

sewing surgery

working with print fabrics

Print fabrics can be a fun way to give your wardrobe a quick injection of colour but they require a few considerations

Print fabrics are a key trend this year and there is a wide choice of printed fabrics to choose from including the designer ranges such as Amy Butler, Heather Bailey, Anna Maria Horner and Liberty. Commercial patterns almost always suggest what sort of fabrics are suitable for the garment that you have chosen to make but is the printed fabric design right for you?

FABRIC

Prints are available on all sorts of fabrics and weaves and your choice will depend on what different interfacing, seam and hemming methods that the pattern uses.

A few other considerations when choosing a printed fabric:

- A small print from a distance will look like a plain fabric.
- Prints with large motif designs and one-way designs require more fabric.
- Some prints may require a lap layout. Use this layout if the fabric has a one-way pattern.
- Prints with large motif designs need care in placement and are best for simple patterns with very few pieces.
- Generally use a small print for smaller garments and large print for larger garments.
- Contrast piping and decorative facings look great with prints.
- If you are new to sewing - choose a small print to work with, as sewing imperfections are less likely to show.

Don't choose prints from a sample - you will not be able to get a proper feel for whether the print hangs nicely and whether it is suitable.

Different size patterns look nice together but don't mix too many patterns. Select those with a common colour and of the same weight and drape but also the same wash requirements. Use plain fabric that complements the patterned fabric to complete an outfit i.e. floral skirt and plain top or floral blouse and plain trousers.

LAYOUT

If you are using a print fabric with a large motif, drape the fabric over your body to try different placements to check the best place for the larger motifs.

Tip:
Layout the fabric **RIGHT SIDE** up and place the pattern pieces out to make sure the motifs are spaced evenly between the pattern pieces. Do this for any front openings or front seams first.

write to us:

If you are in need of a little help with a sewing dilemma, write to us at: Sewing Surgery, Sewing World, Traplet House, Pendragon Close, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 1GA.



Make this simple dress in cotton, satin and linen blends printed fabrics (New Look 6020). Available from Simplicity, www.simplicitynewlook.com