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4 PRETTY PROJECTS TO MAKE TODAY!

SEWING IDEAS





ALL YOU NEED!

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS & TEMPLATES INSIDE







SOFT PLAY

Keep baby entertained with Tina O'Rourke's tactile set of geometric shapes













HOW TO MAKE… BABY TOYS

MATERIALS

- Patterned fabric, six fat quarters (we used a selection from Lewis & Irene's Flo's Little Flowers collection)
- Patterned fabric, 0.5m (½yrd)
- Matching sewing thread
- Soft toy filling
- Ribbon, 1.5m (59⅛"), 2.5cm (1") wide
- Tailor's chalk

There's nothing tiny hands love more than grabbing and investigating, so this soft toy set is a nifty way to keep them entertained. Little ones will love the feel of these squashy shapes, light enough for them to pick up, while toddlers can learn the names of each one as they play.

With a matching drawstring bag to tidy them away in, they make the prettiest gift for a newborn, or for baby's first Christmas. Plus, the handmade touch will definitely earn you brownie points with parents.

01 Cut out all toy pattern pieces using the templates on page 98 (templates include the 0.5cm (¼") seam allowance used throughout), then pin to your fat quarters and cut out. **Use the chalk** to mark the turning through area onto the wrong side (WS) of one fabric piece for each of the shapes.

02 To make the pyramid, place two triangles with right sides (RS) together and pin, then sew along one side. Repeat with the second set of triangles, then press the seams open. Place the triangle pairs RS together and sew both sides, then **press the seams open.** Trim the seam allowance at the top.

03 Open up the pyramid shape. Pin the square piece onto the base with RS together, lining up the triangle seams with the corners of the square. **Sew around the base** of the triangle, leaving the marked section open for turning.

04 Trim the seam allowance on the bottom corners of the triangle and turn RS out. Push out the corners gently **with a knitting needle** or similar then stuff firmly. Neatly slip stitch the gap closed.

05 To make the ball, pin two oval pieces with RS together and sew along one side. Pin a third section along one of the **unsewn sides,** again with RS together, and sew.

06 Repeat Step 5 with the **remaining oval pieces,** attaching the marked section for turning last.

07 Place one of the sewn sections inside the other with RS together and pin. Sew around the circumference leaving the marked section open, then **turn RS out** through the hole. Push out the curves gently and stuff firmly, then slip stitch the gap closed.

08 To make the cylinder, fold the rectangle in half along the length with RS together and short edges aligned. Sew the short edges, **leaving the marked section** unsewn, then press the seam open.

09 Pin the circle piece onto the base of the cylinder with RS together and raw edges aligned. **Sew, then repeat** with the remaining circle at the other end of the cylinder. Turn RS out, then push













out the curves and stuff firmly. Neatly slip stitch the gap closed.

10 To make the cube, set aside two of the squares for the top and bottom, making sure one has the marked section for turning. With RS together, **pin two square pieces** and sew along one edge. Sew the remaining two squares onto a short edge in the same way to form one long rectangle, four squares long. With RS together, sew the short ends and press the seams open.

11 Pin one of the remaining squares to one end of the cube with RS together, **aligning the seams** with the corners of the square. Sew, then repeat with the last square, leaving the marked section open. Turn RS out, then push out the corners gently and stuff firmly. Neatly slip stitch the gap closed.

12 To **make the cuboid,** repeat Steps 10–11, replacing the first set of four squares with the four rectangles, and sewing along the length of the rectangles.

13 To make the drawstring bag, fold the 0.5m (½yrd) of fabric in half along the width with WS together. Measure 7.5cm (3") down from the top of the material on each side and **mark with the chalk.** Sew from the mark to the folded base of the bag using a 0.5cm (¼") seam allowance, then trim as close to the seam as possible. Turn the bag WS out and press the seams open.

14 Sew a second seam either side, the same length as the first one, **enclosing the first seam** inside the second seam. Turn RS out.

15 Fold a double hem on the 7.5cm (3") **unsewn sections** at the top of the bag and sew in place.

16 Fold the top of the bag to the WS by 3.5cm (1⅜"), then again by 3.5cm (1⅜"). Press, then sew along the base of the hem to create a **channel for the ribbon** to be pulled through. Repeat on the other side of the bag, then feed the length of ribbon through both channels. Sew the ribbon ends together, then pull tight to close.



Tina O'Rourke

Tina is a crafter and writer living on the West coast of Ireland with her husband, two Springer Spaniels and two cats. She made her first quilt at 11 and designed most of her clothes as a teenager, but her passion is sewing dolls and toys – find patterns and tutorials on her site. *www.missdaisypatterns.com*

BABY TOYS

PHOTOCOPY AT 200%

FIND FULL SIZE TEMPLATES ON *molliemakes.com*

Leave open for turning & stuffing

Pyramid
Cut 1

Pyramid
Cut 4

Leave open for turning & stuffing

Ball
Cut 6

Leave open for turning & stuffing

Cuboid
Cut 2

Cuboid
Cut 4

Leave open for turning & stuffing

Cube
Cut 6

Leave open for turning & stuffing

Cylinder
Cut 2

Cylinder
Cut 1

Place on the fold of the fabric

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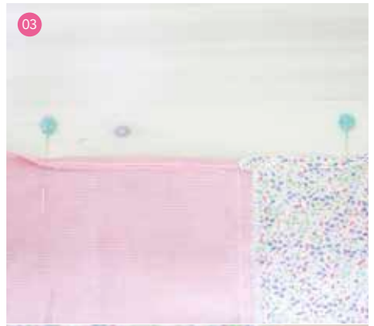
YOGA BUDDY

Save on fancy gym accessories by sewing your own – Sammy Claridge shows us how



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HOW TO MAKE… A YOGA BAG

MATERIALS

- Liberty cotton fabric, 1m (393/8") (*www.liberty.co.uk*)
- Contrasting lining fabric, 50cm (197/8")
- Polyester thread
- Interfacing, 25cm (97/8") (optional)
- Open-ended zip, 62cm (24")
- Sewing machine
- Basic sewing kit

We're loving getting on board with the wellness trend, but it doesn't come cheap – all those green juices and patterned leggings add up. So we asked Sammy from Live It Love It Make It how to hack our way to the perfect gym get-up, and the answer is this gorge yoga bag in Liberty fabric from the new Silk Road collection.

The mat used here is 62cm (243/8") long and 31cm (121/4") around when rolled up. If your mat is a different size, don't forget to adjust the measurements to fit. If you want to make a cross body version, just increase the length of the strap to 1.5m (591/2"). You could also make the drawstring and handle out of ribbon or webbing.

01 Mark and cut out two rectangles: one from your main fabric measuring 65 x 40cm (255/8 x 153/4"), and one from the lining fabric measuring 75 x 40cm (291/2 x 153/4").
Use a compass or small plate to mark out and cut two circles measuring 15cm (6") across; one in the main fabric and one in the lining fabric. Next, mark a strap measuring 90 x 10cm (351/2 x 4") plus a thin 80 x 4cm (311/2 x 15/8") piece for the tie.

02 Place the main and lining pieces right sides (RS) together and sew along one side at the short edges.

03 Unfold the two pieces and turn a small hem about 0.5cm (1/4") along the long edges. Sew in place, about 15cm (6") long, over the middle section where the two fabric pieces join. Repeat this step on the other side.

04 Fold the pieces in half again RS together, lining up the bottom edges. Undo the zip. Pin each side so the edge of the zip tape lines up with the raw edges of the fabric, lining up the head of the zip with the fabric join.

05 Sew up the edges from the fabric join to the bottom edge, sandwiching the zip in between.

06 Turn RS out and topstitch down the fabric beside the edge of the zip and where the two fabrics meet, creating a channel for the bag's drawstring.

07 Close up the bottom edge of

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the fabrics using a zig zag or overlocking stitch.

08 Place the two circles wrong sides (WS) together. Sew all the way around the edge using a zigzag or overlock stitch. If you're using a flimsy fabric, you may want to insert a small piece of interfacing in between the pieces to give the base some extra body.

09 Take the strap piece, fold it in half lengthways RS together and sew, leaving one end open. Turn the strap RS out and topstitch all the way around the three sides.

10 Sew the neat end to the outside centre top of the body of the bag, and pin the open end to the centre bottom of the bag.

11 Do the zip up and turn the whole bag WS out. Pin the base in place all the way around the edge. Carefully sew all the way around the edge of the base with a straight stitch, then again over the edge with a zigzag stitch for added strength. Turn the bag WS out.

12 Sew the top tie by folding it in half lengthways, RS together, leaving one end open. Turn RS out and neatly sew the open end closed by hand. Thread it through the narrow channel at the top and tie to close the top of the yoga bag. Now all you need to do is pop your mat inside, then you're ready to hit the yoga studio and radiate some serious inner calm.



Live It Love It Make It

Heather Thomas and Samantha Claridge (aka H & Sammy) met at art college and have never looked back. They love undertaking all manner of crafty adventures, whether that be creating an awesome make or eating their way through tea and homemade cake.

www.liveitloveitmakeit.com

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Room for one more

Keep seating arrangements casual with The New Craft House's handy floor cushion





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HOW TO MAKE… A FLOOR CUSHION

MATERIALS

- Cotton fabric, 1.5m (1½yrds)
- Cotton fabric for piping, 1m (1yrd)
- Piping cord, 4.5m (4½yrds), 0.5cm (¼") wide
- Matching sewing thread
- Zip, 53cm (20⅞") long
- Square cushion pad, 53 x 53cm (20⅞ x 20⅞"), 15cm (6") deep

Whether you're having impromptu drinks at yours, welcoming unexpected guests, or just entertaining friends and family, there's always a call for extra seating. This comfy floor cushion is so handy to have stashed behind a sofa or in a cupboard under the stairs, and gives an informal cosy charm to any gathering.

We couldn't resist trying out Rifle Paper Co's latest fabric collection for Cotton and Steel (swoon), and used Tapestry in Rose to give our floor cushion a folksy, whimsical feel. It's beautifully finished with navy blue piping which you'll make yourself, although you can buy ready-made piping from most haberdasheries if you prefer. Use a 1.5cm (⅝") seam allowance throughout the project unless otherwise specified.

01 Cut two 56 x 56cm (22⅛ x 22⅛") top and bottom pieces, three 56 x 17cm (22⅛ x 6¾") side pieces and two 56 x 10cm (22⅛ x 4") zip pieces **from your main fabric** and put to one side.

02 With right sides (RS) together, fold the cut side of your piping fabric over to the selvedge edge to **create a triangle shape.** Cut along the fold, then cut 5cm (2") wide strips from each side of this cut, so along the bias. You'll need the combined length of all your strips to come to 4.5m (4½yrds).

03 Sew together half of your bias strips as shown, making sure the long edges line up and the bias of the fabric remains in the same direction. Repeat with the other half to make **two long strips.**

04 Cut a strip of piping cord to the same length as a bias strip. Fold the strip **around the piping cord** with wrong sides (WS) together and sew along the length. Repeat with the second bias strip.

05 Pin one piece of piping around all four sides of the top cushion piece, **RS together** and aligning the raw edges. Cut into the seam allowance at the corners to help it curve around, then sew, leaving the ends of the piping cord unsewn.

06 Overlap the two ends of the piping cord and cut so they butt up against each other with no overlap. **Trim the bias strip** so the ends overlap by approximately 8cm (3⅛"), then fold over the end of one piece to the WS by 2cm (¾"). Position this over the top of the raw edge, then pin in place and sew.

07 Repeat Steps 5-6 with the remaining strip of piping and the **bottom cushion piece.**

08 Cut two 35 x 10cm (13¾ x 4") pieces from your main fabric. Fold each piece in half **along the length** with WS together and press. Open out, fold over all four edges on each piece to the WS by 1cm (⅜"), press, then fold in half again. Top stitch around all four sides 0.5mm (¼") in from the edge – these will be your two handles.

09 With RS up, **place a handle** centrally onto one of the side pieces. Pin, leaving some slack in the handle so it's easy to pick up, then secure by sewing a rectangle roughly 4 x 3cm (1⅝ x 1¼") with a cross through the centre (as shown) at either end. Repeat the step with your remaining handle and a second side piece.

10 Pin **one side piece** with a handle and one without RS together. Sew along one short edge. Sew the other side piece with a handle onto the remaining short edge of the piece without in the same way to make three sides of your cushion.

11 With RS together, pin the edge of the zip along the length of a zip piece. Sew **using a zipper foot.**

12 Open the zip, then sew the other **half of the zip** to your remaining zip piece in the same way.

13 Close the zip, then pin and sew the short ends of the zip piece to the short ends of your cushion side with RS together to **form a loop.** Open the zip again.

14 Pin the side piece to the cushion top with RS together, aligning the raw edges and **encasing the piping** as you go. Using your zipper foot, sew around all four sides, keeping close to the piping. Repeat with the bottom cushion piece.

15 Turn the cushion cover RS out through the zip opening and press. Put your **cushion pad inside,** then close the zip to finish.



The New Craft House
Using traditional craft techniques in a modern way, Hannah and Rosie – the duo behind The New Craft House – share tutorials and inspiration on their website. You can also buy patterns and other goodies, including their latest piped cushion kit.
www.thenewcrafthouse.com

Subscribe at **molliemakes.com**

Too hot to handle

Up the style stakes with your kitchen accessories – Ali Burdon shows you how





















HOW TO MAKE… A POT HOLDER AND OVEN GLOVE

MATERIALS

For the pot holder

- 40 x 45cm (15¾ x 17¾") main fabric (we used Cloud 9 Fabrics Underwater by Elizabeth Olwen in Reef. Visit *www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9* for stockists of Cloud 9 Fabrics)
- 25 x 60cm (9⅞ x 23⅝") contrasting fabric (we used Jane Makower Fabrics Inprint in Stitch Check)
- 25 x 43cm (9⅞ x 17") cotton wadding (we used Warm & Natural)
- 25 x 43cm (9⅞ x 17") insulated wadding (we used Insul-Bright)

For the oven glove

- 42 x 33cm (16½ x 13") main fabric (we used Cloud 9 Fabrics Underwater by Elizabeth Olwen in Oceanfloor)
- 40 x 40cm (15¾ x 15¾") contrasting fabric (we used Jane Makower Fabrics Inprint in Stitch Check)
- 44 x 35cm (17⅜ x 13¾") cotton wadding
- 44 x 35cm (17⅜ x 13¾") insulated wadding
- 31 x 39cm (12¼ x 15⅜") iron-on cotton interfacing (we used Vilene G700)

If you're currently the owner of a battered oven glove or pot holder, get out the sewing machine and prettify your kitchen, stat. Ali's picked a contemporary print for a modern vibe, and the heat-proof wadding makes these a practical make too. Use a 1cm (⅜") seam allowance throughout.

Pot holder

01 Cut a 22cm (8¾") square from the main and contrasting fabrics, then cut a **slightly bigger square** from both types of wadding. With fabrics right side (RS) out, sandwich the two layers of wadding in between, placing the insulated wadding against the contrasting fabric. Pin, then top stitch 4cm (1⅝") squares on the diagonal, making the first lines near the middle and working outwards. Cut your quilted piece into a 20cm (7⅞") diameter circle.

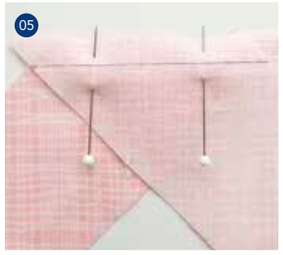
02 Cut a 4.5 x 20cm (1⅞ x 7⅞") strip from the contrasting fabric. Press in half **along the length** with wrong sides (WS) together, open, then press the long edges to the centre with WS together.

03 Using the template on page 98, cut two pocket pieces from the main fabric and one from both waddings. With fabrics RS out, sandwich the waddings in between. Pin the binding to the straight edge of the pocket, **aligning raw edges,** and sew. Fold the binding to the other side of the pocket, aligning raw edges, then slip stitch in place.

04 Place the pocket on top of the quilted piece with the insulated wadding facing RS out. Tack the pocket in place, just in from the edge. Cut a 4 x 13cm (1⅝ x 5¼") strip of contrast fabric and repeat Step 2. Press in half along the length, then sew the open long edge to close and top stitch the second long edge. Fold in half to **create a loop,** then pin to the top of the pot holder, aligning raw edges.

05 Cut two 4.5 x 35cm (1⅞ x 13¾") strips from the contrasting fabric at 45° to the selvedge. Join the strips as shown, lining up the short edges and keeping the bias of the fabric in the same direction. Trim to 64cm (25¼"), then **repeat Step 2** to make the length into binding.

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06 Open out the binding at one end and fold over to the WS by 1cm (⅜"). Starting with this end and working on the pocket side, pin the first 10cm (4") of binding to the pocket with RS together, aligning raw edges and **curving it round** as you go. Sew, then continue around the pot holder in the same way. When you reach the start, overlap the folded end and continue for 2cm (¾"). Trim the excess, then fold the binding around the edge and slip stitch in place. Fold the hanging loop up and slip stitch the bottom of the loop to the binding to finish.

Oven glove

07 Layer the insulated wadding in between the cotton wadding and main fabric, **with fabric on top** and RS out. Pin, then top stitch 4cm (1⅝") squares as in Step 1. Using the oven glove template on page 98, cut two sides, flipping the template for the second side. Use the stitching template to mark the stitching line on the WS of one quilted piece.

08 Cut a 4 x 11cm (1⅝ x 4⅜") piece of contrasting fabric. Press in half along the length with WS together, open, then **press the long edges** to the centre with WS together. Press in half along the length again, then sew along the open long edge and top stitch the remaining long edge. Fold in half to create a loop, then pin 4cm (1⅝") up from the bottom corner on the RS of one glove piece.

09 Place the **two sides** of the glove with RS together and pin. Sew along the marked line, leaving the bottom straight edge open.

10 Cut a 31 x 39cm (12¼ x 15⅜") rectangle from the lining fabric and **back with interfacing**, following the manufacturer's instructions. Using the oven glove template, cut the two sides, flipping the template for the second side. Use the stitching template to mark the stitching line on the WS of one piece, then sew with RS together. Trim the seam allowance to 0.5cm (¼") and notch.

11 Trim and notch the seam allowance of the **outer glove piece** as in Step 10. Turn the lining RS out and push the outer glove inside with WS together. Cut a 4.5 x 36cm (1⅞ x 14⅛") strip of contrasting fabric and repeat Step 2 to make it into binding. Open the binding at one end and fold over to the WS by 1cm (⅜"). Starting with this end, pin the binding to the glove opening with RS together and aligning raw edges.

12 Sew, overlapping the folded end and continuing for 2cm (¾") when you reach the start. Trim the excess, **fold the binding** around the edge and slip stitch in place. Turn the glove through to the RS to finish.



Ali Burdon

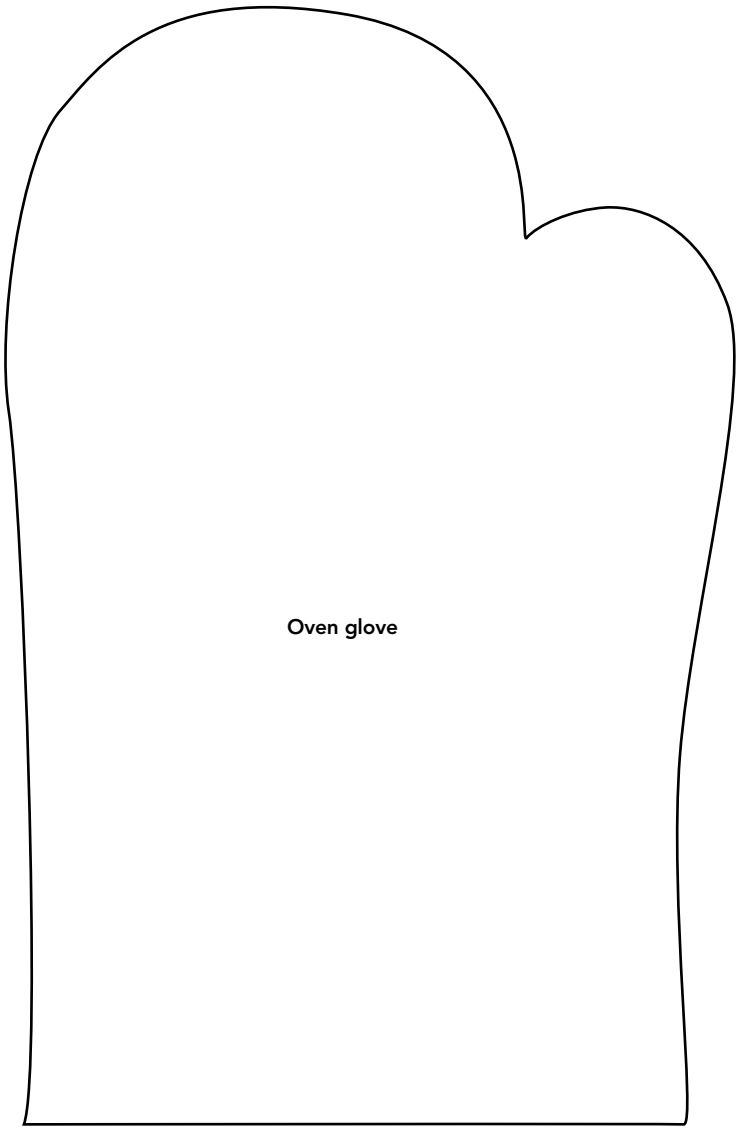
Ali is a designer-maker and craft blogger specialising in patchwork and crochet, but her love of good food and enthusiasm for her veggie garden means that gardening projects and recipes often sneak into her blogging too.
www.veryberryhandmade.co.uk

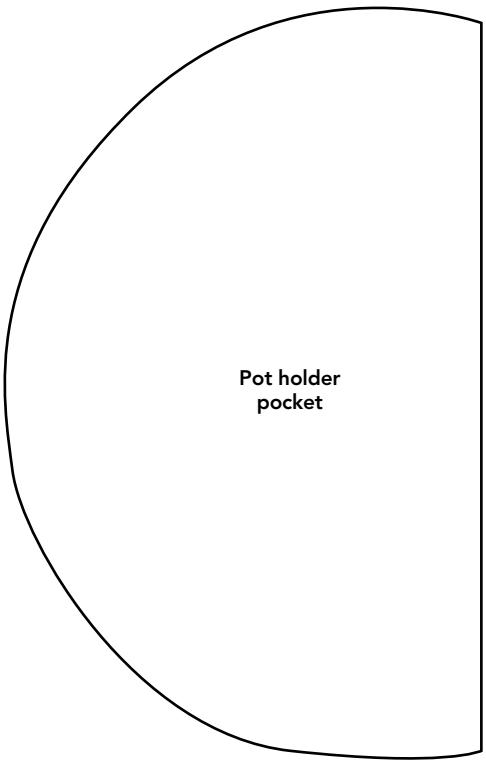
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POT HOLDER AND OVEN GLOVE

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