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# FOREWORD

Unfortunately, latex clothing is expensive. For some people, it is even too expensive to buy. So, why don't you just make your own latex clothes? It's fun to do and easier than you think!

Anyone can do it, even if you are not that creative, or if you have two left hands or have never made clothes before! As of now (almost now), no more trying on latex clothes in tiny fitting rooms with no mirror, no more arriving at a party where someone else is wearing the same nice dress or shirt! From now on you make it yourself at home. Your size, your design, your color, your taste and your own style!

If you have made your own latex clothes and you are going to a party, then of course you want people to ask, *'Hey, what a beautiful outfit, where did you buy it?'* You don't want the first thing they say when they see you to be...*'Nice, did you make that yourself?'* It is therefore important that you work neatly and practice a lot. You will see that you quickly gain experience and that making the clothes becomes easier and neater.

**With this book you will learn the basic technical principles to make your own latex clothing.**

You only learn how to make latex clothing by actually doing it yourself. We therefore strongly advise you not only to leaf through the book, but to actually read it and to do all the exercises in order. So don't start with the corset but with exercise 1.

Don't expect making latex clothes to come naturally. You really must work at it...*sorry!*

This book is not a pattern-drawing book. In addition to a lot of useful latex information and practical exercises, this book contains several basic patterns and explanations regarding drawing simple patterns on your own measurements (or someone else's). Many more patterns can be found on our website. Thousands of books have been written about drawing patterns, and you can use them for latex. The material can be anything, cotton, tricot, lycra, leather, knits and therefore also latex.

So, in short... this book is about the technique of making latex clothes. Once you know that, you can really make your own latex clothes.

When compiling a book, it is always difficult to meet the needs of all readers. But we have tried to cover, explain and support as much as possible with photos and drawings. What is very logical for one person is very complicated for another. The book starts out simple, but toward the end it may become a little too technical for some readers when drawing patterns. That is why there are also several simple patterns that you can easily adjust yourself.

We also discuss what can go wrong with latex, how to take care of latex and datex, and we also highlight the commercial side, because you might want to start your own business selling your designs as well as how to work with models and photographers... and much more!

# THIS IS IN THE BOOK...

The book is divided into several parts.

## **Information, theory, what do you need and what could go wrong.**

We start with various information about the material latex. This part may be boring because you want to make something quickly, but we advise you read it anyway.

## **Then we'll practice.**

After the theory, it really starts... your first latex creations. Various basic techniques are covered, such as the straight seam, curved seams, darts, placing zippers, ruffles, bows and much more. And we teach you how to neatly finish a latex garment and tell you what can go wrong with latex glue.

## **Then you will draw your own patterns.**

Thirs range from very simple to somewhat more difficult patterns. Standard patterns are useful, but it is even more useful if you get a little insight into drawing patterns yourself. We explain the basics and teach you how to draw a pattern for the upper body on your own measurements (or someone else's), as well as how to draw a skirt, circle skirt and leggings. And we show you how to calculate the measurements for a circle skirt pattern. We also offer tips on how to adjust patterns, where to place darts, etc.

## **Too difficult to draw your own patterns? Then use the ready-made patterns.**

Once you've mastered the basic techniques, it's time for the clothes. We have made 14 patterns for you, and there really is something for everyone. Tip... read through all descriptions because we do not repeat the method constantly. You will find many more patterns at [www.LatexRepair.nl](http://www.LatexRepair.nl) because a pattern of a catsuit does not fit in this book...

## **What else?**

We also give you a lot of extra information. How do you make a puff sleeve, how do you cover shoes with latex, where should a zipper go, how do you make piping, how can you make clothes from datex, how do you maintain latex and what can go wrong with latex? Lots of fun, useful tips and tricks!

## **And do you want to start your own latex label, your own company?**

Maybe in the future you want to start selling your latex clothes. We give you tips on how to make money selling latex clothing, how to determine the price, how to work with a model and a photographer and much more. Good to know!

*And also good to know...*

*The patterns are **printed extra** at the back of the book to take out.*



# ALL BEGINNINGS ARE DIFFICULT

Because the author has been giving technical advice and workshops to consumers, fashion schools, fashion designers, artists, shops, companies, etc. for many years, she now knows well what the initial expectations are when someone wants to make latex clothing themselves.

This is also noticeable in the workshops that she regularly organizes. During the workshops, several fixed patterns are used that are known to be feasible for beginners to complete during the 4-hour workshop. But sometimes there are participants who want to make a catsuit in 4 hours. They have no experience, but they are convinced that it is easy to do. And of course, that enthusiasm is understandable!

However, when they start with the first exercise, gluing two 10 cm pieces of latex together and only finishing them after 20 minutes... then they understand that making a catsuit is not feasible in 4 hours if you do not yet have some experience.

You must start with the basics, not with a catsuit.

Think of it like driving a car. First, you learn the theory, the laws, then you learn over and over again the practical side of things — signalling, changing gears, etc. And if everything goes well, you will get a driver's license, and only then do you actually get to put what you have learned into real-world practice. But obtaining your driver's license does not mean that you are ready to take part in Formula 1.

Hopefully this doesn't scare you off. But really... making latex clothing takes a lot of practice, and it's important to start with the basics. Start at the beginning of the book, do all the exercises, read all the information. 'Read?' Yes, really read! It's not like with an IKEA wardrobe that you immediately start putting it together and, if it doesn't work out, then grab the manual.... because that way won't work to make latex clothes.

Complete the exercises, read the information and use it to your advantage. And before you know it...  
Formula 1!

## **Good to know...**

In order not to make this book unnecessarily thick, we do not continuously repeat information with the exercises, patterns and with the pattern drawing unless appropriate. We recommend that you read and complete the book in order so that you do not miss any information.

And yes, we totally understand that you are super excited and want to start right away with a big project, but starting with the right approach is half of the work.

Success!