



## IN THIS ISSUE

### Batik Bali Rayon from The Batik Butik

About this wonderful fabric.

### Hawaiian Shirts for Everyone!

This article's focus is on sewing Hawaiian shirts. A timeless garment that is suitable for the entire family; it is a summertime favourite around the world.

### Fabric & Garment Care

Pre-washing, washing, drying and ironing info for Bali rayon.

### Layout, Cutting & Sewing

Tips to help with pattern layout, cutting and sewing.

### Published by:

Distinctive Sewing Supplies  
[www.distinctivesewing.com](http://www.distinctivesewing.com)  
[info@distinctivesewing.com](mailto:info@distinctivesewing.com)

## Batik Bali Rayon from The Batik Butik

There are many types of rayon but the rayon that goes into handmade batik fabric from The Batik Butik is the best available on the market.

Batik is a method of patterning fabric based on the principle that wax resists water. Wherever there is wax on the fabric, water-based dye cannot penetrate.

A stamp is made of the design from formed metal or from wood. The stamp, or "chop", is placed into hot wax and then hand stamped onto the fabric. When the wax has cooled, the fabric is dyed. The wax then is removed and the pattern is visible. The stamping and dyeing can be done in various stages creating either

simple or elaborate patterns.

Creating batik fabrics is truly an art form. There is the imagining of the design and then the creation of the chop. Then comes the careful application of the wax, which requires great skill. Once the wax is applied, the fabric must be dyed... and this demands experience and a clear knowledge of colour. Each piece of fabric is created by hand, by knowledgeable people who take great pride in their work.

Batik has a long history. Its exact origins are not known but fragments of batik fabric have been found in Egyptian tombs. Batik may have begun in Asia. It did eventually become an art form in Bali

and in Java that is very much alive today.

In this world of mass production, where fabrics are printed by machines, batik survives as a method of individual artistic creation which uses hand-printing and hand-dyeing techniques.

Bali rayon from The Batik Butik drapes beautifully, skimming over "figure challenges", making it a flattering choice for everyday fashions for work, leisure and special occasions. A "natural" fabric made of wood fibre and cotton lint-ers, this rayon breathes making it a very comfortable fabric to wear in the heat of summer. ❖

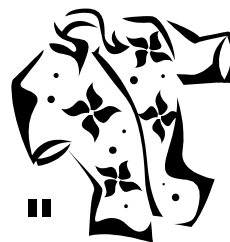
## Hawaiian Shirts for Everyone!

The Hawaiian shirt has a long history dating back as far as the 19th century. It is thought that the garment originated when the early missionaries disapproved of the native islanders' nudity and encouraged them to wear clothing fashioned

from fabric imported from China and Japan.

But the invention of the Hawaiian shirt as we know it today is generally credited to Hawaiian entrepreneur, Ellery Chun. In the 1930s Ellery and his sister Ethel

began fabricating these short-sleeved shirts out of leftover kimono fabric. Local residents, beach boys, surfers and tourists were attracted to the brightly coloured prints and easy-wearing style.



*continued on Page 2*

## Hawaiian Shirts continued

The popularity of Hawaiian shirts continued into the 1950s when famous personalities such as Elvis, Bing Crosby and John Wayne were seen wearing them.

Hawaiian shirts are now commonly made in cotton and linen prints; but rayon is the better choice for a dressier shirt with a more flattering drape. Rayon holds its colour better than cotton and feels comfortable and cool to wear in hotter weather. Quality rayon from The Batik Butik is machine washable, and doesn't wrinkle the way that linen does.

### Hawaiian Shirt Sewing Patterns

Kwik-Sew is a wonderful sewing pattern company that has Hawaiian shirt designs for people of all sizes and ages. These are premium quality multi-sized patterns printed on paper (not tissue) incorporating ready-to-wear construction techniques.

#### **Kwik-Sew Men's Shirts No. 2935:**

The Men's Shirt and Hat are designed for lightweight woven fabrics. Fabric suggestions include cotton, cotton types, broadcloth, chambray, challis, and rayon blends. The hat can also be done in denim, twill or corduroy. The shirt has extended shoul-



Kwik-Sew No. 2935

ders, a yoke, a convertible collar and short sleeves.

View A has side hemline slits and a pocket. View B has a shirt tail hemline and pockets.

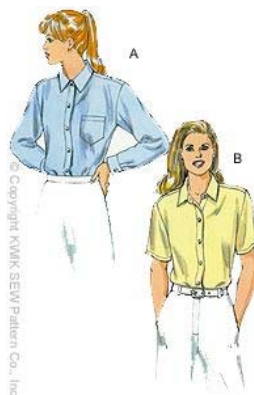
The hat has a crown and side panel, while the brim has topstitching detail. Bing Crosby was seen wearing this "pork pie" style hat with his Hawaiian shirt, which may have influenced the pairing of this style of hat with Hawaiian shirts.

The sleeves on this pattern are a couple of inches longer than some men may be used to. The reason behind the longer sleeves may be to keep the arms warmer on cool Hawaiian nights. You may wish to shorten the sleeves to suit the wearer.

#### **Kwik-Sew Misses' Shirts No. 2953:**

The Misses' Shirts are designed for lightweight woven fabrics. Recommended fabrics are cotton, cotton types, linen, challis, silk, broadcloth, chambray, rayon and rayon blends.

The Misses' shirt has a collar, a collar stand, a double yoke, an optional breast pocket, and a shirt tail hemline. View A has long sleeves with cuffs. View B has short sleeves.



Kwik-Sew No. 2953

This classic shirt style is more flattering for some women than the boxier, very loose-fitting styles.

#### **Kwik-Sew Women's Shirts No. 2929:**

The Women's Pants & Shirts are designed for light to medium weight woven fabrics. Cotton, cotton types, linen, challis, silk, rayon and blends are recommended. The pants can also be done in twill, denim or gabardine.



Kwik-Sew No. 2929

The shirts have bust darts, a collar, and side hemline slits. View A has three quarter length sleeves with centre sleeve seams and slits. View B has short sleeves with centre sleeve seams and slits. The pants have darts on the front and back, a fly zipper and a narrow waistband; View A is cropped and View B is capri length.

Full figured women will find drapery rayon more flattering than stiffer-bodied fabrics such as cotton and linen. The darts add needed shaping at the bust. This pattern doesn't have the traditional breast pocket, but you could easily make your own from another pattern or ready-made garment.

#### **Kwik-Sew Girls' Shirts No. 3168:**

The Girls' Shirt, Pants, Shorts & Hat are designed for light to medium weight

## Hawaiian Shirts continued

woven fabrics such as cotton, cotton types, linen, challis, chambray or broadcloth.

The shirt has extended shoulders, a collar, pocket, short sleeves, and side hemline slits. The pull-on pants and shorts have pockets in the outside leg seams and a drawstring with elastic at the back waist. The double layer hat has a crown, a side panel, and the brim has topstitching.



Copyright 2003 Kwik Sew Pattern Co., Inc.  
Kwik-Sew No. 3168  
Girls' Shirt, Pants, Shorts & Hat

### **Kwik-Sew Boys' Shirts No. 2951:**

This pattern looks like a miniature version of the Men's Shirt Pattern No.

2935. The Boys' Shirts & Hat are designed for lightweight woven fabrics: cotton, cotton types, broadcloth, chambray, challis, rayon and blends. The hat can also be done in denim,



Copyright KWIK SEW Pattern Co., Inc.  
Kwik-Sew No. 3299

twill or corduroy.

The shirt has extended shoulders, a double yoke, a convertible collar and short sleeves. View A has side hemline slits and pockets. The double layer hat has a crown, the side panel and the

brim has topstitching detail.

### **Kwik-Sew Toddlers' Shirt No. 3079**

The Toddlers' Pants, Shorts, Shirt & Hat are designed for woven fabrics. The suggested fabrics are cotton, cotton types, chambray, rayon and blends. The Pants & Hat can also be done in denim and twill.

The shirt has extended shoulders, a double yoke, a collar, side hemline slits, a pocket and short sleeves. The pull-on pants and shorts have elastic in casing at the waist. The double layer hat has a crown, side panel and the brim has topstitching detail.



Copyright 2002 Kwik Sew Pattern Co., Inc.  
Kwik-Sew No. 3079  
Toddlers' Shirt, Pants,

### **Sewing For the Entire Family:**

Is it really likely that the whole family would wear Hawaiian shirts? Well, judging from my teenage and twenty-something nephews, oversized Hawaiian shirts are very much still de rigueur for young men.

I have made the Kwik-Sew No. 2935 twice now for hubby and he loves to wear it. He is proud to say I made it because it definitely doesn't look homemade. Secretly I think it gives him comfort that he is benefiting from some of my enormous fabric stash.

For children of all ages, comfortable, practical clothing is important. The ad-

ditional style that comes from a special fabric is a bonus.

And for inspiration, try a visit to Reyn Spooner's website at [www.reyns.com](http://www.reyns.com). Reyn Spooner is an Hawaiian clothing business that has been specializing in Hawaiian shirts since the 1950s. They are credited with having invented the reverse print shirt. In order to get the faded look of shirts worn by surfers, Reyn McCulloch, the owner, cut the fabric so that the wrong side was on the outside of the shirt. They also insist that the breast pocket print match up exactly when it is stitched to the shirt front—an indicator of quality and attention to detail.

While you are at the Reyn Spooner website, check out the "Family Sets" where coordinated outfits are available for the entire family. The extensive selection implies that there is demand for look-alike garments.

I hope that many of you are now inspired to plan a sewing fest for your family and friends. I've heard of people sewing up several shirts in the same fabrics so that the wearers can all be identified as belonging to one family unit at their family reunions. Whatever your reason, Kwik-Sew patterns are perfect for the job, and handmade Bali rayon from The Batik Butik will make an excellent fabric choice. ❖

*I'm interested in longevity, timelessness, style - not fashion.*

Ralph Lauren, fashion designer and founder of Polo

## Fabric & Garment Care for Handmade Bali Rayon

### **Why Pre-wash?**

Pre-washing is important for many reasons. In Bali, the fabric has been put through several dyes and stamping processes to make up the finished design. After each dyeing, the fabric is hung on tiny nails or staked to the ground to dry in the sun. This distorts the selvedge resulting in the peaks and tiny holes you may see. Washing the fabric helps bring it back to its original shape. While rare, there may be slight traces of wax residue or mud on your fabric; this will wash out.

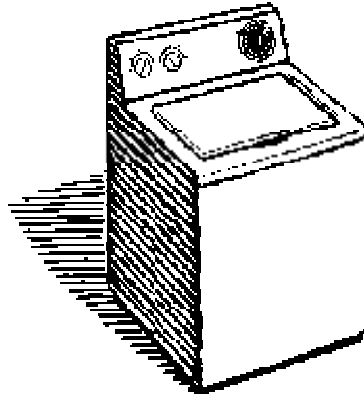
### **Shrinkage:**

While shrinkage is minimal (approximately 4-5" per yard or metre), we recommend pre-washing.

### **Pre-washing:**

For pre-washing rayon fabric, use a gentle machine wash in warm water, followed by machine drying in a

warm dryer. Iron the fabric before pattern layout and cutting.



### **Ironing:**

Prevent shine on dark or solid fabrics by ironing from the wrong side or with a press cloth or a Teflon "iron shoe". The iron should be set on "wool" with some steam for best results.

### **Garment Care:**

For washing garments, use a gentle

machine or hand wash in cold or warm water, then hang to dry. Once dry, tossing the garment in a warm dryer softens the fibres before ironing.

### **Wash Products:**

Any gentle detergent is fine but we highly recommend a product called Eucalan Woolwash. This gentle cleaner made with eucalyptus and lanolin produces a wonderfully soft result for batik rayon and other fine washables. Eucalan Woolwash contains fabric conditioners that protect the fibres for a longer wearing garment.

Fabric liquid softeners and sheet softeners are not recommended as they can leave stains on the fabrics. They also interfere with the fibre conditioning properties of Eucalan Woolwash. ❖

## Pattern Layout, Cutting & Sewing Bali Rayon

### **Telling Right from Wrong:**

A careful look at the both sides of the fabric will help you tell the right side from the wrong side. The right side of the fabric will have the clearest designs and most distinct colour. To avoid problems later on with cutting and sewing, it is a good idea to mark the wrong side of the

fabric with masking tape, painters' tape or tailor's chalk. We recommend that you mark the wrong side of each pattern piece before you begin construction.

Of course, if you like the look of the "wrong" side that's fine too. Reyn McCulloch of Reyn Spooner (a popular shirt manufacturer) thought

it was a great idea and his *inside out* shirts are still made today in Hawaii.

### **Determine the Print Direction:**

Start with a careful examination of your fabric. Take the fabric to a mirror, unroll about a metre and hold it up to your neckline. Is the print directional? Directional can be

## Pattern Layout, Cutting & Sewing Bali Rayon continued

“up and down” or “one way”. An “up and down” directional print can use a “without nap” layout as long as none of the pattern pieces are placed on the crosswise grain.

A “one way” pattern has a distinct direction where only one direction is correct. For example, in a design where figures are all standing with their feet down has a clear direction (see Midnight Walking Talk from The Batik Butik).

If you are not sure if you have a directional as opposed to an all-over design, while you are looking in the mirror, turn the fabric upside down or sideways. When you do that, does it look like it’s going the wrong way? Mark the correct direction with a piece of masking tape and an arrow.

### **Pattern Layout and Print Direction:**

A “one-way” design, will require a “with nap” pattern layout. Look for the yardage requirements for the width of your fabric. Batik rayon is usually 115 cm (45” in.) wide. If the pattern does not have a “with nap” layout, you would likely have to double the yardage requirements for a “one way” print.

Also check to see if the pattern says it’s unsuitable for with nap or

one-way design fabrics. Designer patterns with unusual layouts present challenges because they don’t always tell you that a one-way or directional design may not work. Although rare, some patterns require that pattern pieces be cut on the crosswise grain. Ask to see the pattern layout inside the envelope if you have any doubts.

### **Cutting Tips:**

Batik rayon is not that difficult to work with. It falls somewhere between cotton and silk broadcloth on the cutting difficulty scale.

After pre-washing and ironing your fabric, lay it out on a large table ensuring that none of the fabric is hanging over the edges. If the fabric is allowed to hang over the edges it will distort the grain and affect how the garment hangs.

Straighten the grain of the fabric before you begin the pattern layout. To keep your sewing pattern pieces on the straight of grain, carefully measure from the selvedge to the grain arrow on each pattern piece in two places. Pin the arrow to the fabric, at the top and bottom, before proceeding to pin the rest of the pattern. Frequent pinning will help prevent slipping while cutting out the fabric. Or you may wish to use one of those temporary pattern ad-

hesives. I also find that very fine or silk pins go through the fabric much easier and help prevent pattern tissue tears.

If you have them, serrated blade scissors, such as those used for knit fabrics, work well. If you are experienced at it, you can use a rotary cutter. The benefit of the rotary cutter is that it doesn’t lift the fabric while cutting, eliminating pulling or shifting of the fabric.

### **Sewing Tips:**

Use a new size 80/12 sharp or universal needle for every project with a quality all-purpose (100% polyester) thread such as Mettler Metrosene and a stitch length of 2.5. Wind your bobbin slowly so the polyester thread does not stretch; otherwise you may end up with puckered seams. On long straight seams, a slight zigzag will prevent puckers: try a width of .5 - 1.0 and length of 2.5 - 3.0 for best results. Serge seams to finish. If you don’t have a serger, or are feeling ambitious, use French seams as the Balinese women do.

### **Interfacing:**

When facings and collars call for interfacing, use a good quality, lightweight fusible knit interfacing. Cut the interfacing using the crosswise grain to avoid changing the “hand” or

<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Mailing Address:</b>		
<b>Telephone:</b>	<b>E-mail address:</b>	
<b>Credit Card Type:</b> <b>VISA</b> or <b>Mastercard</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Expiry</b>

<b>Shopping List</b>					
Item No.	Description	Colour	Qty	Price	Total
KS-2935	Kwik-Sew Men's Shirt	n/a		\$ 9.25 each	
KS-2953	Kwik-Sew Misses' Shirts	n/a		\$ 8.75 each	
KS-2929	Kwik-Sew Women's Shirts & Pants	n/a		\$ 9.75 each	
KS-3168	Kwik-Sew Girls' Shirt, Pants, Shorts & Hat	n/a		\$9.25 each	
KS-2951	Kwik-Sew Boys' Shirts & Hat	n/a		\$8.75 each	
KS-3079	Kwik-Sew Toddlers' Shirt, Pants, Shorts & Hat	n/a		\$8.75 each	
BR429	Batik Rayon	Sizzle Pooch Pals		\$17.99 / metre	
BR430	Batik Rayon	Sizzle Paws Here		\$17.99 / metre	
BR431	Batik Rayon	Lagoon Cheeky Cats		\$17.99 / metre	
BR433	Batik Rayon	Lagoon Paws Here		\$17.99 / metre	
BR379	Batik Rayon	Pure Purple Parasols		\$17.99 / metre	
BR385	Batik Rayon	Coral Parasols		\$17.99 / metre	
BR408	Batik Rayon	Dust Blue Wild Horses		\$17.99 / metre	
BR420	Batik Rayon	Earth Tone Walking Tall		\$17.99 / metre	

*continued on Page 7*

## Shopping List continued

Item	Description	Colour	Qty	Price	Total
BR416	Batik Rayon	Earth Tone Sumba		\$17.99 / metre	
BR415	Batik Rayon	Earth Tone Woodblock		\$17.99 / metre	
BR413	Batik Rayon	Soft Pink Magnolias		\$17.99 / metre	
BR414	Batik Rayon	Lilac Magnolias		\$17.99 / metre	
BR125	Batik Rayon	Small Ivory Chinese		\$17.99 / metre	
BR307	Batik Rayon	Egyptian Henna		\$17.99 / metre	
BR365	Batik Rayon	Twilight Swishes		\$17.99 / metre	
BR000	Batik Rayon	White		\$13.99 / metre	
				TOTAL	

You may place your order by completing the online Order Form at [www.distinctivesewing.com](http://www.distinctivesewing.com), or mailing your order to:

**Distinctive Sewing Supplies**  
**531 Vanguard Crescent**  
**Oakville, ON L6L 5G6**

Taxes and Shipping are extra. Orders of \$100.00 or more before taxes are eligible for free shipping within Canada. We accept VISA or Mastercard. Please include your telephone number so we can call to verify amount of order before processing.

**Fabric Widths :**

All batik rayon fabrics are 45" wide

Question? E-mail us at [info@distinctivesewing.com](mailto:info@distinctivesewing.com)

Up to three fabric samples can be mailed free of charge on request. Up to 10 fabric samples will be mailed upon receipt of your \$5.00 cheque (Canadian funds) made payable to Distinctive Sewing Supplies. This amount will be deducted from your next order.