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Reader's Digest Complete Guide To Sewing



Synopsis

Guide to sewing

Book Information

Hardcover: 528 pages

Publisher: Reader's Digest; 8th edition (1981)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (202 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I decided to buy this edition instead of the newest one based on a blog post on Whipstitch Fabrics that said the newest edition cut out a lot of content. After reading through a couple random sections of the book, I can see why some content may have been removed. For example, in the chapter on tailoring, there's a section that walks you through how to handsew interfacing onto the undercollar. For most home sewers these days, that is probably not the most relevant advice, since now we have fusible interfacing. Of course, I can well imagine that the best results are still obtained with handsewing, and many serious sewers would get a lot out of those instructions, but the majority of hobbyists would probably not want to put that much effort into a collar. At any rate, this book definitely bears the hallmark of a different era. Whether that is good or bad completely depends on the needs of the reader. If you are a casual hobbyist that just wants to make some fun projects every now and then, I imagine you would be better served by the newer edition that would cover all the new time-saving shortcuts that have been developed since the 70s. But if you are a serious enthusiast or professional trying to learn all the different techniques to perfect your craft, then this book provides some really great insights that probably wouldn't be found in modern home sewing references. In terms of instructional quality, I am very impressed with this book. All of the techniques are demonstrated in line-drawings next to the text, and very clearly convey the manipulations being done. If you prefer photographs, the newer edition may be more helpful to you; but for myself, the

line-drawings are more than adequate. One aspect of teaching that this book does not cover is the theory.

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