

Chapter 1 : Gertie's™s New Book for Better Sewing Pencil Skirt times 2 | HazelJae Designs

Okay, big news. I have started a new blog. It's hard to believe that it's been a decade since I started Gertie's New Blog for Better Sewing! Starting my independent pattern line Charm Patterns meant I needed a new online home, and I debated a lot about what to do with this blog.

Overall, I just have to say how welcome I felt by everyone I met and worked with. Am I really famous in Australia, or are you all just really nice? Everywhere I went, I was greeted with excitement and even little presents and snacks and flowers! The main reason for the trip was that Spotlight Stores had just released a new Gertie by Gretchen Hirsch fabric collection. I started my trip in Brisbane! I stayed at Needlefruit Sewing Lounge with owner Kristina and her wonderful husband and cats. We all hit it off beautifully and it was like staying with old friends. They took me to see koalas and kangaroos and wallabies almost immediately! We had a lovely crowd in both stores. I got to meet all sorts of lovely sewists. Next I taught my two day workshop at Needlefruit to a wonderful group of women. The last evening, they threw me a special party at Needlefruit! It was super festive. Vicki wrote the nicest recap of the evening here. Hey, driving on the other side of the road is an adventure! The Bayswater event was packed, with a long line for book signings. I taught my two day workshop next at Spotlight Bayswater. I also was thrown a fabulous party right in Melbourne at Thread Den! Everyone dressed up in Gertie fabrics and patterns and made me feel like a princess in a room full of princesses. After a day off in lovely Melbourne, I flew to Sydney. Guys, I loved Sydney SO much. I started to get goofy with the mannequins and signage at this point. I was taken to a lovely dinner by Brendon and Tessa of Spotlight, who took care of me for the entire trip. Thank you, Brendon and Tessa! Seriously, did I mention I loved Sydney? Thank you to everyone who helped organize, hosted me, welcomed me, and generally made me feel like the luckiest girl with the best job in the world.

Chapter 2 : Camelia Crinoline: Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing Review

An extension of the blog, Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing is a hardworking reference title packed with lessons on couture techniques and customization, as well as an inimitable pattern collection featuring 25 wardrobe essentials and variations inspired by vintage fashion and Gertie's spirited, modern style.

Hirsch had cleaned up her blog-style writing a little bit more in favor of something that sounded more professional and more like something we would expect from someone who bills herself as an editor and a writer. She starts far too many sentences with "Being a [whatever]. I know she meant to sound approachable, but it makes the book feel a bit flavor-of-the-month and less like a respectable sewing reference. Her section on f My biggest beef with this book is the writing style: I agree, too, with the reviewer I read somewhere Amazon? Between the drawings and the photographs, there is an awful lot of Gertie in the book. Rather, petite patterns are sized in odd-number body measurements bust 37, for example instead of the even-number measurements bust 34, 36, etc. Petites are also proportioned a little differently to fit womanly figures. I have not yet had time to try the patterns but I like the way the directions are laid out, with necessary materials and "Key Skills" in a colored box on the first page of the project. I wish, though, that Gertie had been standing in the picture of the drop-waisted cocktail dress so we could see what it looked like, and I wish overall that the dresses in the examples had been made of lighter fabrics without busy patterns so that their details would show up better. Bloggy language aside, this is a nice book overall and I think would be especially useful as a bridge book between beginner projects and more advanced and demanding dressmaking. None of the information here is groundbreaking but she does a nice job of explaining not only what to do, but why it should be done. More advance seamstresses might want it just for the patterns, which are worth a lot more than the price of the book. I think there is enough good advice here that can be found in other books. It was also pointed out to me that, despite what she says, there are some issues with the patterns. I sold the book. Lots of information on vintage sewing techniques explained in an easy to understand way. The art for the book is spectacular. Sun Young Park is a wonderful talent and I look forward to seeing more of her work. The problems are centered around the patterns. Not really a big deal except earlier Gertie talks about measuring and recommends using your high bust The first part of this book is great. Not really a big deal except earlier Gertie talks about measuring and recommends using your high bust measurement. Second- there are no technical drawings of the garments. There are some artistic renderings throughout, but not all of them match the patterns, nor are they paired with the patterns. And there are no technical drawings of back views. Third- the patterns seem drafted in an intentionally vintage style and lack lengthen and shorten lines. It appears to be the same dress, slightly different neckline, but same uneven dart placement , and the bow-tied blouse. Anyway, the first part of the book is wonderful, the information for sewing the patterns is ok, but the patterns present a few problems.

Chapter 3 : Shirtwaist Dress, Gertie New Book for Better Sewing â€™ Pigeon Wishes

Gretchen "Gertie" Hirsch is a passionate home seamstress, a sought-after sewing teacher, and the creator of one of the web's most popular sewing blogs: Gertie's New Blog for Better Sewing.

Lots of information on vintage sewing techniques explained in an easy to understand way. The art for the book is spectacular. Sun Young Park is a wonderful talent and I look forward to seeing more of her work. The problems are centered around the patterns. Early in the book Gertie talks about measuring and recommends using your high bust measurement. There are some artistic renderings throughout, but not all of them match the patterns, nor are they paired with the patterns. And there are no technical drawings of back views. Third-the patterns lack lengthen and shorten lines. It appears to be the same dress jumper version down to the uneven dart placement. The uneven dart placement drives me crazy. I wish Gertie had moved the darts so they lined up. And yes, the fit bothered me a little. Some of the clothes look too tight in some areas and too loose in others. And sometimes the clothing looks vaguely upholstered. Anyway, the first part of the book is wonderful, the information for sewing the patterns is ok, but the patterns present a few problems. Her full bust is 39" and her waist is 30". Later she says she created her own sizing using herself as a size 8 and then graded up and down from there. But when you get to the sizing chart, size 8 is 38"". So do you use a high bust like she recommends earlier or a full bust which is closer to the size 8 given in her chart? There lies my confusion.

Chapter 4 : Tilly and the Buttons: Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing

The second part of the book is absolutely amazing - the garments. 10 patterns are included, with variations outlined for most of them. These are classic, mainly styles that Gertie is known for wearing, inspired by Vogue's New Book for Better Sewing - the book which her blog focused on in the beginning.

First of all, love her sizing chart. I took my measurements, measured to be a size 10, and I cut out and put together a size 10 with minimal adjustments needed. And of course I had to make it all kinds of complicated by not only underlining and lining the fabric but also adding boning to the waistband. Honestly I find it difficult to line my clothing with anything else it feels so amazing. The overall construction is fairly easy as there are only 4 pattern pieces involved: I underlined my front skirt and back skirt pieces and interfaced my front and back waistband pieces. For the waistband facings I used hair canvas to which I attached plastic boning. I put the boning in boiling water for a few minutes, re-bent it, put it under some heavy books for a few minutes, and voila, not as curved. While the water was boiling I sewed the empty featherlite boning casings to the hair canvas securing the sides and bottoms leaving the tops open. As soon as the boning was ready to go I filed the edges to take off sharp points, slipped them back into their casings, and stitched over the top openings. Here is a photo of the boning: Then the fun part, putting the skirt pieces together! I just followed the instructions for the most part except I hemmed the lining and exterior skirt portions before sewing down the waistband. For the lapped zipper I machine stitched the right side and hand picked the left side, then slip stitched the lining in place on the inside. I also slip stitched the lining fabric at the vent in the back to the exterior vent fabric so prevent the lining from peaking out. It turned out perfect! Absolutely LOVE that fabric!!! It appears to be on clearance right now. I think the fit turned out lovely and love the high waistband. May need more shirts to wear it with! I had the perfect vintage button in my stash for this skirt. Used blue for the floral and black for the grey one. Then I had to make another skirt of course! This one was made using a grey polyester suiting fabric and also lined with Bemberg. I just love the feel of Bemberg rayon lining. Still need to make that wool suit! someday! This one went together much quicker as I had already made one and turned out almost as great. Not happy with the puckering at the darts, mostly due to the type of fabric used. Still looks pretty great though. Love the high waist, its a good length, and so flattering. Hope to make some more from her book. Love the dress variations.

Chapter 5 : Charming Gertie

Gertie's New Book For Better Sewing [Sewing Book Club] If you aren't a Gertie fan, aka Gretchen Hirsch, you will be after reading Gertie's New Book For Better Sewing. I found Gretchen's blog not that long ago and fell in love with her tongue-in-cheek writing, clear explanations on (to me) mysterious couture techniques, and retro aesthetics.

I pre-ordered it and got my copy a couple of weeks ago. I was really excited sensing a theme yet? The fabric is lovely. It reminds me of a quilting cotton I have in my stash ; I love that she acknowledged the complications of being a feminist and loving vintage clothing. There are tons of techniques for those who are just out of the beginner stage. There are instructions about finishing techniques, hand stitches, bound buttonholes, covered buttons etc. The illustrations by Sun Young Park are gorgeous. I like the tone of the book. It is really friendly and conversational. Some sewing books can be intimidating because they use all sorts of terms without explaining what they mean and assume you already have a lot of knowledge. The Problems I have Sizing The book says, "most women are a size bigger in the hips than in the waist". The patterns are based on the idea that most women have a 12 inch difference between their hips and waist. On the sizing chart my bust and waist measurements match up with a size 4 my waist is actually slightly larger than a size 4 but smaller than a size 6 but my hips are smaller than the smallest size. I am small, but my figure is not particularly boyish. There is a discernable difference between my hips and my waist but, according to this, my hips are more than two sizes smaller than my waist. Sewaholic Patterns , for example, makes patterns to suit "pear shapes" her words, not mine. Sure, they are wrong for some garments, in the same way that all fabrics are wrong for some garments. I find that quilting fabrics are the perfect mid weight cottons for shirtdresses, blouses and skirts. One of my favourite dress, the map print one, is made of from quilting cotton and I love it. Photos I was disappointed with some of the garments in the book because Gertie had posted on her blog some of the clothes she had made with the patterns in the book and I loved them. Before the release of the book, Gertie posted this dress on her blog. Above is the version in the book. Obviously, writing a book takes lots of work and I doubt I would be able to do it.

Chapter 6 : The Red Wiggle Dress – From Gertie’s Book For Better Sewing – calendrierdelascien

Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing: A Modern Guide to Couture-Style Sewing Using Basic Vintage Techniques by Gretchen Hirsch, Sun Young Park Gretchen "Gertie" Hirsch is a passionate home seamstress, a sought-after sewing teacher, and the creator of one of the web's most popular sewing blogs: Gertie's New Blog for Better Sewing.

Chapter 7 : Gertie's New Blog for Better Sewing

Review: Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing 7 Part beginner sewing manual, part guide to vintage fashion, Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing: A Modern Guide to Couture-Style Sewing Using Basic Vintage Techniques by Gretchen Hirsch is every bit as practical as it is pretty.

Chapter 8 : Gertie’s New Book for Better Sewing | handmademess

Re: Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing (posted on 11/29/17 AM) I haven't used any of the patterns, but I like to look at Gertie's books for entertainment. Honestly, that is what I do with my boxes of patterns, too.

Chapter 9 : Blog by Gertie - International Sewing Starlet

The tentatively titled Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing will be a modern guide to couture-style sewing using basic vintage techniques. I've always emphasized the use of good reference books on this blog, and that's what this will be!