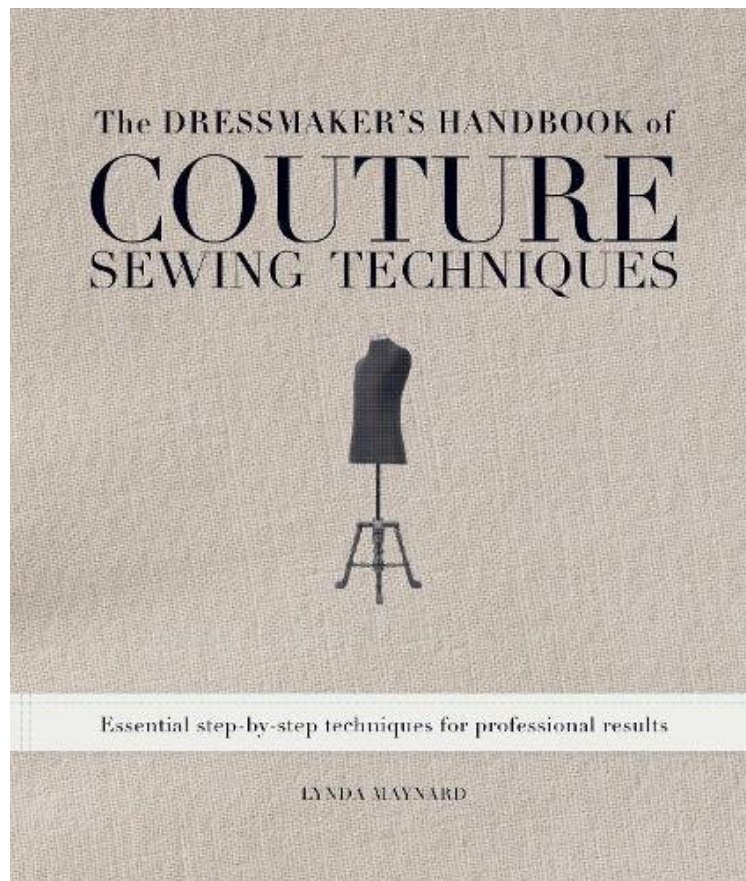


(Read free) The Dressmaker's Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques: Essential Step-by-Step Techniques for Professional Results

The Dressmaker's Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques: Essential Step-by-Step Techniques for Professional Results

Lynda Maynard

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#114821 in Books Interweave 2010-12-21Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.10 x .70 x 8.90l, 1.96 #File Name: 1596682477-spiral144 pagesThe Dressmaker s Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques Essential Step by Step Techniques for Professional Results | File size: 19.Mb

Lynda Maynard : The Dressmaker's Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques: Essential Step-by-Step Techniques for Professional Results before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dressmaker's Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques: Essential Step-by-Step Techniques for Professional Results:

381 of 386 people found the following review helpful. Good collection of selected couture sewing techniquesBy Marina Von KoenigI bought this book three month before its release without knowing who the author was or what the contents were. I am an Haute Couture aficionado and when I saw the magic word 'Couture' I immediately added it to my shopping cart.The author, Lynda Maynard, has a BA in textiles and clothing from San Jose State University and is an adjunct professor in the fashion design departments of two community colleges and a private design school in the San Francisco Bay area. Apparently she is also an author of the CD-book De-Mystifying Fit. Nevertheless, my

experience with instruction books like this is that it's not about all the titles and affiliations with prestigious organizations but about the commitment of the author to her subject. So, here you have a very well illustrated and designed handbook for ESSENTIAL couture techniques, not more not less. It starts with a Couture Technique Selector, which is a thumb preview of exactly thirty-nine couture techniques. These are divided into Binding and Finishes, Design Details: On Show, and Design Details: Concealed. Each technique is accompanied by a number of illustrations and steps. The author also includes so-called Couture Secrets and tips on materials, pressing, construction and style. With my rather patchy knowledge of couture techniques I do see that a lot of information that I have seen scattered across different books dedicated to Couture has been very nicely compiled and presented under individual techniques. For example, in a section on Banding V-Neck on Woven Fabric, Ms Maynard says: "Silk organza is an indispensable item in the couturier's supply arsenal. Use it to underline and interface garment sections, stabilize curves and angles, tape straight edges, and steady wiggly fabrics for specific procedures." In Style Suggestion she adds: "This technique works well on bateau necklines also, since each shoulder seam join functions as a V. try using a contrasting fabric or color, or experiment with bias stripes for added dash." The book also includes a section on "all the essential equipment for the couture sewer", including a sewing machine and a serger (I thought a serger is a no-no in couture sewing?). It goes on to tools like scissors, pins, patternmaking tools and, finally, pressing equipment. However, nowhere in the book does the author explain how or where to use many of these tools. Read a chapter on Pressing in Roberta Carr's "Couture: The Art of Fine Sewing" - it is much better. A section on underlinings/ backings is interesting. I thought, finally, more than a page on underlinings, but, unfortunately the technique of applying underlining is just half a page. To compensate this, the author gives eight pages with images comparing several combinations of backed and unbacked fabrics, explaining the effect the backing/ underlining has on the fashion fabric. I could not see much difference on images, but the text part was quite informative. Directory of Luxury Fabrics and Trims includes an incomplete selection of fabrics. For example, under lining Maynard lists only Silk Crepe de Chine and Acetate Satin. I didn't know Acetate Satin was a luxury fabric, and what about silk charmeuse or china silk? I read all the time how Chanel skirts are lined with silk charmeuse. To give you my opinion on Fabrics Trims section, I think you are much better served with Claire Schaeffer's Fabric Sewing Guide. Maynard's book dedicates its final pages to another dozen of Essential Couture Techniques (yet again? what about Couture Techniques part that takes up most of the book). Why all these techniques ended up on final few pages is a mystery to me. Nevertheless they are worth learning. Finally, the instructions for the techniques are not always clear and require background knowledge of garment construction to be able to guess the correct process. I think the author needs to revise the instructions making them more precise. I know, I have criticized several sections in the book, but I have to say that most of the main part - those 39, and 12 more techniques hidden toward the end of the book - is really interesting. While this book is not a substitute for Couture Sewing Techniques by Claire Schaeffer (which covers couture construction process from start to finish), it is a great collection of selected techniques. It's a great addition to my library and I will start applying these techniques starting with the next projects.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How to Make It as If You Were a Talented Seamstress/Designer in the World of Couture! By Lexophelia Yay! Lot's of stuff for me, amateur, to chew on, digest, and with great hope I say to use to make the kind of clothes I always wanted but could not afford...for my 22" fashion dolls to wear! The 22" ladies are big enough for real sewing techniques to be useable on their clothes. I want to sew real clothes--copies of my own gowns I made for my career as a concert singer. I figure if I learn all the tricks in miniature, how hard can it be to enlarge them for my own clothes? Since the dresses were made for one or two or maybe even three wearings (of about 3 hours max), they didn't require particularly detailed tailoring. The small copies (about 3 times smaller than the originals) are for keeps and will have to be made to take on and off the dollies (who hate wearing the same dress all the time!) So this book will be well used over the next couple of decades!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. approachable first book with lots of great tips By Marie I'm a beginner sewer and I thought this book was very nicely laid out with high quality photos showing the sewing process step by step. First off, the book is spiral so the pages lie flat, making it easy to reference over and over while actually sewing/cutting. The book is also organized by type of techniques, for instance, the first section is called 'bindings'. There are about 8 different ways to bind, some are for knits, some are for wovens. There's a lot of variety and the techniques are simple yet really make the garment look professional and finished. In general, the instructions are well thought out and clear, although there are times when I scratch my head and have to think for a while to figure out what Maynard's talking about. But I think this is a perfect book for novices to start with as it's easy to pick one technique to try per garment and slowly pick up skills.

Packed with professional techniques and tips, The Dressmaker's Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques takes the mystery out of the sewing and finishing techniques that many dressmakers assume are either extremely difficult or are only for professional fashion designers. Fashion designer and expert sewist Lynda Maynard tackles each professional technique with clear instructions in simple step-by-step stages. Once these skills are understood, sewists will embrace their dressmaking projects with more confidence and the ability to create chic, refined looks. The Dressmaker's Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques unlocks the door to stunning results with better shaping, simpler

construction methods, and professional finishing touches. Lynda also explains several seemingly difficult "secrets," from making bindings and finishing for hems, armholes, and necklines to underpinnings and structuring techniques. Plus, she teaches how to master finishing touches from textured stitches to couching and applique. A complete guide to the fabrics suited to each technique and inspirational fashion photography are also included.

"I strongly recommend this book for anyone trying to wrap their mind around fitting and sewing techniques. The couture techniques detailed in this book can easily be applied to many different style garments." - Debbie Colgrove, About.com Guide