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SEW

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brothersewing.co.uk

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Winter's on the way...

sew
Dressmaker
OF THE YEAR 2020

IT'S BACK AND
BIGGER THAN EVER!
SEE PAGE 36

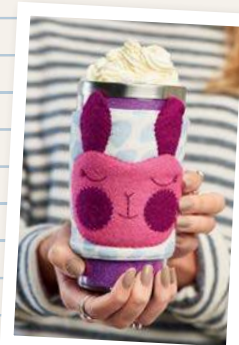
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TEMPLATES ONLINE,
THEN DOWNLOAD
AND PRINT THEM



SEW AN
ADVENT
CALENDAR,
PAGE 54

MAKE A CUP
COSY ON
PAGE 75



KELLY BAG ON PAGE 46



STAR CUSHION ON PAGE 75



PRESENT SACK ON PAGE 48



Although we typically think of January as the time for **new beginnings**, we simply couldn't wait to get a head start here at Sew HQ, and so we welcome three exciting launches!

First up is our brand-new Pattern on Test feature that sees our dressmakers put the latest indie designs through their paces, with exclusive hacks, tips and discounts along the way (p23).

The Great British Sewing Bee winner **Juliet**

Uzor joins the fold with her new column on page 29, where she'll be sharing what she's been up to since taking the title as Britain's best home sewer. Last but by no means least, our **Dressmaker of the Year 2020** competition is back, bigger and better than ever before – take a glimpse at the prizes, freebies and our bumper roster of judges on page 36.

This month we've got a whole host of brand-new patterns for you to get stitching, too. Dip your toes into sewing with **stretch knits** using New Look 6581, or get creative with 6347 that includes **five one-hour dresses**. You'll also have the chance to make a fur gilet for nippy days (p26) and a **Liberty print blouse** to wear all year-round (p38). Plus, you can accessorise your look with our Kelly bag (p46) and leopard print belt (p45).

Finally, we are all about time-saving as the clock ticks down to the big day, so we've also lined up plenty of **quick-stitch projects** to help you achieve the perfect handmade Christmas. Store pressies in Susie Johns' Santa sack on page 48, tuck choccie treats into an advent calendar (p54), and make our **adorable Nordic gnomes** on page 56 to add a festive flourish to the mantelpiece.

Happy sewing!

Lucy Lucy Jobber, Sew editor

sew
EXCLUSIVE
PROJECT



Subscribe
TODAY!

FREE
dressmaker's
mannequin in
three different
sizes on page 70

Get in touch! SHARE YOUR STITCHING CREATIONS, TIPS AND VIEWS WITH THE SEWING COMMUNITY



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SEW MAGAZINE 03



FANCY FROCK,
PAGE 12

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patterns
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Use your bonus gifts to make a capsule wardrobe!



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Our mascot was lovingly named by a Sewreader

Dressmaking

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Whip up elasticated trousers and wrap-around pieces

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Stitch five dresses with various styles and sleeves!

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70 Subscriptions

FREE* dressmaker's mannequin

81 Bumper giveaways

Feeling lucky? Enter to win £3,600 of prizes!

82 20% OFF* Abakhan

Bag a bargain on dressmaking material

83 20% OFF* Crafty Sew & So

Stock up on the shop's fabrics and patterns

84 Reader offer

FREE* Penny the Pig sewing kit, worth £12.99!

81



26



GIRL POWER

Haven't got time to whip up a new outfit for the little one in your life this Christmas? No fear - The Middle Daughter offers a multitude of gorgeous outfits which cater exclusively for young girls aged between two and 14 years. All of the garments feature innovative designs, from bold colourful stripes to soft ditsy prints that are great for inspiring your future projects, too.

themiddledaughter.co.uk



Go-to Jumper

Meet your new cosy wardrobe classic, the Jenny top! The slouchy fit pattern provides a comfy yet stylish shape which flatters all figures, plus you can stretch your sewing skills by using your choice of jersey fabric - don't forget to use a ballpoint needle, too!

helloworkshop.co.uk



WHO

WHAT

The sewing world is a hub of

Turn to
p82 to
win!

Fit & Flare

Create the Fiore skirt to stay in style all year round! View A is a simple flared skirt with an invisible back zip which is ideal for drapery prints, whereas version B offers a fresh take on the wrap skirt with an asymmetrical design and a single pocket.

**closetcase
patterns.com**

Dressmaker of the Year 2020!

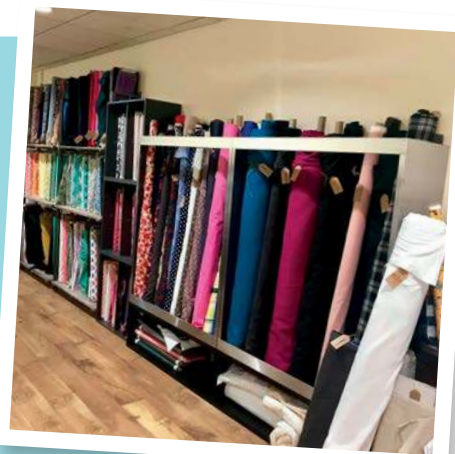


category champions! Turn to page 36 for more information on how to get involved. **sewmag.co.uk/dressmakeroftheyear**

Our annual Dressmaker of the Year competition is back! You can enter multiple garments into any category and in return you'll receive TWO FREE dressmaking patterns, courtesy of **sewdirect.com**. The event is also sponsored by Brother, which will be giving away an Innov-is F420 machine worth £599 to the overall winner and an Innov-is A50 model to the

SHOP LOCAL

The independent fabric and haberdashery shop Fabricate in West Yorkshire has moved! Pop into the new store in Mirfield to stock up on fabric, patterns and haberdashery. Don't forget to check out their new upstairs workshop area offering a variety of classes, too! Visit 146 Huddersfield Road, Mirfield, WF14 8AN, or call **01924 676 329**.



EXPERT EMBROIDERY

Check out the exclusive new collection from Hand & Lock, The Embroidery Edit. In the range, there's a selection of unique designs that use traditional hand techniques including raffia weaving and embroidery, which have been added to wash bags, clutches, badges and pouches.

handembroidery.com



If you buy one pattern...

With Simplicity 6572, you can make one of three pinafore variations. Use a lightweight denim for a timeless wardrobe classic, or stay on-trend this season with a rust coloured corduroy. You also have a choice of two necklines, V or square, as well as three different lengths and the option to add pockets - what's not to love?

[£8, sewdirect.com](http://£8.sewdirect.com)



Alma Shimmer Striped Knitted Jumper, £45; Rust Midi Cord V Front Shift Dress, £65; Yellow Suede Envelope Clutch, £39.50, oliverbonas.com

& WEAR

excitement — keep up!



On Top Form

For accurate dressmaking measurements, purchase the Lady Valet eight-part dressform! This product is now available in four sizes and has 12 thumb wheels to allow you to adjust the bust, hip and waist. It also comes in two different ranges: Traditional and Accessorised.

adjustoform.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Visit the Fashion and Textile Museum **from 14th February until 14th June next year** to see the *Out of the Blue: Fifty Years of Designers Guild* exhibition. The display will reveal the creative design of Tricia Guild, the founder of Designers Guild, offering access to original artwork which has never been seen before. ftmlondon.org

From 21st to 22nd February 2020, go to Swavesey Village College, Cambridgeshire, for the Textiles East Fair which showcases the beautiful products from textile artists, designers and retailers alike. textileseastfair.wordpress.com

Embrace your quilting pleasures and visit the *Springfields Christmas Quilt Show* in Spalding, Lincolnshire, **from 6th to 7th December 2019**. The display offers an array of wonderful quilts, alongside suppliers and personalities, which are on hand to help you with your patchwork skills. grosvenorshows.co.uk

Stay Tuned

Keep in the loop with the latest online updates

Blog Spot

Sew Meets Liz Trenow

Author Liz Trenow soaks up the success of her sixth book *The Dressmaker of Draper's Lane* — and we find out what inspired her latest novel.

sewmag.co.uk/blog



Top TV

Stitch a Circle Quilt

Cosy up for Christmas with this simple how-to tutorial on sewing a perfect circle quilt — it's an ideal project for beginners, too!

youtube.com/c/SewistChannel



Listen Up

Sewing for a Cause

Check out the Clothes Making Mavens podcast with Helena and Lori who interview the founders of Sewing with a Mission about their recent endeavour to teach women to stitch in Peru.

clothesmakingmavens.com





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THIS MONTH'S
PATTERNS

8 Easy-Sew PATTERNS

Your bonus New Look [6347](#) and [6581](#) patterns are ideal for all kinds of fabrics, plus you'll be able to whip up a collection of dresses, tops and trousers in sizes up to 24*



What's your Simplicity Size?

Remember to use your body measurements to find your pattern size, NOT the ready-to-wear size that you'd buy in high street shops. Visit sewdirect.com to find out more about taking accurate measurements and getting the right fit for your shape.

GET YOUR KNIT ON

The New Look 6581 pattern requires you to work with a stretch knit fabric, whether that be double knit, interlock or jersey. When using this material, it's important to choose the right needle for the job; a ball point one is your best bet, as it will ensure that the fibres separate rather than tear when the needle slides through.

SUPPLE SEAMS

Similarly, with the New Look 6581 pattern, the knit fabric you use needs to have some 'give' to ensure that the stitches don't snap. The best way to provide the seams with stretch is by using a narrow zig zag stitch or if you have one, an overlocker.



3 Simple Styles

WITH NEW LOOK 6581

For wrap-around style, you have a choice of a gorgeous tunic which falls to the knee and a hip-length top, plus you can combine these garments with design C, which offers a pair of elasticated straight-leg trousers.

TOP TOOLS

A loop turner is a handy, inexpensive gadget that is great for twisting narrow tubes, like belt and button loops. In this case, it will come in useful when turning the tie belt right sides out on the tunic and top patterns. To use it, simply insert the wire with the hook sticking out of the top, then catch the hook on the end of the fabric and close the latch to pull it through.



Snake Print Scuba Print, £8.99 per metre, abakhan.co.uk

SETTING SLEEVES

A well-set sleeve is where it fits smoothly into the armhole and the cap lays correctly over the shoulder point without any unnecessary puckers, tucks or gathers. A top tip to get your sleeve sitting just right is to pin in stages or in between anchor points before stitching, such as the underarm, shoulder, notches and front ease sections.



Cactus Print Cotton Jersey, £10.99 per metre, abakhan.co.uk

STRETCH IT OUT

Design C on this pattern features a simple, stylish pair of straight-leg trousers that have an elasticated waistband. To make sure you secure the elastic so that it won't twist when you're wearing the trousers, you should sew through all the fabric layers of the casing in the groove of each seam.



Floral Print Stretch Jersey Knit, £11.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com



**UP TO
SIZE 22***
*UK SIZES

your **Style**

SELECTOR

STYLE A TIE-BELT TUNIC

Featuring three-quarter sleeves, a wrap front, and a knee-length, this tunic dress is ideal for any occasion and can be paired with trousers or tights.

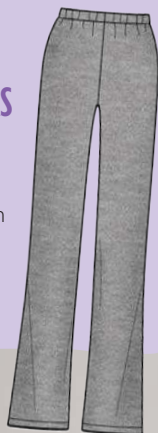


STYLE B EASY-SEW TOP

This simple top channels the latest trends with its full-length sleeves, V-neck front and tie belt.

STYLE C SIMPLE TROUSERS

These elasticated straight-leg bottoms are incredibly easy to make, plus they match any outfit, making them a staple for your capsule closet.



Why we made STYLE A

This easy-to-sew number is a great garment for knit fabrics, plus it shows off the tie belt and wrap-around style.



5 One-Hour Dresses

WITH NEW LOOK 6347

Update your wardrobe with these quick and easy frocks which take just one hour to make! You'll have a choice of stitching with cotton and silk fabric types, plus five different styles, from ankle-length and above-the-knee dresses to spaghetti strap numbers.



UP TO
SIZE 24*

*UK SIZES



your **Style**

SELECTOR

STYLE A ALL-OCCASION OUTFIT

Depending on the material you make this dress in, you'll be set for any event, whether it be a day trip with friends or an evening party.



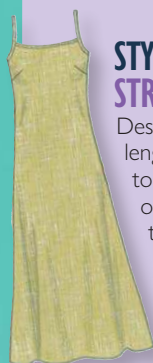
STYLE B SWEET & SIMPLE

This design is similar to version A, but is ideal for those who prefer a slightly shorter length.



STYLE C FRILL FACTOR

This dress has an ankle length and a floaty shape, but the main focus of this frock is definitely the frilled straps.



STYLE D STRAPPY STYLE

Design D features a similar length and relaxed-fit skirt to option C, but it swaps out the frills for barely-there straps.

STYLE E THE SKATER DRESS

You can't go wrong with this classic style – layer it over a turtleneck jumper and tights for winter chic or wear without during the warmer months.



Shoes, £35; next.co.uk; bag, £13.99; newlook.com

“MAKE STYLE B IN A SOFT CREPE FABRIC TO FEEL GLAMOROUS NO MATTER WHAT THE OCCASION”



Why we made
STYLE B

This simple style shows off the wide neckline, fitted bust darts, plus the full and floaty skirt.

Next month's 2 BONUS patterns



MASTER SEWING WITH SILKS

STYLISH & SIMPLE

Get to grips with knits and silks to make wrap dresses and loose-fit cover-ups.



MAKE A TIE-BELT WRAP DRESS



January issue on sale 12th December 2019



PERFECT YOUR BUST
DART SKILLS



LEARN TO SEW WITH
CREPE FABRIC

Pick your NEEDLE

When sewing with crepe fabric like our dressmaker has with the red version of design B, you'll need to use a brand-new universal needle. A new needle is best because it will be sharper, meaning that it won't snag the material.

For universal needle size 60/8, visit prym.com for stockists



Choose your THREAD

Likewise, if you're sewing with crepe you'll need to pick the right sort of thread that is compatible with the fabric. In the case of this project, a lightweight cotton or polycotton is ideal.

We used Seralon Polyester in Candy Apple and Dark Indigo. For stockists, visit amann-mettler.com



On the BIAS

For the raw edges of the armholes on these dresses, you'll need to add bias binding. If you'd prefer to make your own, simply cut fabric strips on the bias grain to the correct width for a binding maker. Feed the strip into the

gadget and press the creased edges as the strip comes out.

Perfect PATTERN

When you're sewing with crepe or any other silky fabric, you should always check that the material is cut out accurately, as it can slide about when trimming it down to size. To do this, just unpin the pattern piece from the fabric after cutting and re-lay the pattern on top to see where it may have shifted, then trim accordingly.

Staying IN CHECK

The designs on this pattern require a lot of stay-stitching: a row of sewing inside the seam allowance which ensures that the fabric keeps its shape. It's vital for curved edges, such as necklines and armholes, as these are the places the garment is most likely to fall out of shape.



'Baies' Draping Red
Satin Backed
Crepe, £12.50
per metre,
clothspot.co.uk

Aubergine Satin
Backed Crepe,
£18.70 per metre,
samanthaclaridgestudio.com





The countdown to Christmas is on! We take a look at what you've been sewing for the festive season.



This Simplicity dinosaur quilt is sewed entirely from fabric scraps.
Brenda Howe



I sewed matching raincoats for my daughter and her doll.
Charmaine West

I made 220 penguin masks and feet which were used for the penguin parade at the Naming Ceremony of the RRS Sir David Attenborough, and best of all, Prince William and Kate Middleton commented on them!

Jean Adams

Wow, what an incredible story!



A sailor dress for my little one.
Nikki Woodward

I constructed my own patterns to create a beautiful 1960s The Supremes-inspired evening gown and matching handbag.

Laura Dickson

This looks stunning, Laura!



CHOSEN BY YOU

Each month on Facebook, we ask you to help us choose a name for our issue's mascot.

"I chose this name because he looks like a Lennie!"

Joanne Vernon, Sew reader

Help us to choose a name for next month's mascot at [facebook.com/sewhq](https://www.facebook.com/sewhq)



MADERA

Joanne has won a set of Madeira threads from [madeira.co.uk](https://www.madeira.co.uk)

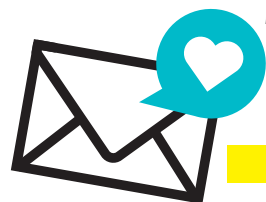


Continued overleaf



Find our Llama on p75

Say Hello to Lennie the Llama!



Write in and WIN!



I made Alice & Co's Georgie Dress, which is a recreation of a Mary Quant design.

Rachael Skillen



I made this Star Wars top for my husband! It's the first shirt I've ever done, and I had some help at Dolly's Haberdashery and Sewing School.

Joanne Vernon

May the force be with your sewing!



This is a dress I stitched for my colleague's little girl – how rude of people to have hot, sunny holidays while we all freeze in the UK!

Sarah Holyhead

We wish we were jetting off to somewhere warm, too!



These are the blankets I embroidered for my friend's charity The Skye High Foundation, which supports families through pregnancy loss.

Rebecca May Warde



One Christmas present finished for my niece's children, only four more to go!

Allison Maryon



This sewing machine cross-stitch is a must-have for your craft room!

craftypinup.shop



It's a brew-tiful day for a cuppa and a spot of sewing!

etsy.com/shop/ringcat



Inject cosiness into your home with this hygge hoop. etsy.com/shop/mylovelycrossstitch

For more inspiration, check out our stitchy Pinterest boards at [@sewhq](https://www.pinterest.com/sewhq)

This month our Star Letter winner will receive a bumper selection of fabrics from Minerva Crafts, worth £50.
minervacrafts.com



stitch&share

Share your latest stitchy triumphs with Sew!

HOP TO IT

A bunny purse for my daughter to collect conkers in!

Naomi Alexander



PACK YOUR BAGS

This cross-body bag is made with tweed and leatherette.

Ann Todhunter



SAVVY STITCHER

My collection of zipped bags.

Samantha Currie



PRINTED PAIR

I stitched these leggings for my daughter.

Clare Holding



GIDDY UP

My saddle bag is made from faux leather.

Gill Rich



SEW-CIAL BUTTERFLY

Earlier this year, I took part in a challenge called The 100 Day Project, where I hand-stitched 100 'flutterbys'. I made each butterfly from upcycled fabric scraps and crafted them into a whole host of items, such as brooches, hair accessories, hanging decorations and bag clips.

Here's a selection!

Lesley Withers



I made this teepee from your July issue as a Christmas present for my granddaughter. Now I'm making another one for a different granddaughter!

Linda Dibnah



My *Harry Potter*-inspired quilted cushion.

Gill Rich



Share your makes via social media @sewhq or email to editorial@sewmag.co.uk

baby lock

Autumn Overlock- and Combination Machine special offer 2019*

Bye bye summer, welcome to our autumn overlock- and combination machine special offer!

Now is the time to start being creative in the autumn season. From **1 September to 31 December 2019**, we will be offering our **enspire** at a special price of **£ 799** and we will be offering our combination machine **desire₃** with a free foot set.



*01.10. - 31.12.2019

Contact your nearest dealer for a free demonstration.

Scotland Drummond Sewing Machines | Edinburgh | 07980 744 441
Pemberton's Sewing Machines | Stirling | 01786 462 993

North Direct Knit & Sew Ltd. | Sheffield | 01142 449 888
Gillies Fabrics | York | 01904 626 244

North West Hobkirk Sewing Machines | Blackburn | 01254 693 555
SA Sewing Machines | Rochdale | 01706 355 529
SA Sewing Machines | Oldham | 01616 243 181
Superior Sewing Centre | Carlisle | 01228 599 880

North East Jane White Couture | North Lincolnshire | 01482 840 712
Young & Sons (Fabric Mouse) | Brompton on Swale | 08006 889 971

Midlands Frank Nutt Sewing Machines | Birmingham | 01214 443 978
Rutland Sewing | Rutland | 01572 756 468
DC Nutt Sewing Machines | Birmingham | 01922 497 603
Your Sewing Needs at the Lorna Knight Sewing Academy | Staffordshire | 01538 371 682

London The Sewing Rooms | London | 02087 800 126
Sew Works Epsom | 0208 393 8448

East Regent Home of Sewing | Ilford Essex | 02084 780 669
Rona Sewing Machines | Waltham Cross | 01992 640 250
Sewing Machine World | King's Lynn Norfolk | 01553 773 362

South East Beccles Sewing & Handicraft Suffolk | 01502 714 234
World Of Sewing | Tunbridge Wells Kent | 01892 533 188
World Of Sewing | Orpington Kent | 01689 638 638
Eclectic Maker | Worthing | 01903 681 000
Sew Devine | Reading | 01189 268 664
Sew Essential | Moira Derbyshire | 01283 210 422

West Refresh Sewing Machines | Leominster | 01568 610 044

South West Bredons Sewing Machines | Taunton | 01823 272 450
Exeter Sewing Centre | Exeter | 01392 275 660
Husqvarna Studio | Bath | 01225 482 413

South Wales Clifford's Sewing Machines | Swansea | 01792 655 928
J&B Sewing Machine Co. Ltd. | Newport | 01633 284 646

Find our full range at www.babylock.co.uk

WOW! 3 Bonus Looks

WITH YOUR **sew** EXCLUSIVE PATTERNS

When it comes to statement outfits, December's capsule collection is a winner! This month, we're bringing you a stylish gilet, Liberty print blouse and work-to-play skirt.



ALEXA BLOUSE, P38



JULIA GILET, P26



SANDY SKIRT, P34

Free!
TEMPLATE
DOWNLOAD
sewmag.co.uk/templates

All of the patterns you need to get started are available to download at sewmag.co.uk. Simply register or log-in to begin!

PLUS!
This month we tried out Tilly and the Buttons Indigo Smock Top

YOUR SIZING CHART

	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Bust	78cm	83cm	88cm	93cm	98cm	103cm	108cm
Waist	59cm	64cm	69cm	74cm	79cm	84cm	89cm
Hip	85cm	88cm	93cm	98cm	103cm	108cm	113cm
Back neck to waist	39cm	40cm	41cm	42cm	43cm	44cm	45cm

OUR PATTERN PROMISE

All of our patterns are available in sizes 8-20* and already include seam allowances. Remember to make a toile to ensure the best fit for you.

*Excludes covermounted gifts



Polka dot dress,
mandco.com



Metallic jacquard in Champagne, £3.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com



Metallic tape braid,
£19.96 each,
sewessential.co.uk



Lame metallic in Purple, £3.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com

MAGIC METALLICS

SHIMMER AND SHINE IN THIS GLITZY MATERIAL

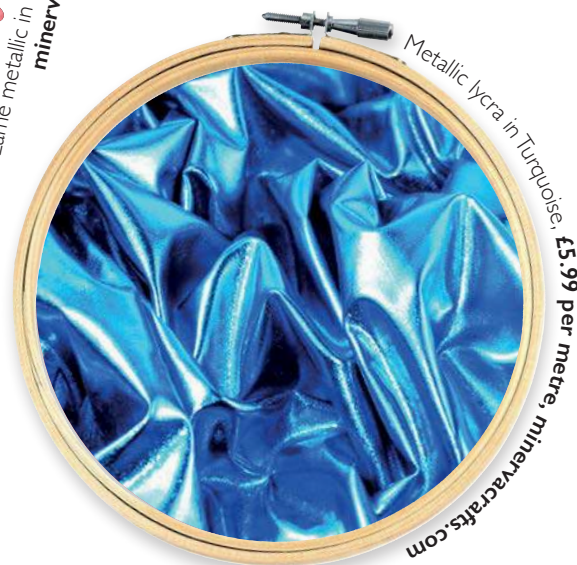
Metallic fabric epitomises festive wear with its glossy texture and reflective surface which sparkles a rainbow of colours in different lights! Depending on the desired look, metallic material can be created using one of many techniques such as needle punching, which entangles metal fibres with textile ones, or coating metal foil with colour pigmented plastic film.



Lame metallic in Red, £3.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com



Hemline metallic thread in Gold and Silver, £1.79 each, sewessential.co.uk



Metallic lycra in Turquoise, £5.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com



Metallic edge satin ribbon, £9.19 each, sewessential.co.uk

Metallic lycra in Lime Green, £5.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com

Meet our Fashion Mate

The **Singer 3333, 3337 and 3342 Fashion Mates** include:

- * Up to 32 Built-In Stitches
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TILLY AND THE BUTTONS

INDIGO PATTERN

Whether you're dressing for work or play, Tilly's easy-stitch top and frock pattern has you covered! This comfy and effortlessly stylish smock can be sewn with classic gathered seams or a stand-out exposed frill, plus it has no fiddly fastenings. You can choose from a range of designs, too: a top with a dipped hem; a knee-length dress with a straight hem and pockets; and three-quarter flounce or slim-fitting bracelet sleeves. And the good news doesn't stop there – Tilly's also giving Sew readers an exclusive 10% off* the Indigo printed and digital pattern with the code **SEWINGINDIGO**.



**EXCLUSIVE
10% OFF!***

Trousers, £25, Principles; bag, £39, Faith at debenhams.com; shoes, £19.50, marksandspencer.com

"THE INDIGO SMOCK PATTERN IS A GREAT MAKE FOR CONFIDENT BEGINNERS! PLUS, IT'S RELATIVELY EASY TO ADJUST THANKS TO THE LOOSE STYLE – SEE MY TOP TIPS OVER THE PAGE FOR SOME TWEAKS ON HOW TO ACHIEVE THE PERFECT FIT"

Tilly Walnes, founder of Tilly and the Buttons

Sizes 6-24



If your bust and waist fall across different sizes, check out our Guide to Grading at sewmag.co.uk



TOP TIPS FROM TILLY



If you want to make pattern adjustments to the Indigo smock, then you've come to the right place! First you should make a toile, or as it's otherwise known, a 'muslin'; this is a mock-up of the garment in a fabric you don't mind using for testing purposes. Make sure you use a material that has similar properties and the same weight as your intended fabric for the project. At this point, it's a great opportunity

to try out the fit of the pattern, but you don't necessarily need to make the entire garment, only the pieces that you need to be fitted to your specific measurements, which is the bodice and sleeves in this case.

Once you've made the toile, check the fit by trying it on and raising your arms, sitting down, and perhaps even busting out some dance moves – you get my drift! Once you've checked that it's comfortable to move in and found out whether it's too tight or loose, make a note of any changes you'd like to make. You should also bear in mind that the weight of the gathered skirt on this pattern may pull down

the bodice, so you might need to sew the bodice dart slightly higher than the fullest part of your bust.

To ensure an accurate fit, you should use a flexible tape measure to find the circumference of your bust and waist, then circle these figures on the 'Body Measurements' chart on the pattern instructions. You can also make this garment in a variety of different fabric types, from light- to medium-weight wovens such as cotton lawn and chambray, to soft georgette or sustainable Tencel.

A WORD FROM OUR DRESSMAKER...

The pattern itself is incredibly simple to use, as it comes on printed paper or in a digital format, each with precise size lines and cutting instructions in a coloured book with photographs and helpful hints. If you're a beginner, then not to worry, the pattern also has jargon-busting explanations to help you.

Curves & Stitches

Understitching is an important step when making the Indigo pattern. To do this, you should sew a row of machine stitches along the right side of the facing next to the seam line, pulling the seam apart gently as you do so. Now press the facing inwards for a sharp finish. To ensure that the neckline lays flat



10 PATTERNS
TO GIVE
AWAY! P81



on this pattern, you should turn the facing into the garment and clip the curves along the neck. To do this, you'll need to make small cuts at right angles to the stitches at 2cm intervals without catching the sewing.

Gather Round

My final tip is on making the gathered frill. Finish off the top edge of the skirt and bottom of the bodice, then mark the centre front and back on both parts with pins to divide each one into four equal parts. Make the gathers along the top edge of the frill by using contrasting top and bottom threads and a stitch length of 4mm to 5mm; the long ends should finish at each end of the quarters. Join the top and bottom pieces by pinning at the quarter points, then pull up the gathering threads to fit each section.

Next, even out the gathers, then pin at right angles to the fabric edge – there's no need to tack at this point. Machine-stitch with matching thread and a regular stitch length; the gathers can be adjusted as you sew. Pull out the bobbin threads of the gathers and the top ones should be easily released.

SHOPPING BASKET

Go Wild

Let your inner animal roar with this leopard print fabric – not only is this soft crepe de chine all the rage, but it also has a wonderful drape. **£9.50 per metre**, samanthaclaridgestudio.com



Top of the Smocks

Tilly and the Buttons Indigo Smock Pattern, **£14.50**, shop.tillyandthebuttons.com



EXCLUSIVE
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 Search #SewingIndigo on Instagram to see more fabulous versions!



Stay snug in the five-step Julia Gilet

Get started

Essentials

Fabric, 1m (160cm)

Lining, 1m

Sizes

8-20

Cutting guide

Front: cut one pair in fabric and lining

Back: cut one on the fold in fabric and lining

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout.

1 Download and cut out the pattern from **sewmag.co.uk**, then follow the cutting guide. Pin and sew the shoulder seams of the jacket and lining, right sides together, matching the notches. Stitch to the dot marked at the back shoulder edge and press the seams open.

2 Match and pin the neckline lining to the gilet neckline, right sides facing, then pin each centre front edge. Sew from the base of the gilet up around the neck and down the opposite side.

3 Match the gilet armholes to the lining ones, right sides together. Pin and stitch in place. Clip around the curved seam allowance on the armholes and neckline. Trim the bulk from the curved top corners. Turn the gilet to the right side by threading the front parts through the shoulders.

4 Match up the side seams, pin and sew from the base of the gilet up to

Keep icy chills at bay with **Amanda Walker's** faux fur gilet. This project will not only ensure that you stay warm and cosy, it will also add an effortless touch of style to your me-made outfit. What's more, this one-metre make will teach you how to sew with faux fur fabric and help you insert a lining.



THIS LOOSE-FIT GILET IS IDEAL FOR
MASTERING HOW TO WORK WITH THICK FABRIC

the underarm, then continue the seam into the lining side seams. Make sure that the armhole seams are open and matching exactly when sewing.

5 Turn the gilet back to the wrong side, matching the lining base to the gilet. Pin and sew together, leaving a gap of approximately 15cm in the centre of the stitching line. Trim the bulk from the curved corners, then turn the gilet to the right side through the gap. Tease out the seams and corners, then close the gap by hand slip-stitching.

FABRIC SHOPPER



Winter Woollens

This premium-quality beige faux fur is guaranteed to add a luxurious touch to your seasonal wardrobe. **£22.99 per metre, fabricguys.com**

top TIP

Use plenty of pins while stitching the fur to the lining; you will find that the material will want to push the lining away from the seam edges. After the seams have been stitched and turned to the right side, use a pin to tease the fur out from the seam.



Blouse, £12.99, hm.com; jeans, £22, Principles at debenhams.com; belt, £6.99, bag, £14.99, tkmaxx.com

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sewmag.co.uk/templates

IN SIZES 8-20

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IN THE LOOP WITH Juliet Uzor

JOINING US AS A COLUMNIST, JULIET SHARES WHAT SHE'S BEEN UP TO SINCE BEING CROWNED BRITAIN'S BEST HOME SEWER...



Juliet is the reigning champion of *The Great British Sewing Bee* 2019. Previously a primary school teacher, you'll now find her busy blogging or on her YouTube channel, *SewSoNatural*.

Autumn, which is gradually becoming my favourite time of the year, is finally upon us – and what a wet one it has been! For me, it's more of an excuse to sew all the outerwear in all the colours. I've put myself on a 'dark and moody' fabric ban this year, as the plan is to incorporate even more colour in my wardrobe than I used to. But the question is, what have I been up to since winning *The Great British Sewing Bee* earlier this year? Well, it's been a rollercoaster ride and I'm enjoying it all the way! In the middle of empowering other women to fabricate their own style through my blog, **sewsonatural.com**, and whilst parenting a sassy five-year-old, I've taken on special occasion garment commissions, one-to-one sessions and set up a YouTube channel to spread the sewing love! There's been many lessons learnt, progress made and crafty mistakes never to be repeated again.

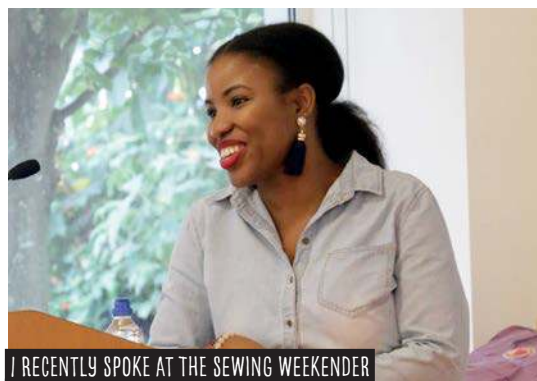
In July I felt privileged to attend a digital pattern making course at the London College of Fashion. I really did enjoy taking a back seat as a student for once and not the teacher. I've gained a lot of insight into how the fashion industry operates and how a range of softwares are used to create sewing patterns – including the many (*maaaany*) stages they have to pass through before finally getting to us consumers. I'm currently applying that knowledge into creating a few patterns for people who are new to sewing. Updates on this will be shared to those on my mailing list.

A few of my projects have been shared on the Singer sewing machine



BUSY PREPARING FOR THE SIMPLICITY PATTERN HACK-ALONG

“It's been a rollercoaster ride and I'm enjoying it all the way!”



I RECENTLY SPOKE AT THE SEWING WEEKENDER ORGANISED BY THE FOLD LINE LADIES

website as part of my partnership I have with them. One of the projects is called 'Demystifying the Making of Blazers', where I shared valuable tips and tricks to remove any barriers stopping home sewers from venturing into creating this versatile garment. In this project, I used the Aava Blazer sewing pattern by Named Clothing – the Utu Skirt from their book *Breaking the Pattern* is my current favourite. Added to that, I've also dabbled in a bit of public speaking. Most recently, I spoke at the Sewing Weekender organised by the wonderful ladies at The Fold Line alongside Charlotte Powell. It was an excellent opportunity to meet many Sewing Bee fans in real life! I hope to return to the event for the chance to connect with even more of you. The Simplicity Pattern Hack-Along launched in September and I had the humble pleasure of kick-starting it with a fun hack-along, converting Simplicity 8701 and 8658 into a striped jumpsuit. There is more advice to support anyone venturing into the process of hacking on my website. The challenge, which has three categories (party, vintage and day), will feature many bloggers from around the world. So, I encourage you all to join in the fun!

Finally, in preparation for the festive season, my self-sewing mojo is back in full force and I have a range of projects coming up, one of which is wrap dresses. I've been inspired by designer Diane Von Furstenberg to create an entire range. If I'm lucky enough, I'll be able to crack the code on how to hack a basic commercial sewing pattern into a simple wrap style. Wish me luck!

Juliet x

To see more behind-the-seams action, follow Juliet on Instagram @julietuzor_ or catch up with her on YouTube at **SewSoNatural**

Debbie Shore's SHOW & TELL

Knitted fabrics can create the most comfortable clothing in a me-made wardrobe, but can be intimidating for beginners. So I've put together a few pointers to walk you through sewing with this versatile material. You may find that a simple, straight skirt with no zips or darts is a good place to start. While you can adapt your sewing machine to suit this fabric, you may find that as your confidence grows, it would be beneficial to invest in an overlocker too; this helps produce quick stretch stitches and will help trim the seam at the same time.



SEWING WITH KNITS



1 Use the right needles – either stretch or ballpoint – as these will part the fabric fibres instead of tearing them, leaving a neat seam without any laddering.



2 A ballpoint twin needle will give a professional finish to hems and is automatically a stretch stitch; I find that the 4-6mm needles give a neater look.



3 Use a polyester thread when sewing jersey; these have a little 'give' in them so won't break as easy as cotton would when used on knits.



4 A walking foot will keep the material from slipping, and lay the seams flat. It is designed to feed the top and bottom layers of fabric through the feed dogs at an even rate.



5 When buying fabric in store, feel it for thickness and stretch because some knitted materials can become quite transparent or be too stretchy for your chosen pattern.



6 When cutting jersey, lay it flat on the table, either single or double layered depending on the pattern. Make sure the fabric doesn't hang over the table or it will stretch.

For more great tips from Debbie, visit halfyardsewingclub.com

BOUCLÉ WOOL

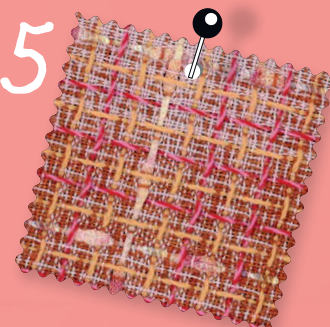
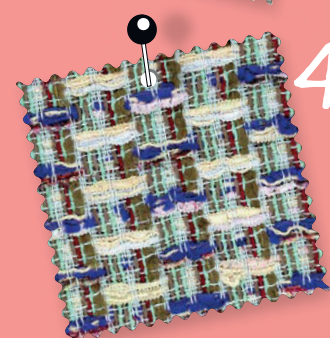
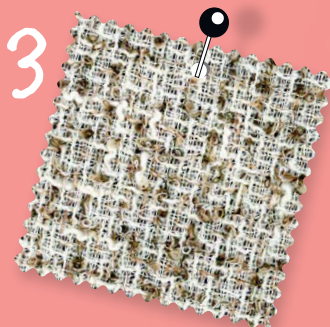
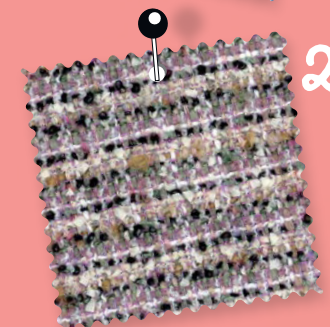
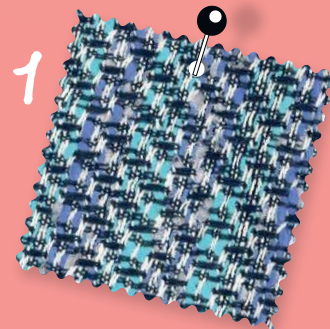
Get ready to see lots of bouclé jackets as you hit the highstreet this December as this fabric is a timeless addition to your winter wardrobe! Bouclé is a knitted or woven material which is made from curly, knotted yarn of the same name; this looped yarn is created when at least two strands are plied, with the tension on one strand being tighter than the other. As a result of this looping and anchoring process, you end up with a heavyweight, textured fabric – perfect for keeping the winter chills at bay.

“Linton Tweeds has always loved bouclé wool due to its versatility and rich texture, which makes even the simplest sewing designs look like works of art! It is for this reason that bouclé has stood the test of time and remains a favourite for global fashion houses and home sewers.”

Ross Walker,
Linton Tweeds

Bouclé tassel scarf in Blush,
marksandspencer.com

5 HOT BUYS



- 1 Bouclé in Multi-Coloured Blue, £30 per metre
- 2 Bouclé in Purple and White, £38 per metre
- 3 Bouclé in Green and Beige, £34 per metre
- 4 Bouclé in Green and Blue, £34 per metre
- 5 Bouclé in Orange Pink, £34 per metre

All of the featured fabrics are available from
lintondirect.co.uk

Caribou Cape by Our Lady of Leisure

Difficulty: 

Dive straight into winter fashion with this classy cape from Our Lady of Leisure. Its striking silhouette screams luxury and can be closed with either a toggle or frog clasp at the collar. The pattern is great for beginners as it's minimal in design and requires no lining, making it a gentle introduction to sewing outerwear. **From £9, [etsy.com/shop/OurLadyofLeisure](https://www.etsy.com/shop/OurLadyofLeisure)**



indie PATTERN PICKS

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Riga Coat by Orageuse

Difficulty: 

The epitome of effortless chic, the Riga coat is a not-too-tricky design that best suits snugly medium-to heavy-weight woollens. The pattern includes a mandarin collar, dropped shoulders and even the opportunity for patch pockets at the front. Advance your sewing skills by lining this design, before finishing it off with a belt and loops. **From £9, [orageuse.com](https://www.orageuse.com)**



Hoodie Parka by The Assembly Line

Difficulty: 

This stylish piece will undoubtedly keep you warm and protected from the outdoor elements this season. With a relaxed A-line fit, the Hoodie Parka has large pockets at the front and easy snap buttons for closing. This winter warmer outfit would look fab paired with wellies and a woolly hat on crisp December strolls! **From £21, theassemblylineshop.com**

WOW!
SIZES 8-26

Chaval Coat

by Liesl + Co

Difficulty:

The Liesl + Co. Chaval Coat is a fully-lined, menswear-style coat that teaches some nifty new sewing skills without overwhelming the beginner sewist. The pattern features a back walking vent, two-piece sleeves, a traditional notched collar with banana stand, and double-piped front pockets with flaps. **From £13, oliverands.com**



3 VERSIONS
TO SEW!

Sizes 6-20



Sizes 4-20



Sizes 6-16



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Stacker Jacket

by Papercut Patterns

Difficulty:

A jacket for all trades, this boxy button-up is a necessary addition to your sewing to-do list this month. The pattern includes a classic collar, drop shoulder and, of course, two signature oversized pockets. Mid-weight fabrics are advised, however cottons, linens and corduroy can all be used – it really is that versatile.

From £18, papercutpatterns.com

Jacques Raincoat

by I Am Patterns

Difficulty:

You can't beat a classic mac for those showery days – and this raincoat from I Am Patterns definitely fits the bill! Achievable for intermediate level sewists, the pattern involves two large patch pockets, a lining and a hidden zip disguised by a button placket that closes through snap fasteners. You can even make this beauty in different lengths to best fit your favourite outfits. **From £11.50, iampatterns.fr/en**

Dress yourself confident in the **Sandy Skirt**

This one-metre wonder from **Amanda Walker** is a speedy make that's designed for stretch fabrics. To create the four-step skirt, you'll be machine-sewing with a twin needle and a stretch stitch, as well as mastering overlocking. The project can also be mustered up in just a few hours, so you can make it in the morning and pair it with tights and boots to wear out that evening!

Get started

Essentials

Jersey, 1m (150cm)
Elastic, 3cm wide
Fusible hemming web

Sizes

8-20

Cutting guide

Front: cut one

Front lower panel: cut one

Back: cut one on the fold

1.5cm seam allowance
used throughout, unless
otherwise stated.

3 Cut the elastic to your waist measurement and add 2cm. Stitch the two short ends together to make a circle. Position the elastic inside the skirt, 2mm away from the top edge, then pin and overlock. Fold the top of the skirt inside the edge of the elastic, and overstretch the side seams to secure.

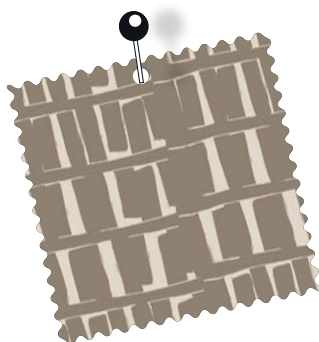
4 Stick fusible hemming web onto the 1.5cm skirt hem. Attach a twin needle to the machine, and sew from the top of the lower front panel to the left-hand side of the V hem, then around the back and up to the centre front point of the V.



1 Download and print the templates at sewmag.co.uk, then follow the cutting guide. Overlock the base edge of the front lower panel, then use the fusible hemming web on a 1.5cm hem. Lay the front lower panel onto the front skirt, matching the notches. Stitch and overlock the seam allowance and the remaining base edge of the skirt. Stitch fusible hemming web onto this part of the hem.

2 Overlock the base of the back skirt. Position it on top of the front piece, right sides facing, with the back skirt hem protruding past the base of the seam. Pin and stitch each side, then overlock the seam allowance.

FABRIC SHOPPER



Geometric Pick

Stretch jersey is notoriously easy to sew, and Art Gallery Fabrics' tan version is no exception! **£23.99 per metre, minervacrafts.com**

**HEAD OVER TO PAGE 30 FOR MORE
TIPS ON SEWING WITH KNIT FABRICS**

sew
EXCLUSIVE
SIZES 8-20

Core Skill

HEMMING WEB

Fusible hemming web stabilises stretch fabrics and enables you to complete a machine-stitched hem without distorting the material. To attach it, simply press the required hem length, cut it to the right size, place it in between the fabric, then iron to finish.

Blouse, £39.50, Autograph at markspencer.com; bag, £24.99, tkmaxx.com; shoes, £30, next.co.uk

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sew Dressmaker OF THE YEAR 2020

CALLING ALL Stitchers

COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT DRESSMAKER OF THE YEAR?

2020 is on the horizon, and we believe this is the year for you to shine bright as the stitching star you are! The competition is designed with all of our readers in mind – whether you've just started out on your sewing journey, or you're proud to show off your favourite dress made with 30 years' experience. And with six different categories to choose from, including a brand-new bracket for our talented costume-makers, you'll be able to enter multiple makes to boost your chance of winning the ultimate prize. Read on for the details on how to take part and claim your freebies.



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**TWO FREE* PATTERNS
FOR EVERYONE
WHO ENTERS!**

... Yes, you heard that right! Every single person who enters our Dressmaker of the Year competition will receive two FREE patterns delivered straight to the door, courtesy of **sewdirect.com**. You'll also be able to pick out your two favourites from the five designs to the right.

*Patterns subject to change.

**TWO
FREE
PATTERNS**



MEET OUR FABULOUS JUDGES



RAY HOLMAN

Costume designer on BBC's *Doctor Who* and *Fleabag*, Ray designs and oversees the creation and construction of all the characters' costumes, from historical to contemporary.



NEW!

MAY MARTIN

Former judge on *The Great British Sewing Bee* and doyenne of the Women's Institute, May has been sharing her stitchy knowledge with the public for more than 40 years.



VICKY GILL

Showstopping queen of the sequins, the *Strictly* head costume designer and commercial seamstress will certainly add sparkle to our judging dream team.



NEW!

JULIET UZOR

Crowned *The Great British Sewing Bee* winner in 2019, this year Juliet will be on the other side of the table judging your lovely garments.



Photography by Rachel Whiting

STUART HILLARD

Nimble-fingered Stuart is a *Sew* columnist, author and TV personality with a passion for textiles and crafting innovation.



NEW!

LISA COMFORT

Founder of Islington-based store *Sew Over It*, entrepreneur Lisa brings with her a wealth of experience in vintage-style patterns and fabrics.

ENTRIES CLOSE 9TH MARCH 2020, HEAD TO **SEWMAG.CO.UK/DRESSMAKEROFTHEYEAR** TO ENTER

6 EASY-ENTER CATEGORIES

OCCASION WEAR

From prom dresses to wedding ensembles, it's time to showcase your finest partywear.

EVERYDAY

Tops, frocks, trousers – anything that blends a high-level of comfort with ease of wear.

KIDS' WEAR

Share fun-sized makes for your little ones, from sweet two-pieces to button-up pinafores.

VINTAGE

Draw inspiration from the past with glorious retro makes from your chosen decade.

UPCYCLING

Jump on the eco bandwagon with inventive touches added to your existing garments.

COSPLAY

Made a stand-out costume for yourself or someone you care about? We want to see it!

COSPLAY



EVERYDAY



KIDS' WEAR



VINTAGE



OCCASION WEAR



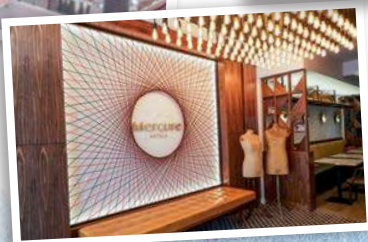
UPCYCLING



LAST YEAR'S WINNER... Darlene Nutbeam



"When I received the call to say I'd won last year, I was in complete shock – I just couldn't believe it. I can't express how surprised and elated I was on hearing the results!"



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- Pair of ICHF tickets
- Plus, much more!

*Prizes subject to change.
T&C's apply, see online for details

HOW TO ENTER

Simply take a clear photo of your garment against a plain background and enter it at sewmag.co.uk/dressmakeroftheyear. You can include up to **five shots of your make** for detail if you like, and you'll also get the chance to tell us the story behind your piece. Contestants can enter each category with multiple garments if they wish, but each one must be different.

All entries must be received by **9th March 2020**.

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Channel casual style with our Alexa Blouse

Get started

Essentials

Fabric: Liberty print, 3m (137cm)
 Lightweight fusible iron-on
 interfacing
 Bias binding
 Adhesive buckram
 Buttons, five
 Buckle
 Eyelets

Sizes

8-14

Cutting guide

Front: cut one pair and one pair of facings

Back: cut one on the fold

Sleeve: cut one pair

Collar: cut one pair and one in interfacing

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout.

1 Download and print the pattern from sewmag.co.uk, then follow the cutting guide. Mark the darts on the front and back of the shirt, then match them up on the centre of the darts. Pin and stitch the dots at each top and base, then press. Make the tucks on the front in the same way.

2 Match the shoulder seams, pin, then sew. Overlock or zig zag stitch the shoulder seam allowances. Press upwards and top edgestitch on the right side. Iron the interfacing onto the front facings. Neaten the edge with overlocking or zig zag stitch.

3 Iron interfacing to one collar. With right sides facing, pin and sew the pieces. Trim the bulk and turn to the right side. Press, then top edgestitch. Pin the collar to the neck, attaching the under layer to the neck, and clip the curves so it fits. Match the base corners of the collar to the centre front lines on the shirt, then sew.

4 Fold and press along the lines indicated on the front facings. Unfold the facing at the top of each piece onto the right side of the collar, then sew from the fold to the shoulder seams. Clip into the seam allowance, level with the shoulder seam and as far as the stitching. Trim the bulk, turn the facing to the right side and press.

5 Fold the raw edges of the neck into the collar, then fold in the seam allowance of the top collar. Pin, then sew the inner edge of the collar, sandwiching the raw edges inside. Neaten each side seam with overlocking or zig zag stitch. Match the edges and sew to the top slit. Press the seam open, neaten the edges, pin, stitch and press again.

6 Neaten the base of the sleeves. Press up the hem, pin, and sew. Use gathering stitch around the head of the sleeve, from the front notch to the back. Pull the threads up, then place the sleeve into the armhole of the shirt. Match the side seams, underarm seam of the sleeve, and the notch in the centre of the sleeve to the shoulder. Adjust the gathers to fit the armhole, then pin and sew in place. Neaten the seam by overlocking or zig zag stitching.

7 Neaten the base in the same way. Fold back the base of the front facings, machine-stitch along the 3cm hem line, then turn to the right side and press. Turn up and



**ADD A BUCKLE-UP BELT TO
 CINCH IT IN AT THE WAIST**

press the remainder of the 3cm hem. Sew the hem and stitch around the slits in the side seams. Make five buttonholes on the right-hand side down the centre front line of the shirt, as shown on the pattern. Sew five in corresponding places onto the left side.

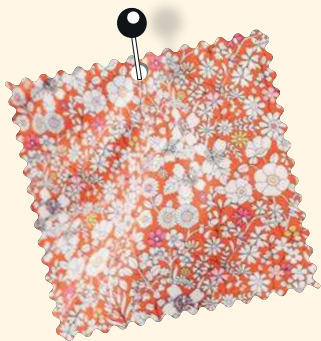
8 Cut buckram long enough to fit around your waist, then add 20cm; it should be wide enough to fit through the buckle. Snip fabric to double the width of the buckram and slightly longer. Wrap the

material around the buckram and press.

9 Cut fabric 2cm wider than the belt, then fold and press 1cm around the edges. Pin the strip to the back of the belt and edgestitch, then thread the buckle onto the blunt end. Make a hole for the prong, then turn the raw end onto the belt. Tuck the raw end under and sew, attaching a buckle. Fix an eyelet to your waist measurement, plus one on each side. Make a belt carrier to finish.

sew
EXCLUSIVE
SIZES 8-14

FABRIC SHOPPER



Ditsy Florals

This vibrant collision of honeys, russets and tangerines flatters a variety of skin tones. £22 per metre, alicecaroline.com

sewing SOS

Tackle slippery fabrics with the help of our three experts

Q *How can I prevent smooth material from sliding around when I cut it?*

Allie Brown

Marie-Emilienne says

It can be frustrating to cut slippery fabric, but my simple steps will help you stabilise the material and snip it with ease! First, spray the fabric with starch; this will stiffen it so it's easier to fold and lay – be sure to try this out on a corner of the material first. Next, trim enough fabric to fit the pattern pieces which need interfacing, then attach it before you cut them out.

To keep the grain line straight, fold the fabric in half lengthways and match the selvages with a straight line; use either the line of a cutting mat or some sticky tape. Place the pattern pieces on the material and secure with weights rather than pins. Sliding scissors through the fabric is enough to shift it, so use a rotary cutter and cutting mat instead. Finally, rather than snipping out all the pieces at once, cut a few at a time and remember to keep an eye on the selvages!



DUSTY ROSE TOP, PURECOLLECTION.COM

Q *Which stitch width and length should I use when sewing with smooth materials, such as satin?*

Sonia Lidington

Megan says

What a great question! To sew with slick fabrics, I recommend using a short stitch length and narrow width if you're zig zagging. It's also important to swap to a ballpoint needle and use silk pins or weights to avoid damaging the fabric. One of my favourite tips for working with slippery material is to save up all of the tissue paper you receive – either from Christmas presents or online orders – and use it to stabilise the fabric temporarily when sewing and cutting, then tear it away when you're finished.



STICK ROTARY CUTTER, 45MM, VISIT FISKARS.COM FOR STOCKISTS



CHIFFON DRESS, £50, EVANS.CO.UK

SILK TROUSERS, £199, PURECOLLECTION.COM

here to help



MARIE-EMILIENNE
As the founder and designer of I AM Patterns, Marie-Emilienne is the mastermind behind some of our favourite independent patterns.
iampatterns.fr/en



MEGAN NIELSEN
Megan Nielsen creates clothes for her eponymous pattern house with all figures in mind – most of the gorgeous outfits are available in sizes 0-30.
megannielsen.com



LISA COMFORT
Lisa set up Sew Over It eight years ago with one aim – to teach as many people as possible how to stitch! Today, the store offers patterns, fabric, workshops and so much more.
sewoverit.co.uk



Q Which thread is best to use on silky fabrics? And do I use the same thread in the bobbin as the main spool?

Clair Foscett

Lisa says

When sewing with materials such as viscose, crepe, chiffons and silk, I use a standard all-purpose Gütermann polyester thread. It's strong and fine, meaning that it won't snap, and it works well for lightweight fabrics.

There are only a few cases when you'd use different threads in the main spool and the bobbin; for example, to topstitch jeans or sew with shirring elastic. But for stitching silky fabrics, I recommend using the same thread for both. In fact, the most important thing when sewing with this type of material is not thread-related at all, it's the needle! To achieve a smooth, unpuckered seam, choose a fine needle in a size 60 or 70 depending on the fabric weight.

sew tip!

“USE WEIGHTS RATHER THAN PINS TO SAVE THE FABRIC AND PATTERN PIECES FROM GETTING DAMAGED”

Darren Rice,
Managing Director
at Pattern Weights

top 4

TOOLS

The idea for the company Pattern Weights came from watching *The Great British Sewing Bee*, when founder Darren noticed a gap in the market for beautifully-designed weights. Since then, the shop has collaborated with many talented artists and illustrators.



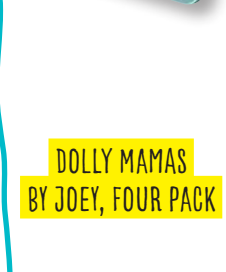
TRACEY ENGLISH,
FOUR PACK



JAN FORD,
FOUR PACK



CATHERINE ROWE,
FOUR PACK



DOLLY MAMAS
BY JOEY, FOUR PACK



All items are from Pattern Weights – visit patternweights.co.uk for more details

VISCOSE IN SPRINKLES LIQUORICE,
£7 PER METRE, SEWOVERIT.CO.UK

Got a stitchy question for us? Email us at editorial@sewmag.co.uk or message us at facebook.com/sewhq and we'll do our best to answer it!



Delve into the 19th century world of

LITTLE WOMEN

Deputy Editor Sophie Demetriades chats about the film's ambitious heroines with BAFTA award-winning costume designer Jacqueline Durran

There's been a fair few *Little Women* adaptations over the years – seven to be exact! – but the eighth installment released on 26th December 2019 promises to be a unique take on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel. The trailer suggests ambition is set to be the focus of the film, a theme not only presented through Jo's rousing speech against gender constraints: "Women have minds and souls, as well as just hearts" – but also through the clothes created by Jacqueline and her talented team of sewists. I caught up with Jacqueline to glean a better understanding of how she made garments to reflect the big personalities of the forward-thinking 'little' women.

"Women have ambition and they've got talent, as well as just beauty"

Jo March

Jacqueline is something of an inspiration to me; not only has she worked with one of my all-time favourite actresses Keira Knightley on three different films including *Pride & Prejudice*, (which I unashamedly admit I once watched twice in one day!), but she has also created some truly iconic costumes, most notably that silky emerald dress in *Atonement*. Her latest venture now sees her on the set of *Little Women*, the timeless story which follows the lives of the March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy through the trials of love, marriage and in this adaptation, ambition. Jacqueline began by telling me how she interpreted the novel and script to create the costumes for the main characters.

Tell me a bit about the costume design process for *Little Women*?

"Regardless of whether it's a period or contemporary film, there's always the same key elements to consider in costume design: the script, and the input of the director, actors and the costume designer. Once this information has been gathered, the designer tends to get a feeling of the world they want to create and can start to marry these ideas with the director's vision.

"The research for *Little Women* started off with Victorian photographs and paintings, and talking to the director Greta Gerwig. After that, I started to pull my costume ideas together for the different characters. Sometimes the book is useful and sometimes it's not depending on what the director wants, but in this case it came in very handy, especially when showcasing the personalities of the March sisters."

Jacqueline Durran

Watch the talented costume designer's most acclaimed films!

- 2005** – *Pride & Prejudice*: Academy and BAFTA awards for Best Costume Design
- 2007** – *Atonement*: Evening Standard British Film Award for Best Technical Achievement
- 2012** – *Anna Karenina*: Academy Award for Best Costume Design
- 2017** – *Beauty and the Beast*: Saturn Award for Best Costume Design
- 2017** – *Darkest Hour*: Academy Award nominee for Best Costume Design



AN INTIMATE MEETING WITH AMY (FLORENCE PUGH) AND LAURIE (TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET)



A BACKSTAGE GLIMPSE AT A SCENE WITH JO (SAOIRSE RONAN) AND LAURIE

In the film, the March sisters wear dresses that are different lengths and some are more form-fitting than others – why is that?

“In the film there are two time periods: one where the girls are children and another where they’re adults. When they are children, they wear shorter clothes as this allows them to be active and free, but Meg usually wears a longer skirt than Jo throughout the film as this shows that she is older and more grown-up, while Jo is a feisty, tomboyish character. Meg also has a kind of fairytale romanticism in her costumes; in fact, one of her dresses is inspired by an American impressionist painting. Beth on the other hand is quite fragile and delicate, but is also an important part of home life, so her look is quite gentle, whereas the youngest sister Amy is all about being as fashionable and fancy as possible.”

The trailer ends on a scene with Jo wearing a bowler hat and men’s jacket – would she have got away with this in the 19th century?

“It’s actually a woman’s bowler hat as they did wear them in that period, but I chose it because it looks like a male version – out of all of the hats Jo could choose from, she’d always opt for a man’s. During the scenes where she’s close friends with Laurie as a child (the boy next door played by BAFTA award nominee Timothée Chalamet), I also got the two characters to exchange garments; they both wear the same waistcoat and other items of clothing throughout the film. Jo wears a couple of boy’s jackets too, but she doesn’t go quite as far as wearing trousers, although she does show her bloomers!” laughs Jacqueline.

“I don’t put Laurie into any clothes that are entirely female, but I think that there’s a very strong bond between himself and Jo, and that’s represented in the fluidity of their costumes.”

Were the costumes hired for the film or were they all made from scratch?

“Making the costumes for *Little Women* was a monumental job! Because we needed a specific look for each of the characters, especially for the sisters and Marmee (their mother, played by *Twin Peaks* TV star Laura Dern), all of the clothes were made from scratch. On average, each girl had

ten costumes, which totals around 40, then Marmee had about another five, and of course there’s the other principle characters, too – it was an enormous sewing project!

“On a period film like this, the amount of sewers depends on the budget. There’s usually between four to 20 stitchers, but I’ve been in a workroom before with anything between two to 40 people.”

The film has a star-studded cast, including Emma Watson, Saoirse Ronan and Meryl Streep – is there anyone you enjoyed working with most?

“I think what I enjoyed was the fact that all of the lead characters were young women – it was a pleasure to work with such huge talents! The whole idea that there’s a possibility that you can make a popular film with all female leads, and a historical one at that, is amazing – it’s a very fresh version of the novel.”

Have you got any top tips for our readers on creating their own period style costumes?

“You should start by paying close attention to the details of the original garments from that era and purchasing the best reference books. One read that gives the clearest pattern instructions and descriptions of period costumes is Janet Arnold’s *Patterns of Fashion*.

“On another note, your readers should know that there’s always jobs for sewers, cutters and all kinds of inspiring makers in the film industry – there’s definitely a space for people who love it!”



EMMA WATSON PLAYS THE ELDEST SISTER, MEG MARCH

“There’s always jobs for sewers, cutters and makers in the film industry – there’s definitely a space for people who love it!”

Watch **LITTLE WOMEN** in a cinema near you on 26th December 2019!



Get started

- Fabric (112cm) ● Iron-on interfacing
- Buckle fastener, 55mm

1cm seam allowance used throughout, unless otherwise stated.

1 Work out where you would like the belt to sit, then add 20cm for the length. Measure the inside of your belt buckle to determine the width, double this and add 1cm for the seam allowance. Press the shiny part of the interfacing to the wrong side of the fabric, then mark and cut out the belt using the above measurements.

2 Fold the belt in half lengthways, right sides facing, and sew it together down the length of the fabric, then repeat. Move the seam to the centre and press. Stitch across one end and round off the edges, then trim the seam allowance.

3 Turn the belt right sides out through the open end, then thread the buckle through it. Fold the raw edge over to conceal the buckle, pin and stitch to secure, then press.

FABRIC SHOPPER



Wild Side

This Rose and Hubble cotton gives the appearance of suedette, without the fuss of sewing with it! **£5.75 per metre.**
remnantsoffabric.co.uk

Go wild with a statement LEOPARD PRINT BELT

Ace the animal print trend with **Chloe Hailwood's** three-step belt! This beginner-friendly project can be completed using straightforward techniques like machine-sewing, and should take you no more than an hour to whip up. To style this bold accessory, pair it with simple garments, like jeans and a plain white tee, to really let the leopard print roar!





Replicate a French classic with the OH-SO-EASY KELLY HANDBAG

Get started

- Wool tweed, 50cm
- Cotton lining, 50cm
- Wadding, 50cm
- Leather, upholstery weight, 11cm x 45cm
- Thick cord, 1m
- Magnetic bag clasp
- Snap fasteners

Corinne Bradd's homage to the Parisian handbag has been reinvented in celebration of one of the silver screen's all-time style goddesses, Grace Kelly. Made with its distinctive trapezium shape, this exclusive project is a chance to practise your lining and leather-sewing skills, enabling you to stroll down the boulevards with your very own quintessential creation.

1 Download the template from sewmag.co.uk and cut two bag outers from tweed. Pin face up on wadding and zig zag stitch around the edges before trimming the wadding to size. Cut two outers from cotton lining, two flap pieces from tweed and one flap from wadding.

2 Pin the flap pieces right sides together with the wadding at the bottom. Sew the curved section using a 5mm seam allowance. Clip the curve and turn out, so the wadding is sandwiched in between the tweed. Topstitch the curve 5mm from the edge, then mark the flap centre 3cm up from the curve. Fit half of the clasp to the mark, so the back is hidden by a layer of tweed.

3 Tack the raw flap edge to the top of one outer, right sides together. Place the other outer face down on top, then pin. Sew the sides and bottom edge with an allowance large enough to cover the zig zag stitches, but don't sew the corner notches. Fold the corners so the side and bottom seam lines match, then sew across the notches to create a flat base. Turn the bag out and fold the flap over the top. Mark the position of the clasp and fit the other half to the bag front.

4 Cut two leather strips, 5cm x 45cm. Round the ends and fold in half lengthways around the cord, securing with a binder clip. Sew the edges, leaving a 3cm gap at each end. Pierce holes 3mm in from the edge and hand-sew, or use a zipper foot and leather needle in a machine. Trim the cord ends, flatten the unsewn rounded ends and pierce holes 3mm in around the circumference. Hand-stitch the handles to both sides of the bag, either side of the flap position.

5 Sew the lining in the same way, but leave a 10cm gap along the bottom edge for turning. With right sides together, slip the lining over the bag and line up the top edges, then fold down and encase the handles and flap. Sew the top edge, then turn the bag out through the lining gap. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and topstitch. Slip the lining inside the bag, press and topstitch the top bag edge.

6 Hand-sew snap fasteners to the top corners of the bag, 1cm down from the edge and 3cm in from the side seam, so the sides can be pinched together and fastened, or opened to allow extra capacity. Decorate the bag by cutting a 7mm wide leather strip and threading it with charms, then looping it around the handle.



Core Skill

PRESSING TWEED

Pressing your chosen fabric is key to a professional finish when bag-making, but you'll need to keep a close eye on temperature if you go for tweed or woollens. Before you start, cover the material with a pressing cloth or piece of muslin, then gently iron it in short bursts to prevent any scorching.

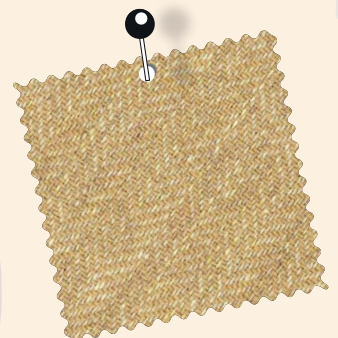
Free!
**TEMPLATE
DOWNLOAD**
sewmag.co.uk/templates



top TIP

Finish off your Parisian bag by adding an antique-style embossed charm to the leather strap.

FABRIC SHOPPER



Heritage Herringbone

Timeless elegance is assured with this soft wool tweed. You can keep seasonal tones neutral and classic with its herringbone weave – it's the perfect complement to rich tan leather, too. **£40 per metre***, lintondirect.co.uk

*In stock at the time of going to print.

Susie Johns'

STITCH SCHOOL



Santa Claus is coming to town with a **Let It Snow Sack**

Get started

- Red velvet, two, 30cm x 40cm
- Plain or printed cotton, two, 30cm x 40cm
- Six-stranded embroidery thread, white
- Chalk pencil
- Roller frame
- Cord, 1.5m
- Two wood beads

Size

28cm x 38cm

Embroider the design

1 Download and print the motif and template at sewmag.co.uk. Trace the design onto one velvet piece. Draw on the design using a light-coloured chalk pencil that will show up against the red. Attach the fabric to the embroidery frame.

2 Using the six strands of embroidery thread, sew the snowflakes; the design shows the central lines of the fern stitch. Vary the number of stitches and the spacing to make each snowflake different.

3 For the lettering, use three strands of thread and fill in the shapes with satin stitch. When the embroidery is complete, remove the fabric from the frame. If necessary, press the material on the reverse.



**YOU CAN USE FERN STITCH FOR BOTH
STRAIGHT AND CURVED LINES**

top TIP

A roller frame consists of two roller bars and two side bars; this holds the fabric in place while you sew and helps to maintain an even tension – it's a very handy gadget for this project!

Make the sack

1 Join the two velvet pieces on the short ends; for the embroidered one, this will need to be below the embroidery as the seam forms the base of the outer bag. Join the two lining pieces, one to each top edge of the outer bag. Press the seams open.

2 Fold the whole piece in half, right sides together, along the bottom seam.

Match the other two seams on either side. Sew the side seams with a 1cm allowance, leaving a 3cm gap on the main fabric, 4cm below the seam line where the lining joins the main fabric.

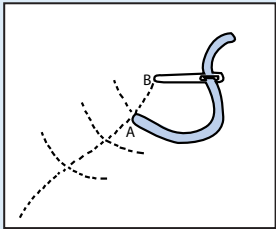
3 Turn right sides out, fold under 1cm on the raw edge of the lining and slip-stitch the folds together; this forms the bottom seam of the lining. Push the lining inside the

bag. Topstitch around the top of the bag, through all layers and in line with the top and bottom of the 3cm gap in the side; this will form the casing for the drawstring.

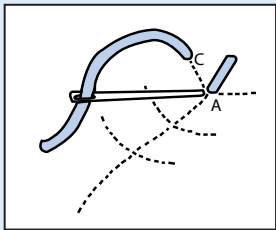
4 Cut the cord in half to produce two equal lengths. Thread these through the casing, then push the two ends of each cord through a bead and knot the ends together.



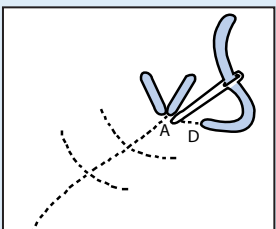
Fern Stitch



1 Bring the needle out at A – on the line and a little way down from the top – then insert it at B, at the top of the line.



2 Bring the needle out at C, which is a stitch length to the left and in line with the midpoint of the first stitch. Now re-insert it at A.



3 Bring it out on the opposite side of the line at point D, then re-insert it at A; this completes a single fern stitch. Continue in this way, making a stitch along the central line, then one on either side in a V shape.



treat yourself to a **brother** machine

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BEGINNERS

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SHOP of the MONTH

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What started out as a passion project for husband and wife Jane and Alan, has since blossomed into a successful business. Based in Fochabers, Scotland, **The Sewing Shop @Number 29** offers a fantastic selection of products for all of your stitching and embroidery needs. It's also proud to offer a wide range of machines to suit every budget and skill level, including the best-selling Brother brand. Pop in store or give the team a call and they are happy to help you find exactly what you need.

Visit **The Sewing Shop, 29 High Street, Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7DX**. Alternatively, log-on to sewscotland.co.uk or call **01343 823961**.

brother

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SERIES

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Price: £3,999

"CHOOSE FROM AN EXTENSIVE BUILT-IN LIBRARY OF MORE THAN 700 EMBROIDERY DESIGNS, INCLUDING OVER 100 FROM DISNEY"



MACHINE

this month's collection

80 BUILT-IN
STITCHES

Innov-is A80

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*Available until the
end of December 2019.


OUR
EDITOR'S
PICK!

Innov-is 15



Designed to provide the ultimate user-friendly experience, the Innov-is 15 is suitable for crafters at every skill level. There are 16 stitches to choose from using the easy-to-use jog dial, plus a top-loading bobbin and built-in needle threader, while the sliding speed limiter control means that even the most intricate work will go smoothly. Dressmakers will also benefit from the accessory tray sliding off to give access to the free arm – perfect for setting in sleeves and working on cuffs.

Special Offer: £229, with a FREE
machine carry bag worth £20*

RRP: £249

*Available until the end of December 2019.

FIND YOUR LOCAL STOCKIST AT BROTHERSEWING.CO.UK

Get started

- Printed cotton, fat quarter
- Medium-weight fusible interfacing
- Bow tie set
- Non-stick baking parchment
- Loop turner

Note: To make the tie adjustable, you will need to purchase a bow tie fastening kit. This usually consists of a hook, a ring and buckle, or a slider. The tie fastens by looping the hook over the ring, and the strap is lengthened or shortened by pulling the strap through the buckle or slider.

Create a smart and sophisticated KIDS BOW TIE

The festive season is in full swing, which means plenty of parties and events are coming up – and there's no reason why your little ones can't look as dressy as you! Introducing **Susie Johns'** sweet bow tie which you can whip up in a plain fabric or striking print to match their outfit. Plus, the strap is adjustable which means that kids will not only look smart, but they'll be ultra comfortable, too.



1 Download the templates at sewmag.co.uk, then measure and mark out the tie pieces. For the bow, you need two rectangles, 13cm x 26cm, and for the strap, two rectangles, 4cm x 67cm.



2 Carefully cut out the templates, as well as two pieces of fusible interfacing, 6.5cm x 24cm. Place one piece of interfacing directly in the centre of each bow tie.



3 Place the baking parchment on top of the interfacing, then press the fabric. Fold the two long edges of each piece towards the centre and along the edge of the interfacing on each side, then press.



4 Take the two ends of each piece and bring them to meet in the centre, then press. On each side, machine-stitch down the centre of each folded piece to hold the ends in place. With right sides together and the neat sides facing out, hand-stitch down the centre with a small running stitch.



5 Wrap the thread around the centre, pulling it tightly to form a bow shape. To make the bow centre, cut a rectangle, 9cm x 12.5cm. Fold the piece in half, right sides together, and stitch down the long edge with a 1cm seam allowance. Press the seam open.



6 Turn right side out, then position the seam down the centre of one side and press. Leave this to one side while you make the strap. Join the two pieces along one short edge with a 1cm seam allowance, then press the seam open.



7 Fold the strip in half lengthways, right sides together, and sew down the length with a 1cm seam allowance. Trim the seam allowance, then turn the strip right side out with a loop turner, and press the strap.



8 Insert one end of the strap through the ring on the hook. Double the end back on itself, tucking the raw end under. Pin and oversew the edges together. Thread the other end of the strap through the buckle and the ring, then back through the buckle.



9 Double the end back on itself, tucking in the raw end. Pin and oversew the edges. Place the bow in the centre of the strap. Wrap the bow centre around the middle of it, with the ends overlapping on the other side of the strap. Fold the ends under and stitch.

Free!

TEMPLATE
DOWNLOADsewmag.co.uk/templates

top TIP

Making a narrow fabric tube can be fiddly, but the task is easier if you use a loop turner – a long metal pin with a ring on one end and a clip on the other. Insert the loop turner into the tube and attach the clip to the end of the seam, then pull it back through the tube.

GET THE
BOOK

For more homeware and dressmaking projects like this one, check out *Fat Quarter: Vintage* by Susie Johns. £12.99, thegmcgroup.com

Get started

- Fabric: red, turquoise, grey print; four fat quarters, coordinating print; backing material
- Wadding
- Iron-on interfacing
- Red gingham bias binding
- Assorted red buttons
- Rubber number stamps
- Black ink-pad

Use a 5mm seam allowance for the pockets and 4mm for the binding, unless otherwise stated.

1 Download and print the templates from **sewmag.co.uk**. Take a printed fabric and place the pattern horizontally. Measure 50.5cm across the bottom edge and mark, then fold it in half vertically and mark the top centre. Draw two lines from the top to the ends of the straight line to make a triangle, then cut out. Apply interfacing to a piece of the owl print fabric, containing 11 single owls and one pair.

2 Cut four rectangles, 7cm x 10cm; one landscape rectangle, 7.5cm x 9.5cm; one large rectangle, 10cm x 11.5cm, from red fabric. Cut four rectangles, 7cm x 10cm; two landscape rectangles, 7.5cm x 9.5cm, from turquoise fabric. Crease 5mm up both sides and across the bottom, fold the top over twice, then iron and sew across the top seam. Repeat on all the pocket pieces.

3 Cut 12 white circles from a different fabric and apply interfacing. Lay out all of the pocket pieces, pin, then attach 2cm wide strips of the grey fabric using interfacing. Stamp each number in black ink and leave to dry.

4 Assemble each pocket in turn, stitching the white circles first. Place the number raw ends of the landscape rectangles just underneath the circle. For the portrait and large rectangles, slip the raw end underneath the owl. Sew around the numbers using red thread on the turquoise pockets, and vice versa. Stitch the owls using navy thread.

5 Machine-sew scallop stitch part way around the owls, and complete a line around the outside of the white circles. Press the wrong side of the pockets, then pin and sew each one onto the main tree triangle. Iron the wrong side.

6 Cut grey fabric, 11cm x 14cm, then use red thread to sew 'Merry Christmas'

twice, and navy thread to sew over it once. Iron the wrong side, then pin right sides together at the bottom middle edge of the tree. Stitch a 5mm seam, then press it open on the wrong side.

7 Cut wadding and backing fabric slightly bigger than the tree. Turn the tree right side up, place the wadding and backing fabric wrong side up underneath. Quilt each pocket and sew a 4mm seam all the way around.

8 Trim the excess material, then sew the bias binding all the way around the raw edges. Cut a separate 15cm of binding and fold in half lengthways. Sew across the top of the grey fabric, folding in the

raw ends, then embellish with red buttons to cover the joins.

9 Cut a large snowflake from the white circle fabric and apply interfacing. Use white thread to attach it to a circle of red material, cut slightly larger, and add scallop stitches. Cut red fabric and wadding slightly bigger than the snowflake, then pin together with the wadding in the middle.

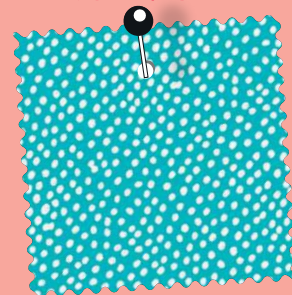
10 Use red thread to sew around the edge of the red fabric, then trim away the excess and sew bias binding all the way around, folding in the edge as you finish. Attach a large red button to the middle of the snowflake. Add a loop of ribbon to the back for hanging.



Make this season magical with our ADVENT CALENDAR

On the first day of Christmas Sew magazine gave to me, an advent calendar pattern to stitch and place next to the tree! This classic design by **Carolyn Letten** showcases little owls guarding the pockets, button embellishments and a star-topper which doubles as a hanger – no matter what sweet treats or mini pressies you hide inside, everyone will love this decoration.

FABRIC SHOPPER



Snow is Falling

Flurry Turquoise,
£12 per metre



Winter Wonderland

Big Snowflakes Metallic,
£12.80, per metre



Twit Twoo

Owls Metallic,
£12.80 per metre

All of the materials are from Dashwood Studios' Skogen range, available at **plushaddict.co.uk**

top TIP

To machine-embroider 'Merry Christmas' on the grey tree trunk, use the tissue paper method: write on the tissue, sew over it, then tear it away.

SEW
EXCLUSIVE
PROJECT

Free!
TEMPLATE
DOWNLOAD
sewmag.co.uk/templates





Sleigh-ride into festive crafting with our NORDIC GNOMES

According to Scandinavian folklore, this friendly creature appears on Christmas Eve accompanied by a mythological Yule goat, knocking on people's doors and handing out presents. Although we can't guarantee that **Chloe Hailwood's** Nordic gnome will surprise you with gifts, the project makes great use of fabric scraps, will see you practise whipstitch, and is a wonderful addition to any mantelpiece.

Get started

- Fabric: printed cotton, 25cm square; faux sheepskin, 8cm x 12cm; felt, 25cm x 30cm
 - Iron-on interfacing
 - Toy stuffing ● Tailor's chalk
 - Pom-pom ● Two pipe cleaners
 - Dry rice
- 5mm seam allowance used throughout, unless otherwise stated.

1 Download and print the templates from **sewmag.co.uk**, then snip two body pieces and mark the arms and legs on the right side of one piece. Press interfacing to the reverse of the cotton and sheepskin. Cut out two hats, one beard, one nose, two arms and two legs.

2 With right sides facing, fold the legs in half lengthways and stitch the long raw edges together. Turn the fabric to the right side. Move each leg seam to the centre and press. Repeat for the arms, leaving the seams as they are, then thread a pipe cleaner and stuffing into each one.

3 Cut eight rectangles of various fabrics, 4cm x 6cm. With right sides facing, pin together two rectangles and draw a mitten. Repeat with another mitten and two boots, then stitch over the drawn lines, leaving the top of each one open. Trim the pieces and turn through.

4 With right sides together, sew the two long edges of the hats. Turn through, and attach a pom-pom to the tip. Cut the nose from felt, and complete running stitch all around it, 5mm from the edge. Gently pull the thread to gather



the felt, fill with stuffing, then tighten the thread and secure.

5 Take the marked body piece, right side up, then pin and tack the arms and legs in position. Place the second

body on top of the first, with right sides down. Sew from the neck to where it turns inwards, leaving the bottom open. Carefully sew over the arms so the needle doesn't hit the pipe cleaner.

FABRIC SHOPPER



Dashing Through the Snow

This fat quarter bundle from The Craft Cotton Co. features dreamy winter patterns such as snowflakes, reindeer and pine trees. **£9.99, woolwarehouse.co.uk**

6 With right sides inwards, add the base to the bottom of the body. Pin, tack and stitch the perimeter, leaving a 5cm gap at the back. Turn the body through the gap and remove the tacking from the arms and legs. Fill with stuffing and four tablespoons of dry rice to add weight, then whipstitch the gap closed.

7 Fill the mittens and boots with stuffing, adding rice to the boots. Cut four sheepskin strips, 1cm x 6cm, and sew to the tops of the mittens and boots, trimming any excess. Stitch the mittens and boots to the arms and legs. Place the hat on the top of the body. Secure the beard, then attach the nose so that it's peeking out under the hat.

Free!
 TEMPLATE
 DOWNLOAD
sewmag.co.uk/templates



{ Core Skill WHIPSTITCH }

Start this stitch between two fabric pieces to hide the securing knot, then insert the needle at a right angle and pull it through the top layer. Push the needle into the bottom layer, slightly to the left of the first stitch, and bring it up through both pieces of material. Continue to work from right to left until the two edges are joined.



Snuggle under the covers with our PATCHWORK QUILT

Invite the festivities into your home with **Corinne Bradd's** cosy mini quilt made in five merry and bright prints. This beginner-friendly make is not only a super speedy project, it's also great for improving your sewing skills when it comes to creating patchwork, perfecting topstitching and attaching bias binding.

Get started

- Fabric: assorted fat quarters; white cotton; plain coloured cotton
- Lightweight wadding

1 Download and print the layout grid from **sewmag.co.uk**. From each of the four darker shades, cut rectangles, 9cm x 17cm. From the lightest print and plain white cotton, cut several 9cm squares. Ensure the fabric designs are the correct portrait orientation when cutting the material.

2 Arrange the rectangles in the form of our layout grid or create your own design, then add the lighter squares above and below each one so that they alternate. Sew each square to the top or bottom of each rectangle with a 5mm seam allowance.

3 Pair up the adjacent strips and sew into blocks. Assemble the quilt, matching up the seams where necessary. Press all of the seams to one side before layering the completed quilt top onto wadding and plain white cotton backing fabric.

4 Topstitch the layers along the vertical seam lines only. Trim the wadding and backing to the edges of the quilt top and zig zag stitch to temporarily bind. Cut several 4cm wide strips of plain coordinating cotton and sew along the edges of the quilt back, matching the raw edges and mitring the corners.

5 Turn the binding to the front of the quilt and fold under 5mm along the raw edge. Pin and topstitch the folded edge of the bind to the front of the quilt, 2mm from the fold.



Free!
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sewmag.co.uk/templates



top TIP

Avoid fabric waste when cutting rectangles in the same direction by sewing the leftover pieces together across the middle.

FABRIC SHOPPER



Hit the Slopes

The Ski Resort Christmas Cotton range consists of five festive prints, so you can mix and match the design to your liking. **£7 per fat quarter**, hobbycraft.co.uk

DISCOVER INDIA

& its beautiful textiles



Beauty Unwound Textile Tour

Discover India's hidden gems & beautiful textile treasures on this wonderful 17-day journey. Explore Kutch villages for the region's best embroidery, hand-

block printing, intricate tie-dyeing & other demonstrations. Visit magnificent ancient monuments & chaotic bazaars including the Taj Mahal, Jaipur & Delhi. See exquisite embroideries being worked by village women near Lucknow & so much more.

This tour will inspire and amaze you!

Next departure:

25th October 2020. Also available - 'Muslin Trail' and 'Textiles & Traditions of India'.

Tours are led by Mumbai textile expert, **Sunita Sinha**, who happily shares insider knowledge of intricate textile processes, best places to shop, India's intriguing customs & its cuisine. Maximum group size: 9.

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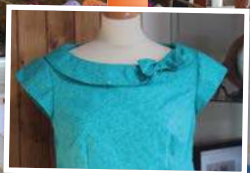
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AT A GLANCE

What: Needle Felting:
Spring Animals, Easter
Bunnies and Eggs

Dates: 13th March -
15th March 2020

Price: From £360

Contact:
denman.org.uk

DENMAN COLLEGE

For 70 years, the WI Denman College has provided a crafty space for like-minded stitchers to have fun, make friends and learn new skills, such as quilting, embroidery and patchwork. Nestled in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, the college is home to over 650 creative courses, with sewing ones making up a whopping half of them! In this needle felting workshop, you'll make adorable animals like bunnies and chickens using spring-coloured wool and felting needles.



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TOUCH OF SPIRIT TOURS

This once in a lifetime sewing excursion lets you discover breathtaking textiles and culture in India. The 17-day tour begins in Bhuj where you'll see some of India's best embroidery and fabrics, before travelling to the historic Ahmedabad, Delhi and Jaipur cities to enjoy beautiful textile displays, hidden gems and handicrafts. Throughout the trip, you'll have the chance to shop for fabric 'til you drop, too!



AT A GLANCE

What: Beauty Unwound: A Textile Tour in India
Dates: Every February and November
Price: From £2,340
Contact:
info@touchofspirittours.com.au



AT A GLANCE

What: Sewing on Saba
Dates: May 2020
Price: From £1,471
Contact:
halfmoonatelier.com



HALFMOON ATELIER

If you fancy venturing beyond European shores, why not head to the magical Caribbean island of Saba? During halfmoon ATELIER's five-night holiday, you'll visit a Saba indigo dye workshop with local artist Anna Keene, who will show you how to use the powder to stain organic fabric and create beautiful garments and accessories. There's also a dedicated sewing space which is open 24 hours a day and contains all of the supplies you need, so you can craft from dusk until dawn!

PURPLE STITCHES

Set in the luxury Swindon Marriott Hotel, Purple Stitches' Sewcial Retreat boasts two and a half days of crafty fun alongside delicious food, two wonderful sewing workshops, and room to relax! This is the perfect opportunity to get inspired by industry experts and enjoy a weekend with other crafters.

The previously sold-out retreats include free-motion embroidery and sewing machine project weekends. In the June getaway, celebrity portrait artist Samantha Molloy will teach you how to create a stylish illustration using thread techniques. Plus, Jo Westfoot of The Crafty Nomad will share her top tips on foundation paper piecing using one of her popular quilting patterns. Whereas the September weekend sees quilter Lucy Brennan of Charm About You returning with a bespoke sewing machine project, and Katy Jones from Crafter's Companion sharing an exclusive die-cutting machine make.

AT A GLANCE

What: Sewcial Retreat
Dates: 25th September - 27th September 2020
Price: From £350
Contact:
purple-stitches.com



QUILT WITH TUTOR LUCY BRENNAN



AT A GLANCE

What: Sewcial Retreat
Dates: 12th June - 14th June 2020
Price: From £350
Contact:
purple-stitches.com

TEXTILE HOLIDAYS FRANCE

Whether you want to indulge in your favourite crafty hobby or you're eager to learn a new skill, escape to Le Jardin du Berger in the South of France! The retreat is situated in a renovated farmhouse near Bordeaux, surrounded by stunning countryside with crops of sunflowers, maize and wheat, which makes for a peaceful view when you sit down to complete your stitching.

You can choose from a multitude of crafting holidays to learn or improve skills, such as dressmaking, embroidery and bag-making – but we've got our eyes on the wonderful patchwork and quilting, and slow stitching workshops! Taking place next summer, the slow stitching holiday will see you mastering boro stitching, as well as sashiko and hand embroidery techniques. Alternatively, the patchwork and quilting experience will have you walking away with a stunning cushion cover, doorstep, tote bag, eye mask and storage pouch.



AT A GLANCE

What: Slow Stitching in the Summer

Dates: 2nd August - 9th August 2020

Price: From £700

Contact: textileholidaysfrance.com



AT A GLANCE

What: Exploring Patchwork and Quilting

Dates: 7th June - 14th June 2020

Price: From £700

Contact: textileholidaysfrance.com



DENMAN COLLEGE

If you want to make a statement accessory, then this is the course for you! Set in the historic VI Denman College, this three-night holiday will see you creating a glamorous clutch bag in a plethora of hues – stitch with either plain or space-dyed ribbon, cover the surface with textured stitches and embellish it with beautiful beads. You'll also learn how to line the bag with a coloured silk of your choice.



AT A GLANCE

What: Clutch Bag
Dates: 1st September - 4th September 2020
Price: From £490
Contact: denman.org.uk



AT A GLANCE

What: Millinery Flower Making
Dates: 20th February - 23rd February 2020
Price: From £391
Contact: westdean.org.uk

WEST DEAN COLLEGE

At the grade II listed West Dean House, visitors can enjoy one of the many amazing short courses, like millinery flower making. Not only will you leave with a stunning leather and silk headpiece, but you'll learn new skills, such as mixing dyes, stiffening leather and bonding layers, all of which you can use at home. Plus, the college promises superb gardens and accommodation during your three-night stay; enjoy a glass of wine in the Steward's bar, curl up with a hand-sewing project in the Oak Hall, or wander the many acres with friends.



SEW Wish List

The team's top picks for December

I don't want a lot for Christmas, there is just one thing I need, I don't care about the presents – hang on a minute! I do care about the gifts, and can they all be sewing-related, please? In the last Wishlist before Noël, we've collated stichy pressies, including 12 adorable kid's patterns, a cross-stitch kit, and fabric for home décor items – they're all sure to be a welcome surprise in any crafter's stocking!

Real Thing

Add a crafty touch to your humble abode with this sewing machine-themed cross-stitch kit! The set is perfect for absolute beginners as it comes with a helpful guide, and you can find even more in-depth 'how to cross-stitch' instructions on the Crafty Pinup blog. We'll definitely be stitching this while watching next year's Sewing Bee. **£15, craftypinup.shop**



Tiny Tots

We're still cooing over Sew Over It's adorable Poppy & Jazz patterns! The store has released five brand-new outfits, including the Willow Pinafore and Birch Trousers, to join the current collection of kid's patterns we all know and love. But best of all, each one is in an extended sizing range: newborn to six years. From **£7.50, sewoverit.co.uk**



Go Dotty

Release your inner artist with The National Gallery's sticker books! Through the mindful exercise of adding stickers to corresponding dots, you'll recreate Vincent Van Gogh's A Wheatfield, with Cypresses and Georges Seurat's Bathers at Asnières. Both **£10.99**, available from the National Gallery Bookshop and all good bookstores. Visit **prestel.com**



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new collection!

Hey, Sailor

Ahoy there, matey, are you looking for some nautical-inspired clothes to stitch? I AM Patterns has released four brand-new outfits, including a jumper with a chic shoulder button placket, a boat-neck T-shirt, some wide-leg trousers and this classic raincoat which can be sewn in three different lengths. **£26** for the set, **iampatterns.fr/en/**

Ts & Cs: *10% off individual patterns and bundles from the I AM A SAILOR collection.



Perfect Fit

This dressmaker's dummy is a must-have when sewing menswear! Not only does the eight-part form include a back length adjustment, an adaptable neck and a handy pin cushion, but its off-set column means that trousers will hang perfectly straight every time. **£136.14, adjustoform.com**



Pass the Stuffing

This month, we're daydreaming of a crispy roast turkey and flaming Christmas pudding both placed on a beautiful me-made table cloth! This woven cotton from STOFF & STIL is perfect for festive settings, with its merry holly and wintery pinecone decoration. **£7.75 per metre, stoffstil.co.uk**



Tell us your favourite products by emailing **editorial@sewmag.co.uk**

At home with...

STUART HILLARD



Photography by Rachel Whiting

“Seeing my name on the selvedge of a bolt of fabric is every bit as thrilling as seeing it on a book spine”

It's almost the end of the year and like most people, my thoughts reflect back on the things I hoped and planned for, and what I accomplished and sadly did not.

I launched three new fabric collections this year with The Craft Cotton Company and I'm really starting to feel like a designer. I've certainly spent enough time using other people's material to understand what I want from them, but it's always a totally different experience when you're creating something from scratch. Ideas must be narrowed down and focused, compromises are inevitable and decisions must be made. Working with Hobbycraft, John Lewis and a host of independent retailers along the way has also been a joy and I can't wait for more adventures like these next year. I haven't yet travelled to Korea to see the fabrics in production, so that is definitely something on my wish list for 2020 which I'll be sure to share with you. I'm already exploring Korean food in preparation – you know how much I love to cook!

matalan.co.uk



CHRISTMAS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO REFLECT OVER THE PAST YEAR



WITH THE HELP OF A GLUE GUN, I'VE IMPROVED MY FLOWER ARRANGING TECHNIQUES!

Always Evolving

Seeing my name on the selvedge of a bolt of fabric is every bit as thrilling as seeing it on a book spine, and this year I released my third book, *Simple Shapes, Stunning Quilts*, with Pavilion. I love every kind of sewing task but quilting will always be at the top of my list. It was brilliant fun to design 100 new quilts using shapes that are easy to cut and piece but still produce beautiful results. The greatest satisfaction you can experience as a teacher is to pass on skills that will bring someone else a lifetime of fun and creative expression. Simple, achievable steps are key to feeling

confident and in control, but most of us want our first attempts to look stunning and not like a beginner project. It's definitely possible to achieve seamless results the first time around, but it starts with the right pattern and materials. I wish I could go fabric shopping with every one of you! I certainly had a ball at Festival of Quilts this year helping friends old and new to find the perfect piece. I also experienced the fun challenge of signing 1,500 books in one sitting. I wouldn't have believed I could misspell my own name but I think I managed it once or twice that day! I'm already working hard on my next title.

New Beginnings

I'm particularly enjoying exploring new directions, types of fabrics and tools. I've discovered and rediscovered a few crafts, too. After years of writing myself off as a hopeless flower arranger, I've found new hope with artificial flowers and a glue gun! It's realising that skills like colour sense and having an eye for balance can 'cross pollinate' from one craft to another and although I've got a lot to learn, I'm loving the results so far. I've also revisited the slow and steady joy of cross-stitch, and taking a little time out every day for a spot of embroidery has really

helped to create some much-needed relaxation in my life. Also, after months of planning I've finally got the first instalments of my YouTube channel up and running! I might have confessed this before, I'm a total technophobe and although I love the immediacy of social media it's taken me a long time to get to grips with it. Be sure to subscribe and watch my weekly videos on Stuart Hillard Makes. At the moment there's a mixture of big quilts, bags, skill-building quilting techniques and pro tips, but I'm planning to add some knitting and cookery in the new year, too. If there's something you'd like to see, please alert me. Our gloriously diverse and global community is constantly changing and with new crafts, ideas and directions, it's sometimes hard to know whether to stick to our path or venture beyond. We all have UFOs we had planned to finish this year but perhaps didn't. Knowing what to keep and what to park for another day is a constant battle for any creative person but, for me, it's all those things I've yet to do that fuel each new day.



I'VE JUST LAUNCHED MY NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL, STUART HILLARD MAKES

Stuart x

You can check in with Stuart on createandcraft.com, channels Virgin 748, Freeview 23, Freesat 813 and Sky 683, or visit [@stuarthillardsews](https://www.instagram.com/stuarthillardsews) on Instagram

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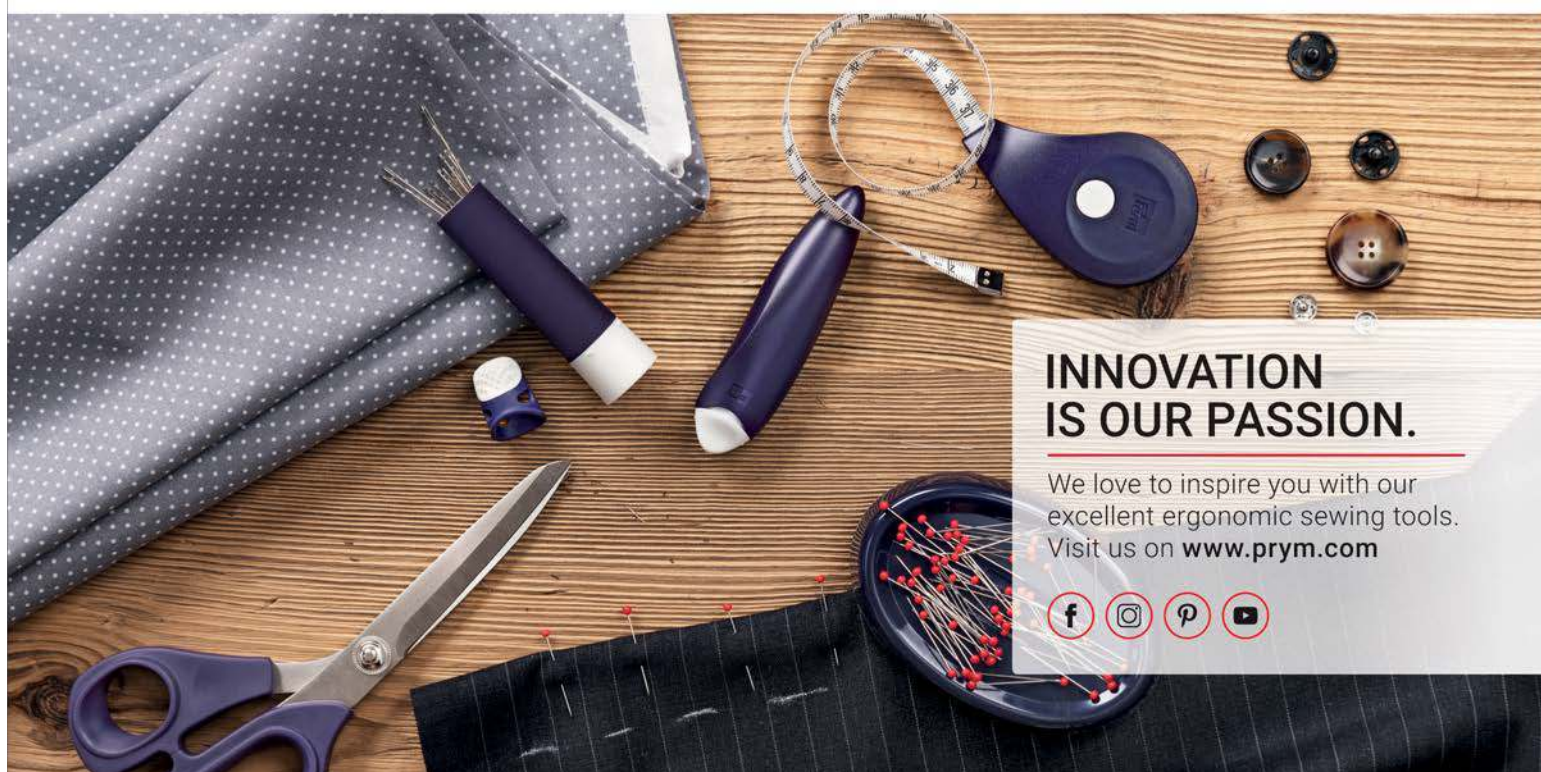
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4 ways with THE SPOONFLOWER COLLECTION

Add a cosy touch to your home for Christmas with this Spoonflower collection created by designer Charlotte Winter. Her range features contemporary Crimbo prints, including mint coloured chevron fabrics and snowy llama motif material, plus each one is made from sustainable organic cotton knit – so you can do your bit for the environment, too! **Corinne Bradd** has taken these six prints and transformed them into an easy-sew cup cosy, a star-shaped cushion, a handy pot holder, and our mascot Lennie the Llama.



Get started

- Fabric: Charlotte Winter's Spoonflower range, organic cotton knits; coloured cotton
- Cotton wadding
- Fibre filling
- Coloured felt
- Pom-pom trim
- Embroidery thread
- White elastic, 2.5cm wide

Purchase Charlotte Winter's collection from spoonflower.com

4 ways with THE SPOONFLOWER COLLECTION

Sew a STAR CUSHION

1 Download and print the templates from **sewmag.co.uk**. Cut out the star from two coordinating organic cotton knit pieces, taking care not to stretch them as you do so. Lay each star onto cotton wadding, right sides up. Pin and zig zag stitch to the wadding around the edges, then cut away the excess wadding on both pieces.

2 Cut 4cm wide coloured cotton and join end to end to make a continuous strip. Pin and stitch the strip around the edges of one of the stars,

right sides facing, ensuring the angles are kept sharp.

3 Pin the remaining star to the other edge of the cotton strip, matching up the points of the two stars first. Sew in place, leaving a 6cm to 7cm wide gap on one straight section for turning.

4 Turn out the cushion through the gap and use a large knitting needle or similar to push out the points fully. Firmly stuff with fibre filling, then fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed.



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Corinne Bradd, Sew designer

Create a BAUBLE POT HOLDER

1 Cut several 3.5cm wide strips of different organic cotton knit prints that are at least 26cm long. Join right sides together on the long edges to create a panel that's around 52cm wide. Pin the panel face up onto cotton wadding and topstitch along all the seam lines.

2 Download and print the templates from **sewmag.co.uk**. Draw around the template on top of the quilted fabric. Zig zag stitch all around the circle to bind the edges to the wadding, then cut away the excess. Place the circles back to back, ensuring the quilt lines run in the same direction.

3 Cut several 3cm wide pieces of coordinating cotton and join end to end

to make a continuous strip. Take another strip, 3cm x 20cm, and fold in half lengthways, right sides together. Sew down the long edge and turn out to make piping. Flatten the tube and fold in half. Pin this loop to the top of the pot holder, matching up the raw edges, then tack in place.

4 Take the remaining 3cm wide strip and sew around the edge of the circle, right sides together, with a 5mm seam allowance. Tuck under the short ends of the binding. Turn the binding to the other side of the pot holder and fold over the raw edges. Fold in 5mm along the edge and slip-stitch down, securing the hanging loop as you do so.



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Make a CUP COSY

1 Download and print the templates from **sewmag.co.uk**. Layer an organic cotton knit rectangle face down onto plain cotton. Place this over a rectangle of wadding and pin the beaker template to the stack. Cut out the slightly curved shape and sew around the edges, leaving a gap in one straight side.

2 Turn out the cosy and push out the corners with a knitting needle. Flatten the shape, turn in the raw edges of the gap and topstitch all around, 2mm in from the edges.

3 Cut two 3cm felt circles and oversew them to a mask shape that's trimmed from a lighter shade of felt. Add details to the face with embroidery thread. Cut two ears from darker coloured felt. Pin the ears and mask to the centre of the cosy; make sure the tops of the ears extend slightly. Oversew this to the cosy through all the fabric layers for security.

4 Snip two white elastic pieces, 2.5cm x 5cm, and sew securely to the inside of both ends of the cosy at the top and bottom so the sleeve can be slipped over a beaker.



Thanks to **Joanne Bernon** for helping us name our mascot! We hope you enjoy your prize – a set of **Madeira threads**! Help us with suggestions for next month's toy at **facebook.com/sewhq**

Make Lennie THE LLAMA

1 Download and print the templates from **sewmag.co.uk**. Cut two llama shapes from organic cotton knit, reversing one so it can be sewn with the other. Place each piece face up on cotton wadding and zig zag stitch around the edges to secure before cutting away the excess wadding.

2 Sew the llamas right sides together, leaving a gap along the back of the shape. Clip the curves and corners and turn right sides out using a blunt knitting needle to push the seams out. Flatten the shape and topstitch a 9cm line up from the indent of each leg.

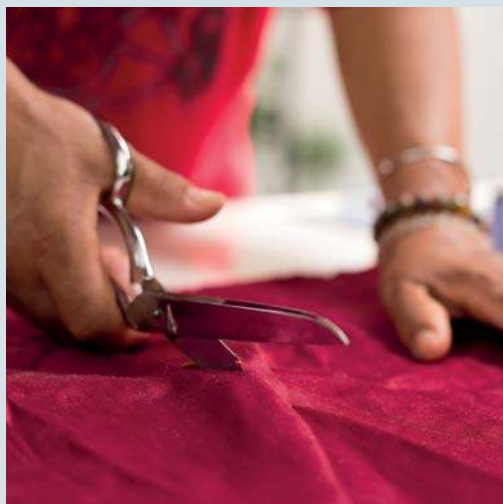
3 Firmly stuff the llama with fibre filling, using the topstitched divide to give the impression of pairs of legs. Make sure the neck is well padded so the head doesn't flop.

Fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed.

4 Cut four ears from organic cotton knit, pair up right sides together, and pin onto wadding. Sew around the edge leaving the bottom open, then trim away the excess wadding. Turn out and fold in 5mm along the bottom raw edges. Slip-stitch the folded edges to the top of the head.

5 Cut two 3cm felt circles and oversew them to each side of a mask shape, trimmed from a paler shade of felt using embroidery thread. Add the nose, mouth and eye details with thread before oversewing the face to the front of the head. Snip a 13cm felt circle and add a pom-pom trim. Fold the circle in half and pin over the back of the llama. Oversew the resulting saddle to the toy.

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these stitchy experiences

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slippers — a necessity for this time of year! All you need to bring along is an old large towel and an apron, then Made and Making will provide the tools and materials you need.



Christmas Needle Felting

Indulge in a little festive fun in this Christmas needle felting workshop! During the class, you'll be able to work on a selection of projects of your choice, including everything from bearded Santas to little robin decorations. Best of all, you don't need any prior felting experience either, so any newbies wanting to try their hand at the craft are welcome, too!

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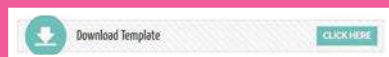
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2 Search for a pattern by title, according to the project names opposite. Click on the search tab.



3 Click the 'Download Template' button, which you will find under the main image.



4 Save the pattern PDF by right clicking to save on your computer, then print out (DON'T fit to the page!)

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**WORTH
OVER
£230**

Global WAKEcup offers a stylish and eco-friendly alternative to single-use products. This cool kit contains a rucksack, bottle, flask and wooden straws, and is perfect for a day at the office, a picnic in the park, and when you're just generally out and about.

Available at globalwakecup.com

We have four kits to give away. To enter, tick ECO

10% of all Global WAKEcup's profits go to The Marine Conservation Society.



Tilly Walnes has worked her magic yet again and conjured up a stunning new pattern! The smock top and dress will make a great addition to your wardrobe, and Tilly has banished fiddly fastenings in favour of details like flounce sleeves and exposed frill seams.

Available at tillyandthebuttons.com

We have ten patterns to give away.

To enter, tick TILLY

**10
PATTERNS!**



WIN

with

sew

IN THE RUN-UP TO CHRISTMAS, WE'RE GIVING YOU THE CHANCE TO WIN £3,600 OF PRESENTS!

With this giveaway extravaganza from Herdy, readers will either win a cotton tote bag or a fun felting set. The kit lets you sew your very own Herdwick sheep, while the over-the-shoulder accessory comes in five stunning colourways and features a sweet sheep peeping out of the pocket – what's not to love?

Available at herdy.co.uk

We have 15 bags and five kits to give away. To enter, tick HERDY



**WORTH
£225!**

The Conservatory Chapter 3 collection has just landed, and we're giving you the chance to get your hands on it! The new range features eye-catching olive, magenta, navy and coral colourways, plus quirky tiger, flower and deer motifs.

Available at freespiritfabrics.com

We have two fat quarter bundles of each colour story to give away. To enter, tick WILD



**£240
OF FABRIC!**

The Prym Love range is not only beautiful to look at, but it also provides essential tools for your sewing journey. In this giveaway, you'll win the spring tape measure, birdy needle threader, arm pin cushion, as well as butterfly and heart pins.

Available at prym.com

We have five sets to give away. To enter, tick PRYM



**5 TO
GIVE
AWAY**

Wearing colourful garments is an excellent way to lift your mood and stand out from the crowd! But how do we know which hues really suit us? Enter, House of Colour. In this unique experience, you'll visit a consultant who's local to you, and they will tell you which shades harmonise with your skin tone to make you look and feel radiant!

Available at houseofcolour.co.uk

We have two Step 1 Colour classes to give away. To enter, tick COLOUR



**WORTH
£150
EACH!**

20% OFF* CRAFTY SEW & SO

With this fantastic offer, you can get 20% off Crafty Sew & So's full-price fabric collections and dressmaking patterns! With material to keep you warm this winter like corduroy and denim, and patterns from some of our favourite brands, such as Sew Over It, Tilly and the Buttons, Cashmerette and Megan Nielsen, you'd be bonkers to miss it! Simply use the code **SEWCHRISTMAS** at **craftysewandso.com**.

*Valid from 11th November 2019 to 19th December 2019.

If you're looking for fun and festive material to whip up kids' clothing in, then you've come to the right place! Kawaii Fabric has provided us with 20 fabric bundles, each with a duo of smooth cotton material inside - what will you sew first? Available at **kawaiifabric.com**

We have 20 fabric bundles to give away.
To enter, tick KAWAII



**£200
OF FABRIC!**

£100 PATTERN BUNDLE!

Closet Case Patterns' Pietra pants come in three wonderful variations with different trouser lengths; the Fiore skirt is a beautiful number and gives you the chance to add pockets; and the Cielo top and dress will have you sporting classic style whatever the season. Available at **closetcasepatterns.com**

We have three pattern bundles to give away.
To enter, tick CLOSET



Imagine having an endless supply of buttons, ribbon, ric rac and beads - well, Minerva Crafts is giving you the chance to win a bundle of it! With an impressive haberdashery stash like this, you can bedeck garments and accessorise bags to your heart's content.

Available at **minervacrafts.com**

We have one bundle to give away.
To enter, tick HABERDASHERY



**£200
OF HABBY
BITS!**

For a project book that packs a punch, you need to read *Feminist Felties*! The author shows you how to make female icon badges and Christmas tree decorations amongst others; but don't worry if needle felting isn't your forte, Missy talks you through glueing, stitching and embroidery techniques.

Available at **searchpress.com**

We have 24 books to give away.
To enter, tick FELT



**24
BOOKS!**

£160 OF THREAD!



These spools are the reel thing and you're guaranteed to love them sew much - OK, we'll stop now! Hantex is offering you a whopping 45 spools of its organic cotton thread in a range of hues. Available at **hantexonline.co.uk**

We have one bundle to give away.
To enter, tick THREAD

After stitching up a storm, wouldn't it be lovely to enjoy a blissful day of pampering? Ragdale Hall Spa is offering you and a friend a spot on its popular Refresh & Revive day, where you'll make use of the spa's amazing facilities. You'll also receive a 50-minute treatment, and tuck into a healthy buffet lunch - we feel fuzzy just thinking about it! Available at **ragdalehall.co.uk**

We have one spa day to give away.
To enter, tick SPA

**WORTH
OVER
£330!**



The prize is valid Monday - Thursday. The prize must be taken within six months of the date the winner is notified, and guests must be aged 16 or over. Travel is not included. For more information or to purchase your Christmas gift vouchers today, visit ragdalehall.co.uk or call 01664 433033.

ABAKHAN

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20% OFF* ABAKHAN

Despite what anyone says, scrolling down fabric stores' websites and wishfully adding material to our cart is a hobby! With 20% off on Abakhan's dressmaking material, you can bag your dream picks, whether that's cotton poplin, stretch jersey or festive satin. To claim the offer, simply enter **SEW20** when you check out at **abakhan.co.uk**

*Valid from 11th November 2019 to 26th December 2019.

Try your hand at a new kind of craft with these sticker books! Each one contains thousands of coloured stickers and a poster of outlines; all readers have to do is match the stickers to the drawing to recreate a beautiful painting. Take it from us, it's incredibly mindful. Available from the National Gallery Bookshop and all good bookstores. For further information visit **prestel.com**

We have seven pairs to give away. To enter, tick STICKER



NEW CRAFT!

Prizes subject to availability. Competition open to mainland UK and Northern Ireland residents only.



£200 OF WASHI TAPE!

This next prize is a washi tape lover's dream! One lucky winner will receive a special bundle of Altenew's washi tape range, which features sunny skies and delicate flowers, as well as its green, blue and floral flurries sets. Available at **altenew.com**

We have one bundle to give away. To enter, tick WASHI TAPE

These gift sets include everything you need to expertly blend your own perfume, including six scented blends, pipettes and the bottle itself. Best of all, the four winners can choose which fragrance palette they want - including exotic, floral, fresh or natural.

Available at **thepfume studio.com**

We have four sets to give away. To enter, tick PERFUME



£200 OF GIFT CARDS!

The gift cards are one-use only and cannot be used to purchase gift cards, downloadable PDFs or free shipping. Valid for one year.

Love Crafts has a fabulous array of sewing goodies, and the online store has given you the chance to win a £50 gift voucher to spend on whatever you like! Will you choose a sweet hippo embroidery kit, a sunflower cross stitch set or perhaps you'll stock up on DMC thread in a whole host of colours? Available at **lovecrafts.com**

We have four £50 gift cards to give away. To enter, tick VOUCHER



WORTH £200!



If you're anything like us, you have to set the right tone before beginning a project. This includes: having a cup of tea and a packet of biscuits within arm's reach, and

a soothing sewing playlist on repeat - this CD from Naxos is guaranteed to get you in the stitchy mood!

Available at **naxos.com**

We have 20 CDs to give away. To enter, tick CD

20 SEWING CDS!

Raise your pom-pom making game with these delightful makes which are guaranteed to wow your friends! Vietnamese artist, Henry Le shows you how to use careful layering and delicate trimming to achieve unique shading and structure in your pom-poms. Available at **gmcbooks.com**

We have ten books to give away. To enter, tick POM-POM



10 BOOKS!

Just tick the boxes!

To enter our giveaways via post, tick the box that corresponds with the prizes you want to win and send your entry in by **26.12.2019*** Mark your envelope: **Sew Bumper Giveaways, PO Box 443, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 8WG.**

- | | | | |
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- ☐ Bonus Simplicity pattern ☐ I subscribed
☐ Other (please specify).....

What's your favourite project this issue?

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*Only one entry per household. Terms and conditions can be found online at **sewmag.co.uk**

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**WORTH
£14.99!**

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Here at Sew magazine, we have arranged for all readers to receive a FREE* Penny the Pig Sewing Kit, worth £14.99! With your spotty fabric, coloured felt sheets, ribbon and buttons, this cute little piggy will be a perfect addition to your home.

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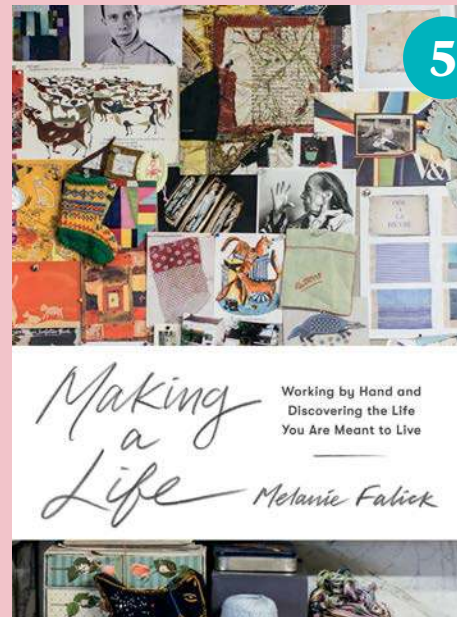
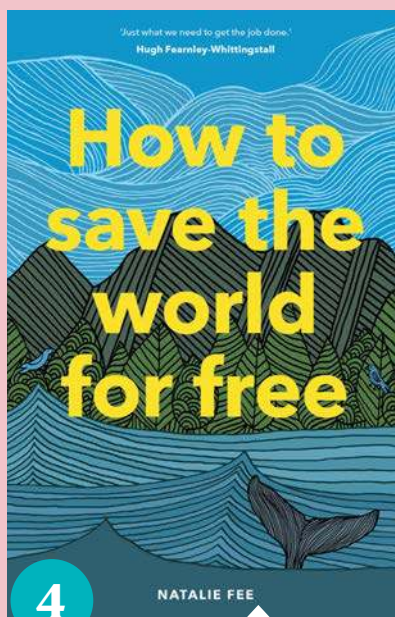
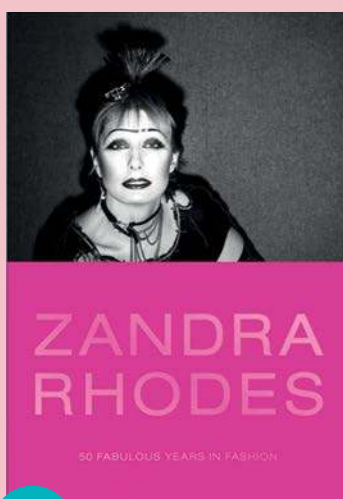
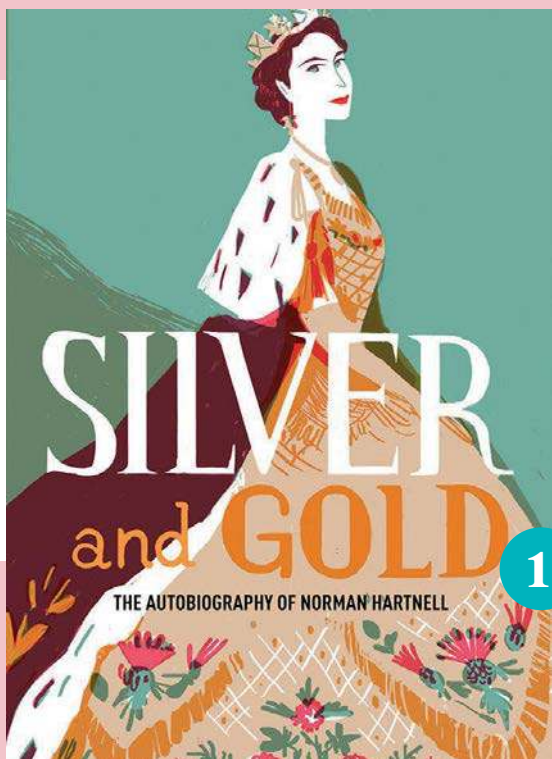
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Silver and Gold tells the fascinating story of Norman Hartnell, the Royal Warrant designer who dreamed up Queen Elizabeth II's wedding and coronation gowns. He's best known for fashioning romantic evening frocks that glitter with embellishments, embroidery and beading, which were worn by high-society women at debutante balls. **£9.99, vam.ac.uk**

2 CREATE WITH CORK FABRIC by Jessica Sallie Kapitanski

The designer behind Sallie Tomato sewing patterns, Jessica shows you how to sew 17 projects, from purses and pouches to accessories and home

décor items, out of cork fabric. This material is eco-friendly, low-maintenance and comes in an array of colours, making it a must-have for your stash! **£20.20, ctpub.com**

3 ZANDRA RHODES: 50 FABULOUS YEARS IN FASHION

by Dennis Nothdruff

Trailblazer, textile artist and fashion designer, Zandra Rhodes has inspired artists like Alice Temperley, and created outstanding garments for icons such as Princess Diana, Debbie Harry and Freddie Mercury. This special book outlines Zandra's vast career ahead of the Fashion and Textile Museum's exhibition, *Zandra Rhodes: 50 Years of Fabulous*. **£30, yalebooks.co.uk**

4 HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD FOR FREE by Natalie Fee

The P word is discussed everywhere at the moment; on Facebook, in the papers, over the dinner table – but plastic is big news, and it's about time we cut down on it. In Natalie's book, she tells you how to save the planet without spending a pretty penny, including shopping at charity stores, organising a clothes swap, and – you guessed it – upcycling outfits! **£12.99, laurenceking.com**

5 MAKING A LIFE by Melanie Falick

If you've ever wanted to be a fly on the wall in a maker's studio, then this book is for you! Melanie's read explores the creative lives of weavers, painters, quilters and more, plus you'll recognise some familiar faces too, as slow-stitcher Claire Wellesley-Smith pops up to tell you how sewing can offer you a well-deserved rest. **£27.99, artisanbooks.com**

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your SEWING GUIDE

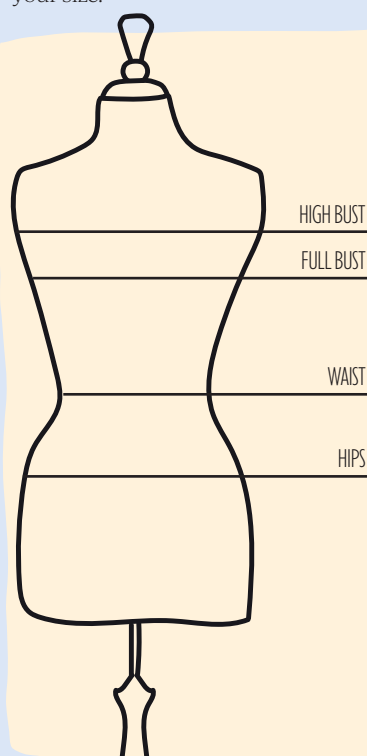
Get to grips with the dressmaking basics!

THE PERFECT FIT

The key to successful fitting is taking accurate body measurements to ensure you get the right size. Pattern sizes aren't the same as high street clothing sizes, so don't be tempted to skip this stage. Once you've taken your measurements, compare them to those on the pattern envelope or Size It Up panel over the page, then you can make any necessary alterations.

Cut out the paper according to the size closest to the measurements you have selected, choosing the best fit (for dresses, blouses and jackets) in the bust and shoulder, as this area is harder to adjust. If your waist or hip measurements are out of proportion according to the standard pattern size, then simply graduate in or out to reach the relevant waist or hip lines to your size.

- Measure yourself in your underwear, preferably in the bra you will be wearing.
- Use a new tape measure as they can distort out of shape over time.
- Ask a friend to help you, especially with tricky measurements such as your back-neck to waist and height.
- Be honest with your measurements and remember that pattern sizes are totally different to ready-to-wear high street sizing.
- Use your measurements to help you adjust the pattern to fit your shape, not forgetting to take the required amount of ease into account.



TAKING YOUR MEASUREMENTS

Measure while in the underwear you will be wearing and hold the tape measure comfortably snug, but avoid pulling tight.

HEIGHT Standing against a flat wall without wearing shoes, measure from the floor to the top of your head.

HIGH BUST Measure directly under the arms, straight across the back and above the bust.

FULL BUST Take the tape measure around the fullest part of your bust and straight across the back.

WAIST Tie a length of narrow elastic around the waist and let it settle naturally at your waistline, then measure over it. Keep the elastic handy for future garments.

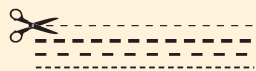
HIPS Measure around the body at the fullest part. This is usually 18-23cm below the waist.



Sew our swishy Victoria midi skirt, available for FREE at sewmag.co.uk

READING A PATTERN

The basic markings you will find on commercial dressmaking patterns are important to familiarise yourself with. These marks indicate various techniques or steps and are best transferred onto your fabric pieces once you've cut them.



MULTIPLE SIZE CUTTING LINES

These lines indicate dress sizes. Highlighting yours can help with cutting.



GRAINLINE

Align this mark with the grain of the fabric i.e. parallel to the warp (see below).



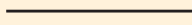
FOLD LINE

This mark indicates that the pattern piece should be positioned along the fold of the fabric, creating a larger 'mirrored' piece.



BUST/HIP INDICATORS

Located at the bust and hip points on the pattern — make any necessary adjustments if yours don't fall there.



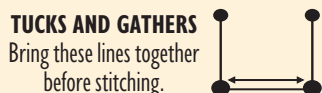
LENGTHEN/SHORTEN HERE

This is an opportunity to customise the pattern to your preferences.



MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS

These come in a range of sizes and are used as points of reference on a pattern to indicate where pieces should be placed.



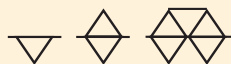
TUCKS AND GATHERS

Bring these lines together before stitching.



BUTTON / BUTTONHOLE PLACEMENTS

These indicate where buttonholes should be made on a garment.



NOTCHES

Match two pieces of fabric together at these points.

SIZE IT UP

Once you have your body measurements, choose the closest size from the chart below. Remember, there will be variations depending on which fabric and pattern you choose, so always make a toile first.

	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Bust	78cm	83cm	88cm	93cm	98cm	103cm	108cm
Waist	59cm	64cm	69cm	74cm	79cm	84cm	89cm
Hip	85cm	88cm	93cm	98cm	103cm	108cm	113cm
Back neck to waist	39cm	40cm	41cm	42cm	43cm	44cm	45cm



"To make double patch pockets, lay the fabric right sides together, then cut two rectangles slightly larger than the finished pocket."

Make a template of the finished pocket and draw around it with a chalk pencil or soluble marker on the wrong side of the double layer. Machine-stitch along the drawn line, leaving a gap in one straight side. Trim the seams before turning out; you will find that the curved edges are more stable and the pocket will not stretch out of shape while attaching it to the garment."

MAY MARTIN, SEWING PERSONALITY

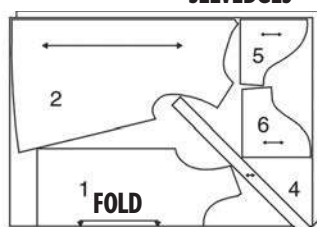


PLACING YOUR PIECES

With the paper pattern pieces facing up, place them onto the fabric. Some will need to be placed on the fold of the fabric (where it's folded in half, giving you a mirrored piece), which will be indicated on the individual pattern pieces. Most patterns offer a layout guide for the placement, according to the width of your fabric. This helps you get the most from your fabric, and avoids wastage.

Pattern pieces that are not indicated to be placed on the fold need to be put on the material with the grainline arrow running parallel to the selvedge. Measure the distance from one end of the arrow to the selvedge, repeat for the other side of the arrow, and move the pattern piece until both measurements are the same.

SELVEDGES



UNDERSTAND YOUR FABRIC

Getting to grips with your fabric is a fundamental part of sewing. Before you start, familiarise yourself with:

WARP These are the yarns that run the length of the fabric. They are stronger than weft yarns and less likely to stretch.

WEFT These run over and under the warp threads across the fabric from selvedge to selvedge.

BIAS The bias grain runs 45° to the warp and weft of the fabric. Cutting garments on the bias creates a finished piece that will follow the contours of the body.

SELVEDGE The non-fraying, woven edges that run parallel to the warp grain is the selvedge.



Viscose — Red Crepe, £11 per metre, croftmill.co.uk



"This gorgeous viscose crepe fabric is ideal for making a statement skirt like this Victoria midi"

CAROLINE BOARDWELL REID, CROFT MILL

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2 NEWLOOK & Simplicity® PATTERNS INSIDE SIZES 6-28*



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- Create a flattering frock with a slim or flared skirt
- Up your knit know-how and sew with stretch jersey



CLASSIC COVER-UP

- Perfect for beginners or those looking for an easy project
- Get creative with three statement sleeves to choose from

You'll love our JANUARY ISSUE

- Get to know designer Lotta Jansdotter
- Debbie Shore shares her ultimate machine service tips
- Plus, get organised for 2020 with our space-saving projects

Look Out! Our January issue is on sale 12th December 2019

*Features subject to change. UK Sizes. Pattern sizes vary



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Style Story

THE CAPSULE WARDROBE

Reduce your fashion footprint with a curated closet

Words by Laura Wybrow

According to environmental organisation Greenpeace, worldwide we chuck away 80 billion pieces of clothing each year. With this daunting figure in mind, it's apparent that the term 'less is more' has never rang more true; we need to make sure that the few items hanging in our wardrobes are going to last – enter, the capsule closet!

This term was coined in the 1970s by London boutique owner Susie Faux when she noticed that people were spending too much money on clothes which were poorly-made and ill-fitting, and would likely be chucked away before the following year. So Susie invented the capsule wardrobe: a collection of essential, timeless and transitional pieces that would last for decades. Thanks to designer Donna Karan, this idea caught on in America when she showcased a Seven Easy Pieces collection to the public in 1985, which featured versatile skirts, trousers, jackets, jumpers and shirts that transformed into multiple outfits.

Although Susie's goal was to streamline closets with high-quality,

perfectly-fitting pieces which could be mixed and matched to your heart's content, today it serves other purposes, too. It reduces the amount of clothing that ends up in landfills and can save a pretty penny, too. Now you know what a capsule wardrobe is, shall we see it in action?

Less is More

In 2010, entrepreneur Courtney Carver started Project 333 with the motto: 'Dress with Less'. The scheme asks you to pick 33 items of clothing, accessories, outerwear and shoes to wear for three months, and store any clothes that you don't choose out of sight – and mind! At the end of the three months, you might find that all 33 items transition into the next season or that only a few will – in which case, add pieces to your capsule collection until you reach 33. Eventually, you'll discover which clothes are perfect for you all year round.

Other capsule wardrobe whizzes include Anuschka Rees, the clothes-savvy author of *The Curated Closet*, and That's Not My Age blog founder Alyson Walsh. Anuschka's book helps you polish your personal style and create a refined wardrobe, whereas style icon Alyson

champions slow fashion by shopping sensibly and donating pre-loved clothes. Fancy adding your name to the capsule wardrobe all-stars list? We have just the tips to help you...

Waste Not, Want Not

"Well, I stitch so I don't buy any new clothes!" we hear you say, but dressmakers aren't immune to the clutches of waste. First things first, select a pattern that will stand the test of time; Log-on to sewmag.co.uk to pair together an outfit before you sew. As for the material, collections like Dragonfly Fabrics' eco-linen and STOFF & STIL's organic fabric are excellent choices, as they were shortlisted for the 'Best eco-friendly product' in our British Sewing Awards. We're also advised to pre-wash fabrics to prevent shrinkage, stop colours running and make tough materials like denim softer to stitch, but to be environmentally friendly, use a green detergent like Ecover or pop some marigolds on and wash by hand.

Going Green

Feeling inspired to fine tune your own wardrobe? Sew has made it super easy to get started! Check out these three picks for eco-friendly fabric inspiration.



ORGANIC VELOUR IN DARK ROSE,
£13.50 PER METRE



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ORGANIC RIB IN GOLDEN BROWN,
£11.50 PER METRE

All of the featured fabrics are available at stoffstil.co.uk



Why Buy A Dress Form?

Traditionally when making clothes much of the process is done on a flat table, but this does not give you any idea of what the garment will look like when its worn or how it will fit you. A dressform solves this issue by allowing you to work on the garment whilst in its natural shape. They are also adjustable, meaning the model can reflect your body shape!

Which one do I pick?

We offer a wide variety of dressforms to suit all types of tastes, sizes and budgets. From our luxury Lady Valet collection with real wood features, our leg forms to make trousers with, to our entry level Sew Simple ranges. We have a product for every level of home sewing enthusiast. So whether you're starting out, taking sewing to the next level or getting a gift for someone as sewing mad as we are, a dressform is the perfect choice.

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Sew, Knit, Craft, Cambridge – 01223 350691
Sew Much To Do, Ely – 01353 664 000

CHESHIRE

Allan Sheen Sewing Machines, Winsford – 01606 593554
Jaycotts, Chester – 01244 394099
Phil Morton Sewing Machines, Macclesfield – 01625 433 131
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CORNWALL

The Sewing Studio, Camborne – 01209 216942

DERBYSHIRE

Elegance, Derby – 01332 382292
Ilkeston Sewing Centre, Ilkeston – 01159 307664
Sew Essential, Swadlincote – 01283 210422

DEVON

Exeter Sewing Machine Company, Exeter – 01392 275 660
Haberdashery Fabrics and More, Plymouth – 01752 243949

DORSET

Bournemouth Sewing Machines, Bournemouth – 01202 424825
Sew Jessalli, Blandford Forum – 01258 268 541
So 'n' Sew, Weymouth – 01305 766 411

EAST MIDLANDS

Rutland Sewing, Rutland – 01572 756 468

ESSEX

Creative Lady, Burnham on Crouch – 01621 928 225
Franklins, Colchester – 01206 563955 & 574758
Franklins, Chelmsford – 01245 346300
Home of Sewing by Regent, Ilford – 0208 478 0669

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Patchwork Basket, Newent – 01531 822442
West End Sewing Centre, Cheltenham – 01242 244025

HAMPSHIRE

Greenhill Patchwork & Quilting, Romsey – 01794 517973
Hampshire Sewing Machines, Fareham – 01329 280499
New Forest Fabrics, Dibden Purlieu – 02381 783386
Reads of Winchester, Winchester – 01962 850 950
Sew Creative, Petersfield – 01730 858020

HEREFORDSHIRE

Doughtys Fabric Warehouse, Hereford – 01432 353951

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Chicks Embroidery, Letchworth Garden City – 01462 670 007
Rebecca Woollard Sewing School, Hatfield Heath – 07887 654 717
Rona Sewing Machines, Waltham Cross – 01992 640250
Sewfine Sewing Machines, Watford – 01923 628 882

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Barcham Sewing Centre, Whitstable – 01227 264 271
The Sewing Space, Hythe – 01303 261329
World of Sewing, Orpington – 01689 638 638
World of Sewing, Tunbridge Wells – 01892 533188

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Leston Sewing Machines, Nelson – 01282 614511
M & S Sewing Machines, Heywood – 01706 624651 & 366943
SA Sewing Machines, Rochdale – 01706 355529

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Cresswell Sewing Machines, Oadby, Leicester – 0115 926 7572
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L & C Fabrics, Cleethorpes – 01472 600 874
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Hastings Sewing Centre, Hastings – 01424 423108

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Sewing Machine Sales, Whitley Bay – 0191 2525825
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Creative Hands 2, Worcester – 01905 24940
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Arcade Sewing Machines, Huddersfield – 01484 429808
Electra (DA) Company, Doncaster – 01302 340 369
Fabric Mouse, Richmond – 01748 811 593
Gillies Fabrics & Sewing Machines, York – 01904 626 244
Hull Sewing Centre L & C, Hull – 01482 325 072
North Bar Fabrics – Beverley – 01964 551 955
Sewing Centre, Scarborough – 01723 363167
White Rose Sewing Machine Co., Harrogate – 01423 503767

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ISLE OF MAN

Joan's Woools & Crafts, Onchan – 01624 626 009

IRELAND

Singer Sewing Centre, Ballymena – 028 2564 0034

SCOTLAND

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David Drummond, Edinburgh – 0131 539 7766
ESC (The Sewing Machine Shop), Fochabers – 01343 823961
Pemberton's Sewing Machines, Stirling – 01786 462993
Quilt Creations, Inverness – 01463 719369
Sew Confident, Dundee – 07810 005 237
Sew Confident, Glasgow – 0141 280 0487
The Sew Studio, Dunfermline – 01383 621894

WALES

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Calico Kate, Lampeter – 01570 422866
Cliffords Sewing Machines Ltd, Swansea – 01792 655 928
J & B Sewing Machine Co Ltd, Cardiff – 02922 402418
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