

As Ye Sew

Crafty Ideas...Sew-a-licious

(NAPSA)—These days, dressing yourself, your family and your home in the latest styles or the most creative designs can be easier, less expensive and more enjoyable than many people realize—when you sew or embellish it up yourself.

That's because sewing and embroidering can be such rewarding and cost-efficient ways to create personalized gifts and improve your wardrobe. For example, you can monogram initials onto virtually anything from apparel to accessories to home decor items.

Traditionally handcrafts, sewing and embroidery have greatly evolved with technological advancements and the development of computerized sewing and embroidery machines. These can help even beginners achieve professional-looking results and create customized designs.

Such do-it-yourself projects can be a popular mother-daughter activity, especially among groups eager to pass down traditional styles and ideas. For example, stitching—or sewing—is a tradition that weaves itself deeply into the fabric of Latin-American culture. "It is their own kingdom," said Denis Heyck, professor of Spanish at Loyola University Chicago. "This tradition is a way for women to have their own space to talk about the things they want to talk about."

Another reason DIY sewing and embroidery projects are so stylish these days may be the popular reality TV shows that feature creating couture, such as "Launch My Line" and Lifetime's "Project Runway."



IT'LL HAVE YOU IN STITCHES: Sewing and embroidering clothes and home decor accessories is not only a practical and economical way to express your creativity, it's a lot of fun, too.

To meet the need, some manufacturers, such as Brother International Corporation, the Exclusive Sewing and Embroidery Licensee of "Project Runway," offer budget-friendly, beginner-friendly versions of the industrial sewing machines used on the TV show.

These "Project Runway" Limited Edition sewing and embroidery machines are available online and at major stores. The collection includes a variety of machines for various skill levels and budgets with different embroidery features, design potential, personalization and new ways to create embellishments.

The more advanced machines with added capabilities are at authorized Brother Innov-is Dealers. A list of dealers, sewing advice and more information can be found by visiting the home sewing pages of www.brother-usa.com/homesewing.