

(Free and download) Alabama Studio Sewing + Design: A Guide to Hand-Sewing an Alabama Chanin Wardrobe

## Alabama Studio Sewing + Design: A Guide to Hand-Sewing an Alabama Chanin Wardrobe

*Natalie Chanin*

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**Natalie Chanin : Alabama Studio Sewing + Design: A Guide to Hand-Sewing an Alabama Chanin Wardrobe** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alabama Studio Sewing + Design: A Guide to Hand-Sewing an Alabama Chanin Wardrobe:

190 of 190 people found the following review helpful. Handstitched GemsBy nsewusI wavered on buying this book. I wasn't a big fan of the bucket hat on the cover, had never heard of Alabama Chanin, and when I looked at a few images of the fashion line I didn't see myself in those clothes.I made my decision to purchase based on the emphasis on hand sewing, embroidery, fashion applique, and beading. This may be the best sewing-centric book purchase I've made in the last 12 months (and I've made quite a few).This is a truly outstanding book from cover to cover for a few reasons:1.) The stitch charts are very easy to follow.2.) The samples are presented in LARGE, close up photographs3.) The garments included are very basic and can be made by hand with one of the easiest, green friendly, most forgiving fabrics out there- cotton jersey.4.) The instructions are very good. Even a beginner could make the tank, tee, skirt, bolero, wrap, or fingerless gloves by hand with a minimum of notions except for quality fabric and thread. Those particular items would probably not give a beginner a fit over fitting either. You'll need more tools for stenciling or beading, but even they are pretty simple to acquire.5.) The book's index includes photos for fast referencing6.) The embellishments shown are beautiful and accessible!You can go as elaborate (full beading and applique on a long dress) or simple (adding a basic ruffle to a tank) as you want. This is truly "luxe casual" at its best.All the things above tied together with the author's encouraging narrative (friendly without being too exhausting)make this a wonderful book. Very few things I consider a "must have". However, if you are in to hand sewing garments or just curious about how to add embellishment to clothes you make or own, this book does an excellent job and has enough ideas to keep

you busy for a very long time.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Bad pattern, good bookBy M. KeenInvaluable text for the hand-sewer!I have only tried one pattern, the sleeveless tunic dress, and was not thrilled with it, however. First off, the sizing is VERY small. I'm on the small side of medium and I had to use the large for this pattern. Secondly, it fit so strangely that it got stretched out of shape after the first couple of wears. I'm not sure what body type this was intended to fit, but I'd think having a larger back and broader shoulders like I do would have helped, given that the arm holes are what stretched out, sagging down and outward. It seemed to me that the neck was far too wide (hence I thought the wider shoulders might've been helpful), and the arm-holes too close to the arm for this to work out in the long run. The arm, being able to move in all sorts of directions, needs a certain amount of clearance, otherwise it'll stretch out certain fabrics (like cotton jersey) creating the unsightly sagging that I got. I even modified the arm-holes to make them a little bigger, but the pattern isn't designed to have hardly any extra in the bust to take away from, or in the back, because the straps are set so wide. In the end, that didn't help the sagging anyways.tl;dr, I don't imagine that the sleeved patterns will have this problem, and the other ones - the skirts, bolero, poncho - should be fine as well, though will probably need a lot of tweaking just for sizing alone. I'm sad that this pattern just does not work for me whatsoever, because all my go-to tops are sleeveless. I'll have to keep looking for that perfect tank top pattern - or just suck it up and draft one myself.Thankfully, the tips and knowledge presented in the book are amazing. The two pages dedicated to hand-stitches was worth the cover price alone for me.---Mar 2017 addendum:Having made another go at the tank-style pattern, I think I have a better idea of what's going on.First off, for those new to working with cotton jersey like this (like me), basting edges and seams isn't just important, it is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. With my previous project, I tried on the garment before edging the arm and neck holes without basting them, and that's what began the irreversible stretching. If you're worried about sizing, make a muslin and account for stretch.Secondly, the sizing is confirmed for being -really weird-. The problem I was having with the armholes previously has happened now with the bottom front neckline - an unsightly outward sagging. I realized that this pattern was drafted with very small chests in mind (none of the models in the book have bigger than an A or B cup, you'll notice). AC's actual product sizing is probably much more thoroughly engineered, but for the purposes of this book, it's likely that they simply enlarged a base size small without any further adjustments. IF YOU ARE A SIZE MEDIUM OR LARGER, EXPECT TO DO A LOT OF ADJUSTING OF THESE PATTERNS TO ACCOUNT FOR CHEST DISCREPANCIES AND MORE. Also, be prepared to put a dart in the middle front of the neckline edging. Without it, the extra fraction of an inch of fabric will have nowhere to go and it'll sag outwards. This is not a problem with flatter chests.Another recommendation for M-sized folks (possibly L, though I'm not sure): do not use stretch stitching for neck and armholes on the tank-style patterns. They are large enough to not need them, and doing this will prevent further stretching.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well Done!By ElleI am quite pleased with this book. It is well designed and thought out. The technical information is adequate and accurate. I am indeed inspired. I was looking for some inspiration for a new clothing and accessory line and while I won't be reproducing what Natalie Chanin has done, this book has been just the catalyst I needed for a fresh approach.

Alabama Studio Sewing + Design is an invaluable reference for any woman who has dreamed of creating her own gorgeous handmade wardrobe. In this follow-up to Alabama Stitch Book and Alabama Studio Style, author Natalie Chanin presents all of the stenciling, hand-stitching, and beading techniques her company uses to create the award-winning Alabama Chanin line of organic cotton clothing, plus more than 50 variations that lead to infinite design possibilities. Included in this encyclopedic compilation of Alabama Chanin skill and style are patterns and instructions for dresses, skirts, tops, a wrap, a poncho, a bolero, fingerless gloves, and a hat. Each piece is featured in both its basic form and with varying embellishment combinations. By mixing, matching, and layering, a stunning, unique, and versatile wardrobe can be built. Praise for Alabama Studio Sewing + Design: Transform organic or recycled materials into clothing or home dcor items with haute homespun flair. Better Homes and Gardens Quilts and More magazine Natalie is beautifully simple, yet elegant, just like her clothing. Her signature look is intricate stitching, beading and applique on basic organic cotton jersey which together make a show stopping casual look." SF Unzipped "I'm a longtime fan of Natalie's clothing designs . . . Her sewing patterns do not disappoint. These are the same dresses, tops, skirts, and accessories that carry four-figure price tags and are coveted by ec-groovy lady rock stars. The same ones. But in her books, Natalie teaches you how to make them yourself . . . Natalie's pieces are so simple to sew together . . . They go together in a single evening, and when you pull them on they don't just make you look better than you did in whatever you were wearing before, they make you feel better." Heather Ross, HeatherRoss.Squarespace.com "The photographs in this volume are exceptional . . . I think if quilters get this book for both technique and inspiration, it will be more than worth the money." Meg Cox, quilter and author of The Book of New Family Traditions I just love that Natalie has the guts to share the tricks of her trade. The reason I say guts is that you would think that sharing how your garments are made might hurt your businessbut in Natalie's case it's proved to be actually quite the opposite . . . The interest in her couture line grew once she started to write books." Cathy Callahan, Cathy of California blogger and author of Vintage Craft Workshop

About the Author Natalie Chanin is the founder and head designer of Alabama Chanin and the author of Alabama Stitch Book and Alabama Studio Style (both from STC Craft). Her work has been featured in Vogue, the New York Times, and Town Country, among many other publications, as well as on CBS News. She is a member of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. Visit her website at [alabamachanin.com](http://alabamachanin.com).