



The Art of Manipulating Fabric

Colette Wolff, Robbie Fanning (Editor)

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The possibilities for three-dimensional manipulation of fabric - gathering, pleating, tucking, shirring, and quilting woven materials - are seemingly endless. To describe them all would be to describe the entire history of sewing.

In "The Art of manipulating Fabric," Colette Wolff has set herself just this task, and she succeeds brilliantly. Working from the simplest possible form - a flat piece of cloth and a threaded needle - she categorizes all major dimensional techniques, show how they are related, and give examples of variations both traditional and modern. The result is an encyclopedia of techniques that resurface, reshape, restructure and reconstruct fabric.

More than 350 diagrams support the extensive how-tos, organized into broad general categories, then specific sub-techniques

Handsome photos galleries showcase the breathtaking possibilities in each technique and aid visual understanding by emphasizing the sculptured fabric surface with light and shadow

Textile artists and quilters, as well as garment and home decor sewers, will expand their design horizons with the almost limitless effects that can be achieved

The Art of Manipulating Fabric Details

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From Reader Review The Art of Manipulating Fabric for online ebook

Alicia says

Ever since I first saw this cover and the title of this book, I have been intrigued and really wanted to experience this book. The problem is that I don't know how to sew. I've never even threaded a sewing machine. Hopefully this will soon be remedied.

Ev says

This is a book you'll go to again and again. Wonderful instruction for adding texture and shape to fabric.

Ciaobella says

Such a thorough description with beautiful diagrams.... this book is useful for fiber artists, quilters and garment designers. Whether you hope to better understand the nature of woven fabric and how it moves, or if you're just gathering drapes, this is a bountiful resource.

I loved watching the things she created and the photography was very useful

Emily says

An amazing book on how to do just about anything with fabric. I recently completed a project on smocking and tucking techniques for school and this book was a gem. The pictures are of her samples are drool inducing and the instructions are clear. Just flipping through the pages is enough to make me run to thread my hand sewing needles.

Lee Kinkade says

This is a systematic explication of various techniques for manipulating fabric. Straight forward descriptions and excellent diagrams and photographs of the various methods. I highly recommend it both for the home crafter and professional artists who wish to work with fabrics. Ever wonder what the difference between a ruffle and a flounce is? Ever wonder how your grandmother made those pillows that look like they are woven out of strips of fabric but are actually just carefully pleated? Ever wanted to use the correct terms to describe that skirt you liked that had those things at the hem that gave it fullness without bunching? These answers and more are included.

Beth says

This book is wonderfully thorough, in terms of all the techniques it describes. However, I would have liked to read more about possible applications for the techniques, since many of them were so unusual that I could not imagine how to use them, either in clothing or home decor.

Erika Mulvenna says

EXCELLENT book illustrating many, many sewing and other techniques for manipulating fabric. Awesome photographs and illustrations. A MUST HAVE for any creative sewer.

Raslalique says

I love this book. The writing is engaging and the instructions are clear. A lot of techniques and modifications are covered in this book. I love it so much I bought another copy to give as a gift and I plan to do it again. Sometimes when I need inspiration I just leaf through the book and admire the photos. I give this 5 solid stars.

Carolynn says

If you sew, and you've ever wondered what else you could do to perk up collars, cuffs, etc., or you just like interesting designs in fabric like they used to do in the '40s to make women's clothing so special, this book is for you. Ms. Wolff has spent a great deal of time showing us how to make really nice designs in fabric, and you don't have to stop there, you can wing it and find whole new design areas to work with once you have gone through the basics and beyond with this book. Every so often I take it down and flip through it just to get ideas. You can use them on clothing, accessories, soft furnishings, tablecloths, pot holders--the list is endless. You don't have to make a whole quilt of them either: just a square or a few motifs will make the whole piece special.

This is an exceptionally fine reference book for those who like to work with fabric. I heartily recommend it to those who sew.

Jana says

I usually don't keep fiber or art books in my public studio, but I had this one in there for reference on a previous project that involved mitering corners. I had it on the shelf sort of in a project box and heaped up with papers.

And here's the funny bit of coincidence... yesterday I had a drop-in studio visitor who was a theater costumer. Almost one of the first things out of her mouth was, "Have you heard of that book on the art of

manipulating fabric."

"Why yes, it's the only book I happen to have here." And I dug it out to confirm. "This book?"

Anyway, I just thought that was an odd coincidence. Great book with detailed instructions on how to do anything you might ever think of wanting to do with fabric. Every instruction is easily adapted to your own needs, whether they be making something patterned (as clothing), something more sculptural, low-relief or even 2-D and painterly.

Andy says

This is an exciting book about shaping fabric using pleating, darts, folding, elevated applique, tucking, etc. It seems as though it's from another era though these techniques must be used by professionals in interior decorating and the fashion industry. I would love to see videos demonstrating some of the techniques as I am so new to this field that I cannot follow the instructions included in this book. But if I could! I have so many ideas regarding how I could incorporate these wonderful shapes into art quilts and fabric sculpture. If anyone knows of other books, or of videos, that show how to use these techniques, I would appreciate if you with contact me with that information.

Mary Franklin says

This book was very helpful to me. The instructions are clear and thorough, and the photographs are excellent. There was one explanation of a particular technique that didn't make sense to me; when I tried to follow the instructions they just didn't work; but I have a feeling the fault lies in me; not the author. She put an incredible amount of work into producing this book. I hope she is being well rewarded for her efforts!

Brigette says

If you are a fiber artist, or want to explore fiber arts, but you are not an accomplished seamstress, this is the book. Even if you have lots of experience sewing, you will learn so much. The writing is clear, the illustrations are wonderful. For me, it's all about the texture, and this will teach you to build amazing textures with simple fabrics (like cheap cotton muslin).

Espera says

Borrowed from the library. I never knew fabric could be manipulated in so many ways, that actually looked both interesting and nice. I'm going to have to look at it again; I only remember a couple of ideas in the book.

Kira Gold says

One of the most informative and clear books I have read on fabric geometry ever. Clear pictures on how to work the second dimension into the third; a must for any stitcher, cutter-draper or designer. I recommend it as reading to all my students.
