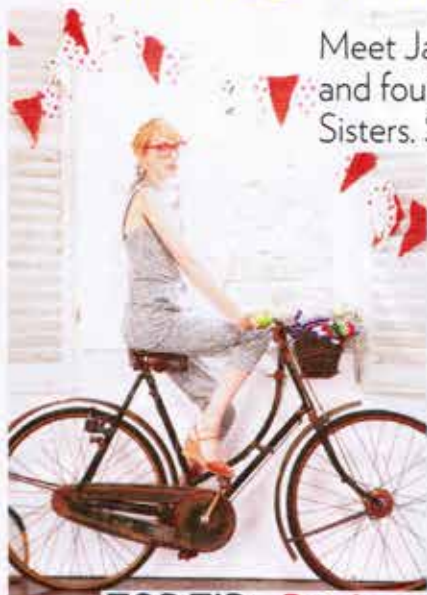


# craft

jazz

## MISTRESS OF STITCH



Meet Jazz Domino Holly, daughter of Clash singer Joe Strummer and founder of Britain's coolest branch of the WI – the Shoreditch Sisters. She's our new columnist and proves it really is cool to craft...

Starting a sewing stash is probably one of the first things a girl's gotta do as soon as she catches the crafting bug. Hoarding a haul now will keep you in good stitches as you progress. Vintage buttons can be picked up at flea markets and spools of retro threads are charity-shop gold dust. Building a collection of fabrics and added extras will motivate you, too, and create a solid foundation for future projects. And it needn't be expensive. Remember to keep an eye out for bargains like end-of-roll fabrics and job-lot sales, or even ask friends and family to get involved by donating odds and ends here and there.

**Here's a list of my sewing stash essentials:** ● 1 pair of sharp fabric scissors – an absolute must-have ● 1 pair of small sewing scissors for cutting threads ● 1 stitch unpicker ● 1 tape measure ● Various coloured threads ● Steel dressmaker's pins ● Needles in a variety of sizes ● Fabrics and trimmings – this is where you really get to have fun! Collect buttons, tassels, ribbons – anything and everything you can get your hands on – and you'll be bursting at the seams to start sewing.

**TOP TIP – Buy 'easy thread' needles for effortless pop-on threading action!**



## SUMMER BUNTING

For me, summer is synonymous with picnics. Time to pack lunches, gather friends and haul out the bunting for a Pimm's-laden garden party. Every year, the Shoreditch Sisters host a summer picnic and party 'til the sun goes down. Bunting adds instant charm and, as shop-bought stuff is so expensive, I say make your own! It's easy and fun. Here's how:

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper to make the bunting template
- Pencil and ruler
- Pins
- Non-stretch cotton fabric – the more colourful the better! You can even use up scraps of fabric left over from previous sewing projects
- Fabric scissors
- Felt and embroidery thread or fabric glue for appliqué embellishments (optional)
- Sewing machine
- Matching thread
- 25mm bias binding tape
- Iron

**1** Begin by cutting out a paper template. Draw a triangle measuring 14cm across and 18cm long for small bunting, or 20cm across and 25cm long for large bunting.

**2** Pin the paper template onto your chosen fabric and cut around it. Measure and cut out two triangles for each flag (front and back) and repeat until you have enough bunting. If you'd like to add a personalised touch with appliqué words or embellishments, do so now, before sewing the flags together. Cut out your desired shapes from felt and then attach with fabric glue or hand-sew directly onto the front of the flags with embroidery thread.



**3** Pin the fabric triangles together, right sides out, ready to sew on the machine. Using a straight short stitch, sew the triangles together neatly, 1cm from the edge.

**4** With an iron, press the bias binding tape in half lengthways. Space the finished flags at 5cm intervals along the tape, tucking the top edge of the flags into the fold in the tape then pinning into place. Leave 10cm of tape at each end of the bunting for hanging.

**5** Now sew along the length of the bias binding tape in matching coloured thread until all the flags are attached. Press with the iron until smooth and neat and, voilà, your very own handmade summer bunting is ready!  
**Top tip:** Trimming the finished edges of the bunting flags with pinking shears helps prevent the fabric from fraying, and creates a cute finish.

## JAZZ LOVES

Nail art is all the rage for summer 2010, so why not DIY your own digits with some jazzy designs or decorate with 3D charms... Need some inspiration? Check out the revolutionary Wah Nails (<http://wahnails.tumblr.com>), currently leading the trend for this season's latest fashion phenomenon. ✂





**craft**

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**MISTRESS OF STITCH**



This month, Jazz Domino Holly, *Company's* columnist and crafter, gets all patriotic and pins together cool cushions in true Brit style

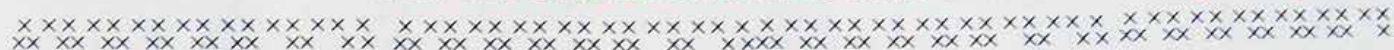
Things have been hectic as ever down at Shoreditch Sisters HQ, where we've been busy organising our first cycle club following the recent trend for all things pedal-driven. London has now launched its new 24-hour self-service cycle-hire scheme where, for the small sum of a fiver, you can borrow a bike for a week – bargain!

We've also just had our first Cake Club party – or should I say extravaganza. I've never seen so many cakes in my life! We swapped recipes and held a friendly bake-off competition with knitted cupcake pin cushions as prizes. Later this year, we'll be compiling the recipes into a small, one-off paper-zine to be sold to raise funds for Shoreditch Sisters – so watch this space...

We're also launching radical weekend embroidery drop-in sessions, where we'll be learning to stitch French knots. Gosh, I actually think this has just about been our busiest month yet!

And the Shoreditch Sisters have even made it big in Japan! That's right, we have our very own tribute group called the Tokyo Sisters, set up by my Japanese friend, Kiki. Hopefully, we will be doing some international meets soon – for now, check out <http://love-unlimited.com/tokiosisters>. Go girls!

**“Now the Shoreditch Sisters have even made it big in Japan!”**



**SEW BRITISH!**

Riding the wave of Cool Britannia, this month, I'm showing you how to make your very own decorative Union Jack cushions, made from pretty lace and colourful ribbons. They're a perfect adornment for any boudoir – I've made both a polka-dot and neon chintz version...

**YOU'LL NEED**

(To make one rectangular cushion measuring 25cm x 40cm)

- Sewing machine ● Iron
- Paper template ● Fabric
- 2 metres ribbon ● 1 metre wide lace ● 1 metre narrow lace
- Matching threads ● Kapok stuffing

**1** Create a paper template measuring 27cm x 42cm, which will allow for a 1cm seam allowance around the edge of the entire cushion.

**Top tip:** Square-patterned paper is great for making your own dimensions before creating custom-made cushion covers.

**2** Cut around your template twice in your chosen fabric. Remember – always cut out fabric against the straight of the grain!

**3** Take the piece for your front section and begin building your Union Jack design. Start by constructing the two diagonal strips that run in an X shape from corner to corner of the cushion. To do this, cut two 50cm lengths of ribbon and

**4** To create the front cross, cut 42cm of wide lace, which will sit horizontally across the width of the cushion. Pin and sew into place. Next, cut out 27cm of wide lace and 27cm of ribbon. Centre the ribbon onto the lace and sew down each side. Pin into place and sew vertically down cushion front. Finally, cut a 42cm length of ribbon and place centred on top of the horizontal lace and sew into place.

**5** Now you can begin sewing the seams together. Place the front section face down on top of the back, with right sides facing together. Pin the edges and machine-sew along the seams, leaving a 1cm seam allowance and an 8cm gap open. For a clean finish, snip off each corner – but don't cut too close to the stitching!

**6** Now turn the cushion right side out and poke out the corners with either your fingers or a pencil. Press with an iron.



**JAZZ LOVES**

Psst... for true DIY fun and charm, check out my local, the Jamboree Set in east London's trendy underground Cable Street Studios (below). You'll find gypsy music, arty happenings and even night markets this autumn! Head to Facebook for more details: [www.facebook.com/jamboreevenue](http://www.facebook.com/jamboreevenue)







## CRAFT

# MISTRESS OF STITCH

Make sure you're festival-ready with crafting queen Jazz Domino Holly's DIY floral tiara

## Jazz s

**All Seeing Eye**  
Check out this online vintage collective with threads making their way to you from Austin, Texas. Get inspired by the blog: [www.thisallseeingeye.tumblr.com](http://www.thisallseeingeye.tumblr.com) or browse the Etsy shop (with clothes modelled by yours truly!) [www.etsy.com/shop/thisallseeingeye](http://www.etsy.com/shop/thisallseeingeye)



Getting into the swing of the summer party season this year, I've decided to channel my inner flower girl by creating my own floral headdresses. With all the fun to be had at festivals, weddings and garden parties, it's good to know you've got something special to top off your summer frock - especially an accessory you've made with your own fair hands! Your friends will be begging you to make them one too... so why not have a pre-party girle get together where you craft your own accessories?


## MAKE A FLOWER GARLAND

To create the floral festival tiara, first hunt down some bendy craft wire (buy from a crafting shop, bridal store or florist), then simply top with an assortment of artificial greenery like plastic, paper or fabric flowers and leaves. You could step it up a notch and use tiny crystal baubles, sequins and even well-positioned beads or feathers. It all depends if you're going for a natural enchanted fairy look or a wild, rock 'n' roll flowerchild feel!

**You will need:** ● Craft wire ● Ribbon or yarn ● Artificial flowers to decorate, eg plastic garlands, fabric leaves and paper flowers with wire ends (check out your local haberdashery!) ● Pliers ● Scissors ● Glue gun

**1** Initially, you need to create the vine base for your flowers to sit around. To do this, measure and cut the wire to the circumference of the top of the crown of your head. Allow an extra few inches of wire to wrap the two ends together neatly without creating an uneven or jagged join. Then mould the wire into shape. Lastly, use a pair of pliers to fix and smooth down any raw or rough edges.

**2** Now you have your wire circle base, it's time to cover it with some decorative ribbon or yarn. For an authentic garden nymph look, I wrapped the base with green yarn and made a neat knot against the wire join to secure in place. If using ribbon you will need a good few metres to cover your entire base. Allow yourself extra yardage and you could create a statement bow at the back to cascade into your hair!

**3** Time to add your flowers! I bought a plastic floral garland from a pound shop and wound it around the headband base - securing in places with individual wire-stemmed paper flowers and leaves bought from my local haberdashery. You could also consider using individual plastic flowers - just make sure you cut off the stems first to ensure they sit flat, then use a glue gun to affix. Leave to dry and you're set for your next festival! 



Wellies? Check. Tent? Check. Now dig out your glue gun and you're set!



# mistress of stitch

Denim need a fash-over? Don't panic – crafting queen Jazz Domino Holly has some handy customising tips...



To celebrate the denim issue, I want to inspire you to do a DIY makeover on your denim! So check out a couple of my tried-and-tested techniques to learn how to distress it, dye it or simply customise it...

**Warning!** Before you begin, listen up, ladies! When handling dye or bleach, always wear a pair of rubber gloves and old clothes. Try to work outside but, if you can't, make sure you have good ventilation and use bin liners to protect your work area. Plus, you should always patch-test on some denim scraps first.



## diy your denim

### For colour-pop jeans...

Dyeing your old denim is easy-peasy. First, pick out some fabric dye – I always recommend using Dylon as, not only is it easy to use, it also comes in an exciting range of colours. Remember – white or pale denim works best with bright colours.

**You will need:** ● Fabric dye ● Salt ● A bucket ● Rubber gloves and apron

1 Pre-soak your fabric in a bucket of hot water with 500g of table salt (to fix the dye). Leave for 30 mins, then wring dry and set aside.

2 Half fill the bucket with hot water and stir in a packet of fabric dye. Submerge the fabric and leave to soak for at least one hour – I like to leave overnight to intensify the colour, but it depends on which effect you want.

3 Remove the fabric and, wearing rubber gloves, rinse under cold running water until it runs clear.

4 Wash your fabric on a normal wash cycle using detergent and 500g of salt, added to the drum with the fabric. Leave to dry naturally.

### Bleach job, anyone?

You can lighten up dark denim with a soak in some simple household bleach.

**You will need:** ● Household liquid bleach ● A bucket ● Rubber gloves and apron ● Long-handled spoon or tongs

1 Before you begin, decide which effect you want. For an all-over bleached-out look or a dip-dye effect, begin by making a bleach bath. Fill a bucket three-quarters full, with one part



Once you've bleached your denim, why not customise it with safety pins, stick-on gems and studs?

bleach and four parts water. For an all-over bleached look, simply immerse the fabric in the solution. Or for a dip-dyed effect, only submerge the part of the fabric you want bleached and then secure the rest of the garment outside the bucket with a clip.

2 For a mottled or distressed look, scrunch your fabric into a ball, then hold together with some string or a few rubber bands before placing in the bleach bath. Alternatively, you could use a spray bottle filled with the water and bleach solution to spritz directly on to damp clothing.

3 The bleaching process takes 5-15 mins, so watch as the fabric lightens and remove from the bath when you see the desired lightness of colour.

4 Once you have removed the item, immediately rinse it under a cold running tap, then remove any rubber bands or string before putting into a cold machine wash cycle. Then allow to dry naturally before wearing! ☑



# mistress of stitch

Chapped, sore lips? Polish up your pout in time for spring with crafting queen Jazz Domino Holly's home-made lip balm



One of my favourite DIY beauty essentials are homemade lip balms and butters, as not only are they super cheap to make, but also much better for you than most commercially produced over-the-counter brands. And if you're anything like me this winter, your lips have probably taken a brutal battering and need a little extra TLC to get your smackers ready for spring.

**Warning!** Before you begin, make sure you are not allergic to any of the ingredients listed.

Photograph: Ed Miles. Still lives: Hearst Magazines UK

## easy-peasy tinted lip balm

This is a super simple way to make your own lip balms. It takes only minutes to prepare and puts any odds and ends of old lipsticks you may have to good use.

**You will need:** ● 1tbsp Vaseline petroleum jelly ● An old lipstick ● 1 drop of your favourite essential oil ● A microwave-safe bowl ● A spoon ● A small container or pot for storing

1 Begin by placing the Vaseline in a clean microwave-safe bowl.  
2 Cut off at least an inch or more of your old lipstick and blend it into the Vaseline with the back of a spoon.

3 Place the bowl in the microwave and heat for 30 seconds on high. Stir, then heat for another 30 seconds or until liquefied - don't let it boil!

4 Once liquefied, give it another good mix then pour into a clean container and place in the freezer for 20 minutes until cool.

## perfect-pout lip butter

For smoothing away the winter blues, try this intensely nourishing lip butter recipe. Shea butter can be bought from your local health food store and has wonderfully moisturising qualities that will leave your lips feeling oh-so-kissable and super soft. Pucker up girls!

**You will need:** ● 2 tsp shea butter ● 2 tsp almond oil ● 1 tsp vitamin E oil



● 1 drop of your favourite essential oil ● An old lipstick to tint (optional) ● Bowl and spoon ● 30ml container

1 In a bowl placed over a pan of simmering water, heat the butter and oil stirring until fully melted.

2 Remove from the heat then leave to cool for five minutes before mixing in the vitamin E and essential oil.

3 If you want to tint the lip butter, cut up an old lipstick and blend it into the mixture with the back of a spoon.

4 Pour into a clean container and leave to cool in the fridge for 30 minutes before using.

### Top tip:

To create a shimmer effect, try using a sprinkle of edible glitter - simply add 1 tsp of glitter and blend in just before pouring into the containers to cool.

## Jazz loves

International Women's Day 2012 Listen up ladies! To celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March, Oxfam are asking us to get the girls together to raise money and spread awareness for women around the world. Visit [www.oxfam.org.uk/womensday](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/womensday) to sign up for a party pack.



# mistress of stitch

We LOVE a good tea party here at *Company HQ*. Get ready to host yours with crafting queen Jazz Domino Holly's homemade tablecloth (or whatever you want it to be!)



Photograph: Ed Miles. Still lifes: Studio 33

Taken from *Queen of Crafts* by Jazz Domino Holly (£16.99, Penguin)

## a so-simple appliqué tablecloth



No tea party of mine is ever complete without a pretty tablecloth, and what better way to set the tone for your own tea table than with this 'Make Tea Not War' appliqué design. But it's not just a tablecloth - you can use it for picnics too!

**You will need:** ● Plain fabric (a flat sheet, tablecloth or piece of fabric) ● Paper templates for 10cm lettering ● Scrap fabrics in contrasting colours for the appliqué lettering ● Pins ● Scissors ● Sewing machine ● Iron

**1** First wash your fabric to prevent any shrinkage from interfering with your design. Then iron, fold the fabric into four and iron again to establish the

centrefold. This will make it easier to position your appliqué letters.

**2** To make your templates, simply draw the letters on to some paper and cut out. Alternatively, type out your phrase on the computer and enlarge the letters to at least 10cm tall before printing and cutting out to make your templates.

**3** Use your templates to mark and cut out fabric letters in contrasting colours and patterns. Arrange the letters in the middle of the cloth, starting at least 8cm from the corner and leaving 8cm gaps between each word. Pin or tack each letter into place. Stitch the letters down on the sewing machine.

**4** Give it a final iron, then invite your friends round for tea! ☑



# mistress of stitch

Get ready for one of the biggest celebrations of the summer and salute Her Majesty with Jazz Domino Holly's bunting



This year is gonna be a big year for us Brits – not only do we get to host the Olympics, but we also get to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee! There'll be a Jubilee concert, street parties, picnics and even a Thames riverboat pageant. Sunday 3 June will play host to a huge outdoor festival in London's Battersea Park. Head on down for a mega bake-off competition, a tea dance bandstand, vintage hair and make-up, an outdoor cinema, craft workshops, food, music and an old fashioned fun fair!

## appliqué punk-rock bunting

Invite all your friends and pay tribute to Her Majesty with some patriotic bunting to rock your party...!



### You will need:

- Cotton fabric for the bunting flags and appliqué fabric letters
- Paper templates ● 3 metres of double-fold bias binding
- Fabric and paper scissors
- A needle, thread and pins
- An iron ● A sewing machine (optional)

**1** Design and cut out your appliqué letter templates – you can either draw them yourself or print them out. If you're printing them out, find a font you like then enlarge the lettering to the right size to fit your bunting flags.

**2** Cut out your fabrics. I chose black, red and white for a rock 'n' roll feel but you might prefer to use the more traditional red, white and blue. Pin your paper templates onto your chosen fabric and cut them out.

**3** Make a paper template for your bunting flags. Measure and cut out a piece of paper measuring 15cm square, then use

this to cut out 30 fabric squares to make 15 flags in total – this includes a front and back for each flag.

**4** Sew the fabric letters onto the bunting flags. Position and pin each letter right side up onto the front of a fabric square before stitching on.

**5** Pin and sew the fabric squares together to make your flags. With the right sides facing together (appliqué side down), stitch along three of the four edges, leaving the top seam open for turning. Once done, turn the flags right side out and turn the edges of the corners in to a point with a pencil, then press with an iron to neaten.

**6** Attach the bias binding for hanging, then encase the raw edges of the flags with bias binding. Press the binding in half lengthways, then position and pin the flags at 2.5cm intervals along the inside of the folded edge.

**7** Finally, trim off the loose threads then hang it up. Now you're ready to party! ☑