YOUR FRIENDLY MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE

Half Yard™ Sewing Club

NEW! Issue 1

WORTH £3.50

WIN! Creative book bundles worth £215



LOVE THE CRAFTY LIFE

Perks, Projects, Prizes & More

BOOKS *with* BENEFITS

SAVE £££'s on this month's top reads

Feeling Festive?

10 Glitzy Christmas Makes *Inside!*



Why we love WONKY STREET

SEE PAGE 10

STITCHY STORIES

"I couldn't even thread a machine when I started, and now I'm making dresses"





Member Made

Bonus projects!

- ✔ *Heirloom Crackers*
- ✔ *Simple Craft Tidy*
- ✔ *Easy-Make Fox Pillow*



Sew your STYLE!

WHY DRESSMAKERS LOVE OUR WEEKEND PATTERNS

TEAM TALK

"THE JOY REALLY IS IN THE JOURNEY

take it slowly and enjoy the process"





Every issue we'll take you behind the scenes at HYSC. First up is Technical Editor, Betsy

Tell us about your role on HYSC

I am lucky enough to be the first person to read through Debbie's projects and to watch her videos. Although Debbie is an excellent and experienced writer, everyone needs someone to read what they've written.

How did you become a Technical Editor?

I've been dressmaking since I was 14 after I saved up the money from my Saturday job and bought a sewing machine. I have become a huge craft fan, and I have tried just about everything, but sewing is still a firm favourite. I have worked as an editor and proofreader for decades.

What's the best thing you've made?

I made a king-size quilt which took me a long time, but unfortunately because I have two cats and sometimes look after my neighbours' dog, I don't tend to put the quilt on the bed because I am afraid it will be torn.

"I have tried just about everything, but sewing is still a firm favourite"

What make would you recommend from the Half Yard archive?

I absolutely love *One Bag, Three Ways*. Not only is this a useful and practical bag but the project shows you various ways you can personalize it.



Give us an idea of common dressmaking mistakes and how to correct them?

The biggest error is rushing. We watch *The Great British Sewing Bee* and think we can make an evening dress in a day. But if you want to do a proper job, you need to think about what you are doing and take it slow. So, measure up, cut carefully, sew neatly, finish the raw edges properly and you'll have something to be proud of. If the size of a project is important – and this applies especially to clothing – take the time to wash and iron the fabric before you cut out.

The joy really is in the journey, so take it slowly and enjoy the process.

Who inspires you?

Debbie really inspires me. I am amazed at how much she makes and how the ideas keep flowing. I can follow patterns and make adjustments to suit my needs, but I rarely have the courage to create my own. I want to channel my inner Debbie and come up with my own designs.

Why should everyone sew?

Creativity is hugely important to mental health – it's a form of meditation. What's more, there is something uplifting about saying: "I made that!".

Time to WIN!

£215 WORTH

of exciting sewing goodies to add to your collection





HALF YARD SEASONS FOUR BOOK BUNDLE

Win the full series of the fantastic seasonal *Half Yard Collection* by Debbie Shore. This comprehensive bundle of sewing books contains 155 projects, with each item requiring no more than half a yard of outer fabric, plus the hardware, trimmings and lining. As always, every project features Debbie's friendly, easy-to-follow instructions, along with helpful tips and advice.

THE BUILD A BAG BOOK SERIES WITH TWO SIGNED COPIES

This beautifully presented bag-making series contains 15 stylish designs in each of the four books! The projects are created using the full-size rigid templates included which are easy-to-use, durable, reusable and perfect for fussy cutting, plus they're simple to position and use, so there is no need to pin. The bags in each book are made using different techniques, pockets, straps and fastenings to mix it up. The templates can also be used for your own further design variations, and Debbie gives advice on how to adapt and create your own. Each project in the book is explained using Debbie's trademark style and step-by-step photography, and there is also a comprehensive techniques section and a guide to using the templates.



CHRISTMAS CRACKERS



Project by **LESLEY TAWTON**

Re-use them every year and fill with personalized presents for your loved ones

Use a ½in (1cm) seam allowance unless specified

Tools & Materials

- Tapestry/embroidery needle
- Erasable pen
- An elastic band
- Two 9½ x 20in (24 x 50cm) rectangles of fabric – one for the outer piece and one for the lining of the cracker
- One 9½ x 12.5in (24 x 32cm) piece of linen for the embroidered panel
- Two 15in (38cm) pieces of ribbon for the end bows
- Embroidery silks in your chosen colours (if you are hand embroidering)
- One small embroidery hoop (optional)
- Kitchen roll/towel tube (6.5in circumference x 8in length [16.5 x 20.25cm] used in this project)

1 Fold linen in half widthways, right sides together. Sew down opposite side to fold with ¼in (5mm) seam allowance. Press, turn right sides out. Press again keeping seam on one edge. Sew basting/tacking stitch along top and bottom raw edges using ¼in (5mm) seam allowance. Fold fabric in half lengthways and widthways, press and mark the mid points.

2 Use template to draw oval in centre of linen (use erasable pen to help line up template). Mark on your embroidery designs.

3 Embroider designs. I embroidered by hand using stem stitch for oval, French knots for snowflakes and long and short stitches for trees, stars and pots.

4 Place linen panel centrally on top of outer fabric (ensure both are facing right side up). Pin in place. Sew down both long sides to attach panel to outer fabric. Sew line of stitching 1¼in (4cm) in from either end of outer panel. Decorative machine stitches add pretty detailing, you can also hand embroider.

5 Place lining and outer fabrics right sides together. Pin and sew around edge leaving 4in (10cm) gap in one end. Press, cut across corners and trim seam allowances. Turn right side out through gap and press. Top-stitch ⅛in (2mm) from edge around (to close turning gap). Press again.

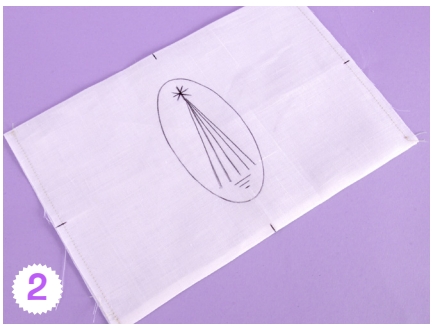
6 Wrap fabric around your kitchen roll/towel tube and hold in place with elastic band. Tie ribbon bow at one end and fill cracker with your choice of gift and tie a bow at the other end!

STEP-BY-STEP













Perfect for beginners!


YOUR
Templates
CLICK HERE!