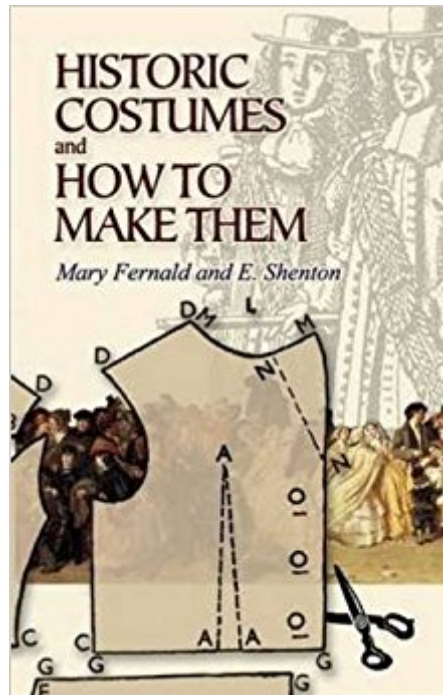


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# Historic Costumes And How To Make Them (Dover Fashion And Costumes)



## Synopsis

This practical and informative guidebook is a "must-have" for anyone planning to create accurate period costumes for theatrical productions and historical reenactments. From short tunics worn by Saxon men in the fifth century to a lady's bustle dress of the late 1800s, this profusely illustrated text contains a wealth of authentic patterns. Information on pattern sizes, materials required, and methods of sewing accompany simply drawn diagrams for Elizabethan doublets, capes, and trunks; a man's coat and vest from the Restoration period; a lady's bell-shaped gown of the eighteenth century; an early-nineteenth-century empire gown; a crinoline; and other wardrobe items. Diagrams have been carefully and accurately drawn to scale from working patterns, and detailed notes for making costumes include suggestions for the most suitable colors and textures to be used for costumes of particular historical periods. A final section includes diagrams and information for creating period headdresses, caps, and hoods. Students of costume design, home tailors, and community drama groups will welcome this carefully researched guide to fifteen centuries of English fashions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book gives a extremely brief overview of many styles of clothing throughout the last 1200 years. If you are after detailed instructions on how to make medieval clothing, then this book is not for you. However, if you are an accomplished tailor and can work from line drawings, you have the

right book. I did not find this book particularly helpful with how to make the clothing, but it did show me what styles were around. Be aware that this book gives no measurements nor types of materials used, nor does it assist the serious re-enactor. This book is aimed, in my opinion, at someone who is planning to attend a fancy dress party and who intends to wear the outfit they make once only.

If you're more than a beginning seamstress then everything makes sense and it easy to follow. Gave me a lot of great ideas on how to design and make some SCA garb.

I was pleased with the number of patterns and detailed instructions in this book. The patterns need to be enlarged or drawn to scale in order to use them. It would be very useful for anyone who makes costumes or who is interested in fashion.

This book is mistitled - it is designed for people putting on plays rather than those genuinely interested in historic costumes. It contains patterns that are just plain wrong and is full of incorrect information. The whole concept of made-up patterns seems largely pointless to me. Even if you are putting on a school play, why not use the correct cut and construction? The real patterns use much less fabric than the made-up ones in this book and are generally no harder to put together. On the plus side, I can see that the opening on the use of colour and design to help the audience focus on the important characters would be useful for novices. However, overall, my recommendation to re-enactors and anyone else interested in authentic costuming is save your money and avoid this book.

I was slightly disappointed in the low level of detail and the VERY basic images in this book. The writing itself is of low quality, and it really didn't fill my expectations. If you're really interested in making historical costumes, I'd suggest looking around for something with a bit more description.

This is an ok book. It gives you ideas and the patterns are very basic. There are better books by Dover on this subject.

There is very little detail in this book and the layout is confusing and lacking in basic information. For instance, the pattern diagrams in the back are not attached to any illustrations, photographs, paintings, etc. The various images earlier in the book are not directly associated with the pattern, leaving the sewist to wonder what, precisely, the pattern is actually intended to make. The patterns

are not even references in the text as figures or anything else that could be helpful. Also, specific date years are not associated with the patterns either, just vague descriptions like "Early 18th Century Coat". People wore a lot of things, so an early 18th century coat could look several different ways. The book gives the greatest attention to Medieval and Renaissance garments, while it becomes increasingly scanty and lacking after that. There is no reference to the transition from 18th century through Regency AT ALL, except for one reference to a men's open cut coat (once again, with no illustration to match).

It's a decent-enough book and contains some cool facts on historical dress, but don't expect to realistically be able to sew a period-authentic costume just from this book. If you're an expert tailor, you'd probably get some really important tips for sewing period clothing, but if you're a novice, like me, you will glean a few interesting tidbits of information. I'm glad I read it, but I definitely can't say I'm ready to sew a Regency dress from scratch.

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