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The Voice Of Fashion: 79 Turn-of-the-Century Patterns With Instructions And Fashion Plates



Synopsis

The Voice of Fashion contains a comprehensive selection of women's styles from rare originals of 14 magazines published from 1900 through 1906. The 79 patterns in this book include afternoon, evening, ball, and wedding gowns; home and maternity wear; suits and blouses for day and business; lingerie; outer coats; and outfits for riding, golf, and other sports. Each pattern has a fashion plate, plus instructions for drafting and assembly. Additional fashion columns and plates supplement the information on fabrics, trims, and construction. A substantial glossary explains period fabric names and dressmaking terms. The patterns can be enlarged either by projection, or by drafting with the Diamond Cutting System used with the original magazines.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This entire series from Frances Grimble is the most astounding amount of compiled research we've ever seen! A valuable resource for costumers, re-enactors, history aficionados, or anyone wanting a comprehensive look at these fashions and the culture surrounding them. I purchased the entire set for my wife (costumer, historian...) and we were completely impressed with both the quality of the content as well as the layout and organization of the series. Absolutely recommended...worth every penny!

I received this book yesterday and it looks amazing so far! Grimble's introduction clears up a good many issues I was fuzzy or wrong on, as concerns these old patterns. The inclusion of the

Diamond Cutting System rulers in the back was the main reason I wanted the book, but the variety and number of patterns and information included (in the introduction alone) has made me very pleased indeed. For the record, the rulers Grimble includes can be used to draft not only the patterns in this book, but the ones on Kristina Harris's compilations of period patterns, which are also from the Voice of Fashion publications and use the same system. Dover, who publishes those books, however, make no reference to the drafting system or the proprietary rulers that make it quite simple to scale them up to your size.

Once you get used to the pattern sizing techniques, this tome is a must have for any costumer/steampunk enthusiast. You can see some tips on using the "rulers" on YouTube.

Excellent book. Frances has given us all an opportunity to "try" to recreate the patterns she has in each of her 4 books. You do have to read the instructions on how to enlarge them OR as I have done...take them to a drafting company and have them enlarged. I give her book a 10. She has done a large amount of research and I own all 5 of her books. (Call me crazy but I love her books)

An amazing trip back in time. Not for beginners, drafting patterns requires knowledge of pattern fitting. There are many period outfits to be made complete with excerpts of period fabric and trim ideas.

Between this book and Grimble's "Edwardian Modiste", I'll never have to buy another antique "Gibson girl" pattern again. The illustrations in my opinion don't do the dresses justice; the garments themselves are just stunning when you actually make them. Having said that, these patterns are not beginner-friendly. If you want a quick-and-easy Edwardian ensemble you'll be very disappointed because these patterns require a lot of forethought, a lot of time, and a lot of work. They are not the modern "here's-how-to-sew-a-seam" kind of patterns you see commercially available today. Most of the tucks, for example, are not marked, nor are they allowed for in the pattern; you'll have to draft those yourself from scratch. The same thing goes for trimmings, lace insertion, and shirring. Also, very few patterns mark locations for fastenings, and many lack patterns for things like cuffs and collars, which can't always be made from a straight strip of fabric and still look right on the garment. You can substitute collars from other patterns in the book but there's no guarantee that they will fit properly. Plus, the patterns in this book must be scaled according to your measurements, which still involves a good deal of tedious arithmetic even with the "rulers" included with the book. Overall, I

love this book to the point that it's starting to fall apart from use. However, the buyer should be aware that the patterns in this book are not for the faint-of-heart or the impatient.

This is a wonderful resource! It has a good array of patterns for all occasions for ladies, tweens, and children including a few undergarments. It was hard to decide which to try my hand at first! I wish there were something like this for the 1880's -1900's. These projects are NOT for beginners nor any faint of heart intermediates, however. Seamstresses (what's the pc term for us these days?) accustomed to modern patterns and their accompanying instructions will find these a challenge as they are presented as they were originally published: with minimal explanation, and therefore assume a certain level of proficiency and what once was common knowledge, but may nowadays require some figuring out and working from scratch. For instance: the first pattern I chose to try has a collar but no indication of how to attach it, no mention at all of closure (center front button placket, I am to assume?) and the skirt obviously requires a waistband but there is no pattern piece for nor even mention of one. To fill the gaps in my twenty-first century knowledge I found it necessary to turn to "Authentic Victorian Dressmaking Techniques" edited by Kristina Harris. But my outfit turned out gorgeous and I'm already looking forward to making the next one.

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