

TEACHERS' GUIDELINES

Maximizing your class time with eXpresSew® sewing patterns

At last there are sewing patterns designed *especially* for the next generation of sewers and crafters. **eXpresSew®** sewing patterns were created for the teen and preteen sewer by blending fun how-to projects with the look and language of teen-based magazines, web sites and direct market catalogues. Project instructions and diagrams are provided in a casual but clear manner.

You'll find **eXpresSew®** patterns are written in a similar format as other commercially produced sewing patterns. Line diagrams, supply lists, pattern markings and fabric layouts look the same as those found in patterns from well-known companies. This consistency will help your students make an easy transition to other available sewing patterns, books and how-to magazines.

eXpresSew® sewing patterns take the learning process a step further. Sewing students need more detailed information. As a result we provide extra diagrams, sewing icons, project glossary, measurement chart and instructions in "teen-lingo" so sewers of every skill level can complete their project with success and satisfaction.

LETTER FROM GROOVE GIRL

Every pattern begins with an introduction to the projects from our teenage authority, Groove Girl. As the most popular teen around, she knows that sewing is really fun and creative. Her excitement and sense of humor are infectious. She also addresses the question, "Why should I learn to sew?" and she always has an answer:

" . . . because you are the designer, dahling!"

" . . . express and impress (your friends)."

" . . . it's time for a makeover."

" . . . pick any look, color, or print you like and no one will have the same."

Your students will start each project with confidence and a positive attitude.

LINE DIAGRAM

Projects are simple to review with a clear illustration of each variation showing seam placement, topstitching and surface detail. Students learn to identify familiar or new techniques with a quick glance at the diagram. Teachers easily compare project difficulty with classroom skill level.

STUFF YOU'LL NEED

Fabric and notions for each project are listed on an easy-to-read chart. Each item on the list includes a description and the amount needed. Yardages are provided in both English and metric measurements.

FABRICS TO LOOK FOR

Fabric recommendations take the guesswork out of shopping for supplies. Textile descriptions and comparisons are written to help sewing students to envision projects in the fabrics they select.

TOOLS TO GATHER

Any project goes smoother when you have the right tools for the job. A complete list of the necessary equipment help students and teachers both to successfully follow each project without interruption. At the beginning of any project, teachers could demonstrate how unfamiliar tools are used so students can confidently proceed through each step at their own pace.

DECODING PATTERN MATTERS

Pattern pieces have many different markings to help throughout the cutting and sewing steps. Grainline, cutting line, notch, seam line and other symbols are described completely with examples of what pattern markings look like and how they are used.

VOCAB

Patterns include definitions of the particular words and phrases used throughout the instructions.

DO YOU MEASURE UP?

An easy reference shows the basic measurements and fractions commonly used in sewing instructions. Sewing students don't always realize how much math skills are needed in sewing.

ICON KEY

Sewing terminology is easy to learn with our unique sewing "icons". As phrases appear frequently throughout instructional text, icons "pop up" much like you'd find graphic pop-ups in computer games and web sites. Turn to the icon key for a quick translation. Icons reinforce terms and students learn without realizing it.

FINDING YOUR SIZE

Students determine their size for making apparel by taking bust, waist and hip measurements. The chart provided shows which pattern size to follow when cutting out your project.

PATTERN PIECES

Pattern pieces are listed with the matching line diagram. Each piece is numbered and named, making it easy to find and cut out from pattern pages. Special instructions for patterns are explained. For example, sometimes two pattern pieces are taped together to make one large pattern. With an apparel project, you'll find the cutting line guide for highlighting your size.

CONQUERING CUTTING

Special guidelines and rules are fully explained before taking scissors to fabric. Whether you cut from a pattern or from measurements, the process is fully explained with pattern layouts and illustrations so you can do this important step without mistakes.

IMPORTANT INFO

A few final words of wisdom start the sewing student in the right direction before the work begins! Check here for seam allowance requirements. Depending on the project, various steps are explained such as marking your cut pieces for placement marks, pivot points, darts, etc. Techniques for finishing off raw edges are discussed. Many other helpful hints are provided.

INSTRUCTIONS

As promised, students are led through each project with complete instructions, diagrams, icons and extra tips.

TOP TIP PAGE

One sewing technique is described in detail with this tear out, collectible page. Top Tip pages can be saved from each new pattern booklet in a 5 ½" x 8 ½" binder to make a personal sewing manual. Refer back to the binder as future projects relate to these useful tips. Letter tabs make it easy to organize the Top Tips alphabetically. Reverse tabs provide a subject index for easy location. Top Tips make excellent in-class demonstrations.