



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**It's Stitchcraft! The Sewing & Craft Alliance  
Releases its Top DIY Costume Picks for Halloween 2009**

**PITTSBURGH, PA** – This year, recession-weary consumers are expected to spend 10% less on Halloween than they have in past years. While that may be scary news for some retailers, it doesn't mean there will be fewer ghosts and goblins going bump in the night. In fact, sewers and crafters are beating the economic blues and performing their own style of stitchcraft with fabric, scissors, thread and glue to create one-of-a-kind Halloween costumes.

The Sewing & Craft Alliance, an industry group that provides educational information and creative resources to sewing & crafting enthusiasts, knows by its website traffic that Halloween is one of the most popular times of year for anyone with a creative streak. Joyce Perhac, SCA's President, suggests that it's all about thinking outside that proverbial costume box.

"Store-bought costumes can bust a budget" says Perhac, "especially when it may only be worn one time." "But with a little craft-magic, fabric, felt, trims and embellishments can come together with magical results. While elaborate costumes need higher end sewing techniques, straight seams, serged edges, fabric glues and bonding tapes allow anyone to express their creativity" she adds.



Simplicity #4136  
[www.simplicity.com](http://www.simplicity.com)

**Our Top DIY Costume Picks for 2009:**



No-Sew Pirate Costume  
from JoAnn Fabric &  
Crafts, available on  
[www.sewing.org](http://www.sewing.org)

- **Vampires** are the hot costume pick this year. Styles vary from traditional Count Draculas to elegant Renaissance-style vampire-ettes draped in burgundy velvet and lace. Pint-sized vampires are too cute to be scary with costumes that can be easily crafted from a black jogging suit topped with a cape and sporting a red bowtie.
- We're still wild about **Harry Potter**. Harry Potter glasses are available in stores everywhere and one-size-fits-all hooded caftan/robe patterns make it easy to stitch up your own bit of wizardry. Add a wizard hat and lantern to complete the look.
- Ahoy Buccaneer! There's a bit of **Pirate** in all of us and we can often find buried treasure in our own closets. Dressing for an evening of walking the plank starts with glue, felt, gems and ribbon added to snug fitting black pants, black (or dark brown) boots and a white t-shirt.

- **Princesses and Fairies** - a girl's fascination with pretty-colored tulle, princess hats and star-topped wands with ribbon streamers never goes out of style. Beautiful costumes will allow princesses of all ages to live a charmed life, even if just for a day.
- The zoo crew - tiny tots are especially precious in animal attire. Snuggly **bunnies, kittens and bears** top our list for baby and toddler costumes. Doing double duty, plush fur fabrics help to keep little ones warm on a cool October night.
- Watch out for falling houses! 2009 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Wizard of Oz**. From Dorothy to the Tin Man or the Wicked Witch of the West, it's never been a better time to follow the yellow brick road. Sewing enthusiasts can use silver foil pleather (available at [www.JoAnn.com](http://www.JoAnn.com)) to create a tin man and Wicked Witch of the West fleece from [V.I. P by Cranston](#) to craft a trick-or-treat bag.
- Superhero's like Batman (think tights and a cape), Iron Man and Indiana Jones continue to rule and will be arriving at parties and knocking on doors everywhere.
- And the top costume pic for Fido? **Count Dogula** of course!



“The ideas for great costumes are endless and it’s fun to indulge in a little stitchcraft” Perhac notes. For project ideas, costume patterns and safety tips, visit the Sewing & Craft Alliance web site at [www.sewing.org](http://www.sewing.org).

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