

One *Stitch* at a Time

How to choose your first pattern

1. Buy a **paper pattern**. Go to <https://simplicity.com/> and look for a pattern you like from Simplicity, Butterick, New Look or McCall's. Write down 5 or 6 pattern numbers and then go to a local store. Paper patterns bought on Simplicity.com can take 3 weeks to arrive. **Do NOT buy digital PDF patterns** for your first pattern.



2. Cost - Patterns can cost \$30 each. I like beginners to keep pattern costs under \$10. These are around \$5-10 each. The stores often have sales. New Look is always \$5 or under. Walmart sells patterns for \$3ish. If you cannot find a pattern you want, you can check Etsy, Ebay or Amazon. These normally ship quickly and usually cost around \$8 including shipping.

3. Look for multiple items that you might like in one pattern, so you get your money's worth while you are learning how to work with patterns.
4. Look for garments with simple straight lines without lots of details that will just frustrate you. A casual fit that will be merciful to all your mistakes. I always recommend pajama bottoms as a first pattern. If you find a pajama pattern with a top you like, better yet!

5. You probably won't be able to tell yet, but a pattern with 1-3 pieces will make your introduction to using patterns easier.



6. An elastic waistband is preferred for beginners or tops with simple or no sleeves.

7. Look for patterns with minimal notions like elastic and thread only.

8. Fabric should be 100% woven cotton or flannel. It is the easiest fabric to work with.

Buying a pattern in the store

1. Find the pattern books. There is usually one for each season for each pattern company.
2. Look through the books to find a pattern you like.
3. Find the drawer for your pattern number.
4. Make sure you get your size pattern.

