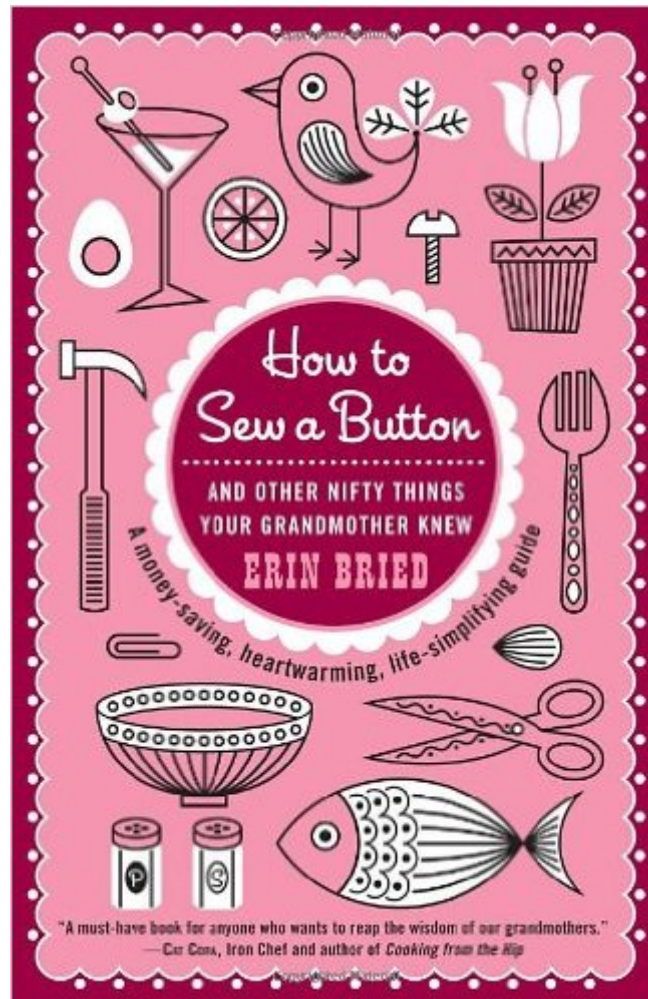


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# How To Sew A Button: And Other Nifty Things Your Grandmother Knew



## Synopsis

Waste not, want not • with this guide to saving money, taking heart, and enjoying the simple pleasures of life. Nowadays, many of us outsource • basic tasks. Food is instant, ready-made, and processed with unhealthy additives. Dry cleaners press shirts, delivery guys bring pizza, gardeners tend flowers, and, yes, tailors sew on those pesky buttons. But life can be much simpler, sweeter, and richer “and a lot more fun, too! As your grandmother might say, now is not the time to be careless with your money, and it actually pays to learn how to do things yourself! Practical and empowering, *How to Sew a Button* collects the treasured wisdom of nanas, bubbies, and grandmas from all across the country “as well as modern-day experts” and shares more than one hundred step-by-step essential tips for cooking, cleaning, gardening, and entertaining, including how to • polish your image by shining your own shoes • grow your own vegetables (and stash your bounty for the winter) • sweeten your day by making your own jam • use baking soda and vinegar to clean your house without toxic chemicals • feel beautiful by perfecting your posture • roll your own piecrust and find a slice of heaven • fold a fitted sheet to crisp perfection • waltz without stepping on any toes Complete with helpful illustrations and brimming with nostalgic charm, *How to Sew a Button* provides calm and comfort in uncertain times. By doing things yourself, with care and attention, you and your loved ones will feel the pleasing rewards of a job well done.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I expected to like this book much more than I did. I really agree on the overall premise. I think we

could learn a lot and utilize our resources much better if we took a cue from the older generations. I know many women who can't sew a button. One of the issues is with the writing style which is forcefully cheeky. Sometimes you find this forced humor funny and other times, annoying. Also, the book is peppered with illustrations of various retro women engaging in the tasks being explained, but what it really could have used are a few illustrations to clarify the more complicated instructions. There is some very useful information in this book, but not any you wouldn't find through a google search in a much more clear and concise manner with pictures included.

An easy read, *How to Sew a Button* is going to be a resource for future generations. Due to the technology overload of generations such as mine and younger, so many of us no longer know how to do practical things that our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents could do without skipping a beat. When starting to write this book the author, Erin, no longer had her grandparents to consult with for wisdom. Therefore, she rounded up ten grandmothers from different backgrounds, all across the country, to give her grandmotherly advice and knowledge. The book covers topics such as:- How to make a pie, which Erin tried to do for a group of friends and failed miserably at. I, myself, consider making a pie getting a slice of pumpkin cheesecake pie from Outback during the fall.- How to properly fold a fitted sheet, the keyword there being properly. I know you all probably think you know how to fold a fitted sheet, but balling it up and tossing it in the linen closet doesn't count. I have been blessed with this lost art, so this advice wasn't needed on my end.- How to iron a shirt. Now, you may be laughing, but while watching trashy TV the other day I saw a boy on MTV's *made* who told his coach he had never ironed anything. Seriously? He may need to read that section. She also has some pretty cool how-to information, like:- How to scent your home without candles- How to love your body at any size- How to brew your own beer And information on the lost art of thank-you notes. She'll teach you how to write one. With your hands... and a pen... and paper. And of course, you'll learn How to sew a button. Erin has a great sense of humor which is reflected in her writing. You'll chuckle while learning a thing or two!

I ordered this along with a host of other "domesticity reclaimed" type books, and found it to be the most disappointing of them all. The author definitely has a sense of humor. However, her humor doesn't flow very well, and instead just feels "tacked on", such as added steps to recipes or directions that are simply put in for a joke. I thought they were funny, but also pretty annoying. Despite the fact that the book was supposed to be about what your Grandmother knew, and what you don't, I didn't feel like the voice of the "grandmothers" she interviewed to get this

information was very well translated. There was too much of the author's words, and too few of the grandmothers'. At the start of each chapter, she includes some random quote from one of the grandmothers that is neither inspiring nor useful, and often only vaguely relevant. It felt tacked on as an afterthought. I was hoping to use this book as something of a reference, but it's not good for that. It feels more like a slightly funny smorgasbord of good and thrifty ideas, with a couple of recipes thrown in. I am by no means very qualified in domestic matters (thus the reason I picked up a bunch of books... I'm an academic!), but even I knew half of the things in here already. Worst of all... there are all these pictures of what I suppose are meant to be retro housewives (which I actually found far more annoying than cute... Me trying to learn domestic skills is not me trying to be a 60s housewife, thank you very much), but NO diagrams or illustrations of how to do any of these things. Telling me the proper way to sew a button is very confusing to read. A simple drawing would have been vastly more useful. Scrap the stupid "retro housewives" illustrations and give me something relevant. Because of all these things, this book will be thrown into a box of books to donate. I read the entire thing cover to cover and walked away more irritated than informed.

Conveniently, as we've all begun to tighten our purse strings, this book has appeared on the scene to offer us more than 100 straightforward and step-by-step how-to's for everyday life. Each is written in a practical yet humor filled and very approachable tone -- as if your best friend suddenly morphed into a Donna Reed-Tina Fey hybrid. There is so much amazing content between the covers of this guide including how to: hone a knife, iron a shirt (wow do I need to study up on this one), clean an oven, tie a necktie, make a hot toddy, barter, start a book club, wear red lipstick, and my personal favorite how to make a Manhattan. My boyfriend's grandparents always serve Manhattans when we visit and even though I've observed them being mixed a number of times I always seem to forget the steps (probably because one lovingly composed Manhattan goes straight to your head). I'm confident that you'll find dozens of useful tips in this book. I even discovered additional insights while reading write-ups on tasks that I thought I had down to a science. How to Sew a Button is a fantastic addition to your bedside table. In addition, I believe this title would make an excellent holiday present. Freaking out over what to buy for that friend, relative, or co-worker who has everything? Why not give them the gift of practical knowledge?! It will certainly last longer and be more appreciated than a box of chocolates or a scarf. Besides, after reading this book they'll be able to knit their own.

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