

Your First 3 Sewing Projects

A skill-level planner for every stage

What's Inside

- Skill inventory checklist — confirm what you already know
- 3-project planning cards — map your next three makes
- All 16 projects quick reference by skill tier
- Reflection prompts — record what each project taught you

Skill Inventory Checklist

How to use this planner:

Check every skill you have confirmed on a finished project. Your tier is the highest row where you can check ALL boxes.

Beginner

- Re-thread machine from scratch
- Test and adjust thread tension
- Sew a consistent straight seam
- Backstitch at start and end
- Press a seam open or to one side
- Cut fabric on grain
- Mark fabric with chalk or pen
- Sew a simple casing with elastic

Intermediate

- Insert a standard zipper
- Sew an invisible zipper
- Finish seam allowances (serger or zigzag)
- Sew a curved seam and clip notches
- Sew and press an inseam
- Attach and topstitch a waistband
- Apply fusible interfacing correctly
- Complete a buttonhole

Advanced

- Make and fit a muslin
- Complete a full-bust adjustment
- Understitch a facing
- Select interfacing by fabric weight
- Press with a tailor's ham
- Sew a flat-felled or French seam
- Hand-sew a hem on floaty fabric
- Attach a lining to a garment

IMPORTANT A skill counts only when it was confirmed on a finished project, not practiced in a drill. If you are unsure, mark it unchecked and plan a project that will confirm it.

My First 3 Projects

Use your skill inventory to select one project per card. Choose from your current confirmed tier, not the tier above it.

1

PROJECT NAME	SKILL TIER	TARGET DATE
SKILL I AM CONFIRMING	FABRIC	
TIME ESTIMATE	NOTES	

2

PROJECT NAME	SKILL TIER	TARGET DATE
SKILL I AM CONFIRMING	FABRIC	
TIME ESTIMATE	NOTES	

3

PROJECT NAME	SKILL TIER	TARGET DATE
SKILL I AM CONFIRMING	FABRIC	
TIME ESTIMATE	NOTES	

BEGINNER

Pillowcase, Drawstring Bag, Elastic Skirt, Tote Bag, Zippered Pouch, French Seam Tote, A-Line Skirt, Pajama Pants, Blended Blouse, Chore Coat, Fitted Trousers, Quilted Jacket

INTERMEDIATE

ADVANCED

All 16 Projects: Quick Reference

Tier	#	Project	Skill Taught	Time	Muslin
Beginner	1	Pillowcase	Straight seam	30-45 min	No
	2	Drawstring Bag	Casing construction	45-60 min	No
	3	Elastic-Waist Skirt	Waistband casing	1.5-2 hrs	No
	4	Tote Bag	Reinforced handles	1-1.5 hrs	No
	5	Fabric Headband	Curved seam + tube turning	20-30 min	No
	6	Patchwork Table Runner	Seam allowance consistency	1.5-2 hrs	No
Intermediate	7	Lined Zippered Pouch	Zipper insertion	1-1.5 hrs	No
	8	French Seam Tote	French seam finishing	1.5-2 hrs	No
	9	A-Line Skirt	Invisible zipper	3-4 hrs	Optional
	10	Pajama Pants	Inseam + crotch curve	2-3 hrs	No
	11	Button-Front Blouse	Buttonholes + collar	4-6 hrs	Recommended
Advanced	12	Linen Fitted Dress	FBA + fitted bodice	8-12 hrs	Yes
	13	Lined Blazer	Interfacing + hand finish	12-20 hrs	Yes
	14	Patchwork Chore Coat	Quilting + garment build	10-15 hrs	No
	15	Fitted Trousers	Hip fitting + swayback	8-12 hrs	Yes
	16	Quilted Jacket	Batting selection + lining	10-14 hrs	No

Reminder: Select the project that matches your current confirmed skill tier, not the tier above it. Muslin = Yes means cut no final fabric without one.

Project Reflection

After you finish each project, answer the questions below. The skill you name here is your qualification for the next project. This record is more useful than any project photo.

PROJECT 1

PROJECT NAME AND TIER:

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST STEP?

WHAT SKILL DID THIS PROJECT CONFIRM?

WHAT IS MY NEXT PROJECT, AND WHY DOES IT QUALIFY?

PROJECT 2

PROJECT NAME AND TIER:

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST STEP?

WHAT SKILL DID THIS PROJECT CONFIRM?

WHAT IS MY NEXT PROJECT, AND WHY DOES IT QUALIFY?

PROJECT 3

PROJECT NAME AND TIER:

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST STEP?

WHAT SKILL DID THIS PROJECT CONFIRM?

WHAT IS MY NEXT PROJECT, AND WHY DOES IT QUALIFY?

Find more sewing projects for every skill level at [Sewing.com](https://www.sewing.com)