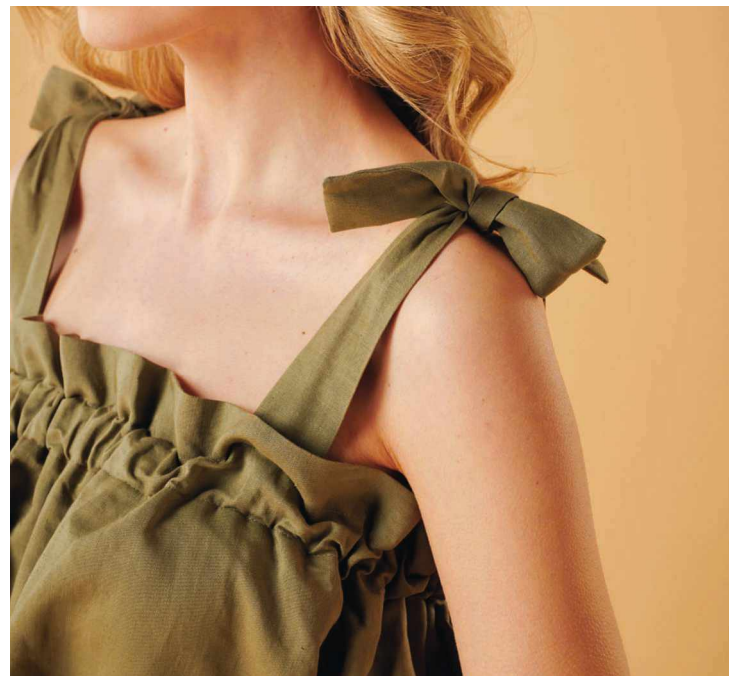




QUICK *makes*

Inspired by the Sewing Bee?
Whip up these summer
essentials in a weekend





TO THE MAX

Transform your favourite top pattern into a knockout maxi-dress. Designer **Debbie Wainhouse** shows you how.





MAXI DRESS

YOU WILL NEED

- Viscose fabric: 2mx140cm or 3mx110cm
- A top pattern
- Iron-on interfacing (depending on pattern requirements)
- Hook and eye: x 1
- Tailor's chalk or erasable fabric pen
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

Brick Blue Viscose from Mind the Maker, mindthemaker.com.

NOTES

- Seam allowance is 1.5cm, unless otherwise stated.
- We used McCall's M7899 pattern (View A).
- If you are 5'2" or shorter (156cm or less), the dress will likely measure around 142cm in length.
- If you are 5'3"-5'8" (160cm-173cm), the dress will likely measure around 147cm in length.
- We cut a size 8 for a 5'7" model so adjust your length measurements accordingly.

MAXI DRESS HACK

This pattern hack will show you how to turn any top pattern into a maxi dress. You can use any top pattern you like; we used McCall's M7899 pattern (View A). Use an evening wear pattern for a glamorous maxi like this one or use a shirt or T-shirt pattern to create a more casual look.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Cut out your size from your chosen pattern, as well as any relevant facing, sleeve and detail pieces. ⁰¹

Step two Cut your interfacing pieces out as per the instructions and press them to the wrong side (WS) of the fabric.

Step three Lay out your chosen fabric folded in half lengthways.

Step four Decide how long you want your dress to be. We made ours 147cm long from the back neck down. Our pattern was 56cm long from neck to base, so we added 91cm to this length extending the bodice out following the side seam line. ⁰²

EDITING THE PATTERN

Step one Mark your desired length on your fabric and mark the same measurement from the centre front down. Join these two marks, slightly curving your line to make the dress hem line. ⁰³

Step two Cut your back piece in the same way. This is not cut on the fold, so you may be able to fit your pattern upside down next to the bodice. This

will, of course, depend on the width of your chosen fabric and whether it is a directional print.

Step three Measure the length again and make sure the measurement from the side seam to the hem is the same as on your front cami piece. ⁰⁴

Step four Mark a notch 45-65cm up from the hem of the skirt on the front and back pieces at the side seam to create a side slit.

Step five Cut your front and back pieces out, making sure to mark all notches on the pattern pieces as you would normally. ⁰⁵

MAKING THE DRESS

Step one Sew the dress following the pattern instructions. When sewing the side seams, sew down to the side slit notch. Finish the seams separately and press them open all the way down to the hem so that your slit is pressed open as well.

Step two Press the hem up 0.5cm then another 0.5cm and sew. Sew around the slit and hem with a 1cm seam allowance. ⁰⁶

TIP:

Create a belt tie from your fabric to cinch in the waist.

WRAP SKIRT

We love a wrap skirt – with adjustable waist for those long summer lunches out. Make this one in half a day!





WRAP SKIRT

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric: 1.5m x 115cm
- Wide elastic: 1m (see notes for details)
- Snap stud/button
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

A lightweight, drapery crepe or viscose fabric would work well for this skirt. We used a rust floral print viscose from sewcraftyonline.co.uk

NOTES

- 1.5m of 115cm width fabric will make a skirt up to approx a UK size 16. For sizes larger than this you may need to purchase 140cm width fabric.
- The elastic requirement will depend on your waist measurement.

MEASURING UP

Step one Measure your waist and divide by two – this will be the width for each of the two front pieces of the skirt that wrap over each other. We wanted to make a mini skirt so we chose a length of 60cm including seam allowance.

Step two For the back piece width, take half of your waist measurement and add 15cm as the back will be gathered with elastic. The length is the desired length of your skirt – 60cm in our case.

CUTTING OUT

Step one From the main fabric, cut:

Skirt front: two

Skirt back: one

Ties: two strips 7.5x75cm

Step two From the elastic, cut:

Waist elastic: half of your waist measurement plus 5cm for seam allowance. The best way to get elastic to fit perfectly is to cut a longer piece and then pin it to fit in a position that feels comfortable for you. **01**

MAKING THE SKIRT

Step one Finish the top edge of your skirt panels. Sew a channel into the top back of the skirt (wide enough for your elastic to thread through). Thread the elastic through the channel. Stitch a channel in the front pieces so they visually match the back, minus the elastic, and press. **02**

Step two Sew the skirt fronts to the back at the

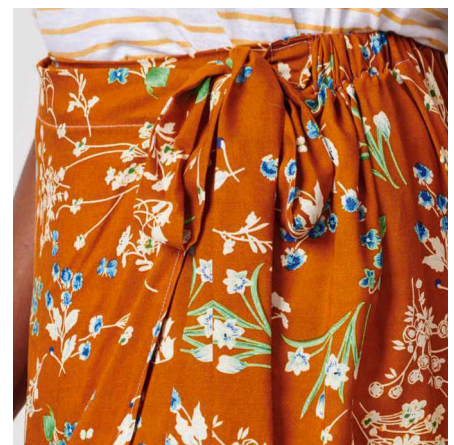
side seams, with right sides (RS) together. Finish seams using an overlocker or a zigzag stitch. **03**

Step three Curve the lower front edges of the wrap front, using a guide such as a plate for an even curve. Hem both front pieces. **04**

Step four To make the ties, fold the fabric RS together and stitch all the way down the long edge and one short edge, turn RS out and press. Repeat to make the other tie. **05**

Step five Stitch the ties in place with a box of stitching for security. Sew one of the ties to the outside of the skirt at the waist and one on the side where the seam is.

Step six Sew a press snap to the other side of the skirt on the inside. **06**



CAMISOLE

Get your arms out for the summer in this comfortable and stylish cami top with bows on the shoulder.





CAMISOLE

YOU WILL NEED

- Woven fabric: 1mx150cm (Cotton, linen or viscose)
- 2.5cm wide elastic x your bust measurement
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

We used Lady McElroy linen viscose in Khaki from minerva.com.

NOTES

- Seam allowance is 1cm, unless otherwise stated.
- We used the width of our fabric as the top front and back (cut as one piece). If your bust measurement is larger than the width of your fabric you can use the fabric length (this may require more fabric). Measure yourself before purchasing your fabric if you want to be sure the width and length of your desired top will work.

MEASURING YOUR MAIN FABRIC PIECES

Measure your full bust and add 60cm, this will be the width of your top. Measure down from your high bust (just under your arms) to where you want the hem to sit; if you would like to make a cropped top this will be approximately 40cm. If you want a longer top, make the length approximately 50cm.

For example:

Full bust measurement = 84cm
84cm + 60cm = 144cm

CUTTING OUT

Step one From the main fabric, cut:
Top Main: 144x50cm (WxL as above)
Straps: four 45x10cm

MAKING THE TOP

Step one Take the Strap pieces and fold them in half lengthways with right sides (RS) together. Stitch down the long edge and one short edge with a 1cm seam allowance. Clip the corner, being careful not to cut through any stitches, then turn the strap RS out and press with an iron. Repeat to make the other three straps. ⁰¹

Step two Take your Top Main fabric and fold it in half with RS together, bringing the short edges together. Stitch then finish the seam with an overlocker or zigzag stitch and press. Hem the top and the bottom of this fabric loop by finishing the raw edges with an overlocker and pressing a 1cm

hem to the WS. Topstitch the hem in place. ⁰²

Step three Turn the hem at the top edge over by another 7.5cm. Press and stitch a channel 5cm wide around the top of the hem, 2.5cm down from the top of the hem, leaving a gap of 4cm to thread the elastic through. ⁰³

ADDING THE ELASTIC

Step one Stretch the elastic slightly and hold it around the top of your bust where the top will sit. Cut it at a length that feels comfortable. Thread the elastic through the channel at the top of the cami top using a safety pin then stitch the edges together with a zigzag stitch. Make sure your gathers are nice and even, then close the gap. ⁰⁴

Step two Fold the raw ends of your Straps in by 1cm and press. ⁰⁵

Step three Try the top on with the seam at the centre back and decide the placement for your Straps and pin them in place, lining the ends up with your original lines of stitching in the top of the elastic channel. Stitch the Straps in place. ⁰⁶

TIP:

Experiment with the width of the straps for a different look.



ROPE BAG

No outfit is complete without a stylish bag – we love this clever macramé design! Perfect for a day at the beach.



ROPE BAG

YOU WILL NEED

- Macramé rope or cotton rope: approx 18m
- Faux leather bag handles: one pair
- Hessian ribbon: 65cm, 105mm wide
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Seam allowance is 1cm, unless otherwise stated
- Make sure you fill lots of bobbins before beginning as this project uses a lot of cotton
- We used 16 strand 8mm wide cotton rope

MAKING THE BAG

Step one To make the Bag Outers start by coiling up the macramé/cotton rope. You may find it easier to pop a pin in it to keep it in place when you start sewing.

Step two Set your machine to a wide zigzag stitch and start stitching the rope in place turning the rope as you go. **01**

Step three You may need to adjust the width and length of the zigzag stitch when you get started to make sure the two sides of the rope run between the gap in your sewing machine foot as you turn it, so it catches both sides with the stitching.

Step four Continue coiling the rope and stitching until you have a diameter of approx. 29cm. You can make this bigger or smaller depending how big you want your finished bag to be, but you will need more rope for a larger bag.

Step five Tuck the end in on itself and stitch in place. Repeat this process so you have two disks the same size for the Bag Outers. **02**

ADDING THE GUSSET

Step one Cut the piece of hessian ribbon to approx. 65cm and fold it in half lengthways to make the ribbon thicker and more stable. Stitch down the long open side, then fold the ends over twice and stitch in place to hem. This is now the Bag Gusset. **03**

Step two Pin the Bag Gusset to one of the Bag Outers on the wrong side (both sides are identical

but you can choose whichever one looks neatest) and stitch in place with a 1cm seam allowance. **04**

Step three Repeat on the other side to attach the other Bag Outer. **05**

ADDING THE HANDLES

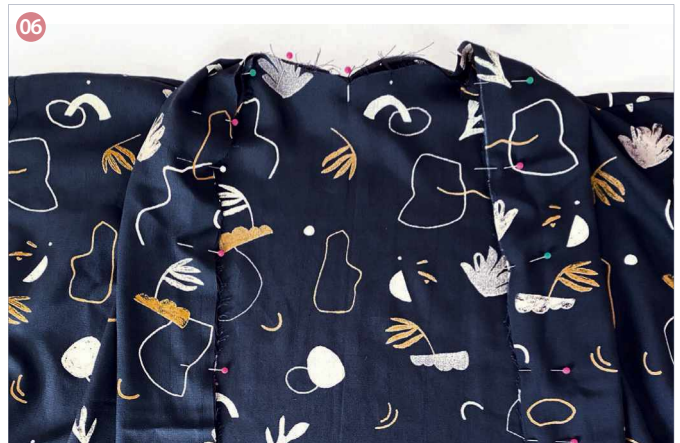
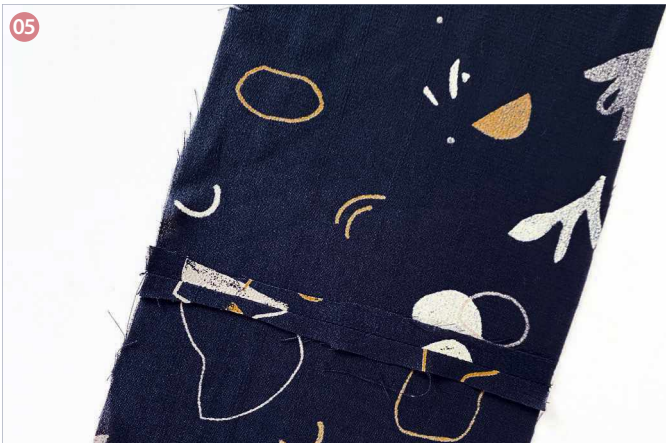
Step one Stitch the handles in place with a strong cotton thread using the image as a guide. **06**



COVER UP

Sew this easy project – perfect to throw on when you want to protect yourself from the sun, wind or cold.





COVER UP YOU WILL NEED

- Viscose fabric, depending on your desired length: 2.5–3m
- Pattern paper
- Long ruler
- Pencil/ tailor's chalk
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

We used the Atelier Brunette Viscose in Sandstorm Night. Visit atelierbrunette.com

NOTES

- Seam allowance is 1cm unless otherwise stated.

MAKING YOUR PATTERN PIECES

Step one Stretch your arms out to your side at shoulder height and measure from wrist to wrist (you may need help with this!) Halve that measurement and make this your first horizontal line across the top of your paper.

Step two Decide on the length you would like your garment to be and draw a vertical line with this measurement down the left-hand side of your paper from the shoulder/ neckline you marked at the top of the paper.

Step three Now measure your bust, waist, and hips. Take the largest of the four measurements and divide it by four. This will become the width of your pattern pieces. Mark this measurement along the top shoulder/ neckline from the left-hand point and then vertically down the length of your paper. Join this line with a horizontal line to the bottom of your length line on the left so you have a rectangle shape.

Step four Decide on the width you want your sleeve. We decided on 28cm wide when the garment is flat which gives us plenty of room to get the jacket on and off. Mark this measurement on the line you made in the last step and out horizontally. Join this up to the right-hand side of the first line you made.

Step five To make the neckline, mark 8cm in from the top left-hand edge and 2.5cm down from the top right-hand edge. Join these two marks with a gently curved line to form your back neckline. You

now have the back portion of your pattern made.

Step six At this step you might want to redraw the rectangle body pattern piece omitting the curved neckline (the sleeves are going to be cut on the fold, so you don't need to re-draw this part as you already have a pattern for them). Find the middle point of your length line (from step two) and again mark 8cm in from the top left-hand side (neckline). Join these two points to create the front pieces of the jacket.

Step seven Now you have all your pattern pieces drawn out, add 1cm seam allowance all the way around your pattern pieces and separate the sleeve portion from the bodice.

CUTTING OUT

Step one From your fabric, cut:

Sleeves: two on the fold

Back: one on fold

Front: one pair

MAKING THE JACKET

Step one Pin and stitch the Fronts to the Back at the shoulders with right sides (RS) facing. Finish the edges with an overlocker or zig zag stitch. **01**

Step two Fold the sleeves in half, mark a notch on the fold at the top end (if your print is directional). Lay your jacket out flat with RS facing you. Match the sleeve notch to the shoulder seam and pin with RS facing. Stitch and finish with either an overlocker or zig zag stitch and press the seam

QUICK MAKES



towards the sleeve. Repeat for the other sleeve. ⁰²

Step three Fold the jacket in half so the sleeves are matched up at the side seams and pin from the cuff all the way down to the hem of the jacket. Stitch in place and finish the seam. ⁰³

Step four Measure from the hem all the way to the centre back neckline. Cut two strips measuring this length (plus 1cm seam allowance) by 16cm wide. These will form your Neckband/ Collar. ⁰⁴

Step five Stitch the two strips RS together at the short ends. ⁰⁵

Step six Press and fold in half lengthways and press again. Starting at the centre back neckline, pin the Collar all the way around the front of the jacket. Stitch the Neckband/ Collar, starting at the centre back and stitching down one side then repeating for the other side. Finish with an overlocker or zig zag stitch and press. ⁰⁶

Step seven Hem the jacket by pressing the hem up by 1cm and then again by another 1cm and stitching in place. ⁰⁷

Step eight Hem the Sleeves by pressing the hem up by 1cm and then again by another 1cm and stitching in place. ⁰⁸



These Quick Make projects were designed by Debbie (she/her), a Bristol-based maker who designs bike bags for her brand House of Rides. @hila.studio @houseofrides

