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The Refashion Handbook: Refit, Redesign, Remake For Every Body



Synopsis

Take secondhand finds from frumpy to fabulous with a little help from Beth Huntington, a.k.a. the Renegade Seamstress. The Refashion Handbook contains 19 stylish projects, each showing you how to transform easy-to-find items into a better fit, a new design, or a radical makeover. Learn the basics of refashioning: how to measure, reshape, fit, and finish a garment, so it fits you perfectly. Plus size? Petite? No problem! Beth's designs flatter a wide variety of sizes and body types. Her easy techniques are fun for even beginning sewists. You'll love creating your own secondhand chic!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beth Huntington's sunny disposition and normal silhouette (she models all her creations) add to the mix to make this an encouraging and practical handbook for anyone, whether plus size or petite, to create unique and thrifty garments in true Make Do and Mend style. (Mumtopia, 11/25/14)The Renegade Seamstress shows how to refashion and up cycle your wardrobe piece by piece. (BurdaStyle, Winter 2015)The author's blog is devoted to refashioning her lumpy thrift-store finds into more attractive (although by no means trendy) outfits, so it makes sense that her first book showcases 19 of the concepts she's used in her sewing for herself. A frumpy three-quarter-sleeve T-shirt turns into a cute fitted top, while the Emerald Petals Dress takes a frequently found style (the sleeveless, bulky dress) and reworks it into a stylish cap-sleeve dress.

The book uses written instructions and color photographs to show the techniques Huntington uses, which should be helpful for readers who clearly can't count on finding the exact same clothes that she did. A basic techniques chapter is adequate, covering a few trickier skills such as hemming a pleated skirt. This book is a great inspiration for those who like to make one-of-a-kind garments for women. (Publishers Weekly, September 16, 2014) Here's a great follow-up to "Rescuing the Unloved and the Unworn," our Spring 2014 Notions cover story! Step-by-Step photo tutorials will walk you through the phases of the redesign process that will transform garage-sale, thrift-store, or back-of-closet finds into hip modern pieces that look brand new. (American Sewing Guild Notions Magazine, Fall 2014)

Refashionista Beth Huntington inspires sewists to transform secondhand finds into fashionable clothing that can be worn anywhere. When she's not refashioning, she spends her days in a classroom full of energetic kindergarteners. Beth lives in Oregon. Visit her at her blog, The Renegade Seamstress.

If you are refashioning for fun or necessity, this is the book to have. If you are a regular reader of her site, this book is still worth purchasing. This book explains techniques for the absolute beginner in a clear, concise manner, so anyone who is starting out with sewing can understand how to perform various techniques. If you are already familiar with sewing and refashioning, you can skip that chapter and dive into the projects. My favorite part about her book (and her site) is her projects result in timeless, classic and stylish pieces that are wearable for women of all shapes and sizes. The issue I have with most (not all) refashion books and sites are the projects are either too simplistic (using the same technique for the garment refashion), too "out-there", or too confined to a particular demographic. If you have the same issues with refashioning sites and books, you WON'T have that issue with this book or her site. This book also renders well on the Kindle Fire, so if you have a Kindle Fire and have had bad luck with how the how-to books show up on it, you shouldn't have a problem with this one because it works great on my Kindle Fire AND Kindle Fire HD.

Great book such wonderful ideas. I recommend this book to everyone who loves to sew. She has a wonderful website with more great ideas. I wish my eye was as good as hers for seeing what could be.

Refashion ideas with polish and sophistication. Excellent explanations of techniques useful for

beginners as well as those with sewing experience.

This book is perfect if you are new to repurposing or refashioning clothes, which I am, or if you're looking for some new ideas. The beginning of this book covers what you need to know when you go looking for clothes in thrift stores or your own closet. In the beginning she also covers how to arrange your sewing area and the basics of sewing; which if you already know how to sew can be a great review. In the rest of the book Beth Huntington gives you wonderful project ideas, everything from purses, dresses skirts and more. I highly recommend this book!

This book is perfect for the beginning seamstress AND for experienced people who love to sew. I love the techniques in the beginning of the book followed by ideas for turning unusable clothing into fashion gems you will wear over and over. Before discovering this book and website I would have thrown my leftover clothing away. Now I use Beth's ideas to recycle and save money while creating clothing I am proud to wear everywhere. Christmas is coming and I am giving a copy to my daughter!

I got this book in the late morning and couldn't put it down until I had read the whole thing!! I've been sewing for a long time and have done my own minor alterations here and there. A couple of years ago a friend introduced me to thrift shopping and I was hooked. I, too, felt "called" to by gorgeous discards that didn't fit, as Beth described. But as I looked at previously expensive former treasures, I wondered whether I could alter them but never took the leap (what was I thinking? It's so cheap!! Like no risk!!). I just happened to find Beth's book during an book browsing session and couldn't believe it--a book on something that was starting to give me great interest. I checked out her blog and felt like I had a new friend and acquired new stitching bravery so I ordered it. While reading it, I could tell as an experienced sewist myself that her techniques are good and sound. Now I can't wait for my next visit to a thrift store--it will be with new eyes and a new adventure. So many new ideas.... Sooooo excited. Thank you, Beth!!

Beth's book is fabulous! This has wonderful refashion ideas, basic and more involved, all with detailed instruction. It's great to have the book to refer to when working on a project. I was very pleased that it continues where her blog leaves off, you must check it out, renegade seamstress.

The Refashion Handbook lets you be your own designer. From knowing what to look for at your

favorite Thrift Store to the final touches of your new creation. Beth's book lets you accomplish, with ease and confidence, a way to bring back new life to those not so flattering piece of fashion that you couldn't live without!

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