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sewing WORLD

MAY 2015

11

Birds and
Butterflies

Summer Fun!

fabulous
projects
to sew!

Appliqué beach huts
cushion



In a snap purse



Tidy sewing
storage



Elephant
friends
shirt



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Hello



I start this month with some news to tell you – I am moving on to pastures new within the sewing industry and this is my last issue as Editor. It's been an amazing journey over the past four years and I have gained so much experience and met such lovely people – thank you to all of you who I've met at shows or who took the time to write to me. I am delighted to announce that Emma Horrocks, who has been Assistant Editor on British Patchwork and Quilting magazine, is taking over as Editor.

May is here at last – possibly my favourite month of the year as the blossom in my home town is stunning and there is such a feel good factor as the days grow warmer! We have some stunning projects for you including a brilliant **sewing machine tidy**, **seaside fun cushion**, a very wearable **summer dress** for the warmer days to come and many more besides.

I had the pleasure of testing out the easy sew '**Peaseblossom**' pattern from Sew Me Something and I used my overlocker – it had previously been gathering dust! Read about my experience on page 78. We've also got a great article about the resurgence in the skill of '**make do and mend**' and continuing with our popular techniques series to help you make your sewing the best it can be.

I hope you will enjoy this issue and I wish you all the best as I say goodbye.

Keep sewing!

Julie xx



PS For those of you who love your iPad and Smartphones, Sewing World magazine is available to download as an app from apps stores or for home computers, click on www.pocketmags.com. For digital readers, the patterns for all the makes are free to download from the Sewing World website.

Don't forget to visit us on Facebook and visit Sewing World's website (www.sewingworldmagazine.com).



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Don't forget the
British quilt & stitch village show
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Digital readers – free
downloadable patterns
are available at

www.sewingworldmagazine.com



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Smitten With Ribbon

Bertie's Bows have introduced their spring 2015 collection including the ever popular burlap and cotton ribbon selections in new 10m rolls to give even better value for money. Use for your spring sewing projects to add some classy trims. Bertie's Bows are manufactured especially for the UK market in response to the latest trends in home crafting and sewing. You'll love them!

Ribbons priced from £10.20 for a 10m reel



Bertie's Bows
www.bertiesbows.co.uk

GO Shopping!



Fabulous Fiskars!

Cutting edge innovation from Fiskars with four new products to tempt you! The new Combo Rotary Cutter and Ruler 12" x 12" can cut up to eight layers of fabric easily without the danger of an exposed blade – great when little fingers are around. The new Rotary Cutter with Easy Blade Change makes fixing a new blade a breeze and the new blade has a titanium coating for precision. The No Touch Titanium Blade Change Tool, complete with five blades to keep you going, makes changing your blade a simple safe task. Finally, the new self-healing Cutting Mats come in three sizes (A3, A2 and A1) for all your cutting needs.

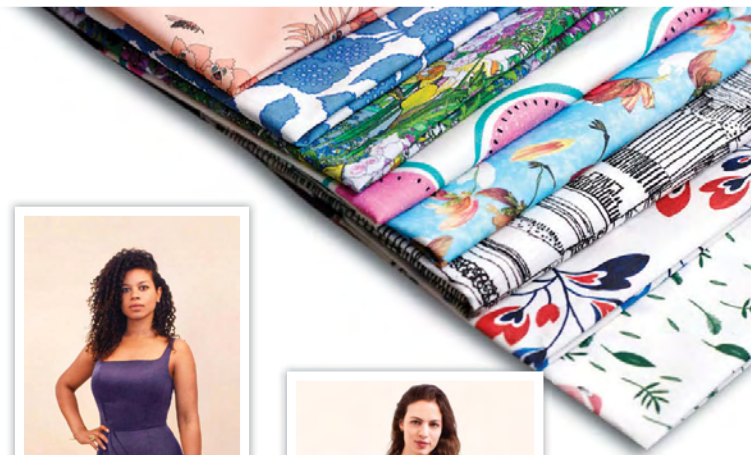
Combo Rotary Cutter and Ruler priced at £49.99; Rotary Cutter 45mm with Easy Blade Change priced at £13.49; No Touch Titanium Blade Change Tool priced at £28.49; Cutting Mats priced from £12.49 - £38.99



Fiskars products are available from John Lewis, Hobbycraft, The Range and independent craft shops.
www.fiskars.co.uk

Holly, Kim and Sophia

Independent pattern company, By Hand London, have recently released three gorgeous new patterns. 'Holly' is a versatile jumpsuit with a figure flattering high-waist for disco fever! 'Kim' is a sexy and slinky dress, fully lined, princess seamed sleeveless bodice which comes with a choice of a simple scooped neckline or a vintage sweetheart and also has two very different skirt options. 'Sophia' is an incredibly versatile party dress featuring a fitted sleeveless V-neck bodice with angled darts and armholes. By Hand London have also launched a new print-on-demand fabric printing service for all you budding fabric designers!



Patterns priced at £14 each

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By Hand London
www.byhandlondon.com

Shape Cut Ruler

June Tailor® are known for their great rulers to make your fabric cutting experience even better. The rulers are constructed from clear and durable acrylic and provide very accurate markings for your cutting. The Shape Cut Ruler has slots cut every half inch across the width of the ruler and you simply slot your rotary cutter into the slot to cut accurate strips, moving along the ruler to cut your strips in double quick time. There is a great online video to watch this product in action too. You'll wonder how you ever managed without it!



June Tailor® Shape Cut Ruler priced at around £37

For stockist information
www.eqsuk.com
Tel: 0116 2710033

Threaded Up

Who doesn't love spools of thread and we particularly love these ethical organic threads from Offset Warehouse. Available in a rainbow of colours and on 2.7m spools, these beautiful threads are produced as certified organic without the use of harmful chemicals or pesticides so you can do your bit for the environment as you sew!

Organic Threads priced at £2.85 per spool



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2
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www.offsetwarehouse.com
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It Started With A Stitch!



If someone you know was inspired to start sewing during the latest series of 'The Great British Sewing Bee' then Dunelm are stocking a great range of simple sewing kits that would make lovely gifts. Choose from doorstops, aprons and bunting among many more to get them fired up with these super kits!



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NEWS NEWS NEWS

Get the latest

What's going on in the world of sewing...

Singer teams up with Patrick Grant again to run exclusive sewing class promotion



Singer Sewing Machines is teaming up again with Savile Row tailor and television personality Patrick Grant to offer anyone purchasing a new Singer machine the chance to win a place at a series of informal and fun half-day sewing sessions with the star at its London Sewing School.

Anyone purchasing a new Singer sewing machine from an authorised UK stockist before 31st May 2015 will be able to enter the draw. There will be two separate days for the winner's sewing sessions, one held in early July and the other in early September. Each of the days will be divided into a morning and afternoon session, with up to seven different winners attending each session.

"The promotion was highly popular last year and so we decided to run it again. To make the sessions as accessible as possible to all levels of sewing experience, winners will be invited to customise a garment of their choice with support from our Singer sewing experts," explains Singer's Stephen Bogod. "As with last year Patrick will be on hand to chat and offer advice. At the end of the session he will go round and judge and give guidance on each of the projects."

Purchasers will enter the draw via a special web page. Once the winners' names have been drawn they will be asked to provide proof of purchase by way of the original receipt.

Details can be found at www.singerco.co.uk/patrick

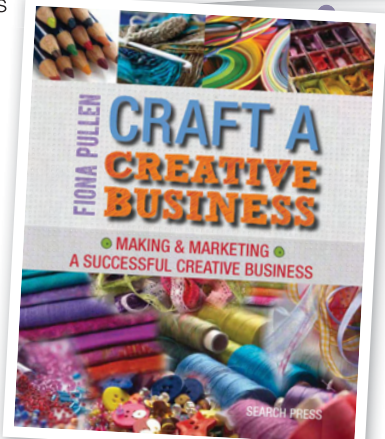
Luxury Residential Craft Courses in Rural France



- Do you enjoy being creative? Would you like to combine exploring new craft skills and ideas with a relaxing holiday in beautiful, rural France? If so then Crafty Retreats luxury residential craft holidays are for you! Enjoy some 'me' time in the lush Monts d'Ambazac in the heart of the Limousin. Crafty Retreats is offering several new exciting courses this summer ranging from freehand machine embroidery, sculptural felting, designing your own fabrics to crafting a creative business to sell your handmade items.



- An inspiring felting course with renowned feltmaker Jenny Pepper takes place in July and a course on how to turn your crafting into a viable business with Fiona Pullen author of the bestselling book 'Craft a Creative Business' is in August. The week long courses include delicious home-cooked meals using local produce, accommodation and a purpose built workshop with sewing machines and computers. Guests will also visit local brocantes, flea markets, the historic tapestry centre of Aubusson and some of the fine Limoges porcelain factories. Visit www.craftyretreats.com to find out more.



NEWS NEWS NEWS

COMPETITION

Young Sewers – Do you love textiles?

Are you in years 7-13 at school? Win a PFAFF embellisher machine worth £249 for your school plus a prize for yourself! An embellisher is a sewing machine with a difference, as it has no threads, bobbin or fiddly dials; you just plug it in and use it! It has 5 barbed needles that 'mesh' fibres, yarns & fabrics together in a similar way to felting. It's fun to use and is brilliant for decorating textiles materials and products.

To enter the competition you have to create a piece of bunting using textiles materials and techniques with the theme of 'The Elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water'.

Any mainland UK school or college student in years 7-13 can enter. You can enter as an individual, or via your teacher, and your entry can be made at home or school.

As well as the main prize for the school the winning student will win a separate prize for themselves (the prize is still to be announced but it will be exciting!) and there will be runner up prizes and a teacher prize. Prizes are sponsored by PFAFF, Husqvarna Viking, Coles Sewing Centre and Julie Boyd.

The closing date for the competition is 24th July 2015.

To find out more, and to download the entry form, terms & conditions and bunting template visit the '2015 competition' page at www.julieboyd.co.uk or email julie@julieboyd.co.uk. The website also has tips on what the judges will be looking for, inspiration for the theme, plus the winning entries from the 2014 competition.



Readers' Makes of the Month!

Our Readers' Makes of the Month winner for March is **Sarah Noble** – who wins a box of Mettler Poly Sheen threads – 100% Trilobal Polyester threads, perfect for all your sewing needs!



Sarah writes "My little boy (Elliott) is 8 years old and learning to play the piano and oboe. I have wanted to make him a music bag for quite some time, but couldn't find a pattern that I felt was suitable for him and that I had the confidence to make (I am relatively inexperienced!). I saw a pattern for a satchel in the September issue of 'Sewing World', and have only recently plucked up the courage to have a go. The pattern included several elements that I've never tried, like using interfacing, bag fastenings (I chose different fastenings than those featured because that's what I found lurking in my sewing basket!) and bias binding, but I took a deep breath and worked through it slowly, determined to finish it. I'm so glad I did – I enjoyed learning new skills, and Elliott is really pleased with the result. I've enclosed a picture to show you. I think I might make another one for my daughter next!



I'd just like to say that I love the range of reader 'makes' and patterns featured in your lovely magazine, and always feel a little thrill of anticipation when I'm ripping opening the packaging of 'Sewing World' each month!! Thank you very much."

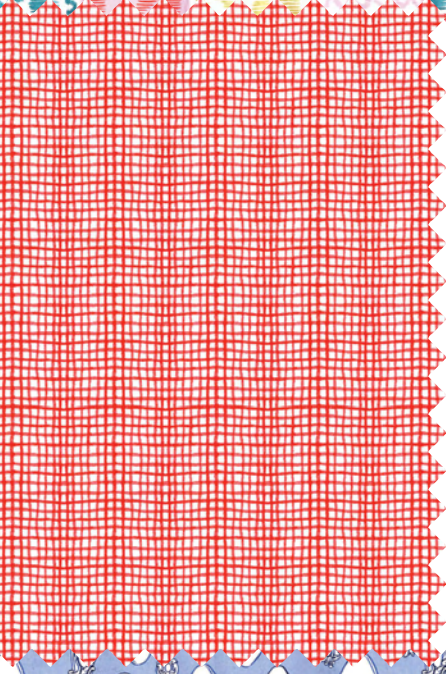
I am sure Elliott is thrilled with his brilliant bag, Sarah!

Send me some pictures of YOUR makes and you too could be featured in the Makes of the Month column and win a lovely prize!

PRIZES TO BE WON!

(Write to Sewing World at Traplet Publications, Traplet House, Willow End Park, Blackmore Park Rd, Malvern WR13 6NN or email: sw@traplet.com. Visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/sewingworldmagazine)

The Fabric Stash

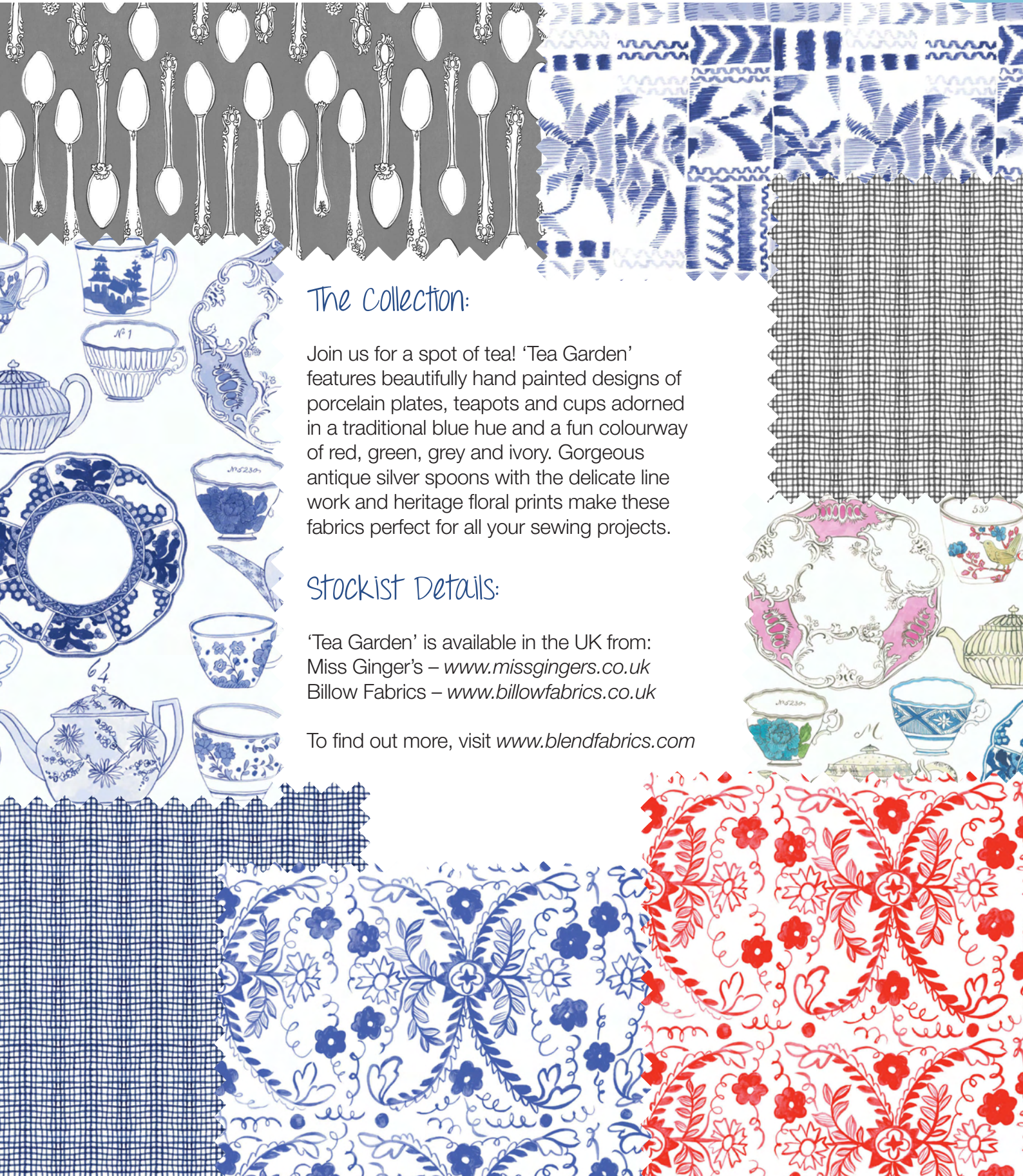


Designer Details:

Molly was raised to be creatively industrious – using her imagination and love of drawing to make everything from her collections of idiosyncratic ceramics, to furniture, to pen and ink drawings. Molly’s craft is finely honed, her designs whimsically literal and pop-culturally on point. Molly is actively building her collection of home goods to bring her modern, yet traditional, designs to the contemporary home.



'Tea Garden' by Molly Hatch



The Collection:

Join us for a spot of tea! 'Tea Garden' features beautifully hand painted designs of porcelain plates, teapots and cups adorned in a traditional blue hue and a fun colourway of red, green, grey and ivory. Gorgeous antique silver spoons with the delicate line work and heritage floral prints make these fabrics perfect for all your sewing projects.

Stockist Details:

'Tea Garden' is available in the UK from:
Miss Ginger's – www.missgingers.co.uk
Billow Fabrics – www.billowfabrics.co.uk

To find out more, visit www.blendfabrics.com

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MAY

makes



Summer Time

DESIGNED BY Debbie von Grabler-Crozier

A rectangular cushion with a light blue background featuring a white star pattern. At the top, the word "Summer" is written in large, blue, bubbly letters. Below it is a banner of colorful triangular flags in various patterns like polka dots, stripes, and floral. Three beach huts are arranged in a row. The first hut has red and white vertical stripes and a blue door with a white number "1" and an orange flower. The second hut has blue and white vertical stripes and a green door with a white number "2" and a red button. The third hut has a yellow and white plaid pattern and a blue door with a green button. The huts are set against a background of blue sky with white birds. At the bottom, a grey fabric band represents the ground, with a blue sea scene featuring white waves and a seagull. The word "Summer" is also written in blue at the bottom right corner.

Summer

— — — — —
This pretty bright coloured beach hut cushion is such fun and is so easy to make using applique techniques. Make one for your favourite deck chair and soak up the sun!
— — — — —

Materials

- 55cm x 55cm thin wadding
- 55cm x 55cm plain backing fabric
- Scraps to make the applique picture including a blue/green for sea and natural linen for the sand
- Fat quarter light blue fabric
- Fat quarter light turquoise patterned fabric
- 3 small, bright buttons
- 50cm x 50cm cushion insert
- Sizzix® Big Shot
- Sizzix® die: Lollypop shadow alphabet (lower case), Lollypop shadow numbers
- Glue stick
- Water soluble marker
- Small piece of cream cotton tape (about 5cm x 8cm)
- Stamp(s) of your choosing
- Ranger archival ink: jet black

To Cut – See pattern sheet for templates

Light blue fabric background:

- Cut 1 31cm x 51cm piece

Light turquoise patterned fabric for top and bottom panels:

- Cut 2 11cm x 51cm strips

Scraps for applique:

- Cut the applique pieces from templates

Good To Know

- *A glue stick is used for the appliqué as it is cheap and it's also more precise on small pieces. Just use enough to make the applique piece stay in place while you sew.*
- *I have chosen natural linen for the foreground because I love the sandy texture.*
- *If you don't have a Sizzix® Big Shot, just write your letters and numbers in a similar style and use as your template.*

Sea fabric:

- Cut a 10cm x 51cm strip

Sand fabric:

- Cut a 10cm x 51cm strip then mark with the water soluble marker to make a slightly dipped line across the top of it. Cut along this line. It doesn't have to be perfect but it does have to be high enough to cover the bases of the huts and the bottom of the sea.

To Sew

1 Glue the appliqué pieces onto the light blue fabric with the glue stick. The order of the applique is a simple principle. Basically the pieces in the background, like the sea, go first and the pieces in the foreground, like the bunting, go last.

2 Sew the sand strip to one of the turquoise panels and then sew this panel to the bottom of the appliqué panel and the other turquoise panel to the top.

3 Cut the words 'summer' and 'time' from the letter die and glue them on and also cut a couple of numbers from the number die, for the beach huts.

4 Press the top carefully and pin it to the wadding ready to embroider. Take the water soluble marker and add any details that you need to embroider over. This is not an essential step but if you are new, it is very helpful – this sort of sewing is almost impossible to unpick.

5 Set your machine up for free motion embroidery by dropping the feed teeth. Consult your operating manual if you are unsure.



6 Slowly move the fabric around to achieve an outline in your chosen colour. This embroidery looks best if you go over it twice here and there and don't be too neat.

7 Embroider the picture and then remove the stray threads carefully with a sharp pair of scissors. Take this time to remove the water soluble marker lines as well.

8 Swap back to 'normal' sewing and then stitch the top and bottom panels to the appliquéd panel with a 0.5cm seam allowance. Sew the small buttons onto the doors as handles.



9 To make the label, trim the piece of cotton tape and treat the ends with fray stopper. Choose a stamp which speaks to you in some way. I have used a small yacht one and a 'fun in the sun' stamp from another set. Stamp onto the cotton tape using the jet black ink and allow to dry. Sew the label into the bottom left hand corner and I have attached mine with a running stitch and red thread – there is a cheeky little cross stitch in the corner too!

10 Trim the cushion top to 51cm x 51cm and then with the right sides together, sew the completed top to the plain backing fabric leaving a gap for turning out and inserting the cushion. Turn the right way out, insert the cushion and slipstitch the opening closed. Topstitch all around the perimeter of the cushion about 0.5 cm in from the edge.



Name... Debbie von Grabler-Crozier

All About Me... I have been crafting for as long as I can remember and I have always loved playing with fabric. I am inspired by nature, travel and history and I am constantly amazed how the three can go together into a project. I work from home and I am well supervised by my Cocker Spaniel, Sally – an opinionated and bossy little fusspot!

Stockist Details

Linen – www.westfalenstoffe.co.uk

Other fabrics – Cotton Patch, www.cottonpatch.co.uk

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The 'Sewing with Style' offers are available from Janome sewing machine retail outlets nationwide. Promotion starts **6th April 2015** to **30th May 2015** (All offers subject to stock availability.)

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Elephant Friends Shirt

DESIGNED BY Molly Goodall

It's hard to get little guys out of their T-shirts in the summer, but with the help of these two friendly elephants your young man will be well dressed in a snap! Make the shirt from a cool cotton print or madras plaid and pair it with khakis for a polished look. Know a little girl who's an elephant lover? Try pink elephants on a polka dot background, and thread elastic through the sleeve hems for puffed sleeves.



Materials

- 1.8m cotton print fabric
- 45cm solid cotton fabric for elephants
- Scrap of white linen for tusks
- Matching thread
- Contrast colour embroidery floss for eyes and tail
- 4 buttons – 1.3cm diameter

Good To Know

- Use seam allowances as stated in the instructions.
- Shirt to fit a 5-6 year old child.
- Cut fabric on the correct grain line as indicated on the pattern.
- Transfer any markings from the pattern to the fabric.

To Cut – See pattern sheet for pattern pieces

Solid cotton fabric:

- Cut 2 elephant heads (1)
- Cut 2 elephant tails (2)
- Cut 4 elephant ears (3)

Cotton print fabric:

- Cut 1 back piece (4)
- Cut 2 back yoke pieces (5)
- Cut 2 collar pieces (6)
- Cut 2 side front pieces (7)
- Cut 2 sleeves (8)
- Cut 2 front facings (9)

White linen:

- Cut 2 tusks to desired shape and size

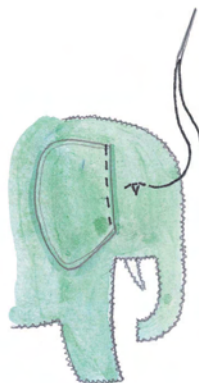


1 Position elephant appliques on side fronts and back, as indicated, and pin securely in place. Appliques do not include tusks, so cut out as desired. Zigzag in place, smoothing the fabric as you go so that there are no wrinkles.



2 With right sides together, stitch ear fronts to ear backs, using a 6mm seam allowance. Clip curves, turn ears right side out, press. Topstitch ears around edges a scant 3mm from edge. Position ears on elephants with right sides together; topstitch in place through all thicknesses. Fold ears back into final position, press, topstitch in place.

3 Thread a small embroidery needle with embroidery floss that contrasts with elephants. Hand embroider eyes using a backstitch, as above.



4 To create tail tassels, use same embroidery floss and tapestry needle to stitch through base of tail, and clip thread leaving 5cm on either end of stitch.



Repeat several times until desired thickness of tail is created. Fold upper floss strands down, and machine stitch backward and forward several times to secure tassel.

5 To make pleats on shirt back, fold along yoke edge as indicated, matching notches, and baste in place 13mm from edge.



6 With right sides of each yoke piece facing each other, sandwich shirt back between two shirt yokes and sew in place using a 1.3cm seam allowance. Fold yoke pieces up and press. Topstitch along yokes just above seam 3mm from edge.



7 Lay bottom yoke on top of shirt side fronts and sew shoulder seams as shown using a 1.3cm seam allowance. Press shoulder seams toward back. Press 1cm to wrong side of shoulder seams on top yoke, fold top yoke in place on top of bottom yoke, and topstitch shoulder seams through all thicknesses.



8 With right sides together and matching notches, stitch sleeves into body of shirt. Press seams toward sleeves.



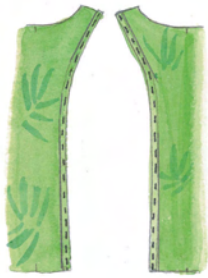


9 From notch, sew top collar to bottom collar with right sides together, using a 1.3cm seam allowance. Turn to right side, press. Fold 1cm of neck side top collar to wrong side and press.



13 Turn facings to inside. Topstitch top collar to bottom collar 3mm from seam through all thicknesses as shown. Topstitch shoulder seams 3mm from seam, securing folded top edge of front facings in seam.

10 Fold outside edge of front facings 6mm to wrong side and press, fold 6mm to wrong side again and press; topstitch in place.



11 Matching notches at centre back neck, sew under collar to shirt neck with right sides together, using a 1.3cm seam allowance.

14 Using a 1.3cm seam allowance, with right sides together, sew sleeve and underarm seams, pivoting at underarm.



12 Repeat with cuffs. Fold top edge of front facings 1cm to wrong side and press. Fold front facings to wrong side at notches. Stitch along neckline as illustrated using a 1.3cm seam allowance, sandwiching under collar between shirt body and facings, but keeping top collar free.

15 Hem sleeves by folding 6mm to wrong side, then 1.3cm and topstitching 1cm from the edge. Hem shirt bottom by folding 6mm to wrong side and press, then 2.5cm to wrong side and stitch 2cm from edge. Make buttonholes on left front placket as marked on pattern. Sew buttons on right front placket to correspond with buttonholes. Call your little adventurer and tell them it's time for a safari!



This project is taken from 'Wild Things to Sew and Wear' by Molly Goodall and published by Frances Lincoln, priced at £14.99, paperback.

In a Snap!

DESIGNED BY Helen Rhiannon Gill

This snap purse is a fantastic project as the finished result can be a reward to yourself or a fabulous gift for a friend. The lovely part of making the purses is that you need a very small amount of fabric so you can make as many as you like for a small price. Enjoy!



Materials

- 20cm x 33cm main cotton fabric
- 20cm x 28cm lining cotton fabric
- 20cm x 31cm medium weight felt
- 10cm x 5cm purse frame – silver or antique brass
- All purpose clear adhesive glue
- Piece of dowelling or old pencil
- Pegs

Good To Know

- *The purses are a little fiddly to make for the first time but look so fantastic that you will soon master them! Just make sure you keep your stitching within 0.5cm of the edge so it is hidden in the metal purse frame.*
- *IMPORTANT – Where a NOTCH is marked, using the tip of your scissors, cut into the notch no more than 3mm. These markings will be used to match up your pieces when constructing your purse.*
- *You will have to be reasonably quick when gluing as you want everything in place before it starts to dry. DO NOT USE SUPERGLUE! Practice without glue just to get a feel for how to do it as it is fiddly first time!*

To Cut – See pattern sheet for pattern pieces

Main fabric:
– Cut 2 pattern piece 1

Lining fabric:
– Cut 1 pattern piece 2

Felt:
– Cut 1 pattern piece 2
– Cut 2 pattern piece 3

To Sew

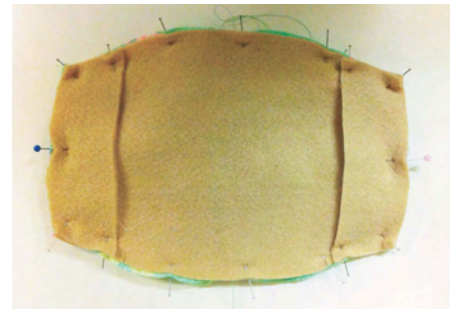
1 Take both of your outside pattern pieces. Fold NOTCH A in to meet NOTCH B from each side. Pin folds in place. (Practice this on the paper pattern first.)

2 Using a straight stitch on 2.5 stitch length, stitch along the folded edges to keep in place no more than 0.5cm from seam edge. These edges will be glued into the frame which is just over 0.5cm – you don't want any threads showing!

3 Pin seam 1 together making sure right sides are together. Sew a 0.5cm seam allowance with straight stitch. Using the iron, press the seam open.



4 Pin pattern 1 onto pattern 2 felt piece as shown. Match all the edges using the notches. It is important to keep the edges lined up – don't worry if it's not sitting flat as the pleat is there.



5 Pin the small felt pieces in place. Sew all layers together by sewing along the edge. It is important that you only sew 0.5cm in from the edge. Trim any edges of fabric to match the felt outline.



6 Fold your main piece (which is now fabric & felt as one layer) in half with the right sides together and pin exactly at the notch and then place one more pin between the notch and the fold. Repeat for your lining piece.



7 Sew 0.5cm from the fold and stop exactly at the notch. Don't go too close to the edge as it may fray. It is important to be accurate stopping exactly at the notch. Make sure to back stitch at the start and finish to keep it secure.



8 Cut any loose threads. Remove pins and then turn the felt and main fabric through so that the main fabric is on the

outside as shown. Insert the lining, making sure the raw edges are inside. Pin the lining to the main fabric – be as accurate as possible.

9 Poke the lining corners down to meet the felt corners inside. Also make sure you have matched the corners of each layer when pinning and have pinned right down to the notches.



10 Straight stitch around the top of the purse, no more than 0.5cm from the edge. Open the purse and stitch in one go all the way around.



11 Trim off any excess if you have any but no more than 3mm. This edge will be inserted inside the metal frame which is no wider than approximately 7mm, which is why you need to keep your stitching neat and within the allowance.

12 Set your machine to zigzag with a very short stitch width of about 0.4cm and stitch length of about 3.5. You now need to zigzag all the way around the top of both sides to stop any fraying by sewing the raw edges. This secures all of the fabrics together and gives a neater edge for inserting into the frame.



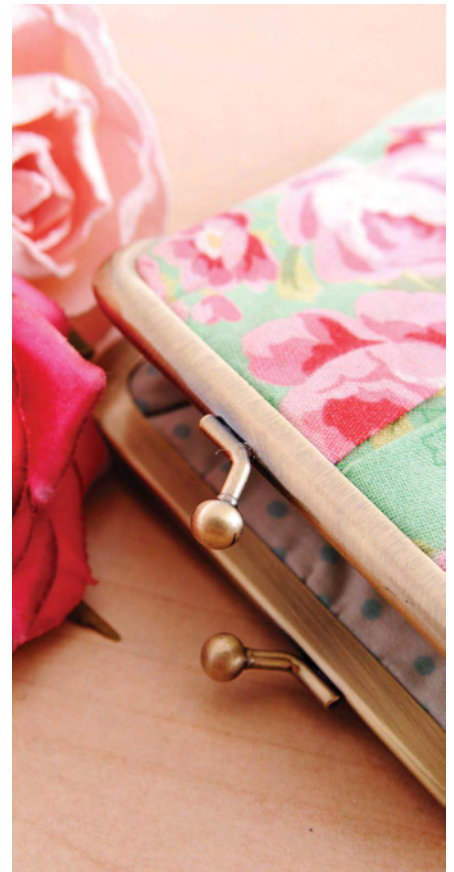
13 Let the needle sit right at the edge of the fabric when sewing zigzag and let it continue into the fabric to the allowed width. Don't worry about your stitching as no one will see it as it will be hidden in the frame! The main purpose is to secure the layers together.

14 Place a big blob of glue on some paper and using your piece of dowelling, get as much into the frame without it pouring out. (Don't worry, it will come off the frame easily after but be careful with your purse as it can be more difficult to get off.)

15 Starting with the corners of the purse, push them up into the frame as far as they will go and then ease the rest of the fabric in. When in place, hold it in place with either pegs or just your hands for a few minutes. It dries very quickly.

16 Repeat for the other side but be careful not to displace the frame already glued. Allow to dry for about 5-10 minutes.





Stockist Details

Snap Purse frames – All Sewn up Wales,
www.allsewnupwales.co.uk/product/workshop-materials/
 tel: 07867 915993



Name... Helen Rhiannon Gill

All About Me... As well as teaching people how to sew through my All Sewn Up Workshops, I am a fashion designer specialising in unique handmade wedding dresses. I am lucky to live by the beautiful coastline of Gower in Swansea. I have been running my own business for 10 years and I love that my hobbies are my full time career. I am never happier than when I'm being creative in my log cabin in the garden!



A woman wearing a white dress with a vibrant pink and red floral pattern is shown from the side, holding a piece of the same fabric. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with a wooden table and a clock.

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- 11 embroidery fonts
- Colour LCD touch screen



Innov-is 800E

- Embroidery only machine
- 260 x 160 embroidery area
- 138 built-in embroidery designs
- 11 embroidery fonts
- Colour LCD touch screen

Storage Savours!

DESIGNED BY Emily Levey

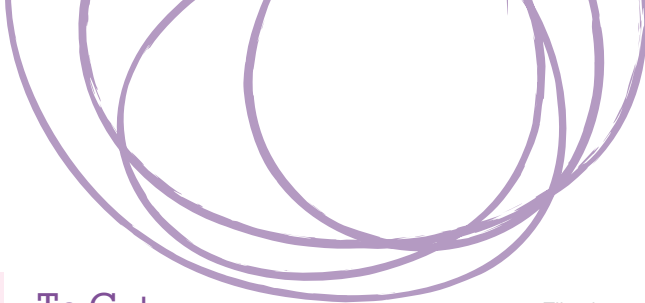
EASY FOR YOU

Step measurements in inches and buying measurements in both metric and imperial to make it easier for you!

EASY FOR YOU

A useful trio of nesting baskets that are perfect for organising and storage whilst at the same time showing off your favourite prints. This project is perfect for reducing that pile of scraps and uses Quilt-As-You-Go techniques.





Materials

- 50cm (fat quarter) fabrics for outer – Aneela Hoey 'Hello Petal' and 'A Walk In The Woods' prints for Moda
- 50cm (fat quarter) lining fabric – Robert Kaufman Kona 'Shadow'
- 25cm (10") wadding – Fiberco Recycled Eco Cloud 70/30 Blend

Good To Know

- *Fabrics used are 44" wide. It is a good idea to pre-wash your fabrics and give them a press and light starching prior to using. If you have a walking foot it can be extremely helpful during the quilting and construction of the baskets.*
- *Use a 1/4" seam allowance unless otherwise stated. Remember to backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam to secure your stitches.*
- *Finished sizes: large basket 9" x 6" x 4", medium basket 7" x 5" x 4", small basket 5" x 3 1/2" x 4"*
- *Read through the instructions in full before starting. Aim to choose fabrics that tone well together. If you are unsure on picking out different fabrics then a jelly roll can be a great solution as this is a pre cut pack of co-ordinating strips from one fabric line. If you wish to use smaller pieces than the instructions require, simply stitch them together until you have a piece long enough before quilting onto the wadding.*

To Cut

Main fabrics:

- Large basket:
– Cut a selection of strips at least 14" long in a variety of widths
- Medium basket:
– Cut a selection of strips at least 12" long in a variety of widths
- Small basket:
– Cut a selection of strips at least 10" long in a variety of widths

Lining fabric:

- Large basket:
– Cut 2 13" x 8 1/2" pieces
- Medium basket:
– Cut 2 11" x 7 1/2" pieces
- Small basket:
– Cut 2 9" x 6" pieces

Wadding:

- Large basket:
– Cut 2 14" x 9 1/2" pieces
- Medium basket:
– Cut 2 12" x 8 1/2" pieces
- Small basket:
– Cut 2 10" x 7" pieces

To Sew

1 Starting with the large basket lay a strip with the right side facing up along the top edge of a piece of wadding. Quilt into place, using a longer stitch length such as 3.5mm to give a good result. You can be as random or uniform with your quilting as desired. You could even use a few decorative stitches if you wish.



2 Take a second strip and lay it right sides together with the strip already quilted onto the wadding, make sure that the bottom edges are aligned. Sew along this bottom edge.



3 Flip the second piece over so that it is facing the right way up and press the seam. Quilt onto the wadding as you did for the first strip.



4 Continue to add strips in this way until you have covered the wadding entirely.



5 Repeat this process for the second piece of wadding and remaining strips. To save wastage you can cut strips as you go if you prefer. Once both pieces are fully quilted trim them to the same size as your lining pieces.



6 From each of the bottom corners cut a 2" square and repeat this on both of the quilted pieces.



7 Repeat step 6 with the two lining pieces.



8 Turn your stitch length back down to your usual setting for sewing seams. Place the two quilted pieces right sides facing together and stitch down both sides and along the bottom edge. There are three separate seams and the cut out corners are left un-sewn for now.



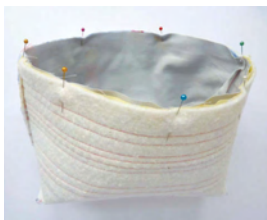
9 Press seam allowances open and bring the side seams in line with the bottom seam, opening out the corners as you do. Stitch along the corner, repeating for the other side of the basket.



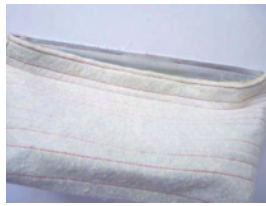
10 Repeat steps 8 and 9 with your two lining pieces however this time use a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. This will help prevent the lining from being baggy inside the basket.



11 Turn the lining the right way out and place inside the outer section with the right sides facing together. Pin around the top edge, aligning the side seams and ensuring the seam allowances are open.



12 Leaving a 3" turning gap in one of the sides, stitch all the way around the top edge. Take care to make sure the seam allowances stay open as you stitch over them. If you have a free arm on your machine this can be very helpful in this step and the next one.



13 Turn the basket the right way out through the turning gap. Tuck the lining down inside the basket and press the top seam well, taking time to ensure the seam is lying on the very top edge of the basket. Tuck the un-sewn raw edges of the turning gap in as you go. Topstitch all the way around the top of the basket around $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge to close your turning gap and finish the basket.



14 Repeat steps 1-13 for the medium and small basket, paying attention to the differing sizes. The corner cutouts however remain at 2" for all three baskets.



Stockist Details

Fabric – Fabritastic, www.fabritastic.co.uk, tel: 01733 367260 and Plush Addict, www.plushaddict.co.uk, tel: 0845 519 4422

Wadding – Fabric Guild, www.fabricguild.co.uk, tel: 0116 262 0569

Name... Emily Levey

All About Me... I have a passion for sewing and love to share my knowledge and skills, teaching forgotten techniques. I first started sewing 20 years ago and have not put my needle down since. Today I can always be found in my studio, surrounded by fabric, rustling up a new dress or working on my latest quilt or pattern. Of course there is always lots of tea drinking, cake eating and stroking of fabric too!

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Cooking

up a storm!

DESIGNED BY Stuart Hillard



As soon as the weather warms up I'm out in the garden with the barbecue fired up. More often than not I can't wait for good weather and brave the cold just to smell and taste food cooking over hot coals. A sturdy apron is an essential piece of kit for any man cooking in the garden; it protects clothes and exposed flesh from splashes but more importantly it defines you as Head Chef!

Adult Apron

Materials

- 1.6m medium/heavy weight canvas, cotton drill or calico
- Matching thread

Good To Know

- Use a 1cm seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
- Fabric width 112cm used.
- The apron can be shortened (take a few cm off the bottom edge) or narrowed (fold the pattern in half lengthwise, cut down this line and overlap the pattern pieces).
- Change the pocket shape, curve the lower edge or make two smaller patch pockets.
- Use a contrast fabric for the pocket, neck strap and waist ties. Embellish the pocket and hems with ric rac braid.
- Personalise the apron with a name or appliquéd motifs.

To Cut

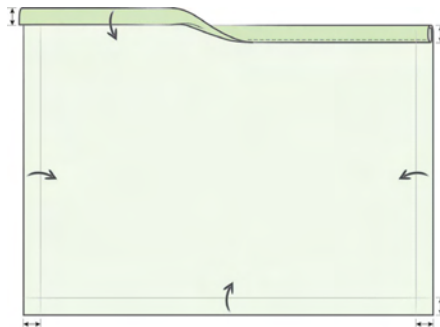
Main fabric:

- Cut 1 main apron on fold
- Cut 1 80cm x 30cm pocket (see Good to Know)
- Cut 1 60cm x 8cm neck strap
- Cut 2 92.5cm x 8cm waist ties

To Sew

1 Mark out the pocket, neck strap and waist tie position on the main body.

2 Fold the neck strap in half along its long edge and press. Open the strip out, fold under the raw edges on each side by 1cm and press. Refold the strip to form a neatened strap that is now 2.5cm wide. Topstitch close to the open edge. Do the same with both waist ties but also turn in one short end by 1cm twice to form a neat end. Again, topstitch to close and neaten.



3 Make the pocket. Fold the top edge down by 1cm and press. Repeat to make a double hem and topstitch close to the edge. Now fold in the side and bottom hems by 1cm but press only – do not stitch yet. Fold the pocket in half and crease the centre lightly to mark the pocket division. Pin the pocket to the apron front using the placement markings, then pin and topstitch around the sides and bottom to attach the pocket. Reinforce the pocket corners by stitching a small triangle. Sew a couple of lines down the centre of the pocket to divide it into two.

4 Hem the edge of the apron. Start with the curved hems; you may need to clip into the hem allowance a little to create a smooth hem. Fold under a neat 1cm hem and press. Repeat to enclose the raw edges and then topstitch the hem.



5 Fold under a double 2cm hem on the top neck edge. Tuck the raw edges of the neck strap under this hem at the marked points, with the neck strap hanging down, then topstitch across the entire neck edge hem. Turn the neck strap up into its final position and stitch the neck strap into position by stitching a rectangle.

6 For the side hems turn under a double 1cm hem, tuck the raw ends of the waist ties in at the marked points, stitch the hem then fold the ties out and stitch again.

7 Finally turn under a double 1cm for the bottom hem and topstitch in place.

8 Get the barbecue lit, it's time to cook!



Children love to cook and help out in the kitchen! My mum had me peeling veg and potatoes and making cakes from about the age of six or seven. I learned kitchen craft and a love of cooking from her. She also taught me to make the best gravy in the world. No kitchen helper is complete without his or her own pint-sized apron and this one even has a 'wooden spoon' appliquéd into the pocket! Adding the appliqué makes this apron a little harder than the regular adult size but it's so cute I think it's worth the extra effort.

Child's Apron

Materials

- 45cm main fabric
- Matching thread
- Scrap brown fabric for wooden spoon
- Fusible web
- 25cm x 25cm fabric for pocket

Good To Know

- *Finished size will fit an average nine year old.*
- *Use a 1cm seam allowance unless otherwise stated.*
- *Fabric width 112cm used.*
- *Print the letters of your young chef's name in letters large enough to make sewing easy but small enough to fit on the apron. Use your printed letters as templates but remember to reverse them for the fusible appliqué! Appliqué the letters to the front of your apron and zigzag or straight stitch the letters in place before you construct the apron.*

To Cut

Main fabric:

- Cut 1 main apron piece on fold
- Cut 3 8cm x 50cm strips for waist ties and the neck strap

Pocket fabric:

- Cut 1 25cm x 22cm pocket

Brown scrap fabric:

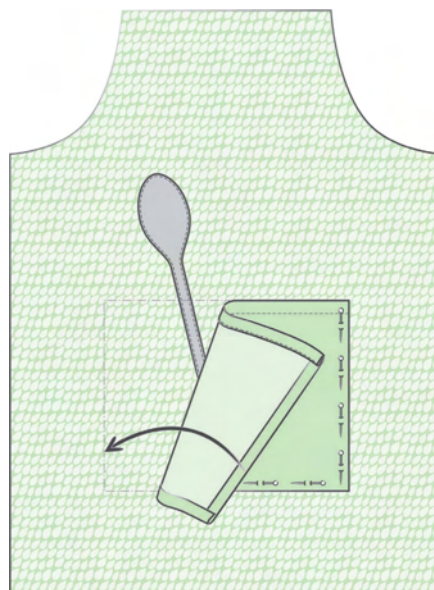
- Cut 1 wooden spoon

To Sew

1 Transfer the pocket, neck strap and waist tie position markings.

2 Fold and press the three strips in half along the long edges, then fold the raw edges in to meet the centre fold. Neaten one end of each waist tie by turning the short raw edge as well. Press and topstitch along the tucked-in short edge and down one side to make three strips that are approximately 50cm x 2cm.

3 Using the fusible web, fuse the spoon to the front of the apron and topstitch in place.



4 Fold pocket piece hems under by 1cm at the shorter sides and the longer bottom edge and then turn under a double 1cm hem in along the top edge.

Topstitch this top double hem in matching sewing thread. Position the pocket on the apron front, covering the lower edge of the appliquéd spoon. Pin in place then topstitch the pocket in place, reinforcing the corners.

5 Make double 0.5cm hems at each curved armhole edge and stitch in place. Fold a double 1cm hem at the top (neck) edge and tuck the raw edges of the neck strap under this hem. Pin, then topstitch across the entire neck edge hem. Now turn the neck strap up into its final position and reinforce the neck strap position by stitching a rectangle.

6 Make double 1cm hems down the apron sides, tucking the waist ties in as you go. Sew in place. Finally turn and stitch a double 1cm hem at the apron bottom.



This project is an extract from 'Sew Fabulous' by Stuart Hillard, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in hardback, priced at £20 or as an eBook at £10.99.

Smart Tote

DESIGNED BY Susan Dunlop of SusieDDesigns

Make this modern tote to use as an oversized handbag or a useful craft project bag. It has two interior pockets and a wide base provides room for bulky items.



Materials

- 25cm fabric 1 – cotton print, Blomster in Emerald, from 'Mormor' by Lotta Jansdotter
- 25cm fabric 2 – cotton print, Bergen in Emerald, from 'Mormor' by Lotta Jansdotter
- 25cm fabric 3 – cotton print, Bergen in Slate, from 'Mormor' by Lotta Jansdotter
- 50cm lining fabric – cotton print, 'Chromatics Pointelle Noir' by Art Gallery Fabrics
- 2m medium weight, woven fusible interfacing
- 8cm x 37cm plastic canvas bag base
- 15mm riveted press snap and fixing tool

Good To Know

- Fabric width used 112cm.
- R/S = right side, W/S = wrong side.
- RST = right side together, WST = wrong side together.
- Seam allowances are included in the cutting sizes.
- Use 1cm seam allowance throughout, unless stated otherwise.
- Finished size: 25cm x 39cm x 10cm

To Cut

Fabric 1:
 – Cut 4 15cm x 24cm main body panels
 – Cut 2 20cm x 20cm pockets

Fabric 2:
 – Cut 2 15cm x 24cm centre panels
 – Cut 2 20cm x 25cm pocket lining

Fabric 3:
 – Cut 2 10cm x 41cm top panels
 – Cut 2 12cm x 55cm handles

Lining fabric:
 – Cut 2 32cm x 41cm main body lining

Fusible interfacing:
 – Cut 6 15cm x 24cm main body/centre panels
 – Cut 2 10cm x 41cm top panels
 – Cut 2 6cm x 55cm handles
 – Cut 2 20cm x 20cm pockets
 – Cut 2 32cm x 41cm main body lining

To Sew

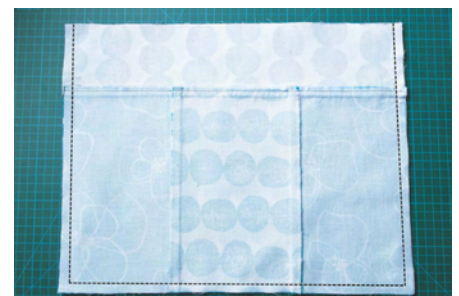
1 Fuse all the interfacing pieces to the W/S of the corresponding fabric pieces, positioning the handle pieces centrally widthways.



2 With RST, sew the long edges of two main body panels to the long side edges of a centre panel. Press the seams toward the main body panels and topstitch 5mm from the seams. Repeat with the remaining main body panels and centre panel.



3 With RST, sew the bottom edge of a top panel to the top edge of a pieced main body. Press the seam toward the top panel and topstitch 5mm from seam. Repeat with other top panel and main body.



4 Place the main body outers RST, matching up the centre panel seams at the bottom, pin. Stitch sides and bottom edge. Press the seams open.



5 Make the flat base by refolding the outer bag, RST, to match up the side seams with the bottom seam. Measure 5cm down from each corner and mark a line across where it measures 10cm. Stitch the marked lines and trim off the corners to leave 5mm seams. Turn R/S out, easing all the edges out neatly.



6 Fold a handle piece in half, WST and lengthways, press. Open out and fold long edges to W/S to meet at centre crease, press. Fold in half again to bring folded edges together, press. Topstitch both long edges with a 3mm seam. Repeat to make another handle.



7 With RST, position the ends of one handle onto the front of the outer bag, matching up the raw edges and placing each one 9cm in from the side seams. Baste 5mm from edge. Repeat to baste the other handle ends to the back of the outer bag.



8 Make the interior pockets. Place a pocket and lining piece RST, aligned

at sides and bottom edges. Stitch a seam at both sides and bottom edge. Snip across the bottom corners, avoiding the stitching. Turn R/S out, easing corners out with a point turner, press.

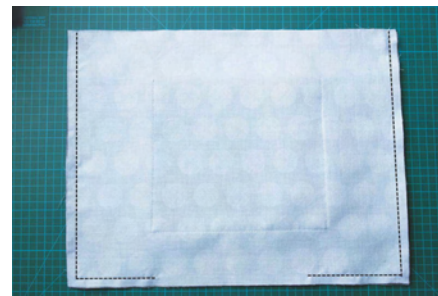


9 Fold over and press the side edges of the excess pocket lining, so that the folded edges are vertically in line with the pocket sides, press. Fold over the top of the lining to meet with top edge of pocket, press. Fold over again so lining now overlaps the pocket, press and pin. Topstitch the sides and bottom edge of the overlapping lining, staying close to the edge.

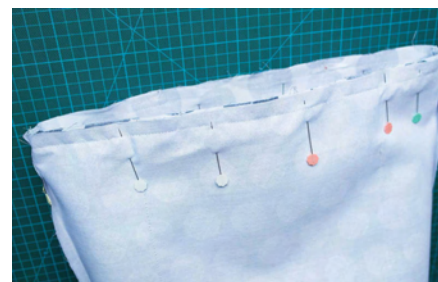
10 Repeat steps 8 and 9 to make the second interior pocket.



11 With both R/S up, lay an interior pocket on top of a main body lining piece, positioning centrally, pin. Topstitch a 3mm seam at both sides and bottom edge of the pocket. Repeat with other pocket and main body lining.



12 Repeat step 4 to sew the main body lining pieces together, this time leaving a 20cm gap at centre of bottom seam for turning later. Repeat step 5 to make the flat base.



13 Insert outer bag into lining bag, RST, matching up side seams and top edges, pin. Ensure the handles remain hanging upside down between the layers. Stitch around top edges.



14 Pull outer bag through the gap in the lining, so both are now R/S out. Take the piece of plastic canvas and insert through the lining gap. Position onto the interior base of the outer bag and take a few hand-stitches through the bottom seam to hold in place. Alternatively, you could use a piece of stiff interfacing.

15 Fold in and press the lining gap edges to match the rest of the seam, pin. Stitch the gap closed, either by hand or machine stitch very close to the folded edges.



16 Push lining bag down inside outer bag. Press the top edges of bag so the seam sits neatly at top. Topstitch all around opening of bag, 5mm from edge.

17 Attach the riveted press snap parts to the top panels.



Stockist Details

Fabric – Eclectic Maker,
www.eclecticmaker.co.uk,
 tel: 0845 8625552

Interfacing, plastic canvas and snap –
 SusieDDesigns, www.susieddesigns.co.uk,
 tel: 07704 100 464



Name... Susan Dunlop

All About Me... I live in Scotland with my husband and four children. I love sewing, adore modern fabrics and bags are my thing. Look out for my new bag-making book, 'Style and Swing: 12 Structured Handbags for Beginners and Beyond'. Visit www.susieddesigns.co.uk for patterns, supplies and kits.



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Funky Felt Flowers

DESIGNED BY Jane Davies

Fun and funky, these retro Fifties inspired felt flower designs capture the charm of your summer garden. Simple felt shapes are cut out and applied by machine stitching to create either a picture or a small bag suitable for your paperback or electronic book.

Picture

Materials

- 24cm x 25.5cm purple wool felt for background
- 4 pieces of coloured wool felt for flowers approx 8cm x 14 cm or smaller
- 21cm x 15cm green wool felt for stems and leaves
- Black and white sewing machine thread
- Small sharp pointed embroidery scissors
- Quilters' self heal cutting mat and rotary cutter (optional)
- Quilters' gloves (optional)



Good To Know

- *Wool felt has been used for these projects. This is denser and more stable than synthetic felt, especially when cutting out small pieces, so it is worth trying to source if possible.*
- *If you are new to free machine stitching, practice first on some spare fabric until you are more confident.*
- *Always iron your work from the reverse.*

To Cut – See pattern sheet for templates

Purple wool felt:

- Cut 1 24cm x 24cm piece for background
- Cut 1 1.5cm x 24cm strip for base

Coloured felt:

- Cut flower pattern pieces

Green felt:

- Cut 6 narrow strips for stems and base line
- Cut leaves as required

To Sew

1 Sew a tacking line 1.5cm in from each edge of your background felt to make a 'frame' in which to place the flowers. This will leave room to display your finished piece in a window mount or will allow a small hem to be cut off leaving a really neat edge if you display the picture.

2 Place the five main flower shapes onto your background fabric. Refer to the pattern diagram and reposition until you are happy with the arrangement. Make sure that there is plenty of space to add the smaller pattern pieces and stitching without going over the edge of the tacked frame line. Cut out and place the smaller pattern pieces – circles, triangles etc. and the flower centres.



3 Add the long stems curving some of them slightly, and add the grass leaves in between, crossing some over as in the diagram. Once you are happy with the placement of all the pattern pieces pin where possible. Tack the shapes down and remove pins.



4 Using the black thread in the top and bottom of your machine, and with the presser foot on, sew the central line of the flower stems and each edge of the grass leaves with straight stitch. You may need to lift up the flower shapes slightly to hide the beginning or end when stitching the stems. Keep all other starts and stops at the base of the panel. These will be hidden by the horizontal base strips sewn down at the end of the project.



5 Set up your machine for straight stitch free sewing. Lower the feed teeth or cover them up – refer to your machine

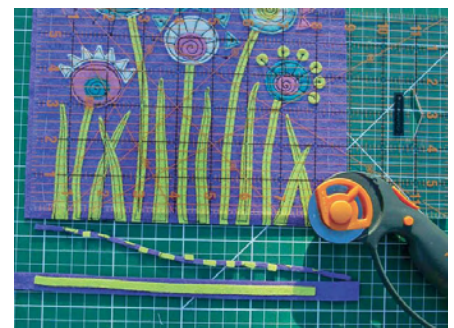
instructions if you are not sure. Sew round the main flower shapes twice. Try to sew smoothly and without jumping off the line too much. Stop the machine with the needle down into the fabric, and then turn the fabric round the needle to sew a neat curve. Use quilters' gloves for better control if you wish.

6 Sew the smaller circles in the centres of the flowers and the central spirals. Finally sew the smaller details. Take your time and do not rush.



7 Once all the sewing lines have been finished, neaten off any ends. Turn your work over and press from the reverse.

8 Neaten off the base of the panel by trimming a very narrow piece along the edge using a rotary cutter if possible. Place the narrow strip of purple felt along the bottom line to cover all and secure with a single line of straight stitching along the centre. Then place the narrower strip of green felt on top of it and sew it down covering up the first sewing line and neatening everything.



9 Press again from the reverse. Place onto a cutting mat and neatly trim the edges to the tacking line or wherever is suitable, using a rotary cutter. Make sure it is 'square' by lining up the base line and measuring from there. If you wish to display in a window mount then you can position as needed without trimming.



Bag

Materials

- 56cm x 26cm white wool felt for the bag
- 4 pieces of coloured wool felt for flowers approx 8cm x 14cm or smaller
- 21cm x 15cm green wool felt for stems and leaves
- Black and white sewing machine thread
- Small sharp pointed embroidery scissors
- Quilters' self heal cutting mat and rotary cutter (optional)
- Quilters' gloves (optional)

To Cut – See pattern sheet for templates

White felt:

- Cut 1 56cm x 20cm piece
- Cut 2 26cm x 6cm handles

Coloured felt:

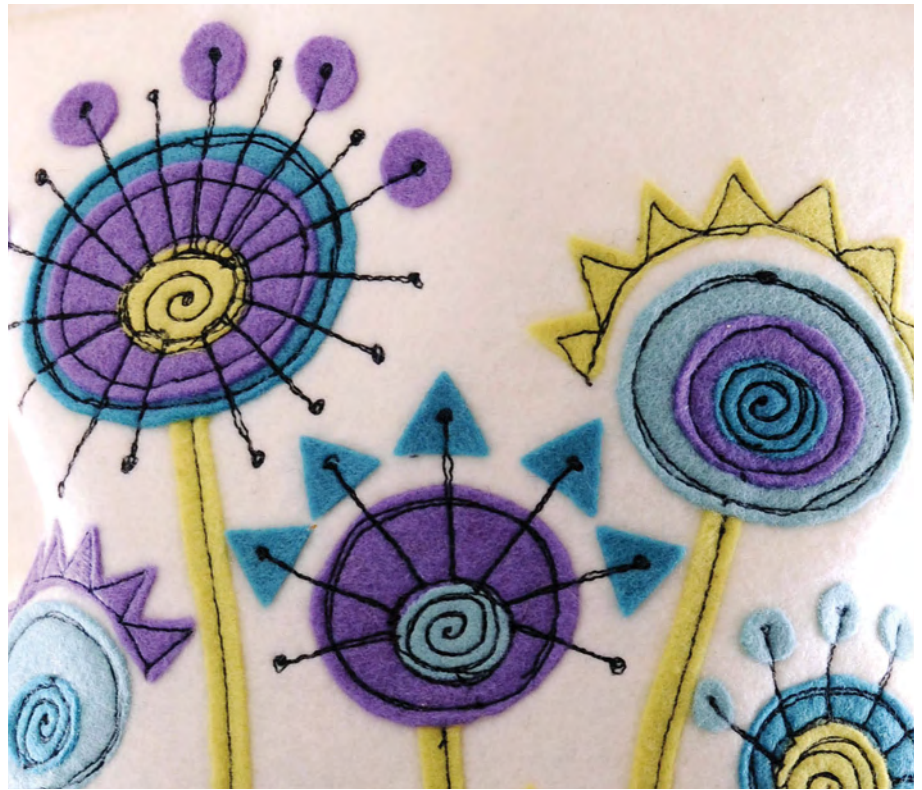
- Cut flower pattern pieces

Green felt:

- Cut 6 narrow strips for stems and base line
- Cut leaves as required

1 Fold the large piece of white felt in half to make the bag shape and press to locate centre. Open out and tack along this line and also tack one other line about 2cm higher up. This will be the front of the bag.

2 Fold over 2.5cm of both of the top edges of the bag. Press and tack in place.



3 Cut out the pattern pieces for the flowers, stems and leaves as for the picture. Remember to leave enough space to sew a narrow seam either side of the bag. Position the leaves and stems slightly over the tacking line at the base of the bag. Pin, tack and sew as detailed above. Press again. Trim any wavy edges if necessary.

4 Make up the bag – fold the two handles in half along the long edges and sew a narrow hem using white thread. Position the handles in the middle of the bag and sew in place from the inside. Turn to the right side and sew a seam right across the bag to secure the folds. Sew a strip of green felt along using black thread on top and white thread on the bobbin.

5 Fold the bag in half and sew the narrow side seams using white thread top and bottom. Then move to the base and turn up a 1.5cm fold to the front, right the way along the bag. Sew along the centre to secure. Sew a narrow green strip of felt to cover the first stitching line using black thread on top and neaten everything off. Press from the reverse.

Stockist Details

Wool felt – Blooming Felt,
www.bloomingfelt.co.uk tel: 01245
 471690
 or
 Wool Felt Company,
www.woolfeltcompany.co.uk

Name... Jane Davies

All About Me... I am a keen traveller and collector of worldwide embroidered textiles. Since moving to the Welsh Borders, I have found inspiration for my work in the beautiful countryside around me everyday. I have written numerous magazine articles and can often be found teaching at quilting and embroidery shows. Please contact me for a list of my talks and workshops:
www.janedavies.btck.co.uk or email
sjanedavies@gmail.com

Sunny Days!

DESIGNED BY Metia Bethell



A cotton print sundress with a mock collar and flattering plunge neckline, suitable for all kinds of occasions, from the office to the beach. You can contrast the collar and waistband if you like, or omit the pleats and use simple gathers to make it a fast and satisfying project.

Materials

- 3m main fabric – striped cotton
- 2m lining – thin, plain white cotton poplin
- 0.5m lightweight fusible interfacing.
- Invisible 36cm zip
- 6 buttons

Sizing Chart:	Bust cm	Waist cm
12	90	72
14	94	76
16	98	80
18	102	84
20	106	88
22	110	92

Good To Know

- Use a 1cm seam allowance throughout unless otherwise stated. Note there is no seam allowance on armholes as they are bound.
- We used European sizing (smaller increments), so please check your bust/waist measurement with a tape measure before you start, and choose the size most appropriate to you.
- A PAIR means that you flip the pattern piece.
- Minimum fabric width you can use is 120cm on sizes 12, 14 and 16, 150cm on sizes 18, 20 and 22.
- Pleats use tons of fabric! 12cm for every 4cm pleat. They look smart, and are worth the effort, but if you do not want a lot of bulk at the waist, try simple gathers instead (use the skirt lining pattern piece for main dress too).
- SIZES 12, 16 and 20 ONLY: Because the pleated skirt panels need to be joined MID PLEAT on one side, please trim 6cm off the edge of the two skirt pieces, as directed on the pattern (one upper edge, one lower, if you want to keep the notches perfect). You can put these edges where the zip opening is, if you like.
- This pattern assumes that you are confident in putting in a zip.

To Cut – See pattern sheet for pattern pieces

Main fabric:

- Cut 1 back panel on fold (2)
- Cut 2 pieces of 4cm bias binding (3)
- Cut 1 button loops piece for binding (4)
- Cut 1 button modesty panel (5)
- Cut 2 (a pair) collar/facing panels (6)
- Cut 2 (a pair) front panels (7)
- Cut 2 outer skirt panels, back and front on fold (8)
- Cut 1 waistband (10)

Lining fabric:

- Cut 2 (a pair) front lining panels (1)
- Cut 1 back panel on fold (2)
- Cut 2 skirt lining panels (9)
- Cut 1 waistband (10)

Interfacing:

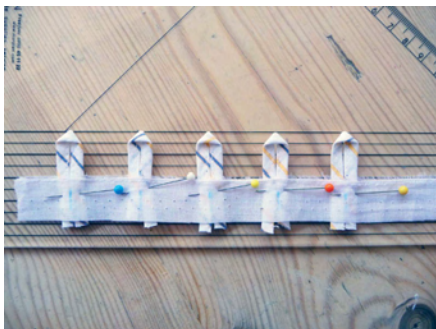
- Cut 1 button modesty panel (5)
- Cut 2 (a pair) collar/facing panels (6)
- Cut 1 waistband (10)

To Sew



1 On pattern pieces notch for darts, zip and pleats, and sew all the darts. Interface the collar/facing panels and the outer fabric waistband.

2 Attach collar/facing to front lining and give everything a good press.



3 Take the button loops strip and fold sides to centre, fold in half, press and stitch to make your loops. Cut loops from this, evenly as marked. Place loops so that they measure 1.5cm when pressed to a point. Pin directly in place, or sew to a scrap of fabric to keep steady as shown. Attach to left hand side of the main garment front.



4 Make the modesty panel. Fold in half, sew top seam, clip corner, turn RS out and press. Attach to right hand side of the main garment front.

5 Place front lining panels to match front outer panels RS together. Stitch from top, along the collar curve, to bottom (CENTRE FRONT sides of panel).

6 Under-stitching – this step is not necessary, but worth the extra time if you do it. Stitch seam allowance to the lining from the centre front bottom to the collar roll point. Stitch seam allowance to the outer fabric from the collar roll point up to the top centre front. Trim seam allowance and press.

7 Fold back collar from roll point along roll line to match notches.

8 Attach the back panels to the front, main fabric to main, lining to lining, down the right hand side seam (leave left hand side open for zip).



9 Stitch lining shoulders together - stitch from armhole to roll line and stop there (see where the scissors point to in the picture). Fold collar in place and pin. Stitch along shoulders to the same point, taking care not to stitch through the lining where they meet.

10 Sew back neck, lining and outer together. Clip corners, trim seams and press. You can under-stitch the back neck if you wish.

11 Align front and stay stitch bottom of front opening, through all thicknesses.



12 Align inner and outer waistbands and stitch onto bodice between the two front darts as shown, through all thicknesses. Finish attaching separately, outer waistband to dress outer, and lining to lining.



13 Pleats – sew outer skirt panels down right hand side and pin pleats in place. Stay stitch them if you wish.

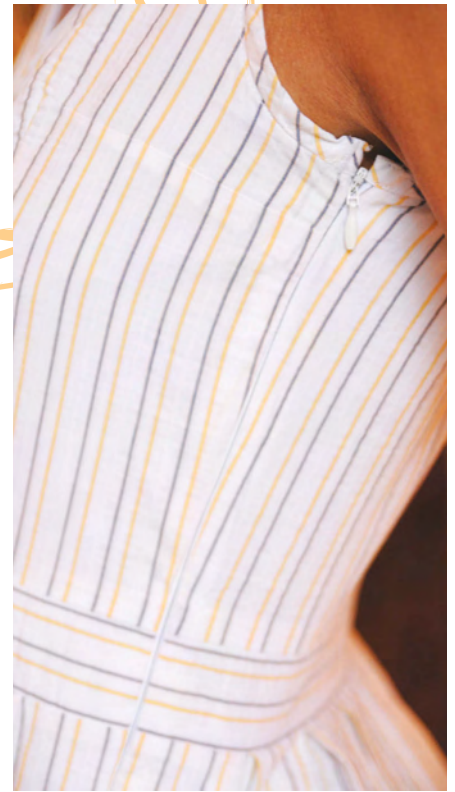
14 Gather the skirt lining panels 2:1 as stated on pattern piece. Attach gathered skirt lining to lining waistband, matching side seams. Attach pleated outer skirt to outer waistband.



15 Sew the left hand side seam on outer fabric and on lining fabric to zip position. Attach zip to outer fabric. Turn inside out and neatly baste lining fabric to zip.

16 Attach bias binding to armholes. Stitch from bottom of armhole, through all thicknesses, turn over, fold in and topstitch in place. On right hand arm, turn over end of bias binding to neaten. On left hand by the zip, fold long ends into garment, bar tack and trim.

17 Hem lining and outer skirts. Attach your buttons. Turn right side out and press.



Stockist Details

Fabric – Abakhan Fabrics,
www.abakhan.co.uk, tel: 01782 274 200.
 They have stores across the North West.

Buttons – Textile Garden,
www.textilegarden.com tel: 01903
 815702 or 07736 904109

Name... Metia Bethell

All About Me... I am a freelance clothes designer, working from home in the beautiful Staffordshire Moorlands, where I live with my fiancé and two children, age 4 and 2. I trained at the Manchester College, abandoning a career in marketing in 2010 to pursue my first love, making clothes. I also do lots of drawing, play classical guitar, and am in a South American folk music group. I was educated at home. My favourite haunt is Abakhan Fabrics!



Tidy Sewing!

DESIGNED BY Gemma Goode

This sewing tidy is for keeping all your sewing items at hand and in one place while you work, at the same time stabilising your sewing machine and protecting the work surface. It has two handy pockets positioned down one side of the mat, which is away from your knees while you work and a handy removable pin cushion to collect all those loose pins. Tie it all up neatly and transport it to your next sewing class too!

Materials

- 46cm x 150cm main fabric – Patchwork Cotton Duck by Cath Kidston
- 40cm plain cotton fabric for lining
- 40cm cotton wadding medium weight
- 5m bias binding 2.5cm wide
- Small quantity of filling for pin cushion (toy filling will work)
- 2 2cm round or square buttons
- Quilting sewing machine arm (optional)
- Tailors chalk or vanishing marker
- Long ruler

Good To Know

- Use 1cm seam allowance throughout where a seam allowance is stated.
- Finished mat size 61.5cm x 34.5cm.
- Pocket drop panel drop length 38cm x 21.5cm.
- Pick a medium to heavy weight cotton fabric, if you choose a one way fabric design. Make sure your fabric is not upside down when put together.

To Cut – See pattern sheet for pattern pieces

Main fabric:

- Cut 1 mat
- Cut 1 pocket panel drop
- Cut 2 pockets
- Cut 2 pin cushions
- Cut 2 pin cushion loops

Lining fabric:

- Cut 1 mat
- Cut 1 pocket panel drop

Wadding:

- Cut 1 mat
- Cut 1 pocket panel drop

To Sew

1 Transfer pattern markings to fabric.



2 Sewing mat section – sandwich together main fabric, wadding and lining. Pin and tack all together across the whole mat to secure. Mark the quilting lines on the main fabric (following the paper pattern guide) using a long ruler or similar, mark the lines on the fabric with chalk or vanishing marker.



3 Machine sew following the diagonal lines across one way of the fabric, then turn and repeat across the other way to form a square shape. A quilting machine bar can be used at this stage, if you have one. Cut loose threads as you go.



4 Trim a slight curve around the four corners of the mat, as this will help when applying the bias binding. Machine stitch close around the edge, which will secure the three layers together giving a firm edge to apply binding.



5 Fold and press 2m of bias binding in half widthways, pin and tack bias binding around the edge of the mat, checking it is snug against the edge. Fold the corners around neatly as you go. When the bias reaches the end overlap and tack in place and trim any bias away if needed. Using a 0.5cm wide machine stitch to secure in place, a decorative stitch or a zigzag stitch will work, remembering to check the underneath as you go. Remove all tacking stitches and hand stitch any edges to give a neat finish if needed.

6 To make the pocket back panel drop, follow steps 2 to 4.



7 Making the pockets – fold pocket in half, wrong sides together and press. Place bias binding along the top raw edge of the pocket, pin, tack and sew as before with a decorative stitch. Repeat for the second pocket.



8 Pin and tack the pockets into place on the back panel drop, following the markings for positioning the pockets. Machine the pockets down the sides and along the bottom of each pocket. To give a firm edge to apply the bias binding, machine stitch close around the edge of the entire panel, trim edges slightly if needed. Follow step 5 using 1.3m of bias binding.

9 Apply the finished pocket panel to the sewing mat, tuck pocket panel drop to the underside of the sewing mat about 3cm, pin securely then sew together from the right side, hand stitching corners if needed.



10 Pin cushion loops – to make the button loops fold equal raw edges to the centre length ways, press and fold again, tack and top stitch.



11 Putting pin cushion together – place button loops on main fabric, loops facing inwards. Secure loops with a few stitches. Place the remaining fabric on top, pin tack and machine remembering to leave an opening to pull through to the right side.



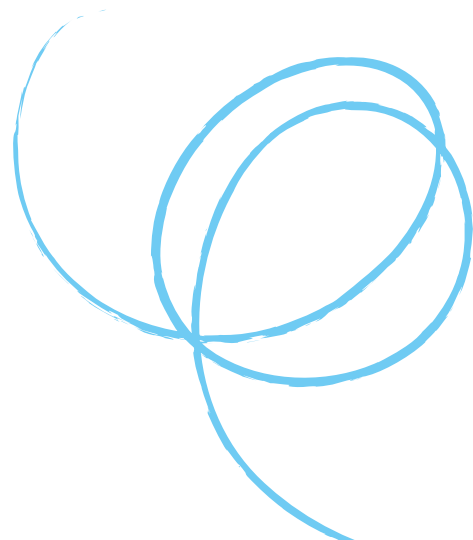
12 Trim the corners slightly being careful not to trim too near the machine line, turn through to the right side and press.



13 Fill the pin cushion with wadding until it is lightly filled and hand sew the open seam. Topstitch 1cm around the pin cushion edge. Trim all loose threads.



14 Position pin cushion on the sewing mat, hand stitch the buttons in place under the loops.





15 Make a tie to fold up your sewing tidy when not in use. Fold 90cm of bias binding in half, press and topstitch. Fold over the ends and neaten by hand, attach the tie to the underside of mat. Hand stitch to secure, being careful not to show your stitches through to the right side.

Stockist Details

Main fabric – Cath Kidston,
www.cathkidston.co.uk

Cotton lining and wadding – Doughty's,
www.doughtysonline.co.uk,
tel: 01432 265561



Name... Gemma Goode

All About Me... I am married and live in Herefordshire. I have been sewing since I was a little girl, inspired by my mother who was a professional seamstress. I have a great love and passion for sewing, which I would love to share with others. I will be running small sewing workshops, and one to one classes from my home in the very near future. I can be found on Facebook 'Gems Sewing Creations'.



Birdhouse

Beauty

DESIGNED BY Judith Hollies

These cute and practical doorstops will help keep those doors open during warm, sultry days. Have fun with easy appliqué shapes, or just let pretty fabric do the talking! And if you're stuck for a house-warming gift, then look no further!



Materials

- 0.5m main fabric for front/back/base and sides of house – furnishing weight fabric (see Good to Know)
- Fat quarter fabric for the roof & loop
- Fabric scraps for appliqué shapes – optional
- 0.5m Bondaweb (if appliquéing onto your doorstep)
- 0.25m compressed wadding (Hobbs Premium Heirloom 80/20)
- 12cm plastic zip
- Small piece of sew-on Velcro if not using zip
- Buttons/ribbons to decorate (optional)
- 1kg dried peas/lentils or rice
- Small drawstring bag for dried peas/lentils/rice
- Elastic band
- Toy stuffing or suitable alternative
- 505 basting spray

To Cut – See pattern sheet for template

Main fabric:

- Cut 2 main templates (gable ends)
- Cut 2 15.5cm x 18cm pieces for front and back
- Cut 1 18cm x 10cm piece for hanging loop
- Cut 2 15.5cm x 11.5cm pieces for base (Velcro closure only)

Good To Know

- Use 6mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
- Fabric width 112cm used throughout.
- Finished size approx. 23cm x 12cm x 12cm (not including loop).
- I recommend using deco weight fabrics e.g. lightweight curtaining, heavy weight calico or heavy weight linen (e.g. Stoff). However, if you wish to use quilter's cotton, you can reinforce it with 'sew-in' Vilene, spray basted to the wrong side of the cotton. Buy the same quantity of Vilene as main fabric.
- If using Vilene, spray baste this onto the wrong side of your main fabrics before attaching wadding.
- You can choose a zip or Velcro closure.

- Cut 2 7.5cm x 15.5cm pieces for base (zip closure only)
- Cut 2 5cm x 10cm pieces for covered zip ends (zip closure only)

Roof fabric:

- Cut 2 15.5cm x 11cm pieces

Wadding:

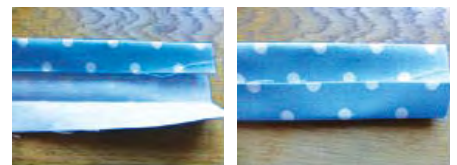
- Cut 2 main templates (gable ends)
- Cut 2 18cm x 28cm pieces for front and back
- Cut 2 7.5cm x 15.5cm pieces for base (zip closure only)

To Sew



- 1 Join the roof fabric to the tops of the house sides. Press seams open.
- 2 Spray baste the Vilene (if using) and wadding to the backs of the gable sides.
- 3 Spray baste Vilene (if using) and wadding to all other corresponding fabric pieces (exclude Velcro fastening base pieces).

4 Quilt, appliqué or decorate the house as desired. If using Bondaweb, trace the door/window/bunting shapes onto the papery side of the Bondaweb. Cut out wider than the pencil line using paper cutting scissors. Iron the Bondaweb onto the wrong side of your chosen fabrics. When cooled, cut out along the pencil line and peel off the paper backing. Iron the shapes into position on the house and appliqué as desired. Sew on buttons/trim at this stage. Trim away any excess wadding/Vilene.



5 Make the hanging loop by ironing the strip in half lengthways, wrong sides together. Open out and iron long sides up to middle crease. Finally fold in half once more and press flat.



6 Topstitch down both long sides, as close to the edges as you can. Leave short ends open.



7 Fold the loop in half, pin and machine tack onto the right side of the roof, centred with the fold pointing downwards.



8 Place both side/roof pieces right sides together. Pin and sew across top/roof edge only.



9 Keeping the two joined pieces laid out flat, place a gable side on top, right sides together, and bottom and sides aligned. Pin one side only.



10 Measure and mark 1cm in from both corners of the roof.



11 Starting at the bottom corner, sew up to the 1cm marker, leave the needle in the marker, raise the presser foot and pivot.



12 Align the gable roof edge with the other roof side and sew along the roof, stopping 1cm before you get to the end. Use a reverse stitch at the beginning and where you stop.



13 Take the piece out of the sewing machine. Bring the unsewn roof sides together, pin and start sewing from where you previously stopped at the tip of the roof. Start with a reverse stitch.



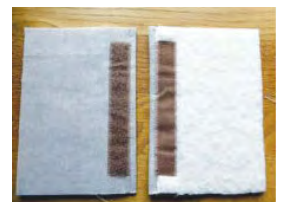
14 Stitch down to your other 1cm marker, pivot and re-align the remaining sides. Stitch down to the bottom and finish with a reverse stitch.

15 Repeat steps 9-14 for the other gable side. Turn the birdhouse right side out and check that all raw edges are caught into the seams. Turn back inside out and put to one side.



16 Making a Velcro base – (skip to step 19 for a zipped base) – Stitch 6mm along a long side on each base piece. Spray baste wadding to the wrong side, butting up to the stitched down seam.

17 On right side of one base piece, stitch down half of the Velcro and stitch the other half to the wrong side of the other base piece. Both Velcro strips should be stitched close to the folded edge.



18 Attach the Velcro together and trim to 15.5cm square.



19 Making a zipped base – make covered zip ends & attach to your zip.

Making covered zip ends:

- Sew the open end of your zip together.
- Take zip end pieces and iron short ends by 6mm to the wrong side.
- Insert a zip end into one folded fabric piece and pin. Repeat for other end.
- Attach zip foot and sew along the folded edges of the fabric ends, as close to the edge as possible.
- Using scissors, snip open the folded fabric ends and peel back the fabric and the seam allowance on the inside, exposing the excess zip end.
- Snip off the excess zip end as close to the seam as you can.
- Flip the fabric back over the end of the zip and trim off the excess width. Do not trim off any fabric end length at this stage – this will be done once the zip is inserted.

20 Align the edge of the zip to a long side of one of the base pieces, right sides together.

21 Stitch along the outer edge of the zip, moving the zip pull out of the way as you sew past it.



22 Flip the zip back to show the right side and top stitch along the top of the base fabric, through all layers.

23 Repeat for the other side of the zip.



24 Trim the base to 15.5cm square. Open the zip.



25 Pin the completed base onto the birdhouse and stitch around all four sides, pivoting in the corners and starting and finishing with a reverse stitch.

26 Turn the birdhouse right sides out and press.

27 Fill the top half of the house with toy stuffing. Place a drawstring bag (or make a simple calico bag) into the open base of the doorstep before filling with 1kg dried peas. Tie up the drawstring bag and close base.



Stockist Details

505 basting spray, Stoff linen and toy stuffing – Quilter's Quest, www.quiltersquest.co.uk
Tel: 028 90454745



Name... Judith Hollies

All About Me... I am a self-employed '40 something' mum of three teenage daughters! I love to teach patchwork, quilting & sewing and inspire others to 'play' with fabric and develop their creative talents! I talk about my creative endeavours here on my blog: <http://judith-justjude.blogspot.co.uk/> and I sell my patterns via my Etsy shop, Just Jude Designs: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/JustJudeDesigns>



Wing and Feather



Thornbury Sorbet,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



Folklore Birds Turquoise,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



Mimosa Pink,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



Bramber Bluebell,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



Peacock Waltz,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



Birds and Branches Cream,
100% cotton,
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Bungalow Emerald Swallow,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



A Beautiful Thing,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



Music Birds Beige,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre

Plush Addict,
www.plushaddict.co.uk,
tel: 0845 519 4422

Fabric Rehab,
www.fabricrehab.co.uk,
tel: 01206 321611

Frumble,
www.frumble.co.uk

Get sewing some gorgeous spring time makes with our flight of fancy birds and butterfly fabrics!



Folklorico,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



Futter Fly Sky,
100% cotton,
£3 fat quarter



Meadowmark Bird Pink,
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£3.50 fat quarter



Butterfly Garden,
100% cotton,
£12 per metre



Windham Mariposa Butterflies,
100% cotton,
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Blue Birds,
100% cotton,
£2.50 fat quarter



Monkey's Bizness,
100% cotton,
£9.60 per metre



Birdies Sky,
100% cotton,
£3 fat quarter



Butterflies Pink,
100% cotton,
£3.75 fat quarter

Fondant Fabrics,
www.fondantfabrics.co.uk

Sew Scrumptious,
www.sewscrumptious.co.uk,
tel: 07854 820354

Elephant in my Handbag,
www.elephantinmyhandbag.com,
tel: 01580 754549

Re-fashion!

Getting more wear from your wardrobe

Part 2 - Shortening

WRITTEN BY Wendy Ward

Introduction

Shortening is possibly the most common alteration made to garment legs and arms. But what's the best way to do it? How do you shorten a lined garment? These are questions I'm regularly asked by students who want to be able to alter their own garments and make them look professional rather than bodged! For me, it's all in the preparation, there's usually almost as much work (if not more) in unpicking and pressing, than there is in sewing the new hem in place.

Alterations are a great way of understanding how garments are put together and learning new construction and finishing techniques so they're a good thing to do alongside your 'from scratch' dressmaking projects. I'm going to explain how to shorten a hem on an unlined garment and a lined garment as the method is different for each.

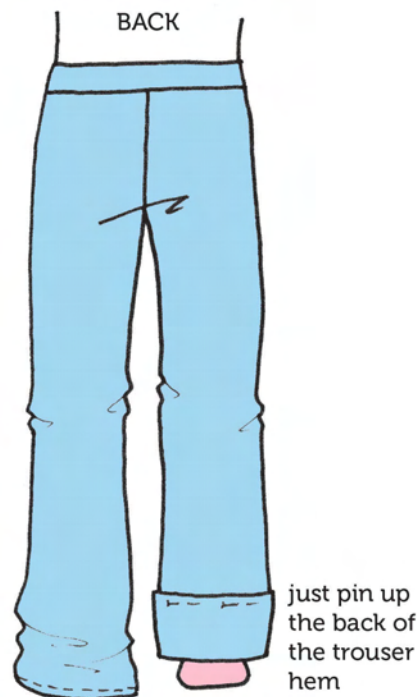
Tips:

- There are no shortcuts – any alterations done with a slapdash approach will look bulky, bodged and badly altered.
- Have a go at unlined garments first if you're not confident doing alterations or if you don't have a good idea how garments are put together.
- Photograph things before you unpick them if you want a reminder of how it's put together.
- Once you've done a few of your own alterations you will have a new appreciation of why professionals charge what they do for doing good alterations!

Unlined Garments

Measuring:

1 Press the hemline so it's not wrinkled and you can measure accurately (especially important with jeans).

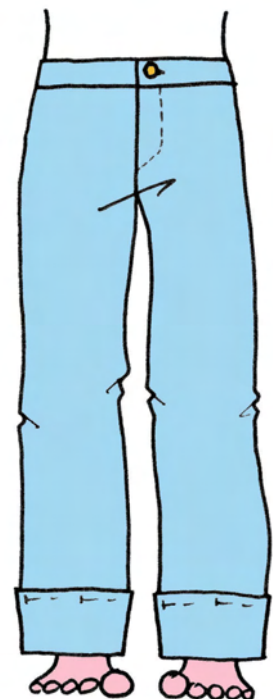


2 Try on the garment and turn up the hem to the required level. You only need do this in one place or on one side of the garment. For hems of coats and dresses pin a few points to get an idea of the new length; for sleeves and legs just pin in one place (the back of the leg is the best place on trousers as the foot doesn't get in the way!).



You will need:

- Small scissors with a sharp point
- Unpicker tool
- Chalk
- Pins
- Matching colour thread
- Contrast colour tacking thread



3 Take off the garment and measure how much you pinned up (from the original hemline to the fold). Using this measurement pin up the rest of the hem then try the garment on again to check you're happy with the new length.

Preparing:

1 Once you're happy with the new length, decide what type of hem finish you want to use – this affects how much fabric you now need to cut off (or unpick!). If you want to reproduce the original finish, check the hem allowance of the original hem. Here are some guides to standard hem allowances for different hem finishes:

- Bound hem – no hem allowance
- Faced hem – 1 cm
- Double turned hem – 2-3cm
- Blind hem – 2.5-3cm

2 Measure from your folded new hemline and mark the new hem allowance in one place only on the hem. To mark the rest of the hem allowance, unpin the hem and measure from the original hem to the new hem allowance mark that you've just made. It's best to use the original hem as a reference to measure from, as this was likely to have been straight!

HOW TO SEW OVER BULKY SEAMS ALONG IN A HEM



With the needle down, lift up the presser foot and place a folded piece of card BEHIND the needle. When you put the presser foot down again you'll be able to easily sew over the bulky seam.

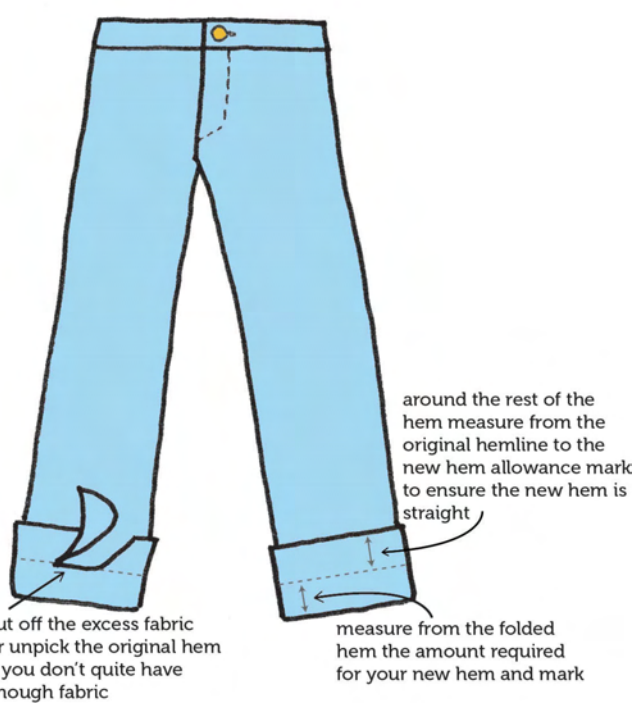
4 Accurately tack the hem in place (close to the top edge of the hem allowance on the inside of the garment) and try on one last time.

3 If you have some bulky seams to sew over when machining your hem (such as on jeans) a seam jig can come in handy. When you get to the bulky seam, stop with the needle down, lift up the presser foot and place a folded piece of card BEHIND the needle underneath the presser foot to bring the presser foot level with the bulky seam. Put the presser foot down again (on top of the card) and sew over the seam.

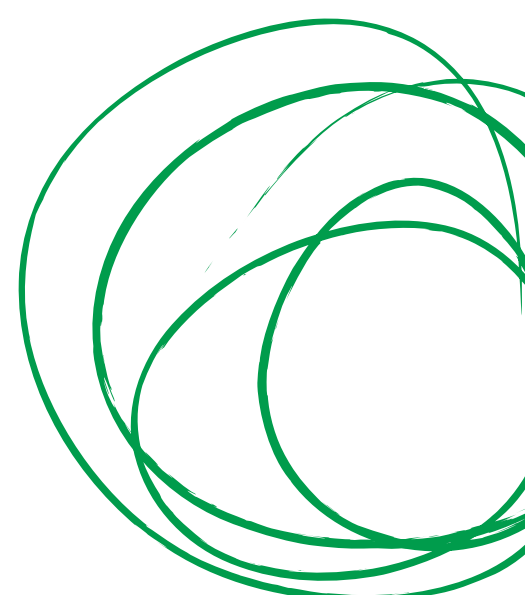
Finishing:

1 If the hem is to be machine sewn, machine from the right side of the garment and follow your tacking. Machine stitching usually looks best on the top (needle) side and if you're using a top stitching thread to sew the hem (such as on jeans) your top stitching thread will only be on the needle, not the bobbin.

2 Remove all tacking before pressing to get a nice crisp hem. If you press with the tacking in before machining, the tacking stitches can mark some fabrics.



3 Once you've marked your new hem allowance all the way round the hem, either cut off the excess fabric or unpick the original hem if you don't have quite enough fabric.



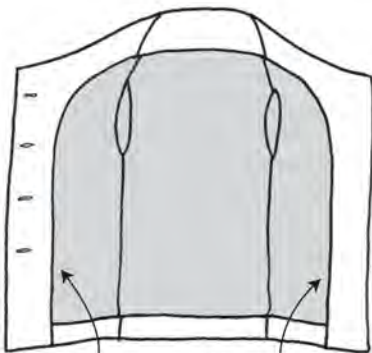
Lined Garments

Preparing:

- 1 Place a pin in roughly the position of the new hemline.



unpick the seam which joins the lining to the garment at the edge you want to shorten



you will also need to unpick these seams if you are shortening the hem of a lined coat or jacket

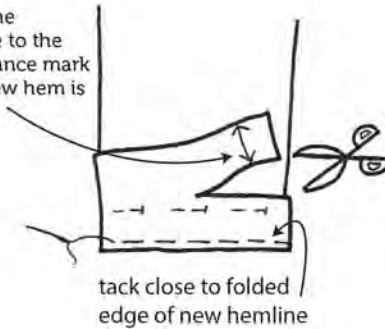
- 2 Turn the garment inside out and unpick the seam which joins the lining to the garment at the edge you want to shorten.

- 3 BEWARE – if you are shortening a sleeve and your garment has a cuff detail, e.g. button or vent, only unpick one sleeve hem to start with so you can keep checking back on the other one so you know how to put it back together again!

Measuring and cutting:

- 1 Once the lining is loose, try on the garment inside out and pin the hem to the new length. Don't include the lining, keep this loose for now.

measure from the original hemline to the new hem allowance mark to ensure the new hem is straight



tack close to folded edge of new hemline

- 2 Use the same principles as for unlined garments – use the original hemline of the garment to measure from to keep your new hemline straight and cut off the excess fabric (keep a note of how much you cut off).

- 3 Pin up the new hem allowance of the outer fabric only, not the lining (use the same amount as on the original hem) and tack in place close to the new folded hem.

Finishing:

- 1 Machine or hand blind stitch the hem of the outer fabric in place.
- 2 Cut off the same amount from the bottom of the lining as you did the outer fabric in step 2.



hem allowance of outer fabric tacked in place

- 3 Turn a 1 cm hem under along the edge of the lining and making sure the cut edge of the lining and the cut edge of the outer fabric are level, pin the lining in place over the raw edge of the hem allowance of the outer fabric and slip stitch the lining to the hem allowance of the outer fabric.

Tip: To slip stitch – run your needle along the folded edge of the lining to make a short (approx. 1-1.5cm) stitch, then take a short stitch along the hem allowance of the outer fabric (don't go through to the outside of the garment), level or just under the folded edge of the lining.

- 4 Remove tacking and give the hem of the outer fabric a good press to get a nice crisp edge. Don't press the hem of the lining – it should have enough length to slightly bag over where you've slip stitched it when the garment is worn so that it doesn't pull and drag on the hem of the outer fabric.

Next month,
Wendy will be
adding collars
and changing
existing ones!

Name... Wendy Ward

All About Me... I have my own business called MIY Workshop in Brighton where I teach sewing, dressmaking and pattern cutting. I am a qualified teacher, have a degree in fashion and spent 7 years working in the fashion industry before starting to teach in 2007. My first dressmaking book 'The Beginner's Guide to Dressmaking' is available now. I also design my own range of sewing patterns called MIY Collection.
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From Austerity to Excess

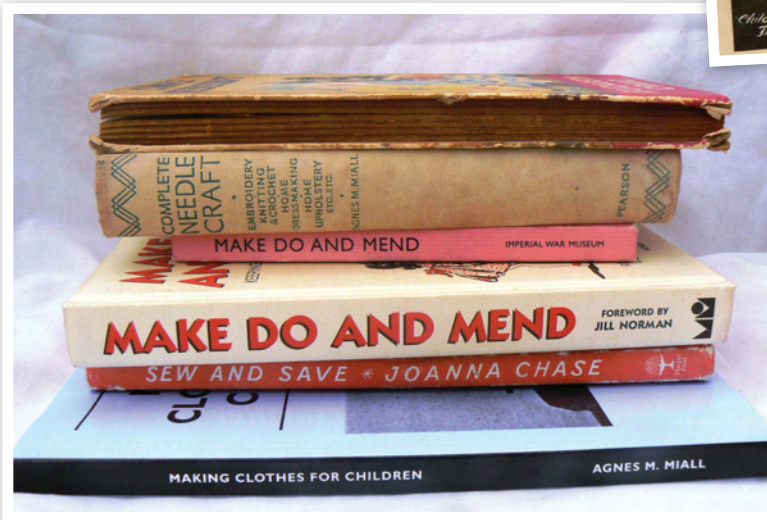
WRITTEN BY Victoria Chubb

Victoria explores the resurgence of interest in re-fashioning our wardrobes – a throw-back to the austere days of World War II.

According to government organisation WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) we currently own on average 100 garments each, 30% of which never leave our wardrobes. We also (as a nation) throw away around £350,000 worth of clothing each year, much of which is still usable. With cheap fashion in every supermarket and budget clothing lines churning out clothes at rock bottom prices, it is cheaper to buy something new than to mend old clothing – in fact most of us will never need to consider mending our clothes as we will get bored with them before they wear out!

The 'Love Your Clothes' campaign launched by WRAP encourages us to make more of our wardrobes as part of its 'Sustainable Clothing Action Plan' for 2020. The purpose of the campaign is to reduce the amount of clothing we waste by 15% and to achieve this by the year 2020. The campaign already has the support of several major retailers and there is also a website with suggestions for mending, altering and improving your clothing.

This is reminiscent of 1940s Britain, where restrictions of rationing and austerity measures, along with rising prices, forced women to be imaginative with their (and their family's) wardrobes. From patching tea towels, to making a whole new suit out of your husband's old one, being able to sew was



an important and valued skill. Women were tasked with making clothes last longer, adapting, refreshing and even remodelling garments to get the maximum use out of them. Every scrap of fabric was useful, smaller pieces being used for patchwork, kettle holders or even bras! Everything a housewife couldn't use was collected by the Government for salvage. The Government ran an information campaign supported by the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) providing information on cleaning and storage, patching and darning, and making over textiles. Such was the success of the campaign that even today the 'Make Do and Mend' slogan is familiar to us.

Clothes rationing was introduced in Britain 1941 and didn't end until 1949. It was part of a three pronged plan by the government to ensure that every person in Britain had enough clothes to maintain health and warmth for the duration. It worked alongside austerity regulations, which dealt with the amount of fabric used, and Utility fabrics and clothing which made sure there were quality durable clothes for every budget at a time when imports were minimal and factories busy with munitions.

The initial ration of 66 coupons a year was set at approximately two thirds of pre-war consumption levels. Planning would have been essential to make sure your coupons lasted and sewing was a valuable skill for making clothes as well as for mending and altering. If you were 'of average size', making your own clothes could be a better use of your coupons than buying ready made. Mending items was a big part of this, with detailed instructions on the different sorts of patches and darns to use featuring in many publications including the government issued information leaflets. 'Mrs Sew and Sew', a very efficient looking doll-like character, had her own series of leaflets on everything from the ABC of buttonhole making to keeping your children 'tidy underneath' – teaching you how to look after their underclothes!

All sorts of solutions were offered for refreshing clothes. Women were advised to keep in mind that cutting a garment into something new should be a last resort, and would only make something smaller than the original. Suggestions included changing collars and cuffs, adding a cheerful pullover made from 'the brightest woollen scraps in your piece box', or altering sleeves and necklines. A major part of the 'Make Do and Mend' campaign was mending clothes, with leaflets advising on the best way to patch and darn various items, as well as instructions on reinforcing new clothes before holes began to appear.

Accessories were also popular. Attention to detail in clothing could make the difference between a plain and a stunning outfit. This was also helpful in bringing clothes up to date, especially if you were lucky enough to have good quality classic clothes in your wardrobe. A woman with the ability to sew could make her own belts,





gloves and purse, or even a scarf or ribbon collar. Collars were frequently removable for washing and replacement. Millinery was also suggested, and could change your look significantly – later in the war turbans became popular as an essential work wear safety item, or merely to disguise unwashed hair as soap became harder to get hold of. Embroidery was a good solution to brightening up an outfit, and also had the benefit of being able to disguise grease spots or marks that couldn't be removed!

When it finally came time to make over clothes into new items, there were plenty of sources for ideas. Books like Catherine Franks' 'New Clothes from Old' suggested a range of possibilities from an old jacket, suit or dress, and there were many articles in magazines. Some would seem strange to us today, for example making a pair of knickers from an old jersey, but others are more reasonable, for instance making a bolero or waistcoat from a cardigan. Popular recommendations worked with men's clothing – because clothes unpicked will only make smaller articles. Suggestions include cutting down pyjamas for a little boy, or using a shirt to make a girls summer dress. A whole suit could provide a child's skirt, a coal glove, a cushion, an oven glove and a boy's jacket. A range of patterns were available for the home sewer, or alternatively you could copy the pattern of a favourite garment. Several sewing books from the 1940s also

include instructions on how to draft your own patterns, which you could then adapt to use with whatever material you had to hand. There were also instructions on how to make the most of the material available. The 'Housewife's Guide to Making and Mending' quotes the Tailor of Gloucester, who had nothing left when he finished cutting out except 'two narrow breadths for naught-except waistcoats for mice' and suggests this as an aim for wartime dressmaking. This is good economic advice even now, especially when cutting down from old clothes. The book suggests piecing material together to make a bigger piece, with the seams disguised by tucks or made a feature of by using a lapped or other decorative join. Making slashes and inserting godets from the same or contrasting fabric can be used where the fabric isn't wide enough to accommodate the width of skirt required. Simple patterns are advised and judicious alteration of the pattern layout (although with a note to remember to lay the pattern correctly along the grain where necessary).

The recent surge in popularity of everything vintage has provided plenty of source material for anyone interested in making over their wardrobe. With levels of textiles sent to landfill increasing in recent years, perhaps it's time to review our obsession with 'fast fashion' and learn to 'mend and make do' once again!



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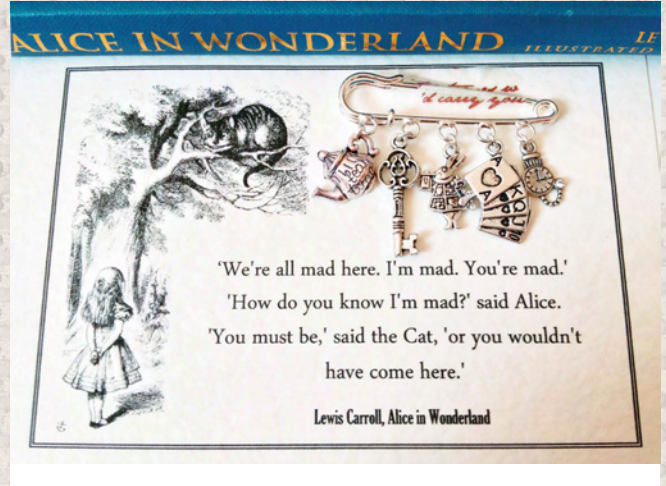
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Laura Strutt is a keen stitcher and author of *The Sewing Manual* (Haynes 2013, £21.99) and *The DIY Wedding Manual* (Haynes 2014, £18.99) She also offers daily handmade inspiration over at creative lifestyle blog www.madepeachy.com

All prices correct at time of going to press

More Brilliant Bag Making!

WRITTEN BY Susan Dunlop of SusieDDesigns

Part 2 - Binding and piping

Take your bag making to the next level by adding professional looking trims. Bias binding and piping cord are the perfect choice. On its own, binding can be used to finish off raw edges neatly and to make contrasting border details. To add extra interest and texture, use binding on its own or filled with piping cord to edge panels and flaps.



You can add trims to any seams, panel edges, top edges of pockets, bag openings, handles, tabs and flaps. You can use ready-made bias binding or make your own by cutting bias strips of

fabric; cut diagonally at a 45° angle. This gives you the maximum amount of stretch so you can easily manipulate the binding around curves.

Always adhere suitable interfacing to all your fabric panels before attaching bindings and piped edging.

Binding raw edges

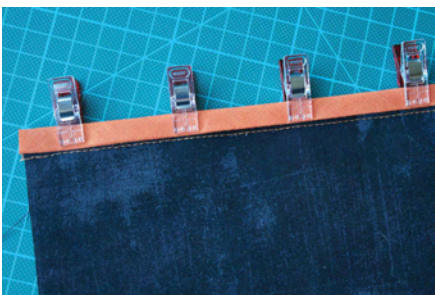
In this example, we'll be binding the top raw edge of a lined pocket. The side and bottom edges of the pocket are left unfinished as these will be sewn into the seams of the bag, during the main construction.

1 Measure the edge where you'd like to add the contrasting trim. Cut a length of binding to size. If your binding is pre-folded, open it up and press.



2 Place the pocket and lining fabric pieces wrong sides together, matching up all the edges, pin. With right sides together, match up the edge of the binding along the top edge of the pocket, pin. Stitch a 5mm-1cm seam (depending on how wide your binding is).

3 Fold the binding over and press, so it is now overhanging the top edge of the pocket.



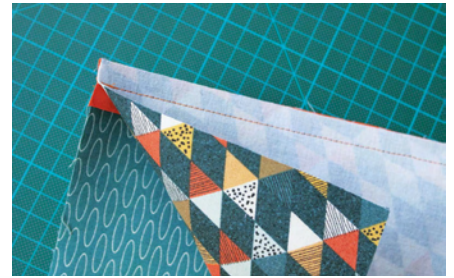
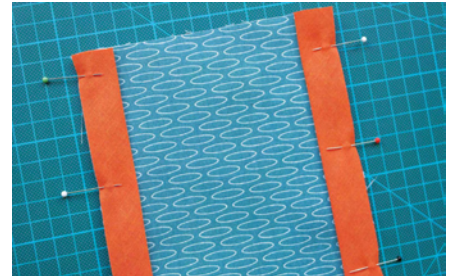
4 Turn the pocket over to the lining side. Fold and press the binding to meet the pocket top edge. Fold the binding over again so it now overlaps the lining, press and pin. Topstitch the binding in place, ensuring your stitches will catch the binding on the lining side. Alternatively, if you don't want to see any stitching on the right side of the pocket, hand-stitch the binding on the lining side.

Adding flat trims

In this example, we're making a bag with a three panelled main body. The unfilled binding will be sewn into the joining seams to add contrasting detail.

1 Measure the length of the edges to be trimmed and cut pieces of binding to the required size.

2 Open up the binding and press. Fold it in half, wrong side together, press.



3 With right sides together, match up the open edges of the binding to the fabric edge, pin. Place the second fabric panel on top, so right sides are touching and the binding is sandwiched between the edges. Pin. Stitch 1cm from the edge.



4 Open up the fabric pieces and press the seam allowance to one side. The trim should lie flat against the opposite side, on the right side of the fabric. If desired, topstitch the panel next to the trim, 5mm from the seam. Repeat to attach the third panel and trim in the same manner.

5 Make a second main body in the same way and then continue with the main bag construction.

Adding piping

In this example, we're adding filled binding (piping) to the curved edges of a flap closure and matching pocket flaps.

1 Measure the edge to be piped, adding a bit extra to allow for going around any corners. Cut the required length of binding and a matching length of piping cord.



2 Open up and press the binding. Lay the cord along the centre of the binding. Fold binding in half, wrong side together, to enclose the cord. Pin, to keep the cord in place. Use a zip presser foot to stitch along the length, staying close to the enclosed cord.

Note: use a matching thread so the stitches blend in.

3 Depending on what width of binding you've used, trim the seam allowance back to approximately 5mm.

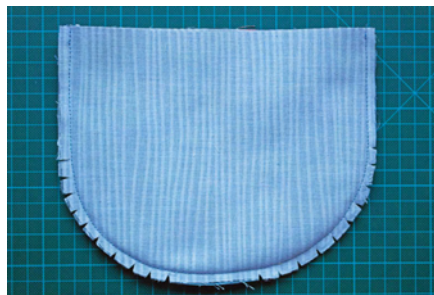


Next month learn all about adding zips to your bags.

4 With the fabric piece right side up, match the open edges of the binding around the fabric edge to be trimmed, pin.

Note: if going around any sharp corners, it will help to snip into the binding seam allowance, avoiding the stitching.

With the zipper foot, machine-baste in place, using a matching thread and staying close to the piping.



5 Place the lining fabric on top, so right sides together, pin. Using the zip presser foot, stitch around the edges, staying close to the enclosed piping which you'll be able to feel with your finger.



6 Turn the flap through to right side and use a point turner to gently ease all the edges out neatly. Press the flap but don't press the piping. If desired, you can topstitch around the flap as I have done. I find that this helps to hold the flap's shape, strengthens it and gives a neat finish.

Further Information

Fabrics illustrated in this article are: 'Jungle Avenue' by Sara Lawson for Art Gallery Fabrics, www.hantex.co.uk/agf 'Modern Neutrals' by Amy Ellis for Moda Fabrics, www.unitednotions.com 'Follie' by Lotta Jansdotter for Windham Fabrics

Name Susan Dunlop

All About Me... I love sewing, adore modern fabrics and bags are my thing. Look out for my first bag-making book, 'Style and Swing: 12 Structured Handbags for Beginners and Beyond'. Visit www.susiedesigns.co.uk to find my range of bag-making patterns, supplies and kits.

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We Review

'Peaseblossom' Pattern

WRITTEN BY Julie Briggs

'Sew Me Something' based in Stratford-upon-Avon have a great range of sewing patterns for wearable and easy to sew garments. I chose the 'Peaseblossom' – a straightforward and adaptable t-shirt in a classic boxy shape.

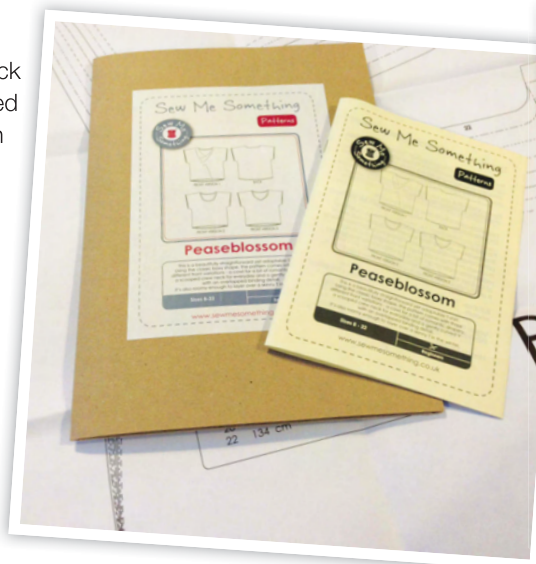
Pattern

The 'Peaseblossom' pattern is packaged in a sturdy brown card package, clearly labelled with the sizes 8-22 and the 'beginners' label. The rear of the package lists the fabric required and all the notions needed – thread and fulflex clear elastic tape. I opened up the package and the pattern was very clearly printed one side only on thick paper with clearly marked lines for each size. The package also contained a very neat booklet containing all the instructions and plenty of tips and hints too! The garment is a relaxed fit so has plenty of ease for wear and there was a good chart of the sizes and the finished garment measurements to help you select your size.

The pattern has a choice of three designs – a cowl neck, scooped crew neck and a gentle v-neck. I chose to make a cowl neck as a top to layer over a skinny long-sleeved t-shirt. Each design only has three pattern pieces making this a quick make.

Fabric choice

I chose a charcoal grey medium weight warm jersey fabric with a two-way stretch and 4% elastane content.





Laying out

The instructions contained a clear layout plan and good advice on using pattern weights to hold down the pattern pieces rather than pins (which can warp the fabric) before drawing around with a chalk marker. I took the advice and found it very easy to draw around the pattern pieces ready to cut out. The instructions reminded me to cut within the chalk line to maintain the exact size I had chosen.

Sewing

I chose to use my overlocker to neaten raw edges and for the main seams on the garment but there is no need to use an overlocker. The pattern explains the type of stitches to use on a domestic sewing machine. If you are unsure about working with knits, refer to our series on 'Knits Know-How' in issues from November 2014 – March 2015.

I found the step-by-step instructions very easy to follow. The diagrams were very clear and it was obvious which side of the fabric was uppermost as you followed through.

The most tricky part was attaching the fullflex clear elastic tape as it had a tendency to slip when sewing. I managed to anchor it using a couple of pins before overlocking and this then helped to stabilise the shoulder seams and give them strength.

I topstitched the hems using my domestic machine and a stretch stitch to give a neat finish.

Conclusion

I made this great top in under two hours and I was very pleased with the professional finish. I would be tempted to make a number of variations using t-shirt weight jerseys for my summer wardrobe.



Stockist Details

'Peaseblossom' pattern is priced at £12.99 and available from Sew Me Something, www.sewmesomething.co.uk, tel: 01789 330 588

Warm jersey fabric (available in lots of colours) – White Tree Fabrics, www.whitetreefabrics.com

Back issues of Sewing World available from Inspired to Make, www.inspiredtomake.com

Masterclass Sewing Skills!

Part 8 – Zips

WRITTEN BY Angela Venn

Zips are a widely used method for creating an opening in garments and craft items. There are several types available and purchasing the appropriate one will depend on what it will be sewn in to.

Choosing the Right Zip

Closed ended zips have a stopper at the bottom which allows the zip to open but will always be joined at the bottom. Open ended zips can be undone completely so that both sides are completely separated.



Closed ended zips come in two types, standard (conventional) and concealed (invisible). Standard zips can be inserted in a variety of ways depending on the garment or item you are creating. They can be purchased in a range of lengths and are produced in a wide choice of colours. The fabric you are using and style of item being sewn will determine if you need a heavy or lightweight tape and whether nylon or metal teeth would achieve the look.

Centred Zip

This method is used mostly for soft furnishings and craft such as cushion covers and bags.

- Neaten edges of fabric where zip will be placed.



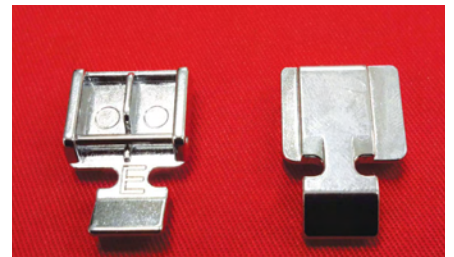
- If you are not following a pattern and need to calculate the length of the zip opening in the seam, you can do this by lying the zip on top of the fabric with the top of the zip tape level with the top of the fabric. Mark the bottom of the teeth with either a pin or chalk.
- Put right sides together and stitch from the mark to the bottom of your fabric with a 1.5cm seam allowance, remembering to backstitch to secure seam.
- Baste the opening closed by hand or with the longest stitch your sewing machine. Snip a few of the basting stitches – this will make them easier to remove later.
- Press open seam allowance.



- Push both sides of fabric to one side leaving one seam allowance free. Place zip right side down onto fabric ensuring the teeth are centred over the seam line. Pin zip tape through all fabric layers to help keep position and sew through other side of tape.



- Remove pins, push fabric to other side and sew through tape on other side.



- Change the foot on your machine to a zipper foot. The underside of the zipper foot has a raised platform that will allow the teeth to run snugly alongside the ridge and still sit firmly on the needle plate, keeping the fabric pressed together.



- You can use either side depending on which direction you sew.
- Turn fabric over to right side and sew down one side of zip, across bottom and back up to top keeping an equal distance from seam all way round.
- Unpick basting stitches.

Lapped/Semi-concealed

This method of insertion is similar to a centred zip, but with just one side of the fabric lapping the zip. It is used for children's wear, soft furnishings and craft items.

- Follow steps for centred zip to the point where the seams are pressed.



- Turn back one seam allowance so that just 0.5cm is showing and press.



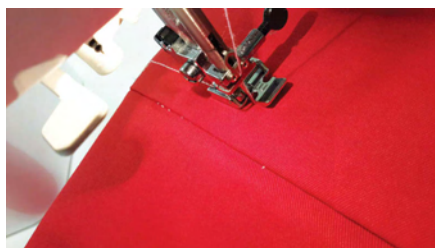
- Position fabric onto one side of the zip tape.



- Sew a thin ridge along the full length of zip tape.



- Turn fabric over so the unstitched seam allowance lies flat on top of other side of zip.
- Sew to secure full length of zip.

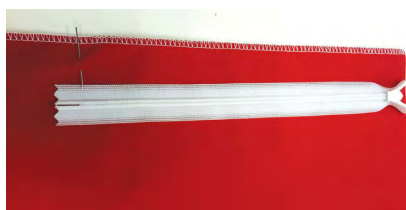


- With fabric right side up, stitch approximately 1.5cm away from seam along full length of zip, make a right angle turn and sew towards the seam. This should be sewn continuously without a join on the turn.

Concealed Zip

These are used more than any other type of zip in ladies wear, due to their pleasing look. Just as the name suggests the zip isn't seen on the right side of the fabric due to the design of the zip itself. A great finished look but the down side is that they can be fragile and tend to break if put under too much stress.

I have my own particular way of inserting these zips which you aren't likely to find in other sewing manuals. It will help reduce the typical problem of puckering/gaps at the bottom of the zip and too much zip tape showing.



- Lie zip on fabric and mark the bottom of the teeth with a pin.



- Measure 4cm from the pin up towards the top with another pin.



- Put right sides of fabric together and sew from top pin to bottom of fabric. The opening will be shorter than the zip.



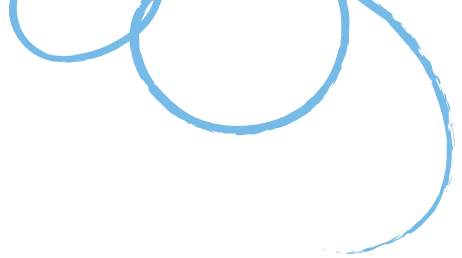
- Place fabric and open zip right sides together, take left hand side of fabric and right side of zip with edge of zip tape to edge of fabric.



- Attach zipper foot to left hand side, position fabric to 1.5cm guide and zip under foot so that the teeth lie against the ridge. Sew for 4cm or 5cm and stop with the needle down.



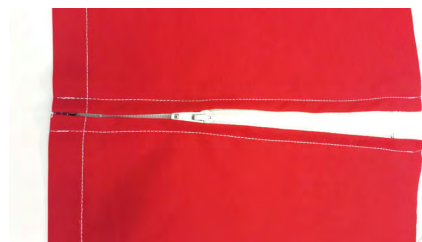
- Hold out fabric and position zip at the bottom so that the teeth lie directly along the seam. Put in a pin to hold it in place.



- Continue to sew through the fabric and zip tape to the bottom of opening. Be sure not to go past the seam. Don't worry about getting the stitch close to the teeth as this first row of stitching is to help align your zip with a balanced seam allowance. It will also allow you to handle difficult fabrics that are likely to gather or stretch.



- Open zip. You will notice that with the zip longer than the opening in the fabric that there will be enough room for the zipper foot to sit nicely in position without the pull getting in the way.



- From here follow the centred zip method ensuring that the stitching is parallel on both sides.



- Sew a second row of stitching, this time rolling back the teeth to ensure you get as close as you can.



- Repeat the two rows of stitching as the first side to sew the other side of zip in place. Push the pulley through the bottom of teeth and pull towards the top. It might feel a little tight and a little firmness may be required to get it going.

Angela Venn runs the Venn School of Sewing and Tailoring Services in Cardiff. The School offers courses in design, pattern cutting, dressmaking, tailoring and interiors to suit all levels of skills. Visit www.venntailoring.com, tel: 029 2038 8810 to find out more.



- If you look at the back of your fabric you will notice the second row of stitching will almost line up with the seam without overlapping.

Open Ended Zip

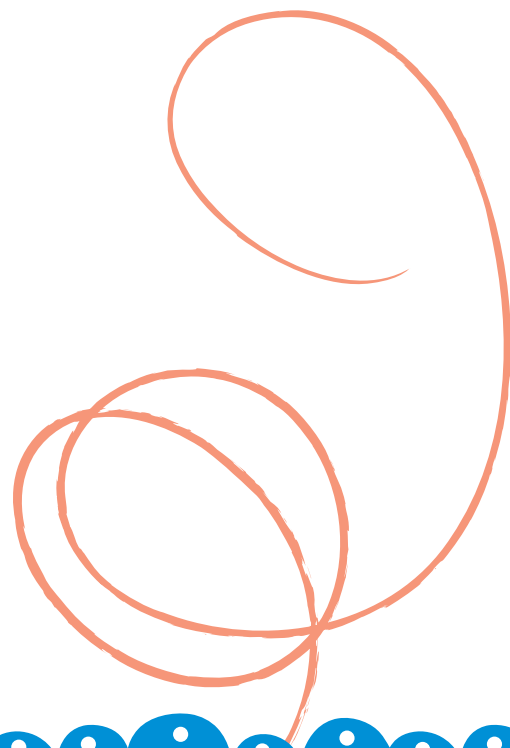
These zips are used on garments such as jackets and coats, or anything where the zip is required to come apart completely.



- The other side of zip will be sewn from the bottom upwards. Close zip and lie flat against seam, push fabric to side leaving just the seam allowance. Place a pin at the very bottom, this will anchor the zip to prevent it from moving.



- Sew seam and press open. Position your zip right side down against seam allowance.





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Pattern Roundup



Butterick 6185

Misses' Lifestyle Wardrobe pattern that includes jacket, top, dress, skirt and trousers. Sizes 6-22. £7.50

HP 1185

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multisized pattern... sizes 6/8/10/12/14/16/18/20/22/24/26 all in one envelope

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patterns so hot they're smokin'...

Three-Piece-Sweet Jacket, Tank & Scarf

Layered looks are easy with this chic threesome of jacket, scarf & tank. Make the tank & scarf in drape-y, light to medium blouse-weight fabrics like chiffon, georgette, rayon, crepe charmeuse, or handkerchief linen; the jacket needs more structure so choose jacket or bottom weights of crepe, linen, rayon, soft boucle or tweed, even a supple denim. Semi-fit V neck pull-on tank features French darts, center front & back seams. Curved, faced hemline is slightly higher at the front. Cascade scarf is cut in one piece; tank neckline & armholes plus scarf edges are edged with a narrow hem. Cropped semi-fitted jacket has optional interlining, long 2-piece sleeves, panel seams and half darts at the bust. Jacket is open along the center back; double-breast front is worn open. Hems are finished with a facing. Try this fabulous set together over boyfriend jeans, or wear the whole shebang with a matching or toning slim cropped tailored pant, a slim mid-length skirt or a long, fluid pant. All three pieces also work separately (of course!), so think about the jacket over a fitted dress, the tank under a cozy oversized cardigan, and the scarf...well, you'll be making, wearing & gifting a lot of these scarves, they're gorgeous!

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Hot Patterns Three-Piece-Sweet-Jacket, Tank & Scarf

The layered look is easy with this chic three-some. They work so well together or alternatively are each stand alone wardrobe staples. Intermediate pattern. US 0-20. £13.95



McCall's 7130

Misses' Dress suitable for moderate stretch knits. Sizes 4-26. £8.25



Burda 6786

This pattern features the latest swing tunics that get their flare from the side seams and pointed hemline. Ideal pattern for colour blocking and summery prints with contrasting hem band. Burda Plus sizes 18-34. £5.85



Burda 6769

A short pencil skirt is a wardrobe must-have for this season. Why not make in stripe or printed fabric for a modern twist. Skirt has bias-cut side seams and shaped waistband and comes in two lengths depending on what you dare to bare! Sizes 10-20. £5.85



Serendipity Studio Rhiannon shirt

Easy to sew in two lengths and six variations. Features include raglan sleeves, easily adjustable neckline. Wear over the top of a tank dress for a sophisticated look or with jeans for chic yet casual appearance. Multi-sized pattern (bust 32" - 44"). £9.50

Take your pick from this great selection of new patterns!



Simplicity 1202

Sew Stylish wardrobe pack of mix and match separates for work and play. Choose from top, A-line mini skirt, trousers and edge to edge jacket. Sizes 8-24. £8.15



Vogue 1434

Isaac Mizrahi New York. Lined dress with close fitting bodice with princess seams. Misses' sizes 6-22. £15

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patterns so hot they're smokin'...

Athleisure Sunday Morning Sweatpants

Every girl needs a trim pair of sweatpants. Make these in stretchy, drape-y knits... think medium to lightweight sweat-shirting. T-shirting, velour, ponte or silk(y) jersey; a touch of spandex is highly recommended! Slim-fit, pull-on pants sit at the natural waist and feature a forward side seam and lower leg inserts. Waistband is gently elasticated and the legs are cropped to "j-u-s-t" above the ankle. Pants fronts have shaped patch pockets; back has a semi-circular yoke. Matching or contrast top-stitching is totally optional and adds a cool, modern look... These are the kind of pants that you reach for after- or even before- a long, hard day. Pull them on when you need to be really comfy, but also when you want to look sporty, relaxed and fabulous. They'll work beautifully with a slouchy T or sweatshirt for busy days at home or relaxing evenings on the couch. Need to run a few errands? Slip on your favorite sneakers, top with a hoodie or a denim jacket and you're out the door...

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Hot Patterns Athleisure Sunday Morning Sweatpants

Every girl needs a trim pair of sweatpants and this advanced beginner pattern is for pull on comfy casual wear but with a bit more style. Waist is gently elasticated and legs cropped above the ankle to look sporty, relaxed and fab. Multi-sized pattern US sizes 6-26. £12.95



New Look 6299

A pretty princess line dress with collar and sleeve variations. Choose a contrast front panel for slimming silhouette, add a contrast collar for cute office chic or make with bateau neck and sleeveless for balmy summer days. Sizes 8-20.

READER OFFER

We are delighted to offer New Look 6299 to readers of Sewing World at a special discounted price of £2.95 – which is less than half normal price. To redeem the offer, visit www.simplicitynewlook.com and quote SW6299 when checking out your order (p&p is 85p). Closing date 15 May 2015.

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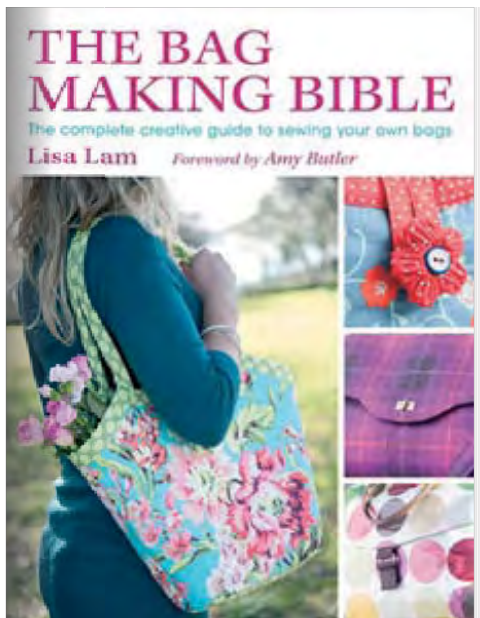


Simplicity 1194

1950s Vintage Simplicity design of full skirted dress with fitted bodice and strap variations. Get set for summer parties and proms in this beautiful swirling number. Sizes 6-22. £8.15

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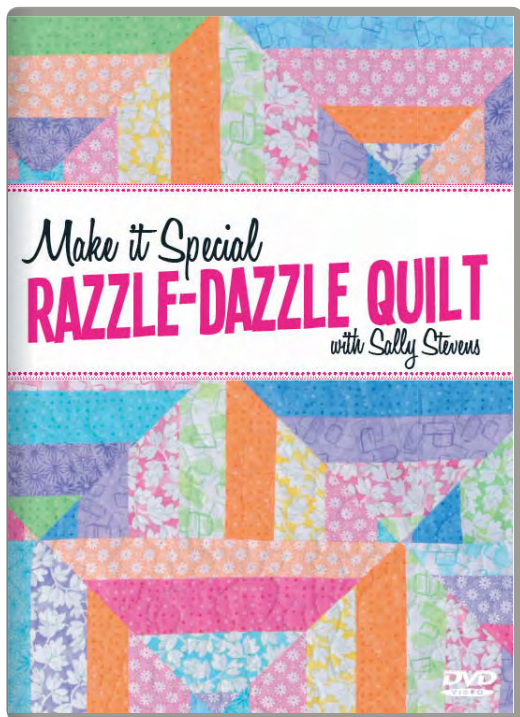


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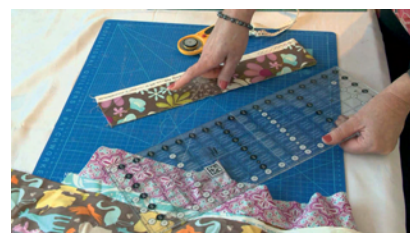
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The Make It Special series of quilt making programmes aims to bring you an easy-to-follow guide to making beautiful and unique quilted products. In Razzle-Dazzle Quilt we join a workshop run by Sally Stevens, editor of Fabrications - Quilting for You magazine to make a quilt that is versatile, quick and easy to sew, uses inexpensive ScrapBag fabrics and yet looks stunning.

Sally is joined in the workshop by Lynne, Sadie, Sara and Eleanor, all experienced quilters in their own right, who each share hints, tips and how-to's along the way, whilst sharing the pleasure and satisfaction they get from their craft. Hand-made quilts make beautiful gifts for family and friends, but perhaps the greatest satisfaction that these quilters get is from donating their work to Project Linus, an organisation that aims to provide a sense of security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers through providing home-made patchwork quilts and blankets for them to keep. To the recipients of these quilts each one truly is unique and something very special.

The simplicity of the Razzle-Dazzle quilt makes it suitable for quilters of all abilities, so join Sally and her team and find out just how easy it is. You too can Make it Special!



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Sew a Modern Home

Melissa Lunden
ISBN 9781604683677

Add a touch of modern quilting style to your home with these stunning contemporary projects. Designer Melissa Lunden, who's passion for sewing led her to launch her own pattern company, presents this simple and smart book, with 19 contemporary patterns for sewing and quilting to embellish living rooms, bedrooms, dining rooms, and even nurseries. The book begins with a basic instructions guide that helps to outline the supplies needed, decode terms used and clarify more complicated elements such as seam finishes, hand stitching and sewing diagonal edges. The instructions for each of the projects are clear, easy to follow and offer a range of techniques that make this beautiful collection of projects ideal for sewers of all skill levels. The projects included range from creating large statement quilts to smaller more accent pieces such as pillows, place mats, napkins, plushies, and much more. With the help of this book you will be able to make your home as beautiful as ever with all your own personal creations.



This title is published by Martingale and is priced at £18.99



bookshelf

30 Totes & Bags To Sew

Helen Angharad Henley
ISBN 9781782210962

With 30 Totes & Bags to Sew, you too can stitch and customise your very own beautiful collection of tote bags. The tote design consists of a simple rectangular bag with two handles, but with a little imagination and the right techniques, these bags become wonderfully versatile accessories. If you've never stitched before, the first chapter is a good starting point to give you all the basic sewing techniques to start thinking about bags in the later chapters. The projects have not been graded by difficulty as the author believes that with a little patience all of the projects within the book should be achievable. The more advanced sewer still has the opportunity to challenge their sewing skills by borrowing techniques from one project to use in another to create their very own designs. With sprinklings of sewing wisdom throughout the book such as 'measure twice, cut once', gorgeous full colour images and pattern sheets already included, this book has bags full of inspiration to get you sewing for days!

This title is published by Search Press and is priced at £14.99



Pretty Birds

Virginia Lindsay

ISBN 9780711236370

Providing the perfect answer to that secret stash of scrap fabrics is *Pretty Birds*! With the help of this book you will be able to turn your pile of unwanted scraps into the most gorgeous and lovely pretty little birds that will cheer up all of those neglected spaces around the home as quirky doorstoppers, cute cable tidies, adorable letter holders and much more! The step-by-step instructions are easy to follow and accompanied by adorable illustrations and beautifully shot photos of each bird that will have sewers of all capabilities diving straight for their scraps! The pattern templates, for the tech savvy, are provided through the use of QR codes and website links, and for those who are a little less technical, a pattern can be copied straight from the book with instructions of how much to upscale it by. *Pretty Birds* will have you joining in the new craze for upcycling in no time, leaving you with a home full of charming new characters and free of all those old unused cut offs! You will even learn a bird fact or two as you sew!

This title is published by Frances Lincoln Limited and is priced at £12.99



Sew Useful

Debbie Shore

ISBN 9781782210856

Debbie Shore has a real flair for designing simple projects that look amazing, and in this book she has created ingenious storage solutions to keep the home neat, tidy and beautifully styled. The book begins with much needed guidance that will have the beginner sewer ready to attempt any one of the 23 storage designs without hesitation. The more experienced sewer can enjoy attempting to adapt and personalise these designs to suit their own needs. Projects are included for all areas of the home, and include a storage cube, drawstring toy bag, garment cover, iron caddy, jewellery pouch, tablet cover, knitting needle roll, drawer liner, laundry bag, sewing machine bag, gift wrap storage and even a heat-proof pouch for hair straighteners. Debbie also offers extra tips and ideas for each of the projects such as printing a family photograph on printable canvas so you have the ultimate personalized fabric to really make your creations your own!

This title is published by Search Press and is priced at £9.99



Learn to Sew with Lauren

Lauren Guthrie

ISBN 9781845339272

Lauren Guthrie was a very popular finalist in BBC TV's 'Great British Sewing Bee', and has created a beautifully inspiring book intact with full-size patterns that aims to take you from a humble beginner sewer to a dressmaker extraordinaire! The book begins with Lauren divulging her secrets and tips about how to choose the best fabric for your chosen project; talking through elements such as practicality and drape in an accessible and chatty tone that demystifies all the usual technical jargon. The step-by-step projects start with simple ideas such as an envelope cushion cover, belt with bow and basic tote bag, and progress to more complex designs such as a tea dress with different collar and sleeve options, yoke top and bag with interchangeable strap, encouraging you to build your expertise and confidence as you work through the book. Lauren's enthusiasm for sewing really shines through project after project, and will leave you feeling inspired and fully committed to developing your craft.

This title is published by Octopus Publishing Group and is priced at £25



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Get Set... Sew!



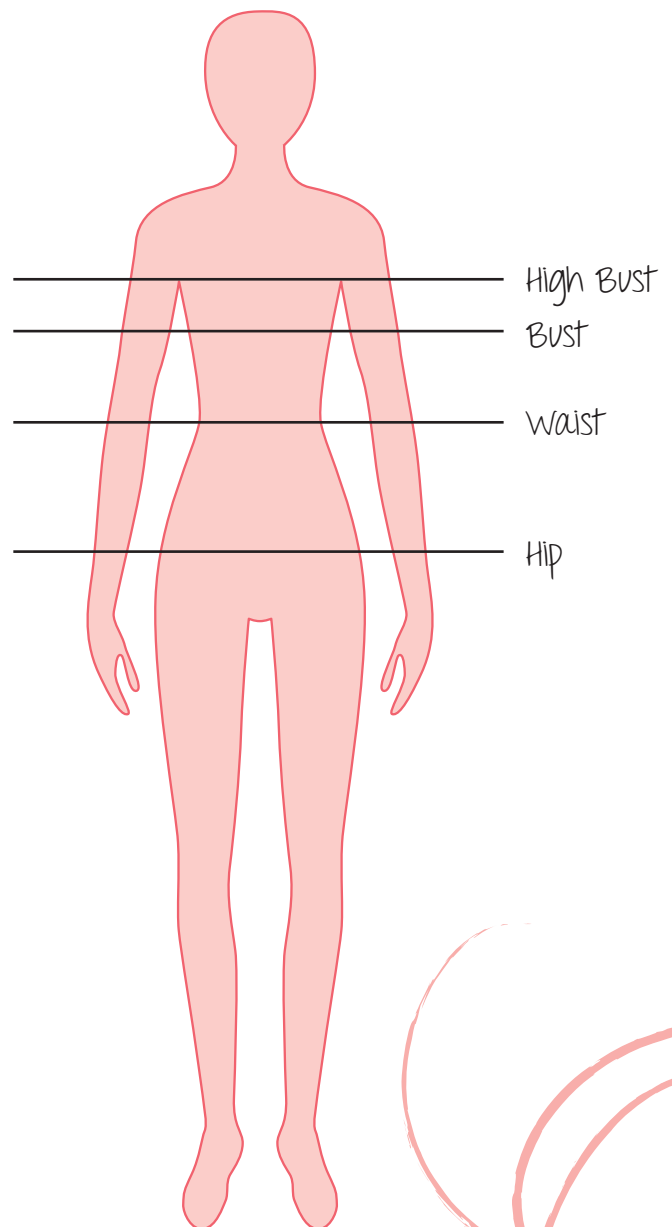
Ensure sewing success with our sewing guide to get you started, or refresh your memory...

Using your Full-Size Pattern Sheet

1 For projects with a pattern, first look at the glossary on the pattern sheet to identify the colour of the pieces for your project. Looking at the 'To Cut' list and the layout guide (if applicable) you will see how many pieces there are to find. Each piece is labelled and identified e.g. '1 of 7', '2 of 7' etc. It may be helpful to follow the pieces using your finger and then highlight each piece around the edge with a highlighter marker.

2 Some larger pieces are split in two but there will always be a clear dashed join line for you to match up with the other half.

3 Take some large sheets of thin paper or a roll of greaseproof paper and simply trace out your pieces with a fine black pen (for your size if making clothing), taking care to mark all the notches, dots and darts and join pieces up if necessary. Cut out your pieces in fabric and sew away!



Check your Size

Take your measurements and compare with our project sizing charts, making sure your tape measure is straight as you go around your back – best to get a friend to help!

If you fall between two sizes, make the larger size for a more comfortable fit. We suggest making a toile from calico if the garment is more fitted in style.

- **High Bust** – Above the fullest part of your bust and just under your arms.
- **Bust** – Straight across your full bust and around your back.
- **Waist** – Where your body naturally curves in.
- **Hip** – Around your hips at the widest point and the fullest part of your bottom.



Fabric Terminology

Selvedge – Finished straight edge of the fabric, often printed with the manufacturer’s name.

Grain line – This is normally marked on pattern pieces as a double-headed arrow and should be parallel to the selvedge, or the bias if a bias-cut project.

Bias – Line of fabric at 45° to the straight edge, which gives a bit of stretch if pulled.


Nap – Fabrics with an obvious pile (nap) where the direction of the pile needs to be kept the same when making your project.


Fat Quarter – Quilting term for a piece of fabric cut from a 44" wide bolt measuring 1/2yd and then cut across the width at 22".


(It is recommended that fabrics are pre-shrunk before sewing, by washing at recommended temperature, drying and pressing thoroughly).


Glossary


Some useful terms used in Sewing World...


 **Basting (Tacking)** – Temporary large stitches to hold pieces together.


 **Seam allowance** – These will be included in the pattern pieces unless otherwise stated and will vary between projects. Check carefully in ‘Good to Know’ to ensure success.


 **Pressing** – Not ironing, pressing is the action of pressing the iron onto fabric and then lifting without moving around. It helps to set stitches so that seams lie flat and crisp. Don't skimp on pressing!


 **Finger Press** – Literally a light crease with your fingernail.

 **Stabiliser** – Interfacing or interlining used to give some stability and strength to your fabric, it can be sewn-in or ironed on.

 **Topstitch** – Neat straight stitches on the right side of the fabric to define a seam.

 **Staystitch** – A line of stitching to keep curves and bias edges from stretching.

 **Understitch** – Stitched row to prevent a facing from rolling to the outer part of the project.

 **WOF (Width of Fabric)** – Across the width, selvedge to selvedge.

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WANTED

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The Final Thread

There's definitely a seasonal aspect to sewing. Now all my sewing attention will be focused on Me-Made-May '15. In it's sixth year, this has grown from a personal challenge that UK sewing blogger, Zoe Edwards, set herself to wear only home sewn clothes, to over six hundred participants each making their own home made clothing pledges at www.sezonwhatdayuknow.blogspot.co.uk

The Challenge

Zoe's challenge is to encourage people to make their own clothes and celebrate wearing them. Each participant writes their own pledge to reflect their garment making goals. Some people focus on re-fashioning and revamping existing clothing and others use it as an impetus to finish uncompleted clothing projects. You do not need to sew something new. As Zoe says, "the challenge is about wearing the items that you have already created, not about stock piling more

makes." But it is an inspiring month and I always end up sewing at least one new garment and looking at my wardrobe afresh!

It's not just sewing – knitting, crochet, accessory making all count and if you do sew garments, they don't even have to be for you. Zoe's personal pledge included home sewn garments for her baby daughter.

How can I join in?

Many people choose to document their challenge in some way and you can modify this to suit your needs and lifestyle. I tend to use Instagram, the free photo sharing app. Use the hash tag #mmmay15 and you can post your outfit pictures and enjoy looking at the daily posts of all the other participants. You do not need a fancy backdrop for your photos. Most pictures I've seen involve people using the full size mirror in a bathroom or bedroom, as it is the only place they can get an outfit length selfie! You can display your outfit on hangers or a tailor's dummy, or even lay it out on the floor. There is also a Flickr group to share outfits and past years have included 'Friday themes' like 'Polka Dot Parade' to add extra interest throughout the month. Some people choose to post weekly photos – it's up to you! You can join the Flickr group here, <https://www.flickr.com/groups/2757492@N24>

You don't need a blog – many people only use Instagram and Flickr. If you do have a blog, a popular approach is to do weekly posts during May on how your challenge is working out. Pinterest is another option for sharing your pictures.

Why May?

Zoe's original challenge was in March but this proved a chilly month. May lends itself to more temperate weather both here and on the opposite side of the world. Me-Made-May is definitely a global event with participants from all over the world.

What are the benefits of taking part?

Sewing can be a lonely business. My husband and daughter can only feign so much interest in the latest pattern releases or whether the drape of a particular fabric will work for a circle skirt. During Me-Made-May I feel like there is a sewing community only a click away that is interested in those very things. It is also a great way to see sewing patterns being worn by real people. I love finding new patterns and designers, or seeing a fabric sewn up in a design that I would never have thought of. Every year certain garments seem to be the 'greatest hits' of Me-Made-May. Last year I saw a multitude of 'Archer' shirts. This is a classic button up shirt with a relaxed feel designed by Jennifer Beeman of www.grainlinestudio.com

Jen's patterns are well drafted and her instructions are excellent. She runs sew-alongs for all her pattern releases. They are packed with expert tips and available for free on her website. I have a feeling that this year will feature one of her most recent designs, the 'Linden' sweatshirt. You can find Jen's patterns as PDF downloads at www.shop.grainlinestudio.com and paper versions are available in some UK sewing shops including The Village Haberdashery, www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk

There are other pledge based sewing initiatives that last the whole year. The Vintage Sewing Pattern Pledge is a year long event, started in 2014 by Marie Koupparis of www.astitchingodyssey.com. It's now in its second year with a co-host, Kerry of www.kestrelmakes.com and its simple premise is that you make your own pledge based on using vintage or reproduction sewing patterns. I have pledged to sew up three garments using my much prized Betty Jackson 1970s Butterick patterns. There are monthly inspiration posts to spur you on, round-ups of fellow stitcher's makes, giveaways, discounts and more! You can see how it works and how to join in at www.astitchingodyssey.com/2015/01/join-the-2015-vintage-sewing-pattern.html

What are you waiting for? It's more fun to sew together!

Kerry Green is co-author of 500 Quilt Blocks and has contributed to a range of quilting books and magazines. You can find more sewing tips, free patterns, tutorials and more at Kerry's blog: verykerryberry@blogspot.co.uk



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