

Alterations and Dressmaking

Day and Time: Monday 7:30-9:30

Course Duration: 10 weeks

Price: €130

Tutor:

Course Description

This class is aimed at sewing machine users of all levels, from complete beginners who need to know how to thread a machine to expert sewers who want to learn new techniques. It is more creative than a straightforward dressmaking class, yet all the techniques needed for dressmaking are learned.

You will learn how to insert a zip, take up a hem, patch jeans and do appliqué. You will also learn to take in tops and blouses, add pockets to dresses and trousers and let out those items you couldn't leave behind at the sales. Techniques like piping, gathering, machine smocking, sleeve insertion and tailoring pockets will also be demonstrated.

Students are invited to work on a project, e.g. something that they own or have bought or acquired (vintage clothing, interesting fabric or charity shop 'finds') as they go along. After a few weeks, the instructor will demonstrate how to make a pattern for an A-line skirt. Most classes start with a demonstration of how to perform some sewing task, which students work through during the class or incorporate into their project.

You will need sharp scissors for fabric, old scissors for paper, notebook, pencil and pen, fabric remnants or curtain lining (1/2 yard approx., smaller pieces will do), measuring tape, pins, safety pins, and thread. It's a good idea to have a small camera or mobile phone to photograph your work as you proceed to keep a record of how to repeat.

It is best if participants bring their own sewing machines, though some are available in the school. It is not necessary to bring a machine on the first night. All modern machines are perfectly good, from cheap Lidl and Argos versions to more expensive brands (these do last longer but are only needed if you intend to do a lot of serious sewing). Machines that you have inherited are fine, but may need to be serviced.

Best fabrics are linen, cotton (not too light), corduroy, and any old fabric with hasn't gone limp. Old sheets are no use.

Suggested fabric shops include: The Cloth Shop (South King St.); Murphy Sheehy (Castle Market); Hickeys (Henry Street); Studio 54 (Sandyford); WM Trimmings (Chapel St); Fabric Select (Parnell St); TWI (Mountjoy Square).

