

MY SEWING WORLD

By Tammy Silver

Tammy is a London-based sewing blogger who's creating a handmade wardrobe filled with colour and volume.

Growing up, I was always a creative soul; I loved drawing my favourite anime characters and that's how I first got into illustration. As time went on, the craft no longer felt like my own and I was searching for another creative outlet. My sister suggested sewing, and a few weeks later she bought me a sewing machine for my birthday. I took beginner lessons at a lovely sewing studio near my house where I made a cushion cover, complete with a crooked zip and uneven seams. I was so proud of my imperfect creation that it took centre stage in my living room (even though, according to my mum, it didn't match the furniture!). I bought *Love at First Stitch* by Tilly Walnes, which taught me sewing in a way I could understand, and within the next three months I had made my first skirt, dress and blouse.

SHARING MY STYLE

I've been self-drafting all my makes for two years now. My illustration background has ended up coming in handy as I'm able to visualise the construction of different garments; it really helps me to create designs that perfectly express my personal style. What I enjoy most about self-drafting is the creative freedom and learning through experimentation.

All of this has culminated in me releasing my very first sewing pattern! It's still crazy to think I've released my baby into the wild. Although I was a nervous wreck getting everything ready, I've been overwhelmed by the positive responses from the sewing community. It's truly inspiring to see the rise of independent pattern designers, especially people of colour.

My first PDF pattern is called The Petal Top, and it's named after the exaggerated peplum which resembles the petals of a blooming flower. The top is sleeveless with a round-neck and has a loose fit design; it's the perfect statement piece for any handmade wardrobe. As a new pattern designer, I'm looking to showcase and combine my core personal style elements of boldness, vibrancy and functionality.



Find Tammy's first pattern release on her blog, tammysilver.com

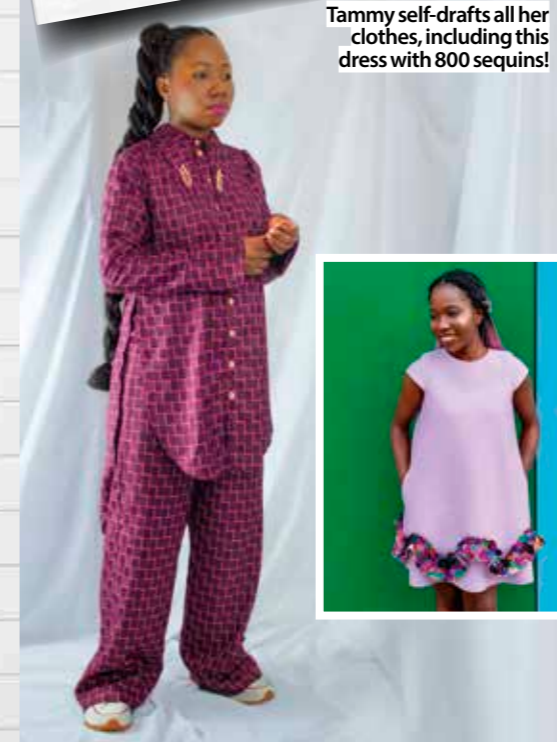


This lilac organza dress is the epitome of Tammy's style



The new Petal Top pattern is made from only four pieces

I'm looking to showcase my core style elements of boldness and vibrancy.



Tammy self-drafts all her clothes, including this dress with 800 sequins!



Tammy is a self-named print and puff-sleeve enthusiast



TV's most-loved sewing shows inspire Tammy to design

I have a meaningful connection with my clothes because I'm involved in the process.

ACCIDENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

At first, I started sewing because I believed it was something I'd be good at and I'd always enjoyed crafty activities. During lockdown I started sewing a lot more, especially when I was furloughed from work. Sewing allowed me to keep my sanity and provided a great outlet for me.

It wasn't until I regularly started sewing my own clothes that I realised all the work and talent that goes into making garments. It's sad that, for the majority, garment workers are overworked and underpaid people who pay the price for fast fashion. As I began to understand more about the mistreatment of workers in the fashion industry, I wanted to limit my participation in the problem and conduct myself in a way that allows me to enjoy my clothes and communicate my values.

As I started to share my makes on Instagram during lockdown, I began getting involved in different online sewing challenges. While I enjoyed this at first, I realised I was making clothes to share rather than to wear. After taking a step back to assess my wardrobe needs, I was able to improve my sewing practice. I love being part of the sewing community, and sharing tips, swapping fabrics and supporting each other on our journeys. Although I'm naturally introverted, blogging and sharing my creations has exponentially increased my confidence.

I'm still learning everyday how to be a conscious sewer, but I have a meaningful connection with my clothes because I'm personally involved in the process. I love how my clothes perfectly encapsulate who I am.

Keeping me inspired...

Watching fellow sewists on *The Great British Sewing Bee* and *Project Runway* makes me feel like I can accomplish great things. Recently, my friend gave me a few copies of *Vogue* and I've been having a great time looking at design elements that I like in the magazines. I rarely recreate a design exactly; my goal is to use my experience and sense of style to not only make my clothes but to design them too.