of a piece of foam batting. Top with an outer fabric piece, right sides down. Sew together along one long edge. Repeat for the remaining pieces. Press, trim seams to 5mm and open out the bag pieces flat.

2 Pin the webbing lengths in a loop on the outer fabric pieces, 18cm in from the sides. Topstitch the straps in place on the outer fabric, 5mm in from the webbing edges.

3 Place the bags right sides together, with lining pieces together and outer pieces together, and making sure the seams align. Pin and sew around the edge, leaving a 15cm gap along the lining for turning through.

4 To box all the corners, measure 5.5cm up from the stitched point and draw a line across the seam. Sew along the line and trim off the excess. Turn the bag right sides out, topstitch the gap closed and push the lining inside the bag.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Two 45 x 55cm canvas lining fabric
- * Two 45 x 55cm foam batting
- * Two 1.5m lengths of 30mm-wide webbing
- * Two 45 x 55cm canvas outer fabric

- * Matching sewing thread
- Stockists:** Merchant & Mills sturdy webbing in Orange, £3.49m, Robert Kaufman Big Sur cotton canvas fabric in Yellow, £17.99m, both

minerva.com; Cotton + Steel Bramble Citrus Grove canvas in Navy, £22.50m, sewhot.co.uk

Note: Take 1.5cm seam allowances throughout.

Bag tidies

Sew a set of these simple zipper pouches to store essentials in your handbag



YOU WILL NEED

- * Patterned fat quarters
- * 9in zippers in matching colours
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Key rings with clasp
- * Zipper foot

Stockist: Make Time Scissors in Iris, Make Time Square Dot in Strawberry, Make Time Check in Blue Bell, all £15 per m, available from Sew Hot; sewhot.co.uk

- 1 Cut your fabric into four 11 x 15cm pieces. Fold and press two of the pieces in half lengthways and with wrong sides together. Pin and sew the two folded pieces to either side of the zipper tape, folded edge next to the zipper teeth.
- 2 Pair the remaining fabric pieces with wrong sides together, and stack on top of the zippered piece. Stitch all the way around the edge with a 5mm seam allowance, starting and stopping at the zip pull. Pull the zip pull open halfway, then trim the zipper ends, seams and corners.
- 3 Turn the pouch wrong sides out and press. Cut a hanging loop of fabric measuring 5 x 8cm. Fold in half lengthways, then open out and fold the edges into the crease, and fold again along the original crease. Topstitch to secure.
- 4 Insert the fabric loop into the pouch and pin. Sew all the way around the edge with a 1cm seam allowance. Turn right sides out, press and thread the key ring onto the hanging loop.



Floral fit

Draft your own perfect-fit trouser pattern using a much-loved pair of PJs, then crop and add a trim, cuff or a tie to personalise the design

Make a pattern from PJ bottoms

Don't bin your worn-out favourites – use them to create a pattern to make new trousers or shorts.

1 If you want cropped length or shorts, put the trousers on and pop a safety pin at the length you want. Remove any drawstrings (a), undo the stitching at the waist (b) that holds the elastic and set aside.

2 With the trousers inside out, cut around the crotch seam along the line of stitching to separate the legs. Cut along the stitching lines down the inside and outside leg seams of

one trouser leg (c) – you don't need to undo the hems or do both legs. Press the two pieces flat.

3 Pin the first fabric piece onto your paper. Use a pencil and measuring tape to mark 1.5cm out from the cut edges around the sides (d) and 5cm at the hem. Draw along the top fabric edge (e) as this will be folded under. Join up the marks – you have a 1.5cm seam allowance with 5cm allowed for a double hem.

4 Draw a grainline on the paper by following the straight pattern or weave. Mark where the folds at the waist are, then cut out.

Floral baggies



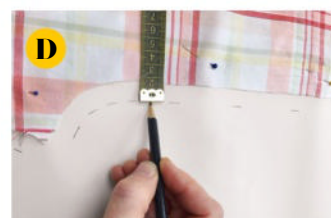
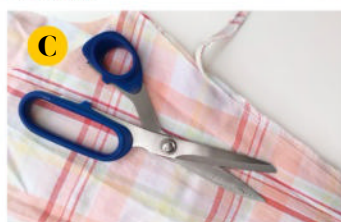
1 Fold fabric in half lengthways, pin the pattern on and cut two front and two back pieces (one of each reversed). Pin one front and one back piece, right sides facing, machine stitch both side seams. Repeat for the second leg, press seams open.

4 Thread elastic through all three channels, stitch the ends together then stitch the openings shut.

5 Cut a length of burgundy tape and machine stitch the centre point at the centre-front seam, then tie in a bow.

2 Turn one leg right side out, slide it inside other leg and pin around the crotch seam, matching inside-leg seams and top edges. Machine stitch at 1.5cm, then again just inside that stitch line for strength. Turn right side out and press.

3 Press around the waist along the fold lines from the pattern and pin, then machine stitch near the folded edge, leaving a 3cm gap at the centre back. Repeat with 1cm then 4cm at the ankle hems, leaving a gap at the inside leg seam.



YOU WILL NEED

- * A pair of PJ trousers
- * Large sheets of tracing or brown paper, or a roll of wallpaper/lining paper
- * Pencil
- * Tape measure
- * Scissors
- * Cotton poplin fabric
- * 25mm-wide white elastic
- * ½in-wide cotton tape
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Scissors
- * Pins



Beach hoodie

Heading for the seaside? Grab a striped towel and turn it into a kid's cover-up, perfect for throwing over their swimwear

Our snug beach hoodie is made from a single towel, cut into six pieces (see diagram for cutting instructions), and makes use of the towel's original edging. The measurements we've given fit a two-to-three-year-old, so adjust accordingly and buy more towels if you're making for older children. As towelling frays, run a quick zigzag stitch around the cut edges of all the pieces, to make it easier to work with.

- 1 Cut out pieces of the hoodie, as per the diagram. Take the hood piece and cut off the two side hems, then fold in half along the long edge, right sides facing (a). Pin and zigzag-stitch the long edge (opposite the original hem). Turn right sides out. For the neckline, place one body piece, right side down and pin the midpoint at the top. Line the seam of the hood up with this,

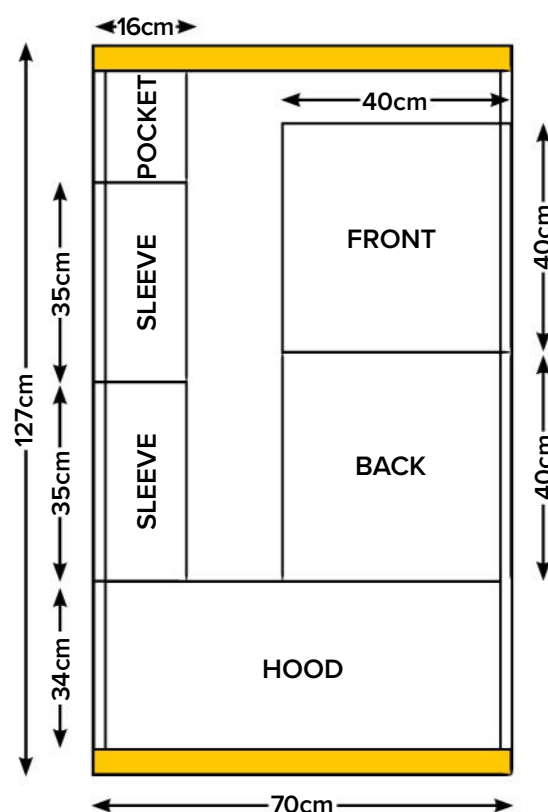
YOU WILL NEED

- * 70 x 127cm striped bath towel
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Rotary cutter, quilting ruler and cutting mat

NOTE Take 1.5cm seam allowances throughout.

then place two pins on either side, midway between the central seam and hood front (b).

- 2 At the two outer pins, fold the hood sides in and down at an angle until they meet in the middle, and the hood front sits flat (c) and pin this point. Remove the hood, then cut away the triangle of fabric on the body piece. Cut a 7cm slit at the triangle's apex (d). Zigzag the two raw edges of the neckline along the slit and triangle, turn and machine-stitch flat.
- 3 Place the two body pieces together, right sides facing, and pin at the shoulders. Cut a slight arc in the back piece between the neck opening. Machine-stitch across both shoulders.
- 4 Open the hoodie out and lay right side up. Place the sleeves right side down and facing in towards the neckline (original hems facing in). Line the centre point of the sleeves to the shoulder seam. Pin (e) and stitch.
- 5 Take the pocket piece and fold to find the midpoint. Measure 9cm on either side of this and cut two diagonal lines along the two short edges. Zigzag

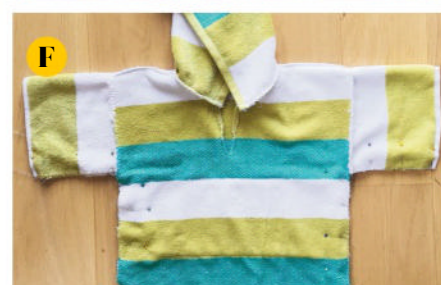
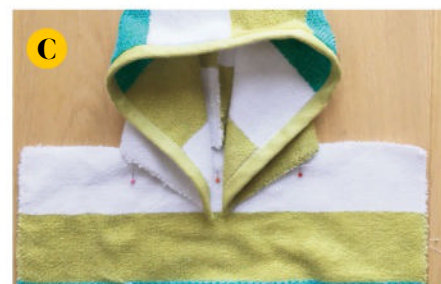


stitch all the raw sides, then turn and hem the three shortest sides.

- 6 Make sure the hoodie is right side out. Place the pocket on the front, so the top of the flap is facing downwards. Pin, then machine stitch in place along the bottom edge. Flip the flap upwards, then pin and machine stitch along the top edge.
- 7 Turn the hoodie over. Place the seam of the

hood at the midpoint of the neck. Pin the hood to the back of the hoodie, following the curve of the opening. Continue pinning the hood all around the opening. Tack, then machine stitch the hood in place. Remove tacking.

- 8 Finally, turn the hoodie inside out, pin and zigzag-stitch the underarm and side seams together (f). Turn, trim any loose threads and press.



Leaf applique washbag

Store your make-up or toiletries in this handy home-made washbag



YOU WILL NEED

- * 20cm metal zip
- * 20cm square of green fabric
- * 50 x 50cm pale pink stripe fabric
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * Paper-backed adhesive webbing
- * Pins and scissors
- * Pink embroidery threads
- * Small tassel maker
- * Embroidery needle

1 Photocopy the monstera leaf template and cut out. Fuse the webbing to the green fabric and trace around the template onto the paper backing. Cut out and repeat until you have four leaves.

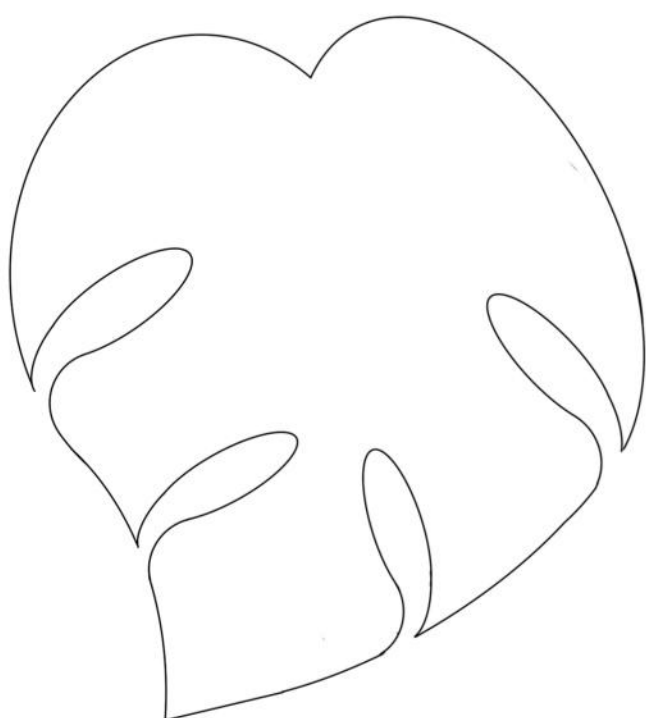
2 Cut the pink stripe fabric into four 20 x 25cm rectangles – two for the front and two for the lining – and two 4cm squares for the zip tabs. Place two leaf appliques onto the front washbag pieces, remove the paper backing, and fuse in place.

3 With your sewing machine set to a small straight stitch, sew around the edge of each monstera leaf in a contrasting sewing thread.

4 Fold the zip tabs in half, then unfold and press the sides to the fold line. Trim the zip ends so they measure 1cm from the zip stopper and pull. Sandwich the zip ends inside the fabric zip tabs and, using a zipper foot on your sewing machine, stitch in place as close to the fold as possible.

5 With one of the applique pieces right side up, pin the zip wrong side down on top followed by a lining piece so the edge of the fabrics align with the edge of the zip tape. Using the zipper foot, sew the pinned edge with a 1cm seam allowance. Repeat for the other side of the zip with the other pieces of fabric.

6 Press the zip seams flat with right sides facing up and then topstitch about 5mm from the zip teeth using the zipper foot.



7 Open the zip. Pin the lining pieces together with right sides facing and the front pieces together with right sides facing. Stitch the sides first, always starting with the lining and sewing towards the front pieces, with a 1.5cm seam allowance.

8 Sew the bottom of the front pieces with a 1.5cm seam allowance and repeat for the lining, leaving a 10cm gap in the centre for turning through.

9 Trim the corners and turn the bag right sides out. Turn the raw edges of the

opening on the lining in by 1.5cm seam allowance and slip stitch closed, or sew with a machine for speed.

10 Wind the pink embroidery threads around the tassel maker to create two small tassels. Thread an embroidery needle with a 10cm length of embroidery thread, guide through the tops of the tassels and tie to the zip pull. Guide the needle through the centre of the tassels to disguise the tail ends and then trim the bottoms of the tassels.



Child's pinafore

Stitch this sweet dress for a little one

YOU WILL NEED

- * Starry fabric
- * Two large buttons
- * Two large poppers
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Tape measure
- * Pins
- * Scissors

1 To create your pattern, you will need the following measurements.

A Full bodice width: From under armpits across the front. Add 5cm ease.

B Upper bodice: This is the width of bodice where the buttons will go, approximately 10cm narrower than full bodice width.

C Bodice height: Where you want bib to start and finish. Add 3cm seam allowance.

D Underarm height: Approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of bodice height, measured from bottom up.

E Length of skirt: Measure from where the bodice is going to finish to the bottom hem. Add 6cm for hem allowance.

2 To make the bodice pattern, draw a rectangle using measurements **A** x **C**. Cut out, fold in half lengthways. Halve measurement **B** and measure from fold out and mark along top of the folded rectangle.

3 Mark measurement **D** on short side of rectangle, then draw a curve joining point **B** and **D**. Join the two underarm points and below this is the back bodice pattern.

4 From fabric, cut two front bodice pieces, two back bodices and four 6cm x 35cm straps. For the skirt, cut two rectangles of fabric twice the width of the bodice by measurement **E**.

5 Take the two front bodice pieces, right sides together. Pin and sew across top from one curve to the other using a 5mm seam allowance. Notch fabric at the curves (a). Turn out and press. Also press a 1.5cm hem along the two long raw edges (b), plus two 1.5cm hems

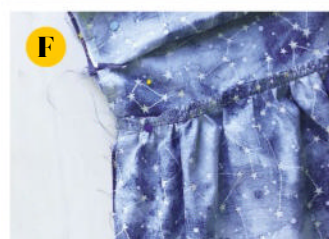
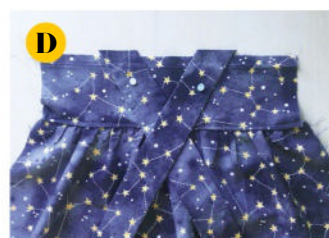
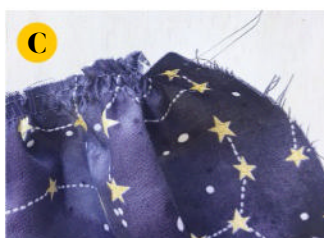
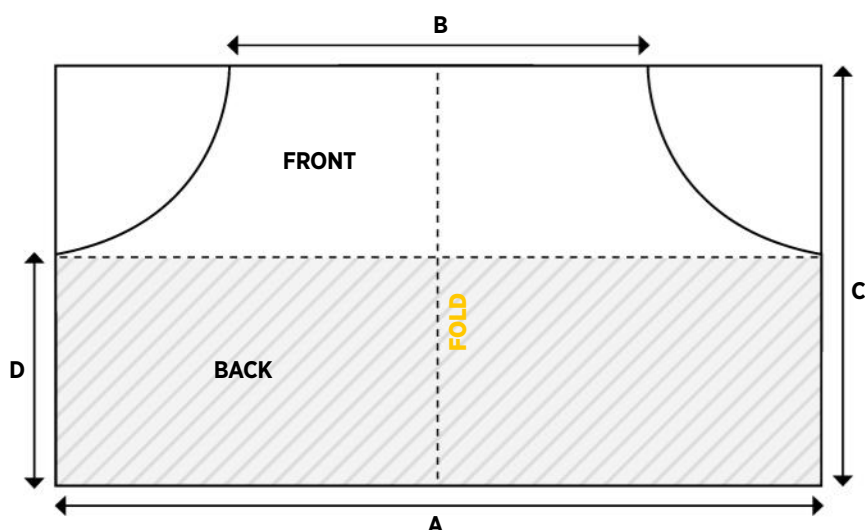
along two long sides of both back bodice pieces.

6 For the straps, pin two strips right sides together. Repeat for other pair. Cut a paper rectangle the same width as straps and 10cm high, fold paper in half lengthways and draw a semi circle on one half towards fold and cut. Draw around template onto one end of straps (c). Sew straps together, leaving straight end open, and notch around curves. Turn out, press.

7 Take one skirt rectangle and using a long straight stitch, sew two parallel lines 1cm apart along the top. Do not overstretch. Take a thread from each line of stitching and pull until fabric is the width as bodice. Repeat for other rectangle.

8 Place front bodice right side down. Open up and place one skirt piece right side down. Pin to bottom of bodice, hiding both lines of stitches under the turned hem. Pin skirt and sew in place (d). Repeat with one piece of back bodice.

9 Pin straps onto back panel. Then, place it right side up. Reverse straps so



they are correct length and in position but facing down the dress (e). Pin in place.

10 Lay other back bodice piece pattern down on top of back panel, sandwiching the straps inside. Pin in place, then sew along the top. Turn out and press. Lay back dress panel right side up and open bodice up. Place front dress panel right side down on top, with bodice open.

11 Line up side seams where the bodice and skirts meet. Pin front and back pieces together along both long sides and sew (f). Trim, turn dress out and rearrange the bodice so the seams lie flat. Press well, then hand sew the inner bodice to skirt.

12 Sew a wide double hem around the bottom. Sew two poppers on the straps, and two buttons on top of straps.

HOMES AND DECOR

48 PATCH POUCH -	70 BOOK KEEP -	93 SHORE THING -
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56 KITCHEN STITCHING -	77 TABLE RUNNER -	100 PRETTY POTHOLDERS -
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60 STORAGE SOLUTIONS -	80 STITCH AND STASH -	103 TRENDY TOWEL -
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66 WINTER WARMER -	86 PATCH PERFECT -	110 ROPE BOWLS -
68 DOUBLE DENIM -	90 MEMORY BEAR -	112 SITTING PRETTY -



108



96



104



80



110



84



90



112



82

Patch pouch

Stitch this simple sawtooth star design into a quilted zip-up bag that's perfect for storing your art kit, make-up or toiletries



1 From the plain cotton, cut eight $1\frac{3}{4}$ in squares, one 4in square, two $2\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in rectangles, two $1\frac{3}{4} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ in rectangles and one $8\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ in rectangle.

2 From the patterned cotton, cut one $3\frac{1}{4}$ in square, four $2\frac{3}{4}$ in squares, two $7\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ in rectangles, one 2in square and one 2×25 in strip. From the fusible batting, cut two $8\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ in rectangles.

3 Make the sawtooth star block following the instructions in the box (right). Sew the two $2\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in plain rectangles to either side of the sawtooth star block and press. Sew the two $1\frac{3}{4} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ in plain rectangles to the top and bottom of the block.

4 Fuse the batting to the reverse of the patchwork bag front and the $8\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ in plain rectangle. Quilt as desired. Pin and sew the bag front and back together with $\frac{3}{8}$ in seam allowances on the sides and bottom edge. Turn right sides out and press.

5 To sew the lining, pin and sew the two $7\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ in patterned rectangles together with $\frac{3}{8}$ in seam allowances along the sides and bottom edge. Place the lining wrong sides out inside the bag outer, lining up the top raw edges.

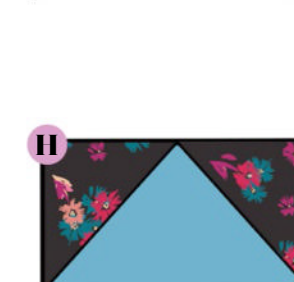
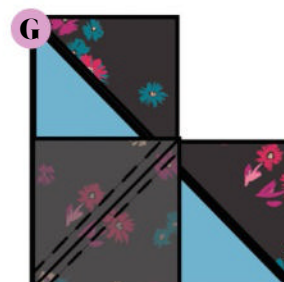
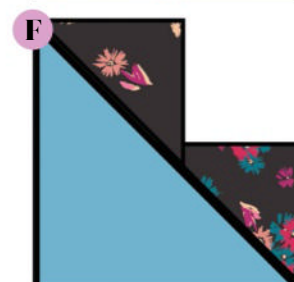
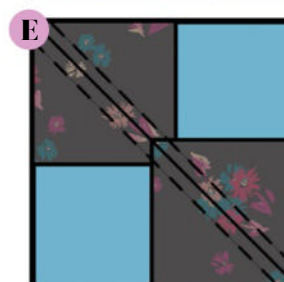
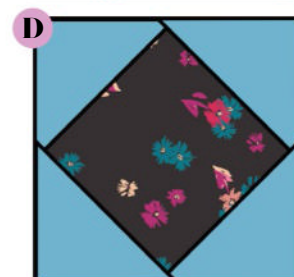
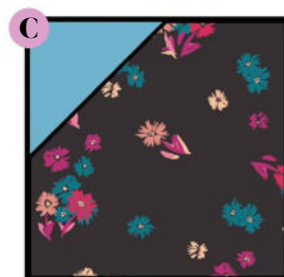
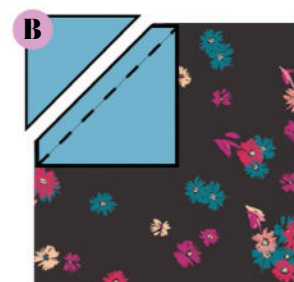
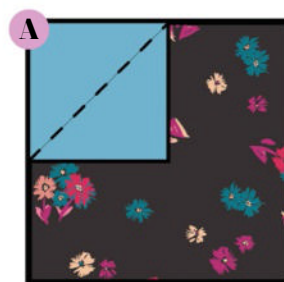
6 Undo the zip. Pin and sew one side of tape with right sides up to the inside edge of the lining, using a zipper foot. Leave the last 2in of the zip unsewn. Repeat for the opposite side of the tape on the opposite side of the lining. Tuck the unsewn zip inside the bag.

7 To make the binding, fold the 2×25 in patterned strip in half lengthways. Pin the binding on top of the zipper tape, with raw edges aligned, and stitch in place $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the raw edge. Turn the binding to the front, pin and topstitch on a sewing machine or slipstitch in place.

Making the sawtooth block

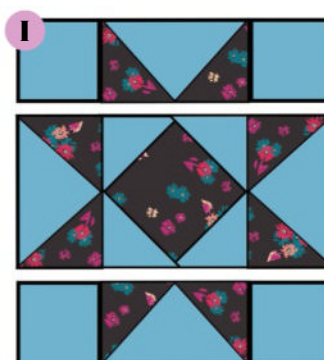
1 Use the corner-square triangle method to make the centre, using the patterned $3\frac{1}{4}$ in square and four of the plain $1\frac{3}{4}$ in squares. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of each plain square. Place the first plain square in one corner of the patterned square (a), and stitch along the line. Cut away the excess (b) and press (c). Repeat until each corner has been replaced with a plain triangle (d).

2 Use the no-waste flying geese method to form the star-point pieces with the plain 4in square and four patterned $2\frac{3}{4}$ in squares. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of each patterned square. Place two patterned squares on top of the plain square with marked diagonals lined up (e). Stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ in on either side of the marked line, then cut along the drawn line. Open out and press (f). Place another patterned square on the opposite corner (g), stitch, cut and press open as



before (h). Repeat until you have four matching pieces.

3 Sew two star-point pieces on opposite sides of the central block. Sew the remaining four $1\frac{3}{4}$ in plain squares on either side of the two remaining star-point pieces (i). Sew these strips to the top and bottom of the block.



YOU WILL NEED

- * 14 x 17in light blue cotton
- * 11 x 25in patterned cotton
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Fusible batting
- * 25cm black zip
- * Sewing machine
- * Zipper foot
- * Quilting ruler

- * Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- * Hand-sewing needle (optional)

Stockists: Moda Fabrics Bella Solids fabric in Blue Raspberry, £10m, Art Gallery Fabrics The

Flower Society in Dreamlike Daisies, £15m, both The Fabric Fox; thefabricfox.co.uk

NOTE Sew with right sides facing and $\frac{1}{8}$ in seam allowances throughout, unless stated otherwise.

Off the peg

This peg bag is the perfect project to use up your fabric stash, and it will look so pretty hanging on your line



YOU WILL NEED

- * 45 x 56cm Vlieseline H250 medium fusible interlining
- * 45 x 56cm of blue and peach cotton fabric
- * 1m peach bias binding
- * Sewing thread
- * 2cm-wide peach button
- * Paper and pencil
- * Ruler
- * Dinner plate
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * Sewing needle

1 To make the template, cut out a 28 x 45cm rectangle from the paper. Fold the paper in half lengthwise. On the side opposite the folded edge, measure and mark 23cm from the bottom. Take the plate and draw around it, from the mark to the top edge, leaving about 2.5cm from the fold. Cut out along the curved line and unfold to reveal the pattern.

2 Fuse the interlining to the peach fabric, following the manufacturer's instructions. Using the pattern, cut one from the blue and one from the peach fabric for the bag backs. Now remove the top 5cm from the handle on the template and cut one from the blue and one from the peach for the bag fronts.

3 Pin the blue bags together with bottom and side edges aligned, and stitch with a 1.5cm seam allowance, making sure not to stitch the curved sides or handle. Box the corners by 2.5cm. Repeat for the peach bags.

4 Place the peach bag inside the blue bag, with wrong sides together, and stitch the curved edges and handles about 5mm from the edge. Bind the raw edges with the bias binding.

5 Stitch a buttonhole in the centre of the top 5cm of the long handle. Sew a matching button on the short handle in line with the buttonhole. Press to finish.

Napkin bows

Use this clever eyelet trick to transform a set of simple napkin ties

☆☆☆
Difficulty level



YOU WILL NEED

- * Two fat quarters in matching fabrics
- * Scissors
- * Sewing needle and matching thread
- * Four brass eyelets (between 11mm and 14mm)

- 1 With each napkin, cut out one 8 x 36cm rectangle from each fabric. At each short end, mark the centre. From the short ends, measure 8cm down the sides and mark. Join up these points and cut out to form triangular ends.
- 2 Position the pieces right sides together and sew all the way around the edge with a 1cm seam allowance, leaving a small gap for turning. Snip the corners, trim down the seams, turn right sides out and press.
- 3 Turn the open edges under by 1cm and topstitch the gap closed. Position an eyelet 15cm from one end and secure following the manufacturer's instructions. Fold the fabric just underneath the eyelet and topstitch 2cm along the very edge.
- 4 To secure around the napkin, push the opposite end through the eyelet and pull the two ends to form a bow.

Patchwork projects

Easy ideas to show off English paper-piecing techniques

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

YOU WILL NEED

- * Hexagon, diamond and trapezium templates (right)
- * Fat quarter spot fabric
- * Fat quarter floral fabric
- * Matching thread
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * Scrap paper
- * White backing fabric
- * Batting
- * Small white/cream button
- * 23 x 23cm frames

Trio of frames

Just add a piece of backing fabric, batting and a frame, and you can make these simple pictures – ideal for showing off your designs.

1 Enlarge the templates by 200% and use these to trace out the templates on to scrap paper. Cut out seven diamond and 12 trapezium shapes from the paper. Pin the paper pieces on to your fabrics in the following configurations: hexagons, six spot, one floral; diamonds, seven spot; trapezium, six spot, six floral. Cut out each piece

with a ¼in seam allowance. Cut three squares of white backing fabric and batting to fit your frame.

2 Finger-press the fabric allowances over the edge of the paper. Tack down with a needle and contrasting thread. Repeat for all hexagons, diamond and trapezium shapes.

3 Starting with the floral hexagon at the centre and a spot hexagon, oversew right sides facing along one edge with matching thread, making sure not to catch the paper piece with

your stitches. Open hexagons to lay flat. Repeat with the other spot hexagons until all six edges of the centre hexagon are sewn. Remove the tacking on the centre hexagon and remove the paper piece.

4 Join the spot hexagons to one another, by pinning, right sides facing, and oversewing. Remove all the remaining tacking stitches and papers. Press the edges to mark the ¼in seam allowance.

5 Centre and pin your hexagon shape to the

backing fabric. Hand-appliqué around, taking the smallest of stitches. Press, place on top of the batting, then frame.

6 Follow the same method for the seven diamonds, appliquéing to a second piece of white backing fabric, then sewing the button to the centre.

7 For the trapeziums, work row by row, alternating between floral and spot fabrics, sewing four in each. Then sew the three rows together, before appliquéing to the backing fabric.

Hexi place mats

Perfect for placing a pretty jug of flowers on in the centre of a table.

1 Enlarge the hexagon template by 200%, then trace 19 times on to paper and cut out. Pin 13 paper pieces to the spot fabric and six to the floral fabric. Cut out each piece with a ¼in seam allowance. Finger-press the fabric allowances over the edge of the paper. Repeat as per the instructions in the 'Trio of frames' project, steps three and four, this time sewing a second round of hexagons to the initial seven. Remove the remaining tacking stitches and papers. Press the edges to mark the ¼in seam allowance.

2 Draw around the place mat on to the batting and cotton. Cut out both, adding a ¼in seam allowance to the cotton. With the wrong side of the cotton facing the batting, turn the seam allowance over and press in place. Cut into the corners of the seam allowance for a smooth finish. Pin the place mat and backing, wrong sides facing, and slipstitch the edges closed.

TIPS

- * A lightweight fabric like cotton is easiest to work with. Any contrasting prints would work, but one subtle print and one bold one works best.
- * Once you've mastered the technique, shapes can be used to create pieces such as bags and more.
- * You can alter the size of your template, depending on what frame you wish to fill or what size you want your mat.



Trapezium



Hexagon



Diamond

Templates
enlarge by 200%

YOU WILL NEED

- * Hexagon templates
- * Fat quarter spot fabric
- * Fat quarter floral fabric
- * Matching thread
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * Scrap paper
- * Batting
- * Backing fabric

The cactus club

This trio of cute cushions are so pretty with their appliqué potted cactus motifs



TIP
Add texture to the plain background with some easy quilting techniques

Cutting out

- 1 For the cushion fronts, cut six 33 x 33cm squares from the white cotton and three 33 x 33cm squares from the batting.
- 2 For the cushion backs, cut three 13 x 33cm rectangles and three 23 x 33cm rectangles from the white cotton.
- 3 For the appliqués, press the fusible web to the wrong side of the coloured and floral cottons. Using the

templates, cut out three plant pots from the terracotta cotton and three plant-pot rims from the pink cotton. For the cacti, cut out the basic shape of each plant from three of the green cottons. Then cut out individual sections of each cactus from the fabric using our photo as a guide. Cut out four flowers from the floral fabric.

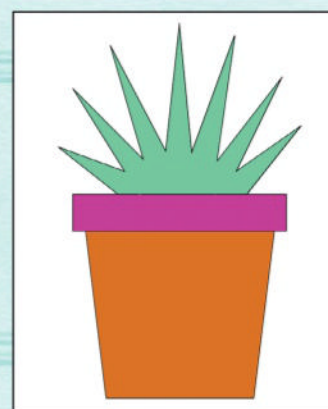
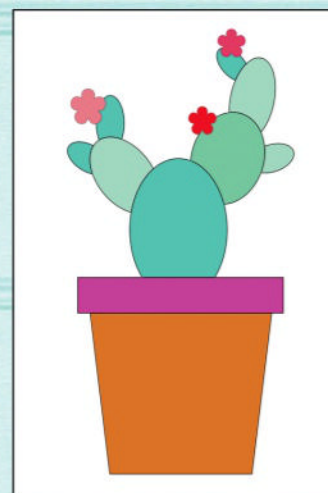
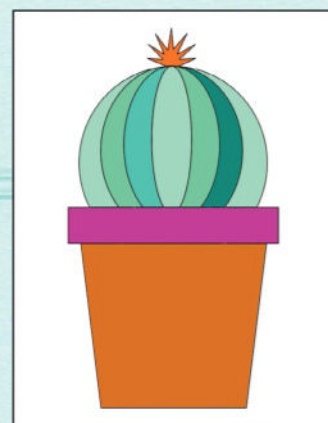
Instructions

- 1 Take a pair of cushion backs, one 13 x 33cm rectangle and one 23 x 33cm rectangle, and pin them together along one long side. Mark the first and last 5cm along the side. Sew the first 5cm with a regular straight stitch, and then the next 23cm with a long tacking stitch, and finish with another regular straight stitch for the last 5cm.
- 2 Press seam open. Position zip in the centre of the

tacked line of stitches with the pull-tab butting against the regular straight stitches. Pin zip in place.

- 3 Using a zipper foot, stitch about 1cm all the way around the zip to secure. Cut the tacked seam open with a seam ripper and pull out the threads to reveal the zip beneath. Repeat for the other cushion backs.
- 4 To make the appliqués, layer the cut-out cactus pieces over the basic

TIP
Use 1.5cm seam allowances with right sides facing throughout this pattern



Templates
Enlarge by 375%

cactus shapes and press to fuse them together.

5 Take one cushion front and arrange the appliqué pieces in the centre, using our photo as a guide. Fuse in place with an iron.

6 Sandwich a piece of batting between two of the cushion fronts, with the appliqué cushion front on top and wrong sides facing. Pin the layers together and then quilt in your preferred style using a quilting foot. Make sure

to stitch the appliqué to secure, and repeat for the other cushions.

7 To sew the cushion together, pin the front and back cushion pieces together with edges aligned. Ensure the zipper is open, ready for turning. Sew all the way around the edge, clip the corners and turn right sides out.

8 Stuff with a small cushion pad or fill with stuffing if you prefer. Repeat with the other two cushions.

YOU WILL NEED

- * 1m x 105cm white cotton
- * Stuffing or three 30 x 30cm square cushion pads
- * 33 x 93cm low loft batting
- * Paper-backed fusible web
- * 10 x 35cm terracotta cotton
- * 6 x 10cm pink cotton
- * Four 12 x 12cm pieces of different green-patterned cotton
- * Small scrap of floral fabric
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * Three 30cm white zips
- * Sewing machine
- * Zipper foot
- * Even-feed quilting foot with quilter guide
- * Seam ripper
- * Scissors
- * Cactus templates

Kitchen stitching

Sew this trio of accessories
to match your decor

Oven
glove



Pot
holder



★ ★ ★
Difficulty
level

Tea
towel



YOU WILL NEED

- * 35cm of 112cm-wide of patterned fabric
- * Two 19 x 32cm pieces of patterned fabric
- * Two 45 x 70cm pieces of patterned fabric
- * 35 x 50cm cotton wadding
- * 19 x 32cm cotton wadding
- * 35 x 50cm insulated lining
- * 19 x 32cm heat-resistant lining
- * Pinking shears
- * Bias binding
- * Pins
- * Matching thread

Stockists: Nantucket Summer Sail in Navy, Nantucket Summer Plaid in Cream Navy, Nantucket Summer Sconset in Navy, Nantucket Summer Somerset, all £15 per m, all Sew Hot; sewhot.co.uk

Pot holder

YOU WILL NEED

- * 19 x 32cm heat-resistant lining
- * 19 x 32cm cotton wadding
- * Two 19 x 32cm pieces of patterned fabric
- * Pins
- * 1m of bias binding
- * Matching thread

1 Sandwich the lining and wadding between the two patterned fabrics, with right sides out, and pin. Stitch all the way around the edge with a 5mm seam allowance, then quilt the piece in whatever style you like.

2 Pin and sew a strip of bias binding along the bottom edge. Fold the bottom 13cm up, so the pot holder forms a 19cm square, and sew along the sides 5mm from the edge to secure. Trim off any excess wadding.

3 For the loop, cut a 12cm strip of bias binding, fold in half lengthways and topstitch close to the edge. Pin and sew bias binding all the way around the edge of the pot holder, and slip the raw ends of the loop under the binding as you stitch.

Oven glove

YOU WILL NEED

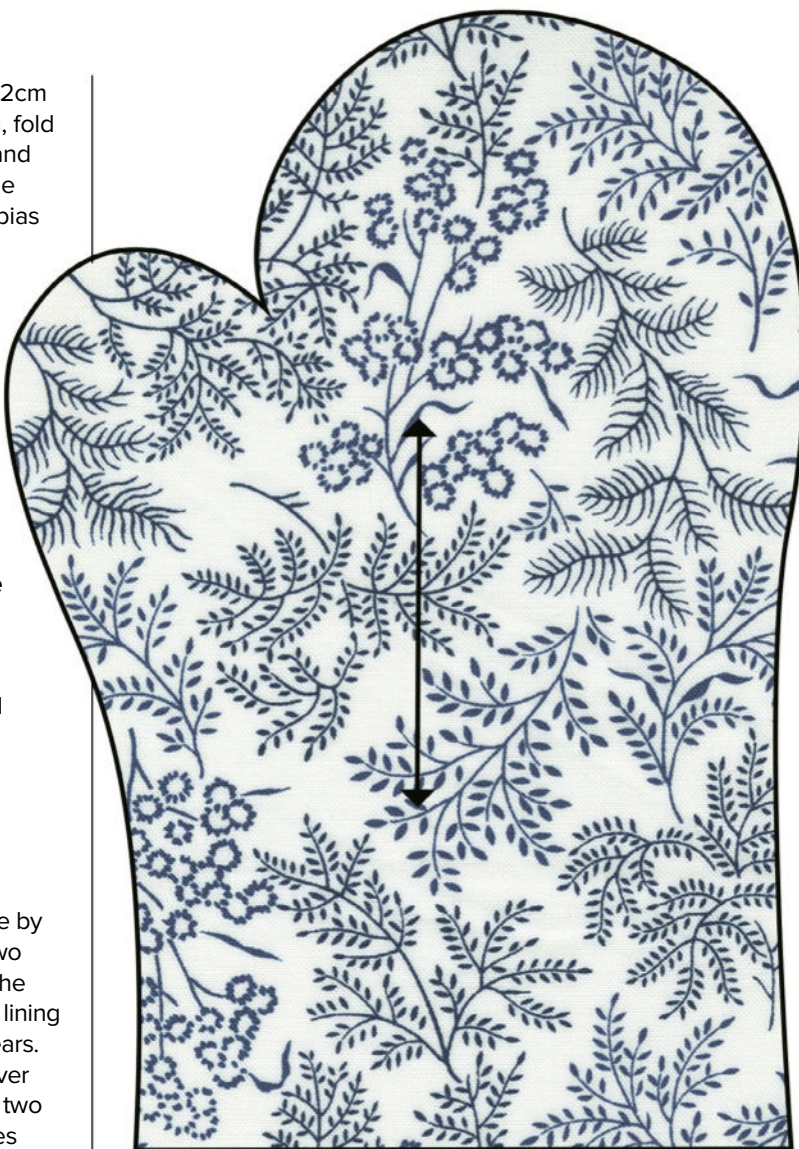
- * 35cm of 112cm-wide of patterned fabric
- * 35 x 50cm cotton wadding
- * 35 x 50cm insulated lining
- * Pinking shears
- * Pins
- * 1m of bias binding
- * Matching thread

1 Enlarge the template by 250% and cut out two glove shapes from the fabric, wadding and lining with the pinking shears. Turn the template over and cut out another two reverse glove shapes from the fabric

2 Place the cotton wadding on the wrong side of one of the patterned glove cut-outs, followed by the insulated lining and the reverse fabric piece. Quilt as desired. Repeat for the other pieces to create a sandwich. Pin and tack around the edges.

3 With a 1cm seam allowance, stitch the edges and leave the cuff open. Trim the seam allowance to reduce bulk and press the seams open at the cuff.

4 Open out the bias binding and pin to the raw edge of the cuff. Remove the bed of the sewing machine and slip the glove cuff under the needle. Stitch the binding in place with a 1cm seam allowance.



5 Turn the glove right sides out. Turn the bias binding over the cuff's raw edge and pin in place. Topstitch close to the binding's pressed edge and slipstitch where the binding overlaps.

long sides in by 1.5cm, then another 1.5cm and topstitch in place.

3 Trim all four corners. Repeat step one on the opposite sides of the towel, slipping the raw ends of loop in at one of the corners and stitching to secure.

Quick-sew project: Tea towel

YOU WILL NEED

- * 20cm bias binding
- * Two 45 x 70cm pieces of patterned fabric
- * Pins
- * Matching thread

1 For the loop, fold the bias binding in half lengthways and topstitch close to the edge.

2 Pin the two fabric pieces together with right sides out. Fold and press the



YOU WILL NEED

- * Access to a photocopier
- * 30 x 20cm rectangle of cream-patterned cotton fabric
- * 20 x 10cm rectangle of gold metallic linen fabric
- * 20 x 10cm rectangle of mustard-patterned cotton fabric
- * 20 x 10cm rectangle of peach and mustard felt fabric
- * 30 x 20cm rectangle of peach-patterned cotton fabric
- * Cream 4-ply cotton yarn
- * Sixteen 8mm diameter wooden beads
- * Six 2cm diameter wooden beads
- * One 3cm diameter wooden bead
- * 25cm quilting or embroidery hoop
- * Air-erasable fabric marker
- * Large-eyed needle
- * All-purpose household glue
- * Matching sewing threads
- * Toy filling
- * Cocktail stick
- * Masking tape

Stockists: Buttercream Spark and Motif Madness fabrics in Pale Peach, £4 per fat quarter, thefabricfox.co.uk; Metallic Essex linen, £4.40 per fat quarter, hand-stitched Karen Lewis cotton fabric, £3.80 per fat quarter, mybearpaw.co.uk; Rowan 4-ply Cotton Glace Yarn, £5.99 for 50g, John Lewis & Partners

SIZE
25cm
Diameter



Night sky mobile



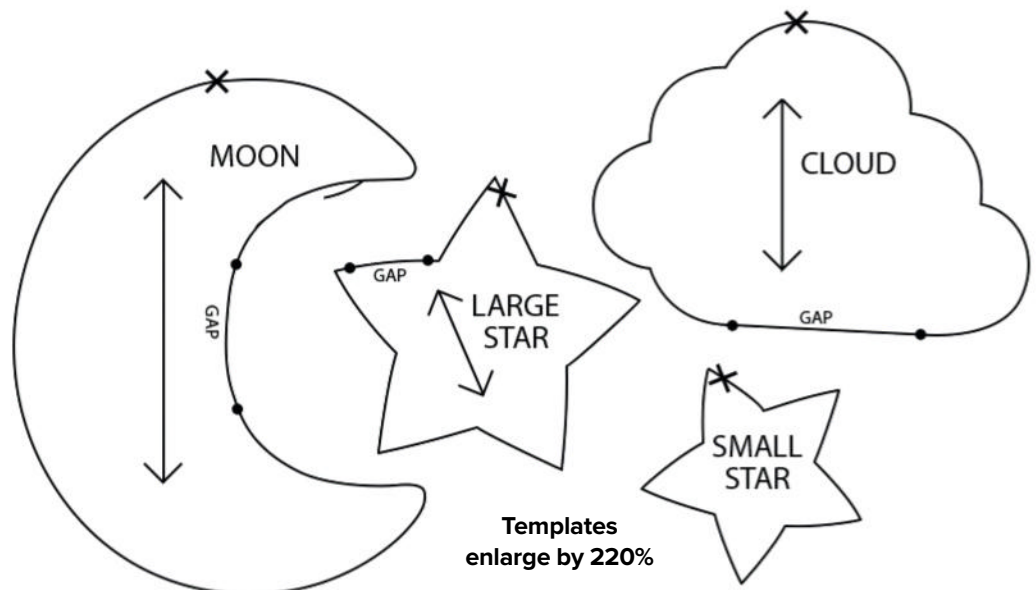
Stitch this sweet accessory for a nursery

Making templates

On a photocopier, enlarge the templates by 220%. Cut the templates.

Preparation

Fold and pin the patterned and metallic fabrics in half with right sides facing and the felt fabric in half with wrong sides facing. With an air-erasable fabric marker, draw around the cloud twice on the folded cream-patterned fabric, the large star once on the folded metallic linen and the mustard-patterned fabrics, the small star once on the folded felt fabrics and the moon once on the folded peach-patterned fabric. Mark the dots.



Making the mobile

1 Stitch along the drawn outlines, leaving a gap between the dots. Cut out the clouds, large stars and moon, leaving a 6mm seam allowance around the edges. Snip the curves, clip the corners and carefully snip to the inner corners of the large stars. Turn right side out.

2 Cut five 65cm lengths of yarn, thread one length onto a large-eyed needle and make a double knot at one end. Refer to the template to slip the needle into one cloud. Bring the needle to the outside between the stitches at the cross. Stuff the cloud with toy filling. Slipstitch the gap closed. Thread one 8mm bead,

one 2cm bead and one more 8mm bead onto the yarn. Repeat on the other cloud, large stars and moon.

3 Cut out the small stars, leaving a 3mm border around the stitched outline. Cut two 60cm lengths of yarn, thread one length onto a large-eyed needle and make a double knot at one end. Slip the needle into one small star between the stitches. Bring the needle to the outside between the stitches at the cross. Then thread three 8mm beads onto the yarn. Repeat on the other small star.

4 On one yarn, lift the last bead. Dab the yarn just above the second bead with a little glue using a cocktail stick. Replace the

last bead. Repeat on each yarn. Set the pieces aside while the glue dries.

5 Discard the outer ring of the quilting or embroidery hoop. Divide the circumference of the inner ring into sixths, mark each division with a piece of masking tape. On opposite divisions of the ring, wrap the yarns of the clouds three times around the ring so the clouds hang 17cm below the ring. Remove the masking tapes and replace over the bound yarn to secure in place. Repeat with the large stars to hang 13cm below the ring, then the small stars to hang 8cm below the ring.

6 Use the needle to insert each yarn above the ring through a 2cm bead. Slip the bead down the yarns.

Hold the yarns together centrally above the 2cm bead. If necessary, adjust the yarns so the ring hangs level. Remove one tape and glue the bound yarn around the ring, applying the glue sparingly with a cocktail stick. Repeat on each bound yarn.

7 Thread the yarn suspending the moon onto the needle. Insert the needle up through the central 2cm bead. With the moon hanging tightly below the clouds, tightly knot all seven yarns together just above the 2cm bead. Cut off six of the yarns 1cm above the knot. Dab the knot with glue. Slip a 3cm bead down the single yarn, hiding the knot inside the bead. Tie a loop at the top of the single yarn.

Storage solutions

Stitch a set of matching baskets to stow away all your bits and bobs



YOU WILL NEED

Per basket:

- * 50cm x 112cm outer fabric
- * 50cm x 112cm lining fabric
- * Firm sew-in interlining
- * Pins
- * Matching thread
- * Bias binding maker
- * Four 14mm eyelets and washers
- * 70cm length of 12mm rope

Stockists: Ruby Star Society Eminence in Sweet Cream, £16 per m, Ruby Star Society Spark in Goldenrod, £16 per m, Moda Fabrics Bella Solids in Berrylicious, £10 per m, all thefabricfox.co.uk

1 To make one basket, cut out five 25cm squares from the outer fabric, lining fabric and interlining. Pin the interlining to the wrong side of the outer fabric pieces.

2 Pin four of the fabric and interlining squares along each side to make a cube, with right sides together. Sew along the edges with a 1cm seam allowance;

stop sewing 1cm from the bottom of each seam. Position the cube on top of the fifth square of fabric with interlining, with right sides together. Pin bottom edges to the base and sew in place with a 1cm seam allowance. Press seams open, trim corners and turn right sides out.

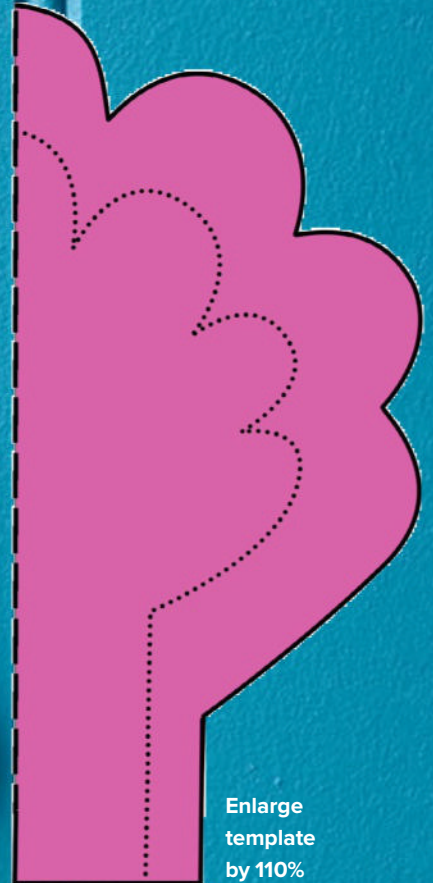
3 Repeat with the lining fabric squares, leaving wrong sides out. Position

the lining inside basket with top edges aligned and pin together. Make a strip of binding from the leftover fabric, measuring 90cm. Sew over raw edges of the box.

4 On opposite sides of the basket, insert two eyelets 6cm from the side seams. Cut the rope in half, thread through the eyelets and knot in place to create handles.

Seashells

Stitch this shell-shaped needle book in fish-themed fabric



Enlarge template by 110%



1 Photocopy the template by 110%. Fold the patterned fabric in half with wrong sides facing and position the template on top with the dashed line along the fabric fold. Draw around and cut out four shells.

2 Pin two shells together with right sides facing. Sew along the bottom straight edge with a 1cm seam allowance and

press open. On the other two shells, fold the bottom straight edges under by 1cm and press.

3 Trace around the stitched shell on the fusible batting and cut out. Fuse to the reverse of the shell. Pin the sewn shell to the unsewn shells with right sides facing and matching raw edges. Sew with a 5mm seam allowance, then turn right sides

out through the gap in the lining and slipstitch closed.

4 Topstitch lines on to the outer of the shell piece in contrasting thread, following our main photo as a guide. Use the dotted line on the template to cut out the central pages from a folded piece of pink felt. Topstitch to the centre of the needle book.

YOU WILL NEED

- * 30cm square of patterned fabric
- * 15 x 30cm fusible batting
- * 15 x 30cm pink felt
- * Matching and contrasting thread
- * Hand-sewing needle

Stockists: Koi Pond Fishies
Shell fabric, £15.50m,
sewhot.co.uk

Go wild

Stitch this set of handy accessories for the gardener in your life

YOU WILL NEED

- * 52 x 75cm patterned cotton fabric
- * 29 x 43cm plain teal fabric
- * 46 x 54cm plain teal fabric
- * 25cm of 25mm-wide pink webbing
- * 26 x 40cm piece of 5cm thick foam
- * 46 x 92cm patterned outer fabric
- * 46 x 92cm patterned lining fabric
- * 46 x 48cm patterned pocket fabric
- * 46 x 92cm Vlieseline S 520 firm flexible fusible interfacing
- * 140cm pink bias binding
- * Matching thread
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * Paper, pencil and ruler

Stockist: Dashwood Studio Night Jungle fabrics, £15.99 per m, all Minerva; minerva.com



TIP

To make the base waterproof, apply a piece of fusible vinyl interfacing to the right side of the back piece

Garden kneeler

YOU WILL NEED

- * 52 x 75cm patterned cotton fabric
- * 29 x 43cm plain teal fabric
- * 25cm of 25mm-wide pink webbing
- * 26 x 40cm piece of 5cm thick foam
- * Matching thread
- * Hand-sewing needle



Cutting out

From the patterned cotton, cut out two 29 x 43cm pieces for the front and back, then two 8 x 43cm strips and 8 x 29cm strips for the sides. For the pocket, cut out a 29 x 43cm piece from the plain cotton fabric.

- 1 Fold the fabric pocket in half lengthways and with wrong sides together. Press along the fold. Line up the pocket's raw edges with the edges of the front piece, so the pocket fold sits in the middle. Use a zigzag or long basting stitch on your sewing machine to sew around the pocket edge to keep it in place.
- 2 On one of the short side strips, pin the webbing 5cm in from each end. Sew the handle in place by stitching a small square at each end of the webbing, then sewing across the squares along the diagonals to secure.
- 3 Pin and sew the kneeler sides together along the short ends with a 1.5cm seam allowance and right

sides together. Sew a long strip to a short strip, followed by a long strip, then a short strip, and join the ends together to form a loop.

- 4 Pin and sew the sides to the front piece with right sides together and 1.5cm seam allowance, making sure that the side with the handle is opposite the pocket. Trim the corners.
- 5 Pin and sew the sides to the back piece, leaving a 24cm gap along one short side for inserting the foam pad. Trim the corners, turn right sides out and press. Insert the pad, turn the raw edges of the opening under by 1.5cm and slipstitch closed.

Tool tote

YOU WILL NEED

- * 46 x 92cm patterned outer fabric
- * 46 x 92cm patterned lining fabric
- * 46 x 48cm patterned pocket fabric
- * 46 x 54cm plain teal fabric
- * 46 x 92cm Vlieseline S 520 firm flexible fusible interfacing
- * 140cm pink bias binding
- * Matching thread
- * Paper, pencil and ruler

- 1 Start by making the template. On a large piece of paper, draw and cut out a 46cm square. Along the top edge, measure and mark out two rectangles at each corner, measuring 19cm in from each side and 15cm down. At the corner, draw around a bowl or plate to make a curve, and cut out the corners along the curved lines.
- 2 Use the paper template to cut out two pieces from the outer fabric for the bag, two from the lining fabric and two from the fusible interfacing. On the

wrong sides of the outer pieces, fuse the interfacing, following the manufacturer's instructions.

- 3 For the pockets, cut two outer pocket pieces measuring 24 x 46cm from the patterned fabric and two inner pocket pieces measuring 27 x 46cm from the plain teal fabric. Pair an inner and outer pocket together with right sides facing and one long edge aligned. Pin and sew along the aligned edge with a 1.5cm seam allowance. Repeat for the second pocket.
- 4 Open out the pockets, press the seams open, then fold the pockets in half, matching up the edges and with right sides out. The pocket inner will appear along the top edge of the outer pocket, mimicking a bias binding edge. Baste a pocket to each of the outer bag pieces, along the bottom edge and sides. Use a regular straight stitch to sew down the centre of each pocket.
- 5 Pin the two lining pieces with wrong sides together and sew along the bottom and side edges, as well as top of the handle, with a 1.5cm seam allowance. Box the corners by folding out the bottom corners so the seams line up. Measure 4.5cm in along the seams, pin and stitch across. Trim off the corners and press. Repeat for the outer bag pieces and turn right sides out.
- 6 Place the lining inside the outer bag, lining up all the unstitched edges and pin them together. With a long basting stitch, sew all the way around the unstitched edges to secure. Bind the raw edges with the bias binding.

Pet perfect

Make your four-legged friend a plush new bed

YOU WILL NEED

- * 60 x 80cm dog bed cushion
- * 63 x 112cm plain linen fabric
- * 63 x 140cm stripe linen fabric
- * Matching thread

Stockists: Linen Fabric Washed Marine Blue Francesca, £14.99 for 100 x 140cm, Linen Fabric Marine Blue Multistripe Prewashed, £13.99 for 100 x 140cm, all linenme.com



★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

1 From the striped fabric, cut out a 63 x 83cm rectangle, a 15 x 63cm strip, and four ties measuring 10 x 40cm. From the plain fabric, cut out a rectangle measuring 63 x 83cm and one measuring 28 x 63cm.

2 Fold the ties in half lengthwise, pin and stitch

1.5cm from the raw edge along the long side and one short end. Turn right sides out and press.

3 Take the striped strip, turn one long edge under by 1cm, repeat and topstitch in place. Do the same with the small, plain fabric rectangle.

4 For the front, pin together the large, striped rectangle and the striped strip with two ties sandwiched in between, with right sides together and raw edges aligned. Sew together with a 1cm seam allowance. Repeat for the plain rectangles and remaining ties for the back.

5 Place the front and back together with right sides facing, folding both the striped and plain fabric flaps over to the front side along the seam. Stitch along the side and bottom edges with a 1.5cm seam allowance. Turn right sides out and press. Stuff with the cushion, securing the cover with the ties.

Sweet scent

Freshen up your drawers with these fruit-decorated lavender sachets

★ ★ ★
Difficulty
level

TIP
Swap polyester stuffing for clean, old tees or socks, cut into strips



YOU WILL NEED

For one bag:

- * Coloured felt
- * Scissors
- * Two 12cm linen or cotton fabric squares
- * Fabric glue (optional)
- * Embroidery thread
- * Embroidery needle
- * Dried lavender
- * Stuffing

1 Cut simple fruit shapes from the felt. When cutting leaf shapes, first cut a rectangle the size of the finished leaf, then round the edges off. This helps keep the leaf more symmetrical.

2 Arrange the fruit in the centre of one of the fabric squares front, glue or pin in place. Sew around the edge using a blanket or overstitch with one strand of embroidery thread. Decorate the fruit with straight stitches to form stars, fans or herringbone patterns, using two strands of embroidery thread.

3 Pin the fabric squares with right sides together and sew around the edge with a 1cm seam allowance, leaving a 2cm gap on one side for turning through. Trim the raw edges down to 5mm and mitre the corners.

4 Turn right sides out and push the corners out carefully. Fold the raw edges of the opening inward and press with an iron. Stuff the bag with a mixture of the dried lavender and stuffing or fabric offcuts (see tip). Slipstitch the opening closed.

Winter Warmer

Make your own hot water bottle this winter



YOU WILL NEED

- * 30 x 85cm piece wool felt in mustard
- * A4 sheet of wool felt in white
- * Embroidery thread in white
- * Embroidery needle
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * 2ltr hot water bottle
- * Paper and pencil
- * Ruler

1 Place your empty hot water bottle on a piece of paper and use a pencil to draw around the edge. With a ruler, straighten the lines at the neck of the bottle, using our image as a guide. Add 2cm around all the edges of the hot water bottle to create your front hot water bottle template.

2 For the two back templates, measure 28cm up from the bottom of the template. Draw a horizontal dashed line to mark this length. Then measure 18cm down from the top of the template and draw a horizontal dotted line to mark this length.

3 Cut out the template and pin to the mustard wool felt. Cut out one front and one of each of the back pieces.

4 For the two back pieces, turn the edges with the dashed lines under by 1cm and then another 1cm to create a double hem. Pin and topstitch in place with matching sewing thread. Blanket stitch over the sewn edges with six strands of white embroidery thread and an embroidery needle.

5 To create the personalised letter on the front, either

Cover back



draw your letter onto a piece of paper with a pencil or print it out on a computer. Cut out the letter motif, pin to the white wool felt and then cut out around the paper.

6 Pin the letter in the centre of the front hot water bottle piece and blanket stitch around the edge to secure. Alternatively, if you're short on time, you can always use a zigzag stitch on your sewing



machine to sew the appliqué in place.

7 Pin the front hot water bottle piece to the back pieces with right sides together and pin all the way around the edge, making sure the two back pieces overlap to form the opening. Sew the pieces together with a 1cm seam allowance. Clip into the curves, turn right sides out and press.

Double denim

Use up old jeans to create this upcycled cushion in stylish shades of bleached blue, indigo and navy

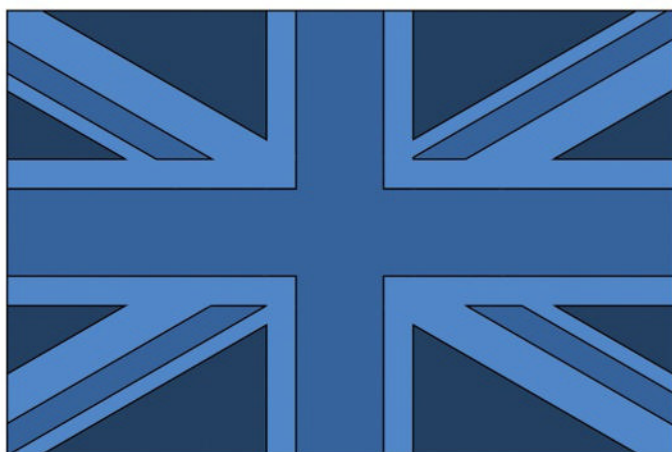
YOU WILL NEED

- * Two 33 x 48cm rectangles of dark denim, one in medium denim and one in pale denim
- * Matching thread
- * Stuffing
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * Sewing machine
- * 30 x 45cm cushion pad

Stockists: Robert Kaufman Washed Cotton Denim Fabric in Bleach Indigo and Indigo, £22.99 per metre, Art Gallery solid textured denim fabric in Bluebottle Field, £23.99 per metre, all Minerva Crafts (minervacrafts.com)



Template
Size: 30 x 45cm



1 Enlarge the template so that the flag motif measures 33 x 48cm. From the paper template, cut out the darkest triangles. Pin the pattern to the centre of the lightest denim fabric and cut out.

2 Repeat, cutting away the lightest sections of the template. Pin the remaining pieces to the medium denim and cut out.

3 Stack one of the dark denim rectangles with the light denim piece and then medium pieces on top, using the template as a guide. Pin and topstitch in place about 5mm from each edge and in matching sewing thread.

4 Create a shabby chic finish by pulling some of the threads from the raw edges of the denim pieces. Run a pin or pair of

scissors along the edges, too, to fray the threads further.

5 Pin the cushion front and cushion back together with right sides facing and sew together with a 1.5cm seam allowance. Make sure to leave a small gap for turning through.

6 Turn the cushion right sides out and push into the corners to create a crisp finish. Press and fill the cushion with stuffing. Turn the open edges under by 1.5cm and pin together. Slipstitch the gap closed with a needle and matching thread.

TIP
Create this cushion in any colours or fabrics you like, even patterned cottons would work well



Book keep

Sew these quick-stitch bookmarks so you won't lose your place

☆☆☆
Difficulty level

1 From each patterned fabric and the interfacing, measure and cut a 10cm square.

2 Fuse the interfacing to the wrong side of one of the fabric squares. Take another of the fabric squares and fold it in half along the diagonal, with wrong sides together, to form a triangle.

3 Stack the interfaced square with right sides up, top with the triangle piece, followed by the final fabric square, right sides down.

4 Pin and sew the layers together around the edge with a 5mm seam allowance. Leave a 5cm gap along one side for turning through.

5 Trim the corners and turn right sides out. Fold the gap edges under by 5mm and press. Topstitch all the way around.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Three patterned cotton fat quarters
- * Thin fusible interfacing
- * Matching thread
- * Ruler, cutting mat and rotary cutter

Chapter Eleven

A strong summer sun peeked through the lush garden greenery, casting dancing shadows onto the perfectly manicured grass. Birds chattered and danced around the branches, ducking into birdbaths and perching on the sundial in the centre of the lawn. Behind the main lawn was a little courtyard, secluded in the corner and surrounded by wild flowers. The air smelt sweet and fresh. I parked myself among a circle of carved stone statues. I flexed my arms, aching from the effort of pushing, noticing again as I did so the definition in my biceps. In fact, I was more toned all over. I looked considerably less gaunt, my stomach no longer concave, my left thigh hard with muscle. I felt stronger. Leaning backwards to feel the sun's warmth on my face, I breathed.

'We've got to stop meeting like this,' the voice made me jump. Across the courtyard, I saw a flash of orange hair, beneath it a vibrant lime green shirt. My heart sank slightly as he approached. Despite my new truce with Jack, I'd been looking forward to some time on my own. 'Jack,' I said. 'What are you doing?' 'I could ask you the same question.' There was a lit cigarette in his hand, tendrils of smoke rising into the air. 'You can't smoke out here,' I said.

Store in style

Tidy up bits and bobs with these handy fabric baskets

1 For the small basket, cut a 12.5cm-diameter circle and a 20 x 38cm rectangle from both fabrics and the batting. For the large one, cut a 20cm-diameter circle and 28 x 60cm from both fabrics and the batting.

2 Fuse the batting onto the reverse of the outer fabric pieces. On the circle pieces, mark the quarter points, and on the rectangles, mark the quarter points along the bottom edges and inside the 1cm seam allowances.

3 Pin and sew each rectangle to form a cylindrical tube. Pin and sew to the bottom edge to the circular bases, matching up the quarter markings.

4 Place the outer basket inside the inner basket, matching up the top edges. Pin and sew together along the top edge, leaving a 5cm gap for turning through. Turn right sides out, press the opening edges under by 1cm, then topstitch all the way around the edge. Turn down the top edge by 5cm to form a cuff of contrasting fabric.

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

YOU WILL NEED

- * Two contrasting cotton fabrics
- * Fusible batting
- * Scissors
- * Pins, needle and matching thread

Note: Sew with right sides together and 1cm seam allowances throughout.



Mini quilt

Rustle up this mini-make quilt and try out the half-square triangle technique



Cut out the pieces

- 1 Cut the stated number of 4½in squares from patterned fabrics one to five. From the background fabric, cut 14 x 4½in squares and 12 x 2.5in squares.

Make the blocks

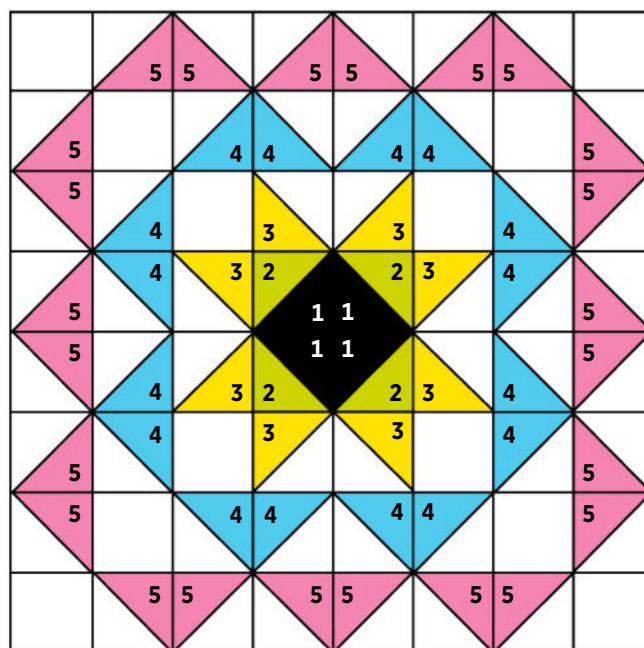
- 2 Make four-at-a-time HSTs: With RSF, pin a background square with each of the patterned fabric ones. You should have 14 pairs. With ¼in seam allowance, sew around the four sides of each square. Cut through the diagonals to make four HSTs for each pair, making 56 HSTs in total. Press seams and trim.

Assemble the quilt

- 3 Lay out your 56 HSTs with the 12 background squares in eight rows of eight as shown in the diagram, or in a way that you like. Sew each of the rows together. Press the seams open and then sew the rows together, again pressing the seams when you are done.

Quilt and finish

- 4 Make a quilt sandwich of the backing fabric, right side down, the batting and the quilt top, right side up. Smooth the layers and then pin or spray-baste them together. Quilt as desired. The quilt shown was quilted with simple



SIZE
Approx
16 x 16in

diagonal lines to enhance the modern feel.

square up the quilt for binding. Join the binding strips together into one length and use this bind as the edge of the quilt.

- 5 Trim off the excess batting and backing fabric and

YOU WILL NEED

- * 4½in square of fabrics 1 and 2
- * 2 x 4½in squares of fabric 3
- * 4 x 4½in squares of fabric 4
- * 6 x 4½in square of fabric 5
- * ½ yard of background fabric
- * FQ of backing fabric

- * FQ of batting
- * 5in x WOF binding fabric
- * Rotary cutter
- * Cutting mat
- * Quilting ruler
- * Matching sewing thread

Notes & abbreviations:
Seam allowances are ¼in unless otherwise noted. Press

all fabrics well before cutting and seams open unless otherwise instructed. WOF, width of fabric; FQ, fat quarter; F8, fat eighth; HST, half-square triangle; RSF, right sides facing

Fabrics used :
Blueberry Park,
karenlewis-textiles.com

Sewing organiser

Tidy up your sewing space with our brilliant quilted
organiser that doubles as a machine cover

★ ★ ★
*Difficulty
level*



WORDS AND MAKE: ESME CLEMO.
PHOTOS: PEXEYES



Making the hexagon applique

1 Cut seven paper templates from the mini hexagon template. Pin the templates to scraps of seven of your fabrics and cut around the edges with a 5mm allowance.

2 Take each template and fold the excess fabric around the edges, tacking in place to enclose the paper template.

3 Arrange your hexagons until you are happy with the design. With right sides together, oversew the centre hexagon and another hexagon together along their adjoining edge. Make sure not to sew into the paper template. Repeat until all the hexagons have been sewn to the centre hexagon.

4 Oversew the meeting edges of the ring of hexagons, right sides together. Remove the tacking stitches and paper templates. Press the hexagon applique with the outside seams turned under by 5mm.

Making the scrap bag

1 Fuse the interlining to the F1 pieces, using a damp cloth and iron.

2 Pin and sew the two F1 rectangles together along the shortest sides and with right sides together. Pin and sew

the F1 circle to the rectangles with right sides together and trim the allowance. Repeat for the F2 pieces.

3 Cut a 13cm piece of bias binding, fold in half lengthways and topstitch along the open edge to secure.

4 Turn the outer fabric bag right sides out, pin the bias binding into a loop matching the raw ends with the top edge of the bag and place inside the lining bag, so that right sides are together. Pin and sew along the top, leaving a small gap for turning through. Turn right sides out and topstitch 5mm from the top edge.

Making the pockets

1 Fold strips of bias binding in half and topstitch along the longest edges of the F3, F5, F7 rectangles. With right sides up, stack the F5 piece over the F3, over the F6. Pin and tack down the sides to secure. Repeat, layering the F7 over the F4.

2 Topstitch the hexagon applique to the centre of the F9 square.

3 Lay out the pockets and the other F9 square, following our photo as a guide. Sew the pockets right sides together, along their adjoining sides.

4 Fuse the interlining to the smallest F8 rectangle. Sew the row of pockets to the backing all the way around the edge with wrong sides together and a 5mm allowance.

5 Along the top of the row of pockets, fold a strip of bias binding in half lengthways, pin along the top edge and topstitch in place. Sew the large orange button on to the plain pocket square.

Making the main quilt cover

1 Sandwich the batting in between the two largest rectangles of F8 and F9. Scatter pin and tack the layers together. Quilt as desired – we quilted with a 2in crosshatch design.

2 Sew the row of pockets along the bottom edge and two short sides with a 5mm allowance. Stitch in the ditch of the pocket seams to create separate pockets.

3 Trim away excess allowance to neaten the edges of the quilt, using a ruler and a rotary cutter.

4 To make the cover ties, cut four 20cm strips of binding. Fold lengthways and, with right sides together, stitch across the short ends. Turn right sides out and topstitch along the long open seam.

5 To bind the quilt, cut four strips of bias binding to go along each edge of the quilt with extra length for overlap. First, bind the top and bottom edges of the quilt. Open out the binding, match the raw edges of the binding and quilt, pin and sew right sides together with a 1cm seam allowance. Slipstitch the open seams on the reverse.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Two patterned fat quarters, each cut into two rectangles measuring 22 x 18cm and a circle with a 15cm diameter (F1 & F2)
- * 18 x 13cm rectangle of pink fabric (F3)
- * 18 x 13cm rectangle of turquoise fabric (F4)
- * 8 x 18cm strip of grey fabric (F5)
- * 18cm square of orange fabric (F6)
- * 13 x 11cm rectangle of red fabric (F7)
- * 1m x 112cm of pink patterned white fabric, cut into one rectangle measuring 58 x 70cm and one rectangle measuring 58 x 18cm (F8)
- * 1m x 112cm of grey patterned white fabric, cut into one rectangle measuring 58 x 70cm and two squares measuring 18 x 18cm (F9)
- * 58 x 70cm rectangle of batting
- * 4m orange bias binding
- * 1 large orange button
- * 1m lightweight interlining cut into one rectangle measuring 58 x 18cm, two rectangles measuring 22 x 18cm and a circle with a 15cm diameter
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Mini quilting template hexagon
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * Pins
- * Ruler and rotary cutter

Note: Use a 1.5cm seam allowance throughout the project, unless stated otherwise.

6 On the opposite sides, repeat the binding, turning the excess binding over the corner and stitching down, too. Position the cover ties on the reverse and sew in place as you slipstitch the open binding to the quilt back.

Sew beautiful

Stitch this set of reusable make-up remover pads to use as part of your beauty regime

MAKES
five pads and
the drawstring
bag

☆☆☆
**Difficulty
level**

YOU WILL NEED

- * Patterned cotton fabric
- * Towelling fabric
- * 70cm of 10mm-wide ribbon
- * Safety pin
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Rotary cutter and cutting mat

Stockists: Bramble Citrus Grove Mint Cotton Fabric, £15.50 per m, sewhot.co.uk. Stof France Bamboo Polyester Towelling in Aqua, £17.99 per m, minerva.com

- 1 From the patterned fabric, cut two 14 x 24cm pieces and five 10cm squares, and from the towelling, cut five 10cm squares using the rotary cutter and cutting mat.
- 2 Pin a towelling and a patterned square together, with right sides facing. Sew nearly all the way around the sides with a 1cm seam allowance, leaving a 3cm gap for turning on one side.
- 3 Turn the make-up pad right sides out, push out the corners, press the edges at the opening under by 1cm, and topstitch all the way around at 5mm from the edge. Repeat for the other pads.
- 4 To make the drawstring bag, pin the two bag pieces right sides together, mark 4cm from the top on each side of the bag, measure 12mm down and mark again. Stitch around the edge with a 1cm seam allowance, leaving the top of the bag unstitched and skipping the 12mm gap formed by the markings. Press the seams open.
- 5 Turn the top edge down by 2cm, then another 2cm, and topstitch in place to form a channel – the 12mm gaps now form the openings. Cut the ribbon into two 35cm pieces, thread them onto the safety pin and use it to guide each piece through the channels before knotting the ribbon at the ends.

Table runner

Try stitching this simple table topper using either scraps or charm pack squares



YOU WILL NEED

- *42 square charm pack or fabric scraps cut into 12.5cm squares
- *55 x 150cm backing fabric
- *55 x 150cm cotton batting
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Cutting mat
- * Rotary cutter
- * Quilter's ruler
- * Sewing needle

1 Spread out the charm pack squares and, using our image as a guide, position the pieces into the shape of the runner.

2 Pin and sew one row at a time, stitching the squares together with right sides facing and 5mm seam allowances. Press the seams open. Repeat until every row of charm squares has been pieced together.

3 Pin and sew the rows together, making sure to match up the seams, with right sides facing and 5mm seam allowances. Press the seams open and repeat until the patchwork has been completely pieced.

4 Layer the backing fabric on top of the batting with right sides facing up. Place the patchwork table runner on top with right sides

facing down. Smooth the pieces flat and scatter pin the layers together.

5 Machine-stitch around the edges with a 5mm seam allowance, leaving one of the shorter edges open for turning through. Clip into the corners and trim any excess batting and backing fabric. Turn the runner right sides out, making sure to push into the corners, and press flat.

6 Turn the unsewn edge in to create a 5mm seam allowance and slipstitch the opening closed.

7 If you want to quilt the table runner, as we did, tack through all the layers and then topstitch around the edges with a 5mm seam allowance. Lower the feed dogs on your sewing machine and sew a pattern of freestyle swirls across the whole runner.

Stitch and store

Make your own knitting needle roll-up case in pretty patterned and plain fabrics

☆☆☆
Difficulty
level

SIZE
40 x 40cm



Cutting out

Note: Take 1cm seam allowance unless stated otherwise. Join pieces with right sides together and edges level.

From fabric A, cut two 42 x 30cm rectangles for the pockets. Cut one 42 x 42cm square from plain fabric, fabric C and fusible fleece for the case. From fabric B, cut four 40 x 12cm rectangles for the pouch and flap, and two 40 x 11cm rectangles for the pouch lining. From the interfacing, cut one 42 x 30cm rectangle for the pocket, and two 40 x 12cm rectangles for the pouch and flap.

Making the needle case

1 Tack the interfacing to the wrong side of one pocket. Pin the pockets together and stitch the long upper edge. Turn right side out. Press the upper edge. With right sides facing up and matching the raw edges, tack the pocket to

the case along the lower and side edges.

2 Use the air-erasable fabric marker and ruler to draw lines on the pocket parallel with the side edges for the slots, starting at the left-hand edge 11cm, 5cm, 5cm, 5cm, 2.5cm, 2.5cm, 2.5cm, 2.5cm apart. Stitch along the drawn lines, stitching back and forth a few times at the top of the rows to reinforce. Stitch the lower edge between the first and last stitched row.

3 Tack interfacing to the wrong side of one pouch. Pin and stitch the pouches together along the short and one long edge, starting and finishing 1cm inside the long raw edge. Clip the corners and press the seams open. Repeat on the linings.

4 Pin and stitch the interfaced pouch to one

YOU WILL NEED

- * 40cm of 112cm-wide patterned fabric A
- * 50cm square of plain fabric
- * 40cm of 112cm-wide medium sew-in interfacing
- * 40cm of 112cm-wide patterned fabric B
- * 50cm square of patterned fabric C
- * 50cm square of low-loft fusible fleece
- * 13 x 8cm rectangle of felt
- * 1m of 1.5cm-wide ribbon
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Air-erasable fabric marker and ruler
- * Pins

lining along the long raw edge, matching seams. Turn the pouch right side out, push the lining into the pouch, then press the long opening edge. Pin the raw edges together.

5 Tack interfacing to the wrong side of one flap. Pin the felt rectangle centrally to the right side of the interfaced flap. Topstitch in place close to the felt edges. Pin the flaps together, stitch one long and both short edges. Clip the corners. Turn right side out and press.

6 With right sides facing, tack the pouch to the left-hand edge of the plain case 2cm in from the upper and lower edges. With the felt side of the flap facing the right side of the plain case, tack the flap to the upper edge of the plain case 2cm in from the side edges.

7 Press the patterned case to the fusible fleece. On the right side, lay the ribbon across the case parallel with the upper and lower edges and matching centres. Stitch a 1.2cm square at the centre. Cut ribbon ends diagonally.

8 Pin the patterned and plain case together. Stitch the outer edges, starting and finishing at the first and last stitched row on the lower edge and taking care not to catch in the ribbon. Clip the corners. Turn right side out. Press the outer edges. Slip stitch the gap closed.

9 Pin the opening edge of the pouch level with the side edge of the case. Use the air-erasable fabric marker and ruler to draw lines on the pocket 13cm in from and parallel with the upper and lower edges. Stitch along the drawn lines, stitching back and forth a few times at the opening end of the rows to reinforce.



Stitch and stash

Make a fabric bag to hold your craft projects

Cutting out

Note: Take 1cm seam allowance and press seams open, unless stated otherwise. Join pieces with right sides together and edges level. From fabric B, cut two 46 x 34cm rectangles for the pockets and one 30cm-diameter circle for the base. From fabric A, cut four 46 x 34cm rectangles for the bags and one 30cm-diameter circle for the base lining. From fusible fleece, cut two 46 x 34cm rectangles for the bags and one 30cm-diameter circle for the base and fuse to the matching fabric pieces. From plain fabric, two

50 x 10cm rectangles for the handles and two 47 x 8cm rectangles for the casings.

Making the bag

1 With wrong sides facing, press pockets lengthways in half. Use the fabric marker and ruler to draw a line in the centre of the pockets parallel with the short edges.

2 Take the two bags with fleece and, with right sides facing up and matching the raw edges, tack the pockets to the bags along the long lower edge and short sides. Stitch along

the drawn lines, then sew the patterned bags together along the short edges. Pin and sew the lower edge of the bag to the base with the fleece, snip the curves and turn right sides out.

3 Fold the handles lengthways in half. Stitch the long edges, turn right sides out and press. Tack the raw ends of each handle to the upper edge on the right side of the bag, 12cm in from the seams.

4 Press under 5mm, then 1cm at the short ends of the casings and stitch along pressed edge. Fold lengthways in half with wrong sides facing. Topstitch 1cm below the long pressed edge. Tack the casings to the upper edge on the right side of the bag, matching the short ends to the seams.

5 For the lining, stitch the remaining bags together along the short edges, leaving a 15cm gap in one seam to turn through. Pin and sew lower edge of the bags to the base lining. Insert the bag into the lining. Pin and sew the upper edge, matching the seams. Turn right side out. Push the lining into the bag. Topstitch the upper edge 1cm below the casings. Slipstitch the gap closed.

6 Cut the ribbon in half. Use a bodkin or safety pin to thread one ribbon through the casings, entering and emerging at the same side, then knot the ends together. Repeat with the other ribbon through the opposite side.

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

YOU WILL NEED

- * 70cm of 112cm-wide patterned fabric B
- * 70cm of 90cm-wide low-loft fusible fleece
- * 1m of 112cm-wide patterned fabric A
- * 20cm of 112cm-wide plain fabric
- * 1m of 1.5cm-wide ribbon
- * Air-erasable fabric marker and ruler
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Pins
- * Bodkin or safety pin

Fabric tidies

This simple sewing project is a great way to use up scraps of material

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level



1 Cut out two squares of fabric and a piece of batting, or interfacing, measuring 20cm for the small tidy or 25cm for the medium tidy. Fuse the interfacing to the reverse of one of the fabric pieces. Position the two squares of fabrics right sides together, pin and stitch all the way around with a 1cm seam allowance and leave a 7cm gap for turning.

2 Trim the corners, turn right sides out and press, tucking the raw edges of

the opening in by 1cm. Topstitch all the way around with a 5mm seam allowance.

3 Using the water-soluble pen, mark a 4cm square at each corner on the outer fabric. Fold the fabric in half diagonally with the inner fabric facing, lining up the two lines that form the square at the corners. Stitch across the markings, then repeat for every corner. Remove the pen markings with water and press for a neat finish.



YOU WILL NEED

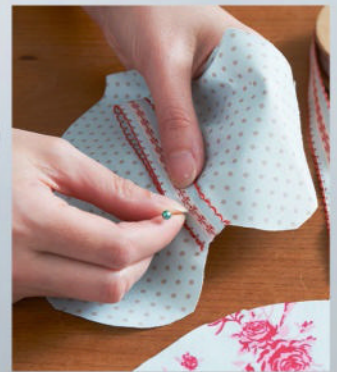
- * Patterned cotton fabric
- * Thin batting or medium fusible interfacing
- * Scissors
- * Ruler
- * Pins
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Water-soluble pen

Hanging heart

Choose a pretty print in soft pastel shades to make this fragrant lavender hanger

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

- 1 Draw a heart-shaped template on the newspaper, measuring around 15cm high. Cut two hearts from your fabric.



- 2 Cut a piece of ribbon 20cm long and fold in half to make a loop. Match up the raw edges of your loop to the top of one of your hearts and pin (see photo above). With right sides facing, pin other heart on top.

TIP
Hang in your wardrobe to deter moths from your clothes

- 3 Machine-stitch around the heart with a 1cm seam allowance, leaving a small gap of 6cm along one of the edges near to the bottom point for turning through.

- 4 Turn right sides out. Fill with dried lavender and top with stuffing. Slipstitch the opening closed.

- 5 Tie a second 20cm piece of ribbon to the bottom of the loop, cutting the ends to a point for a neat finish.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Piece of newspaper
- * Scrap of floral fabric
- * Ribbon
- * Pins
- * Dried lavender
- * Stuffing

Baby love

This monogrammed cushion is the perfect gift for a newborn's christening and will look pretty on display in a nursery



Cutting out

For one pillow, cut two strips of 7 x 15cm and two of 7 x 25cm fabric in a complementary print. Cut one 25 x 25cm cushion back.

1 Using a computer, print your chosen initials on to a sheet of tracing paper, or draw out the letters freehand. On the reverse of the paper, go over the outlines of the letters with a transfer pen.

2 Position the letters in the centre of the white square panel and press with a hot iron to transfer the design. Stretch the fabric in an embroidery hoop and stitch the letters using a close satin stitch worked by hand in a matching thread. Remove from the hoop and press.

3 With right sides facing and 1cm seam allowances, pin and sew the shortest strips to the sides of the embroidered square. Repeat for the longer strips, and sew them to the top and bottom.

4 Lay the piping onto the right side of the front cushion cover piece with raw edges matching. Pin in place, starting and finishing on the same edge of the cushion, and snipping into seam allowances of the piping to help it turn the corners.

5 Stitch the piping in place, using a zipper foot and leaving a gap at the ends of the piping cord. To join the ends of the piping, unpick a few stitches on the piping fabric strip and trim the two cord ends so that they butt. Turn under 1cm of fabric at one end of the piping to neaten it and slip this end over the raw end. Hand-stitch ends neatly in place, then machine this section in place.

6 With right sides together and 1cm seam allowances, pin and sew the cushion front and back together. Use the zipper foot on your sewing machine and work closely to the piping. Leave a short gap on one side for turning through. Turn right sides out, stuff with filling and hand-sew the opening edges closed.

★ ★ ★
Difficulty level

YOU WILL NEED

- * Tracing paper and pencil
- * Iron-on transfer pen
- * 15cm square white cotton or linen fabric for the front
- * Two fat quarters in a colourful print
- * Stranded embroidery cotton to complement print fabric
- * Embroidery hoop
- * Crewel needle
- * 1m flanged piping cord in white or cream
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Zipper or piping foot
- * Polyester toy stuffing



Sock bunnies

Stitch a pair of socks into a set of rabbit friends



SIZE
21 x 9cm

Making paper patterns

On a photocopier, enlarge the patterns to 260%. Trace the patterns onto tracing paper. Cut out the patterns. Mark the dots.

Cutting out

- * Ensure that arrows run in the same direction as the rib of the socks and grain of the fabric.
- * Turn the socks inside out. Refer to the sock drawing to lay one sock flat. From this sock, cut one body and one head.
- * From the other sock, cut one pair of feet and ears.
- * From patterned fabric, cut

one 42 x 4cm rectangle for the bow and one pair of feet, bobbles and ears. Lightly mark the dots on the wrong side with a pencil.

- * Smear fabric glue sparingly on one side of the black felt, leave to dry then cut one pair of eyes.

Making the bunny

Note: Take a 6mm seam allowance. Join pieces with right sides together and edges level.

- 1 Stitch the base seam of the body. Turn the body and head right side out.

- 2 Fill the body and head firmly and evenly with toy filling. Fold under 6mm on the straight raw edges of the body. Sew a running stitch close to the fold and pull up the stitches to tightly gather the upper edge closed. Oversew the gathering stitches to secure. Repeat on the head to gather the lower edge.

- 3 Gently squeeze and stroke the body to make it narrower at the top and push in the base to help the body stand upright. The sock's ready-made

heel seam will be at the back of the head, gently stroke and pull the front of the head to a rounded point.

- 4 Mark the centre front and back of the body with a row of pins. To define the arms, refer to the drawing to draw a 4cm long line each side of the centres starting just below the gathering using an air-erasable pen.
- 5 Anchor a double length of sewing thread threaded onto a beading needle at the centre of the gathers.

Bring the needle and thread to the right side at the top of one drawn line on the back of the body. Make two tiny back stitches to secure. Insert the needle through the body and bring it out at the top of the corresponding front line. Insert the needle on the line 7mm below, bringing it out 7mm below the start on the back line.

6 Continue stitching back and forth between the lines, gently pulling the thread as you stitch to create the arms. When you reach the end of the line, stitch back and forth between the first stitches until you reach the top of the lines. Make a tiny back stitch and bring the needle out at the centre of the gathers. Fasten securely then repeat to create the other arm.

7 Refer to the photo to draw the nose on the front of the head with an air-erasable pen. Use six strands of embroidery thread to embroider the nose with a fly stitch, starting and finishing with a double knot at the centre of the gathers.

8 Mark each eye position with a pin. When you are happy with the positions, anchor a double length of sewing thread threaded onto a beading needle at one position with a double knot and sew a few tiny stitches. Insert the needle and thread through the head and out at the other position. Pull the thread gently to sink the positions slightly into the head. Fasten securely with a few tiny stitches. Pin the eyes to the head and sew neatly in place.

9 Place the card circle centrally on top of the body and draw around it with an air-erasable pen.

Repeat on the underside of the head. Discard the card circle. Pin the head on the body facing forward and matching the drawn circles. Hand-sew the head to the body along the drawn circles. Repeat to secure.

10 Pin and stitch each sock foot to a fabric foot, leaving a gap between the dots. Snip the curves and turn right side out. Stuff the feet firmly. Slipstitch the gap closed.

11 Press under 6mm along the 'leave open' edge of the bobtails. Pin the bobtails together, stitch the raw edges. Snip the curves. Turn right side out. Stuff the bobtail. Sew a running stitch along the pressed under edge and pull up the stitches to tightly gather the opening closed. Oversee the gathering stitches to secure.

12 Pin the feet under the bunny with the wide

ends extending out front. Pin the bobtail to back of the body with the tip pointing upwards and the bottom of the seam resting on the surface to help the bunny stand upright. Hand-sew the feet and bobtail securely to the body.

13 Pin each patterned ear to a sock ear. Stitch together, leaving a gap between the dots. Snip curves, clip corners and turn right side out. Slipstitch gaps closed. Press the ears flat. With the patterned fabric inside, fold the lower edges to meet at the centre. Oversee the lower edges together.

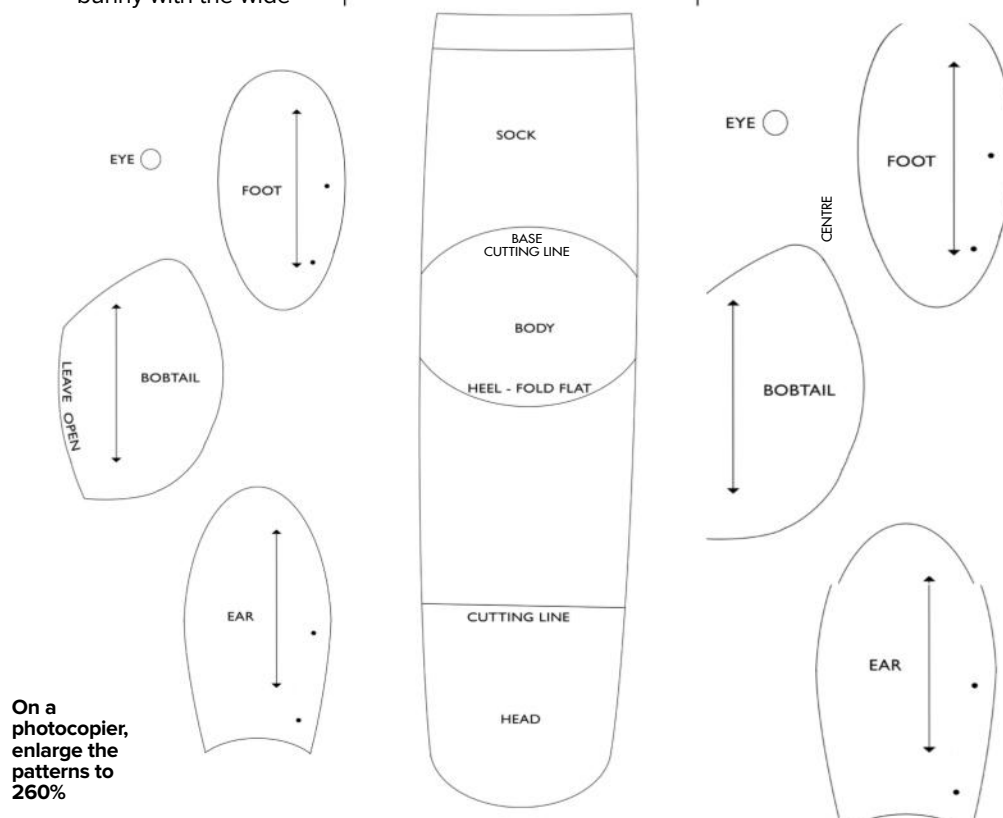
14 Pin the ears upright on the head with the patterned side facing forward. Hand-sew to the head along the lower front edges then along the lower back edges.

YOU WILL NEED

(To make one bunny)

- * Access to a photocopier
- * Tracing paper and pencil
- * One pair of crew socks
- * 15 x 45cm rectangle of patterned cotton fabric
- * 2.5cm square of black felt
- * Toy filling
- * Dark pink stranded cotton embroidery thread
- * 3cm diameter circle of card
- * Fabric glue
- * Air-erasable fabric marker
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Beading needle

15 Fold the bow lengthwise in half. Pin and stitch the raw edges leaving a gap at the centre to turn through. Clip the corners. Turn right side out and press flat. Slipstitch the gap closed. Tie in a bow around the bunny's neck and sew securely to the bunny.



Patch perfect

Try these scrap-busting ideas using simple patchwork techniques

☆☆☆
Difficulty level

YOU WILL NEED

- * 5 x 8in blue patterned fabric
- * 3in square of red patterned fabric
- * 3in square of green patterned fabric
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Stuffing
- * Dried lavender (optional)
- * One red button

Notes: Seams are 1/4in. Press seams open unless otherwise stated. *RSF is right sides facing.

Windmill Pincushion

Cutting out

1 From the blue fabric, cut four $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ in rectangles and two $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ in rectangles (for back). From each of the red and green fabrics, cut four $1\frac{1}{2}$ in squares.

Assembling the top

2 Pin together red and green squares in pairs, RSF*. Machine stitch and press seams towards green fabric. Open out. With red squares uppermost, pin RSF and sew a $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ in blue rectangle to the right-hand edge of each pair. Press seams towards blue fabric. Open out.

3 Now you have four identical quarter squares. Lay them out so blue rectangles form the pattern in our image. Sew top two and bottom two together and press seams towards the rectangles. Pin and sew the two halves together. Clip a triangle from the seam allowance, just over the centre and press the two sides of the seam towards the blue rectangles. Open out.

Making up

4 Sew the two $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ in back rectangles together, RSF, leaving a 2in gap at the centre to allow for stuffing. Press the seam and seam allowances open. Pin to the pincushion front, RSF. Sew around outside edge. Clip a small triangle from the seam allowance at each corner and turn right side out. Ease out seams and corners and press.

5 Stuff with wadding. Add a little dried lavender to scent. Slip stitch the gap closed and sew the button on at the centre.

Pretty Placemat

Cutting out

1 Cut four strips $10\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ in from the bold floral; in each of the red and green fabrics, two strips measuring $10\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ in; from the backing fabric, cut one back $11 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ in, two strips 17×2 in and two strips 12×2 in for the facing.

Piecing the top

2 Stitch a bold floral strip to one long edge of each red and green strip. Join in pairs so bold floral strips alternate with red and green strips. With RSF, join

the two striped panels to the sides of the ditsy floral rectangle, with the red strip outermost.

Quilting the cover

3 Lay out your backing fabric with wrong side facing up, then place the wadding on top, then finally the placemat top. Start quilting from the right-hand edge.

4 Using white thread, quilt 'in the ditch' between the first three strips, then in green, work lines across the mat, using the presser foot edge to keep them parallel. Stop at the centre, turn the mat and repeat from the other edge.

Making up

5 Press under a $\frac{1}{2}$ in turning along one long edge of each facing strip. With RSF sew the long strips centrally to the top and bottom edges of the mat, leaving the $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam allowance stitched at the corners.

6 Sew the short strips to the sides in the same way. Clip the corners and turn the facings to the back, easing the seams so that the stitching lies at the edge of the mat. Trim and fold back the ends of the facing so it lies flat, then pin and hand stitch the folded edge in place on the wrong side.



YOU WILL NEED

- * 4 x $10\frac{1}{2}$ in bold floral fabric
- * 2 x $10\frac{1}{2}$ in red patterned fabric
- * 2 x $10\frac{1}{2}$ in green polka-dot fabric
- * 17 x 20in backing cotton
- * Scissors
- * Matching sewing thread
- * $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ in ditsy floral fabric
- * 11 x 15in wadding
- * Pins

Travel Card Case

Cutting out

- 1 From the bold floral fabric, cut two strips 8 x 1in and two strips 5½ x 1in for binding.

Quilting the cover

- 2 Sandwich the blue fabric, wadding and green fabric rectangles together, then pin diagonally along every fourth line of polka dots. Machine along the dotted lines between the pins, then remove. To create the diamond pattern, stitch in the opposite direction.

- 3 Mark the centre top edge, then stitch vertically along the row of dots that lie on either side to form the spine; refer to our image as a guide. Keeping the spine central, trim the cover down to 7¼ x 4¾in.

Making up

- 4 Press and stitch a narrow double hem along one long edge of the ditsy rectangle, then cut in half to make two pockets. With right sides facing up and raw edges aligned, tack the pockets to the side edges of the lining.

- 5 Press under ¼in along one long edge of each bold floral strip, then unfold to leave a crease. These strips will be used as

binding to cover the raw edges of the card case. With RSF and raw edges matching, pin the short strips to the sides. Sew in place along the crease line, then turn the folded edge to the back and slip stitch down, close to the stitch line. Trim the ends, then bind the top and bottom edges with the other strips, making a ¼in turning at each corner.

- 6 Sew a button to the centre of the right-hand edge with pink embroidery thread. Cut a loop of elastic big enough to slip over the button and sew to the centre left-hand edge, 1cm in. Stitch other button over the ends of the elastic.

YOU WILL NEED

- * 4 x 8in bold floral fabric
- * 3 x 9½in ditsy floral fabric
- * 5½ x 8in light blue fabric
- * 5½ x 8in wadding
- * 5½ x 8in green polka-dot fabric
- * 2 large white buttons
- * Pink embroidery thread
- * Embroidery needle
- * 3in cord elastic
- * Pins
- * Scissors



Sweetheart Cushion

Cutting out

- 1 The squares all measure 3 x 3in. From the bold floral fabric cut two squares and four triangles; from ditsy floral fabric cut two squares, one triangle and two strips 11 x 1in for the border; from red patterned fabric cut two squares, three triangles and two strips 12 x 1in for the border; from the light blue fabric cut four squares and eight triangles. From the backing fabric cut two pieces measuring 12 x 7in.

Piecing the front

- 2 Start by making the half-square triangles. With right-sides facing (RSF), pin and stitch a light blue triangle to each of the print triangles. Sew the triangles together along the diagonal edges and press the seams across the floral fabric. Lay them out with the square patches in four rows of four, as shown in the picture above, to make a heart.

- 3 Join the four patches in each horizontal row and

press the seams open. Pin the top two rows together, carefully matching the seams, stitch and press the seam open. Add the other two rows in the same way and press the seams open across the whole front piece.

- 4 Sew a ditsy floral strip to each side edge and press the seams over the strips. Add the medallion strips to the top and bottom edges, again pressing the seams back over the strips.

Making up

- 5 Join the two backing rectangles together along one long edge, leaving an 8in gap at the centre. Press the seam and seam allowances open and, with RSF, pin the backing to the cushion front. Stitch all around the outside edge.

- 6 Clip a small triangle from the seam allowance at each corner and turn the cushion cover right-side out. Ease out the seams and corners and press. Insert the cushion pad and slipstitch the gap to close.

YOU WILL NEED

- * 7 x 8in bold floral fabric
- * 8 x 11in ditsy floral fabric
- * 8 x 12in red patterned fabric
- * 6 x 15in light blue fabric
- * 12 x 14in backing fabric
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Hand sewing needle
- * 12 x 12in cushion pad



Hexagon Coaster

YOU WILL NEED

- * 3 x 24in light blue fabric
- * 5 x 8in blue patterned fabric
- * 4 x 4in bold floral fabric
- * Contrasting sewing thread for tacking
- * Hand sewing needle
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Scissors
- * Paper and pencil
- * Pins

TIPS

* Patchwork is traditionally measured in imperial units, so our instructions have been written in yards and inches.

* Drawing your thread across beeswax will strengthen it for hand sewing.

Cutting out

- 1 Cut out one hexagon, six diamonds and six triangles from paper. From the light blue fabric, cut a 24 x 1in strip.

Joining patches

- 2 Pin diamond template to the wrong side of the blue patterned fabric and cut out, leaving a margin of just over ¼in all around. Turn the margin to the back and tack through paper to hold in place. Holding diamond widthways and starting at the top right, tack each edge in turn. The two 'ears' of spare fabric will point in the same direction. Repeat for the other five diamonds. Cover the hexagon with the bold floral fabric and the triangles with light blue.

- 3 Join the triangles and diamonds together in pairs with RSF. Sew the bottom edges of the diamonds to the hexagon and then join triangles and diamonds that are side by side.

Making up

- 4 Press and unpick the templates. Carefully unfold the turnings all around the outside edge and press lightly. Place wadding over the backing fabric and put the patchwork hexagon on top. Pin layers together.
- 5 Hand-quilt inside hexagon and diamonds and tack around outside edge. Trim off the surplus wadding and backing fabric.
- 6 Press a ¼in turning along the light blue strip and unfold to leave a crease. Use this to cover raw edges. With RSF and raw edges matching, pin the strip to coaster sides. Sew in place along crease line, turn the folded edge to the back and slipstitch down, close to stitch line. Make a ¼in turning at the strip end to conceal raw edge and slipstitch in place.



☆☆☆
Difficulty
level

Memory bear

Those first weeks of a new baby pass by in a flash, so why not make our gorgeous teddy bear using favourite babygros, and treasure those early memories for years to come?

1 Trace the pattern (p92) onto tracing paper. Mark the arrows, eyes, dots and notches. Cut out all the pattern pieces. Ensure that arrows run in the same direction as the grain of the fabric.

2 From babygro A, cut a pair of front heads, a pair of back heads and one 15 x 5cm rectangle for the scarf, cutting the long edges parallel with the fabric grain. From babygro B, cut two bodies right side up and one pair of ears. From babygro C, cut two bodies wrong side up, one pair of ears and one 5 x 15cm rectangle for the scarf, cutting the long edges parallel with the fabric grain.

3 Smear fabric glue on the back of the black felt. Leave to dry to stiffen the felt, then cut two eyes and one nose. Pin the eyes to the right side of the front heads, oversew the edges to the head using one strand of embroidery thread.

4 Use a ballpoint needle in your sewing machine, and set the stitch width to 0.5 (about 2mm wide). This will allow the seams to stretch but will not break the stitches. Stitch seams with right sides facing, taking a 6mm seam allowance, matching dots and notches.

5 Stitch the front heads together A-B and the back heads together A-B; snip the curves (a). Press the seams open. Pin each body B to a body C. Stitch B-C, leaving a gap between the notches on one body, which will be the back. The other body will be the front. Snip the curves and press the seams open. Pin the front head to the front body and the back head to the back body. Stitch between the dots D-B-D (b). Snip the curves and press the seams open.

6 Pin each ear B to ear C. Stitch the unnotched edges. Snip the curves and turn right side out. Pin and tack the ears to the right side of the front heads, matching the notches (c). Pin the bodies and heads together, matching the seams. Stitch the outer edges A-D-C-D-A. Snip curves (d). Finger press the seam open.

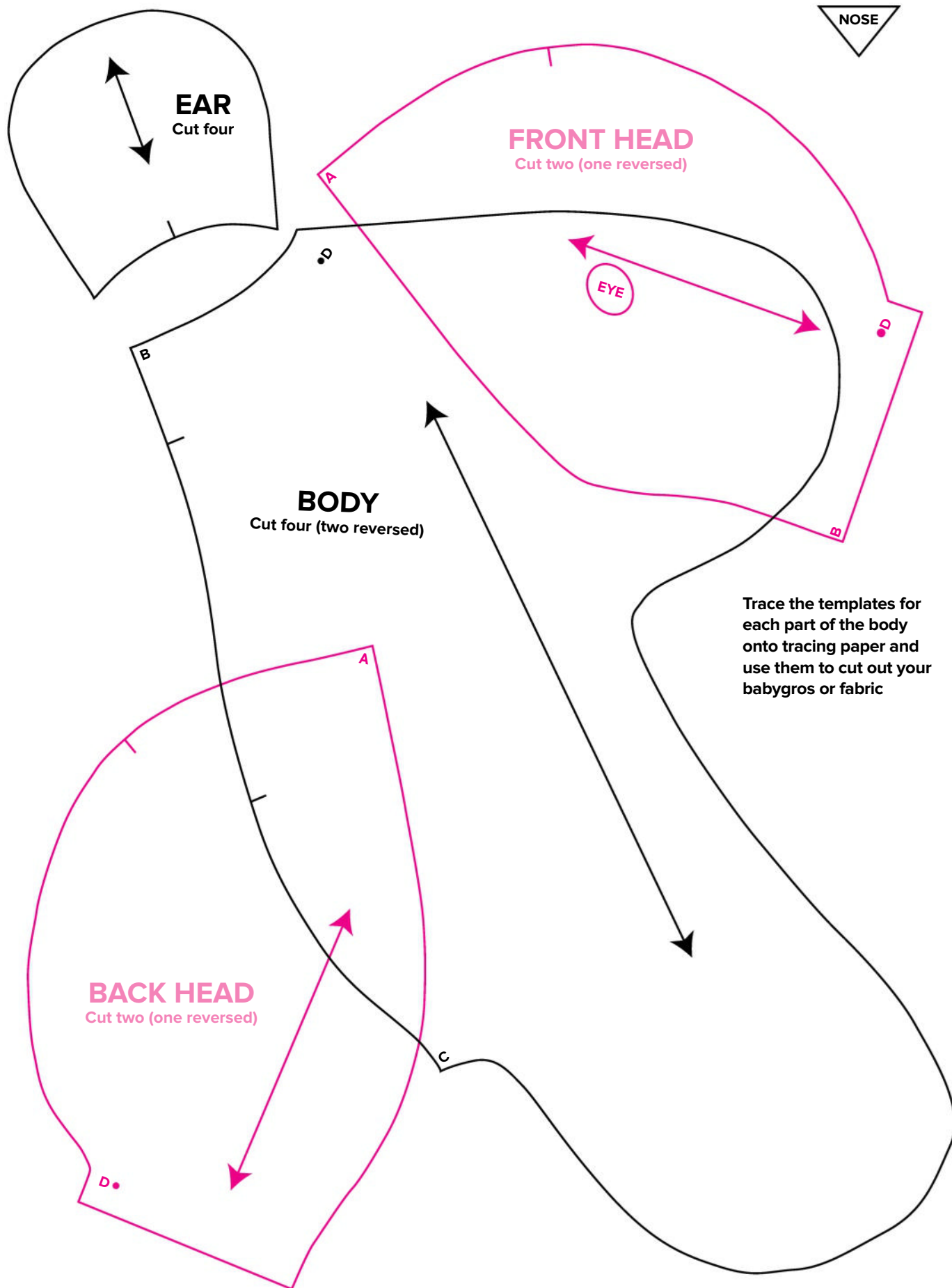
7 Turn the bear right side out. Stuff evenly then slipstitch the gap closed. Pin the nose to the front head seam, oversew the edges to the head using a strand of embroidery thread (e). Use three strands of embroidery thread to sew a single stitch 1.2cm long along the seam from the bottom of the nose.



8 Stitch the scarf pieces together along one short edge. Press the seam open. Fold lengthways in half. Stitch the raw edges, leaving a 5cm gap to turn through. Clip the corners (f). Turn the scarf right side out and press lightly. Slipstitch the gap closed. Wrap the scarf around the bear's neck and overlap the ends. Sew securely to the bear. Finished size of bear is 30 x 23cm.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Tracing paper & pencil
- * Three babygros
- * Fabric glue
- * 5cm square of black felt
- * Black stranded-cotton embroidery thread
- * Washable toy filling
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Scissors
- * Pins



Shore thing

Stitch this simple coastal cushion decorated with fish appliques

1 Draw a simple fish template on paper, and cut out. Fuse the Bondaweb to the wrong side of the denim scrap pieces, following the manufacturer's instructions. Draw around the template onto the paper backing of the Bondaweb and cut out three denim fish.

2 Arrange the fish appliques in the centre of the blue ticking fabric widthways and fuse in place. Use a straight stitch (and a free-motion foot if you have a sewing machine), and sew around each applique three times. It doesn't need to be neat, as this adds to the beachy look.

3 Turn the top and bottom edges of the fabric under by 1cm, then 2cm, and topstitch to secure. Fold the blue ticking fabric widthways, so you have a 30 x 50cm rectangle in the centre with the applique fish front and centre, then fold the top and bottom pieces over the top with right sides together to form an envelope. Stitch

along the side edges with a 1.5cm seam allowance. Turn right sides out and pop in the cushion pad.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Paper and pencil
- * Bondaweb
- * Denim scrap fabric
- 53 x 80cm blue ticking fabric
- * White sewing thread
- * Ruler and scissors
- * 30 x 50cm cushion pad

☆☆☆
Difficulty level



Sew sweet

Stitch this pretty cover for your sewing machine



SIZE
43 x 35cm



Quilting

The fabric is roughly cut to size, then quilted before cutting to exact size. From patterned fabric and fusible fleece, cut one 90 x 50cm rectangle for the main panel and two rectangles 40 x 28cm for the side panels (long edges parallel with the selvages on all pieces). On the right side of the panels and starting at the centre, draw a row of lines 2.5cm apart parallel with the long edges using a sharp HB pencil and ruler. Press the fleece to the wrong side. To quilt, starting at the centre line, stitch along the drawn lines, smoothing the fabric outwards as you stitch. Stitch each line in the same direction.

Cutting out

Refer to the diagrams to cut one main panel and two side panels from quilted and plain fabric, drawing around an upturned 7.5cm cup or mug to curve the upper corners of the side panels. Do not cut the

slot. Cut one pocket from patterned and plain fabric, fusible fleece and interfacing.

Making the cover

1 Referring to the diagram, draw the slot on the wrong side of the plain main panel with the pencil. Pin the main panels together with right sides facing. Stitch along the slot outline. Cut out the slot, leaving a 6mm seam allowance. Carefully snip to the corners. Turn right side out. Topstitch 6mm from the slot edges. Smooth the fabric layers outwards from the slot. Tack the outer edges together.

2 Press the fleece to the interfacing pocket. Tack the patterned pocket right side up on the interfacing pocket. With right sides facing, stitch the patterned and plain pockets together along the long upper edge. Turn the plain fabric to the underside and lightly press the upper edge. Tack the layers together. Topstitch 6mm from the pressed edge.

3 Refer to the diagram and press stud instructions to fix the top section of the press stud to the pocket at the dot. With right sides facing up, tack the pocket to the main panel along the lower front edge. Matching centres, fix the bottom section of the press stud to a corresponding position on

the main panel. Tack the side edges of the pocket to the main panel.

4 With wrong sides facing, tack the quilted and plain side panels together along the outer edges. With plain sides facing, matching the raw edges and with the lower edges level, pin the long edges of the main panel to the side panels. Tack together, taking a 7.5cm seam allowance.

5 Open one edge of the bias binding. With right sides facing and raw edges level, pin the opened edge to the lower edge. Cut off the excess diagonally 2cm beyond the fold line. Turn the binding over to conceal the raw edges. Slipstitch the pressed edge along the seam.

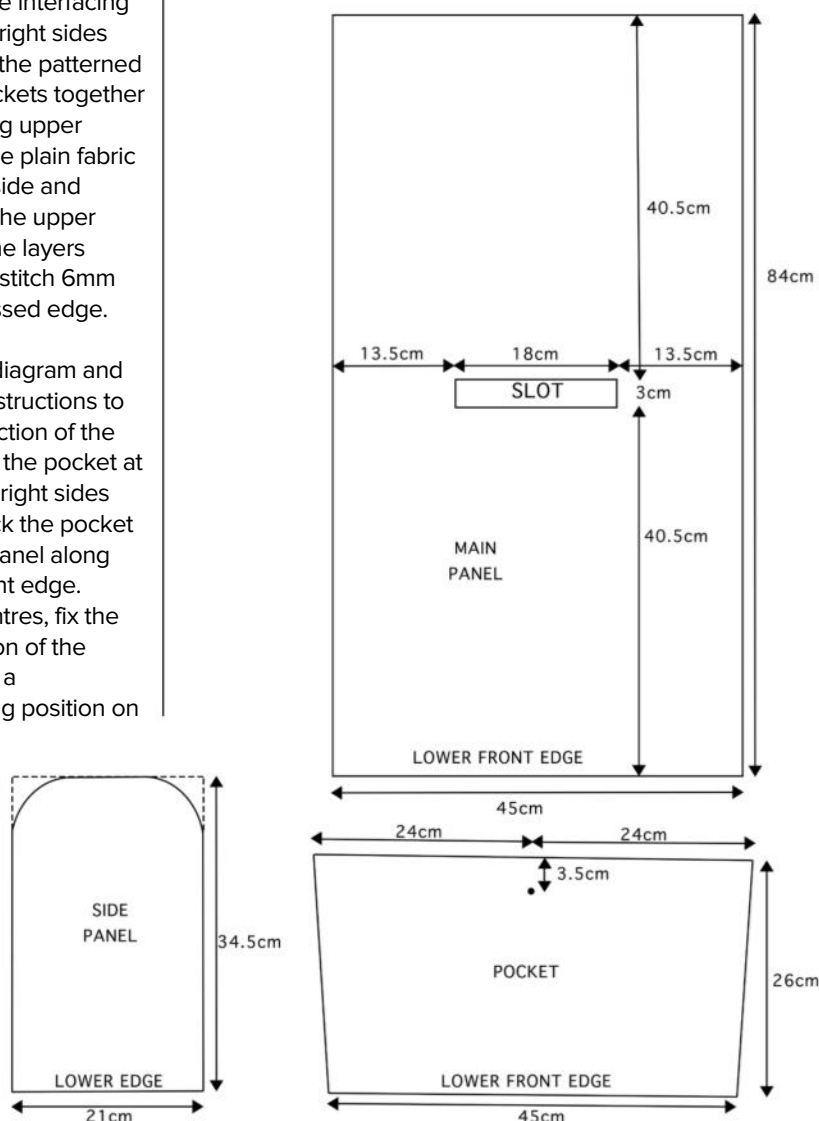
Alternatively, tack in place, matching the pressed edge to the seam, then stitch close to the pressed edge. Repeat on the other tacked edge.

6 Open one edge of the remaining bias binding. Cut one end diagonally and press under 1cm. Starting at the pressed diagonal end, matching the right side of the binding to the plain side of the cover and with raw edges level, pin the opened edge to the lower edge. Cut off the excess diagonally 2cm beyond the start. Stitch along the fold line. Turn the binding over to conceal the raw edges and tack in place, matching the pressed edge to the seam. Stitch close to the pressed edge.

YOU WILL NEED

- * 1m of 112cm-wide patterned fabric
- * 1m 30cm of 90cm-wide of low-loft fusible fleece
- * 1m of 112cm-wide plain fabric
- * 50 x 30cm rectangle of medium sew-in interfacing
- * 3m 20cm of 2cm-wide bias binding
- * Sharp HB pencil and ruler
- * Matching sewing thread
- * 7.5cm-diameter cup or mug
- * 15mm anorak press stud

Suppliers: Menagerie Silhouette Orange fabric, £15 per metre, sewhot.co.uk; low-loft iron-on fleece, £9.50 per metre, lovecrafts.com



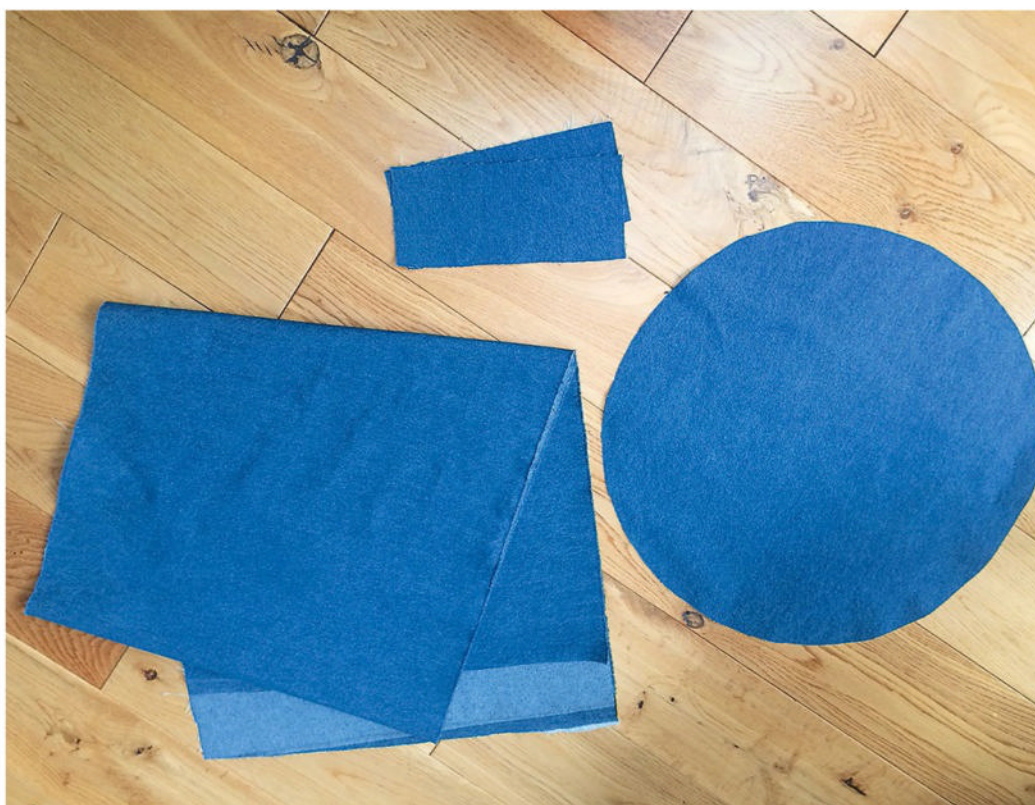
Footstool cover

Revamp a tired pouffe with this simple solution



YOU WILL NEED

- * Round pouffe
- * Tape measure
- * Newspaper
- * Fabric scissors
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Hand sewing needle
- * Washed denim
- * Sewing machine
- * Covered piping cord
- * 1m piping cord
- * Safety pin or bodkin

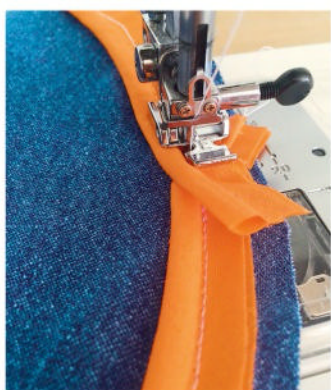


unstitched. Then pin and stitch the piped circle to the top.

7 At the bottom of the pouffe cover, turn under the unstitched 5cm sides by 1.5cm. Press and topstitch in place. For the bottom raw edge, turn under by 2cm and then another 3cm. Stitch as close to the turned edge as you can to create a channel.

8 Pull the cover onto the pouffe. Place the end of the piping cord on a safety pin or bodkin. Thread through the channel at the bottom, gathering the material as you go. Pull the cord taut and knot to secure. Tuck the cord ends inside the cover.

1 Measure the top of the pouffe and add 3cm. Using these measurements, cut out a newspaper template and pin to the denim fabric. Cut out. Then, measure the circumference adding 3cm and the height adding 15cm, and cut this rectangle from the denim fabric.



2 For the handle, cut out two rectangles from the denim measuring 9 x 20cm.

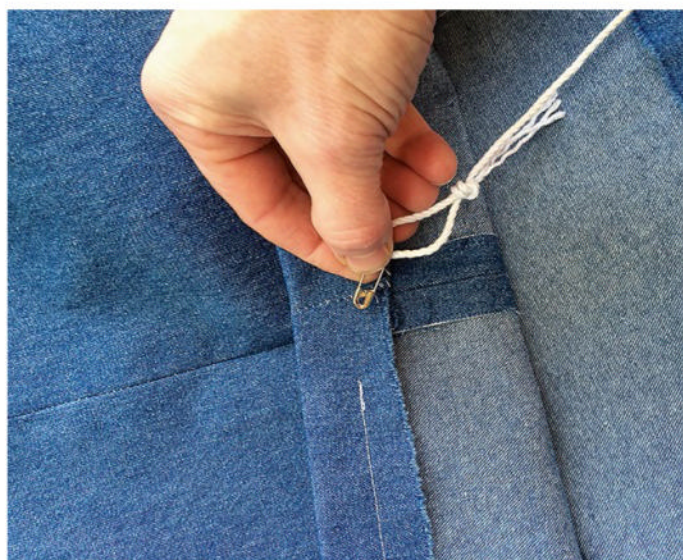
3 Pin and stitch the covered piping cord to the circular pouffe top, 1.5cm from the edge. Repeat, sewing the covered piping cord to the two long edges of one of the handle pieces.

4 Match up the handle pieces. Pin and stitch along the long edges, with a 1.5cm seam allowance. Turn right sides out, tuck the raw ends inside and press.

5 Position the handle in the centre of the large denim rectangle and pin. Secure by topstitching two parallel lines along each short edge.



6 With right sides facing, sew the short edges of the large denim rectangle together with a 1.5cm seam allowance, leaving the bottom 5cm



Sew simple

Transform tea towels into a tablecloth – it's quick and easy to do

☆☆☆
Difficulty level

YOU WILL NEED

- * Four tea towels
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Scissors and pins

1 Choose four tea towels in similar sizes and colours but different patterns – checks and stripes work well together or try busy floral patterns, which can create a bold design.

2 Wash the tea towels and allow them to dry completely. Cut off any care labels and press flat.

3 Pin a pair of them with right sides together along one long edge and sew with a 1cm seam

allowance. Press seams open, then repeat the same thing with the remaining pair.

4 Place the two stitched sets of tea towels right sides together and pin along one long edge. Sew with a

1cm seam allowance and press seams open.

5 Neaten up the sides of the tablecloth by turning the edges under by approximately 2cm and top-stitch in place, then press.

Stars and stripes

These fun cushions will give your sofa some star quality



YOU WILL NEED

- * Plain and striped navy cotton fabric
- * Cream cotton fabric
- * 6mm-thick piping cord
- * Stuffing
- * Paper and pencil
- * Sewing machine
- * Piping foot
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * Matching thread
- * Hand-sewing needle

Notes: Place right sides together and use 1.5cm seam allowances throughout.

- 1** Using our photo as a guide, draw or print out a star shape to your two chosen sizes and cut out. Place each template on the stripe and plain navy cotton fabric and cut out two star shapes from each.
- 2** For the contrasting edging, cut out 10cm-wide strips from the stripe and plain navy cotton. Join the short ends together until you have enough to go all the way around the edge of your stars.
- 3** Create the piping by cutting 4cm-wide strips from the cream cotton. Join together at the short ends to make a length long enough to go around the edge of each star twice. Place the piping cord inside the strip and sew together using the piping foot.
- 4** Pin together the raw edges of the star, piping and the contrasting edging. Stitch together all the way around, leaving the seam where the contrasting edges meet unsewn. Repeat with the corresponding star on the other side of the contrasting edging.
- 5** Turn the stars right sides out and, through the gap in the edging, fill the cushions with the stuffing.
- 6** Pin together the seam of the contrasting edges and, with the matching thread and the hand-sewing needle, stitch the gap closed.

☆☆☆
Difficulty
level

TIP
Use scraps of
leftover fabric
from your
workbox to make
the patterned
appliqués

WORDS AND MAKE: ESMÉ CLEMO PHOTOS: BARRY MARSDEN

Pretty potholders

This set of colourful accessories will look perfect in your kitchen

Enlarge by 200%

YOU WILL NEED

- * 60cm square navy cotton fabric
- * 30cm thermal batting or fleece
- * Four patterned fabric fat quarters
- * 25mm wide bias tape maker
- * Bondaweb
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Scissors
- * Sewing machine
- * Hand-sewing needle

1 Photocopy the template and enlarge by 200%. Fuse the Bondaweb to the wrong side of the patterned fabric pieces. Using our templates as a guide, copy the cherry, knife and fork, vegetable and mug motifs onto the paper backings fused to the different fabrics and cut out.

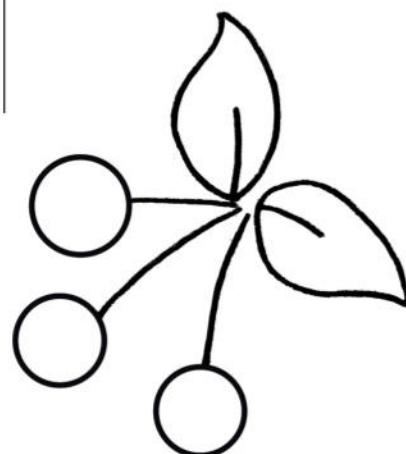
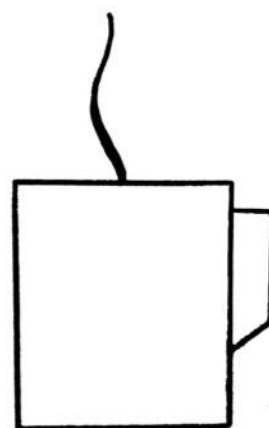
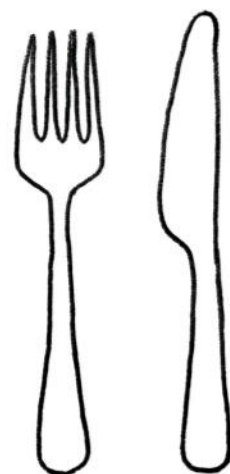
2 Cut eight 15cm squares from the navy fabric and four from the thermal batting.

3 Peel away the paper backing from the appliqué pieces and fuse to four of the navy squares. Using a small zigzag or blanket stitch, sew around the edges of the appliqués to secure in place.

4 Sandwich a piece of thermal batting in between an appliquéd square and a plain navy square for the back. Pin the layers together.

5 To make the matching binding, cut two 5 x 40cm strips from each patterned fabric. Join the matching strips at the short ends with a 1cm seam allowance and press the seams open. Run the strips through the bias tape maker and press. Fold the binding in half lengthways and press again.

6 Slip the binding around the raw edges of the potholders and pin in place. Stitch all the way around the edge as close to the binding edge as possible. When you have done this, keep stitching the remaining length of binding and tie off the loose threads. Tuck the extra length under the pot holder to create a hanging loop, and topstitch to secure in place.



Scrappy stopper

YOU WILL NEED

- * 40 x 50cm cotton canvas fabric
- * Matching thread
- * Hand sewing needle
- * Stuffing
- * Protractor
- * Ruler
- * Pencil and paper
- * Ribbon
- * Rice

Note: Sew with right sides together and 1cm seam allowances throughout

Stitch this simple doorstep with leftover fabric from your stash

☆☆☆
Difficulty level

TIP

We've used a length of selvedge from the fabric in place of a ribbon

1 Make an equilateral triangle-shaped template as follows. Draw an 18cm straight line on your paper. At each end, use your protractor to measure and mark out a 60-degree angle. Draw lines along these markings, both of which

should measure 18cm. Use this template to cut out four triangles from the canvas fabric, and also cut out a 18cm square piece.

2 Pair two triangles together and stitch along one edge. Press seams open and repeat for the second

pair. Pin the stitched triangles together, sandwiching a loop of ribbon in the centre of two sides and sew along the same sides to form a pyramid. Pin and sew the square base to the pyramid, leaving a 10cm gap for turning through.

3 Turn right sides out and press. Fill the tip of the pyramid with stuffing, followed by rice for weight. Turn the gap's edges under by 1cm and slipstitch closed.

Trendy towel

A strip of colourful fabric can add an instant update to a plain towel

☆☆☆
Difficulty
level



YOU WILL NEED

- * Towels with a woven strip at the end
- * Patterned fabric
- * Ruler and pen
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Hand sewing needle
- * Iron

- 1** Begin by measuring one of the woven strips at the end of the towel – this is usually located about 10cm from the edge. Add 2cm to each of these measurements, transfer to the reverse of the patterned fabric, and then cut out.
- 2** Use an iron to press each edge under by 1cm. Unfold the edges and then fold in the corners.
- 3** Place the fabric over the woven end of the towel and pin it carefully in place. Topstitch in place with a sewing machine for a speedy update or hand sew in place to keep your stitches invisible.
- 4** To hand sew, thread your sewing needle with some matching sewing thread and slipstitch the fabric in place.
- 5** To slipstitch the fabric stripe, insert the needle through the folded edge of the fabric for 5mm. Bring the needle through the edge of the woven strip on the towel for 3mm in exactly the same place the needle left the folded fabric. Repeat, creating a ladder of stitches. Every couple of stitches, tug on the thread to pull the fabric and towel together for an invisible finish.
- 6** Press the fabric stripe on a low heat, to help it sit flat against the towel. Repeat on all the woven strips on the towel at each end and on either side.

YOU WILL NEED

- * 1m of 137cm-wide plain soft-furnishing fabric or calico
- * 120cm of 110cm-wide patterned cotton fabric
- * 60cm of 90cm-wide, medium sew-in interfacing
- * 70cm of 45cm-wide firm flexible iron-on interfacing
- * 270cm of 6mm diameter cord
- * Children's clothes hanger
- * Matching sewing threads
- * Bodkin or safety pin

☆☆☆
Difficulty level

SIZE
Peg bag 35 x 29cm, laundry bag 42 x 32cm

Laundry set

These pretty, matching laundry makes are attractive additions to a utility room or bedroom

Cutting out

For the Peg Bag:

- * Cut one 32 x 41cm rectangle for the pocket from patterned fabric.
- * Cut two 32 x 38cm rectangles for the bag from plain fabric.

For the Outer Laundry Bag:

- * Cut two 51 x 53cm rectangles for the bag and two 10.5 x 42cm rectangles for the handles from plain fabric; two 44 x 53cm rectangles from medium sew-in interfacing for the bag.
 - * Cut one 32cm diameter circle, two 5 x 53cm rectangles for the bag and two 4 x 40cm rectangles for the handles from firm flexible iron-on interfacing.
 - * Cut one 35cm diameter circle for the base from plain fabric and patterned fabric.
- For the Inner Laundry Bag:
- * Cut two 75 x 53cm rectangles from patterned fabric.

Note: Take a 1.5cm seam allowance. Join pieces with right sides together and edges level.

Making the outer laundry bag

- 1 Tack the medium interfacing to the wrong side of the outer bags, matching short side and long lower edges. Fuse the firm flexible interfacing to the long upper edge of the medium interfacing. Neaten the side edges with a zigzag stitch or pinking shears.

- 2 Stitch the outer bags together along the side

edges. Press seams open. Topstitch 6mm either side of the seams.

- 3 Press under 1cm on the upper raw edge, stitch in place. Fold the fabric over the upper edge of the interfacing. Topstitch in place 6mm then 5cm below the upper edge.

- 4 Divide the lower edge of the bag and base circumference into quarters, mark each division with a pin. Pin the outer edges, matching the divisions. Stitch the circumference. Neaten the seam with a zigzag stitch or pinking shears. Turn the bag right-side out.

- 5 Slip the interfacing circle adhesive side down inside the bag, place centrally on the bag base and adjust the seam allowance on top. Fuse the interfacing circle to the base following the maker's instructions.

- 6 Press the interfacing handles to the wrong side of the fabric handles 1cm in from both short edges and one long edge. Press under 1cm on the outer edges. Press the fabric lengthwise in half,

matching the pressed edges. Tack then topstitch close to the outer edges.

- 7 With right sides facing up, pin one handle to the outer bag with the ends 4.5cm either side of one side seam and 9cm below the upper edge. Stitch across the ends of the handle then 1cm and 2cm above the first stitching. Repeat to attach the other handle.

Making the inner laundry bag

- 1 Press under 1.5cm on the long upper edges of the bags. Pin the bags together. Stitch the side edges, starting 6cm below the pressed edges. Press seams open. Neaten the seams with a zigzag stitch or pinking shears. Fold and pin the upper edge to the wrong side 3cm below the pressed edge. Stitch 6mm then 2.5cm below the folded edge, forming a channel. Follow step 4 for making the outer laundry bag.

- 2 Cut the cord in half. Thread one cord through the channels with a bodkin or safety pin, starting and finishing at one seam. Knot

the ends together, fray the cord ends. Repeat with the other cord starting and finishing at the other seam. Insert the inner bag into the outer bag.

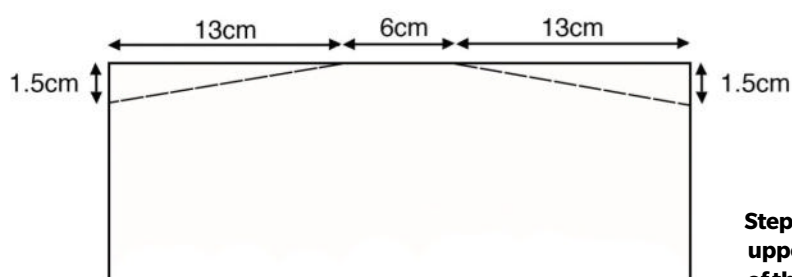
Making the peg bag

- 1 Press the pocket in half with wrong sides together and short edges matching. Tack the pocket to the short, lower edge on the right side of one bag, matching the raw edges.

- 2 Pin the bags right sides together, sandwiching the patterned pocket between the bags. Refer to the diagram to cut the upper corners of the peg bag diagonally.

- 3 Stitch the outer edge, leaving a 2cm gap at the centre of the upper edge and a 20cm gap on the lower edge. Clip the corners and turn right side out.

- 4 Insert the hanger into the bag, pull the hook through the gap at the top. Press under the gap on the lower edge and slipstitch the gap closed. Topstitch 5mm above the pressed edges.



Step 2: Cut the upper corners of the peg bag

Prickly pear

Create this pincushion from your sewing stash



Making paper patterns

Photocopy the pattern of the pear and leaf below. Fold the tracing paper in half. Trace the patterns onto tracing paper, matching the broken line to the fold. Cut out the patterns and open out flat. Mark the arrow, dots and notches on both halves.

Cutting out

- * Cut one pair of pears from each fabric. Snip the notches. Cut one 5 x 2.5cm bias strip of brown fabric for the stalk.
- * Press bonding web on the wrong side of one half of the green fabric.
- * Peel off the backing paper.
- * Fold the other half of the fabric over the bonding web and press.
- * Draw around the leaf template and cut out.

Making the pear

Note: Take a 6mm seam allowance. Join pieces with right sides together and edges level, matching dots and notches.

1 Stitch each striped pear to a spotted pear along one edge. Snip the curves. Press the seams open. Stitch each patterned pear to the other edge of the spotted pear, between the dots. Snip the curves. Press the seams open.

2 Fold and pin the stalk lengthwise in half. Stitch the long edge. Use a rouleau turner or safety pin to turn the stalk right side out. Poke in one end and slipstitch the opening closed.

3 Pin and tack the raw end of the stalk to the narrow end of one set of pears on the right side at the dot.

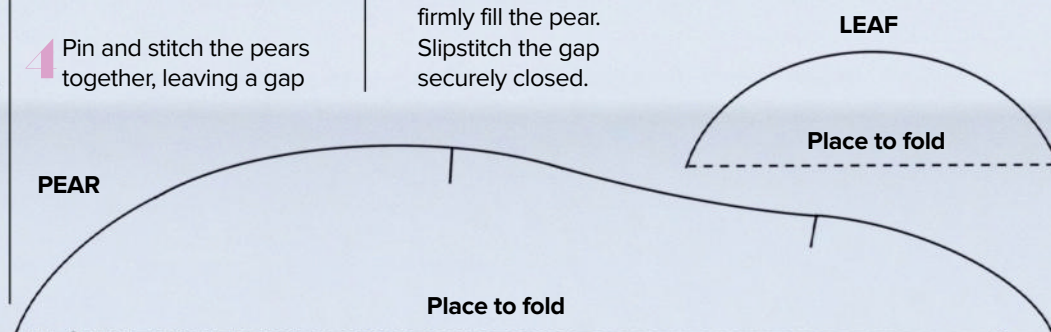
4 Pin and stitch the pears together, leaving a gap

between the notches on one edge. Snip the curves. Finger press the seam open. To finger press, open out the seam and run a moistened finger along the seam. Allow to dry before handling.

5 Turn right side out. Roll scrap paper into a funnel. Poke the narrow end into the gap, tip in wood shavings or sawdust to firmly fill the pear. Slipstitch the gap securely closed.

YOU WILL NEED

- * Access to a photocopier
- * Tracing paper and pencil
- * 15 x 15cm square of red spotted, striped and patterned cotton fabrics
- * 8 x 8cm square of brown cotton fabric
- * 8 x 6cm rectangle of green cotton fabric
- * 4 x 6cm rectangle of bonding web
- * Rouleau turner or safety pin to turn the stalk through
- * Wood shavings or sawdust
- * Sheet of scrap paper for funnel



Stylish stitch

Create a pretty place setting
with these scallop-edge napkins

YOU WILL NEED

- * Patterned or plain fabric
- * Scrap fabric
- * Contrasting sewing thread
- * Small scissors
- * Fray check (optional)

Stockists: Pure dinner plate, £3.50; Pure side plate, £3; Denby Heritage aqua coupe plate, £8; Denby Elements blue dinner plate, £11; 16-piece cream cutlery set, £5, all Dunelm

☆☆☆
**Difficulty
level**

- 1** With your sewing machine set to a scallop edging stitch, sew a couple of practice rows on your piece of scrap fabric. This will help to determine what stitch length and width you'd prefer to use.
- 2** Stitch all the edges of the napkin fabric, turning the fabric gently at the corners to create a curve. Tie off any loose threads. Make sure you have enough sewing thread on your spool and bobbin, as this technique uses a lot of thread.
- 3** Using a small and sharp pair of scissors, trim away the excess fabric around the edge of the napkin. Cut as close to the stitches as you can without catching the embroidery.
- 4** If you've cut close enough to the scallop stitches, you shouldn't be able to see any excess fabric, but if you can, use fray check to bind the fabric together.

Anchor doorstop

Drop anchor with this coastal doorstop to sew



SIZE
33 x 30cm



Making paper patterns

On a photocopier, enlarge the pattern to 170%. Fold tracing paper in half. Trace the pattern onto tracing paper, matching the broken line to the fold. Cut out the pattern and open out flat. Mark the arrow, circle, cross, notches and dotted line on both halves.

Cutting out

Cut one pair of anchors and one 5 x 13cm rectangle from striped fabric for the handle. Snip the notches. Lightly mark the cross on the wrong side of one anchor with a pencil.

Making the anchor

Note: Take a 6mm seam allowance. Join pieces with right sides together and edges level, matching notches.

1 Pin the tracing to the right side of one anchor. Refer to the iron-on letter instructions to place A, H, O and Y under the tracing within the dotted lines. Lift the tracing and press the letters in place according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2 Trace the circle onto the paper backing of bonding web. Press the bonding

web to the wrong side of navy fabric. Cut out the circle. Peel off the backing paper.

3 Slip the circle under the tracing, matching the circle position. Remove the tracing, press the circle in place.

4 Set the sewing machine to a close zigzag stitch 3mm wide. Zigzag stitch the outer edge of the circle using matching sewing thread.

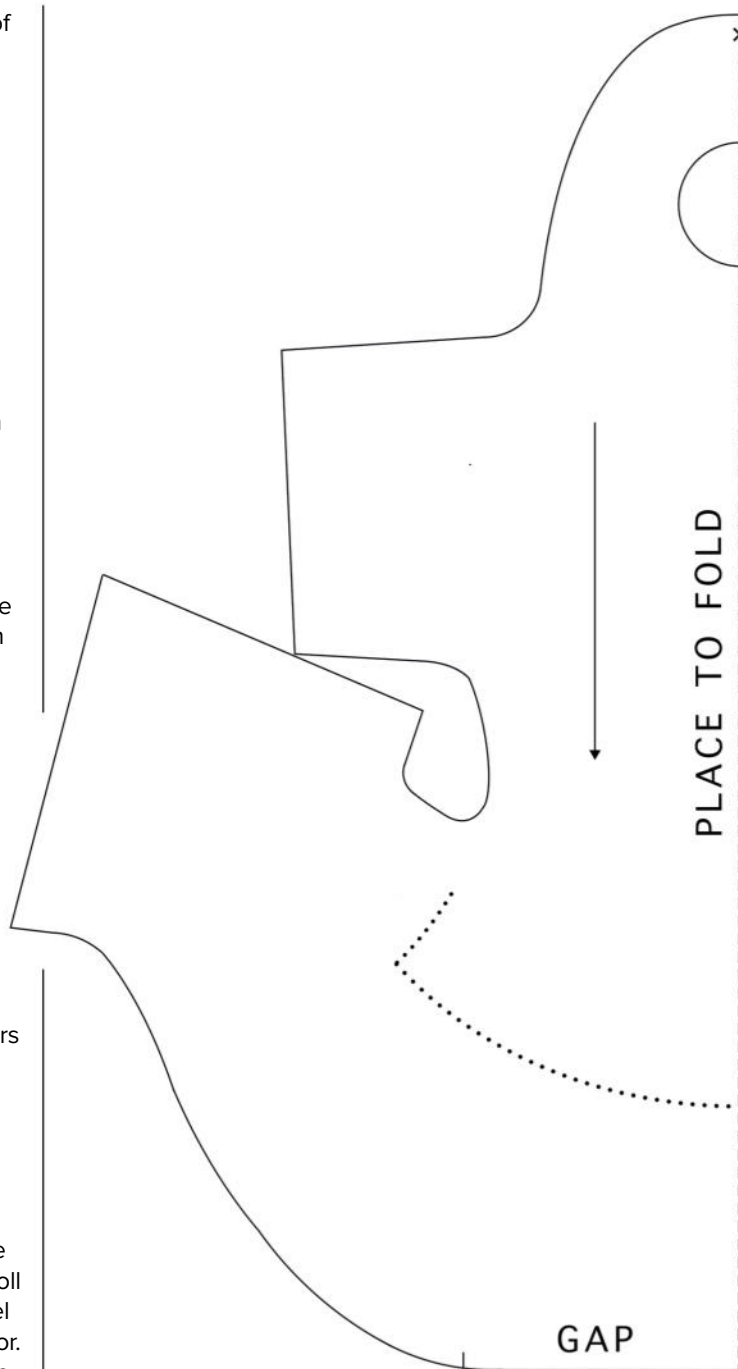
5 Press under 1cm on the long edges of the handle then press lengthwise in half with right sides outside. Stitch close to the pressed edges.

6 Fold the handle in half. Pin the ends to the cross on the right side of one anchor. Stitch across the handle ends 3mm below the raw edges.

7 Pin and stitch the anchors together, leaving a gap between the notches. Snip the curves and clip the corners. Turn right side out.

8 Fill the extremities of the anchor with toy filling. Roll scrap paper into a funnel and insert into the anchor. Tip rice into the funnel to fill the anchor. Slipstitch the gap securely closed.

9 Bind the rope with a double length of sewing thread about 2.5cm from one end, making a few small backstitches to start, and finish to secure the binding. Cut off the excess rope with a craft knife 1.2cm from the binding. Repeat at the other end of the rope. Drape the rope around the anchor. Catch securely in place with a few discreetly placed stitches.



YOU WILL NEED

- * Access to a photocopier
- * A3 sheet of tracing paper and pencil
- * 40cm of 90cm-wide, blue-striped cotton or linen fabric
- * 5 x 5cm square of navy cotton fabric
- * 5 x 5cm square of bonding web
- * 3cm-high, iron-on navy letters A, H, O and Y
- * 70cm of 2cm-thick cotton rope
- * Matching sewing threads
- * Toy filling
- * 1.5kg of rice
- * Sheet of scrap paper for funnel
- * Craft knife

Rope bowls

Short on space? Create these handy stacking baskets to tidy up your home

☆☆☆
Difficulty level



YOU WILL NEED

- * Denim sewing machine needle
- * Black sewing thread
- * Neutral sewing thread
- * Scissors
- * 50m of natural cotton cord
- * Pins

1 For the small basket you'll need a 9m length of cord; for the medium basket a 21m length, and for the large basket a 20m length.

2 Begin by snipping off the end of one of the lengths to remove any fraying threads. You can put a couple of hand stitches into the end if it's fraying badly.

3 Coil the first 30cm of cord around itself to create a tight spiral. Pin through the sides to secure. This will form the base of the basket.

4 With your sewing machine set to a wide zigzag stitch, using neutral sewing thread and the denim sewing-machine needle, stitch between the pieces of cord to secure together, following the spiral around as you sew.

5 Continue stitching the cord together while coiling it around, keeping it flat on the bed of your sewing machine. For the small basket, the base diameter should measure 12cm before working on the sides; the medium base should measure 16cm, and the large 20cm. You can vary these measurements to suit your storage needs but, if you want the baskets to be stackable, you'll need a 4cm difference between each.

6 To create the sides of the baskets, tilt the stitched base at a 90-degree angle and continue stitching.

7 Continue stitching the cord around the basket to form the sides. You can create a monochrome pattern by switching between black and

LARGE



neutral threads as you stitch around. Reverse stitch at the beginning and end of each colour to secure the threads.

8 To finish, you can stitch until you run out of cord and simply tuck the end inside the bowl and stitch in place. To create a hanging hook (as seen on the small basket), loop the cord under and back on itself, sandwiching the raw end between the cords. Zigzag stitch in place at the points of strain.

9 To sew handles onto the baskets, stop stitching when you have about 4m left of cord. Measure about 20cm along the cord and then position this point at about 15cm along the basket. Pin and then start stitching from here. Repeat on the opposite side of the basket. Then carry on stitching, following the lines of the handles as you sew around. Use the tucking method to stitch the cord ends neatly to the insides of the baskets.

MEDIUM



SMALL



Sitting pretty

Relax in the great outdoors with these gorgeous floor cushions with handles



TIP
The tassel and pom-pom trimmings are a great way to use up leftover yarn



YOU WILL NEED

- * 55 x 165cm fabric (for each cushion)
- * 40 x 40 x 8cm foam cushion pad
- * Medium fusible interfacing
- * Matching sewing thread
- * Hand-sewing needle
- * Yarn in bright colours
- * Pompom maker
- * Tassel maker
- * Darning needle
- * Crochet hook
- * Scissors

Note: Use 1.5cm seam allowances with right sides facing throughout.

Cutting out for each cushion

- * Cut two squares of fabric measuring 43 x 43cm.
- * Cut a side strip measuring 11 x 163cm (if your fabric isn't long enough, cut several 11cm-wide strips and join them along the short edge to create one long strip).
- * For the handles, cut two 10 x 15cm rectangles from the fabric and interfacing.

1 To make the handles, fuse the interfacing pieces to the wrong side of the fabric handles. Fold the strip in half lengthways and press. Open out the strip and then fold the raw edges in to meet the crease. Fold in half along the original crease to conceal and press. Topstitch along both long edges.

2 Attach the handles to the side strip, one handle 54cm from the short end and the other 14cm from the opposite short end. Pin in place and sew each end of the handle with a square and cross lines of stitching to secure.

3 Pin and sew the short ends of the side strip together to create a tube. Press the seam open.

4 Take one of the square fabric pieces and pin the side strip around the edge. Use scissors to snip into the seam allowance at the corners to ease the fabric together. Sew in place. Repeat for the other square fabric piece, leaving one side open for turning. Turn the cover right sides out and press.

5 Ease the foam pad into the cushion cover, making sure the corners of the foam pad meet the cover's seams. Pin and slipstitch the cover opening closed.

6 To make the tassel edging, you will need 20 tassels per cushion. Using a tassel maker, wind your chosen yarn around the maker about 15 times and then tie a piece of yarn at the centre – keep the tied ends long, as you will use these to attach the tassel to the cushion. Cut the yarn from the maker and gather the ends together to form a tassel. Wrap

some matching yarn about 2cm from the top of the tassel, and knot at the back. Trim the bottoms of the tassels so they all look uniform.



7 Thread the tied ends of the tassel through the darning needle and sew through the top seam. Knot the tassel in place and then use a crochet hook to loop the loose threads through the wrapped section of the tassel and trim to tassel length for a perfect finish. Repeat all the way around the top edge.

8 For the pompoms, use a pompom maker and wind

the yarn around the gadget. Cut the yarn from the maker and tie with a long length of matching yarn to secure – again, leave these tied pieces long as you will use these to attach the pompom to the cushion. Remove the pompom from the maker and trim to create a uniform sphere.

9 To attach to the centre of the cushion, thread the long tied ends through the darning needle and stitch straight through to the underside of the cushion. Knot in place and tie in a bow. Repeat so you have four tufted sections in the centre of the cushion.



Quick *and* Easy SEWING PROJECTS

Future PLC Quay House, The Ambury, Bath, BA1 1UA

Quick and Easy Sewing Projects Editorial

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Media packs are available on request

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Printed in the UK

Distributed by Marketforce – www.marketforce.co.uk

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Quick and Easy Sewing Projects Second Edition (LBZ7354)
© 2026 Future Publishing Limited

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