

Thank you for your registration and payment. We are looking forward to meeting you in our next class session!

If you have a portable sewing machine, we recommend that you bring it to class. That way, we can help you troubleshoot any problems and you will feel confident sewing on your own at home. If you do not have a machine or it is inconvenient for you to bring it, we do have machines available for in class use. The cost of \$30 for the whole six weeks will cover the cost of maintenance, replacement needles and bobbins. This can also be handy if you are just trying your hand at sewing and want to wait to catch the sewing bug before you purchase a machine. It will also allow you to be a better informed shopper when you do go to buy one. We have our recommendations, and are happy to let you know what we think. *We do not get any kind of financial remuneration for our advice about sewing machines.*

We have some information we would like to share with you. First, please look at our "Basic Sewing Tools List" located on the Sewing Tool & Supplies page on our website:

<http://www.laurassewingschool.com/category/sewing-tools-supplies/>

I have recommendations for where you can purchase these items. I have tried many different sewing notions, or tools, over the 40+ years I have been sewing. I have recommended certain tools and brands because I have tried them all.

- Locally, Fabric Corner, on Mass Ave in Arlington, has nearly everything on this list. (We are now in the same building)

Their web address is:

www.fabriccornerinc.com

They have an email list which is helpful to join. They do not share your information with anyone and they often, usually monthly, send out a 40% off coupon via email. That is worth a lot, because they carry quality materials. By the way, my students, which you can consider yourself to be one now, receive a 10% discount at Fabric Corner. This is good on any regular priced items, sewing notions, fabric, thread, etc. Just tell them that you are one of my students when they check out your purchases.

<http://www.fabriccornerinc.com/lists.html>

- JoAnn's may be inexpensive, but the quality of their materials varies greatly and it may be hard for you to distinguish good from bad when you first start sewing. You can trust the quality of materials from Fabric Corner. They may cost a little more, but why not buy better fabric when you will invest so much time making it yourself? Plus, well-made goods are usually easier to work with, look better in the finished product and last longer.

JoAnn's does have some great sales on notions and patterns and thread and other stuff that makes it worth being on their email, as well as "snail" mail, lists. I receive flyers with coupons every 2-3 weeks and am happy to share them with my students. The link below should take you to their web page for their current sales flyer. They will also have an email signup box in the upper left corner of the page.

<http://joann.shoplocal.com/joannsalesflyer/Default.aspx?action=entry&pretailerid=-99845&siteid=228&storeID=2412658>

I think, in order to sign up for their postal mailing list, you have to do that in the store. They do have a store locator at:

http://www.joann.com/joann/common/content_noleftnav.jsp?catName=storeLocator&_requestid=504664

- A favorite shopping venue for me, from the time I moved here in 1989 was Fabric Place. Sadly, they closed a few years ago. Luckily, one of the sons of the founding family decided to open a new fabric store, selling a wide variety of fabric, notions, patterns, and yarns. They are located in Natick and are called Fabric Place Basement. Here's what they say on their website:

PETER ISAACSON, proprietor of Fabric Place Basement, has a passion for fabric and the background to match. As a kid, he grew up working (and playing!) at Fabric Place, the family business started by his grandmother. As a manager, buyer and later fabric sales rep, he traveled the country to locate the best fabrics at the very best prices, making connections with designers and suppliers everywhere. Ever since his family decided to close Fabric Place, Peter has dreamed of opening a great store of his own where he could bring together the creative people and the fabric they dream of at affordable prices. Fabric Place Basement is a dream come true. Now come visit and share the fun!

Peter has generously offered my current students a discount of 15% off their total purchases. All you need to do is have me fill out a certificate for you to show them when you check out at the register. I can do that on the first day of class. Check out their website, and sign up for their specials at:

<http://www.fabricplacebasement.com/>

- If you would like to skip the trip to the store, Wawak Tailor Supply, Wawak has a website which is not very good. They have a great catalog and phone service, so I suggest you go through that rather than online. They have an online copy of their catalog, that makes it easier to find items. It's in the left hand column of their webpage. Plus, even though they sell mainly to businesses, they will sell direct to consumers, too. Their prices are 30-50% off retail prices, every day.

<http://www.wawak.com/>

- Some of my students have found good deals on not only books, but dressmaking shears and some other items at Amazon.com. Amazing but true. It works well if you have Amazon Prime or buy more than \$25 worth of products, because then you get free shipping. You may want to shop locally if you're buying less than \$25, or are in a hurry.

If your interest is in making clothing, PLEASE,PLEASE PLEASE, Read the following page on my site!

<http://www.laurassewingschool.com/category/beginner-patterns/>

I say that because there is very important information about sizing, fabric choices, prewashing, and thread and so many things that will help you make a good choice of pattern and fabric. I have pictures of patterns with links to the pattern company websites you can activate by clicking on the photo. I won't say any more here, since you can read, and even print out the page, on my site.

We are looking forward to having you in our class. If you should have any other questions, please feel free to call or email.