Sewing with linen â?? everything you need to know to make a linen garment!

Description

Lovely Linen: A Guide for Sewing this Natural Fabric

Dressy or casual, for a day at the office or a day on the boardwalk, garments made of natural linen are comfortable, versatile, and attractive. Natural linen has long been a fashionable choice for people wanting an easy-care, go-everywhere fabric. A linen dress or suit is an elegant choice for attending a wedding, but linen looks equally at home on the boardwalk or beach.

If you have never sewn with linen, you may be afraid it is difficult to work with. Actually, linen is easy to sew; it does not slip or stretch when you are cutting it out or sewing a seam. However, linen is prone to shrinking and to fraying, so special care must be taken when preparing it for layout and when finishing seams.

Choosing an Appropriate Fabric Weight

Versatile natural linen comes in weights suitable for any project. Linen is ideal for warm weather because it â??breathes,â?• allowing perspiration to wick away from the skin. Light weight linen is great for summer dresses or tops and childrenâ??s clothes. Medium weight linen is suitable for summer pants and shirts. Heavier weight linens are wonderful for summer suits or jackets.

Linen is lovely for all sorts of home dÃ?Â©cor projects such as tablecloths, napkins, placemats, drapes, pillows, and slipcovers. It makes stylish shower curtains and guest towels. Linen is also ideal for historical enactment garments. While linen is ideal for nearly any project, it is not suitable for patterns requiring a stretchy fabric. The patternâ??s fabric suggestions are the best guidelines; if a pattern is suitable for linens, it will say so on the back of the envelope.

You also must make sure that the color and print of the fabric you choose are suitable for the person who will wear the finished garment. I learned this the hard way. I

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