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Fit For Real People: Sew Great Clothes Using ANY Pattern (Sewing For Real People Series)



Synopsis

Presented in a new edition that adds updated pattern industry news and revised rules for selecting pattern size, this easy and practical fitting system requires no measuring, no drafting skills, no muslin mock-ups; and it works with all brands of tissue paper patterns. Real people of all ages are featured in photographs that explain the steps of cutting out pattern pieces, pinning them together, and adjusting the fit. Special attention is paid to tricky challenges such as accommodating a full bustline, adjusting sleeves, or reworking a garment to make it more flattering, as well as alternative fitting methods such as draping and computer design. Metric conversion charts, charts for comparing pattern company bodice measurements, and a history of American dress design (Just where did size 10 come from?) make this book a versatile reference.

Book Information

Series: Sewing for Real People series

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Customer Reviews

I've been sewing for over twenty years, but I learned by trial and error, from my mother and grandmother and their 1940's and 60's era home ec classes, and in a costume shop. As I move into middle age and gravity starts having its way with me, I'm having to adjust more patterns more frequently. FfRP has some excellent descriptions of how to do specific fittings, especially the full bust adjustment. However, it's the not sewing bible. First, it puts too much emphasis on tissue fitting. Tissue is a good first approximation, but tissue doesn't act like fabric, and it's fragile. Tissue fitting is

not a substitute for a proper muslin because tissue doesn't drape, and it's only fitting half the body. Tissue fitting does work for boxy, straight styles made of woven materials (i.e. Most patterns from the big four pattern manufacturers) but it fails for drapery knits and close fitting styles. This means that a novice is likely to get frustrated and quit garment sewing because getting a garment to look good takes practice, time and patience. The book also spends almost no time discussing fabric, drape, hang and weight, meaning that a novice is likely to make at least one of the classic blunders and try to make clothing from quilting cotton, which almost never works. Fit is not just a principle of geometry, but of the materials that go into making a flat object into a curved one. Second, the book has a confusing layout. For a novice, it lays out steps to follow (back, then shoulders, side, then bust) but the book doesn't follow those steps, so a novice can get easily turned around in the pages.

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