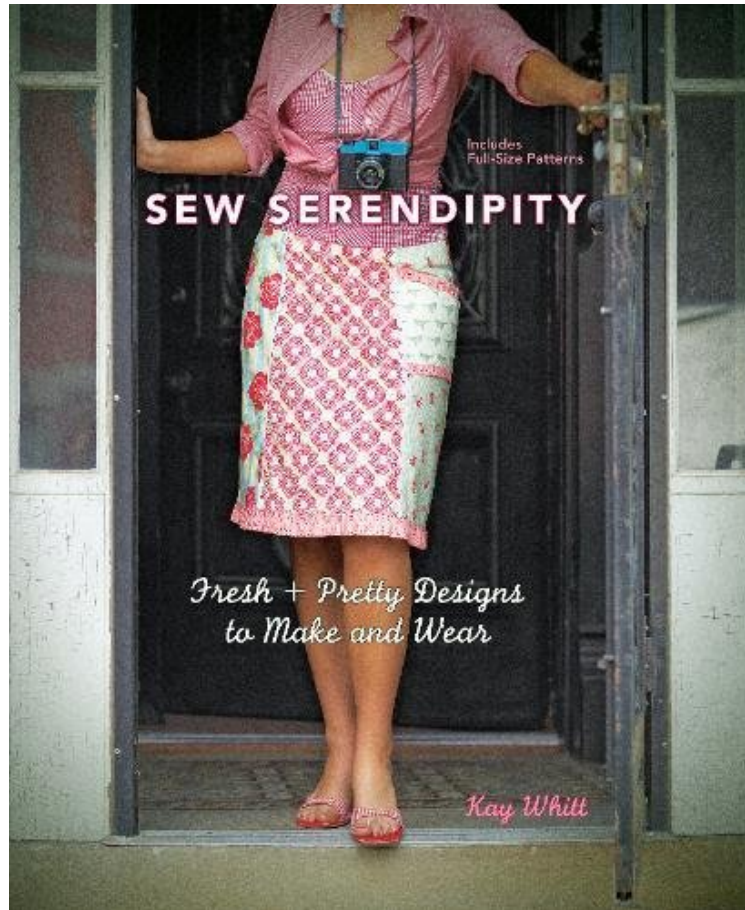


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Sew Serendipity: Fresh and Pretty Designs to Make and Wear

Kay Whitt

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#571924 in Books Krause Publications 2010-07-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x 1.08 x 8.00l, 1.68 #File Name: 1440203571-spiral160 pages | File size: 50.Mb

Kay Whitt : Sew Serendipity: Fresh and Pretty Designs to Make and Wear before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sew Serendipity: Fresh and Pretty Designs to Make and Wear:

37 of 39 people found the following review helpful. Good for skirts, but not for tops, dresses, or jackets By Piasta Wnuczka I bought this book because I was impressed by the skirt a colleague made by following the directions in it. But I was disappointed that what is supposed to also be a book about making tops, dresses and jackets fails -- miserably -- to measure up in those other areas. Again, it's a great book about making skirts, and lot of attention is paid in the early chapters on precisely cutting and sewing skirts that fit an individual's waist and hips. That's fine as far as it goes -- and as any seamstress will tell you, making skirts is relatively easy (notice I said relatively). But the real fitting instructions stop there. I wish the author had devoted half as much to the top/dress and jacket patterns, where achieving a precise, custom fit is more problematic because of variances in women's shoulder slopes and bust size and position. It's frustrating, and not at all what one is led to expect, because the book even says, on page 11, that "even if you wear a size medium and your best friend does too, your bodies are simply not the same." The author goes on, on

same page, to deride "most pattern companies" for "picking a standardized length" for things such as "shoulder slope." But she is guilty of the same sin! The patterns in the book assume that every woman wearing them has the same shoulder slope, and needs the bust-darts at the same depth and in the same position. Nowhere in the book are there suggestions, instructions, or provisions for changing these things. Instead, the chapters on tops and dresses and jackets emphasize cutting and placing pockets and collars and pleats and gathers -- embellishments, basically (maybe to distract the eye from the imprecise fit). The tops (referred to as "tunics" throughout) and dresses differ from one another only in terms of length, and both have raglan sleeves, as does the jacket. The author says on page 14 that raglan sleeves "are super forgiving, and look great on just about anyone." Well, there are raglans and there are raglans -- some raglans slope more than other raglans, and every woman knows that not all are equally flattering: A slope that looks good on narrow shoulders can be too tight across broad shoulders, and one that flatters broad shoulders will bag on narrow ones. Not including detailed instructions on fitting raglans is a major oversight in this book, considering the extent to which it relies on them. If you follow the instructions and make the garments in this book, you will end up with a gorgeous, custom-fitted skirt, but a top and jacket that fit you no better than ones you bought off the rack, or sewed directly from a regular commercial pattern.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. very detailed instructions- I love it
By cherrypie
From a sewers point of view I really appreciate the very detailed step for step instructions, written and in pictures. I am an intermediate sewer and after having just finished a dress from a pattern, which had hardly any instructions, and the little there where, were very confusing. I really do appreciate detailed help in word and picture in this book. The projects are fresh, cute and modest and have a certain chic that I know from my european girl friends. I really , really liked that some of the models had a fuller figure which I find very helpful to imagine what a pattern looks like on a real person like me who is a size 14 and not a professional model with a size 2. I mean everything looks great on a small size, but not every pattern flatters a size 14 or up, so I was very pleased to see that the fuller models just looked fab in the shown dresses, skirts and jackets. For my personal taste there were too many ruffles but I guess they will be easy to omit. I see these kinds of books and patterns anyway more as creative inspiration.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Lots of possibilities for new experienced sewists!
By Sarah MoonKay Whitt has written a fantastic sewing book that gives sewists many tools to begin creating a cute and stylish wardrobe that will work for women of many ages, using just a few patterns. What I Like: The basic designs in this book are very flattering on many body types--raglan sleeves and empire waists are can't miss styles! The garments are neither young nor old looking--you can visual them on women of many different ages, just with a change of fabric. Additionally, the models in the book are women of different sizes--which you so rarely see. Kay also does an outstanding job of demonstrating what a difference fabric choices can make, turning casual garments into something fancy with a change of fabric and embellishment. Finally, Kay's illustrations and drawings really make this book shine--you really get a sense of her design process by looking at the drawings the precede each garment and the step-by-step illustrations will be a life-saver for sewists who are new to stitching more complicated garments.

What Could Improve: I'm not convinced that the body measurements in the book are actually body measurements--I found that, in the dress pattern, the body measurements in my edition of the book were identical to the flat pattern measurements, which means there would be negative ease if I cut my size according to the body measurements chart. So, I suggest that--just as the Kay suggests, you make a muslin, take careful body measurements and save the excess pattern parts that you cut away in case you need to go up a size. (If you get more into garment sewing, you'll need to invest in a fit book, such as Fast Fit.) Despite that I noticed some strange inconsistencies with the measurements in the book (I suspect this is a result of editing, as opposed to writing/designing), I wholeheartedly recommend this sewing book. It's one of the few garment sewing books that's not just a simple A-line skirt and maybe a shapeless top. These are real clothes, for real people, with discussions of important topics like seam finishing and fit. For experienced folks, the patterns in the book are worth the price and more--I got tons of ideas for customization and embellishments from this book and am excited to sew more from it!

Lay it out, cut it out, sew it up, put it on! Kay Whitt of Serendipity Studios proves that all you need to re-make your wardrobe are a few key things: Great fabric, easy-to-make patterns, a handful of simple skills, and your own personal sense of style! Use Sew Serendipity to create a fresh, new look. Included in the book are tissue pattern inserts for the skirt, tunic/dress and jacket--each with 6 variations detailed in the book. 3 basic patterns x 6 variations = 18 ways to show off your skills and style! Kay provides the master instructions for each basic garment, and individual instruction for each unique look. Once you master the basics, changing it up is a snap! Each clothing pattern is graded in seven sizes (bust: 32-44; waist: 24-36; hips: 34-46) from XXS to XXL. Use the "Custom Fitting" section of this book to learn how to measure yourself and adjust the patterns to get the best possible fit! Embellish your designs to match your style, whether you're feeling the need for classic, tailored elegance, or you're in the mood for a little ruffled whimsy. Kay's simple embellishments make it a breeze to adapt your design to the look you want. With Sew Serendipity, you'll find out how to lay out the pattern pieces, cut them out and sew them up. All you have to do is put them on and strut your stuff!

About the Author A licensed designer for McCall's and regular exhibitor at spring and fall Quilt Markets as Serendipity Studio, Kay Whitt has been designing and selling patterns for the past 10 years.