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## **Improv Sewing: A Freeform Approach to Creative Techniques; 101 Fast, Fun, and Fearless Projects: Dresses, Tunics, Scarves, Skirts, Accessories, Pillows, Curtains, and More**

*Nicole Blum, Debra Immergut*  
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8.50 x .75 x 8.061, 1.89 #File Name: 1603427406320 pages | File size: 56.Mb

**Nicole Blum, Debra Immergut : Improv Sewing: A Freeform Approach to Creative Techniques; 101 Fast, Fun, and Fearless Projects: Dresses, Tunics, Scarves, Skirts, Accessories, Pillows, Curtains, and More** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Improv Sewing: A Freeform Approach to Creative Techniques; 101 Fast, Fun, and Fearless Projects: Dresses, Tunics, Scarves, Skirts, Accessories, Pillows, Curtains, and More:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful for both beginners and the more experienced sewer By BadgerBadgerBadgerLately I've been on a sewing-book kick, but I usually check books out of the library so that I can skim for ideas and then return the book. I already own a bunch of basic sewing books, so there are very few that I feel the need to own at this point. This one turned out to be the exception to that rule! I gave it a quick flip-through and immediately rushed off to order it from . The projects are just gorgeous -- artsy but in an approachable way that a not-especially-talented sewer like me could actually manage. There's a combination of how-to instructions for making entire projects from start to finish with ideas for jazzing up items you already own with simple applique or embroidery.

True to the "Improv" name, the projects all seem quite forgiving. I was most taken with the clothing and accessories (lots and lots of jersey knits, which are soft and comfortable to wear), but there are also a handful of cute home projects like pillows and napkins, folders and cases, and even a headboard for your bed. Highly recommended, this is one to buy and own!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational book aimed at new sewers  
By sewingforfun  
Even though this book is very basic I really like it. I have been sewing most of my life so there wasn't anything revolutionary in here for me. Still I think it is very encouraging and inspiring. It is aimed at motivating new sewers to have the courage to sew. Overcoming fear of making mistakes and shows how it is possible to make beautiful things despite of imperfection. The book is full of nice projects, teaching the reader to make basic patterns and embellish their projects. Some of the things in the book could be debated. For example, it teaches its "students" to always backstitch. For those acquainted with "couture sewing this is contrary to the teaching of other advanced instructors. But I do not think that really matters. I understand why the authors say what they do. They are trying to simplify the process of sewing, making it "safe" to the weary, insecure novice. All in all a great book :-)

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Innovative!  
By Turil Cronburg  
Great inspiration! I slightly wish there was at least a basic pattern included, in case we didn't have a good fitting t-shirt, but still very, very fun to try these things out. My first dress came out great, even though it was a bit crooked and wiggly. It looks really fantastic, and I wish I had ten of them! (I've already cut out the pieces for another one.)

Add charm and personal style to your crafting. Nicole Blum and Debra Immergut offer 101 fun project ideas that will have you incorporating decorative touches and texturally interesting patterns into your sewing repertoire. Each project is designed to take less than a day, meaning that before you know it you'll be whipping out dozens of dazzlingly high-style creations that showcase techniques like pattern-making, applique, doodle-stitching, and more. Get inspired and turn old T-shirts into fashion statements and forgotten pillowcases into works of art.

Publisher's Weekly: "This large volume, packed with full-color photographs, is a must-add for sewers who want to work outside the parameters of paper patterns and precise measurements. This soothing, empowering style of teaching sewing is a nice contrast to the more rigid directions promoted in other recent sewing books." Library Journal: The authors' "five basic designs" are broken down so clearly and concisely that any stitcher, regardless of experience, could create a well-fitting, attractive garment. These designs alone are worth the cost of the book; the 96 other patterns, which include household goods and accessories, make it an even better value.

From the Inside Flap  
Free your creative sewing instincts with 101 projects that invite you to try everything you can imagine doing with fabric and thread --- from doodled stitches to stacked applique. There are no patterns here and hardly any rules. Simply choose your fabric (forgiving, stretchy knits work great), take a good set of measurements, and begin sewing.

Nicole Blum and Debra Immergut provide five basic clothing designs that become templates for dozens of stylish dresses, tunics, skirts, and tops, all waiting to be embellished as you like. From a ruffled sundress adorned with ribbons to a flattering t-shirt doodle-stitched with a pebble pattern, this is soft, casual clothing you'll love to wear yourself or personalize for friends and family.

In addition to dozens of wearable projects, you'll find stylish decorative items for every room in your home. From pillowcases and duvet covers to tea towels and placemats, many of these projects can be completed in an hour, and you'll be using them and enjoying their good looks for years to come.

About the Author  
Nicole Blum is the coauthor of *Stitch Camp* and *Improv Sewing*. She is an artist and crafter, and her work has been featured in *FamilyFun* and *Parents* magazines. Blum has taught crafting workshops at events across the country, including Maker Faire. She lives in western Massachusetts.