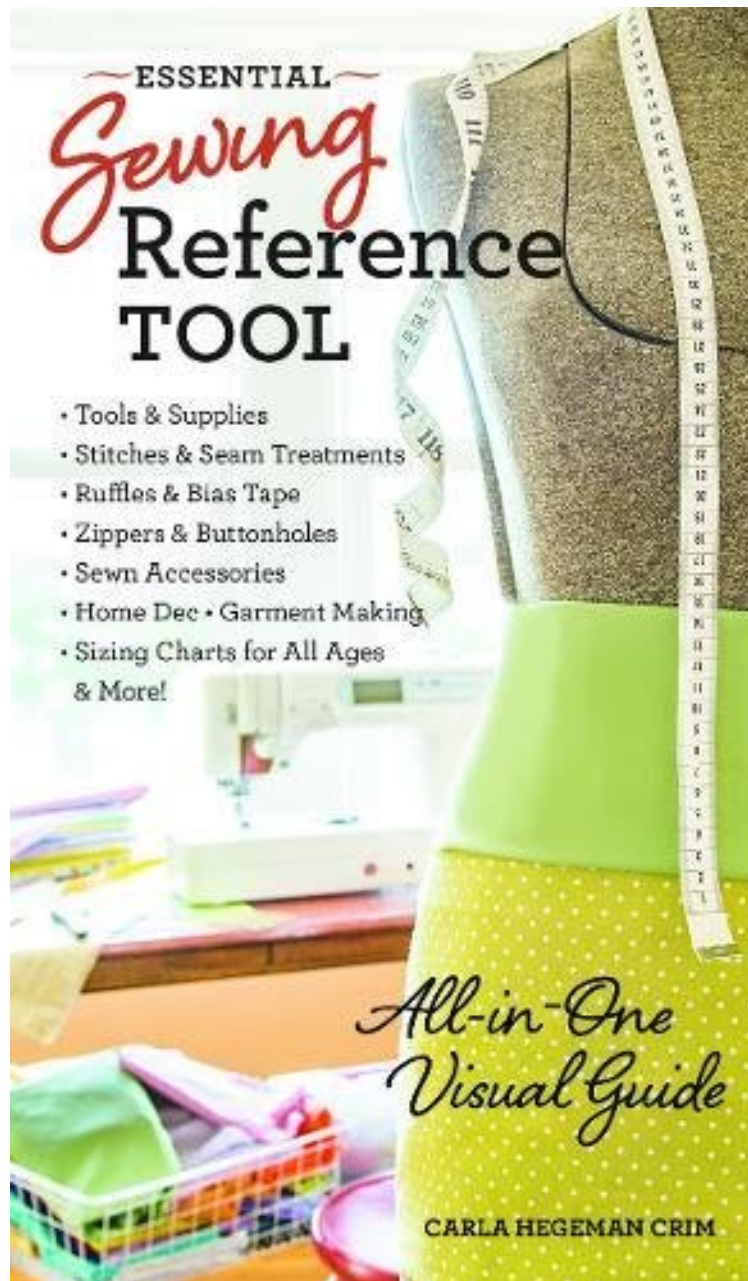


## Essential Sewing Reference Tool: All-in-One Visual Guide

Carla Hegeman Crim

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**Carla Hegeman Crim : Essential Sewing Reference Tool: All-in-One Visual Guide** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Essential Sewing Reference Tool: All-in-One Visual

## Guide:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Good book, teaches the "right" way to sew By Frances TI am an old-school seamstress. The author teaches the "right" way to gather, to insert zippers, and sew a true rolled hem. There are more extensive books out there. However, the author packs a lot of accurate information into 123 pages. What I love about this book is that it is a quick-reference. If you are new to sewing, this book will answer a lot of your questions without being too overwhelming. The illustrations are small, but very clear and easy to understand. Bigger illustrations are available in bigger sized books, but those books tend to stay on the shelf. This one is meant to be picked up and used. In sum, as a sewing teacher, I would recommend this for students. It is portable and very well organized. You could easily slip it into your purse as a reference at the fabric store when picking out fabrics and notions. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must have in your personal sewing library. By S. London I am by no means an experienced seamstress, hence why I purchased this book. I figured some I may have known, but would be a quick and easy reference. I purchased the kindle edition and because I fell in love, I want to purchase a hard copy when I'm paid next. This a book that IMO needs to be on my book shelf. I read it cover to cover and learned so many new things. I actually all this time have been sewing on bias tape wrong. No wonder it falls off or doesn't catch all material! There are many more things I learned, that I either didn't know or been doing wrong (like gathering, zippers, special hems). I also enjoyed all the quick reference measurements, and the chart to convert metrics into the US system. I do like how in the kindle edition you can blow up the diagram boxes to read the content easier. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Size Does Matter-Especially With Diagrams By Terrie BI wish I had realized this book was only 6x9 inches before I purchased it. The information is excellent, however the diagrams are small. For instance the diagrams of the different types of presser feet are so small it is difficult to distinguish one type from the other. Otherwise, an excellent resource with lots of good information.

This comprehensive, must-have book, *Essential Sewing Reference Tool*, by Carla Hegeman Crim, is an indispensable guide for anyone who sews (or wants to start). Organized for easy readability and usage, it covers everything you need to know whether you're making home decor, clothing, or accessories. Contents include an extensive overview on tools and materials, step-by-step instructions on various seams and finishes, information on zipper installation, size conversion charts, more than 300 how-to photographs, and so much more.

Carla has written a thorough and well curated reference guide. Both sewing veterans and new sewists will appreciate the trusted and detailed content contained in the book. The *Essential Sewing Reference Tool* is sure to be a long-time friend on your sewing room book shelf. (Pink Chalk Studio, 3/24/14) Drawing upon 30-plus years of experience, Crim condenses all things sewing related into this quick reference. The topics covered range from tools, notions, and sewing machine feet to concise how-tos for common sewing topics such as zipper installation, hems, and seam finishes. Beginners will be able to follow Crim's step-by-step lessons, and experienced sewists will appreciate the quick refreshers on less-common techniques. The book is small enough to fit in a purse or sewing tote, making it easy to take along to the fabric store to help select the appropriate notions for a specific project. VERDICT There are plenty of large reference guides to sewing but few pocket-size ones. The balanced coverage of basic and advanced subjects, combined with the simple and useful directions, makes this a solid purchase. (Library Journal, 2/15/14) CT Publishing has recently released three new Reference guides packed with information quilters and sewists use on a regular basis. The *Essential Sewing Reference Tool* is by Carla Hegeman Crim. This all-in-one visual guide covers tools supplies, stitches and seam treatments, ruffles bias tape, zippers buttonholes, sewn accessories, Home Dec, garment making, sizing charts for all ages and more. With more and more quilters jumping into stitching garments, totes and other non-quilt related items I am sure, if you are like me, you have come across more than one term you did not understand. This guide will lead you through all those issues with good illustrations, step-by-step directions including more than 300 how-to photographs. This guide is small enough to tuck into your sewing tote, library shelf, or even a drawer in your desk. It has loads and loads of charts, photos, instructions and sidebars. It is bound with a type of binding called wire-o binding. This type of binding is nice because you can read the title on the spine like any other book on your shelf while it still allows the book to lay flat while you are using it. (The Applique Society Newsletter, May/June 2014) In sewing, a myriad of questions come up throughout the process. What thread? What needle? What fabric? What steps? Whenever you feel the need to "Google it" because you're unsure, you can skip the computer and just turn to a new book by Carla Hegeman Crim, *Essential Sewing Reference Tool*. This name is no joke - this really is the most essential sewing reference that I've ever seen. Every aspect of what to buy and what to use in certain situations is broken down into simple charts and lists. Pictures accommodate most descriptions, such as of scissors and presser feet. In charts that show sizes that are counterintuitive or not self-explanatory, like thread weight or batting loft, there is a triangle visual on the side to show relative thickness. There is also information on things you may never have considered before, like the compositions of elastics. Photos also accompany step-by-step directions of potentially confusing processes, like making bias strips or sewing curved seams (how do you match up a convex and concave

curve??). For those who are interested in home decor, Crim gives detailed directions and measurements for making duvet covers, comforters, bedspreads, pillows (including poufs), bed skirts, curtains, and table linens. If you're more of a wearable accessories gal, there are instructions for making fabric belts and bags. For making clothes, the book covers how to alter what you have rather than how to start from scratch. For instance, it shows how to draw darts on a pattern, or adjust a pattern for height or girth. Crim also discusses steps for processes of clothing sewing that can be confusing, like facings, sleeves, and linings. Perhaps the most unusual element in this book is the chart of name brands of interfacing and whether they're sew-in/fusible, woven/knit, and what fabrics they're meant for. At first I was confused by this, but then realized that it would, in fact, be super handy to have when you go to a fabric store and see a package of interfacing - how do you know if it's the right kind for your project? (I should add that the book is very portable, so bringing it to the fabric store is no big deal.) The interfacing chart is exemplary of the care and attention to detail Crim put into this book. She really seems to have thought of every aspect of the sewing process and the questions that may arise. (Lovesewing.com, May 2014)

**About the Author** Carla Hegeman Crim, founder of Scientific Seamstress LLC, is a molecular biologist turned patternmaker. She has been experimenting with fabric for over 30 years. Her first book, *Sewn Hats*, was published in 2013. Visit Carla on the web at [www.scientificseamstress.blogspot.com](http://www.scientificseamstress.blogspot.com)