

Book Review by Dawn Cloake (www.fashionacademy.co.uk)
Book: *Make Your Own Clothes* – PatternMaker with Marie Clayton
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New books about garment patterns and sewing are greeted enthusiastically by both home sewers and professionals. However, not all include a truly novel feature, that rare ingredient that makes it a 'must have'.

Make Your Own Clothes is such a book, a beginner's sewing book with a difference, in that it includes a CD containing 20 garment patterns in the form of 'macros' (small computer programs) ready to be printed out to the exact sizes the reader wants. How is this possible? The answer lies in CAD (computer-aided design). To many beginners, this may sound complicated, but all you need is a computer, a printer, the PatternMaker CD – and the *Make Your Own Clothes* book.

Load the CD (the simple instructions are easy to follow) and choose a pattern from the beautifully illustrated garments in the book. Click on its name on your computer screen, enter your own measurements or those of any other individual and the software generates a pattern to fit those measurements. There are no complicated sequences to work through. Simple instructions are on page 28. The illustrated measurement form on the screen shows you where and how to measure. Print out the pattern and follow the cutting and sewing directions in the book to sew up a new wardrobe.

The 128-page, clearly written and lavishly illustrated book in full colour is an international collaboration between PatternMaker Software of Bellevue, WA, USA, Collins and Brown Publishers, London, UK, and a team of patternmaking and sewing experts in Europe and the USA, including Alice Prier and Emily Theodorou at Alice and Co, London, who cut and sewed the entire collection, including the sewing samples that illustrate every garment.

This book is a welcome addition to the market, introducing the concept of using macros of garment collections instead of drawing patterns laboriously by hand or altering commercial patterns. It also dispels the mystique surrounding CAD and simplifies it, making it easier for anyone who wants to create beautiful clothes that fit.

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