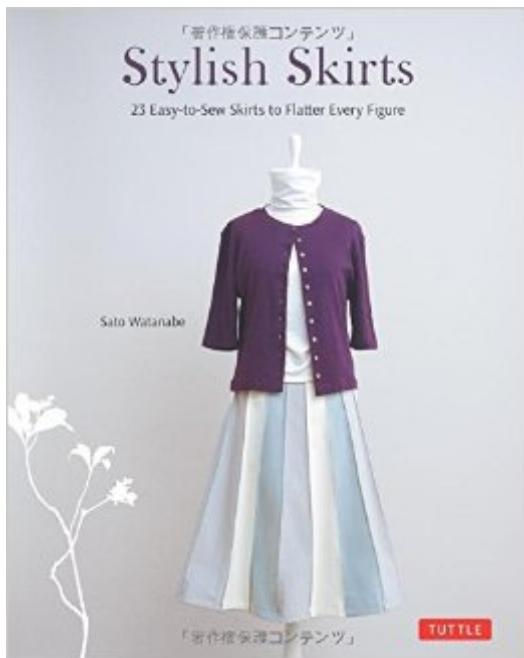


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# Stylish Skirts: 23 Simple Designs To Flatter Every Figure



## Synopsis

Sew chic and original skirts with this stylish sewing book. *Stylish Skirts* is the English edition of a popular Japanese sew-it-yourself fashion book which allows you to create simple yet stylish skirts that look and feel great "at a fraction of the cost of store-bought fashion. With this Japanese Sewing book, there's no end to the kinds of skirts you can create to match your body shape, your taste in fabrics and colors, and your mood (not to mention your favorite tops, shoes and accessories)! The instructions and diagrams are a snap to follow and provide a huge variety of styles "from ultra-feminine to artfully disheveled. All 23 skirt designs in this book look great in different fabrics, colors, prints and textures" so the options are truly endless. The enclosed DIY sewing instructions make cutting and sewing these skirts a breeze. Sewing projects include: White Twill A-line Skirt Russel Lace Gored Skirt Striped Skirt with Box Pleats Russel lace Gored Skirt Skirt with Shirred Yoke and Lace Belt And many more! Author Sato Watanabe has written many of the most popular Japanese sewing books on the market. In this new book, she shows you how to make professional-quality skirts easily and inexpensively at home. She studied clothing and accessory design at Tokyo's famous Bunka Fashion College before beginning a career as a magazine editor, eventually turning her writing skills to creating bestselling books!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The skirts in this book are all so cute. I can see myself making nearly all of them for me, or my sister, or my girls (even my mom!) I was going to wait to review the book until I had made

something, but wanted to say that, as the other reviewers noted, there are no pattern pieces included. The layout drawings give measurements, but I am having a hard time trying to figure out how to make bigger sizes. For example, it's easy to change the size of the waistband to fit me, but if I'm making the waistband bigger, I need to also slightly increase the size of the panels. It would be helpful to get directions from the book on how to grade various sizes (if you add 2 inches around the waist, the bottom of the skirt should be x inches fuller, for ex) So I'm brushing off my math skills and going to have to make a muslin for at least the first few patterns to see how it all goes. I know it's good sewing practice to make and adjust a muslin, but I don't have a lot of time to sew and I'm afraid I won't get as much done with the book as I wanted. Still, if you are the right size to fit these without making any adjustments, the skirts look very straightforward to sew. The patterns are really cute and give options for all seasons and occasions from everyday to fancy dress. There's also a nice range from classic to more edgy style. Overall, this is a fun book, but you should know what you are getting into before you get it. And if anyone sews from the book, post your pictures so others can see!

There are a lot of patterns sewn from rectangular fabric pieces so essentially one size fits most as you then determine where your side seams will be (or use the whole fabric width) and just cut a waistband to fit you. For larger sizes maybe make pleats smaller or wider apart. Other pattern pieces will be easy enough to use the slash and spread method. If you have an A-line skirt in the wardrobe that fits well use it to work out your alterations to pattern pieces. The 12 panel skirt is easily adapted to larger sizes by adding extra panels as required - just make sure you buy enough fabric. All in all the book has some very easy skirt patterns and some you can include more technical details like the embroidery work to personalize. I like that a lot of the skirts have a zipper closure and then a waistband casing with a drawstring tie so that they accommodate various sizes (but what are the sizes they fit???). Am looking forward to making some skirts ready for next spring. The one thing that would have been very useful that is not mentioned in any of the patterns is measurements of the finished garments, specifically the waist & hip measurements, which you need when drafting to accommodate a larger size than the pattern may accommodate. It is this important oversight that has made me only give 4 stars to what is essentially a great pattern/idea source book..

For those that sew, you probably know there are a lot of sewing books out there. The thing that makes this book stand out is that the skirts are not the typical, average skirts that you see in most books. For one thing, the book starts out with all of the skirt views IN COLOR, then tells you the

page numbers. Unlike some of the author's other books, this one does not have the actual patterns in the back--but then again, that could be because this is a demo copy. Measurements are given in both the metric and inches so this makes it user friendly for both US and sewers abroad. Page 33 has a dedicated "Tips for Making Better Skirts" section and the last couple of pages have sewing terms and symbols used. As far as one's sewing skill, if you consider yourself an advanced beginner and upward, this book is perfect. One definitely has to have sewing skills and knowledge. As always, way to go Tuttle Publishing. :-)

I have used pattern packets (McCalls, Butterick, Burda, Vogue, Simplicity) for decades. My daughter introduced me to the delights of Japanese pattern books, in which you have a large selection of illustrations, information, and pattern specs on one theme. However, they're usually in Japanese for some reason :-). It is nice to have one in English. The diverse selection of skirts is a nice collection for the home sewer who wants a diverse wardrobe of casual, everyday skirts, to dressier skirts. There are skirts suitable for the young and fashion forward, and for the older and conservative dresser. All in all, a great book for a family of sewists. While the one drawback to the Japanese style pattern book is that you have to actually draw the patterns out yourself onto pattern paper, this practice in itself makes it easier to personalize a pattern. I wish U.S. publishers would start making this type of book.

I've never posted a review on a sewing book before, though there have been many I've loved, and a few I found utterly worthless, but I am so surprised by this one that I decided to review it! I think most of the skirts are quite lovely. However, the description mentions the inclusion of "patterns." I don't feel this is an apt description of the diagrams included in the book. As other reviewers have mentioned, the author doesn't address how to manage other sizes, and the book seems to assume you have at least a minimal knowledge of pattern drafting. Well, I've been sewing for 45+ years, and I don't have any skills in this area! I think the book could be improved with a chapter on pattern drafting in general, and specific information on drafting the skirt patterns. One review suggesting that the panel skirts could just be made with more panels. And indeed they could, but if a size 10 (and I'm guessing here, I don't know what size the example in the book makes) is comprised of 12 panels, would you really want 16 or 18 or ??? panels to make a larger size? Or would you be better off increasing the size of the panels and sticking to 12 in any size? I would think that would be better! And adjusting the size of the box pleated skirt wouldn't be all that simple, IMO because the upper part of the skirt is seamed above the pleats. I absolutely love some of the styles, but doubt I

will ever make anything from this book. It may however, serve as inspiration for me to start with a basic or similar pattern and then adapt it to one from the book. I have some other Japanese sewing books, some even in Japanese, but must confess I've yet to make anything from them. And I was expecting real patterns! Perhaps in Japan sew-ers are more typically trained in and familiar with pattern drafting. I don't think that is at all typical in North America. It would be considered an advanced skill here!

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