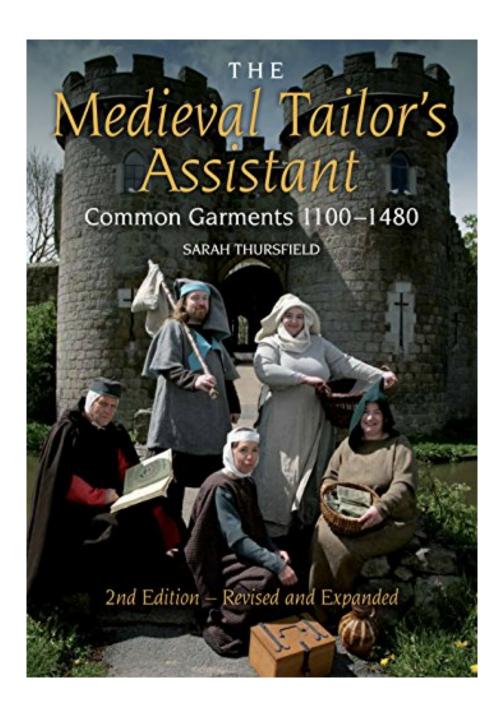


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#### About the Author

Sarah Thursfield has been supplying clothing for re-enactment for many years. A professional craftsman and an amateur historian, she uses archaeological and historical sources to reconstruct clothing technology from prehistory onwards. She regularly lectures, teaches heritage professionals and re-enactors, and contributes to costume publications.

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The Medieval Tailor's Assistant is the standard work for both amateurs and professionals wishing to recreate the clothing of Medieval England for historical interpretation or drama. This new edition extends its range with details of fitting different figures and many more patterns for main garments and accessories from 1100 to 1480. It includes simple instructions for plain garments, as well as more complex patterns and adaptations for experienced sewers.

Advice on planning outfits and materials to use
Range of projects and alternative designs, from undergarments to outer wear
Covers early and later tailoring methods within the period

Clear line drawings, pattern diagrams and layouts

Over eighty full-colour photographs that show the garments as working outfits

Sales Rank: #108804 in Books
Published on: 2015-05-30
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 11.30" h x .60" w x 8.30" l, .0 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 239 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

287 of 289 people found the following review helpful.

What we've all been waiting for!

By Drea Leed

For anyone interested in making a medieval garment, but who doesn't know where to begin: this book is for you.

This book covers everything you ever wanted to know about medieval clothing, from measurements, patterns and materials to methods of construction. It has over 400 illustrations of medieval clothing, and 121 patterns for shirts and smocks, cotes, doublets, kirtles, hose, surcotes, cotehardies, gowns, overkirtles, cloaks, children's clothing, headwear, and accessories.

Current books on the subject of Medieval costume concentrate either on research (with good information on what was worn, but little on how to actually make it) or towards theatrical costume (with information on how

to make the items, but dubious historical accuracy.) The Medieval Tailor's Assistant is the best of both worlds, combining solid research and detailed "how-to" information into one volume.

This book is geared more toward the novice or intermediate costumer and sewer than toward the advanced historic costume researcher. As it is not primarily a research work, it doesn't delve into original sources as much as books like Janet Arnold's "Patterns of Fashion." The research which went into it is very good, however, and it gives less experienced historic costumers a splendid place to start.

99 of 99 people found the following review helpful.

You will be reaching for your sewing machine after this.

By Stephanie Manley

This is one of the best books for creating patterns, choosing fabrics, editing a pattern for your personal size, as well as a great primer for what to wear that I have seen. Not being an expert in the sewing craft I need a little extra guidance, and this book delivers.

This book first of all does feature a nice area on garments on when they were worn historically. In a simple time line she demonstrates proper fabric choices as well as the styles that were around during those years.

The book is one of the few that features patterns for men, women, children, and even babies. Also included are maturnity patterns, shoes, and some hats. So its great for the variety of patterns it will provide you.

So now that we know what styles are appropriate, what fabric will work, and we can do the basics, the book is kind enough to help you with making your pattern in terms of suggesting great ways to customize patterns for you own body.

This book really sets itself appart with the breadth of patterns it offers, suggestions on how to make your garmets look period by even getting embroidery patterns for buttons, and other finishing stitches, and tells you how to make them look best on you. The book is easy to read, and the illustrations are clean, clear, and concise. A definate one to pick up if you want to create clothes from years past. I would personally jump on this one, as you know some books like this have small print runs, and who knows when you can get your hands on one like this again.

106 of 110 people found the following review helpful.

Good Resource

By A Customer

As a medievalist and costumer whose focus is early 14th century England and France, I found this to be a wonderful book and said to myself "FINALLY!" For those looking for instructions on how to move from costuming to making actual clothing, I am certain you will be pleased.

I disagreed with very little within the text and found this to be a very pleasant surprise (although I do disagree quite strongly with the modern draping methods suggested. Highly suspicious for a medieval technique in my opinion).

While I would hesitate to say that all the methods are completely accurate (how could we know this? Some things we do know were not included or were replaced with easier, more modern methods), they are certainly far superior to anything else out there for this time period and place. Well done.

I would stay away from much of the suggested reading on the left side of that page simply because once someone has reached this stage in their costuming development they have grown out of Houston etc... with the exception of Newton's Fashion in the Age of the Black Prince (this is worth the price for certain).

The Museum of London books and the book on Queen Margareta's gown on the right side of the selected reading page are worth every penny however.

I think it was worth the \$... and that we are soon to see a sudden surge of truly medieval looking clothing in our living history groups and I am all for that. 100%

Many, many thanks to Sarah Thurfield for so wonderfully beginning to fill of a huge costuming void.

Cynthia / Merouda

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