

How I Pick My Patterns

Description

Some of us edge into garment sewing from a quilting or crafting habit, or perhaps someoneâ??s child needs a costume. Iâ??ve seen people hang a piece of fabric on themselves and start cutting. Iâ??ve had all of those starts, but none of it stuck until I picked up my first dress pattern.

Years down the line, lots of money wasted, lots of money well spent, plus hundreds of memade pieces behind me, I wanted to share my process for creating a great pattern stash.

Sewing | I



Skirts
14 Pins



Outfit
4 Pins



Details
21 Pins



Outerwear
10 Pins



Sets
29 Pins



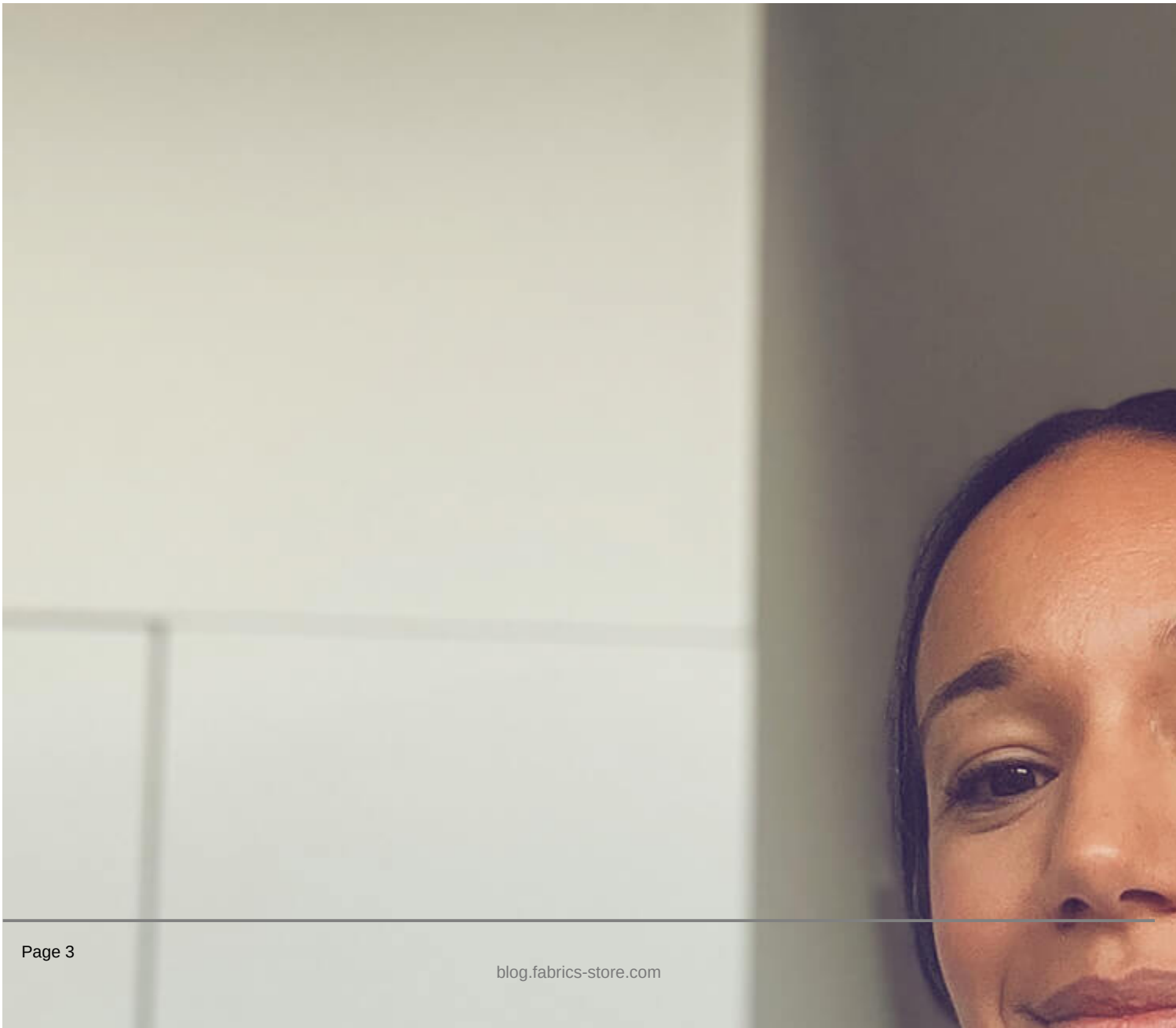
Trousers
4 Pins



Dresses
148 Pins

First comes the inspiration

Almost all of the patterns I find, I find on Instagram. Whether itâ??s following my favourite pattern makers or keeping an eye on certain hashtags (like #memadeeveryday or #twopiecesetacular) itâ??s a huge source of inspiration. When I find a pattern I like, I check the pattern hashtag to see all the versions that other makers have made, all the ways itâ??s been hacked, how it looks in a variety of fabrics, all the checks that convince me itâ??s a good investment pattern, not just a one-hit wonder. If Iâ??m not sure, I follow the pattern hashtag to see if I get swayed either way. I also have a ton of inspiration saved to Pinterest boards so that I know what kind of styles Iâ??m drawn to â?? otherwise itâ??s too easy to get seduced by a trendy pattern and then realise it doesnâ??t fit my style at all.



Harrison Dress by The Patternline

And then comes love

I have a lot of patterns and with it, a lot of overlaps in my collection. So now, when I find myself reaching for the buy button, I ask myself: what do I love about it? It could be a dart I donâ??t have in my arsenal, the perfect shape of oversized jacket or shirt, even sometimes itâ??s as simple as a type of seam I havenâ??t tried before. If thereâ??s really nothing striking me about the pattern, then I try to put it to one side and see how often I find myself wishing it was in my stash. I picked the t because I loved the way the volume was created in the sleeves and itâ??s all finished with distinct seam finishes like flat felled seams â?? it was great practice, by the time Iâ??d finished I felt confident I could nail them the next time.



Then I see how far it can go

Iâ??ve started looking at patterns as a base â?? like a dress I can easily make into a top too, or remove the sleeves for hotter weather, even better, something I can easily shorten or lengthen for a whole new look. If youâ??re braver than me, you might even partake in some slashing and spreading. I have so many patterns now that I really want each of them to work as hard as they can. If itâ??s not versatile, it has to be something really special that I really need. The strapless dress pictured above works as a dress and a top, plus itâ??s super easy to switch out the skirt section for a completely different silhouette. This one is in linen and I made another in a sparkly fabric and they look so different, you wouldnâ??t think theyâ??re the same base pattern.



Finally, I cover my basics

Itâ??s easy to zero in on the latest â??itâ?• dress from McCalls, or fall in love with another wide leg trouser pattern (guilty) but Iâ??ve never ever regretted a well fitting, hard working basic. I think itâ??s important to think about the things you love to wear, especially if youâ??re trying to wean yourself off RTW, and ensure youâ??ve got all of those bases covered. I have my go-to shirt, vest, simple trouser patterns that I pick up every time Iâ??m missing a staple that works as a good palette cleanser project but also something I know Iâ??ll wear.

So, itâ??s as simple as that. Would love to hear in the comments how you pick your patterns and where you find inspiration too! And keep an eye out of my next piece where Iâ??ll share some of my favourite patterns to make using Fabric Storeâ??s lovely linen collection.

CATEGORY

1. COMMUNITY
2. PATTERN REVIEWS

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Date Created
January 14, 2024
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