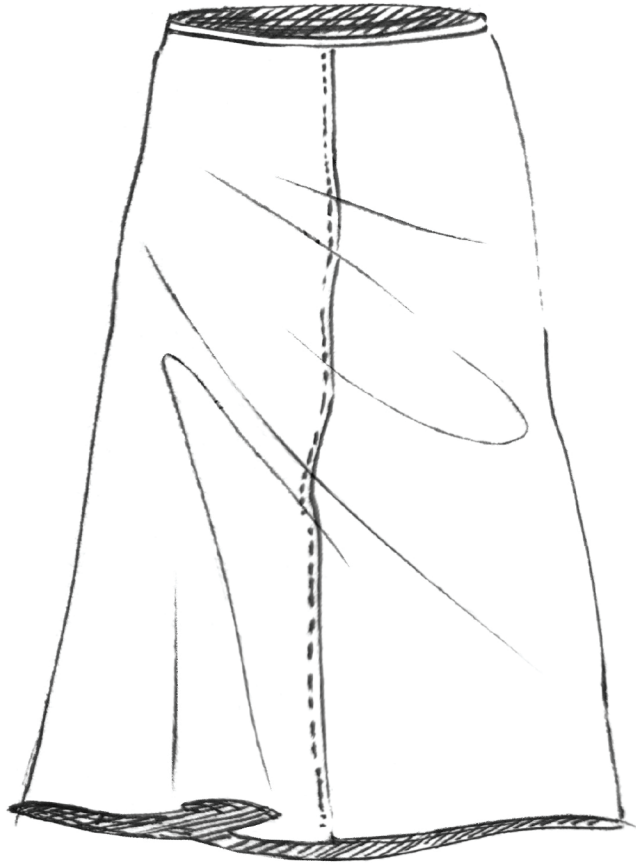




The School of Making



SWING SKIRT PATTERN

For use with *Alabama Stitch Book*, *Alabama Studio Style*,
Alabama Studio Sewing + Design, and *Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns*

theschoolofmaking.alabamachanin.com

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ABOUT THIS PATTERN

Our Swing Skirt pattern, designed to be used in tandem with The School of Making Book Series, is a great addition to any wardrobe, whether sewn unadorned or elaborately embellished. This skirt is included in six lengths: 21", 24", 26", 28", 33", and 40" from the waistband to the hem. The pattern is one simply shaped piece cut out four times, which can easily be altered using instructions from *Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns*.

PATTERN SIZING

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Chest	28 – 30"	30 – 32"	32 – 34"	36 – 38"	40 – 42"	44 – 46"
Waist	23 – 24"	25 – 26"	27 – 28"	30 – 32"	33 – 35"	35 – 36"
Hips	32 – 33"	34 – 35"	36 – 37"	38 – 39"	40 – 42"	43 – 44"

APPROXIMATE YARDAGE REQUIRED

VARIATION	SINGLE LAYER	DOUBLE LAYER
21" Swing Skirt	.75 yard	1.5 yards
24" Swing Skirt	1 yard	1.75 yards
26" Swing Skirt	1.25 yards	2.25 yards
28" Swing Skirt	1.5 yards	2.75 yards
33" Swing Skirt*	2 yards	3 yards
40" Swing Skirt*	2.5 yards	3.75 yards

*Yardage measurement taken with fabric laid out flat

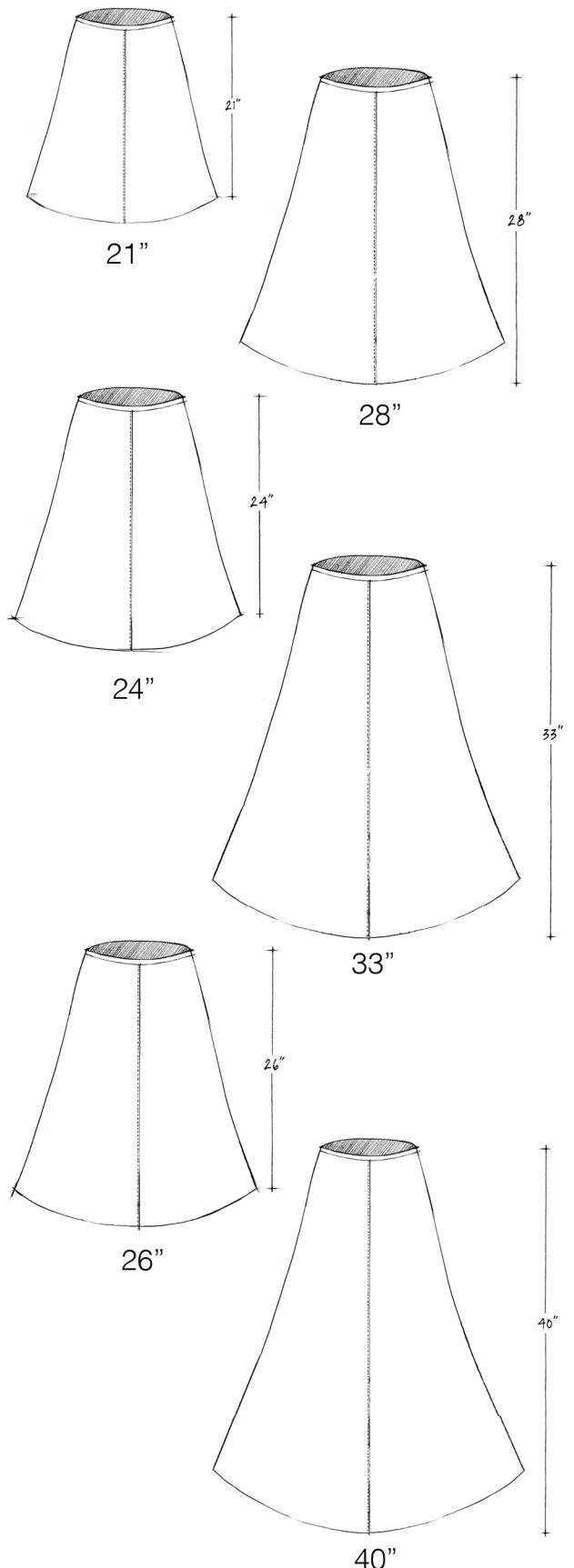
**Add 0.25 yard additional fabric for pocket variations, if desired

TO NOTE BEFORE BEGINNING

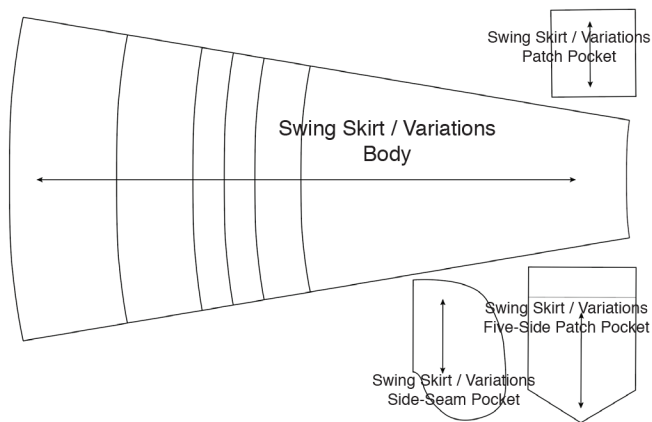
All fabric should be pre-washed*, dried, and wrinkle free

Seam allowance is 1/4" unless otherwise noted

LENGTH VARIATIONS



SWING SKIRT MASTER PATTERN



SWING SKIRT INSTRUCTIONS

SUPPLIES

- Swing Skirt pattern
- 60"-wide cotton jersey fabric (see chart on page 2 for yardage)
- Paper scissors
- Tape
- Garment scissors
- Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- 18" transparent plastic ruler
- Tailor's chalk or disappearing-ink fabric pen
- Hand-sewing needle
- Button Craft thread
- Fold-over elastic
- All-purpose sewing thread
- Pins
- Alabama Studio Book Series

1. PRINT, ASSEMBLE, + CUT THE PATTERN

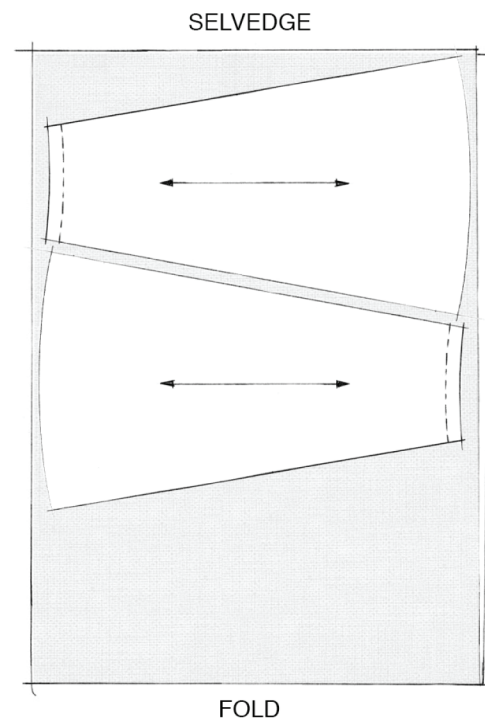
To print at a local copy shop using a wide-format printer, email or take the pattern on page 10 of this document and have them print out the pattern at full scale.

If you choose to print at home using 8.5" X 11" (or A4) paper, print the pattern pieces, making sure to select "no page scaling" when printing so the pattern pieces will print true to size. The tiled pattern is shown on pages 12 – 36. Check your page scaling with the 2" test square at the top of the page. Once printed, trim your pages and tape them together.

This garment pattern provides three length variations and six sizes in which the garment can be made. Choose your size and pattern variation and use your paper scissors to cut along the pattern. Cut as close to the line as possible.

2. CUT TOP-LAYER PIECES

Lay out your top-layer fabric flat, and then fold the fabric's width in half with the grain, with wrong sides together and the edges aligned, creating two layers. To prevent the cotton jersey from stretching, gently pat it into place with your fingertips.



Find your grain line by locating the vertical lines that run along the length of the fabric's right side. Next, lay your paper pattern piece for the body of the skirt on top of your fabric, making sure the pattern's marked grain line runs in the same direction as the fabric's grain line. Trace your pattern piece with tailor's chalk or a disappearing-ink fabric pen. You may hold or weight the pattern instead of pinning to prevent skewing the fabric or causing small nicks and holes in your pattern.



2. CUT TOP-LAYER PIECES (CONT'D)

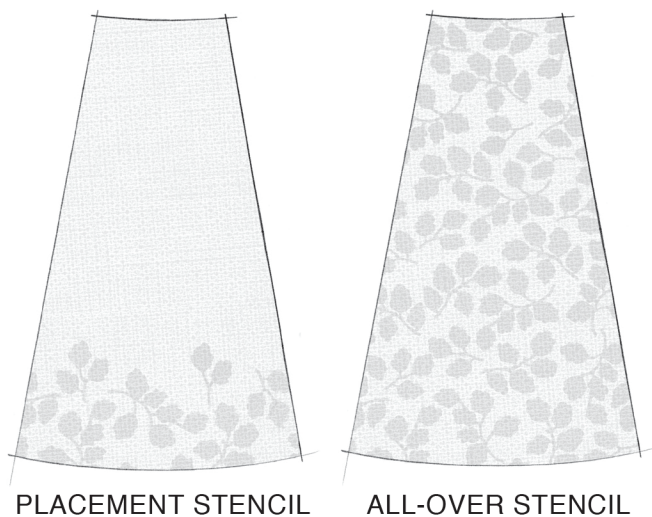
Cut just inside of your traced line to remove it entirely. Repeat this step a second time for a total of four cut top-layer body pieces.

3. CUT BACKING-LAYER PATTERN PIECES (FOR DOUBLE-LAYER GARMENT)

Lay out the backing-layer fabric flat and fold the width in half to create two layers, and repeat the process in Step 2 to cut four backing-layer pieces.

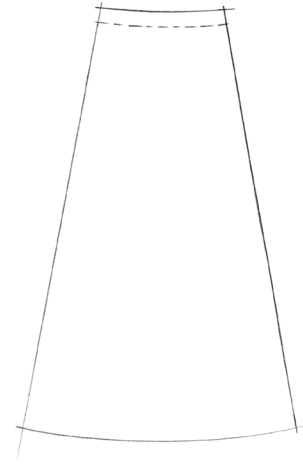
4. ADD STENCILING AND/OR EMBROIDERY

If you choose to stencil and/or embroider your project, add this to the right side of the cut Swing Skirt top-layer pieces, and let the stenciled images dry thoroughly before proceeding. Add embellishment as desired, and complete all embellishment before constructing your garment. Use one of The School of Making Series books for inspiration. If you're adding beading, avoid beading in 1/4" seam allowance.



5. BASTE WAISTLINE

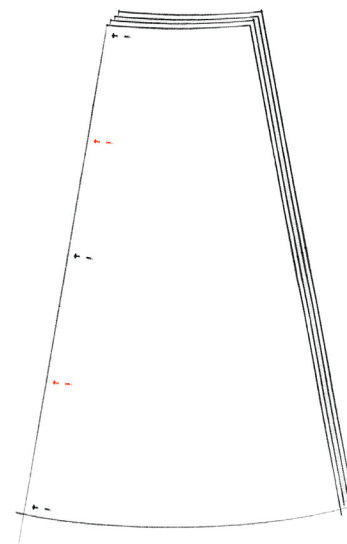
To ensure that the waistline on your cut-fabric pieces does not stretch while you construct the skirt, use a single strand of all-purpose thread to baste the waistline edges of each cut piece, as noted on the pattern.



6. CONSTRUCT FRONT AND BACK PANELS

Since all four skirt panels are identical, you can begin with any two pieces. After basting the waistline edge of all body pattern pieces, pin two of the body panels together on one seam with right sides together and edges aligned.

“Pin the middle” as shown in the illustration below by pinning the top, bottom, and middle of the seam. Then, place at least two more pins halfway between the pins already in place.



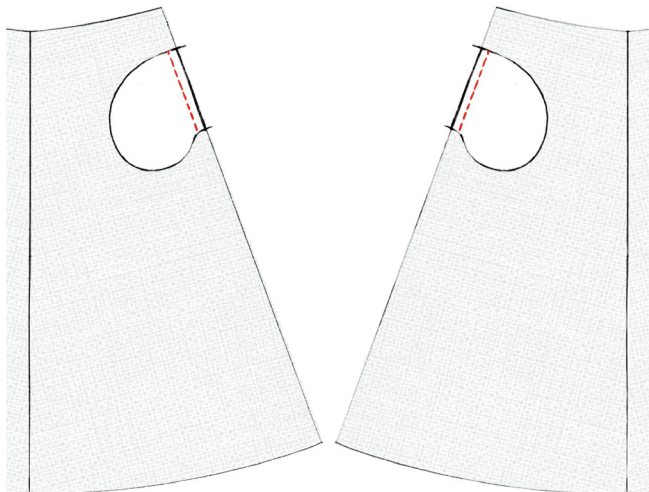
6. CONSTRUCT FRONT AND BACK PANELS (CONT'D)

Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned pieces together starting at the skirt's waistline and stitching 1/4" from the fabric's cut edges down to the bottom edge. Be sure to begin and end each seam by wrap-stitching (see page 7) its edges to secure them. Leave your seams floating, or fell your seams by stitching down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the beginning and end of each seam.

7. ADD SIDE-SEAM POCKETS (OPTIONAL)

This pattern includes an optional side-seam pocket. Deciding how high to insert the pockets in the side seam is a matter of personal preference. You will set this pocket in each side-seam panel and attach it before pinning the front panels to the back panels.

You will need four side-seam pockets from your pattern piece. Determine how high you want to position your pocket, and match the pocket height on both side seams on both the pant front and the pant back. Attach each side-seam pocket to the corresponding pattern piece, with right sides together and the straight edges aligned. Fold back each pocket and fell your seam to the front of the garment's front pattern piece and to the back of the back pattern piece. Once the pockets are attached to the front and back panels, you can continue on to the next step of sewing the side seams.



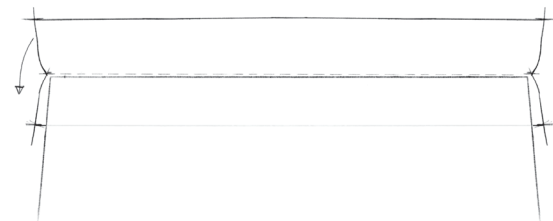
8. CONSTRUCT SIDE SEAMS

Since all four pieces are the same, the front and back panels of the skirt will look identical. "Pin the middle" as shown in the illustration on page 4 before beginning to sew.

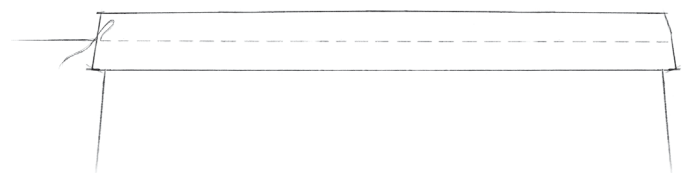
Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned front and back panels together starting at the skirt's waistline and stitching 1/4" from the fabric's cut edges down to the bottom edge. Be sure to begin and end each seam by wrap-stitching (see page 7) its edges to secure them. Leave your seams floating, or fell your seams by stitching down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the beginning and end of each seam. Repeat this process to finish the remaining side seam.

9. BIND WAISTLINE

Using fold-over elastic and starting at the skirt's center-back waistline, encase the waistline's raw edge with the folded elastic, basting the elastic in place as you work. Overlap the elastic's raw edges at the center back by about 1/2", and trim off any excess elastic.

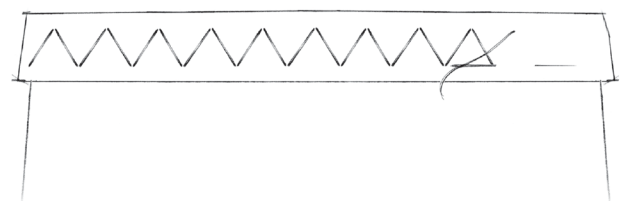


ENCASE WAISTLINE WITH FOLDED ELASTIC



BASTE ELASTIC INTO PLACE

To sew the elastic in place permanently, use the stretch stitch of your choice, stitching through all of the layers down the middle of the elastic.



ATTACH ELASTIC WITH STRETCH STITCH



10. ADD PATCH POCKETS (OPTIONAL)

This pattern includes optional patch pockets. Either style can be used for this project. You can cut this pocket single- or double-layer, as desired. When working with double-layered pockets, simply treat the two layers as one.

To construct the Five-Side Patch Pocket, first fold down the pocket's top edge 1" (2.5cm) to the wrong side on the fold line, and steam the fold with an iron. Sew this folded top edge in place 3/4" (2cm) from the top edge, using a straight stitch and leaving the remaining edges raw. Repeat these initial steps for the second patch pocket.

To construct the Patch Pocket, line the top edges of two pocket pieces with right side to wrong side. Using a straight stitch, sew the two pieces together 1/4" (6mm) from the top edge. Turn the pieces inside out so your seam allowance is sandwiched between the two layers of the pocket and steam the fold with an iron. Sew this folded top edge in place 1/8" (3mm) from the top edge, using a straight stitch and leaving the remaining edges raw. Repeat these initial steps for the second pocket.

Once you have a completed pair of patch pockets, pin the finished pair of pockets on the garment, making sure that they are evenly placed in relation to the center front and hem. Then stitch them into place with your stitch of choice, wrap-stitching the beginning and end at the pocket top.

BASIC SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

Provided below are notes on our basic construction and sewing techniques. For more thorough instructions on stenciling, embellishment, and construction, reference one of our Alabama Studio Books, shown on page 7.

LOVE YOUR THREAD

To love your thread, cut a piece twice as long as the distance from your fingers to your elbow. Thread your needle, pulling the thread through the needle until the two ends of the thread are the same length. Hold the doubled thread between your thumb and index finger, and run your fingers along it from the needle to the end of the loose tails. Repeat this several times to release the tension in the thread, and then double-knot your thread.

KNOTTING OFF

After bringing the needle up through the fabric, make a loop with the thread, then pull your needle through that loop, using your forefinger or thumb to nudge the knot into place, flush with your fabric. Then repeat this process to make a double knot. After making the second knot, cut the thread, leaving 1/2" tail.



KNOTTING OFF (CONT'D)

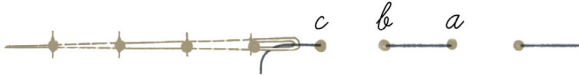
In hand-sewing, your knot anchors and holds your entire seam. One important design decision we make when starting any project is how to handle the knots. There are two options: knots that show on the project's right side (outside) and knots that show on the wrong side (inside). Either of these knots can be used throughout an entire project.

STRETCH + NON-STRETCH STITCHES

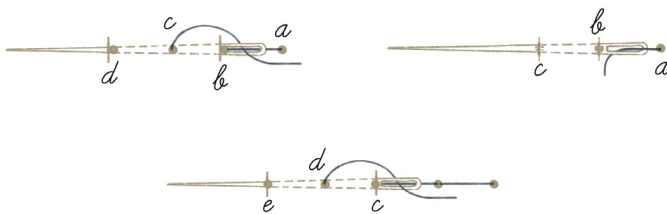
We use three categories of stitches in our work: stitches that do not stretch, for construction, reverse appliqué, and other embellishments; stitches that do stretch, for sewing necklines, armholes, and other areas in a project that require "give"; and stitches that are purely decorative, for embellishment. Following are examples of non-stretch and stretch:

NON-STRETCH STITCH

STRAIGHT (OR RUNNING) STITCH: Bring needle up at A, go back down at B, and come up at C, making stitches and spaces between them same length (about 1/8" to 1/4" long).

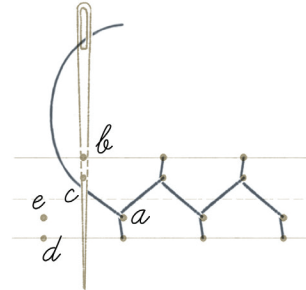


BACKSTITCH: Bring needle up at A, go back down at B, and come up at C. Then insert needle just ahead of B, and come up at D. Next insert needle just ahead of C, and come up at E. Continue this overall pattern.

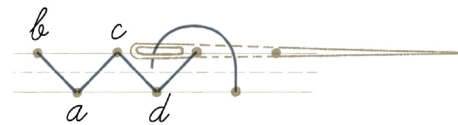


STRETCH STITCH

CRETAN STITCH: Bring needle up at A, go down at B, and come back up at C, making a downward vertical stitch while bringing needle over thread. Insert needle again at D, and come back up at E, making an upward vertical stitch while bringing needle over thread. Continue to repeat stitch pattern.



ZIGZAG STITCH: Bring needles up at A, go down at B, and come back up at C. Insert needle again at A, and come back up at D. Insert needle again at C, and come back up at E. Continue to repeat stitch pattern.

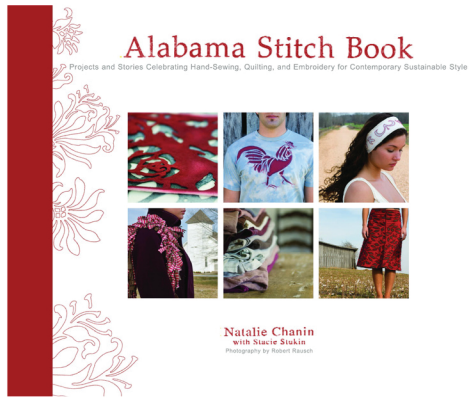


SEAMS

To start a seam, make a double knot, and insert the needle at point A. Wrap your thread around side of the fabric to the front, insert the needle back in at B, then come up at C, and stitch the seam. Also wrap-stitch the end of your seam before knotting off.



THE SCHOOL OF MAKING BOOK SERIES AT A GLANCE



Alabama Stitch Book

Alabama Stitch Book is a collection of stitching, beading, and embroidery instructions, stories, and projects from Alabama Chanin. Projects include our best-selling Corset, Swing Skirt, “boa” scarf, bandana, and more.



Alabama Studio Style

Alabama Studio Style expands upon the stitching, stenciling, and beading techniques introduced in *Alabama Stitch Book* and introduces twenty new clothing and home decor projects. This book also includes recipes and stories.



Alabama Studio Sewing + Design

An encyclopedic compilation of techniques used to create the Alabama Chanin line of organic cotton clothing. Included are dresses, skirts, tops, and accessories.



Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns

Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns explores fit, patternmaking, and how to create a garment to fit your unique shape. It includes three new patterns with several variations as well as previous open-sourced patterns on a disc at the back of the book.



The Geometry of Hand-Sewing

The Geometry of Hand-Sewing: A Romance in Stitches and Embroidery from Alabama Chanin and The School of Making by Natalie Chanin is a comprehensive guide to hand-stitching and embroidery. This book focuses solely on the stitches themselves taking embroidery stitches and breaking them down into different geometric grid systems that make learning even seemingly elaborate stitches as easy as child’s play.



TERMS OF USE

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ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF MAKING

Alabama Chanin as a concept and a company began as a DIY enterprise. Workshop programming was a natural outgrowth of the emerging DIY initiative growing around us. Our experiences showed us that face-to-face and hand-to-hand contact helped our customers better understand the what, why, and how of our making processes and the importance of an organic supply chain. And our business continued to grow. DIY offerings expanded, our workshop offerings became more diverse, and our Journal content added additional DIY instruction, stories, and ideas.

Educational programming is one of the fastest growing and most exciting aspects of our business model. So, as the opportunities to educate our team and our customers began to multiply, we realized that we should create a specific home for this knowledge.

To fully embrace our growing model, we have developed an overseeing body that will direct and innovate learning initiatives and educational programs: The School of Making. All of our current and developing educational and training initiatives fall under the umbrella of The School of Making. This arm of the Alabama Chanin Family of Businesses oversees DIY and workshop programming, format, and content; it acts as a researching body for new subjects and new ways of disseminating information. Our hope is that The School of Making can be an active voice in our local community, our state, and the making community, at large.

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