

# Mary Abreu

Author | Teacher | Designer

## ABOUT

Mary Abreu has been crafting most of her life, although she admits sticking to one or two is a challenge. She is the author of three books with Stash Books, an imprint of C&T Publishing: *Little Girls, Big Style* (2010), *Modern Style for Girls* (Oct. 2015), *Hack that Tote* (Sept. 2016).



She is an accomplished sewing instructor who teaches a wide range of classes including apparel and bag making, decoding sewing patterns and even quilting classes. Mary has sewn for fabric manufacturers and designers, creating tutorials and samples to showcase new fabric lines.

Mary has worked as a seamstress for short films and TV productions, and has wardrobe department credits on two short films, including *The Candy Shop*, starring Doug Jones, and season 3 of Fox's *Sleepy Hollow*.

She enjoys attending pop culture conventions, where she is a regular presenter on the topics of pattern drafting and hacking, costuming for children, and historically influenced costuming.

## THE BASICS

Sharing my passion for sewing and quilting with others is one of my favorite parts of my work! I book a limited number of teaching engagements each year. I'm also available for guild presentations and lectures. I can teach any pattern from my books; [email me](#) to request one other than those listed here. All travel originates from Atlanta, GA.

### *2017 rates*

**Lecture:** \$125

**Classes:** \$400 (six hours; up to 15 students)

**Travel:** I waive travel charges for lectures and classes held within 30 miles of my metro Atlanta home (ZIP 30084). Meals, hotel and travel expenses required for teaching engagements outside of the metro Atlanta area. I drive when possible and fly coach when driving is not feasible. Airfare is due upon my booking of flight and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation of event.

P.O. Box 1172

Tucker, GA 30085

Instagram: @thatcraftaddict

Twitter: @thatcraftaddict

(678) 644-1711

confessionsofacraftaddict@gmail.com

www.confessionsofacraftaddict.com

## LECTURES

### **Hack that Tote! Talk and Trunk Show**

A one-hour talk and presentation featuring work from my latest book, Hack that Tote! Delve into the world of pattern hacking and the evolution of the book's foundation pattern – the Basic Tote Bag – and how it forms the basis of the other 11 projects in the book. I'll talk about the inspiration for the book, choosing fabrics, showcase the bags and talk about putting your own twist on the projects.

### **The Fussy-Cut Log Cabin**

*Presented at AQS Quilt Week Chattanooga 2016!* The log cabin is one of Mary's favorite blocks because of its versatility in quilt layouts and ease in construction. It also lends itself to fussy cutting. Mary explores choosing block centers, doing the quilt math (including her Excel cheat sheet), and quilt layout options. Lecture requires an overhead projector and Windows laptop connection.

### **Excel & Quilt Math**

As a pattern designer, Mary is well acquainted with fast, efficient ways of doing quilt math and she's found that using formulas in Excel can make work even faster. Gain understanding of using formulas and setting up Excel spreadsheets to create shortcuts for your own quilt math challenges!

### **So You Want to Write a Book**

What's it really like to be a sewing book author? Understand more about how to pitch your book, what to expect, and the writing and editing process. Mary shares behind-the-scenes info about working as an author and the pros and cons of books vs. patterns.

### **Sew Organized**

Get your sewing room organized and functional for maximum sewing productivity! Tips for organizing your fabrics, sorting scraps, and storing patterns. Learn how your crafting style affects your organizational needs and how to make it work for you!

### **Garment Sewing Demystified**

Sew the wardrobe you've always wanted! Mary, an accomplished garment maker and pattern designer, shares her tips for working with commercial garment patterns, from measurements to pattern selection to resources for getting a better fit. Mary shows some of her favorite garments and helps you understand how to get the best results from your garment sewing.

### **Mary Abreu: Confessions of a Craft Addict**

A one-hour presentation about my work as a sewing book author, craft addict and fabric junkie. I'll share how I came to write my first book, the journey to writing a second book, and the insanity of writing a third book less than 10 months after its predecessor. I also share about the many crafty distractions in between (sewing for short films, historical costuming, quilting -- and more). Quilts, bags, sewing with the Silhouette Cameo -- they're all here!

## CLASSES

### **Hack that Tote!: The Tubular Frame Purse**

Duration: 6 hours

Experience level: Confident beginner

One of two bags on the cover of Hack that Tote!, the Tubular Frame Purse is the bag most often requested as a class. This class covers all you need to not only make the bag as written in the book but tips for modifying to accommodate other sizes of bag frames. Mary steps you through two different pocket styles and gives tips for working with different types of fabrics and interfacings.

### **Hack that Tote!: Zippered Cross-Body Bag**

Duration: 6 hours

Experience level: Confident beginner

Multiple zippers, different style pockets, and easy-to-use bag hardware combine in this fun, smaller bag. You'll get tips for easier zipper insertions, working with directional fabric, and step-by-step guidance installing hardware for an adjustable cross-body strap.

### **Hack that Tote!: Hack Your Perfect Tote**

Duration: 6 hours

Experience level: Confident beginner

Take your tote hacking to the next level! Mary helps you use her book Hack that Tote! to design your perfect bag. Go deeper into pattern hacking with helpful information about fabric and interfacings, choosing hardware, and designing all the elements you need to make the bag of your dreams. You'll leave with a bag pattern and plan for your bag, plus tips for sewing it all together.

### **Modern Style for Girls: The Collared A-Line Dress**

Duration: 6 hours

Experience level: Confident beginner

Join me as we make one of my favorite projects from Modern Style for Girls! The Collared A-Line Dress takes the Basic Bodice and turns it into a timeless dress that's perfect for girls. We'll modify the pattern, then construct the dress, which includes interfaced collar, invisible zipper and sleeves. Fabric options, further modifications and more covered during the course of the class.

### **Modern Style for Girls: Modern Tunic**

Duration: 6 hours

Experience level: Confident beginner

The most intensely hacked pattern in the book yields one of the most on-trend looks for girls. Class covers modifying the pattern, as well as construction of the garment. The Modern Tunic includes bodice lining, sleeves and on-seam pockets. Fabric options, further modifications and more covered during the course of the class.

### **Creature Feature Mini Quilt**

Duration: 6 hours

Experience level: Confident beginner

Mary's mini quilt, Sushi's Revenge, is the basis of this applique mini quilt class. She'll help you design your own creature feature quilt using raw edge applique and free-motion quilting. Free your own quilty creature!

