

You're It!

SEW

SHORT READ

**Your Way
to Home Business
Success Now & After
COVID-19**

SKILLS ASSESSMENT

How To Know If You've Got What It Takes



Phyllis Smith

The \$100 Startup for Super-Hero Sewists



ALTERATIONS BY PHYLLIS
with
DANCING FABRICS

If you sew and sew well, you don't need to despair a lost job because you can grab just \$100 from somewhere and get going providing alterations and sewing services including fabric artistry that people are still seeking from the comfort of your home.

The time is now. Get going!

**Home Sewing Business
Success *During & After*
COVID-19**

Created by Phyllis Smith
Stillwater, MN, USA

<http://www.alterationsbyphyllis.com/video-tutorials>

SKILLS ASSESSMENT

**Are You Ready To Explore The
3 Ways to Know If A Home-Based Alterations &
Sewing Business Can Work For You?**

Imagine that you're sitting in your dedicated sewing room just a year from now surveying all that you've created with great satisfaction.

In one corner of the room is your attractive, eclectic, and maybe even quirky collection of sewing machines and tools that customers admire.

Across one of the walls you display your emerging brand of women's designer clothing line consisting of pullover hoodie, leggings, tank or tee, flared skirt short dress for over leggings and skort/shorts. Just 5 hot items that clients can't leave without.

And what's a wardrobe without its designer handbag that you've acquired the perfect machine to stitch up and clients go gaga over.

Folded neatly on display in another area is your emerging brand of children's clothing, baby layettes, adorable toys, simple and irresistible designs.

Available on shelves are DIY kits of various types – hand embroidery, beginner sewing for kids, fabric painting, fabric marker coloring, cut and sew – you conjure it, you create it!

Unforgotten are other fab items you've created that perhaps are not fabric artistry yet are complementary such as paper creations, bead art, ceramics – honestly, don't let me overwhelm you with YOUR.OWN.TALENT.

How can you achieve your new REAL normal?

Let me show you.

ALTERATIONS BY PHYLLIS with DANCING FABRICS

All about running your own alterations & sewing business from home!

Created by Phyllis Smith - Alterations by Phyllis with Dancing Fabrics - Stillwater, MN, USA

<http://www.alterationsbyphyllis.com/video-tutorials>

Are You Ready To Explore The 3 Ways to Know If A Home-Based Alterations & Sewing Business Can Work For You?

**This Section Is For New As Well As For Existing Sewing & Alterations Specialists *Specifically During and Post COVID-19* –
DIVERSIFY & THRIVE**

Technical Skill

You will be ready when you do this one thing. Isn't that encouraging to know!

Take your existing skill set, add in creative sewing, and get going!

Interpersonal Skill

Can you balance solitary days with crowd-filled days?

Take your existing skill set, add in creative socialization, and get going!

Business Skill

Get good at it as you go!

Take your existing skill set, add in creative resourcing, and get going!

Technical Skill

It's all right if you are uncertain of your skill worthiness on the subject of alterations as you begin to read this section. By the time you finish reading, you will be certain of what and how to do it.

Think of it this way - performing clothing alterations requires no inventory and is the service that will get customers in the door the fastest so that they can experience precision fit of their existing clothing AND become amazed at all the creative products you display, sewing products and non-sewing products alike. That's the magic of the home sewing business.

WHAT TO DO: Begin by admitting to yourself if you are rusty because it may have been awhile since you sewed. Also, be certain that you still like sewing in general and that, in fact, you are excited to begin afresh, and that you can feel at your core that you have a valid service to offer, COVID-19 or not, civil unrest or calm. This feeling of eagerness to reinvent oneself applies to existing sewing and alterations specialists who are experiencing low to no client influx as well.

If you're a crackerjack sewist and have been keeping up with the skill, then expect to really enjoy this skills assessment section.

Look at any of my Alterations by Phyllis YouTube channel videos. Expect to find dozens at any time, all free, in the Playlist entitled: *Basic Alterations Videos*. If you can complete any three of the tasks featured in this playlist, you are most likely ready.

Isn't that encouraging to know!

[YouTube Channel Playlist](#)

WHERE TO START: Pants hems are probably going to be your biggest volume. Start with all things hems – skirts and dresses, too. Next are pants waists. After that come men’s suit coats and formal wear. Uh-oh – did your heart skip a beat about those last two categories? Not sure about your skill on those? Either take the time to learn them or don’t – decide not to specialize in those and, for example, do something more creative like offering hand-embroidered jeans, or how about assembling DIY embroidery kits for your customers, and teaching them how to embroider themselves...See how instead of worrying about what you’re afraid you cannot do, learn to cope either by becoming confident and competent or compensate with something else.

Let those 3 “C” words work for you:

confident / competent / compensate

If you decide upon getting confident and competent on a skill, that will mean finding clothing to practice on. Be creative and find these items in attics, storage, Goodwill for cheap.

Set a timetable and completion goal for becoming razor sharp at sewing. If you are rusty, give yourself a good month of diligent practice. That means 2-3 times a week take on something inspired by my videos.

While you are doing that, make sure you keep a diary of how long it currently takes you to do these tasks so that when you get to the section on *How Much Money Can I Make?*, you can easily figure it out. Keep this same kind of track of other things you make.

Does that seem discouraging to have to wait to get started while you sharpen up? I’ve got good news!

While you are practicing, you could still get started and specialize in tasks that you are polished at doing. Not sure what those are? Again, make it all about hems – especially jeans hems. If you can do a regular jeans hem plus the European/original/tricky jeans hem, and have the machine for it, then you are in business! Don't forget to consult my free video "Blind Hemming On Your Home Sewing Machine."

If you are stuck on where to start practicing, make it pants hems and pants waists – then you are ready to start getting the word out that you specialize in those jobs.

Let's talk about other sewing specialties that you either already do or would desire to do.

Do you already have an embroidery machine? What if you were able to offer embroidery and monogramming?

Do you get involved in craft fairs, especially at holiday time? If so, you could spend summer down time, if alterations are slow, getting ready to sell your handcrafts and entering multiple fairs.

Do you have a talent for writing patterns, or would you desire to? People go crazy over DIY items and you might want to consider opening an Etsy shop or other type of crafter's online venue selling patterns and kits. Better yet, get your own magnificent website and sell directly. Don't let a single alterations customer get away from your shop without getting their cell phone and/or email address to notify about Facebook Live sales, pop-up shop venues, holiday boutiques, etc. Now – during and post COVID-19 – is not the time to be shy and worry about appearing push to customers. They've told

you “you’re the best” when they beam with satisfaction about alterations, so get them on a mailing list and don’t look back.

Do you especially love to sew children’s clothing? You are already aware there is quite a market for children’s clothing and accessories. I can’t tell you how many dozens of kids shorts, hoodies, sun dresses I sold off a simple curtain rod attached to a wall to customers who couldn’t help but notice them and went gaga over them.

BOTTOM LINE: Assess all types of sewing you love to do that will pair with alterations. The need for alterations will get customers in your door long before these other types of sewing services/products mentioned above, but once people see your range of talent, you will convert your alterations customers into buyers of your handcrafts, your line of handbags, your designer line of clothing, as well. The opportunities are limitless.

Take your existing skill set, add in creative sewing, and get going!

Interpersonal Skill

Countless people are going to come into your home once you decide to do this and take action to get it all going.

Are you certain that you possess the self-confidence to deal with all personality types? Because you will need to be business steel and compassion real at the same time, all the time.

WHAT TO DO: Get real with yourself and think about what types of personalities push your buttons and then imagine how you will bring awareness to these situations and handle everyone smooth as silk.

HOW TO DO THAT: Be the silk. Be smooth. And be steel smooth, too, because this is business. You are not just some nice lady (or

fella) filling idle hours sewing for something to do. I mention this because sometimes people forget when they are in a home atmosphere that this is business.

Have you thought about what it would be like to work no two days the same? Sounds idyllic but sometimes is not. Sometimes you wish it was predictable like a regular job. Other days you are so grateful you are definitely not working someone else's dream away from home. Some days you don't see a soul and run machines all day. Those days are good for a lot of introspection and the Zen of sewing. But an all-day or stretch of days like that in quiet winter might be too lonesome for some. You have to know who you are and what your disposition will tolerate.

Have you thought about what it would be like to have people in and out all day and not get a chance to sew? Would you be able to balance all manner of personalities and their needs? Those days are great for enjoying the magnificence of connecting with others – your main purpose for doing this, really – and thriving on knowing you have made someone else's day lovelier than it might have been otherwise.

NUTSHELL WHAT/HOW: If you can balance these two worlds of solitary and crowds, business steel and compassion real, and thrive, then you are ready. Especially if you have determined that you are ultimately in charge of all situations.

Take your existing skill set, add in creative socialization, and get going!

Business Skill

You are probably not an accountant, right? Nor an attorney? No, of course you're not, you're a technical artist. Nobody needs you to be

a business major. Nobody needs you to know everything before opening your doors.

WHAT TO DO: If you're worried that you don't have the business acumen to run your own small business from home, the solution is to get business savvy along the way.

HOW TO DO THAT: Don't wait to take one more class or read one more book. Read them and do them on your way to business success. The resources you need are a friend, a family member or a Google search away, all to be taken one step at a time.

As you build the foundation of your business, it may be so tempting to get everything perfectly into place before ever receiving a customer. I recommend resisting that temptation. Of course, you will want to follow the business setup section that outlines everything in EXACT ORDER – yet the best momentum is gained while actually already doing business with customers and learning as you go.

NUTSHELL WHAT/HOW: You are so needed by the public, that I encourage you to open your doors and begin receiving these people, these countless people, who will end up being some of your best teachers in this life. You will get just as much benefit from interaction with them as they get from your sewing service. Mark my words, sewing for people in your home is the best job in the world!

Take your existing skill set, add in creative resourcing, and get going!

Want to **explore more short reads** on the subject of a **home sewing business with alterations services as the basis of your business**, especially during and after COVID-19?

Check out my Amazon [author page](#) and find the following subject matter:

Or visit my website for an even better short reads deal [here](#).

Skills Assessment – Do You Have What It Takes?

14 Essential Business Setup Tasks, Step-by-Step, In Exact Order

How Much Money Can I Expect To Make?

How To Prevail Alongside Competition

How To Write A One-Page Easy Business Plan

How To Deal with Invoicing, Bookkeeping & Taxes

Tools of the Trade

How To Write Store Policies To Save Your Butt

Don't Want People In Your House? Loads of Alternatives, Darling!