



Couture Sewing Techniques, Revised and Updated

By Claire B. Shaeffer

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The world of haute couture is a place where only a privileged few can ever hope to reside, right? Wrong. Fashion historian Claire B. Shaeffer opened the door to this exclusive realm in her authoritative guide to the techniques that define couture sewing. And now, the industry bible, *Couture Sewing Techniques*, has been revised and updated throughout — with new photos and a chapter on specialty fabrics.

No one can unravel couture garment construction the way Shaeffer can, from the art of hand sewing to mastering edge finishes, from classic closures to shaping a garment for a perfect fit. Readers learn all the basics — and more importantly: how to apply the techniques — on skirts and sleeves, pockets and jackets, evening gowns, and more. Gorgeous photos, clear illustrations, and concise language combine to make this the most complete couture-sewing course available.

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Editorial Review

Review

With clarity and a profound respect for technique and application, Claire Shaeffer brings one into an haute-couture atelier, where the realm of possibility has no boundaries. She imparts the secrets of hand-work that allow a garment to become weightless, a wisp of dimension for the wearer. She pays homage to the gods of the craft and bows to the church of haute couture. --Ralph Rucci, designer

As every "Vogue Patterns" reader knows, Claire Shaeffer can unravel couture garment construction better than anyone, and her revised and updated version of "Couture Sewing Techniques" is the authoritative guide to haute couture techniques. In it, Shaeffer demystifies designer garments and gives you the confidence to try the techniques and practiced in the ateliers of the haute couture. A must-have for all serious sewers. -Vogue Patterns

About the Author

Claire Shaeffer is an internationally respected author, lecturer, college instructor and columnist. Her innovative sewing techniques and easy-to-read instructions have guided readers and students through many sewing facets of the garment industry. She wrote the celebrated *Couture Sewing Techniques* for Taunton Press and has authored and starred in a multitude of successful videos on couture sewing.

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After the original *Couture Sewing Techniques* was published, I visited the workrooms of James Galanos shortly before he retired. He insisted initially that he was not a couturier since most of designs were sold in stores. I disagree; the standards which he set were of the highest quality so I have included him in this edition. More recently, I visited the workrooms of Chado Ralph Rucci—the only American invited to show his designs with the couture collections in Paris. He is a master of the art and the craft of haute couture.

Shortly before I began the revision, I had the opportunity to work with Phyllis Magidson, the curator at the Museum of the City of New York, on a project that focused on Mainbocher and Charles Frederick Worth. This research expanded my knowledge of techniques used in the first hundred years of haute couture while reminding me that many techniques which I had written about earlier had changed little, if at all. This edition includes several photographs from that project.

Many of the photographs in the first edition were no longer available so I've selected many new ones from the Chicago History Museum, The Ohio State University, Phoenix Art Museum, and Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising as well as from the Fashion Institute of Technology and Metropolitan Museum of Art. I've also included photographs of many garments in my personal collection.

No matter what your sewing expertise, this book will expand your horizons. Most importantly, it is a practical guide for learning the craft of haute couture, but it will also provide new ideas for applying the techniques which you already know. Some techniques are less suitable for beginners and some are

impractical for everyday sewing; but most will be of value to the average home-sewer and can be used on a wide range of garments and fabrics. I hope you'll experiment with the techniques and look for new ways to apply them when you sew.

Like most of you, I have a limited amount of time to sew and cannot make all garments *a la couture*. For some garments, I mix couture methods with ready-to-wear and traditional home-sewing techniques to achieve the results I want. I encourage you to do the same. Use this book as a resource, whether you limit your couture sewing to a detail here and there or decide to make an entire garment from beginning to end with couture techniques.

I find sewing by hand and with couture techniques extremely rewarding. The pleasure of both making and wearing beautifully constructed garments far exceeds the time and effort required to complete them. I hope this book will help you develop the same skills and perfect old ones, and in turn, reward you with years of pleasure—and a closet full of beautifully made garments. —**Claire Sheaffer**

Users Review

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Do you certainly one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This Couture Sewing Techniques, Revised and Updated book is readable by simply you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer of Couture Sewing Techniques, Revised and Updated content conveys prospect easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different such as it. So , do you nevertheless thinking Couture Sewing Techniques, Revised and Updated is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

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