



2023 | 2024

**THIMBLE
STUDIOS**
NOW YOU'RE SEWING

HELLO HELO BONJOUR

Hello dear maker,

I imagined this journal as a series of thinking prompts to help you close 2023 and open 2024 with a fresh perspective.

Work through the questions as they come, leaving out any that don't speak to you. There are no right or wrong answers; revisit questions if you feel inclined to.

Although I imagined this journaling prompt with a sewing lens, some parts will translate well with your other creative pursuits too!

You may print these pages, or simply fill your own journal with the answers. If you prefer talking, you can use the recording app on your phone for this. (I often do this whilst out walking!)

Possible other companions may include:

A stack of favourite pens, a quiet house, a train full of strangers, a warm drink, a clear table, animals on your lap, as many breaks as you want...

Take your time, have fun and let's see what we can find out!

2023

The Recap

Before we dive into plans for the new year, I invite you to cast your mind back to your making year of 2023.

Let's start with a list; these are 4 areas that I enjoy unpacking.

I include a category for clothes I bought as it is part of my aim to cultivate conscious consumption. If it doesn't speak to you, simply leave it out.

You should embrace how each category might look uneven and different from year to year.

What I started/made	What I finished (from previous years)
What I repaired	Clothes I bought

2023

The Recap

Now that you have refreshed your mind are there any thoughts or impressions you would like to put down?

Here is a list of ideas taken from my own experience over the years to get you started.

2023 was a year of ...

Planned projects

Spontaneity

Stash busting

Stash building

Many unfinished projects

Varied skills

Focusing in

Pushing on

Comfort projects

Practical makes

Pure fun

Impulse buys

Planned purchases

Exploring new styles

Honing in

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The Highlights

Each year of experience will come with its own unique flavour.

I want you to take a moment to indulge in extracting a few highlights of your 2023.

What do you need or want to remember?

A favourite fibre

Have you discovered a favourite new fabric, enjoyed the feel of something?

A pattern that stood out

What stopped you in your tracks? Did you get the pattern? Have you started it?

An enjoyable make

Not necessarily a well made one!

Something that turned out really well

Something you are proud of

This could be a risk you've taken, a garment you made, a fabric you handled well. Take your time with this one, victories come in all shapes and sizes and more might come to mind as you start listing.

Something that surprised you

Did it turn out better? Was it harder than you thought?

An obsession

There's often a focus that overrides everything else for a bit. Did you have one this year?

A ritual

No matter how short-lived. Is there something you did around your making that helped you get inspired, find motivation. This could be catching up with a favourite radio programme, lighting a candle, tidying. What kept you company when it was hard getting going?

2023

The Challenges

Making is a practice that inevitably comes with highs and lows.

Some projects will frustrate you, life will call you elsewhere. Part of having a practice, providing it brings you joy, is that you have a place to return to and well, practice!

Let's look at what challenged you in 2023...

A stretch too far

Is there a project you had to abandon? A skill you couldn't grasp and left you frustrated?

A mismatched expectation

This could be a fabric underdelivering or running out of love for a project.

A reluctant break. A forced pause.

It can be difficult to feel pulled away from something that we used to enjoy. And then find a way back in. Did you experience such a thing in 2023? What helped you to regain inspiration or time?

HWYL! FAREWELL AU REVOIR

Some things will be best left in 2023.

Here is your chance to say your final farewell to a project you know you will not see through, a fabric, a frame of mind, whatever it is that doesn't need to join you in 2024.

AU REVOIR MON AMI
MOR HIR FY FRRIND
SO LONG MY FRIEND

2024

BIENVENU WELCOME CROESO

2024

Looking forward

Let's look ahead now to 2024.

Rather than making a definitive list of what you plan to make I invite you to dream the year first with intentions and feelings. This will help you gauge a desirable pace, your capacity for newness, and reveal intuitions and actual desires you have going forward.

Deeper

Where are you going to dig deeper?

A skill to hone in, a project to sew again, a book to read (maybe one that got you excited and then got forgotten about)

Wider

What are you looking forward to discovering?

A new pattern, a new skill, a new commitment, a novel way to connect with other makers.

There are so many ways to add newness and fresh perspective that doesn't require a blank slate. Where can you go wider?

The deeper, wider idea is from David Cain. You can read about it here:

<https://www.raptitude.com/2017/12/go-deeper-not-wider/>

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Looking forward

A tool you are excited to get

What are you really looking forward to sewing?

A spot to try

Like a cat, I claim different spaces according to warm air movement, sunrays, cosiness, quiet. Is there a corner of your house you are eying and will test out this year? Or a different desk angle. A community space you would like to explore?

Small shifts can bring a fresh perspective. Writing a few options down here as a reminder to try later.

2024

Looking forward

Overall flavour

How do you see sewing playing in your life in 2024?

You can try thinking of it as a more or less list.

More

Less

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Strategising but flexible, ok?

Now, scan the year ahead a month at a time.

Can you jot down events, and seasons, that will prompt a want/need for something new?

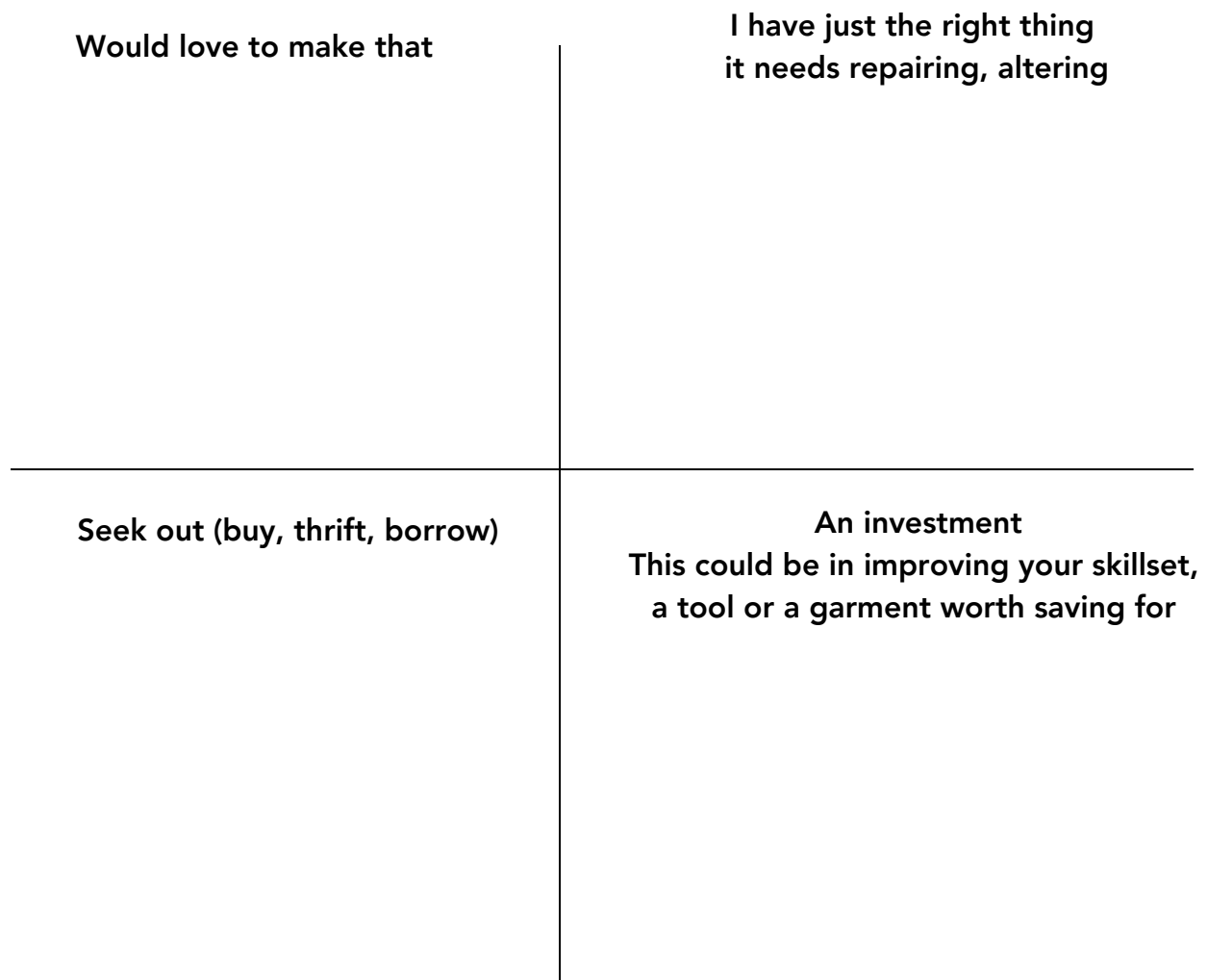
A wedding to attend (your own?), your commitment to walk daily in all weather, a well-worn item coming to its end that you will be looking to replace.

Make a list of things you are likely going to want/need.

2024

Strategising but flexible, ok?

Now that you have anticipated some future needs/wants you can prepare yourself and experiment with decisions around what is an opportunity to make, thrift, borrow, repair, buy, or invest in.



As you do this, try and notice what brings up excitement. Is there anything you wrote that came out of a sense of obligation? Is there a better category that would change the feeling around it? Play around and stay flexible!

2024

Strategising but flexible, ok?

The seeking out list is here to bring your needs into focus and notice opportunities arising. You might feel inspired to raid your friend's wardrobe, attend a clothes swap, revel in the search for that perfect item new or second hand.

The repair list is here to bring your attention to what's already here. Maybe you grab it all and bring it to your high street alteration shop or you pick a slower approach and use it as an opportunity to further your mending skills (with the help of our Mending Folder, of course!).

The investment list is here to help you make happen the things that take a little bit of planning. Whether it's a course, a new machine, a more costly garment (but that will last longer).

The making list is the perfect starting point for your year of making and where we end this journal. Over to you magic maker.

You can now start searching for patterns, look in your stash for what might fit the bill, safeguard some sewing days, whatever you feel you need.

Have a wonderful year,

Camille x /