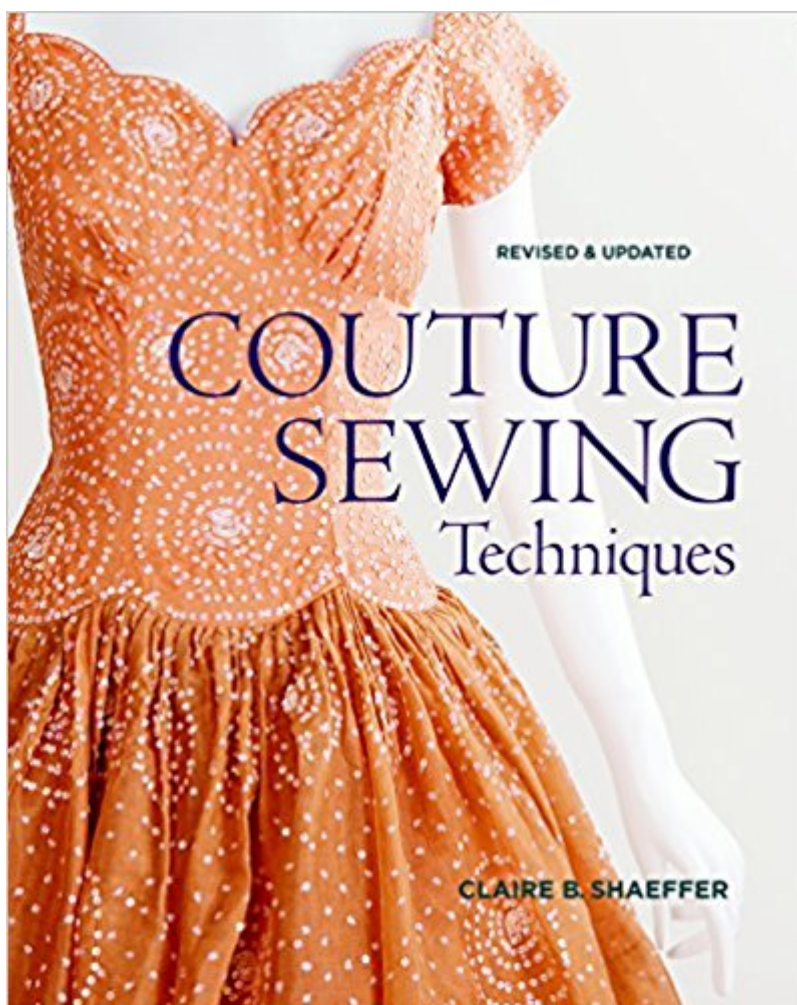


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# Couture Sewing Techniques, Revised And Updated



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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

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. Â Â

1. Better layout: The layout is so much better! Text is set in different colors to differentiate the content, tips, pull-out boxes, blurbs. This dramatically improves the book navigation! 2. More Content: over thirty more pages of content added as a result of the author's recent research. 3. More images: Claire added more images to illustrate instructions, and they are invaluable! 4. Improved instructions: Clearly marked step-by-step instructions for all processes of couture construction. If you own the previous edition, you know how the instructions were presented in run-on paragraphs making it difficult to use the book as a quick reference. 5. More how-to illustrations: 6. Claire's Hints: Excellent short tips, mostly absent in the previous edition. 7. contemporary couture techniques from the workrooms of Ralph Rucci and James Galanos 8. techniques by Mainbocher and Charles Frederick Worth: Shaeffer says in her acknowledgements that she worked on a research project that focused on Mainbocher and Worth. She seems to have added some of the new techniques as a result of this research 9. New chapter "Designing with Fabric": Shaeffer introduced this chapter to demonstrate "a variety of design ideas and specific techniques to inspire you to use fabrics more creatively". A master of observation, Claire describes techniques used in haute couture garments by Antonio Canovas del Castillo, Hubert de Givenchy, Chanel, Worth, Hanae Mori, I. Magnin, Balenciaga, Victor Edelstein, These techniques are not necessarily obvious, but so easy to learn and to apply in your own garments. She focuses mostly on lace and stripes, but also covers other tricky fabrics which require special techniques to enable undisturbed design. LACE Seaming Lace to Lace: Lapped Seam, Buttressed Seam, Ribbon Seam Seaming Lace to Fabric: Lace-on-fabrique AppliquÃ© Seam, Applied AppliquÃ© Finishing Edges: Neckline Edges, Hems Designing with Allover Lace Patterns: STRIPES Rearranging Stripes Shrinking and Stretching Pleats and Tucks Cutting and Seaming DESIGNING WITH OTHER FABRICS Wrong Sides and Selvedges: for fabrics with attractive wrong side and selvedge Designing with Prints and Patterns: Matching Fabric Patterns Designing with AppliquÃ© Sheer Fabrics 10. Affordable price! \$15 for this most unique

resource is a steal! I got my copy yesterday!

I love it. Interesting details and history, useful information for the had sewists both new and experienced. It is clear and well written. I would like a little more illustration on the stitches but I am very new. I do not use a machine, hand sew only and this will be very useful. The details and finishing information is excellent.

This is a wonderful book designed to give the small relatively easy to do tips for what differentiates couture and fine finished ready to wear from home made clothing. Read through once for the history and then for ideas. I'll never pick up a pattern again without looking at the design and thinking about how it can be fit perfectly and finished perfectly. Not so much as difficult as time consuming

I had started sewing maybe a year ago, just making little projects here and there, mostly just bags and things to organize various items in. Just recently (within the past 4 months), I had fallen in love with the design and construction of corsets. I had never used a pattern for any of the three corsets I have made to date and was very proud of my accomplishment, however, they weren't the quality I had wanted to produce. I had been stumped by the limitations of my \$60 Brother sewing machine and haven't had the money to upgrade. I decided that I would learn sewing by hand, and make a completely handmade corset. I had researched different methods of stitching and pattern design online, but nothing that I had seen really made an impact on my style and design. So I decided to put up the \$20 to buy a book about the finer techniques of sewing. This book is absolutely amazing, the incredibly informative and descriptive writing style, accompanied with beautiful graphics, photos and illustrated techniques was a godsend. The book actually flows through the subjects with phenomenal continuity, and allows you to basically practice as you go along, by illustrating step by step stitches, techniques, tips and tricks. The author has amazing knowledge and credentials, and many of the photos of garments are from her own personal collections. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is wanting to learn how to make clothes entirely by hand, or even just understand how different stitches and techniques will help you with machine sewing. Great book for beginners and amateurs alike, but would probably not recommend it for the advanced seamstress.

This book is a real must for anyone to have; you can't go wrong with anything this author writes on couture. Her books and cds are in depth. That's what I like about this book, she takes you on the inside of a style, hows, and whys, and you end up seeing things that you wouldn't ordinarily

notice. When you go into a store you will be able to tell how a high priced item is put together. The author even lists designers and their techniques. There are a few illustrations, but I like the photos because they show the detail. Ms. Shaeffer also describes the details along with the photo. Even if one could sew like the photos it stills gives you and idea how period pieces are put together. The book is divided into sections from high end period jackets, to blouses, and various other garments. Even though some of the items are dated the detail and designs of clothing are just inspiring. You can see through the authors eye the magnitude of couture even when there is a hand sewn embellishment.

I'm a beginner at sewing and sew mainly for enjoyment and gift-giving. I can't fully take advantage of this book yet, but I'm definitely improving the way my projects turn out with what I do know so far. It's a relief to find a book with different hand-sewing techniques to reference as I work on different projects.

Started reading the publication, didn't want to put it up, enjoy reading this publication, recommend it to any designer

This book is more than a sewing tutorial. It is a piece of art! A feast for the eyes and imagination!  
Thanks for the inspiration!

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