

# **PATTERNMAKING FOR A PERFECT FIT: USING THE RUB-OFF TECHNIQUE TO RE- CREATE AND REDESIGN YOUR FAVORITE FASHIONS BY STEFFANI LINCECUM**



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## About the Author

STEFFANI LINCECUM is a designer, patternmaker, and sewing instructor with more than twenty years of experience in film, television, and theatre. She has created custom-made clothing and accessories for such movies as *Nixon* and *Primary Colors*, Emmy Award-winning TV shows *3rd Rock from the Sun* and *Will & Grace*, and celebrities *Madonna*, *Bridget Fonda*, *Tea Leoni*, and *Debra Messing*. Steffani teaches costume construction at *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, and is a costume designer at the *Children's Theatre of Madison*.

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What's the Secret to Sewing Great-Fitting Garments?

The Rub-off—the Insider's Technique for Creating a Great-Fitting Pattern!

Do you love to sew your own clothes but find it difficult to make commercial patterns fit? Has your favorite blouse seen better days but is no longer available in stores? Have you gained or lost weight so that your most flattering skirt doesn't fit quite right, or would you like to update it by remaking it in a new fabric or adding new details? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you'll find the solution right in your own closet—by creating customized sewing patterns using garments you already own and love to wear.

In *Patternmaking for a Perfect Fit*, Hollywood and theater costume designer Steffani Lincecum demonstrates the rub-off, a method of pattern drafting used by fashion and costume industry professionals that traces an existing garment or accessory without deconstructing or damaging it. Steffani starts with the basics, outlining two rub-off methods—tracing onto paper or draping with fabric—and explaining essential tools, materials, and sewing techniques. She then shows how to duplicate a skirt, a dress, a blouse, and a handbag, from rubbing-off the original, to creating the pattern, to cutting and sewing the new version, to making adjustments and incorporating a variety of other elements and details—not only refreshing your favorite fashions but replenishing your whole wardrobe with brand-new looks.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

82 of 84 people found the following review helpful.  
Get the pattern from something you already love!

By Amazon Customer

This book is not about drafting a pattern from scratch. Unless you have dreams of starting a pattern line it is beyond most home sewers to work up a pattern from measurements. Frankly, we'd rather just get to the sewing part. This book demystifies the "rub-off" technique so that you can take a garment that you already love and fits and make a pattern without destroying the piece of clothing. Many people get frustrated with sewing clothes because of issues of fit, not an inability to put a garment together. Ms. Lincecum shows you how to avoid all of those fitting problems by starting with a garment that fits, making the pattern, and then changing the design details so that you can vary the design but not change the basic fit. She even shows how you can do this with handbags. Imagine, all the patterns you ever need hanging right in you closet! I expect that in a very short time this will be as invaluable to me as my copy of Fit for Real People was when I started sewing.

97 of 102 people found the following review helpful.

A must have pattern making book

By Vanessa Nirode

I am a professional pattern maker, tailor, and costumer for film and tv. I found this book to be incredibly well written with clear, concise directions and a valuable tool for every pattern maker/tailor. The illustrations are well done and the projects presented in the book are very cute and fresh. I've been sewing and making patterns for 20 years and found new tips within the pages of this book. I recommend this book highly to all pattern makers - experienced and those just starting out.

42 of 43 people found the following review helpful.

Pleased but a bit frustrated

By Phat Stripper

I got a copy of this book as a gift and was immediately interested in doing one of the methods outlined in the book. I'm not a professional sewer by any means so I knew I would need to try out one of the methods on a simple garment. I traced a simple blouse without details such as collars, yokes, plackets, darts, pockets, pleats, etc... It worked! And, I was very pleased with the results.

But, when I tried to copy a shirt with darts (a bust dart and vertical or fishtail dart), my results were hideous to say the least! I simply couldn't follow the author's directions (or math) for how to add in the amount taken up by the bust dart. Moreover, the vertical dart completely threw me for a loop! It made me think that maybe this was the problem that one reviewer, Antonio Castillo, was trying to express (???)

For me, a sewer with intermediate skills, this would have been a fantastic book if more direction and examples had been given on darts. The topic of darting just felt a bit rushed in the book. If anyone could explain the darting process for me, I'd be very grateful and could really appreciate all the other great information in this book but for now, just call me FRUSTRATED!

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