

10 TIPS FOR GARMENT SEWING SUCCESS!

If you are new to sewing, and are not sure where to begin – here are some tips to help you navigate your first purchase. If you are like me and have an enormous fabric and pattern stash, you can apply these principles to shop in your stash!

1. **Decide what you are going to make** before you get to the store. Now this sounds simple, but it is so easy to get distracted by all the pretty fabrics and enticing patterns.
2. For beginners, Selecting a pattern is the first step. **Chose a pattern** that has clean lines and techniques you feel comfortable with i.e. zippers, buttons, etc. It's great to stretch your talents, but that should be one or two new techniques, not the entire garment.
3. Once you have selected your pattern – **read the back** of the pattern envelope. There is so much information here. Look at the type of fabric the pattern designer suggests and use one of those. It's okay to go off the rails, but make the garment out of a recommended fabric first, this will help you see what the fit, drape, style etc. was intended for this garment and will help ensure success.
4. Find the location of the types of fabric recommended – not all cottons, silks, wools, jerseys are the same. **Don't be afraid to ask for help**, the sales people know their stock and are typically very knowledgeable.
5. **Choose a fabric you love!** Nuff said!
6. On the back of the pattern it will indicate **how much fabric you need**. At this point, you can guess your size (don't get me started on the sizing – it's awful). There will be two lines for each size – 45" wide and a 60" wide (if you are not sure, measure it at the desk or ask the salesperson) each width will have a different yardage requirement. Be careful to take into consideration stripes, nap and one directional patterns – these may require more fabric.
7. Decide if you need to make a muslin (**test fitting garment**). It is always a good idea. For this you will only need an inexpensive fabric that has the same weight and hand as your fashion fabric.
8. Check the back of the pattern to see what **notions you need**. Matching thread, of course, also zips, buttons, binding tape, interfacing, lining, etc. Choose your notions carefully. The thread should match, for most beginner garments cotton coated poly is fine. Zips should usually match the background color – pay attention if should be an invisible, traditional or separating zip and also what length. Buttons are organized by size, the pattern will indicate what size is recommended.

9. Have your fabric and notions that require measuring out, cut at the cutting table. Again, if you are unsure, ask the sales help. **Most stores will not take a fabric back once it is cut.** Make sure you get one continuous piece of fabric

10. Cash out, head home and **dream about your exciting new creation!**

Sew What's Fabulous

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