

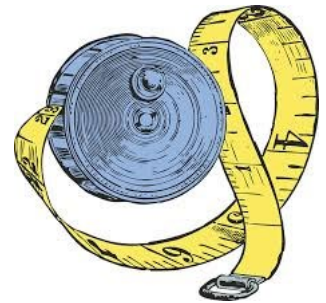
# Pattern and Fabric Selection for Beginners

This tip sheet was written based on the Ohio 4-H project book **Sew Fun** and refers to its pages for better understanding of project material.

## Let's Get Started!

### 1. Take & Record Your Body Measurements

- Skirt
  - Waistline
  - Hips at fullest part (normally 7" below true waistline)
  - Length from waistline to where you want hemline
- Shorts / Lounging Pants
  - Waistline
  - Hips at fullest part (normally 7" below true waistline)
  - Length from waistline to where you want hemline
  - Crotch, natural waistline to chair (see pg. 19 in the Sew Fun book)



## Time to Make Some Decisions!

### 2. Choose Your Pattern

- Your height and measurements determine which pattern to use from the pattern book.
- To choose your pattern, compare your measurements to the measurement charts in the pattern catalog. Choose the size that is closest to your measurements. When buying a pattern for a skirt, shorts, or pants, choose by waist and hip measurements. Sometimes your measurements do not match any size exactly. If you are between sizes, pick the smaller size for a snug fit and the larger size for a looser fit. (see page 20 in the Sew Fun project book)
- Look for “easy” or “beginner” patterns. (See document of Recommended Patterns)
- Look for a pattern with few pieces. If a pattern has many pieces, it will be harder to make and take longer to finish.
- When you find a pattern that you like in the catalog, you will need to know 3 things to be able to find it in the store:
  - Name of the pattern company (i.e. Simplicity, McCall's, Butterick, etc.)
  - Pattern number
  - Pattern size you need



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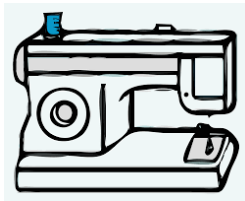
## Fabrics are Fun!

### 3. Select Your Fabric

- 100% cotton fabrics are recommended for beginning sewers.
- Solids and small, overall prints are suggested; avoid plaids and fabrics with directional prints or nap. (i.e. corduroy, velvet, etc.)
- Consider how the fabric will feel on your body (i.e. the softness or crispness of the fabric) - see page 16 in the Sew Fun project book.
- Look at label on the end of the bolt to learn & record this information
  - Fiber content
  - Width
  - How to care for your fabric (machine wash/dry vs. dry clean)
- Refer to the chart on the back of your pattern to determine how much fabric you need to purchase
  - Find the size you've decided to make and follow the column down to the view you've chosen and the appropriate fabric width (page 22 in the Sew Fun project book)

### 4. Find your Notions (extra items you will need to complete your garment)

- Look at the back of your pattern envelope to find the list; it may include items such as thread, elastic, buttons, zippers, etc.



**Using this tip sheet and the Consumer Shopping Worksheet, you should be able to get started on your Sew Fun Project! If you're having trouble, these volunteers are willing to help!**

**These individuals are willing to help via phone, text, or Facetime!**

Marcia Brueck – 330-347-5118

Cherie Smith – 330-466-4915

Sharon Emler – 330-412-2581

Kim Mumaw - 330-201-1598

Linda Prochazka - 330-416-6989

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