



Bobbins, needles and tins, oh my! Maddie's vintage sewing notions.

Photo: Maddie Flanigan

# SEW AND SHARE

A good sewing blog offers advice, insights and stacks of inspiration. We meet four crafty bloggers who make it look easy and urge you to give it a try.

**B**logging is one of the 21st century's simple pleasures. Providing you have an internet connection, all you need to do is find a topic you're passionate about and you'll be ready to start sharing. For sewing bloggers, this can be your projects, triumphs, failures, favourite fabrics – just about anything that catches your eye.

Tilly Walnes of [www.tillyandthebuttons.com](http://www.tillyandthebuttons.com) started blogging five and a half years ago "as a way to connect with other sewing geeks, as at the time I didn't know anyone into making their own clothes.

Luckily sewing has become more popular since then, and I've met some good friends through blogging. Later on, the purpose of my blog evolved to become a platform to provide sewing tips, tutorials and inspiration, with a particular focus on people who haven't been sewing for long."

You may remember Deborah Simms from the 2015 *Great British Sewing Bee*, but she began blogging about sewing long before that. "I started my *DFabricate* blog when blogs were a fairly new thing," she says. "It felt like everyone had one at the time, but no one really knew what to do with them. I decided to use mine to track the progress of the things that I created, starting with home projects mostly. I've used it on and off ever since, most recently when I decided to make my wedding dress two years ago."

Lilly Everett of [www.wakeandmake.com](http://www.wakeandmake.com) sees her blog as a means to mentor other would-be sewists. "I have always enjoyed sharing whatever knowledge I have and have taught and been a mentor before. I feel there is so much we can learn from each other, so I wanted to create my own space for that kind of dialogue. I also

wanted to document my own progress, successes and failures."

If blogging appeals to you, the first thing you need to do is decide on your publishing platform – most of the bloggers we spoke to love [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com). Lilly says, "I think branding is really important and I wanted my website to be easy to find, the name to be easy to remember and for it to be self-hosted (no Wordpress or Blogspot at the end). I have found Wordpress to be very user-friendly, yet still customisable. Plus, there are some really great templates and plugins available for it."

## HOW, WHEN AND WHY

You already know you want to blog about sewing, but how often should you post? Your priority really should be quality over quantity. Maddie Flanigan of [82 \[WWW.FIRLIFYSEWINGMAG.COM\]\(http://WWW.FIRLIFYSEWINGMAG.COM\)](http://www.</a></p>
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