



Sew Liberated: 20 Stylish Projects for the Modern Sewist

Meg McElwee

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Resurrecting the art of appliqué—a technique in which pieces of fabric are sewn onto clothing, bags, quilts, and other creations—this enlightening resource provides today’s generation of “sewists” with a technique that can be combined with embroidery, beadwork, buttons, ribbons, and more to imbue works with a creative and personal style. Ideal for those with some sewing experience looking to break away from the restrictions of traditional patterns, this guide offers the details for both hand and machine appliqué techniques, as well as a history of appliqué and how it was rediscovered in the fiber arts. Featured are 20 modern, stylish sewing projects ranging from aprons, skirts, pillows, and totes to a duvet cover, wall clock, blouse, baby quilt, and scarf. With step-by-step instructions, color photographs, and comprehensive how-to embroidery instructions, this is an all-in-one resource and guide.

Sew Liberated: 20 Stylish Projects for the Modern Sewist Details

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Author : Meg McElwee

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Heidi says

Mama likey. First, the title is fantastic. The projects are all practical, and the book is wonderful to look through. I would like to try a couple of the projects, especially the baby book. It also got my creative juices flowing about a new bag for Annie's dance shoes and gear.

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

The projects kind of have a split personality in that some are really cute and the rest are really weird and/or ugly. I like most of the bags a lot. There's a really nice large camera bag as rare as it is these days for someone to have an SLR camera. The sleeping eye mask is nice and I use an eyemask every night. The baby's first book is delightful but there's a reason they're not made of felt and sewn on images. As long as the baby is supervised with the book, it's an adorable project.

The heirloom duvet cover is so far from it's name it belongs on Regretsy. I think they're supposed to be flower petals but they look like blobs. The instructions are good with nice illustrations of placement of the massive number of appliques in the book for each project but sorely lacking in any other images. The child's apron is kind of strange.

And there is entirely too much applique. Almost every single project has applique. There are other ways to embellish and sometimes you don't need to embellish at all.

One useful thing is a great chart that shows you exactly how much yardage is needed for pillow inserts of varying sizes.

So good job on instructions, inconsistent job on the projects.

3.5 stars rounded down because I just didn't enjoy the book.

Michelle says

Cute projects. Cute applique. There was even a clock! I liked how the applique was mixed with fancy stitches.

Sew Liberated

liberal sprinkles says

I like the book but I have to say I was a bit disappointed after finally getting hold of it. The projects are not very original although many come with a twist, mostly appliques. If you would like to learn how to applique, this may be an interesting book for you although the patterns, like the projects, are again not terribly imaginative. However, I do like several projects, notably the wall clock (very nice design), the garden skirt (cover photo) and baby's first book (very cute, very adaptable for other crafts - and non-sewing - projects).

The instructions are very clear although very long and intimidating at first glance as most project steps are not accompanied by illustrations. I would have preferred more diagrams to accompany all those words.

Overall, a good book with some pretty projects but not very special if you're familiar with sewing books and blogs.

Jessietaylortanner says

If you know how to sew, then there are a lot of cute patterns in this book. I think I would have rated it higher if I weren't intimidated by sewing so much. I need to stick to the sewing I know and stop checking out these books until I learn more about sewing or am willing to try and fail a lot.

Andrea says

I'm currently making the duvet cover in this book and it's been pretty easy so far. I love it!

Tasha says

This book had a lot of great ideas. I'm dying to make the skirt on the front and put some in my etsy shop. The book gives you the pattern to make the skirt (yeah right!) so if anyone sees cotton skirts like that, let me know!!

Kerry says

I love Meg's use of applique to make projects special and unique as well as her clear directions on how to do so. There are a lot of cute projects in here too. That being said, I don't see myself making many of the projects and would most likely use it just for the applique inspiration and directions.

Laura says

Lots of beautiful projects in this! I would love to make matching Blossom Blouses for Ellie and me. I also

want to make the Dapper Day Bag. Then again, I also want to make about six million other projects. So we'll see if I ever get to these!

Sheila says

I really wanted to like this book more than I actually did, and was excited to find it at the local library one day. There are some really cute projects and neat ideas (like the applique on the floor pillows, and the construction of her art smock. I like Meg's simple style, but I didn't get an overwhelming feeling of "I have to make this right now" like I do when reading her blog.

Po says

Can't speak to whether the instructions in this book are clear since I haven't made anything yet. I'm only interested in a couple of projects which is disappointing. The appliqué instructions appear to be good.

Rabya says

This book seems useful for sewers who are already level 2 and up or are ready to move from basic sewing into more intricate projects. One innovative project was an embroidered wall clock. Lots of baby/childrens project including a baby carrier cover and baby's first book. Also great idea for a farmers market (or grocery) bag.

Yana says

This is a wonderful book with beautiful modern projects, very detailed instructions and great photography. I am looking forward to making most of the projects from this book.

Note: there are 20 projects, not 30 as stated on the Goodreads title!

Amberwench says

Fun projects for all skill levels, with or without the applique, or switch up the cutsie for a bit of punk or skull applique!

Laura Ellison says

I enjoyed many of the projects in this book and while I might not make the all, I could see ways of adapting the ones I loved to better fit my style. I really like the artiste smock, the baby's first book, blouse, skirt,

pillow and wall clock.
