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Très chien! Inspired by our beret-wearing canine cover stars we're dreaming of Paris in the springtime. Walking our very own petite pooches along The Left Bank, sipping café au lait and eating buttery croissants in a bustling bar, before exploring off-the-beaten-track haberdasheries, packed to the rafters with antique delights. Ah, c'est magnifique...

♥making ♥thrifting ♥collecting ♥crafting

Mollie LIVING & LOVING HANDMADE MAKES CONTENTS

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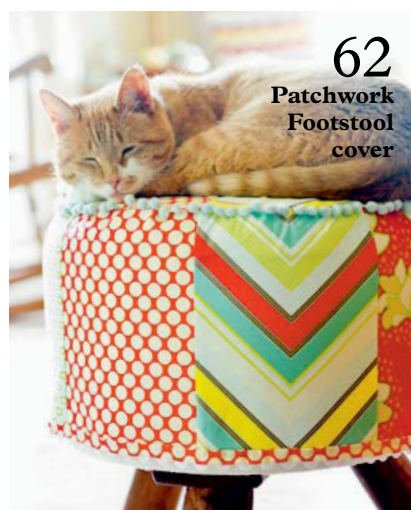
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RAINBOW BRIGHTS

Spring has sprung and you know what? –
we're in the mood for a serious injection
of COLOUR! Strong, bold and making a
big statement. Out with the sugary pastels,
this month bright is beautiful. Retro,
vintage or modern we'll take it all, as long
as it shouts LOUDLY!

Jane

Jane Toft Editor



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VINTAGE BUTTONS

Half a dozen vintage rose buttons
to make your garments bloom*

Buttons – small, sewable and sweet – are perfect with every project. Use these six vintage* roses to embellish a birthday card, make a cute hair accessory or line 'em up all the way down your favourite cardigan. There are so many options it makes us giddy at the very thought! Must be love. Turn to page 78 for more button goodness.



Contributors



Gretel Parker

Super-talented Gretel is a full-time illustrator. And when she's not busy with her day job, she produces her own books, a whole array of gorgeous needle felted toys and stationery. She has also worked for companies such as Disney.

Get going with Gretel's cover stars on page 22.

gretelparker.com



Lotta Anderson

This renowned Scandinavian designer, author and tutor is the creative force behind Lotta Jansdotter. Her love of making started as a child with potato prints and she never looked back; she is now one of the top names in the industry.

Find out more about Lotta over on page 28.

jansdotter.com

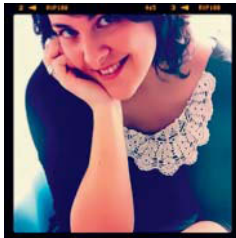


Pilgrim Lee

Drawing on the influence of her creative parents, Pilgrim is now a successful designer in her own right. She lives in Australia, where she creates beautiful prints guaranteed to make any room shine. She also has a fab blog.

Pilgrim welcomes us into her home over on page 46.

drawpilgrim.com



Ilaria Chiaratti

Ilaria is an Italian girl living in the Netherlands.

As well as running the IDA Interior Lifestyle blog, she works as a photographer and plays as a designer dreaming up things to make using crochet, Japanese fabric and vintage goodies.

Crochet Ilaria's colourful cushion on page 57.

idainteriorlifestyle.blogspot.com



Leigh Metcalf

Blogger, writer and photographer Leigh is also a keen shopper-explorer, constantly in search of one-of-a-kind vintage shops. When she's not writing about her most recent find, she's playing with her adorable daughter.

Leigh takes a trip to J&B The Shop, page 92.

foundnowhome.blogspot.com



Jennie Larsen

American Jennie is a top crafter and mum-of-four. She loves making projects for her home, as well as decorating, baking, and then eating the baking. She also writes a rather entertaining blog packed full of tales of crafty adventure.

Take a peek at where Jennie works, on page 106.

craftomaniac.blogspot.com

Other contributors

Katie Allen, Pam Allen, Ali Binns, Carrie Bostick Hoge, Darling Clementine, Rhian Drinkwater, Neil Godwin, Kerry Haysom, Victoria Metcalf, Anita Mundt, Lucille Randall, Lucy Rice, Philip Sowels, Judith Wilson

Mollie
LIVING & LOVING HANDMADE
MAKES

Editor

Jane Toft

molliemakes@futurenet.com

Deputy Editor Lara Watson

Art Editor Helena Tracey

Picture Editor Emma Georgiou

Production Editor Davina Rungasamy

Editorial Consultant Janet Meadowcroft

ADVERTISING

Call: 01225 442244

Senior Advertising Manager Penny Stokes

Senior Sales Executive Nikki Fox

Classified Sales Executives Kirsty Whelan,

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MARKETING

Marketing Manager Lyndsey Mayhew

Marketing Executive Samantha Book

CIRCULATION

Trade Marketing Manager Liza Austin

Trade Marketing Director James Whitaker

International Account Manager Rebecca Hill

PRODUCTION

Production Manager Mark Constance

Production Controller Stephanie Smith

Digital Support Supervisor Sarah Harrison

Digital Support Technician Marc Watson

LICENSING

Licensing and Syndication Director Regina Erak

regina.erak@futurenet.com

Tel +44 (0)1225 732359

PUBLISHING

Group Senior Editor Julie Tolley

Group Art Editor Matthew Hunkin

Creative Director Robin Abbott

Editorial Director Jim Douglas

Group Publisher Kerry Lawrence

Group Publishing Director Stuart Arderton

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions Manager Elizabeth Davies

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Chief Executive Mark Wood

Non-executive Chairman Peter Allen

Group Finance Director Graham Harding

Tel +44 (0)207 042 4000 (London) Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244 (Bath)

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NEW!

LIVING AND LOVING THE LATEST IN THE WORLD OF CRAFTY STYLE



! *Good Morning America* co-anchor Lara Spencer is used to **early starts**, and she's just as keen with bargains. Call 01206 255777 by 10th May to get her new thrift bible *I Brake for Yard Sales* for £12.99 (RRP £15.99) with free P&P. Just quote '50303'. abramsbooks.com



! Royal Ascot's on the home straight, so make like a socialite and book a **Mad Hatters Make Up Party**, co-hosted by Benefit at katherineelizabethhats.com



! **Splosh into spring** with Jessica Swift's wellies. \$5 from every order goes towards **charity:water** and you get a little affirmation to erm... boot. jessicasmift.com



! Hark back to a simpler time with Petit Collage's **Modern Dolls**. This one – Sweet Pea – is 100 per cent organic linen cotton, and we might add, completely adorable. Look at those peachy cheeks. petitcollage.com

BRING ON THE RETRO

Give me colour, keep me crafting!
We're all about poppin' primaries



! Great news if you're on Folksey. All sellers can get 50 free MOO business cards and 25 per cent off their first order with craft materials supplier Fred Aldous. **Stick with Folksey** and you'll also get a lifetime 10 per cent discount thereafter. folksey.co.uk, moo.com, fredaldous.co.uk



! Sitting beautifully in Winchester, **The Hambledon** is a boutique with effortless wit and charm. If you're not handy to Hampshire however, the online shop will satisfy the collector in you. Just look at these fab old-school books. thehambledon.com



! Lisa Lam (left) is celebrating a new book, *A Bag for All Reasons*, as well as her **bundle of joy**, little girl Mabel, and you can enter a crafty competition to mark the occasion at RUCraft.co.uk before 31st May. The prizes are rather good...

PHOTOGRAPH: JACK KIRBY OF BANGWALLOP



ONE TO FOLLOW

@thecraftcafe



Momtaz Begum-Hossain is right in the midst of London's craft community and her tweets will

keep you in the loop. She's also a Bollywood addict and is writing *101+ Things To Do With Glitter*. CosILikeMakingStuff.Blogspot.com

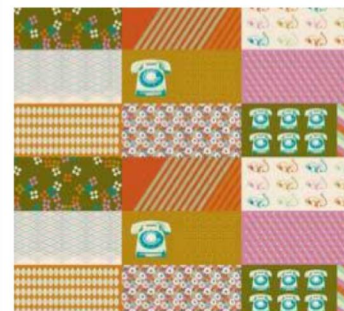


Ruby Star Vinyl

! Exclusive alert! These prints are a snippet of Melody Miller's new fabric line for Kokka, called **Ruby Star Vinyl**. It will be launched at the Spring International Quilt Market, but **we've got the first peak!** The 45s design below is a collaboration with guest artists, Thomas Knauer and Lucie Summers, who designed the labels. melodymiller.typepad.com



PHOTOGRAPH: GREGORY MILLER



PHOTOGRAPHS: AMBER CORCORAN, JESSICA EATON



Fancy Tiger Crafts in Denver, Colorado has just marked its sixth birthday by moving shop to 59 Broadway. Owners Jaime Jennings (left) and Amber Corcoran (right) have the place well-stocked and the reason behind their many-a-crafty class is simple: "Making things by hand makes people feel better – and if more people made things the world would be a better place."

There are a whopping 35 different workshops to take part in at Fancy Tiger, as well as kids' classes and camps, open craft nights and help nights. Find out more at the rather cute and colourful fancytiger.com



BLOG TO WATCH

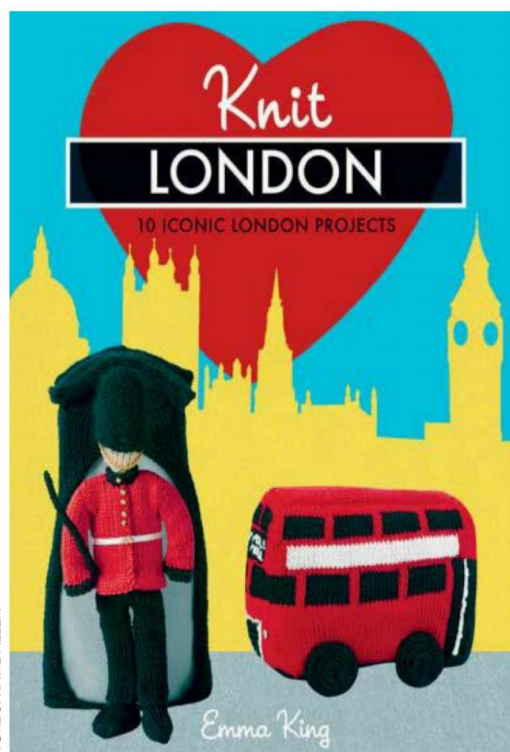
Sew Yeah!

! Some people are just too talented. After storming the book charts with *Everything Alice* last year, author and art director Christine Leech has a new blog and it's just as gorgeous. You'll find craft projects, lovely photography, home styling, inspiration and just the odd smattering of confetti.

sewyeah.co.uk

BRIGHT IDEAS

Hot off the presses, these new titles are the best of British stitch and knit – needles at the ready...



! KNIT LONDON The spotlight is on the capital this summer – get in the Olympic and Jubilee mood with this collection of iconic projects from red buses to the London Eye.

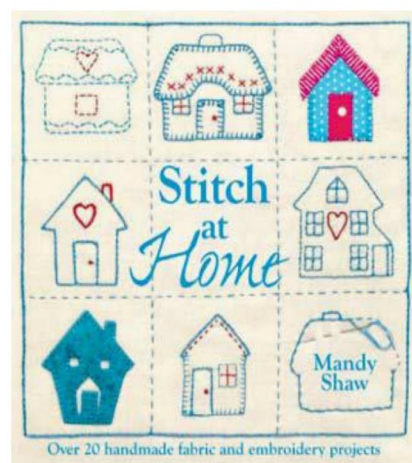
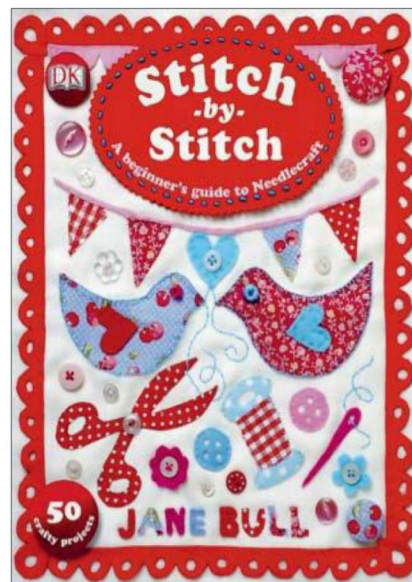
anovabooks.com

! STITCH-BY-STITCH Jane Bull is known for her kids' craft titles, but her bright new book promises crafty know-how and projects for stitchers of all ages, especially those just starting out.

dk.co.uk

! STITCH AT HOME Mandy Shaw of Dandelion Designs has come up with more than 20 zingy projects for homes and gardens, including a teepee and bunting for summer days, and a gingerbread house for winter treats.

rucraft.co.uk



One to Watch: Red Hat No Knickers

Quirky, polished and fun – this online vintage clothing store is crammed to the virtual rafters with covetable goodies



Liverpool John Moores graduate Holly does the hard work sourcing these vintage gems so you don't have to!

! Finally! An online vintage shop with clear photography, great size guides and quality, handpicked items. 21-year-old store owner Holly Milner has put together a **wonder-of-a-website**, and you can get a 10 per cent discount when you use the code 'molliemakesreaders'. redhatnoknickers.co.uk





PHOTOGRAPH: RITA PLATTS



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TRAID SEW GOOD

The fashion charity runs monthly evenings offering the basics, and best bits, in updating your clothes. Katie Allen went along

! London's Camden can be a little overwhelming in an evening, but there is a haven – tucked between the kebab shops and goth pubs is a Traid shop – the retail side of the charity that makes commendable use of unwanted clothes.

Earnest seamstresses come here to take part in Sew Good, the monthly after-hours classes that have been running at the Camden branch for two years now. The free sessions, which teach attendees how to fix, alter and restyle their clothes, have also taken place in Manchester and Oxford, with Slough next on the list.



On turning up, oversized pink dress in hand, the music is already booming with an Eighties-tastic mix of Blondie and Kim Wilde. The array of sewing machines and boxes of donated haberdashery are waiting ready to be plunged into!

Emma and Tina are the volunteers in charge of the five newbies on this particular occasion, each wielding garments ranging from too-baggy jeans to an interesting voluminous peacock blue silk jacket rescued from the BBC's costume department.

There is soon an air of deep concentration – despite the occasional mutterings (“it’s all fun until it goes wrong”) – but it’s a chilled-out evening, and by the end everyone is pleased with their improvements. The blue jacket is changing shape, some old PJS have been turned into shorts and a bag, the jeans fit better, and we all seem to have learned something new, from smocking to which way to pin hems.

Tina – very patiently – has guided me through unpicking, chopping and resewing the shoulders of my dress to make it fit better, and picks out some tan-coloured braid to smarten up the collar – I have to say, it looks better than new.

Emma, who has taught sewing everywhere from jungles to prisons, glows with pleasure as we wind up the ribbons and pack away the machines: “I love seeing people making things out of clothes they had given up on.”

Find out more at traid.org.uk.

1,2,3 & 7 BY LEONA THRIFT-OLA; 4 & IMAGE BELOW BY OLIVIA SHAW; 6, BY KATIE ALLEN; 8, COURTESY OF THE ISSUE MAGAZINE



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The Vintage Boutique

Katie Allen braved the crowds at London Fashion Weekend and headed straight to the retro...



London's Somerset House is an old establishment for aristocracy and politicians, which is known for being charmingly genteel and sedate. However, this spring, the beautiful historic buildings hosted the cutting-edge London Fashion Weekend. These four days (a long weekend of fashion!) gave label lovers the chance to snap up the latest styles after London Fashion Week. Returning for a second year was The Vintage Boutique, curated by the team behind HemingwayDesign's annual weekend, The Vintage Festival.

The Vintage Boutique gave a tantalising taste of what the bigger festival has to offer, with fashion, music and cake contained within four very crowded rooms. And with the emphasis being obviously on clothes,

there were plenty of wow moments to be had. Particularly impressive was the launch of musician VV Brown's high-end upcycling label VVVintage. Also, re-styler Bellapacella's hats and accessories were stunning, with a tweed 50-style pancake complete with feathers and green stars just begging to be worn at a very cool wedding.

Other rooms at the event included Lady Jane's Vintage Bandwagon, Victory Vintage's quality prom dresses and Lotus London's jewel-toned chiffon. Yet the crowds truly flocked to Molly Bakes' (no relation!) cupcakes and cake pops stand.

There were even more vintage goodies in the delicate shape of crockery from Shoreditch's Le Grenier, while Ashley Vanderford held head-dress workshops. And keeping the mood swinging was Miss Stephanie Ware (flaunting immaculate victory rolls) and Jimmy and the Lips.

The organisers are planning bigger, grander things for the next event in September. Surely Somerset House's former residents would approve.

01 The amazing view from Vintage Boutique's balcony.
02 Ms Vanderford gave a demo on using fresh flowers in head pieces.
03 Super-cool Lola Peach, co-creator of VV Vintage.
04 Fashion's brightest attend the shows.
05 Our namesakes, Molly Bakes, kept the crowds happy!
06 Rail upon rail of vintage - aah!
07 Vintage homewares haunt Le Grenier styled the tea rooms.
08 American Jeanne Pacella aka Bellapacella shows off her beautiful handmade wares.



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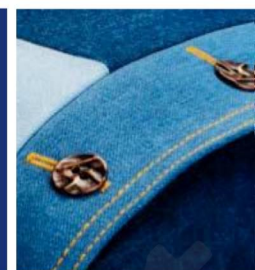
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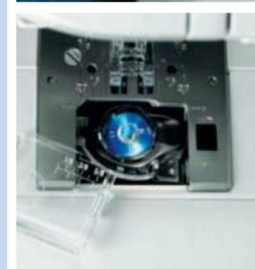
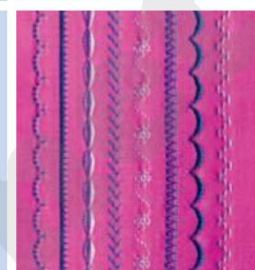
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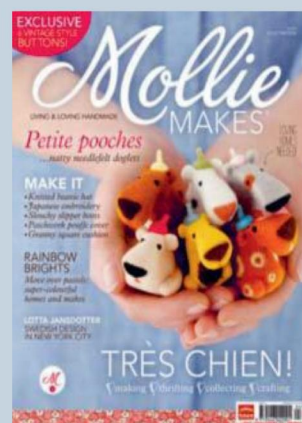
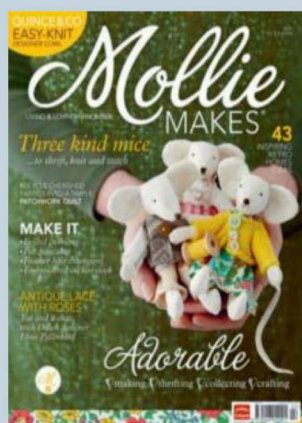
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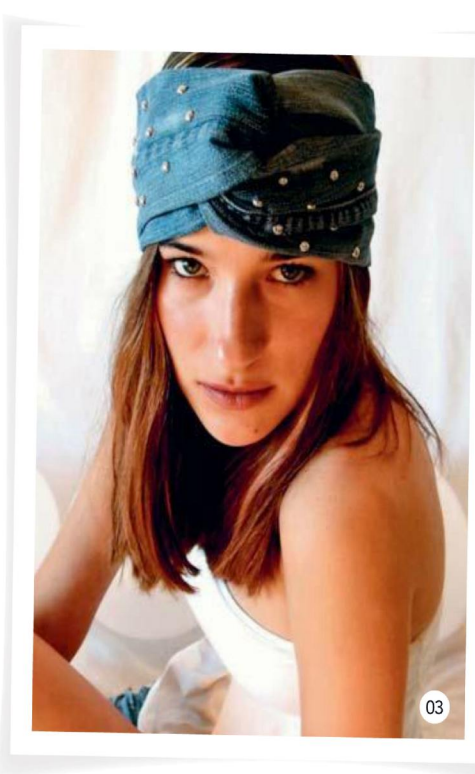
*This month we're
obsessing about...*

DENIM

Rock the look with this
season's take on your
favourite blue jeans

01

We spy vintage denim! This
gorgeous patchwork skirt
from Free People will barge
its way into your heart...
freepeople.com/vintage-loves



This cushion brings a new meaning to ripped jeans. Cut up three pairs to create the yarn and get knitting. foreverlovecom.blogspot.co.uk



02

Whether you **wear it, share it, or walk on it** – we love it when denim shows up in cool places, as with this **Anthropologie rug**. anthropologie.eu

03

Shake your stuff **hippie style** with this far-out **Denim & Studs** turban, handmade by **Lo.la's Accessories**. olivialaurenzana.etsy.com

04

Denim pieces **upcycle and restyle** like nothing else, as Honeymoonmuse's **vintage denim crop vest** proves. honeymoonmuse.etsy.com

05

Cut-off denim **works up top** too! We love the Falmer **heritage gilet** – just team it up with your girlie skirts for a **romantic look**. matalan.co.uk »

06

Give your denim a new lease of life and flaunt your creative talent at the same time, by cutting up a pair of jeans (or shorts or skirt!) and transforming them into a cute wear-anywhere bag.

Erica Domesek shows us how it's done, using just: jeans, dressmaking pins, needle, thread, scissors, Velcro, chain, wirecutters and brooches (optional).

DENIM SHOULDER BAG

- 01 Start by **snipping across the legs** of your jeans, to the size you want your bag to be.
- 02 Turn the section inside out and **pin the bottom closed**.
- 03 Stitch across the bottom. Be sure to **reinforce the ends**.
- 04 You can now turn the bag **right side out** and stitch any openings together. Stitch some Velcro **inside the waistband** to close the bag.
- 05 Insert a chain **through the belt loops**, securely connecting the ends.

Embellish with brooches, badges or **whatever you like** to complete a look for your bag that's **unique to you**.

This tutorial was taken from *PS: I Made This* by Erica Domesek, published by Abrams Image, £11.99. psimadethis.com

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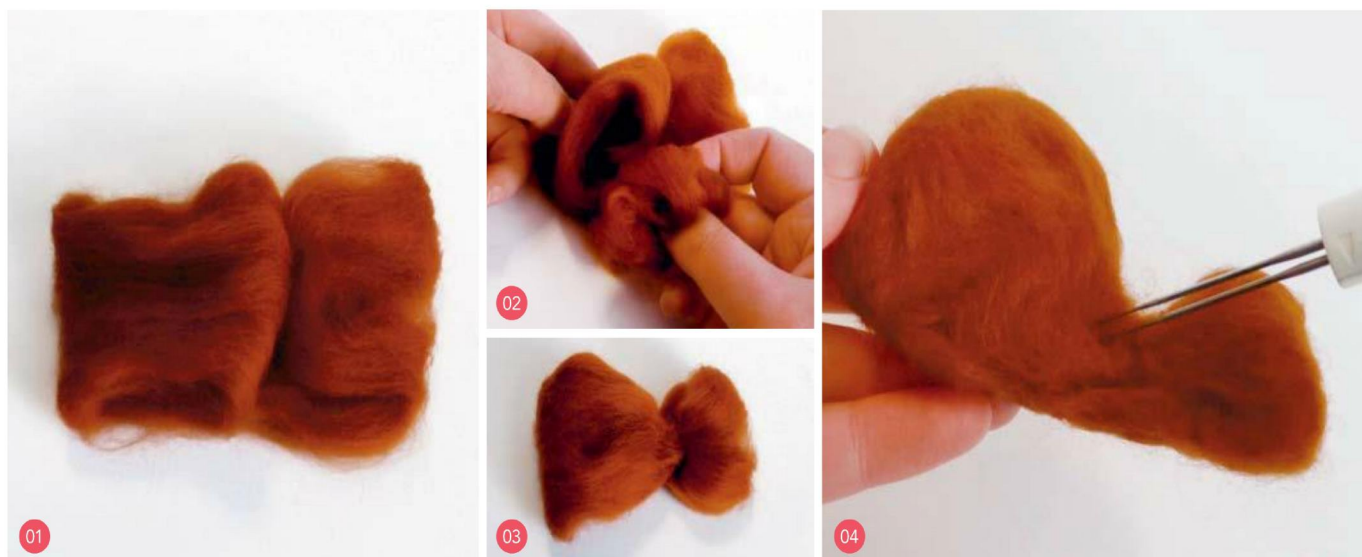
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*Le petit chien ne faisait pas partie du club secret**





HOW TO MAKE... NEEDLEFELT DOGLETS

MATERIALS

- 25-30g of merino roving in your chosen body colour
- Small amounts of roving for nose/beret/body markings
- A couple of 2mm beads for eyes
- 8-9cm long needle and black thread
- At least two size 40 triangular felting needles and (optional) holder
- A felting mat (sponge or brush)

Needlefelting is fast becoming the most popular way to create kooky, cute characters and curiosities. You can make almost anything by sculpting loose wool roving (the fluffy woolly stuff in step 1!) with one or two needles – the only limit is your imagination. What can go wrong? Not much actually, mistakes are easily mended and if you don't like something, well, you can just simply cut it away and do it again. Our step-by-step guide

will show you how to make one of Gretel Parker's doglets. It'll be about 4-5cm tall, but you can alter the amounts to make him fatter, taller or thinner, with a longer, swishy tail or bigger paws. Choose your favourite colours and let your imagination go – accessorise him with costumes and toys. Once you've created your loveable pooch, you can make him some friends to play with too. They're the perfect low-maintenance pets!

01 Take a length of 30cm roving, about 4cm wide. Pull the fibres apart a little to loosen them. Fold 20cm of the left side over twice, towards the centre.

02 Insert a small piece of wool inside the fold, to bulk it out. Fold the remaining 10cm inwards. If you are using a pen holder, use two needles to begin with, otherwise one is fine.

03 Stab the centre until it looks like a lopsided bowtie.

The tiny berets add a perfect dash of quirkiness to your doglets. Choose a colour that contrasts well with the body colour. Philosophy doglet Pierre loves his intellectual grey beret!



A patch of colour around the eye is easy to do, just take a small piece of roving and work it in as you did with the nose. Claudine's little patch makes her très, très pretty.





04 And now for the **magic part!** You can begin shaping the doglet by **jabbing the wool**. To keep things even, turn the piece as you work, inserting the needle steadily in and out, in a **downward direction**. At first it will feel as if you are poking into nothing, but, after a while, you'll notice the **needle catching at the wool**, as it gradually firms up. You can use your fingers to hold the wool in place to **create the shapes**.

05 Bend the head over (at a jaunty angle for **added cuteness**)...
06 ...and **carry on working**.
07 For the tail, take 6-7cm of wool, fold it into a **rough raindrop shape** and work it with one needle, until the wool is **firm but squidgy**.
08 **Position the fatter end** and stab it onto the body until fixed. Shape it until it forms a **small and stumpy** tail shape.
09 Now **take 8-9cm of wool**, and divide it into **two short lengths**.

Double it over as you did with the tail to make **two larger raindrop shapes**. Attach these paws to each side of the doglet's body, **needling them into position** and sculpting them down to the size you want. **Keep looking at your work** from all angles to ensure that you're **working evenly**.
10 Take two more scraps of wool and begin to **shape them into cute little ears**. Fix them to the top of the head and **needle into place**.»



Give your doglet a **fun coat of fur** in different patterns. It's up to you whether you go for **one big patch** or **lots of tiny spots** as we've done with **Madame Gaga** here.



It's easy to make a **tiny bone** for your **hungry doglet**, just take a small length of roving and gently shape it into something delicious. And don't forget to **make a ball!**





HOW TO MAKE... NEEDLEFELT DOGLETS

Finish off the shape once they are firmly set in.

11 This is a good point to see if **your doglet is sitting nicely**. If he falls onto his nose, simply felt some extra 'ballast' onto the **front of his tummy**, to balance him out. When he's straight, you can give him a **smooth, finished coat**, by taking small amounts of roving, and pulling it apart to **make a gauzy 'veil'**.

12 Working carefully, **cover the body** with the veil.

13 Take a scrap of roving in a **different colour** and make a big nose, using your needle tip to **pull the wisps into place**.

14 Add a **tiny tongue**, using a pinhead of **red wool**.

15 Thread the needle and take it through the sides of the face **where the eyes will be**. Now, unthread the needle. **Place a 2mm black bead on each thread**. Re-thread the needle on one side and bring the thread up at the top of the head, **in between the ears**. Unthread the needle and **repeat on the other side**, so the two threads come out in the same place. **Pull the beads snug into the face** and tie a knot.

16 For the hat, **take a 10cm snippet of wool** in your chosen colour. Jab one end in the top of

the head and needle the wool into place, **twirling it like spaghetti** to make a little round beret. This will also hide your eye knot.

17 **Tear off any excess wool** and finish shaping. Shape a slim stalk, **longer than needed**. Make an indent in the top of the beret, poke one end into place and **work it until it is fixed**.

18 Trim the stalk and say hello to **your new needlefelted friend**. You can leave him plain, or you can give him a **patterned coat**. Try creating different hats or a collar. You can even make a **ball or a bone** for him. Oh, and don't forget to **give him a name!**



Make your tiny pets in a variety of sizes and colours or mix and match for an extra-cute look.



TIPS FOR... SUCCESSFUL NEEDLEFELTING

- There is no right or wrong way to needlefelt, just what works for you.
- Be careful with that needle! They are extremely sharp.
- You don't have to stab through the felt very hard – you only need to use a steady jabbing motion – that's enough to work the wool.
- It's much better to tear your wool rather than cut it – the rough ends mesh together more easily.
- Experiment and use different sized beads for the eyes and try different placings to change the facial expression.
- Tilting the head will make your doglet appear cute and curious.
- Get rid of 'the fuzzies' (wisps of wool) by trimming with small, sharp scissors.



Gretel Parker is a children's illustrator. Four years ago she discovered needlefelting and now her toys are collected worldwide. 'Custard', the original beret-donning dog appears in *Peggy's Lost Pennies* published by Templar. We're giving away five copies on our blog: molliemakes.com. To see more of Gretel's creations, pop over to gretelparker.com

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tea and
a chat with...

LOTTA ANDERSON

We meet the trailblazing designer whose bold textiles proudly combine her Scandinavian heritage with a slick city style

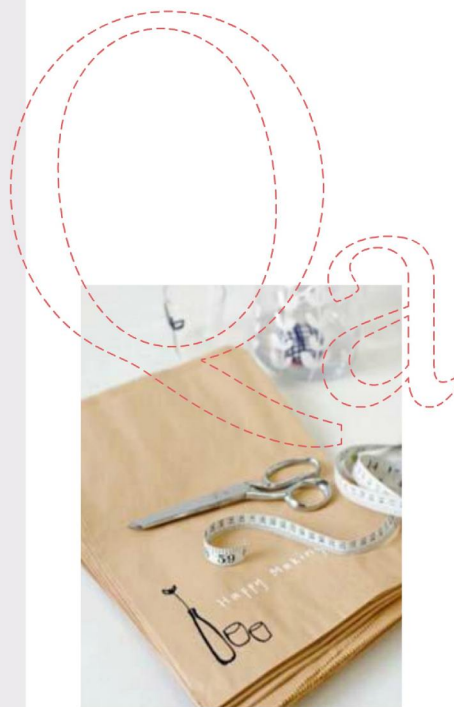
Words: **LUCY RICE** Photographs: **JENNY HALLENGREN**

Once in a while, we all experience one of those enlightened moments when everything suddenly makes sense. For Scandinavian-born Lotta Anderson, it was during a screenprinting course taken in San Francisco during the mid 90s. It went on to ignite a life-changing passion and foster a new creative skill.

Lotta explains: "I'd come from Sweden where you saw a lot of hand-screened textile items, but this was pre-Etsy, before the whole 'do-it-yourself' boom, and I couldn't find anything in America at that time." As such, she set about giving

the gift market just what it needed and started up her own line of handmade textiles that has grown into the now world-renowned, New York-based design brand, Lotta Jansdotter (affectionately named after her father, Jan, with *dotter* meaning daughter in Swedish).

In the past year, Lotta has celebrated the release of her fifth book, launched her debut fabric collection and refurbished an industrial Brooklyn warehouse into Work+Shop, her harmonious studio and retail space. And she's set to get even busier. We find out more...



Describe your style in a few words.

I would say joyful, inspiring and timeless.

How did your Scandinavian upbringing fuel your love of design?

There is a natural environment of makers in Scandinavia. I was surrounded by a very handy and creative family, and in school we were encouraged to learn how to sew, do woodworking and make with our hands, from very early on. We appreciate nature and the natural form and I think that comes through in our work.

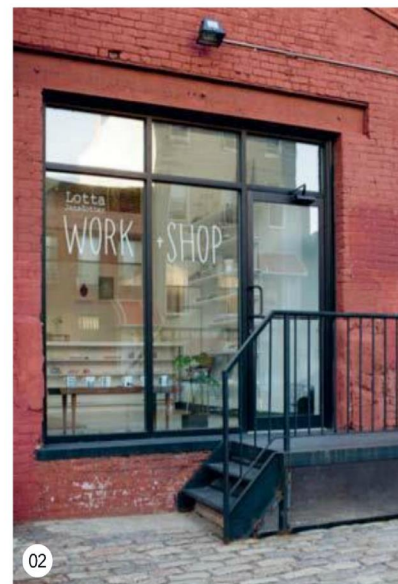
Has living in New York City affected your work?

Inspiration is one of those things that is around you at all times, and the people in New York are very inspiring themselves. It's such a vibrant, energy-driven city. Living in California and Sweden, the colours have softer, more muted tones, whereas here they're bolder, more vibrant and punchy.

What books and magazines are currently on your bedside table?

I have a book about yoga [in hushed tones] for women over 40, which was photographed in the most beautiful setting by the water in Scandinavia. Plus, I have *So-En*, a Japanese fashion magazine that's really kooky and fun.

‘We appreciate nature and I think that comes through in our work’



Name your top three creative blogs.

I actually try to stay away from them. A few stand out – they definitely have a voice and you see nice photography – but, as a designer, the danger is that everything’s looking the same. There’s so much recycling. I don’t want that in my head, I don’t want to be too affected by what other people are doing around me.

How does your creative process work?

I have a library of sketchbooks that have been with me for years. However, I can’t

find that specific type of book any more so I had a bookbinder make exactly the same one for me! I also use a lot of copy paper. I jot down my ideas with pen and ink, and often I just work straight from that, using a copy machine to work with scale. This means I have a million loose pieces of paper, and I try to glue them in my sketchbook so it’s all centralised. I also hog a bunch of magazines and rip up pages and put them in plastic sheets. Those are inspiring when I just need a little kick or to pause for breath. »

01 Lotta likes to introduce **unique pieces** into a room, to complement the **functional furniture**.

02 Lotta’s studio is in an old warehouse in Brooklyn. She also sells products here and holds **workshops**.

03 A selection of **works in progress**. Lotta is hugely influenced by the simple outlines that you find everywhere in the natural world. She believes that “flowers bring **beauty and tranquillity** into the home.”



01 Lotta makes the most of her small kitchen by being clever with her space and storage. **02** Many of Lotta's products, including this Tang napkin, have an elegant Japanese influence. **03** A peek inside one of Lotta's 'inspirations and ideas' notebooks.



Tell us about Work+Shop, your studio and retail space in Brooklyn.

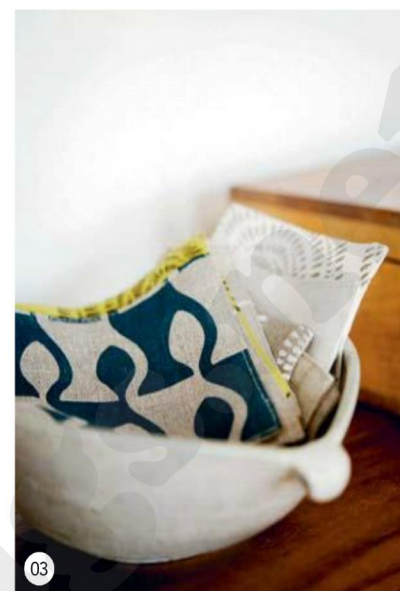
Well, in San Francisco I had my shop in the front and my studio in the back, so when I moved to New York I thought, 'No, I'm not doing that again. I'm going to have my own studio space and I'm going to be all alone, do my thing and I'm gonna focus'. But, I never really got it out of my system. So I walked by this place in Brooklyn and I decided to do it again. The space is beautiful and I want it to be like a laboratory, where I can try out products, and talk to people about what they like and don't like about what I do.

What happens for you on a typical working day?

Every day is very, very different. One day could be about working on designs, one day could just be about hashing out new ideas, or one day could just be emails all day. I try to make these schedules but I never follow them. Efficiency is not my strong point – I have too many ideas and I tend to thrive in chaos!

I come in in the morning and I go through emails, that's where I start. Then my employees and interns come in and I divvy out work and talk about what we're going to do today, what kind of projects we're going to tackle and what the

‘Efficiency is not my strong point – I have too many ideas and I thrive in chaos!’



priorities are, because it changes through the week. And, then, maybe about once a week or every other week I go into town for meetings and meet with potential new customers or my agent.

How do you balance working creatively with the demands of family life?

I have a five year old and it was quite a difficult adjustment when he was born, because I was so used to being able to work when I felt like it. It was hard to put down the pen and go home. It did mean that I

had to say no to a bunch of projects and I had to be okay with being late with some projects – but it's actually worked, and I don't work at home anymore. I want to live a good creative life and I feel like it is pretty balanced right now: I do what I love, it's on my terms and I spend a lot of time with my boy as well.

What projects do you have in the pipeline at the moment?

We've just finalised the pieces and shapes of a collection of porcelain products that »

01 The quilt in Lotta's bedroom is made from a patchwork of her own fabric designs. It makes a striking focal point in the otherwise minimal, relaxed space.

02 Keeping it in the family. Lotta

encourages her five year old son to get creative with paper and crayons!

03 Small nooks and corners are filled with pretty objects and simple designs.



01

- 01 Lotta's distinctive shade of vibrant yellow provides a colour pop in her neutral-toned working environment.
- 02 From organisation to design, Lotta likes to "keep it simple."
- 03 "I own tons of books, but I don't have a system for organising them yet."



03



02

we are hoping to launch in September. Hopefully, we'll be done with the sampling by May, so I can do some photography this summer at home in Scandinavia. It's a fun little gift-oriented collection with mugs, plates, a cake stand, a vase... They're all going to be mix-and-match with different patterns and colours that work together.

We're also working on a follow-up to the Echo fabric collection with Windham Fabrics, which is called Bella. It's going into sampling and that's also launching in September. It's so rewarding to see what people make out of your fabrics. A lot of people have actually said to me, 'Oh, I love the way you dress!' so I decided to get together with a tailor here in Brooklyn and we're sewing up a small collection of tops and dresses with the fabric from Echo, just for the hell of it. These will be exclusive to my shop and online shop come April/May.

And is book number six in the offing?

I created five books in five years, and at the same time I had a kid. It was a little overwhelming! So now, I have an agent that's going to work for me and help me launch new ideas. I'm hoping to start work by the summer.

‘If you have a creative voice and a creative style, in the long run it will definitely pay off’



Finally, can you share with us the best piece of creative advice you’ve ever been given?

I once went through a very frustrating period where people were copying my designs all the time, and I felt there was no way to protect myself from it. But then a good friend of mine said to me, “You’ve just got to keep on making.” If you have a creative voice and a creative style, in the long run it will definitely pay off. You’ve just got to keep doing your thing and believe in yourself.

FIND OUT MORE ONLINE

Lotta Jansdotter

Head to Lotta’s website for her current collections of fabric, books, stationery candles and washi tapes. You can also view her fun video tutorials and find information about her Brooklyn-based workshops. jansdotter.com

WORK+SHOP is at 131 8th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215, USA.

01 A toning colour palette emerges when Lotta’s designs are displayed together. Her range of washi tapes add colour to the mix.
02 Lotta makes a feature of storage in her small kitchen,

keeping things typically neat, practical and pretty.
03 The tools of the trade all ready to go for the next burst of creativity.



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Ooh

I COULD DO THAT...

Poetic petals



As springtime blooms, so does our penchant for crocheting flowers, which is why these host of coloured daffodils (with knitting-needle stalks!) just made our hearts leap. Go to the 'ingthings' blog for more gorgeous petal inspiration. As your heart with pleasure fills, you will dance with the daffodils...

ing-things.blogspot.co.uk

Quince and Co's chunky knitted beanie brings together just the right shade of vibrant green with a cool rib pattern. Perfect for those weekend thrifting adventures...





GO GREEN!

Pam Allen's knitted downtown beanie uses Quince & Co's Puffin yarn in a shade that will brighten up urban living



PHOTOGRAPHS: CARRIE BOSTICK HOGE

HOW TO MAKE... A DOWNTOWN BEANIE

MATERIALS

- Yarn by Quince & Co: 1 x skein of Puffin wool in Snap Pea 128 (100% American wool; 112 yd/102m (100g), or other Chunky yarn of your choice
- One 16" circular needle, size 9 mm
- One set of double-pointed needles (dpns), size 9 mm
- Stitch marker
- Blunt needle for weaving in ends

ABBREVIATIONS

- k knit
- p purl
- rep repeat
- rnd(s) round(s)
- dec decrease
- ssk slip, slip, knit
- st(s) stitch(es)
- tog together
- WS wrong side
- yo yarn over

GAUGE

- Two 5-stitch repeats of stitch pattern measure 9.5cm

Pam Allen's super-quick knit brings together a cool rib with pretty eyelets. Here's how to make your one-size-fits-all go-green hat.

Eyelet rib (multiple of 5 sts)

Rnds 1, 2, and 3: *K3, p2; rep from * to end of rnd.

Rnd 4: *Yo, k3tog, yo, p2; rep from * to end of rnd. Rep Rnds 1- 4 for pattern stitch.

Pattern

With your circular needle, cast on 55 sts. Place marker for beginning of round and join to work in the round.

Begin eyelet rib

Work Rnd 1 of pattern stitch. Continue in pattern stitch until 3 reps have been completed (3 rnds of eyelets), ending with Rnd 4 of pattern. Then work Rnds 1–3 of pattern 1 more time.

Shape crown

Note: Change to dpns when there are too few stitches to fit comfortably around the circular needle. Next rnd: dec rnd *Yo, k3tog, yo, p2tog; rep from * to end of rnd – 44 sts.

Next rnd: *K3, p1; rep from * to end. Rep last rnd 2 more times.



ACID BRIGHTS
WITH PRETTY
DETAIL IS THE
LAST WORD IN
HANDMADE
URBAN CHIC

Next rnd: *Yo, k3tog, yo, p1; rep from * to end.

Next rnd: *K3, p1; rep from * to end. Rep last rnd 2 more times.

Next rnd: dec rnd *K3tog, p1; rep from * to end of rnd – 22 sts. Next rnd: *K1, p1; rep from * to end.

Next rnd: dec rnd *Ssk; rep from * to end – 11 sts.

Cut yarn leaving a 20-cm tail. Thread tail on a blunt needle, drawn through remaining sts twice, pull tight to close top of hat. Then secure end on the wrong side. Your finished hat should be 22cm across the brim and 18cm to the crown.



Quince & Co

Quince & Co produces its yarns in a historic Maine spinnery, and most of the wool is sourced in the US. Known as “territory wool,” the fibre comes from Merino, Rambouillet and Columbia-based sheep that roam the ranges of Montana and Wyoming. The company also like to be responsible for what they import, finding out as much as possible about where, how, and by whom the fibres came to be.

quinceandco.com



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LIVING



INSPIRATION ALERT! SPACES, PLACES & NEW DESIGNERS TO WATCH



🏠 This is **wallpaper**. We know. Where has it been all our china-loving days? Hop it to Jimmy Cricket's shop and snap up roll upon roll of this design by Studio Ditte. There's a blue and white porcelain version, too.
jimmycricket.com.au



🏠 We never met a stripe we didn't like and this variation on a theme from Kitty McCall **toes the line**. If it's straight-talking you're after, get this design from Sarah J Miller. notonthehighstreet.com/kittymccall notonthehighstreet.com/sarahjmilller



🏠 Cath Young's **pixelated rose** is a wonder in organic cotton. mybeardedpigeon.com

COLOUR ME HAPPY

Join us in welcoming clashing patterns and kitsch back in

🏠 A Big Bird with less yellow fluff and nonsense. We're adding this **sweet vintage fabric softie** to our online basket. Check out designer Clare Nicolson's flock of nostalgic toys and cards. clarenicolson.com



🏠 We are partial to a bit of Orla Kiely leaf print when our bank balance allows it. Stick it to a DAB radio with a mirror chromed handle and a walnut veneer and we're sold.

This handy little music box from PURE – the Evolve Mio model – would accompany us so prettily in the craft studio we've been dreaming up since, like, forever. One day...

johnlewis.com



🏠 'Crochetdermy' artist Shauna Richardson's Lionheart Project sees three giant crocheted lions travelling the UK from 1st May to the start of the Olympics. Find out if they'll **pass your window** at lionheartproject.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: WILL COOPER-MITCHELL



Be a 'Camberwell Beauty' and dress your walls with this **kaleidoscopic paper** from Mini Modern's new Buddha of Suburbia collection. Designers Mark Hampshire and Keith Stephenson were inspired by Hanif Kureishi's book of the same name, so it's a bit 70s Biba, with the butterfly motif adding a nod to the cultural transformation of that decade. minimoderns.com



The Joy of Ex

All hail Sally Beerworth! This amazing lady started The JOE Foundation in May 2011 while writing a funny novel to keep her **smiling during a divorce**. The Facebook group took off, then folk started asking for products. Suddenly it went viral and now a portion of the proceeds from Sally's homewares, posters and stationery sales go towards helping people in rough break ups. joyofex.org



Folly&Glee

If a whole wall of retro is throwing you into a timewarp, try adding just a hint of it with a handmade lampshade from Folly&Glee. It takes **vintage and retro cotton barkcloth fabrics** from the 1950s to 1970s and lines it with a flame retardant PVC to make a brand new shade. Its online gallery of vintage fabric options makes choosing your look easy. follyandglee.bigcartel.com



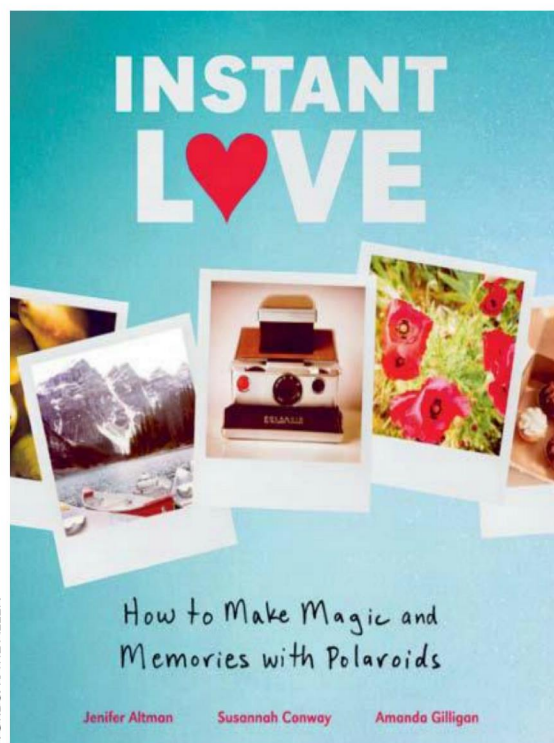
Amoretti

Rebekah Merkle is an Idaho girl in England, who traded her US farmhouse for a manor-ground cottage and a career in fabric design. She shares **big blooms a-plenty**, darling girl's clothing and lots of lovely sewing patterns, including lantern shades and ruffled pillows, on her website. amoretti-designs.com

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID COLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY, WWW.DAVIDCOLLINSPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK

DO THE TWIST

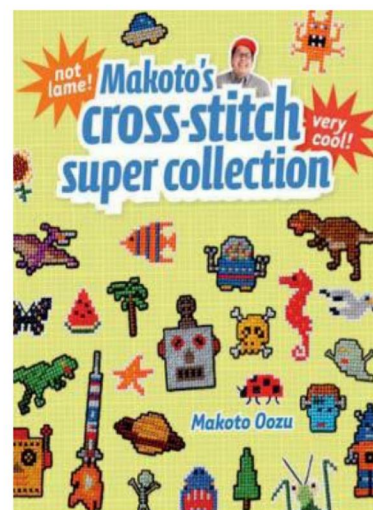
Take a trip back in time with three new takes on classic crafts, arts and collectables – something for every retro fan



INSTANT LOVE Digital, schmigital. The most gorgeous photos are made with these oh-so-cool retro cameras, and the three authors have top tips and tricks to help you shake it with the best of them. chroniclebooks.com

MAKOTO'S CROSS-STITCH SUPER COLLECTION We love love love this rainbow-bright compilation of cross-stitch motifs by Makoto: dinosaurs, robots, palm trees and old-school electronics. As he puts it, these are definitely “not lame”! rucraft.co.uk

SUSIE SAYS The author of *This is Blythe*, Gina Garan has returned with a guide to another 70s fashion doll, Susie Sad Eyes – shot like a gritty style mag, this is a treat for kitsch lovers. powerhousebooks.com



WORDS: KATIE ALLEN

Designer focus: Fabien Barral

He's a man of many words in a sense! Harmonie-intérieure's Fabien is typography-tastic



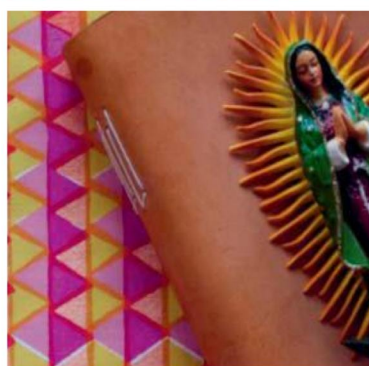
Try the It's a Beautiful Day, Alphabet and Home Sweet Home decals in a range of colour options



Harmonie-intérieure's '7 Rules to Understand Design and Designers' decal was an **instant hit** at *Mollie HQ* (No.6: “Design the right things. Design the things right”), so we had to find out more about its creator. Fabien Barral is a graphic designer who moved from the corporate world into his dream job: “creating images that are a source of emotions”. He and wife, Frédérique, sell these evocative stickers and posters at harmonie-interieure.com



PHOTOGRAPH: MR CUP



Nancy Straughan has hit the big time. This northern lass has been featured on top blogs from *Uppercase* to *Decor8* and it's no wonder when you see her beautiful textile prints, stationery and fashion lines. Nancy shares a studio with other like-minded creatives in De Beauvoir Town, London, combining her love of classic sophistication with 1950s flare. Sustainability is at the heart too, with eco-friendly fabrics and papers.

Nancy has a range of new products out soon including bone china mugs, bags and tea towels. You can also have a lesson in printmaking from her at Shipshape Studio. Keep in touch via her blog, nancystraughan.blogspot.com and online portfolio, nancy-straughan.com



Zingy Zazous

There's nowt more retro than **vinyl flooring**, especially in old-school patterns like this beauty on the left from Kent-based brand, Zazous. And check out the Moroccan Mosaic wallpaper, above. You can specify a different colour scheme and scale if the giant orange and blue look is a little too overpowering for your modest family sitting room. zazous.co.uk



Chocolate Creative's cute wall hooks can be used as handles, too. They come in block painted colour or mini-artworks of old fashioned landscapes and vintage embroidery. Right up our street.



CHOCOLATE CREATIVE

We like chocolate and we like being creative. By the laws of arty maths that means we're sure to love **Chocolate Creative**. This is a London-based studio boutique run by Margarita Lorenzo focusing on homewares and accessories that are sustainable and hand-made, combining traditional skills such as cross-stitch and embroidery with silkscreen printing. There are four distinct collections of organic hemp or cotton cushions going by the names 'Decayed Glamour', 'Comeos', 'Messages', and 'Children', and you'll find plenty in the way of tea towels, mugs, bags and prints, too. chocolatecreative.co.uk



Pilgrim Lee's funky Melbourne home is a bright and breezy family retreat

Words: **JUDITH WILSON** Photographs: **FI MIMS**

Stepping into illustrator Pilgrim Lee's home is a bit like opening a beautiful retro picture book for children: the lines are clean, the colours bright, and the impact immediate. At every turn, there are eye-catching graphic patterns on the walls and furniture, and the hot Australian sunshine pours in through floor-to-ceiling windows to ramp up the zingy shades. Here is an owner with a creative vision, as well as equally strong influences. "My design mantra is bright, bold and balanced," Pilgrim says. »





Left: The zodiac print is by Gerry and Joe Simboli, while the sultan print came from Dare Gallery. The cushions are from IKEA, Etsy and a few are made from vintage fabrics.

This image: The light fitting is original to the 1960s house. The chair was inherited from Pilgrim's parents. She has covered it in a striking striped linen by Warwick Fabrics.





She has lived in St Kilda East, a suburb of Melbourne, for five years, with her partner, Peter, a music journalist, and their son, Donovan. “The neighbourhood is quiet but not too far from the action, and as soon as I toured the property I fell in love,” she says. Architecturally, the house is perfect for family life: it’s a brick veneer bungalow built in the 1960s and the living accommodation leads off a central, square hall. Before Pilgrim moved in, the same family had lived there since it was built. “This neighbourhood was largely settled by European Jewish families, so it’s an interesting place to live,” she adds.

Pilgrim and Peter have decorated on a budget and this, she says, has prompted them to be even more “creative in making it our own.” Yet Pilgrim has creativity in her bones. For a start, she studied Visual Communication and is now a graphic designer and illustrator.

Her mother was also a graphic designer, and, as Pilgrim leafs through copies of her mum’s *Graphis* magazines, she divulges that she grew up forming an appreciation of 1960s and 1970s design sensibilities. “I’ve always enjoyed the culture from that era,” she says.

Armed with a limited budget and a backdrop of pale cream walls and the original 1960s carpet, Pilgrim set about furnishing the house with gusto. The furniture is a lively mix of thrift-shop buys, modern purchases and inherited pieces, but that, says Pilgrim, is OK. For those wanting to achieve a similar look, she says, you don’t have to be a purist. “Repro and contemporary pieces are not against the rules, they just have to share the spirit of vintage pieces.” So while she splashed out on a new circular ottoman and an L-shaped sofa, the striped chair was from her parents, and much of the open storage is IKEA. »

- 01 This thrift-shop chair has been reupholstered in terracotta corduroy. The ‘girl’ screenprint, shipped from Trinidad, was a gift to Pilgrim from a friend. “She’s my mystery girl! I love her eyes.”
- 02 The white IKEA shelves, which stand behind the dining table, display a selection of “things that make me happy,” Pilgrim says.

The bookshelf was from Pilgrim's mother, who bought it at a furniture auction. "I love yellow but I can't wear it - and here it makes an impact without dominating the room."





Although Pilgrim casually says she “collects what I like,” this house has been put together with a pin-sharp appreciation of colour and form. The balance is precise, and one suspects, is the result of Pilgrim’s talent for customising. For example, in the main living space, there is a giant open-shelf unit, cheekily painted in a Chinese yellow lacquer. “This was bought from an office furniture auction,” she says. “It’s a big shelf and a dark colour would have made it look like a monolith.” She’ll play around with vintage upholstery, too. The rust armchair, another thrift-shop buy, was in a green plaid boucle when Pilgrim discovered it. “I reupholstered it in terracotta corduroy, to pick up the orange flecks in the sofa fabric,” she says.

She urges anyone keen to copy her look to take inspiration from the likes of Marimekko, Dekopius, Lotta Köhlhorn and Verner Pantón. But it’s not just the colour clashes that mark

out Pilgrim’s style. She’s also a dab hand with the sewing machine. “Making for the house is a given,” she says. So in the home office, the IKEA chair is resplendent with a cover in a retro cherry floral print, and she’s even stitched Donovan’s duvet cover. “I wanted it to be a charming feature that tied the room together, so I made one from a vintage Smokey the Bear woodland scene sheet,” she says. Seventies tea towels, and remnants of vintage fabrics, are fashioned into cushions, or used as neat fabric panels on open-plan storage.

As a creative, one might expect Pilgrim to work at home, but although she has a colourful study nook there with a bookshelf and desk (all tucked to one side of the open-plan living space), these days Pilgrim is out and about. She divides her time between a separate studio, where she focuses on new illustrations, graphic design and packing up her products »

01 On one of the shelves is a musical box, which Pilgrim bought in Hahndorf, a German settlement town an hour from Adelaide. The spotty boxes hold camera accessories. **02** On the cedar chest in Pilgrim’s bedroom, there’s an orange tree from IKEA and a thrift-shop mirror.

The cool bed frame is dressed with **KAS linen** and the lampshades are from Etsy seller **Draw Flowers**. Paintings from the Outre Gallery and a cuckoo clock souvenir sit above the bed.





for dispatch, and working at her friend's shop, Little Sparrow (littlesparrow.net.au), a store selling natural toys. "But on the days when I do work from home, I'll be at my HQ on the sofa," she confesses. "It's not ergonomically sound, but it is very comfy!"

When couples share a home, and one half has a particularly strong creative vision, isn't it difficult to please both parties? Pilgrim smiles. "The house does seem to be all about me. But Peter, despite being into hard rock and wearing black all the time, also enjoys the same style," she says. She whispers that he even chose the sofa fabric, "but in a very manly way, of course." Her tastes have evolved and grown more sophisticated over the years. She remembers the days when her own teenage bedroom was jammed with kitsch. "Today kitsch is kept to a minimum but I still love style with a sense of whimsy," she adds.

She's very hands-on when it comes to DIY, and will happily whip out a paintbrush (or spraycan). Her cane bed-head was bought on eBay and she spray-painted it warm yellow. "The bedroom is a very sunny place and I wanted it to feel warm and happy – the best possible start to the day," she says. She also painted Donovan's bookcase in a zingy bamboo green. For those wanting to copy Pilgrim's breezy look, she has plenty of budget-friendly, clever tips, including hiding boring cables in vintage canisters. And don't, she advises, vandalise retro upholstery for the sake of it. "If you possibly can, only reupholster when things are threadbare," she says. "Nothing upsets me more than the re-muddling of a perfectly good piece."

Although Pilgrim is Australian born and bred, she has also lived in England. So, does she think that Australian crafts or »

- 01 The super-cool **Love Radio** was bought from eBay.
- 02 This cute sand pail adds **detail to a bookshelf** that divides the dining room.
- 03 The couple's pinboard displays **various styles and designs, but always with colour.**



The desk, storage unit and office chair are all from IKEA, but Pilgrim made a vintage fabric cover for the chair. The green apple is a funky storage container.



01



02



03

style differ radically from English-inspired pieces? She shakes her head. “In this era of the internet, there’s no longer such a great divide in this area,” she says. “What exists is such a fantastic exchange of ideas and skills, and there are easily as many styles as there are individuals.”

And Pilgrim’s own home is the perfect example of this: it’s bright, sparky and full of individual personality, but it’s also relaxed. And, most importantly, it’s ultimately in tune with her love of vintage illustration. “I always enjoy being surrounded by colour,” Pilgrim says. “And other people seem to enjoy it too.”

PILGRIM LEE: DRAW! PILGRIM

To see more of Pilgrim’s house, visit her colourful website, [draw! pilgrim](http://draw!pilgrim.com). You can even take a peek into the bathroom, or follow her crafty adventures on Shop News, where she shares her latest gossip and projects. The website also has a Regular Features section, with plenty to browse including Pilgrim’s Book Pile, which showcases 1970s illustrated books for kids, as well as her Amazon Picks, highlighting her favourite vintage

fashion books. Or click through to her Etsy store with gorgeous limited edition, hand-signed and numbered illustrations. drawpilgrim.com



01 In Donovan’s bedroom, Pilgrim painted an IKEA shelf unit in **bamboo green**, and made his duvet cover from a vintage Smokey the Bear woodland scene sheet. **02** The five framed prints are by **Lab Partners**. **03** The cute orange toy on Donovan’s bed is a **Suzy Woodchuck** character by Anna Chambers.

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R₁ E₁ T₁ R₁ O₂ L₁ O₂ O₂ K₁ S₂

Add a beautiful burst of colour to your home
with Ilaria Chiaratti's crocheted cushion





Big and bold colours pop out of this cushion. It's all you need to perk up any room in the house.



HOW TO CROCHET... A GRANNY SQUARE CUSHION

MATERIALS

- Double knit yarn in various colours
- 4mm crochet hook

ABBREVIATIONS

- ch chain
- ss slip stitch
- sp space
- tr treble crochet

A simple white backdrop is just the thing to show off bright colours, and it works like a dream for this crochet cushion. It'll be a talking point on your favourite chair, and it's really simple to make. Just raid your yarn scraps and combine the colours in an instinctive way – don't think too much about it, just go with the next colour that feels right!

Once you've made one of these, you'll want to make another. And if you've still got the crochet bug, you can always make a matching blanket... For now, here's how to make the cushion.

Cushion front

01 02 Foundation ring

Using yarn A (pink in the image), work 4ch and join with ss to form a ring.

03 04 **Round 1:** 3ch (count as 1tr), 2tr into ring, 3ch, * 3tr into ring, 3ch; rep from * twice more, join with ss into 3rd of 3ch. Break off yarn A.

When you cut the yarn, leave a tail and secure it neatly on the back.

05 Join yarn B (turquoise yarn in the image) to a corner space.

06 07 **Round 2:** With yarn B in a corner sp, 3ch (count as 1tr), [2tr, 2ch, 3tr] into same sp (corner made), * 1ch, [3tr, 2ch, 3tr] into next 3ch sp; rep from * twice more, 1ch, join with ss into 3rd of 3ch. Break off yarn B.

08 Join yarn C (white yarn in the image) to a corner space.

09 10 **Round 3:** With yarn C in a corner sp, 3ch (count as 1tr), [2tr, 2ch, 3tr] into same sp, * 1ch, 3tr into 1ch sp, 1ch, ** [3tr, 2ch, 3tr] into next 3ch corner sp; rep from * twice and then lastly from * to **, join with ss into 3rd of 3ch. Break off yarn C.

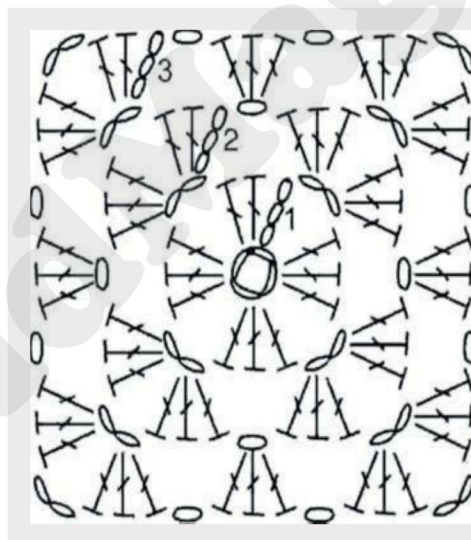


join with ss into 3rd of 3ch. Break off yarn C.

Using this method, make 36 granny squares, which you can sew together at the back in six rows of six to form a 50cm square. When all the pieces are assembled, make a round all around the cushion using the treble crochet stitch (3tr, 2ch, 3tr when you come to the corner).

Cushion back

Using Yarn C, make the rounds as per the cushion front, without changing colour. Keep adding rounds to your square, until »



CHART

This chart gives the cushion pattern in diagram form. Each loop represents one chain stitch, while the t-shapes with the line struck through is your cluster of trebles. The numbers 1, 2 and 3 represent the round that is being worked on.



The symmetry of the squares is perfectly offset by the random colours used in the design. And it's the ideal way to use up all your scraps of yarn.

HOW TO CROCHET... A GRANNY SQUARE CUSHION

you have made 20 rounds, remembering to add the corners as indicated (3tr, 2ch, 3tr). Sew the cushion front to the cushion back using spare yarn and a yarn needle.

11 Leave one side partially opened and add a pretty button for the fastening. We've chosen a clear version of your cover gift buttons.

To make a blanket, crochet the squares as you did for the front of the cushion. Sew them together in the same way, adding the treble crochet trim, when you're done.



Ilaria Chiaratti

Ilaria is originally from Italy but now lives in Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, with her husband. She works as a freelance photographer for the Italian magazine *Casa Facile* and she also attends an interior styling school.

In 2010, Ilaria started her IDA Interior LifeStyle blog, where she shares her inspirations for interior styling and crochet projects.

idainteriorlifestyle.blogspot.com

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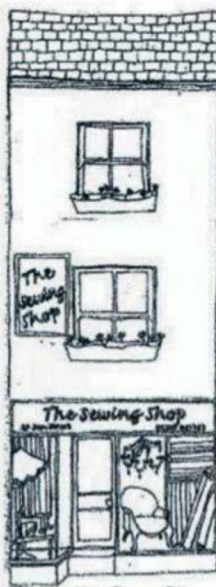
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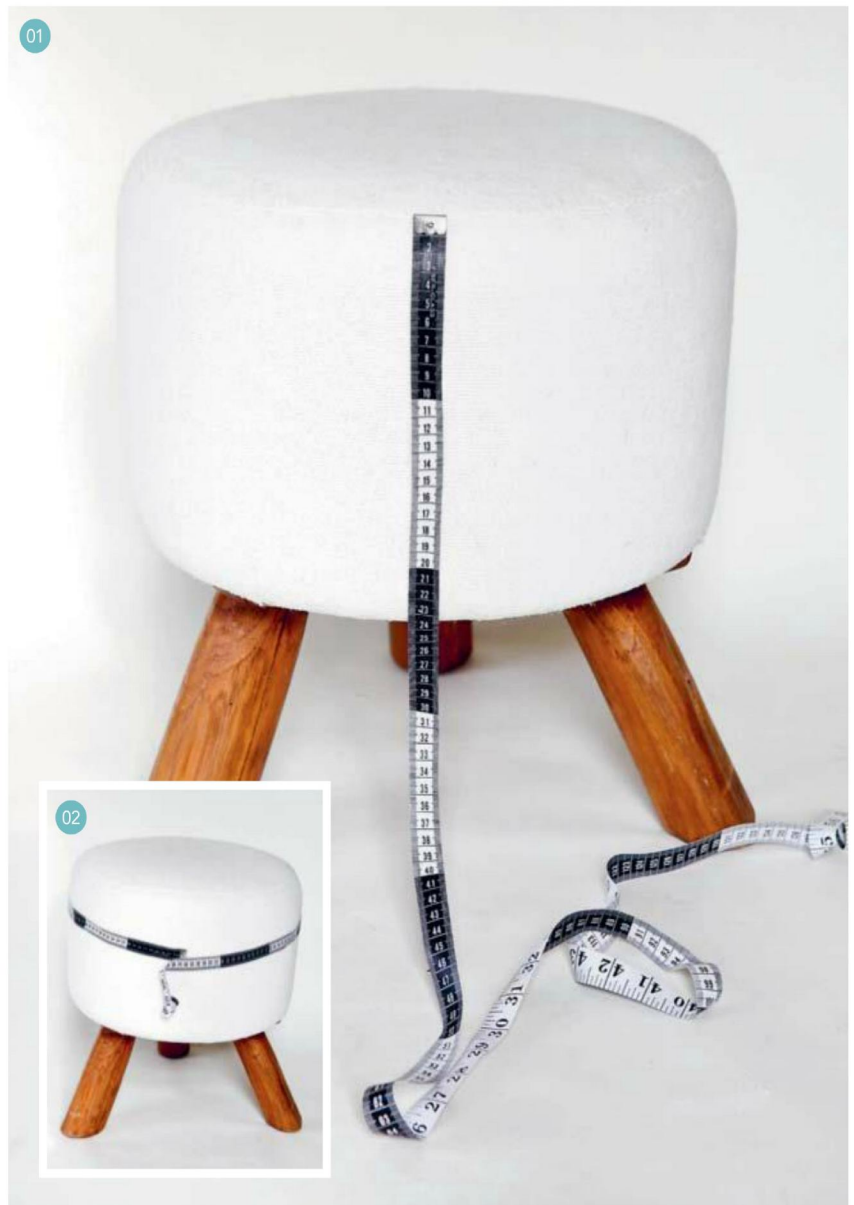




IT'S A COVER UP!

Revamp thrifty finds with Anita Mundt's zingy patchwork cover. Perfect for a footstool or pouffe, it's easy-as-pie. Go on, reach for the pompom trim...





HOW TO MAKE... A FOOTSTOOL COVER

MATERIALS:

- Newspaper
- Pattern cutting paper
- Scissors
- Compass
- Sticky tape
- Five fat quarters of fabric in different patterns
- 1m of medium iron-on interfacing
- Thread
- Approximately 1.5m mini pom-pom trim
- Approximately 1.5m ric rac ribbon

Here's how to put together a pattern template and make a fabric cover for any round footstool or pouffe.

01 02 To make a pattern to match your pouffe or round footstool, you will need **two measurements**: its **height** (cushioned part only); and **circumference**.

03 Next, **prepare your templates**. Start by sticking some double **newspaper pages** together. This will be a template for the strip that **fits around the sides** of your stool. The strip needs to be a rectangle

03



04



05



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07

the same height as the **cushioned part** of your stool, and the same length as its **circumference**.

04 Now cut this rectangle into **eight equal pieces**. Each piece will be **one panel of patchwork**.

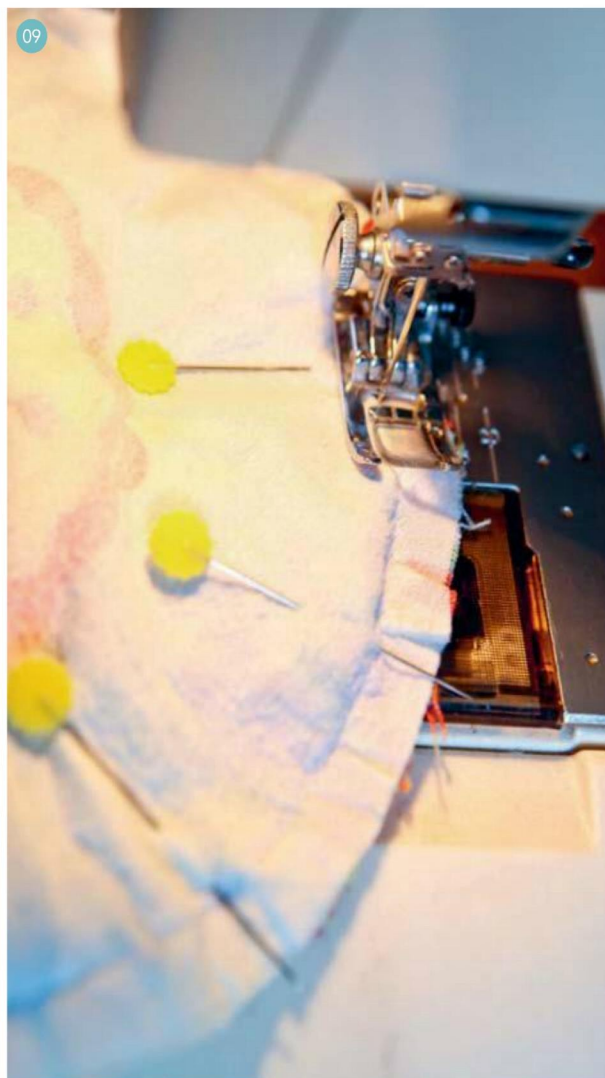
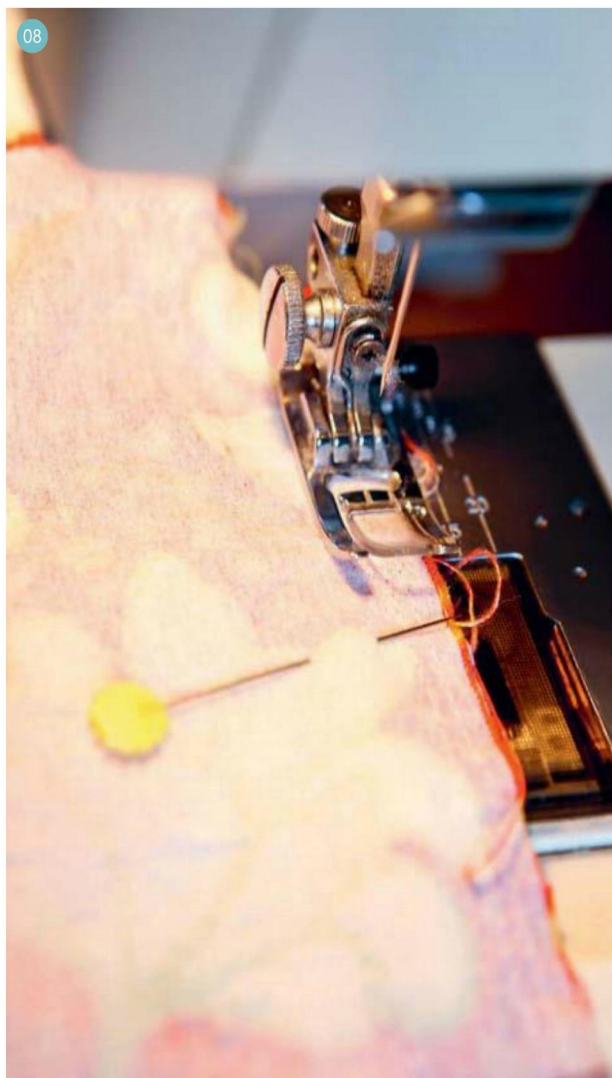
05 Now make a second template piece, which will be **a circle** that fits the top of the seat. The circle needs to have the **same circumference** as the stool top. Make the template by measuring across the stool top at its **widest part straight through the centre**. Now divide this measurement in

two (for instance if the seat is 40cm across at its widest point, then take the measurement 20cm). Then using this **half measurement**, set a compass to draw a circle on some newspaper. The circle you draw will be the **exact size of the stool top**.

06 Cut the circle out and fold it in half, then again and then again. **Open it out**. It should now be creased into **eight perfect segments**. Placing the compass back in the centre, **draw a smaller circle** and then divide the rest of the pattern piece into eight equal

pieces along the creases, as shown above. **Cut out all the pieces**.

07 Pin the smaller circle, each of the eight circle segments and the eight side panels onto a **piece of pattern cutting paper**. Draw around each piece with an **extra 1cm margin**. This will be your seam allowance. Cut out each pattern piece from this paper. You should now have **all your template pieces**. Cut one of each piece in your chosen fabric, and again in **iron-on interfacing**. When cutting the pieces, cut two circle »



HOW TO MAKE... A FOOTSTOOL COVER

segments and two side panels from **one fabric design**, so they can sit opposite each other, **radiating from the centre** circle and going down the side of the stool.

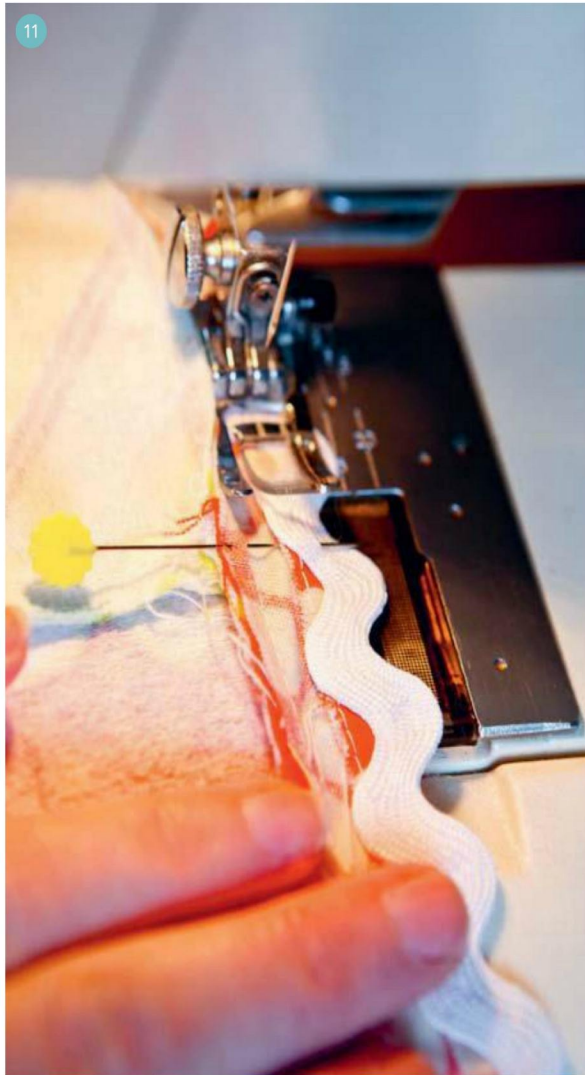
08 Iron each piece of **interfacing onto its fabric** piece. Then, take the side panel fabric pieces and, with right sides together, **stitch the long sides** to each other in a strip. Remember to arrange the last four fabric panels in the **same pattern sequence** as the first four. Join the first and last panel together to form a loop. **Iron the seams flat.**

09 Take the pieces for the top of the stool. Put the **centre circle to one side**. Placing the **fabric right sides together**, sew the circle segment pieces to each other **matching the pattern order** of the side panels. Sew the first section to the last section. With right sides together, pin the centre circle to the inside edge of the circle segment pieces. **Ease the fabric to fit and then stitch.** Remove the pins and iron the seams flat.

10 With the right sides of fabric together, **match up and pin** the

side panels to the top section, **sandwiching the pompom ribbon in between**. Pin and stitch.

11 Finally, cut a strip of fabric for the **bottom edging** of your cover. The **length of this strip** should be the **circumference of the stool** plus 2cm (2x1cm seam allowances) and its width 4cm high. **If your fabric isn't long enough** to make this strip, you can sew together a couple of pieces together. **Fold each short end back 1cm** and sew to the back. With right sides together, pin and sew the strip to



11



the bottom edge. **Iron this seam flat.** With the right side of the fabric edging facing down, turn a **1cm seam allowance** to the back of the fabric to form a hem. **Pin the**

ric rac ribbon over the raw edges of the hem (on the back of the edging) and **stitch 5mm from the edge.** Now place the cover on your stool and **admire your work!**



Anita Mundt

Ex-primary-school teacher Anita was born and raised in Britain, but now lives in Holland with her Dutch husband. Armed with a degree in Textile Design she always has several crafting projects on the go. She also runs her own photography business. anitamundt.com

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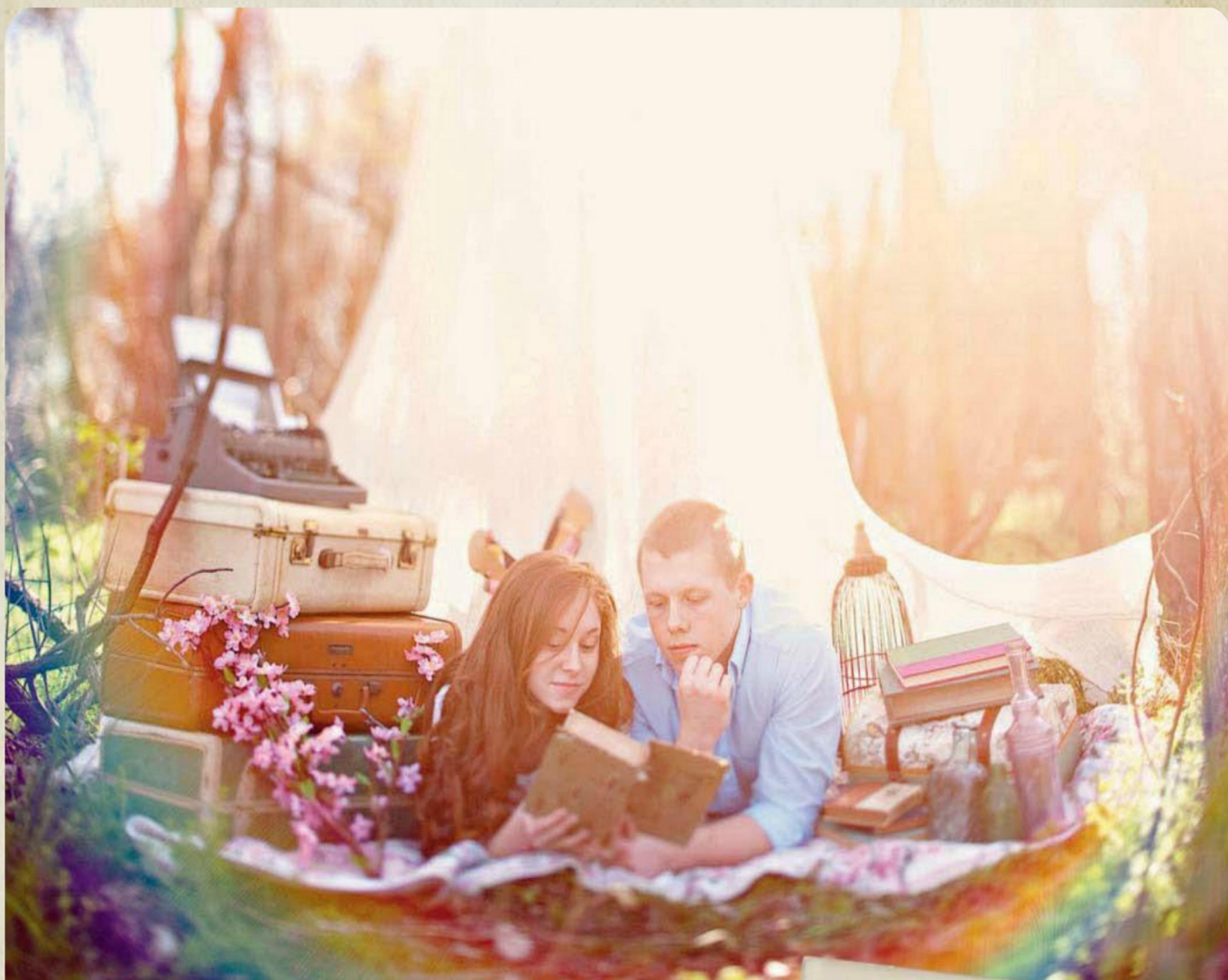
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LAZY, HAZY WATERCOLOUR DREAMS

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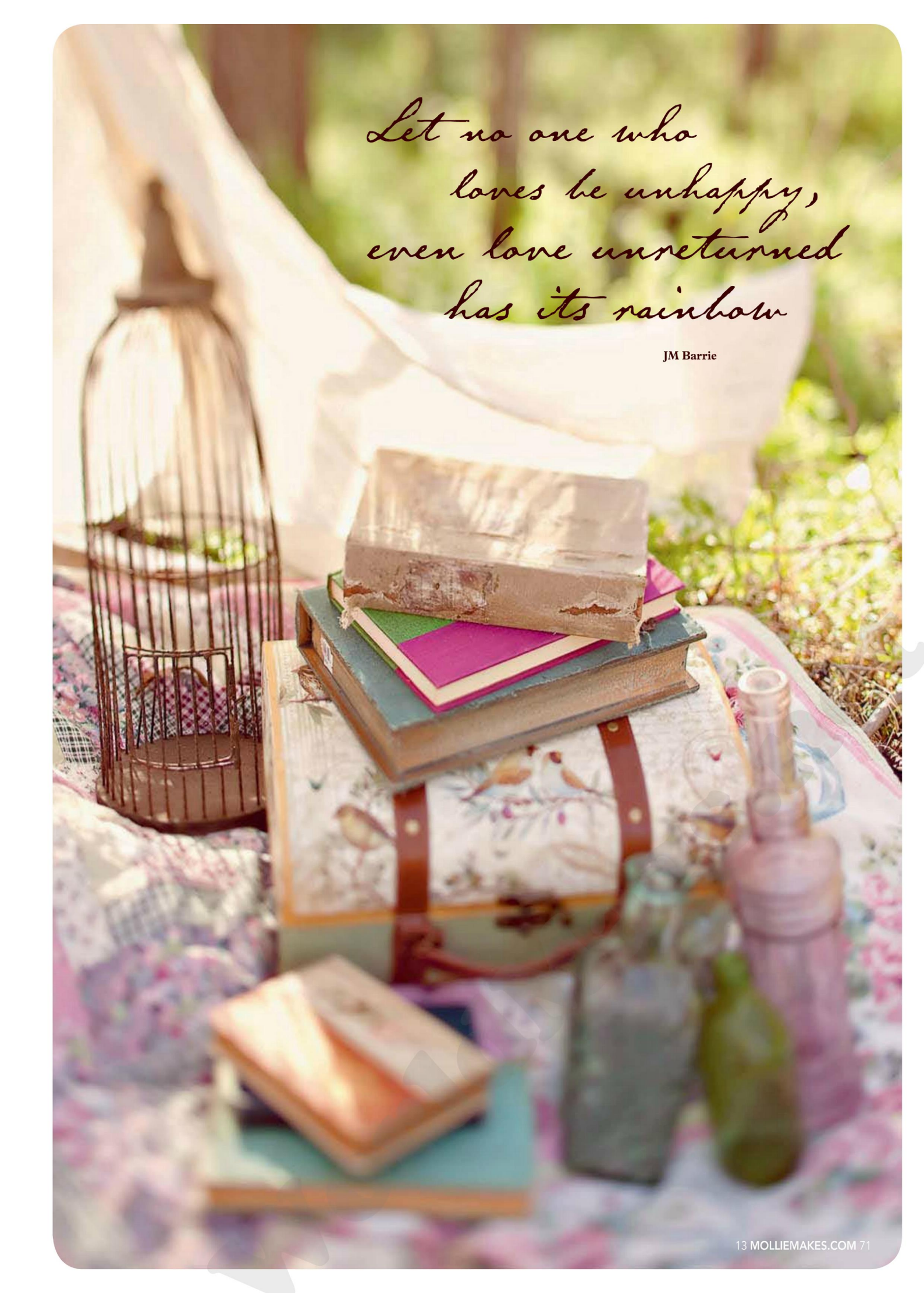


Squinting into early
sunshine, hiding under a
breezy canopy in just a little
unexpected rain. It's spring
and everything's in bloom.



Let me sing you a love song
About what I feel in my heart;
Butterflies can't find nectar
Whenever we're apart.

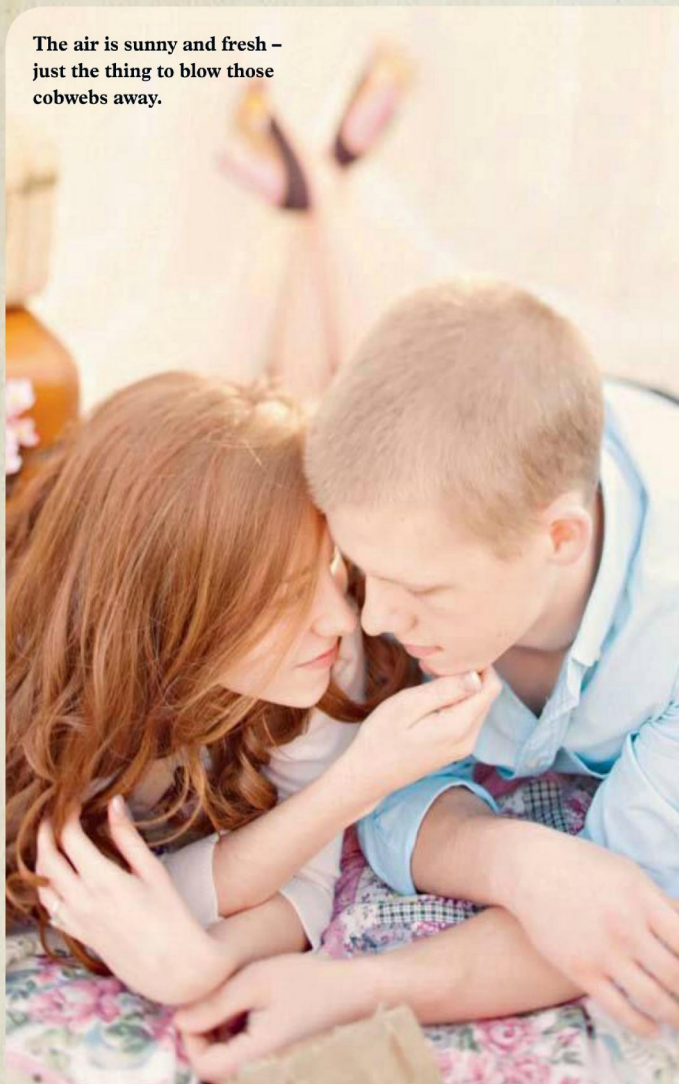
You're a flower in bloom.
In the dark, in the gloom,
It's you who brightens my day.
How many ways do I need you?
Every day, every way, come what may.

A still life scene featuring a wire birdcage on the left, a stack of books in the center, and several glass bottles on the right. The items are arranged on a floral patterned surface. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery and a white fabric draped over a structure. The overall mood is romantic and nostalgic.

*Let no one who
loves be unhappy,
even love unreturned
has its rainbow*

JM Barrie

The air is sunny and fresh –
just the thing to blow those
cobwebs away.



*Throw your dreams
into space like a kite*

Anaïs Nin

A person wearing a light pink dress and a white cardigan is standing in a field of green grass. They are holding a large bouquet of pink cherry blossoms in their left hand and a string of colorful bunting flags (yellow, blue, and red) in their right hand. The scene is bright and sunny, with soft shadows on the grass.

*April is a promise that
May is bound to keep*

Hal Borland



*I dream in full colour,
then paint my dreams*

Jenny Newbound

Ooh

I COULD DO THAT...

Pincushion
plus

Ah, storage! It's the crafter's BFF, which is why we adore what Kerry Morgan has done with these mason jars. Just take a small piece of 28 count evenweave linen, cross stitch your design, and then lightly pad it out with some stuffing, before neatly fitting into the lid. For a chart and full instructions, look no further than *CrossStitcher* magazine's thrifty May issue, on sale 18th April. crossstitcher.themakingspot.com



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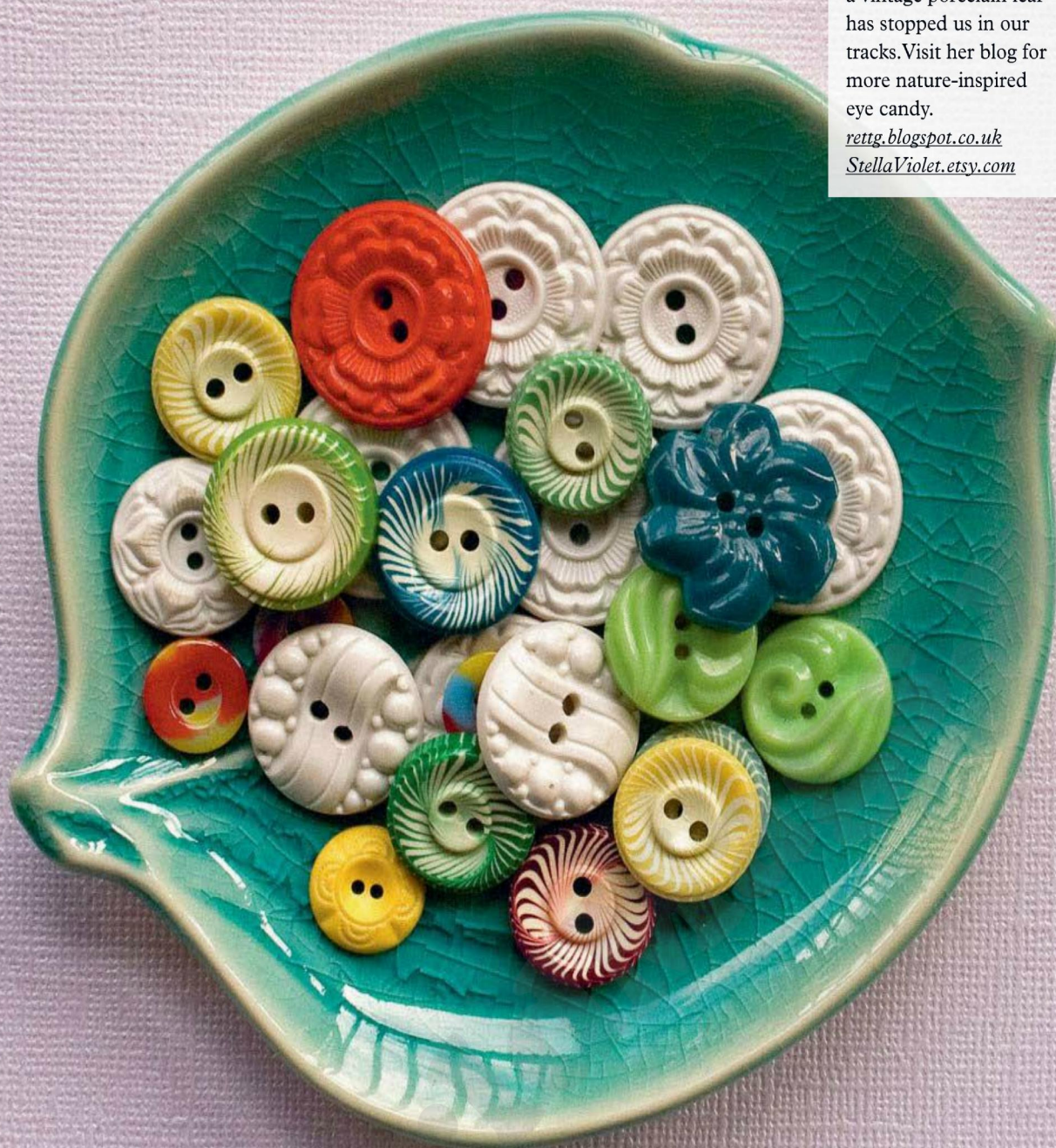


OH, YOU PRETTY THINGS! MOODBOARDS & MUSINGS TO INSPIRE US

♥ Mixed-media artist Loretta Grayson's **cute collectables** wrapped in a vintage porcelain leaf has stopped us in our tracks. Visit her blog for more nature-inspired eye candy.

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PHOTOGRAPH: LORETTA GRAYSON

Be gorgeous, be
different and get
hitched retro-Vegas
style with the Lady
Luck button bouquet.
beaubuttons.co.uk



BUTTON FANCIES

*Adorn yourself in tiny pieces
of perfection that are bright,
beautiful and difficult to resist*

PHOTOGRAPH: NIKKI MANS



01



02

01 Buttons in a vase – perfect for the wedding table or bedside table alike. whimsylove.etsy.com

04 Leah Halliday's button heart makes a pretty wall hanging or unusual wedding favour. shop.leahhalliday.co.uk

02 Buttons find a home perched atop a ring. Amy Cluck shows how to make your own. amyistheparty.com

05 Show off little pops of nostalgia with a vintage button brooch. realicoul.etsy.com

03 Pep up a paperclip, just like Bella Dia has done with these pretties. belladia.typepad.com

06 Jillian Frances' Charm necklace mixes up styles for a unique vintage piece. jfrancesdesign.com

PHOTOGRAPH: CASSI GRIFFIN



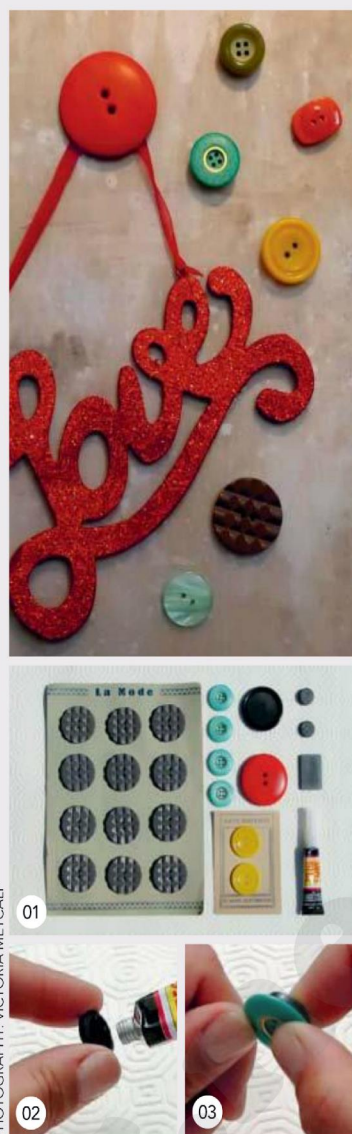
03

PHOTOGRAPH: CLAIRE LOUISE BARLOW/REALICOU



05

PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA METCALF



01

02

03

Buttons don't just belong on cardies, they deserve to go everywhere! Here's how to make Style NV's button fridge magnets

01 You'll need big flat vintage buttons, super glue and magnets. The buttons have to be flat, with no shanks at all. You can find them in most haberdasheries or online.

02 Spread a small amount of glue over the wrong side of the magnet. It's probably best to test to see which side sticks to metal before you glue it down!

03 When the glue is tacky, stick the button to the magnet and leave to dry. Now, adorn your fridge and admire your handiwork. stylenv.co.uk



04

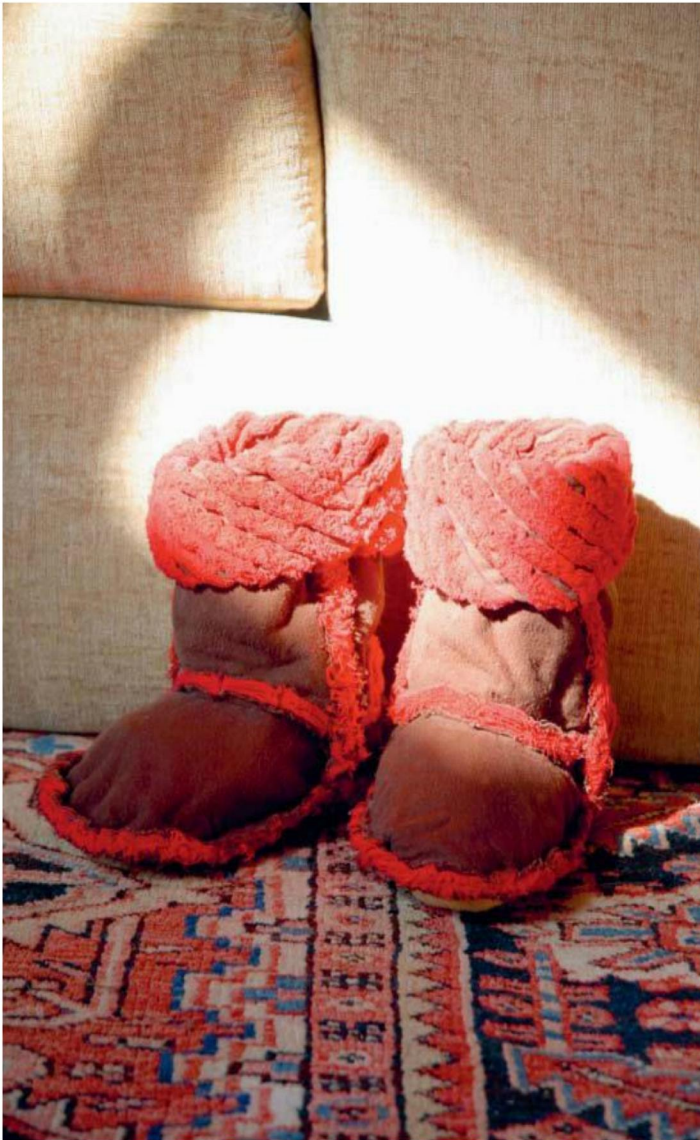
PHOTOGRAPH: JILLIAN WITHEE



06



Washing machine and sharp scissors at the ready! Relax, take it easy and make these fabulously slouchy slippers for some top-notch lazy lounging.



Thrifty style...

SLOUCHY CHIC

Keep your feet cosy in laidback style with
Susan Wasinger's lazy slipper boots



HOW TO MAKE... SLIPPER BOOTS

MATERIALS

- Sewing machine
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Disappearing-ink fabric marker
- Pins
- Needles and thread
- 75x75cm of cotton flannel (for boots' outside)
- 2m of contrasting cotton flannel for the three-layer slipper lining
- 60x30cm square of washable leather, suede, vinyl or heavy felt for sole (or you can use two pre-made slipper soles)
- Washing machine/dryer
- Stiff bristled brush (optional)

These slipper boots are made for all-too-rare lazy days when you stay in your pyjamas all day long. Your washing machine is your secret weapon here, as it will transform the project's flannel fabric into magic slippers. Before you start cutting, preshrink the flannel with hot water in your washing machine, then run it through the hot dryer. The material you use for the outer sole should also be washable.

Your toes, trapped all day in sensible shoes, will long for this homemade comfort. Best make a pair to keep under your desk, too...

01 Using the templates on **page 98** cut out the pieces for the boots, as per the cutting instructions also on page 98. It's best to **cut the shapes two or three layers** at a time. Cut the flannel pieces on the diagonal of the fabric to get **better frays**.

02 For each boot piece, layer together **three lining pieces** and **one outer fabric piece**. Pin them together.

03 Sew the four layers together, **stitching around the perimeter** approximately 1.5cm in from the edge.

04 To make the **fuzzy cuff** on the boots, use the ruler to measure **15cm from**



the straight top-end of one of the front pieces. Define the cuff area by **marking and sewing a horizontal line**. Next, mark and then sew a diagonal line from the **top corner to the bottom corner** of this cuff area. Now mark and sew parallel lines at 1.5cm intervals **across the entire cuff area**.

05 Repeat on the other **front piece** and the **two back pieces**.

06 Using sharp scissors, **cut between the parallel lines** of the stitching on the lining sides of the front and back boot pieces. Cut

through the **three layers of red lining**, being sure you don't cut through the brown outer layer, as this is what **holds the pieces together**. If you make a tiny snip with the **tips of the scissors**, you should be able to get the blade in and get going. It's easier if you **make two passes**, cutting through two layers at a time.

07 The **raw seams are on the outside**, so put all the pieces together with the **wrong sides facing**. Start by matching the **curved bottom edge** of the front

piece to the **curved arch of the toe piece**. Then attach the curved edge of the heel piece to the curved edge of the back piece. Pin and sew together **in the same way as Step 3**.

08 Clip the seams **along the curves**. This will help the fabric get a **better fray**.

09 Attach the front of the boot to the back **along the side seams**. Pin the layers together and then sew them. You'll be sewing over **many layers of fabric** at the intersection of seams, so **take it nice and slow**,»



We've made our slipper boots pop with **bold red**. Mix and match your shades for a colour combo that you won't find on the high street.



MAKE THE PERFECT BOOT

■ Since these boots are soft and squishy, it isn't necessary to make them specifically for the left or right foot. The fit is pretty easy and unstructured and feels more like a sock than a shoe. The sizing on the pattern is approximate and based on foot length rather than shoe size. See the pattern pieces on page 98 for specifics.

■ It's a good idea to wash your boots with a rough fabric garment, such as jeans, as this will help bring up the fabric's 'bloom'. Don't wash them with anything linty, like towels, or you'll be picking fuzz off them forever more. The ones pictured only needed one wash to come out as they did. If you want more fuzziness quickly without laundering, use a stiff-bristled brush to bring up more fray.

HOW TO MAKE... SLIPPER BOOTS

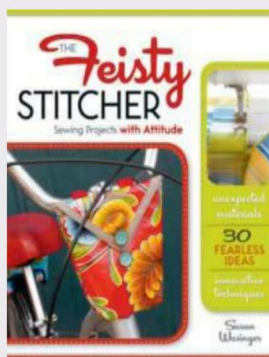
and be sure to **remove any pins** before sewing over them.

10 You can now sew the **outer sole** to the **fabric sole**.

11 Attach the sole to the **upper boot**, matching centre front and centre back. **Pin it first...**

12 **...then sew it together.**

13 Now put your boots into the **washing machine/dryer** for some hot suds, then a long tumble. Once dry, **give them a little 'haircut'** to even up the fray.



Susan Wasinger: The Feisty Stitcher

Susan Wasinger lives in Boulder, Colorado. As well as being a talented seamstress, Susan also loves to design magazines, books and even houses! Find more projects in Susan's latest book, *The Feisty Stitcher*, published by Lark Crafts (larkcrafts.com), £12.99. Visit our blog over at molliemakes.com to enter our giveaway, where we'll have three copies up for grabs.

Ooh

I COULD DO THAT...

Over the
rainbow

As if crocheted cover-ups weren't pretty enough, Laura Maxell has only gone and wowed us further. Her delicious mason jar wrap, complete with frills, takes all the beauty of a rainbow and brings it indoors. Time to break out the brights and tip out the jars, crochet hooks at the ready.

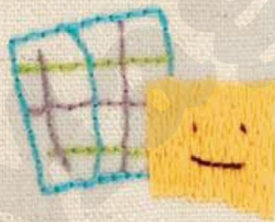
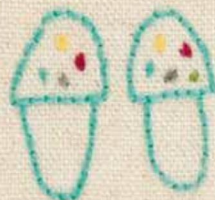
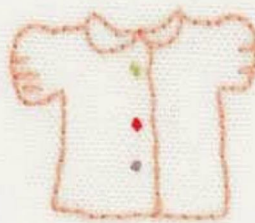
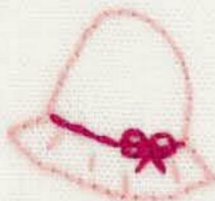
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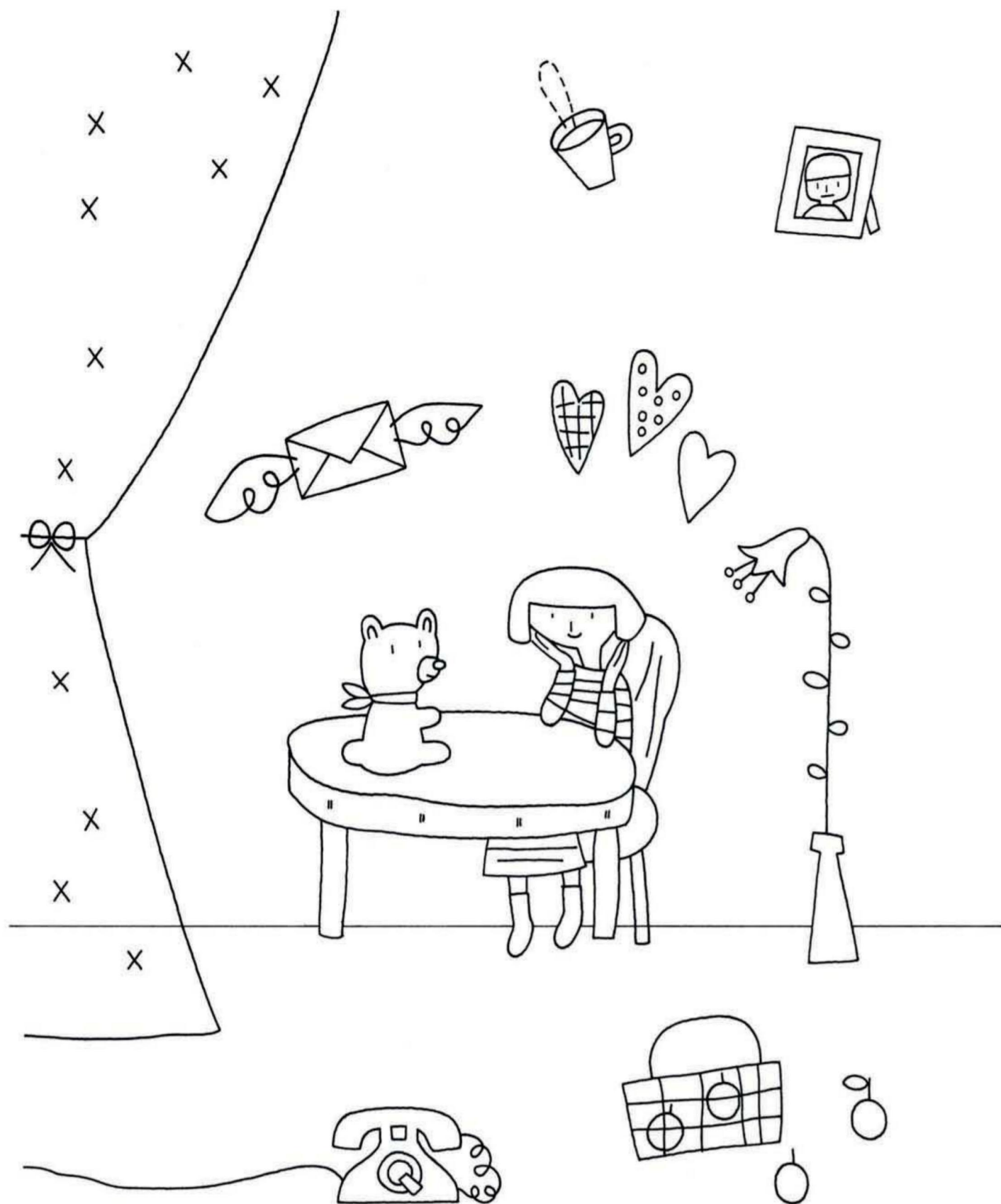


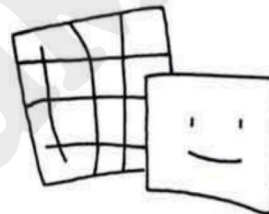
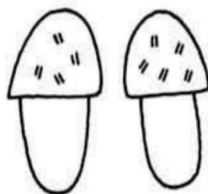
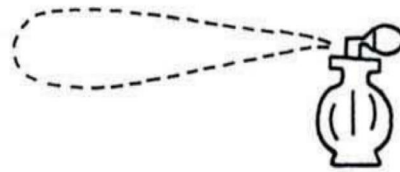
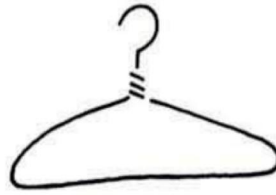
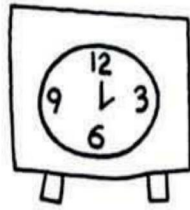


CURTAIN UP!

All the world's a stage! These cute Japanese designs are just the thing to add a tiny burst of colour to your home, clothes or accessories







346 X

523 X

118 X

X

X

X

X



X

X

X

X

HOW TO MAKE... SWEET STITCHED MOTIFS

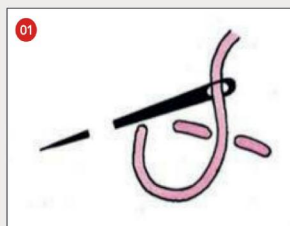
MATERIALS

- Cotton or linen fabric
- Stranded cotton
- Embroidery needle
- Small sharp scissors
- Embroidery hoop

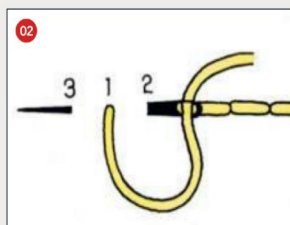
Start your embroidery by tracing the outlines on page 88 onto some canvas. Make up the design by using coloured threads that match your favourite shades. See below for a quick guide to some simple embroidery stitches to help you on your way.

Take different parts of the design to make a sweet button, decorate a napkin or brighten up a bag, as shown here. It's cute and original!

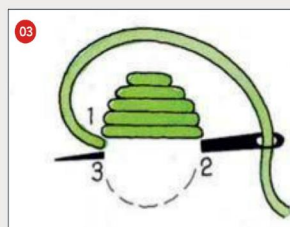
HOW TO... MAKE THE STITCHES FOR YOUR SAMPLER



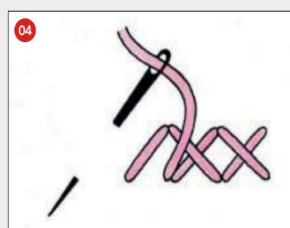
This is a basic **running stitch**, which we've used for the perfume spray. Just bring the needle and thread up and then back down trying to keep the stitches all equal length.



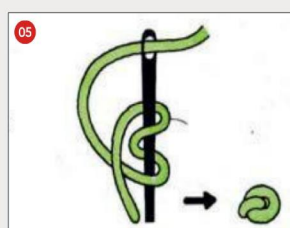
Use **back stitch** for a neat outline. Bring the needle up and take it back over the fabric, as shown. Push the needle back up in front of where you started, keeping the stitches neat and even.



To fill in blocks of colour, **satin stitch** gives good results. Follow the outline using one straight stitch back and forth. You can neaten things with a back stitch around the outline.



To make a **cross stitch**, bring the needle up and take it down diagonally. Bring it up again across on the opposite side and up diagonally into the fabric, keeping to the 'square'.



For a **French knot** come up through the fabric and wrap the thread around the needle, now take the needle halfway back in. Slide the thread down the needle, and push the needle back down.



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MOLLIE VISITS...

J&B THE SHOP

*Once upon a time two friends crafted a living. Blogger
Leigh Metcalf took her camera along to meet them*



J&B The Shop's customers are passionate about buying that one-off item. Co-founder Jessie Chorley says they are "dedicated to the unknown or more experimental style of our shop." Sit for a sunny morning people-watching and you'll see trendy Japanese kids pop in alongside interior designers and women just like us who are passionate about fabric and collecting.





On any given Sunday on East London's Columbia Road, you'll find the street buzzing with activity. Columbia Road is not only home to one of London's most famous flower markets, but also a number of wonderful, independent shops. Tucked behind a rainbow of flowers, is one such business, owned by Jessie Chorley and Buddug Humphreys, named simply 'J&B The Shop'.

Upon entering, one has the sense of being transported to a magical world, a bit like Jane and Michael must have felt when they hopped into Bert's sidewalk chalk picture in *Mary Poppins*. Only this would be more like hopping into an old story book, of a tale woven with so many of our favourite things – vintage linens, paper, buttons, bits and bobs. At every turn you'll see something ordinary turned extraordinary: old things given new life such

as the miniature sailboat with fragmented, embroidered words stitched to its sails; vintage jewellery fused with hand-etched enamel quotes; old books repurposed as lovely journals. Almost every piece in the shop is handmade, and as you look around, it seems genuine passion exudes from absolutely everything. All of this creativity is sure to leave you wondering who's behind these beautiful works of art!

Jessie and Buddug, the two very talented shop owners, first met in an art and design foundation course in Bangor, North Wales. They remained friends and continued their studies separately in London. Jessie focused on textiles and Buddug on jewellery design. With common interests and similar narratives running through their work, they started a stall at Broadway Market in 2005. After gaining a loyal following (those like-minded souls who appreciate the unusual and one-of-a-kind), in »

01 Jessie Chorley hard at craft. "I am passionate about collecting **fragmented cloth and clothing**," she says. "This is often a starting point for many of my pieces of work."

02 **Sumptuous rosettes a-plenty** adorn the window display mannequin.





01 Journals have a special place in Jessie's heart. "It goes back to the story books my mum and I made together from our walks in rural north Wales," she says.

02 03 "I'm inspired by old objects," says Buddug. "I love admiring the way it's aged, the way it was made and the history it might have had."

2007 they moved into a small space above a shop on Columbia Road. Since 2010, they've had their very own store front at number 158A.

"The concept of the shop is that everything is made by us, but this is sometimes quite difficult!" says Jessie. "I'm passionate about keeping things handmade so I pretty much make everything I sell myself with an assistant who helps me sew. We also source vintage finds from North Wales and France – we love this as it gives the shop that extra depth."

Their eclectic collection also includes Buddug's theatrical head pieces and Jessie's Mon Mariage wedding stationery. They're at their best discussing a truly bespoke gift with you, incorporating a loved-one's favourite poem or an important anniversary.

If you'd like to weave a magical tale yourself from some favourite vintage bits, Jessie teaches wonderful workshops such as embroidered

storybooks and altered journals, either at the shop or the Cake Hole Café inside Vintage Heaven just down the road at number 82.

For original art with a past that tells a story, there's really nothing like it. 🍷

*J&B The Shop, 158A Columbia Road,
London, E2 7RG jandbtheshop.com*



MAKE A DATE

Jessie Chorley offers a programme of whimsical workshops to take part in Fancy having a go at vintage-styled craft yourself? Jessie's upcoming class dates include Memory Boxes on Saturday May 5th and Altered Objects on Saturday June 2nd. Book early to avoid disappointment as these workshops tend to sell out! jessiechorley.com

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Photograph by Pauline Burbidge, 2009 - a study towards her new studio quilt, 'Lindisfarne Revisited',
to be shown at her retrospective exhibition at the Festival of Quilts in 2012.



TEMPLATES

*All the shapes for this issue's makes.
You can also find the full-size templates
ready to download from molliemakes.com*

SLIPPER BOOTS

PAGE 80

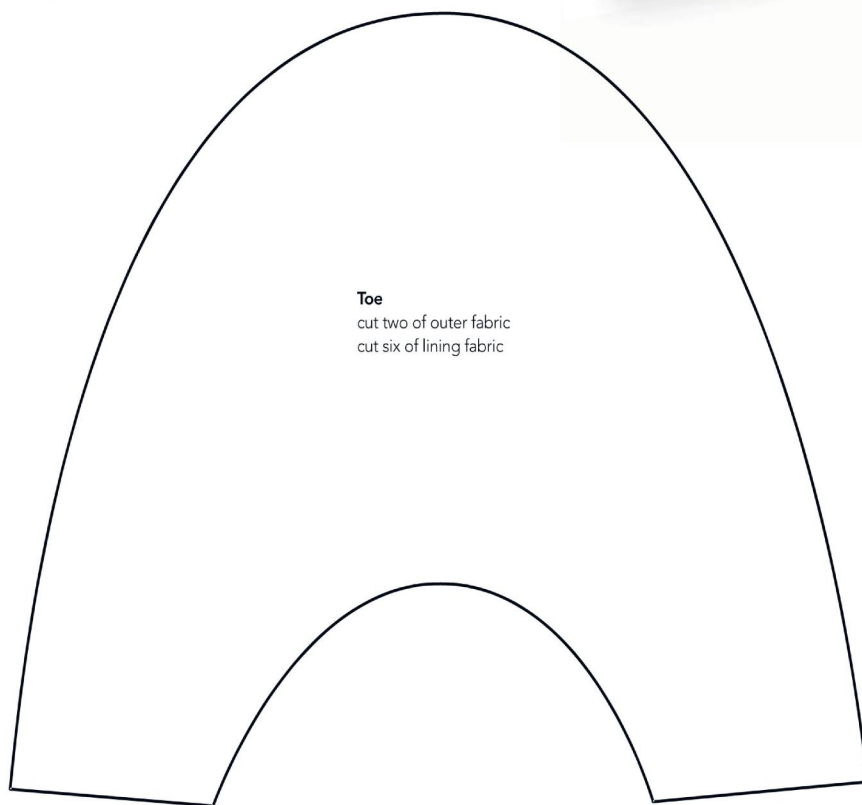
PHOTOCOPY AT:

200% FOR SIZES 3.5-5

205% FOR SIZES 5.5-6.5

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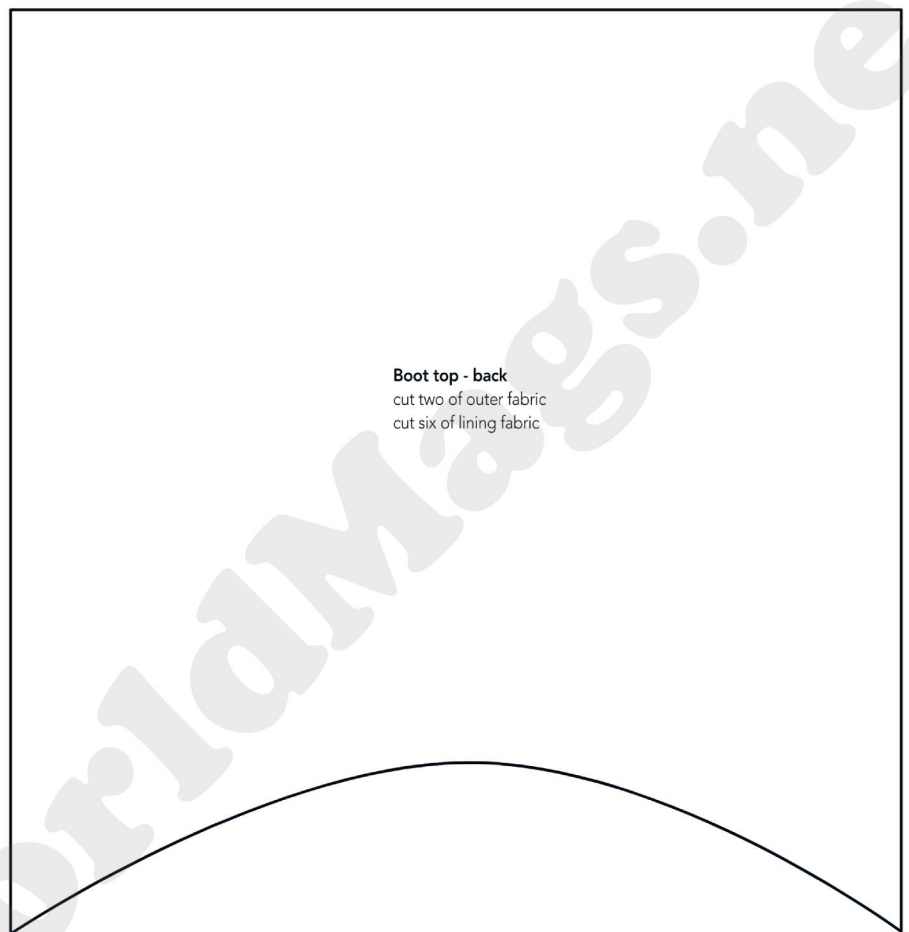
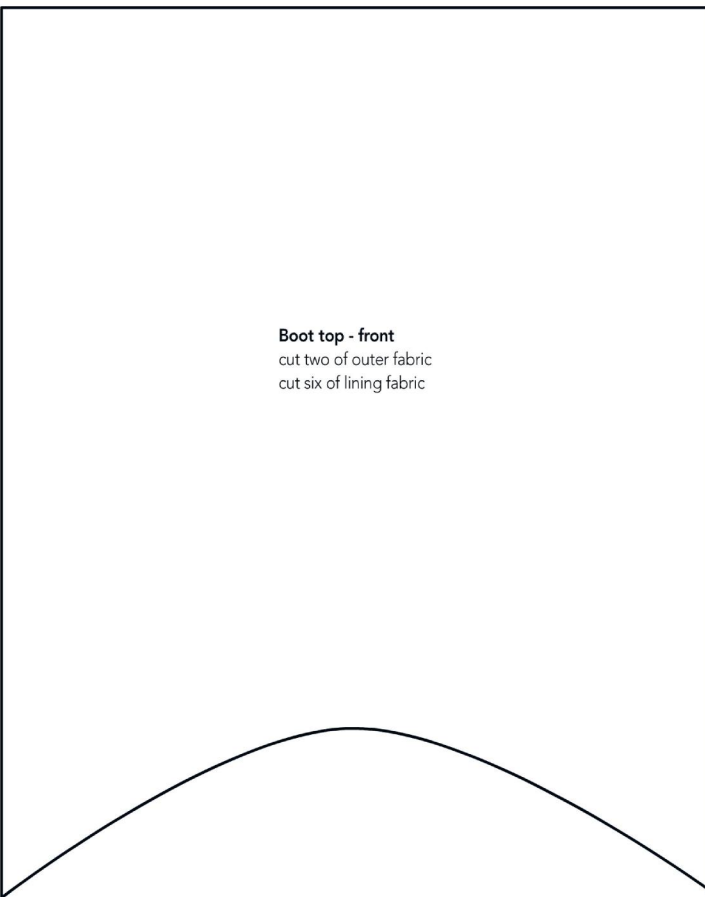
Toe
cut two of outer fabric
cut six of lining fabric



Heel
cut two of outer fabric
cut six of lining fabric



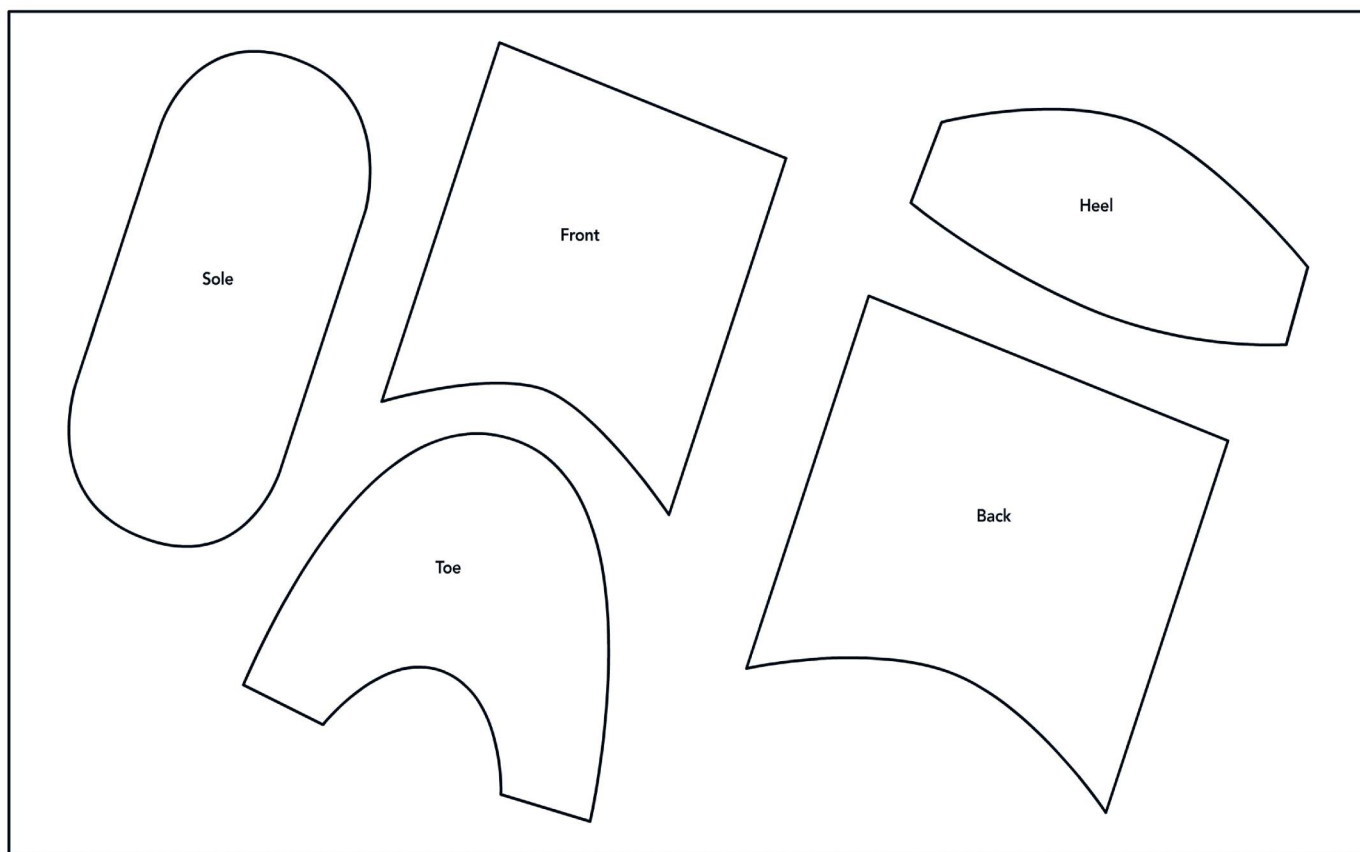
Sole
cut two of outer fabric
cut six of lining fabric



DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATES

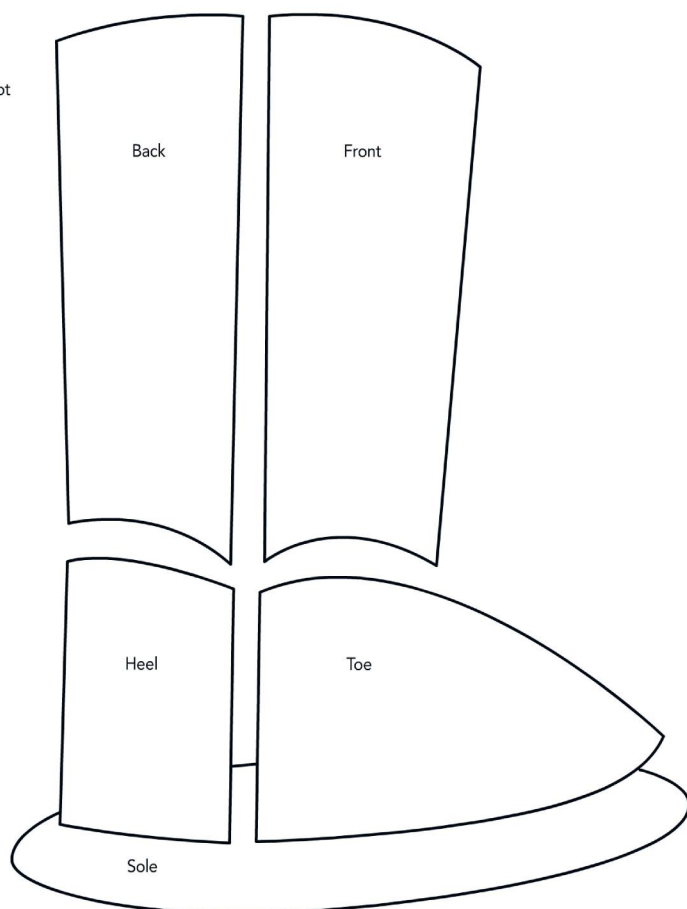
Just head over to our website at molliemakes.com to download this issue's full-size templates for free.

CUTTING GUIDE: Cut 6 of each piece in lining fabric, cut 2 of each piece in outer fabric

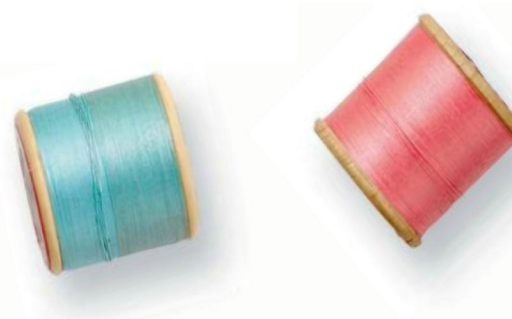
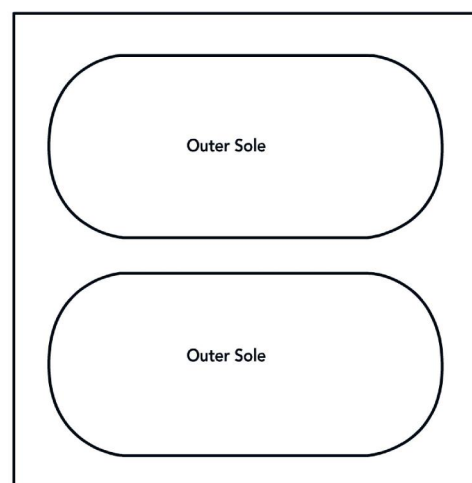


PUTTING YOUR BOOT TOGETHER

Use this diagram for reference only. Do not use as a template.



CUTTING GUIDE: Cut one of each in sole fabric



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MY SPACE

Busy mum-of-four Jennie Larsen finds calm within her purpose-built craft space to whip up a storm in fabric, altered art and home crafts



"I'm mother to four darling, silly and active kids and the founder of the CraftOManiac website. I live in Utah, and I love to spend my days cooking, decorating and crafting. My husband and I are truly best friends and we've been married for nearly 13 years. Life is crazy, creative and wonderful.

My craft space came about when the workspace behind our kitchen table was bursting at the seams with supplies, and my kids could no longer eat at the table. A nook in our master bedroom was ideal for a crafty space, so I got busy.

I created a curtain to attach to my craft table, so I can store stuff underneath. I also have cubbies, shelves and bags to hold supplies. The most important things in my studio are the pictures of my kids. They inspire me and, when I can craft and do something for them or with them, it's even better."

Keep up with Jennie at craftomaniac.blogspot.co.uk

01 My workspace was inspired by the white shelf my grandfather made to hold my troll dolls when I was a little girl. The wall decorations are mostly things I've made or thrift store buys that I've altered. I spray-painted nearly all of them! 02 The 'Cre•ate' definition vinyl was given to me. I embellished the canvas frame, above it, myself. The white frame was a garage-sale find,

which I painted white and decorated.

03 I recovered this lamp with fabric and ribbon. The burlap tags are embellished with cut letters. The cork board below is where I show off some of my favourite items.

04 The craft scissors station was once a 'lady' jewellery holder, but I spray-painted her and made her some clothes! I organise my supplies through jars, buckets, containers, shelves and hooks. Every craft supply has its home.

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