

# TOP TIPS FOR SEWING SMALL

-  In most instances, Maddie's clothes (and Maddie and Mo) are sewn with a **5mm (1/4in) seam allowance**, unless otherwise stated. All of the templates in the back of the book include the seam allowances.
-  Use a smaller stitch than usual, particularly when sewing Maddie and Mo, as the toy filler can put a strain on the seams. A smaller stitch also makes a neater curve.
-  If you find areas like sleeves a bit fiddly to pin and sew, then **hand-tack/baste first**. This is more time-consuming, but will be worth the effort for perfect seams.
-  Your large dressmaking shears may lift the fabric too much when cutting around patterns, so use a smaller pair of scissors. If you have the confidence to use a rotary cutter freehand, try a **28mm rotary cutter**, and don't forget to use a cutting mat!
-  If the ends of your fabric tend to disappear into the feed dogs on your sewing machine, try either holding the threads at the back of your work as you begin to sew, or place a small piece of tear-away stabilizer under the start of the seam. Then, of course, tear it away afterwards!





## YOU WILL NEED

- 101.75 x 48.25cm (40 x 19in) of fabric
- 43.25cm (17in) length of piping: *mine was shop-bought*
- Two plastic press fastenings and fitting tools
- Summer Dress/Romper Template (see Template Sheet C)

## CUT

- Four bodice pieces, using the template
- Two 7.75 x 12.75cm (3 x 5in) pieces, for the straps
- One 56 x 25.5cm (22 x 10in) piece, for the skirt

**1** Make up one of the straps. Start by folding the long edges to the centre, wrong sides together.

**2** With the raw edges on the outside, fold the strap piece in half. Sew across one end.

**3** Turn the strap right side out, so that the raw edges are on the inside. Press. Top-stitch neatly around the edge. Repeat steps 1–3 to make the other strap.

**4** Facing inwards, sew the straps to the top of one bodice piece, 5mm (¼in) from the edges.





## YOU WILL NEED

- 99 x 63.5cm (39 x 25in) of fleece:  
*I've chosen fleece because it's soft and it doesn't need its raw edges finished, as it doesn't fray!*
- Dressing Gown templates  
(see Template Sheet B)

**1** Cut one 76.25 x 5cm (30 x 2in) strip from the fleece for the tie. Using the templates, cut out the required number of dressing gown pieces from fleece. Pin the front and back panels right sides together across the shoulders. Sew in place.

**2** Fold the under collar in half then mark the centre. Repeat with the neckline of the dressing gown back. Match these points, pin then sew the under collar to the neckline, right sides together.

**3** Sew the outer collar pieces right sides together along the wider top end.

**4** Fold the neckline of the dressing gown in half to mark the centre of the neckline. Matching the seam on the outer collar to the centre neckline mark, pin then sew the collar to the neckline and front edges of the dressing gown, right sides together.

