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# How To Use, Adapt, And Design Sewing Patterns: From Store-bought Patterns To Drafting Your Own: A Complete Guide To Fashion Sewing With Confidence





## Synopsis

An accomplished fashion designer shows women who make their own garments how to improve on store-bought sewing patterns by adjusting the clothing item's length and other details to reflect personal taste and create a custom fit. The book's opening chapters present an illustrated guide to the tools, equipment, and fabrics needed for making garments, while also serving as a miniature textbook to teach basic sewing techniques. Chapters that follow offer detailed instruction in adapting and altering a store-bought pattern to suit individual tastes. Alterations include adding flare, and modifying the shapes of bodices, arm holes, neck lines, sleeves, and skirts. The book's concluding chapters instruct on designing one's own patterns from scratch. Author Lee Hollahan demonstrates to her readers that once they understand how to adapt a store-bought pattern, they are well on their way to custom designing their own wardrobe. More than 500 instructive illustrations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Any general interest library or needlework collection will find this a popular pick!" --The Midwest Book Review

Lee Hollahan teaches pattern cutting in fashion and fashion textiles at the University of West of England, Bristol. She has designed costumes for TV, film, and the stage, and she frequently lectures on the subjects of pattern construction and the history of fashion.

Let me first say that I've read many sewing foundation books, and skimmed my fair share at the local bookstores. Secondly, this is the first review I've ever written for despite buying everything from curling irons to pooper scoopers from this site. I'm telling you this in order to convey my absolute adoration of this book. I borrowed it from the library a couple months ago and had to buy it after reading it. Most of the youth-targeted books out there (ahem Built by Wendy, Design-it-yourself clothes, etc) give you patterns for clothes that I consider dowdy and granola, and there's not a super amount of versatility in the offerings. This book shows you how to take existing patterns and customize fit and aesthetics (increasing or moving bust darts, adding collars, adjusting sleeves, etc) before you start cutting fabric. It also shows you how to create your own patterns from scratch, from these doohickeys called pattern blocks. I didn't even know pattern blocks existed, but after reading about how they allow you to make customizable, perfectly-fitting clothes, I now believe they are the key to my happiness. I assume that there are no other reviews because this book is new (2010), but SERIOUSLY, BUY THIS BOOK! And overlook my excessive parentheses!!!

This was definitely worth the price, very informative and full of useful information about changing and adjusting patterns. I'm sure I'll use this for years to come only wish they've included how to draw a block pattern from scratch instead of buying one and adjusting it. Perhaps that's easier but would have liked to learn how to draw a sloper or block pattern. There is block patterns in the book for size 8 to size 18 but for me it would need a lot of adjustments but all in all it's a very useful book about sewing changing pattern etc. so I consider it a winner.

I have flipped through, read through, studied this super helpful book. Good for beginner's and more advanced sewers who want to improve and learn new sewing skills.

I absolutely love this book. It has come in very handy. I've sewed for years but this old dog learned a few tricks! LOL

This is a very good guide, but it is geared toward beginning through intermediate skills. There is no way of knowing that before purchasing it.

I was looking for a bit of a more advanced book, and really felt like it could have covered more fitting problems than just the few it does. For example, why not cover fitting when sewing for men?

Very thorough book on patterns and adjustments that I own. Received in great condition and in timely manner. Would definitely recommend to other sewers.

I was looking for a more updated version from my 1971 book by Adele Margolis. This was mediocre. Okay for newbies.

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