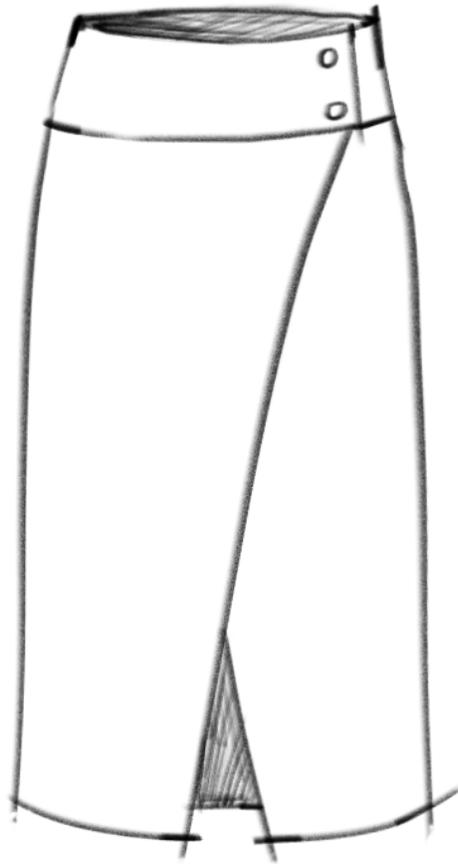




The School of Making



THE PENCIL SKIRT PATTERN

with basic, asymmetrical and crossover variations

For use with *Alabama Stitch Book*, *Alabama Studio Style*, *Alabama Studio Sewing + Design*,
Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns, and *The Geometry of Hand-Sewing*

theschoolofmaking.alabamachanin.com

© The School of Making™ 2019

ABOUT THIS PATTERN

The Pencil Skirt, designed to be used in tandem with our Alabama Studio Book Series, is a versatile pattern that will become a wardrobe staple. Three different variations are possible: the Basic Pencil Skirt, the Asymmetrical Pencil Skirt, and the Crossover Pencil Skirt. All variations are 26" in length.

PATTERN SIZING

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Chest	28 – 30"	30 – 32"	32 – 34"	36 – 38"	40 – 42"	44 – 46"
Waist	23 – 24"	25 – 26"	27 – 28"	30 – 32"	33 – 35"	35 – 36"
Hips	32 – 33"	34 – 35"	36 – 37"	38 – 39"	40 – 42"	43 – 44"

APPROXIMATE YARDAGE REQUIRED

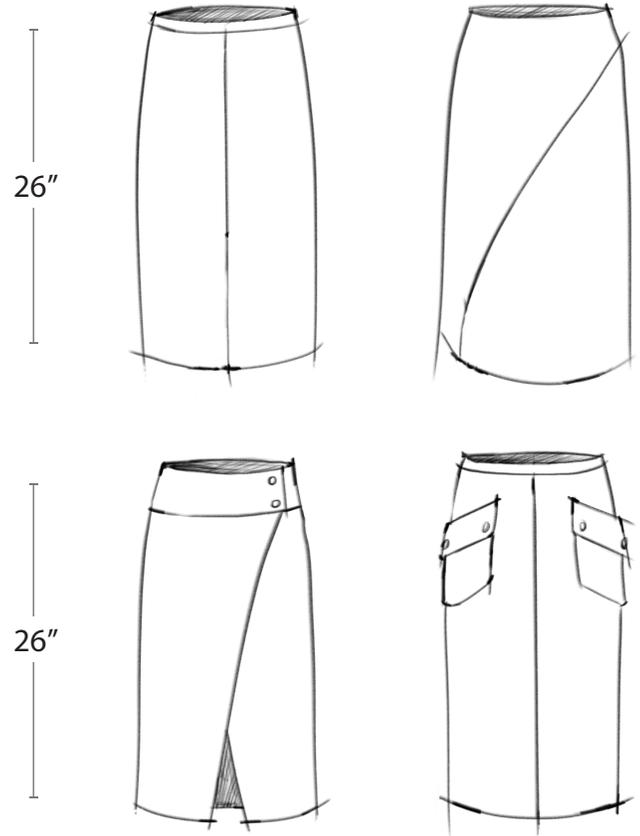
VARIATION	SINGLE LAYER	DOUBLE LAYER
Basic	1 yards	2 yards
Asymmetrical	1.5 yards	3 yards
Crossover	1.5 yards	3 yards

**Yardage measurement taken with fabric folded with the grainline.*

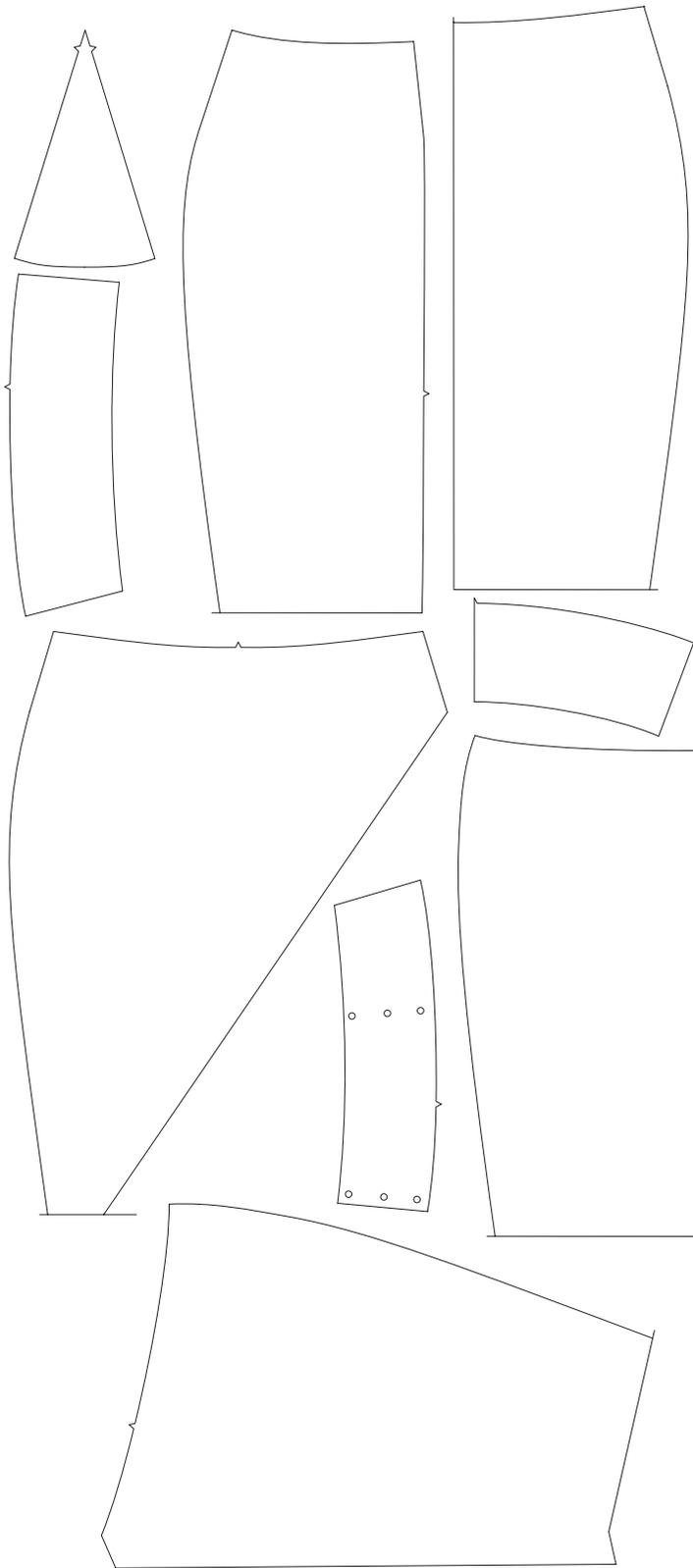
TO NOTE BEFORE BEGINNING

All fabric should be pre-washed, dried, and wrinkle free.
Seam allowance is 1/4" unless otherwise noted.

SKIRT VARIATIONS



THE PENCIL SKIRT MASTER PATTERN



PENCIL SKIRT PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

SUPPLIES

The Pencil Skirt Pattern

60"-wide cotton jersey fabric in one color, for top layer (see chart on page 2 for yardage)

60"-wide cotton jersey fabric in one color, for backing layer (same as for top layer)

Paper scissors

Tape

Garment scissors

Tailor's chalk or disappearing-ink fabric pen

Hand-sewing needle

Button Craft thread

All-purpose thread (for basting)

Pins

#7 Snaps (6 for the Crossover Skirt)

1. CUT THE PATTERN

This garment provides 3 style variations (Basic, Asymmetrical, and Crossover) and six sizes (from XS to XXL) in which the garment can be made. You may use The Pocket pattern from The School of Making to add a variety of pockets and details to your final garment. Once you've chosen your pattern variation and size, use your paper scissors to cut out the desired pattern variation. Cut as close to the black line as possible.

2. CUT TOP-LAYER PATTERN PIECES

To prevent the cotton jersey from stretching, lay the fabric flat on your work surface, fold along the grainline to create two layers, and gently pat the cotton jersey into place with your fingertips.

Find your grain line by locating the vertical lines that run along the length of the fabric's right side. Next, lay your paper pattern pieces on top of your fabric, making sure the pattern's marked grain line runs in the same direction as the fabric's grain line. Trace your pattern pieces with tailor's chalk or a disappearing-ink fabric pen. You may hold or weight the pattern instead of pinning to prevent skewing the fabric or causing small nicks and holes in your pattern and fabric. Cut just inside of your traced line to remove it entirely.



	# of pattern pieces	Total # cut top-layer pieces	Total # cut backing-layer pieces	Total # cut pieces for a double-layer embroidered garment
Basic	3	4	4	8
Asymmetrical	4	5	5	10
Crossover	4	10	7	17

3. CUT BACKING-LAYER PATTERN PIECES

Lay out the backing-layer fabric flat, fold to create two layers, and gently pat the cotton jersey into place with your fingertips. Use your cut front and back top-layer pieces as pattern guides.

4. BASTE WAISTLINE

To ensure that the waistline doesn't stretch while you're constructing your garment, use a single strand of all-purpose thread to baste around the waistline and curved edges of each piece.

5. ADD STENCILING AND/OR EMBROIDERY (OPTIONAL)

If you choose to stencil and/or embroider your project, add this to the right side of the cut top-layer pieces, and let stenciled images dry thoroughly before proceeding.

Add embellishment as desired using one of our Alabama Studio Series books for inspiration. If you're adding beads, avoid beading in the 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance.

6. PREPARE FOR CONSTRUCTION

Choose inside or outside floating or felled seams (see our Alabama Studio Book Series) for your garment. You will pin with fabric's wrong sides together for seams visible on the outside of the garment or with fabric's right sides together for seams that are finished on the inside of the garment. If you choose to make your skirt with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

When pinning knit seams for construction, it is important to follow a method we call "pinning the middle." With right sides together for inside seams or wrong sides together for outside seams, start by pinning the top of your seam, and follow by pinning the bottom of your seam. After pinning both top and bottom, place one pin in the middle, between the two initial pins. Continue by pinning in the middle of each set of pins until your seam is securely pinned and ready to sew.

Unless otherwise noted, all of our garment patterns use a 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance.

THE BASIC PENCIL SKIRT WITH GODET

7. CONSTRUCT THE FRONT PANEL

If you choose to cut your front panel on the fold skip to step 8.

Pin the two front panels at the center front with right sides together and edges aligned (or wrong sides together for outside seams). Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew 1/4" (6mm) from the cut edges. Wrap-stitch at beginning and end.

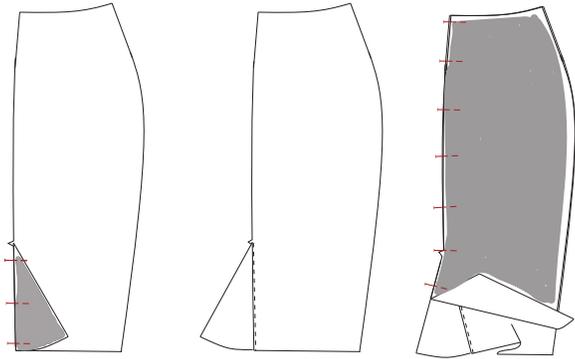
Fell the seam, if desired, by folding over the seam allowances to one side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowance, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the ends of the seam.

8. STITCH CENTER AND SIDE BACK SEAMS

Take your right back piece and lay it in front of you with the right side up (or wrong side up for outside seams). Take your godet and lay it right side down on the bottom of your right back piece or lay wrong sides together for outside seams, lining it up from the bottom of the garment to the notch. Pin the godet to the right back and straight stitch from the bottom edge of the skirt to the notch, wrap-stitching both ends.



Fell the seam, if desired, by folding over the seam allowances to the right side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowance, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.



9. STITCH CENTER BACK SEAM

Take your left back piece and with right sides together (or wrong sides together for outside seams), lay it on the right back piece and godet, matching the notch. Pin the middle until the seam is secured from the top of the skirt to the hem. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned pieces together, starting at the top edge of the seam and stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges down to the bottom edge. Be sure to begin and end your seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them.

Fell the seam, if desired, by folding over the seam allowances to the left side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowance, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

10. STITCH SIDE SEAMS

Once your front and back panels are completed, pin the side seams with right sides together (or wrong sides together if you choose to make your skirt with outside seams). Sew the side seams 1/4" (6mm) away from the edge, wrap-stitching the top and bottom of the seams.

Fell the seams, if desired, by folding over the seam allowances to the back side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowance, using a straight stitch, and wrap-stitching the seam.

11. BIND WAISTLINE

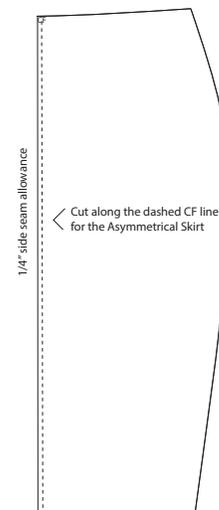
Using fold-over elastic and starting at the skirt's center back waistline, encase the waistline's raw edge with the folded elastic, basting the elastic in place as you work. Overlap the elastic's raw edges at the center back by about 1/2" (12mm) and trim off any excess elastic.

To sew the elastic in place permanently, use the stretch stitch of your choice, stitching through all of the layers down the middle of the elastic.

THE ASYMMETRICAL SKIRT

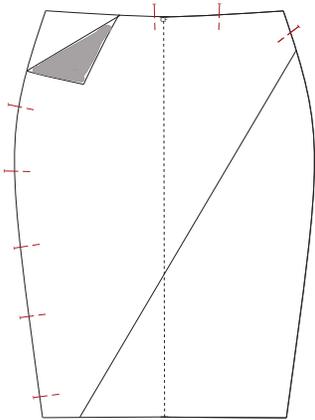
Special Cutting Instructions-

Cut the front of the skirt on the fold for this style, following the marked dashed line 1/4" (6mm) away from the center front edge of the pattern piece.



12. CONSTRUCT THE FRONT PANEL

Lay the front overlay piece on top of the front skirt, that was cut on the fold, and match it up at the waistline and side seams. Baste or pin into place.



Construct the rest of the skirt following the instructions from the Basic Pencil Skirt, steps 8 through 11.

CROSSOVER SKIRT

13. TOPSTITCH THE FRONT OVERLAPS

Taking your two front pieces, turn the fabric at the center front opening back (or forward for outside seams) 1 1/2" (36mm) and press. Using a running stitch, secure the turnback by stitching 1/4" (6mm) away from the raw edge. It will be 1 1/4" (30mm) away from the folded edge of the fabric. Wrap-stitch the top and the bottom.

14. CONSTRUCT THE BACK PANEL

With right sides together (or wrong sides together for outside seams), line up your center back pieces at the center back seam. Pin the middle to secure. Thread your needle, love your thread, knot off, and stitch 1/4" (6mm) away from the cut edges of the seam, checking your tension as you go.

Fell your seam, if desired, to one side, stitching 1/8" (3mm) away from the cut edge of the seam, down the center of the seam. Secure

your stitches with a wrap-stitch at the top and the bottom. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

15. SEWING THE SIDE SEAMS

With right sides together (or wrong sides together for outside seams), line up one front panel with each back panel. Stitch 1/4" (6mm) away from the cut edge, wrap-stitching at the top and the bottom.

Fell your seam, if desired, towards the back of the skirt, stitching 1/8" (3mm) away from the cut edge of the seam, down the center of the seam allowance. Secure your stitches with a wrap-stitch at the top and the bottom.

16. CONSTRUCTING THE WAISTBAND

With right sides together (or wrong sides together for outside seams), stitch two of your front waistbands to one of your back waistbands at the side seams, stitching 1/4" (6mm) away from the cut edges, wrap-stitching each end. Repeat with the other set of waistbands.

Fell your seams, if desired, towards the back of the skirt, stitching 1/8" (3mm) away from the cut edge of the seam, down the center of the seam. Secure your stitches with a wrap-stitch at the top and the bottom.

With your two waistbands constructed, place the right sides together (or wrong sides together for outside seams), thread your needle, love your thread, and stitch along the top edge of the skirt 1/4" (6mm) all the way around and down the short edges.

Turn the waistband out and press gently with a cloth, smoothing out the corners.

You have the option to use a topstitch and stitch 1/8" (3mm) away from the clean finished edge of the waistband along the top and short sides.



17. ATTACHING WAISTBAND TO SKIRT

With right sides together (or right side of waistband to wrong side of skirt for outside seams), line up the waistband to the skirt body. Pin it in place, matching the side seams and the center back notch. Stitch along the seam 1/4" (6mm) away from the cut edge of the fabric securing the ends with a wrap stitch.

Fell your seam, if desired, towards the skirt, stitching 1/8" (3mm) away from the cut edge of the seam down the center of the seam. Secure your stitches with a wrap-stitch at the top and the bottom.

18. ATTACHING THE SNAPS

Once you have your skirt constructed, use the snap marker to mark your snaps. Line up your snap marker on the inside of the left waistband and mark with an erasable pen or chalk. Sew the female half of your snaps on your marks.

Next, you will turn the snap marker over and line it up on the top of the right waistband and mark with an erasable pen or chalk. Sew the male half of your snaps on your marks on the right waistband.

BASIC SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

Provided below are notes on our basic construction and sewing techniques. For more thorough instructions on stenciling, embellishment, and construction, reference one of our Alabama Studio books, shown on page 9.

LOVE YOUR THREAD

To love your thread, cut a piece twice as long as the distance from your fingertips to your elbow. Thread your needle, pulling the thread through the needle until the two ends of the thread are the same length.

Hold the doubled thread between your thumb and index finger, and run your fingers along it from the needle to the end of the loose tails. Repeat this several times to release the tension in the thread, and then double-knot your thread.

KNOTTING OFF

After bringing the needle up through the fabric, make a loop with the thread, then pull your needle through that loop, using your forefinger or thumb to nudge the knot in place, flush with the fabric. Then repeat this process to make a double knot. After making a second knot, cut the thread, leaving a 1/2" (12mm) tail.



In hand-sewing, your knot anchors and holds your entire seam. One important design decision we make when starting any project is how to handle the knots. There are two options: knots that show on the project's right side (outside) and knots that show on the wrong side (inside). Either of these knots can be used throughout an entire project.

STRETCH AND NON-STRETCH STITCHES

We use three categories of stitches in our work: stitches that do not stretch, for construction, reverse appliqué, and other embellishments; stitches that do stretch, for sewing necklines, armholes, and other areas in a project that require "give"; and stitches that are purely decorative, for embellishment. Following are examples of non-stretch and stretch:

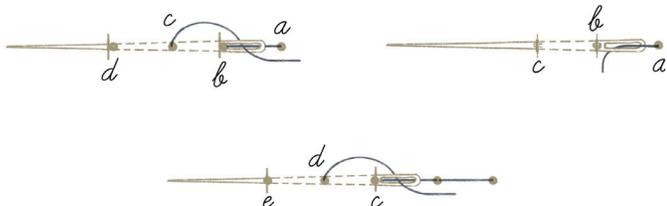
NON-STRETCH STITCH

Straight (Running) Stitch: Bring needle up at A, go back down at B, and come up at C, making stitches and spaces between them the same length (about 1/8" (3mm) to 1/4" (6mm) long).



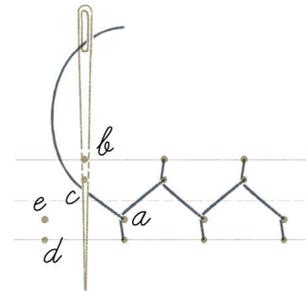
BACKSTITCH

Bring needle up to A, go back down at B, and come up at C. Then insert needle just ahead of B, and come up at D. Next insert needle just ahead of C, and come up at E. Continue this overall pattern.

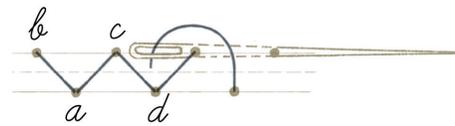


STRETCH STITCH

CRETAN STITCH: Bring needle up at A, go down at B, and come back up at C, making a downward vertical stitch while bringing needle over thread. Insert needle again at D, and come back up at E, making an upward vertical stitch while bringing needle over thread. Continue to repeat stitch pattern.

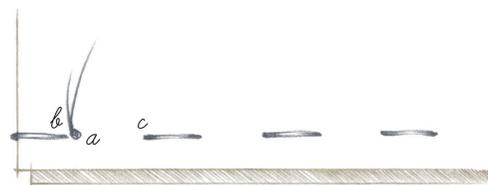


ZIGZAG STITCH: Bring needle up at A, go down at B, and come back up at C. Insert needle again at A, and come back up at D. Insert needle again at C, and come back up at E. Continue to repeat stitch pattern.

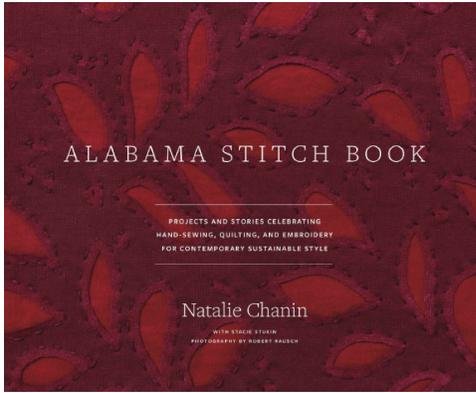


SEAMS

To start a seam, make a double knot, and insert the needle at point A. Wrap your thread around side of the fabric to the front, insert the needle back in at B, then come up at C, and stitch the seam. Also wrap-stitch the end of your seam before knotting off.

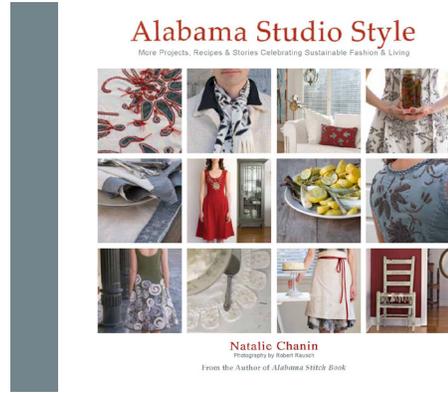


THE SCHOOL OF MAKING BOOK SERIES AT A GLANCE



Alabama Stitch Book

Alabama Stitch Book is a collection of stitching, beading, and embroidery instructions, stories, and projects from Alabama Chanin. Projects include our best-selling Corset, Swing Skirt, “boa” scarf, bandana, and more.



Alabama Studio Style

Alabama Studio Style expands upon the stitching, stenciling, and beading techniques introduced in *Alabama Stitch Book* and introduces twenty new clothing and home decor projects. This book also includes recipes and stories.



Alabama Studio Sewing + Design

An encyclopedic compilation of techniques used to create the Alabama Chanin line of organic cotton clothing. Included are dresses, skirts, tops, and accessories.



Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns

Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns explores fit, patternmaking, and how to create a garment to fit your unique shape. It includes three new patterns with several variations as well as previous open-sourced patterns on a disc at the back of the book.



The Geometry of Hand-Sewing

The Geometry of Hand-Sewing: A Romance in Stitches and Embroidery from Alabama Chanin and The School of Making by Natalie Chanin is a comprehensive guide to hand-stitching and embroidery. This book focuses solely on the stitches themselves taking embroidery stitches and breaking them down into different geometric grid systems that make learning even seemingly elaborate stitches as easy as child's play.



TERMS OF USE

All designs © The School of Making™ 2019, Alabama Chanin, Inc. These patterns are for personal home use. Patterns and projects are not to be produced for commercial purposes, nor are they to be made into items for sale. These patterns are copyright protected and reproduction of them is not permitted. Intended for use with *Alabama Stitch Book*, *Alabama Studio Style*, *Alabama Studio Sewing + Design*, *Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns*, and *The Geometry of Hand-Sewing*.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF MAKING

Alabama Chanin as a concept and a company began as a DIY enterprise. Workshop programming was a natural outgrowth of the emerging DIY initiative growing around us. Our experiences showed us that face-to-face and hand-to-hand contact helped our customers better understand the what, why, and how of our making processes and the importance of an organic supply chain. And our business continued to grow. DIY offerings expanded, our workshop offerings became more diverse, and our Journal content added additional DIY instruction, stories, and ideas.

Educational programming is one of the fastest growing and most exciting aspects of our business model. So, as the opportunities to educate our team and our customers began to multiply, we realized that we should create a specific home for this knowledge.

To fully embrace our growing model, we have developed an overseeing body that will direct and innovate learning initiatives and educational programs: The School of Making. All of our current and developing educational and training initiatives fall under the umbrella of The School of Making. This arm of the Alabama Chanin Family of Businesses oversees DIY and workshop programming, format, and content; it acts as a researching body for new subjects and new ways of disseminating information. Our hope is that The School of Making can be an active voice in our local community, our state, and the making community, at large.

VISIT THE SCHOOL OF MAKING:

theschoolofmaking.alabamachanin.com

SHARE WITH US ON:

Instagram – www.instagram.com/theschoolofmaking

Facebook – www.facebook.com/theschoolofmaking

Use the hashtag [#theschoolofmaking](https://www.instagram.com/theschoolofmaking) to join the conversation.

