







The Sewing Stitch and Textile Bible

An illustrated guide to techniques and materials

LORNA KNIGHT



Krause Publications Cincinnati, Ohio www.mycraftivity.com





A OUARTO BOOK

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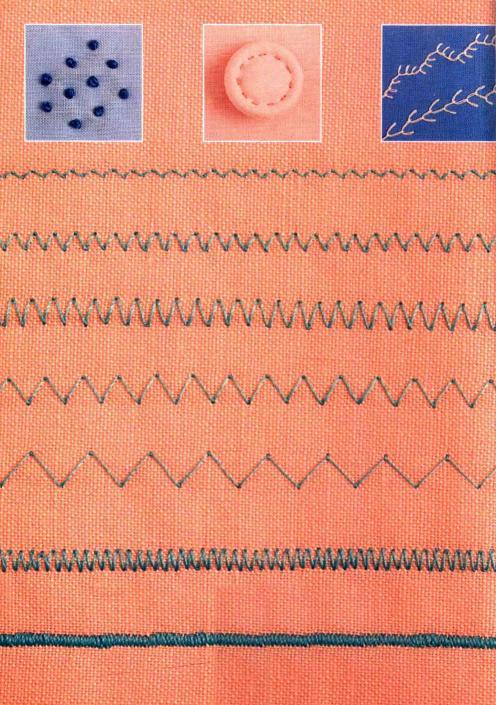
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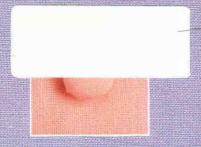
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Introduction

I have been sewing for as long as I can remember, starting with dolls' clothes made from offcuts from my mother's sewing box.

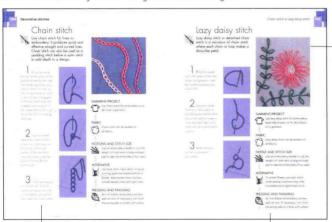
When I was a teenager I made clothes for myself. As I grew older I wanted new challenges and moved toward tailoring, lingerie, and bra making. I firmly believe that there is always more to learn, especially with newly developed fabrics and ever-improving technology in sewing machines.

I hope this book will confirm your confidence in your sewing and introduce you to new techniques that will enable you to sew quicker and better than you do already. I hope you will find it an invaluable aid to your work.

Loma

Stitch Directory

The Stitch Directory lists both functional and decorative stitches carried out by hand, sewing machine, and serger.



SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPH

The sample photographs show a finished example of the stitch, seam, hem, or fastening. Reverse photographs and enlarged details are shown when necessary.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

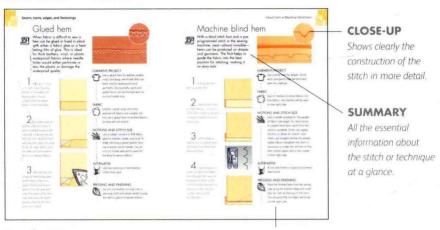
Follow the diagrams and instructions to help you perfect new stitches and techniques.

SPECIFIC ADVICE

Stitch details, garment/project advice, and fabric selection are given. Advice on suitable alternatives and pressing/ finishing details are also provided.

Techniques and Applications

This section offers step-by-step information on how to create the best finishes.

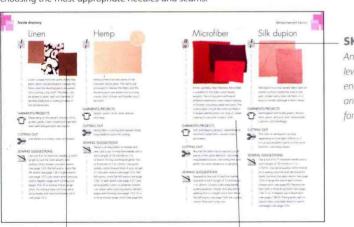


Textile Directory

The Textile Directory is intended to give advice on getting the best from different fabrics, including choosing the most appropriate needles and seams.

INFORMATION PANEL

Everything you need to know to apply the stitch or technique correctly.



SKILL LEVEL

An indication of skill level is provided to encourage beginners and to serve as a guide for skill development.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPH

The sample photograph shows an example or examples of the fabric.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

A fabric description is included to help in sourcing suitable cloth for sewing particular garments and projects. Names may vary but the description will aid an appropriate selection.

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Tools and Equipment

As with any project, a task is so much easier if you use the correct tools. Having the right pair of scissors for each cutting task or the best needle for the chosen fabric will make sewing quicker and easier, as well as giving a better finish.

Getting started

The following items are essential for your sewing kit. They are readily available in all good sewing/haberdashery stores and are inexpensive to buy. Once bought, you'll use them time and time again.

Measuring tools

To ensure a good fit when making garments it is essential to work accurately with good quality measuring tools. Whether measuring long lengths of fabric or folding up a narrow hem, there is a tool for the job.

TAPE MEASURE

Choose a good quality tape measure that will neither rayel nor stretch. It should be at least 60 in. (150cm) long with clear measurements marked accurately from the start of the tape.

2 YARD (METER) STICK

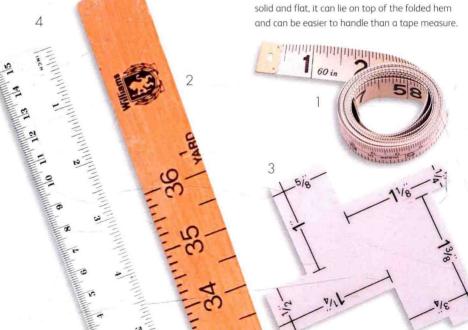
Made of wood or metal, a stick is ideal for measuring lengths of fabric from a roll. The stable nature of a vard (meter) stick is also helpful when cutting fabric for drapes or shades.

3 MEASUREMENT GAUGE

This handy gadget allows small measurements to be checked easily. It is marked on both sides and is easy to manipulate when folding up hems, marking buttonholes, and positioning top stitching.

4 RULER

A 6 in. (15cm) ruler is useful when measuring drape hems or deeper hems on a skirt or dress. As it is



Marking tools

It is important to transfer pattern markings on to fabric pieces to position darts and pockets accurately. It also ensures a good fit when a garment is completed. Tailor's tacks can be sewn to mark important positions but chalks and pens are quicker to use.

5 CHALK

Chalk is a traditional material for marking cloth and can be brushed away when finished with. Chalk comes in triangular pieces, rollers, and pencils in various colors. Keep the edges or points sharp, mark on the wrong side of the fabric, and use a color which shows up well.

6 WASH-AWAY PENS

The ink from these pens (normally blue) can be wiped off with a damp cloth when finished with. It is advisable to try it out on a scrap of fabric first to check that the wetting doesn't damage it.

7 FADE-AWAY PENS

The ink from these pens (normally pink) will fade from the fabric within 48 hours. Check the pen on a scrap of fabric first to see whether it shows up on the chosen cloth and then disappears.



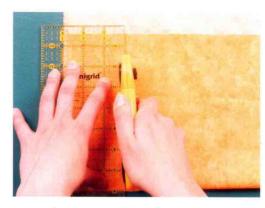
Tools and equipment

Cutting tools

There is a variety of cutting tools and scissors which make sewing tasks easier. Choose good quality scissors and tools and look after them, sharpening or replacing them when necessary.

SHEARS

Sharp, long-bladed scissors are ideal for cutting fabric quickly and with a smooth edge. Use these when cutting out fabric pieces, and cut drape lengths with long sweeping cuts. Make sure they are comfortable. Soft-handled shears are available.



A rotary cutter enables accuracy, so it's ideal for cutting small fabric pieces and patterns.



2 SERRATED SHEARS

These are occasionally useful if cutting thin, lightweight, soft fabric as the blades grip the fabric better and so it does not "run away" from the blades.

3 PAPER SCISSORS

It is essential to have a pair of scissors kept just for paper. Using fabric shears for cutting paper patterns will cause them to become blunt and useless for their intended task. They do not need sharp points but must cut paper cleanly.

4 NEEDLEWORK/EMBROIDERY SCISSORS

Scissors with short blades and sharp points are very useful. The sharp points can be used for cutting individual stitches or for getting into difficult-to-access corners for trimming. Use them for cutting threads and also for cutting the backing of synthetic fur fabric to avoid cutting the fibers.

5 ROTARY CUTTER AND MAT

A rotary cutter is very useful for cutting out smallto medium-sized pieces of fabric. It must be used in conjunction with a self-healing mat to protect both the working surface and the rotary blade. Buy the largest mat available and replace the rotary blades when necessary.



6 QUICK UN-PICK

A quick un-pick or a stitch ripper is useful when removing stitching. Cut every third stitch on one side, then turn the seam over and pull out the thread from the other side. Use it to open buttonholes: place a pin across one end and cut from the other end up to the pin.

7 CRAFT KNIFE

A small, sharp blade—used with care—is a useful tool for cutting leather and fur.

Ironing and pressing tools

An iron is an essential aid when sewing. It helps to hold the fabric in place and gives a crisp finish when required.

Dry iron

A dry iron can be used in conjunction with a damp cloth or water bottle spray when required. Some fabrics are damaged by water spots leaving permanent marks on cloth.

Steam iron

A steam iron contains a small tank of water and pushes steam through the cloth whilst ironing to improve its efficiency.

Tank iron

A tank iron has a large reservoir of water connected by a pipe to the iron. This type of iron produces a greater pressure of steam.

Pressing cloths

Pieces of cotton muslin and silk organza are perfect to protect the surface of fabric from the heat of the iron.

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