

WELCOME TO OUR
NEWSLETTER

we're so glad you're here!



UPDATES & CONNECTIONS FOR CALGARY SEWISTS

What's New in Calgary Sews

There's always something happening in Calgary's garment sewing community! We know not everyone uses social media or belongs to our Meetup group, so we'll be sending a newsletter every couple of months to help everyone stay informed and connected.

Each issue will include updates on local sewing activities (not just Meetups), spotlights on local sewing businesses, handy tips and tricks, community spotlights, and inspiration for whatever project is on your cutting table.

We'd love for you to be part of it! If you have something to share — a favourite pattern, a sewing success, or a local resource others should know about — please email us at CalgarySews@gmail.com.



2026

Coming Up

2026 MEETUP MEMBERSHIP

2026 Meetup group memberships will be available in December. Watch for the email!

Frocktailers!

COUPONS & GOODIE BAGS



Have you used any of the goodie bag coupons or door prizes?

If you have, please share what you got. We want to support our donors by sharing our experiences.

And remember ... *coupons have expiration dates!*

Local Spotlight

CALGARY REGION SEWING RESOURCES

Each newsletter, we will highlight a sewing resource in the Calgary region. *If you have a favourite, please send us a quick review so we can share the details with everyone in the community, and support a local business!*

fabric depot

This month we're highlighting one of Calgary's largest — and most inspiring — fabric destinations: **Fabric Depot**.

With two stories of cottons, linens, denim, fleece, velvet, silk, ribbons, trim, and more, it's a treasure trove for sewists and makers of all kinds. Whether you're sewing fashion, quilts, or home décor, you'll find plenty to spark your creativity — in store or on their brand-new website.

Fabric Depot generously supports Calgary Sews as a sponsor and Frocktails door prize donor. They're a true pillar of our sewing community and always worth a visit!

Fabric Depot

7-3500 27 St NE

Calgary, AB T1Y 5E2

Open Monday through Saturday

Website: fabricfox.com.



fabricfox.com

NEW

Your Thoughts About Meetups

MEETING YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

To make the most of monthly Meetups, we recently surveyed members and here's what we learned:

- You love the current format of an update, presentation OR occasional sewing day and the Sew-N-Tell where members show off what they've made.
- There is also a wealth of knowledge in our group, so we are encouraging members to share their experience. You don't need to be a pro – you can team up with others and let the topic evolve.
- Hot topics you'd like to see covered at future Meetups include: Mastering your serger; Exploring machine stitches; Great sewing tools; Interfacing; Pattern making and Swaps – fabric, notions, patterns, etc.

WISH TO UNSUBSCRIBE?



Email CalgarySews@gmail.com

What Needle Do I Use?

SCHMETZ NEEDLES ZOOM

The complete Meetup Recap is posted on the Calgary Sews website ([link](#)). Here are some highlights.

Rhonda Pierce, educator from SCHMETZ Needles joined us for a Zoom Meetup on October 15. Rhonda shared a lot of very helpful info on sewing machine needles.

- Home sewing needles have a bevelled edge and flat shank so they can be perfectly positioned in our machines.
- What does the number on a needle pack mean? (70/10, for example)
 - The first number is the Metric size, the second is the corresponding US size
 - It's the metric measurement of the shank. A 70/10 needle has a shank circumference of .7MM (.7 x 10 = size)
 - Bigger number equals wider needle
- There are different sizes of needle eyes:
 - Universal needles have an eye that is 40% of the width of the needle blade
 - Embroidery needles have a wider eye
 - Topstitch and Metallic needles have an elongated eye
 - A larger eye puts less stress on the thread
- The **Universal** needle is the most popular needle. It has a slightly rounded tip and works on most types of fabric. 80/12 is the most popular size, followed by 90/14. Universal needles also come in Twin and Triple needles
- **Microtex** Needles - slim with an acute point. Microtex create the most precise stitches. They dull quickly and need to be replaced more frequently.
 - Did you know? A Microtex needle works well with Batik and other tightly woven fabrics
- **Jersey** or **Ballpoint** Needles - have a medium ballpoint and are good for many knits
- **Stretch** needles - also have a medium ballpoint but a smaller eye and deeper scarf
 - The scarf impacts how well a bobbin thread catches so if you have skipped stitches, you may want to switch to a needle with a different scarf
 - If a fabric has lycra, spandex, or elastic, try a Stretch needle
- **When should you change your needle?** How long should a needle last?
 - Could be 3 seconds if you hit a pin or 20 hours if not sewing aggressively and using a fine fabric that is not abrasive
 - Clues that it is time to change the needle 🔍
 - Thread is breaking and shredding, or has worn a groove into the needle
 - Fabric is puckering or snagging; seams are uneven or stitches wobbly
 - Skipped stitches
 - Needle is clicking, popping, or clunking
 - Test your needle for burrs by running it over pantyhose or knit fabric
- The needle is the least expensive tool in your sewing toolbox. Change it as needed.

2026 Meetup Schedule

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

*Dates subject to change.
And we expect some additions!*

Meetup membership not needed for Zoom meetings

Sat., Nov. 15	Sat. May 23, 2026
Sat. Dec. 13	Sat. June 13, 2026
Sat. Jan. 24, 2026	Sat. July 26, 2026
Wed. Feb. 4, 2026 (ZOOM)	August - No Meetup
Sat. Feb. 21, 2026	Sat. Sept. 12, 2026
Sat. Mar. 21, 2026	Sat, Oct. 17, 2026
Sat. Apr. 18, 2026	



Your Voice in the Calgary Sews Community



This is your newsletter! Have a favourite fabric store, indie designer, pattern, or local sewist to spotlight? We'd love to hear about it. You can also share a short story, review, or reflection on your own sewing adventures — no need to be a professional writer, just share what you love!

If social media isn't your thing, check out [SewShare](#) — a free, ad-free platform made for garment sewists. It's easy to use, full of great discussions, and many indie designers are already there. Janine is in touch with the SewShare team and hopes to soon see a Calgary-area forum where we can chat.

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