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Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns: A Guide To Customizing A Hand-Stitched Alabama Chanin Wardrobe



Synopsis

Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns: A Guide to Customizing a Hand-Stitched Alabama Chanin Wardrobe by Natalie Chanin is a companion to the Alabama Studio Series: Alabama Stitch Book, Alabama Studio Style, and Alabama Studio Sewing + Design. In this final volume of the four-book series, Chanin offers, by popular demand, three new core patterns—the A-Line Dress/Tunic/Top, the Long and Short Wrap Skirt, and the Classic Coat/Jacket/Cardigan—and a guide to customizing garments to fit and flatter. For ease, convenience, and to ease its ecological footprint, this book comes with a CD rather than paper patterns. The disc contains patterns for all of the garments from the previous books in the Alabama Studio series with additional sizing for XXL, the three new patterns, plus five Alabama Chanin stencil designs, including the Polka Dot in three sizes, the popular New Leaves, and the classic Magdalena (all for readers to print as needed for their individual sewing purposes). Printed and bound in the USA. This installment highlights: 9 core garment patterns with up to 34 standard variations, plus 3 bonus pocket patterns Patterns from the entire Alabama Studio book series with the additional XXL size 5 full-scale stencil designs, plus a free bonus download available from Alabama Chanin's website (<http://alabamachanin.com/resources/large-scallops-stencil-artwork>) Useful, convenient CD that minimizes its ecological footprint by conserving paper Printed in the USA

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Natalie Chanin is the founder and head designer of Alabama Chanin and author of Alabama Stitch Book, Alabama Studio Style, and Alabama Studio Sewing + Design. Her work has been featured in Vogue, the New York Times, and Town & Country, among other publications, and on CBS News. She is a member of the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

I have to say, this is one of my favorite sewing books I own, which is saying a lot, since I don't generally enjoy hand sewing. I grew up sewing clothing with a machine, and then took up quilting, and while I enjoy both of those pursuits, I was never interested in hand sewing anything until I read this book, and Natalie Chanin's take on clothing. I love the idea that clothing should flatter, feel comfortable, and be well made so that it lasts. I think the biggest reason I love this book is that the idea behind making a handmade wardrobe resonates with where I am in life right now; creating a wardrobe I love and that fits well means a lot more to me than chasing after the latest style fads. Not only that, but as a mom of 3 little girls, I want them to understand that we are each unique, and our worth is intrinsic, and not based on what we look like; as a result, it makes sense to dress our bodies in a way that flatters and makes us feel good about ourselves, and that celebrates who we are, instead of chasing fashion ideals that aren't realistic. That being said, I was initially disappointed when I popped the cd into my computer, only to discover that the pattern sheets were sized for a copy shop printer, and not my home printer. I have a home computer and printer, and I'm familiar with printing out pdf sewing patterns and taping them together, so I wasn't interested in going to a copy shop, and after playing around with it a little, I discovered how to print out the parts of the pattern individually (on 8 1/2 by 11 sheets of paper). After reading the previous reviews, and seeing people put off by having to print out the patterns via a copy shop, I wanted to weigh in and let you know that you Do Not need a specific tiling program to print off the patterns in 'tiles' to tape together (the book mentions this as an option, but it's not necessary if you have Adobe Reader, a free program that reads pdf. pattern files, which is the file format these patterns are stored as on the cd). Most of us already have Adobe Reader on our computers, and all you have to do is open up the file you want to print (in Adobe), go to: File, Print, and choose 'Poster' as the option for printing out the pattern. It should show you a picture of the layout of the pattern, broken up into tiles (to the right of your choices), and it should have a box that shows the tile scale, which should read 100%. I didn't change any of the measurements, printed it out using the Poster mode (to make it print the pattern

out in tiles), and then double-checked the 2-inch square located on the first page of the pattern, and it was perfect! I tried this with the A-line dress pattern, and it worked like a charm. While I realize not everyone is interested in putting together paper patterns, or making a run to the copy shop, I just want to encourage those who don't mind printing patterns out at home that it can be done, and the patterns are well worth the time.

After checking Natalie Chanin's last book out of the library and stitching one of the tops I pre-ordered this book and I received it in the mail yesterday afternoon. I have to say that I am not disappointed. The patterns it contains are worth the price alone, but the book is filled with great info on adjusting patterns to fit your individual body that will be useable way beyond adjusting and constructing any one of the admittedly lovely patterns contained here. That is really what the bulk of the book is about. The rest is a basic techniques section and stitch guide for processes that are used to make the garments, and instructions for garments -but don't expect a hand holding highly detailed step by step instruction guide to each project- there is enough instruction for folks who can work independently and refer to the techniques in the back, but construction photos are not included, just finished garments and diagrams. (If you want to see it in action or need more instruction, I suggest taking Ms. Chanin's class on crafts.) This book has a great section in the back that names the techniques used in the garments that are photographed in the book-including fabric weight, thread color, which stencil was used, seam style, etc. That you can use to recreate the examples. I haven't popped the CD into my computer yet to print off patterns, but I'm excited to do so. I'll update once I do. ***UPDATE*** so I have now printed the patterns from the CD, and they pop up as PDFs in adobe as single large pages- They are not automatically tiled like some you find nowadays. For those folks who think you need to head to the copy shop to print out a large sheet, you don't, its just a matter of changing your printer settings. Chose file> Print, and from the page scaling menu, select tile large pages. Then select cut marks and labels so you can organize the paged and so you can see where you tape your printed pages together as the edges overlap. (<https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/print-posters-banners-acrobat-reader.html> if you want images and clearer instructions than mine) I'm excited to get sewing!

This book is fantastic. I had the A Line top/tunic/dress pdf printed at my local printer, which cost \$15. I can see myself making multiple tops and tunics from this pattern, so the cost is not prohibitive to me. I decided to see how difficult it was to print at home, so I found this online: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/posterazor/postdownload?source=dlp> Here's a free posterizer.

I printed at 92% for the best accuracy on my Epson printer. I did need to convert the file from a pdf to a jpeg for the posterazor to accept the file. But definitely doable in a pinch. This book is a great resource. It will keep me busy for a long time!

I pre-ordered this book on and could hardly wait to receive it!!! I now have the whole series, which includes three previous books. I treasure them all; however, this one fell just one star short of my expectations. I really REALLY love the paper patterns included in the previous books...I enjoy holding them in my hands, unfolding them on my table, and studying them. I honestly doubt that I will ever utilize the CD included in this book, which has replaced the paper patterns. I also miss the lovely tactile fabric spine that the other books have. That being said, what I particularly like about this book is that it explains, in detail, how to alter and customize any pattern to fit your needs...and that is priceless information. I continue to appreciate that these books are printed in the USA (thank you!). This is a more advanced book (in my opinion). If you are new to Alabama Chanin, I recommend starting with "Alabama Studio Sewing + Design" (book 3). Then fill in with the first 2 books, and then this one. As always, Thank You Natalie, for making your beautiful designs accessible to all!

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