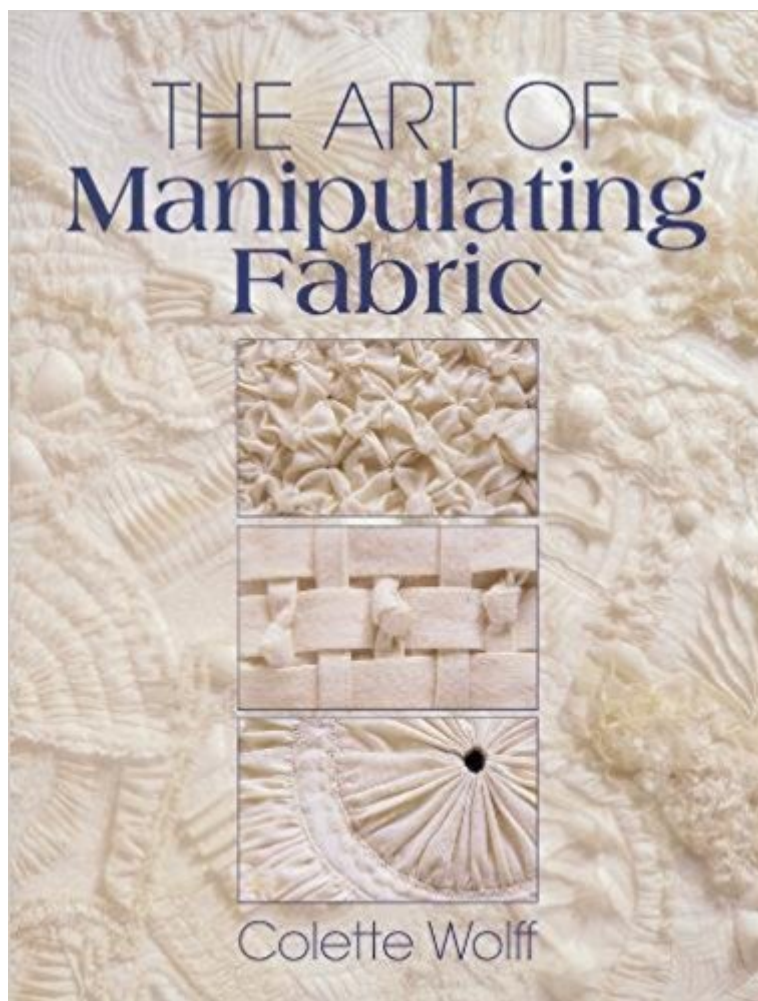


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# The Art Of Manipulating Fabric



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Those who knit, crochet, or embroider have long had sources to which to turn for in-depth instructions on specific stitches and stitch combinations. Now there is such a reference for the sewer--an encyclopedic approach to gathering, shirring, ruffling, tucking, pleating, and quilting and their myriad variations. Filled with hundreds of diagrams and crisp black-and-white photos, this volume explains in detail how to achieve a tremendous range of three-dimensional fabric effects.

This is not a book of particular projects; this is a book of instruction and inspiration for anyone who has ever wielded needle and thread. --Amy Handy

I love this book. so many techniques I had no idea existed. The book starts by showing photos of things others have created then shows you exactly how to create your own fabric manipulations. For me...very inspirational as well.

It is an incredible collection of information from a thousand different sources on the techniques for fabric manipulation. The author has catalogued each technique in great detail. Contents: gatherings, shirring, ruffles, flounces, godets, pleating, smocking, tucking, cording, quilting, stuffing, darts, and mixed manipulations. A valuable addition to a sewist library.

This book is so inspiring! Really clever introduction to fabric manipulation for any project - fashion, quilting, even card making.

More gathers, pleats, I can't remember what all else, than I thought existed. I hate to admit it, but I've been sewing since the '60s (okay, I hate to admit that too), and I've never thought of doing about 75% of what's in here. Just the section on gathering - dozens of gorgeous decorative things can be done with something I've never thought of other than to set in a sleeve. And pleats - I never knew there were so many types, and what could be done with combinations. You better believe that the first step in my next project will be to consult this book.

Wow! Many, many instructions for manipulating fabric.

My mother is a sewing fanatic. She made a dress for my sister for a Miss America preliminary that was beaded from top to bottom. Took her six months to get it done and a professional seamstress said it would have retailed for \$5-6,000 back in 1985. Anyway I got this book for her birthday a few weeks ago. She is thrilled with it. Although she already knew how to do lots of things in it she's told me that there is a multitude of designs and techniques that she wants to try. It's always hard to buy for some people but it looks like I hit a homerun with this one. If you have a sewing fanatic in your life consider getting this for them.

Okay, I know next to nothing about sewing. I am a sewing Gumby. But my niece is an incredibly

gifted fashion designer, and I have to constantly badger her to let me know if there is ANYTHING I can get for her, or ANY WAY I can help her. This book is one of the few things she has briefly mentioned in passing as something she might like. (I took that to mean something indispensable to the pursuit of her career as she is so shy to ask for assistance.) I had the book sent to my place rather than directly to her, just so I could see it, and my first reaction as a non-sewing type of person was "OH My Goodness, I had no IDEA they could do that with fabric!" I meant to send it to her as soon as I received it, but it was so fascinating, even as a non-seamstress, that I shamefully retarded the delivery to its rightful owner by at least a week. I took it to my friend's house so she could see it. I even showed it to my boyfriend (for whom absolutely NO craft manual could ever hold an interest), and he even exclaimed "My goodness, babe! I had no idea fabric could do this! I have to say this is amazing..." Okay, in all fairness, maybe he was humoring me. In any case, I sent it to my niece. I happened to be on the phone with my sister when it was delivered. She opened the book and started exclaiming, "Wow! How do they do this?" To which I simply replied, "Well, they tell you how in the book." If you like to sew and are beyond the point of making napkins and tablecloths (to which I aspire) this book is for you. It teaches you how to MANIPULATE fabrics. How to make them do what you want them to do. And isn't that really what it's all about?

This is quite an old-fashioned style of book. No glossy photos or eye candy, lots of detailed line drawings and a wide range of techniques. As such, it takes a bit more time to get into than most of the quilt books I own. However, its strong point is that you can see from the diagrams what you need to do for a range of pleats, gathers, folds and other textured surfaces. You do also need to read the accompanying text, and the layout makes that a challenge at times, searching back through dense paragraphs for the correct link to the drawing. I will use it as a reference book. It is pretty comprehensive. What would make it more user-friendly would be firstly, some nice gallery pictures of quilts or garments using those techniques, and secondly, a simpler page layout and typeface.

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