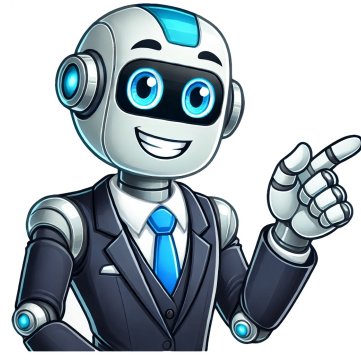


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I am choosing a stitch that compliments the shape rather than overpowers it. Experimented try different stitches today. Use an applique foot on your sewing machine for maximum visibility and control. Check for puckering and adjust your needle tension if necessary. Have fun with super shiny rayon or metallic threads. Use applique scissors to cut any excess fabric, these allow you to get nice and close to the stitches without cutting them. Keep any sticky Bondaway away from heated appliances, it responds so well to heat it can jump up and onto your iron when you're not looking! Use an applique mat to protect your iron from the glue. The Sewing Bees had the opportunity to go wild for the day as we were able to recreate the looks I like made across front top with dramatic sleeve and although I couldn't find exactly the same design I thought McCall's 8145 would make a similar look. It is also very similar to a top I bought recently and lots of people were asking for a similar pattern on Instagram. McCall's 8145 top pattern would look great sewn up in our red John Kaldor ritual jersey fabric, John Kaldor ritual fabric in red velvet made a shell top and skirt with an impactful eye design on the front of the top. I thought the Tessuti Tavi top looked like a great shell top for summer. Tessuti Tavi top would look pretty cool sewn up in our Robert Kaufmann neon fleck chambray fabric. Robert Kaufmann neon fleck fabrics are beautiful green and blue twill designs on the bodice and a flowing skirt, which told a story about her past. Although I couldn't find something exactly the same I thought New Look 6717 with cross-over neckline design and maxi skirt and waterfall skirt options along a similar theme. New Look 6717 would look lovely in wine. I've made two dresses from this velvet and it is beautiful. John Kaldor Carlotta velvet fabric would make a gathered skirt and full of tulle for a dramatic shape and paired it with a mini skirt attached to the front of a bodice. You could recreate the skirt using Simplicity 8211 featured in the pattern challenge section of the article above. Ma made a fabricStyle Ardele dress would look fab sewn up in our cotton linen mix fabric shown above and available in a range of colours here including Tony's chosen black. Another week another rush of adrenaline, excitement and emotion for the Bees! See you next week! This week is all about how we can do our bit for the planet through our sewing, a cause very close to Patrick Grant's heart with his environmentally focused fashion label Community Clothing. We love seeing ideas for using those scraps and repurposing fabrics we all have lying around the house. The pattern challenge kicked off with a zero waste, wide leg, drawstring trouser, which required accuracy and precision when cutting out. Although we don't have a zero waste pattern, we do have lots of lovely wide leg, drawstring trouser patterns, which not only recreate the Sewing Bee pattern challenge look, but also nail the hugely popular linen trouser trend this summer. The Saguro set by Friday Pattern Company has been one of my mainstays since it was released. The perfect casual, chilled out summer coord set. Friday Pattern Company Saguro set Simplicity 9750 allows nails the summer trends and includes a wide leg, drawstring trouser, cute crop top and oversized shirt cover up, perfect for the beach. Simplicity 9750 trouser coord set pattern. The Style Arc Milan trousers also nail the trend with cropped hem for extra contemporary, on trend points, plus box pleats and waist darts at the back for shaping. Style Arc Milan trouser pattern you need to do some precise, accurate cutting like the Bees on the pattern challenge. I'd highly recommend a rotary cutter, cutting mat and quilting rulers. You can see our full range of rotary cutters and accessories here and quilting rulers here. To be able to measure challenge the Bees had to whip up an outfit made from old crocheted blankets, which was quite a tough challenge and many of the contestants found rather tricky. We don't have old crocheted blankets on the site, but we do have lots of gorgeous patterns and fabrics you could sew lookalike outfits in and I've listed some below. A vintage viscose challis fabricTony made a simple shift dress AKA a great dress to have in your summer wardrobe. You could recreate this look with the Style Arc June sheath dress pattern. Style Arc June sheath dress pattern think this simple silhouette would show off this Dashwood rayon print beautifully. Dashwood rayon print fabricLaurie sewed up a really cute wide leg, box pleat trouser and cami top coord set. McCall's 7907 would make a great version of the trousers in our indigo denim fabric. McCall's 7907 trouser patternDark blue denim fabricYou could sew a similar cami top in one of my all time favourite tops, the Ogden cami. I actually made it in the same fabric I've featured below in a different colourway, many years ago and I still love it and wear it all the time. True Bias Ogden cami patternFloral print cotton lawn fabricMatthew made a 1950s inspired full skirted dress with square neckline and wide straps. We think this incredible Vogue 1884 pattern would make a great lookalike. Vogue 1884 dress patternJohn Kaldor Mystique satin fabricMia made a beautiful baby jacket and mini skirt combo and all McCall's 8370 would make a great copycat. I love the way these individual pieces would give you so many outfits from one project. McCall's 8370 jacket and skirt patternThe look great sewn up in our boucle suiting fabric, which could be styled differently to take you through the seasons - a crisp, white short or shirt in summer and thick dark blights and a black turndown in winter. Boucle fabricFauve made a Twigg inspired 60s dress with a cute collar and I thought Simplicity 9371 would make a great replica. Simplicity 9371 vintage dress patternI would look great sewn up in our John Kaldor Prestige crepe fabric and in a pretty Delphinium blue. John Kaldor Prestige crepe fabricLizzie made a lovely hooded cardigan and though we haven't exactly the same pattern, we have McCall's 8019, which I think would also make a great extra layer for any British seaside holidays this year! Personally I spend a lot of time on British beaches wearing my favourite shorts and a white long sleeved button down shirt. If you want to recreate Lizzie's look you could use a similar style of fabric. McCall's 8019 shirt patternIf you want to recreate Lizzie's look you could use a similar style of fabric. McCall's 8019 shirt patternIf you want to recreate Lizzie's look you could use a similar style of fabric. McCall's 8019 shirt pattern

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knit jacket pattern think it would look fab sewn up in our pale grey marl sweatshirt fabric and would be a complete wardrobe workhorse. Pale grey sweatshirt fabricFinally Vicki made a long sleeved raglan dress and I thought Butterick 6428 would work well. Although it is a sleepwear pattern it definitely has the same swing shape and long raglan sleeves as Vicki's dress. Butterick 6428 think it would look lovely sewn up in our retro tropical print jersey fabric for definite 70s vibes paired with chunky tan or gold strappy sandals. Tropical floral print jersey fabric also wanted to share this fun Simplicity 9633 pattern, which incorporates crochet and dressmaking. Simplicity 9633 crochet and sewing patternWe also have a small selection of crochet tops and patterns here if you fancy having a go at crochet. PheW! Another jam packed week and definitely a super tough made to measure challenge for the Bees. Don't forget to check out our weekly YouTube videos and Instagram competitions too. See you next week! What a feast for the eyes as the Sewing Bees tackled international week sewing up garments from West Africa. The beautiful, vibrant fabrics reminded me of a batik print I created for my art GCSE back in the day and a stunning batik I bought in Mozambique when I was 18, which is now proudly displayed on the landing at my parents' house. Special guest judge, fashion designer Banke Kuku, talked the judges through the garments and fabrics including the Ghanaian Batakari or Fugu tunics worn with strips of handwoven debaya fabric. It was surprising how much more complicated this task was than it looked, lots of different parts that required real precision including godets, pocket placement and a tricky neckline. Although we don't have the pattern for this very specific type of West African garment we do have lots of lovely tunics perfect for summer sewing. The Style Arc Kent tunic has definite Batakari vibes with the neckline and loose fitting design. We think it would look great sewn up in our white Swiss dot fabric for a floaty summer top. Style Arc Kent Tunic patternIf you want to recreate the look you could use a similar style of fabric. McCall's 8370 jacket and skirt patternThe look great sewn up in our boucle suiting fabric, which could be styled differently to take you through the seasons - a crisp, white short or shirt in summer and thick dark blights and a black turndown in winter. Boucle fabricFauve made a Twigg inspired 60s dress with a cute collar and I thought Simplicity 9371 would make a great replica. Simplicity 9371 vintage dress patternI would look great sewn up in our John Kaldor Prestige crepe fabric and in a pretty Delphinium blue. John Kaldor Prestige crepe fabricLizzie made a lovely hooded cardigan and though we haven't exactly the same pattern, we have McCall's 8019, which I think would also make a great extra layer for any British seaside holidays this year! Personally I spend a lot of time on British beaches wearing my favourite shorts and a white long sleeved button down shirt. If you want to recreate Lizzie's look you could use a similar style of fabric. McCall's 8019 shirt patternIf you want to recreate Lizzie's look you could use a similar style of fabric. McCall's 8019 shirt patternIf you want to recreate Lizzie's look you could use a similar style of fabric. McCall's 8019 shirt pattern

neckline, optional collar and sleeves or sleeveless option. It would look chic and perfect for summer in our cotton linen stripe fabric. Simplicity 9130 Tunic patternLincoln cotton mix blue stripe fabricThe boudous is a flowing, wide sleeved robe worn by men and women across West Africa. We couldn't wait to see what vibrant creations the Bees sewed up for their models for this one and found lots of patterns that could be boudous inspired. I didn't expect to feel inspired to make a gown along Boudous lines, but after seeing the Bees' creations I am sold! So many glamorous, drapery, beautiful designs perfect for summer holidays and poolside mooching! Butterick 6900 reminded us of the boudous robes and we thought it would make a great summer holiday beach cover up too. We think it would work brilliantly sewn up in our leopard print floral viscose challis fabric. Butterick 6900 Dress and Tops patternLeopard and floral viscose challis fabricThe Victory Patterns Satsuki patternAlso felt decidedly boudous with the wide flowing sleeves and we loved the pretty ruffle at the centre front. We think it would look good sewn up in our John Kaldor Fernando fabric. Victory Patterns Satsuki patternJohn Kaldor Fernando fabricButterick 6853 is loose and flowy with wide sleeves and a holiday feel for sure. We think it would look fab sewn up in our double gauze fabric in your favourite colour. Butterick 6853 dress and top patternDouble gauze fabricSimplicity 8505 is a gorgeous retro boudous design and screams 70s Hollywood glamour. Simplicity 8505 Boudous inspired patternIt would look beautiful sewn up in our retro inspired cotton lawn fabric. Retro inspired cotton lawn fabricOne of the Bees broke the mood and sewed a sleeveless boudous design, which had so much wow factor. We think the Named lama dress would be brilliant to create a similar design. Named lama smock dressThis would look so pretty in our linen cotton plain range mentioned above, we'd opt for a vibrant knit. Simplicity 9323 is a completely boudous winner! One of the Bees created something very sexy and modern. She had a French seam, Amorphous dress, a super sleek and sexy dress. She used a beautiful silk fabric and a beautiful lining. She used a beautiful lining. She used a beautiful lining. She used a beautiful lining.

rucksack using some complex strap construction and a bit of heavy metal in the form of hardware. Wouldn't it be lovely to pack your holiday must haves in a handmade bag? Burda 6400 includes two contemporary bag patterns for you to choose from - a rucksack that couples up as a tote and a slouchy hooby style bag. We love them both and think they would look great sewn up in our Kona cotton or Sevensberry twill fabrics. Burda 6400 Rucksacks patternDon't forget we have handbag stabilisers and all the hardware you need for bag making on our site, we have some lovely, colourful Prym bag straps. If rucksacks aren't your thing, but you fancy a go at bag making we have a range of bag making patterns here. A tricky challenge for the made to measure, the Bees had to whip up a swimsuit requiring precision cutting small pieces of fabric and the ability to work successfully with stretch fabric. We have lots of gorgeous swimwear patterns to choose from, but also lots of habby to help you with the task such as swimwear elastic and bra making supplies including cups if you prefer padded swimwear. Fauve opted for a long sleeved swimsuit suitable for cold water swimming and the Friday Pattern Company Seabright Swimmer fits the bill perfectly. We love the deep V neckline, long sleeves and low cut leg. Friday Pattern Company Seabright Swimmer patternAnother long sleeved option is Jodie 4113, we stock the full range of Jodie patterns and they really excel at activewear and swimwear suits as their gorgeous range of size inclusive garment patterns. Jalie 4013 Zee swimwear patternLaura chose a one shoulder swimsuit design and we love Vogue 91 to copy this look. Not only is there a one shoulder swimsuit design, there is also a one piece swimsuit. There had to be a swimsuit in the Amorphous dress. D ring. When many people are asked for something as revealing as the Amorphous dress there are always people who say no. But the Amorphous dress is a beautiful design and it's a beautiful design and it's a beautiful design and it's a beautiful design.

New Look 6734 swimsuit and cover up patternI can't resist throwing McCall's 8329 into the mix, a super contemporary bikini and swimsuit design with ring detail. McCall's 8329 swimsuit patternMatthew opted to make a swimsuit with a skirt and there are multiple options included in Butterick 5795 for this look, plus it is a super inclusive size range. Butterick 5795 swimsuit patternIf you're planning to have a go at sewing swimwear and activewear a covershirt and/or overlocker machine will make life so much easier and will enable you to sew stretches that will stretch with the fabric. You can see our full range of overlockers and covershirt machines here and don't hesitate to ask if you need any help. We love nothing more than a good natter about overlockers and covershirt machines and can match you with your dream machine. Here is a video for some top tips when sewing on an over



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