

Sewing Designer Clothes For Kids---The Frugal Way!

I have been sewing clothing for my children for the fifteen years. Yet, I can count on one hand the number of commercial paper patterns I have purchased. What's my secret? Am I master pattern drafter? Not quite. For fifteen years I have been buying sewing pattern magazines. These magazines provide you with anything up to 60 patterns per issue- from newborn size to plus size ladies. Equipped with my collection of sewing pattern magazines and a current children's fashion magazine, I can be sure that I will have a pattern for any child's garment I care to create.

Children's fashion, like women's, goes in cycles. What is popular now was also once popular before. The new designer garments you see from kids fashion houses are always just variations on an old theme.

As I first had two boys, then later two girls- I am now enjoying going back through my pattern magazines from fifteen years ago and creating the groovy girls fashions I once longingly gazed at.

Pattern sewing magazines may seem a bit more expensive initially, but when you factor in how many endless possibilities to create they provide, they are a definite boon for the dressmaker on a budget wanting up to the minute fashions. Each magazine is full of glossy designer type pics of the made up garment being modeled by cute kids. You get full pattern sheets and instructions and a page of the patterns in a drawing format. This page of drawings of the patterns is a wonderful way to clearly see the structure of each pattern. It also allows you to imagine how the garment would look made up in your chosen fabric scheme. Sometimes, looking through older mags can be a little off-putting, with the old fashioned fabrics and accessories. These drawings of the patterns allow us to see past that and concentrate on the pattern structure.

The pattern sheets in the sewing magazines can be a little confusing on the first glance. Similar to a road map with varying routes! It is simply a case of picking your pattern, measuring your child, deciding on the correct size. Then, you need to locate which pattern pieces/sizes you need to trace off. I find it easier to first go over the ones I need to trace with a highlighter, remembering to locate all pieces and pattern markings as per the instructions. I use a cheap, light interfacing or tracing paper to trace onto. To keep my traced off patterns organized, I keep all from each individual mag in a ziplock bag, with a note at the front clearly indicating what I have traced off and in what size.

By using the fantastic pattern magazines available you will soon find yourself with an indispensable library of patterns at your fingertips!

Resources for pattern magazines:

www.ottobredesign.com

<http://www.glpnews.com/EN/Crafts/Crafts.html> For Burda pattern magazines

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