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 McCalls. 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.

Buying a pattern in the store

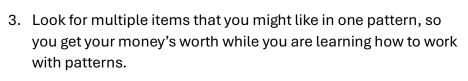
- 1. Find the pattern books. There is usually one for each season for each pattern company.
- 2. Look through the books to find a pattern you like.
- 3. Find the drawer for your pattern number.
- 4. Make sure you get your size pattern.



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.



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.

