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# The Better Bag Maker: An Illustrated Handbook Of Handbag Design & Techniques, Tips, And Tricks



## Synopsis

If you want to make gorgeous, quality bags with the professional edge that really makes the difference between home-made and handmade •open *The Better Bag Maker* by Nicole Mallalieu. In this how-to book accomplished bag maker, Nicole Mallalieu, reveals her high-end techniques, shortcuts, and secrets for professional design and finishes. The 10 featured projects teach a range of expert skills from adjusting the proportion of the pattern to constructing pockets, straps, flaps, and bases.. By the end of this book, you'll have a closetful of polished bags •and most likely sew better than you ever imagined you could.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I already have an extensive collection of handbag sewing books, so why did I need to have this one as soon as it was released? I've seen patterns by Nicole Mallalieu, and found that she always includes some technique or trick that nobody else covered, and I have always learned a lot. I was curious what she'd teach me with a whole book. When my book arrived, I ripped open the package and sat down to browse through it right away. Squee! This book is loaded with the techniques and tricks to take your bag-making over the top, with ways to take a simple design and change it over and over to make each bag something special and unique. I'm most excited by the various handle and strap construction tips she provides. I'll be using these techniques over and over, on bags from most any designer I have patterns from. This is not a repeat of anyone else's sewing book - I haven't seen some of these ideas anywhere else. This is a great addition to your sewing library,

worth every cent and then some! You sew girl!

I wanted one bag book and checked several out of the library before ordering this one. This book is worlds above the others I looked at. It talks about all aspects of bag making, and half of the book is dedicated solely to bag-making techniques, in astonishing detail. And how to get the perfect result. The last half contains several patterns of varying difficulty. There is one basic bag pattern, and the author recommends you start with that, using less expensive fabric. If you are interested in bag making and want to learn the best techniques for a fabulous bag, this book is for you. If you are an experienced bag maker who wants to learn professional techniques, this book is for you. If you want to take an in-depth, self-paced course in bag making, this book is for you. If you just want patterns and instructions for making several gorgeous bags, this book is for you, too.

I was so excited to get the book when it came out - but since then I've kind of cooled on it. Been working on the bags for months and not quite done with them all yet. I'm determined to finish all the bags but there are times I can't take anymore and walk away to give my brain a break. Get this book only if you are truly serious about slogging through problems. It's not always clear and may take you hours or days to understand. Pros: Good for learning some techniques. Cons: Sometimes those techniques are hard to figure out. Like 3 pages of instructions for straps for one bag (ie Marrakesh Overnighter) - the longer the instructions the more chances you'll miss something. You'll stumble upon additional instructions to cut out straps using more material that isn't listed in the beginning. Hope you have extra. I would love some finished product pictures that show all the components. This book is light on pictures. Sometimes there is only 1 good picture with the model holding it that doesn't show everything. Did I connect and position the straps right? Does the lining look ok? No pictures. If you were hoping to see a fully completed bag with the interior to compare it against, there are none. I wish there were more drawings or pictures like in the Japanese craft books. I can't read Japanese but I have no trouble understanding what they want me to do. If you've ever read Japanese craft mags like Cotton Time, Lady Boutique, or Patchwork - you know what I'm talking about.

I am an experienced bag maker, yet this book is full of great new tips. Everything is so clearly illustrated with drawings and photos. It a terrific book for both those new to sewing, and those who have been sewing for decades. Highly recommended. Very pleased with the purchase, and a bargain , as the book has a full complement of patterns.

I have been a fan and customer of Nicole Mallalieu's for several years. This book is like having her do a private class! The instructions are very clear and detailed and fun. The lesson plan is "progressive," building each bag on previous lessons and the basics section. You won't be disappointed.

After buying a new sewing machine a few weeks ago I decided to get back into sewing after a 20 year absence by making small cosmetic bags. After only making two, I wanted to make larger handbags so I turned to examples and tutorials online, including YouTube. I walked away from online tutorials with a list of written questions. I went to my local fabric store and looked through their many books on making bags but couldn't find one that answered all of the questions I had written down. These books also left me frustrated with their use of unfamiliar terminology and convoluted instructions. I was ready to give up when I thought to look on . I am so happy that I did and that I found this book. Instructions are clear and to the point and it held the answer to ALL of my questions: 1.) What types of fabric are best 2.) Information on altering patterns 3.) Every question I had concerning interfacing and finally 5.) How to construct professional looking bases.

I've been making my own purses and bags for years, but thought there must be a better way to do some things. This book has shown me how to do it that. The instructions are well written with plenty of photographs showing step by step how to do a task. Besides the basic instructions of bag making such as zipper closures and pockets, she has included patterns with the instructions to make a good variety of bags. Every bag maker can benefit from this book, regardless of the kind of bags they make or their skill level. So glad I preordered this book and waited for it to arrive.

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