

# Stitch it

In association with  
**brother**

**36**  
PAGES

**MAKE IT  
MAGIC**

*for Christmas!*

**WIN A  
BROTHER  
MACHINE**

Worth £599!



*Make today...  
Gift tomorrow!*  
**EASY QUILT**  
cut from squares



**LUXE  
PARTY  
SKIRT**

*Sew in an  
evening!*



**SEWING SUPERSTAR  
LAUREN GUTHRIE**

*"I've used Brother  
machines for 10 years"*



*Plus*

FOXY CUSHION & TOY SET · MACHINE EMBROIDERY MADE SIMPLE · KIDS' DUNGAREES



## Innov-is F420

The Innov-is F420 is packed with a huge range of features including 140 stitches, lettering, lock stitch button, automatic thread cutter, and Square Feed Drive System for strong, smooth, even sewing on all types of fabric.



## Innov-is 55FE

The feature-packed Innov-is 55 Fashion Edition will shape your fashion dreams into reality. 81 stitches including 10 one step button hole styles plus lettering together with the included 12 accessory feet make this an excellent all round machine.



## Innov-is 27SE

The Innov-is 27SE offers fantastic versatility for both the beginner and experienced sewer. With fingertip controls, 50 stitches including 5 one step button hole styles and a protective hard case; it's ideal for all kinds of sewing.

# Create your own style



Best Sewing Machine Brand 2016



[brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

# Hello and WELCOME...



I grew up surrounded by fabrics as a youngster because my Mum worked from home as a dressmaker. Naturally, it wasn't long before I learned to sew! Now, I love making clothes in fabrics that would be unaffordable in designer



We've used the Innov-is NV1300 in our studio!

shops. If this is you too, you'll find a number of projects in the following pages to help you stitch **rack-worthy garments** – with a wrap skirt (p6), easy top (p16) and mini dungarees (p26).

I've been using **Brother sewing machines** for 10 years now, and haven't looked back since. The first model I had was a cute anniversary edition of what is now the **Innov-is 15**. After being a finalist on *The Great British Sewing Bee* in 2013, I opened my shop and studio in Birmingham, Guthrie & Ghani, and invested in a set of **10 Brother machines** to use in our workshops. Since then, I've tried three more of the brand's models and have loved them all! My favourite features are the needle threader and thread cutter, but I also enjoy how smooth and quiet they are.

It's never too early to start **preparing for Christmas** and this year, my husband and I are making a doll's house for my daughter Sophia; he will make the frame and I'll create a canvas that will be the outside – along with other accessories. You



We're swapping to the new Innov-is F420.

can get started on your **festive makes** with a wall hanging (p10) or stocking (p14), plus great gift ideas like a quilt and cushion set (p19) and foxy friend, toy sack and pillow (p28). One of the best things about having my own sewing shop is that I have the **biggest fabric stash** ever! I try to source fabrics that I think my customers will love as much as I do, and that work beautifully with our Brother machines.

*Lauren Guthrie,*

**GUEST EDITOR**



2017 is a milestone year for Brother, as it manufactures its 60 millionth machine! Find out more about the brand's heritage on p8!



Guthrie & Ghani use Brother sewing machines in all of its workshops

Stitch it with  
**brother**



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# brother

Brother offers a wide range of sewing, embroidery and quilting machines, plus overlockers and accessories, for all your stitching needs. Visit [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

**GUEST EDITOR** Lauren Guthrie **EDITOR** Jennifer Ward [jennifer.ward@aceville.co.uk](mailto:jennifer.ward@aceville.co.uk) **DEPUTY EDITOR** Melissa Hyland  
**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT** Emma Thompson **CONTRIBUTOR** Elena Thompson **GROUP EDITOR** Lynn Martin  
**PUBLISHING DIRECTOR** Helen Tudor **ADVERTISEMENTS SALES** Sarah Collins [sarah.collins@mspublications.co.uk](mailto:sarah.collins@mspublications.co.uk),  
01206 506255 **ART DIRECTOR** Phil Dunham **DESIGNERS** Gemma Eales & Fiona Palmer



Make the cut! **BUY**

We love the new face of Fiskars' high-quality rotary cutter. With an easy-grip rounded handle, you can get ultra-close to your ruler and ensure a clean cut every time. Choose from a fab geometric or pretty floral design! Better yet, it fits our favourite 45mm blades.

[fiskars.co.uk](http://fiskars.co.uk)



# stitch LEARN & BUY

## LEARN

*Getting to know you*

The first step can be the hardest, but it doesn't have to be. Guthrie & Ghani's Get to Know your Sewing Machine workshop teaches the anatomy of your new companion, and shows you how to set it up for sewing and then stitch a buttonhole, plus even covers troubleshooting questions. You'll leave feeling as if you know your machine better than the back of your own hand. **£28 for 2.5 hours**, check dates and availability at [guthrie-ghani.co.uk](http://guthrie-ghani.co.uk)

COVER ALL BASES AND MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MONTH!

*Overall, a great pattern!*

Make our mini pair on p26!



Intermediate stitchers can get to work with Sew House Seven's latest pattern, Burnside Bibs. This pair of dungarees would work equally well tending to your flowers as it would at a garden party, depending on your fabric choice! With curved front pockets, cross-over straps and a back waist gather, plus a host of different feature options, this is a really versatile pattern. **£17.99**, [minervacrafts.com](http://minervacrafts.com)

## LEARN

*Out and about*

Will you be joining us at the biggest textile show in the UK? Make your way to Alexandra Palace in London between 11th-15th October for The Knitting & Stitching Show. It will be a hub of excitement, with workshops, galleries and exhibitions from your favourite stichy names. Tickets available from **£14.50**, [theknittingandstitchingshow.com](http://theknittingandstitchingshow.com)

Find Brother at stand D35



STITCH



**STITCH**

*Project Runway returns*

Embarking on its 16th series and hosted by model Heidi Klum, *Project Runway* is set to be more dazzling than ever before as contestants compete to win a host of career-boosting prizes, including a fantastic selection of Brother sewing machines. On top of dressmaking at the speed of light, we'll be able to enjoy a more realistic reflection of body diversity this year, with models ranging from sizes 4-26 showing off the couture attire. Between episodes, stitch a beautiful scuba dress, with a variety of sleeves and an optional collar. Simplicity 8213, **£8.95**, [simplicitynewlook.com](http://simplicitynewlook.com)



**BUY**  
*Innov-is 55 Fashion Edition*

Fill your wardrobe using this feature-packed machine which gives all stitchers the capability to make impressive ready-to-wear garments. It boasts 80 built-in stitches including 10 styles of 1-step buttonholes, with additional lettering, plus an advanced needle threader, quick set bobbin and seven changeable feet. It also comes with five extra feet, worth £59.99. **£449**, [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)



**BUY** *Simply charming*

It's never too early to make a start on your Christmas stitching and, as you'll see in this mini-mag, we've been working on a few festive projects already! Dip your toe and take out the hassle by working up a couple of small projects using a fabric charm pack. We love Art Nouveau by Fabric Freedom, **£14.95 for pack of 42 12.5cm squares**, [discoverdirect.co.uk](http://discoverdirect.co.uk)



Meet the Brother team at stand F43

**LEARN**

*Sewing Bee Live*

Comedian, writer and dazzling TV personality Jenny Eclair is set to host two live shows per day during The Great British Sewing Bee Live show at ExCel London, from 21st-24th September. Get top tips from Patrick and Esme, plus glimpses behind the scenes, workshops, demonstrations, drop-in clinics, galleries, catwalks and shopping. Find out more at [thegreatbritishsewingbeelive.com](http://thegreatbritishsewingbeelive.com)



Find the perfect sewing machine and more news at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

# SEW OUR SELENA SKIRT

## *stitch it yourself!*

GET CONFIDENT WITH BUTTONHOLES - TRY THIS EASY WRAP

### GET STARTED

- \* Heavyweight cotton (140cm wide), 2m
- \* Lightweight fusible interfacing, 20cm
- \* Buttons, two

### SIZES

- \* Custom-sized\*

\*Cutting lines for sizes 8-16, adjust the fit with button position

### CUTTING GUIDE

- \* **Front:** cut one pair from cotton and one pair (edge only, see template) from interfacing
- \* **Side:** cut one pair from cotton
- \* **Back:** cut one on the fold from cotton
- \* **Waistband:** cut one each from cotton and interfacing
- \* **Front edge facing:** cut one from interfacing

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout.

Wrap skirts are seriously underrated as a modest yet fun go-to that are easy to sew. This design by Amanda Walker boasts repeating panels that are joined together without fuss, making this ideal for newbie stitchers. Use excess fabric to make a covered button to give your skirt an extra professional finish. Heavyweight cotton is a great fabric choice as it's a breeze to work with, yet won't leave you standing like Marilyn Monroe in an updraft.



## STITCH A WRAP SKIRT

**1** Download and print the pattern at [sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://sewmag.co.uk/templates). Cut out as indicated in the cutting guide. Match one front piece to a side panel, right sides together. Pin and sew along one long edge. Repeat with the remaining panels, joining the back panel in the middle to create one wide, flat piece. Trim and press the seam allowances open.

**2** Fuse interfacing to the open edge of each front piece on the wrong side, then fold and press along the marked facing lines to form the facings. Press

interfacing to the wrong side of the waistband. Fold in by 1.5cm along one of the long edges and press. Pin the other long edge of the waistband to the top of the skirt, leaving the seam allowance protruding from each end.

**3** Sew the waistband in place, then tuck each end back on

itself to neaten, aligning it with the facing fold. Stitch across, then trim the excess fabric from the seam allowance before turning the waistband over to the right side. Edge or slip stitch the lower waistband edge in place by hand.

**4** Lay the skirt flat with the wrong side facing up, then

fold and press a 5mm hem along the bottom and edge stitch across. Make a buttonhole in the waistband above each edge of the left-hand front panel, and sew corresponding buttons in the band above the opposite front panel, wrapping the skirt around your waist to determine their position.

### *Core Skill:*

#### **1-STEP AUTO BUTTONHOLE**

Place your button in the holder on the reverse of the buttonhole foot to set the size. Snap the foot onto your machine and position the bottom end of the placement marking under the needle. Lower your foot, pull down the lever to the left of the needle and press start on your machine. Insert a pin at either end before cutting the centre open to protect the stitching.



Stitch it with  
**brother**

*Buttonhole buddy!*



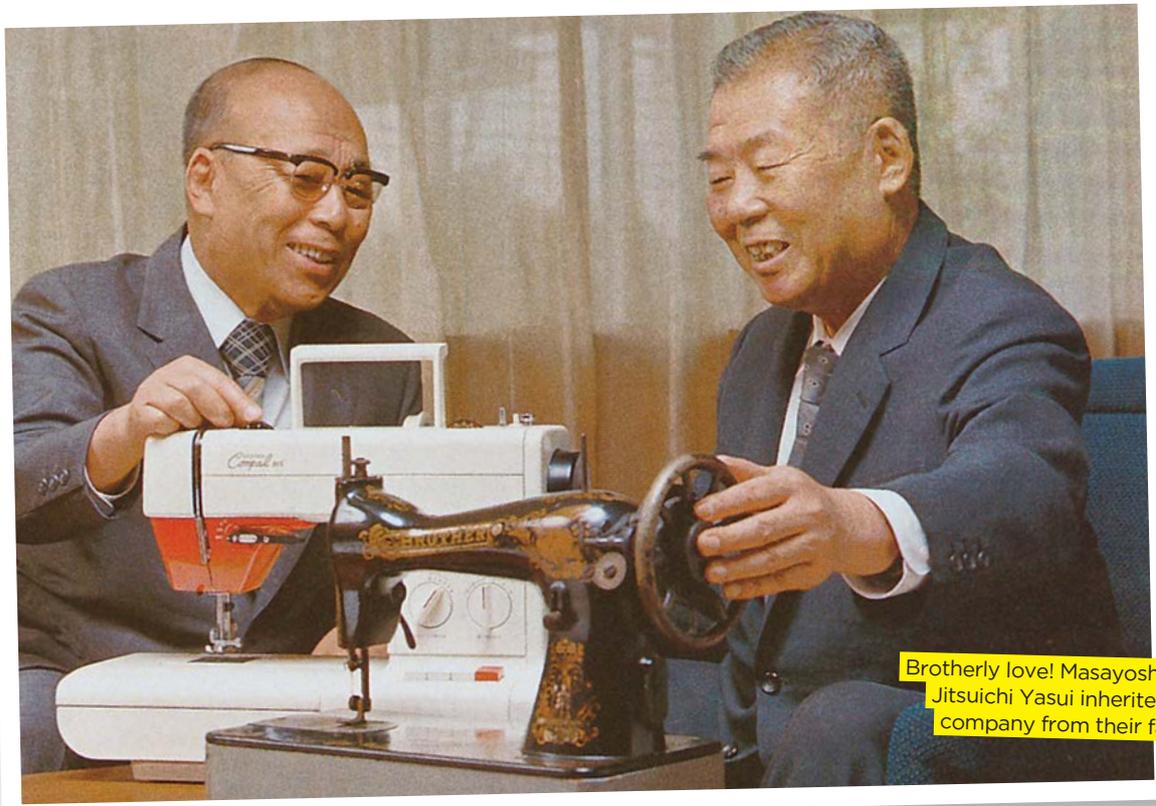
Price  
**£249**

#### **Innov-is 15**

Create an entire skirt with ease, using this beginner-friendly model

- ✓ Easy to use jog dial, making stitch selection simple
- ✓ Total of 16 built-in stitches
- ✓ Back-lit LCD screen with digital stitch length and width controls
- ✓ Automatic needle threading system
- ✓ Three styles of 1-step automatic buttonhole
- ✓ Drop feed setting
- ✓ Quick-set top-loading bobbin for easy threading

Find this machine and more beginner-friendly models at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)



Brotherly love! Masayoshi and Jitsuichi Yasui inherited the company from their father

# A stitch through time

## THE RISE OF THE **brother** BRAND

JOURNEY WITH US AND FIND OUT HOW BROTHER SEWING BRAND CAME TO BE - FROM THE FIRST REPAIR TO A BIG BRAND SUCCESS

The Yasui Sewing Machine Company started out in Nagoya in 1908, before becoming Brother Industries in 1925

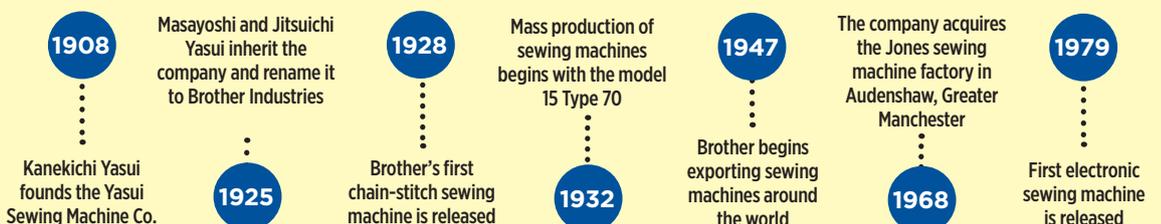


**If you own a Brother sewing machine, you will know the company is at the forefront of stitching innovation - an accolade it has held for more than a century.**

In 1908, Kanekichi Yasui established the Yasui Sewing Machine Co. in Nagoya, Japan, where he repaired damaged sewing machines and manufactured replacement parts. The company was later inherited by his sons Masayoshi and Jitsuichi Yasui, who reinvented it as Brother Industries. Their passion for stitching blossomed further in 1968 after they acquired the Jones sewing machine factory in Audenshaw, Greater Manchester, taking a company that was already firmly established as one of Britain's favourite brands under their wing.

The brothers' desire to become an industry sensation grew with the creation of three machines targeting both home consumers and businesses. "The first model was the chain-stitch sewing machine released in 1928, which was sold primarily for producing straw hats," says Stuart Stamp from Brother Sewing. "Next in line was the Model 15 Type 70 in 1932, Brother's first domestic sewing machine, and in 1936 the company's lockstitch machine was released for the larger business user." In 1968, Brother gained steamed ahead by introducing the B-701 electric machine model, which cut production time in half and revolutionised the sewing trade.

**brother**  
AT A GLANCE



## MOVING WITH THE TIMES

Nowadays, taking a piece of fabric and turning it into something wonderful is easier than ever. "When it comes to accuracy, speed and creativity, hobbyists face no restrictions," Stuart explains. "Modern features such as speed control, built-in stitches and automatic functions make the sewing process much more efficient for stitchers."

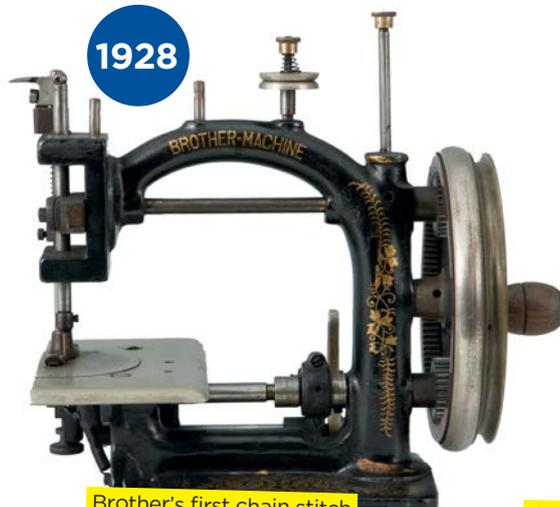
In 2014, Brother released the highly-acclaimed ScanNCut. As the world's first home and hobby cutting machine with a built-in scanner, it could be widely used by sewers for projects like quilting and dressmaking. "The machine took the craft market by storm with its ability to turn scanned images into unique cutting designs and projects without a need for computers or expensive software," he says.

Never a company to rest on its laurels, just one year later Brother introduced the Innov-is XV. This incorporated advancements in the camera technology of its much applauded predecessor, the Innov-is I, which had shaken up the stitching world in 2008. The new, improved version further developed the ability to scan drawings and then turn them into embroidery designs.

Today, the desire for more advanced technology runs alongside the audience's need for equipment that is easier and quicker to use. In September 2016, Brother Sewing had a successful launch within its Innov-is range - this included five sewing and embroidery machines for both beginner and expert-level sewers. The machines featured the latest in sewing technology, such as an easy-to-use LCD touch screen, advanced needle threading systems, built-in designs, and a square feed drive, providing optimum stitch quality.

## CAPTURING AN AUDIENCE

Whether you have been sewing all your life or are new to the craft, Brother Sewing will tick all of your creative boxes. "With more than 100 years of expertise, customers know that a Brother machine will be a solid investment and trust the brand's reputation for producing high quality, reliable and competitively-priced machines," says Stuart. "Brother's motto *At Your Side* is something the brand consistently advocates by developing machines that can guide newbies and beginner, all the way through to



**1928**  
Brother's first chain stitch machine was a huge success



**1932**  
The brand's first domestic sewing machine broke new ground in the craft sphere



**2016**  
Brother has been at the cutting edge of sewing advancements for nearly a century

professional stitchers and crafty businesses."

Exciting research by the Craft & Hobby Trade Association states that more than one million people have taken up sewing in the last three years. "We are now seeing more artisanal sewing and embroidery being injected into high street clothing, programmes like *The Great British Sewing Bee* on television, and plenty of crafters selling their creations on specialist sites such as Etsy," Stuart continues.

Fashion is rapidly changing, so what does this mean for the Brother brand? "Brother Sewing will continue to secure its position as a market leader in developing innovative yet easy-to-use products for the home sewing machine market," explains Stuart. Whatever your skill level or preferred technique, rest assured that however your skills evolve, Brother is a sewing machine brand that will remain very firmly at your side.

Enjoy browsing Brother models and find out more at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

Brother's first personal sewing and embroidering system The Super Galaxy comes to the market

**1991**

**1996**

Brother launches its first embroidering software, the PE-Design

Professional stitchers are inspired with the release of the PR-600 professional embroidering machine

**2003**

**2008**

The integrated video-camera technology embroidering system brings accurate stitching to the consumer market

Brother launches the Pro PR-1000 professional embroidering machine

**2010**

**2012**

The 50 millionth machine rolls off the production line

The new and innovative ScanNCut makes its way into crafters' homes

**2014**

**2014**

Innov-is XV machine launches, complete with the latest in sewing technology

The Innov-is range expands with the introduction of five sewing and embroidery machines

**2016**

# MAKE A GNOME KEEPSAKE

## *build your skills!*

EXPLORE YOUR MACHINE'S DECORATIVE STITCHES

If you're looking to put your stitchy skills to the test, this wonderful keepsake by Debbie von Grabler-Crozier is the perfect project to cosy up with. Practise appliqué and quilting, then try your hand at a touch of embroidery to create the message or your own unique version! This slogan is worked in free-motion embroidery, which requires a free motion or darning foot, but it would also be a great chance to explore the decorative stitches and fonts on your machine.

### GET STARTED

- \* Cotton fabric; snowflake print, red, turquoise, grey
- \* Backing fabric
- \* White felt
- \* Bias binding
- \* Wadding
- \* Black embroidery thread
- \* Split ring, 12mm
- \* Water soluble marker
- \* Fabric glue

### SIZE

- \* 30cm diameter

## SEW A CUTE WALL HANGING

- 1 Download and print the templates at [sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://sewmag.co.uk/templates). Use them to cut 11 outer frame pieces from grey, red and turquoise fabrics. Sew together to form a ring, alternating the colours. Pin this to a layer of wadding, then channel quilt around in concentric circles.
- 2 Cut a 21cm diameter circle from snowflake fabric, then appliqué the circle to the ring on top of the wadding, hiding the raw edges along the way. Trim the wadding to size. Use the template to snip the gnome pieces from various fabrics, plus a beard from white felt. Glue to the centre of the circle.
- 3 Use the template and a water soluble marker to trace the writing. With black thread, use free-motion embroidery or explore your sewing machine's stitch library to embroider the letters. Alternatively, use one strand of embroidery thread and backstitch the words by hand. Work herringbone stitch around the join of the snowflake print and outer section. Use cross stitches and straight stitches around the gnome's heart.
- 4 Tack the backing fabric in place, then bind with black and white bias binding. Stitch a split ring centrally to the reverse at the top. Remove any stray threads and water soluble marker lines to finish.



*know how to channel quilt*

Channel quilting most commonly involves stitching multiple straight lines, spaced equal distances apart to create 'channels'. This method is worked in rings here - securing the fabric and creating a subtle quilted effect!

Find the perfect sewing machine for this project at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

Stitch it with  
**brother**

# Your COLOUR MATCH

## thread report

A piece of embroidery is only as good as its threads. If you use poor-quality ones, you run the risk of the thread breaking, giving you an uneven tension or worse still, causing havoc inside your machine. Branded threads however, offer better stitch quality and definition – which is a must when creating detailed pieces. They are also available in a wide rainbow of colours... Here are a few of our favourites, matched to Pantone's colours for 2017!



Try out...

### METALLIC

Metallic threads are different to work with than standard embroidery ones. If using them, make sure you are using a metallic needle as these have a larger eye that allows the thread to run through smoothly. It is also worth experimenting with slowing the speed of your machine and reducing the tension, so practise with a scrap of fabric first!



Find out more about the huge range of embroidery machines at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

**sew** SHOPPER

Working across from left to right, starting at the top: Gütermann Sulky Rayon 40 (col.1535, dark blue), Madeira Rayon No.40 (col.1127, Loofah), Mettler polysheen No.40 (col.2508, pink), Gütermann Sulky Rayon 40 (col.1248, pastel blue), Madeira Rayon No.40 (col.1169, Split Pea), Gütermann Sulky Rayon 40 (col.1510, Silky Green), Mettler polysheen No.40 (col.0463, Cypress), Mettler polysheen No.40 (col.1102, Pumpkin), Gütermann Sulky Cotton 30, (col.1024, golden), Madeira Rayon No.40 (col.1053, Light Coral), Gütermann Sulky Rayon 40 (col.1029, medium blue)

For Gütermann Cotton 30, visit [plushaddict.co.uk](http://plushaddict.co.uk) | To find stockists for all other Gütermann threads, email [gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk)  
For Madeira and Mettler threads, visit [minervacrafts.com](http://minervacrafts.com)

# 1 STIPPLED CUSHION

Make a commemorative pillow to celebrate life's notable events – a wedding, new baby, milestone birthday. Simply scan an image from the supplied scan frame into the machine, convert it into an embroidery and then choose between the option to stipple inside or outside the design.



Embroidering a cushion or quilt on a specialist machine will help you create unique and professional results!

# 9 ways to Make

USE THE **BROTHER INNOV-IS XV** TO CRAFT KEEPSAKES THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME

**E**xpress your creative side and conjure up a sentimental keepsake with a helping hand from the Innov-is XV. The machine is packed with features stitchers love, like the high-resolution touch screen, intelligent camera-eye system for easier embroidery positioning, built-in designs and on-screen design-editing features, which all combine to put personalisation at the forefront of your designs.

## 2 KEEPSAKES FROM OLD UNIFORMS

For those nostalgic items of clothing you can't bear to part with, why not transform them into memento cushions? Using old school uniforms, you can stitch up a keepsake to treasure the memories forever. To ensure that your designs are secure, the Innov-is XV has a lock-stitch key where, at the touch of a button, tie-off stitches can be sewn at the beginning and end of the stitch.

## 3 HEIRLOOM TOYS

Add personality to a toy using in the hoop embroidery. This handy technique allows you to both stitch your plush and add facial features and appliqué for an extra touch of character and sentimental value.



## 4 CUSTOMISE WITH LINE ART

With its line art recognition, the Brother Innov-is XV makes it easier to add hand-drawn designs such as pattern templates, your signature or even a child's drawing to projects using the machine's sophisticated touch-screen features. If you are feeling a little more imaginative, why not add flowers or animals to update a pre-loved item? It is as easy as drawing, scanning and then stitching your most creative original designs.



## 5 PERSONAL PLANNER

Customise the cover of your diary, journal or even wedding planner using the machine's built-in designs or one of your own. Choose from styles including modern, pet, vintage or Japanese-inspired embroidered designs to add individuality to your project. The colour-shuffling feature also suggests palettes you might like.

Stitch it with  
**brother**

Oh sew simple!



SEARCH 'BROTHER INNOV-IS' TO  
FIND TUTORIALS ON YOUTUBE



## 6 BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

Making something to treasure for years to come as a gift for a little one's first Christmas is a thoughtful gesture, so if you want to personalise a baby's vest with festive details, the camera-eye system provides a clear view for those hard to see details. The large screen attached allows you to see your work in detail and the LED pointer shows exactly where the needle will drop.

# Memories

## 7 MEMORY BEAR

In search of comforting ways to remember a loved one? Stitching a bear using sentimental items of clothing is a wonderful way to keep the memory alive. For accurate stitching, the Innov-is XV's sewing sensor feature will help you create the perfect bear as it detects the edge of fabric to ensure uniform stitching, even on curves.



## 8

### PICTURE QUILTS

For those photos too precious to keep in a box, a photo quilt is a lovely way to create a unique keepsake. Use the scan feature and built-in camera to convert your scanned images into embroidery data within seconds. The long-arm design gives extra stability and accommodates quilts in both sewing and embroidery mode.

See the Innov-is XV in action at  
The Sewing Bee Live and The  
Knitting & Stitching Show



## 9 EMBROIDERED PHOTO CARD

A picture is worth a thousand words and this machine has five fonts, 840 alphabetical characters and 514 decorative stitches so you can add your own embroidery to a photo card – ideal for loved ones celebrating a birthday or special occasion.

Find out more about the Innov-is XV plus a huge range of machines at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

# STITCH BEAUTIFUL EMBROIDERED STOCKINGS

*give these a go!*

CREATE FESTIVE DECORATIONS FROM SILK DUPION

## GET STARTED

- \* Silk dupion, duck egg blue, red
- \* White cotton fabric
- \* Curtain interlining
- \* Red ribbon
- \* Thread, red, white

## SIZE

- \* 20cm x 29cm

It's never too early to begin planning your Christmas sewing and these lovely stockings are both stunning and easy to sew, made from shimmering silk dupion in rich red and duck egg blue. They also feature white cotton cuffs that not only look decorative, but prevent the seam allowance from showing through. As well as being quick to whip up, this is a great opportunity to test your machine embroidery skills by adding attractive borders and a simple fir tree motif.

## STITCH LUXURY STOCKINGS

1 Download and print the template at [sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://sewmag.co.uk/templates). Use it to cut out a stocking piece from silk dupion, white cotton, and curtain

interlining. Flip the template so it is mirrored and cut another of each. Snip three 8cm x 28cm rectangles of white cotton for the cuffs at the top of the stockings. For the silk trim at the base of the cuff, cut a 4cm x 28cm strip of silk dupion, fold, and press in half lengthways.

2 Pin one of the silk stockings onto a curtain interlining piece, then trace an 8cm tall tree pattern onto the silk as pictured. Set your machine to a decorative stitch, sew the vertical line first, then work the horizontal lines, and trim away any thread ends. Lay the remaining silk stocking onto the embroidered front, followed by the remaining curtain interlining stocking. Pin all the layers together and stitch around the edges with a 1cm seam allowance, leaving the top open.

3 Clip into any concave curves and trim close to the stitching line of any convex curves. Turn the stocking right side out, tease out the seams, then press. Repeat with the two white cotton stockings, clip and trim the curves, but do not turn out. Place the white cotton stocking inside the silk version, then level and match the seams and the top edges together.

4 Lay two of the white cuffs one on top of the other. Set your sewing machine to a decorative stitch and form two rows one above the other, making the second a different stitch. Start the first row 2cm away from the long raw edge, then stitch the folded silk strip to this edge with a 1cm seam allowance.

5 Position the remaining white cotton cuff on top of the embroidered one. Pin along the silk strip edge, then stitch all the layers together, again with a 1cm seam allowance. Open out the cuff, then sew the shorter edges together, making it into a circle. Fold the single layer outside the embroidered face of the cuff, position it inside the top of the silk stocking, matching the seam allowance on the outer edge of the stocking.

6 At this point, slip a loop of ribbon between the stocking and the cuff for hanging. Pin, then stitch around with a 1cm seam allowance. Trim the seam allowance and fold the cuff over to the right side of the stocking. To finish, sew a ribbon bow to the base of the embroidered Christmas tree.

*know your curves*

A concave curve is one that turns inward, or is thinner in the middle than on the edges. A convex curve goes outwards, or is thicker in the middle than on the edges.



DOWNLOAD  
TEMPLATE ONLINE

Stitch it with  
**brother**

*Machine must-have*



Price  
**£349**

### **Innov-is 27 Special Edition**

Decorate your stocking with ease, choosing from a total of 50 built-in stitches!

- ✓ Electronic jog dial for simple stitch selection
- ✓ Automatic needle threading system
- ✓ Five styles of 1-step automatic buttonhole
- ✓ Drop feed for free-motion sewing
- ✓ Top-loading bobbin for easy threading



Discover this machine and other suitable models at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

# STITCH OUR CAROLE TOP

## *you can do it!*

MASTER KNIT FABRICS WITH THIS FLATTERING PULL-ON

### GET STARTED

- \* Stretch jersey (1.3m wide), 1.5m

### SIZES

- \* S (8-10), M (10-12), L (12-14)

### CUTTING GUIDE

- \* **Front and back:** cut one each on fold
  - \* **Sleeve:** cut one pair (follow black line for large size)
  - \* **Neckband:** cut one
- 1cm seam allowance used throughout.

Knit fabrics can be daunting to sew, but with the right know-how, they are nothing to be scared of. Here, Lauren Guthrie shares her top tips for selecting needles depending on what fabric (or machine!) you choose to stitch Amanda Walker's casual pull-on with. The top features a simple pleat detail and is perfect for everyday wear. Get ready to make up a few, because it's about to become your mid-season staple!



*We used...*  
**Blue and purple geometric poly lycra stretch jersey, £9.99 per metre, [minerva crafts.com](http://minerva-crafts.com)**

## SEW A PULL-ON

- Download and print the pattern at [sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://sewmag.co.uk/templates). Use it to cut the pieces from jersey as indicated in the cutting guide. Fold the inverted pleat at the neckline on the front piece, pin and sew across the top.
- Match the front and back shoulder seams right sides together, then pin and stitch. Sew the ends of the neckband right sides together, to make a circle. Turn right out, fold in half lengthways and press.
- Sandwich the front and back neckline in the band and sew, matching the join in the band to the centre back neck. The strip is smaller, so carefully stretch it to fit.
- Lay the front and back of the top out, right sides together. Pin the side seams, then stitch. Sew a row of gathering stitch using your machine around the head of the sleeve, from the front to the back notch.
- Place each sleeve right sides together, then stitch. Turn each of the sleeves right side out, pull the gathering threads up slightly, and

position the sleeve into the armhole of the top.

- Match the side and underarm sleeve seams together, and the notch in the centre sleeve to the end of the shoulder seam. Adjust the

gathers to fit the armhole. Pin, sew, then remove all of the gathering stitches.

- Overlock or use a zigzag stitch to finish the base of the garment and sleeve ends. Fold a 2cm hem, press, then sew.



## LAUREN GUTHRIE ADVISES ON NEEDLES FOR KNIT FABRICS



### JERSEY NEEDLES

These ballpoint needles push between the yarns of the fabric, preventing holes and laddering. Use size 70 for lightweight fabrics, 80 for medium and 90 for heavier ones.



### STRETCH NEEDLES

Similar to jersey needles but with a slightly higher eye, this creates a bigger loop to allow for more stretch - making them ideal for stretchy active or swimwear fabrics.



### OVERLOCK NEEDLES

Universal needles can cause thread to snap on an overlocker. Overlock ones are longer and smoother above the eye on the back, so affect the thread's tension.

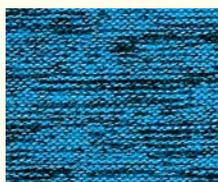
DOWNLOAD  
PATTERN ONLINE

## Finish like a pro!

An overlocker will give your seams a professional finish. All of Brother's overlockers (see right) have built-in carry handles, free-arm flat beds, F.A.S.T. lower looping threading systems, differential feeds, pressure control and other features to suit a wide range of fabrics!



## Perfect for everyday!



Turquoise marl knit



Grey marl knit

Each of these fabrics costs £10.50 per metre, visit [guthrie-ghani.co.uk](http://guthrie-ghani.co.uk)

# Stitch it with brother

## Great home machine

Price  
£199



### 1034D

- ✓ Trims, edges and neatens
- ✓ Available both as 3 or 4-thread models
- ✓ Removable knife

## Fuss-free experience

Price  
£249



### 3034D

- ✓ Sews seams, trims, and overlocks raw edges
- ✓ 3 or 4-thread sew-&-cut overlock stitches
- ✓ Free arm flat bed surface
- ✓ Thread twist protection

## Award-winning model

Price  
£369



### 4234D

- ✓ 2, 3 or 4-thread stitches
- ✓ Seams perfectly with numerous decorative effects
- ✓ Built-in extra bright LED light
- ✓ Automatic needle threader
- ✓ Stitch length adjustment

You can find out more about these overlocker models at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

# WIN A **brother** INNOV-IS F420

TO ENJOY A LIMITLESS STITCHING EXPERIENCE

**WIN A  
DREAM  
MODEL!**

**Worth  
£599!**



## **THE BROTHER INNOV-IS F420**

Whether you love making quilts and homewares or are a budding dressmaker looking to develop your handmade wardrobe, the Innov-is F420 promises to tick all boxes – and we've got one of the machines up for grabs. Suitable for beginners through to the more advanced, this model is user-friendly and ideal for newbie stitchers, but comes with lots of features – so it won't hold you back as your skills progress. Don't miss out on your chance to win!

### **KEY FEATURES:**

- ✓ 140 built-in stitches
- ✓ Automatic needle threader
- ✓ Stitch length and width control
- ✓ Slide speed control
- ✓ Large clear LCD screen
- ✓ Combines and memorises stitches
- ✓ Five uppercase fonts
- ✓ 10 buttonhole styles

The competition closes on 12/10/17. See the main magazine to enter via post and for full T&Cs.

Find this machine and more great models at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

# MAKE A QUILT THIS WEEKEND

*you can do it!*

STITCH UP A VIBRANT QUILT AND CUSHION  
TO SNUGGLE AWAY THE DAYS



Our delightful homeware duo combines colourful jewel shades with geometric prints. The **Brother Innov-is NV1800Q** is the perfect choice for quilting as it features extra work space, making large projects easier. Or, if you're serious about getting even more features, maybe the **Innov-is VQ2** is for you? Either one will help you stitch an incredible quilt and cushion set within a weekend! Keep for yourself or make as a special gift this Christmas, personalised by using a loved one's favourite colours.

*Find projects overleaf...*

## GET STARTED

- \* Cotton fabric, fat quarters
- \* Coordinating cotton thread
- \* White cotton, 2m
- \* Quilt wadding (4oz), 1.5m
- \* Cushion pad, 45cm
- \* Rotary cutter
- \* Ruler

## SIZES

- \* Quilt: 112cm square
- \* Cushion: 45cm square

*"Using quality thread is something I strongly believe in, and I always use Gütermann."*

**Lauren Guthrie**

## Thread Finder

Quilting projects need to be sturdy, so invest in good threads to keep them together. If using cotton fabrics, a 100% cotton thread is often a good choice; this thread reaches a high breaking resistance, has reduced shrinkage and is ironing resistant too. If you're making an heirloom project that will stand the test of time, Gütermann Creativ Extra Strong thread is a more durable option.

**To find your nearest stockist, email [gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk)**



**Have fun experimenting with different angled lines to make your own unique block design!**

## SEW A PATTERNED BLOCK

**1** Create a template by drawing a 25.5cm square onto paper or card. Draw three vertical lines and three horizontal lines that are angled, so each one starts and finishes at different points opposite, to create a random jigsaw effect. Experiment with the lines until happy.

**2** Cut nine 25.5cm squares from different fabrics. Press each one, then stack together. Place the template on top of the stacked fabrics and use it to cut along each line on the right side of the fabric, using a rotary cutter and ruler.

**3** Once each of the nine squares is cut into nine pieces, lay them out and swap the sections so that each square is made up of nine different fabric prints. Sew the square back together by sewing along the angled lines. Press and cut each panel to measure 21.5cm square.

## STITCH A QUILT

**1** Make 18 patch blocks as described above, then select 13 of these to make the quilt. Cut twelve 21.5cm squares from plain fabric. Sew the blocks together in an alternating pattern, rotating some of the patterned blocks so the jigsaw effect appears differently, to make a 5 x 5 block quilt top.

**2** Cut several 2.5cm wide strips of fabric. Join the strips end to end to make a continuous length. Use this to edge the quilt top with an overlapped border.

**3** Press the border. Lay out white cotton, place wadding on top and spread the quilt top over this, allowing at least a 3cm border of backing fabric around. Pin the layers and topstitch along the seams.

**4** Trim the wadding to the quilt edge, and backing fabric 3cm wider all around. Fold in 1cm of the backing fabric before folding over the edges of the quilt to enclose the raw edges. Mitre the corners. Topstitch the binding close to the hemmed edge.

## MAKE A CUSHION

**1** Arrange four blocks to your desired composition. Sew together to make a 42cm square panel. Cut several 3cm wide strips of patterned fabric and stitch to the edges of the panel to make an overlapped border. Press, then pin it to quilt wadding. Topstitch along all seam lines.

**2** Cut two 36cm x 46cm pieces of white fabric. Fold and press a 2cm hem on one of the longer edges on each. Place the white fabric onto the cushion front, right sides together so the hemmed edges overlap. Stitch all around the cover, then turn right side out through the overlapping edges. Fit a 45cm cushion pad inside.

*We used...*  
Fabrics from the  
Splendor collection  
by Amy Butler for  
Free Spirit

### *know your stuff*

If desired, you can omit the pad  
and stuff the cushion with fibre  
filling instead. This will allow you to  
determine how soft, plush or firm  
your finished pillow is!

# *Stitch it with* **brother**

## *Perfect all-rounder*



**Price  
£1,299**

### **Innov-is NV1800Q**

**Great for ANY project -  
quilting, fashion and more!**

- ✓ 234 built-in stitches
- ✓ Advanced needle threader
- ✓ Automatic thread cutter
- ✓ Large work space of 8.3" to the right of the needle
- ✓ Sideways feed
- ✓ Square Feed Drive System, ensuring smooth running
- ✓ Comes with huge range of accessories, with numerous quilting feet and quilting guide

## *Tech savvy features*



**Price  
£1,999**

### **Innov-is VQ2**

**This long arm machine is perfect  
for sewing larger projects**

- ✓ Automatic electronic needle threading
- ✓ 473 built-in stitches
- ✓ Up to 1,050 stitches per minute
- ✓ Extra wide stitches up to 40mm
- ✓ Plus, the ICAPS (Continuous Automatic Pressure System), which continuously detects fabric thickness while sewing, and automatically adjusts pressure to ensure even stitch quality - allowing you to combine a number of fabric types

Discover these machines and more great models at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)



# brother works for us!

MEET THE DESIGNER-MAKERS WHO HAVE COME TO RELY ON THEIR BROTHER MACHINES



## SEW & GROW



**WA NIESCIEREWSKI is the dedicated maker who runs Mea Bee Design from a sunny corner in her lounge with the help of a computerised Brother FS-40.**

"I have been sewing since I was a child. My grandmother was a very talented dressmaker and taught me how to sew. I did take a break when I was a teenager, however, as sewing was not seen as a very cool thing to do. It wasn't until 2011 when I got married that I decided to start stitching again. This was also when I decided to buy my first Brother sewing machine.

"I started my business in 2013, where I made decorative cushions, doorstops and handbags. However, I wanted to do a lot more so in April 2015



I decided to focus on nursery decor. I realised then that I would need a machine with excellent features and as I had owned a Brother machine before, knew I could trust them. The FS-40 quickly won me over with its computerised power, extension table, start/stop button, and range of stitches that I could adjust.

"My Mea Bee Design products are purely dedicated to kids, so I offer Scandinavian-inspired nursery decor, stylish monochrome cushions, bunting, baskets, quilts, bedding and more. My personal favourites are the soft, smiley cushions - knowing that somewhere in the world little

boys and girls are cuddling them makes my job worthwhile.

"In terms of the future, I would love to expand my product range and start selling to independent small retailers. Without my Brother sewing machine I would not be where I am now, and it is staying with me to help me grow."



*"There will always be a Brother sewing machine in my life"*

**Designer ANGIE LAWRENCE and her Innov-is V5 make quite the team in the Isle of Man, where her business Cinnamon Crafts is based.**

### How long have you been sewing?

I find it hard to believe, but for more than 50 years! My parents bought me my first machine when they saw that I was sewing together a tweed suit by hand, using backstitch! It was then when they realised I was serious.

### Why did you choose the Innovis V5?

It was recommended to me by Bamber Sewing Machines in Manchester, where I have been buying machines for nearly 20 years. My old machine went 'pop' in a storm and the insurance company was happy to replace it. When I realised I could have a Innov-is V5, there was no contest really!

### What are the features you like most?

I love the fact that it is extremely easy to switch between sewing and embroidery modes, plus the easy connectivity between my laptop and the V5 is brilliant. I do a lot of appliqué and have recently also acquired a Brother ScanNCut CM900. I am thrilled that appliqué outlines within a design can be changed to a 'cut' file that can be read by the ScanNCut. This means that when I am working on a large project, I can





cut out all the shapes in one go. One of the 'silly' features I like is the little musical chord it plays at the end of a design; it always makes me smile.

**What is your product range?**

It's eclectic. I make all sorts of things! My style ranges from traditional wedding designs to steampunk.

**What are your plans for the future?**

To explore new areas of machine embroidery. I also want to maintain the high standards I have set for Cinnamon Crafts and take on more commissions. Oh, and I suppose I should say that I intend to actually finish stuff! I have a big pile of UFOs (Unfinished Objects) stacked in my sewing room as a result of diving into new and unexplored designs.

**How does your Brother sewing machine feature in your future?**

One thing is for sure - there will always be a Brother sewing machine in my life. I have no doubt that my Innov-is V5 will last a long, long time but when she inevitably goes to that big Sewing Machine Centre in the sky, she will be replaced by another Brother.



## KEEP CALM AND SEW ON

**UCY EVANGELISTA creates original designs using a Brother model for her newly-launched business Grace James, located in Belfast.**

"I taught myself to sew just over a year ago, and had my first order three weeks after using a sewing machine for the first time - that machine is the Brother FS60. Before I bought it I had watched a number of online videos and it seemed that other machine brands just added buttons and gadgets that were not necessary for a beginner. The Brother machine didn't look complicated, and when I used it for the first time, I wasn't disappointed.

"The quick set drop-in bobbin and drop feed mechanism make my life so much easier, especially when I had a two-year-old sitting on my knee while I was trying to work.



I am surprised it is still in one piece as I use it every day, and although I have made many mistakes, my FS60 keeps forgiving me and then we start all over again.

"Many of my orders are for quilted comfort blankets. I also make personalised 3D cushions, dressy baby bibs and rompers for special occasions. At the minute, I have my items stocked in a few local boutiques in Northern Ireland, but I would love to branch out.

"In the future I am planning on designing a sensory quiet book for children and hope to sell them through more retailers. I would also love to quilt, and have been eyeing up Brother's Innov-is F420 model!"



*"I'd be lost without my Brother"*

**V**enture to Nottingham, where business **And Sew It Seams** is comprised of **ANGI BROWN** and three **Brother sewing machines!**

**What machine do you use?**

I use three different ones which complement each other. I have an

Innovis-55 computerised sewing machine and a 1043D overlocker. My latest addition is a dream: a PR655 embroidery machine.

**Why the Brother PR655E?**

I already had a small entry-level 4x4 hoop-sized embroidery machine. I quickly outgrew that and purchased a Brother V3 machine three months later when I realised that my work was getting more recognition and a domestic machine was not going to cut it. I just simply had to get the PR655 and I have not looked back; I love him - he is called Boris!

**What features do you love most?**

My favourite is the six-needle embroidery, automatic needle threader, laser-light precision for lining up your work and multi frames for additional hoop capacity. If I were really pushed, I think the best feature

is its flexibility to embroider bags, clothing and awkward shaped items that I could not do quite so easily on my previous machine.

**What do you make?**

I sew and embroider a range of products including baby garments, quilts and workwear, but my medic alert key fobs are my best-selling product as they are unique to the customer, providing quick recognition of any medical condition should a problem arise.

**What do you love about your job?**

I love the creativity that comes with designing bespoke items. The ultimate plan is to retire so that I can sew and embroider full time. I would like to take more commissions for leisurewear, quilts and medic alert items as these do well, and so my goal draws closer!



# Sewing Room STARS

WE GIVE YOU THE LOW-DOWN ON THE BEST BROTHER MACHINES TO BUY, BASED ON YOUR SKILL LEVEL

What machine to buy? It's a question that goes through every sewist's head. When you first begin stitching, you might be tempted to get your hands on the cheapest model going. However, it's important to do your homework before making any purchase, because as you gain experience and want to try out different techniques, you'll likely require something a little more advanced. So, whether you're a sewing novice or an expert stitcher, rest assured that the perfect machine is out there waiting to be discovered.



Price  
£249

## INNOV-IS 15

### FOR NEWBIES ON THE GO...

If you're new to sewing and or are on a limited budget, this is the machine of choice. It's effortless to use, and the LCD screen makes it easy to see the stitch and width length. A reliable choice if you're after the essentials or planning on taking it to a workshop.

#### KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ 16 stitches
- ✓ Automatic 1-step buttonhole with three styles
- ✓ Automatic needle threader
- ✓ Quick-set bobbin
- ✓ Drop feed
- ✓ Stitch length and width control
- ✓ Start/stop button
- ✓ Slide speed control
- ✓ LCD screen



WIN AN  
INNOV-IS  
F420 ON  
PAGE 18!

Price  
£599

## INNOV-IS F420

### FOR BEGINNER DRESSMAKERS...

Take your dressmaking projects up a level with the F420, which has all the features you could ever desire. Plus, it's user-friendly to boot! The square feed drive system makes it perfect for working with a variety of fabrics, from delicate silks through to sturdy denims.

#### KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ 140 stitches
- ✓ Automatic 1-step buttonhole with 10 styles
- ✓ Automatic needle threader and thread cutter
- ✓ Quick-set bobbin
- ✓ Drop feed
- ✓ Stitch length and width control
- ✓ Slide speed control
- ✓ Large clear LCD screen
- ✓ Combines and memorises stitches

Learn more about all of these machines, and find your local Brother stockist at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

Stitch it with  
**brother**



Price  
**£1,999**

## INNOV-IS VQ2

### FOR SERIOUS SEWISTS...

Create everything from coats to quilts as this top-of-the-range machine offers an even wider sewing area to design and inspire. Express yourself with hundreds of stitches, including 14 styles of buttonholes and five built-in fonts. You'll be amazed at how much this model can do for you.

#### KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ 11.25" long-arm sewing and quilting machine
- ✓ 473 built-in stitches
- ✓ 14 styles of automatic 1-step buttonhole
- ✓ Five lettering styles in upper and lower case
- ✓ Large colour LCD touch screen
- ✓ Up to 1,050 stitches per minute
- ✓ Extra wide stitches up to 40mm
- ✓ My Custom Stitch feature
- ✓ Independent bobbin winder



Price  
**£4,499**

## INNOV-IS V7

### FOR SEWING GEEKS...

Create beautiful embroidery, quilting and home decor with this revolutionary dream machine for sewing enthusiasts. With an impressive range of 531 stitches, you'll always be able to find the right one for your project. It doesn't get much better than this!

#### KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ An industry first! Brother's exclusive direct dual drive foot; adjusts to fabrics and memorises settings
- ✓ Extra large 11.25" long arm sewing space
- ✓ Laser guide line marker
- ✓ Ultrasonic sensor for extra-precise embroidery
- ✓ Embroidery foot with LED pointer
- ✓ Continuous automatic pressure system (ICAPS) – detects fabric thickness and adapts stitches
- ✓ LCD touch screen: customise designs on-screen

Learn more about all of these machines, and find your local Brother stockist at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

# MAKE UNISEX OVERALLS

## *yes you can!*

### WHIP UP A FUN OUTFIT FOR A YOUNGSTER

Boys and girls alike will adore Torie Jayne's fun dungarees, which are comfortable and durable enough for all kinds of boisterous activities. In addition to basic sewing techniques, this project also features pin tucks for added shaping, buttonhole fastenings, plus stretched elastic in the waistband to ensure a snug fit. Best of all, you can re-size the strap and shorts to make up another pair as your youngster grows older - in their favourite print, of course!

#### GET STARTED

- \* Cotton fabric (115cm wide), 1m
- \* Interfacing, 50cm
- \* Elastic (1.5cm wide), 16cm
- \* Buttons, two

#### SIZES

- \* **To fit:** ages two to four years

**Note:** lengthen straps and increase the front and back leg pieces at outer edge to re-size the shorts for a younger or older child, adjusting the waistband as necessary.

#### CUTTING GUIDE

##### FROM COTTON

- \* Front leg: cut two
- \* Back leg: cut two
- \* Front tabard: cut one
- \* Back tabard: cut two
- \* Front tabard lining: cut one
- \* Strap: cut four
- \* Front waistband: cut one
- \* Back waistband: cut one

##### FROM INTERFACING

- \* Front tabard: cut one
- \* Back tabard: cut one
- \* Front tabard lining: cut one below fold line
- \* Straps: cut two
- \* Front waistband: cut one
- \* Back waistband: cut one

1.5cm seam allowance used throughout.

## SEW KID'S OVERALLS

**1** Download and print the pattern templates from [sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://sewmag.co.uk/templates) and snip the pieces according to the cutting guide. Press and stitch pin tucks in the front leg pieces where indicated on the pattern.

**2** Sew the crotch seam on the two front leg pieces, right sides together. Repeat for the back legs. Stitch again, 6mm away from the seam allowance, between the notches. Trim close to the second stitching line, then press the remainder of the seam open. With right sides together, stitch the back to the front at the inner leg. Sew the front leg to the back leg at the side seams to make shorts.

**3** Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the front tabard and the front tabard lining. Stitch both tabard pieces right sides together, leaving a gap for turning. Trim and clip the corners, turn right sides out, then press. Topstitch the front tabard, 6mm in from the edge, including the pressed top. Mark the buttonholes on the top front tabard, then stitch.

**4** Iron interfacing to the wrong side of each of the four strap pieces. Stitch in pairs, right sides together, leaving a large opening at the bottom. Clip the corners and trim the seam allowance. Turn right side out, then press. Topstitch 6mm in from the edge.

**5** Interface the wrong side of the back tabard. Sew both back tabard pieces at the side seams, right sides together, 1.5cm from the top edge. Insert the straps inside the top of the back tabard and



match up the raw edges at the top; the straps will overlap inside. Stitch the top of the back tabard. Turn out, then topstitch 6mm in from the edge.

**6** With right sides together, tack the front tabard to the shorts at the front, aligning the pin tucks to the outer edges, centre front to centre front. Tack the back tabard to the shorts at the back, aligning the centre back to the centre back.

**7** Fuse interfacing to the reverse of the waistbands, then stitch them at the side seams, right sides together. Press under 1.5cm on the bottom edge of the waistband, and trim the pressed-under edge to 1cm. Pin it to the upper edge of the shorts, right sides

together, matching the side seams. Stitch in place, and trim the seam allowances.

**8** Press the waistband facing to the inside and topstitch the top edge. Zigzag strips of stretched elastic onto the waistband facing, between the front and back tabard, just below the topstitching at the sides.

**9** Stitch the pressed-under waistband to the shorts, along the lower edge, stretching the elastic as you stitch it down. Turn under the lower edge by 1cm to the inside of the shorts and press. Turn under a further 2cm, press and stitch. Mark the placements of the buttons on the shoulder straps and hand stitch in place.

DOWNLOAD  
PATTERN ONLINE

*Yes, Yoshie!*



Featuring woodland creatures and wild flowers in dark blue, Liberty's much-loved Yoshie print is a perfect choice for concealing scuffs and marks from playing! £22.50 per metre, [guthrie-ghani.co.uk](http://guthrie-ghani.co.uk)



*Stitch it with*  
**brother**

*Packed with features!*



Price  
**£399**

### **Innov-is 35**

**If you're looking to upgrade from a beginner's machine, this model offers fantastic versatility.**

- ✓ Easy to use electronic jog dial, making stitch selection simple
- ✓ A total of 70 built-in stitches
- ✓ Back-lit LCD screen with digital stitch length and width controls
- ✓ Advanced automatic needle threading system
- ✓ Seven styles of 1-step automatic buttonhole

Discover this machine and more suitable models at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

## GET STARTED

- \* Plain cotton, orange, blue, lemon, white
- \* White lace
- \* Patterned fabric, floral, orange
- \* Pale green herringbone ribbon, 44cm
- \* White cord, 1.2m
- \* Thread, orange, dark orange, navy, black, white
- \* Toy stuffing
- \* Iron-on interfacing
- \* Cushion pad, 32cm x 42cm
- \* Embroidery hoop
- \* White tissue paper

## SIZES

- \* Toy sack: 30.5cm x 43cm
- \* Cushion: 32cm x 42cm
- \* Toy: 15cm x 21cm (incl. tail)

# WHIP UP OUR FOXY SET

## *make all three!*

BE CUNNING AND DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

Young fans of Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox* will adore this fun collection, featuring a bright cushion for the bedroom, plus a cute stuffed toy with a handy sack to store him in, along with any playthings needing a home. Sewn from vibrant orange, cornflower blue and lemon fabrics, combined with an equally eye-catching cotton print, this set would make a lovely gift and provides the opportunity to practise your appliqué and decorative machine stitch skills.

## FASHION A TOY SACK

1 Download and print the templates at [sewmag.co.uk/templates](http://sewmag.co.uk/templates). Cut 15cm x 43cm of blue fabric, 19cm x 43cm of lemon material and 27cm x 43cm of a floral print. Join all three together as shown, leaving a 1cm seam allowance. Press the seams open.

2 Use the template to snip a fox from orange fabric, and back with iron-on interfacing. Cut the throat and stomach from orange patterned fabric and the tail end from white, adding interfacing to all three. Pin the fox to the middle

of the lemon section and stitch just inside the fabric edge. Sew the tail, throat and stomach, then press.

3 Cut small motifs like flowers and butterflies from the printed fabric and stitch as shown. Stitch a length of pale green ribbon across the width of the blue fabric, 3cm under the join. Press the reverse before machine or hand stitching 'favourite Mr fox'.

4 Cut a back for the bag from blue fabric, the same size as the front. Pin right sides together, then stitch across the bottom and up both sides, leaving a 1.5cm gap at the top of each side and 3cm from the top edge. Trim any excess fabric at the corners and turn right side out.

5 Fold the top raw edge over to the inside by 1cm, then again by 1cm. Stitch around the sack, 1.5cm from the top. Make sure that the gap for the pull cord remains unstitched. Thread one end of the cord through the gap, around the bag and back out of the same hole. Trap the raw ends in a piece of folded patterned fabric and stitch around to secure.

## APPLIQUE A CUSHION

1 Trim a 34cm x 44cm piece of plain blue fabric. Cut a section of floral fabric at an angle to fit across the bottom right-hand corner. Back with interfacing, pin, then press. Stitch across the top, then press on the reverse.

2 Use the template to cut out two large fox pieces from orange fabric, the throat and tail sections in white, and the chest from patterned orange fabric. Back them all with interfacing and cut an extra tail section from white lace. Pin in place and machine or hand stitch, roughly 3mm from the edge, then press. Add detail by sewing straight or zigzag lines onto the body and ears in orange and white thread, then work the nose and eye in black. Press.

3 Trace the words 'friendly fox' from the template onto white tissue paper and pin in place. Keep the fabric taut in an embroidery hoop. Machine or hand stitch over the word twice in navy thread, and repeat for the second word. Remove the hoop, carefully tear away the tissue, and press.

4 Cut 34cm x 44cm of blue fabric for the cushion band pin to the finished front, right sides together. Starting at the bottom, stitch a 1cm seam around, leaving a large gap at the bottom. Trim any excess fabric, turn right side out, and push the pad into the cover.



## SEW A FOX TOY

**1** Use the toy template to cut a body front and back in plain orange, then the middle section to cut the chest from white fabric. Back the chest with interfacing and pin it on top of the orange front and stitch down both sides, close to the raw edge.

**2** Cut a small rectangle patch from print fabric and sew it in the middle of the fox's chest using a small zigzag stitch. Press. Using the same trace and stitch technique for the cushion, stitch 'my fox' in navy thread, then remove the hoop and tissue. Stitch the eye and nose in black, add detail to the face and ears with white and orange thread, then press.

**3** Snip a front and back tail from orange fabric. Trim one tail tip from white fabric and another from lace. Pin and stitch the white fabric, followed by the lace, on top of the orange tail tip. Sew a line of zigzag stitch under the white tip, then press.

**4** Pin the tail front to the plain orange back, right sides together. Sew a 5mm seam, stitching clockwise from A to B and leaving a gap. Clip carefully into the curves and turn right side out. Stuff, then hand stitch the gap closed.

**5** Pin the finished body front to the back, right sides together, and sew a 5mm seam clockwise from A to B. Clip the curves, turn right side out, and stuff. Place the tail into the open gap and hand stitch in place, turning the raw edge of the body under as you go.

*Know your littlun!*

Have fun choosing fabrics that your youngster will love! You can find a selection of plain and patterned cotton fabrics plus other great fabric types, stuffing, thread and more at [guthrie-ghani.co.uk](http://guthrie-ghani.co.uk)

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- ✓ 1-step buttonhole
- ✓ Quick-set bobbin
- ✓ Stitch width/length adjustment
- ✓ Drop feed



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FAIRY POCKET BAG

# HOOP, hoop

# HOORAY!

DISCOVER THE CRAFTIEST INNOVATION OF THE CENTURY



SAY HELLO TO JAMES THE GIRAFFE



**A**nyone who thinks that sewing involves hunching over a needlepoint in a dimly-lit room are quite frankly, wrong! For every preconception someone might have about our favourite

hobby, there is an exciting technique waiting to be discovered and enjoyed. Allison Nash is the founder of Sweet Pea Designs, an Australian-based company that is passionate about in the hoop (ITH) embroidery. Whereas a lot of machine embroidery is usually carried out on a finished article, ITH projects are often partially constructed or made fully in a machine's embroidery hoop. The biggest surprise about this technique is that you can create 3D objects – and at a much quicker pace than you ever could using standard methods.

starts. "I learned to sew when I was five and later on as I became an avid stitcher, wanted to make bags, quilts and gifts for my family and friends!" Allison knew how to draft sewing patterns so before long she decided to take this one step further by teaching herself how to digitise them. Although time-consuming to learn, it led to the launch of Sweet Pea. Now, the business is famous for its ITH designs and the detailed, easy-to-follow instructions that come with them, which are accompanied by photos illustrating every step. "Our designs are created with the hobby sewer and quilter in mind," she says. "Sweet Pea also allows stitchers to sell items made from its designs, so they can be found in gift stores and markets around the world."

## ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

You may think that the term 'in the hoop' suggests the possibilities would be limited to smaller projects – however, that's far from the case nowadays. "The kind of thing you can make is only limited by the designs available," Allison explains. "At Sweet Pea, we have them for (wait for it!)... purses, bags, quilts, table runners and centres, toys, coasters, wall tidies and hangings, sewing kits, advent calendars, Christmas tree skirts, decorations, bibs, baskets, accessories, cutlery holders, place mats and so much more!" Larger items like quilts and bags are made using both embroidery and sewing machines, as blocks are made then



LADY AT THE BEACH MUG RUG

## CRAFTY DISCOVERY

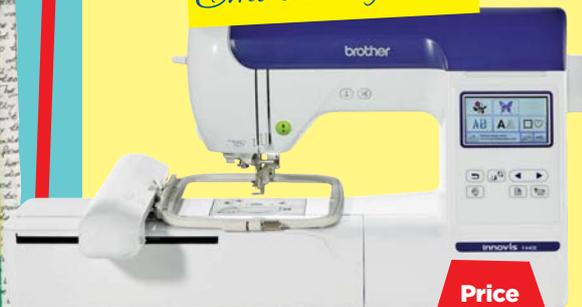
Allison came across the technique after she grew tired of embroidering towels and shirts. "I stumbled on the ITH method and was hooked! Unfortunately, the designs available were all quite similar, and mostly limited to smaller items or quilting," she



SEWING TIDY

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appliquéd or embroidered onto with an embroidery machine. You may be thinking, how are 3D objects assembled? If making a toy for instance, the machine will stitch the template straight onto the fabric for you, embroider any facial features, plus appliqué pieces from other fabrics. After placing your backing fabric right sides together, the machine will stitch the pieces and leave a gap for turning. All you need to do is stuff!

Sweet Pea also prides itself on its links with various charities, and releases designs from which all profits are donated. "So far we have purchased 13 water pumps through Unicef for communities in third world countries. Each one provides water for about 5,000 people," Allison elaborates. "We've also donated four sets of classroom furniture through World Vision, with proceeds from our Worry Monster purse. We will release even more of these designs in the future!"

## TRY FOR YOURSELF

If you enjoy sewing, have an embroidery machine, or are simply looking to be inspired by something new – this could be the technique for you! In fact, it's a much quicker way of creating a unique piece from scratch. In terms of the right tools, look for an embroidery or combination machine where a hooping or framing system is included. "Before purchasing a machine I did a lot of research and found that Brother produce reliable and easy to use models," Allison tells Sew. "Here at Sweet Pea, we only use all Brother embroidery machines." As for getting started, your best bet is to download a free design like the fox zipper purse, designed by Sweet Pea and FREE exclusively to Sew readers. "This design will teach you how to insert a zipper in the hoop, do appliqué and create a gorgeous little purse. The instructions are very detailed," she continues. "We also have a Facebook group with nearly 30,000

members who are all willing to help." With all the possibilities, you don't ever have to be restricted. Many ITH designs use quilting-weight cotton but any fabric can be used, even imitation leather or suede! Just be sure to test a small sample first. "There are two types of threads that cover most machine embroidery needs, rayon and polyester.

*"Here at Sweet Pea,  
we use all Brother  
embroidery machines!"*

Both are versatile and designed for different uses," Allison tells us. "Rayon has a beautiful sheen and is great for embroideries, but the thread tends to be

more delicate than polyester ones. Polyester thread is stronger and suitable for all general machine embroidery and appliqué.

## GROWING COMMUNITY

One of the best parts about sewing is undoubtedly the community that goes with it. Many of Sweet Pea's customers are active on its Facebook group, and actively share what they have been making, along with their tips. "It's a great way to see our projects and we also host regular competitions and sew-alongs with thousands of people joining each month!" Allison says. "Our large online community is a real point of difference for Sweet Pea." If this online following isn't a sign that ITH embroidery is on the up, then what is? With more embroidery machines and hoop features available than ever before, and the designs to go with it, it's evident that the technique is resonating with stitchers from all over the world – in over 35 countries for Sweet Pea. "With the range of designs now available, it is possible to sew almost anything in the hoop," she finishes. "With the help of an embroidery machine, a stunning tote bag can be made in only a few hours, whilst a quilt – which could possibly take months, or even years to sew – takes only days."

FEELING INSPIRED? BE SURE TO PAY  
A VISIT TO [SWPEA.COM](http://SWPEA.COM)

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# TRUE REVIEW

# brother

# INNOV-IS NV2600

TRIED AND TRUSTED WITH  
DESIGNER CAROLYN LETTEN!



**Carolyn Letten is one of the Sew team's most talented designers, who has particular expertise in the field of embroidery!**

**Here, she took one of Brother's machines for a test-drive...**

"The NV2600 comes with a wide range of accessories, so I got to work exploring them with the machine embroidery pattern features in mind – of which there are 51, a further 55 patterns (exclusive to Brother), a floral alphabet, plus various fonts – which can all be combined and manipulated. The removable embroidery unit on the machine can replace the standard sewing arm and works with a plastic embroidery frame (large and medium sizes supplied), which slides into the arm and locks into position. There is also an embroidery foot attachment!

## 1 Appliqué function

"For this lovely hoop design, I chose a leaf embroidery pattern that used appliqué; you simply select the leaf on-screen

then continue to the embroidery screen. With the stabilised fabric in the plastic frame, you press the start/stop button and it will sew a cutting line of the appliqué piece, and then stop. I removed the fabric, cut the leaf along the stitch line, and used it as a template to cut out 12 more – you do need to be very accurate with this.

"To create a wreath effect, I created 12 leaves on the screen – rotating, moving and flipping each one into my desired position, working anti-clockwise from the top. I continued to the embroidery screen and again starting at the top and moving anti-clockwise, worked one leaf at a time. The machine first sews an outline of each leaf then stops to allow you to stick each appliqué leaf (the ones I had cut earlier) exactly within that stitched line. After, it sews the appliqué leaf down, then adds detail with satin stitch. I then removed the frame from the unit, took out the fabric and mounted it into my wooden hoop.

"To create the five 3D leaves, I backed the patterned green fabric with craft-weight interfacing before inserting it into the plastic frame, then stitched each leaf – allowing the machine to complete the

*"I was delighted with the 3D effect I was able to achieve with the appliqué function. It was very easy to use!"*

Carolyn Letten

steps again. I carefully cut each leaf up to the satin stitch line and folded it in half to create a sharp crease, then hand-stitched in place.

The butterflies, which are an exclusive Brother design, were made in the same way as the leaves were earlier. I altered the size of the orange one on-screen to make it smaller, and also made a second set of wings in lilac for the purple butterfly by making them slightly bigger on screen, only allowing the machine to stitch the first step rather than the entire design – which was very useful! I then stitched these in place by hand on top of the leaf wreath at different angles to complete the design."





## 2 Even stitch density

"This is a water lily embroidery pattern, straight from the machine. I used a dark turquoise satin fabric to see how the stitch density would perform on a dark background, but also to find out how well it coped with fine, silky fabrics - and whether they puckered! After placing the fabric in the smaller plastic frame and pulling it very taut before tightening, I locked it in place on the unit. When embroidering on thinner fabrics, the manual advises using a water-soluble fabric to stabilise it underneath, or a normal fabric stabiliser without fusing it. In my opinion, you should always interface fabrics that will be stitched in the frame, as it produces a more professional result.

"The machine allows you to choose where within the frame you would like to stitch the chosen motif... As this was going to be mounted into a hoop I started in the middle. The enclosed design guide explained that there were 13 different colour changes and how it would take roughly 20 minutes to complete. It also indicated the finished size: 82.7mm high x 85.3mm wide. As you start to stitch, each step with a colour change is counted down to on the LCD screen; at the end of each colour change the machine automatically cuts the thread! Once you replace each spool, it will also thread the needle for you - or you can choose to do it manually. I hadn't realised that the bobbin thread underneath was getting low but the machine gave an advanced warning that it was running out, giving me a chance to refill it before the next colour change, which is very useful!"

## 3 Multiple fabrics

"Here, I wanted to experiment and see how well a design would stitch onto two different textured fabrics. I used needle cord and stretch velour. Due to the nature of the fabrics, I chose to place a piece of paper underneath the fabric while I stitched, as iron-on interfacing wasn't an option for the stretch velour. I deliberately chose the finely detailed feather design for this picture, which takes about 8 minutes to sew. I also flipped one feather so it was a mirror image and rotated it on screen, where you can choose to rotate by 1, 10 or 90 degrees... Making it super-easy to achieve the intended result. You can also zoom in by up to 300%."



## CONCLUSION...

"The Innovis NV2600 was a delight to use with so many features, bearing in mind that I've demonstrated only some of the embroidery features! There is also a vast collection of utility and decorative stitches, plus a free-machine quilting feature. You can use the patterns straight from the machine or let your imagination run riot by editing them to make your own or creating designs by combining multiple patterns. You can also store custom stitches and patterns in the machine's memory, which holds around 1MB... Or even onto a flash drive, to build up your own library of designs."

# brother INNOV-IS NV2600

## Other fab features

**GREAT LIGHTING** The machine was lit very well, and the standard sewing light above the needle allowed for easy vision. It also has a light on the underside to the right of the needle which is a real bonus when shadows are cast.

**HANDY GUIDE** I was keen to get started without having to digest the comprehensive operation manual, so the quick reference guide enclosed was a great way to get to know everything the machine covers!

**EMBROIDERY GUIDE** This useful booklet details all of the designs supplied, along with times to allow for each pattern, plus the number of steps/thread colour changes and suggested thread colours.

**LCD SCREEN** It was very easy to navigate and use, guiding you through every step and menu. There was no need to use the foot pedal when sewing the pre-programmed embroidery motifs, as the start/stop function is achieved by pressing one button.

Find out more about the Innov-is NV2600 at [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)



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# In the studio with... LAUREN GUTHRIE

OUR GUEST EDITOR REFLECTS ON WHY IN HER STUDIO, BROTHER IS ALWAYS BEST

**When you host as many sewing and dressmaking workshops as we do at Guthrie & Ghani HQ, it's important to have tools that you can rely on.**

We teach a huge range of classes, suitable from complete beginners to more advanced garment making and pattern drafting – so our Brother sewing machines have to cope with everyday use and a lot of different fabric types too. Everything gets put through our machines, from lightweight cotton lawn and stretch jerseys to thick upholstery fabric and sturdy denims.

**In the past we've used the Innov-is NV1300, Innov-is 350 Special Edition, and Innov-is 100 Prime Edition, which have all served us incredibly well.**

The models we currently use in our studio are the Innov-is F420, which we've just swapped to. Quite often, our students can feel apprehensive about how sophisticated the machines look, but once they realise how simple they are to operate and that the different functions make them a breeze to use – like the needle threader – it's all uphill. The buttonhole function can seem a bit scary at first. With a quick demonstration though, students quickly realise that as a 1-step feature it is satisfying to sew, and also that the machine does most of the work for you!

**The learn-to-sew trend certainly hasn't been slowing down for us.**

We have such a beautiful studio to work in, people often return for more workshops. It's such a lovely day out and a way to get some quality, uninterrupted sewing time! Our workshop calendar is constantly evolving and changing as we move with different trends and listen to our customers, so that we can provide exactly what they are asking for.

**Most of the time, I use my sewing machine to make clothes for my daughter and myself.** I wear at least one thing I've made every day, so have sewn lots of different garments over the years. I'm most proud of the skinny jeans I made recently, which have lots of topstitching – that was so satisfying to do! And also my winter coat, where I used a beautiful warm, cosy wool. It's fully lined and has bound buttonholes too, so I had a lot of fun making it! I use our Brother machines to make other items for my house as well. I've recently made blinds using a specially coated blackout fabric. In the past I've made lots of cushion covers and quilts too.

**My top three tips for looking after your sewing machine** is to always use the correct needle for your fabric and project, to only use good quality

thread, and to store it safely and keep all of the tools and accessories together so you can easily (and correctly!) lift up the plate if the thread jams. Also, if your love affair with dressmaking is taking off, my favourite thing right now is the expanding sewing gauge by SimFlex. It can be tricky following buttonhole markings on patterns once you have constructed your garment, which can lead to inaccuracies, but this will evenly mark them for you! You won't look back.

SimFlex expanding sewing gauge, £22, [guthrie-ghani.co.uk](http://guthrie-ghani.co.uk)



**Sewing is something that I get so much pleasure and enjoyment from,** so I just love being able to inspire and see that in others too. Quite often people are surprised at what they have achieved and are so chuffed with their finished project, and that's lovely to see and share with them.

Feeling inspired and want to find out more about Brother? Visit [brothersewing.co.uk](http://brothersewing.co.uk)

# Space to create

With an extra-large 210mm (8.3") of working space to the right of the needle any quilting or large sewing project can be handled easily.

Our Square Feed Drive System (SFDS) ensures smooth uniform handling on all types of fabric. Packed with useful features and a huge variety of stitches, Brothers new long-arm range is the ideal choice.

## Innov-Is 1100

A powerful and versatile machine to meet demanding sewing needs from dress making to quilting. Includes 140 stitches, 10 button hole styles, 5 lettering styles and an automatic thread cutter.



## Innov-Is 1300

Includes all the great features of the 1100 plus 182 stitches, upper and lower case lettering, fully automatic thread tension and multi-directional sewing for large decorative stitches.



## Innov-Is 1800Q

Includes an extra large wide table, 232 stitches as well as our ICAPs system to ensure uniform stitching across varying fabric thicknesses, and the useful pivot function allowing the fabric to be turned while the needle is down



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Stitch it