

Let's Talk Quilts!

Exploring Quilting? Seasoned Quilter?

As a maker of over 200 personal quilts, Karen Overton, **The Quilt Rambler**, knows the right tools make all the difference.

As a pattern designer, Karen's tool of choice is Studio 180 Design - tools that simplify the quilting process by trimming blocks to the correct size, with points that actually match!

The **Quilt Rambler** patterns, available in print and digital formats, offer clear step by step instructions, detailed illustrations, and helpful hints. Find tools, patterns, fabric, and more at TheQuiltRambler.com



www.TheQuiltRambler.com



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editor's note



Can this be true? Is 2020 almost over? As I was putting this issue together, I couldn't help but reflect and try to find some of the positives that this year has brought to light.

I have indeed found a few. For starters, the Beginner Sewing Facebook group has been such a positive outlet for so many of us in 2020! It is worth a mention. Being quarantined and at home for nearly six months, I had time to really enjoy and take part in more group discussions within the group, getting to know more members on a personal level. It was refreshing to see that from across the globe, we were sharing a common interest in sewing.

Also, I have felt very blessed watching the group continue to grow. It is a bit overwhelming to say the least. Last issue I reported that we were at 70K members, and I am putting this issue together we are nearing 83K. You may have also noticed Beginner Sewing Magazine has branched out to other social media outlets as well. The social media expansion continues as the brand continues to grow.

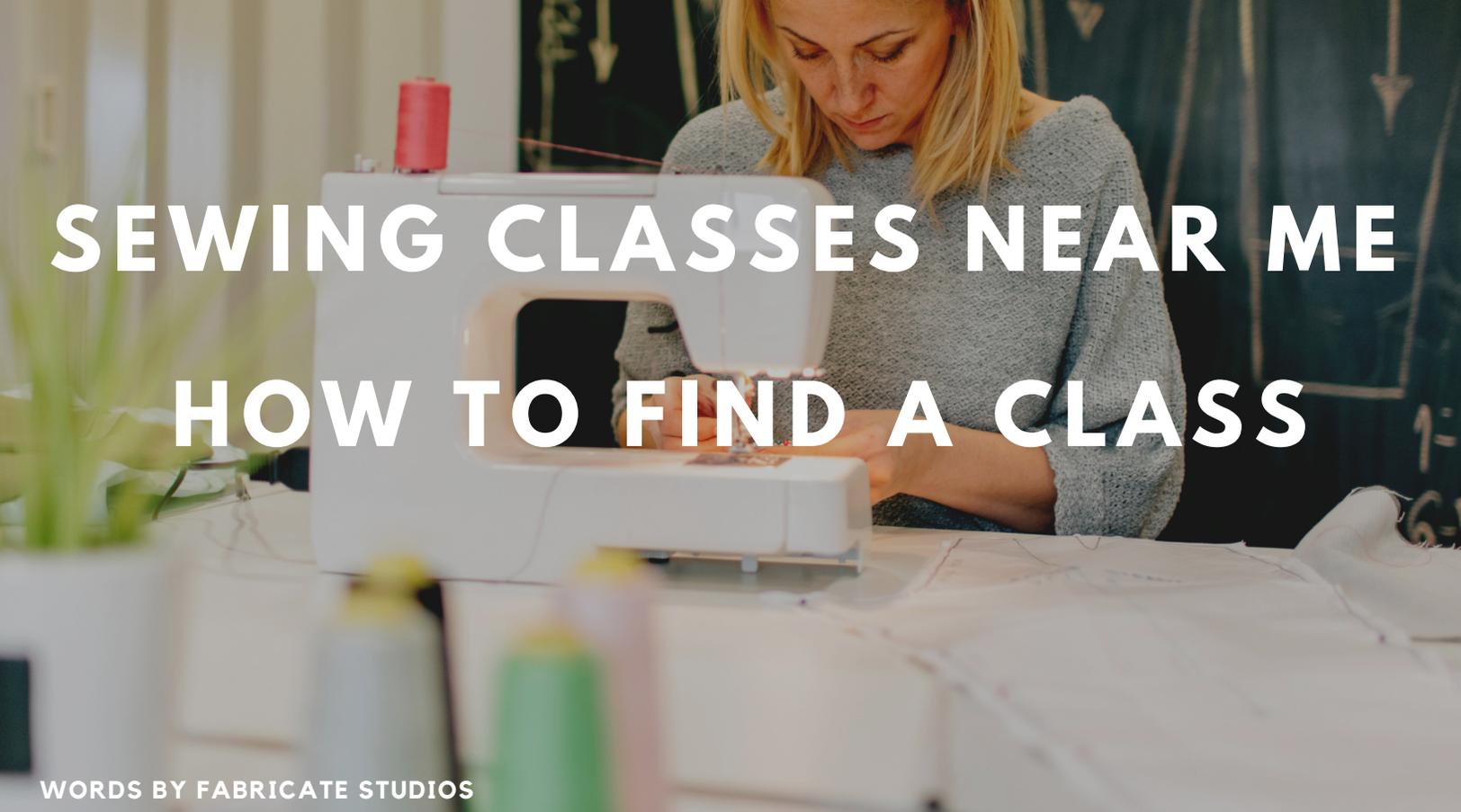
With the Holidays approaching, I wanted to put together an issue for you, with not only some holiday focused tutorials, but also highlighting some of the sewing projects that have really caught my eye and are worth another look. You will find those in the "Projects to Inspire" segment of the issue.

Also in this issue, you will find a Holiday Wishlist segment featuring some of the most desired sewing accessories that have been trending within the Facebook group. What a great time of year to add those items to your personal holiday shopping list to continue your collection! Finally, as a reminder, if you are a blogger, tutorial writer, or shop owner, let's talk about how you can be featured in an upcoming issue of our Beginner Sewing digital issue or on our website which I have dedicated as a one-stop-shop for beginner sewists.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holiday season,

Joan Mantini

Editor in Chief



SEWING CLASSES NEAR ME

HOW TO FIND A CLASS

WORDS BY FABRICATE STUDIOS

Have you been searching Google (or any search engine) for "sewing classes near me"? If so, then this blog post may be just what you need to find a good start. We describe what you might be looking for in a good sewing class, and how to find what you want.

Location - There are several factors you may want to keep in mind while looking for sewing classes near you. First and foremost is location. Considering that this whole post is based on you asking "Where can I find sewing classes near me?," this one is hard to miss.

Quality - The next big factor is

the quality of the class you're taking. If you don't learn anything, then what was the point of the class? A good way to determine quality is to check out the reviews. Facebook also offers reviews for some businesses, if they allow them. On Facebook, businesses can "turn off" reviews. My guy says that a business who doesn't allow reviews probably doesn't have great reviews...but that's just my opinion.

Pricing - The elephant in the room is always pricing. Everyone has a specific budget that they are working with but a cheap class (or

classes) may not be worth it if you don't learn skills that you can replicate at home on your own. The big box stores that offer sewing classes typically teach project-based classes. Meaning, you sign up for a beginner class where you're making holiday placemats, or a pencil pouch, or something else. While others such as Fabricate Studios, teach in a skills-based format. This means that you're making a project, but we're breaking down each step into skills that you can use on other projects once you're at home sewing on your own. For example, if we make a napkin, you're

learning how to cut fabric on the grain, measuring seam allowance, sewing mitered corners and topstitching an edge. When sewing a tote bag, we're focused on aligning print directional fabrics, how to install a lining and handles, and making the tote bag fully reversible.

Skill level - Lastly, make sure the class you choose is a good fit for your current skill level, and that the class content focuses on a difficulty level that suits your needs. There are many beginner classes out here, but choosing a beginner sewing class that sends you home with the abilities and confidence to repeat those

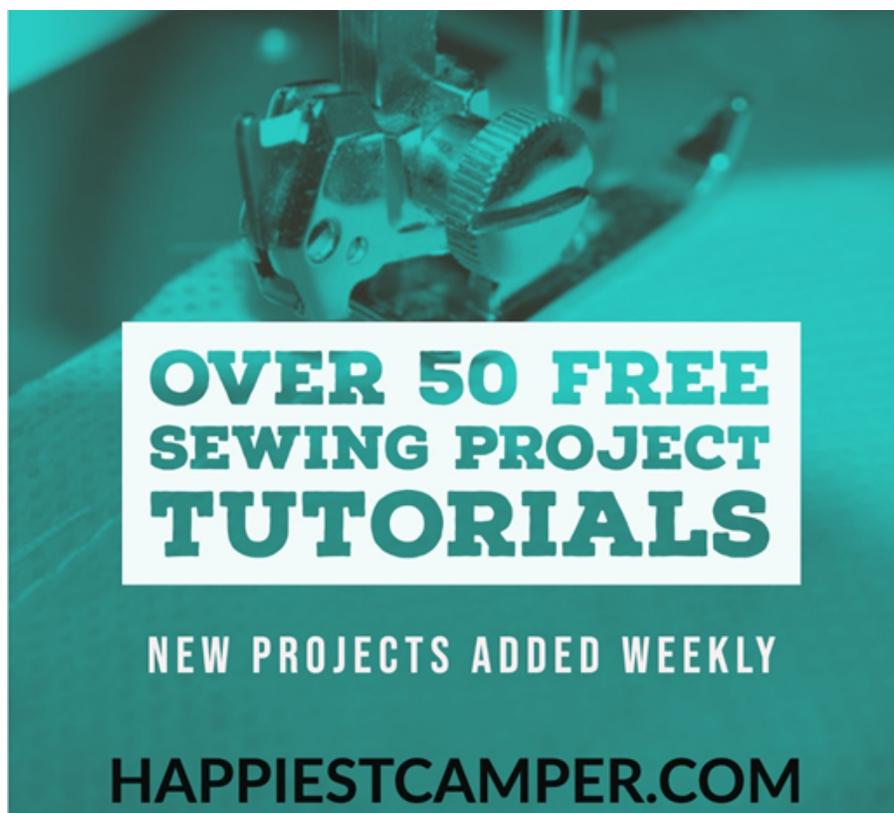
skills on your own is an important criteria to look for when searching for a "sewing class near me". But if you know the basics and want to learn more advanced techniques, then be sure to look through all the sewing classes that are offered to select the one that's best for you.

HOW DO I FIND SEWING CLASSES NEAR ME?

If you Google this phrase, a map of businesses might pop up. These recommendations are based on Google's search history, website analysis, and keywords that you typed in.

The map feature on Google when searching for "sewing classes near me" to easily see how far classes are from your home or work. If you are searching at home, but want see if there are any classes near where you work, include the zip code to your search bar.

On the other hand, if there are a few places on your radar, don't be afraid to research the ones you already know about. Ask around to see if anyone you know has taken classes there and if they had a positive review from the experience. Classes, difficulty, and teachers will vary from



OVER 50 FREE SEWING PROJECT TUTORIALS

NEW PROJECTS ADDED WEEKLY

HAPPIESTCAMPER.COM



Finding a Class

store to store. In Atlanta, many of the stores which offer sewing classes have friendly owners — and we can definitely recommend some of those based on what you are hoping to learn!

HOW DO I FIND THE HIGHEST QUALITY CLASS?

The higher the skill level class you're looking for, the harder it will be to find high-quality classes that are accessible. You can always reach out and suggest a class to the store. However, you will probably have more success seeking out private instruction for skills that you don't see listed as a class. Admittedly, lots of beginner sewing classes teach you how to start sewing while also teaching you more advanced techniques. At Fabricate, our instructors are truly masters and they have taught hundreds

of students how to sew. Don't be afraid if Sewing 101 sounds too complex. We have lost of students who come to the first class with a brand-new sewing machine. You'll learn how to sew on your new sewing machine starting the first class. In the second class we'll build on material from the first class. You'll be amazed at how much you learn and the projects you create in just four sessions.

There are other qualities you may look for, but these four are the most common and the most important. While one of the best ways to search for a good class is searching "sewing classes near me," you should also search for reviews, ask friends, or schedule time to walk through the space and speak to an instructor before registering. We hope you'll find a class to love.



february 2019

Sewing Projects That

Inspire



A Collaboration of Work

Sandra Dick sent her Patch Work Forest Quilt for longarm quilting to Jenae Alves at Vintage Stitch by Jenae. The pattern is from Diary of a Quilter by Amy Smart. Sandra used a variety of holiday print fabrics to create her quilt. The quilting design is called Midnight Sparkle.



Adding Dimension

A dimensional Tabletop Tannenbaum can fit perfectly on a table as the centerpiece of your display, or as a beautiful accent to your Christmas décor. The finished tree measures approximately 13" tall and 12" wide at the tree skirt.

Shabby Fabrics sells this as a kit on its website www.shabbyfabrics.com. Look for the "Tabletop Tannenbaum Kit - Naughty or Nice".



Hand Sewing

Instagram: @Flynn_and_mabel
Jenny made a mini tree hoop, with layered stitches, mixing the beautiful green colors together.



Building a Business

At the age of 11, young sewist Clara Collins is an inspiration for anyone looking to learn how to sew.

Clara started her own YouTube station called Sew Not Perfect with the purpose of teaching others about her skills and passion.

"My work is evolving and I would love to share it with you. I am directing my videos to a youth demographic, so I can inspire young minds to become the modern-day fashion designers," said Clara.





Making it New Again

Teresa Alameen used a pair of old jeans and an old bag for the leather pieces, incorporating the handles and metallic thread to make this handbag.

"It's amazing what you can reuse to save from landfill. Sustainably is very important, and I'm happy to say I will not be throwing anything away anymore, I'll be making a small change for a greater good. I hope to keep inspire people to do the same," said Alameen in her Instagram post.



Save my Spot

Bookmarks are fun to sew and a great use of any leftover fabric. A good starting point is a simple rectangle shape. From there you will quickly progress and develop your own designs and style. "Sewing bookmarks enabled me to gain confidence and now they are my best seller." Amanda - Sunshine Hippo





Getting Started Again

Ben Wright took textiles at school and always loved the idea of being able to make your own clothes and kit your house out with nice curtains and cushions. Unfortunately, when he finished school he never sewn another thing! Until recently... For his first project, he decided that he didn't fancy the tomato pin cushion that he saw everywhere so Ben made a pin cushion/accessory holder/sewing buddy for his first project!



Remembering When

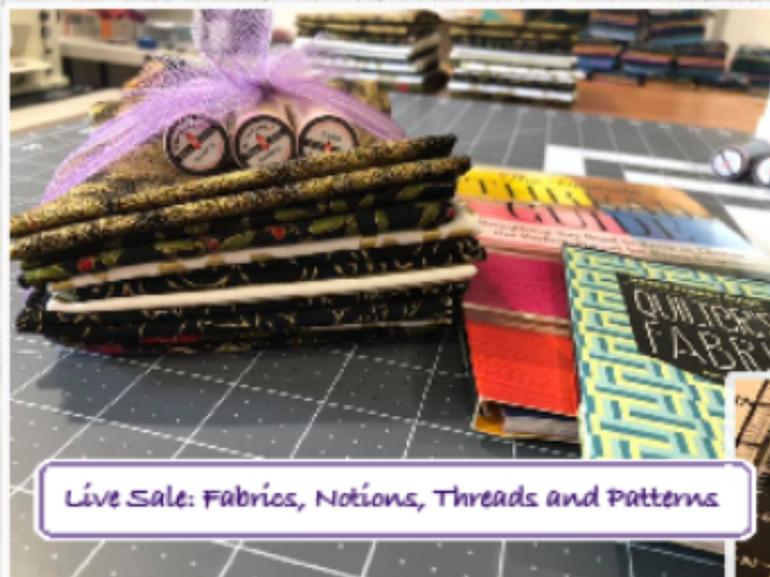
Rachel Leggett has been making keepsakes since 2017, and am now making more and more sewing patterns for other makers to enjoy making keepsakes from. This bear is made from her popular Charlie Bear pattern. She is made from a dressing gown and t-shirt of a much missed daughter. Rachel's patterns and tutorials can be found on her website www.messystork.com.



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TUTORIAL

*Christmas
Stocking*

TUTORIAL: Christmas Stocking

CONTRIBUTED BY THE SEW SEW LOUNGE

Looking for a fun and easy beginner sewing project for the holidays? This step-by-step tutorial walks you through every step of the process, from cutting out the pattern to pressing your finished stocking. Medium and heavy weight quilting fabrics in colorful holiday prints are perfect for this project. This amount of fabric makes two stockings. Make one for yourself and gift the other away!



SUPPLIES:

$\frac{2}{3}$ yard of (45 inch wide) fabric in holiday print for stocking
 $\frac{1}{4}$ yard (45 inch wide) complementary fabric for band of stocking
 $\frac{2}{3}$ yard medium weight iron-on interfacing; keep the instructions if you haven't used interfacing
Matching thread

Click on me to get your free pattern

SEWING TOOLS:

Paper scissors
Tape
Fabric scissors
Rotary cutter (optional)
Straight pins
Tape measure
Iron & Ironing Board

PREP THE FABRIC:

Wash and dry your fabric. Iron out any wrinkles. Keep your iron and ironing board set up for easy access during the sewing tutorial. Fold fabric in half lengthwise so the selvage lines up on the right and the fold is on the left.

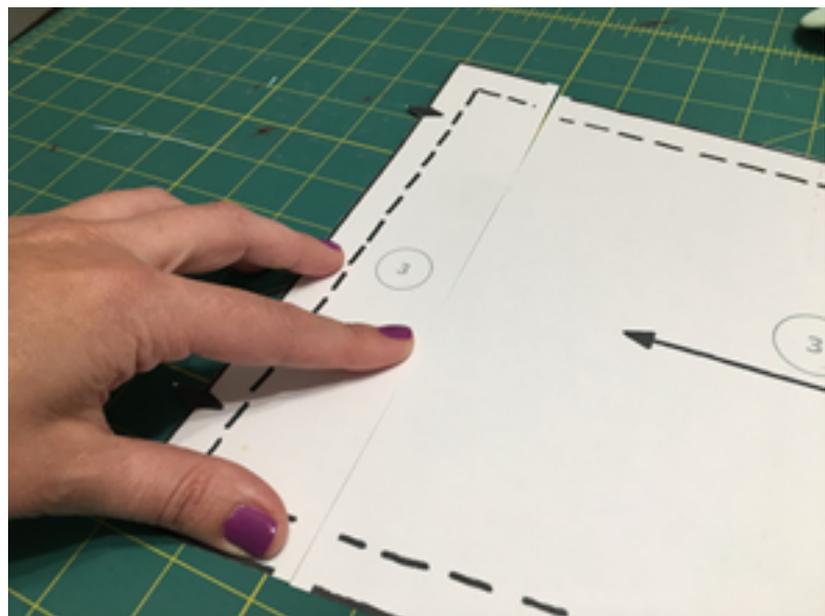
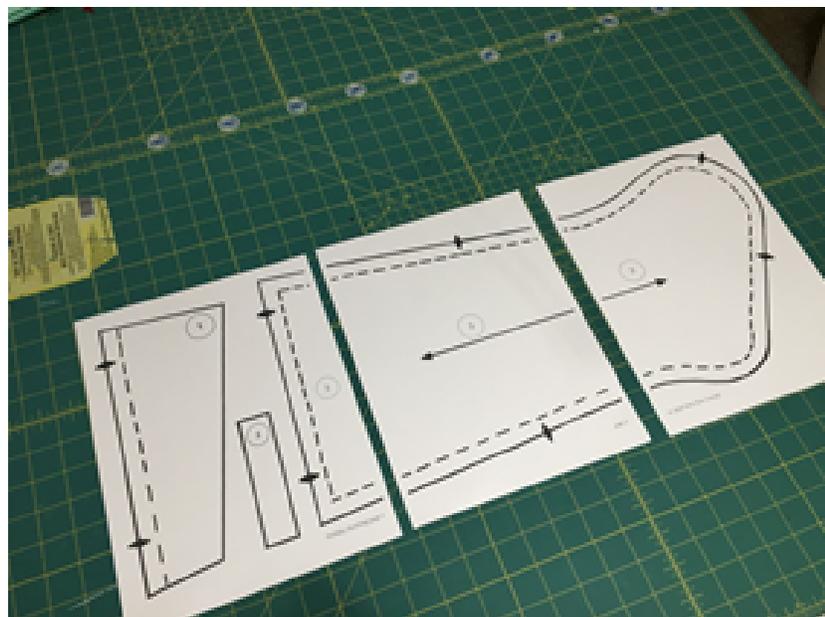




PREP THE PATTERN

Print out the PDF [pattern](#) included with this tutorial. The image will print on standard 8½ x 11 inch paper without any size adjustments. Make sure the pages are printed in portrait orientation.

1. Print out the pattern. There are three pages total.
2. Cut out the pattern along the thick outside line.
3. Cut out the triangles. They will help you match the pieces together during the sewing process.
4. Repeat these steps until all the pattern pieces are cut out.
5. When finished you should have 5 separate pattern pieces.
6. Line up the edge of piece 3 to make the stocking pattern.
7. Tape across the edge to connect the pieces together. Repeat to attach the remaining piece 3.
8. At this point there are three pattern pieces, the top band (1), the hanging tab (2), and the stocking (3). Now you are ready to start cutting out your fabric.





PATTERN LAYOUT & CUTTING:

Lay out the stocking pattern (3) on the fabric near the top edge and selvage. Leave enough space to cut out a second pattern.



Starting at the top of the grainline marked on the pattern piece, measure to the edge of the selvage. My measurement was 6½ inches. Pin at the grainline to hold the pattern piece in place.



Measure from the bottom of the grainline to the selvage, this measurement needs to be the same as the previous measurement. If it isn't, move the pattern piece until you get the same measurement at both ends of the grainline. This step ensures that your stocking pattern is lined up with the lengthwise grain of the fabric so it hangs straight.

Lay out the top band (1) on the coordinating fabric near the top edge and selvage. Measure the from the top edge to the edge of the fabric. Make sure each end is the same measurement. My measurement was ½ inch. This time we are making sure the pattern is in line with the horizontal grainline.



Repeat with the tab (2) to make sure it is cut on the grainline too.

Using the cutting device of your choice, cut out all the pattern pieces along the outside edge of the pattern piece.



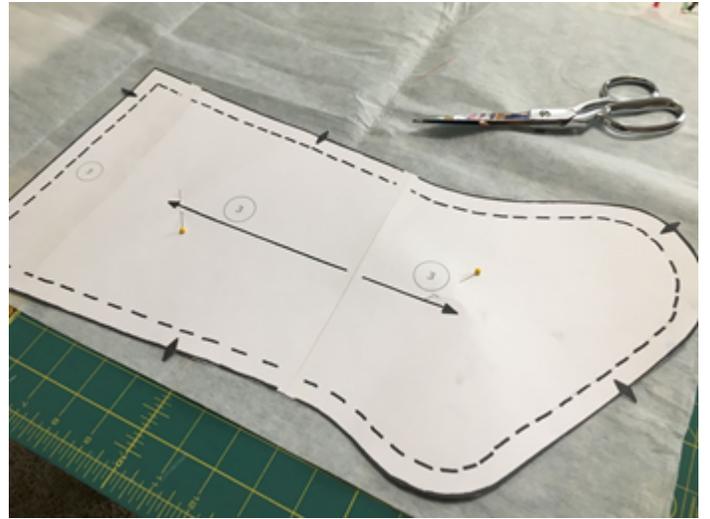
Cut out each triangle around the edge of the patterns.



A note on interfacing: Interfacing is a non-woven material used to add stiffness and structure to fabric. Interfacing has two sides: smooth and rough. The rough side has adhesive to attach to the fabric. For this pattern I attached the interfacing to the inside back panel of the stocking to provide additional stiffness. I cut out the pattern with the rough side down. If your fabric is heavy weight and holds its shape, feel free to skip the interfacing.

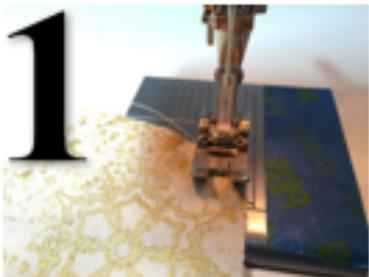
Unpin the stocking pattern (3) from the fabric and place on a single layer of interfacing. Make sure the rough side is against the cutting table and the smooth side is next to the pattern.

Cut out the interfacing. Remember to cut out the triangles to line up the interfacing with the fabric.



SEW THE TOP BAND (1):

1. Line up the bottom edge (the one without the triangles) with the side of the presser foot and sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch staystitch line. You will sew each pattern piece individually.
2. Go to your ironing board and fold along the staystitch line and press.
3. Press each piece from the back and front to create a permanent fold.
4. Return to your sewing machine and sew $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the bottom edge to hold it in place
5. Put these pieces to the side for later use.



SEW THE TAB (2):

Line up the long side edge with the side of the presser foot and sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch staystitch line. Sew each pattern piece individually.

With the right sides together, pin the pieces so the staystitch lines match. Sew along the raw edge $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to connect the two pieces.

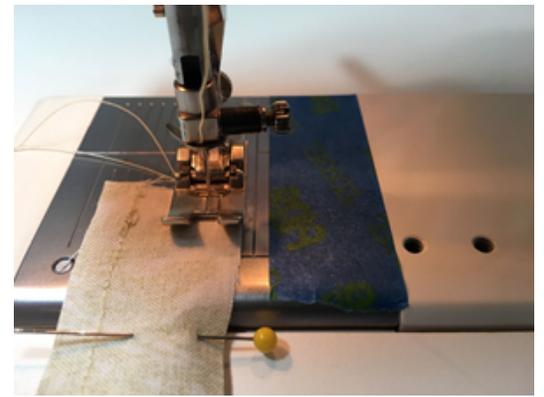
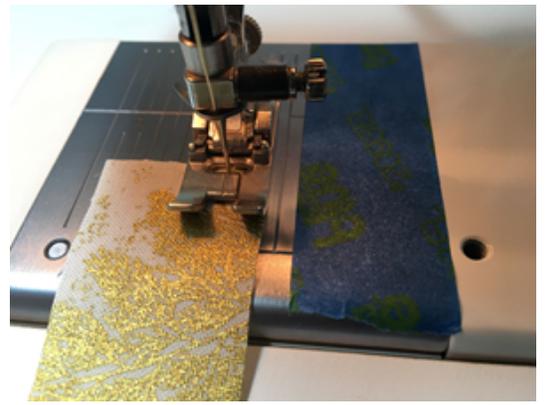
Fold the seam open and press.

Fold each side along the staystitch line and press to fold.

Fold along the center seam and pin. Press along the folded edge.

Sew $\frac{1}{8}$ inch along the open edge to secure in place.

Now you have a neatly finished tab.



ATTACH THE INTERFACING:

If you are new to interfacing, read the instructions first and practice with scraps until you get a feel for it.

Place the rough side of interfacing against the wrong side of the back of the stocking. Match the triangles to line up the fabric and interfacing. Pin to hold in place.

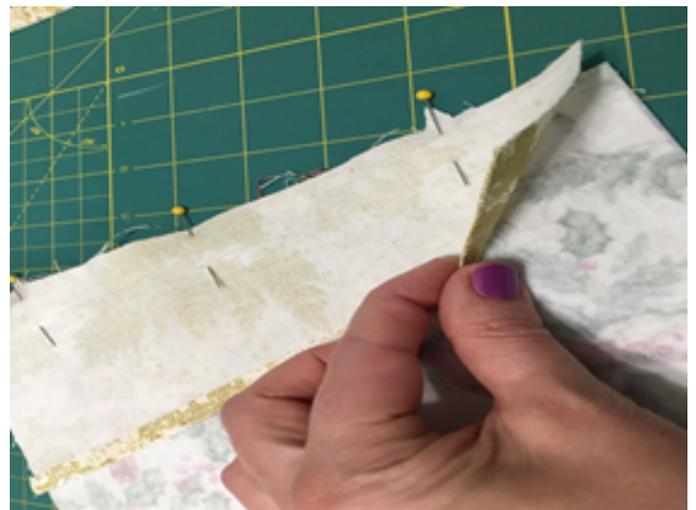
Press the interfacing from the center, working out toward the edges. Use steam and hold the iron to press each section of the stocking until the interfacing is secured. Do not push the iron around on the interfacing or it will wrinkle the fabric and create bunching.



SEW THE STOCKING:

Attach the wrong side of the top band (1) to the wrong side of the stocking (3) by matching up the triangles. (The wider side of the top band will line up with the side by the heel of the stocking.) Pin to secure in place.

Repeat so the top bands are pinned to each stocking.



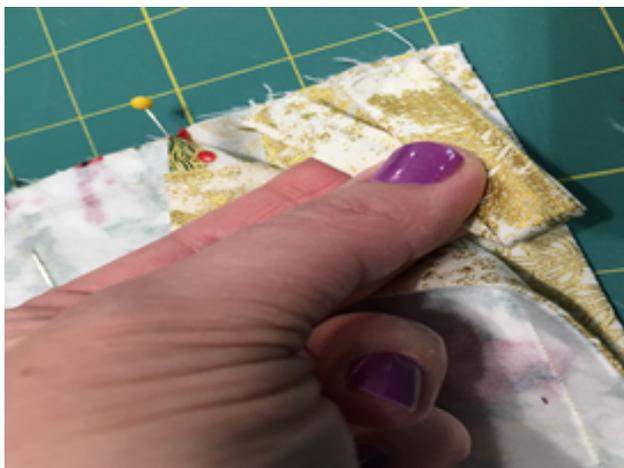
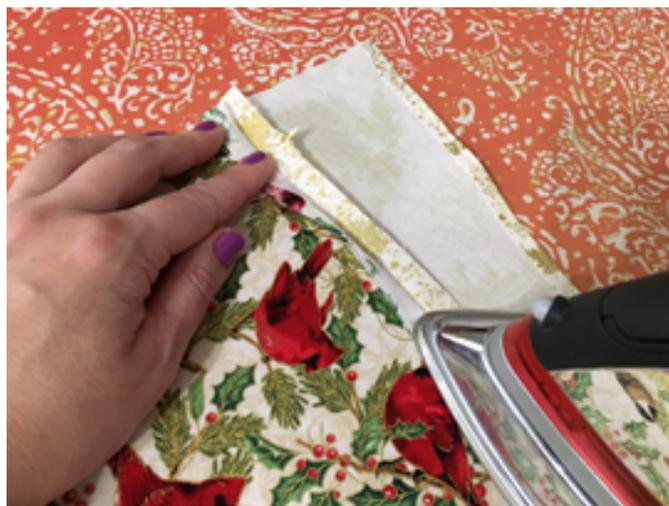
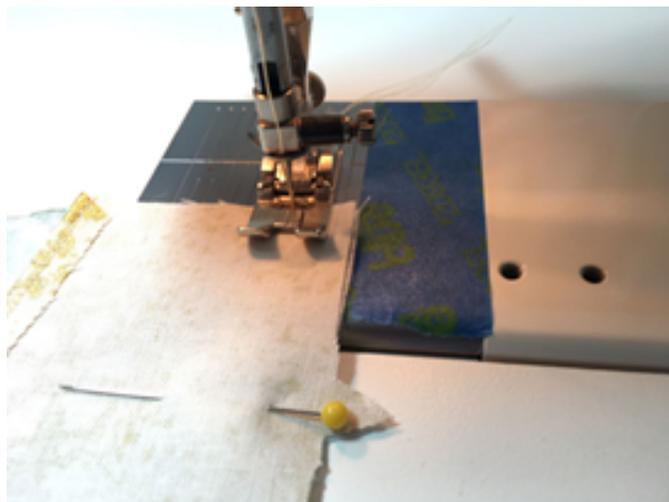
Sew ½ inch seam along the top edge to connect the two pieces together. (Line up the fabric with the tape line you previously marked.) Remove the pins as you get to them.

Open the seam and press from the front of the stocking. The wrong side of the top band will be showing.

Fold the top band to the right side of the stocking and press.

Sew ½ inch along the top edge to secure the top band to the right side of stocking.

The finished top band is now secured to the top of the stocking.



Repeat these steps with the other stocking piece.

With the right sides together match the triangles around the stocking and pin. Make sure to line up the sides of the top band within the seam allowance.

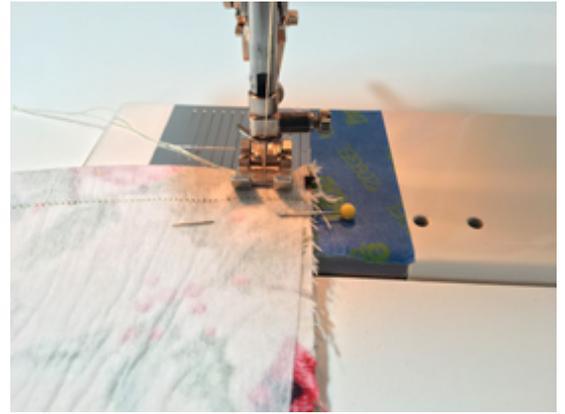
Open the seam two inches from the top of the stocking (the side with the heel). Place the ends of the tab next to each other in the seam allowance, with the tab going towards the inside (as shown in photo).

Pin to secure in place.





With the interfacing side up and the fabric side down, sew $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam along the side of the stocking and remove the pins along the way. Use the tape line as a guide to help you sew straight. Backstitch at the beginning of the seam.



When you get to the curve of the stocking, keep the fabric edge lined up with the tape where it is parallel to the presser foot. Slowly sew around the curves of the toe and heel to maintain an even seam allowance.



The seam will be thicker as you sew over the tab. Slow down and take your time. Backstitch at the end of the seam.

Clip the curved seams between the toe and heel (between the pins in the photo).



Clip close to the stitch line.

Trim the clipped seams to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (about half their width).

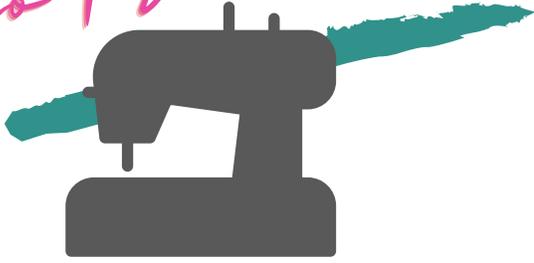
Press the open the straight, unclipped seams along the shaft of the stocking. Turn the stocking right side out. Use your finger to flatten the seams from the inside of the stocking.

Press the outside edge of the stocking.

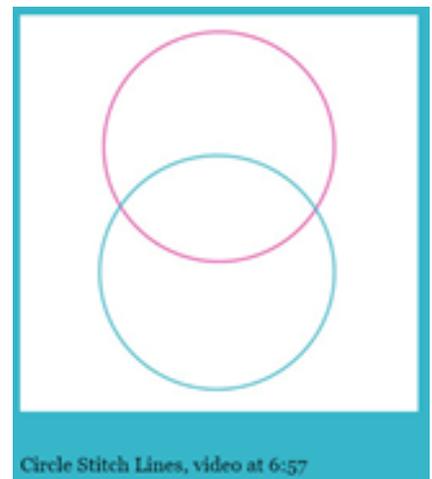
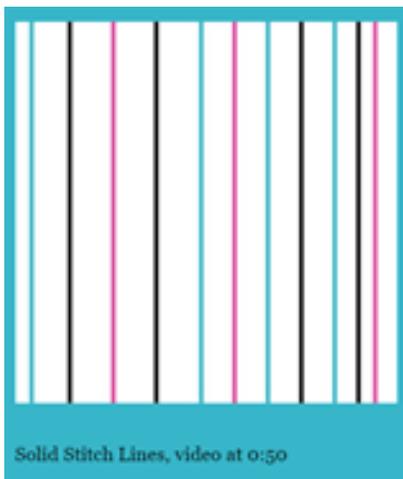
All done. Great job! 🧵



A Guide to Practice Stitching



Practice Stitching without fabric Before you tackle an actual sewing project, get comfortable sewing with your machine. These stitching exercises help you sew straight lines, turn corners, and follow curves. Click on the image to download the PDF. Don't thread your machine. Instead concentrate on punching needle holes in the paper along each line. When you finish, hold your paper up to a light to see how straight you sewed. Repeat these exercises until you are confident using your machine.





Coming Apart at the Seams?

Step-by-Step Online sewing lessons for Creative Gals with no prior experience.

Start Here, Learn to Sew!

Get the free Insider Guide to Sewing Success



Holiday Wish List

Dear Santa,

I have been very good "ish" this year. I would love some new sewing toys.

Your pal,

Joan



BEGINNER SEWING

THE MAGIC ErASer OF SEWING

Doesn't everyone hate to rip out seams? Yes! And paper piecing seams are worse because the stitch length is shorter. The Answer! The AA battery operated Easy Ripper will quickly and easily undo any seam. Simply remove any backstitching "fix", present the seam to the recessed blades on the Ripper and you will have the job done in no time. This great gift can be purchased [here](#) for only \$23.



PRE-CUT SEWING kits!

The Hive Makery offers pre-cut sewing kits that include expertly guided video tutorials. Each sewing kit comes with all the materials you need to complete the project. These kits are perfect for beginners! Pick your kit and purchase it [here](#).

Wish List

Raise Your Table Height!



LIFT ME UP

These table leg extensions are the perfect affordable solution to turning a folding table into a crafting and sewing table. Table leg extensions = Crafting and sewing time extensions! Order yours [here](#).

ROLL ON OVER

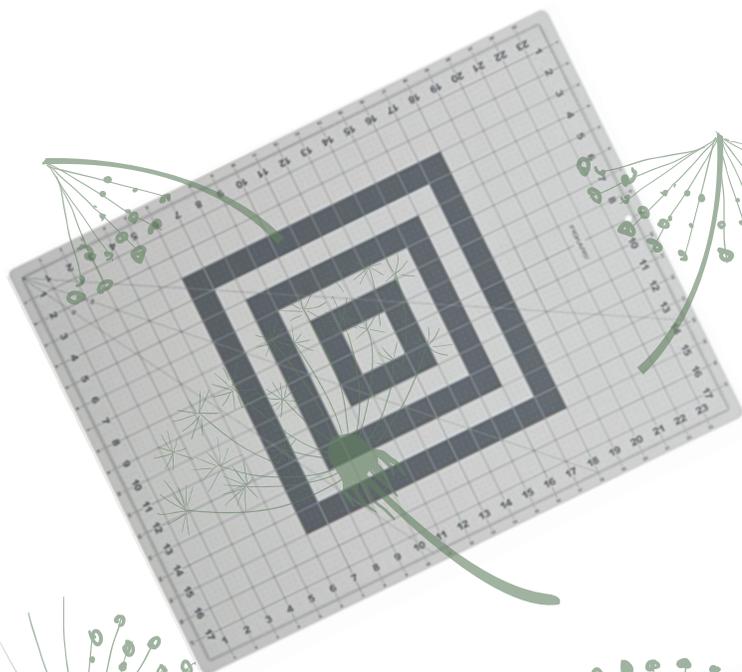
An ergonomically friendly rotary cutter is a must have in your sewing kit. This one can cut through six layers at once, has a dual-action safety lock and an ergonomic handle for comfortable cutting; blade moves to opposite side for left-handed use



BEGINNER SEWING

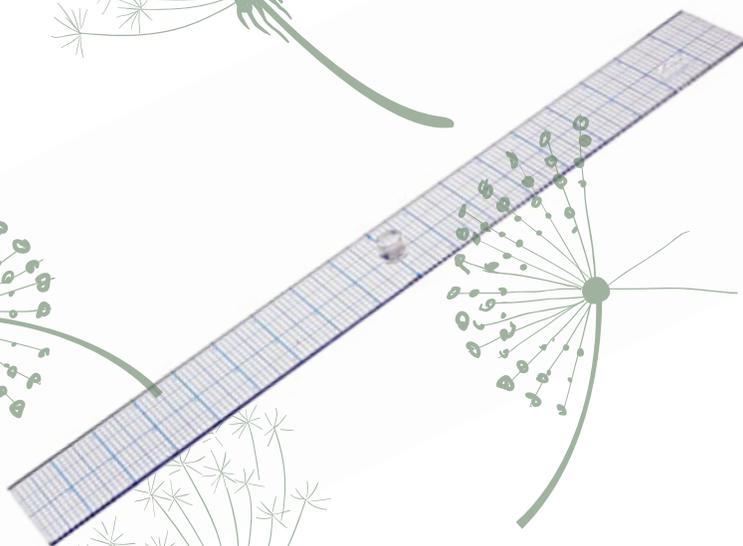
CUT AND HEAL

A self-healing mat provides a cutting surface that lasts longer than others and has an easy-to-read measuring grid on both sides which means you can turn the mat over for double the usage.



GET IT STRAIGHT

A ruler will go nicely with your self-healing cutting mat and rotary cutter. One with an easy grip knob can make pick up and adjustment easy. This one is thick enough for use with rotary cutters and razor knives.



TRACE & ERASE

Marking pens that can automatically disappear, or quickly erase with water. One of each color please! And don't forget white for those darker fabrics!



Wish List



LET'S BOND

Fusible fleece interfacing adds the perfect layer of softness to any craft project. Perfect for crafts such as bag construction, apparel, quilting, and home décor projects.

NOTHING TO POUT ABOUT

Better Not Pout Ornament Club includes twelve individual kits to make these festive dimensional ornaments.

When you join the club, you'll receive 2 kits each month which include all pre-fused laser cut fabric pieces, pre-cut fabrics for the stocking, lining, and backing, pre-cut double-sided fusible fleece, and coordinating buttons. In all, you'll receive 52 buttons (including some handmade)!



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OUR EDITOR, JOAN MANTINI WILL BE SHARING MAGAZINE UPDATES, AND ALL THINGS SEWING ON HER YOUTUBE CHANNEL. SUBSCRIBE TO WATCH WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY!

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE STARTED A PINTEREST ACCOUNT JUST FOR YOU? A GREAT WAY FOR YOU TO EASILY SAVE THE TUTORIALS AND TIPS & TRICKS FROM OUR WEBSITE FOR WHEN YOU ARE READY TO TAKE ACTION.



BY REQUEST, WE HAVE ALSO JUST BEGUN OUR PARLER AND MEWE PAGES. COME BY AND SAY HELLO – WE ARE THE NEW KIDS FIGURING OUT WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT!

OUR INSTAGRAM IS A GREAT PLACE TO SEE WHAT ADVERTISING PROMOTIONS WE WILL BE RUNNING. HERE WE HAVE BEEN ENJOYING NETWORKING WITH NEW SHOPS TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS FOR OUR READERS!





TUTORIAL

HOLIDAY BAG

By Tamara's Joy

Follow this tutorial from Tamara's Joy to sew a holiday gift bag for Christmas!

Adding embellished corners gives this simple fabric gift bag a cute look without too much extra work.

ITEMS NEEDED

Two different designs of 100% Cotton Fabric
Ribbon or Twill Tape
Fabric scissors or cutting matt & rotary cutter
Mini pom-pom trim, lace or ribbon for embellishments (optional)
Sewing machine & thread.



STEP ONE: CUT OUT THE FABRIC

Cut two sections of the gift bag fabric at 12" by 15"

Cut out two squares at 7.5" by 7.5". This will be for your gift bag corners.

Then take both squares and cut corner to corner to create 4 triangles.

STEP 2: IRON BOTH LARGE PIECES

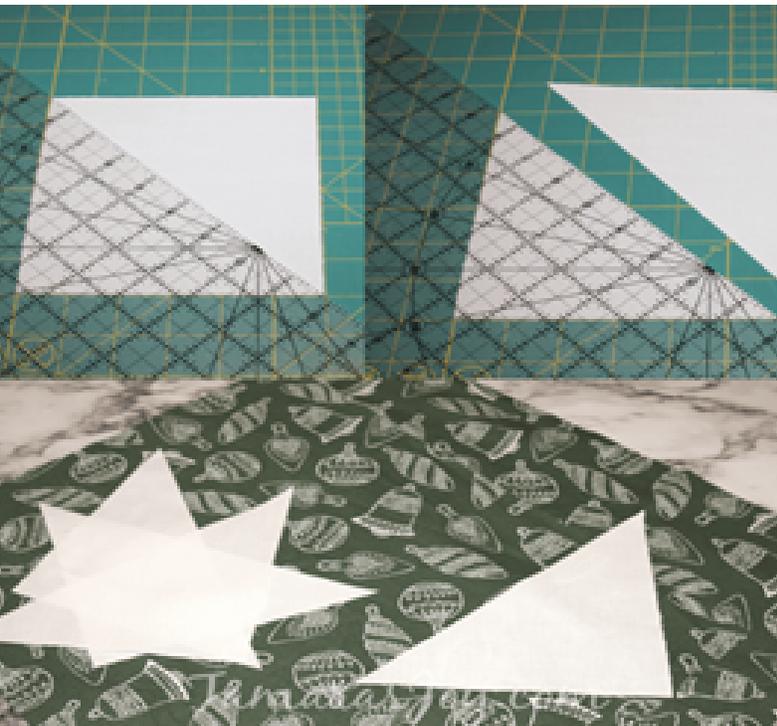
Take the two large pieces of fabric (12" by 15") and iron a 1/4" seam across the top of both of these pieces.

I like to use a sewing gauge to help me as I iron this seam.

But taking a piece of card stock and marking the 1/4" seam along it can help guide you as well.

STEP 3: IRON THE TRIANGLES

Iron a 1/4" seam along the long edge of all four triangles. Since these pieces are smaller the Hot Ruler can really come in handy.



STEP 4: SEW ALONG THE TOPS

Sew along the edge of both 1/4" folds on the 12" by 15" pieces of fabric.

STEP 5: CLIP & PIN THE TRIANGLES

Lay the large pieces of fabric right side up with the ironed portion at the top.

Then lay the triangle pieces on top of the large fabric pieces on both bottom corners.

STEP 6: ADD EMBELLISHMENTS

At this point if you want to add some cute Pom Pom Trim or Lace Ribbon you would cut strips long enough to tuck under the ironed portion of your triangles. Then pin along these sections of the triangles securing the embellishments into place.

STEP 7: ATTACH THE TRIANGLES

Sew along the long section of all four triangles, securing them to the fabric.

With the added embellishments the Holiday Gift Bag will look like this:





STEP 8: ATTACH THE LARGE PIECES TOGETHER

To attach the front and the back of this holiday gift bag together lay them right sides together.

Then measure 2.5" (in the photo I did 2" but found 2.5 gives a little more wiggle room) down from the top and mark along both sides.

Sew a 1/2" seam starting at the first mark, going all the way around to the other mark.



STEP 9: IRON BOTH SIDE SEAMS OPEN

Take the gift bag to your ironing board and iron open both side seams flat. No need to iron down the entire side. We just need to press the section of fabric that hasn't been sewn yet, open.



STEP 10: SEW AROUND EACH SIDE SEAM

Sew from the top down to where the side seams meet. Pivot the fabric, sew across, and then back up. Remember to back stitch this section. (I forgot to do this step...so I don't have a photo. In the video tutorial I will show this step)

STEP 11: CREATE THE CASING

Fold both top sections down, wrong sides together so the edges meet the bottom of the open seam.

Pin in place and sew along the edge of both folds creating your casing.

I like to follow the previous seam from the quarter inch seam you sewed at the beginning.

STEP 12: CLIP THOSE CORNERS

Clip along both inside corners before turning right side out. This helps reduce bulk.

STEP 13: ADD THE RIBBON!

Cut two sections of Ribbon or Twill tape at 30" each.

Then attach a safety pin to your ribbon/twill tape and feed it through both sides of the casing. Do this with the second ribbon going in the opposite direction and you have finished sewing your holiday gift bag with added corners! 🧵



Watch it on YouTube



**follow along with Tamara in
this YouTube video tutorial!**

Makers' Guide

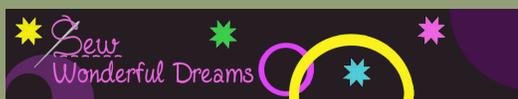
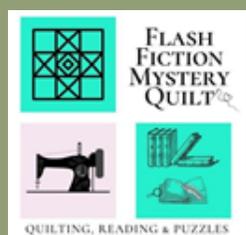
Beginner Sewing

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Tutorials



Shops



*Wishing you a
holiday season
filled with good
health and
creative sewing...*

