

***teen*VOGUE**

INTERN BLOGGER

Our interns give you the inside scoop on what it's really like working at Teen Vogue.



Intern Blogger

Emily R.

Sew What?

October 15, 2008



Ever feel like the mall just isn't satisfying? The clothes you find in boutiques are adorable, but your wallet is looking particularly thin with the current economic mess? Or that you just can't find that skirt you've been craving for the past month? Well cheer up Charlie, there's an answer to all your worries. Learn to sew! It's a great skill to have up your sleeve. I learned when I was really young, and it's come in handy ever since. I remember one day my best friend's favorite stuffed-animal Elmo's arm fell off (too much love) and I performed "surgery" right then and there, stitching poor Elmo back into one piece. These days I have abandoned my surgical calling, and use my needle and thread to piece together skirts and dresses. Give it a try! You'll save a few pennies and be the proud parent of a unique piece you can truly call your own. With a few basic skills, you'll be on your way to crafting your own skirts, dresses, and tops in no time.

Left, showing off one of my homemade dresses.

Class Act

Take a class! Your local craft store will most likely offer classes or at least have references. For you New Yorkers, Make Workshop offers a variety of fun classes, including sewing, patternmaking, and embroidery.

Electric Feel

I definitely recommend investing in an electric sewing machine. They come in a variety of sizes and prices, from about \$30 (used) up. If you are a beginner, keep it simple. All the complicated functions end up being a bit obsolete anyway. Even with the most basic machines you'll be whipping together pieces in no time.

How do you do?

Yes, when learning the basics, things can get a bit knotty. Straighten yourself out with some helpful videos on YouTube. I like [these](#) Expert Village videos to start, and make sure to check out the related clips.

Get the Goods

If you're from San Francisco like me, head to Discount Fabrics or Mendel's on Haight Street for all your fabric needs. Darlene's on Mission at 24th is also a sure bet; the owner Joe is a total sweetheart and measures yards liberally. And, of course, the mammoth Britex Fabrics downtown is a fabric haven. New Yorkers, head to the garment district. Check out Mood for kicks and giggles! Come now, I know you all have a little *Project Runway* in you.



Two of my creations.

Pretty Patterns

No not stripes or polka dots, I'm talking about a sewing pattern. They can be pretty intimidating with the many ominous lines zigzagging about, but don't get overwhelmed! Take a deep breath, read the directions, and keep organized. Once you have the basic sewing skills down (straight stitch, zigzag stitch, reversing) and understand your machine and the mechanics of a pattern (seam allowance, sizing), the world is your oyster! Give patternmaking a shot by trying to copy your favorite skirt or dress.

Rage Against the Machine

If the machine is daunting, no need to fret. You can transform your wardrobe with a simple needle and thread. Try adding buttons, lace, or an extra frill here and there and voila, a new and improved shirt.

Story Time

If you're looking for a good book, I recommend Elissa K. Meyrich's *Sew Fast Sew Easy: All You Need to Know When You Start to Sew*. It's sure to set all you future designers off on the right path. Good luck!

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These suggestions are actually very helpful. They aren't incredibly and unreasonably expensive as most of your suggestions, nor are they vacuous and frivolous and without sustenance. Finally, Teen Vogue.

thecurvymariachi | October 15, 2008 11:49 PM

Great tips, we all need to get creative in this economy! Some great fashion designers are going to come out during these economic times.

G2G...Posh from Deko and Posh Blog

dekoposh | October 16, 2008 2:09 PM

Ahhh! I am so glad you wrote this, I used to sew when I was younger but I've gotten lazy in my 16 years :) You've inspired me to put my little fingers to work and make something new!

LightBlue808 | October 16, 2008 5:48 PM

I was just thinking yesterday about how excited I am to go home for winter break and sew! Its such a therapeutic activity :)

sushigirl37 | October 17, 2008 10:39 AM

Yay! I would love to hear about all the goodies you crafty ladies create.

emily_intern | October 17, 2008 12:06 PM

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