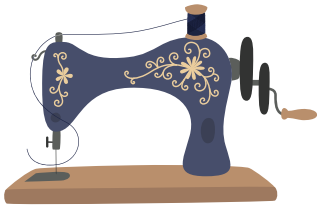


Quick Start Guide



FINDING A MACHINE



While you do need a sewing machine for this class, you definitely don't have to purchase one. It may even be better if you don't buy a machine until you have tried one out. There are a few ways to acquire one.

Borrow one. Ask around and you might be surprised. Often avid sewers have a machine and a backup just in case. Others may have one in the basement gathering dust. Just promise to be careful with it and give it back in good condition.

Rent one. If you have a sewing machine dealer or sewing store in your area, they may have a rental program. Rentals are usually offered by the week.

Purchase a used machine. Although there have been some technology updates with electronic machines, machines still operate the same way and some of the older machines were really built to last. It may need a little TLC, but it may be worth it. Check yard sale groups on Facebook, yard sales, flea markets, antique stores or craigslist.com. You can always pass it along or resell it if you decide to purchase a new one.

Purchase a New Machine. If you are ready to go and want to buy a machine, just do a little research. The price of machines usually goes up based on features like speed control thread cutters. Don't get too worried about the number of stitches. If you spend under \$200, just know that it probably won't last a lifetime and you may be upgrading in a year or two. That's ok, if it gets you going and helps you know what you want in your forever machine!

GATHERING SUPPLIES



I go over all of my favorite supplies in the Getting Started Section, but most are just nice to have. You really only need a few things and I bet you have most of them in your house.

Scissors. It's nice to have a set for fabric and a set for paper, but they definitely don't have to be fancy.

Thread. You want to have a new, good quality thread, but it doesn't have to be expensive. Gutermann all purpose thread at \$1.80/spool will work perfectly.

Pen or Pencil. Although there are special markers for fabric, for this class, a regular pen or pencil will work just fine.

Ruler. A regular 12" school ruler will be fine to get you started and for all of the projects we go through.

Iron & Ironing Board or Mat. Nothing fancy here, your regular household iron will do just fine.

Pins or Clips. Sewing pins or clips are great to have, but a few binder clips from your desk drawer will work for these projects.

Fabric. All of the projects in this class are designed to use minimal fabric. You can purchase fat quarters (22" x 18" pieces) in most fabric shops for about \$2-3 or just look around your house. Cut up an old shirt or some sheets!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS



Dedicate Time. Whether it's an hour a week or a rainy weekend, look ahead and set a time to start the workshop or any project.

Break it Down. Don't try to watch the whole workshop at a time. If you have a young sewer, one lesson at a time is a good start.

Be Patient. If you are sewing with any child, but especially your own, resist the urge to help too much. If your co-student knows you will do it for them, they may hold out for that or lose interest. Hold back and give them a chance to figure it out. We all make mistakes, but especially in sewing, that's how we learn. If a child is quick to say "I don't get it" a great response would be "OK, let's watch that part again".

Success is More Important Than Progress. It's not uncommon for kids to want to make the same thing over and over. The projects in this class were designed to be easy to ensure a great outcome. Some kids want to make 50 scrunchies before moving on. That's ok! They are still learning and improving and having fun. That's the most important thing

Have Fun. Enjoy the learning process and don't get hung up on imperfections!