

Design sensibility

THE DRESSMAKER'S HANDBOOK OF COUTURE SEWING TECHNIQUES



By Lynda Maynard
With 150 Sewing Tips

INTERWEAVE



The Dressmaker's Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques

This spiral-bound, hardcover book contains Lynda Maynard's novel solutions to creating beautiful finishes and is an excellent addition to any sewing library. (\$26.95, Interweave.com)

—Kenneth D. King, contributing editor

Pattern gift certificate

I could spend hours browsing pattern company EvaDress's online selection of reproduction vintage patterns. It's a broad collection spanning the 1800s to the 1950s. If someone gave me an EvaDress gift certificate this year, I know just what I'd spend it on. (\$15 to \$150, EvaDress.com)

—Stephani L. Miller, associate editor



A HotPatterns wardrobe

I would love a selection of HotPatterns handpicked for me by company co-founder Trudy Hanson. The styles are up-to-the-minute and very wearable, and Trudy designs them in collections that work well together. (price varies, HotPatterns.com)

—Carol Fresia, interim editor

Essential equipment

Adjustable lighting

My eyesight isn't what it used to be, so I need a lamp that gives high-quality light and is portable and adjustable, like the Craft Plus Floor Lamp. It's large and is designed to render colors accurately. Its low-glare light promises to reduce eyestrain, too. (\$209, OttLite.com)

—Jeannine Clegg, senior copy/production editor



Body double

Sewing without a dress form that exactly matches my shape is tough. But Fabulous Fit's patented Fitting System looks like it could be the ideal solution. The Fabulous Fit Fitting System is a series of contoured foam pads and two dress form covers that can increase any dress form up to three sizes and helps duplicate an individual's proportions and curves. (\$89, FabulousFit.com)

—S.L.M.

