



The Better Bag Maker: An Illustrated Handbook of Handbag Design • Techniques, Tips, and Tricks

By Nicole Mallalieu

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If you want to make gorgeous, quality bags with the professional edge that really makes the difference between home-made and handmade—open *The Better Bag Maker* by Nicole Mallalieu. In this how-to book accomplished bag maker, Nicole Mallalieu, reveals her high-end techniques, shortcuts, and secrets for professional design and finishes. The 10 featured projects teach a range of expert skills from adjusting the proportion of the pattern to constructing pockets, straps, flaps, and bases.. By the end of this book, you'll have a closetful of polished bags—and most likely sew better than you ever imagined you could.

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Editorial Review

Review

Bags are a popular project for sewists of all levels—they're a great way to showcase favorite fabrics, without all the fuss of garment fitting. The first third of Mallalieu's book focuses on step-by-step tutorials for techniques specific to sewing bags, such as choosing interfacing, preparing and attaching pockets (including zippered pockets), and attaching hardware such as snaps, clasps, purse feet, and strap rings. These lessons are followed by a basic tote pattern with detailed instructions, placing the techniques within the context of an actual bag pattern and allowing novices to build confidence. The other ten designs feature a variety of styles, from chic overnight bags to a stylish satchel to a convertible backpack-tote, and all of the patterns expand on the skills and methods covered at the beginning of the book. Pattern sheets are included. **VERDICT** While these plans are useful, the technique tutorials are the highlight here—they contain information that can be applied to many bag patterns, not just the ones in this collection. Sewists of every ability level will appreciate having a wealth of bag-making information in a single volume. (*Library Journal*, March 2014)

If you are going to purchase just one book on making bags, this should be it. It is comprehensive for all techniques required to make spectacular bags from zippers, handles, pockets, lining and more. This should also be a "must have" for any teacher that facilitates classes on making bags or totes. No doubt about it, with this book you'll definitely be a Better Bag Maker! (*sewcalgal.com*, 4/13/14)

Nicole is a bag-making expert and this book is perfect for the person who:

- a) likes bags.
- b) wants to make bags.
- c) wants to make bags that won't fall apart after a few uses.

Is this you? Because it's definitely us.

What's fun about *The Better Bag Maker* is that each bag tutorial in the book is a slightly-tweaked version of the same pattern. They start simple (hi, beginners) and end with fairly advanced techniques (we're looking at you, people-who-can-confidently-sew-zippers). Tools and materials are pretty basic (a functional sewing machine, scissors, fabric, interfacing), but Nicole definitely explains the what and how of all the extra goodies that will take your bag making to the next level. You'll learn how to use interfacing to reinforce your projects, how to add hardware, and why straps are important. (*Creative Bug*, 6/16/14)

Learn professional techniques, shortcuts, and secrets for making couture bags with this new book, *The Better Bag Maker: An Illustrated Handbook of Handbag Design* by Nicole Mallalieu.

10 skill-building projects, fully explained with detailed tutorials and illustrations, make this book a source of inspiration and instruction.

Internationally recognized handbag designer and founder of the blog YOU SEW GIRL!, Nicole Mallalieu, shares her professional secrets, shortcuts, and techniques for sewing fashionable bags. (*FabShop News*, June 2014)

This book by Melbourne-based designer Nicole Mallalieu is a must have if you want to learn to make your own bags. Apart from the 10 fresh and modern projects—ranging from a simple tote bag to a denim weekender with zippered and twist-lock closures—it contains chapters about tools and materials (with a

useful interfacing guide) and basic bag-making techniques, such as pockets, straps, bag bases and closures. The instructions are clear with lots of photos and illustrations. (*Down Under Quilts Magazine, June 2014*)

Nicole is an internationally recognized handbag designer, and here she shares with you her professional techniques shortcuts and secrets for making couture bags. Set apart a homemade bag from a handmade bag! The projects in this book are graded and ordered by degree of difficulty and will teach you a range of expert skills from adjusting the proportion of the pattern to constructing pockets, straps, flaps and bases. (*Quilter's Digest, June 2014*)

If you have an addiction to bags, like me, its a great plan to start creating your own. Learn how to make gorgeous, sturdy, purses and tote bags that you'll be proud to wear around town. These quality patterns make quality bags that are ideal for a wide variety of occasions and events. *The Better Bag Maker* by Nicole Mallalieu is the only book that you will need to learn how to make bags. This purse sewing pattern book is a comprehensive guide full of technique, tips, tricks, and simple-to-read patterns. (*AllFreeHolidayCrafts.com, June 23, 2014*)

I have been a fan and customer of Nicole Mallalieu's for several years. This book is like having her do a private class! The instructions are very clear and detailed and fun. The lesson plan is progressive – building each bag on previous lessons and the basics section. You won't be disappointed.

I am an experienced bag maker, yet this book is full of great new tips. Everything is so clearly illustrated with drawings and photos. It is a terrific book for both those new to sewing, and those who have been sewing for decades. Highly recommended. Very pleased with the purchase, and a bargain, as the book has a full complement of patterns.

Most handbag instruction books are those that are just bags, nothing special. This book shows quality well-made bags with very good instructions.

I have been wanting to up my game with my bag making and this book will show me how. Chock full of techniques that will make my bags look like they were store bought, not handmade. Been studying and will get to work on a project soon. Can't wait. (8/11/14)

About the Author

Nicole Mallalieu was born to sew! She has been sewing obsessively since the age of 3. Currently, Nicole designs purse, hat, and garment patterns and teaches bag-making for YOU SEW GIRL!, which she founded in 2003. She lives in Melbourne, Australia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kimberly Niemeyer:

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