

## **Canberra Sewing - Student Skill Levels - Garments.**

To best help you join our garment sewing classes at a level to match your sewing skills, we need to agree on your level of skills as are required to match the demands of any particular class. You need to fit in with our class expectations. As you learn, you will progress to a higher skill level and so be able to join the more demanding classes.

We can start you at the beginning or at any level where you fit in. Then we can develop you to whatever level you desire. You can make progress through the levels only when you are ready.

### **What is a Beginner sewer?**

It is someone who has had little or no experience with machine sewing or overlocking. Using a sewing machine is a challenge. Has a limited knowledge of what types of fabric is best, hasn't heard of fabric stabilisers or know what interfacing does, doesn't know the different types of machine needles nor what types of thread to use for different jobs.

### **What is a Beginner to Intermediate sewer?**

Someone who has repaired a few items and made some basic items. They can use their machine, can swap out different presser feet and knows what the different presser feet can do, understands the logic of upper and lower thread tension, understands how thread sizes and thread types need to be compatible with needle sizes and needle design, can wind a bobbin, can select the appropriate stitches, and can adjust width and length settings for different jobs and fabrics. Knows about patterns and may have used one or two but has a limited understanding of how to use them.

### **What is an intermediate sewer?**

Someone who can use a pattern, cut out the fabric they can sew up a garment but is not always successful.

### **What is an intermediate to advanced sewer?**

Someone who can use a pattern and understands notions, fabric bias, fabric lays, and comments on the pattern instructions, they know about grain lines and seam allowances as directed by the pattern. Someone who has successfully made basic items using patterns. Can understand alterations but not necessarily do them with confidence.

### **What is an advanced sewer?**

Someone who can without issue pick up a pattern and cut and sew a garment, they can choose their size and choose the fabrics, but they are not a professional Tailor (not necessarily jackets and not patternmaking just advanced sewing).