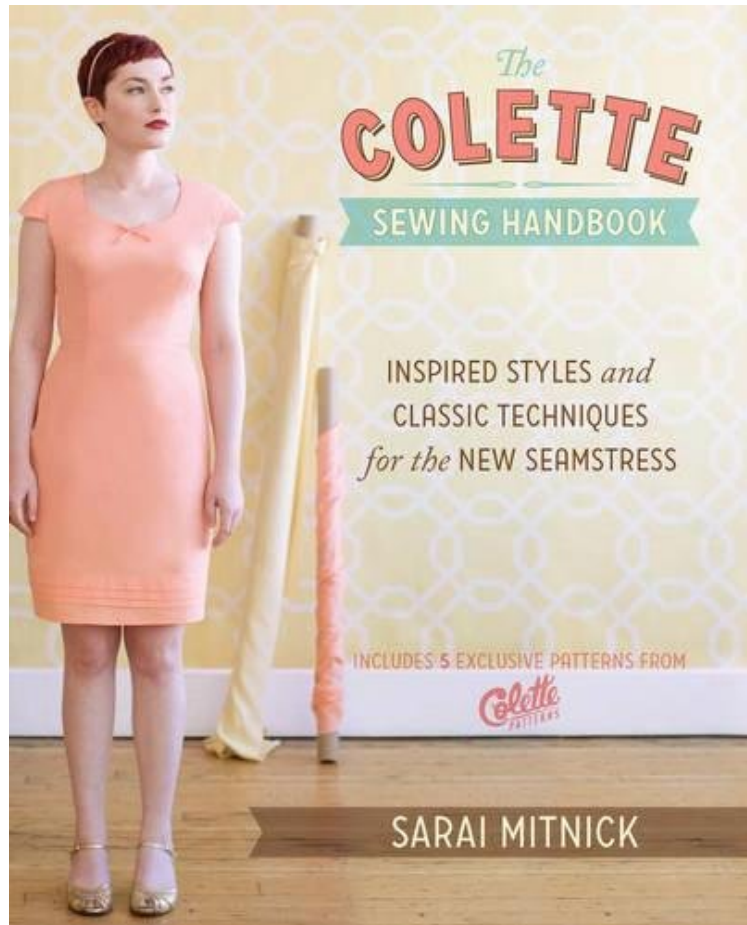


(Free pdf) The Colette Sewing Handbook: Inspired Styles and Classic Techniques for the New Seamstress

The Colette Sewing Handbook: Inspired Styles and Classic Techniques for the New Seamstress

Sarai Mitnick

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Sarai Mitnick : The Colette Sewing Handbook: Inspired Styles and Classic Techniques for the New Seamstress
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Colette Sewing
Handbook: Inspired Styles and Classic Techniques for the New Seamstress:

228 of 232 people found the following review helpful. Best for BeginnersBy CustomerLet me preface this review with
the fact that I have been sewing for most of my life.I am a big fan of Sarai's patterns, so when I saw that she was
writing a book, I am sure that I pre-ordered it within an hour of the announcement.Upon receiving the book, I noticed
it was packaged without the accompanying patterns, which, as a more advanced sewist, I was most excited about.
Back to it went. However, I had a replacement in two days (big thanks to Ida in Customer Service. She was so

helpful!) In my first run-through of the book, I was most impressed by the presentation of the book. The book is Colette through and through, from the writing style to the color palette, and the layout of the mini-tutorials was clear, the text concise. The book doesn't assume any background in sewing, and demonstrates hand stitching as well as the basic functions of a few machine stitches. For someone with a great deal of sewing experience, the techniques weren't a great deal of use to me. What I was most impressed with was Sarai's approach to "thoughtful sewing". Her chapter "A Precise Plan" highlights what a lot of beginning sewists struggle with: imbuing your sewing with your identity. Her notes on defining your style were beautifully thought out, and help beginning sewists actually think about what they want to sew, and why they should (because it fits in your wardrobe!). Sarai instructs you in creating a personal croquis to experiment with how a garment will look on you, which could save a new sewist a ton of stress in creating a garment that turns out to be unflattering. "A Fine Fabric" is, of course, the prettiest chapter, but not very groundbreaking. Anyone with *More Fabric Savvy: A Quick Resource Guide to Selecting and Sewing Fabric* will already know all of the information presented here, and more (again, advanced sewist talking). I've noticed Sarai has a strong bias towards silk, which is all well and good, but I doubt most beginners will start with something so expensive. The patterns were the reason I bought this book, and I was not disappointed. Colette Patterns drafts for a C-Cup, which is a size above what most pattern companies draft for, and it's a huge step forward in accommodating the changing American figure. And pattern sizing is more similar to ready-to-wear, which I'm sure is a huge help for the beginning sewist. For me, many of the patterns fit pretty well straight off the block, with only minor adjustments to fit, which Sarai covers in the chapter "A Fantastic Fit". For those with more complicated fitting issues, this book may be a little lacking, but picking up *The Perfect Fit: The Classic Guide to Altering Patterns or Fit for Real People: Sew Great Clothes Using ANY Pattern* (Sewing for Real People series) will help with any fitting problem you could fathom. All in all, it was a lovely and well put together book, even if the material wasn't anything groundbreaking for me. If you're struggling with creating garments that you'll love, or a beginner who wants a unique and thoughtfully created first project, I cannot recommend this book enough. If you're more of an advanced sewist, I'd pick it up for the patterns and just because it is a lovely book to have around. I fully intend to leave it on my coffee table to hopefully inspire some of my non-sewing friends to learn!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Pattern book
By RGarcia
You're better off following her blog. Books are becoming less accessible because of the price point. Some patterns tweaked just enough to add their names to them.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Quite satisfying: written by the Mrs.
By Annoyed reader
The thing that I like about this book is that it fills in some of the holes for me. My mother sews, my sister sews, I was raised up on it and I even took some classes in college. The problem for me is that I only retained what I was interested in, and as a teenager, technique, how to press seams wasn't something I noticed however often I was taught it. I can put stuff together and it works, but this book will remind me that taking time to make clean hems and a solid finished garment is what it's about, not how many articles of clothing you can make in a short amount of time, which is my typical philosophy.)

I also liked the chapter on wardrobe, how to incorporate what you sew with what you have so that you actually wear a garment. I haven't made anything yet from this book, I was however, inspired to clean my sewing room, so that's something. I have a croquis and love my very own paper doll-I think everyone should have one. Maybe two (different hairstyles, you know:). And I hope hope hope that the fitting chapter revolutionizes my sewing fit or miss current situation.

My favorite patterns: I love the flutter sleeve blouse. It's flat out lovely. The dress with the interesting collar detail is quite cute however, I don't like the length so I'll have to lengthen so it's right above knee or right below knee, none of that almost to the knee thing. The scalloped skirt is cute! I want to do it in polka dot but, once again, not a good length, that almost to the knee accentuates the width of the thigh rather than the length of the overall leg. So say I. So I think I would make maybe a slim 7/8 skirt, down to the calf, right below the largest point so it's not frumpy or right below the knee. The other two dresses are ok but not amazing. Overall, I think it's a valuable addition to my nonexistent sewing bookshelf!

Five simple fundamentals can help you perfect any sewing project: a thoughtful plan, a precise pattern, a fantastic fit, a beautiful fabric, and a fine finish. With these five core ideas, *The Colette Sewing Handbook* shows you how to start sewing the wardrobe of your dreams. Includes five beautiful patterns for modern classic pieces, including a scalloped-hem skirt, flutter-sleeve blouse, sweetheart neck sheath dress, asymmetrical flounce dress, and a lined dress with gathered sleeves. Each project will help you put the fundamentals into practice as you sew. Approachable and easy to follow. Instead of a big, confusing catalog of sewing techniques, you'll build your knowledge gradually around the five simple fundamentals. A section of basic sewing lessons means you'll never feel lost. Hands-on learning. Start improving your skills immediately by applying each of the five principles of the book to a beautiful project, included in the book. Feed your creativity. Have more fun designing sewing projects for your personal style, and create the things you'll actually love to wear! Feel more confident. Gain the know-how to work with any sewing pattern out there. Look great in what you make. Become your own custom seamstress and hand-tailor clothes that fit you the way you want. Get inspired by fabric. Expand your creative palette and get the look you want by choosing the best fabrics for your projects. Perfect the details. Make clothes you can be proud of with beautiful finishing techniques. Colette Patterns is known for timeless design and exceptionally clear instruction. This book from designer Sarai Mitnick

guides you gradually and painlessly to becoming a better seamstress. Get inspired, feel confident, and make beautiful clothing you'll be proud to wear!

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