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Hello Sewing!

Simple makes that are just sew

Written by Lena Santana

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Lena Santana

Hello SEWING!

*Easy
Projects
for
Beginners*

Simple makes that are just sew



Hello **SEWING!**

Simple makes that are just sew

PAVILION

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Snazzy shopping bag

The daily bag dilemma: do I need a big bag or a small bag today? This one is just right – it doesn't look huge, but it's surprisingly capacious; its sturdy plastic handles and heavyweight fabric allow you to cram it full without worrying that the weight will cause the bag to rip. There is a practical pocket on the outside for small things. Look in furnishing fabric shops for fabrics: you're bound to find no end of tempting designs, so why not make a set of bags to accessorize your coats and jackets?

What you need

Fabric – heavyweight cotton or linen:

50cm (½yd) x 112cm (44in)

Matching thread

Satin bias binding tape: 1m 50cm

(1⅝yd) x 16mm (⅝in)

Bag handles: 1 pair with approx. 27.5cm

(10¾in) slit to hold fabric

Sewing machine

Scissors

Needle and pins

Tape measure/ruler

Tailor's chalk/fabric marker

TECHNIQUES

Applying binding: see page 16

Topstitching: see page 19

Slipstitch: see page 18



Cute culottes

This skirt-cum-shorts makes a great summer staple – loose and comfortable to wear, and ideal for picnics, cycle rides or lounging around the garden. The unusual shape gives you the fullness of a skirt, but you don't have to worry about the hem blowing up on a windy day because it's a pair of culottes! It features a sweet ruched patch pocket on the front. Choose a soft, lightweight fabric so it will drape flatteringly on the body, as there is no shaping around the hips. Team the culottes with a plain vest, a pair of flip-flops and a roomy bag and head out to make the most of a summer weekend.

What you need

Fabric – soft, lightweight cotton:

1m 50cm (1⁵/₈yd) x 112cm (44in)
(culottes)

25cm (1¹/₄yd) x 112cm (44in) (pocket)

Matching thread

Elastic: 1m (1¹/₈yd) x 25mm (1in); 25cm
(1¹/₄yd) x 10mm (3/₈in)

Sewing machine

Scissors

Needle and pins

Tape measure/ruler

Tailor's chalk/fabric marker

Safety pins: 1 large, 1 medium

TECHNIQUES

French seam: see page 14

Inserting elastic into a casing:
see page 20

Making a hem: see page 23

Clipping curves: see page 15

Topstitching: see page 19



Summer dress

A summer dress in a classic vest shape – simple, striking and easy to wear. For me, the design brings back happy childhood memories of long, sunny days and the vibrant summer dresses that I wore. It is a very easy dress to make, because the neck and armholes are finished with bias binding tape. A tie belt adds definition to the waistline; it also features a contrasting fabric on the ends for a stylish twist. The skirt is knee-length; if you want a longer or shorter skirt, add on to or take away from the hem edge of the pattern. The design works well in a bold pattern, as the front and back sections are each a single piece, so you can make the most of all those jazzy prints that are out there.

What you need

Fabric – cotton (dress and main part of belt):

Small: 2m 25cm (2½yd) x 112cm (44in)

Medium: 2m 25cm (2½yd)
x 112cm (44in)

Large: 2m 75cm (3yd) x 112cm (44in)

Fabric scraps – cotton (belt ends)

Matching thread

Satin bias binding tape: 3m (3¼yd)
x 2cm (¾in)

Sewing machine

Scissors

Needle and pins

Tape measure/ruler

Tailor's chalk/fabric marker

TECHNIQUES

French seam: see page 14

Making a hem: see page 23

Applying binding: see page 16

Topstitching: see page 19

Slipstitch: see page 18



1



1 Cut out the fabric according to the pattern pieces on page 85. Join the sides and shoulders of the dress with French seams.

Make a hem by pressing 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) to the inside at the bottom of the dress, then turn over the same amount again. Pin, tack and topstitch.

2



2 Apply bias binding to the neck and armhole edges, using Method 2. Make a tuck in the binding as you feed it around the V-shape of the neckline. When you turn the binding over the raw edge, hold it in place, then turn over the edge again so the binding is on the inside of the garment and doesn't show on the right side of the dress. Pin and tack. Topstitch the binding close to the edge.

3 Fold a belt end in half with right sides together. Pin, tack and machine one side edge with a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam. Press the seam open with your fingers and pin the right side of the top of the belt end to the right side of the belt. Tack and stitch with a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam. Repeat at the other end of the belt.

4 Fold the main part of the belt in half with right sides together. Pin and tack from one end of the belt to the other. Machine with a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam, leaving a gap of 8cm (3in) for turning. Turn right side out. Slipstitch the gap to close it.

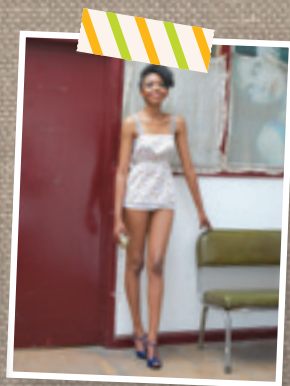
3



4



Anyone can learn to sew with this stylish collection of simple projects that serve as a perfect introduction to dressmaking. So pick up your needle and thread and give it a go – it really is that easy!



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