



# Beginners Project Planning & Management



## MOTIVATION & ORGANISATION Workbook Pt 4



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A project is a planned activity with an intended outcome.

Sewing is only part of the process of making an item. You will need to make decisions about cost, fabric, layout, time and skill level.

As you become a more experienced sewist, the sewing projects will become more complex requiring greater organisation.

This beginners guide is intended to help you focus on what you need to do before you sew, during your sewing time, and afterwards.



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# Planning a Project

A Project is an activity that is carefully planned to achieve a particular outcome. Planning will include setting goals, planning processes, identifying problems, and setting deadlines. A project can include research and design. Consider the issues below and identify any that you think are affecting your projects.



Are your expectations realistic. How long did it take to learn to cycle or drive? To learn a language?



Are you sewing after a day at school/work when you are tired? Do you set aside time for sewing?



Are you frustrated with yourself or the project? Have a break from it and sew something else.



Are you sitting for too long sewing and hurting your back, neck and shoulders? Take breaks.

**PATIENCE**  
with my  
**GROWTH**

Are you patient and tolerant of yourself? Do you accept mistakes might be made?



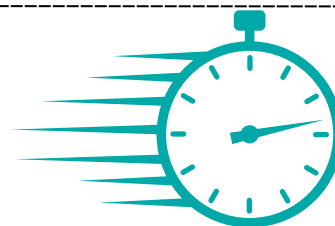
Do you view mistakes as a learning opportunity or a reason to give up?

**TOO MUCH**

Sewing can be frustrating, tiring and affect your confidence but it can also be **AMAZING**.

**keep Practicing**

Start with **simple projects** and keep practicing. If you mess up, unpick and sew again.



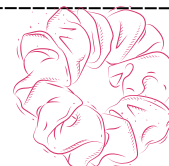
Take your time and sew **SLOWLY**.

**PROGRESS**  
- NOT -  
**Perfection**

Perfection is not **helpful** in sewing. Get used to using your seam ripper. It's all learning



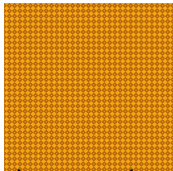
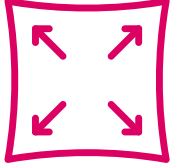

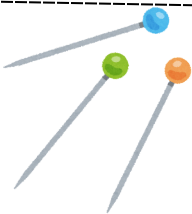
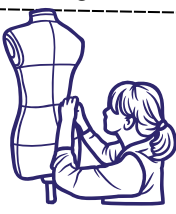
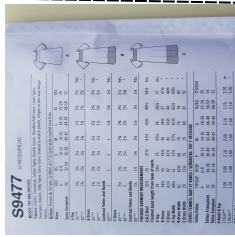
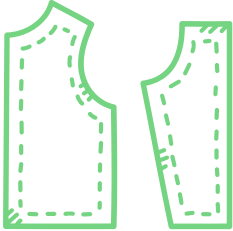





Behind the **art** of every ballgown is the **maths** and **science** of the construction. You need to learn this too.



If you can't **rescue** your project, use the fabric to make something else such as scrunchies for everyone!

# Why is my project poor?

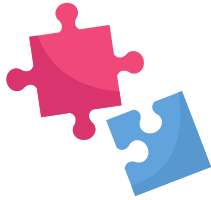
You may have high expectations of what you can achieve after a beginners course. It takes time and practice to develop skills. Remember you fell down a lot while you were learning to walk! Expecting perfect outcomes the first time is unrealistic but here are some tips that might help you.

 <p>Did you choose the right fabric? As a beginner avoid stretch fabric. Use non-stretch fabric such as cotton.</p>	 <p>Did you cut the fabric on the correct grain? Is the fabric stretching or too tight?</p>	 <p>Did you use the correct needle? Did you use a new needle to start your project?</p>
 <p>Did you pin the pattern correctly, check and double-check your layout against the pattern?</p>	 <p>Did you make-up a toile (a practice garment) to check fit and learn construction process?</p>	 <p>Did you check the pattern size and measurements and your size?</p>
 <p>Did you mark all the pattern notches and markings?</p>	 <p>Did you press every seam after stitching?</p>	 <p>Have you attempted a project that is too advanced for your current skill level?</p>
 <p>Did you insert the zip correctly; mark and make buttonholes to pattern and sew in appropriately sized buttons?</p>	 <p>Did you leave a puckered seam instead of unpicking it?</p>	 <p>Did you go back and fix every mistake you made? NO exceptions.</p>



# What skills do I need to improve?

Have you reviewed every project you have completed? Have you identified what you did well and what you need to improve? How will you make these improvements? Make a list of skills you will need to develop and how you will do this.



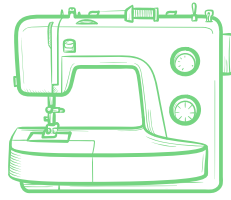
Make a list of the specific skills you need to develop to improve the quality of your projects.

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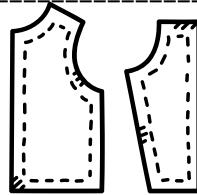
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Have you checked the tension on your machine? Do you know how to set it correctly?



Are you have trouble cutting with a scissors? Would a rotary cutter help?



Do you understand the pattern instructions and abbreviations?



Can you identify the particular instructions and abbreviations that you need to develop?



Are you asking or look for help? Who could/would help you?



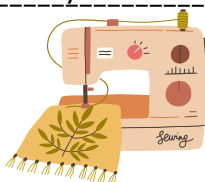
There are videos for every technique on youtube? Have you looked at the most relevant ones for you?



Are you setting yourself a sewing goal for each session, week or month? Are you practicing techniques regularly?



Are you focusing on the whole project, not the skills and steps that you need to focus on?



Are you focusing on clothing when you could sew bags, quilts, home decor, toys, dolls clothes etc?



Are you keep notes of your SUCCESSES as well as areas to improve?

# Lost your motivation?

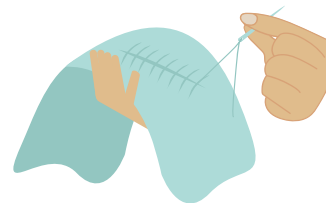
When you have lost your motivation for sewing or for the project you are working on; perhaps because you have reached a block, give yourself a break and try these ideas out.



**Tidy** your sewing space.  
Sort your scraps into colours  
and bag up.



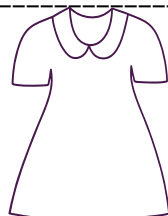
**Plan** another project,  
perhaps using your  
scraps.



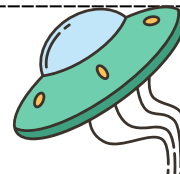
Do **mending, fixing or  
tweaking** of items



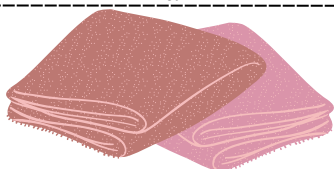
Sew another project to a  
**deadline** and KEEP to it.  
Alternative sew for an  
**occasion** and WEAR or USE  
it.



Sew a **Tried n' True (TNT)**  
project that you know fits  
you.



Finish a **Work-in-Progress  
(WIP)** or get out a  
**UnFinished Object (UFO)**  
that you have left for a  
while.



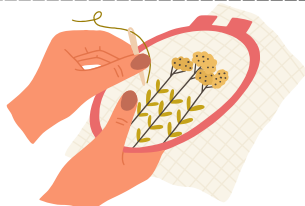
Do a **stash review**.  
Create stash colour  
collections.



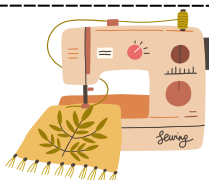
Look for **inspiration** and  
create scrap book or  
journal pages.



Do a **style review** of your  
wardrobe. What still works  
for you? What could you  
alter?



Do some **hand sewing** or  
embroidery work.



Sew for a **short** period  
and stop before you  
become tired.



Make something,  
**ANYTHING!**



# Needle Size Chart

US Size	UK/Euro Size	Fabric
Size 8	60	Silks, cotton lawn, organza and sheer fabrics
Size 10	70	Cotton lawn, lining fabrics
Size 11	75	
Size 12	80	Cotton shirting, quilting cotton
Size 14	90	Linen, linen union curtain fabrics, cushion fabrics, cotton sateen curtain linings
Size 16	100	Denim
Size 18	110	Upholstery fabrics and canvas weight fabrics, leather, pvc and vinyls
Size 20	120	Thick Denim and Heavy Canvas, thick leather





# SEWING PROJECT PLANNER 1

Watch the project video and use the planner to note important information and the step-by-step instructions.

Project Name and Description

Start Date:

End Date:

What do I need to complete the project?

What skills will I use or learn from this project?

Measurements of project. Note pattern size and finished size.

Your measurements (if necessary)

Fabric selection and swatches

Swatch	Swatch
Swatch	Swatch





# SEWING PROJECT PLANNER 2

Watch the project video and to note important information and the step-by-step instructions.

[illegible]



# SEWING PROJECT REVIEW 3

When you have completed your project, complete the project review below.

Take a photo of your finished project and glue it here.

What skills will did you use and learn from the project?

What would you do differently if you made the project again?

