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Sew Many Dresses, Sew Little Time: The Ultimate Dressmaking Guide



Synopsis

With her "choose-your-own-adventure" approach to sewing, Tanya Whelan offers an invaluable collection of patterns that empowers sewers to become designers. The trick is a set of patterns for 6 skirts and 8 bodices that line up perfectly at the waist, plus an additional 4 sleeve styles and 4 necklines. Tanya gives readers clear instructions and easy-to-follow step-by-step diagrams that allow them to use the enclosed pattern pieces to create up to 219 fitted dresses, including simple strapless designs, sheaths, and halter gowns. The book covers basic dress construction and altering techniques for women of all shapes and sizes.

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Customer Reviews

This book is amazing -- it definitely lives up to its tagline: the ultimate dressmaking guide. This book goes beyond the pattern pieces and how to mix them. With clear line drawings and easy to understand written instructions, the author shows you how to alter pattern pieces to achieve your desired look. The hardest decision was to figure out which dress I'd make first. For my first dress, I made the strapless bodice and paired it with the half-circle skirt. I've never properly fit a strapless before and it fits beautifully!!! Amazing!! I know I'll be creating custom dresses for myself for years to come.

This book has it all! Patterns with drafting instructions! I didn't know at first if I would like the book, as I'm a lazy seamstress and I hate tracing and drafting, but this book is a great read and offers

endless options with thorough instructions. Every bodice has modification ideas . For the skirts, she has included instruction on how to make it as a standalone skirt. There are a myriad of fit adjustments included, along with your average primer on basic sewing. I appreciate that the patterns aren't watered down. Do be warned, if you don't like tracing, you will HATE this book. The patterns are nested Burdastyle type sheets printed front and back. The larger sizes are faded out rather than different line styles. The different pattern pieces do not overlap, so it won't be too much of a pain to deal with.

The book itself is darling, but **DO NOT ORDER IT FROM !** Buy it only from a bricks-and-mortar bookstore or fabric store where you can examine your copy and make sure it does not have an empty pocket in the inside back cover. That pocket should contain the paper patterns without which the rest of the book is useless. To quote from the book's section on "How to Use This Book" on p. 9: "More than 200 unique dresses can be made with the interchangeable bodice and skirt patterns, neckline templates, and sleeve patterns included in the envelope at back of the book." Which means ... no patterns = no dresses. I ordered "Sew Many Dresses" from , and it arrived with an empty pocket. I requested a replacement and returned the defective copy -- and the replacement had the same empty pocket. I am not going to try for a third time. This is NOT the author's fault, and I really enjoyed reading the book until I looked in the envelope and realized I could do nothing with Tanya Whelan's great ideas. I am very, very disappointed in , and with the publisher, Potter Craft, for such abysmal quality control.

Love this book! I am not very experienced with sewing clothing, I'd say a confident beginner. I learned SO MUCH from this book. My daughter picked out the Mock Wrap dress with the Blue Skies modifications & it turned out great! I was a little worried when I first started as I have never traced my own patterns or modified anything, but by the end I developed an intuition based on Tanya's methods to adjust the pattern. That is huge for me. I feel like after sewing patterns from this book I am better able to understand clothing patterns overall. I love the styles she presents, leaning toward the classic & vintage style, but you can make it all your own with the basic skirts and bodice patterns she gives you. I also love that you get instructions if you want a stand alone skirt or blouse. I highly recommend this book!

After falling in love with her fabric years ago, I'm a big Tanya Whelan fan. This book is a wonderful all-in-one resource that any seamstress should have. She makes it easy to design your own dress

to achieve any design you can think up. It has patterns and directions that allow you to mix and match bodices (from halters to strapless!), skirts (short, long, in between) and sleeves (!!! this is what I've been looking for specifically!). You can customize a dress based on what makes you feel most comfortable. The diagrams and photos are lovely and very clear. There are so many tips scattered throughout, from in depth explanations to sewing in bodice linings with or without zippers - to adding boning! Information on hems and why some are better than others, sewing darts, diy-custom dress form instructions. Information on how and why to choose the fabrics for the dresses you are going to make. She left nothing out. If you're new at sewing, you need this book. If you're seasoned, you need this book. Anyone who sews - put this book on your shelf :) I'm so happy with this purchase, and only wish I had more seamstress friends I could gift it to.

I started taking sewing classes at age 11, and when I was in high school I decided to use my mom's dress patterns from the 50's and make my own dresses by mixing and matching the bodices and the skirts from different patterns. I loved how they turned out and enjoyed wearing them for years. When I saw this book, it reminded me of that exact same concept from my youth and several of the finished dresses look very similar to what I made as a teen. The book includes patterns for different types of bodices, necklines, sleeves and skirts and it gives ideas and complete instructions for combining the different elements into lovely dresses. There are full size patterns included in a pocket in the back of the book, which is really convenient. I love this idea of combining the pieces that would work best for whatever style dress you need or want to make. Depending on the material chosen, these patterns would work well for casual or more formal dresses. I'm excited to share these with my daughter who is learning to sew now, too.

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