Ditto: Unboxing and Beam Set Up with Niasia Pinnock of Ditto

Chapter 1 - Ditto: Unboxing and Beam Set Up

Overview

(bright upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Niasia Pinnock of Ditto. I'm a designer, pattern maker, sewist, and maker of all things crafty. Let's Ditto together. I wanna introduce you to the freshest update in the pattern industry in 160 years. Ditto is a pattern projection ecosystem that is made up of the Ditto hardware, the Ditto pattern website, and the Ditto app. Ditto-branded patterns are paperless and customizable. With Ditto, you get to the fun of sewing faster. The Ditto system was designed by sewists like you and me. It was created to make the patterning process less frustrating and more exciting. Ditto allows anyone from the home sewist to the fashion designer to create, what previously, they could only imagine.

Unboxing

- Congrats on getting your Ditto. I have mine, so let's unbox it together. When you open this up, there's a two-part beam that slides in together, and this allows the extension from 7 1/2 to 10 feet. And then we have the pattern weights. They're worth their weight in gold. These are my favorite. These are the heaviest weights that I've ever used. And then we have the two-part power cord here. Here is a box of target stickers, a rotary cutter, the bubble level, the cord covers. Under here you'll find your Ditto cutting mat as well as your instruction manual. And the most important part, which is the QR code that will enable you to have a free trial for three months for Ditto pattern subscription. And last but certainly not least is the Ditto projector itself. What's great about this box is that the foam casing houses all of your Ditto components for you to be able to store everything securely back into the box. It's thin enough for you to slide it under your bed or store it in your closet until you're ready to use your Ditto again.

Setting up the Ditto Beam

- We're gonna start by setting up our beam. So, what you'll need is a 7 1/2 to 10-foot ceiling height in order to get started. I'm in a studio, so it'll be a little bit different than in your home sewing environment, but it's pretty much the same. Let me walk you through. I'm gonna start with a two-part beam. Take your bubble level. With the bubble facing up, you're gonna depress the sides here and slide it onto the bottom of your beam. Now that your bubble level is attached, you're gonna take the top part of your beam and slide it into the bottom. You'll turn your beam over. You'll press in the lock knob and turn firmly until it stops spinning. Nice and secure. And then we're gonna place the beam on the floor. Here's where the 7 1/2 to 10-foot range comes into play. You're going to lean your beam at an angle so that it extends just slightly past your ceiling height and raise it all the way up to the ceiling. You'll then tighten the knob until it's really secure. Once that's done, you'll wanna bring the beam over to your workstation. You'll need the beam to be 1 inch away from your work surface. Your work surface should be 35 inches wide and 25 inches deep at a minimum. You'll bring it over, you'll hold your beam on the top, and you'll pull down to depress the spring-loaded tension. And then once you're done, we'll depress it and pop it into place. To slide the bubble level down, you'll want to depress these sides together and just slide it. This is at a comfortable height for me to view, so I'll make sure that the bubble is right between this circle, and I'll level it like so. Slide the projector carrier down so that we can then attach the projector. We'll take the projector, with

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the lens facing the ceiling, we'll align it to the carrier post, and we'll turn the projector until the lens is facing downward. So before we power our Ditto on, we're gonna head to the Ditto Patterns website to create our account.

Create an account
- The website is where you'll browse and shop for your patterns. In order to do so, you'll need to create an account. To create an account, I'll hover over the Sign In button here and click Create Account. I'll put in my email address. I'll type in my information here. Once I've created my account, there'll be two options for me to get started. I could either purchase patterns a la carte, or I can use my subscription. Remember to use your QR code to get your free trial and gain access to all Ditto branded patterns. I'm gonna begin by shopping for a purchase pattern. And here, you'll see that there are different categories that you can shop in. I'm gonna go for a women's pattern. And you can look through. You'll notice that there are branded patterns as well as Ditto patterns. Some of our brands that we have include Liesl + Co., Madalynne Intimates, Style Arc, Straight Stitch Society, and Name patterns, to name a few. So, you can begin by browsing through all the patterns. You can use the filters on the top to help you narrow down what you'd like to make. I know today that I would like to make a skirt. In particular, it's the Audrey skirt, so I'll type that in here and pull that up. Ditto branded patterns range from sizes zero to size 28. You'll begin by choosing the pattern that's closest to your clothing size. There's a size chart here that'll bring you out to the pattern measurements, and you can choose based on this. Don't worry if your measurements don't match up exactly with the measurements that are listed here on the standard sizes as we'll be able to make changes to those later on. Today, I'm gonna choose the size 16, which is the median size that we offer. As you scroll down, you'll have the option of subscription or purchase. I'm gonna purchase today. Also, note on the FABRIC & NOTIONS tab that there's fabric recommendations, the notions that you'll need, as well as a link out to Joann. We use all Joann fabrics for our garments, and we have the fabric ID listed here. You'll be able to click on the link here and it'll bring you out, to the Joan apparel fabric website, and you'll be able to find a very similar fabric if not the exact same. On the YARDAGE tab, you'll notice that there is yardage for the main fabric, the lining, and interfacing. It'll show you exactly how much you need before you commit to the project. I'll go to Checkout. Once you've purchased your pattern, it'll prompt you to go to your pattern library. Here in your library, you'll see all the patterns that you've purchased. Click on the pattern that you'd like to use, and you'll see the Size Customization button, and you'll click on that. Here's where the fun comes into play. You'll type in your model name, which is Niasia or whatever your name is. Leave that here, and then you're able to put in your custom measurements. As I told you before, we're using the base standard size, which is the size 16 that I used initially, but as we know, our bodies are different than the standard size. For guidance on how to measure, click on the information icon. You can measure yourself or have a friend or loved one help for harder to reach areas, such as your back. Now that I'm satisfied with the measurements that I put in, I'm gonna update my model, and it's all done. Once you've updated your measurements, you then click Apply, and then you'll be ready to project in minutes.

Project and calibrate
- When you're ready to use your Ditto machine and you have your pattern selected, you'll need to power on. I've laid out my pattern mat with the Ditto logo facing away from the beam. I'm gonna plug in now. The carrier is still at a nice, comfortable level, so I'll just plug this in here, and you'll see

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your machine power on. As it powers on, I'm gonna slide this up so that we can begin to calibrate the machine. To begin, you'll want to align the red projected rectangle outside on the white frame of the cutting mat. It doesn't have to be perfectly straight, as the calibration process will align it the way that it needs to be. Next, we'll align our cord in the center of the beam, and we'll add our cord covers. The Ditto Pattern website is where you'll browse and shop for patterns. The Ditto app is how you'll drive the machine. You can use any Android or iOS device, a tablet or a phone. I prefer to use a tablet because the screen is a little bit larger in order for me to work around the workspace. My Ditto app is open on my tablet, and when you get to the home screen, you'll notice that you have your pattern library, I have one pattern in there currently, tutorials, I can shop for more patterns, and I can also shop at Joann for fabric or other supplies that I need for sewing. I'll go into my pattern library right now, and there's a skirt that I purchased earlier today. So the first thing I'm gonna do is click on the pattern, and you'll note here again that you're able to access your yardage and notions as well as the sewing instructions and your workspace. I'm gonna go straight into the workspace. This rectangular box here represents the rectangular cutting mat, which is 36 by 24 inches. The first thing you'll notice is this red flashing box that tells you to connect. You'll wanna click on that. Through Bluetooth, you'll be able to find your projector and its individual ID number. You'll click on that. Insert your wifi password. Ensure to use the same wifi network that you're using for your tablet or phone, and then we're gonna click CONNECT PROJECTOR TO WIFI. And there we have a successful connection. You'll note it here on the app itself as well as on the projection where it says connected. And then it'll prompt us to calibrate. Do we need to calibrate? Yes, we do. We recommend you calibrate before every project. You'll notice here that it tells you the correct and incorrect way to calibrate so make sure you follow these pictures for hints on how to do so. To calibrate, we'll need to take a photo. We wanna make sure that our photo looks the same as the yes photo on the graphic here. I'm gonna walk around to the other side of the table to do so. I'm on the other side of the table and my red rectangle is on the white border portion of the cutting mat just like the picture. So I'm gonna press Continue, and it's gonna say, "Allow Ditto Patterns to take pictures and record," and you're gonna say, "Yes." You're gonna give it permission. We need it to be able to do so. Okay, so what you wanna do is just to make sure you capture all four corners. This is okay if it's at an angle. So we're gonna take this picture, and it says here, "Capture the full cutting mat with calibration projection in your photo." I'm gonna press Submit. Perfect, we have a calibration success. Says it here on the screen, and as well, the Ditto logo popped up on the mat and the red box for calibrate has stopped blinking so we're all connected. If you received a calibration fail for any reason, be sure to walk through the calibration steps again. Take the image and make sure that you capture all four corners. As well, make sure that the cutting mat is clear of any foreign objects. The calibration process ensures a 1:1 ratio for the pattern pieces, so all of your pattern pieces will be accurately projected from now on. Working back in the app, we'll notice that on the right-hand side all the pattern pieces are laid out here for us to see. We also have a tally that lets us know the required number of pieces that we need to cut. On the top, you'll notice that there's a garment fabric, the lining fabric, and interfacing. When you click on any of these categories, the pattern pieces will update as well. I'm gonna click over to our reference layout. And if you double tap on this, you can zoom in to see where your pattern pieces should be laid out. Our rectangular box here shows our workspace, which is the 36 by 24 cutting map. To get a piece into our workspace, we're gonna long press, drag and drop. The great thing about the Ditto is that you can drag and drop as many or as few pieces as you like into the workspace. You can move them around anywhere you'd like them to go. Once I'm happy with the layout, I can press SEND TO PROJECTOR.

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For this process here, I'm gonna remove this back piece so that I can show you mirroring. I'm gonna clear that here. I'm gonna mirror this piece. Piece will be replaced in workspace with a mirrored version. We're gonna click OK, and it mirrors it for me. I love this feature because you're able to drag in a second copy of it, and if you wanted to, you could align it here like this so that you're able to cut it on a particular print and get it the way that you wanted to on your fabric. What I love about this feature is that it gives you flexibility to lay out your patterns the way that you wanted to and to align on your fabric. So if there's a particular print that you're working with, you can get that flower right in the center if that's what you want. I'll click SEND TO PROJECTOR to confirm my changes. And now you can see on the Ditto cutting mat that my pieces are realigned. By selecting the piece, I can mirror it vertically, I can mirror it horizontally, and I can also rotate it with my two fingers. So I can put it in any way that I want. It snaps at every 15 degrees. So if I wanted to cut it on the bias, I could do that as well. I'm gonna clear this here. And as you begin to cut your pieces, you'll click on the check mark here in the corner, and it'll ask you, "Did you complete 2 pieces?" And I'll click Yes. This setting can also be toggled off. You'll notice that the tally count updates on the right-hand side. If you need to stop midproject, if you press the EXIT button, it'll save your progress exactly where you're at. So no need to worry, your tally count will still be updated. If you need to come back to your project, simply click your pattern library and your project will be saved there. Using the Ditto system has really elevated my sewing experience. I can easily take it out, start a project, get it done in an afternoon, and then pack it up away and start dinner for my kids. Now that we've walked through the process, you're ready to start your first project.

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