



HOW TO BECOME A

SEWING PATTERN TESTER

Step by Step Guide

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Welcome

Do you love sewing and the joy of creating something with your own hands? If you're like me, you're probably drawn to the world of PDF patterns – those convenient, downloadable templates that make sewing projects so much easier. But have you ever wondered how these patterns come to life and get perfected before reaching your hands? Behind the scenes, there's a whole process of testing, tweaking, and fine-tuning that ensures that the final product is just right. Are you curious about how you could get involved in this fun and rewarding process? Becoming a sewing pattern tester might be easier than you think – and you don't need to be a professional sewer to get started! Here is your Step by Step Guide to learn and discover more.



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"The only way you improve is to try new things."

-Charles Koch

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4 main steps

TO BECOME A GREAT
SEWING PATTERN TESTER



01 *Develop Your Sewing Skills*

- Solid Basic Foundation
- Practice Projects + New Techniques
- Online Video Lessons / Local Sewing Classes



02 *Build your sewing portfolio*

- Share your sewing projects on Social Media
- Create a blog for your sewing journey
- Research trends: colors, fabrics, styles



03 *Join Online Sewing Communities*

- Social Media Groups
- Forums & Newsletters
- Follow pattern brands on Instagram or Pinterest



04 *Tester Calls & Commitment*

- Apply for Testing Opportunities
- Contact Designers / Pattern Co
- Testing - Commitment

Pattern Testing

What do I need

BASIC SEWING MACHINE

You do not need a fancy, expensive sewing machine. A basic sewing machine with buttonhole foot + zipper foot is simple enough to start testing sewing patterns.

SERGER (OPTIONAL)

A serger finishes your fabric's raw edges and seam allowances with a neat, professional-looking stitch. Your sewing machine is totally capable of finishing edges with a zigzag stitch. You can sew any project without a serger, even knits.

SEWING SUPPLIES

Fabric scissors, thread & needles.
Ruler, measuring tape & pins.
Buttons & Zippers.

FABRICS

Different patterns require different amounts and different types of fabrics - cotton, linen, knits etc. Cotton fabric is a popular choice for sewing due to its versatility and breathability.

COMPUTER & PRINTER

Basic Computer and Printer to print the patterns.
Access to Social media Tester groups, Email, Dropbox etc.

CAMERA / PHONE

A high-quality cell phone or simple DSLR camera are all you need to take incredible photos of your beautiful sews.

COFFEE

"I need coffee like I need oxygen—without it, I just stop functioning."



Pattern Testing

How it works

PATTERN TESTER CALL / ANNOUNCEMENT

Social Media Groups
Newsletters – Mailing List
Open Tester Calls on the Co Website

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PATTERNS

Once testers are chosen, the designer sends out the pattern files by Email, Dropbox- Google Link or uploads the files in Closed Tester Groups on Social Media.

TESTING THE PATTERN / SEWING THE MUSLIN-TOILÉ

Read the instructions, Print out the pattern, Assemble, Grade & Cut the pattern, Cut your muslin fabric & Sew.

FEEDBACK & FIT PHOTOS

Testers provide detailed feedback on Fit Adjustments, Instruction Clarity, Spelling Errors & Pattern Accuracy.
Fit Photos-should showcase the garment being worn- front & back, arms up & down, details etc.

FINALIZING THE PATTERNS / SEWING THE FINAL

Designer finalizes the pattern.
Sew your final garment using desired fabric with attention to detail – finishing techniques, stitching or adding closures etc.

FINAL PHOTOS

These pictures should be clear, well-lit and show the pattern in full, with several detailed photos.



Goals ♥ Plans ♥ Dreams

My Sewing Skills

Level: ☐ BEGINNER ☐ INTERMEDIATE ☐ EXPERT

Action Steps

Notes

My Photography Skills

Level: ☐ BEGINNER ☐ INTERMEDIATE ☐ EXPERT

Action Steps

Notes

Goals & Plans

ONE STEP AT A TIME. YOU'LL GET THERE.

Hey! I'm Milja Mom + Wife + Designer

2018 I decided to learn to sew. It became a passion and love from the first moment.

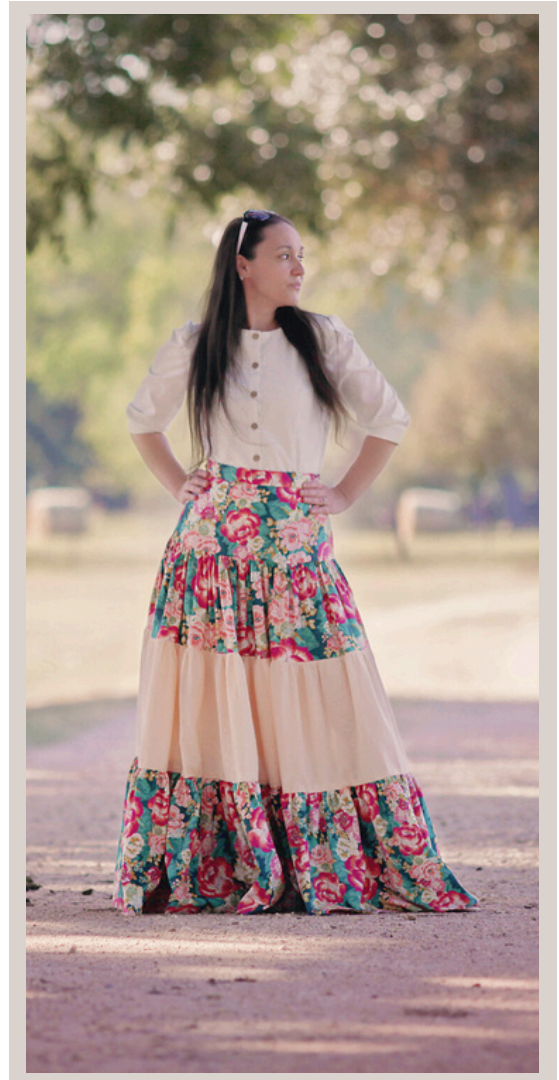
2019 I was lucky enough to be chosen to become a pattern tester for several great pattern companies from the USA, Canada and Australia.

2020 I created my first pdf pattern - Ivana Dress/Top and joined VLL Co. as a Sewing Pattern Designer.

2021-2023 The following years were filled with passion, excitement, lots of learning and teaching others. I was working as a Main Designer & Administrator. I also organized and ran a sewing tester group with 100+ members, taught online sewing lessons, created sew-a-long videos, taught pattern making and sewing workshops....

My Ivana May Timeless clothing brand and Boutique was launched in **2022**.

2024 I discovered a deep passion for surface pattern design. There is a certain creative freedom that comes along with this process that I truly enjoy. Designing patterns for textiles, fashion, home decor, wallpaper and more brings me immense happiness. Most days you can find me working from my home design studio based in Portland, Oregon.



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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“
Any day spent sewing is a good day.”

-unknown

