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Pfaff
Sewing
Machine
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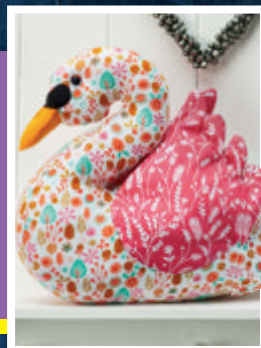


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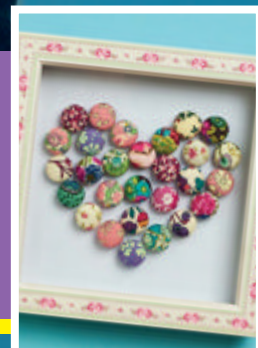
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accuracy of all projects, we are not responsible for
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starting construction.

Welcome



We love Liberty!

Welcome to our *Liberty special*.
It's no secret that we are big fans
of the London store and the
iconic art fabrics at Sew HQ.
And we know you love them
too, so this issue we are treating
you to *13 pages* of Liberty

loveliness including must-make projects, a behind the
scenes history tour of the store and a 10% Tana
Lawn *discount* at Sewbox (p40).

We have more *treats* for you this month too,
including a *fabulous four in one pattern* from
Simplicity; this fantastic wardrobe pack includes our
gorgeous cover star peplum top, plus *fit-and-flare
dress*, collarless jacket and trousers. We also have
great *garment customising* ideas, see p28 and p40.

Also this month we meet the new wave of indie
pattern designers who are taking the *pattern world*
by storm (p42). In Home, we have a card tricks block
quilt to make (p69), plus meet Oliver & Alistair, our
adorable pair of tweedy characters to add to your
abode (p78).

Happy stitching!

Lorraine Luximon,
Editor



meet our experts



**Tilly
Walnes**

The top sewing
blogger talks
about her indie
pattern business.

www.tillyandthebuttons.com



**Caryn
Franklin**

This month the
fashion commentator
picks her favourite date night
dresses. Don't miss her pattern style
picks. www.howtolookgood.com



**Emma
Mawston**

The Head of
Design at Liberty
gives the
lowdown on their iconic fabric
prints. www.liberty.co.uk



**Lauren
Guthrie**

The Sewing
Bee star and
fabric shop
owner talks tackling
trousers patterns.
www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk

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Home & Style

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Find the templates for our swans on p98

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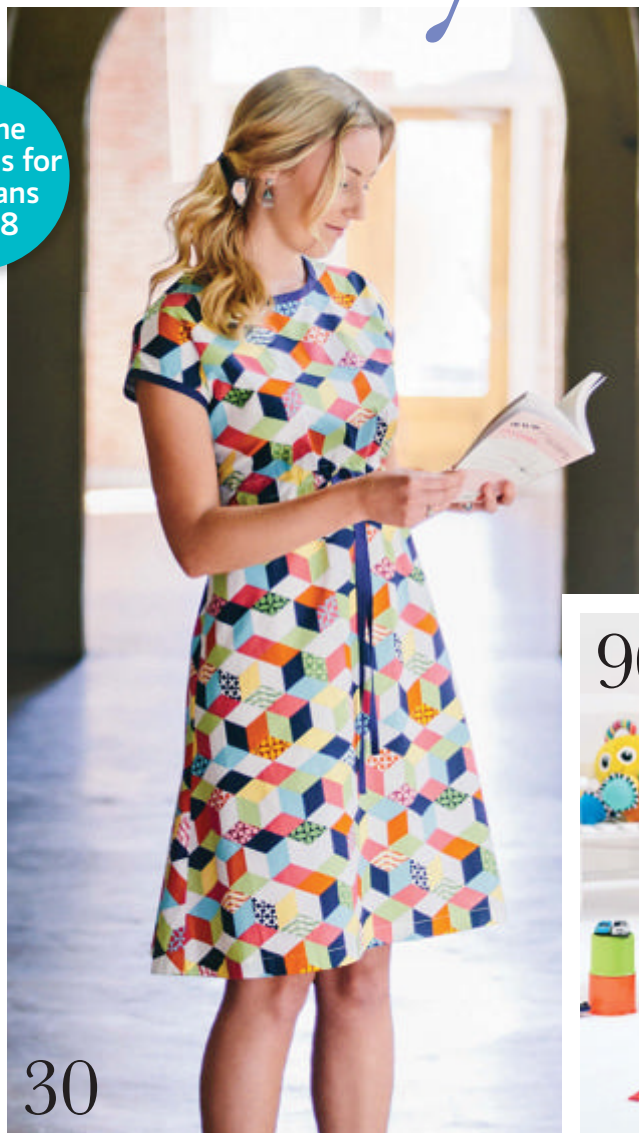
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40 Peplum top

Spruce up a simple vest top – we show you how!



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FREE this month!

SIMPLICITY 1699 4-IN-1 PATTERN

This Sew Stylish wardrobe pack pattern includes four garments to stitch, wear and love! Choose between a flattering fit and flare dress and peplum top with raglan sleeves and princess seams, a chic collarless jacket with trim detail, and a pair of straight cut trousers. With step-by-step instructions, plenty of extra tips and five sizes to choose from, stitching a whole new form-flattering outfit has never been easier.

Instructions
show you how

STITCH
YOUR
STYLE

Flattering
styles

Multi-pattern

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FREE NEXT MONTH...

NEW LOOK 6217 SPRING
WARDROBE PATTERN

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Use collaging techniques to create your own cotton prints to make a zipped pouch.

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Stitch Downton Abbey-inspired stationery that exudes Edwardian elegance.

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House your headphones in this quick-make pouch.

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Sew our happy couple, Cyril and Cecilia.

90 Portable playmat

Transport your budding racing driver's toy cars in this versatile convertible bag.

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Bring a romantic ambience into your living space.

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Stuart shares his top tips for thrifty stitching.

73 Love that fabric...

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76 Diamond coasters

Practise your patchwork with these Liberty fabric mats.

78 Oliver & Alistair owl

Our tweed doorstep and cushion are a wise project choice.

81 Tea towel hangers

Add attractive loops to spruce up kitchen textiles.

Gifts

82 Liberty gifts

Love is in the air with this framed heart display and fabric envelopes.

84 Susie's stitch school

Learn shadow work to create a set of simple soap bags.

96 Tooth fairy postcard

Make sure your little one is prepared for the tooth fairy.



SAY IT WITH CROSS STITCH

DMC has teamed up with six of the UK's top cross stitch designers to chart its brand-new Signature Collection. With a new range of unique designs every month, January kicks off with Say It With Cross Stitch by Jane Schofield. We think this Live Laugh Love kit would be ideal to sew for someone special. View the full collection at www.dmccreative.co.uk

Geek chic

It's official, embroidery is cool! And not just on your walls, but to wear, too.

Floss & Mischief has miniaturised the iconic needlework sampler to create two DIY jewellery kits. Choose between an adorable mini wooden embroidery hoop brooch, £16.50, or necklace, £19.50, each including three cross stitch patterns.

Find them at www.flossandmischief.com



HOOP-LA

We've gone loopy for hoops in the Sew office and these beautiful embroidered designs by Sojung Kim McCarthy particularly caught our eye this month. Originally from South Korea, Sojung studied Illustration at Bournemouth University and creates gorgeous stitched items for her online shop. We love these adorable fox and cat embroidery hoop designs, priced £21 each – see more at

www.etsy.com/shop/doalittledance

want it,

Things we're coveting in the world of stitching this month



SILVERDASHERY

Searching for a special gift for a super stitcher? Look no further than the beautiful handmade jewellery designs by Luna Russell at Silverdashery. From silver sewing needle necklaces to bespoke tape measure bangles, there are plenty of haberdashery-inspired designs and even a knit-themed necklace to capture your imagination. Visit www.silverdashery.com

Allow us to be Franc

Tilly and the Buttons' new Francoise pattern is top of our 'to stitch' pile this month. The '60s-inspired mod-style dress is bang on trend and it's totally beginner friendly with flat construction raglan sleeves. There are several variations to really make it your own, including optional three-quarter length sleeves, a cute collar, or waist tab detail. Available in printed or digital format, priced from £7.50, www.tillyandthebuttons.com



Arty elegance

Take a peak at Guterma's latest fabric collection, Fenton House. It's full of eclectic prints in deep and invigorating colours, with motifs including birds, dogs, flowers and contemporary tartans. These 100% cotton fabrics can be mixed and matched for home décor or apparel to your heart's content as there are 36 designs on offer.

Priced £19.95 per metre, contact

guterma@stockistenquiries.co.uk

or call **01453 883581**

for stockists.



PERFECT PIXELS

What happens when a graphic designer starts experimenting with patchwork and quilting? This modern range of pixelated creations by English Rose! From quilts to cushions, Rowena Bayliss' heart motif would be ideal for Valentine's Day, or check out her ingenious Mona Lisa design. Visit **www.english-rose.org.uk**



Diary Dates

6th February-3rd May

Thea Porter: '70s Bohemian Chic Fashion & Textile Museum, London

15th-17th February

Craft Hobby + Stitch International NEC, Birmingham

18th February

M Rosenberg & Son's Travelling Fabric Show Trumpington Village Hall, Cambridge

26th-28th February

Creative Crafts Show The Malvern Showground, Worcestershire

need it!

Get the look



There's nothing more romantic than lace, making it the perfect fabric for stitching a date night dress. This three-quarter length sleeve style in Wine by Saturday's singer Rochelle Humes is simply stunning, or why not stitch your own using Simplicity 6261? There are

four styles to choose from with neckline and sleeve variations. Available in sizes 8-18, visit **www.simplicitynewlook.com**, **0161 480 8734**.

Rochelle Humes lace dress, £69, **www.very.co.uk**

Make a Fabric Messenger Bag with Stuart Hillard

Needle and Thread Workshops, 21st February

Spend the day with the star himself learning how to sew the bag Stuart made on the *Sewing Bee* Christmas special last year. It's perfectly practical, with internal and external pockets, an adjustable shoulder strap, and button or magnetic fastening. Make yours in one of two sizes.

Equipment is provided, along with lunch, tea and homemade cake. Priced £75, visit

www.needleandthreadworkshops.com



HEARTS & ROMANCE

Red heart cross stitch earrings by Emma Dickie Design, £10, **www.folksy.com**



Heart shell buttons in pink, £1.80 for six, **www.textilegarden.com**



Hearts tin, £4, **www.onebrowncow.co.uk**

3 WE LOVE

LEARNING CURVE



Dear Sew

Share your crafty makes and stories with us to be in with the chance of winning a fantastic prize!

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Pin dog

I had a bad case of pin dog envy when watching Heather on the *Sewing Bee* and had to have my own! Therefore I paired Sew's Dave the dachshund pattern with some doggy print fabric to make my very own doggy pin dog! Since I started subscribing to Sew magazine last April, I have been inspired to take up sewing as a hobby again – it's been a long time since O-level needlework at school and I had forgotten how satisfying it is to be creative and have since made curtains, cushions and dresses. I have regained skills I had forgotten and learned lots of new ones while getting back my sewing confidence. It makes a refreshing change from the day job and I cannot wait to start the next project!

Heather De

We've all known pin dog envy! We're so pleased you're feeling inspired.



Star Letter

Party dress

I started sewing about six months ago when I decided I was too old to keep asking my mum to turn my trousers up for me! My husband bought me Sew magazine to read, as I was enjoying stitching so much.

I decided to take the plunge and make my own dress this year for a party. I used the Cynthia Rowley for Simplicity 1873 pattern which was FREE with the November issue, and I also made the fur stole from the October issue. I felt fantastic! I've stitched some toys from the mag, too. Thanks for the inspiration, Sew!

Amanda Cope

You've done brilliantly with some very ambitious makes! Well done!

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New sewer

Sewing started for me last summer when I saw some gorgeous fabric in my local shop, Truro Fabrics. I knew I wanted a skirt so I looked at some YouTube tutorials and made one. And it was actually wearable! Since then I've become obsessed. I've tried to make sure I learn a new technique with each project and I now have quite a few homemade things in my wardrobe. The other day I had my first 'oh, I made it myself!' moment when someone complimented me on my skirt. I've even branched out into children's clothes, and I've been writing a blog about my adventures.

Sam White

It's great to hear that you're enjoying your new hobby!



Finished project

I am really proud of this dress and bolero I made for a charity ball a couple of months ago. It was a big thing for me, firstly because I am a great shopper! To go out in something that I have not bought is huge. Another reason to be proud:

I actually finished it in time to go to the ball! My sewing room has a pile of unfinished projects, makes that have got too complicated or things that need tweaking. But I completed this one!

Rebecca Morcombe

You look fabulous! We hope you're inspired to make more garments in the future.



Star Prize

This month our Star Letter winner will receive a bumper selection of fabrics from Minerva Crafts worth £50. We also have £10 worth for the runners up. For more stitching goodies, visit www.minervacrafts.com



"I DECIDED TO TAKE THE PLUNGE AND MAKE MY OWN DRESS THIS YEAR"



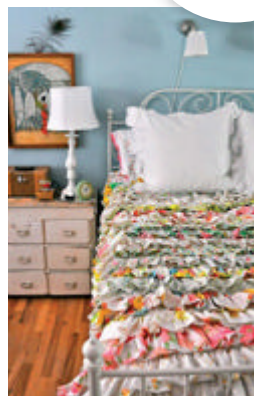
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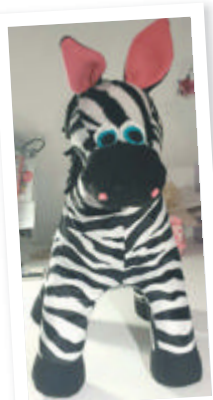
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Top



TWEETS

WE ASKED YOU... WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN STITCHING?



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@SEWHQ
SOFT AND
FURRY ZEBRA
MADE FOR MY
DAUGHTER.



@lizziethimble
I made a tribal owl!
@SewHQ

@LucyLevenson
Just finishing details on my
loving couple! @SewHQ



@Joe_Tierney
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ROUND TO
USING UP
MY FREE
#FATQUARTER
FROM
@SEWHQ



Facebook



FEEDBACK

Sarah Brady

Stag's head cushion on
English wool.



Sharan King

My sewing
instructor loved my
frock so much, it got
its debut at the local
fashion show!



**Natalie
Fleming**

Made this for
my little girl –
she's wearing
her school
uniform.



**Carrie Davies-
Bateman**

A car playmat
for my
little boy.



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GET IN TOUCH Write in and share your creations, tips and views



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aceville.co.uk



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Q&A

WHATEVER YOUR SEWING
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Pat Bravo
is a talented
fabric designer,
quilter and
founder of Art
Gallery Fabrics,
a family-run
business
producing
contemporary,
trend-led
fabrics and
patterns for
apparel,
quilting and
accessories.
Visit
www.liveartgalleryfabrics.com

I love the look of curved seams on a quilt, but often get in a muddle with the shapes not matching properly when they're pieced and sewn together. Is there an easy technique to achieve smooth, even curves?

Alicia Owen

Pat says

Quilts with curved shapes in blocks have a very special appeal. They add a sense of motion and dynamism to any design. These rounded shapes are a very important design element because they keep the eyes moving around the whole composition. However, quilters often find it difficult to pair concave and convex shapes right sides together and find the beginning of the seam under the presser foot, or they struggle to hold them while stitching a 6mm seam. The method that I use doesn't use any piecing at all; in fact, the most simple way is to appliqué!

"Quilters often find it difficult to pair concave and convex shapes right sides together"

For each block, cut two squares: a background (that will be bigger) and an appliqué square (that will be smaller). Trace a quarter circle template, 6mm smaller than your appliqué square fabric, on the dull or non-shiny side of a piece of freezer paper and cut out. Press the shiny side of the template on the wrong side of your appliqué square, aligning the straight edges. Trim the fabric around the curved edge of the template, adding a 6mm seam allowance. Press the seam to the wrong side along the curved edge,



using the freezer paper as a guide for folding. Once finished, remove the paper template. Lay the prepared quarter circle on top of the right side of the background square, aligning the straight edges. Pin through all layers about 2.5cm from the corner of the template fabric to secure. Tuck the pressed seam allowance under. Sew along the curved edge using machine blind stitch or any other appliqué stitch of your choice. Turn the block to the wrong side and trim only the background square fabric away, leaving a 6mm seam allowance.





Clare Donnelly is Marketing Manager for Daylight, specialising in quality magnifying and task lights. Clare enjoys sewing and crafting herself, so appreciates the benefits of working under good quality light. Find out more at www.daylightcompany.com

I have my own little sewing space in my home, but also like stitching in front of the TV in the evening. I do a combination of close hand stitching and larger projects by machine. What would you suggest is the best lighting to ensure I don't strain my eyes?

Janice Daniels

Clare says

You are wise to consider the best lighting. Working in poor light will cause your eyes to tire sooner and potentially cause headaches. Good quality light will ensure you are better equipped to work for longer periods, faster, more accurately and in comfort. Thankfully, there are many light source options designed to meet your needs on the market. I would recommend directional lighting in both your sewing space and in your TV room.

Either a floor standing lamp or table variety would be a good choice in your TV room. Some varieties can be converted from floor to table lamps and come with added accessories such as a magnifier and a tidy tray for pins, needles and cotton etc. The flexible head will ensure the light source can be directed to exactly where you need it.

In your sewing space, a lamp designed to cast light over the sewing machine foot and your work without shadow is essential. Again, magnification will be important when close hand stitching especially. A neat little LED sewing machine light attached directly to your machine is a great option, too.

Alternatively, if your budget is limited or you prefer not to have a table or floor lamp in your TV room, a portable lamp, which could be moved around your home, and even taken to sewing clubs or groups, is a good alternative solution.

“Working in poor light will cause your eyes to tire sooner and potentially cause headaches”



I’ve just started dressmaking and I keep seeing the term understitching. Do I really need to do it and what is it for?

Jackie Bell

Wendy says

Your pattern will usually tell you to understitch along the edges of a garment that has a facing (extra piece of fabric along the inside to finish off an edge that isn't hemmed) such as around necks, sleeveless armholes, waist facings and sometimes waistbands and yokes. It's also usually done along the edges of pocket openings. Understitching is carried out immediately after you have sewn the seam and is an additional row of machine stitching that goes through both of the seam allowances and the facing only, it doesn't show on the outside of the garment. To do this, press both seam allowances towards the facing, layer and clip them first if necessary to reduce bulk and help curved seams to lay flat, then machine a second row (your understitching) approximately 5mm away from your original seamline to stitch the seam allowances to the facing. This seemingly unnecessary extra row of stitching works hard; it pulls your original seamline ever so slightly around to the inside so that you have a nice smooth edge to your garment without any seams wobbling along it and creeping around to the outside. Understitching is one of the things that will transform your sewing from rough and ready homemade into something truly professional.



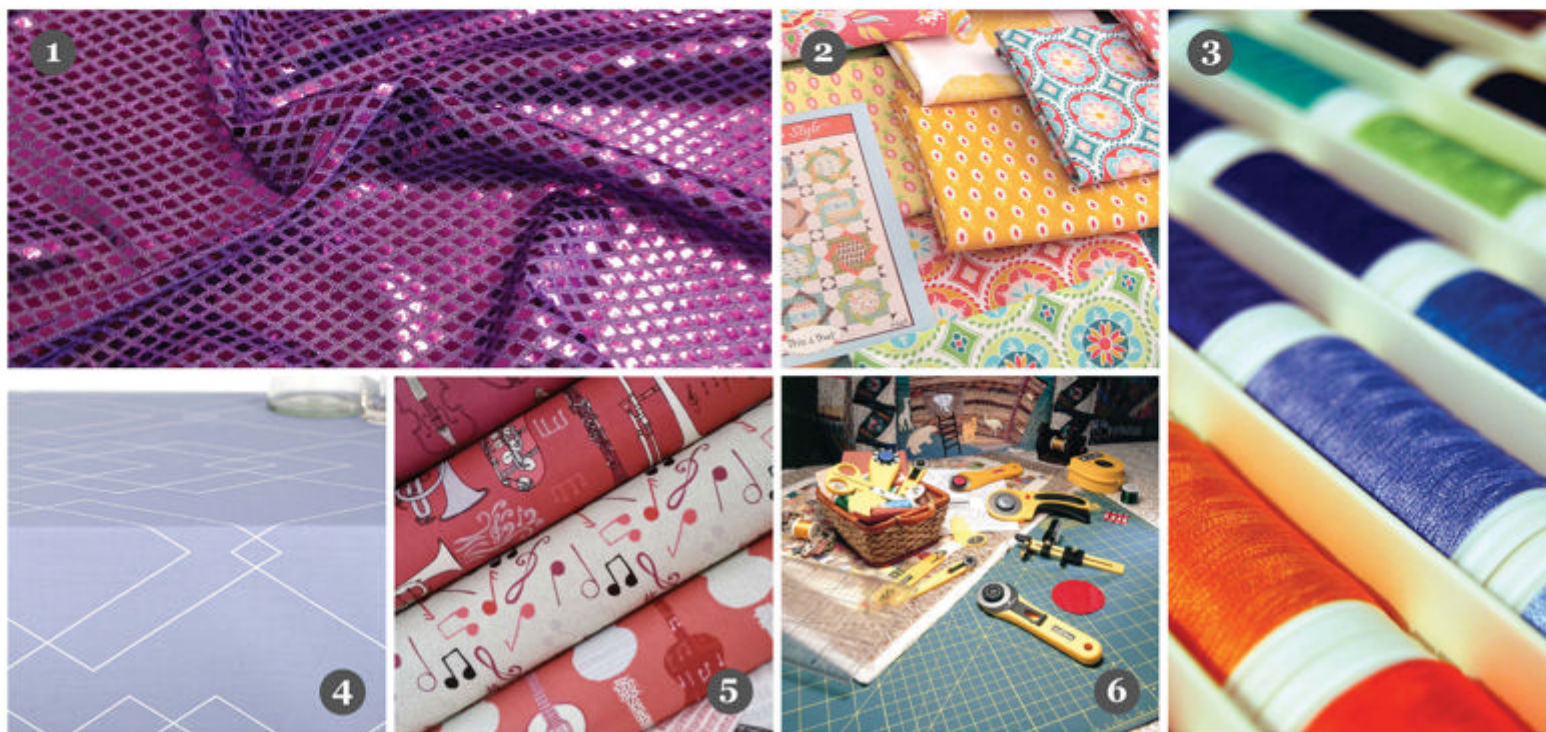
Wendy Ward

is a designer, sewing tutor and blogger with her own range of patterns and tools, the MIY Collection, www.miycollection.co.uk. She teaches classes at MIY Workshop in Brighton and has recently penned her first sewing title, *The Beginner's Guide to Dressmaking* (£19.99, David and Charles). Visit www.wendyward.co.uk

“This seemingly unnecessary extra row of stitching works hard”



“one metre of fabric, like one cookie, is never enough.”



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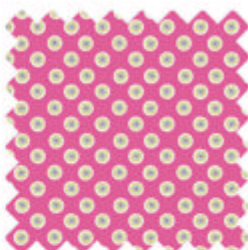
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sew Dressmaking

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PAGES

EVEN MORE MAKES,
FASHION ADVICE AND
WARDROBE UPDATES



"Stitch yourself a *complete new outfit* with your FREE four in one pattern, Simplicity 1699. Available in five sizes, there's a *flattering fit and flare dress*, peplum top, collarless jacket and *casual trousers* to make in time for spring.

"Step out in style this Valentine's Day with *Caryn Franklin's* top date night *dress pattern picks* and take a look out our *inspiring selection* of romance-themed dressmaking prints. Then, accessorise your outfit with the latest fabric jewellery – check out our top tutorial!

"Also, in our Liberty special, you'll find some *great customising ideas* including an easy vest top update and a *clever shirt collar and cuffs* rework using the iconic prints."

Steph

Steph Durrant,
Sew Deputy Editor

Wardrobe pack pattern

Sew a raglan sleeve dress, peplum top, jacket and trousers

YOUR FREE
SIMPLICITY
1699
PATTERN!



4 IN 1
PATTERN

p15

Date night dresses

Step out in a form-flattering frock with Caryn Franklin's top pattern picks



p22



p30

Quilting Bee dress

Stitch this colourful drawstring creation



p20

Collars, sleeves and gathers

Sue Kim shows you how to make a little girl's frock



p42

Indie takeover

Meet the independent pattern designers changing British dressmaking

Sew La Di Da Vintage

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UPPER
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 twistedthread

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Home & Style

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LOOK WHAT'S
INSIDE YOUR
PATTERN
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*Step-by-step
instructions for
four garments*

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If you'd prefer Simplicity 1699 in sizes 16-24, you can purchase it for the special price of £4.05 (RRP £8.15) plus 85p postage by quoting SEW1699.U5 at www.simplicitynewlook.com upon checkout. Offer available from 9th January until 13th February 2015.

*19-piece authentic
tissue paper pattern*

YOUR FREE PATTERN

Simplicity® 1699

FOUR GARMENTS TO STITCH!

Your FREE Simplicity pattern is a great value wardrobe pack. The flattering fit and flare dress and peplum top are perfect for practising key techniques, with princess seams, short raglan sleeves and a back zip. The top includes a cute pointed flat collar to stitch in a contrasting fabric, too. Finish the look with a chic collarless jacket with three-quarter length sleeves and braid trim, plus straight leg trousers which feature a side zip closure.

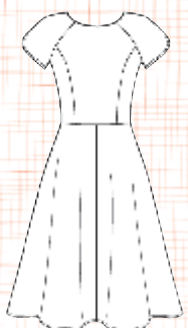


Sew & Learn

This month we'll show you how to...

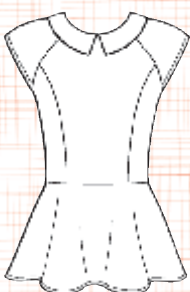
- ✓ Sew princess seams
- ✓ Make a flat collar
- ✓ Add raglan sleeves
- ✓ Insert invisible zips

4 styles to choose from...



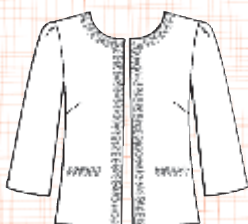
Style A

- 1 Raglan sleeves
- 2 Princess seams
- 3 Flared skirt



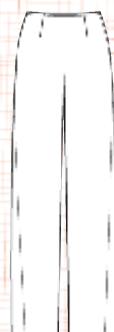
Style B

- 1 Pointed flat collar
- 2 Princess seams
- 3 Peplum hem



Style C

- 1 Collarless
- 2 Braid trim
- 3 Three-quarter length sleeves



Style D

- 1 Front and back darts
- 2 Straight style
- 3 Side zip closure



Belt and shoes, model's own

ALL SEWN UP!

Use a twin needle when sewing the double-turned hem on the peplum top. Sew with the right side uppermost and it will create two perfectly parallel rows of straight stitch on the right side, giving a professional finish.

MAKE THE
DRESS UP IN
CHAMBRAY,
POPLIN,
LIGHTWEIGHT
WOOL OR
LINEN

TURN OVER TO SEE MORE
FROM THE SEW WORKROOM

**YOUR
FREE
PATTERN**

Pattern on test

IN THE **sew** WORKROOM

We stitched our princess-seamed top and dress in fun, geometric organic cotton prints

StitchNotes



● Additional structure can be added to the fabric pieces by making double layer sleeves on both the dress and top. This avoids the need to use bias binding to neaten the sleeve and neck edges which may prove troublesome on the curved details on the sleeves.

● Interface the underside of the collar or the dress neck facing with a fusible lightweight interfacing. Trim the seam allowances, clip the corners and carefully turn them out to give nice sharp points.

● When using patterned fabric, consider the middle of your design before cutting out. Choose exactly which part of the print you wish to appear at the centre front, then make sure that is at the centre of each piece. Match the pattern as much as possible across and down the garment.

● If it is difficult to determine the pattern repeat, hold the fabric in front of a mirror. Although you obviously get a mirror image, it sometimes focuses the eye on the design.

CRASH COURSE... *on raglan sleeves*

Raglan sleeves are joined to the garment front and back with diagonal seams that run from the underarm to the neckline. To help with the fit, there may also be a shoulder dart or a seam running down the length of the sleeve.

● Prevent the diagonally cut fabric edges from stretching out of shape as you handle them by stay stitching first. Sew with a regular stitch length just inside the seam allowance or fuse a strip of interfacing to the seam allowance.

● Once the sleeve is stitched to the front and back garment pieces, snip into the seam allowance to allow it to lay flat when turned through and pressed.

● Stitch the sleeve seam(s) after attaching the sleeve pieces to the front and back sections – this makes it so much easier.

● Raglan sleeves are easily sewn on an overlocker. Again, stitch the sleeve pieces to the front and back garment sections before completing the sleeve seam.



ALL SEWN UP!

Stay stitch the bias cut edges along the bodice top edges and neckline to prevent the fabric stretching out of shape while handling it.

behind the scenes



Model Daisy appears to have a twin!

Stitch your collar in a coordinating plain cotton



LOVE IT... BUY IT!

Organic cotton

Designer Vie Millard stitched our dress in this 100% organic cotton Knot print fabric in Grey from the Elk Grove range by Birch. Priced €16.10 per metre, visit www.modes4u.com



Flags print

We love the fresh colours of this Flags design from the Set Sail collection by Birch. Priced €16.10 per metre, visit www.modes4u.com



Denim skirt, £35, Per Una at M&S

NEXT MONTH'S
FREE PATTERN

sew

Home & Style



New Look 6217 is a four in one separates pattern featuring a kimono-style jacket and T-shirt with easy extended sleeves and a bound neckline. There's also a smart pencil skirt to try, plus slim-fit trousers with a side zip.

On sale 13th February



The author shows you how to create a little girl's dress

Dimensions
Ages 1–5
9mm seam allowance

LEARN WITH...

Sue Kim

Sleeves, collars & gathers

With puffed sleeves, a rounded collar, and tiny gathers, this dress is an ideal project for practising key dressmaking techniques without worrying too much about fitting. It can be worn all year round and can be casual or semi-formal. Cutting guides and a sizing chart can be found at www.sewmag.co.uk



1



2



3



4



5



6

1 Visit www.sewmag.co.uk and download the pattern. Cut out the pieces, referring to the appropriate cutting layout. Finish the front, back, sleeve, and skirt seams in advance if desired.

2 Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of one collar piece for each pair. Place two collar pieces right sides together, and pin and sew along the outer edge. Notch the curved seam allowances. Turn right side out and press. Repeat for the remaining collar pieces.

3 Place the bodice front and both bodice back pieces right sides together, aligning the raw edges at the shoulders. Pin and sew along the shoulder seams. Press the seams open. Repeat with the bodice lining pieces.

4 Place the collars on the right side of the bodice neckline, overlapping them at the centre front so that they meet perfectly at the 9mm seamline. Pin, easing as needed, and tack the collars in place [1]. Lay the lining on the bodice with right sides together. Align and pin along the centre back and neckline. Stitch, then clip the seam allowance on the neckline [2]. Turn right side out and press.

5 Make the bias strips for the sleeves, then fold and press. Gather the sleeve along the marked lines at the top and along the entire length of the bottom edge. Adjust the gathers on the bottom edge of the sleeve to match the length of the bias strip [3].

Hem with binding. Repeat for the other sleeve.

6 Pin the curved top edge of the sleeve to the bodice, right sides together, starting with the centre and ends. Adjust the gathers evenly. Pin the rest of the seam [4]. Sew the sleeve to the bodice. Repeat to attach the other sleeve.

7 Fold the bodice pieces, right sides together, aligning the front and back pieces. Pin and sew the sleeve and side seams, starting at the sleeve [5]. Turn the bodice right side out, with the back facing up. Overlap the left-hand piece over the right. Pin and tack the overlapped back pieces together at the bottom [6].

8 Fold the skirt piece in half widthways, right sides together. Pin and sew the centre back seam. Press open. Make gathers along the top edge of the skirt. Pin and sew the skirt to the bodice, adjusting the gathers to fit. Sew over the overlapped bodice backs as well. Turn right side out and press lightly.

9 Hem the skirt using a 3.8cm allowance. Make three buttonholes on the bodice back, centring the buttonholes on the overlap. Place the top and bottom buttonholes 1.3cm from the edges of the bodice, and space the remaining one evenly between them. Sew on the buttons.

Next month...

Abigail A. Long teaches you how to stitch a simple elasticated skirt for spring.

Pretty puff sleeves



ALL SEWN UP!

Read through all the project instructions before beginning to sew.



GET THE BOOK

For this and more delightful full-size patterns for kids, pick up *Boutique Casual For Boys & Girls* by Sue Kim (£17.99, Stash Books).



Fashion commentator **Caryn Franklin** selects dress patterns to make you feel confident

Whether it's a first meeting over drinks or a dinner with your significant other half, date night is a great opportunity to invest in 'you', pamper yourself a little, get dressed up and embrace your personality and style.

There's no need to detract from this with 'what-on-earth-am-I-going-to-wear' panic - the Date Night Dress (DND) is an easy and fail-safe formula, eliminating any need for last minute chaos or tricky fashion equations. It should fit you perfectly and have an air of elegance with a hint of sexiness, so you feel confident and fabulous as soon as you slip into it.

When selecting a style, make sure it's one you'll be able to move around in without pinching or squeezing, or exposing more than you want to. In general, go for a figure-skimming, not-hugging line and a fabric that has some fluidity.

If you're curvy, opt for semi-fitted designs in materials that drape to show off your waistline. Go with open necklines if you also have a fuller bust. Belted styles like shirt and wrap dresses or a tailored shift will add feminine curves to boyish figures. Detailing such as ruffles or frills will also add further curve definition. Apple shapes will benefit from coat dresses, semi-fitted or straight shifts and subtle A-lines that gently skim over the waistline. An empire line style will work wonders for pear shapes by emphasising the bust and waist but skimming over hips and thighs.

The little black dress is the date-night veteran, but it isn't the last word in DNDs. If you have a favourite colour that looks great on you, here is where you can afford to go for a solid block.

*best wishes
Caryn Franklin* ♥

For your own free body shape guide,
download the ebook from

Caryn Franklin's howtolookgood.com

YOU WEAR

STITCH A DATE NIGHT



ALL
ABOUT
APPLES

Dynamic details



Top pattern pick ...
Burda 6920
Sizes 8-18

Why we love... ruffles

- ✓ Ruffle detailing will add an elegant touch, as well as drawing the eye away from the middle of the body.
- ✓ A monochromatic look will create a long, elongating line down your body.
- ✓ Cap sleeves will help to widen shoulders and a higher neckline adds depth to your upper body to give definition at your waist.

**ELONGATE
YOUR BODY**

You may also like

Butterick 4386
Sizes 8-22

**CONTRAST COLLAR
AND BOW**



IT WELL!

Style advice with
CARYN FRANKLIN

DRESS TO FIT AND FLATTER

Stockist information

For Simplicity, New Look and Burda patterns, visit www.simplicitynewlook.com, 0161 480 8734.

For Butterick patterns, visit www.sewdirect.com, 0844 880 1263.

For By Hand London patterns, visit www.sewbox.co.uk, 01787 269366.



BEST FOR
BOYISH
FIGURES

Shapely skirts



Top pattern pick ...

New Look 6070
Sizes 4-16

Why we love... lampshade skirts

- ✓ A small, all-over print can add depth to a boyish frame.
- ✓ A dress that is fitted at the waist will accentuate that part, giving the illusion of a fuller bust and hips.
- ✓ A soft lampshade shape in the skirt will also make hips appear curvier.

PLAY WITH
PRINTS



PERFECT
FOR FOR
PEARS

A-line attraction



Top pattern pick ...

Cynthia Rowley 1801
Sizes 6-22

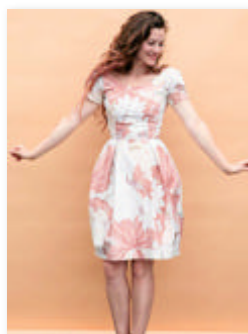
Why we love... A-line styles

- ✓ A soft, fluid A-line shape will deftly cover hips and thighs without adding bulk.
- ✓ An empire line cut will help to define your bust and top half to balance out your lower body.
- ✓ Carefully consider accessories to play on your proportion – the horizontal line of a necklace can help to create the illusion of width at the shoulder line.

CHOOSE A
WIDE V-NECK

Why not try?

By Hand London
Elisalex
Sizes UK 6-20
TULIP SKIRT
WITH PLEATS



Best of the rest

Simplicity Amazing Fit 1354
Sizes 10-28
FOR SLIM, AVERAGE
AND CURVY FIT



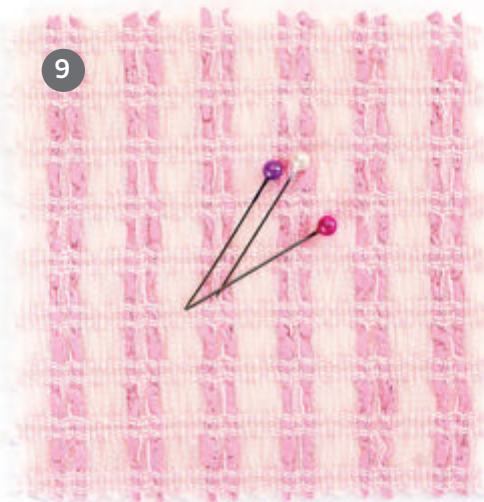
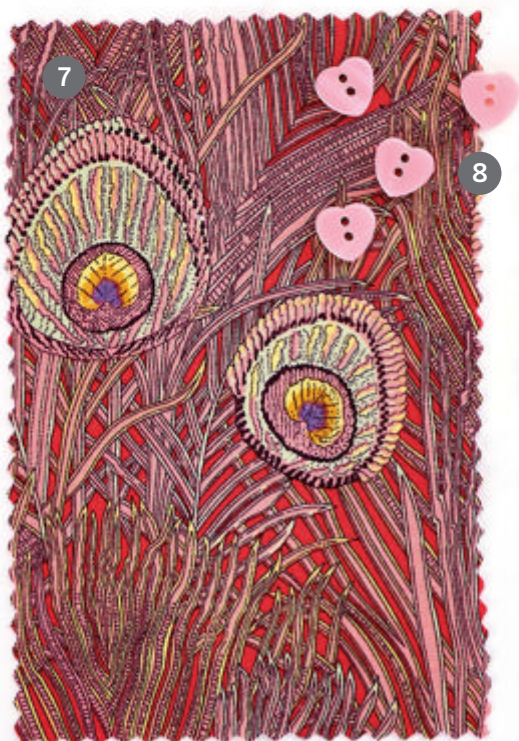
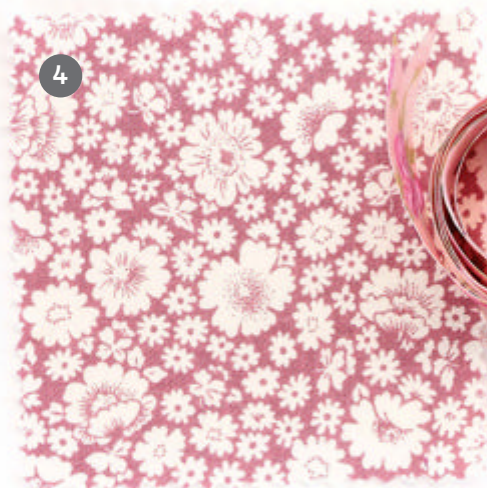
Love that FABRIC PURE ROMANCE

FALL IN LOVE
WITH THESE
VALENTINE'S
INSPIRED
DRESS
FABRICS



"Give your dressmaking a feminine touch with tactile fabrics in delicate hues"

Steph Durrant,
Sew Deputy Editor



1 Pretty Pink Hearts cotton poplin, £6.99 per metre, www.minervacrafts.com, 01254 708068.

2 Manon in Beige/Pink by Mas D'ousvan, £14 per metre, www.eternalmaker.com

3 Pink Dottie Valentine from Valentine Rose by Tanya Wheelan, £14 per metre, www.thehomemakery.co.uk, 01483 361132.

4 Floral brushed cotton twill in Peach, £12.99 per metre, www.truofabrics.com, 01872 222130.

5 Vintage Rose satin and sheer ribbons in peach/pink, £1 per metre each, www.craftyribbons.com, 01258 455889.

6 Gypsy Mum in Peri from Gypsy Caravan by Amy Butler, £14 per metre, www.purple-stitches.com, 01256 882163.

7 Nala in Red poplin, £6.95 per metre, www.croftmill.co.uk, 01282 859281.

8 Pale pink plastic heart buttons, 20p each, www.totallybuttons.com, 01403 598014.

9 B3508 Pale Pink tweed, £26 per metre, www.lintondirect.co.uk, 01228 527569.



Fabric choices

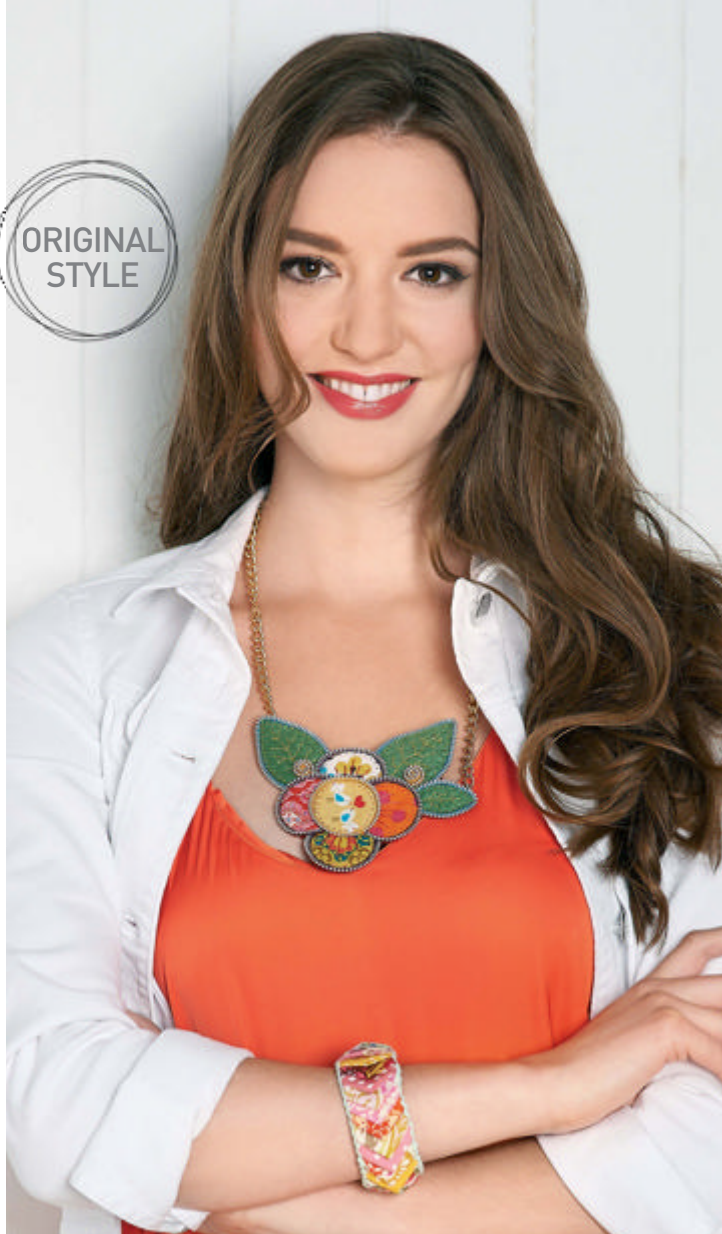
Create something popping with Art Gallery Fabrics' Utopia range by Frances Newcombe.
www.hantex.co.uk/agf



Stash buster

Create your necklace with colourful zips, you can even use broken ones in your stash!

ORIGINAL
STYLE



FABRIC JEWELLERY

Get your look all **ZIPPED UP**
and use your stash to make
STYLISH ACCESSORIES



Do it yourself

Try embroidered fabric jewellery with Dandelyne's miniature embroidery hoop necklace kit. Priced £6.95, www.bloomingfelt.co.uk, 01245 471690.



Be inspired!

Check out our sister title, *Make & Sell Jewellery* for lots more accessory ideas for all skill levels. Plus visit the website for free projects, www.makeselljewellery.com

Go on!

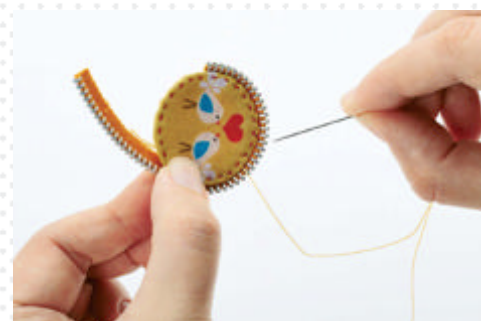
TRANSFORM FABRIC AND ZIPS INTO A STYLISH NECKLACE



1 Cut a 3.5cm diameter circle of medium weight felt, and a 4.5cm diameter circle of patterned cotton fabric. Lightly glue the felt to the back of the fabric and sew around the edges of the cotton with running stitch. Tighten to gather the stitches to surround the felt and fasten off.



2 Use two strands of embroidery thread to add a decorative running stitch border around the front of the covered felt circle. Open an old zip and cut a strip from one side long enough to surround the circle. Trim away half the canvas from the toothed edge to leave a piece 8mm wide.



3 Pin the zip behind the circle and stitch in place with overhand stitch. Trim the ends so the edges join neatly together. Create more circles in the same way and stitch together to make a flower. Make felt leaves edged with a zip, and add zip buds. Secure a chunky chain.

Fashion Forecast

Midi Skirts

STITCH A STYLISH SKIRT TO SEE YOU THROUGH ALL SEASONS

This calf grazing full skirt trend swept onto the catwalks last spring/summer and it's set to continue for 2015. Super flattering, this style creates a vintage look when made with fabric with more weight or a more contemporary feel with modern chambrays and crêpes.



Lorraine SAYS

Sew's Editor Lorraine Luximon is loving the midi trend. To create your own new season stunner, add these pattern options to your make list!

Frilling style

"Part of a fantastic wardrobe pack, the longer length midi skirt option features a pretty frilled hem. Make it in a contrast fabric for the full effect or keep to the same print for a more subtle gently flowing look when you walk. Pair with a plain jersey top for a form flattering spring ensemble."



Simplicity 1807



Contemporary lines

"Structured pleats add a retro feel, and Simplicity 1464 is so versatile, allowing you lots of scope for your dressmaking. Make in chambray with a contrast trim border for a modern look, or go for an eyelet fabric to make the main part, resulting in a completely different girlie style."



Boldly does it

"Showcase your favourite print with this Very Easy Vogue 8818 pattern. Suitable for using with a silk chiffon or lightweight crêpe, it will keep you nice and cool as you step into spring. A bold pattern will hide any areas you're conscious of too, and a jacket or cover-up will work with this style until the weather warms up."



Vogue 8818



BUY IT!

Roselle skirt, £89, www.phase-eight.com

Go glam

"If you're looking for something more formal to make a statement at a party or special occasion, go for a taffeta or sateen fabric. The bow detail on Vogue 8882 is certain to make sure you are dressed to impress!"

CREATE A PARTY LOOK!

Vogue 8882



Stockist information

For Simplicity patterns, visit www.simplicitynewlook.com, 0161 480 8734.
For Vogue patterns, visit www.sewdirect.com, 0844 880 1263.

FABRIC PICKS



- 1 Crinkle taffeta in Burgundy
- 2 Duchess satin in Powder Blue
- 3 Small leaf soft lace in Cerise
- 4 China Pink by Tilda
- 5 Crepe back satin in Pink

All featured fabrics are available from White Tree Fabrics, from £4.90 per metre, www.whitetreefabrics.com, 0115 924 8666.

Choose a longer length top to flatter

Opt for bright spring shades

Lightweight fabrics move with you

Essentials

Fabric, printed
Shirt, white, with two-piece collar
Thread, sewing, coordinating

Dimensions

Custom sized

USE PRETTY PRINTS TO CREATE AMANDA WALKER'S SHIRT REWORK

Work wear doesn't have to be boring with a few customising tips and tricks. In this clever rework of a classic tailored shirt, Amanda shows you how to simply unpick the existing collar and cuffs, and use them as templates to create brand-new ones from colourful Liberty fabric. Team with a chic pencil skirt or smart trousers and you're sure to turn heads in the office.

REWORK A SHIRT

1 Take a plain shirt and unpick the top part of the collar from the stand, unpick around the edge of the collar separating the two pieces [1]. Do the same for around the cuffs, then unfold. Cut away the underside of the cuff.

2 Use the collar as a template to cut a new one from contrasting fabric. Pair the new and original collar pieces with right sides facing. Pin, then stitch around the outer edges of the collar. Turn out, press, then topstitch 5mm from the edge. Position the raw edge of the new collar inside the collar stand, pin, then restitch in place [2].

3 Take the original cuff pieces and use them as templates to cut new ones from contrasting fabric [3]. Neaten the bottom edges of the new cuffs by overlocking or zig zag stitching, then position and pin them right sides facing around the outside of the remaining shirt cuffs, with raw edges aligned. Stitch around the edge, then turn through to the inside and press. Stitch around the top of the cuff to secure the previously neaten edge on the inside. Re-stitch and neaten the sleeve seams.

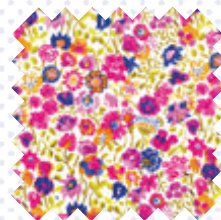


ALL SEWN UP!

Of the two original collar pieces, be sure to reuse the side that's interfaced to maintain the structure.



LOVE IT... BUY IT!



Liberty cord

Amanda used this soft floral Liberty Rossmore Cord in Kaylie Sunshine for the collar and cuffs. Priced £16.95, from www.sewbox.co.uk, 01787 269366.

Essentials

Fabric, cotton: printed, quilting weight; coordinating
Interfacing, tear-away, 2.5cm square
Pen, air-erasable

Bust measurement	30"-32"	33"-34"	35"-36"	37"-39"	40"-42 1/2"
Women's size	XS	S	M	L	XL
Main fabric	213cm	230cm	230cm	230cm	240cm
Coordinating fabric	46cm	46cm	46cm	46cm	46cm

Dimensions

Sizes XS-XL

Use a 1.3cm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

Cutting guide

Dress front, cut one on fold from main fabric

Dress back, cut one on fold from main fabric

Drawstring casing, cut two strips for your size

Dress size	XS	S	M	L	XL
Strip height	4.4cm	4.4cm	4.4cm	4.4cm	4.4cm
Strip length	50.8cm	53.3cm	55.9cm	58.4cm	61cm

Drawstring, cut two 4.4cm x width strips from coordinating fabric

Bias trim, cut a 35.6cm square from coordinating fabric into 5.1cm wide double-fold bias binding



"I like to cut from the selvedge and save the names of my favorite fabrics and designers. These will make the drawstring casing and will not show on the outside"

BE BOLD WITH CAROLINE
FAIRBANKS-CRITCHFIELD'S

QUILTING BEE DRESS

This lovely little knee-length dress is your chance to wear your favourite quilting prints. The simple design means you can choose a pattern as bold as you dare. The easy-to-make style is fun to wear, with a bound neckline and armholes, and a casual drawstring waist. Choose your size based on your bust measurement and be sure to finish seams with a zig zag or overlock stitch to ensure it lasts for washes to come.

SEW A DRAWSTRING DRESS

1 Download the pattern from www.sewmag.co.uk, print out and piece together. Cut out the front and back pieces all at once by arranging the main fabric in four layers, with the two folds lined up on top of each other. If your fabric is directional, cut it in half crossways and turn one piece so the direction is the same before stacking the layers. Place the pattern piece along the folds. Cut out using the back neckline marking.

2 Set one cut piece aside for the back of the dress, then recut the neckline of the remaining piece, following the pattern markings for the front neckline. Cut out the remaining pieces from fabric as per the cutting guide.

3 Sew the two drawstring strips together with right sides facing to make one long piece. Cut the drawstring strip to the desired length. Fold and press in the same manner as double-fold bias trim. Fold the short ends in and press. Stitch the ends and the long side closed.

4 Place the dress front piece on your work area with the wrong side facing up. Use a ruler and a water or air-erasable fabric marking pen to draw a straight line across the dress 11.4cm below the armholes. This is the casing placement line. Repeat on the dress back piece [1].

5 Measure and draw two vertical lines, centred 1.3cm apart and 1.3cm long, on a 2.5cm square piece of tear-away interfacing. Fold the dress front piece in half to find the centre. Place the interfacing directly beneath the centre of the drawstring placement line on the wrong side. Sew buttonholes over the two vertical lines. Remove the excess interfacing and cut the buttonholes [2].

6 Press all four raw edges of the drawstring casing pieces 6mm to the inside. Stitch the fold down on the short ends only. On the wrong side of each dress piece, pin a casing strip centred between the sides of the dress with the top of the casing along the placement line. Stitch the top and the bottom of the casings close to the edge [3]. Pin the dress pieces right sides facing and sew both shoulder seams. Press the seams towards the back.

7 Open a folded side of bias trim and pin the right side to the wrong side of the neckline, raw edges lined up. Begin pinning in the centre back and leave about 10.2cm of extra tape at both ends [4]. Begin sewing about 2.5cm from the centre back with a 9mm seam allowance, or right in the fold.

8 Sew around the neckline and stop about 5.1cm from the starting point, leaving the same amount without trim. Finger-press the binding to the neckline until it meets, to

determine where the seam should be. Pin together the two tails in the centre to mark the seam. Open the second fold and stitch straight across the two tails of bias trim where you placed a pin.

9 Trim away the extra bias trim to 6mm. Press the seam open. Finish stitching the binding to the remaining 5.1cm of neckline. Fold the binding to the front around the raw edge of the neckline. Gently press, using steam if necessary, to help the neckline lie smoothly.

10 Pin, if desired, and stitch the binding close to the folded edge from the right side of the dress [5]. Press. Apply bias trim to the arm openings in the same manner, but there is no need to match up the ends. Simply sew the trim to the wrong side of the open armholes, turn and press to the front, and finish with topstitching.

11 Pin together the side seams with right sides facing. Stitch from the bound edge of the armhole to the hem. Be careful not to catch the drawstring casing in the seam. Clip almost to the stitching in the curve at the top by the armhole. Press and sew a 2.5cm hem. Use a safety pin to thread the drawstring through a buttonhole, around the casings, and out through the other buttonhole [6].

LOVE IT...
BUY IT!



This dress looks great in a bold quilting cotton like Cubix Multi by Michael Miller, priced £12 per metre from www.frumble.co.uk

GET THE BOOK

We extracted this project from *Just For You* by Caroline Fairbanks-Critchfield and Sarah Markos (£17.99, Stash Books), which is packed with stylish garments and accessories for you to sew for yourself.



ALL SEWN UP!

This pattern is designed for quilting-weight cotton, but it is also suitable for other lightweight woven fabric including cotton voile or rayon.

THE REALLY USEFUL GUIDE

from
Simplicity



Wendy Gardiner

Simplicity's stitch guru answers your niggling little queries

Simple Steps to... STITCHING TRIMS

Adding trimmings, ribbons or lace to customise and restyle a garment is a great way of creating a design that is unique to you.

1 Firstly, decide where you would like to add the trims on your garment, then mark the placement position with a chalk line or air-erasable pen.

2 For solid trims such as ribbons or braids, cut a piece of hemming web the length required (cut it in half lengthways if necessary to ensure it is slightly thinner than the trim). Place the webbing along the chalk line, then top with the trim. Cover with a press cloth and fuse in place.

3 Choose a thread colour to match the ribbon or lace and sew down both long edges, stitching in the same direction to prevent the embellishment twisting or buckling.

4 Add a lace edging by stitching it to a hem or seam along one edge only.

Again, mark the position with a chalk line, pin and stitch in place.

5 For narrow trims, pin in the desired position, then select a triple zig zag stitch which takes three stitches from left to right and right to left, thus sewing in the centre of the trim also. Decrease the stitch width so that it is just wider than the braid.

6 Couch the trim down with a contrast thread colour so it forms part of the design, or with an invisible thread so only the embellishment stands out.



PATTERN of the MONTH

50% OFF

This easy to wear collection is designed for stretch fabrics and includes four flattering yet chic designs. Choose from two variations of long sleeved top with draped front closure, pull-on trousers with an elasticated waist, and a long sleeved T-shirt. Available in sizes 10-22.

READER OFFER

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If you liked pattern 6330...

For more stretch fabric styles, visit the link below



tools of THE TRADE

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More information at www.simplicitynewlook.com



DAWN HANSEN

“My biggest inspiration has always been my daughter”

WE FIND OUT HOW THE CREATOR OF OLABELHE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING PATTERNS MADE HER NAME



I wanted mine to be very user-friendly with everyday language, as I had heard repeatedly from other mums how frustrated they were with trying to decipher complicated instructions. I created my first ones in 2009, never anticipating that a few years later I would have over 50 in my collection, and that my little business would have grown into such a success.

It was very important for me to have a dedicated space to work in and it needed to be beautiful and inspirational while also being functional. We converted our dining room, and my studio is a dream come true. I've decorated it with vintage sewing treasures and baskets of lace and trims, all waiting for the perfect application. I have jars filled with buttons, drawers filled with thread and a collection of fabric which is almost embarrassing. Everything is at my fingertips and it's like being in my own little sewing shop!



I began sewing when I was a little girl. Both my mother and grandmother were seamstresses and were always stitching. I vividly remember visiting fabric shops as a child and seeing the excitement in their eyes. I learned how to sew by watching them and learning their craft. I never intended to turn my stitching into a business, it just happened that way. When my daughter was born, I wanted to dress her in classic, charming little girls' clothing but, as she grew older, that became harder to find in the shops.

I began designing and sewing up a closet full of pretty things for her to wear.

Everywhere we went, people asked me

where I found such gorgeous clothing. It was suggested to me that I should create my own sewing patterns and start a business. At first I thought this was crazy, because I never used patterns when I created myself. However, the idea was still very interesting and I was compelled to challenge myself to see if I could do it. From there, I studied a few boutique patterns, then developed my own formula.

“I wanted my patterns to be very user-friendly with everyday language”

My biggest inspiration has always been my daughter. Making her dreams come true with my sewing has been beyond what I ever imagined. Over the years she has given me endless ideas and we have both grown together in our sense of style. I home school my four children, so balancing that alongside my sewing and business is tough. I have to limit most of my sewing to the early hours when everyone is sleeping. I have become a master of multi-tasking! There are some days when I just

run out of time and certain things don't get done – dinner might be late or someone might be without clean socks. However, my

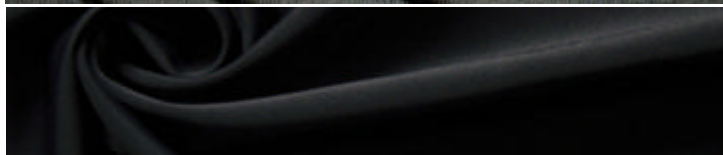
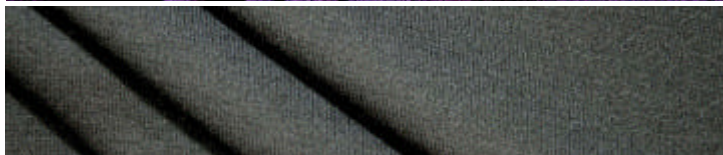
family supports me in every way possible and help however they can.

As for the future of Olabelhe, I hope to expand my offerings over time. Recently, I started a new division called Olivia & Bella, where I create miniature versions of my classic Olabelhe designs as one-of-a-kind clothing for dolls. I am having such a wonderful time with this and it's opened up a whole new world to me.



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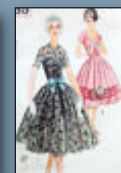


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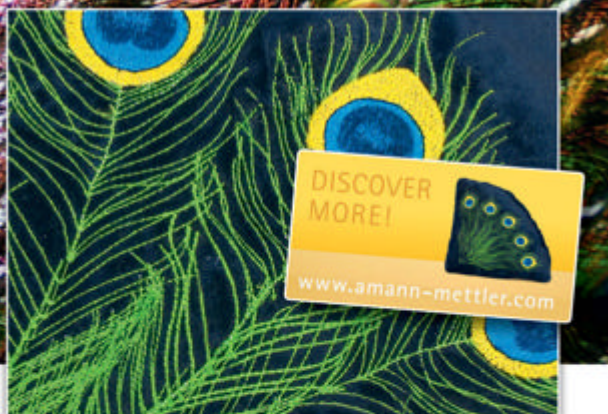


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MODEL OF THE MONTH

JANOME MEMORY CRAFT 9900

The Janome Memory Craft 9900 is a combined sewing and embroidery machine which offers a host of innovative features for sewing as well as professional-style embroidery at home. The built-in compact embroidery system contains 175 designs plus three fonts for adding monograms, decorative borders, or whatever your imagination conjures. The colour touch screen allows you to resize, edit and combine designs and the MC9900 stops automatically after sewing each colour so you can thread up with the next one and watch your creation unfold. Plus, at up to 200,000 stitches per design, it'll be full of detail. For normal sewing, this attractive model is packed full of stitches including six automatic buttonholes, and great features such as needle up/down and speed control. There are also three interchangeable coloured panels too, so you can personalise your machine.

KEY FEATURES

- Built-in compact embroidery system
- More than 200 stitches
- Colour touch screen
- Memory facility
- On screen design editing
- 175 designs plus fonts

Price: **£1,999**

Contact: www.janome.co.uk,
0161 666 6011.



Shop of the MONTH

"You are always assured of a warm and friendly welcome at Sew Northampton. Run by me and my husband Andy, this long running family business has a wealth of experience in the sewing machine industry. At the shop, you will be confronted with a huge range of sewing and embroidery machines, overlockers, as well as design software, threads, haberdashery, zips and accessories. We strongly recommend trying machines before you buy, so let us guide you through; with our sound help and advice, you are assured of making the right choice. Expert service and repairs to all machines is also a speciality."

Jill Dyson, Sew Northampton



WHAT'S ON OFFER?

- Many makes of sewing and embroidery machines and overlockers
- Experienced, helpful staff
- Sewing machine servicing and repairs
- Haberdashery and design software

Find out more...

Visit Sew Northampton, 173 Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4DX. Alternatively, log on to www.sewing-centres.co.uk, or call **01604 637200**.

4 more... sewing and embroidery models

THESE MACHINES OFFER PROFESSIONAL MACHINE EMBROIDERY AT HOME

SINGER FUTURA XL-400

The Futura XL-400 combines all the best features of a Singer sewing machine built into an embroidery model. Personalising your projects has never been easier, with 125 built-in designs with basic editing on each of them. There are five popular fonts for creating monograms and at 600 stitches per minute, your makes will be completed in no time. There are built-in tutorials to help you on your way, and more designs can be downloaded. For normal sewing, there are 30 built-in stitches, plus a drop and sew bobbin and an extra large sewing space.

KEY FEATURES

- 125 built-in embroidery designs
- Five fonts
- 600 stitches per minute
- Two snap-on embroidery hoops
- Built-in tutorials



£799

Contact: www.singerco.co.uk

PFAFF AMBITION ESSENTIAL

The Pfaff Ambition Essential boasts a number of unique features including the Integrated Dual Feed system, which ensures absolutely even feed from both the top and bottom. It also has an extra large sewing space of 20cm to the right of the needle. There are 110 stitches to select from, including one-step buttonholes, quilt, decorative and cross stitches, plus alphabets in two different font styles. External feed dog drop and the optional free-motion presser foot makes for easy quilting and darning. Take advantage of 29 needle positions, an integrated needle threader, top loading bobbin and much more.

KEY FEATURES

- 110 built-in stitches
- Original IDT System
- Large sewing space
- Two alphabet styles
- External feed dog drop



WIN
this machine
worth £499
on p92

Contact: www.pfaff.com, 01527 519480.

ELNA EXPRESSIVE 820

The Elna 820 offers professional-style embroidery at home with its built-in system. Choose from one of the included designs or download from the internet, then resize, edit or combine motifs on the large information touch screen to create your own unique projects. There are three fonts to utilise, plus a design tracing feature and a USB port. It is compatible with compact flash cards, too. The Elna 820 stops automatically after sewing each colour, ready to be threaded with the next.

KEY FEATURES

- Built-in embroidery system
- Auto thread cutter
- 100 designs plus fonts
- Bobbin thread sensor
- USB port



£999

Contact: www.elna.com

SILVER EMBROIDERY MACHINE

Fulfil your design ideas with this embroidery machine from Silver. It has a fantastic 404 built-in stitches ready to select on the LCD screen. There are 40 built-in embroidery designs and 97 alphabets, with mirror imaging and a stitch enlarge function. The drop-in bobbin system means you can start sewing even faster, as does the automatic needle threader. There's also a speed control function, twin needle adjustment, a USB host design transfer and a multi colour setting.

KEY FEATURES

- 404 built-in stitch patterns
- Auto needle threader
- 97 built-in alphabets
- LCD screen
- Drop-in bobbin



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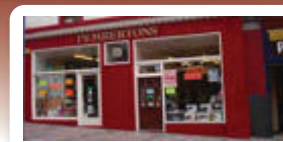
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And the winner is...

MEET THE WINNER OF THE **BAMBER SEWING MACHINES DESIGN COMPETITION**, AND DISCOVER THE INSPIRATION BEHIND HER DRESS!

In the September issue of Sew we helped to launch the Bamber Sewing Machines dressmaking competition; offering one lucky stitcher the opportunity to indulge their inner fashion designer for the chance to win a Bernina 330 sewing machine, with second and third place spots winning Vogue patterns! To take part, all entrants had to do was purchase the Entrance Kit for £9.99 which consisted of a Butterick

6008 dress pattern, plus fabric and zip. Participants then had free rein to create any embellishments and design tweaks to make a garment to wow the judges! We were astounded by the innovation and dressmaking prowess displayed in the entries and it was no easy task for the judging panel Lorna Knight, Celia Banks and Sew Editor Lorraine Luximon. Here we meet the winner and hear all about her inspiration. Well done all!

THE ENTRANCE KIT



MEET THE JUDGES



LORNA KNIGHT

Lorna has been sewing all her life. She worked as a regional director for Terry Fox, then set up her own business making made-to-measure clothing and started running workshops. In between teaching she is a published author, has a Craftsy class and runs her own Sewing Academy in Staffordshire. www.lornaknight.com



CELIA BANKS

Celia Banks holds Instructor and Associate Educator certificates awarded by the Palmer Pletsch School of Sewing in Oregon and City & Guilds qualifications in tailoring and lingerie. She runs a wide variety of sewing courses, teaches at the Knitting & Stitching Show and runs two Sew-Fests in Denmark each year. celia.banks@sew-fundamental.co.uk

JUDGING CRITERIA

- ✓ Brief followed
- ✓ Care in construction
- ✓ Well positioned zip
- ✓ Precise sleeve insertion
- ✓ Clever use of embellishment



Christine receiving her prize from the Bamber Sewing Machines team

WINNER! CHRISTINE WHITE

Congratulations to Christine White whose design featured numerous interchangeable elements, including on-trend detachable Peter Pan collar, belt and clip-on corsages.



Congratulations on your win! Can you describe the inspiration behind your dress and how you made the pattern your own?

I decided not to alter the original dress design but to embellish it with additional removable items, thus being able to give several different looks. I actually entered the competition completely by chance. I was reading the October issue of *Sew* and spotted my letter in Dear Sew, which was a complete surprise. I read that magazine from cover to cover and noticed the dress competition and decided that nothing ventured nothing gained. I never thought for one moment that I would win – it feels amazing!

“I never thought for one moment that I would win – it feels amazing!”

Have you had much experience in making dresses and garments before?

My background in stitching started as soon as I could think, walk and talk. My greatest teacher was my lovely mum. She would sew all kinds

of things and was my greatest inspiration. I also used to watch my great granny sewing but I was never allowed to touch her very precious sewing machine! I started making dresses for myself when I was a teenager but then went years without creating any clothing. The dress I made for the competition was the first garment I have stitched for over 10 years. I am a curtain maker, but sewing is my passion!

Do you have any exciting stitchy plans for the future?

I'd like to continue dressmaking now that I have been inspired, and basically any kind of sewing! My dream job would be to teach other people, so that they could gain skills and feel a sense of achievement in producing an item that they have made.

What advice would you give to those thinking about entering next year's competition?

My advice for anyone thinking of entering next year's competition is: always read the brief, thoroughly follow the instructions, don't take short cuts, watch your finishing and check the seam allowance. An item of clothing should be as neat on the inside as on the outside. Remember the story of the tortoise and the hare!



FIRST PRIZE!

Bernina 330 sewing machine worth £599!

SECOND PRIZE

£100 worth of Vogue patterns

£50 worth of Vogue Patterns

THIRD PRIZE

“Choosing a winner from the exceptionally high standard of entries, was a very difficult task. The winning dress ticked all the criteria we were looking for and stood out because of the multiple style options offered in one garment”

Lorraine Luximon



SECOND PLACE: MAGGIE FORBES

“We thought it was a clever idea to use the lace in the panels. This produced a striking effect and it was well executed as it can be difficult working with two layers like this. The dress itself was beautifully made, too”

Lorna Knight

THIRD PLACE: SHARON WOOD

“The simplicity and elegance of this dress are so striking and it was extremely well executed in all areas. The flowers have been expertly made and the choice of classic colours allows the wearer to easily accessorise to make it an elegant outfit for any occasion”

Celia Banks



Bamber Sewing Machines is a bricks and mortar business in Eccles, Manchester. A long running family establishment started by dad Roy Bamber in 1946, Roy and sons Alan and Steve are agents for Bernina,

Janome and Brother sewing machines and overlockers plus Horn cabinets. For details of next year's competition, see future issues of *Sew*, visit www.bambersew.com or call 0161 707 7786.

Essentials

Fabric, Liberty Tana Lawn

Vest top

Interfacing, lightweight, fusible

Thread, sewing, coordinating

Dimensions

Size 10

Use a 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

USE LIBERTY LAWN TO MAKE LOUISE NICHOLS' PEPLUM TOP

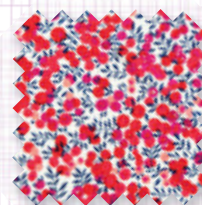
If you love Liberty prints as much as we do, you'll find any excuse to incorporate them into your home décor and even your wardrobe, which is why we were super excited when this pretty peplum vest arrived at Sew HQ. Simply take an old top or pick up a new one for a few pounds, and interface, gather and stitch your favourite fabric to the hem. It's the perfect quick fashion fix that'll ensure you stand out from the crowd.



CUSTOMISE A VEST TOP

- 1 Cut 20cm x 140cm from Liberty Tana Lawn fabric and lightweight fusible interfacing. Iron the interfacing to the reverse of the fabric. Fold in half widthways, right sides together, to form a tube. Pin the side edges together, machine stitch and press the seam open. Double fold the hem by 5mm each time. Pin, machine sew and press.
- 2 Work a row of running stitches along the top edge of the tube, making sure the thread is long enough to go all the way around the lower edge of the top. Keep gathering the fabric as you go until the tube fits the bottom hem of the vest.
- 3 Position the join of the peplum at the centre back, then pin and tack into place along the bottom edge of the top so that the right side of the peplum fabric is facing the wrong side of the vest hem. Make sure the gathers are evenly spaced. Machine sew along the bottom edge of the top. Remove the tacking, then topstitch all the way round again, 5mm above the first row of stitching.

LOVE IT...
BUY IT!



Liberty lawn

Louise used one of our favourite Liberty Tana Lawn prints, Wiltshire to create the delicate peplum of this pretty vest top. Priced €17.95 per metre, from www.sewbox.co.uk, 01787 269366.



PICK UP ONE OF THESE PRETTY
PEPLUM TOPS FROM THE HIGH STREET

WE LOVE...



Floral scuba bustier peplum top, £22, www.very.co.uk



Club L cap sleeve peplum top, £4.99, www.getthelabel.com

ALL SEWN UP!

If your top isn't already cropped, you may need to strengthen the bottom hem before adding the peplum. Do this by cutting your top 2cm longer than it needs to be, then ironing a 2cm deep strip of fusible interfacing all around the bottom edge. Fold the hem over by 1cm and pin in place. Leave it pinned until the Liberty frill is attached. The interfacing will stiffen the fabric so if it is already quite thick, you may not need to use it.



READER OFFER

Sew readers can receive 10% off Liberty Tana Lawn fabrics at Sewbox. Enter code **SEWJAN10** upon checkout at www.sewbox.co.uk. Hurry, offer ends 31st January 2015!

Jeans, £14.90, Uniglo

The INDIE TAKEOVER

WE CHAT TO THE INDEPENDENT PATTERN DESIGNERS WHO ARE
TAKING THE DRESSMAKING WORLD BY STORM

For many years, dressmakers have seemingly been restricted to garment designs produced by a few big name, overseas pattern houses, also known as the 'big four'. However, a growing number of British stitchers are setting up their own labels to offer a new wave of unique, accessible and contemporary patterns. We speak to the women who are changing the face of modern dressmaking to find out what it means to buy 'indie'.



By Hand London



By Hand London is a trendy label set up by three friends from the capital. We caught up with Victoria Elliot to find out why they love sewing in the city.

"Charlotte and Elisalex went to school together, and although they never moved in the same circles, it later transpired that they both hoarded secret style crushes for each other! Then in August 2012, Charlotte caught up with Elisalex to pick her brain regarding a 'harebrained scheme' of hers and they very excitedly decided that they wanted to go into business together. I came along about six months later, starting out as an intern working with the girls, and a few months down the road they asked me to join them, so it's been the three of us ever since!

"In terms of inspiration, it's really a bit of a free for all as we all have wildly different tastes and figures. We look a lot at vintage, but also at what's in fashion magazines, high street shops and in our own wardrobes. We don't really design for a certain demographic, we simply aim to create something that is as universally flattering as possible and that makes women feel good about themselves in a world where we're constantly reminded of our flaws and imperfections.

"Despite all having very different backgrounds, London has brought us all together and it's where we all call home! As far as style is concerned, it



really does have it all, the sheer size and mix of the city's people just makes it endlessly inspirational. However, there's no denying it can be a tricky place for a start-up, so we like to give ourselves extra high fives for still being around whenever we have a nervous moment.

"We like to keep a constant open dialogue with the sewing community and welcome feedback, negative or positive, and luckily our customers are very vocal! Some bloggers have even become pattern testers for us and we also have our sewalongs to accompany each pattern which Elisalex writes as she loves to get stuck into the in-depth sewing technique geekery!

"Generally speaking, I think indie designers have been championed for providing more up-to-date and relevant designs, thoughtful packaging, clearer instructions and better customer service. However, the 'big four' have an unbeatable library of affordable designs that span over 100 years of the sewing pattern industry. I think from the point of view of the home sewist, the more the merrier!"

Visit www.byhandlondon.com

Victoria's key advice

"Don't do it alone - working with other people you trust are aiming towards the same goal means you always have someone to tell you when you totally nailed it or you're being a bit ridiculous."

Sew La Di Da Vintage



Caroline Smith started Sew La Di Da Vintage patterns after watching her students become inspired by the elegant silhouettes of the past, then frustrated by the incompatibility between yesteryear's sizing and today's body shapes.

"Looking into the problem, I found that commercial patterns haven't been upsized for almost 30 years, while our high street sizes have been updated several times, meaning that modern patterns are cut to vintage sizes! Working closely with my pattern cutter, we strive to make the garment a simple sewing experience, with easy to understand instructions and designs that suit today's curves.

"I found that commercial patterns haven't been upsized for almost 30 years"

"Many of the students I teach find the way the designs from long-established pattern houses are presented sometimes difficult to interpret. Perhaps because they have often experienced this struggle first-hand, it seems indie pattern makers try hard to create an identity for their brand, and it's easy to see that they have been lovingly put together.

"Visitors to the Sew La Di Da Vintage studio can also enrol in sewing courses with my patterns.



1950s Rose dress



Mr London waistcoat



Sweetheart dress

I meet many sewists who can make a zip-fastened cushion or bag, but lack the confidence to stitch a garment. The beauty of a small workshop is that I am able to guide, nurture and build confidence in these sewers; I can be their safety net, and of course they can make guilt-free mess!

"In January we are starting a blog, which will include a variety of short films showing techniques to support sewers on all their creative escapades. We welcome all feedback, both negative and positive, as it helps us to perfect our products. We also receive lots of pictures from our customers of their dresses, and love to read the stories about where they were worn and how impressed friends were with them."

Visit www.sewladidavintage.com

Caroline's key to success

"Be passionate about your product and be prepared to work all the hours needed to reach deadlines."

Tilly and the Buttons



Tilly Walnes has been designing DIY projects on her blog for years, as well as appearing in series one of the *Sewing Bee*. We chat to the *Tilly and the Buttons* creator to find out why she has recently launched a range of tangible sewing patterns.

"I wanted to create sewing resources aimed at the new wave of DIY dressmakers, the growing market of people who are interested in making their own clothes but who either never learned to sew or had a bad experience with it in the past. My professional background is in designing learning programmes, so creating user-friendly resources that encourage people to sew, rather than scaring them off, was my priority! Tilly and the Buttons patterns are designed to take the guess work out of sewing – and to make it fun!

"My designs are influenced by '60s and '70s fashions, but updated so they are modern and wearable. Just as important as the aesthetics, however, are the construction methods involved – I try to ensure they are easy for new dressmakers to fit and sew. For example, the Miette wrap skirt ties around the waist without any zips or buttonholes, so is a great first garment project.

"Many people who sew their own clothes, including me, are partly motivated by a concern for the environmental implications of fast fashion, such as factory waste and the amount of cheap clothing sent by consumers to landfill. I think a lot of people will appreciate the fact that my patterns are also printed in the UK, using FSC certified paper and vegetable based inks.

"Furthermore, I believe stitchers really value the extra online support that they get when they use one of my patterns – whether it's the detailed tutorials on topics such as making a toile and inserting a zip, the option to ask me questions on Twitter, or the maker galleries we have on Pinterest showcasing what people have stitched. If you buy a sewing pattern from an independent brand, you get so much value and you can feel good that you're supporting women to establish their own crafty businesses."

Check out www.tillyandthebuttons.com

Tilly's top tip

"If you're considering selling your patterns, test the waters with digital versions before investing in printing."

WIN TILLY
AND THE
BUTTONS
GOODIES
P92



Françoise dress

Gather



Gather is a young, London based pattern company whom specialises in beginner friendly kits with beautiful packaging. Caroline Vargas tells us more about the (almost!) family business.

"Sandra and I are friends (and soon to be sisters-in-law) who have always shared a love of textiles and design. The idea of making our own pattern range came about when we were exploring the idea of dressmaking kits. At the time, the only really widely available patterns were the more traditional 'big four'. It seemed the natural step to create our own.

"Our sewing kits have been hugely popular, I think we managed to find some great fabrics to pair with the patterns and for beginner dressmakers they're a really useful tool to get started. The instant gratification of the PDF patterns we offer is brilliant, too, especially for quick and simple projects like our Tallis collar.

"Our patterns reflect a combination of our two quite different personal styles and we're very proud of the fact that all the components, including the tissue, are printed here in the UK. This means we can keep the costs down as much as possible and it has enabled us to develop really good working relationships with our suppliers.

"As for many indie sewing companies, social media is hugely important for us as a way to get ourselves known, and also as a way to connect with existing customers and the sewing community as a whole. We'll try to provide advice on anything sewing or fabric related by email or via Twitter, Instagram etc. (we're not so good on sport or geography, but hey, we can Google it for you!)

"One of the lovely things about indie patterns



The Buchanan

is that you can tell the amount of love that has gone into creating them. They're all about being a joy to use, accessible to modern sewists and are often just beautiful products in themselves. We love our Kris Atomic illustrations so much as they're really iconic without being too prescriptive – it's still easy to imagine the different possibilities that the patterns offer."

Take a look at www.gatherkits.com

Caroline's words of wisdom

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Essentials

Fabric: printable, US letter size; cotton, white, 18cm x 22cm; ticking, 18cm x 22cm, 3cm x 6cm, two
Zip, 20cm
Photos and ephemera, selection
Squared paper, sheet
Gluestick
Sewing thread, matching

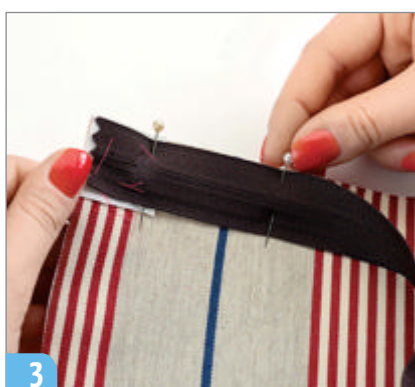
Dimensions

16cm x 20cm

SURPRISE A LOVE ONE WITH
LUCINDA GANDERTON'S

PRINTED FABRIC PURSE

Choose your favourite photographs and souvenirs of special days you have spent together, to create your very own fabric. This would make a really touching personalised gift, or a little something to keep for yourself to make the memories last and last!



PRINT YOUR OWN FABRIC

1 Cut 20cm x 27cm from squared paper and arrange your memorabilia, leaving at least 1.5cm around the edge for the seam allowance [1]. Following the manufacturer's instructions, copy the image onto inkjet fabric, reducing the size to 85% of the original.

2 Cut down the print to 18cm x 22cm and tack 18cm x 22cm of white cotton to the back [2]. Cut two 3cm x 6cm panels of fabric, then fold in half. Tack one to each end of the zip, with the folds facing inwards and the raw ends matching.

3 With right sides facing, pin and tack the top zip tape to the top edge [3]. Sew in place, using a zip foot or adjusting your needle position so that you stitch 5mm from the teeth. Topstitch the seam. Cut a back panel, 18cm x 22cm, from ticking. Add in the same way.

4 Pin and tack the two panels together around the side and bottom edges with right sides facing. Machine stitch together, 1cm from the edge, reinforcing the ends of the seam. Clip the surplus fabric from the corners and zig zag the raw edges. Turn right side out and press lightly, using a cloth to protect the fabric.



ALL SEWN UP!

Make a larger bag by using the entire sheet of fabric and adding a longer zip.

LOVE IT... BUY IT!

Printable fabric

Print your own fabric with Crafty Computer Paper's printable fabric. Priced £10.25 for five washable US letter size sheets, www.craftycomputerpaper.co.uk, 0116 2744 755.

Essentials

Fabric: Downton Abbey collection by Makower UK, assorted prints
Interfacing, fusible
Wadding
Ribbon, velvet, pink
Buttons: shell, four; diamanté, one
Lace, scrap
Notebook, hardback, A5

Dimensions

Journal cover: 16cm x 22cm
Pen pouch: 7.5cm x 17cm
Bookmark: 6.5cm x 21cm

STYLE YOUR STATIONERY WITH CAROLYN LETTEN'S WRITING SET

This gorgeous journal cover would make a lovely gift for a writer, especially paired with a coordinating pen pouch and bookmark. If you're a fan of Downton Abbey, you'll adore these official fabrics from Makower UK. Or if you'd prefer, simply replace the Downton motifs with ones of your own choosing. Practise your machine embroidery and add glamorous finishing touches with diamanté buttons, too.

SEW A JOURNAL COVER

1 Cut 15cm x 25cm of Art Deco rose fabric and 11cm x 25cm of black ditsy print. Stitch them together along the long sides and press the seam open. Cut 7cm x 25cm of purple knit print fabric and fold the long raw edges over by 1cm. Press to make a crease. Lay this across the rose fabric, 3cm from the top. Pin and stitch down both long sides.

2 Place the cover front right sides together with the same size piece of grey knit print fabric for the back. Stitch together, giving a 1cm seam, and iron it open. From plaque print fabric, cut out a small 'Downton Abbey' and a large plain plaque. Back both with fusible interfacing. Place them as shown on the front of the book cover, then stitch around in black thread.

3 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk, download the template and print. Trace the word 'journal' and pin onto the plain plaque. Stitch over the word in black, then tear the paper away. Stitch over it another time in purple. Cut a piece of blue rose fabric, four flowers wide, and machine stitch it underneath the Downton Abbey plaque. Hand stitch a shell button either side of the roses and one on each side of the plaque.

4 To line the journal cover, cut a piece of fabric the same size as the outer, joining two pieces together if needed. Pin the outer and the lining right sides together. Stitch a 1cm seam all the way around, leaving a gap at the bottom for turning. Trim the excess fabric from the corners, turn out, press and close the gap.

5 Lay the cover flat, lining side up, and place an open notebook on top in the middle. Tuck each fabric edge inside the book and close it. Mark the fold line and remove the journal. Fold the flaps in where marked and hand stitch the top and bottom to make sleeve pockets.

MAKE A PEN POUCH

1 Cut from printed fabric: 6.5cm x 9cm of green knit, 5.5cm x 9cm of Downton Abbey castles, 2cm x 9cm of pink knit, 6cm x 9cm of plaque, 2.5cm x 9cm of black ditsy and 9cm x 17cm of pink knit.



2 Allowing a 5mm seam allowance at all times and with right sides together, stitch the pieces together along their long sides in the above order to make a panel of patchwork. Cut a triangle with a 9cm base from rose print fabric. Attach this to the end of the pink knit fabric. Iron all the seams flat.

3 Use the panel to cut the same shape from lining fabric. Place the two right sides together, then position a piece of wadding the same size on top. Pin together and stitch all the way around, leaving a gap on one side for turning. Trim across the corners, turn out, press and close the gap.

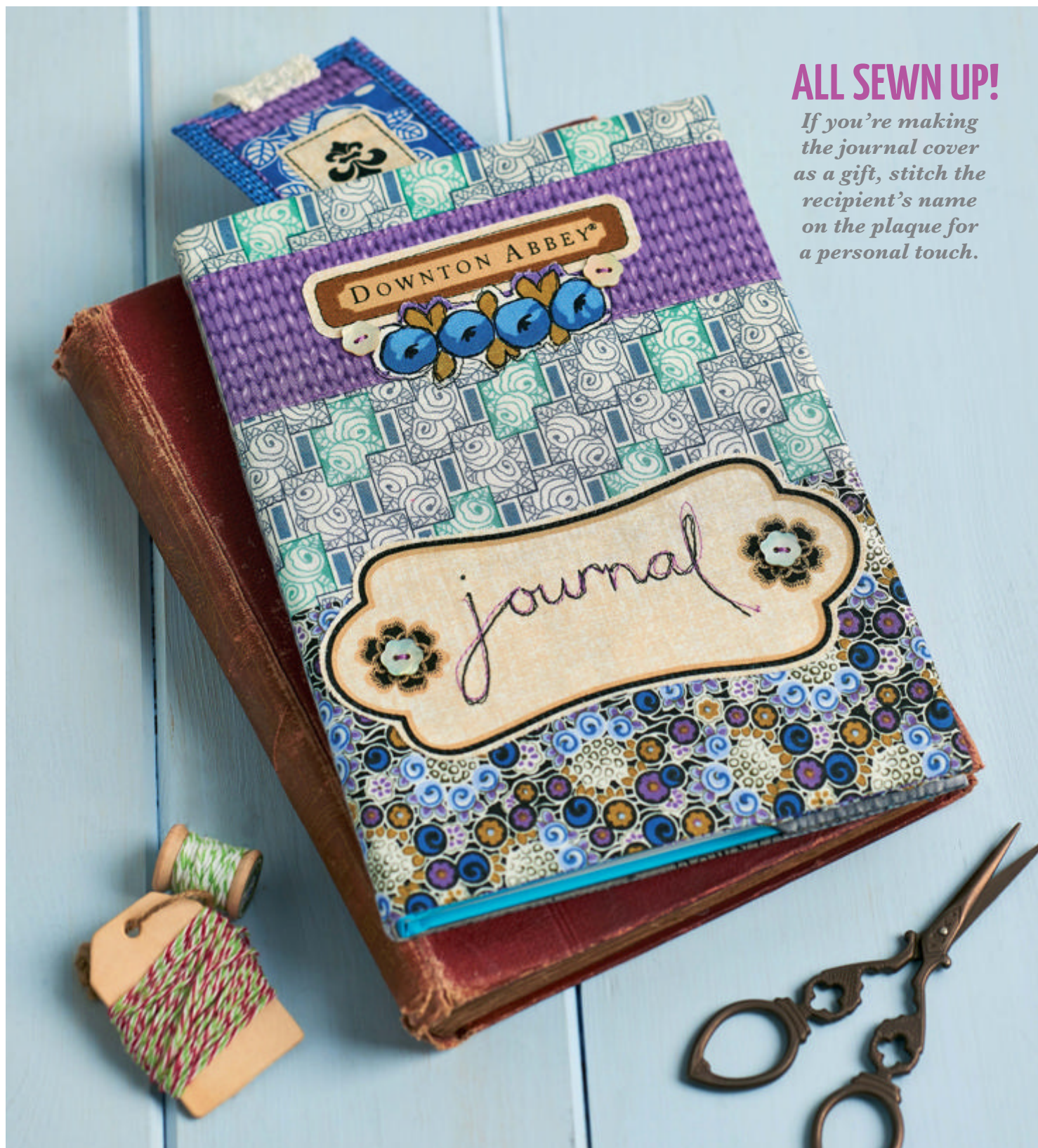
4 Cut 42cm of pink velvet ribbon and stitch the middle point onto the large piece of pink knit print fabric, 3cm from the top. With the lining facing you, fold as shown and hand stitch down both sides. Topstitch around the triangular flap, just in from the edge.

To finish, stitch a diamanté button to the flap and tie the ribbon at the front.

STITCH A BOOKMARK

1 Cut 6cm x 21cm of blue floral fabric and interface the back. Cut out three motifs from cream fabric; a crown and two flourishes. Place them down the middle, stitching around them twice in black thread. Press on the reverse. Stitch 2.5cm x 6cm of purple knit print to the bottom of the blue piece and press the seam open.

2 To make the back, cut a piece of blue knit print, 1.5cm bigger all around than the front. Place the front on top of the back with wrong sides together. Fold the raw edge of the backing fabric over to meet the raw edge of the front, then fold it over again onto the front, and pin. Machine stitch in place all the way round, trapping a small folded piece of lace under the bottom fold.



ALL SEWN UP!

If you're making the journal cover as a gift, stitch the recipient's name on the plaque for a personal touch.

LOVE IT... BUY IT!



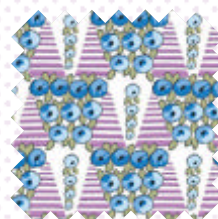
Argyle

This bold, knitted-effect print is really unusual.



Arbor Rose

We love this Art Deco-inspired design.



Topiary

These flowers represent Downton's Lady Rose.

These gorgeous prints are from the Downton Abbey Series II collection from Makower UK. Visit www.makoweruk.com for stockists.



Gina Pantastico and Michelle Engel Bencsko launched Cloud9 Fabrics in 2009. Only 100% certified organic cotton is used in the manufacturing of their base cloths, along with eco-responsible low impact dyes for printing and colouring.

Your company ethos is to only use 100% certified organic cotton; what was your motivation behind this?

Gina: Michelle and I wanted to launch a fabric company, but also to do something that would set us apart from the rest. We were intrigued by the idea of offering more environmentally sound fabrics to the quilt and craft market, as mothers and advocates of wholesome food choices. After researching the production methods of conventional versus organic cotton, we are certain that we made the right choice.

Do you feel this gives you a Unique Selling Point over other fabric manufacturers?

Gina: We are fortunate because we have transcended the strictly organic audience and have found ourselves firmly seated in the mainstream quilt market. Quilters and sewists seek out our



GINA PANTASTICO & MICHELLE ENGEL BENCSKO

“We go to work each day feeling proud of the fabrics we produce”

THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND CREATIVE
DIRECTOR OF CLOUD9 FABRICS CHAT ABOUT THEIR
RANGE OF ECOLOGICALLY PRODUCED PRINTS

fabrics not just because they are organic, but also beautiful and unique, the pricing is in line with other non-organic designer fabrics and our quality is unsurpassed. However, this USP was quite a benefit when we first launched as there were no other organic fabric companies providing modern, fresh fabrics to the quilt and craft community.

How do you go about sourcing your designers?

Michelle: Ultimately, I choose designers who offer a style that is not currently being represented in our catalogue and are a good fit for our brand's aesthetic. There are a handful whom I have personally reached out to because I have admired their work. A few have submitted their portfolios, while others have been in the industry looking for a new partnership. Some of our designers don't have a textile design background and I work closely with them to create collections that reflect their style while delivering a cohesive collection of fabrics.

Can you describe the different substrates you use, such as barkcloth, canvas, micro cord?

Michelle: We like to pair substrates with an

artist's particular style so that they perform well for the end-use. For instance, designers like Skinny laMinx and Eloise Renouf have bold colour-driven styles that suit canvas very nicely. Jessica Jones' mid-century inspired style was a perfect fit for our first barkcloth, which is a heavyweight fabric with a textured surface, yet is also soft and hangs beautifully. Rae Hoekstra creates cheery, delightful designs, so choosing her to produce our first range of baby wale (or micro) corduroy prints seemed a very natural pairing.

What's next for Cloud9?

Michelle: We annually expand our catalogue and are excited to have four new licenses this year including Anna Graham, aka Noodlehead, a well-known bag pattern designer and sewing book author. We also have Jessica Nielsen from The Netherlands, who has a clean, bright Scandinavian flair and the UK's Jo Clark who brings her delicate watercolour illustrations to our first Christmas-themed collection. Finally we have partnered with Ink + Spindle, an Australian-based hand screen printing company who are well-known for their nature-themed and ethically sourced textiles.



Gina & Michelle's Top Tips

- It's impossible to do everything yourself, so it is crucial to get a team of people that you trust, and know will be a positive reflection of your company.
- Don't overextend yourself financially; cash flow problems are the biggest downfall of small businesses.
- The relationships you develop are invaluable, whether it be with your customers, suppliers or colleagues.
- Be true to your brand. Being steadfast to who we are, how we have defined our company and maintaining consistency with what we offer has been instrumental in developing a healthy customer base.

To see the full collection, visit www.cloud9fabrics.com

KEEP YOUR EARPHONES IN EASY REACH WITH LUCINDA GANDERTON'S EARPHONES POUCH

If like us you find it tedious unraveling a tangle of wires and retrieving those illusive earphones from the bottom of your handbag, this little pouch will no doubt delight! It will safely house a pair of earphones, ready for when you or your recipient needs them.

Essentials

Fabric: cotton, floral, 12cm x 15cm; spotty, 12cm square; pink, 6cm x 8cm • Felt, 12cm x 30cm • Zip, 20cm • Split ring • Sewing thread, matching

1 To make the loop, press 6cm x 8cm of pink fabric in half lengthways, then press the raw edges inwards so they line up with the crease. Top stitch the long edges. Go to

www.sewmag.co.uk and download the templates. Cut two fronts (one reversed) from floral fabric, one back from a spotty print and two fronts and a back from felt. Tack the felt shapes to the wrong side of their respective shapes.

2 With the felt upwards, tack the straight edge of the left front centrally to the outside left edge of a zip. Stitch in place, then turn back and topstitch 2mm from the seam. Sew the right half to the right edge in the same way, making sure the two are lined up exactly. Close the zip so the pull is central.

3 Fold the loop in half and tack the raw ends to the right side of the back. With right sides facing, pin and tack the front and back together. Machine stitch carefully 6mm from the edge, sewing straight across at the centre top. Trim the seam back to 3mm, snipping off the ends of the zip. Turn through and ease out the seams. Add a split ring.

GREAT
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IDEA!



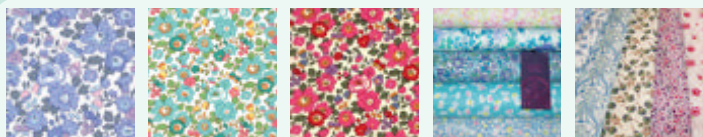
LOVE IT... BUY IT!

We used Flo's Garden by Makower UK, available for €6 per metre from www.ladysewandsew.co.uk, 01491 572528.



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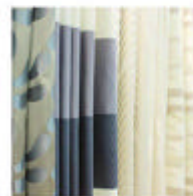
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LIBERTY LOVE

SEE HOW OUR FAVOURITE FABRIC
DESIGNING STORE HAS MADE IT FROM
THE VICTORIAN ERA TO MODERN DAY



© Westminster Archives

Liberty's Lotus
collection, c.1960

London's iconic department store, Liberty, has a rich and varied history. Sir Arthur Liberty opened his shop in 1875 with an ambition 'not to follow existing fashion but to create new ones'. We take a look at the store's past and go behind the scenes to delve into the extensive fabric archive to see how it's still inspiring us today. Read more in *Liberty Style* by Martin Wood.

In the beginning

'Art fabrics', as Arthur Liberty described them, are what Liberty was built on. Although initially coloured silks were imported, demand soon began to outstrip the available supply, and there was a gradual shift to sourcing goods of British design and manufacture. This quest to find local manufacturers was how Liberty began working with Thomas Wardle (1831–1909). He was fascinated by colour and silk and, as a skilled dye chemist, quickly became a leading authority on dyeing and printing.

At Liberty, stocking coloured silks soon gave way to importing 'grey pieces' – undyed and unfinished fabric straight from the loom, which the shop would dye and finish itself. After some experimentation, Wardle was able to produce the subtle colours of dyed silk that Arthur Liberty sought. It was these that became known as 'art colours' or, on the continent and in America, 'Liberty colours'.

Liberty silks were quite different from the stiff, over-finished fabrics that were then generally available. Everyone raved about them: "The texture of them is so pure and fine that they adapt themselves particularly to the present style of dress." There were, apparently, "Indian silks in reds so soft that not even the most rubicund wearer could vulgarise them, and greens and blues so indefinite that it is difficult to class them as greens and blues."

"The British dressmaker originally was deadly opposed to Liberty Art Fabrics"

Despite such enthusiasm for the subtlety of the colours and the soft texture, Arthur Liberty recalled: "In those days we were in a difficulty with regard to soft fabrics, because the British



Liberty's evening gowns, 1930s

Design studio, c.1910

© Private Collection



Liberty
opened in
1875

"There were limits on the number of pleats, the width of sleeves and the size of collars"

dressmaker was deadly opposed to them. She was accustomed to work on hard, stiff lines, and the new material gave her more trouble. It was a great drawback from a commercial point of view. The only way out of this difficulty seemed to be to turn dressmaker myself." Arthur Liberty opened a costume department in 1883, designing dresses for London's ladies out of beautiful Liberty fabrics and setting new fashion trends that spread across the globe.

Expanding the range

During the 1920s, Liberty's greatly expanded their range of dress and furnishing fabrics, catering for different shoppers. The luxury end of the market was served by hand-blocked fabrics produced in small runs. Handblock printing is a slow and expensive process, so fabrics produced this way were more than double the cost of machine-printed ones. A single block might take a week to make, and a complex pattern could have thirty or more blocks.

The range of fashion fabrics Liberty produced was vast and many of them were exclusive to the

company. They had their own cotton lawn fabric, known as Tana Lawn, and their own crêpe range, called Runis. In the 1920s and '30s there was a great demand for dress fabrics because many women made their own clothes rather than buying ready-to-wear. Liberty's catered to the home sewing market, even offering a pattern cutting service so that customers could make up the latest Paris fashions. However, the Second World War began in 1939 and Liberty, like other businesses, struggled to cope. Clothes rationing was introduced in June 1941 and the regulations were tightened the following year. There were limits on the number of pleats, the width of sleeves, the number of buttons and the size of collars. Everything possible was done to save labour and fabric.

The famous archive

The textile business had always been at the heart of Liberty's ethos and the firm held a huge archive. After the war, it was realised that the old fabric designs for which Liberty was famous could be transformed simply by recolouring or rescaling.

From the archives...



Liberty's Fabric Archivist, Anna Buruma, explains how the store's past still influences it today.

The Liberty archive is on a vast database in the design studio. When thinking up new fabrics, Liberty's designers often come to the archivists with an idea, an image or a brief and then we go through the database of images to find inspiration from the past.

There are roughly 40,000 designs in the archive – but far more images, because there are many versions of the same designs. It's very

special because Liberty has kept their designs since they first started to sell their own fabrics in the 1870s. It is at the core of the business and, although the patterns may be in many different styles and with varied subjects, there is a common handwriting that is distinctly Liberty.

Liberty's past is extremely important, and even when looking forward, we always consider the history of the brand. Producing avant-garde designs is not possible without being very aware of what has gone before. The design team is young, vibrant and creative. Looking at the archive, you can see how each generation has put their own stamp on what is created there since the design studio first began.



Older customers who were repairing the ravages of war wanted the familiar and the nostalgic, so there was a healthy trade in older prints.

In the late 1950s, many old pattern books with Art Nouveau designs were found. A dozen were selected and redrawn for silk-screen printing. They were sold as dress fabrics printed on silk, wool chiffon and organza under the Lotus collection brand. This was a huge hit with the fashion houses in Paris and formed the basis for Liberty's 1960 spring collection. The range sold very strongly, particularly in the United States.

Liberty's celebrated its centenary in 1975 with a large exhibition at the V&A, which markedly increased visitor numbers to the store. In 1979, renovation work begun on the Tudor building, uncovering the original linenfold panelling which is so iconic today. The Liberty family were bought out of the business in 2000. Then in 2010 the current

owners, BlueGem Capital Partners LLP, acquired both the store and the Liberty Art Fabrics business, including the unique archive of over 40,000 designs, in a multi-million pound deal. Liberty still flourishes today, more than a century after its opening. There is probably no other department store in the world that has employed the services of so many famous designers. And that is really the secret of Liberty's success: an eye for great design.

Get the book

Taken from *Liberty Style*
by Martin Wood
(£35, Frances Lincoln)
www.franceslincoln.com



"The Liberty archive contains almost every type of design imaginable. We add all of our designs to the archive too, so they can hopefully go on to inspire designers of the future!"

Emma Mawston, Liberty Head of Design



The Liberty archive contains over 40,000 designs!



Find out more by visiting www.liberty.co.uk

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ADVICE FOR A
STYLISH HOME



"This month, as always, we're here to help you create a *stunning home*, and there really is something for everyone. Whether you're after *cute and kitsch* or *rustic charm*, we've got a project for you to stitch. We have lovely *Liberty makes*, including easy-stitch coasters and a *cushion and picture set* that dog lovers will adore. Our *tweed owls* are also bound to be a favourite, perfect for creating a *country feel* in your home.

"If you're a quilter, you won't be disappointed by this issue's block of the month: a gorgeous *card tricks design*. Our Quilting Ambassador, Corinne Bradd, is also on hand to talk all things quilts. Plus, we show you how to *create a luxurious* French-inspired boudoir."

Katy

Katy McIntosh,
Sew Editorial Assistant



French chic
Add some romance
to your room

p60

Wise owl
Make a rustic
tweed doorstep



p78



p62

Liberty coasters
Use up your scraps
with this pretty make

Man's best friend
You'll love this
cute picture



p69



p76

Block of the month
Master this card tricks block

HOME TRENDS French romantic

ADD SOME RUSTIC ROMANCE TO YOUR BEDROOM

Create a sumptuous boudoir inspired by the ultimate romantic getaway to the French countryside. Combine deep reds and luxurious textures with floral motifs and rustic touches. Steer away from pinks to keep that rich feeling of sophistication and accessorise by making your own cushions and throws.



Clockwise from bottom left: **1** Ticking Stripe Red, £9.50 per metre, www.fabricinspirations.co.uk **2** Red Coquelicot Floral on Magnolia by French General for Moda, £11.98 per metre, www.new-threads.com **3** French Post, £13 per metre, www.fabricinspirations.co.uk **4** Cranberry / natural cotton lace, £2 per metre, www.textilegarden.com **5** Vintage Basics Little Red Rose, £11.80 per metre, www.fabricrehab.co.uk **6** Cream Medallion, Puttin' on the Ritz, £12 per metre, www.eternalmaker.com **7** Red Valentine Ticking by FreeSpirit, £12 per metre, www.plushaddict.co.uk **8** Red crushed velvet, £34.9 per metre, www.calicolaine.co.uk **9** Divine baker's twine in Cherry Red, £1.50 for 10 metres, www.ribbongirl.co.uk **10** Noel a la France in Rouge, £12 per metre, www.eternalmaker.com **11** Le Bouquet Francais charm pack by French General for Moda, £11.50, www.new-threads.com **12** Pam Kitty Diagonal Gingham in Red, £12.60 per metre, www.fabricrehab.co.uk **13** Filigree hanging heart, £2.50, www.livelaughlove.co.uk

Create heart-shaped accessories

Upcycle old jumpers into cosy cushions

Combine rich reds with clean white fabrics

Essentials

Fabric: linen, blue; calico, star print, cream;
Liberty Tana Lawn, floral, scraps
Interfacing, fusible
Pom pom trim, mini, cream
Ribbon, 1m
Embroidery hoop
Wadding
Card, thick
Cushion pad, 30cm x 50cm
Picture frame, 20cm x 25cm aperture

Dimensions

Cushion: 30cm x 50cm
Picture: 20cm x 25cm (not including frame)

CELEBRATE MAN'S BEST FRIEND WITH CAROLYN LETTEN'S

DOG LOVER SET

This cute cushion and picture combo is ideal for someone crazy about pooches! We've used bright Liberty prints to add some retro appeal, and paired it with traditional calico and linen. The motifs are created using simple appliqué and machine embroidery. You'll certainly be barking up the right tree with this make.

SEW A CUSHION

1 Cut 31cm x 35cm of cream star print fabric and 19cm x 31cm of blue linen. Using a 1cm seam allowance throughout, stitch the two 31cm ends right sides together. Press the seam open and set aside – this will be the cushion front.

2 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk to download and print the templates. Draw one whole dog onto the paper side of fusible interfacing. Then cut each part of the dog, the head section, ear, body, the separate legs and the tail from different floral scraps. Take the paper off the interfacing, and adhere each floral piece in place on the dog shape.

3 Position the patchwork dog on the star fabric of the cushion front, 5.5cm from the top and bottom edges and 3cm from the seam on the right. Pin in place, then machine zig zag stitch around the dog's edge and across each patchwork join. Press on the reverse. Stitch an eye and nose onto the face.

4 Use the template to cut a bone from blue linen. Back with interfacing and stitch in place next to the dog. Press on the reverse.

5 Trace the word template and pin in position on the blue of the cushion front. Place the fabric in an embroidery hoop. Machine stitch over the words twice using navy thread, then tear the paper away. Stitch over it again in bright pink and cream thread. Iron on the reverse. Stitch a length of cream pom pom trim down the front seam.

6 For the back, cut 31cm x 35cm of blue fabric and 25cm x 31cm of cream star fabric. Hem one short end of the blue piece by turning the raw edge over twice by 1cm and stitching. Press. Hem one end of the star fabric in the same way but catch one end of a 45cm piece of ribbon under the seam in the middle before you stitch. Turn the other raw ribbon end over twice and stitch. Take a second piece of 45cm ribbon and fold one end under twice. Place the other end onto the blue fabric in the middle, 5cm from the hemmed edge, and stitch in place.



7 To make up the cushion, lay the finished front right side up, and lay the cream back section on top of it, wrong side up, on the right-hand side. Then lay the blue back piece wrong side up on the left. Pin in place and stitch all the way around the cushion with a 1cm seam. Trim the excess fabric from the corners, turn out and insert a cushion pad.

MAKE A PICTURE

1 Cut a 31cm x 36cm piece of cream star fabric. Using the template, cut out each large letter from floral prints and one dog from blue linen. Back all the pieces

with fusible interfacing. Pin each piece onto the star print as shown. Place the fabric in an embroidery hoop.

2 Use navy thread to machine stitch around the edges of the letters and the dog, sewing over them twice. Press on the reverse. Trace the smaller words, pin in place on the star fabric and stitch over them. Tear the paper away and press on the reverse.

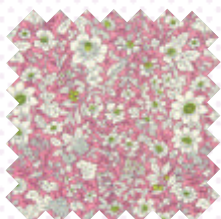
3 To mount the finished picture, cut a piece of thick card the same size as the frame aperture. Lay a same size piece of wadding on it, then the picture on top. Fold the edges over onto the back, pulling the fabric taut, and secure with masking tape.

ALL SEWN UP!

Personalise the cushion by adding your pet's name or even drawing your own template so it's the right size and shape to resemble your canine friend.



LOVE IT... BUY IT!



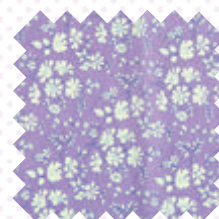
Floral fancy

This budget print is beautiful and won't break the bank. Priced €5.25 per metre, www.dittofabrics.co.uk, 01273 757286.



Star print

We love the rustic feel of this ditsy patterned fabric. Priced €5.99 per metre, www.dittofabrics.co.uk, 01273 757286.



Liberty love

This pretty 1970s Tana Lawn is Capel in colourway V. Priced €16.95, www.sewbox.co.uk, 01787 269366.



CORINNE BRADD

"The sense of homeliness sets Liberty above other high-end London stores"

GET THE LATEST PATCHWORK AND QUILTING NEWS
WITH OUR QUILTING AMBASSADOR

"I've probably spoken of my fabric hoard: the assortment of cotton in every colour under the sun. It's the kind of collection I guess most of us have, especially if you've been keeping scraps from the age of eight. Over the festive season I managed to find a few free hours to have a reshuffle and do the kind of thing that other people do with their DVD collection when they're bored. I've not gone as far as to alphabetise, but I have tried to store my fabrics by manufacturer, making it much easier to coordinate colours from different collections.

"When I'd surrounded myself with piles of fat quarters, I have to admit to a pang of disappointment. The little stack of Liberty

*"In my head
I buy Liberty
fabric all
the time"*

prints was just that, little. In my head I buy Liberty fabric all the time. I certainly look at their range a

lot and pop items in online baskets or onto wish-lists, but then real life and deadlines get in the way and the list gets saved but never actually purchased.

"Even on my last wander through the store, I spent more time looking at the beautiful interior of the building than I did browsing the haberdashery department. There is something very special about Liberty. I read that Arthur Liberty wanted customers to feel that they were walking around their own home when shopping there, and this sense of familiarity and homeliness sets Liberty above other high-end London stores.

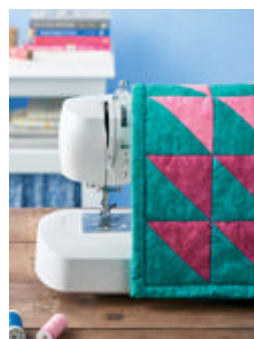
"You can meander up the staircases in jeans without feeling that the staff are looking down on you. You can spend time appreciating the handcrafted items without being pressured and, best of all, you can run your fingers along the ranks of iconic printed fabrics."



WHAT I'M WORKING ON...

I love using prints, but this month I made this pretty patchwork blanket using plain fabrics. I'm really pleased with it! As much as I enjoy buying new cottons, this is proof that you don't need to spend a fortune to make a beautiful quilt.

Find more like this in our sister magazine, *Homemaker*, out now!



Corinne Loves!

The bright colours of these seam rippers are perfect because I can't lose them! Never be down-hearted if you have to unpick stitches – we all do! Priced 50p each, www.quilterstradingpost.com, 01270 812541.



Stitching Show

The successful Creative Stitches & Hobbycraft Show is back with a new name and exciting new features. Now called The Stitching, Sewing & Quilting Show, quilting has been added to the agenda to cater for its increasing popularity. Coming to SECC Glasgow on the 5th-8th March, the Hobbycrafts Show will also be running alongside it. There will be an array of quilts on display, as well as crafty workshops and demonstrations. Adult tickets are £9.50 or £7.50 in advance, with discounts for children and seniors. Visit www.ichfevents.co.uk for more information.



Visit *Homemaker* at www.homemakermagazine.co.uk

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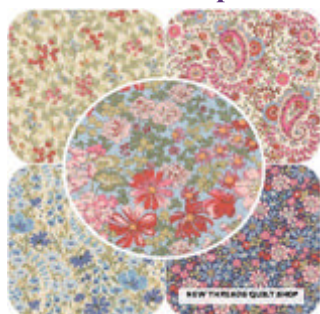
tel: 01264 771443



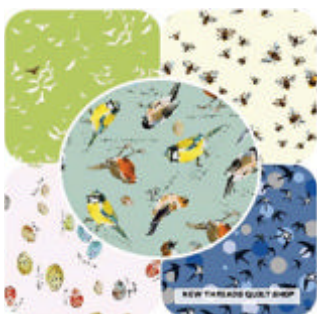
Retro Transport



A Field Guide



Regent Street Lawns



British Birds & Bees



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[knits]



artgalleryfabrics.com

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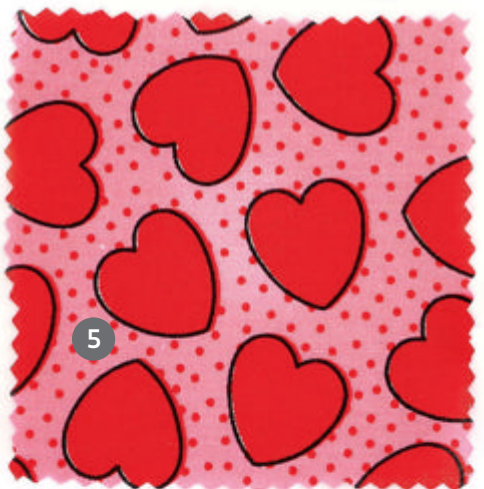
KEEPING IT KITSCH

SHOW YOUR
HOME SOME
LOVE WITH
QUIRKY
FABRIC PRINTS



"Have some fun with your soft furnishings with bold love-themed prints"

Lorraine Luximon, Sew Editor



FABRIC SHOPPING

1 Urban Zoologie – Flamingoes in Black by Robert Kaufman, £12 per metre, www.sewcrumptious.co.uk, 07854 820354.

2 Kitsch Hearts and Roses, £7.96 per metre, www.fabricrehab.co.uk

3 Bowtique pink satin 12mm ribbon, £2.13 for 5m, www.sewessential.co.uk, 01283 210422.

4 Sweethearts Pinups by Alexander Henry, £13, www.fancymoon.co.uk, 0845 519 4354.

5 Round Hearts & Polka Dots on Candy Apple Red, £2.99 per fat quarter, www.myfabrichouse.co.uk

6 Love Cookies in Shocking Pink, £2.39 per fat quarter, www.myfabrichouse.co.uk

7 Betty Boop Yellow Frames, £12 per metre, www.plushaddict.co.uk, 0845 519 4422.

8 Lips buttons by Hemline, £1.79 a pack, www.minervacrafts.com, 01254 708068.

9 Love (Multi) by Michael Miller, £10 per metre, www.sewcrumptious.co.uk

BLOCK *of the* MONTH

MAKE AN IMPRESSION
WITH A CLEVER

CARD TRICK BLOCK



This intricate design is perfect to add colour to any room and incorporates card-like shapes as a twist on the traditional square block. We've used the wonderful Gleeful collection by Sew Caroline for Art Gallery Fabrics, plus coordinating blenders, and finished it with a funky boarder. The variety in this design is sure to brighten up your home or would make a beautiful and unique gift.

WE SHOW YOU HOW!



1



2



3

1 Cut two 11cm squares of white cotton and cut each one in half diagonally to make four triangles. Cut one 11cm square from each of four different colour prints (blue, yellow, green and pink) and divide into triangles in the same way.

2 Cut 8.5cm squares, two from white and one from each of four prints. Cut into triangles as before. You should have a total of 12 large and 12 small triangles.

3 Match up a large white triangle with one large print triangle of each colour, and sew right sides together down the long edge, taking care not to stretch the fabric on the bias. Open out and press the seam to the coloured side [1].

4 Pair up a small triangle of each colour with a white along one short edge, and stitch right sides together making sure they are all sewn on the same short side.

5 Space out your big half square triangle (HST) blocks on the table

in a square with the coloured points facing in. Position the paired small HSTs in between the corners, matching up the coloured edges.

6 Place the remaining large coloured triangles next to the paired small HSTs so they match up with the same colour triangle in the corner spaces. Sew the large triangles to the paired small HSTs on the long edge and press open [2].

7 Stitch the remaining small triangles together to make a square block, positioning the colours in the same order as the remaining ones. Lay out the blocks in the correct order and stitch together in rows [3]. Sew the rows together to create the block, taking care to match up all seams accurately to make neat points at the edges and press.

MAKE THE QUILT

1 Make 12 blocks as above, using a mixture of patterns in the same basic colours. Arrange on a flat surface until you are happy with the layout.

2 Cut 31, 4cm x 32cm strips from four different fabrics to use as sashing. Cut 20, 4cm squares from white or pale print, to use as cornerstones.

3 Sew a sashing strip to the right-hand edge of each block. Add a cornerstone to the end of a piece of sashing before stitching in position along the bottom of each block.

4 Sew the half sashed blocks together to make the quilt top, matching the seams accurately. Add the remaining sashing and cornerstones to the left and top sides of the quilt.

5 Press the quilt top and 1.5m of backing fabric. Lay down the backing, 1.5m of wadding and the quilt top and pin all three layers together. Quilt around each block and around the cards if desired.

6 Fold under 5mm around the edge of the quilt, and pin. Trim the wadding to this edge and the backing 1cm larger. Fold the backing fabric over the wadding and pin the quilt edge to the backing. Topstitch in place, 3mm from the edge.

Essentials

Fabric: Gleeby by Art Gallery Fabrics, 12 prints, fat quarter of each; cotton, white, 2.5m; four prints, 4cm x 32cm, 31; white or pale, 4cm squares, 20

Wadding, lightweight, 1.5m

Dimensions

Block: 30cm square

Quilt: 105cm x 135cm

Note: Use a 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

ALL SEWN UP!

Make matching cushions in the same basic colours as you used in your quilt to bring it all together in a room.

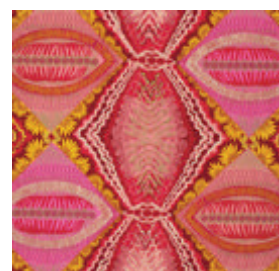




"THIS QUILT IS PERFECT IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF SPARE PIECES OF FABRIC IN A VARIETY OF COLOURS OR PATTERNS. BE AS CREATIVE AS YOU LIKE WITH YOUR COMBINATIONS!"

**COMING
NEXT MONTH**

MAKE A QUILT USING
ZANDRA RHODES'
LACE MOUNTAIN
COLLECTION.



**Preppy
Fleurs**

Bold and
beautiful blooms.



**Springs
Breeze**

Fun squiggles with a
hand-drawn feel.



**Charms
Abloom**

Pretty white
buds on pink.

We used the vibrant Gleeful collection by Sew Caroline for Art Gallery Fabrics, plus coordinating blenders. For stockists, visit www.hantex.co.uk/agf



STUART HILLARD

“How do you make a home fabulous on a budget?”

THIS MONTH OUR FAVOURITE HOME STITCHER TALKS THRIFTY REVAMPS AND BARGAIN BUYS

At this time of the year we are all feeling the pinch after Christmas excesses; too many chocolates leave my waistbands a little tight and certainly after all that shopping my budget feels pretty squeezed, too. However, it is also this time of year when I most want to make my living space bright and fresh to counter the grey skies and cold weather. This month, I couldn't help but wonder, 'how do you make a home fabulous on a budget?'

If you love designer fabrics but cringe at the price tag, scour the internet and remnant bins for off-cuts, end of rolls and seconds. I made a gorgeous Roman blind for the bathroom with a designer cut-off for less than £15. Expect to pay up to 60% off the RRP as reward for your rummaging, and if you're after a bigger

“Buy ready-made curtains, cheap woven rugs, tablecloths and cushions and cut them up!”

quantity, why not haggle for the whole roll?

Also consider paring down your look! Simple blinds, plain cushions and eyelet curtains are modern and use far less fabric than old fashioned

pleated and frilly versions. There are lots of simple tutorials in books and on blogs. Explore the Asian and African fabric stores in many large cities for bargain silks, linens and trims. They may not have the polish of a department store haberdashery, but they also lack the massive mark ups!

Buy ready-made curtains, cheap woven rugs, tablecloths and cushions and cut them up! There is a lot of fabric in a pair of curtains and you can find ready-mades for less than the price of fabric on the roll. The same is true for zips and cushion pads, so get handy with the seam ripper and save again!



www.homesense.com

HOME INSPIRATIONS

If you are planning a room makeover, keep in mind the 60/30/10 rule. 60% of the room's colour comes from the walls and flooring, 30% is from the furnishings and 10% from accessories like cushions, candles and throws. Apply these numbers to your colour choices, giving the lion's share of your room over to the main colour, about a third to a complementary or toning shade, and just a hint of contrast for punch! Keep this simple ratio in mind for effortless colour schemes! Follow a fashion trend and colour block with large areas of one shade. Cover artist's frames with bright solids and add large covered buttons in vibrant hues to jazz up neutral cushions. If your sofa has removable cotton covers, revamp with a couple of packs of machine dye and give your sitting room an almost instant and low cost makeover.



Dylon fabric dye in Bahama Blue, €6.25, www.dylon.co.uk
Fabric buttons, €3.95, www.dotcomgiftshop.com

Style Advice

For a fantastic piece of budget wall art, take cheap flat glass plates and cover the back generously with diluted PVA, then lay a piece of gorgeous fabric, 5cm bigger on all sides, right side down and smooth out from the centre. When the glue is dry, trim the edges with sharp scissors. Make half a dozen and display in a group using plate hangers.

Stuart's Stash



This month, I'm keeping my eye firmly on the budget and using odds and ends from my stash to make something beautiful. Using all scraps can look a bit chaotic, but a few well chosen solid colours can really help to unite and contain these little bits of loveliness. My new fashion essential is Michael Miller's Cotton Couture range of plains. Like an LBD, these fabrics are classic, timeless and this season's must have! Visit www.logcabin-brentwood.co.uk

Find more at www.stuarthillard.com

Love that FABRIC



The colours of nature

Nature is often a source of inspiration for designers, but these two collections have particularly been influenced by the colours. This month's hues are primarily blue and green. The range however is varied, including both earthy moss greens and citric limes, with added splashes of pink. Bring the outside in with quilts and accessories in this pretty palette.

This month's

Pantone colours

February's hues are fresh and natural

Dawn Pink 15-2205 TCX

Placid Blue 15-3920 TCX

Lime Punch 13-0550 TCX

The colours displayed on the Pantone swatches may be limited to CMYK printing process.

Both of this month's collections are inspired by the countryside and the beauty of its wildlife. The first, Fly Away by Phyllida Coroneo for Dashwood Studio, is a wonderfully vibrant range combining traditional florals and modern design. The second is Country Chic Cottage, part of the Vero's World range by Veronique Requena at Gütermann. These prints exude classic French style and sophistication, ideal for a beautiful quilt.



**Fly Away
Dashwood Studio**



**MEET THE
designer**

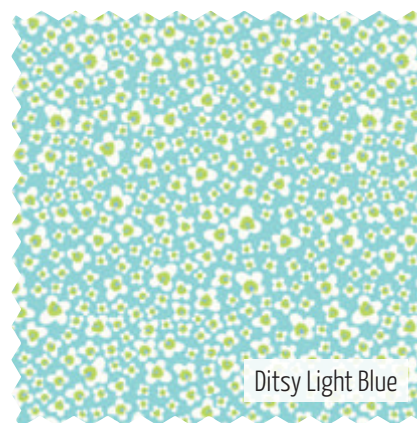
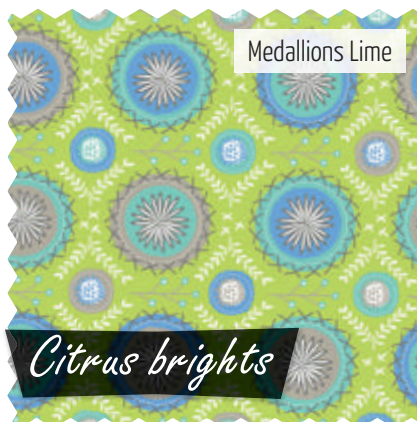
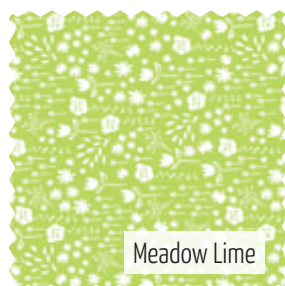
Phyllida Coroneo
"Fly Away is inspired by traditional cross stitch and embroidery designs, as well as wild flower meadows full of wildlife and grasses swaying under cornflower blue skies. I wanted the collection to have a timeless quality and the designs and colour palette to be pretty, fresh and free flowing."



Love that **FABRIC**
WE PICK THE BEST NEW PATCH

For Dashwood Studio fabrics, visit
www.dashwoodstudio.com

For Gütermann, contact
gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk or
01453 883581.



Véro's World
by Gütermann

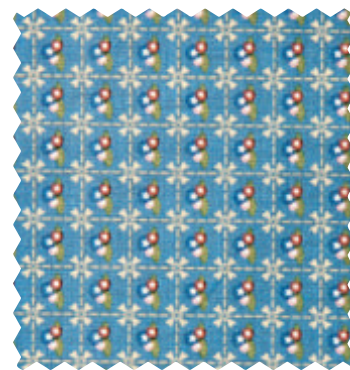
**Country Chic
Cottage**
Véro's World,
Gütermann



MEET THE designer

Veronique Requena
"Inspired by the wonderful
Burgundy countryside

where I live, this collection is an opportunity
to share with you my universe in my 18th
century cottage, my love of a simple life,
the countryside, my inseparable labrador
Lizzy and my beautiful English garden."



Classic feel



Small prints ideal for quilts



Cute canines



WORK COLLECTIONS

Essentials

Fabric: prints, three, 9cm x 15cm each;
backing, 15cm square
Wadding, 15cm square

Dimensions

11.5cm diameter

PRACTISE YOUR PATCHWORK WITH PRETTY DIAMOND COASTERS

This make is ideal for sharpening up your stitching skills and learning new techniques, including set-in seams and patchwork.

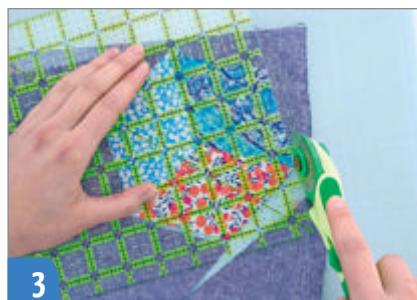
These coasters are quick and easy to make and are great for clearing out your stash. Whip up a few for yourself or put them in a pretty box and present them as a gift set.



1



2



3



4



ALL SEWN UP!

Turn your coaster into a scented sachet by stuffing with lavender and adding a ribbon loop to hang.

MAKE A COASTER

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk, download the templates and print. Cut the diamond template from paper to make a pattern piece, and add the 6mm seam allowance lines. Cut three diamonds from different printed fabrics.

2 Prepare to sew set-in seams by marking a dot 6mm inside each corner of the diamonds. Pin two diamonds, right sides together, along one edge. Sew together between the two marked dots [1]. Following the same technique, attach the third diamond to complete the coaster top [2]. Press the seams to one side.

3 Lay the coaster top on backing fabric and cut a shape the same size [3]. Pin the front and back with right sides together. Sew around the edges, leaving a 5cm opening along one edge for turning. Clip into each corner, taking care not to cut through the stitches [4].

4 Turn out and press. Cut a piece of wadding slightly smaller than the coaster and insert it through the opening. Press flat. Sew the gap closed. Leaving a 1cm seam allowance, topstitch around the edges of the coaster with coordinating thread. Quilt as desired to help hold the wadding in place.

GET THE BOOK

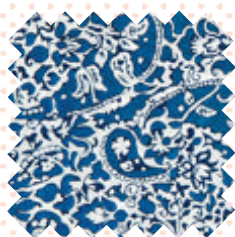
For more great projects like this, read *Quilting* (£25, DK). See www.dk.com



OUR
Patchwork
PROMISE

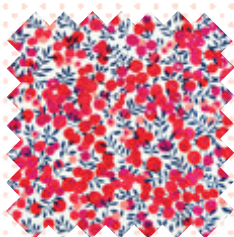


LOVE IT... BUY IT!



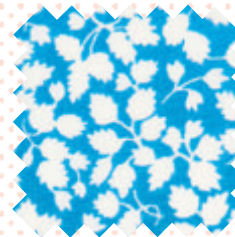
Lagos Laurel

We love the
vintage style of
this design.



Wiltshire

A punchy berry print
really complements
the blue.



Glenjade

This was based
on a 1930s
Liberty pattern.

All of these beautiful Liberty Tana Lawns are available from www.sewbox.co.uk, 01787 269366.

Essentials

Fabric, tweed: plain, brown; grey;
houndstooth, red; tartan, red; cream; grey

Wool felt: yellow; black

Thread, embroidery, white

Buttons, wooden, three

Toy stuffing

Sand

Dimensions

Cushion: 40cm x 45cm

Doorstop: 15cm x 34cm

CREATE A COSY FEEL WITH SANDRA HAMILTON'S

OLIVER & ALISTAIR OWL

Soft and strong, tweed lends itself beautifully to these makes. Oliver is a wide-eyed, jolly owl, whereas Alistair is a little more world-weary and serious. Both make eye-catching doorstops, toys, cushions or simply fashionable objets d'art following the ever popular woodland trend. Choose a selection of sumptuous tweeds or make up in quilting cottons for a lighter feel, and you'll soon have your very own owly friend!

MAKE AN OWL CUSHION

- 1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk to download and print the templates. Cut two bodies from brown tweed, two wings from cream tartan with one reversed, two outer eyes from red houndstooth and the waistcoat pieces from red tartan. Make sure the pattern in the tweed is running straight. Trim two inner eyes and a beak from yellow wool felt and two pupils from black.
- 2 Place the wings on the body, right side up, aligning the side seams. Pin, then attach using buttonhole stitch. Position the waistcoat pieces and outer eyes and stitch in the same way. Attach three buttons down the waistcoat. Work a small star on the pupils in white embroidery thread. Sew the pupils in the centre of the inner eyes. Stitch the eyes and beak in place on the face.
- 3 Pin the two bodies together with right sides facing. Stitch around the edge, leaving a 10cm gap in the base. Turn out, then stuff well. Turn under the edges of the gap and slip stitch closed.

SEW AN OWL DOORSTOP

- 1 Using the templates, cut four bodies from grey tweed with two reversed, then two wings from grey tartan with one reversed. Trim two upper and two lower eyelids and one base from grey tweed. Then cut two faces from yellow felt with one reversed, plus two pupils and a beak from black.
- 2 Take one pair of body pieces and position with the straight edges together. Place the face pieces on the body, making sure they match up. Sew around the edge using buttonhole stitch, leaving the straight edges open.
- 3 Fold the beak in half lengthways, sew along one short edge, turn out and stuff the front half. With right sides facing, pin the two body pieces together down the straight edges and sew, giving a 1cm seam allowance.

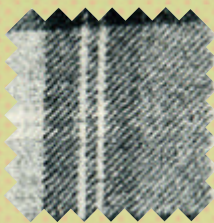


Insert the beak, and stitch in place as you go. Sew the other two body pieces together in the same way.

- 4 Place the wings on the front body, right side up, aligning the side seams. Sew in position. Arrange upper and lower eyelids on the face and place the pupils inside them. Pin then sew in place. Work a few stitches in white embroidery thread on the pupils.

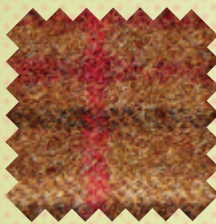
- 5 Stitch the two bodies together with right sides facing, leaving the bottom open. Pin the base piece to the bottom of the owl, right sides together, leaving a 10cm gap for turning. Turn out and stuff well. Add a small bag of sand or a similar weight to make it into a doorstop. Turn under the edges of the gap and slip stitch closed.

LOVE IT... BUY IT!



Moon Fernie

This traditional design is ideal for adding a classic touch to your home. Priced £41 per metre.



Moon Sandringham

The Geranium colourway is a great way to add a splash of colour. Priced £41 per metre.

Shop a range of luxury tweed fabrics at www.remnantkings.co.uk, 0141 418 0333.



BOOKMARK THIS

We take a look at what the best sewing sites around have to offer!



Blog of the month

WWW.PENELOPING.COM



Self described as "an 80 year old nerdy cat lady," Ping entered the blogosphere after making costume replicas from her favourite movies which she showcased on her website. As she found herself making more wearable garments

her blog morphed, "into a way of pushing myself to learn new techniques and try out new patterns." So what are Ping's top pattern picks? "I like to use patterns creatively and sometimes mash them together. I have endless love for Grainline Studio's Archer pattern, which when paired with Named Clothing's Jamie jeans is the perfect everyday outfit. My current obsession, though, is Orange Lingerie's Marlborough bra, because I never thought I could make a bra!" With a love of all things film, we were intrigued as to what's next on her list? "I'm working on Elsa's Frozen dress, then it's Katniss' wedding dress from Catching Fire – it's going to be a busy few months! I've also got quite the backlog of party dresses I'm itching to make." We can't wait!

Ping Mathre, Penelope

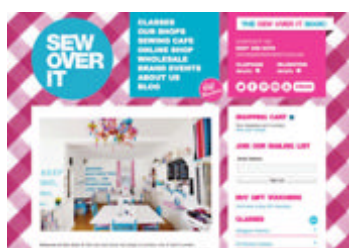
FABRICS



www.croftmill.co.uk

The Croft Mill team love fabric, and while they specialise in dressmaking ones, they have fabrics for all kinds of uses from general crafts to furnishing. With stock changing regularly, sign up for the newsletter to make sure you know when the new deliveries are in!

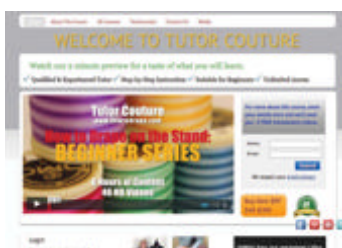
PATTERNS



www.sewoverit.co.uk

Love vintage, then you'll adore this range of stylish indie patterns, featuring everything from a 1940s tea dress to a silk cami. Designed by Sew Over It's Lisa Comfort, you can now also purchase kit options, so you have everything you need in one handy pack.

TUTORIALS



www.howtodrape.com

Brainchild of Louise McGuire, this cloud based course by tutor Deborah Aungiers teaches you to create beautifully fitted garments by draping on the stand, a couture pattern cutting method used by top fashion designers. With six hours of content for just £29, check it out!

NEW LOOK



www.sewmag.co.uk

Head over to our revamped site to check out all the new features, from essential how-to guides, sewing machine reviews, an extensive archive of sewing patterns and tutorials as well as the team Sew blog – it's the place to be!

STORE GLASS CLOTHS IN STYLE WITH
LUCINDA GANDERTON'S

TEATOWEL HANGERS

Practical items don't have to be merely functional, we like ours to look pretty too! These tea towel toppers are just that. They serve the purpose of helping to hang and dry your glass cloths, but also look rather lovely. We've gone for a vintage look, but you could choose fabrics to suit your own kitchen style.

QUICK
KITCHEN
UPDATER

Essentials

Fabric: cotton, large print, 20cm x 25cm; small print, 15cm x 20cm • Tea towel, plain • Press stud or hook and loop tape coin • Sewing thread, matching • Ric rac, 40cm • Button

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk and download the templates. Cut two main parts from a large floral print fabric and two tabs from a smaller pattern. With right sides facing, pin the two together along the straight ends and machine stitch with a 6mm seam allowance. Press the allowance towards the main part. Fix the two parts of a press stud or hook and loop tape to the right side of one piece, in the positions marked. This will be the front.

2 Pin the front and back pieces together with right sides facing and machine stitch with a 6mm seam allowance. Trim the curves and press back a 1cm turning along the bottom opening. Turn right side out. Starting at the centre back, tack ric rac inside the edge so that a row of curves peek out from behind the turning. Machine stitch close to the fold.

3 Fold and pin a series of pleats along one short edge of the tea towel, adjusting them until they are the same width as the holder. Machine stitch in place and trim off the top hem. Slot the holder over the raw edges and pin in place. Machine stitch through all the layers, 4mm from the folded edge. Finish off by sewing a button to the front of the tab.



1



2



3

LOVE IT... BUY IT!

We used Exclusively Quilter's 1930s Classics retro floral prints, see www.hantex.co.uk for stockists.



Essentials

Envelopes

Fabric: cotton, two prints; plain, scraps

Felt, scraps

Interfacing, medium weight

Fusible webbing

Ribbon, 10mm wide

Buttons, 15mm, two

Pinking shears

Button art

Fabric, printed, scraps, 28

Buttons, covered, 19mm, 28

Cover button tool

Hot glue gun

Box frame

Washi tape

Card, 17cm square

Dimensions

Envelopes: 14cm x 18.5cm

Button art: 17cm square

SURPRISE A LOVED ONE WITH TORIE JAYNE'S LIBERTY GIFTS

This giftset is a beautiful combination of button art and fabric envelopes that are fun and easy to do. The pouches are a quick and quirky make, great for clearing out your stash of unused fabrics! The frame would make a lovely addition to any wall, or you could place it on your desk to brighten things up. Both are perfect to stitch for yourself or as a gift for your friends and loved ones.

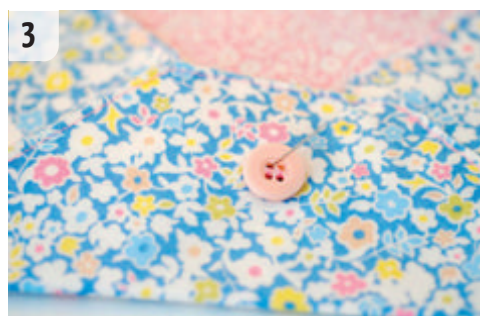
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SEW A FABRIC ENVELOPE

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk, download the templates for the envelope and fabric stamps, print and cut out. Cut envelope shapes from two different printed fabrics and add interfacing to the back of each. Make a loop with a length of ribbon and press.

2 Place the interfaced fabric pieces, wrong side together, inserting the ribbon loop into the top corner of each envelope flap and pin to secure [1]. Edge stitch around the envelope, 5mm from the edges. Backstitch at the beginning and end of your stitch line.

3 Fold in the side and bottom flaps and press. Ensuring you don't catch the front of the envelope, hand sew the sides and bottom together using a straight stitch [2]. Fold over the top flap and press. Mark the button placement using the loop as a guide. Stitch the button to the bottom flap [3].

4 To make fabric stamps, iron fusible webbing to the back of plain and printed fabric scraps and felt. Using the template, trace a heart onto the backing paper of the printed fabric and cut it out. Press in place onto

the plain material, then carefully trim around the heart so that it is 3mm bigger.

5 Remove the backing paper from the bottom fabric heart and place over a scrap of felt, iron in place [4]. Using pinking shears, cut out a rectangle from felt so that the heart is in the centre. Press in place in the top right-hand corner of your fabric envelope.

MAKE A BUTTON ART PICTURE

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk, download the heart template and print. Cut the shape from white or coloured card to make a pattern piece.

2 Cover 28 buttons in different printed fabrics using a cover button tool, which eliminates the need for traditional hand sewing.

3 Using a hot glue gun, attach the buttons to the printed heart template, ensuring the shank of each is centred on a dot that is premarked on the card.

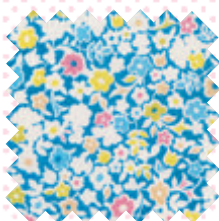
4 Place the button covered card inside a box frame. Decorate with strips of washi tape, or as desired.



*“Cover
buttons to
use up your
off-cuts”*

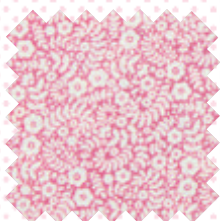


LOVE IT... BUY IT!



Floral cotton

This ditsy Wells print in colourway D from the Liberty Lifestyle Stile collection is sure to bring a smile to the recipient's face. Priced £3.50 per fat quarter, www.sewbox.co.uk, 01787 269366.



Girlie print

Torie Jayne used this pretty Leonard print in colourway G from Liberty's Lifestyle Stile collection. Priced £3.50 per fat quarter, www.sewbox.co.uk, 01787 269366.

ALL SEWN UP!

You can paint your box frame any colour you like and instead of washi tape, you could decorate it with sequins, beads or more buttons!



Susie's STITCH SCHOOL

Shadow work

Show off both sides of your embroidery
and make a pretty soap bag

Having its origins in India, where it was used to decorate lightweight shirts made from fine cotton gauze or muslin, shadow work is a deeply effective technique. It is sometimes worked with white thread on a white fabric but also looks particularly effective worked in bright or deeply coloured threads. The stitch used for shadow work is close herringbone stitch, otherwise known as shadow stitch. It is worked on the wrong side of the fabric, creating outlines of back stitch on the front of the work. The diagonal bars of the herringbones show through the translucent fabric in shadow form, creating a unique effect. If you are already familiar with herringbone stitch, you will see that it is almost the same; the main difference is that the two ends of each diagonal stitch touch the ends of the previous one, with no gap in between.



Essentials

Fabric: cotton voile, pink; peach; cream
Thread: sewing, coordinating; embroidery,
pink; purple; green; brown, skein of each
Needle: sewing; crewel
Embroidery hoop
Ribbon, narrow, white
Sequins
Pen, air-erasable

Dimensions

Peach and cream bags: 12cm x 16cm
Pink bag: 15cm x 18cm

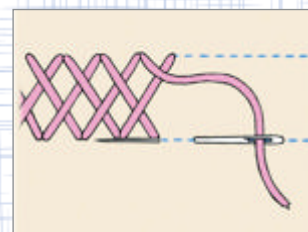
MAKE A SOAP BAG

- 1 Mark a 16cm x 21cm rectangle on cotton voile to make a small bag or a 19cm x 23cm one for a large bag. Go to www.sewmag.co.uk to download and print the templates. Place the fabric over the template, so the design is in the centre of the rectangle. Trace the lines using an air-erasable pen.
- 2 Stretch the fabric in a hoop and thread a crewel needle with three strands of thread. Knot the end of the thread and take it down through the fabric at the tip of the shape you

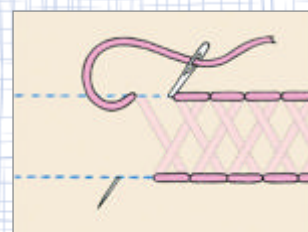
are going to fill. Bring the thread back up, about 2mm along the marked line and take the needle between the strands of thread close to the knot. This will help to secure the thread while preventing the knot from slipping through the delicate fabric.

- 3 Fill in the shape in closed herringbone stitch. When you've finished, fasten off by taking the needle under a few threads, then cut the thread close to the work. Add sequins to your work if you wish for extra embellishment.

CLOSE HERRINGBONE STITCH



- 1 Take the needle down through the wrong side of the fabric on one side of the shape to be filled. Bring the needle out a stitch length to the left. Take it across to the other side of the shape at a diagonal angle, bringing it down a stitch and a half's length to the right. Repeat by bringing the needle up on the same side of the shape, a stitch length to the left. Take it to the other side of the shape and take through the fabric a stitch and a half's length to the right.



- 2 Continue to fill the shape, making sure to keep the stitches evenly spaced and staying to the design line exactly. The right side of the work should be a back stitch outline of the motif. The herringbone pattern should be visible through the sheer fabric.

- 4 When you have finished the embroidery, remove from the hoop and cut out the rectangle of fabric. Then cut another piece from voile the same size. Place the back and front pieces of the bag right sides together. Pin and tack around the edge, leaving the top short side open.

- 5 Mark 4cm down from the top edge on either side of the bag. Starting at this point, stitch down to the corner, across the base and up the other side to make 1cm seams. Trim the seams down to 5mm, clip the corners and turn out. Stitch the side seams again, with a 1cm seam allowance, to enclose the raw edges and give a neat finish.

- 6 Fold the tops of the bag down to meet the top of the two side seams on the inside, forming a single hem. Stitch in place very close to the fabric's edge, then stitch again 5mm from the fold to form a casing. Cut two lengths of narrow ribbon, measuring 40cm for the small bag or 50cm for the large one. Thread through the casings and knot the ends together to make drawstrings.

"Close herringbone stitch is one of the few embroidery stitches that looks just as good on both sides of the fabric"



ALL SEWN UP!

You need a sheer fabric for shadow work. We've used cotton voile, but you could also try fine silk, organza or batiste.

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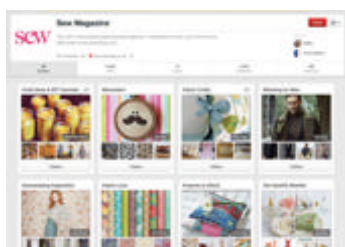
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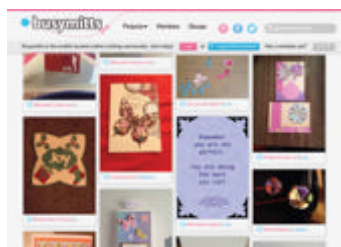
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Essentials

Fabric: Cuckoo's Calling range by Dashwood Studio, four prints, fat quarter of each

Felt: gold; dark brown; navy

Fibre filling

Wadding, lightweight

Beads, small, black, four

Dimensions

25cm x 30cm

SEW UP A LOVE STORY WITH CORINNE BRADD'S

LOVE BIRD SWANS

Did you know that swans mate for life? Cyril and Cecilia met when they were little more than cygnets. Both attracted by the other's bright plumage, they soon found out they were both made from Dashwood Studio's Cuckoo's Calling collection by Bethan Janine! They have been together ever since. This pair symbolise eternal love, and would make the ideal gift for anyone you hold dear.

SEW A SWAN

1 Choose two printed fabrics and using the templates provided on page 98, cut two body pieces, one reversed, from the lighter coloured of the two. Cut one gusset from the same fabric, joining pieces end to end if necessary. Pin and stitch one side of the gusset along the base of one body piece, right sides together using a 6mm seam allowance.

2 Match up the second body piece and sew the other side of the gusset to it in the same way. Stitch the last few centimetres at the neck by hand to ensure a neat point under the bird's chin. Pin and stitch the top edge of the body together, leaving an 8cm gap along the back for turning. Clip all the curves and corners and turn out.

3 Fold in the raw edges of the gap and tack down to prevent them fraying and stretching while the swan is stuffed. Begin by stuffing the head firmly, then move onto the neck and chest followed by the tail. Slip stitch the gap closed and remove the tacking.

4 Cut four wings, two reversed, from darker fabric. Pair up, right sides together, and place onto lightweight quilt wadding. Sew together through all three layers, leaving a gap along the bottom edge for turning. Trim the wadding to the edges of the fabric, clip all curves, turn out and press.

5 Stuff the wings very lightly before turning in the raw edges of the gap and slip stitching closed. Pin the wings to either side of the swan and oversew in place with small stitches around the main curve of the wing.

6 Cut two bill shapes from gold felt and sew together around the edge with running stitch, leaving the top edge open. Take one side of the open edge and fold it in half. Working 2mm from the fold line, sew down for 2cm to create a ridge. Stuff the bill.

7 Cut a bill base from dark brown or navy felt and stitch across the ridged side of the bill. Pin the completed bill to the head of the swan and slip stitch in place. Add a small black bead to each side of the head as eyes. Secure by stitching from bead to bead several times straight through the head with a double thickness of thread.



ALL SEWN UP!

Why not scale down the pattern and make Cyril and Cecilia some cygnets too? Don't forget they have black rather than gold bills.



LOVE IT... BUY IT!



Grasses Pink

The perfect blender in vibrant pink.



Cuckoo Teal

On-trend mint green and beautiful birds.



Floral White

A gorgeous multi-coloured print.

We love the fresh hues of the Cuckoo's Calling range by Bethan Janine for Dashwood Studio. Priced €12 per metre, www.plushaddict.co.uk, 0845 519 4422.

Essentials

Fabric: vinyl, road map print,
1m; cotton, red, star print,
50cm

Felt, red

Snap fasteners, heavy duty,
15mm, 10

Bias binding, red, 2.5cm
wide, 4m

Ribbon, herringbone, red,
5mm wide, 10cm

Tape, double-sided

Glue, PVA

Dimensions

50cm x 65cm

TAKE PLAYTIME WITH YOU WITH JANE KHARADE'S PORTABLE PLAYMAT

This clever kids' playmat not only looks great but also doubles up as a bag! Your little one can run their toy cars up and down the fun road map print, and then pack them away by folding the mat up into a shopper. The vinyl fabric is perfect for children, as it's wipe-clean, and the chunky handles are ideal for little hands to hold. This is sure to be a firm favourite with any child!



"You can make your playmat larger if desired"

MAKE A PLAYMAT

- 1 Visit www.sewmag.co.uk to download the diagram. Use the measurements to draw and cut out one mat from vinyl fabric. Do not use pins on this material; use double sided tape to attach the template to it when cutting. Trim another mat from star print cotton fabric.
- 2 Cut an 11cm x 1m rectangle of vinyl and fold it in half lengthways with wrong sides facing. Fold in both long ends by 1.5cm and topstitch along the seam. Cut the length of vinyl in two. Bend each half to make a handle and position at the top and bottom of the vinyl mat as indicated on the pattern. Hold in place with tape.
- 3 Press red bias binding and position it around the top and bottom of the vinyl mat, placing the handles on top. Machine stitch along it, sewing the handles on top as you go. Piece the cotton and vinyl mats wrong sides together, and hold in place with tape.
- 4 Cut slits in either side of the mat as indicated on the diagram. Glue bias binding in place on the slits and, once dry, sew over using zig zag stitch. Place bias binding around the top and bottom of the cotton mat. Stitch the binding, going through the cotton, vinyl and handles so that the handles become sandwiched between the two fabrics.
- 5 Sew bias binding down the sides of the bag, closing the side slits as you do. Tuck in the ends and press. Lay the mat down with the cotton facing up. Fold each long edge over to the cotton by 10cm and press.
- 6 To the right of the side slit, place five snap fasteners evenly down each edge of the mat, with the popper part on the vinyl side. Place the corresponding halves of the poppers on the other side of the slit, making sure they match up. Fix into position according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 7 Cut a car motif from vinyl print and sew to a piece of red felt using zig zag stitch. Cut around the car, leaving a 5mm border of felt. Loop a length of red ribbon around a handle of the bag and stitch its ends to the back of the felt.



ALL SEWN UP!

Use a fine gauge sewing machine needle such as a size 8 or 9 when stitching vinyl, as large holes can weaken the material.



LOVE IT... BUY IT!

Vinyl fabric

This road map is really fun but the material is also super-practical as it's wipe-clean! Priced €12.49 per metre, www.justwipe.co.uk, 01772 663728.



Snap fasteners

You'll need to use heavy duty fasteners with vinyl fabric. Priced €7.62 per pack, www.macculloch-wallis.co.uk, 02076 290 3311.

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2
to win!

Daylight lamps

Sewing in good light is essential for precision work and ensuring your vision stays healthy. Daylight specialises in quality hobby lighting and we have two fantastic lamps to give away to two savvy stitchers. The Slimline LED Table Lamp, worth £119.99, boasts a super high-quality slim brushed chrome design and powerful LEDs which only use 5W of energy. The 90cm long arm reach is ideal for large work surfaces and will reduce eye strain and glare. We've also got two Sewing Machine Lamps worth £30 up for grabs, which mount onto your machine for high contrast and accurate colour matching.

To enter, tick the 'DAYLIGHT' box. View the full range at www.daylightcompany.com or call 020 8964 1200.

Valentine's bundles

Stitch something special for the one you love with this gorgeous bundle of romance-themed sewing goodies. Three winners will each receive two reels of Berisfords Rustic Heart and Hope You Like It ribbons, a set of Gütermann seed beads in red, plus a 30 pack of Gütermann variegated cotton thread in luscious pink shades. There's also a Clover large yo yo heart maker and sweetheart rose maker – perfect for embellishing cushions and accessories.

Worth over £50 each, tick the 'BUNDLE' box to enter. For Berisfords stockists, email berisfords@stockistenquiries.co.uk, for Gütermann stockists, contact gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk, and email clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk for Clover stockists.



2
to win!

Tilly and the Buttons patterns and book

Super-trendy dressmaker and Tilly and the Buttons blogger, Tilly Walnes has launched a fantastic range of stylish sewing patterns ideal for stitchers of all abilities. With jargon-busting instructions, useful sewing tips and photos demonstrating each step, they make sewing clothes simple and fun. For even more makes from the *Sewing Bee* series one contestant, check out Tilly's book *Love At First Stitch* (£20, Quadrille), nominated for Best Sewing Book in the British Sewing Awards 2014. It includes full-scale pattern sheets in eight sizes and each design offers variations for making every project your own.

Two winners will get their hands on two Tilly and the Buttons patterns, a copy of *Love At First Stitch*, plus a stylish printed tote bag. To be in with a chance of winning, tick the 'TILLY' box. Check out www.tillyandthebuttons.com



Dressmaking books

The Beginner's Guide to Dressmaking by Wendy Ward (£19.99, David and Charles) is a bookshelf must for novice stitchers looking to move into the realms of dressmaking. In reality, it's sure to be open on your sewing table as MIY Workshop owner Wendy Ward walks you through a number of easy-to-follow garments with step-by-step techniques and instructions. Six full-size pull out patterns are also included, so no piecing together downloads. This complete resource is sure to build the confidence of any newbie seamstress and is a great refresher for those who are just a bit rusty.

We have five copies up for grabs. To enter, tick the 'BOOKS' box. Visit www.stitchcraftcreate.co.uk

5
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To enter our giveaways, just tick the box that corresponds with the prizes you want to win and send your entry to us, to arrive no later than 27.02.2015. Mark your envelope: **Sew February Giveaways**, PO Box 443, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 8WG.

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This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies and their families. One entry per person. The prizes detailed in each competition cannot be exchanged for goods, or towards the purchase of goods at any retail outlet. Entries must be on the coupon provided. It cannot be exchanged for cash, or replaced if lost or damaged. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by these terms and conditions will be disqualified. Prizes must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. CLOSING DATE 27.02.2015. Winners will be notified after the cover dated month, a list of winners will be available in writing on request from Andrea Turner, 21/23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY.

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What made you buy this month's Sew?

- ☐ FREE Simplicity 1699 pattern ☐ Liberty discount
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☐ Other

What's your favourite project in this issue?

- ☐ Quilting Bee dress ☐ Writing set
☐ Dog lover set ☐ Love bird swans
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NEXT MONTH IN **sew** Home & Style

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Meet the mother and daughter sewing teams
- Zandra Rhodes Lace Mountain quilt
- Fabric care tips from the experts



Liberty Scarf



*Debbie Shore
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make a range
of garments in
everything
from cool lawn
to soft jersey"*



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BE PREPARED FOR THE TOOTH FAIRY WITH LUCINDA GANDERTON'S TOOTH FAIRY POSTCARD

Make sure little ones are ready for the tooth fairy with our sweet little postcard pouch which has a pocket just the right size for a pound coin. With a cute tooth motif and hand embroidered address panel it's a great gift for children to keep in anticipation of the next visit!

Essentials

Fabric, cotton: 6cm x 7cm;
12cm x 15cm • Felt: white,
7cm x 15cm; peach, 5cm x
8cm; cream, 13cm x 16cm
• Pen, air-erasable •
Thread, embroidery, black
• Fusible webbing

1 Cut 6cm x 8cm of white felt and write 'to the tooth fairy' with a fading fabric marker. Embroider the letters in small back stitches, using four strands of black thread. Fix fusible webbing to the reverse and trim down to 5cm square.

2 Draw a 4cm x 5cm rectangle on fusible webbing and press it to the back of printed fabric, 6cm x 7cm. Cut out, peel off the backing paper and press onto white felt. Go to www.sewmag.co.uk and download the templates. Trace the tooth and wings onto fusible webbing, then press the tooth on white felt and the wings onto peach. Cut out, peel off the backing and press in place. Embroider the features with two strands of black thread, sewing French knots for the eyes and a small fly stitch for the mouth.

3 Draw a 10cm x 12cm rectangle on fusible webbing, cut out roughly and press to the back of fabric, 12cm x 15cm. Peel off the backing and press onto cream felt. Edge with a machine zig zag or blanket stitch. Trim the

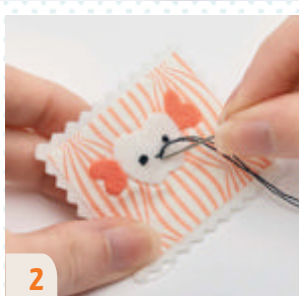
margin to 6mm all round. Cut the pocket from contrast felt and snip the top edge with pinking shears. Pin the pocket, stamp and address label in place, and machine sew.



"The pocket is just the right size for a pound coin"



1



2



3

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LEARN THE BASICS
WITH OUR ESSENTIAL
STITCHING GUIDES

Machine Matters with Wendy Gardiner



How to... create an appliqué motif

An appliqué is a fabric design attached to the surface of a base material. It can be created by cutting a motif from other textiles, a combination of prints to make an image, or using a ready-made patch stitched to a base fabric.

- 1 First, apply fusible webbing to the reverse of your chosen appliqué fabric. Draw the shape/design on the paper backing, then cut it out carefully using embroidery scissors. Peel away the paper backing and fuse the appliqué to the base fabric.
- 2 If creating letters or numbers, remember to draw them back to front on the paper backing so that when turned over and fused in place, they will be the right way round.
- 3 Appliqués can quickly and easily be machine stitched in place with a very narrow zig zag or satin stitch or with a blanket stitch (if the appliqué fabric doesn't fray easily). Test stitch a sample of fabric with the same number of layers and interfacing.
- 4 Stitch so that the left swing of the needle is in the appliqué and the right swing is in the base fabric, effectively covering the edges of the motif.
- 5 Sew slowly to control the direction and ensure smooth edges. When working around curves or corners, stop with the needle down in the right-hand position so it is in the main fabric for outward curves. Lift the presser foot to pivot the fabric slightly before continuing. For inside curves, stop with the needle in the appliqué, raise the presser foot, pivot and continue as before.

WENDY'S TOP TIPS: EASY APPLIQUÉ

- 1 To create an easy appliqué, select a printed design from a pretty fabric. Stick to a simple shape that you'll be able to cut out easily such as a flower or a geometric motif.
- 2 Fuse double-sided webbing to the reverse of the appliqué fabric following the manufacturer's instructions before carefully cutting out the design with sharp scissors.
- 3 Once the design is cut out, position on the main fabric of your project and once happy with the position, remove the paper backing of the fusible webbing and press in place.
- 4 Decide on which stitch to use to sew around the design. If the appliqué doesn't fray, a straight stitch or machine blanket stitch can be used. If the fabric is liable to ravel, use a satin stitch to completely cover the edges.
- 5 If adding appliqué to lightweight fabrics, place a piece of tearaway interfacing under the work for added stability. This can then be torn away once stitching is complete, but will prevent the fabric being pulled into the race or puckering while stitching.

MACHINE FOOT OF THE MONTH

Appliqué/open toe satin stitch foot

An open toe or appliqué foot, also known as a satin stitch foot, has two long toes on either side of a wide opening at the front so there is nothing to obstruct the view of the fabric in front of the needle. There is also a recessed channel on the underside so that it can more easily glide over concentrated stitching such as satin stitch.



WHICH STITCH?

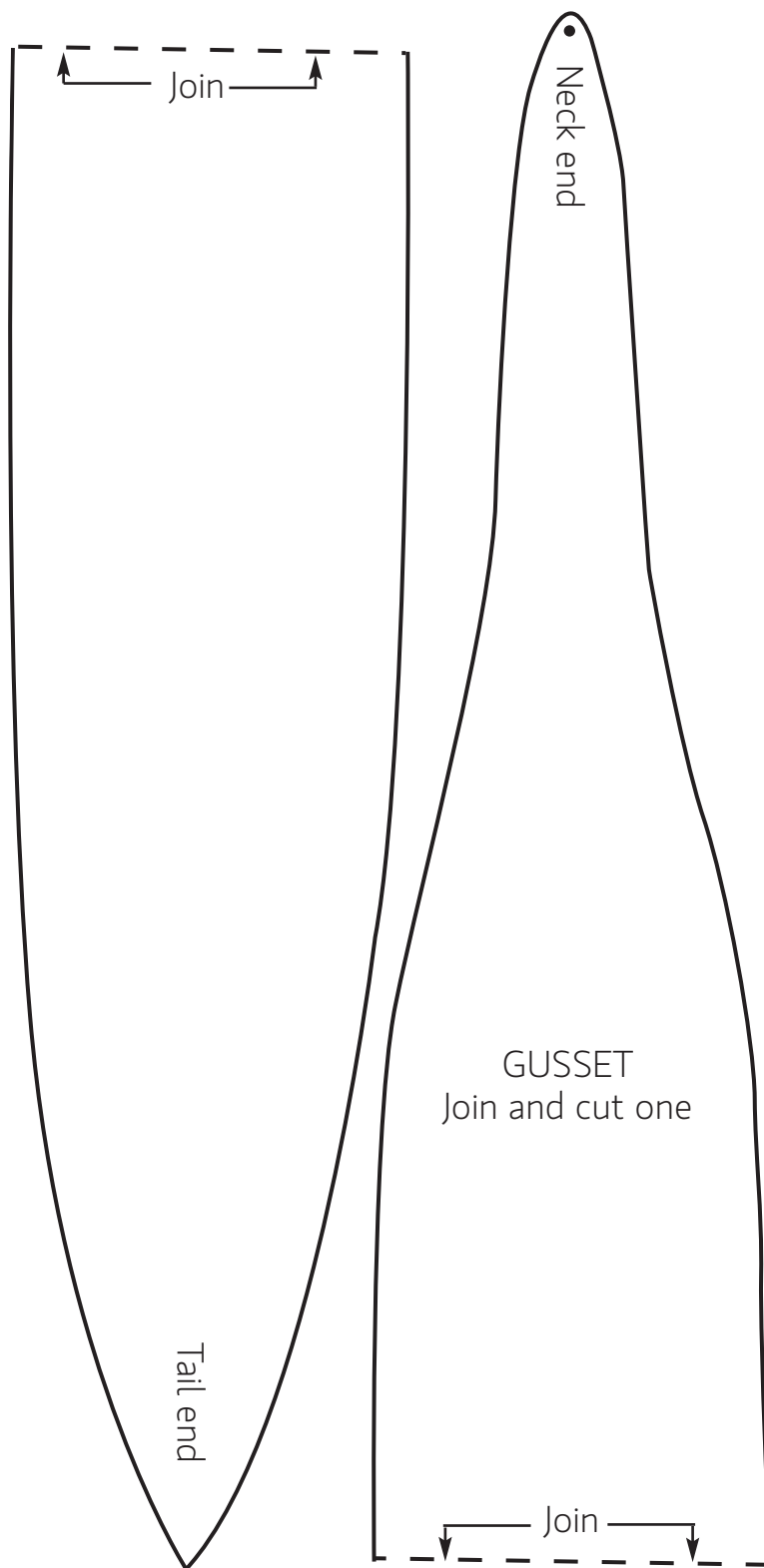
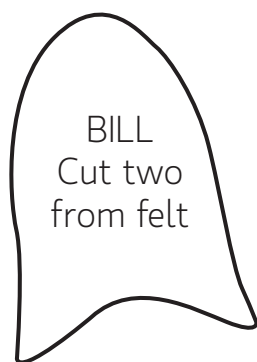
Satin stitch is really just zig zag stitch that has been closed up so that there is no space between the stitching lengthways.

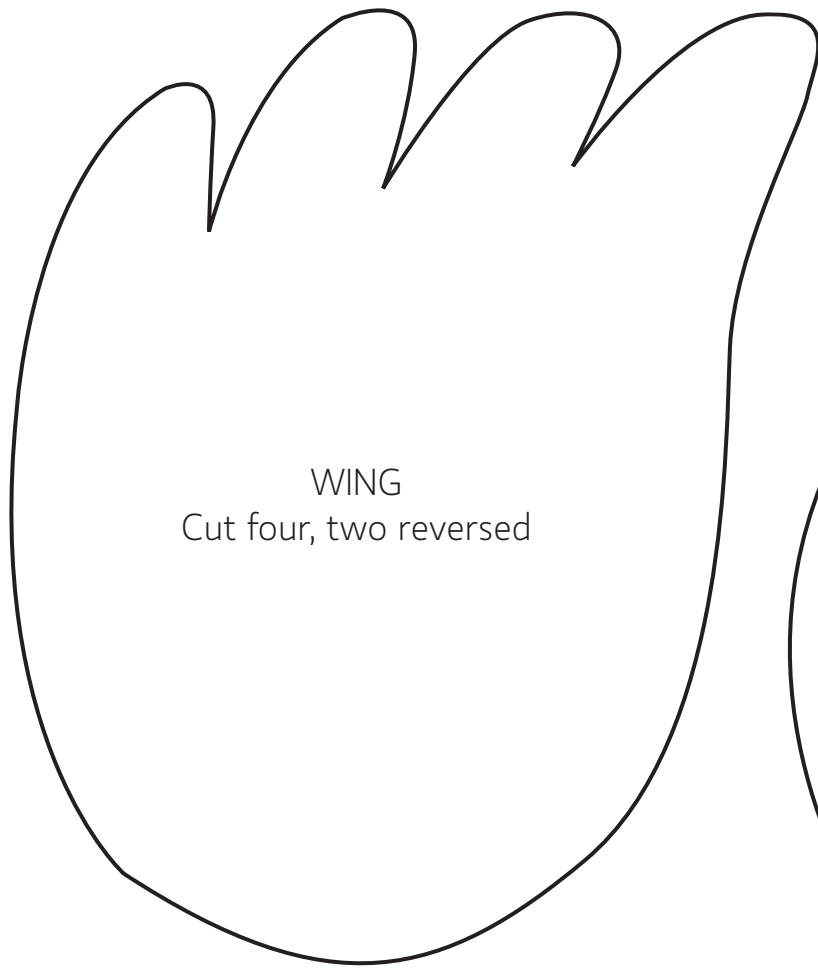
- ✓ Machine-made satin stitch is often used to outline and attach appliqué shapes and motifs to the ground material. It is ideal for enclosing the edge of fabrics that are likely to fray easily and looks especially effective on appliqué quilts. It's quicker than hand sewing, too!
- ✓ Nearly all modern sewing machines have a built-in zig zag stitch that can be adjusted to make a satin stitch. Computerised models will often automatically set the tension for you.
- ✓ To create a satin stitch, select the zig zag stitch on your sewing machine then reduce the width to 3mm and the length to 0.35–0.4. The width choice controls how wide the stitches will be from side to side and the length closes up the gap between the stitching down the length. Reducing the stitch length to just 0.35–0.4 means that there will be virtually no gaps at all.
- ✓ Always practise on a scrap of the fabric you'll be using with a piece of interfacing backing it first. Using interfacing behind the appliqué will prevent the stitch from rippling or distorting.

Love bird swans

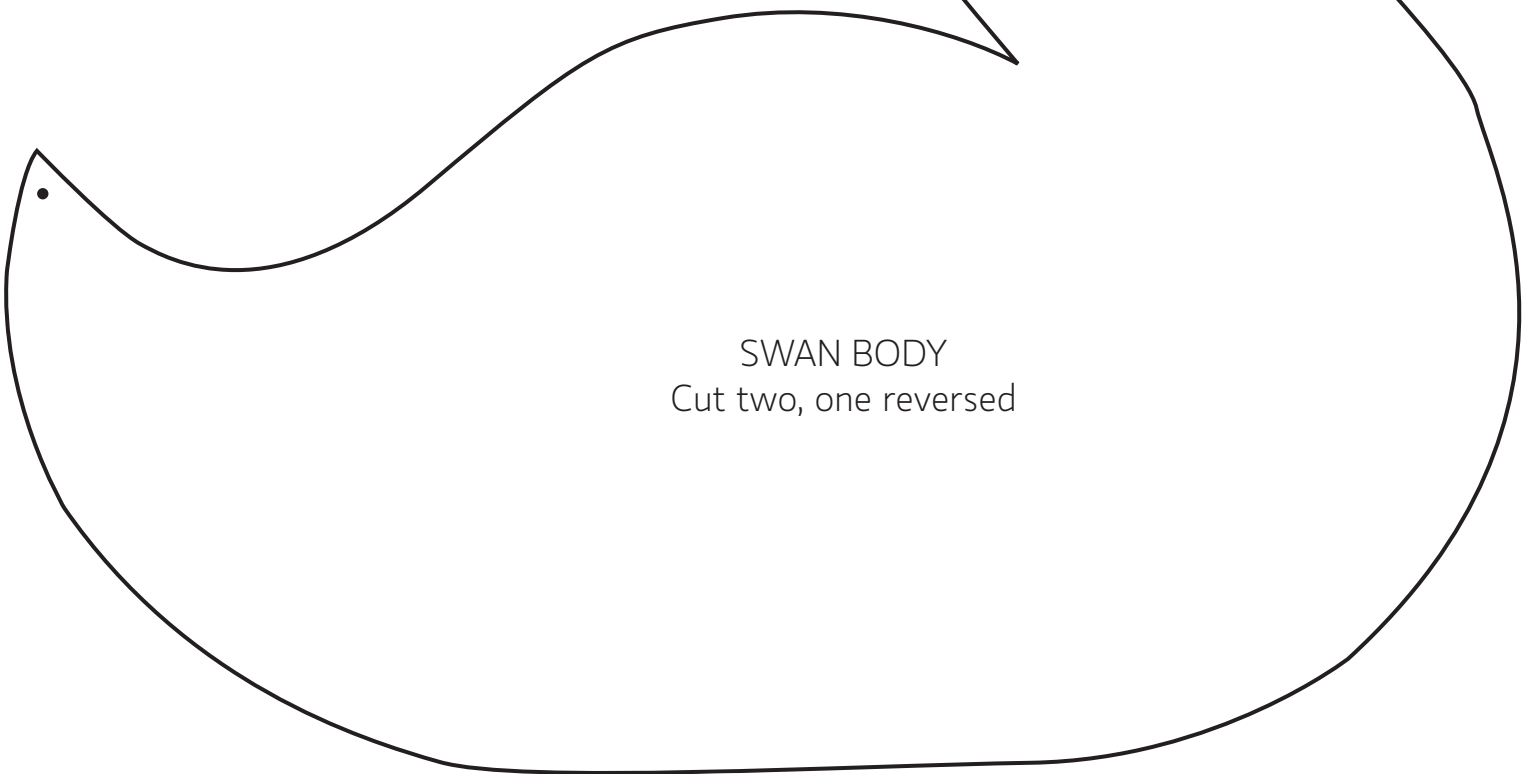
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visit www.sewmag.co.uk

All templates
shown at 75%





WING
Cut four, two reversed



SWAN BODY
Cut two, one reversed

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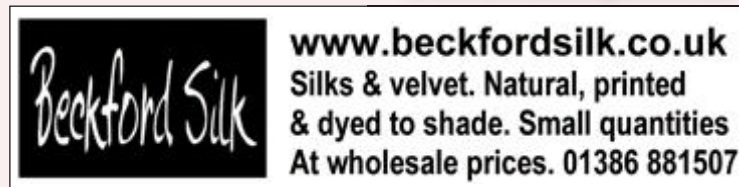
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Sewaholic Thurlow trousers



LAUREN GUTHRIE



“Trousers require a bit more patience in the fitting department”

LAUREN KEEPS HER NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION BY SHARING HER TOP TIPS ON STITCHING BOTTOMS

After my end of year wardrobe de-clutter that I was telling you about last month, and my realisation that my wardrobe is ‘top heavy’, I’ve been focusing on tackling more trouser projects. They can take longer to sew, and do require a bit more patience in the fitting department, but I think that just makes it even more satisfying when you get it right. It’s definitely worth making a toile for checking the fit, but this doesn’t necessarily need to be full length – simply make a shorts version. You may even have to stitch a few as you get the balance right between the crotch length and depth. If you usually have problems getting off the peg trousers to fit, then knowing how to identify where the issues may lie will help in figuring out where the adjustments will need to be made. Colette Patterns has a great ‘pants fitting cheat sheet’ on their blog.

As the weather is still a bit on the chilly side, I still wanted my new trousers to be warm, so I’ve been using some lovely cosy, light to medium weight woollen fabric and lining them, too.

I’m using the Sewaholic Thurlow trouser pattern, which has really nice detailed welt pockets at the back. I prefer a slimmer fit in the leg, though, so I’m tapering them in. I took measurements from a pair already in my wardrobe at several points down the length of the leg, then I transferred those measurements onto my pattern. Just remember to measure the front and back of the leg as they aren’t equal. I’ll be making sure that I get my fly around the right way too, after getting things mixed up during the man’s trouser challenge on the *Sewing Bee*!

In the spirit of trying new and more challenging sewing projects, I was really excited when I was asked to review *Secrets of Sewing Lingerie* by Katherine Sheers and Laura Stanford (£15.99, Kyle Books). The title has the most beautiful projects from knickers to suspenders and garters. My favourite one is the Forget-me-knot embroidered tulle mini knickers. A classic design, the chance to personalise them with simple embroidery thread is right up my street.

As a change in season looms, it’s an exciting time of year in the shop as I get to go along to the trade shows and see what new products and fabric ranges are due to be released. Choosing the right collections is always a learning process for me, but in a way I see the range that I have as almost like the biggest fabric stash ever! I tend to go on my instinct and if it doesn’t catch my eye and make me excited or full of ideas, I will move on to something else. We are working towards expanding the offering that we have and rearranging the layout of the shop to accommodate more fabric over the next few months as the store approaches its second birthday. I can’t believe two years have passed so quickly!

Happy Sewing!

“Just remember to measure the front and back of the leg as they aren’t equal”

Lauren Loves



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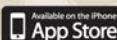
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