Fabric Chat with Rae with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Fabric Chat with Rae
(upbeat music) (upbeat music fades) - Hi everybody, It's Faith from Creativebug, coming at you live like we do every Tuesday and Thursday at four o'clock. And today I have a special guest. Please introduce yourself. - Hi, I am Rae Hoekstra. I am from Made by Rae and I'm a pattern designer and a fabric designer and I am an instructor. - And she's here filming some classes with us. We're having an absolute blast. Also, this is your second time around. - Yes, that's right. - This is not your first Creativebug rodeo. - That's right, my series "Sewing for Little Ones", was the thing I did last time. So, that was a lot of fun and I'm happy to be back. - The little ones are, it's unbelievably cute. If you have any small children in your life and you watch the class, they'll have some new pants, because they're irresistible. And now we're doing the grownup stuff. - Yeah, so we're doing three women's classes this time, so I am very excited to be able to reveal those. - They're so beautiful. Everyone's obsessed with them. We're like, we need to make them as soon as she goes home. (Rae laughs) But one of the most fun parts about you being here is getting to fully geek out on fibers. - Yes, yes. - And I started sewing as a quilter. And so in my mind the quilting cotton section was the only section that existed. And then the rest of it was the Wild West, which sounds like it is a little bit the wild west. - Yeah. (laughs) Yeah, that's true. I think a lot of people start out in quilting or maybe they make bags and, it's pretty easy to find fabric for quilting, because there's this one category of fabric and so it makes it very predictable. When it comes to sewing clothing, when somebody wants to start, they don't always know where to start. So I thought it'd be fun to just kind of go through some of my recommendations for great garment fabrics. And these are fabrics that you could use for women's apparel, men's apparel, in some cases, children's apparel. So, any kind of clothing these are good options for. But specifically I'm gonna be talking about the ones that I like for women's clothes. - And don't forget, we are live, so if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Also, if you are a fan of Rae's work, I know she's very prolific in the online sewing communities, she has a ton of patterns that are very popular that people love. So if you're one of those people, feel free to shout out and say, "Hi Rae." And you know how much you love her. - And I'll say, "Hello." - Because she's the best. - Oh, thanks Faith. (laughs) - So listen- It's been really fun having you here. It's been a really good time. So let's get started. - Yeah. So my first recommendation for garment fabric is something called Cotton Lawn. And it is similar to quilting cotton in that it's very easy to sew with, it's very predictable, it's stable, as we say, it doesn't move around a lot. So if you're scared of your fabric moving while you sew with it, this is a great one to start with. And the other great thing about lawn, is that it just comes in so many options. So many of the manufacturers are making solids and prints and so there are solid options, there's floral options. This is one by Heather Ross, who's one of your artists that Creativebug here. And then of course there's Liberty Lawn, which is another type of cotton lawn that people get really crazy about, which is a little bit more expensive. There are definitely- - [Faith] It's like, less worthy. - [Rae] Yes, exactly. But there are definitely more affordable cotton lawns as well. This is another Liberty that is lovely. - [Faith] And how does cotton lawn feel differently from just like 100% cotton? - [Rae] Yeah, so the difference between this and quilting cotton is the weight. So it's lightweight, it's soft, it makes it great for summer clothing, like dresses or tops or even skirts. And the thing about this is that it's just gonna be more comfortable to wear. It's very soft and it's very light, but very easy to work with. - [Faith] Is it sheer? - [Rae] It

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can be if your print is lighter, and like, this one for instance is like a light blue. So if you're going to sew with it, you need to think about where is this going to be worn? So for instance, I have a pair of pants out of this fabric or this fabric right here, and those work just fine because they're dark. So you do have to pay attention a little bit to that. But for the most part, especially with the darker backgrounds, you don't have to worry as much about that. For the lighter ones, you might wanna make something that you would wear like a camisole or a tank top underneath, if you're doing, or you know, line it or wear a slip. So that's kind of fun. And we have some samples. You wanna see some samples here? - [Faith] Yeah. - All right. So this is my Gemma tank pattern for women. And this is a lovely solid gold lawn. And when you make 'em in solids, that's easy to pair with everything, they go with everything. And this is another lawn. - It's light and airy. - Right. So very airy, breezy. - Nice for layering. - Yes, it goes great with sweaters or cardigans. - These are are pencils. Oh my gosh. - Yeah, they're little pencils. This is a Liberty- - This is amazing. - Print, of course. - Fabulous. - So it's kind of cute. And, my next recommendation here is something called double gauze. And this is sort of an intimidating name. - [Faith] It is. - [Rae] But the fabric itself is fantastic. So it is not see through like the name gauze might indicate, but what it is is it's two layers of fabric that have stitching that hold them together. And that's what- - [Faith] Oh. - [Rae] See that? It's kind of cool. There are like rows of stitches. There's literally two layers. It's double gauze. - [Faith] Okay. All right so it- All right. - [Rae] And what that is, is it's super soft. - [Faith] Oh cool. - [Rae] I mean it's just like, this is the fabric that everyone's hashtagging secret pajamas on, because anything you make out of this is automatically so soft. And it's actually, despite the fact that it does have a tendency to fray a little bit, it's really pretty easy to work with. It doesn't move around too much while you sew with it. So this is another fun one that I love because, the results are just so soft and comfortable. So I, again, you can have some that are a little bit more sheer, but for the most part it- - It feels almost like flannel. - Right. Yeah, it is. - But it's not sticky like flannel. - Right, it has that sort of softness, like almost brushed cotton feel to it. - [Faith] Ooh, that's pretty. - [Rae] Yeah and that's nani IRO. - [Faith] Ooh. - So we have that one. Again, (laughs) like all the fabrics, there are some that are more expensive than others. This is a nani IRO top. - That's so pretty. - This is my friend Meg's pattern from So liberated. It's the matcha top. It's one of her patterns, she's also a pattern designer. And the, I don't know if you guys can see this on camera, but the flowers are kind of, some of 'em are kinda sparkly. - It's so magical. - It's just gorgeous. - A subtle sparkle. - Yes. So once you get to the point where you're feeling comfortable, you can kind of make, you know, you can always make some investments after you try them out in cheaper options. - [Allie] We have our first question. - Sure. - [Allie] Jacqueline wants to know any tips on picking fabric for dining room chairs? - Hmm. (laughs) I think for dining room chairs, you're gonna go with something a little bit heavier weight, because you want it to stand up over time. So canvases, cotton satins are gonna be a lot better for those sort of upholstery weight type things. - And also to treat your fabric. - Yeah. - To have some kind of stain protectant. - Yeah. - 'Cause you might spill some food on the chairs and you wanna be able to wipe it off. - Yeah. Yeah. (laughs) So true. - So don't use a double gauze. - Yeah, no. So yes, these fabrics would not be dining room chair appropriate. (laughs) - But they're pants appropriate. - Yes. Yes. So these are my Luna pants. (Faith gasps) And again, these are like- - They are so soft. Yeah. They're very, very soft. This is another one of my women's patterns over at Made by Rae. - They have pockets? - [Rae] And they have pockets. - [Faith] Of course they have pockets. - [Rae] Yes, of course you need to have pockets. So, and these are just really, really comfortable. - [Faith] And this is the double gauze? - And this is the double gauze. - I love it. - Yep. Yeah. - [Allie] The next question comes from Christine and she wants to know, any tips on making patterns for Barbie doll

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clothes? - Hmm. - Make em real small. - Yeah, I mean, the thing with doll clothes, right, is that you can use any scraps and of course it doesn't have to be worn or washed. So you have- - It doesn't have to be soft. - It doesn't have to be soft, right. So for, so really, I mean, I used to make a lot of clothing for dolls, you know, when I was little. And I think just scraps from other projects tend to be the great thing that you can use there. - Is that how you got started is making doll clothes? - I don't know if that was the first thing that I did, but I definitely was making things for my dolls as a very early sewing project. Yeah, I remember making little quilts out of scraps and that kind of thing, but, but yeah, my mom just had a lot of extra scraps from the things that she was making for us when she sewed. And we would use all those things for Barbies. And yeah, so you can, you can really, I mean you can even hot glue gun Barbie clothes, right. But if you really wanna do it properly, you should use your machine. (laughs) - And just use scraps. - (laughing) Yes. Use your scraps. - [Allie] Our next question comes from Phil. It's a really, really good question. - Hi Phil. - [Allie] Phil wants to know, does fabric have a grain like paper? If so, how do you find the grain? Is there a bounce test? - Phil wants to know how do you find the grain of fabric? - So I, you can actually find the grain on a lot of fabrics with the double, there's different ways for different fabrics. So on linens or looser weave fabrics for instance, you can literally pull a thread out. I mean you can like reach from the side and pull a thread and you can see it kind of go across, if you have a very loose weave. On a fabric like this, I'm not sure you'll be able to see this on camera, but you can literally see the threads going one way and the other way. - [Faith] Like grain-wise. - [Rae] Yeah. - [Faith] Like this one maybe is- - [Rae] Right. - [Faith] A Good example. - [Rae] Right. And so the test for fabric swatches, if you need to find the grain, is to pull on it. And there usually is one direction that is a little stretchier than the other. These are Chambrays, so they're actually, you can see this a little bit on this one. There's a little bit more stretch in this direction than there is in this direction when I pull. - [Faith] Oh yeah, yeah. - [Rae] And so this is our cross grain and this is our grain. - [Faith] Okay. - [Rae] So that's how we find that. - [Faith] Great question, Phil. Do you wanna talk about these kinds of fabrics? - Yeah, let's talk about these next. This is another one of my recommendations. Chambray has become a very popular fabric to sew with. The thing that characterizes this is that there are usually a white thread in one direction and then a colored thread, in this case like a denim or indigo color. This one is a red and white combination, which results in a pink. You can even see the little red threads here on the side. And so when one thread is woven as the warp and one is the weft, you get this beautiful kind of almost denim effect. And they're lightweight. They come sometimes in a medium weight or even a heavier weight, you start getting into denims there. But Chambrays are great because they're soft, they're lightweight, they're very similar to cotton lawn in that they're easy to work with. And I love that they have this sort of indigo or denim kind of look to them, because they just, they go with everything. So, I do have another sample of that Gemma tank that I showed you earlier, and it's just, it's made out of Chambray. You can see the reverse side here is a lighter shade just like this one. - And it's still draping, so it looks like denim, but it's loose and light. - Right. And it just goes with everything. - [Faith] It seems like a very reasonable fabric. - (laughs) Yes, exactly. Yeah and they just become wardrobe staples, when you choose fabrics that aren't necessarily like, so exciting and crazy, they don't have prints all over them, but they end up being the things that really do the work in your wardrobe, because you can put them with anything. - And this is the one with which I am the least familiar. - Yeah. So this is Rayon. Now rayon is a very large category of fabrics. So, it was for a while, sort of out of fashion. And then it feels to me like I'm seeing a lot more rayons lately that are coming back in, particularly ones that are tencel Rayons, which is a more eco-friendly way to manufacture Rayon. But you can find these and they're very soft and they're very, very drapey

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and they're surprisingly easy to work with. I find them like there is some movement in the fabric, but for the most part, if you're looking at good Rayons that don't have, you're not gonna look for something with a lot of stretch in it. But if you have a nice woven Rayon, they can give you some really nice results. And again, very soft, very flowy. So it makes it very comfortable to wear. And I don't have any print watches, but I do have this example here. Another one of my women's patterns is Josephine. So this is one with a gathered sleeve- - That's a grape drape. - And this is one of Anna Maria Horner's Rayons for free spirit fabric. - Okay. - Yeah and it's just like, I think they call it a Rayon challis, which is another thing you can search for. - So pretty. - There's some Rayon tencels twills that have been really great for skirts and bottoms. And again, there's just like a lot of flow to 'em and really comfortable to wear. - And then this last category. - So the last category we have here is- - [Faith] It's extra exciting. - [Rae] Is knits. (laughs) And again, this is a very large category, but I wanted to introduce you to three that you can search for very easily when you're looking at the labels on bolts or if you're searching online for fabric. And the first one I have here is interlock. This is the line of fabrics that I did for Cloud 9. And these are just organic interlock fabrics. This is my latest line called Sidewalk. And you can see these are mostly juvenile prints, although I have been, I have loved seeing women in the flamingo print. I think that's really one of my favorites. So interlock is printed on one side and so you won't see the print on the other side, but you'll, you'll be able to tell that it's interlock because there are the front and back are the same in terms of what the fabric surface looks like. So it's an identical surface on the front and back. So if you look- - [Faith] Oh wow, okay. - [Rae] It's actually like a double, a double layer of fabric. - [Faith] Right. - [Rae] It's almost like a double knit but a lot lighter. And these have like a nice amount of stretch to them, but they're pretty stable to work with and that makes it great for baby clothes or kids' clothes, maybe looser fit t-shirts. Another type of knit that I absolutely love is just cotton jersey, and this cotton jersey has a little Lycra in it. So if you can find a jersey that has some Lycra or spandex in it, if you find like a 95 cotton, 5% Lycra, it's gonna have a great recovery to it. Which again makes it really fun to to wear because it's very comfortable. And then a third category here that I have is just a rib knit. So rib knit actually has grooves. Yeah, this has a lot of stretch to it. Again, very comfortable. And you can use this for neck bands and cuffs on like a sweatshirt or something, but you can, or a t-shirt, but you can also just make garments out of it. This is a baby rib, so if you look for a one by one baby rib, a baby rib is gonna be really comfortable option as well. And you often find these in stripes or solids and those are really comfortable. So, yeah. So I have a few samples of some jerseys here. Another popular jersey option has been the bamboo jerseys. - Ooh. - Allie, we have a question. - [Allie] We do have a question. Jennifer wants to know what fabrics should beginner sewers stay away from, if any? - Hmm. - So the question we have is what fabrics should beginners stay away from? That's a great question. - Yeah, that is a great question. So I think it can be tempting to work with things like Georgette or Chiffon or Silk, because they're very- - Satin. - Yeah, satin. They're very exciting and (laughs), they have a lot of like, you know, they're very fancy- - They're glamorous. - And glamorous, right? - Velvet. - Yes, velvet. - I think the more glamorous it is, the least you should try doing it at as a beginner. - Yeah, yeah. And especially those that are very thin or have a lot of drape or a lot of movement to them, those can be the ones that are most frustrating to work with, because when they're under the machine or when you're trying to cut it, they just move around a lot. Of all the ones that I've chosen here, I would say Rayon is probably the least beginner friendly of all of these. But on the scale of things, I think in the scheme of things, it's gonna work out pretty- - [Faith] Pretty friendly. - It's fairly user friendly for beginning projects. So you just wanna avoid the ones that are like super slinky things that move around a lot. They can be really fun to you know, see in the

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store, but then they're not as fun to work with. - Okay. That's a great question. - Yeah, so- - So this is was a bamboo? - Yeah, this is a bamboo shibori jersey and it's just Bamboo also produces a really soft stretchy jersey. - [Faith] It's so dreamy. - [Rae] Yeah. And it's lovely to wear. Again, this one's probably not the most beginner friendly jersey. I would probably stick to a cotton Lycra before I would go to something like this. But it is really fun to sew with. And obviously the prints you can find some really- - It looks terrific too. - Yeah, it's really fun. - It looks great on. - Yeah. So, this is a Cotton Lycra version of that same pattern. This is my Isla dress and top for women. And this is a, just a cotton Lycra, designed by my friend April Rhodes of art gallery fabrics. And she- - This is a lot thicker. - Yeah, it feels a little thicker and that's why it's easier to work with. So, this is a great option of this type of fabric for sewing garments. - It's so pretty. And this is the same pattern as this, but it is the longer version. - Right. So yes, we have the skirt version of it and the top version of it here. So. Yeah. - Pardon me. - [Allie] And another question from several folks, who are loving this live shoot, and they're finding it super informative. - Yay. I'm so glad. - [Allie] Also wanna know where can they find your patterns? - Oh, that's a great question. - The question is where can you find Rae's patterns? - Yeah. So if you go to Made by Rae, which is my website and Allie is gonna- - [Allie] Oh I posted a link. - Put a link in there. Yes. You can click on Pattern Shop or you can go to shop.madebyRae.com. If you just Google Made By Rae, you'll see a link to the pattern shop there and you can find all of my women and children's patterns there. - And if you want to learn how to make customized baby clothing, check out Rae's class on Creativebug. - Sewing for little ones. And we also have a few patterns in that class that you can download for free. - And if you liked this and found this to be informative, please share and like the post. - [Allie] And we have a giveaway. - And we have a giveaway? - [Allie] We do. (Rae laughs) Yes. - Of course we do. - [Allie] So two lucky winners will each win a $50 gift card to Joanne Fabrics. - So we actually have a giveaway. Two lucky winners will get a $50 gift card to Joanne Fabrics. Make sure you check out some of the ones we talked about here. - You bet. - And to do that, you have to like this post, comment and share. - [Allie] And it's a giveaway link on the post - And it's a giveaway link on the post. Rae, thank you so much for joining us. - Yeah, thanks for having me. It was really fun. - I'm exciting to get one more day with you. - Yes. (laughs) - It's gonna be wonderful. And thanks so much to all of you at home joining us today. (upbeat music)

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