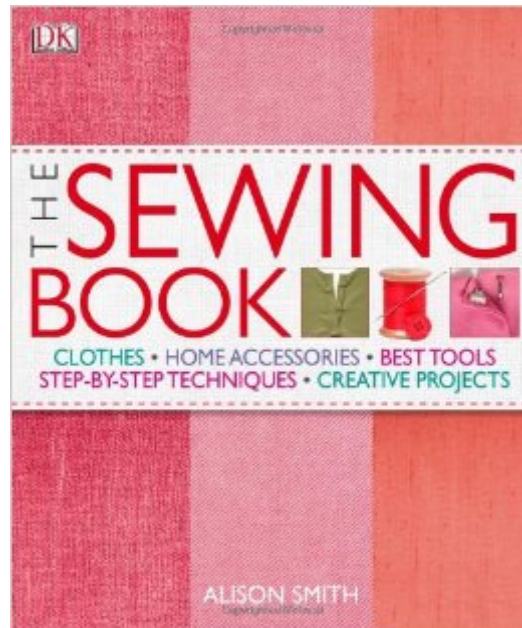


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The Sewing Book: An Encyclopedic Resource Of Step-by-Step Techniques



Synopsis

This is the only sewing book you'll ever need. Every tool and every technique you require for making your own home furnishings or clothing is closely and sharply photographed, carefully annotated, and clearly explained. The Tools section begins with the basic toolkit, opening up into everything you could possibly need - every type of cutting tool and machine foot is shown. This section also includes information on patterns - how to measure, how to use, and how to adjust them. Gallery spreads appear throughout the substantial Techniques section and showcase darts, zips, pleats etc, as well as showing key stitches. Plus, you can bring your acquired and refined skills to fruition as you make some of the 25 home decor and clothing projects at the back of the book. With The Sewing Book on your shelf, you've got every sewing question covered.

Book Information

Hardcover: 400 pages

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Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (202 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I just love this book! I found it in a Barnes and Nobles, and even though there weren't any reviews on yet and even though it was pricier than some of its competitors, I bought it anyway. (That's pretty unusual for me.) Every time I open it, I'm grateful to myself all over again. It's just wonderful. Where to start? First, it's absolutely gorgeous, with an inviting color scheme and a pleasing layout that makes it super easy to read through. (Trust me, you don't want to skimp on the readability of your sewing book.) The book itself is both lovely and sturdy -- beautiful glossy pages and a binding that promises to hold up for a long time, yet easily lays flat. But my absolute favorite thing about this book is that all the lessons are presented in photographs, which means it's realistic. The truth of the

matter is that when everything is drawn, a lot of the nitty-gritty details are left out. Then when you go to sew something, you get confused because it looks different than it does in the illustration. This book shows the fabric just the way it is -- raveling edges, not-quite-straight stitching, and everything -- which reassures me that I'm not doing it wrong. You visual learners will also love that this book is all pictures with minimal text. Have you ever read through a sewing book where it was mostly text? It's ridiculously confusing, full of technical terms and spatial references like "the curve on the side adjacent to the side closest to you." Yuck! Unless you already know how to do it, it's impossible to piece together. Which sort of defeats the point of buying the book. This book does it all in pictures which, I should mention, are superbly photographed.

I've given this to my library. I'm in the minority, but here's why I didn't learn much from this book in case it helps...I feel like they went so far in an effort to make this about visual learning that there's not enough accompanying text left to give you a full understanding of a technique or make you feel like you're ready to proceed. The clearest parts are in the beginning, large photos of buttons and scissors that don't need a lot of explanation, but once you've passed the very first stage of sewing, you won't need to reference that. The sections I would have turned to time and again -- like making pattern alterations -- are so terse as to be barely an introduction. You get the basic steps in the fewest words possible with no alternate methods, extra tips, or common mistakes to watch out for. Although I was initially drawn to the clean look, I spent too much time going online to find more details. And when I did, the sites would often cover what was in this book and then some. The photos were also an issue for me. They didn't choose fabrics that had a clear right and wrong side. There's generally a text reference to which side you're working on, but it would have been better for me, and in keeping with the visual learning style, if the photos had made that obvious. I went on to get the out of print 'The Encyclopedia of Sewing' by Adele Margolis (which is sometimes available cheaply), and what a world of difference it made. Take for example Understitching. 'The Sewing Book' has a photo and the following: "Understitching is used to secure a seam that is on the edge of a piece of fabric. It helps to stop the seam from rolling to the right side. First make the seam, then layer, turn, and press onto the right side.

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