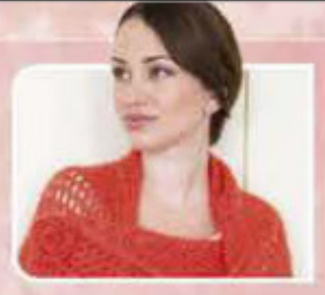


BAKE IT
Delicious Chelsea buns



MAKE IT
Upcycled decoupage drawers



KNIT IT
Stylish lace knit shawl

New Look!

Britain's No.1

Craftseller

MAKE & SELL YOUR HANDMADE CRAFTS

76 handmade

MAKES & IDEAS FOR EASY PROFIT

KONNICHIWA!

Geisha girls

FUN & FUNKY AMIGURUMI!

WIN!
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Real life

"MY GARDEN CRAFTS ARE BIG SELLERS!"

AUTHOR DEBORA ROBERTSON'S TOP TIPS FOR GROWING A CRAFTY CAREER...

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45 Chelsea Buns make delicious and fabulous wedding favours



16 Konnichiwa! Amigurumi geisha girls are big sellers

Welcome



We're getting in the back-to-school spirit this month and have a packed issue of crafty ideas, perfect for big and little learners alike. Makes like our floral satchel on page 84 and animal pencil toppers (p92) are simple projects and great sellers. Elsewhere, with a love for Oriental still trending we have our too-cute geisha dolls (p16), the cover stars this month. We also have tasty wedding bakes starting on page 43 including canapés, fabulous favours and the wedding cake itself. A new season means people are in the mood for new homeware, so be prepared for the trend with a gorgeous cross stitch picture (p32) and a knitted set of cafetiere, mug and egg cosies (p94). And if upcycling's more your thing, check out the atlas drawers (p72) and see how simple découpage and a map can transform a junk-shop buy. Feature-wise, find out why upcycling is big business for craft sellers and if you're a maker but not yet a seller, be inspired by our eight very good reasons to launch your crafty business – today! Plus, with this issue, we're giving away a FREE 48-page book of gorgeous Indian Summer papers – perfect for seasonal selling at this transitional time of year!

See you next month,

Zeena

ZEENA MOOLLA – EDITOR



72 Upcycle an old chest of drawers with decoupage



84 A ditsy, oilcloth satchel is great for back-to-schoolers



64 Mums and babies will love this owl mat

50

Look at this month's gorgeous free papers!

Contents

September 2013

OVER £1000 OF PRIZES TO WIN!

PAGE 68



64



74



84



94



46

Projects

16 **Not just big in Japan...**
Crochet this super-cute set of amigurumi geishas today!

27 **30-minute make**
Our back-to-school magnets will earn you a quick and easy profit

28 **Bollywood nights**
Add some bling to your stall, with stunning wire-wrapped jewellery

32 **Couple of lovebirds**
Framed in a funky hoop, these cross stitch birdies look so tweet!

36 **Monster munch**
Brighten up boring sandwiches with this fun and easy make

44 **Mini onion tarts**
Serve up these savoury treats at a stylish wedding reception

45 **Chelsea buns**
A classic recipe transformed into an original wedding favour idea!

46 **Wedding cake**
Show your baking credentials with our showstopping floral cake

50 **Home sweet home papers**
Make sure you have New Home cards for all those summer movers

64 **Mummy makes**
Babies will love the touchy-feely fun of this adorable owl playmat

72 **From junk to funk**
Upcycle an old set of drawers with vintage maps and a lick of paint

74 **It's a wrap!**
This knitted shawl has a luxury feel, with a price tag to match!

84 **Bags of class**
Sew our gorgeous oilcloth satchel to sell for the new school term

92 **Make a crafty tenner**
Delight little ones with a collection of crochet animal pencil toppers

94 **More ways than one**
Want to knit home accessories? This breakfast set is a great seller





Subscribe to the digital edition

Turn to page 40 for 40



Features

8 **Making news**
Get the lowdown on the latest crafty news and views

10 **Dear *Craftseller***
Your chance to share all your crafting and selling success stories

12 **Pin it!**
Be inspired buy our Oriental mood board, packed with Far East beauty

15 **Stash it!**
Stock up your supply cupboard with these au naturel craft goodies

22 **Real life: Debora Robertson**
Debora reveals how she grew a crafty career from her garden

38 **Eight reasons to start selling**
We give you eight great reasons to turn your talents into a business!

48 **Charity bakes**
Support three good causes by baking up a storm in the kitchen

68 **Fab freebies**
Enter now and you could get your hands on some brilliant prizes

70 **Diary of a craft-selling mum**
In between designing and making, Erica celebrates her birthday!

79 **Money for old rope**
Turning trash into treasure has never been more fashionable, or profitable!

89 **Ask us!**
Let our experts solve your craft-selling queries with the best advice

98 **My craft shop**
Find out how these three successful sellers make cash from their craft

100 **Crafty courses**
Choose from a range of inspiring courses to expand your craft skills

106 **Online loves**
Check out our favourite makes selling well on the web this month

Turn to page 102 for those all-important templates

Contributors

Meet three Craftseller *designers who have created projects just for you...*



Liz Ward

Amigurumi designer, Liz, is the creator of our gorgeous geisha girls on page 16

Amazingly, Liz only learned how to crochet four years ago when a friend taught her the basics. After discovering amigurumi, she began her own business, Amigurumi Barmy. Liz's designs are cute, quirky and perfect for all ages, while the easy-to-follow patterns give you fantastic results every time.

Claire Watkins

You can find Claire's upcycled atlas drawers in From Junk to Funk, on p72

Claire has been crafting from an early age, having been taught to knit by her grandmother at the age of seven. She is also a keen stitcher, and has a passion for all things vintage. Her weekends are often spent at the finest car boots and junk shops in the south west, looking for the perfect upcycling project!





Dorothy Wood

Turn to page 28 for Dorothy's stunning Bollywood-inspired hoop earrings

Dorothy has an impressive CV of crafting experience, and her projects have been published in countless books and magazines. As the UK's first Ambassador for Swarovski Elements, she enjoys finding innovative new ways to combine these crystals into her work, whether it be jewellery, beading or knitting.

A SPECIAL MENTION TO

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Photography Louise Broom, Ally Stuart, Steve Sayers
Distribution Frontline
Printed in the UK by William Gibbons

A special thank you to contributors and designers
Jo Benner, Helen Burge, Katriel Costello, Liz Ward, Wendy Massey, Sarah Heys, Vicky Craxton, Tracey Todhunter, Jessica Sharp, Rhona Norrie, Dorothy Wood, Annie Bellamy, Jane Tooze, Claire Watkins, Karen Dunn, Sarah Chadwick, Steve Wright, Marie Parry, Holly Johnson, Sophie Jordan, Poppy Benner, Verity Gough

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Craftseller is published by:
IMMEDIATE MEDIA Co

Immediate Media Company Limited, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Tel: 0117 927 9009
Fax: 0117 934 9008

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Making news

Welcome to your one-stop shop for all the latest craft trends, dates and celebs...



3 things you didn't know about... Orla Kiely

1 Orla was born in Dublin and her mum taught her to knit and crochet. She loved drawing and, after studying textiles at Dublin, she worked as a textiles designer at Esprit before studying for an MA at the Royal College of Arts. After graduating, she created a range of hats that were taken up by Harrods, which led to the launch of her own label.

2 She met her husband at university and they set up the business together. Orla is the creative one, while her husband Dermott is the business brain. They have two sons and a labradoodle called Olive.

3 Orla loves to visit London museums, like The Natural History Museum, for inspiration – her leafy prints are a version of what she sees in nature. At the end of a busy day, she loves watching *Coronation Street* and *Mad Men*.

Orla's designs are now world-renowned and have been worn by numerous celebs, including Kate Middleton. Follow her on Facebook or visit her website at **orlakiely.com**



SUPER SITES

Our pick of the best from the world of online this month...

flossieteacakes.blogspot.co.uk
A sweet site that's packed with stitching ideas, free tutorials and templates

pinterest.com/haptree/craft-life
On Pinterest? Then follow and add to this community board for lots of lovely inspiration!

eatdrinkchic.com
Pretty, papery goodness from Aussie lifestyle blogger, Amy Moss

Every crafter needs a good teapot! Laura Lee Designs, £51.98





BEST BAKERY 2...

Queen of couture cakes, Mich Turner, is set to return to our screens for a second series of Britain's Best Bakery.



Crazy about crochet!

The world-famous New York artist, Olek, recently spent two weeks in Covent Garden, crocheting this super-cute and colourful mother elephant with her baby, in order to raise money for a charity that helps Asian elephants. To see more of her quirky crochet, visit oleknyc.com.

PHOTOS: Jeff Moore/Rex Features; Nils Jorgensen/Rex Features



Royal inspiration!

Their wedding in 2011 saw over £199 million being spent on memorabilia, so it's no surprise that the arrival of Kate and William's baby is sparking a similar trend for all things red, white and blue. We love this sweet cross stitch cushion from Belle and Boo. Buy the chart for £3.99 from belleandboo.com

TEXTILE TRIPS

Talent SPOT

THIS MONTH, we're coveting the work of Janet Browne (janetbrownetextiles.com), who recently won Craft & Design's Gold Award for Textiles. Her intricate, colourful pieces map places and journeys she's been on, using hand-dyed fabrics. Our favourite has to be 'Are we nearly there yet?' – the words that every parent dreads as they set off on a long drive!

We love this nostalgic 'Are we nearly there yet?' design!



TOP TREND ✓ TOP TREND ✓ TOP TREND ✓ TOP TREND ✓ TOP TREND ✓ TOP TREND

PORCELAIN PRINTS

IF YOU THOUGHT that Wedgwood was only for your dining room dresser, think again! Blue-and-white china prints are popping up on everything from wallpaper designs to maxi dresses right now, so take inspiration from the trend and incorporate the colour and pattern into your crafts for a hot new look...

China Plates Wallpaper: DigetexHome/Dresses: M&Co and Hobbs

CRAFTY EVENTS

Our pick of the best crafty events around this month...

Craft Folk Cardiff Summer Festival
St Johns Church's
3-17 August

Handmade and Vintage Fair
Stratford-upon-Avon
4 August

The Sandringham Craft, Sculpture & Art Fair
Kings Lynn, Norfolk
9-11 August

The Great British Craft Festival
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
10-11 August

Burnham Market Craft Fair
Burnham, Norfolk
17 August

Derbyshire Craft and Food Fair
Kedleston Hall, Derby
17-18 August

Chilterns Craft and Design Show
Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames
23-26 August

Cawood Craft Festival
Cawood Village, North Yorkshire
24-26 August

The Grassmarket Festival Fair
Edinburgh
25-30 August

Dear Craftseller

Send us your latest crafting and selling stories – each issue the star letter wins a StickyTiger prize!



Hart and Home offers pretty upcycled makes for sale via Facebook

Summer crafternoons

I THOUGHT I'D SHARE a pic of my fabric-covered terracotta pot, which I made this afternoon, inspired by your Junk to Funk project in issue 25.

HART AND HOME, VIA FACEBOOK

Ed: This plant pot looks really attractive – thanks so much for sharing with us. Pretty pots are sure to be great sellers during the summer months.

It's a sure sign...

I MIGHT BE in the minority, being a male reader, but I really enjoy *Craftseller*. I'm not a crafter in the sewing or knitting sense, but I find the advice and success stories you print very motivational. I make carved signs for weddings and home decor, and I've recently moved from an Etsy online shop to the smaller scale Wowthankyou.co.uk. It's sometimes competitive on Etsy in my line, so this site suits me great. And it's nice to be a part of a craft-selling website that showcases specifically UK crafters.

IAN LYON, ARKWOOD VIA FACEBOOK

Ed: Your signs look really professional, Ian. It's good to hear that you've found a website to suit you. We hope you're getting the sales you deserve!



Ian's signs are fab quality and make for great gifts

CRAFTY BLOG

joannagoddard.blogspot.co.uk



I love this blog! For one thing, I've always wanted an apartment in NYC just like Joanna, but I also love her wit, gorgeous food pics and practical approach to fashion. If you want a technical craft blog, look elsewhere. If you want inspiration, then A Cup of Jo is ideal!

GEMMA HULSE, YORK



I heart you!

WHAT A SUPERB MAGAZINE! The new look is lovely, the content is great and the makes are achievable. I've taken time out of work to raise my two children, and I'm finally getting the time and confidence to start crafting again – I've found 'me' again! You've helped me make a business out of my love of craft, and reading about similar people – like Erica Martyn in Diary of a Craft Selling Mum – reassures me that I can achieve my dreams.

CHRISTINE DURRANT, ONE OF A KIND

Ed: You're very welcome, Christine! And do keep us posted with news on how you are making your craft-selling dreams come true.

GREAT MINDS

Star LETTER

I'M A MUM OF two and *Craftseller* is my all-time favourite craft mag! I was so happy when I opened the new-look issue 24 to find a coin purse tutorial. Coin purses are something I've been making for a while, and to see them featured in your magazine has made me more determined. I even approached a local shop with my purses, and was so pleased when they asked me for a wholesale price list!

LUCY BABB, LUCYLUUS

Ed: Congratulations, Lucy! To celebrate, we'll send you some StickyTiger vouchers.



Lisa Lam's purses have inspired Lucy to get selling!

Star letter prize!

This month our star letter writer wins £45 worth of vouchers for stickytigersupplies.co.uk





Crafting projects are a therapeutic activity for Maureen

I'm a survivor!

I MADE THIS FROM an old table and I love to show it off. As a stroke survivor, I can get better when lovely people like the team at *Craftseller* takes the time to talk to me (I phoned in with a query once). We have your magazine in rehab to help and encourage us – thanks so much. Make sure you come and visit us in Londonderry while we're the city of culture!

MAUREEN MOLLOY, LONDONDERRY

Ed: We love this table, Maureen. Turn to p72 for an upcycled chest of drawers. Good luck with your recovery – we can't wait to see what you make next.

Craft bomb

YOU ASKED US TO share pics of our favourite yarn bombs – well here's mine. It's an installation in Barnsley Town Centre by the South Yorkshire Federation of Women's Institutes, to raise awareness of the plight of our high streets. All the shopkeepers remarked on how much it improved the area.

DONNA ELISABETH TUXFORD, VIA FACEBOOK

Ed: Thanks for sharing this great photo, Donna. We love a yarn bomb in aid of a good cause!



CRAFTY TALK

Here are some of our favourite posts and tweets this month...

Peaceful Saturday! Time for inspiration @ CraftsellerMag purrrfect.... **@CESTLALAARTS**

Chilling with @lionsofficial on tv and @CraftsellerMag to read! #perfectcombo **@MICHELEBADGER**

Picked up the latest mag you helped us so much with our Etsy shop **@ POPPYSCRAFTS**

Just got myself a 5 for £5 subscription to @CraftsellerMag with my birthday pennies! **@ PATTERNPIPER**

Thank you for my fabulous giveaway! Just arrived and I LOVE it :) **@LYNDA4WRAPPING**

Search for *Craftseller* on facebook.com

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yourletters@craft-seller.com

Dear *Craftseller*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

Orient

Inspire your makes with the spirit of the East, taking note from these stunning Asian shapes and shades...



13



14

15

1 Belted Jacquard Dress, £55, Lace Heart Cardigan, £20, **yumidirect.co.uk** 2 Swan Necklace, £115, **origamijewellery.com** 3 Orange Floral on Mocha Cushion, £22.50, **karenzaandco.com** 4 George's 50's Yellow, £895, **gong.co.uk** 5 Oriental Floral Cushion, £30, **digetexhome.com** 6 Japanese Fan – Pink Cherry Blossoms, £9.36, **asianideas.com** 7 Lemon & Passion Fruit Cupcakes, £7.50 for six, **juniper cakery.co.uk** 8 Pink Blossom Silk Kimono Fabric, £10/m, **thejapaneseshop.co.uk** 9 Birds in Paradise Wallpaper, £60, **johnlewis.com** 10 Buddha Sculpture, £42, **artisanti.com** 11 Japanese Blossom Bowl Sunflowers, £4.95, **dotcomgiftshop.com** 12 Red Temple Scroll, £115, **thejapanese shop.co.uk** 13 MeDusa Mini Clutch Bag, £75, **boticca.com** 14 Japanese Fabric – Kimono Pink, £2.69, **Nanagracy on etsy.com** 15 Gold Blossom Kimono Fabric, £10/m, **thejapaneseshop.co.uk** 16 Ching He Huang Chopsticks, £4.99, **drinkstuff.com** 17 Yan Wallpaper, £79, **digetexhome.com** 18 Happy Girl Yellow Kokeshi Doll, £20, **thejapaneseshop.co.uk**



12

16

17

18

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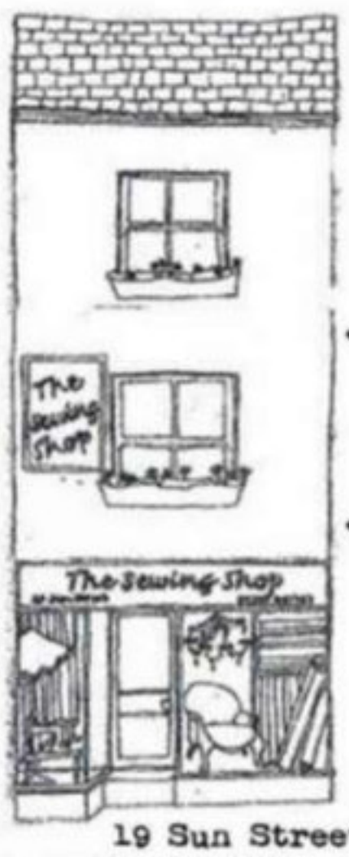


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Inspiring ideas for your crafty makes







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70mm **Wooden Button**, £1.62, JVKWOODWORK on etsy.com · Miss Mustard Seed's 100% **Natural Milk Paint**, £21.95 per litre, beautifullyboho.co.uk · Fustic and Logwood **Natural Dye Chips**, £3.25, georgeweil.com



Not just big in Japan...

Crochet some colourful oriental charm, with these gorgeous geisha girls. Their pretty, open faces will prove irresistible! **By Liz Ward**



COVER *stars*

INFORMATION

Materials

- 50g Rico Design Essential Cotton DK in Nature (051), Redbrick (072), Black (090), Brown (078), Cobalt Blue (032), Aqua (095), Purple (018), Lilac (016), Pistachio (086), Yellow (063), Red (002), Blue (036), Dark Teal (040), Coral (068), Magenta (013) and Grass Green (066)
- 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook
- 1.25mm (UK 3, US 8) steel (or thread) crochet hook
- 0.6cm (¼in) safety toy eyes
- Wool needle
- Toy stuffing
- Embroidery thread
- Felt
- Pearl head pins
- Old earrings
- Buttons, beads, sequins and pompoms
- Fabric glue

Size: 10 x 5cm (4 x 2in)
Skill level: Moderate

Wow your customers with this parade of adorable Kawaii geisha girls. They're made from a simple amigurumi pattern that you can embellish and customise, to give them their own personalities and boost those profits. We've use Rico Essential Cotton, which comes in a fantastic range of bright colours that are perfect for amigurumi, but you can get a similar finish with any DK-weight yarn so this is a great stash-busting project. Plus, each doll will only take a few hours to make!

ABBREVIATIONS

sl st:	slip stitch
dc:	double crochet
htr:	half treble crochet
tr:	treble crochet
st/sts:	stitch/stitches
dc2tog:	double crochet the next two stitches together
blo:	work in the back loop of the stitch only

How to make the geisha girls



HEAD AND BODY

Using 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook and starting with Nature yarn.
Start with 6dc into magic ring. 6sts.
Round 1: 2dc into each st to the end. 12sts.
Round 2: (dc in the first st, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 18sts.
Round 3: (dc in the first 2sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 24sts.
Round 4: (dc in the first 3sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 30sts.
Round 5: (dc in the first 4sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 36sts.
Round 6-10: dc in each st to the end. 36sts.
Mark round 8 with a stitch marker
Round 11: (dc2tog, dc in next 4sts); repeat to end. 30sts.
Round 12: (dc2tog, dc in next 3sts); repeat to end. 24sts.
Round 13: (dc2tog, dc in next 2sts); repeat to end. 18sts.
*Pause to insert the toy eyes now. They go on the marked round, 7 stitches apart.
Round 14: (dc2tog, dc in next st); repeat to end. 12sts. Stuff the head now.
*Change to dress yarn colour (see opposite page for details).
Round 15: dc into each st to the end. 12sts.
Round 16: (dc in the first 3sts, 2dc in the next st);repeat to end. 15sts.
Round 17: (dc in the first 4sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 18sts.
Round 18: (dc in the first 5sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 21sts.
Round 19: (dc in the first 6sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 24sts.
Round 20: (dc in the first 7sts, 2dc in the next st) repeat to end. 27sts.
Round 21: (dc in the first 8sts, 2dc in the next st) repeat to end. 30sts.
Round 22: (dc in the first 9sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 33sts.
Round 23: (dc in the first 10sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 36sts.
*Change to the contrast yarn colour.
Rounds 24-25: dc in each st to the end. 36sts.
*Change back to dress yarn colour.
Rounds 26-30: dc in each st to the end. 36sts.
Round 31: (blo dc2tog, blo dc in next 4sts); repeat to end. 30sts.
Round 32: (dc2tog, dc in next 3sts); repeat to end. 24sts.
Round 33: (dc2tog, dc in next 2sts); repeat to end. 18sts.
Round 34: (dc2tog, dc in next st); repeat to end. 12sts. Stuff your toy now.
Round 35: (dc2tog); repeat to end. 6sts.
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and pull through loop to secure. Using a wool needle, weave the yarn through the last 6sts and pull tight to close. Weave in ends and cut remaining yarn.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook and starting with dress yarn colour.
Start with 6dc into magic ring. 6st.
Round 1: 2dc into first st, (dc in each st); repeat to the end. 7sts.
Round 2: dc in each st to the end. 7sts.
Rounds 3-10: repeat the last 2 rounds 4 times. 11sts at end of round 10.
*Change to the contrast yarn colour.
Round 11: dc in each st to the end. 11sts.
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and pull through loop to secure. Sew in place on the body.

OBI (DRESS)

Make one using 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook and the contrast yarn colour
This is not worked in a spiral. Ch 6.
Row 1: 1dc in the 2nd ch from hook, dc in each st along ch. 5sts.
Rows 2-10: ch 1, turn work, dc in each dc to end. 5sts.
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and pull through loop to secure. Fold in half and sew to the back of the doll's dress.

Wig

Using 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook and hair yarn colour.
Start with 6dc into magic ring. 6sts.
Round 1: 2dc into each st to the end. 12sts.
Round 2: (dc in the first st, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 18sts.
Round 3: (dc in the first 2sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 24sts.
Round 4: (dc in the first 3sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 30sts.
Round 5: (dc in the first 4sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 36sts.
Round 6: (dc in the first 11sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 39sts.
Rounds 7-8: dc in each st to the end. 39sts.
Round 9: dc in the next 30sts, ch1.
*Work continues on these 30sts only
Rows 10-13: turn work, dc in the next 30sts, ch1 (does not count as stitch).
Row 14: (dc2tog, dc in next 3sts); repeat to end, ch1 (does not count as stitch). 24sts.
Row 15: (dc2tog, dc in next 2sts); repeat to end, ch1 (does not count as stitch). 18sts.
Row 16: (dc2tog, dc in next st); repeat to end, ch1 (does not count as stitch). 12sts.
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and pull through loop to secure. Sew in place on the head.

Large bun

Using 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook and hair yarn colour
Start with 6dc into ring. 6sts.
Round 1: 2dc into each st to the end. 12sts.
Round 2: (dc in the first st, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 18sts.
Round 3: (dc in the first 2sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 24sts.
Round 4: (dc in the first 3sts, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 30sts.
Rounds 5-7: dc in each st to the end. 30sts.
Round 8: (dc2tog, dc in next 3sts); repeat to end. 24sts.
Round 9: (dc2tog, dc in next 2sts); repeat to end. 18sts
Round 10: (dc2tog, dc in next st); repeat to end. 12sts. Stuff now.
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and pull through loop to secure. Sew to top or side of head.

Small bun (make 2)

Using 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook and hair yarn colour.
Start with 6dc into ring. 6sts.
Round 1: 2dc into each st to the end. 12sts.
Round 2: (dc in the first st, 2dc in the next st); repeat to end. 18sts.
Rounds 3-4: dc in each st to the end. 18sts.
Round 5: (dc2tog, dc in next st); repeat to end. 12sts. Stuff now.
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and pull through loop to secure. Sew in place on sides of head.

Neck trim

Using 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook and contrast yarn colour (to match belt on body). Ch30.
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and pull through loop to secure. Sew one end to the middle of the belt at the front of the doll, wrap around the head and back down to the belt at the front, and sew the other end in the same place. Weave in and cut off any loose ends.

Bun trim

Using (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook and contrast yarn colour.
Ch20 (for large buns) or ch14 (for small buns).
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, and pull through loop to secure. Wrap around the bun and knot yarn ends together. Do not cut ends of yarn off, as you will use them for decoration later.

Making up

Blue geisha

Yarn colours: Skin (051), Wig (072), Dress (032), Contrast (095).
Decoration: Cut a simple butterfly shape out of yellow felt. Blanket stitch round the edge with light blue embroidery thread. Do a couple of long stitches in the middle to form the body with brown embroidery thread. Sew or glue onto the dress. Attach two light blue pompoms and a butterfly button to the side of the bun with fabric glue.

Purple geisha

Yarn colours: Skin (051), Wig (090), Dress (018), Contrast (016).
Decoration: To make the bun pins, wrap embroidery thread around a pearl head pin to cover, secure with glue. Tie a few pieces of embroidery thread to the pearl end and cut to graduating lengths. Glue star buttons to the ends of the strands. Push into the side of the bun. Sew a few more star buttons to dress.

Green geisha

Yarn colours: Skin (051), Wig (072), Dress (086), Contrast (063).
Decoration: Cut a small heart shape out of light pink felt. Embroider a running stitch round the edge and sew or glue in place on the doll's dress. Glue an old beaded earring to the side of the bun and cover the top with a heart embellishment.

Red geisha

Yarn colours: Skin (051), Wig (078), Dress (002), Contrast (036).
Decoration: Sew or glue fabric trim around the bottom of the dress. Glue a few strands of chain to the side of the bun and cover the top with two pompoms and a flower sequin.

Teal geisha

Yarn colours: Skin (051), Wig (090), Dress (040), Contrast (068).
Decoration: Glue a dragonfly button to the dress. Thread seed beads onto the loose yarn on the bun trims, knot to hold the beads in place and cut the ends. Wrap contrasting yarn around buns and bead the ends as before. Sew or glue a bead to the side of one bun.

PInk geisha

Yarn colours: Skin (051), Wig (078), Dress (013), Contrast (066).
Decoration: Using green embroidery thread, backstitch a few Y-shaped branches on the dress. Glue or sew little button flowers to the end of the branches. Thread beads onto the loose yarn on the bun trims, knot to hold the beads in place and cut the ends. Layer and glue together flower sequins, then glue in place on the side of the bun.

SAFETY FIRST Hand-crafted amigurumi items are collectibles and are not intended as toys or for young children. Always make sure you use natural yarns, safe toy stuffing and safe toy eyes. Pay attention when stitching together so everything is very securely in place and as safe as possible. **Remember, if you intend on selling them, even if they are not sold as a toy, there are strict regulations to adhere to. Visit craft-seller.com/free-downloads for more legal advice on child safety.**



You've made it, now sell it...

Read our top tips to help you sell your cute crochet geishas

1 **Create a rainbow family** by changing the skin tone and hair colour and appeal to all types of customer.



2 **Keep to the Japanese theme** – wrap pretty kimono fabric around the waist to create the geisha's 'obi' (belt).

3 **Offer a gift-wrap service** and package your geishas in delicate oriental blossom paper.

4 **Add your own touches** by creating the classic geisha pout. Just snip out a lip shape from red felt and stitch on.

5 **Create a fun backstory** for each doll – give them alter-egos (geisha by day, ninja by night, etc.)

6 **Engage Facebook likers and twitter followers** – run a 'name the geisha' competition and offer a doll as a prize.

7 **Have fun with product photos**. Stage the dolls drinking green tea or sitting in a zen-type garden - use props like orchids, kimonos, cocktail parasols etc.

8 **Get seasonal** so you can tap into the various gift markets. Add holly to the Christmas geisha's hair, or give the Valentine geisha a cute stitched heart.

9 **Go neon, stripy or dotty** with your doll's fashion. They will appeal to girls and women so get sartorial and create a whole wardrobe of geishas.

10 **Geisha charms are very popular** so whip up a few mini dolls, add a key chain and create a complementary new product.

NOW SELLING ON...



Etsy: Japanese Geisha pdf Pattern by Gingermelon, £5.06



Etsy: Japanese Kokeshi Figure Doll by MissDolkapots, £12.18



Etsy: Sakura the Geisha Doll iPhone leather case by Leatherprince, £30.12

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I grew a crafty career from my garden!

Debora Robertson used the collective wisdom and passion of her family to grow her business **by Karen Dunn**

In the busy streets of east London, Debora Robertson's little back garden is an oasis of calm. Sitting at her table filling bags with lavender – while her Burmese cat, Dixie, purrs around her feet and her excitable dog, Barney, runs up and down – you'd never guess that just feet away, cars and buses are racing up the main road. The only clue that you're in London is a police helicopter buzzing overhead.

Debora, 48, has worked hard to bring a little bit of countryside to her Stoke Newington home, and has even managed to turn her passion for growing and baking into a successful craft business. Her first book, *Gifts From The Garden*, shares her tips for making gorgeous gifts from found objects and treats grown at home. She also opens up her impressive kitchen to host workshops, as well as writing a successful food blog, *Love and a Licked Spoon*.

The frantic pace of east London seems a world away, as Debora reveals how her uncle's allotment and granny's baking inspired her to make a living from craft...

"I love living in London because it's so full of possibilities, but I've always made sure that, no matter how small the place I'm living in, there's a balcony or a small yard. When everything around you is concrete and brick, to have something a bit wild and green is very restorative.

"I grew up in Bishop Auckland, which is a small market town in County Durham. My mum worked a lot, so my granny babysat my brother and me. She was a tough old bird and a real inspiration, as she was always making. She taught us to knit, embroider, sew and bake – even my brother, who was a 6ft 3in rugby player!

"My uncle Jos had an amazing allotment and was always full of stories of scandal about prize-winning leeks. My mum wasn't really one for cooking as she was so busy, but she always let us mess around in the kitchen. She would say: "As long as there's no blood, and the flames are intentional, I don't mind what you do." She called it constructive neglect. It was brilliant because it meant I was never afraid to try things and make a mess, which has clearly carried on into adulthood!

> I didn't set out with a business plan – it's just grown organically, a bit like my garden

'When I left home I made ball dresses to earn some money while I was a struggling student, but when I first moved to London in my early 20s I didn't do any craft. I lived in a tiny flat in Islington and I didn't even have room for a bed, let alone a sewing machine. I forged a career as a journalist working on women's magazines, but what I really wanted to write about was food. My real break came when I became the food writer at River Cottage, which meant I met lots of fantastic people with the same passions as me. Gardeners and cooks are very generous people – they're always giving you seeds or writing a recipe down for you. I decided to start a blog so I could pass on everything I learned. With my blog came Twitter, which has been invaluable for meeting people and building my business.

"Through Twitter I met a garden writer called Alex Mitchell. One day she sent me a message saying she'd been chatting with her publishers, and would I like to meet them because they wanted someone to do a book about food and gardening. Obviously, I said yes straight away.

"Putting the book together was so much fun. It gave me an excuse to use all the skills I'd learned from my grandma and uncle, and it was like making mud pies again. Through that autumn and spring, I took what I grew and turned it into jams, biscuits, spice rubs, chutneys and cakes. I also learnt new skills – while I knew about gardening and cooking, I'd never made cosmetics before, so it was great to add another string to my bow. My kitchen was full of beeswax, sweet almond oil, Castile soap and Epsom salts as I added soaps, body scrubs and bubble bath to my repertoire.

"It was around this time that I decided to open up my home and start teaching workshops, from making pesto to creating »

Photos: Vicki Couchman/UNP





Clockwise from left: Debora is at home in her little east London haven; even the simplest household items look stunning filled with one of Debora's arrangements; creating with food and garden plants are Debora's passions; this cute catnip mouse can be found in Debora's book, *Gifts from the Garden* (Kyle Books, £16.99), photography by Yuki Sugiura.







Clockwise from top: Debora's kitchen has seen all kinds of culinary inventions; the fresh ingredients for her recipes come from Debora's garden

a 'grow your own pizza colander' where we planted all the ingredients, from rocket to tomatoes, to top a pizza with.

"I love to share my garden and home with others, and to be able to make a business out of my hobby is amazing. The workshops also help me come up with new ideas. You can't beat meeting and talking to people in the flesh to find inspiration. I love not knowing who is going to be at the front door, from ladies in the WI to cool young kids. I'm always thinking about new and exciting workshops to run, and it looks like there's another book in the pipeline as well, which is very exciting. I'm too impatient to sell at markets. I know my skills lie in writing and teaching, so I'd rather pass on the skills so people can go and sell for themselves, or simply enjoy the craft and gardening for the fun it is.

"I didn't ever set out with a business plan – it's just grown organically, a bit like my garden, with lots of mistakes and lessons learned along the way. One of the best

> Sometimes I find my best ideas come from my mistakes

pieces of advice I've ever been given was from a wonderful garden writer called Fred Whitsey, who once said to me: "You're not a proper gardener until you've deliberately killed a plant." Well, I've done plenty of that, and sometimes I find my best ideas come from my mistakes. Being perfect is far too boring for me to want to stick at it." CS

Debora's top tips to grow your business

Keep it unique

You never want to be selling next to someone doing the same thing. If you're growing things, choose ones that are difficult to find. Instead of a pot of parsley, grow lemon verbena – it's unusual and smells fantastic.

Make time to play

You should always be looking for the next big thing, so you can be ahead of the crowd. Think: "What's the new bunting? The new cupcake?" Put aside one afternoon a week where you can read magazines, look at blogs or go to an art gallery. Anything to give you time to dream.

Talk to people

While the internet is fantastic, you can't beat getting out there and talking to people to get ideas. I go to Columbia Road Flower Market religiously every Sunday, to chat to the traders and find out what's new.



Debora Robertson



Debora's blog, Love and a Licked Spoon, **lickedspoon.com**, was a nominee for Food Blog of the Year in the Guild of Food Writers Awards 2012. She tweets **@lickedspoon**

"I saw this kit advertised and couldn't believe the price. Just HAD to have it. I ordered it late on SUNDAY Nov 25 and it was with me Weds morning Nov 28th. Brilliant service or what? Ooh and what did I think of the kit? W - O - W."

October 22, 2012
Reviewer: Christine
Stockport, Cheshire,
United Kingdom

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October 01, 2012
Reviewer: Pauline
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Nottinghamshire,
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November 11, 2012
Reviewer: Gillian
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November 26, 2012
Reviewer: M Bamton
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30-minute make

These cute fridge magnets make a great set to collect and will catch those eager back-to-school shoppers **By Wendy Massey**

INFORMATION

Materials

- Small packs of polymer clay (Fimo or similar) in chosen colours
- Knife and shape cutters
- Baking parchment
- Fineline marker pen, eg. Sharpie
- Flat circular magnets
- Acrylic varnish (optional)
- Hot glue gun

Size: Biggest is 5 x 5cm (2 x 2in)
Skill level: Easy

TOP TIP

To avoid smudges bake scrap pieces of clay to test your pen before you use it on the magnets

1 Work clay in your hands until soft. Make shapes by rolling, flattening and shaping the polymer clay by hand, or using cutters.

2 Bake as per manufacturer's instructions on the polymer clay packet. Allow to cool. Varnish if required.

3 Once cooled, glue magnets to the back using a hot glue gun. Write messages and add detail to the magnets with permanent marker pen.



Bollywood nights

Glam up your jewellery range with these stunning hoops, made with a simple wire-wrapping technique **By Dorothy Wood**





INFORMATION

Materials

- 16 x 4mm Swarovski Elements XILIONS (bicones), any colour, £2.88 for 50, from I-beads.co.uk
- Silver-plated wire (1.2mm, 1mm, 0.6mm and 0.4mm), from beadsisters.co.uk
- Set of jewellery tools
- Chasing hammer and block
- Ring mandrel (optional)

Size: 5 x 4.5cm (2 x 1½in)
Skill level: Easy

Wire-wrapping is a fantastic technique for jewellery making, as the basic materials are inexpensive but the results are stunning. The components of these earrings are relatively simple, but you do need to take care to make the different elements the correct size so that it is all in scale. You can make these earrings in silver-plated wire or sterling silver, as the result will look fairly similar, but obviously the silver will last for many more years. When wire-wrapping, it's important to keep the wire kink-free – as you pull it through, keep the wire curved and then let the loop get smaller without letting it bend sharply. Over-worked wire will break, so do be careful.



How to make the earrings



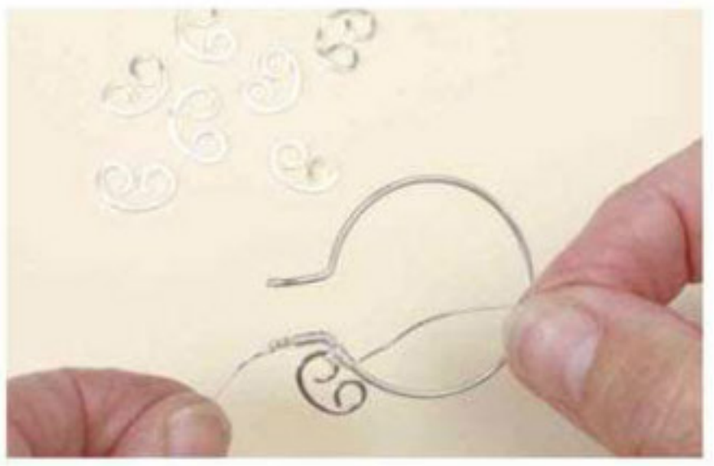
1 Wrap around the 1.2mm silver-plated wire, near the bottom of the ring mandrel (or a suitable cylinder 2.5cm (1in) diameter) five or six times, to make tight circles. Then allow the wire to release. Trim the wire at the top and then cut two pieces, 1.5 coils long.



2 Use the round-nose pliers to form a small loop at one end of one of the cut pieces. Reposition the pliers in the loop, and bend back to 'break the neck'. Use snipe-nose pliers to bend the circle of wire about 0.5cm (¼in) up from the loop.



6 Lay the loops one at a time on the metal block, and hammer lightly on both sides until flat. You don't want to widen the wire significantly, just tap really gently to give it a flatter surface.



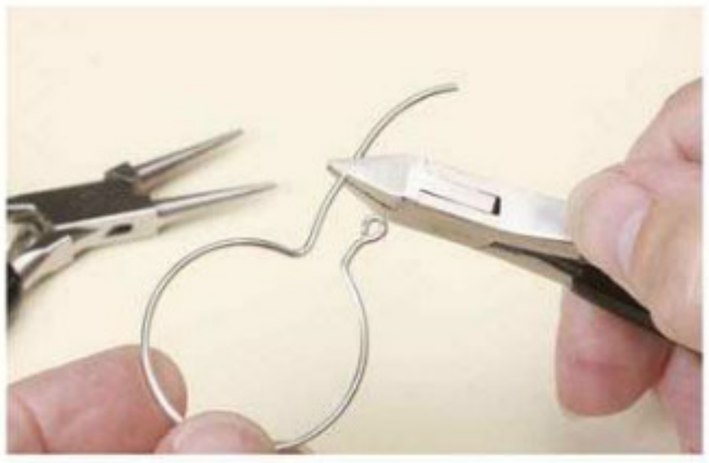
7 Cut a 2m (80in) length of 0.4mm wire and wrap one end around and under one loop on the earring circle. Continue down and around the bend for two or three wraps. *Hold the top shape against the circle and wrap the wire through the first loop, and around the circle four times. Wrap through the second loop four times, then around the wire circle four times again.



11 Cut two 10cm (4in) lengths of 0.6mm wire. Make a wrapped loop on one end, adding it to the front loop of the earrings before you wrap the tail. The reverse sides of each earring should face together.



12 Bend wire over the curved handle of the pliers and position against the back earring circle loop. Trim 4mm on other side of loop and bend up so that it stays when inserted into the loop. Repeat on other earring.



3 Bend the wire at the other end to leave a 1cm (½in) gap in the large circle. Trim the straight wire about 4mm above the top of the other loop. Use the round-nose pliers to make a loop. Turn both loops so they are perpendicular to the large circle, with the cut ends at the back. This forms the earring circle.



4 Wrap 1mm wire around the mandrel, between the 3 and 4 marker lines, about 12 times, and let the wire release. Snip coils so you have nine rings. Trim 1.2cm (½in) from one end of the first ring. Using round-nose pliers, hold wire at mid point of the jaws and make a large loop. Repeat on the other side.



5 Lay the shape below the earring circle. Make eight more shapes in the same way, trimming slightly more wire off each time so that the sizes of the shapes grade to the top of the circle on each side. Check the shapes fit, and adjust if necessary by wrapping the loops around a little more.



8 Repeat from * until all nine shapes are attached. Wrap fine wire around the thicker wire, up to the other loop. Trim wires close to loops. Lay circle on the metal block and hammer new wrapped wire lightly. You may have to make some shapes slightly smaller by bending the loops with round-nose pliers. Push up to fit, then re-trim the looped wire inside the shape with flush cutters.

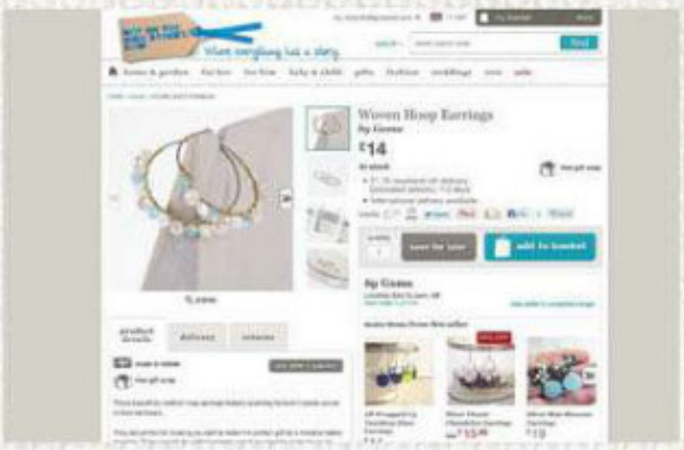


9 Cut eight 15cm (6in) lengths of 0.4mm wire. Pick up a 4mm bicone and bend wire about 4cm (1½in) from one end so that it is parallel down both sides of the bead. Position wire behind earring circle so that the bead is between two curved shapes. Wrap the long tail through the curved shapes and around the short tail five times. Twist the two tails a few times, trim and tuck away neatly.

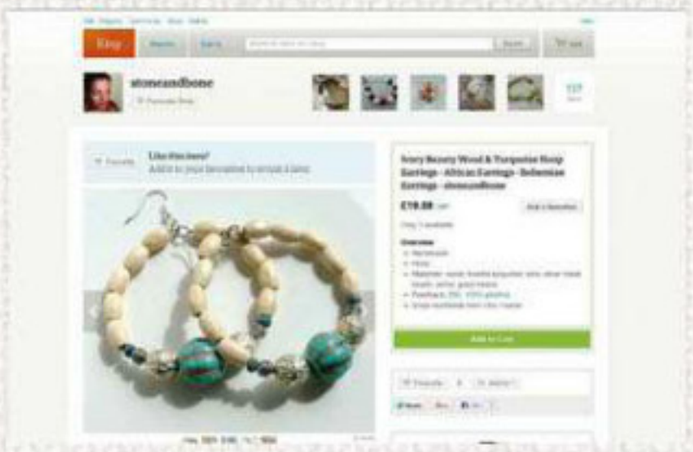


10 Repeat to add all the bicones around the circle, one at a time. Use snipe-nose pliers to flatten the wrapped wire below the bicones carefully. Make a second earring in exactly the same way, arranging the wire shapes over the first earring so that the shape and pieces are all the same size.

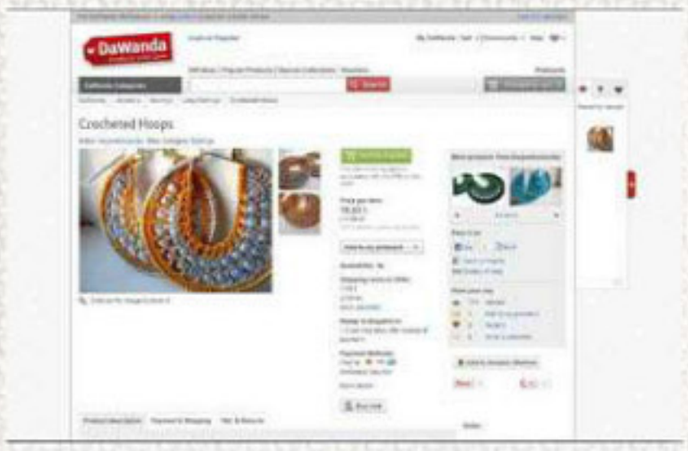
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Gama on notonthehighstreet.com

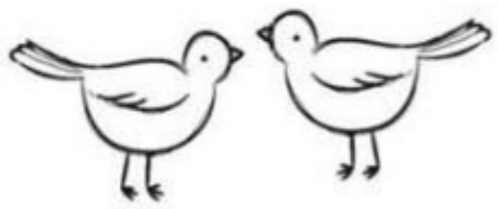


Etsy
stoneandbone on etsy.com



Dawanda
AlejandraJacoby on dawanda.com





Couple of love birds!

Your customers will love this cheerful bird wall hanging, and you'll love how quick and easy it is to stitch **By Rhona Norrie**

INFORMATION

Materials

- 28cm (11in) square Carolina 14-count linen aida (Sand)
- DMC threads and as listed in key
- Size 24 tapestry needle
- 18cm (7in) wooden embroidery hoop
- 18cm (7in) circle of iron-on interfacing
- Sewing needle and thread
- 18cm (7in) circle of co-ordinating felt
- Fabric glue
- Needle and thread

Size: 18cm (7in)
Skill level: Easy

TOP TIP

Keep your work in a hoop while stitching, to ensure even tension of your stitches

Offer these bright and cheerful wall hangings and watch them fly off your stall! Cross stitch is a hot seller at the moment, and this fresh design with bright colours fits the bill perfectly. The simple cross stitch birds make super gifts for friends and loved ones, and they can be used for so many different occasions. Widen the appeal by offering customised versions. You can add hand-stitched messages on the bottom, such as 'Happy Birthday' or 'Thinking of you', or create a personalised engagement present with the names of the happy couple.

How to make the wall hanging

1. Find the centre of your fabric and start stitching here, working outwards from the centre of the chart (overleaf).

2. Once finished, iron out any creases on a low heat setting. Position interfacing centrally on the back of the stitching. Iron interfacing to stitching, following manufacturer's instructions.

3. Trim aida to a circle approx. 25cm (10in) in diameter. Place design into the hoop and tighten the screw, ensuring fabric is taut and design is central.

4. Sew a running stitch all round the edge of the fabric, pulling the thread as you go, to gather the fabric so it will lie flat against the hoop. Tie thread securely.

5. Use fabric glue to attach your circle of felt over the back of the design, to hide the gathered fabric.

NOW SELLING ON...

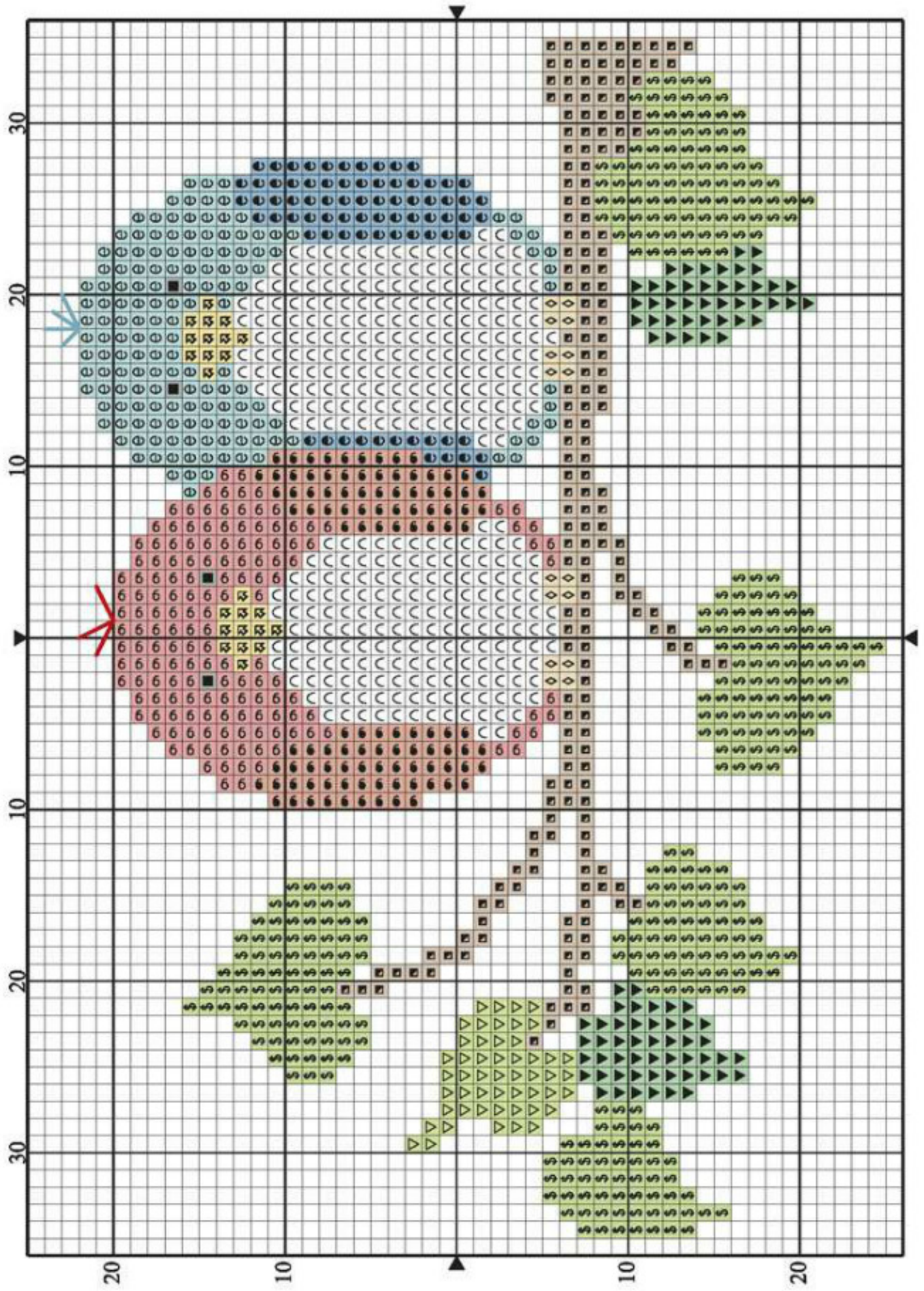


Etsy
evrettou on etsy.com



Not On The High Street
Designs and Such on noths.com

BIRDS CHART



BIRDS KEY

Cross stitch in two strands

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
∩	blanc	2	2402	white
■	310	403	2400	black
◕	321	9046	510	dark red
◊	422	943	2102	tan
▼	700	229	1302	dark green
$	702	226	1306	green
▽	703	238	1307	light green
⊠	743	302	113	yellow
◙	801	359	2007	brown
6	3801	1098	411	red
e	3844	1089	1102	dark turquoise
e	3845	1090	1103	turquoise

Backstitch in one strand

	DMC	Anchor	Madeira	Colour
—	321	9046	510	dark red
—	3844	1089	1102	dark turquoise

Stitch count 49 high x 70 wide
Design area 14 HPI (28-count evenweave) – 9x13cm (3½x5in)
This design was stitched using DMC stranded cotton



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Monster munch!

These lunchboxes will be popular with mums and their little monsters, as they get ready for school in September **By Wendy Massey**

INFORMATION

Materials
- Lunchbox or tupperware box
- PVA glue
- Scraps of fabrics, eg cotton or polycotton
- Fine and medium sandpaper
- Fine permanent pen

Size: 30 x 20cm (11¾ x 7¾in), pic area 25 x 16cm (9¾ x 6¼in)
Skill level: Easy

TOP TIP

Use a good quality waterproof PVA glue and the finished lunchbox will be easy to wipe clean

Make the most of back-to-school sales with our monster lunchbox! This design is adaptable and will work for different sizes – use it to turn cheap plastic containers into bright lunchboxes that any small children would love to own. Check out pound shops and supermarket sales for cut-price tupperware. This project uses up small scraps of fabric, so it won't cost much in money or time. Our cute character has a personality all of his own, but why not use the basic idea to create your own monster?



How to make the monster lunchbox

1 Cut out all the pieces of fabric you need for the image, using the templates provided on page 102.

2 Measure the top of the box and cut the background fabric slightly bigger all round. Place the fabric on top. With a pencil, mark exactly where you want the fabric edges to be. Many lunchboxes have a lipped edge and you may want to work up to or slightly inside that edge. Carefully cut the fabric along your pencil lines.

3 Using a medium-grade sandpaper, sand the top of the plastic box where the image will go. This will provide a key for the glue, and help to make sure the fabric sticks more securely.

4 Spread glue thinly onto the lid and then place the main fabric piece onto the glue, slowly smoothing down into position from one side to the other, to avoid bubbles and bumps. Wipe any excess glue away with a damp cloth. Allow to dry.

5 Arrange the other pieces as required, then glue into place. Apply a thin layer of PVA over the top of the whole piece. Allow to dry, then sand lightly with fine sandpaper, which will give you a smooth finish. Draw fine lines, slightly inside the edges, creating an outlined finish.



8 Reasons *to start craft-selling today!*





Not yet taken the plunge into the wonderful world of making and selling? Our advice could change all that... **By Sophie Jordan**

Do you have a passion for crafting? Would you love to show it off and make some money, but haven't yet plucked up the courage? You're not alone. There are many crafters out there who feel the same way. Fear not! We're here with a few words of encouragement to help you craft sell your way to a happier life.

1 It could be your dream job!

Ever dreamt about starting your own business? One based on a hobby you love? With the work/life balance getting trickier to achieve, selling your own creations seems like the dream job. Thankfully, selling things you make yourself can take up as little or as much time as you like. You can do it alongside a day job, whilst checking out the competition and doing market research for possible expansion. Well, you never know, do you...?

2 It's easier than you think

There's never been a better time to sell your own produce. With excellent sites like Etsy, Folksy and Misi to help sell your wares, easy-to-build website programs to help with that all-important online presence and free social media like Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest to help promote your makes, there's opportunity at every turn. In fact, you probably have friends doing it already. Don't be shy – ask them for their tips.



Michelle Walker's cakes look Scrum Diddly-umptious!

3 It's a less stressful lifestyle

It may sound like a cliché, but when you're doing a job you love, it really doesn't feel like you're working. Craft-selling isn't pressure-free – there will always be small deadlines and unwanted mishaps – but in most cases your passion for what you're doing will overcome any negative moments.

4 You don't need swanky premises

With craft markets, vintage fairs and crafty websites springing up everywhere, there's a chance to meet your customers face-to-face with the smallest amount of financial outlay. These days there's no need for shop premises – kitchen table industries have never been more possible and, with no costly rental to pay, they've never been more profitable either.







7 Enthusiasm will come naturally

When you love what you do, your enthusiasm and passion for making and selling shines through. Your sales pitch will simply be your obvious joy at doing what you do, talking about what you've done, to people who are genuinely interested, making new friends along the way – this makes achieving sales much easier and more enjoyable.







8 Initial costs could be minimal

Luckily for crafters, there's a real resurgence in recycling or upcycling. That means re-purposing materials for your makes is both fashionable and environmentally friendly. Search out interesting and useful fabrics and haberdashery from local charity shops, or save tired items from your own wardrobe, using elements of them in your crafts. Re-using buttons, elastic and trimmings alone could save you quite a bit of money in the long run.



Bramall and Smith love bringing new life to unique finds with clever restoration

5 You can fit it around your family life

One of the biggest advantages of selling your own craft wares is that you can work your own hours. Don't get us wrong, creating your own works of crafty art takes time, and it will be hard work if you want to make a proper business of it. But, if you need to pick the kids up from school, have other commitments or simply want to work at your own pace, you can. That's a freedom you really can't put a price on.



Woodland creatures are a top trend, as Donna Wilson and Little Birdy know

6 It's hugely rewarding

If you've ever experienced it, you'll remember that there's nothing quite like selling something you've designed and lovingly crafted. It's a wonderful feeling that should fill you with the confidence to continue. It you're yet to experience it, you have something very special in store. In many cases, this buzz alone is what keeps crafters designing, researching and making new products every season, and heading out to craft markets even in the coldest months.

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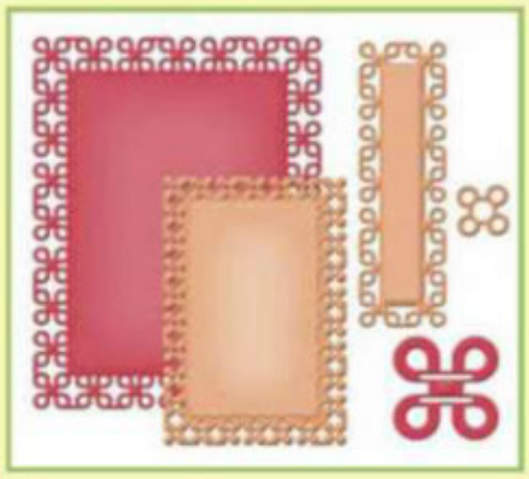
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Wedding bakes

Handmade weddings are a big seller at the moment, so make a beeline for brides-to-be with these tasty treats **By Jessica Sharp**



We love...
The English tea party feel

We've got three bakes to open up a potential new market for you this month – it's all about wooing wedding couples! Create a showstopper for their special day with a towering all-butter-sponge wedding cake, finished with hand-crafted flowers for a classy touch. There's a great opportunity to upsell to wedding customers, so tempt them with our tasty onion tarts, to serve as canapés at the Champagne reception. Finally, a pair of good old-fashioned sticky Chelsea buns makes a perfect wedding favour when presented in a pretty tin!



Mini onion tarts









INGREDIENTS

For the pastry:
300g (10½oz) plain flour
150g (5½oz) cold unsalted butter
40g (1½oz) parmesan, finely grated
1 egg yolk

For the filling:
4 large onions, finely sliced
40g (1½oz) butter
2 tbsp white wine vinegar
1 tbsp soft light brown sugar
A few springs fresh thyme
50g (2oz) goat's cheese
Crushed pink peppercorns, to garnish (optional)

Time: 2 hours (plus 1 hour chilling time)
Makes: 24
Skill level: Moderate

1 Melt the butter for the onion filling in a large frying pan with a lid. Add the onions, coating them in the melted butter. Season, cover and cook for approx. 45 mins on a low heat, stirring occasionally. Strip the thyme leaves from the stalks. Reserve some for the garnish and add the rest to the onions.

2 Turn the heat to medium and add the vinegar, sugar and thyme leaves to the pan. Cook for approximately 15 mins, stirring frequently, until the liquid has evaporated and the onions are lightly caramelised. Set aside to cool. Filling can be made and refrigerated two days before use.

3 To make the pastry, put the flour, butter and parmesan in a food processor and pulse until the mix resembles breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolk and as much cold water as required to bring the ingredients together to a dough. Briefly knead the dough on a lightly floured surface, then cover with cling film and chill for at least one hour.

4 Remove the pastry from fridge, 30 mins before you are ready to assemble the tarts. Place the dough between two sheets of greaseproof paper and roll to around 3mm thick. Cut out rounds of pastry and use them to line a mini tart tin. Prick the pastry with a fork and bake for approx. 10 mins, until the pastry is golden and cooked through.

5 Spoon small amounts of the onion mixture into the tart cases. Top with a small piece of goat's cheese and return the tarts to the oven for a further 5 mins.

6 Remove the tarts from the oven and allow to cool completely. Garnish with thyme leaves and crushed pink peppercorns.





Chelsea buns



INGREDIENTS

For the buns
500g (17½oz) strong white flour
1x 7g sachet fast-action yeast
1 tsp salt
40g (1½oz) caster sugar
300ml (10 fl oz) milk
80g (3oz) butter
1 egg, lightly beaten
100g (3½oz) soft light brown sugar
Finely grated zest of 2 oranges
2 tsp cinnamon
100g (3½oz) sultanas with mixed peel
100g (3½oz) dried cranberries
50g (1¾oz) dried apricots, chopped
50g (1¾oz) dried cherries
3 tbsp apricot jam

For the icing
50g (1¾oz) icing sugar
½ tsp rose water

Time: 1½ hours (plus 1½ hours proving time for the dough)
Makes: 16
Skill level: Moderate

1 Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. Add the sugar to one side of the bowl and the yeast to the other. Place half of the butter with the milk in a saucepan or microwaveable jug, and heat until melted. When this mixture is lukewarm, add it to the dry ingredients, along with the egg.

2 Mix together with your hands until a wet dough is formed. Place the dough on a lightly floured surface and knead for about 10 mins, until the dough is smooth to the touch and no longer sticky. Alternatively, use a freestanding mixer with the dough hook attachment. Place the dough in an oiled bowl, cover with a tea towel and leave aside for at least an hour or until doubled in size.

3 Tip the dough onto a lightly floured surface and roll to a rectangle, approximately 50 x 25cm (20 x 10in). Use your fingers or a dough scraper to spread the other half of the butter over the surface of the dough (microwave the butter for a few seconds on medium if it is not soft enough). Top with the orange zest, sugar, cinnamon and dried fruits. Lightly press on the fruits to help them stick to the dough, then roll up the dough from the long edge, keeping the roll as tight as you can.

4 Ensure the seam is positioned underneath the roll when you have finished. Take a sharp knife and cut the dough into 16 equal-sized slices. Thoroughly grease a large, deep roasting dish with butter and place the buns in it, cut-side up and 1-2cm (½-¾in) apart. Leave the buns to rise for approx. 30 mins. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 190°C, 160°C fan, Gas mark 5.

5 Bake the buns for 20-25 mins until puffed up and browned. Remove from the oven, then melt the apricot jam and brush liberally over the hot buns. Cool in the tin for a few minutes, then transfer to a wire rack and allow to cool completely.

6 To make the icing, mix the icing sugar with the rose water until a pourable paste is formed (you will probably need to add a few drops of water). Drizzle over the cooled buns and allow to set, before tearing the buns into pairs and placing in pretty tins.







Wedding cake

INGREDIENTS

For the sponge
* 12 eggs
* 600g (21oz) self-raising flour
* 600g (21oz) soft unsalted butter
* 600g (21oz) caster sugar
* 3 tsp vanilla extract

For the vanilla sugar syrup
* 100ml (3½ fl oz) water
* 100g (3½oz) caster sugar
* 2 vanilla pods (or 2 tsp vanilla extract)

For the filling
* 350g (12½oz) soft unsalted butter
* 700g (24½oz) icing sugar
* 2 tsp vanilla extract
* Approx. 6 tbsp seedless raspberry jam

For the decoration
* 2kg (4lb 6oz) ready-to-roll icing
* 500g (17½oz) sugar flower paste
* Blue and pink gel food colouring

For the royal icing
* 1 egg white
* 250g (9oz) icing sugar

Equipment
* 4 x 20cm (8in) sandwich tins
* 4 x 15cm (6in) sandwich tins
* 1 x 15cm (6in) cake card
* 1 x 20cm (8in) cake card
* 1 x 30cm (12in) cake board
* 3 x plastic dowels
* Lace ribbon, 2.5m (100in)
* Foam modelling pad & ball tool
* 2 x small flower cutters
* Small paintbrush

Time: 6 hrs (plus two nights drying time)
Serves: 50
Skill level: Advanced

1 You will need to make the sponges two days before the cake is to be eaten. Grease the sandwich tins with butter and line the bases with baking parchment. Preheat the oven to 180°C, 160°C fan, Gas mark 4.

2 To make the bottom tier of the cake, place 400g (14oz) soft butter, 400g (14oz) caster sugar and 2 tsp vanilla extract in a bowl, then whisk using an electric whisk until the mixture is pale and fluffy (alternatively use a freestanding mixer).

3 Beat 8 eggs together in a jug and slowly pour into the sugar and butter, whisking all the time. Add 400g (14oz) self-raising flour and mix until combined. Divide the mixture evenly between the four 20cm (8in) tins and bake for approximately 25 mins, until the sponges are lightly browned and spring back to the touch. Cool in the tins for 5 mins, then transfer the cakes to a wire rack to cool completely.

4 To make the top tier of the cake, repeat the process with the remaining cake ingredients. This time, divide the mixture between the four 15cm (6in) tins and bake for about 20 mins before cooling as before. When all the cakes are cool, wrap them in cling film and tin foil and leave overnight.

5 To make the vanilla syrup, place the sugar and water in a saucepan. Cut through the length of the vanilla pods, scrape the seeds into the pan and add the empty pods, too. Heat the mixture without stirring, until the sugar has completely dissolved. If you are using vanilla extract, add it at this stage. Set the syrup aside to cool. It can then be stored for up to a week in the fridge.

6 To make the buttercream filling, place the soft butter and vanilla extract in a bowl, and whisk with an electric beater until fluffy. Gradually whisk in the icing sugar, beating well after each addition. The buttercream can be covered and kept in the fridge for up to three days (bring back to room temperature before use).

7 To colour the icing, remove the ready-to-roll icing from the pack and knead briefly until pliable. Add small amounts of blue gel food colouring to the icing and knead to disperse. Do not use any icing sugar on the surface, or you will dull the colour and dry out the icing. Keep building the colour until the desired shade is achieved. Take the sugar flower paste and break into three pieces. Use the same process to dye the pieces three different shades of pink. The icings can be used straight away, or wrapped well in cling film and stored in a dry place for up to three days.

8 The day before the cake is to be eaten, take the sponges and use a cake leveller or serrated bread knife to trim the tops off so they are completely flat. Place the 20cm (8in) cake card on a chopping board (this will make it easy to manoeuvre the cake later). Spread a little of the buttercream on the surface of the cake card and place the first 20cm (8in) sponge on it, cut side up. Brush the surface of the cake with vanilla syrup and, using a palette knife, spread with a thin layer of buttercream. Brush the underside of the second sponge with vanilla syrup and spread with a thin layer of jam. Place this sponge, jam-side down, on top of the first sponge. The second sponge should now be cut-side up on top of the first, ready for you to repeat the layering process for the remaining two 20cm (8in) sponges.

9 When the four sponges are filled and layered, cover the top and sides of the entire stack with a thin layer of buttercream. Use a cake scraper or a palette knife to get the surface as smooth as possible. Place the cake, still on the chopping board, into the fridge for about an hour until the buttercream is hard to the touch. Repeat this entire process with the 15cm (6in) cakes, reserving about 2 tbsp buttercream for use later.

10 Remove the cakes from the fridge. Measure the surface of each cake using

a piece of string and cut to size. Lightly dust the work surface with icing sugar and roll out half of the ready-to-roll icing into a circle, large enough to cover the 20cm (8in) cake – you can use the piece of string to guide you. Keep turning the icing so it does not stick to the work surface – try not to add any extra icing sugar. Quickly and thinly, spread small amounts of buttercream at random points all over the cake (this will make the icing stick to the cake). Roll the icing over the rolling pin and carefully lay it out over the cake. Without stretching the icing, gently use your palms to press the icing onto the sides of the cake. Trim off excess icing with a sharp knife.

11 Use a cake smoother or the palms of your hands to gently smooth the icing and rub it to a slight shine. Repeat this process for the 15cm (6in) cake, using approximately two thirds of the remaining ready-to-roll icing. Next, brush the 30cm (12in) cake board with water. Roll out the remaining icing as before and use it to cover the cake board, trimming off the excess icing afterwards (reserve the scraps for later). Leave the cakes and the board to dry out for at least two hours.

12 To make the flowers to decorate the cake, you will need to use the sugar flower paste. This dries very quickly, so only roll out small amounts at a time, keeping the rest covered. Roll out some of the darkest shade of pink and cut out several flowers, using two small flower cutters. Set the flowers aside to dry out.

13 Meanwhile, make the royal icing: whisk the egg white until foamy and gradually add the icing sugar to make a stiff icing. Spoon into a piping bag fitted with a small, plain tip. Pipe tiny circles of icing on to the centre of the flowers. Reserve the remaining royal icing to use later.

14 To make a sugar rose, roll the flower paste very thinly and cut out six circles using a small circular pastry cutter. Place the circles on the foam modelling pad and run the ball of the ball tool around the edge of each circle until the edges are very thin, like petals. Take a petal and roll it tightly, right side to left side, so it resembles the inner bud of the rose. Pinch the bottom of the bud into a point. Using a small paintbrush, paint a tiny amount of water onto one half of a petal. Place the wet side of the petal onto one side of the bud, halfway up, and press lightly to stick. Use your fingers to gently curl the dry edge of the petal slightly outwards, to resemble a curling rose petal. Repeat the process with the remaining petals, moving around the central bud until a rose is formed. Set aside to dry (this won't take long). Repeat this process until you have your desired number of roses.

15 To assemble the cake, slide a palette knife underneath the 20cm (8in) cake, including the cake card it sits on, and place it onto the cake board. Wrap the lace around the bottom of the cake and the board, securing with edible glue or some of the royal icing left over from the flowers. Using a dab of water or royal icing, stick the small flowers around the edge of the cake.

16 Take the three plastic dowels and insert them into the middle of the cake, making sure they are equally spaced. Hold your thumb just above where the dowel comes out of the cake – you will need to trim the dowel to this point. Remove the dowel, and then cut to size using strong kitchen scissors. Repeat with the two other dowels and re-insert all three into the cake. Lift the smaller cake and place it on top of the bottom tier – it should be resting on the dowels, not the bottom cake.

17 Wrap the lace around this cake and stick the flowers around the base, as before. Use a small amount of reserved ready-to-roll icing to form a ball, which will form a base for the decoration on top. Stick the roses into the ball, using a small amount of water to help them adhere, until the ball is covered and you have a posy. Stick the posy to the top of the cake using water. Leave the whole cake to dry overnight before serving.



Charity bakes

From tea parties to cupcake competitions, get involved and help raise funds for these three worthwhile charities

Meningitis UK

Tea, cake and craft are the three magic ingredients to make your next craft club meeting a sweet success

Sign up to host a Time 4 Tea event – it's the perfect recipe for a fun afternoon. Meningitis UK is asking crafters to join the campaign this September, to help raise funds for Search 4 a Vaccine. The campaign aims to raise £7 million, to be spent on research into vaccines to prevent meningitis and save thousands of lives in the future.

"Search 4 a Vaccine aims to raise £7 million for research"

This year's Time 4 Tea is supported by actress and *Celebrity MasterChef* winner, Lisa Faulkner, who has donated her delicious Fantasy Cake recipe to inspire you.

It couldn't be easier to join in the fun. Simply fill out the registration form at meningitisuk.org and you'll be sent a fundraising pack full of tea party tips and goodies, including bunting, invites and samples of tea. Rope in your craft club to get creative in the kitchen, baking cakes, biscuits and treats. Promote your event outside the group for the chance to grow your numbers. Ask everyone to make a donation, hold a raffle, sponsored craft-along or craft sale to maximise funds.



How you can help

For more information about Meningitis UK or to sign up for Time 4 Tea, call 0117 947 6320 or visit meningitisuk.org



Host a tea party to raise funds for Meningitis UK



Who can say no to a cup of tea poured from a proper pot?

Above & Beyond

Transform self-raising into fundraising when you support The Bristol Bake Off!

Turn cupcakes into cash this September when you get baking for Bristol Hospitals' charity, Above & Beyond. The charity has set itself the target of raising £6 million through its Golden Gift Appeal. From 16-22 September, the challenge is on, and all funds raised will go towards helping the Bristol Royal Infirmary and Bristol Cancer Centre to deliver life-saving care of today, and pioneering treatments of tomorrow.

There are hundreds of ways to get involved in fundraising for this great cause, but The Bristol Bake Off is definitely getting our taste buds tingling! Simply set a date for your cake sale, decide on a venue and invite your friends to enjoy your baking. Your speciality could be a luscious lemon drizzle, or maybe you like to experiment – tomato soup sponge anyone? Or, be inspired by the charity's gold theme and sprinkle your creations with sparkles. Whatever you decide, your bake will help people in need.



Pupils at Bristol's Colston's Girls' School get baking

Be creative with your sale – why not invite neighbours to take part in a street bake-off and ask a local baker to pick the winner? Promote your event, then raffle off the winning creation.

Above & Beyond has collection tins, buckets, t-shirts and lots of recipes to make your day a success, so register your event to use these tools. And the bake off that raises the most money will win a tasty prize!

How you can help

For more information on how you can take part, call 0117 3700 485 or visit aboveandbeyond.org.uk

National Osteoporosis Society

Get baking for a break-free future! Your cakes could help improve the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of osteoporosis

Cake decorators, get your icing sugar out – it's time to get baking for a very special event. The National Osteoporosis Society is asking people to hold a tea party or bake sale to raise funds for its vital work.

The National Osteoporosis Society is the only UK charity dedicated to improving the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. It works to improve awareness and understanding of the condition, offers support, care and information for people affected by osteoporosis, and invests heavily into research. Its vision is to have a future without fragility fractures.



Over the last three years, an impressive £10,000 has been raised from the proceeds of coffee mornings, and this summer the charity needs crafters to continue the work.

Whether it's a large community centre, school or workplace, or a smaller affair at your home or in the garden, decide on your venue, then register your event at nos.org.uk to receive a free fundraising pack with invites, posters and recipe cards. Ask crafty friends to help make decorations and cakes. Then think of ways that you can make your event more appealing – perhaps give it a theme, and hold competitions with prizes to get the whole community involved.



How you can help

For more information on National Osteoporosis Society, visit nos.org.uk or call 01761 473137





Congratulations

There are always lots of reasons to celebrate at this time of year, so make sure shoppers can say "Congrats!" in style. **By Annie Bellamy**

INFORMATION

Materials

- *Craftseller* papers
- White card or blanks
- Baker's twine
- Tape
- Ink
- Two buttons
- Glue
- Coloured pen and ruler
- Envelopes and cellophane wallets

- **Size:** 10.5 x 14.8cm (4¼ x 5¾in)
- **Skill level:** Easy



TOP TIP

Use pale papers and dark ink to stamp a name onto the bunting flags for a personal touch

Exam results, new jobs, new babies, new homes... our diaries always seem to be filled with reasons to celebrate during the summer months. So making sure you have a stylish stash of greeting cards to suit all these occasions is a craft-selling must! This month we've brought you two handy designs – one catch-all congratulations card that makes use of the bunting trend, and one special new-home card that we know house-movers, young and old, will love to put straight onto their new mantelpiece. So start planning your range, and get creative with your free papers today!

How to make the 'Congratulations' card

1. Cut a piece of white card to a finished size of 10.5 x 14.8cm (4½ x 5¾in).

2. Tear a strip of houses patterned paper and stick across the bottom of the long edge of the card, so the torn edge faces up.

3. Add a length of baker's twine across the card, and secure both ends with tape on the back, so the ends are hidden.

4. Cut five small triangles from patterned paper, fold the top edges over and stick across the twine to form the bunting.

5. Cut out the 'Congratulations!' tag, ink the edges and stick onto the card. To finish off, add two buttons.

6. Find an envelope that fits and place both into a cellophane wallet to sell. »

8 PAGES
of exclusive designs

HOME SWEET HOME
paper collection









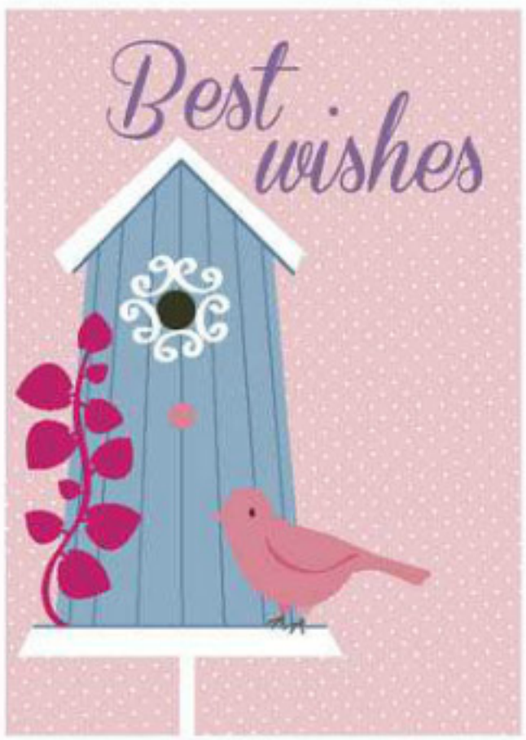


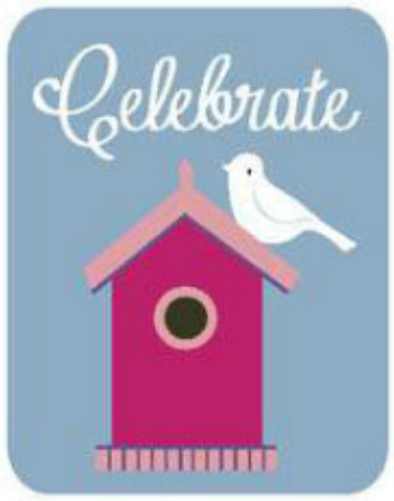






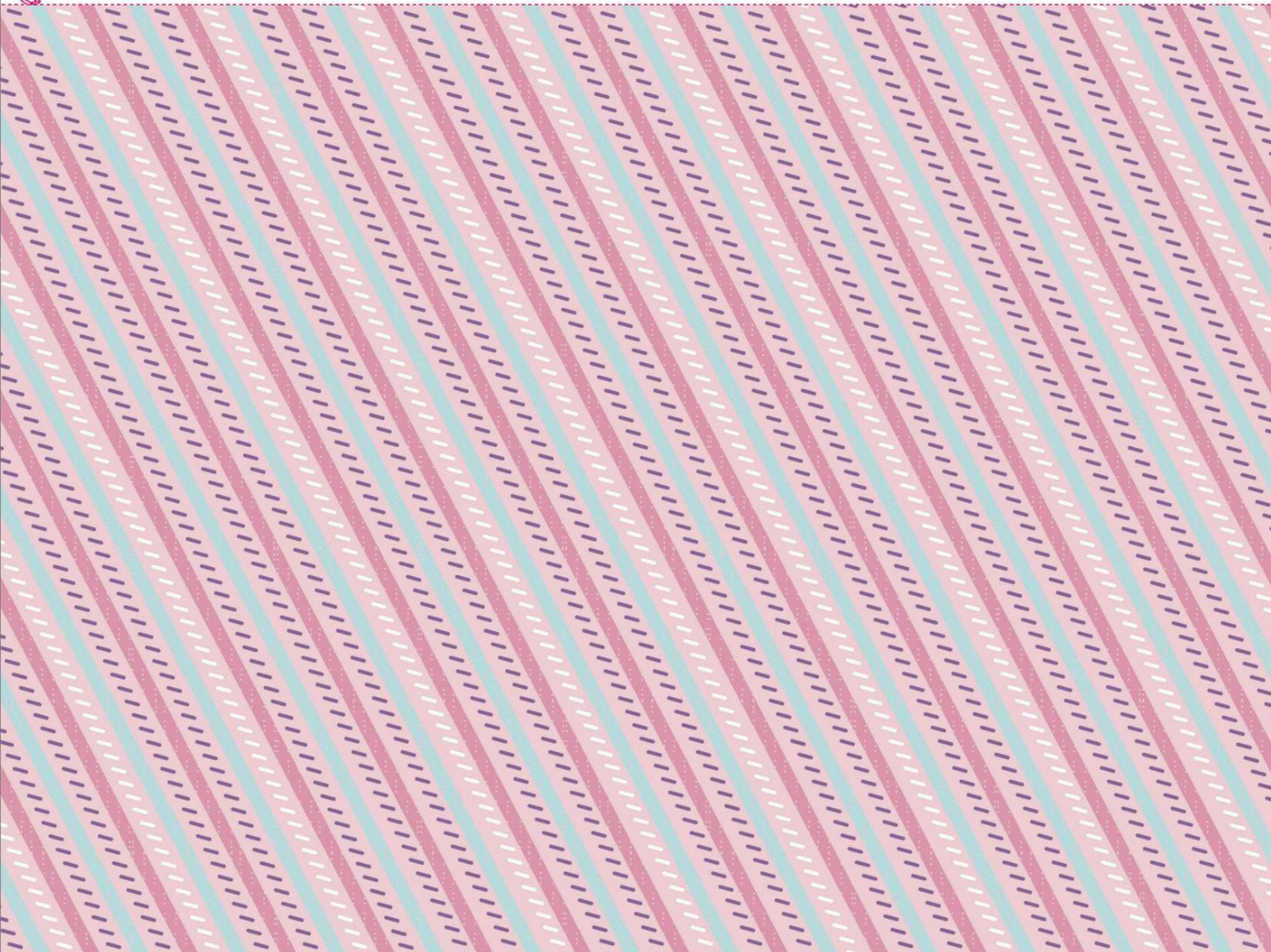






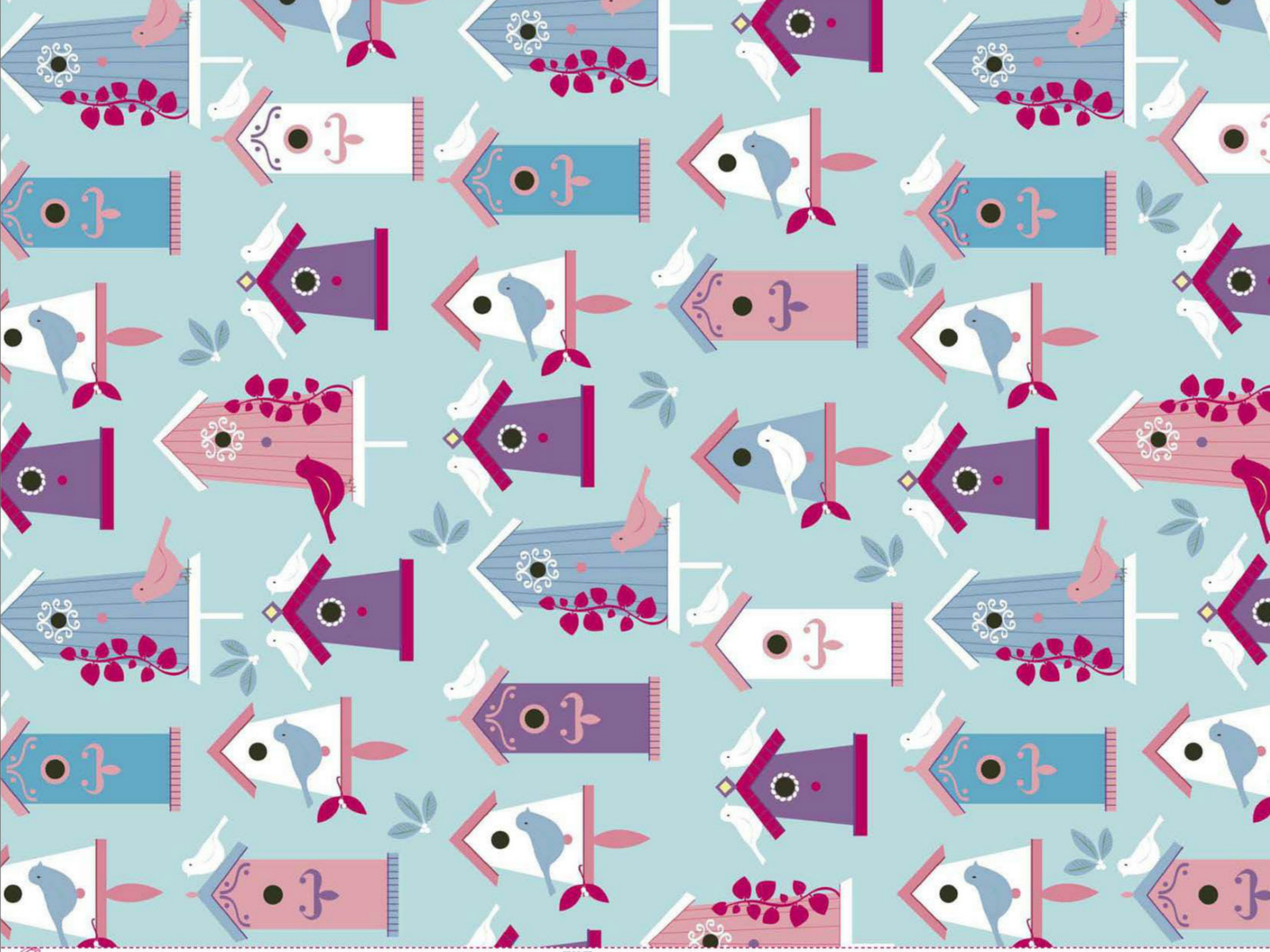






HOME
SWEET HOME
paper collection

Craftsheller



Craftseller





Home sweet home

Be prepared for summer moving season – with these cute tags and pretty papers, your cards will fly off the shelves. **By Annie Bellamy**



How to make the 'New Home' card

1. Cut a piece of white card to a finished size of 10.5 x 14.8cm (4½ x 5¾in).

2. Cut a piece of the houses patterned paper, large enough to cover the front of the card, and glue it in place.

3. Cut a rectangle of the key patterned paper and carefully stick just below the centre of the card. Use a ruler and a co-ordinating coloured pen to add an outline.

4. Cut out the 'New Home!' tag and stick to the centre of the rectangle.

5. Find an envelope that fits and place both into a cellophane wallet to sell. CS

TOP TIP

If making a batch of cards, clean your ruler before you outline each one, to prevent smudges

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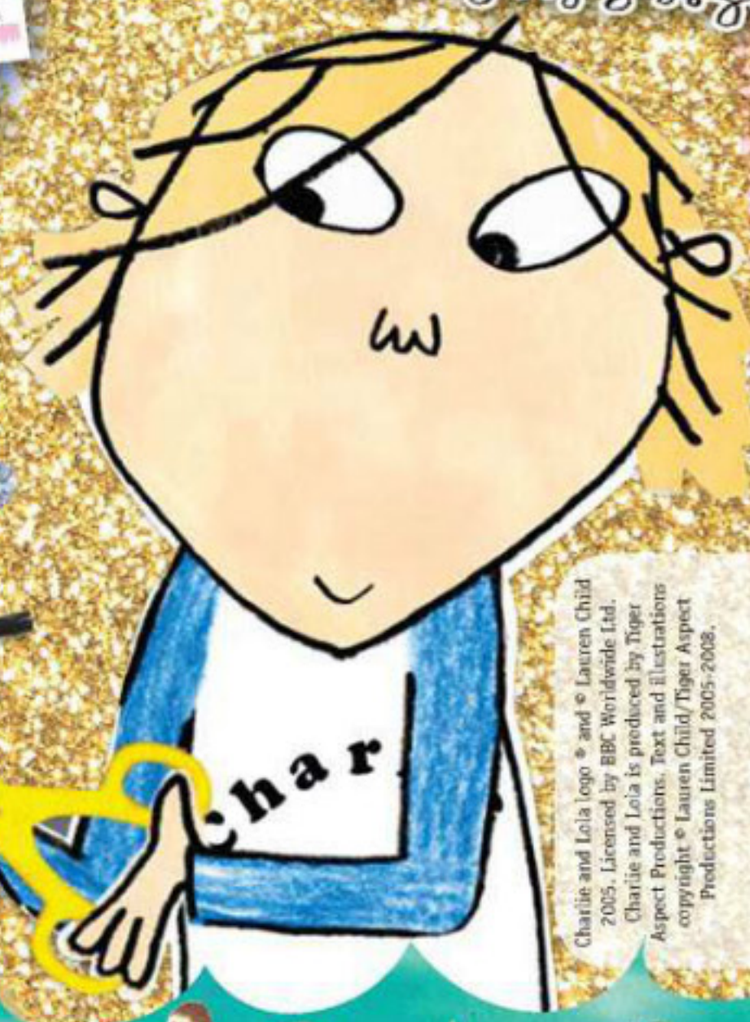




LOTS to learn

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- Finding out
- Feeling good
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NEW design!







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Flynns Sew/centre, At Browns of York,01904 561234
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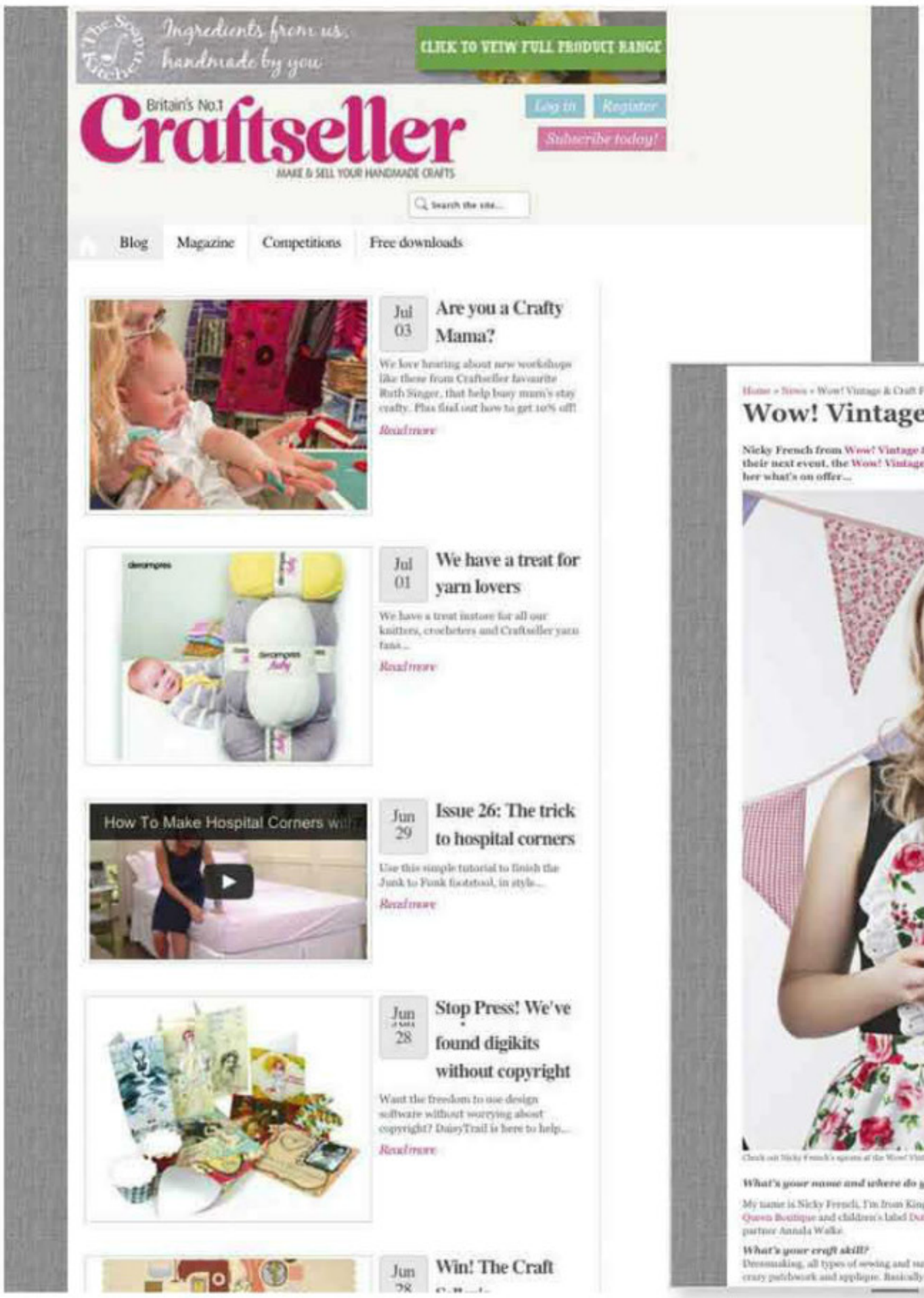
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PLUS search Craftseller on the App Store

Mummy makes

With fun textures and colours, this adorable owl mat will help babies learn as they play **By Jane Tooze**





INFORMATION

Materials

- 2m (80in) polycotton (2 or more fabrics)
- 25cm (10in) contrasting polycotton (lime green)
- 1m wadding
- Yellow cotton thread
- 4 squares felt (brown, green, pink, yellow)
- 10cm (4in) fur fabric
- 10cm (4in) glitter fabric
- 10cm (4in) cord fabric
- 50cm (20in) bondaweb
- Sewing machine
- Tape measure
- Tailor's chalk
- Scissors
- Pins
- Iron and ironing board

Size: 82.5 x 94cm (32 x 37in)
Skill level: Moderate

Tap into the lucrative baby market by offering a range of hand-crafted items that are practical, but also make great presents. This is a lovely item for a new baby, introducing colours and shapes while at the same time allowing baby to happily roll and play in safety. The sweet little owl appliquéd onto the main part of the mat has been machine-embroidered into place using bright fabrics and cottons. The mat is padded to give baby extra comfort, and it's also sewn in a crosshatch pattern to give extra strength and support. With touch-and-feel elements on the owl, this mat will help baby learn and grow in a safe and happy environment.

SAFETY FIRST To keep babies and young children safe while playing with this mat, make sure you sew all the parts securely, and finish any loose ends to be extra sure the threads cannot unravel.
Remember, if you intend on selling this owl playmat, there are strict regulations to adhere to. Visit craft-seller.com/free-downloads for more legal advice on child safety.

How to make the owl playmat

1. Place the four felt squares and the other fun fabrics onto the Bondaweb and iron securely in place, ready to draw around the templates. Pin the owl and heart templates onto the correct colours and fabrics, draw around and cut them out.

2. Place the owl pieces onto the 30.5 x 38cm (12 x 15in) contrasting polycotton rectangle and iron in place. Using an embroidery stitch, sew around the owl, securing it to the polycotton rectangle. Place this to one side for later.

3. Cut out two lengths of yellow gingham measuring 56 x 84cm (22 x 33in) – these will make up parts of the front and back. Cut out four lengths of patterned polycotton at 23 x 84cm (9 x 33in), for the front and back.

4. Allowing a 1.3cm (½in) seam allowance, pin and sew two strips of patterned polycotton either side of the gingham panel to create the main body of the mat. The finished size of the mat will be 82.5 x 94cm (32 x 37in). Press the seams. Repeat with the remaining gingham and co-ordinated fabric for the back. Put the back piece to one side until later.

5. Place the heart shapes onto the front of the mat along the seam lines of the two co-ordinated fabrics, 7.5cm (3in) from the top and bottom edge. Iron them into place and embroider around them.

6. Lay out the wadding and cut a 96.5 x 81.5cm (38 x 32in) rectangle. Lay the front fabric on top of the wadding and pin around the edges. Press flat.

7. With a long tacking stitch, stitch a crosshatch pattern across the fabric. This attaches the wadding and top fabric together. The crosshatch lines should be 19cm (7½in) apart. This then gives you a clear line to follow when machine-stitching the wadding and fabric together.

8. Machine-stitch the crosshatch pattern. Press. Place the owl in the centre of the mat and pin in place. Embroider the rectangle.

9. Take the remaining heart shapes, iron in place and stitch around them. Press the mat. Finally, place the back and front pieces together with right sides facing and stitch around the whole mat, leaving a small hole at the bottom – big enough to turn the mat through to the right side.

10. Snip all four corners and trim the seams, then turn the mat to the right side. Press and sew up the gap by hand.



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The kits contain four different charts for the different designs on the back and front of both the "case" and the "keeper".

They combine silver dyed canvas (18 count), silver leather, silver metallic threads and beautiful threads in summery pinks, mauves and pale green.

The needleccase is lined with mauve silk dupion and has white felt pages.

The scissor keeper is padded with layers of wadding.

Both are completed with twisted cords and in the needle case the ends of the cords are used as tassels and decorated with leather squares.

Delicate embroidery scissors are included.

To see an alternate colourway of aqua, turquoise and pale green visit our new website, details above.



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The Patchwork Rabbit

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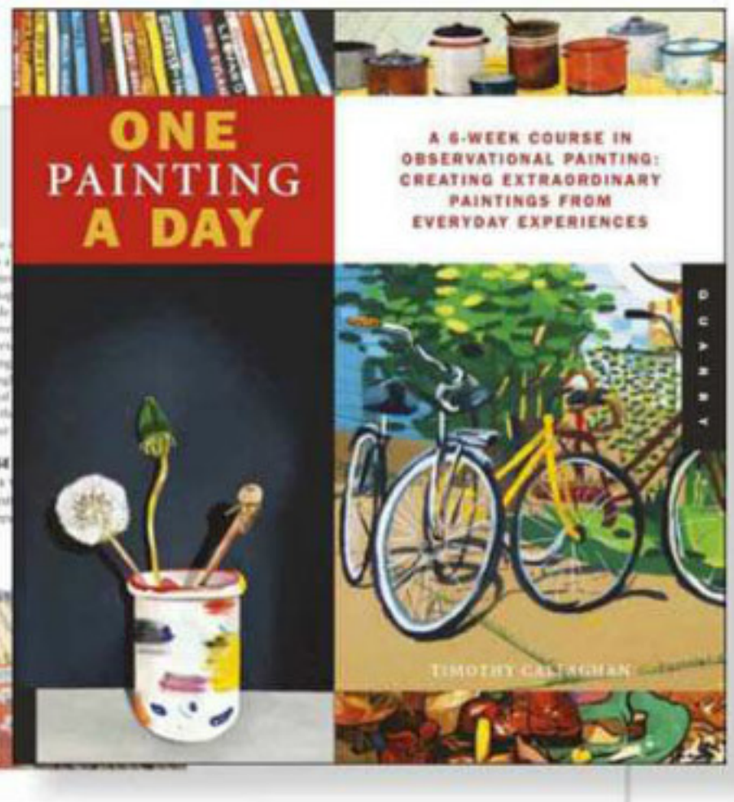
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1





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2



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3 BABY SOFT Deramores Baby DK is a soft new yarn from the UK's no.1 online knitting superstore. Win one of five packs, with a cute All-In-One pattern and yarn, worth £17.44.
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4 GOOD CLEAN FUN Win one of six Seaside Melt and Pour Soap Project Packs, worth £25. Each pack contains five moulds and four 500g tubs of melt and pour soap.**
Visit thesoapkitchen.co.uk
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5 CHUNKY BEADS Bunyip Beads & Buttons has eight Chunky Necklace kits to give away in Red, Pink, Blue or Green, worth £12.50.
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** If intended for sale, the soap will need to be labelled with ingredients and batch code so it is traceable if wrapped, or displayed on a point of sale if unwrapped. This Melt & Pour Soap has been pre-assessed but normally all soap requires a safety assessment if sold. Some of the finished soap may look edible; these will need to be labelled 'DO NOT EAT' if being sold.







6 SIZZIX CRAFT Win a Big Shot™ Starter Kit, plus Framelits™, which work with the other Bigz™ die, Sizzlits® dies and Textured Impressions™ Embossing Folder in the kit. Our winner will also receive a selection of dies from the latest collection A Little of This & That.

Visit sizzix.co.uk

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7 UPCYCLE WITH PAINT If you've got the upcycling bug then you'll love this eco-friendly, all-natural paint in amazing colours! Two winners will each win two Miss Mustard Seed Milk Paints (worth £21.95 each), plus wax (£18.95) and bonding agent (£13.95).

Visit beautifullyboho.co.uk

To enter, text MILKPAINT followed by your name, address and email to 87474*

8 MAKE AND DO The Makery has two pairs of £50 vouchers to spend on one of their workshops. The lucky winners could take a friend for a crafty day out in Bath, or attend two workshops themselves! There's plenty of choice for beginners and advanced crafters.

Visit themakeryonline.co.uk

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Diary of a craft selling mum

Every month, craft seller and mum of two, Erica Martyn, who makes toys for her business Odds & Soxlets, invites us into her world...

All about me

I am 34 years old, and mum to three-year-old Harry and baby girl Lottie Rose! I have a husband called Martin and a naughty but very sweet 12-year-old Yorkshire Terrier called Mr Biggles. We live in Dorset and I began my business in May 2011. I'm still learning heaps, while at the same time juggling home life, finances and the needs and demands of my growing family and my customers...

Erica

THIS MONTH

* Crafty makes – 8
* No. of sleepless nights – 4
* Cups of tea each day – 6+
* Time spent in networking – 4 days
* No. of times husband changed nappy – 2 a day and a few in the night
* New products – 3

Day 1

My sister-in-law Lucy is getting married this summer. I've been asked to alter her dress and I'm quite enjoying it. I have a bit of experience altering pre-made dresses as well as designing and making bridal wear. My first job was to make a wrist loop for the train of the gown so that she can hold it up during the reception. This is tricky on a dress with a lace overlay and an underskirt but with lots of patience and some skilful hand sewing I managed it.

Day 9

Had a lovely lazy day with Harry and Lottie today. I'm so pleased I took the leap and set up Odds & Soxlets, if I'd stayed as a full-time illustrator and graphic designer I know I'd be worrying about returning to work. When Harry was Lottie's age, I was already having to look at childcare options. The downside is I don't have official maternity leave so I have to be disciplined. I have reduced my hours and I'm not taking on custom orders but I've kept my website open with ready-made creations and digital paper crafting products. Before bed, I'll spend an hour blogging and Facebooking to keep my customers up-to-date. I'd miss it if I didn't do the social media side.

Day 11

Finished off my nursing cover today. Am so pleased with it – it looks a little like a bag for a baby! It's basically a special apron to allow



Harry really loves spending time with his baby sister



This simple nursing cover is a big hit with Lottie – and me!



Lottie's dress and a toy for Harry and Lottie from funky skull fabric



A beautiful memento of my little family



Harry was much too busy watching Lottie to help in the garden



Sketching out Lottie's first cuddly toy to match her new dress

you to nurse your baby wherever you are, with privacy for you and less distractions for the baby. Using a rectangular shape of fabric, I then added a neck strap with D-rings and ran plastic boning between them, which allows me to peek at Lottie while nursing. It's like she's in her own private tent. We had a trial run this evening while I did a bit of work and Lottie fed, without me constantly having to rearrange her. It's good to know it works.

Day 16

I can't believe my luck, Lottie is a sleeper! She takes undisturbed naps in the day and a continuous six hours at night. She is the opposite of Harry who decided sleep was for wimps. Lottie's great sleeping pattern means I've been much more productive than I thought I would. Having a daughter, I've been swooning over dresses and I'm desperate to make my own so I made Lottie a funky skull dress. I know it's a weird choice but my sister-in-law is having a Day of The Dead wedding. After drawing out a design, I measured Lottie and marked out the pattern pieces for a newborn size dress. Once the fabric was cut and the basic shape sewn, I checked the pattern pieces fitted. The dress looked lovely but I felt it was missing something so I added ribbon trim, a fabric bow and an appliqué heart. If people like this little outfit I may look at developing a range of baby and even children's clothes.

Day 22

Today is my birthday and Martin took Lottie and me to lunch, while Harry was at nursery. We went to a local pub in Shaftesbury where Martin gave me a beautiful necklace made of Harry's and Lottie's fingerprints. I love it so much. Lottie stayed asleep the whole time, which was another perfect present as it gave me a chance to enjoy a good catch up with my hubby plus eat all the foods I missed during pregnancy – pâté and cheesecake mainly!

Day 24

The sun made an appearance today so we rushed out to spend some much-needed time in the garden. We popped up a UV tent for Lottie while Martin and I did some weeding and planting. Harry was supposed to help but he couldn't be coaxed out of the tent, where he spent a lot of time gazing at his tiny sister. It's lovely to see the effect she's had on him. My baby boy has suddenly become more independent and grown-up, and he loves doting on Lottie.

Day 30

I wanted to make Lottie a cuddly toy to match her new dress so I started to work on a new cat doll pattern. Along the way Harry mentioned he'd like a new toy too so I adapted my idea to create a girly cat doll complete with hanging tags for Lottie and a boy cat doll for Harry. I love drawing my characters first using pencil and paper before developing the pattern. Unlike the other dolls I currently make these characters combine soft fleece fabric with designer cotton and wool felt features. I intend to launch them as new products, as a custom make and also a future sewing pattern, so let's hope I get a good response.



Harry and Lottie each have a new handmade toy





From junk to funk

Turn mid-century furniture into an upcycled masterpiece, with a lick of paint and some vintage maps **By Claire Watkins**

INFORMATION

Materials
- Chest of drawers
- Old maps
- Sandpaper or electric sander
- PVA glue
- Furniture paint (we used Rust-oleum Painter's Touch in Heirloom White)
- Clear satin varnish
- Paintbrushes
- Craft knife

Size: 74.5 x 66.5 x 45.5cm (29½ x 26¼ x 18in)
Skill level: Moderate

Map prints are everywhere right now, so why not think big and use vintage maps to turn boring brown furniture into something a bit more stylish? Boot sales are great for old OS maps or A-Zs, and you can pick them up pretty cheaply, too, making the most of your profit. Look for a variety of colours to add interest, or alternatively use street maps for a simple colour scheme – street maps tend to be smaller, so this will give more of a collage effect. The technique here is fairly simple, but do take your time, especially if you've set your heart on using a specific map.

How to make the chest of drawers

1 Decide which areas of the furniture you want to paint, cover with maps or leave original. We painted the legs, lips of the drawers and side drawer columns white, leaving the strip above the drawers original.

2 Remove the handles. On the map areas of your piece, sand the wood until the varnish has been removed. This will form a key for the PVA and maps. Paint the legs and leave to dry. Apply a second coat if necessary.

3 Arrange and position the maps in the areas you want to glue them. Cut them back to about 2-3cm (1-1¼in) more than the area to be covered. You don't have to cut too accurately, as you want some play in positioning. Once you've decided your arrangement, start with one of the sides and apply a fairly thin coat of PVA.

4 Start in a corner and place the map in position. Make sure it's butted up to an edge, or that you have enough to fold over a side/back. Smooth the map down and work fairly quickly, but don't rush, as the map may tear or slip. If you need to reposition, slowly peel back the map, being careful not to tear it. Smooth out any large bubbles as you go.

5 Once you're happy with the map position, go over it a few times with a clean cloth to push out any small bubbles. Push the map into corners with your fingers, or fold over edges to create a sharp finish. Trim excess paper with a sharp craft knife. Be careful if the map is thin, as the PVA will moisten it and it might tear when cutting.

6 Cut into any corners to give a neat finish, and apply more PVA to help bond the area. Go around the edges with more PVA to 'seal' the map in place. Continue to cover the other areas of the piece.

7 Once the piece is dry, cover the map areas with a very thin coat of PVA. The maps might bubble – this is normal and they usually dry back flat, but if the bubbles are large, gently press them with your fingers.

8 Wait for the PVA to dry (a couple of hours) before applying a second coat. Two coats should be enough to 'seal' the maps from any discolouration by the varnish.

9 Once the PVA is totally dry, apply a very thin coat of clear varnish. Again the maps may bubble, but they should dry back. Apply another three or four coats of varnish, making sure that each coat dries fully before applying the next. Varnish any painted areas or original bits. Put the handles back onto the drawers.



TOP TIP

Make sure you apply the PVA or varnish carefully as thick layers can cause the maps to bubble





It's a wrap!

Shoppers will love this stunning lace shawl, knitted in luxury yarns with a lovely light, lacy stitch **By Tracey Todhunter**



INFORMATION

Materials

- 400m Rowan Kidsilk Haze in Marmalade (shade 596)
- 400m Debbie Bliss Rialto Lace in Coral (shade 44026) or any lace-weight yarn
- 6mm (UK 4, US 10) knitting needles
- Darning needle
- 2 stitch markers for marking garter stitch edge
- 1 brooch-back for flower

Size: 150 x 40cm (60 x 15¾in)
Skill level: Moderate
Tension: Piece measures 9 pattern repeats (27sts) and 5 row repeats (40 rows) to 10cm (4in) square



SELL MORE

The flower brooch can be knitted in the same yarn or contrasting yarn for a contemporary, pretty twist

Lace wraps and shawls are always popular, particularly with customers looking for bespoke items for a 'handmade' wedding, or special occasions such as a christening or an anniversary cruise. This wrap uses two lightweight yarns held together, for extra strength that will help it last for many years. These high-quality fibres create a premium item that you can justify charging a serious price for. With a practical shape and a simple pattern, this is one knit that has to make it into your collection. Remember to remind shoppers that the wrap should be gently hand-washed in cold water.

ABBREVIATIONS

k:	knit
k2tog:	knit 2sts together
kfb:	knit front and back
p:	purl
pm:	place marker
psso:	pass slipped st over
RS:	right side
sl1:	slip one stitch
sm:	slip marker
yo:	yarn over

How to knit the lace wrap

Note: the pattern is worked over eight rows. For a longer wrap, simply knit more rows. For a wider or narrower wrap, cast on an odd number of stitches (technically this is referred to as "cast on an even number of stitches, plus 1"). Altering the finished dimensions will affect the amount of yarn used.

Throughout pattern, work with 1 strand of each yarn held together.
Using 6mm needles, cast on 73sts.
Row 1 (RS): k5, pm, p to last 5sts, pm, knit last 5sts. 73sts.
Row 2: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k last 5sts.
Row 3: k5, sm, k1, *yo, sl1, k1, psso, repeat from * to marker, sm, k5.
Row 4: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k last 5sts.
Row 5: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k last 5sts.
Row 6: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k last 5sts.
Row 7: k5, sm, k1 * yo, k2tog, repeat from * to marker, sm, k5.
Row 8: k5, sm, p to marker, sm, k last 5sts.

Continue to work these 8 rows in sequence, until your work measures 150cm (60in), finishing with row 8.
Repeat rows 1 and 2.
Cast off knitwise.

KNITTED FLOWER

With 1 strand of each yarn and 6mm needles, cast on 12sts.
Row 1: kfb into every st. 24sts.
Row 2: purl.
Row 3: kfb into every st. 48sts.
Row 4: purl.
Row 5: kfb into every stitch. 96sts.
Row 6: purl.
Cast off knitwise.
Curl your knitting into a spiral to create the flower shape, and secure in place with a few small stitches.
Sew a brooch back onto the reverse.
Care should be taken when attaching to the shawl to avoid damaging the lace.





You've made it, now sell it...

Read our top tips to help you sell your gorgeous lace wrap

1 **Black and white** will always be popular colour choices so make sure you include them in your range.



2 **Photograph the shawl** using real models – it's more appealing to time-poor shoppers and with an increasingly busy marketplace, your item needs to stand out from the competition.

3 **Shout about yarn quality** – let buyers know just how luxurious it is by including it in the shawl's description.

4 **Think about sizing**. One size fits all is a misnomer. Adjust your pattern to include XS and XL in your range and appeal to all shapes and size of customer.

5 **When styling the item** for product photography or for displaying on your stall, avoid clashing the shawl with bold patterns – let it speak for itself!

6 **List under 'wedding', 'occasion wear' and 'gifts'** on your online shop to ensure you target the right buyers.

7 **Make a detatchable rose** in various colours so customers have the option to change the look of the shawl.

8 **Research on-trend accent colours** for weddings and make sure you whip up a few shawls in that particular hue.

9 **Add care instructions** to packaging so customers can keep their shawls in tip-top condition.

10 **Add a pretty lace or satin trim** and appeal to the quirky buyer seeking something different.

NOW SELLING ON...



Folksy: Grey Lace Shawl Stole by Crazy About Gloves £70



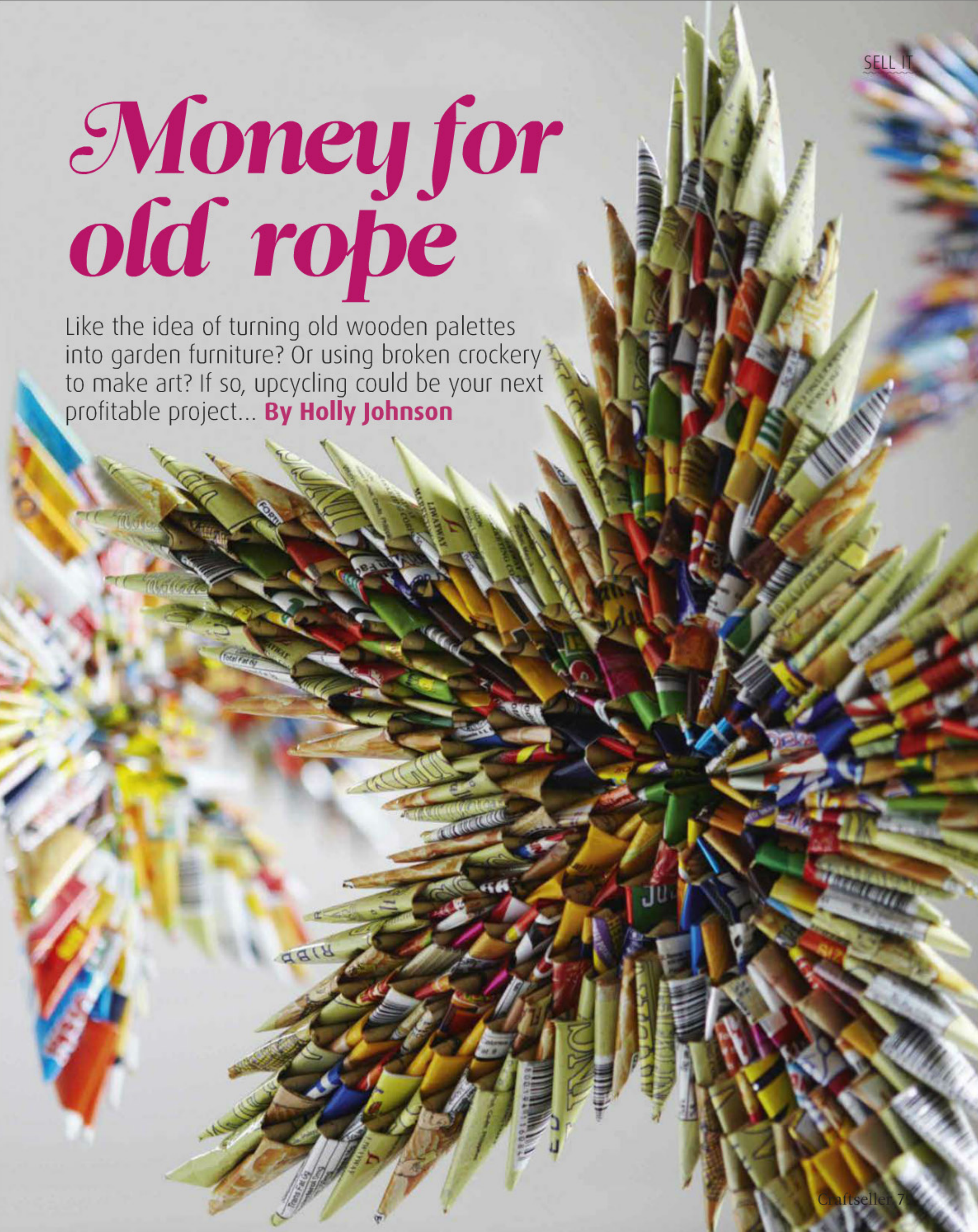
Etsy: Shimmering Grey Lace Triangle Shawl by KnitsDeLuxe £54.30



Etsy: Knitted Lace Shawl, Dunes and Waves Pattern by TashaKnits £4.09

Money for old rope

Like the idea of turning old wooden palettes into garden furniture? Or using broken crockery to make art? If so, upcycling could be your next profitable project... **By Holly Johnson**



Search 'upcycled' on Etsy and you'll find over 260,000 bespoke, handmade crafts that started life as bottles, books, side tables... unwanted items transformed into desirable products. It's a popular trend that's standing the test of time – so now's the time to start turning unwanted clutter into saleable crafts.

Reuse, don't recycle

The term 'upcycling' first came about in the 1990s, when we were all starting to realise the importance of using sustainable resources. American artist Ann Wizer's clothes, made from old plastic, spawned the phrase 'trashion' a decade later, and the book *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* by William McDonough and Michael Braungart called for a change in attitude – encouraging designers to reinvent what already exists.

Rebecca Proctor, who wrote *Recycled Home* (£14.95, laurenceking.com) and features regular DIY tutorials at futurusticblog.com, is an expert in making new from old. "There's been a natural move towards sustainability in design. We have all woken up to the fact that it's not possible to continue consuming at the rate we have, but I also think that the public grew tired of things looking too perfect – a little bit of patina adds charm." With the recession, we've started reusing even more, and the trend for nostalgia and vintage means that anything with a history is a winner.

Rebecca started out as a design editor and

Statement cushions made using vintage needlepoint, by RE





Rebecca Proctor used Liberty print fabric to transform this wonderfully battered old suitcase

trends analyst. She is inspired by upcycling heroes such as Piet Hein Eek (pietheineek.nl), who is globally renowned for his scrap wood furniture, and Pacha Design (pachadesign.co.uk), who use unwanted metal and slate to produce contemporary homeware. But Rebecca's love of upcycling

> "The public grew tired of things looking too perfect and manufactured"

didn't start there: "I've always upcycled – long before the word was invented! As a child I'd turn disused packaging into accessories. I love the idea of turning the unwanted into something beautiful. It's a design challenge as well as a practical skill – to see potential in unused things."

Second-chance crafts

The great thing about upcycling is that you can turn virtually anything into a saleable item. The more unique, the better. For beginners, a good place to start is the *Homes and Antiques Guide to Upcycling* (£10.99, homesandantiques.com), for expert tips, a directory of suppliers and some great step-by-steps on altering and upgrading furniture and home accessories. It also includes advice on sourcing pieces to work on – which is half the fun.

Places like Lewes Flea Market (flea-markets.co.uk) have some great vintage finds and junkyard gems, eBay is a great resource, as well as freecycle.org where you can search for freebies in your area. Develop a magpie eye and look out for discarded items on the street, too.

The right finish

A simple lick of paint can transform a side table or old mirror into something you can sell for a profit, but it's important to put in the groundwork to ensure a quality finish. "It is a very competitive market, and you may have to spend a lot of time preparing your materials for use," advises Rebecca. "Keep an eye out for interesting materials wherever you are – I love rusted metal and chipped wood, but also look for interesting plastics and fabrics." New trims and handles are another quick way to upcycle a tired, disused item.

Once you've had a go at transforming some of your finds, you may want to develop your skills. Jenny Vaughn and Simon Young have been running their successful recycled homeware business, RE, (re-foundobjects.com) for ten years and know how important skills are. "Upcycling is not just about repainting an old cupboard – it needs to be more considered and inspired," says Jenny. "We had a lot of skills when we started out, but we also consulted the experts." Get to know your local craft community so that if you do lack skills, you can collaborate and exchange your talents.

Get inspired

The web, as always, is one of the easiest ways to find ideas – check out blogs like upcyclethat.com for inspiration and tutorials, or search Pinterest. With so many possibilities to upcycling, it's important to find your own style. "At RE, our most lucrative items are our refired plates and reupholstered furniture, but there's no point doing a version of what everyone else is doing – be inventive." So get up in your loft or down to your local charity shop, and rethink the way you craft and use materials. With a few essential skills and a whole load of imagination, you could be on your way to becoming an upcycling pro...



The dos and don'ts of upcycling

1 DO COLLABORATE – other crafters in your area might have the skills that you need. Use social media and craft fairs to build up a network of talents near you.

2 DON'T HOLD BACK – get creative by exploring different materials, and don't worry about making mistakes at first.

3 DO BE ORIGINAL – it's a competitive market, so find your own niche and create your own unique style that runs through your range.

4 DO TAKE HIGH QUALITY PHOTOS OF YOUR WORK – and publicise them on Facebook and Twitter, as well as your own website.

5 DON'T DISREGARD UNWANTED ITEMS AROUND YOUR HOME – everything from coat hangers to Coke bottles can become a work of art if you look at it from the right angle.

6 DON'T START HOARDING – only store materials if you have a specific project in mind for them, otherwise your tidy workspace will become overrun in no time.







1 Recycled blind made using leftover upholstery fabric (**Rebecca Proctor**) **2** Hanging stars made with plain or spotty newsprint **(RE) 3** Old cheese graters used to make tealight shades **(RE) 4** Rustic wreath made using driftwood **(RE) 5** Handprinted napkins made using lino-cuts and vintage fabric (**Rebecca Proctor**) **6** Must-have REfired plates **(RE)**





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Bags of class

Go back to school in style with this ditsy retro satchel, including matching pencil case and bag charm **By Vicky Craxton**



How to make the satchel

INFORMATION

Materials

- Vintage style ditsy rose print oilcloth, 100 x 90cm (40 x 39½in)
- Sage green gingham fabric, 125 x 60cm (49¼ x 23½in)
- 18cm (7in) baby pink zip
- Baby pink 2.5cm (1in) webbing – 165cm (65in) long
- 2 silver 3cm (1¼in) D-rings
- 2 sets of silver 1.5cm (½in) magnetic button clasps
- 1 silver bag charm clip
- Interfacing, 12cm x 3cm (4¼ x 1¾in)
- 1.5cm (½in) sage green gingham ribbon, 20cm (7¾in) long
- Matching sewing thread
- Tissue paper
- Craft knife
- Cutting mat
- Sewing machine

Size: Satchel: 34 x 28 x 8cm (13½ x 11 x 3¼in).
Pencil case: 21 x 18 x 3.5cm (8¼ x 7 x 1½ in).
Bag charm: 10 x 13.5cm (4 x 5¼in) incl. ribbon and clip

Skill level: Moderate

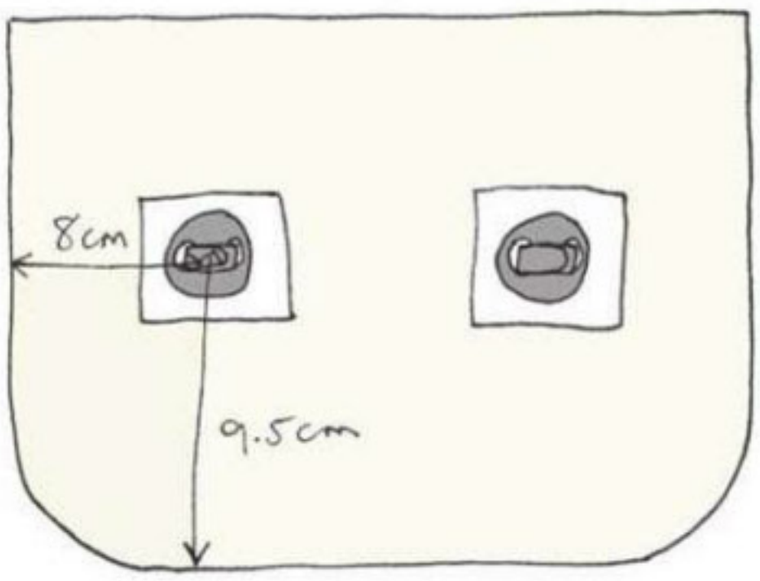
The vintage-style school satchel is back and hotter than ever, especially in this on-trend ditsy print oilcloth. With the matching pencil case and pretty bird charm, any child is sure to be the centre of attention when they go back to school with this bag after the summer holidays. The satchel features a large and practical main compartment, and a pocket on the front for extra storage, plus magnetic fastenings to keep everything safe and secure inside. This make is very versatile and can be made for girls or boys, or even adults who love to rock the retro look. You can custom-make these for your customers so they can choose the fabric, colours and size that best suits their needs. The strap on the satchel can also be made to any length.

Templates
All the templates include the 1cm (½in) seam allowance.

In the oilcloth fabric, cut 2 x main compartments, 1 x flap, 1 x main side, 1 x front pocket, 1 x front pocket side, 2 x birds, 2 x pencil case tops, 2 x pencil case sides and 1 x pencil case bottom.

In the gingham fabric, cut 2 x main compartments, 1 x flap, 1 x main side, 1 x front pocket and 1 x front pocket side.

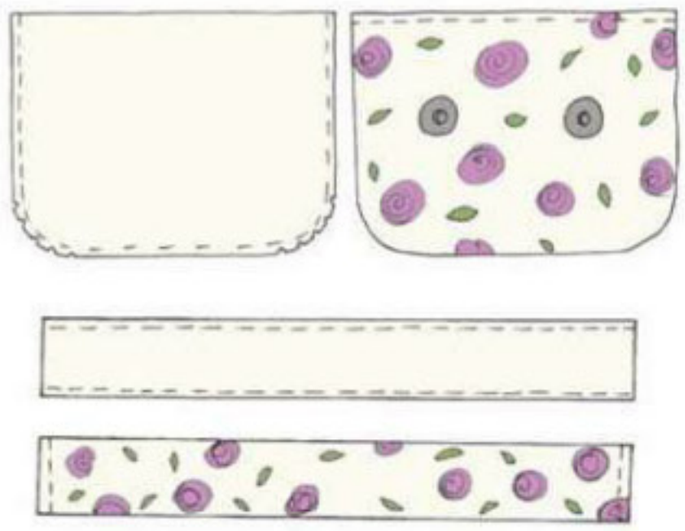
Please note: To make it easier to sew on the oilcloth, cover it with tissue paper first. This can then be removed after sewing. Iron the bag lightly, but only on the gingham fabric, not the oilcloth



1 On the back of the oilcloth front pocket, mark two dots, each 9.5cm (3¾in) from the bottom and 8cm (3¼in) from the side. Place a magnetic button back on each dot so it appears in the middle hole, and mark a small line either side of the dot using the holes. Cut two 2.5cm (1in) squares of interfacing and iron them in place over the marks. Using a craft knife, cut tiny slits on the lines that you marked out. Push the pegs of the female magnetic button through the slits, so the button is on the patterned side of the oilcloth. Put the button back onto the back and fold the pegs into the middle, so they overlap and the button is secured.

SELL MORE

Make bag charms in other shapes, such as hearts or stars, so that each satchel is different



2 Sew the oilcloth and gingham front pockets together with right sides facing, and leaving the top open. Cut notches on the curves. Turn the pocket inside out and iron flat. Tuck the top edges in and top-stitch along upper edge. With right sides facing, sew the oilcloth and gingham pocket sides together, leaving the ends open. Turn to the right side and iron flat. Tuck the open ends in and top-stitch along each end. Using a top-stitch, attach one long edge of the pocket side along the edge of the front pocket.



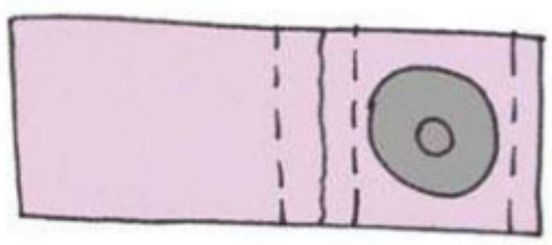
3 Pin the other edge of the front pocket side to an oilcloth main compartment, so it is 6cm (2¼in) from the bottom and 6cm (2¼in) from each side. Top-stitch in place. With right sides facing, pin and stitch the gingham and oilcloth main compartments together (with the front pocket in between), leaving the top open. Cut notches on the curves. Turn right-side out and iron flat. Tuck the top edges in and top-stitch.



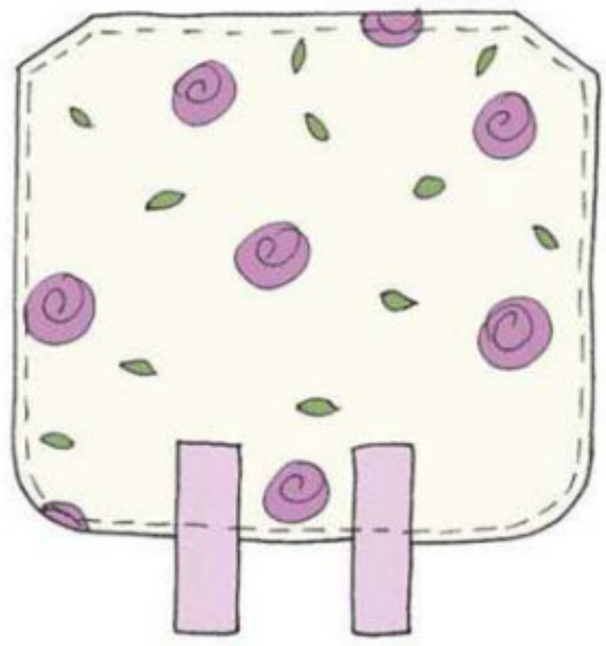
4 With right sides facing, sew the gingham and oilcloth main sides together, leaving the ends open. Turn right-side out and iron flat. Cut two 15cm (6in) lengths of the webbing and thread a D-ring onto each. Fold the webbing in half. On each end of the main side, tuck in edges and then push the end of the webbing into the gap. Sew the webbing in place with two lines of double stitching. Sew a line of double stitching on the webbing as well, to secure the D-ring.



5 Sew the main side onto the front of the main compartment using a top-stitch, making sure the gingham is on the inside.



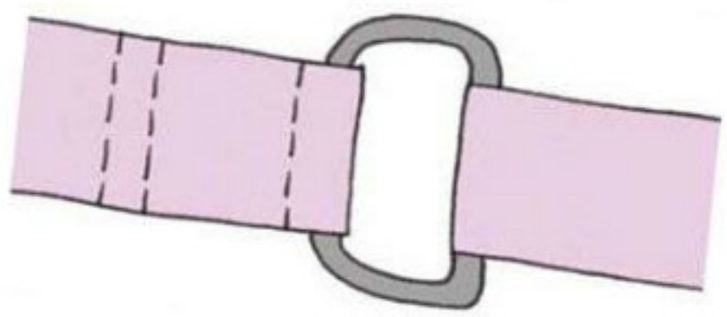
6 Cut two 21.5cm (8½in) lengths of webbing. On each piece, attach a male magnetic button about 14cm (5½in) along, in the same way as you attached the female buttons earlier. Do this without ironing the interfacing on the webbing, as it might melt the fabric. Fold the ends in so they overlap slightly in the middle, on the same side as the front button. Secure with three lines of double stitching. With the buttons facing down, sew the webbing bag fasteners onto the oilcloth flap, about 12cm (4¾in) from the side and at an even height. Sew a square with double stitching and a cross to make it extra secure. Make sure the bottom stitching is about 2cm (¾in) from the edge of the flap.



7 With right sides facing, sew gingham and oilcloth flaps together, leaving a gap where the webbing bag fasteners are. Cut notches on the curves. Turn to the right side and iron flat. Tuck in the edges of the gap and top-stitch along the flap edge. With right sides facing, sew the last main compartments together, leaving the top open. Cut notches on the curves. Turn to the right side and iron flat. Tuck the top edge in and top-stitch along the edge. Sew this onto the main side with a top-stitch, with the gingham on the inside.



8 To attach the flap to the satchel, pin it onto the back, so the bottom edge is 13cm (5¼in) from the bottom of the satchel. From 3cm (1¼in) down, sew the side edges of the flap to the sides of the back. Sew a line of double stitching along the bottom edge of the flap, and another horizontal line 12cm (4¾in) from the bottom edge of the flap.



9 Cut a length of webbing, 88cm (35in) or your desired length. Thread one end through a D-ring on the side of the satchel, and fold the end so there is 6cm (2¼in) of webbing on the inside. Fold about 2cm (¾in) of the end inside again and sew three lines of double stitching to secure these in place and prevent fraying. Thread the other end through the D-ring on the other side – when you have your desired length, repeat the process. To finish off, attach the bag charm onto one of the D-rings on the satchel.



How to make the pencil case

Attach each top to each side of the zip, by sewing the long sides together with the patterned side facing the zip. Pull each side back on itself, and sew flat with a top-stitch. Sew each end of the bottom to each end of the top, with right sides facing. Turn to the right side and fold each end of the bottom back on itself. Sew flat with a top-stitch. Open the zip for the next stage. With right sides facing, sew the sides to the top and bottom, with the curved ends at the top. Turn the pencil case to the right side.

How to make the bag charm

With right sides facing, sew the two birds together. Leave a gap between the back of the head and the tail. Turn to the right side. Fold the ribbon in half and thread through the bottom of the bag charm clip. Place the ends of the ribbon inside the gap, and fold in the top edges of the bird. Top-stitch the gap closed, following the shape of the bird and securing the ribbon as you go.



You've made it, now sell it...

Follow our handy hints to help sell your satchels

1 **Go monochrome** with bold colours to ensure you appeal to men as well as those who steer clear of patterns.



2 **Consider upscaling or downscaling** the design to create laptop bags as well as handbags or even record bags.

3 **Sell bag charms separately.** Kids love to collect things so create a range of little charms they can swap with pals.

4 **Market the pencil case as a make-up bag** to include mums and older girls in your product range.

5 **Offer a choice of colour options** as well as various findings so customers can really personalise their bags.

6 **Quality counts!** School bags need to be robust. Make sure you don't give customers a reason to complain!

7 **Use different models** to show the bag's widespread appeal when photographing it for your web shop (men, school children, women etc.)

8 **Consider creating a separate shop** if the bags deviate from your usual makes, that way you can create a whole ranges of styles and finishes.

9 **Flora and fauna** is a hot trend in crafting at the moment, so make birds, rabbits, foxes, blooms as your charms.

10 **Contact your favourite bloggers** to tell them about the satchel. Offer a giveaway – you never know, you might get them recommending your latest make to their readers.

NOW SELLING ON...



NOTHS: Contemporary Felt Satchel by Deservedly-So, £49



NOTHS: Vintage Style Print Oilcloth Slim Case by Lovehart, £9.50



Wow Thank You: Black and Blue Satchel Bag by Tickly Spider, £80

Ask us

Our panel of experts is on hand to answer all your crafting and selling questions



This rocket man can help add fun to kids' clothes

Get plastered

Q **I'm seven months pregnant and, in preparation for my little one's arrival, I have rediscovered my love of knitting. I don't know the baby's sex yet so I've made a few cute jumpers in neutral shades, but they do look a little dull. Is there any way I can jazz these up when he or she puts in an appearance?**
CATHERINE, LONDON

A We think these ingenious Clothes Plasters from jenniemaizels.com might do the job. Available as sets or in individual packets, they're designed to be ironed on over small tears in fabric, but can also be used on woollies. Just position the plaster where you would like it to go, and secure with small stitches all around the motif. There are loads of different designs to choose from including Russian dolls, tattoo styles, rainbows and robots. Use them for cushions, blankets, bags and even your own clothes. Robust, quirky and resilient to washing, and with prices from £3.49, we think every sewing box should have a few.

Toy story

Q **I want to make children's toys, but have heard conflicting things about washing the fabrics before use. Some say it will shrink, but others have told me it is necessary because of the chemicals that may be present. Can you clarify?**
TANYA ARMITAGE, BY EMAIL

A Expert toy designer Val Pierce says: "As with all toys for children, it is best to think carefully about the age range they will be aimed at. I would suggest you make sure any fabric is flame-retardant to begin with. Cotton is a great choice, since it washes well and is hard-wearing, too. Calico is very good for rag dolls. As for washing fabric before it is used, I would say yes, you should wash it before you start sewing. Also, make sure the dressing is removed and check for colourfast dyes. All toys get chewed and sucked by children – even big children – so it is best to make sure your toys are safe to be really loved! Good luck with your venture." »



Val's dinosaur puppet is fun for kids of all ages

MY TOP TEN TIPS



TRACY TODHUNTER
bakingandmaking.com
Tracy designs and teaches at Make with Mabel in Cheshire. Here are her top tips for running a workshop.

1 Check what classes run in your area, and ask contacts what they'd like to learn.

2 Run a class for friends and family and ask for feedback.

3 Put up posters in schools, libraries and doctors' surgeries.

4 Take handouts of tools and materials.

5 Check insurance, safety and first aid regulations.

6 Look for new themes using your skills, like Handmade Wedding classes.

7 Have a clear booking and payment policy.

8 Run classes at a range of times.

9 Make it fun, to get people to re-book.

10 Keep up your skills, to find new opportunities.



Mirror image – Life Laugh Love Giant Square Window Mirror, Antique White, £245 livelaughlove.co.uk

Mirror mirror

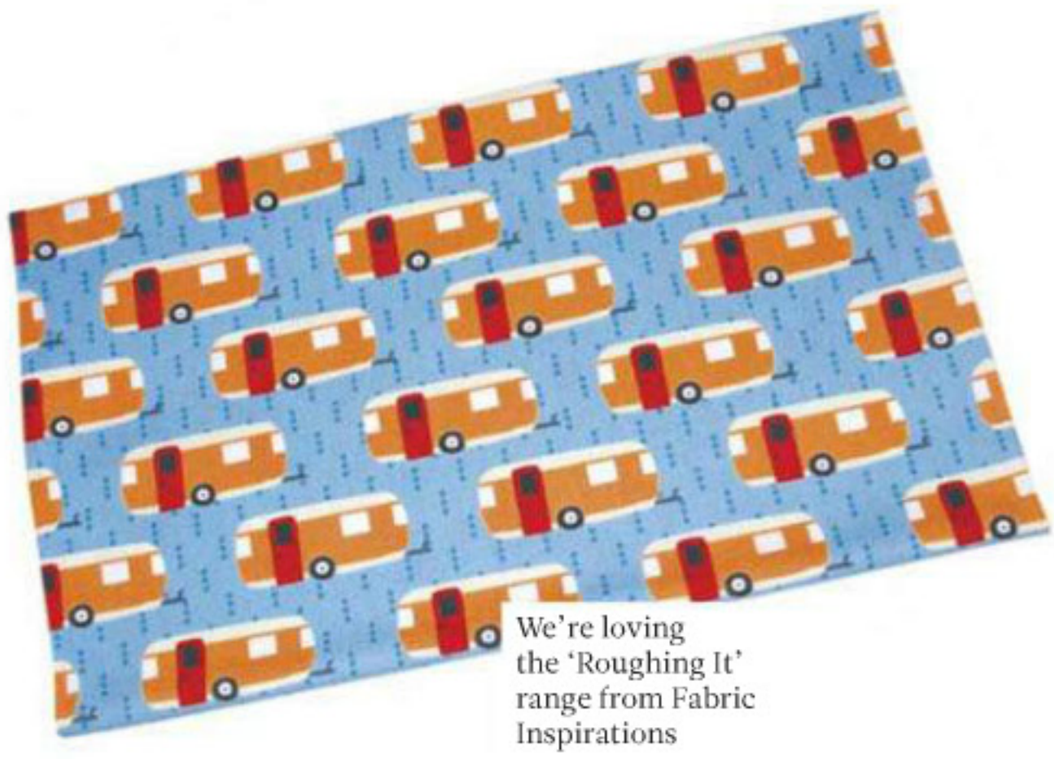
Q I'm setting up a workplace at home, but due to lack of space I am cramming myself in the box room, which is ridiculously small and dark. Any tips to maximise this space?
WENDY FOX, SURREY

A There are a few tricks you can use to maximise space. Unify the area with a single colour palette, so by all means keep it white, but pull everything together with accessories and décor in one block colour. Using mirrors is the oldest trick in the book, with good reason – they reflect light and views, and amplify space. Is it possible to swap a solid door with a glass-panelled door to increase light? Look for multi-purpose, small scale furniture (think caravans!). In tight corners, see how much can be attached to the wall, for example swing-arm light fittings and free-floating shelves. Don't underestimate the power of plants and one strong, inspiring piece of art or sculpture – good for the air, good for the soul, and both can add depth and interest to your studio.

Use stylish mirrors to create more space and light

Happy campers

Q My husband wants a caravan for his birthday, but unfortunately my budget won't quite stretch that far! I am looking for fabric, though, to make him some pillows and a duvet to help him dream about it! Can you help?
HARRIET OATES, RADSTOCK, SOMERSET



We're loving the 'Roughing It' range from Fabric Inspirations

A We've tracked down this stylish caravan fabric from Fabric Inspirations for £13 per metre. Called Roughing It Caravan Nature, it's 100% cotton and perfect for beanbags, curtains, cushions and of course, your sweet dreams pillow plan. We also fell for the other designs in the Roughing It range, which includes designs of tents and trees, which you could use for coordinating accessories. Check out fabricinspirations.co.uk for more information and be inspired by their broad and wonderful selection. We're trying to work out what we can create with the Japanese Noren panels!

FAQ

This month our top Facebook question is...

Q Can you suggest anywhere that I could start looking for wholesalers for cardmaking and scrapbook supplies?
ROS BRIDLE

A We recommend having a look at twiddleys.co.uk/wholesale who manufacture a wide range of gorgeous stationery products, as well as angelwholesale.co.uk who offer a huge range and specialise in everything from boxes to embellishments.

ESSENTIAL CRAFT TOOL





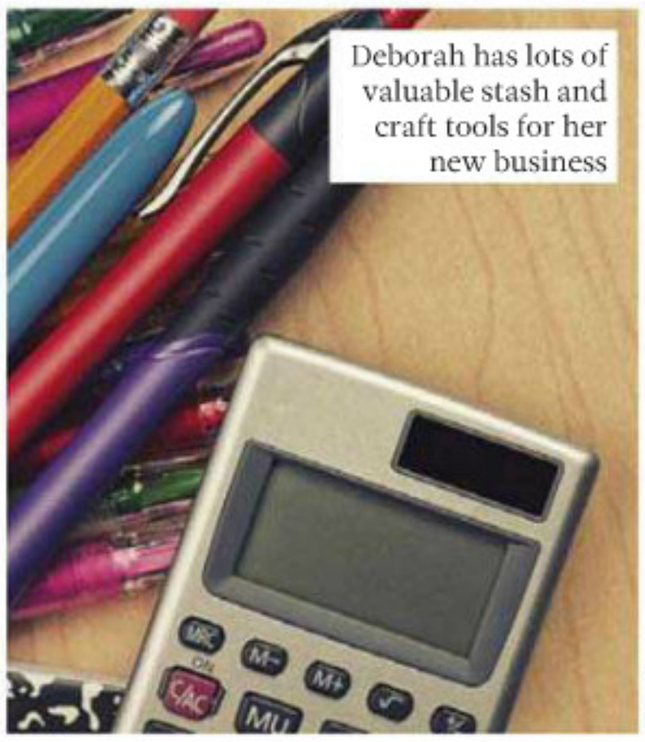
NAME: Julie Carter
SHOP: JellyGiraffe
WEBSITE: JellyGiraffe on folksy.com
TYPE: Enamel jewellery
TOOL: Melting pot
AVAILABLE FROM: jewellerymaker.com, £79

"My most essential piece of equipment is my melting pot – I cannot make my pendants without it. It cost £79 from Jewellery Maker and came with enamel powders and moulds. The melting pot has to reach an extremely high temperature. I then place a square of baking paper inside the pot and, when I put the embossing powders and embossing enamel in the pendant trays, I lay them on the paper then wait for them to melt. The effect is a beautiful, shimmery marbled pattern. I often swirl a unique pattern into the melted enamels to mix the colours together, to create one-off pendants and earrings. This was the best thing I have ever bought for making jewellery – not only does it create wonderful effects, it's also ridiculously easy to use!"

Cash for stash

Q I've built up a large card stash of paper, glitters, glues etc, and I have a number of tools, e.g. a Grand Calibur die-cutting machine and Spellbinders dies. I am thinking of starting my own craft business – would I be able to 'transfer' the value of any of my stash or tools to my business as an expense?
DEBORAH DUDMAN, BY EMAIL

A Emily Coltman, Chief Accountant from FreeAgent Central, says: "Yes, you can transfer your stash of stock and tools. For the tools, you need to work out their market value at the time you transfer them. What could you sell them on eBay for now? Put them into your business as 'fixed assets' at that value. A 'fixed asset' is a large piece of equipment that's going to be useful to your business for more than a year. Your accountant will show you how to do this, and also explain how to show it as an asset you've brought into the business. For the stash, you need to work out what you could sell that for now, then record it as 'stock' of the business – that is, goods it keeps to sell – at the lower of a) what you paid for it and b) what you could sell it for now. Your accountant can advise how to record this, depending on what software you are using to keep records. Good luck with your business."



Deborah has lots of valuable stash and craft tools for her new business

©iStockphoto.com

GUEST EXPERT



LOLA BAILEY, founder of copywriter consultancy Write-Up Communications, is the author of *The Small Business Guide to Online Marketing*. Here are three areas to consider when building your presence.

1 Purple cow.
In digital marketing guru Seth Godin's acclaimed book, *Purple Cow*, a key point is made: if you are not doing something remarkable such as launching a product that helps to solve people's problems well, or a service that fulfils a compelling need, don't 'show up'. However, it's not only your products and services that should be remarkable – how about how you treat your customers, or how you tell your 'story'? There are always opportunities to be remarkable. All that's needed is your imagination, commitment and passion.

2 Fools rush in.
Don't make the mistake of rushing to publish your content, however angelic your intentions. First, listen to the conversations your target market is having online, and then develop content that responds to these conversations. Use your social media platforms, phone conversations, emails and face-to-face chats as raw material to help you create effective content. Remember, people aren't looking for more content – they want answers to their questions and solutions to their problems.

3 Some like to watch. Others like to listen.
The digital world is probably the only place where you can be everywhere at the same time! The truth is, there isn't one single online marketing method that can accomplish all your objectives. Email marketing is targeted at your subscribers only, so you'll need a method to reach those who aren't subscribers. Pay Per Click advertising and search engine optimisation can help bring in customers through the search engines. Then there are social media and video sites like Vimeo and YouTube that will reach new people. Leave no gaps!



The Small Business Guide to Online Marketing, from brightwordpublishing.co.uk, £10

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Dear *Craftseller*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN



ABBREVIATIONS

ch: chain
dc: double crochet
dc2tog: double crochet 2 stitches together (standard decrease of 1 stitch)
htr: half treble
st: stitch
sl st: slip stitch or single crochet
tr: treble



Make a crafty tonner

Quick to make using only tiny scraps of yarn, these cheeky pencil toppers will turn heads – and a quick profit **By Tracey Todhunter**

INFORMATION

Materials

- 3mm (UK 11, US C/2) crochet hook
- Odds and ends of yarn for each topper (less than 10m of yarn needed for each). Alternatively, try Robin DK 25g balls, which retail at 75p per ball
- Black embroidery floss for sewing on eyes and nose
- Safety eyes (optional)
- Pencils
- Strong household glue
- Hollow fibre toy stuffing or scraps of wadding
- Darning needle to weave in ends

Size: Approx 3cm (1¼in)
Skill level: Easy
Tension is not critical for this project

Cute and quirky crochet is always popular with customers, and these novelty pencil toppers are sure to be a winner with their googly eyes and funny expressions! They're so quick and easy, you'll have crocheted a zoo-full before you know it, and their bright colours will attract fun-loving shoppers of all ages. Display these quirky toppers in bright, colourful containers to draw attention to your makes. Ready-glued onto pencils and priced at £2.50 each, they make a brilliant 'grab and go' gift for all those craft fairs, charity events and school fêtes.

How to make the toppers

Head

The same head template is used for each topper. Pattern is worked in a spiral – do not turn and do not join at the end of each round. A stitch marker can be used to mark the last st – remove and replace at end of each round. With 3mm (UK 11, US C/2) crochet hook and chosen yarn, make an adjustable ring (or make 4ch and join with a sl st to form a ring).
Round 1: 6dc into ring. 6dc.
Round 2: 2dc in each dc. 12dc.
Rounds 3-7: 1dc in each dc.
Stuff head.
Round 8: 1dc in each dc. 12 dc.
Add more stuffing to make a firm ball.
Round 9: *1dc, dc2tog; rep from * to end. 8dc.
Continue to work 1dc in each dc until neck measures 2.5cm (1in). Fasten off and weave in ends.
NB: if using safety eyes, these should be inserted before stuffing the head, following manufacturer's instructions.
NB: When the making fox, change to beige yarn on round 8.

Bear & teddy ears and frog eyes

Using photo as a guide, rejoin yarn to any dc on round 3 and work 3htr into st, fasten off yarn and repeat on opposite side, ensuring eyes/ears are level.

Fox ears

Using photo as a guide, join yarn to any dc on round 3 and work 2htr, 1tr, 3htr into same st, fasten off yarn and work 1 row of sl st in cream to finish. Weave in ends.

Bunny ears (make 2)

With chosen yarn, make 2ch. 3dc into 2nd ch from hook, continue to work in a spiral on these 3dc until ear measures 1cm (½in). Fasten off yarn and sew in place.

Fox and bear nose

With chosen yarn, make an adjustable ring.
Round 1: 5dc into ring. 5dc.
Round 2: 1dc in each dc.
Fasten off yarn and sew in place.

Finishing

Use black embroidery thread to add eyes, noses and features, using photograph as a guide. Glue on googly eyes where shown. Sew on small bow for teddy if desired. Apply a small amount of glue to the base of the pencil, slide topper into place, wiping off any excess glue, and leave to dry.

SAFETY FIRST These pencil toppers are not suitable for children under three, due to small parts. Always make sure you use natural yarns, safe toy stuffing and safe toy eyes. Pay attention when stitching together so that everything is very securely in place and as safe as possible.
Remember, if you intend on selling them, even if they are not sold as toys, there are strict regulations to adhere to. Visit craft-seller.com/free-downloads for more legal advice on child safety.



More ways than one...

These snuggly cosies, all in simple moss stitch, for eggs, coffee and tea are perfect for home-lovers everywhere **By Sarah Heys**




I'm
Hot!
Tea

How to make the breakfast cosies

INFORMATION

Materials
- 8mm (UK 0, US 11) knitting needles
- Twilley's Freedom Wool in Cream (shade 401), Smoke Blue (shade 430) and Light Brown (shade 432)
- Two buttons
- Felt
- Embroidery thread & needle

Size: Cup cosy: 26 x 6.5cm (10¼ x 2½in)
Cafetiere cosy: 12 x 23.5cm (4¾ x 9¼in)
Egg cosy: 10 x 7cm (4 x 2¾in)
Skill level: Easy
Tension: 15sts per 10cm (4in).

ABBREVIATIONS

k:	knit
k3tog:	knit three together
p:	purl
p3tog:	purl three together
st(s):	stitches
WS:	wrong side

Made for weekends, this breakfast set is for shoppers who love to lounge around on a Sunday with a cup of coffee. They make great presents, too, with their funky tags and sense of decadence. Knit them on chunky needles with leftover yarn, and you'll soon have a set you can sell for a cosy profit! Make a set to display on your stand, plus a few more in reserve – packaged in hand-sewn drawstring bags, perhaps? If you're short of time, you can leave out the felt tags. Or let your customers know that you can make to order if they'd like a special tag for their knitted gift.

EGG COSY

Cast on 18sts.
Row 1: k1, p1 across the row.
Row 2: p1, k1 across the row.
These two rows form the moss stitch pattern.
Repeat rows 1-2 twice, then row 1 again.
Row 8: p1, k3tog, p1, k to last 4sts, p3tog, k1.
Row 9: moss stitch across the row.
Row 10: moss stitch across the row.
Row 11: moss stitch across the row.
Row 12: moss stitch across the row.
Row 13: K1, p3tog, k1, p to last 4sts, k3tog, p1.
Row 14: moss stitch across the row.
Row 15: moss stitch across the row.
Cast off in moss stitch pattern.

CUP COSY

Cast on 10sts.
Row 1: k1, p1 across the row.
Row 2: p1, k1 across the row.
Repeat for 64 rows or until cosy fits your cup.
Cast off in moss stitch pattern.
Sew top and bottom of short edges together, leaving enough space for the cup handle.

CAFETIERE COSY

Cast on 18sts.
Row 1: k1, p1 across the row.
Row 2: p1, k1 across the row.
Repeat for 62 rows, ending on WS row.
Knit 1, p1. Continuing on these 2sts only, turn work and p1, k1 back to end of row. Repeat twice and cast off the 2sts. Rejoin yarn and cast off the remaining sts on the needle until there are 2sts. Repeat from. Finish the loop by folding it to create a buttonhole – stitch in place, and repeat for the other buttonhole. Attach buttons on the opposite side, checking that the cosy will fit snugly around the cafetiere.

On all the knits, stitch your saying onto a piece of felt, then blanket-stitch the felt onto the knitting.



SELL MORE

The wording can be personalised to include someone's name or favourite drink perhaps


egg



My craft shop

Meet a trio of craft sellers who share the moneymaking secrets behind their success

The stallholder



ELSA FUSTER
from Cumbria
Milana

WEBSITE
Milana on Folksy.com

Elsa finds craft fairs the perfect selling medium, as she loves interacting directly with the public

"I've always loved creating with wool. My Spanish grandmother taught me to crochet when I was six, and I've had a project on the go ever since. Then I had a go at felting. It was love at first touch!

"My work incorporates both contemporary clean lines and organic shapes. Felt lends itself to both forms. I use a range of techniques, from basic wet felting to nuno felting, which uses fabric as a matrix. My favourite technique by far, though, is 3D felting. I enjoy the challenges this brings, especially when designing larger pieces such as jackets.

"I started selling at local markets and craft fairs about two years ago. I really wanted to get out and sell direct to the public. My initial experiences weren't great, however, I persevered and things really paid off. My main craft income is from my stall.

"There is no shortage of craft fairs and markets. I initially signed up to anything, and this helped me discover which fairs were really worth attending.

"The downsides of running a stall are the effort and initial financial outlay involved. You need to factor in travel, setting up, standing for hours, talking to customers (fun, but draining) and clearing up at the end – not to mention unloading the car once you finally get your weary bones home.

"Hard work? Yes. Worth it? I think so! I love selling direct to the public. After all, felt needs to be... well, felt!"

TOP TIP

Online shops, bricks-and-mortar shops and market stalls can each offer different opportunities

"My main craft income is from my stall"





Elsa likes her shoppers to feel the felt



The Folksy seller



EMMA HIGGINS
from Paignton
Billet Doux

WEBSITE
Billet Doux on Folksy.com



Emma has found friends, advice and expertise through the online marketplace Folksy.com

"I'm a part-time primary school teacher, in Devon. "When I got married in 2010, I wanted to make invitations for my hen party. I had enjoyed lino printing years ago, at school, so I bought some lino and simple tools from a craft shop, and carved and printed a brown chicken. I was hooked, so I started to teach myself the basics using YouTube tutorials.

I draw out each design, then transfer it onto a piece of lino before cutting and printing. It's a bit like posh potato printing! Recently I even upgraded to a printing press – a 1940s child's mangle for £30.

"I sell my designs on Folksy. Setting up my online shop seemed daunting, but it was much simpler than I feared. Folksy is a friendly and inspiring place to sell – I wasn't prepared for just how sociable it would be! I've learnt so much from the community of sellers on the forums. And I never fail to get excited by a sale."

TOP TIP

Be proactive. Work on your skills, improve your products, and talk to anyone who'll listen



Emma's colourful designs are on sale in her Folksy shop

The website owner

Starting to create her own lampwork beads was a turning point for Sally-Jo and her business

"I specialise in hand-crafted lampwork beads, which I make using molten glass. I turn the beads into jewellery and gifts, and I also sell them to crafters wanting to design their own one-of-a-kind pieces.

"Five years ago, with years of crafting experience behind me, I decided to take the plunge and, with the help of a grant from my local enterprise team, I set up The Bead Bounty. My initial idea was to sell good-quality seed beads, jewellery kits and classes at markets. But I soon realised that the quality wasn't always there with mass-produced beads, and the market was swamped with a lot of the same product.

"With this in mind, my husband bought me my own lampwork bead-making equipment. To take rods of glass, melt them and produce beads with depth and quality is a constant source of amazement.

"I used Weebly to set up my website, and found it an easy process. It is a free service, and I can update the site and change things around whenever I want."



SALLY-JO DRINKEL
from North Yorkshire
The Bead Bounty

WEBSITE
thebeadbounty.weebly.com

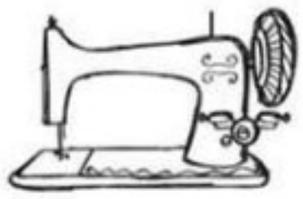


Sally-Jo's beads are all completely unique creations

"I can update the site and change things whenever I want"

TOP TIP

Creative-connections.ning.com is a great online community, for crafty support, tips and advice



Crafty courses

Why not add a new craft to your skill set? Here are some of the best courses worth exploring this summer...

Go on a jewellery journey with Flux 'n' Flame





Alison loves how versatile craft is and wants to share it with all her students

Flux'n'Flame

This Dorset-based jewellery school recently celebrated its tenth birthday, having grown from a humble garage to one of the UK's largest independent jewellery centres, offering courses in a beautiful, purpose-built workshop.

"Our courses are for everyone," explains co-founder Jesa Marshall, "absolute beginners to pros. We attract a broad age range, too – our youngest learner so far was 13 and our oldest 84! Many students come to learn skills that allow them to start a jewellery business and we're proud to say many have gone on to do just that.

Jesa and husband Al are both working designers, as are all their tutors. "We create a family feel where everyone can explore their creativity and get the most from our expertise," says Jesa. "We don't specify what students make – but we try to make sure everyone leaves with a finished piece.

"Silversmithing is like magic"

"The appeal of silver and gold is definitely the alchemy – it really is like magic! One minute you have a sheet or wire in front of you, the next it has transformed into a beautiful, wearable and oh-so-sparkly piece of jewellery. We're all magpies at heart!"

INFORMATION

* Make a ring or bangle in a day, suitable for beginners, max six pupils. 10am-5pm, £105: 17 Aug, 1 Sept, 9 Nov, 14 Dec. Two- and three-day courses, suitable for beginners and improvers, two tutors, max eight pupils: work on your own project. Two day, £220: 28 Sept, 23 Nov, 7 Dec. Three day, £305: 24 Aug, 26 Oct.

*For more info contact Jesa on 01258 881690, jesa@fluxnflame.co.uk or visit fluxnflame.co.uk.

Tea & Crafting

This North London craft centre is the perfect place for busy city folk looking for a creative outlet. From their home within Camden Lock Market, the experienced tutors at Tea and Crafting introduce learners to knitting, crochet, sewing, embroidery, jewellery and millinery.

"All of our workshops are designed so learners take home a finished item," explains founder Jane Gois. "And you'll create items of a high enough standard to give as gorgeous homemade presents. We get a range of people attending but

"Create gorgeous homemade presents"

increasingly we meet people who are keen to start their own crafty business.

"Creativity is contagious, so we surround students with crafty items to inspire them. Our learners find the venue's vintage, shabby-chic feel conducive to creativity.

Sessions last two to three hours, with all tutors experts in their field. "Our teachers can provide plenty of useful, practical tips – they'll often teach both the correct way to do things and then share quicker tricks-of-the-trade ways, as well.

"We are becoming known for our very simple, beginner-friendly approach to teaching, and increasing numbers of students are returning to improve the skills they have learned with us – or simply to try something different just for fun."

INFORMATION

* Classes include Vintage Fascinator Workshop (2.5 hrs, £38), Beginners Knitting (3 hrs, £35.50), Earrings & Bracelet (2 hrs, £32.50), Learn to Crochet – Flower Brooch (2 hrs, £28.50) and Beginners Embroidery (2 hrs, £32.50).

All fees include all materials, tea and cake. Visit teaandcrafting.co.uk.



WHY NOT TRY...

Other great craft courses taking place around the country

Hot Fusion Glass
Learn the art of glass fusing – stacking or layering thin sheets of glass, often using different colours to create patterns or images, then firing the mix at high temperatures – at this studio in Horam, East Sussex. A taster day (10am-4pm) costs £85, maximum three learners.
Visit hotfusionglass.co.uk

Twenty Twenty Gallery
Art and craft workshops take place at this contemporary gallery in the pretty Shropshire town of Much Wenlock. Upcoming workshops include Monoprint (28 Sept, £85) and Gum Arabic (19 Oct, £85).
Visit twenty-twenty.co.uk

Market Place Farm
Learn the ancient craft of willow weaving and make your own sculptures to take away at this friendly working farm in Yorkshire's East Riding. The farm also boasts its own vineyard, secret gardens, a children's outdoor learning centre and willow maze.
Visit marketplacefarm.co.uk

The Purple Thread Shed
Ali Ferguson teaches the delights of nostalgia jewellery, vintage wall hangings, mixed-media mosaics and more at this pretty craft shed in Roslin, near Edinburgh. Weekday workshops for textile artists start again on Mon 2 Sept: 10am-4pm, £45.
Visit aliferguson.co.uk

Poppy Treffry
Learn the basics of machine freehand embroidery with this much-loved designer at her Penzance workshop. The sewing machines are provided or you're welcome to bring your own if you prefer. One-day courses cost £95 with lunch included.
Visit poppytreffry.co.uk

Templates

Use these templates to make the monster lunchbox on page 36, owl playmat on page 64 and the satchel, pencil case and charm set on page 84

TOP TIP

Vist craft-seller.com/free-downloads to print all our templates in the right size to use

OWL
(COPY AT 125%)

INNER EAR
Cut 2 in spot

BEAK
Cut 1 in yellow

LARGE HEART
Cut 2 in green
Cut 2 in spot

EYE
Cut 2 small in spot
Cut 2 medium in pink
Cut 2 large in yellow

SMALL HEART
Cut 1 in pink cord
Cut 3 in spot

HEAD
Cut 1 in brown

FACE
Cut 1 in FUR

WING
Cut 2 in fur

TOP BODY
Cut 1 in green

INNER WING
Cut 2 in blue glitter

MIDDLE BODY
Cut 1 in brown

BOTTOM BODY
Cut 1 in green

BAG CHARM
(COPY AT 200%)

BAG CHARM
Cut 2 in oilcloth

SATCHEL
(COPY AT 400%)

MAIN
Cut 2 in oilcloth
Cut 2 in gingham

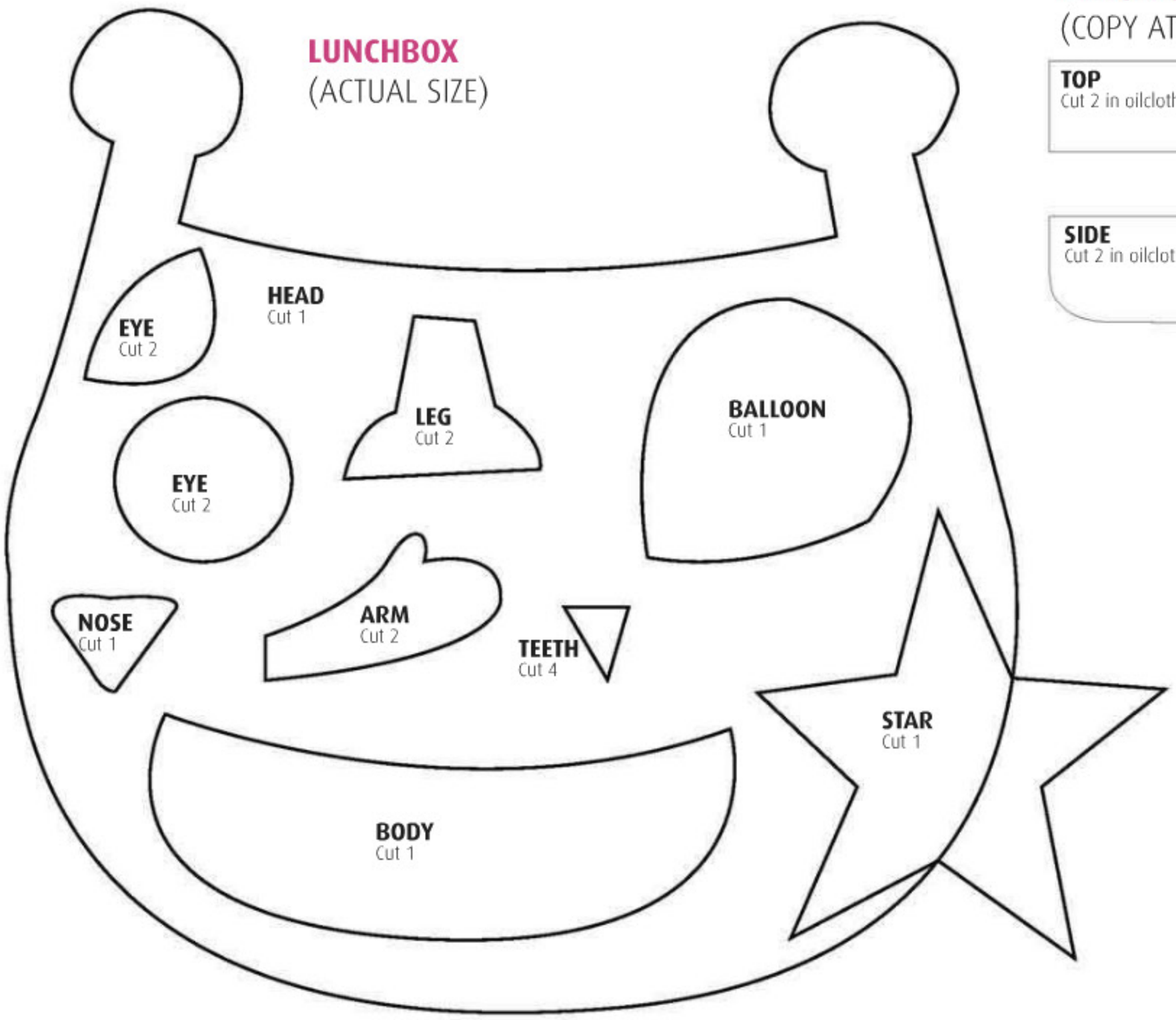
FLAP
Cut 1 in oilcloth
Cut 1 in gingham

FRONT POCKET
Cut 1 in oilcloth
Cut 1 in gingham

FRONT POCKET SIDE
Cut 1 in oilcloth
Cut 1 in gingham

MAIN SIDE
Cut 1 in oilcloth
Cut 1 in gingham

LUNCHBOX
(ACTUAL SIZE)



PENCIL CASE
(COPY AT 400%)

TOP
Cut 2 in oilcloth

SIDE
Cut 2 in oilcloth

BOTTOM
Cut 1 in oilcloth

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Online loves

We can't resist taking a peek at the amazing makes that hit the handmade marketplace each month – here are some highlights



Baking

* Almost too cute to eat, these biccies are a picnic basket must this summer...
* **Summer Biscuit Gift Box by Honeywell Bakes, £17.50 on noths.com**



Accessories

* We love this necklace – definitely on the shopping list for the new-season wardrobe.
* **Jersey Zamotka® Necklace by CADO accessories, £22 on dawanda.com**



Momento

* Your family immortalised in adorable 3D wooden figures? What's not to love?
* **Personalized Hand-Painted Family Portrait Wooden Peg Dolls by Goose Grease, £93.92 on etsy.com**



Fashion

* The 50s vibe to this flirty, vintage-style dress is adorable – we HAVE to have it.
* **Summer Meadow Dress by Mrs Pomeranz, £317.74 on dawanda.com**



Homeware

* Bedtime need never be boring again with these silk silly and sweet pillowcases!
* **Hand Silk Screened Novelty Pillowcase by HookAndMatter, £30 on etsy.com**



Homeware

* Loving the neon colour of this peacock chair – contempory and traditional!
* **Made to Order Pastel Peacock Chair in Mint Green by NeonVintageDesign, £279.41 on etsy.com**

A splash of neon paint is a great way to update old furniture

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"Since joining WowThankYou Tracey has been a source of invaluable information. She not only explains everything with introductory information emails, but answers all queries with comprehensive answers and helps to the best of her ability. I can definitely say that joining the website has been a great experience and I look forward to continuing selling on the website"
Clare, Raggedy Lils

"I am new to WowThankYou but the support I have received from Tracey so far is second to none"
Brenda, Groovy Bags 'N' Things by Brenda

"WowThankYou has given me the platform to showcase my handmade products so I can grow my little business acorn into a giant oak tree!"
Amanda, Baked 4 U

"You have not experienced UK crafting at its best until you have visited WowThankYou and seen the extensive range of handcrafted gifts on offer"
Jane, Craftyneedles

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