

STITCHES

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO 2009

Tailored Clothing Vs Off-the-shelf Wear:

Fashion appeals to your emotions. It is a well-researched fact, one that many would not be able to argue with. To look beautiful is to feel good. We buy clothing and choose fashion styles based on feelings. Designers create through an artistic ability that is derived from their moods and their emotions.

But what is the point of wearing something that only makes you feel temporarily good? Is it worth it to purchase a piece of clothing that will disintegrate after a few washes in the machine, or that doesn't really fit you well?

Herein lays a pertinent question in the fashion world: What are the differences between manufactured clothing and tailored clothing? And do these differences really matter to the long term quality of the piece of clothing?

Clothing was traditionally created to protect the body, and was originally made out of natural elements like animal skin, cotton, and silk. Manufactured clothing only came about during the Industrial Revolution, when making textiles became easier through the use of machinery.

Since then, manufactured clothing has become the cheap, easy and convenient way to dress oneself. Tailored clothing has been left to the "upper realms" of the fashion world; i.e. in the haute couture arena,

for the special and once-in-a-lifetime occasions, and by fashion designers for the runway.



Dear Girls,
It seems that time is moving faster than ever and here we are our last newsletter for the year. We have some more projects for you and with Christmas not too far away now, the theme is of course Christmas. We have been very busy with samples for classes, samples for the new Momo Dimi designs from Janome and now Loralee Designs from Echaidna also.



SAILING



We have welcomed the new Husqvarna Diamond and to let you in on a secret, there is a new Phaff model on the way too.

We will be having a few different speciality patchwork classes with some new techniques for you to learn and have fun with.

Liz, Denise and Staff

Tailored clothing is arguably of better fit, quality, and design and it can be created for everyday wear. In fact, tailored clothing made from high quality fabric is the best choice for everyday wear because it lasts longer, washes better, falls more naturally, and is made to fit the body exactly.

For those special occasions where looking and feeling good is crucial, tailored clothing is of utmost importance. Beyond looking good, the quality and lifespan of a piece of clothing can make all the difference! Investing in a dress that is made from the highest quality silk, and that fits your body to the exact inch, will yield massive returns in comfort, lifespan, and most importantly – positive emotions.



So despite the convenience in buying manufactured and pre-designed clothing, perhaps it's time to go back to our roots and start treating ourselves to the quality, comfort and long-lasting goodness that can be found in tailored clothing.

How To Make The Most Out Of Your Tailored Clothing:

1. Set your mind on quality fabric. Don't settle for cheap fabric that will wear

out after a few washes. Invest in high-quality stuff. That usually means all-natural material like silk and linen, as opposed to manufactured material like polyester.

2. Pick a design. If the dress is for a wedding, have a general design in mind before choosing the fabric. Even if that is not the exact thing you want to reproduce, it is important to have a rough idea of the image you want to portray eventually.

3. Match the fabric with the design. Once you have a design in mind, it is easier to choose the right type of fabric. Different designs work with different fabrics and materials, and therefore it is important that the decision-making for these two factors go hand-in-hand.

4. Ask for referrals to good seamstresses/tailors. Good quality fabric and a beautiful design mean nothing if the tailor is not of the highest calibre. If unsure, always ask around for referrals, suggestions or opinions. It would also be wise to obtain a few different quotations before settling for one..

NORMAL CLASS DATES

Tailoring with Judy	Mon & Wed	10.00am 1.00pm	2.00pm 5.00pm	\$15.00ea
Basic Dressmaking with Denise	Thur	2.00pm 4.00pm	7.00pm 9.00pm	\$15.00ea

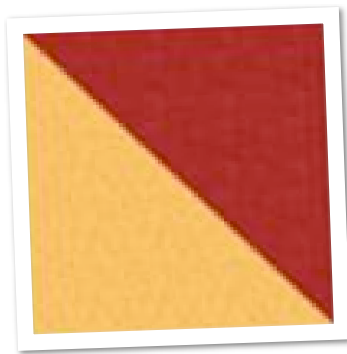
QUILTING TUTORIAL

Creating Triangles

The half-square triangle is a basic piece used in many quilt blocks.

Very simply, it is a square that is cut in half from corner to corner (diagonally) to create two triangles within one patch.

As amazing as it sounds, there are several ways to sew these units together. Some of these methods increase the accuracy of the resulting patch. Other methods increase the speed or convenience of sewing many half-square triangles.



Which method you use depends upon personal preference.

Over the next few months we will demonstrate a number of methods and explain the benefits and

pitfalls of each.

Method 1 – Individual Triangles

If you are going to cut individual triangles, be sure to use a template that has the seam allowance added to it. You can also cut squares, and then cut the squares into triangles. You can easily use the chain piecing method of sewing to sew your

example, cut $2\frac{7}{8}$ " wide strips, then cut the strips into $2\frac{7}{8}$ " squares.

If you are cutting triangles, it is easiest to use or make a template that is the size of the triangle including the seam allowances. Mark your fabric (on the wrong side) around the template, then cut. Or place the template on your fabric and cut around the template using a rotary cutter. Generally it is best to place the square sides of the triangle on the straight and cross grain of the fabric, leaving the long side of the triangle for the bias. (The bias side stretches, and when you sew these triangles together, the bias will be sewn together and be stabilized.)

Step 2 - With the right sides of the fabric together (facing each other), sew the triangles together along the diagonal edge, from corner to corner. Since this is a bias edge of the fabric, take care not to stretch the fabric as you sew, otherwise your triangles will be different sizes and will not fit into your block correctly.

Step 3 - Open the half-square triangle, and press (preferable press the seam allowance so it is under the darker fabric).

Step 4 – Trim the “dog ears” off of the edges of the squares and admire your beautiful half-square triangles!. Creating Triangles The half-square triangle is a basic piece used in many quilt blocks. Very simply, it is a square that is cut in half from corner to corner (diagonally) to create two triangles within one patch. Amazing as it sounds, there are several ways to sew these units together. Some of these methods increase the accuracy of the resulting patch. Other methods increase the speed or convenience of sewing many half-square triangles. Which method you use depends upon personal preference. Over the next few months we will demonstrate a number of methods and explain the benefits and pitfalls of each.

triangles together (refer to Chapter 4 in The Beginners Guide to Quilting for detailed instructions).

Step 1 – Cut your fabric into squares or triangles. If you are beginning with squares, in order to determine the correct size of square, start with the finished size you want your



square to be (for example, 2" after the square is sewn into the block), and add $\frac{7}{8}$ " to each side. In the example of a 2" finished square, you will cut squares $2\frac{7}{8}$ " and then cut each of those squares in half diagonally (from corner to



corner).

An alternative is to cut strips from your larger fabric, and then cut squares from the strips. Using the above