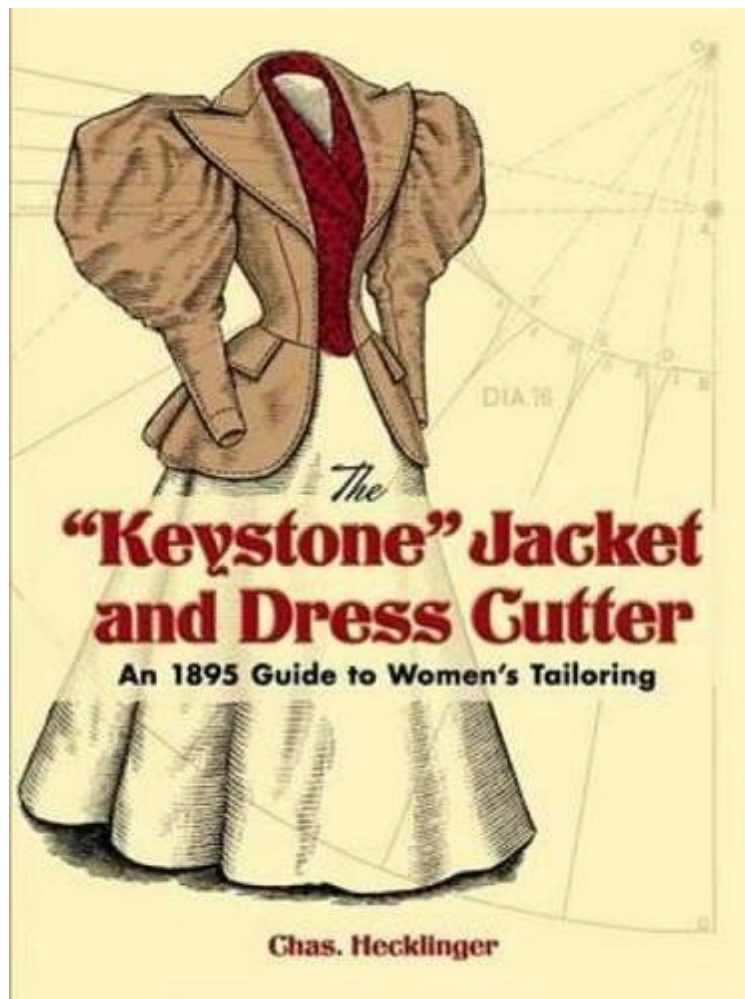


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## The "Keystone" Jacket and Dress Cutter: An 1895 Guide to Women's Tailoring (Dover Fashion and Costumes)

*Chas Hecklinger*

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**Chas Hecklinger : The "Keystone" Jacket and Dress Cutter: An 1895 Guide to Women's Tailoring (Dover Fashion and Costumes)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The "Keystone" Jacket and Dress Cutter: An 1895 Guide to Women's Tailoring (Dover Fashion and Costumes):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A little hard to follow, but overall excellentBy ShinyCatWhile the directions were rather complicated, a working knowledge of tailoring and pattern construction make this book usable, and it is an excellent reference for a wide variety of couture clothing.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Vintage clothing construction  
By Cameo Cottage  
As a seamstress interested in vintage clothing, I found this book very helpful. It would be possible to use this book to actually make patterns and clothing. Very interesting look back in history.  
17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Looks complex but well worth the historically accurate results!  
By J. Krasicky  
This book is \*THE\* guide for tailoring suits of the 1890s. When I first flipped through the book in the store, I was intimidated by the diagrams shown throughout the book. But honestly, if you have a roll of wide paper, a large ruler, a quilter's square, a french curve set, a few pens and pencils, and a calculator, it isn't very difficult. You just have to be sure to follow the directions carefully--and pay attention for slight mistakes in the print (I have found just two so far, and they're just a matter of common sense, one being the size of a measurement needing to be 1/6 of something instead of 1/3).  
Once you have drafted your basic bodice pattern, you essentially use it again and again as a base for most of the jacket and shirtwaist patterns in the book--so you just have to retrace them and make the changes for the new pattern. And the method of measuring ensures the right fit the first time (as long as you remember to add seam allowances on the pattern edges).  
If you don't like or need the "Leg 'O Mutton" sleeves, you can substitute the plain sleeve pattern included in the book. Most of the patterns, with some modifications, will work well for a range of about 1877-1882 and 1890 to 1905. You could even use the vest pattern for a modern vest, or even a men's vest if you lessen the measurements in the bust area. The longer jacket patterns would work very nicely for modern coats, as well.  
One thing--if you want to look authentic, you will need a corset (no pattern is included in the book). [trulyvictorian.com](http://trulyvictorian.com) has a great pattern that is very easy to work with (I've used it to great success before). If you don't need a corset, it won't be a problem since the patterns are drawn to measure to fit you.  
Happy drafting and sewing!

With opulent fashions the ultimate in style, women of the late Victorian era wore a great deal of silks and satins. Daring combinations of bright colors were in. So were large hats, profusely trimmed. But by the end of the nineteenth century, ladies' tastes in fashion were changing, along with female lifestyles. Larger numbers of women were not only working outside the home, they were also playing tennis and golf, and riding bicycles and horses. All these activities called for a definite change in female fashions. Women came to rely on tailored suits with full skirts and fitted jackets over simple blouses. Riding habits called for a long, draped skirt worn over a pair of trousers. With the dawn of the twentieth century, professional tailors turned to the comprehensive 1895 "Keystone" guide to create office outfits, riding pants, shirtwaists, and other garments. Filled with more than eighty patterns, the handy resource provided tailors with suggestions for fabric choices as well as instructions for the proper measurement, fitting, cutting, and sewing of such items as a bolero jacket, a shirtwaist with yoke, a single-breasted vest, and riding breeches. Supplemented with a selection of newly captioned illustrations from *The Delineator* magazine, this volume will be a valuable reference for costume designers and fashion historians, and a fascinating window on the past for nostalgia enthusiasts.