



The Sewing Machine Manual

Your easy guide to machine stitching

Wendy Gardiner

Publication	31st July 2022
Price	£12.99
ISBN	9781800920217
Format	Paperback 260 x 204 mm
Extent	144 pages
Illustrations	550 Colour illustrations
Publisher	Search Press
Classification	Sewing techniques
BIC CODE/S	WFB, WF
SALES REGIONS	WORLD



Key Selling Points

- Revised, updated and expanded edition of *The Very Easy Guide to Using Your Sewing Machine*, which sold 26,000 copies
- Features new techniques including how to use an alphabet, welt buttonholes and rolled hems, and three new projects: a notebook cover, tablet cosy and patchwork placemat
- Comprehensive beginners' guide from popular author, TV presenter, teacher and sewing guru, Wendy Gardiner.

Description

The perfect companion for anyone new to machine sewing, or looking for a little extra guidance, this book is packed with friendly advice, stylish projects and expert sewing tips.

Sewing machine guru and popular author, Wendy Gardiner, brings you this invaluable guide to getting up and running with a sewing machine. She includes all the basics, including machine anatomy, how to thread up, and how to check stitching and tension.

Once you have built up your skills, there are 12 great projects to make, including: a patchwork placemat, a drawstring bag, an appliquéd pillow, a clutch bag, a tablet cover, tab top curtains, a quilted pot holder, and a notebook cover – there is something for everyone. Each project is designed to teach techniques such as sewing seams, adding buttonholes and zips, blind hems, quilting, free-motion embroidery, using an alphabet and making pleats, trims and pockets. There is also a glossary of all the important terms, and an excellent trouble-shooting guide.

Revised, updated and expanded edition of *The Very Easy Guide to Using Your Sewing Machine* (9781844488285).

About the Author

Wendy Gardiner is a writer, teacher and author. She has been editor of several leading sewing magazines and written 21 books including *The Great British Sewing Bee: From Stitch to Style*, *Fun with Fat Quarters*, *The Very Useful Guide to Using Your Sewing Machine* and most recently *Take Two Fat Quarters: Home* and *Take Two Fat Quarters: Gifts*. Wendy has also presented many DVDs on sewing and made several YouTube videos for leading haberdashery and pattern companies. She runs regular residential Creative Sewing Weekends, teaches a weekly class and writes articles for various magazines and her own website. Wendy organizes the extensive workshop programmes for the Festival of Quilts and the Knitting & Stitching Shows. She has a strong reputation and fan base because of her enthusiastic and friendly approach to sharing her passion for dressmaking and machine sewing. Wendy lives in Hampshire, UK.

Visit her website www.wendygardiner.co.uk

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Sew Magazine
Simply Sewing
Stitch
Love Sewing
Crafts Beautiful

Example spreads from the book

DECORATED GUEST TOWEL

Make guests feel welcome with a towel that you've personalised with appliqué and bobbin work. You can choose a fun cloth to match!

You will need
Decorative pattern and embroidery thread
Embroidery needle
Cotton fabric (for the towel)
Embroidery thread
Embroidery needle
Iron and ironing board

Appliqué
Diagram 1: Appliqué pattern

1 Press 15mm (½ in) square pieces of fabric web on to the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

2 Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

3 Set your machine to satin stitch, which is a zigzag stitch with the length adjusted to 0.5mm (0.02 in) and width to 2.5mm (0.1 in). Start around the flower heads using thread that matches the fabric. When the flower heads are complete, use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

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STRAIGHT STITCH

Straight stitching is useful in many aspects of sewing projects. It can be used for topstitching, for attaching pockets or trims and for hemming. Straight stitching is quite simple and can be done in a variety of ways.

Straight stitch seam
This is the most commonly used seam for most fabrics. The stitch length depends on the fabric, thickness and the number of layers being sewn together. For lightweight fabrics, use between 2.5mm (0.1 in) and 3mm (0.12 in) for mediumweight fabrics 2.5-3mm (0.1 in) and for heavyweight fabrics between 3-5mm (0.12 in) and 4mm (0.16 in). With the fabric layers right sides together, stitch down the seam. When a seam allowance is required, the needle should be 15mm (½ in) deep on the right side of the fabric.

French seam
This is a neat, finished seam that is often used for lightweight fabrics. It is made by sewing the fabric layers together, taking in 15mm (½ in) seam allowance. Then the seam allowance is 15mm (½ in) and then the fabric is folded together with the seam on the edge. Press and stitch again from (2) to (1) from the edge, enclosing the first seam allowance neatly.

Bias seam
Fabric cut on the bias has more stretch and needs to be finished slightly differently to other seams. To avoid fraying, slightly overlap the fabric ends and stitch the seam. Use a seam allowance of 15mm (½ in) and stitch the seam. Use a seam allowance of 15mm (½ in) and stitch the seam.

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HEART-FELT APPLIQUÉ PILLOW

Make a special pillow for the bedroom or a loved one and add simple appliqué using piping stitches.

You will need
Decorative pattern and embroidery thread
Embroidery needle
Cotton fabric (for the pillow)
Embroidery thread
Embroidery needle
Iron and ironing board

1 Draw a large heart shape on paper to create a template. Make the heart 15cm (6 in) wide and 10cm (4 in) high. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

2 Use the template to cut one heart shape from the fabric. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

3 Place the heart on the right side of the pillow. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

4 Place the heart on the right side of the pillow. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

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9 At the corner, clip the piping fabric at the corner and stitch the piping into the corner. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

10 When the hearts are complete, use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

11 Place the pillow back right side up on a flat surface with the zip open and the piping facing out. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

12 Turn the pillow over and use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel. Use the heat from the iron to press the fabric into the towel.

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