

CITY TIP

Back to spool days

How many times have you walked in a store, looked at a price tag and cried, "I could make that myself!" Or maybe the buttons on your favorite vintage jacket have popped off. Or perhaps you want to cash in on the hand-bag craze and put Kate Spade out of business. Sounds like it's time to head

at least." In the \$185 introductory class that meets once a week for a month, students learn how to make a simple skirt or pair of pants. "I'd say 60%-75% of the people that come in here are disgusted with the market. They want to learn how make things for themselves," says Green.

Stitchin' Time
326 Main St.,
Port Jefferson, L.I.
(516) 928-4544

Boasting the best selection of buttons around, Stitchin' Time also offers a good learning opportunity. Lessons are \$10/hour and tailor-made to fit individual schedules. But if you purchase a sewing machine from the store (an Elna runs anywhere from \$275 to \$3,800), owner Ginny Ireland will give you free lessons for the life of the machine.

Susie's Sewing Machine
103-31 Queens Blvd.,
Forest Hills
(718) 459-1200

Ivy Tipton's mother taught her how to sew when she was 6 and now the "sewing educator" wants to share her expertise with you. Offering introductory classes in home furnishings and apparel, Tipton teaches how to make anything from tablecloths to curtains, as well as skirts, shirts, pants and even suits. "By the end of the class, each student must complete a project," says Tipton, who shies away from the word homemade, preferring instead "custom made." Classes cost \$30 for one three-hour session; \$80 for five two-hour sessions. But if you buy a sewing machine (\$199-\$4,000), Tipton will throw in a lifetime of free lessons. — Lola Ogunnalke



THOMAS MONASTER DAILY NEWS

SEW IT GOES: Students get a lesson in skirt-making at Sew Fast Sew Easy.

Sew Fast Sew Easy
147 W. 57th St.,
second floor
(212) 582-5889

"We're teaching people how to get in touch with their hands," says Sew Fast Sew Easy's store manager Deborah Green. "If you can sew on a button or a straight line you can tackle the world — or an A-line,

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