

Alma Fournier-Carballo takes us behind the scenes at Sew Over It to guide us through the magic of creating patterns







As sewists, we love to craft all year round, but at Sew Over It, we find that summer is the most fun season to sew for. It's a time to use colourful fabrics and breezy designs to wear to barbecues, picnics and even a wedding or two. We like to create sewing patterns that can serve you all year round, but we do love an unapologetically summery project. Last year we found ourselves caught in a heatwave we felt unprepared for, so this time around, we're determined to plan in advance and be ready for when the heat comes! Summer in the UK is definitely changing: the kind of clothes you might only have worn on a holiday abroad are now the ideal outfit for weekends over here, so let's have a look at our top picks for summer 2023.

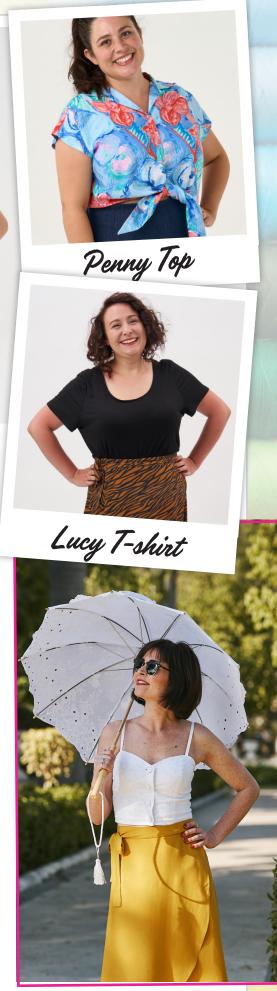
There's nothing like a sundress for a really hot day. Our most popular pattern of the season last year was, without a doubt, the Oona Dress. A firm favourite with customers, Oona was also the Sew Over It Team go-to for the summer. We all made several versions and lived in them when the temperatures went up. A simple sundress with straps wide enough to cover your bra straps, this is an easy sewing pattern, perfect for absolute beginners and incredibly quick for more experienced sewists. She looks gorgeous in cotton, linen or viscose – all fabrics

that are lovely to wear in the heat. If sleeveless isn't for you, go for a floaty design that won't cling to your body on a really warm day, like our Isabelle Blouse & Dress. Use a fabric with plenty of drape to make the most of the loose silhouette and beautiful flutter sleeves. You can pick between a mini or midi length for the dress, or make Isabelle as a blouse to wear with shorts or a skirt.

TOPS

For a summer top with a retro touch, we love a tie-front number – think Baby in *Dirty Dancing*! You can achieve this look with any button-up shirt, but our favourite is the Penny Top, included in our Penny Dress Add-on Pack. The pack combines with our Penny Dress pattern (also perfect for summer) to transform a Sew Over It classic into a tie-front top or dress and even a playsuit!

If you're after a faster project, you can't go wrong with a simple T-shirt, but for the hottest months, you'll want something that isn't too tight fitting. We recommend a loose-fitting tee like our Lucy T-shirt sewn in a light viscose jersey. Make yourself a couple of T-shirts in neutral colours, so you can wear them with a pretty patterned skirt, or sew up the dress version for an everyday summer outfit.









SKIRTS

For a summer skirt that will easily take you from day to night, try our bias-cut Selena Skirt, which you can get your hands on by joining our VIP Pattern Club for just £10. This kind of skirt is all the rage at the moment and it's easy to pair with a tank top, T-shirt or tie-front top. Incredibly quick to sew, she works best in a crêpe or satin fabric.

One of our favourite skirts in our archives is the yoked Niamh Skirt, which you can make as a mini, midi or maxi skirt and really shows off a beautiful print. And if you can't live without pockets to keep your sunnies in, look no further than our Ruby Skirt with her patch pockets, button front and wide waistband. She looks great in cotton and viscose, and the best thing is the PDF pattern is free when you sign up for our newsletter, so she should definitely go on your to-sew list!



OCCASION DRESSES

If you have some exciting events to attend this summer, from birthdays to weddings, you'll want to make something extra special that will still keep you cool in the heat. Our Eve Dress is a winner on all fronts; she's a stunning wrap dress that is the definition of floaty and will keep you stylish and comfortable for hours.

If you're looking for something more structured, try our Martha Dress, a sleeveless dress with a wrap-over bodice and long ties that can be kept loose or tied into a dramatic bow. Sewn in a cotton, Martha can be great for a picnic, but make her in a stunning brocade or a beautiful viscose print and she's a showstopper. And guess what? This dress has pockets!

EXTRA LAYER

Even on the hottest day, you might still want to reach for an extra layer in the evenings or to protect yourself from the sun, and there's no reason why you shouldn't layer in style. Our favourite pattern for this purpose is the Sylvia

To find out more,
go to www.
sewoverit.com

Robe. Easy to sew and simple to fit, Sylvia includes a short and long version, which doubles up perfectly as a beach cover-up.

If you love wearing linen in the heat, try our Jodie Shirt. Wear her buttoned up as a shirt, or leave her open as a handy shacket (shirt/jacket) to wear over dresses or a T-shirt and shorts.

SWIMWEAR

Whether you're planning a seaside holiday or heading to a local lido to keep cool, you're going to need some swimwear. Sewing your own swimwear sounds daunting, but it's much easier than you think. Our Zahra Swimsuit & Bikini pattern is accompanied by a Masterclass on Stitch School, our online sewing classroom. We'll hold your hand through the whole process and give you our best tips on choosing the right fabric and supplies, as well as getting your swimwear to fit properly, so you can make something you look and feel great in.





SUMMER CAPSULE WARDROBE

Fancy getting all your summer patterns in one place? Designed with carefree sunny days in mind, our Summer Dreaming eBook contains a collection of sewing patterns that work perfectly together to create a capsule wardrobe for the warmest time of year. The eBook includes five PDF sewing patterns and a total of twelve variations, including beautiful

dresses, skirts, tops, trousers, a jumpsuit and the perfect denim jacket, giving you a myriad of stylish summer looks to wear at home or on holiday.

We hope you're feeling inspired to start planning your me-made summer wardrobe. Get ahead of the game by starting now, so when the heatwave hits, you'll be ready to show off your most fabulous hot-weather makes!