

Jeannette Knake has been working in the creative field for many years. Through her *Crazy Patchwork*, *Crazy Wool* and *Crazy Felt* techniques, she brings a new, fresh and modern approach to the subject of handicrafts.



FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

Crazy Patchwork is all about sewing using small pieces of fabric of the same size. Endless imaginative possibilities can turn garments and accessories into virtually designer pieces. Yet the items are easy to make and are therefore suitable for beginners as well as experienced needlecrafters, as the seams and hems do not need to be finished off. When sewing the seams, you need to keep them an equal distance from the edge of the fabric. It does not matter if the lines are not quite straight, as they will not show against the multi-coloured background. Crazy Patchwork combines special-effect yarns and leftover bits of wool and fabric with craft materials such

as raffia and leather. You can also take old scarves and shawls and turn them into new and fashionable items. Create your own style too by using self-dyed silk.

In this book, I present a wide variety of items in designs that are easy to make and will capture the hearts of young and old alike. By making the sewing easy, I have left more scope for you to develop your own designs.

I hope that you will get a lot of pleasure from using the different materials, as well much fun and success from creating your new own fashionable garments and accessories.

Jeannette Knake





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'Fantasy' silk sweater			

◆ = for beginners

◆◆ = previous experience required

◆◆◆ = for the advanced



Foundation course in Crazy Patchwork

MATERIALS

- firm work surface
- water-soluble stabiliser (e.g. Soluvlies by Freudenberg)
- water-soluble spray adhesive
- silk, velvet, embroidered fabrics, lace, etc.
- silk cord
- dressmaking scissors, cutting wheel, ruler
- pins, sewing machine



Preparation of the stabiliser

Cut out the stabiliser (for the top, bag, etc.) and spray with water-soluble spray adhesive at a distance of 20cm (7¾in) from the surface. Take care to follow the manufacturer's instructions on the spray can. When using wool, spray sparingly.



Fabrics

Cut strips 4–5cm (1½–2in) wide from the fabrics, from which you can cut out squares, rectangles or triangles. Lay out as you wish (or according to the photograph of the item) in a 'puzzle' arrangement on the stabiliser. The individual pieces of fabric can overlap one another (one edge can lay on top of another). When the pieces of fabric overlap, a denser effect will be achieved after rinsing out than if the squares were laid next to one another.

TIP

See 'note on quantities of stabiliser' on page 6.



Neckline and special-effect areas

If the stabiliser has a neckline, lay the pieces of cut fabric around the rounded edge. Lighter areas and interesting effects can be achieved by going, for example, from yellow to red, green and blue into black. Particular effects can be achieved by using several layers of fabric in graded colours.



Preparing for sewing

Spray the adhesive again over the whole covered area. Ensure that you spray small areas at a time, so that the squares do not fly away. Place a second layer of stabiliser on top and press down lightly with the palm of your hand. Pin the corners and the centre of each outer edge to prevent the inner pieces from slipping.



Sewing

As in the photograph, first sew the lengthways seams vertically, 3–4cm (1¼–1½in) apart, with the sewing machine, using a stitch size of 3–4. When the whole area has been covered with these seams, turn the work and sew the crossways seams in the same way (3–4cm (1¼–1½in) apart) to make a square pattern.



Rinsing out

Rinse out the work under cold running water. The stabiliser will dissolve in the water without leaving a residue. A little detergent for delicate fabrics will give a soft 'final clean'. Leave to dry and steam if required. Leave the surface of your work un-ironed to emphasise the character of the 'Crazy Patchwork'.

TIPS

You can draw guidelines on the stabiliser using a ballpoint pen and ruler, as the ink will wash out together with the stabiliser when rinsed. Do not use a felt-tip pen though, as the wet colour will transfer to the remaining weave. Felt tip ink cannot be removed afterwards. (See step 4)

Should any of the rows not be as straight as you would like, do not worry about it, as the next row will be better and the one after that will be perfect. Work slowly on your first designer piece. (See step 5)

Only rinse out the stabiliser when no more sewing is required. While the stabiliser is acting as a base, it keeps the seams held together. (See step 6)



Great for travelling

This sweater will bring a bit of a sparkle to your day with its fashionable ribbon yarn. Even a slightly older skirt or pair of trousers will turn into a smart outfit when combined with this top. By adding the bag, you can quickly add a bit of pizzazz to denim too when travelling.

A sparkly effect for dull days – a sweater to cheer you up!

Sweater

Size:
12–14

Level of difficulty:



Bag

Size:
Approx. 80 × 60cm
(31½ × 23½in)

Level of difficulty:



Sweater

MATERIALS

- water-soluble stabiliser, e.g. Soluvlies by Freudenberg, 140 × 90cm (55 × 35½in)
- water-soluble spray adhesive
- nylon multicoloured ribbon yarn, 100g (3½oz)
- sewing thread in orange or metallic multicoloured sewing thread

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the stabiliser for the front and back pieces 55 × 60cm (21¾ × 23½in) according to the template on page 42.
2. Cut out the stabiliser for the sleeves four times: lower edge 25cm (9¾in), upper edge 45cm (17¾in), arm length 30cm (11¾in) (for short sleeves).
3. Starting with the front piece, place a piece of stabiliser on the work surface and spray with adhesive. Lay the pieces of yarn (according to the basic technique on pages 10–11) vertically on to the stabiliser (see the photograph).
4. For the neckline, push down the threads on the front piece in the centre approx. 3cm (1¼in) and spray this part again with adhesive. Place three to four threads around the neckline. Press down lightly and place the second layer of stabiliser on top.
5. Proceed in the same way for the back piece (without the neckline) and both sleeves. Machine-stitch crossways from side seam to side seam, as the threads laid run lengthways. Leave approx. 3cm (1¼in) between the machine-stitching.
6. Close the shoulder seams, then pin the sleeve at the centre to the shoulder seam at the top. First pin on to the front piece and then on to the back piece. Sew the seam with the sewing machine and then close up the underside of the sleeve and the side seam between the front and back pieces. Rinse out.
7. Proceed in the same way for the other sleeve. Turn the piece right side out and rinse out.

Bag

MATERIALS

- water-soluble stabiliser, e.g. Soluvlies by Freudenberg, 120 × 90cm (47¼ × 35½in)
- nylon multicoloured ribbon yarn, 100g (3½oz)
- 1 roll of sewing thread in orange or metallic multicoloured sewing thread, approx. 200m
- cotton fabric in light green, approx. 115 × 60cm (45¼ × 23½in)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the pieces of stabiliser according to the template on page 43 and proceed as for the sweater on the left.
2. Cut out two strips 80 × 4cm (31½ × 1½in) from the stabiliser for the shoulder straps and then cover lengthways with the ribbon yarn. Machine-stitch crossways with seams approx. 2–3cm (¾–1¼in) apart.
3. For the lining, cut out a piece of cotton fabric 80 × 60cm (31½ × 23½in) and sew the side seam, leaving a 15cm (6in) opening for turning.
4. Pin the shoulder strap to the exterior of the bag and push the bag into the lining, right sides together. Stitch the upper edge of the bag and turn right side out through the opening, then sew up the opening. Rinse out.

TIP

After rinsing out, iron the bag once it is dry. Set the iron to 'silk' so that you can iron over all of the ribbon yarn.





Sheer elegance – the 'Queen of the Night'.

Evening colours

You will sparkle at any special occasion in this three-piece outfit. The top is made from stretchy, sequined fabric and the skirt has an elasticated waist, allowing plenty of room for gaining or losing weight. They can be altered according to size. The sequin top can easily be worn independently from the skirt and stole with white, summer trousers or jeans for a garden party.

Skirt

Size:

10–14

Level of difficulty:



Stole

Size:

200 × 60cm (78¾ × 23½in)

Level of difficulty:



Sequin top

Size:

individual

Level of difficulty:



Skirt

MATERIALS

- organza in black, 240 × 120cm (95½ × 47¼in)
- pongé 06, 120 × 120cm (47¼ × 47¼in), dyed blue
- pongé 06, 120 × 120cm (47¼ × 47¼in), dyed dark green
- devoré, 120 × 120cm (47¼ × 47¼in), dyed blue
- devoré, 90 × 60cm (35½ × 23½in), dyed dark blue (after dyeing, appears royal blue)
- silk dye, e.g. Marabu SilkArt, in sapphire, dark green and black
- water-soluble stabiliser, e.g. Soluvlies by Freudenberg, 450 × 90cm (177¼ × 35½in)
- 2 rolls of sewing thread in black, each 500m (dyeing instructions on page 7)
- elasticated waistband, 30mm (½in), 90cm (35½in) long

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Dye the fabric according to the dyeing instructions on page 7, as indicated above.
2. Cut out four skirt panels from organza and stabiliser: length approx. 112 cm (44in), width approx. 300 cm (118in). Then first sew the organza underskirt by top-stitching the side seams.
3. Spray the stabiliser panels with spray adhesive and continue following the basic technique on pages 8–9.
4. Place the underskirt and 'rag skirt' right sides together and stitch together along the waist seam. Pin the elasticated waistband along the waist and top-stitch. Rinse out.

Stole

MATERIALS

- organza in black, 200 × 120cm (78¾ × 47¼in)
- water-soluble stabiliser, e.g. Soluvlies by Freudenberg, 55 × 55cm (21¾ × 21¾in)
- water-soluble spray adhesive

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fold the organza fabric in half and pin along one of the short sides. Divide the stabiliser into two triangles, cover one with the remaining squares from the skirt using the 'Crazy Patchwork' technique (see pages 8–9) and complete. Spray again and cover with the second stabiliser triangle.
2. Stitch the stabiliser triangle (with silk squares) to the end of the organza stole and then rinse out.

Sequin top

MATERIALS

- sequin fabric, 90 × 45cm (35½ × 17¾in) (bust measurement plus 2cm (¾in) seam allowance)
- sewing thread

INSTRUCTIONS

Fold the sequin fabric in half (45 × 45cm) (17¾ × 17¾in) and stitch the lengthways seam to form a tube.

TIP

If, having made the stole, there are still 12–15 fabric squares remaining, you can place them on approx. 20 × 20cm (7¾ × 7¾in) of stabiliser in a circular flower shape and sew on. Rinse out the piece and sew the flower that remains on to the top by hand. The organza skirt can be turned up approx. 1cm (½in) at the hemline and neatened off (stitched).

