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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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

TANYA WHELAN is well known for her fresh, vintage-modern style. Her bestselling fabrics and sewing patterns are produced internationally by Free Spirit Fabrics, a subsidiary of Coats and Clark. Her work is featured frequently in magazines, including Martha Stewart Living, Romantic Homes, Quilts and More, and Sew News, as well as on Decor8, Sew Mama Sew, True Up, and Craftzine.

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.

I bought this book in hopes of learning how to make my own dresses. I'm not skilled in dress making. This book is packed with lots of great information, right down to proper fitting. It has a neat little folder at the back of the book to hold the many patterns accompanying this book.

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!

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.

Very happy with my purchase. I was a bit concerned after reading some reviews where the pattern sheets were missing, however mine was delivered safe and sound with all the pattern sheets enclosed. I am looking forward to making some of the dresses for myself and my friends, it's a great idea having a bunch of bodices and skirts which line up. Please be aware that they are pattern sheets with multiple pattern sizes which will need to be traced. If that really is not your thing, then this book may not be for you. Personally I like having the choice of pattern sizes on the one as it makes it slightly easier to grade when tracing.

Bought this as a gift for my daughter who enjoys sewing her own clothes. The book has basic bodice, skirt, sleeve and collar patterns in the back of pretty much EVERY size even up to about a 2x or (20-22). The book teaches you how to mix and match bodice sleeves and skirts and how to modify them for body shape and also style. You have to get tracing paper to use the patterns and/or modify them. She has already made 2 dresses and is loving the versatility and ability to tailor to her body style and size!! I highly recommend!!!!

I'm a beginner fairly much and have been wanting to make more clothes for myself but have never properly understood the changes I need to make to make the fit right. Thank you for explaining the dart movements so well! I also love the versatility of this pattern. It's not just a one dress... It's whatever you want it to be. I almost don't have to buy a dress pattern ever again!

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