

THE MG GUIDE TO BOW MANIA



PATTERNS!

+crochet a bonnet

+knit fingerless
gloves

+sew mega
scrunchies

FIBER ART FOR HOT GRRRLZ

Cover

Material Grrrlz Q1 2024

The MG Guide to Bow Mania

Patterns!

Crochet a bonnet

Knit fingerless gloves

Sew mega scrunchies

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PROJECT PLANNER

material grrlz come prepared. the next time you're in the craft store trying to figure out if your yarn will meet gauge for a pattern, just whip out your perfectly organized project queue:

PATTERN	MATERIALS	WEIGHT/YARDAGE

Project Planner

Material grrrlz come prepared. The next time you're in the craft store trying to figure out if your yarn will meet gauge for a pattern, just whip out your perfectly organized project queue.




FLUFFY SCRUNCHIES

statement pieces aren't just for clothes! the oversized, frilly scrunchie has taken over and we're loving the color and playfulness they add to any fit. get mismatched with any leftover strips of fabric and trim that you have, and follow these simple steps to make a pile of your own accessories.

materials:
1 piece of fabric: 40 in/100 cm by 5 in/13 cm
1 piece of trim: 40 in/100 cm long
1 piece of thin (~1/4" in) elastic: 5 in/13 cm long

instructions:
1. fold fabric piece in half (good sides together, short edges touching) and sew short edges together
2. press the seam open, then fold each long edge in on the wrong side (approximately 0.25 in/0.75 cm) and press in place
3. fold fabric in half (wrong sides together, long edges touching), place trim in between the two edges (outer edge of the trim facing out) and pin in place around the whole piece
4. sew along the outer edge of the fabric to secure trim in place, leaving a 1 in/2.5 cm opening at the end
5. attach the elastic to a safety pin and insert into the opening. feed the elastic through the entire length of the scrunchie, then sew the two ends together
6. tuck the elastic into the scrunchie and sew the opening closed to finish

materials:
2 pieces of fabric: 24 in/61 cm by 3 in/7.5 cm
serger thread OR bias tape
1 piece of thin (~1/4" in) elastic: 5 in/13 cm long

instructions:
1. place the fabric pieces good sides together and sew down one of the long edges
2. open the piece up and fold (wrong sides together, short edges touching) and sew short edges together using a french seam
3. serge or bind the two raw outer edges (video tutorial shows how to bind edges!)
4. fold piece in half at the long seam (wrong sides together) and pin or press in place. the seam should be in the center, with the serged/bound edges on the outer edge of the scrunchie
5. sew a line 0.5 in/1.25 cm away from the inner edge, sew around the whole piece, but leave a 1 in/2.5 cm opening at the end
6. attach the elastic to a safety pin and insert into the opening in between the two layers of fabric. feed the elastic through the entire length of the scrunchie, then sew the two ends together
7. tuck the elastic into the scrunchie and sew the opening closed to finish

all measurements in the pattern are customizable. cut your fabric pieces longer to add more volume & frills or wider for a larger circumference. the elastic length listed will create a scrunchie that wraps around a ponytail once - just pop it over a hair tie. if you want to wrap your scrunchie around your hair multiple times, cut your elastic 8 in/20 cm long instead.



video tutorials for both scrunchies are available on the Material Girlz YouTube channel

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Fluffy Scrunchies

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Video tutorials for both scrunchies are available on the Material Grrrlz YouTube channel.

Scrunchie #1

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1 piece of trim: 40 in/100 cm long

1 piece of thin (~1/4" in) elastic: 5 in/13 cm long

instructions:

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3. fold fabric in half (wrong sides together, long edges touching). place trim in between the two edges (outer edge of the trim facing out) and pin in place around the whole piece
4. sew along the outer edge of the fabric to secure trim in place, leaving a 1 in/2.5 cm opening at the end
5. attach the elastic to a safety pin and insert into the opening. feed the elastic through the entire length of the scrunchie, then sew the two ends together
6. tuck the elastic into the scrunchie and sew the opening closed to finish

Scrunchie #2

materials:

2 pieces of fabric: 24 in/61 cm by 3 in/7.5 cm serger thread OR bias tape

1 piece of thin (~1/4" in) elastic: 5 in/13 cm long

instructions:

1. place the fabric pieces good sides together and sew down one of the long edges
2. open the piece up and fold (wrong sides together, short edges touching) and sew short edges together using a french seam
3. serge or bind the two raw outer edges (video tutorial shows how to bind edges!)
4. fold piece in half at the long seam (wrong sides together) and pin or press in place. the seam should be in the center, with the serged/bound edges on the outer edge of the scrunchie
5. sew a line 0.5 in/1.25 cm away from the inner edge. sew around the whole piece, but leave a 1 in/2.5 cm opening at the end
6. attach the elastic to a safety pin and insert into the opening in between the two layers of fabric. feed the elastic through the entire length of the scrunchie, then sew the two ends together
7. tuck the elastic into the scrunchie and sew the opening closed to finish

WHAT'S HOT NOW / WHAT'S HOT NOW / WHAT'S HOT NOW



OFF THE SHOULDER TOPS

MATERIAL GRRRLZ CAN'T PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF SOMETHING HANDMADE WHILE PULLING A FLIRTY LITTLE FIT;) LUCKILY, OFF THE SHOULDER SWEATERS ARE EVERYWHERE RIGHT NOW AND THERE ARE A BUNCH OF PATTERNS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU MAKE YOUR OWN. KEEP IT CLASSY WITH A SOFT MATERIAL AND DARK SHADE OR GET A LITTLE PLAYFUL WITH VARIEGATED YARN OR STRIPES. YOU CAN MAKE IT SUBTLY SEXY WITH SOME BUST OR WAIST

SHAPING OR KEEP THINGS CASUAL WITH A BOXIER FIT THAT GIVES OFF EFFORTLESSNESS. EITHER WAY, DON'T FORGET TO ACCESSORIZE WITH A BOAT LOAD OF NECKLACES AND BRACELETS TO BALANCE THE LOOK OUT! PERHAPS PAIRED WITH A KITTEN HEEL FOR THE FULL COQUETTE LOOK OR CONTRASTED WITH SOME SPORTSWEAR TO ADD SOME EDGE. GRAB YOUR MATERIALS AND GET STARTED WITH ONE OF THESE CUTIE PATTERNS...

PATTERNS (LISTED CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT):

- "OFF SHOULDER KNIT" (KNITTING PATTERN) BY JOSEFINE DYRING
- "JULIETTE SWEATER" (CROCHET PATTERN) BY BLEEDING HEARTS STUDIO
- "OFF SHOULDER TOP" (KNITTING PATTERN) BY KEIKEICA ON ETSY
- "MOHAIR BOAT NECK TOP" (KNITTING PATTERN) BY NELSKNITS
- "OFF SHOULDER TOP" (SEWING PATTERN) BY GENOWPATTERNS ON ETSY

WHAT'S HOT NOW / WHAT'S HOT NOW / WHAT'S HOT NOW

What's Hot Now

Off the Shoulder Tops

Material Grrrlz can't pass up the opportunity to show off something handmade while pulling a flirty little fit. Luckily, off the shoulder sweaters are everywhere right now and there are a bunch of patterns available to help you make your own. Keep it classy with a soft material and dark shade or get a little playful with variegated yarn or stripes. You can make it subtly sexy with some bust or waist shaping or keep things casual with a boxier fit that gives off effortlessness. Either way, don't forget to accessorize with a boat load of necklaces and bracelets to balance the look out! Perhaps paired with a kitten heel for the full coquette look or contrasted with some sportswear to add some edge. Grab your materials and get started with one of these cutie patterns:

"Off the Shoulder Knit" knitting pattern by Josefine Dyring

"Juliette Sweater" crochet pattern by Bleeding Hearts Studio

"Off Shoulder Top" knitting pattern by Keikeica on Etsy

"Mohair Boat Neck Top" knitting pattern by Nelsknits

"Off Shoulder Top" sewing pattern by Genowpatterns on Etsy

HOROSCOPES

WE'RE HEADED INTO PISCES SEASON - THE PERFECT TIME TO CHANNEL OUR EMOTIONS INTO CREATIVITY

ARIES

TAKE IT EASY, ARIES. PUT AWAY THAT COMPLICATED PROJECT THAT'S LEFT YOUR HEAD SPINNING. INSTEAD, LET YOUR INTUITION GUIDE YOU THROUGH A FUNKY FREEHANDED CREATION USING MATERIALS YOU'VE NEVER TRIED BEFORE.

TAURUS

THIS SEASON PRESENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE YOUR FEET OFF THE GROUND AND GET YOUR HEAD A LITTLE HIGHER INTO THE CLOUDS BY WORKING UP A WILD COLORWORK CHART THAT IS MADE TO USE UP ALL OF YOUR YARN SCRAPS PERFECTLY.

GEMINI

THIS IS YOUR SEASON FOR EXPLORATION AND VERSATILITY. THROW YOUR PATTERN BOOK OUT THE WINDOW AND CREATE SOMETHING THAT USES MULTIPLE DIFFERENT GAUGES AND MATERIALS IN THE SAME PROJECT.

CANCER

YOUR EMOTIONS WILL BE STIRRED THIS SEASON, CANCER. CHANNEL THEM INTO A PIECE THAT TELLS A PERSONAL STORY BY CREATING SOMETHING INSPIRED BY A PIECE OF CLOTHING THAT YOU LOVED IN CHILDHOOD.

LEO

THIS SEASON, YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAP INTO YOUR WILDEST IMAGINATIVE ENERGY. PLAY AROUND WITH YOUR STASH AND ATTEMPT TO MAKE UP A NEW STITCH OR TECHNIQUE, THEN DESIGN YOUR NEXT PROJECT AROUND IT.

VIRGO

TAKE THIS SEASON TO BE MEDITATIVE AND REFLECTIVE. FIND A REPETITIVE CABLE PROJECT, GRAB SOME CALMING COLORS AND ENJOY THE PROCESS OF CREATING SOMETHING SLOWLY, METICULOUSLY, AND WITH ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

LIBRA

PUSH YOURSELF TO PURSUE BALANCE AND HARMONY THIS PISCES SEASON. DRAW INTUITIVELY, THEN MIRROR THE DESIGN TO MAKE AN INTERESTING SYMMETRICAL IMAGE TO INCORPORATE IN YOUR NEXT COLORWORK PROJECT.

SCORPIO

EXPLORE THE DEPTHS OF YOUR CREATIVE DESIRES THIS SEASON, SCORPIO. GET INSPIRATION FROM A PROJECT YOU MADE LONG AGO AND FIND A WAY TO REINVENT IT IN A WAY THAT FITS YOUR CREATIVE VISION EVEN BETTER.

SAGITTARIUS

LET YOUR ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT SHINE THROUGH THIS PISCES SEASON. LEARN A NEW TECHNIQUE FROM SOMEONE WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STYLE THAN YOU AND FIND A WAY TO INCORPORATE IT INTO YOUR OWN PROJECTS.

CAPRICORN

EMBRACE SOFTNESS, WHIMSY AND PLAYFULNESS THIS SEASON BY MAKING SOMETHING COZY. CHOOSE SOME SQUISHY YARN AND A PASTEL COLOR PALETTE FOR A DREAMY PIECE THAT BRINGS YOU COMFORT ALL SEASON LONG.

AQUARIUS

GET EXPERIMENTAL THIS SEASON, AQUARIUS. FIND YOUR INSPIRATION IN A FASHION MAGAZINE AND SET OUT TO INCLUDE SOME OF THE COLORS, SHAPES AND TEXTURES YOU SEE INTO THE NEXT PIECE OF CLOTHING THAT YOU CREATE.

PISCES

IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE, PISCES! TREAT YOURSELF TO SOME FUN MATERIALS IN YOUR FAVORITE COLOR SCHEME AND MAKE YOURSELF A BIRTHDAY PRESENT THAT REFLECTS THE GOOD VIBES YOU'RE BRINGING INTO YOUR NEXT YEAR.

Horoscopes

We're headed into Pisces season - the perfect time to channel our emotions into creativity.

Aries

Take it easy, Aries. Put away that complicated project that's left your head spinning. Instead, let your intuition guide you through a funky freehanded creation using materials you've never tried before.

Taurus

This season presents the opportunity to take your feet off the ground and get your head a little higher into the clouds by working up a wild colorwork chart that is made to use up all of your yarn scraps perfectly.

Gemini

This is your season for exploration and versatility. Throw your pattern book out the window and create something that uses multiple different gauges and materials in the same project.

Cancer

Your emotions will be stirred this season, Cancer. Channel them into a piece that tells a personal story by creating something inspired by a piece of clothing that you loved in childhood.

Leo

This season, you have the chance to tap into your wildest imaginative energy. Play around with your stash and attempt to make up a new stitch or technique, then design your next project around it.

Virgo

Take this season to be meditative and reflective. Find a repetitive cable project, grab some calming colors and enjoy the process of creating something slowly, meticulously and with attention to detail.

Libra

Push yourself to pursue balance and harmony this Pisces season. Draw intuitively, then mirror the design to make an interesting symmetrical image to incorporate into your next colorwork project.

Scorpio

Explore the depths of your creative desires this season, Scorpio. Get inspiration from a project you made long ago and find a way to reinvent it in a way that fits your creative vision even better.

Sagittarius

Let your adventurous spirit shine through this Pisces season. Learn a new technique from someone with a completely different style than you and find a way to incorporate it into your own projects.

Capricorn

Embrace softness, whimsy and playfulness this season by making something cozy. Choose some squishy yarn and a pastel color palette for a dreamy piece that brings you comfort all season long.

Aquarius

Get experimental this season, Aquarius. Find your inspiration in a fashion magazine and set out to include some of the colors, shapes and textures you see into the next piece of clothing that you create.

Pisces

It's your time to shine, Pisces! Treat yourself to some fun materials in your favorite color scheme and make yourself a birthday present that reflects the good vibes you're bringing into your next year.



Meet the material grrrr! Sam (they/them) of Say Less Textiles :)

say less textiles

How did you begin working with textiles?

I started around 14 when my grandma taught me how to knit! I picked back up around 24 years old when I finished graduate school. I felt like the life had been sucked out of me with graduate school. The only thing that made me feel better was to be around yarn. I never stopped after that. I have worked with almost all of the fiber arts, but I never stop going back to knitting.

You use such an interesting mix of images, patterns & text - what's your process for planning a composition, and where do you start?

It always starts with an obsession with something text-based. I base everything on that initial text. Before I move on with imagery, I choose a color palette and stick with that as much as possible to make the entire project cohesive. For example, with something like Pearl, there are so many ways you might leave feeling after watching. I was most impacted by the rage, sadness, and loneliness conveyed throughout the movie. I really wanted the imagery to convey that uneasiness. I typically knit up 2-3 prototypes before I get what I want, but it is so much fun seeing what will feel right.

What inspires your text choices?

I find communicating with people really difficult. I have a speech impediment, which really makes me self-aware. When I see/hear/read a text that resonates with me, it feels like I can finally communicate

my feelings. I'll find myself thinking about that particular text over- and over, and then I know that I have to knit it up.

Your color combinations are always so joyful and creative - do you have any advice for people trying to find their personal aesthetic?

For me, I am really curious about Japanese street fashion. Magazines, like Fruits, are a great inspiration for color combinations. If I am going to knit for 60+ hours, I have to love it! I always tell people to find their favorite color and choose a color opposite on the color wheel. You have to force yourself out of your usual choices. Another option is to take photos of things in the world and use them for yarn shopping.

What are you currently working on?

What's something you're excited to make in the future?

Pearl and Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis are my main projects right now. I've been playing around with each of the panels for a few months now, but the direction is going great. I am taking a little break to make a Radiohead sweater, which should be really fun. I'm most excited to start playing around with different garment constructions for the spring/summer. As someone who is non-binary (& not straight sized) I am hoping to play around with more androgynous and creative fits for the warmer months, but with my colorwork additions!

saylessstudios on insta
@saylesstudios on tik tok
s-less.com

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Meet the Material Grrrr!

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Connect with Sam

@saylesstextiles on insta

@saylessstudios on tik tok

s-less.com



BE MY BABY / bonnet crochet pattern

the sweetest winter accessory in your stash! yarn is held double throughout the pattern, so it's thick and warm, makes up super quick, and leaves you with a bunch of color options - make it with two strands of the same color or choose two that contrast.

materials:
6mm hook
2 skeins size 4 yarn

gauge:
13 sts by 13 rows = 4x4 inches
single crochet stitch, 6mm hook

technique:
throughout the pattern, hold yarn double. this bonnet is crocheted from the top down. you will begin by creating a rectangle for the top of the head, then crochet around 3 sides of the rectangle to build the body of the bonnet. the last step is to add trim to each side and two chains to use as ribbons.

abbreviations:
st(s) stitch(es)
ch chain
sc single crochet
sc blo single crochet through the back loop only

video tutorial:
a complete tutorial for the bonnet is available on the Material Grrriz YouTube channel

free print:
copyright © 2024 alecia kael designs. for personal use only.
reseller/purchaser may not copy, resell, or redistribute any part
of the pattern without permission. reseller/purchaser may not
sell any garments created following the pattern.

top:
hold yarn double for the entire pattern
ch 12
ch1 and turn
sc blo for 16 rows
cut working yarn and fasten off
turn your piece so your chain tail is in the bottom left hand corner and the tail you just fastened off is in the top right hand corner

body:
insert hook into the bottom right corner of the rectangle
16 sc along the right side of the rectangle
(one sc in each row)
12 sc blo across top side of rectangle
(one in each stitch)
16 sc along the left side of the rectangle
(one in each row)
you should have 44 sts on three sides of the rectangle
ch1 and turn
sc blo in each st for 22 rows (optional: add more rows here to make the bonnet longer)
cut working yarn and fasten off

face border:
insert hook into the bottom left corner of the bonnet
23 sc along the left side of the face (one sc in each row)
12 sc along the top of the face (one sc in each ch)
23 sc along right side of the face (one sc in each row)
you should have 58 sts around the entire border of the face
sc blo in each st for 3 rows
cut working yarn and fasten off

ribbons:
start a new chain of yarn
ch for 18-20 inches (or to desired ribbon length)
connect to one of the bottom edges of the bonnet
slip stitch into each st across the entire bottom edge
ch until second ribbon matches the length of the first
optional: turn work and slip stitch or sc another row to make ribbons thicker
cut working yarn and fasten off
weave in all ends

Be My Baby Bonnet Crochet Pattern

the sweetest winter accessory in your stash! yarn is held double throughout the pattern, so it's thick and warm, makes up super quick, and leaves you with a bunch of color options - make it with two strands of the same color or choose two that contrast.

materials

6mm hook

2 skeins size 4 yarn

gauge

13 sts by 13 rows = 4x4 inches single crochet stitch, 6mm hook

technique

throughout the pattern, hold yarn double. this bonnet is crocheted from the top down. you will begin by creating a rectangle for the top of the head, then crochet around 3 sides of the rectangle to build the body of the bonnet. the last step is to add trim to each side and two chains to use as ribbons.

video tutorial

a complete tutorial for the bonnet is available on the Material Grrrlz YouTube channel

fine print: copyright © 2024 alexa kari designs. for personal use only. reader/purchaser may not copy, resell, or redistribute any part of the pattern without permission. reader/purchaser may not sell any garments created following the pattern.

Instructions

top

Hold yarn double for the entire pattern

Chain 12

Chain 1 and turn

Single crochet through the back loop only for 16 rows

Cut working yarn and fasten off

Turn your piece so your chain tail is in the bottom left hand corner and the tail you just fastened off is in the top right hand corner

body

Insert hook into the bottom right corner of the rectangle 16 single crochet along the right side of the rectangle (one in each row)

12 single crochet through the back loop only across top side of rectangle (one in each stitch)

16 single crochet along the left side of the rectangle (one in each row)

You should have 44 stitches on three sides of the rectangle

Chain 1 and turn

Single crochet through the back loop only in each stitch for 22 rows

(optional: add more rows here to make the bonnet longer)

Cut working yarn and fasten off

face border

Insert hook into the bottom left corner of the bonnet

23 single crochet along the left side of the face (one in each row)

12 single crochet along the top of the face (one in each ch)

23 single crochet along right side of the face (one in each row)

You should have 58 stitches around the entire border of the face

Single crochet through the back loop only in each stitch for 3 rows

Cut working yarn and fasten off

ribbons

Start a new chain of yarn

Chain for 18-20 inches (or to desired ribbon length)

Connect to one of the bottom edges of the bonnet

Slip stitch into each stitch across the entire bottom edge

Chain until second ribbon matches the length of the first

Optional: turn work and slip stitch or single crochet another row to make ribbons thicker

Cut working yarn and fasten off

Weave in all ends

the material grrrl guide to BOW MANIA



Patterns & projects
listed clockwise
from top left:
-Pink Bow Scarf by
@lurthbymorg
-Super Puff sweater
by @sossquish-
-Bow skirt by
@itsajha
-Bow balaclava by
@mucholoveknitting
-Bloomers by
@miriamorris



Patterns & projects
listed clockwise
from top left:
-Quilted gilet by
@studioanaco
-Damsel Top by
@robertswood
-Ballerina Bannies by
@meganfaithmakes
-Girlfriend Sweater by
@alexakari
-Ophelia Top by
@lucky777loops

THE NEW MUSTACHE?

there's no escaping bows these days, and they've got some people questioning if they've been so overused that we'll look back on them as a regrettable symbol of an era, never to be worn again. are bows the mustaches of the 2020s? pasted onto everything from handbags to duct tape and relegated to complete dated cringiness within the calendar year? short answer: no. unlike mustaches, bows have had aesthetic relevance for centuries. everyone from ancient royalty to the founding fathers to the girls of tik tok have enjoyed a bow in their hair. we use them to wrap gifts year-round and on top of their cuteness, they also have the practical purpose of being used to

close, cinch and secure whatever they're attached to. if anything, the threat to bows isn't overuse by you and your gal pals, it's corporations latching onto them; companies hopping on coquette and "this is me if you even care" trends turns bows into a marketing campaign, rather than an earnest, girly accessory. suddenly, anyone that engages seems to have been influenced by a corporation rather than just wanting to add a little bow to their outfit. don't fret, these marketing departments will be onto the next trend within an hour, our ribbons will be uncorrupted again, and we can move forward enjoying ourselves without the patronization of brands trying to sell girlhood back to us.

IT'S NOT ME. IT'S YOU

if you ask me, people are quick to threaten bows with inevitable cultural irrelevancy because this trend is so unapologetically feminine and bitches hate to see girls celebrating their girlhood. from boy bands to bows, anything that young women find value in or get excited about is quickly accused of being vapid and pointless. it's easy to feel pressured to give up these expressions of femininity in order to be taken more seriously, or to demonize other women that engage with them in order to feel more sophisticated ourselves. the harder thing is to attempt to figure out what we truly resonate with and engage with it despite the haters:P perhaps it's not

bows that are the issue, but the fact that society is so quick to make us feel small for the simple act of using some ribbon.

IN DEFENSE OF BOWS

all that being said, i'll be tying bows all over myself for the foreseeable future. not only is it important sustainability-wise to think past the trend cycle, it's also not the material grrrl way to stop wearing a style you like because someone decided it was over. grab your needles, get some inspiration from the projects above, and have a girly fun time making something just for you<3



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FREE PATTERNS

we've BEEN on this shit, so Material Grrrlz already has a whole closet's worth of free bow patterns for you to create!

head to materialgrrrlz.com to download the patterns and start decking yourself out!

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The Material Grrrl Guide to Bow Mania

Featured patterns:

- Pink Bow Scarf by @urthbymorg
- Super Puff sweater by @sosquish_
- Bow skirt by @itstajha
- Bow balaclava by @mucholoveknitting
- Bloomers by @miriamorris
- Quilted gilet by @studioanaco
- Damsel Top by @roberts.wood
- Ballerina Ballies by @meganfaithmakes
- Girlfriend Sweater by @a.lexakari
- Ophelia Top by @lucky777loops

The new mustache?

there's no escaping bows these days, and they've got some people questioning if they've been so overused that we'll look back on them as a regrettable symbol of an era, never to be worn again. are bows the mustaches of the 2020s? pasted onto everything from handbags to duct tape and relegated to complete dated cringiness within the calendar year? short answer: no. unlike mustaches, bows have had aesthetic relevance for centuries. everyone from ancient royalty to the founding fathers to the girlies of tik tok have enjoyed a bow in their hair. we use them to wrap gifts year-round and on top of their cuteness, they also have the practical purpose of being used to close, cinch and secure whatever they're attached to. if anything, the threat to bows isn't overuse by you and your gal pals, it's corporations latching onto them; companies hopping on coquette and "this is me if you even care" trends turns bows into a marketing campaign, rather than an earnest, girly accessory. suddenly, anyone that engages seems to have been influenced by a corporation rather than just wanting to add a little bow to their outfit. don't fret, these marketing departments will be onto the next trend within an hour, our ribbons will be uncorrupted again, and we can move forward enjoying ourselves without the patronization of brands trying to sell girlhood back to us.

It's not me, it's you

if you ask me, people are quick to threaten bows with inevitable cultural irrelevancy because this trend is so unapologetically feminine and bitches hate to see girls celebrating their girlhood. from boy bands to bows, anything that young women find value in or get excited about is quickly accused of being vapid and pointless. it's easy to feel pressured to give up these expressions of femininity in order to be taken more seriously, or to demonize other women that engage with them in order to feel more sophisticated ourselves. the harder thing is to attempt to figure out what we truly resonate with and engage with it despite the haters. perhaps it's not bows that are the issue, but the fact that society is so quick to make us feel small for the simple act of using some ribbon.

In defense of bows

all that being said, i'll be tying bows all over myself for the foreseeable future. not only is it important sustainability- wise to think past the trend cycle, it's also not the material grrrl way to stop wearing a style you like because someone decided it was over. grab your needles, get some inspiration from the projects above, and have a girly fun time making something just for you.

Free patterns

we've BEEN on this shit, so Material Grrrlz already has a whole closet's worth of free bow patterns for you to create:)

All patterns listed below are available for free on materialgrrrlz.com. Head over to download the patterns and start decking yourself out!

- Material Grrlz Garland
- Bow Legwarmers
- Off the Clock Shift Dress
- Beau Bag
- Material Grrrl Mitts
- Cold Shoulder Cape
- Quilted Device Sleeve
- Summer Smock Top

FORTUNE TELLERS

dust off this kindergarten classic to predict your next crafting moves: what project should you make next? with what color scheme? and what materials? only one way to find out!

how to play:

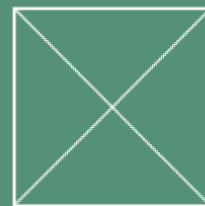
1. pick an option from the top of the fortune teller
2. spell out the option (ex. S-T-A-R), opening the fortune teller in a different direction with each letter
3. pick an option from the inner layer of the fortune teller
4. spell out the option, opening the fortune teller in a different direction with each letter
5. pick an option from the inner layer and open the flap to reveal your fortune!



Pictures from the January
meeting of Material Grrrlz Club



start with a square
piece of paper



fold to crease along
each diagonal



fold each corner in
to touch the center



flip over so folds are
on the back



fold each corner in
to touch the center



fold in half & use
thumbs to pop up
into shape

fill it in:

- use shapes, colors or numbers on the outer and middle layers to use as your game options
- write 8 different fortunes on the innermost layer

Fortune Tellers

dust off this kindergarten classic to predict your next crafting moves: what project should you make next? with what color scheme? and what materials? only one way to find out!

Instructions

1. Start with a square piece of paper
2. Fold to crease along each diagonal
3. Fold each corner in to touch the center
4. Flip over so folds are on the back
5. Fold each corner in to touch the center
6. Fold in half and use thumbs to pop up into shape

fill it in:

use shapes, colors or numbers on the outer and middle layers to use as your game options. write 8 different fortunes on the innermost layer.

How to Play

1. Pick an option from the top of the fortune teller
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FINGERLESS GLOVES



KNITTING PATTERN

THE PERFECT CUTE BUT PRACTICAL SET FOR WINTER! LEARN HOW TO MAKE THIS BASIC PAIR OF FINGERLESS GLOVES, THEN GO CRAZY: ADD BOWS, COLORWORK, STRIPES, A LITTLE STRAND OF MOHAIR, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO BRING IN YOUR PERSONALITY:)

MATERIALS:

- 50g/70m yarn (worsted weight, size 4)
- 6mm circular needles or double pointed needles
- 1 stitch marker
- tapestry needle

optional:

- 4mm (or other similar size) crochet hook (if adding bows)
- stitch holder (can also use scrap yarn or an extra needle)

GAUGE:
14 stitches by 18 rows = 4x4 inches/10x10 cm
use stockinette stitch on 6mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS:
st(s) - stitch(es)
rep - repeat
k - knit
m1 - make one stitch

VIDEO TUTORIAL:
a complete tutorial for the gloves is available on the Material Grrrlz YouTube channel

FINE PRINT:
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BODY:
using 6mm needles, cast on 26 sts
cast on one extra stitch and use it to close the round
place a stitch marker at the beginning of the row
k for 12 rows

rep (k5, m1) up to last 2 sts, k2
you should now have 30 sts total
k for 10 rows
slip 22 sts onto a stitch holder (or scrap piece of yarn) for later

THUMB:
you will continue knitting the last 8 sts in the round to make the thumb hole
k for 4 rows
cast off

FINGERS:
place 22 sts from the stitch holder on 6mm needles
using a new piece of yarn, pick up 2 sts near the thumb hole
you should now have 24 total sts
place marker at the beginning of the round
k for 6 rounds
cast off
weave in all ends

BOW:
using a 4mm crochet hook, ch for 12 in/30 cm
tie into a bow and use scrap yarn to attach to the glove

SECOND GLOVE:
repeat all steps to create the second glove, but attach the bow to the opposite side of the glove so that it will rest on the top of each hand

Fingerless Gloves Knitting Pattern

The perfect cute but practical set for winter! Learn how to make this basic pair of fingerless gloves, then go crazy: add bows, colorwork, stripes, a little strand of mohair, whatever you want to bring in your personality!

Materials

- 50g/70m yarn (worsted weight, size 4)
- 6mm circular needles or double pointed needles
- 1 stitch marker
- tapestry needle
- 4mm crochet hook or other similar size (if adding bows)
- stitch holder (can also use scrap yarn or an extra needle)

Gauge

14 stitches by 18 rows = 4x4 inches/10x10 cm
use stockinette stitch on 6mm needles

Video Tutorial

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Instructions

Body

using 6mm needles, cast on 26 stitches
cast on one extra stitch and use it to close the round
place a stitch marker at the beginning of the row
knit for 12 rows
repeat (knit 5 stitches, make one stitch) up to last 2 stitches, knit 2 stitches
you should now have 30 stitches total
knit for 10 rows
slip 22 stitches onto a stitch holder (or scrap piece of yarn) for later

thumb

you will continue knitting the last 8 stitches in the round to make the thumb hole
knit for 4 rows
cast off

fingers

place 22 stitches from the stitch holder on 6mm needles
using a new piece of yarn, pick up 2 stitches near the thumb hole
you should now have 24 total stitches
place marker at the beginning of the round
knit for 6 rounds
cast off
weave in all ends

bow

using a 4mm crochet hook, chain for 12 inches/30 cm
tie into a bow and use scrap yarn to attach to the glove

Second glove

repeat all steps to create the second glove, but attach the bow to the
opposite side of the glove so that it will rest on the top of each hand

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Material Grrrlz is a worldwide community of fiber artists connecting online & IRL through a magazine, group chat, meme page & monthly workshops in London, UK! Come hang out with us:

FOLLOW THE MEME PAGE!
Head to @materialgrrrlz on Instagram for a daily dose of niche fiber art memes about everything from dropped stitches to craft world controversy. @materialgrrrlz!

COME TO A WORKSHOP!
We host girly fiber art events in London every month! Bring your latest wip & come ready to make some new fiber friends:) Use the QR code below to find tickets to our next meet ups!

JOIN THE GROUP CHAT!
Over 1,600 material grrrlz from all over the world are chatting in a big group on the app Geneva! Check out some recent creations from the chat around the page & use the QR code to join!

GET A PRINTS SUBSCRIPTION!
Get every issue of the Material Grrrlz mag sent to your (real life!) mailbox:) Use the QR code below to subscribe and receive every new issue straight to your door.

LISTEN TO THE PLAYLIST!
Check out this issue's playlist to create a good vibe while you work on your wips<3 Follow the QR code below to check out this (and past) issue's playlists! Material Grrrlz on Spotify:



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