

20
NEW PROJECTS TO SEW

PLUS GIFT IDEAS
FOR GARDENERS

Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC



ISSUE FORTY



PATCHWORK
HOOP ART
FOR YOUR WALLS

NEW! THE SPRING EDIT

3 EASY-FIT
PATTERNS
TO SEW TODAY!

MAKE IT!

- ✓ Jersey skirts
- ✓ Easter plushies
- ✓ Pinafore apron

3 free patterns
inside!



SEW YOURSELF
6 NEW OUTFITS

SPRING BLOOMS

Refresh your look with ditsy prints and pastel hues



HOW TO: Sew with knits • Danish knots • Twisted pintucks • Bag-making • Peter Pan collars

n OR
ROUND
-tink
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Transform your home into a print-lover's paradise with statement pieces like this bright wallpaper by Lucy Tiffney.

MAKE YOUR HOME A HAVEN

A few thoughtfully designed and crafted items can transform your home into a place that's a pleasure to spend time in. We've picked out five designer-makers who are sure there's no place like home.

Written by Judy Darley.

Get cosy the artisan way with hand-woven textiles in a modern geometric design by Rowenna Mason



The Fable & Base collection includes soft furnishings, hand-printed fabrics by the metre and custom designs.



Fable + Base's Francesca sees textiles as "a piece of artwork"

ILLUSTRATED LIVING

If there's one thing we can never have too much of in our home, it's print – from vintage florals to modern designs and everything in between, we'll happily fill every room with patterns of all kinds. Francesca Baur's screen-printed botanicals not only feature on home accessories and bespoke furnishings, but are also available as fabric by the metre for us to get creative with ourselves – so plenty of ways for us to play with prints here!

Her brand, Fable & Base (www.fableandbase.co.uk), was launched in 2015. She brings her ideas to life on "a six-metre repeat print table in the studio, which enables me to screen-print fabric by the metre using large format screens. I have a large exposure unit so I can use the photo stencil technique to transfer my designs onto the screens." This studio set-up means she's able to create custom prints. "I offer a bespoke service for colour-matching my designs to suit a client's interior. I like to see my textiles as pieces of artwork rather than a conventional off-the-roll length of fabric. Using my hand-printed artisan fabric lengths for curtains and blinds is a great way to show a piece of art. I love the

idea of the print becoming the story on the cloth, and a great conversational piece."

She has an instinctive approach to design. "I'm intuitive in the way I work and look for narratives that I can translate into the cloth by looking closely at my surroundings. I like to forage and walk to collect ideas, which I explore using a sketchbook. I then develop ideas using Photoshop and Illustrator before experimenting with screen-printing and sampling." Her love of natural fibres has its roots in her childhood. "My family set up one of the first ever organic farms in the 1970s. As a child I'd seen the 'slow movement' in food production go mainstream and was keen to see the same happen in the textile industry. I always wanted to set up a sustainable textile company." This means the careful sourcing of "materials such as linen, hemp and organic cotton and print with low-toxic dyes, ensuring there are no harmful chemical residues on the cloth. My cushions are filled with biodegradable British wool."

Botanicals also feature in illustrator Lucy Tiffney's (www.lucytiffneyshop.com) quirky and colourful illustrations, which are printed on wallpapers, soft furnishings and fabrics.

"I have always loved drawing, making and sewing – basically anything to do with using my hands – and I had wanted to make the products commercial for a long while. I guess the lightbulb moment came when I decided that I wanted to put my designs onto loads of different products." Illustrations evolve from the ideas-gathering Lucy naturally does on a day-to-day basis. "Inspiration comes from so many places... nature, colours, artists, designers, magazines, and so on. Inspiration is rarely a problem to find. I tend to store up ideas in my head, gathering new ideas all the time and taking loads of photos. When I'm ready, I just start drawing and painting and they develop from there – the designs start to evolve." Once an illustration is on paper, it is "worked on by a graphic designer friend and printed digitally to product, but the physical process excites me the most. The literal applying paint to paper layer by layer, colour on colour, pattern on pattern."

The wallpapers and fabrics are the latest additions to her amazing range. "The designs are similar to my previous work but the scales and palettes are new and fresh. I so look forward to seeing new designs in the flesh!"



Francesca Baur's design process often begins with an inspiration-gathering outing: "I like to forage and walk to collect ideas."



Lucy Tiffney loves the process of "applying paint to paper layer by layer, colour on colour, pattern on pattern" to create her bold prints.



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