

## WORKSHOP: "CLOTHING REPAIRS"



**Summary:** For clothing repairs and alterations we will work as an open studio online where participants can bring their own garments to work on and ask questions. Repair demonstrations will be based on participant preference chosen from 3 ways to repair a seam, darning a patch for socks/elbows/jeans, sewing a button on a thick fabric and fixing a small t-shirt hole with or without sewing. Participants will have the opportunity to request help with repairs to their own items of clothing.

### Materials and Equipment Provided

button assortment	fabric adhesive (if available)
interfacing	scrap fabric matching or contrasting repair item
liquid fray preventer	sewing machine
sharps needle	sewing threads – spool and bobbin
darning needle	approximately size 80 regular machine needle
yarn needle	basting threads
pin cushion and needle case	denim sewing machine needle
stitch ripper	chalk pencil or water soluble marker
tape measure	small sharp sewing scissors
iron and ironing board	sewing shears
straight pins	press cloth
hem fusible web or double sided fusible	French curve ruler
scrap paper	pencil, eraser, sharpener
instructions/ideas sheet	optional: curved light bulb type shape (not provided)

### Extra Materials Provided for Your Projects

decorative braid	adhesive patch
bias tape	pocket pattern
denim fabric, light and dark pieces	zip
beads	lace
ribbon	elastic
decorative expandable yarn	light and dark hook and loop tape

### Class Plan: Repairing a Seam

1. Method 1:
  - a. Seams where the thread has simply come loose can be repaired by re-stitching the seam with a machine straight stitch starting about ½" before the hole and ending ½" after it, stitching back and

forth a few stitches at the beginning and end to anchor your stitches.



- b. This can also be done by hand with a slip stitch. Take a few stitches in place to anchor your thread first. Take a stitch along the crease of the seam on one side, then a stitch into the crease of the other side, alternating to draw the edges together. Anchor your thread again with a few stitches in place.



## 2. Method 2:

- a. If the fabric is torn close to the seam on a stretchy fabric, shift the fabric over the seam tapering it in place on each end.



- b. Re-stitch the new seam with a stretch straight stitch, marked on most machines with three parallel lines. Use a zigzag stitch to prevent the new edge from fraying.

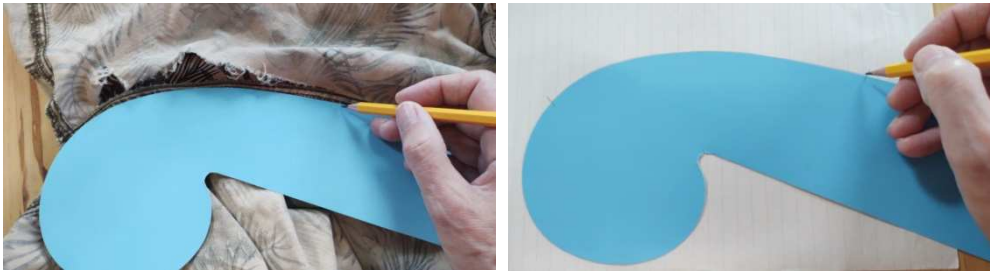


## 3. Method 3:

- a. If the fabric is torn close to the seam on a non-stretchy fabric or is a larger tear, a patch can be added to the inside of the seam with matching fabric. For larger multi-direction tears, create a patch pattern first.



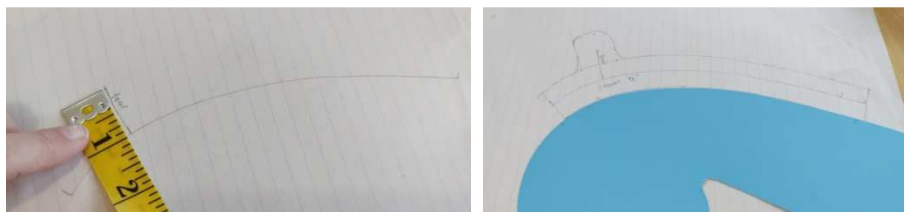
- b. Determine the curve of the seam using a French curve or other sewing curved ruler. Transfer this onto paper to create a patch pattern.



- c. Measure the seam allowance to be covered on the clothing and the length of any additional tearing.



- d. Add side tears to your patch pattern (left). Add space around all of the edges of your patch, at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (right). Cut out your paper patch pattern.



- e. Fuse double sided fusible to the right side of your patch fabric (left) and trace your patch pattern onto the remaining paper side (right). Make sure to get your patch pattern the correct way up. Your patch will be fused right side down on the wrong side of your garment.



- f. Position the seam to be repaired wrong side up on the ironing board with a piece of card paper under it and press it with the tear edges as close together as possible.



- g. Remove the paper from the fusible patch (left), cover the torn seam area (centre) and press it in place using a press cloth over it with a medium hot iron (right). Fuse longer for thicker fabrics.



- h. Trim any loose threads from the edge of the tear (left). With matching thread, machine stitch over the raw edges from the right side of the garment (centre). For less obvious repairs use a straight stitch (right).



### **Class Plan: Darning a Patch for a Sock/Elbow/Jeans**

1. Choose a yarn or threads of colour, material and thickness matching your garment as closely as possible.
  - a. If you are using the repair as a fun style addition, choose a contrasting colour that works with it.
  - b. If you are working thin socks of blended colours, you could use two sewing threads together of different colours to mimic the mottled colour.
  - c. If you have a thick yarn that matches, you can separate out one strand to use.





- Optional: Place a darning mushroom or smooth solid object under the area to be repaired that matches the shape of the area (e.g. a light bulb in the heel of a sock).



- Leaving a tail of thread to sew in later, take tiny parallel stitches on alternating sides of the hole to be covered, creating a series of long parallel threads over the hole. Do not pull the threads tight.



- Working perpendicular to the previous layer of stitches, weave alternating under and over the previous threads. Stitch back alternating over and under (the opposite of the previous row) on the next row. Repeat until the space has been filled with a newly created woven patch. Sew in your ends with a few stitches.



- Optional: Turn your garment inside out and repeat the process on the inside, creating a double layer of woven patch.



- Remove your shape item and iron the repair, pressing it over a contoured shape if available.



### **Class Plan: Sewing a Button on to Thick Fabric**

1. Thick fabric needs space behind the button to accommodate it when buttoned closed. Some buttons have a shank (below left) to create this space. If the button does not have a shank (below right) we can create one with thread.



2. Position a thick needle behind your button to add the necessary space. Hold it in place and stitch over it to sew on your button.



3. If your button has two holes, align them with the length of the button hole parallel to it.



4. Hand-stitch your button in place with doubled regular thread or thicker thread for heavier fabrics. Stitch up through one hole, down through the other and across picking up a small section of fabric behind the button. Repeat for 4-5 stitches and take a few stitches in place behind your button to anchor your thread.
5. Remove your tapestry needle spacer and make a few blanket stitches around the thread shank underneath your button (wrap your thread around the button and go through the loop created. Take a few stitches behind your button to anchor your thread and cut it off.



6. If you don't want to blanket stitch, just wrap your thread around the underside of the button thread a few times and stitch back and forth into the thread shank created.

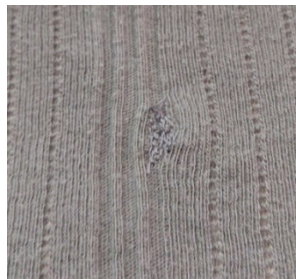


### **Class Plan: Fixing T-Shirt Holes**

1. For fairly small holes take a few lines of running stitches across it to gently close the hole and bring the edges together. This can be done by hand.



- a. This can also be done with a stretch machine stitch. Here we used a straight stretch stitch.



2. For slightly larger or multiple holes a reinforcement patch can be added on the back with hem tape and matching fabric/interfacing.
  - a. Position the t-shirt wrong side up over your ironing board and press it flat. Place a piece of card paper or scrap fabric between the t-shirt and the ironing board.





- b. Cut enough strips of hem tape to cover the area with holes plus a bit all the way around. Cut a piece of matching fabric or interfacing and place it over the hem tape completely covering it.



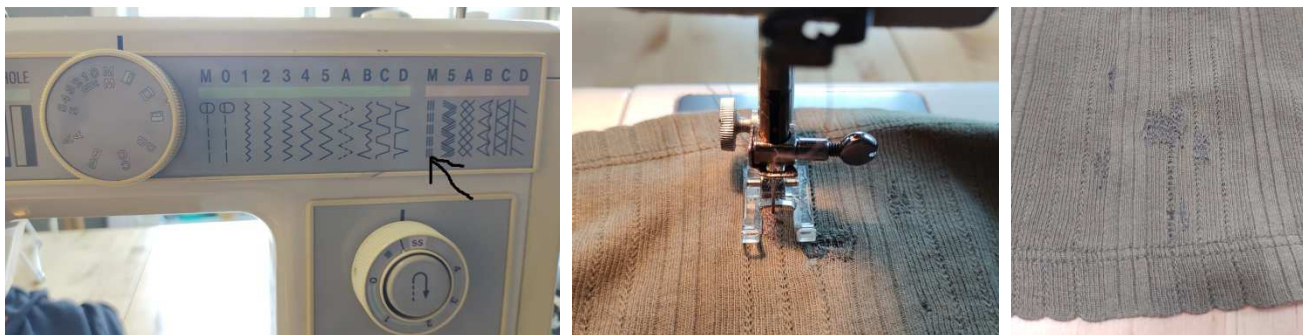
- c. With a damp press cloth (left) fuse the patch in place with a medium hot iron not moving for 5-10 seconds.



- d. If the hole is small you could skip the stitching for an almost invisible repair.



- e. Stitch over the holes with a machine stretch stitch (three parallel lines) to cover the holes.



3. You can use double-sided adhesive in place of hem tape for larger holes.
- a. Peel the paper off of one side of a piece of your double sided adhesive and stick it to the right side of your fabric patch (left). Trim the extra adhesive and fuse with a medium hot iron not moving for 2-5 seconds. Use a press cloth.





- b. Peel the paper off of the other side of your adhesive patch (left), place it sticky side down on the back of your t-shirt. Fuse it in place with a medium hot iron not moving for 5-10 seconds (longer for heavier fabrics) (right).



- c. Stitch over the holes (machine stretch stitch - three parallel lines) to cover the holes (above right).
4. Iron the repair again from the right side of the fabric.
  5. Happy creating, and please share pictures of your creations if you feel comfortable

#### Useful Information/Adaptations/Variations:

- Some buttons have 2 holes and some have 4 holes. Buttons with more holes add strength on heavier fabrics. The holes in buttons are often slightly recessed, to protect the thread holding them in place from excess wear.
- There are also 'frogs' which are like circular raised braid sewn on one side and the piece on the other side is a loop instead of a button hole that goes over the braid circle joining the garment edges.
- For a tiny t-shirt hole you could also use fabric adhesive from the wrong side (left). It dries darker than the fabric and is less flexible but is a quick and easy option. View on the t-shirt right side (right).



- There are straight and keyhole button holes. The key hole allows more space for the shank or attachment threads to sit in and keep the fabric flat.
- Bound button holes are like tiny double welt pockets and have an extra piece of folded fabric on each edge of the button hole.

### Trouble Shooting:

- We didn't apply liquid fray preventer to the hole because it can dry shinier than your fabric and be too visible.



- The drawback with patches on t-shirts is that they can change the drape of the fabric so the edges of the patch are more obvious than desired. For this, choose a thinner more flexible fabric for the patch.

