

FUN HALLOWEEN GAMES TO SEW

sewNEWS

October/November 2011

the trusted sewing source

RECYCLE
a **Ready-Made**
Sweater into a
DESIGNER
CARDIGAN

15 FITTING
TIPS for
Knit Fabrics

Wrap Yourself
in a **Stylish**
Shawl for Fall
*make it in **UNDER**
AN HOUR!

+10 SMART-
PHONE APPS
for Successful Sewing

STITCH A
Funky FAUX
LEATHER
JACKET with
Simple Piecing
Techniques

ELEGANT
DÉCOR
Made **EASY**

Create a second
cardigan using
sheer fabrics—
tips on page 44.

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DISPLAY UNTIL 11/14/11

5 FREE PATTERN DOWNLOADS — DETAILS INSIDE!

TOP 10 Sewing Apps

{ by Barbara Wyatt }

Check out ten handy apps to turn your smartphone into a high-tech sewing tool.

1. SEWING KIT

(LT) (Free) and Full Version (\$8.99)(iPhone)

Carry an entire pattern library on your phone. When you find an incredible fabric, the app pulls up recommended patterns you have on hand for that fabric. To create the library, enter the pattern manufacturer's name and pattern number, and the app will pull up photographs of the pattern envelope front and back. Add additional notes about size, yardage, difficulty, rating, accessories, suggested fabrics and more. The free version, Sewing Kit (LT), offers the full features of the app, but is limited to five entries in the patterns, fabrics, people and projects categories.



Tip: New smartphone apps are released all the time. To find the latest apps, do an Internet search for "sewing apps."

2. AROUND ME

(Free; iPhone)

Type in a search word, such as "fabric" or "sewing," and the app displays all of the area's fabric stores on a map or in a list. This app is very handy when shopping for fabric and sewing supplies while traveling.

3. FABRIC CONVERTER

(Free; iPhone)

Take the worry out of calculating yardage when purchasing fabric that's a different width than referenced on the pattern. Enter the fabric width and allow the app to calculate how many yards are needed for the pattern based on the standard 36", 44 to 45", 52" to 54", 58 to 60" and 72" fabric widths.

4. FABRIC U

(Free; iPhone)

Discover detailed information about various fabrics, including the correct care directions and suggested uses. All fabrics are organized alphabetically from "African prints" to "Yarn Scramble Double Knit."

5. FABRIC STASH

(\$4.99; iPhone)

Build a portable library of your fabric and supply stash. Take a photograph of the fabric or notion, and then enter as much detail as desired, such as color, style, cost, manufacturer, line, project, width, length, weight and store where purchased. While shopping, reference fabric and supplies you have on hand to create a new project.

6. FABRIC JOURNAL

(\$1.99; iPhone)

Catalog your craft and sewing projects, both completed and in progress. Fabric Journal stores up to four photos per project and also sorts entries by name, date, pattern, recipient, or percentage of the project completed.

7. SEWING GLOSSARY

(\$0.99; iPhone)

Look up concise definitions for sewing terms from "A-line" to "zipper." This app is ideal for novice sewists who want to become more familiar with sewing basics.

8. DRAPERY CALCULATOR

(\$6.99; iPhone)

Determining the fabric amount for curtains and drapery can be complicated. This calculator simplifies the process and provides a great tool for both professional and amateur interior designers.

9. FABRIC GLOSSARY

(\$0.99; iPhone)

This portable glossary is an excellent fabric shopping companion, as it offers simple explanations of fabric terminology from "Absorbency" to "Yarn."

10. MAGNIFYING GLASS WITH LIGHT

(Free; All smartphones)

This app transforms the phone screen into an illuminated magnifying glass. Though not quite clear enough to use to thread a needle, the magnifying function can assist you with reading the small print on the back of sewing pattern envelopes. ➤

