Which Hobby

Sewing starter checklist

Everything to start sewing on one page. Tick it off as you go.

Shopping list

☐ Quilting cotton, 1 to 2 yards	$10 to $28
☐ All-purpose polyester thread	$2 to $6
☐ Fabric scissors, 8 in	$10 to $31
☐ Pins and a pin cushion	$5 to $15
☐ Seam ripper	$2 to $4
☐ Tape measure, 60 in	$2 to $4
☐ Tailor's chalk or a pencil, plain printer paper for practice	from home
☐ Basic mechanical sewing machine (separate)	$95 to $230
Starter total	**about $31 to $88, plus the machine**

First project: a tote bag

1. Pre-wash and iron your fabric.
2. Cut two 15 x 16 in panels and two 4 x 24 in strap strips.
3. Sew three straight seams with a 1/2 in seam allowance.
4. Fold the top hem, then fold, stitch and attach the straps.

Done in about 1 afternoon.

Skip for now

- A computerized machine with hundreds of stitches.
- A serger.
- Stretchy, slippery or very thick fabric.

Your first week

☐ **Session 1, 45 minutes:** Thread the machine and wind a bobbin, then sew along ruled lines on plain printer paper (no thread needed) and on scrap fabric.

☐ **Session 2, 45 minutes:** Practice a steady seam allowance, backstitching at both ends and pressing seams, by sewing two squares together.

☐ **Session 3, 1 to 2 hours:** Sew your first tote bag: two 15 x 16 in panels, three straight seams, a folded hem and two straps.