



Learn to Sew One Stitch at a Time

Beginner Sewing:

Skill Level - 1

Class Length - 2 1/2 hours

Basic skills covered in class:

- ✂ How to thread sewing machine and the bobbin.
- ✂ Different kinds of stitches - straight stitch, zig-zag, backstitch (*reverse secure stitch*), topstitch, baste stitch.
- ✂ How to choose thread and needle for fabric. Denim, canvas and other heavy weight fabrics require a heavy duty needle. Stretch/knit fabrics require a special needle. Needles are labeled DENIM or STRETCH when you purchase them.
- ✂ How to use and read patterns. Most information is inside your pattern! In your pattern envelope you will find a glossary, seam allowance information and how to layout your pattern pieces, cutting lines along with instructions on how to make your project step by step. Follow pattern envelope directions on back for yardage and notions needed to complete the project.
- ✂ How to select fabrics that are right for your project, pay attention to the weight and the direction of the print if the fabric is printed.
- ✂ Pre-shrinking your fabric. This is necessary if you plan to wash, dry, or steam the item you are making. It is common to preshrink cotton fabrics.
- ✂ How to mark and cut your pattern. Use tailor's chalk and scissors or tracing paper.
- ✂ How and when to use interfacing. Remember this is only needed to add extra body or strength to your fabric. It is not always necessary.

- ✂ Simple seam construction - **Important!!** Always keep right sides of your fabric together when sewing a seam! *Sew right side to right side!*
- ✂ Pressing Matters! Pressing and trimming of seams is an important step not to miss to keep your garment from looking home-made.
- ✂ Most often press your seams open on the back side.
- ✂ Trimming reduces bulk.

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Basic Tools & Terminology used

- ✂ Scissors
- ✂ Pins/pin cushion
- ✂ Fabric
- ✂ Thread - All Purpose, choose thread for your project that is the correct weight and a similar fiber content. A good quality thread sews well!
- ✂ Rotary Cutter & mat used for cutting fabric
- ✂ Tailor's chalk - used for marking on fabric
- ✂ Tracing Paper - used to mark directions from a pattern
- ✂ Interfacing - unseen interior addition to fabric. Adds body and strength.
- ✂ Straight stitch - most common stitch used in sewing a seam
- ✂ Zig-Zag stitch - used on almost any seam to enclose the raw edge and prevents fraying.
- ✂ Backstitch - sewing in reverse and forward over the same stitch. Secures a stitch seam.
- ✂ Topstitch - stitch applied to top of fabric. Usually decorative.
- ✂ Baste stitch - long stitches that temporarily join fabric together.
- ✂ Grain line - effects the way the fabric drapes. The straight grain. Other grains such as lengthwise grain, crosswise grain, bias grain
- ✂ Selvage - edge of fabric with manufacturer's info, this is the straight length edge of the fabric, bound and will not fray.
- ✂ Crosswise grain - The width of the fabric, perpendicular to the selvages
- ✂ Lengthwise grain - the length of the fabric from one cut end to the other cut end, parallel to the selvages
- ✂ Bias - The 45-degree angle between the crosswise grain and the lengthwise grain
- ✂ Seam allowance - area between stitching and raw edge. Most common are ¼", ½" and 5/8". Sewing accurate seam allowance is the key to having your pieces fit together.
- ✂ One Way Print - print is applied to fabric in one direction. This affects how to cut out your pattern pieces.
- ✂ Two Way Print - print on fabric is not directional - you cannot tell top from bottom.