

# WANNA TRY DIY DESIGNING?

The city's first haberdashery allows amateur seamstresses of all ages to try their hand at elaborate sewing and embroidery techniques in a candy shop of threads and baubles

Rochelle Pinto

rochelle.pinto@hindustantimes.com

What if you could walk into a store filled with baubles,

threads and zippers, and design your own clothes on the spot? Sounds like a day in Barbie Land, but the new haberdashery on Linking Road, called The Hab, promises to let you do just that.

The ground floor section is panelled wall-to-wall with zippers, embroidered and sequinned patches, buttons and threads. The floor space is split into four workstations, each tricked out with state-of-the-art sewing machines that would make your granny swoon with delight. They're capable of helping even the most amateur seamstress masquerade as a pro, equipped with pre-set embroidery patterns, stitches and even elaborate sewing techniques.

So if you're in the mood to try your hand at pin-tucking a cushion cover, just ask for one of the five-minute demos offered by the store, and let the machine do the rest. We



The Hab's colourful interiors

tried our hand at the beginner's class — embroidering a felt bookmark — and decided to take credit for the three elaborate patterns that the machine dutifully emblazoned onto the strip. And all it took was selecting the pattern and pushing a button.

Chhaya Sriram of The Hab, a concept started by sewing machine manufacturer Usha, reveals that the one-month-old space has become popular for kitty parties and kiddie birthdays. "Kids are excited to try out the machines and show off their creativity," she says,



explaining that their demos allow children to make cartoon pouches and floral headbands.

Regular workshops, conducted on the first floor, allow you to learn surface textures, stitching cushion covers, baby clothes, tops for women,

and even DIY revamping old clothes with accessories bought from the selection available at the store itself. With the most expensive class costing a mere ₹500, it's not surprising that the workshops for May are already full.



Your multi-purpose fabric flower is ready to be worn

Visual Reporting



DIY-ROSETTE

Cut three fabric circles of the following diameters - "3.5", 2.75" and 2".



Use a long stitch and work a row of machine stitching 1/4" away from the outer edge of the circles, leaving a length of thread at the beginning and end.



Holding one end of the thread in one hand, pull the other end of the thread such that gathers are formed and the circle gets round. Stitch the gathered part to the centre of the circle.



Make all the three the same way. Place the circles on top of the other and hand stitch together, then add an ornamental bead to the centre.

