New sewing ideas are coming your way—ideas that originated over 90 years ago! During the next two Sewing With Nancy programs, my guest Amy Barickman and I will be showing Magic Patterns. The concept was originally published by Mary Brooks Picken, founder of the Woman's Institute of Domestic Arts & Sciences, back in the '20s. The designs of Amy Barickman and her staff are an ode to Mary’s original concept, which is to take what’s given and add your own spark!

The Magic Tank Top Pattern

From retro to modern, the first Magic Pattern, a tank top, can be easily changed by adding gathers, ruffles, or using vintage fabric. The sewing is designed to take just the minimum of time with a maximum of style. **Watch online** as Amy and I show you a few of the variations of this pattern.

Avery—a touch of gathering at the neckline and bias trim is what sets this pattern version apart from the rest.

Adelaide—add flounces, it is easier than you think!
Alice—upcycle using vintage fabric. The featured fabric is bark cloth, once used for home décor, now repurposed for this modern tank top.
Onward to skirts—learn how to stretch your creativity and make the magic swirl skirt. We start with the basics. Learn how to sew a waistband, add a pleat, and repurpose menswear for another charmed style.

Billie—This is the basic skirt pattern. If it has been awhile since you’ve sewn a skirt, give this a try!
Blythe—with a little pattern magic, learn how easy it is to add a pleat to the center front.
Bridget—Repurposed menswear is the fabric of choice for this skirt. I think you’ll enjoy seeing how the pattern pieces are placed on the “fabric.” Clever.
Watch Magic Patterns (Part One and Part Two on Sewing With Nancy) online.

The Magic Pattern Book
This book features 6 magic patterns that can be transformed into 36 different styles, with 216 different looks. Complete with beautiful full-color photos, step-by-step instructions, and a CD of printable patterns, this easy-to-follow book shows how 6 patterns x 6 looks x 6 fabric suggestions (for each look) results in a complete wardrobe.
Amy and Nancy guide you on how to tile the patterns, which are featured on the CD in the book.

Bye for now,

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