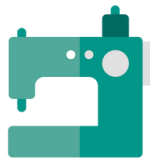


SEW SORTED WORKSHEET

with Stash Hub



This worksheet has been specially designed as a companion to the Sew Sorted 7-Day course. Each section follows along with the daily themes of Sew Sorted:

DAY 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANISING

DAY 2: HOW TO ORGANISE PATTERNS

DAY 3: HOW TO ORGANISE NOTIONS

DAY 4: HOW TO ORGANISE FABRICS

DAY 5: HOW TO DESTASH

DAY 6: MAINTAINING A JOYFUL STASH

DAY 7: SEW SORTED SUMMARY

Feel free to browse through this worksheet before Sew Sorted kicks off, but don't start filling it in until the course is running. You might pick up new ideas and inspiration that will help you make decisions about how to organise your stash.

DAY 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANISING

ASSESS YOUR STARTING POINT

<i>Facts</i>	<i>Feelings</i>
Objectively describe your current stash (e.g. location(s), amount, ease of access).	How does your sewing collection make you feel? (e.g. inspired, overwhelmed, frustrated, stressed)

First, let's take a moment to assess what we're working with. This will help you identify issues and track progress.

I've separated **Facts** and **Feelings** into two boxes. Facts give an objective overview of your stash, while Feelings address your emotional connection. How you feel about your stash is just as important, since negative feelings can hinder your creativity. We'll work on improving both your stash and your relationship with it.

The best time to start organising your sewing stash is right now!
You don't have to do everything at once.

DAY 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANISING

WHICH TYPE OF ORGANISER ARE YOU?

The aim of Sew Sorted is to help you design a sewing organisation system that works for **YOU**. So where better to start than identifying which organising styles suit you? If you haven't figured out what works best in your sewing space yet, consider how you organise the rest of your home.

Which list of statements resonates with you the most?

- I get inspired by seeing my fabric on display
- I prefer shelves and open storage where I can see everything at a glance
- Visually appealing storage is important to me
- If I can't see things, I tend to forget about them

or

- Seeing all my fabric at once feels overwhelming
- I prefer things to be stored out of sight when not in use
- I want a logical system so I don't have to search through things
- I can't stand clutter - I need a peaceful sewing space

If you relate to most of the statements in this column, you're a **Visual Organiser**. This means you need storage systems that help *display* your items to boost your inspiration. Consider open shelving, clear containers and pegboards. Fabric could be organised by colour to appeal to your visual sense.

If you relate more to these statements, you're a **Hidden Organiser**. You prefer to have things stored away out of sight, but you can still have good organisation systems inside your closed cupboards! Labelled containers can help divide things up, improve accessibility and make things easier to find.

Are you a Micro-Organiser or a Macro-Organiser?

Micro-Organisers are very detail orientated. Items are divided into small categories and stored separately. Consider using things like compartment organisers for notions. This organising method can take more effort to maintain, so only choose highly detailed systems if sorting supplies is something you enjoy.

Macro-Organisers tend to spend less time on daily organisation, and can become overwhelmed trying to maintain a detailed storage system that doesn't suit them. Instead, opt for larger categories (for example, all sewing patterns stored together in alphabetical order with no sub-categories). Storage solutions like bins and baskets help keep supplies contained without forcing you to find a very specific place for each item.

DAY 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANISING

ESTABLISH YOUR AIMS

<i>Making</i>	<i>Space</i>
How and what do you plan to make? Do you like to browse your fabrics for inspiration? Are you a multi-crafter?	What space and storage solutions do you have available? How do you want it to look and function?

Knowing your goals keeps you focused and guides your next steps.

Noting what you plan to **make** will help you decide which organising systems make sense practically. You may decide to keep different crafts separate if they have distinct supplies or you follow a different process. Over the next few days of Sew Sorted we'll cover different options for Patterns, Notions and Fabrics. Your aims will help motivate your destashing too.

Your stash is limited by your available **space**. Sketch out or note the storage options (cupboard, drawers, shelves). Refer back to your organising style. If you can't keep everything in one place, can you prioritise accessible storage for materials for upcoming projects?

DAY 2: HOW TO ORGANISE PATTERNS

PHYSICAL STORAGE

Before you start organising sewing patterns, you'll need to decide how you're going to categorise and order them. Categories should most reflect what and how you sew. Sub-categories and order can make it easier to find things quickly.

Categories

- Pattern Type** - This is great for browsing your stash if you know you'd like to make a certain item. For example, if you want to make a dress, you can look at all your dress options together.
- Designer/Pattern Company** - Useful if you buy lots of patterns from a small number of companies as the brand may stick in your head better than the pattern name. Not recommended if you buy 1 or 2 patterns from lots of brands, as your stash will be split into too many categories.
- Recipient** - Handy if you sew for lots of different people. Searching through menswear patterns is not helpful if you're looking for patterns for baby clothes.

If you categorise by pattern type and you have sewing patterns with multiple views (e.g. a dress and a top), choose which view you're most likely to make and store it in that category. You could record where you put it in the 'Location' field of Stash Hub.

Sub-categories

Sub-categories may be useful if you're a micro-organiser or have a lot of patterns. For example, you could choose pattern company as your main category, then sub-divide into pattern type.

Order

- Alphabetical** - Best for ordering Indie patterns by names or ordering designer/pattern company by name
- Numerical** - Best if you use only commercial patterns with numbers instead of names
- Categories only** - No additional ordering once patterns are divided into categories. It will be faster to put patterns away, but it may take longer to find a specific pattern, so this method is not recommended if many patterns fall within one category, as you'll have a lot to search through.

DAY 2: HOW TO ORGANISE PATTERNS

DIGITAL FILES

PDF sewing patterns are delivered in a digital format, which can then be printed at home or on A0 paper by a copy shop. Even if you print the pattern and instructions, **it's worth keeping the PDF pattern digital files**, as you may lose a pattern piece or choose to print a different size in future. Keeping these files safe and well organised is just as important as keeping physical files organised.

Check back on the decisions you made about how to categorise and order your physical patterns - it would make sense to use a similar system for both, since it's designed around your sewing priorities. Use the digital file structure to create folders with the same categories.

When you buy a PDF pattern **download the files right away** and add them to your storage system.

Choose Your Digital Storage Location

- Stash Hub** - Stash Hub Plus subscribers can add up to 8 PDFs to their pattern records in Stash Hub. The benefit of storing PDFs in Stash Hub is that they are linked to the pattern images and information, which is searchable, filterable and linked to your project plans.
- Cloud Storage** - Platforms such as Google Drive, One Drive or Dropbox could be a good place to store sewing pattern PDFs. Since they're on the Cloud, you can access them anywhere, not just at home. These platforms may incur charges, especially if you have lots of large files.
- On your computer** - You could save PDFs to your computer. It's an environment you have full control over, but you won't be able to access the files elsewhere and you'll be responsible for maintaining your own backups.

Keep a record of which patterns you've printed, otherwise you can waste money on duplicate printing. There's a checkbox in Stash Hub, or you could add 'printed' to filenames if using Cloud or Local Storage.

DAY 3: HOW TO ORGANISE NOTIONS ACCORDING TO YOUR ORGANISING STYLE

Notions (haberdashery) encompasses a huge range of sewing supplies. Notions are often small and can be very tempting to collect. Lots of small items can be challenging to organise, especially if you're more of a macro-organiser. Prioritise organising your main notion types.

Main Notion Types

Note down the types of notions you have most of. If you're a micro-organiser, or have a lot of notions, think about whether you want to sub-categorise your notions. For example you could split zips by type: invisible, regular, continuous etc.

Mixed Miscellaneous Notions

It's totally fine to create a storage location for miscellaneous notions - you may only have one or two of this type so it's not worth wasting space on a whole new container.

DAY 4: HOW TO ORGANISE FABRICS

ACCESSIBLE AND INSPIRING

You've got a few decisions to make when it comes to organising your fabric collection. These will depend on your space, organising style and what you make.

Circle the approaches you want to try.

STORE TOGETHER / APART

Ideally, all items of one type should be stored in the same place, but realistically not everyone has enough space. If there isn't enough room to store all your fabric in your sewing space, choose a secondary location such as a loft or under the bed. Regularly rotate the fabrics (e.g. each season) so you don't forget about the fabrics in your secondary location.

ON DISPLAY / HIDDEN

Refer back to Day 1 - are you a Visual Organiser or a Hidden Organiser? Visual organisers should have their fabrics on display - furniture with open shelves is ideal. Hidden organisers should still make sure their fabric is accessible behind closed doors.

FOLDED / ROLLED

This will depend on your storage and personal preference of both the process and the aesthetics. Folding fabric around a comic book board adds structure, so you can stand them vertically and pull each one out like a book. Rolling is good if fabrics need to be stacked, as you can pull one out without disturbing the rest.

Fabric Categories

As with patterns on Day 2, dividing your fabric into categories will make it easier to find what you're looking for in your stash, especially if you have a large collection.

FABRIC TYPE

For example all viscoses in one place, cottons together in another.

CRAFT

Good if you do different crafts that require different fabrics (e.g. dressmaking and quilting)

COLOUR

An aesthetic fabric display for Visual Organisers. Consider whether it works for your making style though - e.g. if you make quilts using fabric collections, it makes more sense to keep the collections together.

SEASON

Dividing fabrics by season is ideal if you have some fabric stored in a secondary location. You can rotate to have seasonally appropriate fabrics in your sewing space.

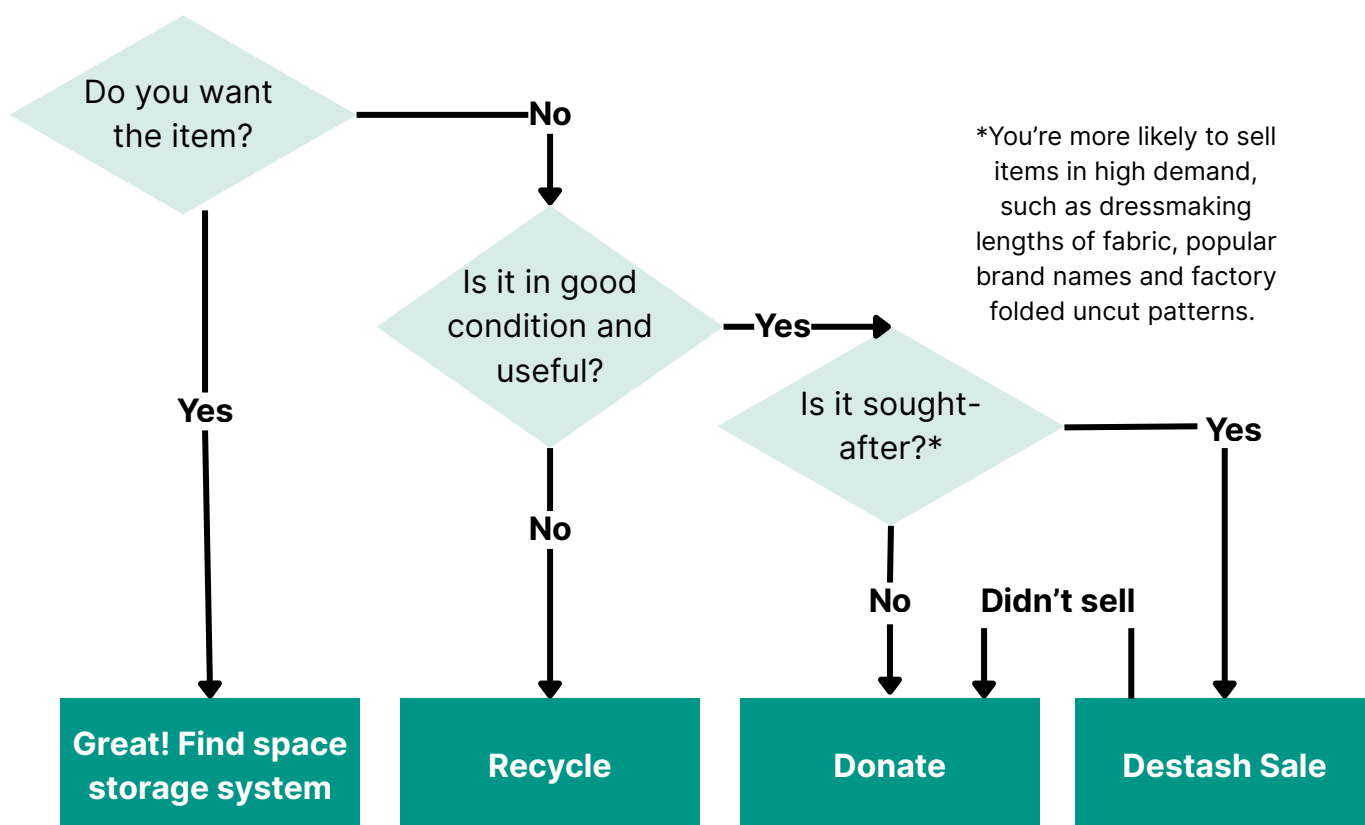
DAY 5: HOW TO DESTASH

DECIDING WHAT TO DESTASH

Letting go of sewing supplies can be tough, as you're letting go of that item's potential, as well as the item itself. However, **destashing isn't a loss, its an investment in your wellbeing.** Excess supplies give you more to organise, take up space and can make your stash feel overwhelming and uninspiring. Revisit your feelings and aims from Day 1 for motivation.

Items to destash

As you're reorganising your sewing stash, make a note of items that aren't inspiring you. Keep them in a separate pile and use the flow chart below to decide what to do with them.



DAY 6: MAINTAINING A JOYFUL STASH

MINDFUL SHOPPING

Use this checklist to help you decide what to do next time to get tempted by a fabric/pattern/notion. If all the boxes are checked, go ahead and buy it. Otherwise don't buy it, or add it to your wishlist whilst you consider it.

IT'S GOOD QUALITY

Don't waste precious storage space and sewing time on poor quality supplies. Be especially vigilant during sales, when you may be tempted to buy something you wouldn't consider at full price.

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SIMILAR IN MY STASH

Save space and money by using supplies you already have. You may be able to make simple hacks to a pattern you already have or save yourself buying more fabric if you already own something that suits the vision.

I HAVE A PLAN IN MIND

If you don't have a specific plan in mind but you've fallen in love and can see yourself using it in the near future, consider adding it to your wishlist until you get inspired.

THE COLOURS WORK FOR MY PROJECT IDEA

You can be attracted to fabrics that may not suit you. Consider your personal style (or the recipient's) before purchasing.

I WILL ENJOY SEWING THIS

Beautiful patterns, fabrics and notions that are outside of your sewing skill level or sewing preferences will likely be stuck in the stash a long time.

IT'S WITHIN MY BUDGET RIGHT NOW

Don't over-stretch yourself financially. If you find something stunning, add it to your wishlist and come back to it after payday or saving up.

THIS WON'T BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE

Planning projects is much quicker than completing them. Ideally buy supplies right before you're about to start sewing your project.

Remember, there will **always be more fabric!** Even if you can't get that exact fabric in future, you'll still be able to find something that makes you feel the same way.

DAY 7: SEW SORTED SUMMARY

YOUR ORGANISING PLANS

We hope Sew Sorted has given you lots of inspiration and handy tips on how to create an organisation system that works for you. Use this page to note down changes you plan to make:

Patterns

Notions

Fabrics

Your systems will be easier to maintain if they're **consistent with your organising style**.

