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More Fabric Savvy: A Quick Resource Guide To Selecting And Sewing Fabric



Synopsis

Wouldnt it be great to have an expert with you as you roam the aisles of your fabric store in search of the perfect fabric? Sandra Betzina does just that in *More Fabric Savvy*. Americas best-selling quick guide to selecting and sewing fabrics is now completely revised and updated, with over 100 new tips, all new photography, the latest new fabrics, and entirely new and useful features, such as a guide to stain removal. Sandra has taken the fear out of selecting and sewing fabrics by providing the essential information you need to create the perfect garment or home-decoration project. This indispensable and easy-to-use reference belongs on your shelf or, better yet, in your handbag. Includes 19 new fabrics not included in the original *Fabric Savvy* for a total of 100 fabrics Updated Glossary and Sources to provide up to the minute fabric information includes a handy stain-removal chart for tackling over 50 types of stains two new features include a lining chart, and a "burn test" chart to determine a fabrics content

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Customer Reviews

Sandra Betzina is best known as the dynamic host of HGTV's *Sew Perfect*. She is also the author of *Fast Fit*, *Power Sewing*, and *Sandra Betzina Sews for Your Home*, all published by The Taunton Press. Sandra also creates a line of garment patterns for Vogue called *Today's Fit by Sandra Betzina*, teaches sewing workshops and retreats, offers online classes, and more. She lives in San Francisco, CA.

As long as this doesn't include real swatches it should include more detailed close-up views of the fabric. The garment photos in the "Fabric Fact" that are supposed to represent the fabric are pretty useless and take up half the book pages. I suggest they dump the garment photos and include various close-ups of the fabric showing grain and bias views. That would be much more useful along with the very good "Working With..." practical, detail information which make up the other half of the pages. I would rate the "Working With..." half of the book five big stars! I would rate the "Fabric Fact" garment photos a big, shouting zero. The text on the "Fabric Fact" page is, however pretty good.

"More Fabric Savvy" gives a lot of hints about the selection and treatment of newly available fabrics. I didn't give 5 stars because some of the fabric photo garments use more than one fabric, and you can't tell how much drape to expect. However, before I bought some of the newer fabrics, this book would help me understand if I wanted to deal with the fabric at all. For each fabric listed, there are segments about: Preshrink directions; Layout; Marking method; Cutting; Type of Interfacing; Type of Thread; Type of Needle; normal Stitch Length; Presser Foot; Seam Finish; Pressing Guide; comments about Topstitching; suggestions about Closures; and recommended Hem method. The fabrics in this volume are: African Mudcloth, Alpaca, Batik, Batiste & Voile, Batting, Beaded, Boiled Wool, Brocade, Burnout, Camel Hair, Canvas, Cashmere, Charmeuse, Chenille, Chiffon, China Silk, Corduroy, Crepe de Chine, Crinkle, Damask, Denim, Dupion, Embroidered, Eyelash, Eyelet, Faux Fur, Faux Leather, Faux Suede, Felt, Flannel, Fleece, Gabardine, Georgette, Glitter, Guatemalan Cotton, Handwoven, Hemp Cloth, Jersey, Knits, Double; Knits, Lycra; Knits, Sweater, Lace, Lamé and Lurex, Leather, Linen, Loose Weaves, Matte Rayon Jersey, Microfiber, Mohair, Moleskin, Ottoman, Pique, Polyester Silky, Prepleated Fabrics, Puckered Fabrics, Quilted Fabrics, Rayon Viscose, Ripstop, Satin, Sequins, Shearling, Shirting, Silk Gazar, Silk Noil, Silk Organza; Silk, Sandwashed; Silk Shantung; Silk, Thai; Silk Tussah; Silk Tweed, Slinky Knit, Stretch Leather, Stretch Wovens, Suede, Sueded Rayon, Sunbrella, Sweatshirting, Taffeta, Tencel, Terrycloth, Tulle & Net, Upholstery, Velour, Velvet, Velveteen, Vinyl, Viyella, Water & Wind Resistant, Waterproof Breathables; Waterproof Non-Breathables, Wetsuit, Windbloc, Wool Boucle, Wool Challis, Wool Crepe, Wool Double Cloth, Wool Gauze, Wool Jersey, Wool Melton, Woolens & Worsteds. The following appendices are provided: Visual Glossary, Determining Fabric Content, Linings, Stain Removal Guide, Glossary, Sources, Index I especially like the page devoted to determining fabric content. I will need it as I dare to select fabric from my stash. (Let's just hope the

fire department doesn't have to rescue me.)

I haven't owned this book long enough to really put it to use, though I've read it from cover to cover and can see there's a lot of really useful information. Not only has Betzina described the characteristics of the fabric, but she provides lots of helpful information for working with the fabric, including information on presser feet, hemming and thread and needle suggestions. Being relatively new to sewing, I can see finding this information invaluable when working with an unfamiliar fabric. In terms of the written information, I have only two minor quibbles. First, many of the finishing suggestions specify using a serger with no alternative options. While I appreciate that a serger may be the best option in some cases, I think it would have been helpful to know what alternate methods could be used by those of us with only a standard sewing machine. Second, there were several cases where Betzina specified that natural fibers were an ideal alternative to manmade, and indicated that manmade fibers would have puckered seams. I was hoping, for those of us who might end up wanting or needing to work with a synthetic fiber on occasion, that she might, instead, offer tips for avoiding or controlling puckers in the fabric. Again, I'm hard pressed to believe there's no option at all. Both these quibbles may be a product of limited space and I wouldn't discourage anyone from buying the book on those grounds. The information is really helpful and should be an asset to anyone who isn't already an expert in fabric characteristics. The reason I'm not giving this book a solid 4 or 5 stars is because the photos are confusing and in several cases, I think they are simply wrong. Garments are shown laid flat on the ground, often as complete outfits that are clearly made with multiple fabrics. There is no indication, anywhere on the page, which part of the garment corresponds to the fabric being described on the page. If you use the "click to look inside" feature, here on [this book](#), and go to the page for Damask, you'll see a leather (or faux leather) top with a solid colored skirt. Is the skirt damask? It's certainly not what most people would expect and wouldn't help you find that fabric in a fabric store. I actually suspect this is the photo that was meant for the Faux Leather page since that page features what appears to be a quilted fabric not a faux leather fabric. You can't be sure though, since absolutely nothing is labeled. The page for sweater knit fabrics shows what is clearly felted or fulled fabrics that aren't just mismatched with the information on the page, but actually contradict the information which states that the fabric must be finished with ribbing. Also, because garments are laid flat instead of being modeled or on a dress form, you get no sense of the way the fabric drapes or falls on the body which is one of the things that really matters to me when considering a fabric. In short, I feel the photos, while a good idea in theory, were not edited or styled in a manner that really brings value to the book and may actually

confuse matters. None of these issues makes me want to return the book. I plan to start saving fabric swatches and match them up with their corresponding section in the book, and rely on those more than the photos. And with all the great information about needles, thread, presser feet and more, I should be spending less time searching for information about fabric, and more time sewing. All in all, while this book has a few problems, I think it's still a solid resource and worth having in one's library.

So I am just copying the review I did for the volume 1 of this book (fabric savvy) onto here with some added stuff. This one has more fabrics some of the same from the other but even more than before. I cannot say enough awesome things about this book! Not only has it helped me choose fabric for projects but also help me figure out how to care for clothes I already have when I ripped off the tag with all the symbols on it (cause those little things are itchy). It also has some crazy awesome info about how to sew each fabric in regards to needles, threads, and even presser feet. It is a must have. I still stand by the statement that it is a must have.

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