

Creating Clothes for Dolls: How to Achieve That Perfect Fit and Authentic Look

Joan Nerini

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Joan Nerini : Creating Clothes for Dolls: How to Achieve That Perfect Fit and Authentic Look before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating Clothes for Dolls: How to Achieve That Perfect Fit and Authentic Look:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Resource!By OriannaIf you sew doll clothes, this book is a must-have. Its focus is antique dolls, but you can easily translate most of the advice to fashion dolls, such as Barbie, or Gene and Tyler. The author creates replicas of antique doll clothes using authentic fabrics and trims, so she really knows what she's talking about. It isn't a huge book, but it manages to cover a lot of ground. Some areas are skimmed over, but you can easily find those techniques in regular sewing books.It begins by explaining how to measure your doll. It details how to alter patterns to fit: bodices, jackets, sleeves, collars, skirts, trousers, hats, and bonnets. Next, it talks about fabrics and trims: how to choose modern fabrics for an authentic antique look, how to find and use antique fabrics, how to work with antique lace, which kinds of fasteners are best, how to disguise hooks eyes and snaps, and alternate methods of fastening your doll garments. In the General Sewing Techniques section, you learn how to pleat, including how to line a pleated skirt, and how to gather and tuck. It offers a few methods of finishing your seams, as well as how to press your seams. You learn how to work with the bias of your fabric and how to bind a neckline. It demonstrates several methods of how to sew a skirt opening so you have a neat finish and no raw edges. There are tips on miniature piping and setting in doll sleeves. Perhaps my favorite part is on embellishing: making scalloped edges,

fagoting, shell-tucked edges, ruffled ribbon, rosettes and bows. It even includes a few embroidery stitches. At the end, there's a section on doll millinery, how to decorate hats. Whether you're interested in learning how to dress antique dolls or you just want to sew doll clothes, this book will be useful. The author is British, so some terms and spellings are different than what we're used to in the US. Also, it was published in the 1980s, so it's not quite up-to-date as far as ways of finding fabrics (there's no mention of searching eBay, for instance), but the basic sewing techniques remain the same. The only part I disagreed with was the author's suggestion of buying antique garments and cutting them up to make "authentic" doll clothes. Personally, I think that's irresponsible--unless the garments are already ruined in some way and you're salvaging lace or trims, or small sections of fabric. But cutting up a perfectly good antique dress? Perhaps they had a different mindset in the 1980s, but the idea is incomprehensible to me. In any case, I'm rating this book with 5 stars. If you'd like to learn more about antique sewing techniques, I'd highly recommend Sewing Victorian Doll Clothes as a companion book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Graphics as sparse and disappointing By TBeeCosyNice book but I don't rave it - a lot of writing and not enough graphics, not sure if I will in the end ever use it that much - disappointing