**Basic Sewing Skills**

Spring Semester 2018

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**Semesters offered**: Spring and Fall

**Time**: 9:30a-11:30a

**Day**: Thursday (Jan 25, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, Mar 1, 8, 15) (rescheduling may occur due to weather)

**Place:** In A Bind Services (my studio on my property) 221 E St Mary’s St, Decatur, MI 49045

*If you are interested in this course, but the dates/times are an issue please contact me to see if we can work something else out.*

**Directive**: This elective aims for the student to gain knowledge in basic mechanics of a sewing machine, proper sewing techniques/position, and create a minimum of 3 projects. The goal is to learn HOW to sew confidently, not about what projects are being created. Each session builds on previous skills acquired. Students are required to provide material for each project so they will learn how to choose correctly, interact with retail workers, understand the value of the project, and have a personal stake in the finished project.

This class is a pass/fail class. Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes and complete required minimum of projects by the last class session. There will be a pre-test and post-test per partnership requirements.

**Age/Grade**: 3rd -12th grade

**Prerequisite**: none

**Course Materials**

A basic sewing machine will be available, but it is preferred the student brings their own to learn how to use it properly for future sewing enjoyment. I will also provide an iron, ironing board, and rotary cutters for student use.

**Other required materials**: Students must bring with them: a good sharp pair of fabric scissors, pins, measuring tape, spool of white thread and empty bobbins (if bringing own machine), and something to carry these in. Fabric/material for projects will be found at the end of the syllabus.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1:** Introduction to the sewing machine including a look at the inner mechanics of a machine (if attending class at my studio)! Learn how to thread the machine correctly, fill a bobbin, and prepare the machine for use. Students will also be practicing basic stitches and popular seam allowances for me to gauge their proficiency in using the machine. This will also provide a baseline for end-of-term skill improvement. We will also discuss upcoming projects and fabric selection for those.

**Week 2:** Creating Project 1- hot pads. (See below for requirements) Basic straight stitch, pinning skills, and ironing will be covered in this session.

**Week 3:** Complete hot pads, if needed. Begin Project 2- a pillowcase. (see below for requirements)

**Week 4:** ……. continuation of skill building. Complete pillowcase, if needed. Begin creating Project 3- bag.

**Week 5:** ………work on unfinished projects; Discuss next project the student would like to create within their skill level. Student will bring required fabric for project next week. (suggestions: pillow, apron, catnip blanket, fabric boxes, etc.)

**Week 6:** ………work on unfinished projects. Begin chosen project, building on skills learned during previous classes.

**Week 7:** ……… continue projects and skill building. Individualized attention given to each student where they need it.

**Week 8:** A minimum of three projects must be completed by end of class today. Students will be given a chance to review projects, their own and classmate’s, building up one another in encouragement of skills acquired and projects completed.

***Fabric requirements for projects***:

*Project 1:* hot pads- 100% woven cotton preferred, Insul-bright

½ yard of chosen material

½ yard insul-bright

*Project 2:* pillowcase-choose 100% woven cotton or flannel for entire project (don’t mix).

¾ yard for main part of pillowcase.

¼ yard (9”x42”) complementary print/solid for cuff.

1/8 yard (4”x42”) complementary solid for strip.

*Project 3:* Bag (roughly 12”x14”)

¾ yard cotton, denim, corduroy, canvas, or home décor for outer bag and straps.

½ yard for liner – usually a cotton in a complementary color for lining the bag.