

MAKE BABY'S WARDROBE E-BOOK

The Real Numbers: How much you actually save making your baby's clothes

A no-fluff breakdown for beginner stitchers



itsjojosewa

@itsjojo.sewa

Free guide by Joanna Hadfield — patterns & education for the modern maker

Introduction



This guide walks you through a cost comparison of buying versus making, what you need to get started, ideas about your first three projects, and a fabric cheat sheet to get you on your way.

Hi, my name is Joanna. I am a maker, Mum to a 7 month old girl Olive, and I work in TV & Film as a Pattern/Fitter and a Costume Designer.

It is so exciting to start your sewing journey and I want to be here to cheer you on!

Please reach out to me with any and all questions about your projects... I'm here to help. I have PDF pattern I am uploading to Etsy so stay tuned for those.

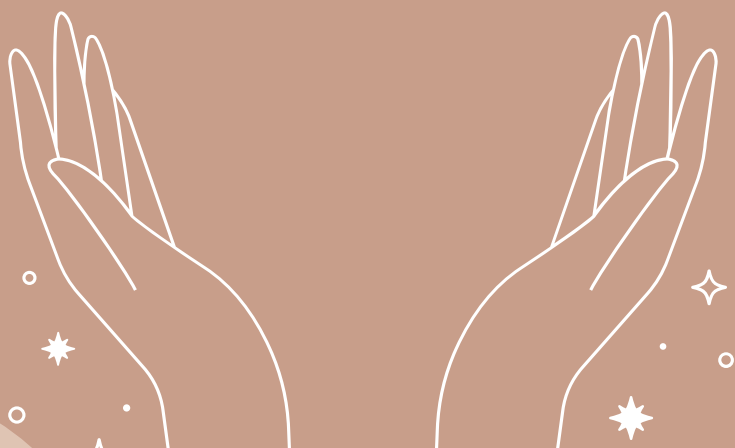
Best Regards,

JOANNA HADFIELD



"Babies go through four sizes in their first year. You could save over \$900 by making clothes yourself. And they will be super cute, because they have your love infused in them."

Joanna Hadfield



01

LET'S TALK NUMBERS

WHAT YOU'RE SPENDING AT RETAIL – VS MAKING

The comparison Table:

\$335 Retail vs \$105 making.

Times this by four as baby will go through four sizes the first year.



BOUGHT VS. HANDMADE *Cost per size — avg. US retail vs. handmade with thrifted fabric*

Item	Bought	Handmade
Bib x6	\$36	\$15
Onesie x4	\$48	\$19
Romper	\$42	\$12
Sunsuit	\$38	\$8
Casual dress	\$45	\$10
Pants x2	\$34	\$8
Cardigan/jacket	\$52	\$15
Sleep sack	\$40	\$18
TOTAL	\$335	\$105

Do that math and you're looking at \$920 in potential savings across your baby's first twelve months — just by making the basics yourself.

What You Actually Need to Get Started

- **Your Machine:** Any basic sewing machine with a straight stitch and zigzag will do the job. If your machine works and you know how to thread it, you're good.
- **Fabric:** For baby clothes, you want soft, pre-washed fabric that's gentle against delicate skin.
- **The Right Pattern:** This is the piece most beginners underestimate. A badly drafted pattern wastes your time, kills your confidence, and makes everything harder than it needs to be.
- **Start simple:** a bib, a pair of pants, a basic romper. Build from there.

BASIC NOTIONS

KAM Snaps + Plier Tool

1

Gold standard for baby clothes. Easy to apply, looks professional.

Thread

2

Match your fabric. Nothing fancy — don't run out mid-bib.

Sharp Fabric Scissors

3

Do not use these for anything else. Ever.

Pins or Wonder Clips

4

Clips are easier on slippery or knit fabrics.

A Seam Ripper

5

You will use this. Everyone uses this. No shame.

An Iron Non-negotiable. Pressing your seams is the single thing that makes handmade clothes look professional instead of homemade. Don't skip this.

DAILY MOTIVATION

ONE STITCH AT A TIME
— —
YOU'LL GET THERE



JOANNA HADFIELD

03

START UP COSTS

ESTIMATED STARTUP COST IF YOU ALREADY OWN A MACHINE

Don't own a machine? Check Facebook Marketplace or eBay before buying new. Look for something with metal parts — they last forever and sew beautifully. Brands like Bernina, Brother, Pfaff are all excellent finds secondhand. You can pick one up for under \$150 and it will outlast any new machine at that price point.

UNDER \$120 TO START MAKING YOUR BABY'S CLOTHES

YOUR STARTER KIT

\$40	\$20	\$12	\$9
Spoonflower Fabric (2 yards)	CLFS / Fabric Candy Shophe Fabric (2 yds)	KAM Snaps + Plier Tool	Thread (3 spools)
\$15	\$5	\$8	\$10
Sharp Fabric Scissors	Seam Ripper	Wonder Clips	Pattern

TOTAL ~\$119

Less than one boutique onesie.



04

START HERE

Three projects that will build your confidence without breaking your spirit

START HERE — YOUR FIRST 3 PROJECTS

01

THE BIB

20-30 mins | 1/2 yard or less

Beginner

Your warm-up lap. Small, fast, genuinely useful. You'll want to make five more immediately.

02

ELASTIC WAIST PANTS

45-60 mins | 1/2 to 3/4 yard

Beginner

Two legs, an elastic waist, you're done. The fit is forgiving. A diapered bottom hides a lot.

03

THE SIMPLE ROMPER

1.5-2 hrs | 3/4 to 1 yard

Confident Beginner

The one that makes people say "you MADE that?" Use a good pattern. We may know one.

05

FABRIC CHEAT SHEET

A GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT FABRIC

FABRICS YOU NEED TO KNOW

01

WOVEN COTTON

Quilting cotton, lawn, poplin

**Best for: Bibs, dresses, sunsuits,
rompers, shirts**

Beginner friendly. Holds its shape,
presses beautifully, washes well.
Always prewash — it will shrink.

02

COTTON JERSEY 2-WAY OR 4-WAY STRETCH

*2-way stretches horizontal
4-way stretches both directions*

**Best for: Onesies, leggings, pants,
bodysuits, sleep sacks**

Stretchy and forgiving — minor
fitting errors disappear in wear.
Always use a ballpoint needle.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Easy to follow patterns

You don't need to be an expert. You don't need a fancy machine or a dedicated sewing room or three uninterrupted hours. You need a pattern, some fabric, and one nap time.

The first thing you make will not be perfect. That is completely fine. The second thing will be better. By the fifth thing you'll be the person other mums are asking "where did you get that?" — and you'll get to say you made it.

That never gets old. Not even a little bit.

Welcome to your sewing era. We're really glad you're here.

— Joanna Hadfield

ITSJOJO.SEWA