

Famous Couples: Fashion Doll Patterns

Hazel McMahon

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Hazel McMahon : Famous Couples: Fashion Doll Patterns before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Famous Couples: Fashion Doll Patterns:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Lee Fertittagood1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good in Theory. . . .By OriannaI love the idea of this book: patterns for 16" fashion dolls, such as Gene Marshall and Tyler Wentworth. The patterns are from various historical periods, ranging from ancient Egypt to the mid-20th century. You get ten patterns for the female doll and ten patterns for her male counterpart (such as Trent or Matt O'Neill). Not only do you get patterns for the outfits, but also for accessories, like shoes, hats, purses, and even wigs.It's a great idea, but unfortunately, it falls short. I have three main complaints: First, it was impossible to enlarge the patterns. The book doesn't open flat, so you can't stick it in the copier. I had to trace each and every pattern piece, then scan them and enlarge them in Photoshop, and finally print them out. It was a lot of work, especially when I was eager to start sewing.Second, the pattern directions are extremely lacking. First and foremost, there's no mention of what seam allowance to use. By trial and error, I figured out that it's meant to be 1/4", but this should have been mentioned somewhere in the book. Beyond that, the directions are so vague as to be useless. Some vital steps are skipped altogether, which makes it quite difficult to assemble the patterns. You need to have a good knowledge of how to sew patterns without help. Also, the pattern pieces aren't marked. No notches to help you align them, no indication of center front vs. center back. I had to guess which way the men's trousers went and I have no idea if I sewed them backwards or not!Third, the patterns don't fit the doll I'm sewing for. Yes, the author provides a disclaimer saying you need to custom fit the patterns to your doll, because every brand of doll is slightly different. But these aren't even

close! The trousers were about an inch too short and way too narrow. They didn't even come close to closing at the waist. The waistcoat was so small as to be comical. It ended halfway down the doll's chest and was busting at the seams. I had to redraft every single pattern piece, which was a lot of work. Because of its flaws, I give this book three stars. Basically, it's a good starting point. If you're new to sewing, you'll get frustrated by the lack of directions and all the extra work you need to do to get the patterns to fit. But if you're an expert dressmaker, go ahead and try it. In spite of everything, it's an excellent resource to have on your bookshelf. Just know what you're getting yourself in for, so you won't be disappointed. 27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Something different for larger fashion dolls

By A Customer

The new Hazel McMahon book of patterns for 15" dolls, *Famous Couples Fashion Doll Patterns*, just arrived. It is a 2003 imprint, and you can smell the fresh ink. I have her *Period and Contemporary Patterns for Fashion Dolls*, but this features mostly costumes of Gene's period - 1930s-1950s - which means there are similar Simplicity and Vogue patterns. I enjoyed the book, picked up some good ideas, but have only used a few of the patterns, which work well. And, of course, I haven't yet sewn from this one at all. However, I have looked through it, and it is a hoot. McMahon takes 10 famous couples from fact and fiction, and designs costumes that would be appropriate for them. Her couples range from Cleopatra and Marc Antony to Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. For most of the costumes, she is inspired by movies about these characters, or ones set in their period. She tries to be faithful to history in designing her costumes: the Lauren Bacall suit is almost identical to one Bacall wears in a photograph. She also gives "bonuses": photographs of variations on her costumes and a description of how to do the variation, which means there are actually more than 20 costumes available. As in her last book, her accessories are a particularly wonderful bonus: hats and purses for the gals, and boots and sandals for the male doll. As in her previous book, McMahon's illustrations are very clear. Her instructions seem vague when you read them, which can make a project seem a little daunting. However, I found that in her previous book, what you needed to do became very clear as you went through the project. Although McMahon has designs rated for beginners, I think her presentation might scare them off. McMahon designs for all the 15" and 16" fashion dolls, and has various dolls modeling various costumes, with some astute judgment (I mean, Madra would just have to be Wallis Simpson). She cautions readers in the intro that, although all the costumes can be made for all the popular dolls, if you want to make a costume for one doll that is modeled by another, you must be very careful to cut extra margin, and to fit it on your own doll. But then she doesn't indicate which doll is modeling a particular costume, and it can be hard to guess, in particular in the case of dolls that seem to have been custom painted. While the fact that there are many female dolls in this size range muddies that issue, the opposite happens for the male dolls. There is only one male doll currently available, and costumers can only hope that, as other male fashion dolls in this size come on the market, they will have the same dimensions. McMahon rates her costumes for difficulty. Her patterns are not full size, and need to be enlarged on a photocopier - but, as she points out in her introduction, this means she was able to put in an additional 4 patterns. I enjoyed looking at this book very much, and am a confident enough sewer to expect to try and succeed with the patterns. In particular, I am very pleased that McMahon provides costume patterns for these dolls that are most original, and very different from the ones available at the fabric store.

A second volume of nostalgic outfits to dress your favorite 15-inch fashion dolls. Sewers can recreate 20 outfits complete with accessories for famous, romantic couples such as Cleopatra Marc Antony; Romeo Juliet; Mr. Darcy Miss Elizabeth Bennet (*Pride and Prejudice*); Charles II Barbara Villiers, Lady Castelmaine; Sir Percy Blakeney a.k.a. The Scarlet Pimpernel wife Marguerite St. Just; and a Young Queen Victoria and her Prince Albert. Famous couples from the present century are Lauren Bacall Humphrey Bogart; Edwardian couple who could have been on the ill-fated Titanic; Edward VIII Mrs. Simpson; Valentino Vilma Banky from *Son of the Sheik*. Color photos and step-by-step instructions throughout help bring these characters to life displayed through your contemporary fashion dolls. Basic sewers need not be intimidated as each pattern is rated according to difficulty with directions given for the more accomplished sewers to adapt, embellish and enrich each outfit. 400 color photos.