

Fashion Clownette's Sewing Academy

Sewing with Patterns - Materials List

I'm here for you - email me with ANY questions! axel@fashionclownette.com

1. A clothing pattern.

There are lots of brands to choose from. I've included a list of links at the bottom of this document. I recommend getting a pre-printed pattern versus a downloaded "print at home" pattern. If you fall in love with a download-only pattern, feel free to choose it, but make sure to print and assemble the pattern BEFORE class and print all the sewing instructions as well.

Make sure to purchase your pattern in the correct **size range**. Most patterns come with multiple sizes in one envelope. Pattern sizes are based on body measurements, not ready-to-wear clothing sizes. Measure your bust, waist and hip and look for the **body measurement** chart on the back of the envelope to find the pattern size closest to your measurements. If you fall into multiple sizes (common), choose your size according to the type of garment you are making. If you are making a shirt or dress, choose your size based on your bust measurement. If you are making a skirt or bottoms, choose your size based on your waist measurement. **Don't worry too much at this point about perfect sizing**. We will discuss this in class together and make alterations to the pattern if needed to make sure it fits you perfectly. The most important thing at this point is that you purchase a pattern that contains the correct **size range**.

I want you to choose a design that you are excited about, but I also want you to be able to complete the project within the 5 class periods we have together and have a fun time. Many pattern companies will rank their patterns in terms of difficulty. Look for patterns that say simple, easy, beginner, confident beginner or novice. Try not to choose a complicated or advanced design if you are super new to sewing. Not sure? Email me links and we can discuss!

2. Fabric & Notions.

Your pattern will tell you how much fabric is required to make your design and this is typically found on the back of the envelope in the form of yardage charts that are organized by size. I recommend getting at least 1/4 yard of extra fabric because it will shrink when you wash it. **Preshrink your fabric before class by washing and drying it according to the care instructions**. Your pattern will also give you suggestions on what type of fabric to use. Since this is probably your first time sewing from a pattern, I recommend getting a fabric that is easy to work with. Fabrics made of cotton and linen are great options. Broadcloth, calico, chambray, lightweight denim, flannel, pique, poplin, shirting, twill, or voile are nice options. **Avoid** velvet, chiffon, satin, silky,

lightweight and slinky fabrics. If you choose a design that requires a stretchy knit fabric, choose a mid weight jersey or ponte knit. **Avoid** rib knits and slinky knits. Fabric can be an expensive part of sewing, consider looking on the crafting aisle at the thrift store or go to Mecca. I've often found super lovely fabrics and notions at St. Vinnies. :)

Your pattern might also call for other items like zippers, buttons, interfacing, bias tape, elastic, hooks & eyes, etc. You can find this info on the back of the pattern envelope as well. If you are confused or have questions, it is not imperative that you have these notions on the first day of class. And you can always email me!

3. Tools

You'll need sewing needles. The size will depend on the weight and type of fabric you use. For woven fabrics, you'll use a universal needle, size 70/10 or 75/11 for lightweight, 80/12 for average weight, 90/14+ for heavy weight fabrics. If you are using a knit fabric, you'll need a ball point needle. You'll also need a matching thread, I recommend 100% polyester for strength.

We will sew our clothing items with regular home sewing machines. If you don't have a machine, you can borrow one of mine. Likewise, bring your favorite sharp scissors, snips and sewing tools, or borrow mine.

Patterns!

If you want to shop in town, you can get many of the major brands at JoAnn Fabrics and it's fun to look through their pattern books.

Burda: <https://www.burdastyle.com/>

Simplicity/McCall's/Butterick/Vogue/New Look/Kwik Sew: <https://simplicity.com>

Closet Core: <https://closetcasepatterns.com>

Colette Patterns: <https://www.colettepatterns.com/>

Deer and Doe: <https://www.deer-and-doe.com>

Folkwear: <https://www.folkwear.com/>

Friday Pattern Company: <https://fridaypatterncompany.com>

Megan Nielsen: <https://megannielsen.com/collections/sewing-patterns>

Seamwork: <https://www.seamwork.com/>

Sew Liberated: <https://sewliberated.com>

Tilly and the Buttons:

<https://shop.tillyandthebuttons.com/collections/easy-sewing-for-beginners>

True Bias: <https://truebias.com/collections/all>