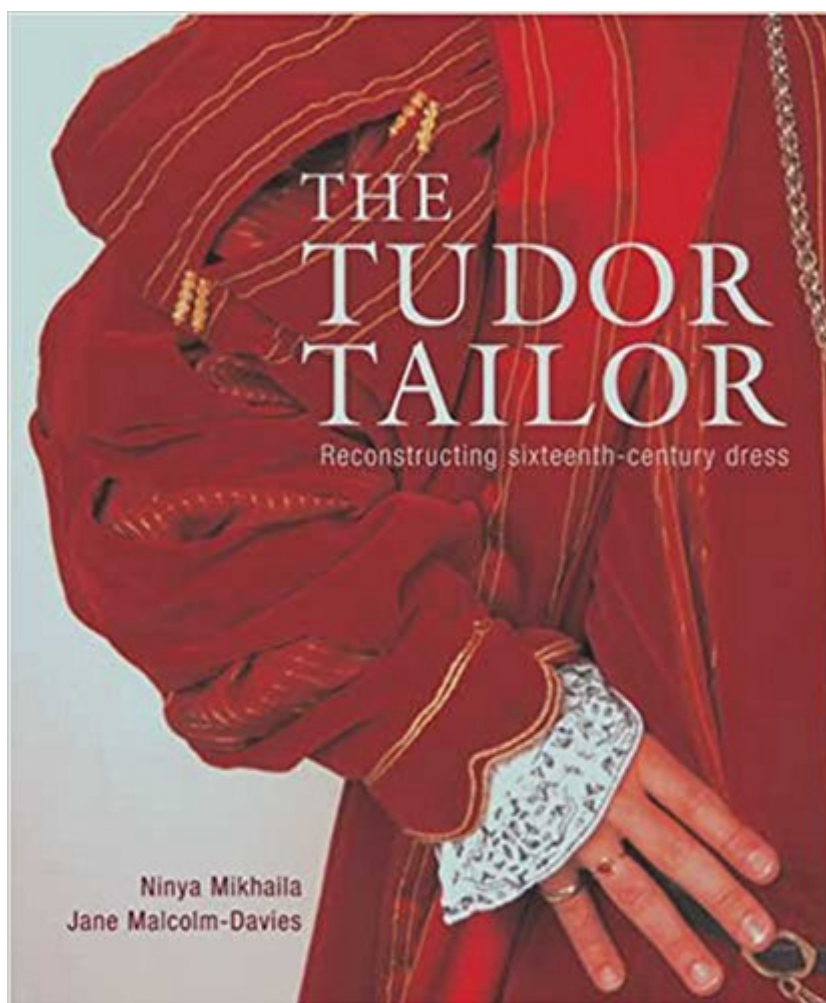




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The Tudor Tailor: Reconstructing Sixteenth-Century Dress



Synopsis

A valuable sourcebook for costume designers, dressmakers and those involved in historical reenactments, this book contains all the information you need to create authentic clothes from the Tudor period. Computer-generated, historically accurate patterns enable you to make a wide range of garments, such as doublets, hose, bodices, skirts, hats and headdresses -- even underwear. There are also plenty of ideas for decoration and embellishment such as ruffs, cuffs, collars, embroidery and other surface decoration. The full range of Tudor society is represented, including lower- and middle-class clothing as well as the more sumptuous costumes from the courts of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. There is also information on how to store and look after your finished clothing. In addition to the patterns, there are detailed drawings of each costume and information about historical context, including original paintings and source material.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The research has been conducted not only with meticulous scholarship, but with obvious joy as well, making this book a pleasure to read. It's a must-have for anyone - hobbyist to professional - seeking to reconstruct Tudor and Elizabethan clothing. --Dress - The Annual Journal of the Costume Society of America

Jane Malcolm-Davies has a Doctorate in Heritage Interpretation and was responsible for costume interpretation at Hampton Court Palace from 1992 to 2004. She trains staff for historic properties,

including Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, and consults for the National Trust. Ninya Mikhaila has run a business making reproduction historical costume since 1988. Her clients include The Royal Armouries, The National Trust, English Heritage and the Public Records Office.

For some time, *The Tudor Tailor: Reconstructing Sixteenth-Century Dress* sat atop my wishlist. And now I can happily write that this treasure has completely exceeded my expectations! *The Tudor Tailor* is simply extraordinary. Readers will find themselves riveted from the very first page. Jam-packed with such goodies as rare photographs, art, and all manner of unusual trivia, this book is a keepsake. Visual guides depicting what ordinary citizens wore as opposed to the Tudor elite, even garments usually worn by persons according to occupation, are included. There are photographs of actual clothing that survive to this day, and these are truly remarkable. One could comb the internet endlessly and not locate such rare photographs. I know as I've often searched for visuals of actual Tudor clothing. Surviving Tudor garments attest to the painstaking technique employed by tailors and dressmakers, and even ordinary housewives of the 16th century. Descriptive fabric tables which detail what sort of materials were used, and even subcategories of various textiles are astonishing. Readers are presented with precise instruction of sewing techniques employed in construction of Tudor clothing and the respective tools which were used. A plethora of diagrams and candid photographs demonstrate the artistry of Tudor clothing. (I've often marveled at the incredible skill with which Tudor clothing was made and wondered how this was accomplished, always keeping in mind that this was all done by hand! I believe that the 'Tudor Tailors' of the 16th century could have gone to bat against the finest couturiers of today.) Fans and members of reenactment societies will find *The Tudor Tailor* to be an absolute necessity for personal libraries. Not only does the book offer accurate overviews of Tudor period clothing, but provides clear and concise instruction on recreating such garments. Various stitches are diagrammed, as is the method of dressing in true Tudor style, from undergarments on out. *The Tudor Tailor* is also a marvelous book for history buffs, and one that any Tudor history devotee would be thrilled to own. This book would also serve as a lovely addition for the libraries of students of textiles, and dressmaking. Thank you to Authors Ninya Mikhaila and Jane Malcolm-Davies for a true treasure! C. R. Wall

I absolutely love this book, great historical information and patterns. Pictures and the material glossary is wonderful, no use spending time and money making a costume and have it be the wrong fabric for the time period. I also have *The Tudor Child* by the same authors, another great resource

for period costume for children. Nice large book which opens flat for scaling up the patterns in the book.

I admit, I'm not an expert on Tudor era clothing. But the Tudor Tailor provided me with enough visual references from the era (both paintings and statues) to fill me with confidence that the authors of the book ARE experts, and that I can trust in their judgements. The book begins with a discussion on the history of the costumes of the era, and those visual references I mentioned. This is great, because if you're putting together a costume, you really want to know why (and when!) each separate garment goes with another one. Plus there was a nice division between lower and upper class clothing, and visuals to support the conclusions presented. The second two thirds of the book deal with making the costumes. There are patterns, and suggestions for modifying them, and instructions. I'm fortunate enough to be the same size as the patterns were made for (if a little short) but there are instructions on modifying the patterns as well. I definitely recommend reading the entire instructions (twice) before starting. It will save you a lot of grief. Additionally, you ought to have at least some experience in sewing, because some of these instructions are not for the faint of heart. They've been laid out clearly, but they do assume some prior knowledge. You'll have to take some guesses (How, exactly, am I suppose to sew in the optional boning in this bodice? Precisely which sleeve pattern should I use to make those detachable sleeves?), and I definitely made some things up as I went along, but the Tudor Tailor gave me a firm foundation to start with, which was invaluable.

This is one of the best books I've ever seen for historical costuming. There's a ton of useful information, not just about the clothing, but about the context of clothing: where fabric came from, who made the clothes, how people regarded their clothing, etc. The authors have clearly done their research. There's a lot of information from interesting sources (such as wills where people bequeathed their clothing to others) to help our understanding of clothing in the period. About a third of the book is background/historical/contextual information, and the remainder is all patterns. The patterns include a bunch of "basic" patterns for the period, both male and female, and then specific examples of Henrician, Elizabethan, and late Elizabethan upper class clothing, all with a fair number of variations on collars, cuffs, sleeves, etc. This book is a great resource and I'm really happy I bought it. As a side note, I don't understand the people who complained in their reviews about the layout or the printing size in this book. Perhaps there have been some changes since earlier editions (my copy is the third printing, from 2012) but I found the layout clear and the print easy to

read.

Bought this as a gift for my wife, who is very interested in the history of the Elizabethan period, and recently completed a sewing class at a local college. She seemed pleased to receive it.

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