

Course Name:	Absolute Beginners Sewing: Rhapsody Blouse / Dress	Start Date:	Thursday 10 September
Tutor Name:	Evelyn Hoy	Time:	5:00 - 7:00pm

Welcome to your Beginners sewing class and thanks for signing up to learn at The Crescent.

We will be making the Rhapsody Blouse and dress from Love Notions Patterns. The blouse or dress is a summer weight with a bound neckline with or without ties. The blouse has an a-line profile, wider at the waist and hips so it is very cool and comfortable. The dress is just the same pattern with an attached skirt and an elastic waistline.

The pattern will be included in your class costs and you will receive both printed and digital files. The pattern includes all sizes from a UK XS-5X (approx UK 6-30) so it is very size inclusive and your printed sheets will have all the sizes on them. One of the first lessons will be about how to properly read a pattern, choose your size and grade between sizes to fit your body before you cut out the paper pattern.

Note – this class is open to all genders. If you would prefer a more traditionally “male” pattern, I can swap this pattern out for a camp style shirt (open necked buttoned shirt).

Fabric choices

This blouse is designed specifically for a cotton or linen shirting, viscose, rayon or polycotton mix, (weight between 130-190 grams per square metre – “gsm”. This translates to light – medium weight fabric.).

There are very few in-person fabric shops in Northern Ireland, but if you want to shop in person you can try Countrywoman Fabrics in Eden, Carrickfergus.

You have the option of choosing an old or new duvet cover, or other thrifted fabrics and you can make your “practice garment” in class and then repeat the process at home with your “good” fabric. This is definitely a pattern you will want to make again.

If you are shopping online, I’ve provided are some links to shops I would be comfortable shopping in for quality and price. I have provided the shop name that you can google. Each for the fabric types suggested and have a good old browse and choose a patterned or plain fabric.

How much fabric to buy

I've attached the size chart and fabric requirement page of the pattern for you to check the size you think you'll make and how much fabric you will need. If confused, please get in touch BEFORE YOU BUY FABRIC for further advice.

Base the size you'll make on your bust measurement - this is just a rough guide as I'll show you how to measure and choose the right size in class, but it should guide the fabric purchase.

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

Requirements based on 52-54" wide, prewashed, non-directional fabric.

BLOUSE										DRESS									
STYLE	XS	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X	XS	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X	
Sleeveless	1 yd				1 ½ yds					2yds					2 ¾ yds				
Cap sleeve	1 ¼ yds				1 ¾ yds					2yds					2 ¾ yds				
Short sleeve	1 ¼ yds				1 ¾ yds					2yds					2 ¾ yds				
Flutter sleeve	1 ¼ yds				1 ¾ yds					2yds					2 ¾ yds				
¾ sleeve	1 ½ yds				2yds					2 ¼ yds					3 yds				
¾ sleeve w/ flare sleeve	2 yds				2 ½ yds					2 ½ yds					3 ¾ yds				
Bishop or trumpet sleeve	1 ¾ yds				2 ½ yds					2 ½ yds					3 yds				
For all views: 2 yds ½" single fold bias tape OR 2 yds ¾" single fold bias tape																			

RECOMMENDED FABRICS:

- ♥ Lightweight wovens with drape such as crepe, rayon challis, voile, lawn, peachskin, 100% rayon, gauze, silk and chiffon.

NOTIONS:

- ♥ Coordinating thread, pins/clips, iron, sizing/spray starch, fabric marker, ½" or ¾" bias tape maker (optional), ¾" elastic for bishop sleeve & dress.

GOOD TO KNOW:

- ♥ All side seams include a ½" seam allowance so french seams can be used.

SIZE CHART & SIZING:

Choose size based on high bust measurement. Choose the smaller size if between sizes. Use the full bust piece if your high bust minus full bust is 4" or more. If you are using the full bust piece, keep in mind that it gives you an additional 2" at the waist and hips. The dress view is meant to hit above the knees with the bodice blousing over at the natural waist. Drafted for 5'5".

BODY	XS	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X
High Bust	31"	33"	35"	38"	40"	43"	47"	51"	55"
Full Bust	33"	35"	37"	40"	42"	45.5"	49.5"	53.5"	57.5"
Waist	26.5"	28.5"	30.5"	34"	38"	39.5"	41.5"	45.5"	49.5"
Hips	35.5"	38"	40"	43"	46"	47.5"	51.5"	55.5"	59.5"
Bicep	10.25"	10.75"	11.5"	12.12"	13"	14.5"	15.5"	16.5"	18.5"
FINISHED	XS	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X
Standard Full Bust	38"	40.5"	42.5"	45.5"	48.5"	52"	55.5"	59"	62.5"
Full Bust	40"	42.5"	44.5"	47"	49.5"	53"	56.5"	60"	63.5"
Waist	36"	38.5"	40.5"	43.5"	46.5"	50"	53.5"	57"	60.5"
Hips	41.5"	44"	46"	49"	52"	55"	58.5"	62"	65.5"
Bicep	16.5"	17"	17.5"	18"	18.5"	19"	20"	21"	22"
Length	25"	25.5"	25.5"	26"	26.5"	27"	27.5"	28"	28.5"



Shops I recommend

Pound Fabrics – this is not always great quality but is a very budget friendly option. You are likely to be buying a polyester blend but some of the fabric says 100% cotton. A poly blend can be fine to work with if you don't mind that fibre. Delivery is inexpensive but not always fast.

Minerva Fabrics – consistently high quality and always very informative about what you are buying. Good delivery times and good customer service.

Lamazi Fabrics – Can be pricier but there are bargains to be found. Consistently high quality and always very informative about what you are buying. Good delivery times and good customer service.

Beyond the Pink Door – A range of prices can be found but always very high quality and good customer service.

Fabric Godmother – Can be pricey but bargains can be found. High quality for price.

Other Stores you might want to search for;

- Dalston Mills
- Croftmill
- Fabworks
- Sewmesunshine
- Sister Mintaka

CAVEAT: I cannot be held responsible for how many fabrics you want/need from these shops and I am an enabler – I will not be discouraging you!

If you haven't bought fabric online be aware that some are priced per meter and many are priced per ½ metre. So two units are 1 meter.

Finally, please, please, please pre-wash and iron your meterage before we cut out the shirt. Cotton, linen, viscose blends are all subject to between 10-15% shrinkage and you do not want that to happen to your finished shirt.

I am really looking forward to meeting you all and making lovely garments.

Evelyn