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# Love At First Stitch: Demystifying Dressmaking



## Synopsis

Simple, elegant, and a little groovy, *Love at First Stitch* is all you need to start making the dresses of your dreams--with 7 complete full-size patterns. Fancy making your own clothes but have no idea where to start? Tired of overwhelming sewing manuals and frumpy projects? *Love at First Stitch* offers a refreshing approach to dressmaking for modern makers, taking you from the basics of threading your sewing machine through creating gorgeous garments that you'll love to wear. Let Tilly Walnes inspire you with her jargon-busting tutorials, down-to-earth attitude, and adorable dressmaking style, showing you that making your own clothes is so much more enjoyable than buying them.

- Build your skills and confidence one project at a time: new techniques are introduced when you need them.
- Step-by-step photographs take the head-scratching out of sewing.
- Includes 7 full-scale, multisize patterns, ready to be traced and used again and again.
- Tilly's hints and tips for making sewing part of your lifestyle, adding your own special touch to any sewing project, and even how to polish your signature style.

Tilly Walnes demystifies dressmaking for the generations that have never been taught to sew. Written for novice stitchers by the author of the popular sewing blog *Tilly and the Buttons*, this book presents the sewing basics in an informal style, with Tilly's friendly and encouraging voice cheering the reader on throughout. Instead of overwhelming the novice dressmaker with theory, this book is about learning by doing. Each chapter presents practical tips and inspiration to guide you through creating a made-to-measure garment from one of the seven versatile and adaptable patterns included with the book, which can then be personalized to suit your individual style. Peppered throughout the book are Tilly's top sewing tips, including everything from what to look out for when buying--or borrowing--your first sewing machine, to how to behave in a fabric shop so that you appear like an expert, to techniques for pressing perfection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Tilly Walnes breaks down handmade clothing in an approachable, fun-to-read way. Each chapter contains a project, beginning simple with a scarf and ending with an impressive lined dress. Plus Tilly provides variations to make the project your own and suggestions for making sewing not only a hobby, but a lifestyle. Sewists of all skill levels will enjoy this beautiful book." — Sew News

On a whim and feeling the urge to fill a creative void, TILLY WALNES signed up for a three-day dressmaking course. It was love at first stitch. Her newfound joy in sewing her own clothes--but lack of friends who could also sew--led Tilly to start her blog, Tilly and the Buttons, so that she could share her experiences and swap tips with other would-be dressmakers. Within three years of first threading a needle, Tilly's blog is the most popular sewing blog in the UK and she appeared as a contestant in the first season of The Great British Sewing Bee, the only contestant to design and draft her own garment designs. Between teaching dressmaking classes at sewing schools in both London and Birmingham, Tilly is developing her own line of dressmaking patterns.

I have been a fan of Tilly's blog (Tilly and the Buttons) for quite a while, and I love her clear, concise explanations and SUPER CUTE sewing patterns. This is the first time I've sewed any of her patterns, and I have to say I'm very impressed. These are the first patterns I've used (and I've sewn many from Collette, the big 4, Burda, etc) that get the ease just right and have come out perfect on the first try! So far I have made the Brigitte Scarf, Margot Pyjamas (both in long and in a cute short version which are perfect for long Texas summers), Delphine skirt (fun A-line shape), and the Megan Dress (cutest little puff sleeves and fit is FANTASTIC!!!). There is also a gathered skirt, the Clemence, an adorable Mimi blouse, and the Lilou dress. Each project builds on skills, and the explanations are super clear and previous techniques are cross referenced in case you skip around the book. I have experience sewing patterns, but I still really enjoy this book. I teach piano lessons

and know how important it is to provide clear explanations and build with a solid foundation---she definitely does this VERY WELL. I would highly recommend this for teenagers and up who would like to learn to sew, or someone who already sews who would like to make all these lovely creations and brush up on skills. Each project has techniques to learn and then a section to "Make it Your Own", which is adding embellishments (tasteful!) to create a different take on the original garment. For example, the Lilou dress contains these techniques---Lining a garment, fashioning pleats, and slip stitching. The Make it Your Own section on the Lilou explains how to modify the dress with a sculpted scallop neckline (dreamy!) and swapping out the pleats for a gathered skirt. Pictures are clear and plentiful, and Tilly looks fantastic as the fit model. Layout is clear and not crowded. Patterns are included in the back flap---they are double sided so you must trace them (which I don't like doing, but I'm warming up to it even though my cat makes it very difficult as she thinks it's a time for her to lay on a giant piece of paper and play, argh) Sizing goes from 30in/24/33 (bust, waist, hip) all the way up to 44/38/47. She includes a nice chart that contains finished measurements as well, which if you stick to your exact measurements, come out to the perfect amount of ease. She also includes neat articles such as "How to Behave in a Fabric Shop", "Creating an inspiring sewing space", "Becoming a Designer", "Fitting Sewing into a Busy Life", "Dressing handmade", and "Sewing solo, sewing Socially" which are fun reads. The main draw for me is I love her personal style and the adorable pictures are motivating eye candy. I'll post a pic if I can figure out how to do that!

This book is amazing! It starts you off with "plug in the sewing machine" and starts you off with simple projects, like making a scarf. It gradually takes you to making skirts, a blouse, and ends with a lined, zipper dress, with variation suggestions for each. It has information that is useful for a new sewist, including detail about what fabrics to use and when, how to behave at a fabric store (it can be intimidating the first time), and how to read patterns. It has tutorials on many sewing basics: pressing, preparing your fabric for cutting, pattern tracing, inserting an invisible zipper, buttons, etc. It also includes the patterns. I got the book Friday, and Sunday I made the scarf and pjs. Definitely the perfect book start you on your sewing adventure.

I have only sewn one of the garments. I have had a little experience sewing so not a total novice. I also read the tutorials on her blog, and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, I am sewing my third megan gown. I plan to move on to the other patterns. The pattern paper included in the book has overlapping lines but its really easy to trace and I really like the guidance the book gives in

making the garments.

A beautiful sewing book. The patterns are beautiful and the directions and photos are great! The only downfall is that you will have to trace each and every pattern because they are all drawn on top of each other and that does take a good amount of time to do!

I love this book! I knew how to sew pillows and things before, but not clothing. This book explains everything really well and gives new sewers good basic knowledge. The patterns that come with the book (pj pants, button-up shirt, dress, and two skirts) are printed on both sides of the paper, so you'll need to trace or copy the pieces. I recommend using a copier, as tracing can be tedious

I am pretty new to sewing and had been reading Tilly's blog along the way when I finally decided to purchase this book. I like how each project builds skills to help with the next. I also appreciate using this book as reference when working on different projects. The writing is clear and the illustrations helpful. I would prefer that the book was spiral but am overall very pleased and highly recommend!

This funny/corky book written by Tilly and the buttons creator, Tilly Walnes is a wonderful addition to my library of sewing books. If you are a beginner and need a quick weekend win, this book is for you. If you like a vintage feel for clothing and need some basic pieces, this book is for you. I love the fit as a plus sized woman and the clear to understand instructions.

Bought this for a friend and they loved it!

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