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# Creating Couture Embellishment



## Synopsis

The finishing touches applied to a garment can take it from the realms of the ordinary to the heights of luxury. *Creating Couture Embellishment* offers a step-by-step guide to manipulating fabric and making and applying a rich variety of embellishments. Chapters cover fabric-manipulation techniques of pleating, quilting, tucking, ruffling, shirring, and smocking, as well as the fabrication and application of feathers, beading, embroidery, flowers, decorative ribbons and bows, bias bindings and piping, fringe, braids, and passementerie. The heirloom quality created by the insertion or application of lace is also explored. Featuring a visual index of every embellishment in the book that is designed to offer inspiration as well as showcasing the myriad of choice, *Creating Couture Embellishment* provides a comprehensive sourcebook of ideas for the student, professional, and home sewer alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ellen Miller taught at Boston's School of Fashion Design, including classes in couture details, construction, and pattern drafting, for ten years. She has also worked in the theater as costumer, wardrobe mistress, and stage hand in the United States and Europe.

Absolutely gorgeous book. Plenty of well thought out instructions, and photographs. This book will be left on my coffee table for everyone to enjoy, even the non sewers will enjoy, and get motivated. Great job wardrobe Mistress!

This book is a great compilation of techniques that will elevate a garment from basic to unique in no time! A wonderful addition to an advanced sewing curriculum, its textbook-like format is useful in selecting and executing the perfect technique. Even as a graduate of a fashion design program and a long-time home sewer of my own garments, I learned much more from this book than I frankly expected to! I particularly am thrilled to now know how to make such stunningly beautiful flower embellishments, better techniques for pleating, and have more confidence in my embroidery skills now- all of which are techniques I plan to use for my own upcoming wedding! Most of all, though, the chapter on lace only furthered my love affair with the stuff, and now I feel comfortable talking about and working with something I once considered beyond my scope. Overall this book helps to educate and to in turn build confidence in the sort of embellishment and "kicking it up a notch" that is often so elusive to those who have not studied for years and years (and for some of us who have!). I HIGHLY recommend this book. My next chapter to tackle: the smocking!

I pre-ordered this book and could barely wait for it to arrive. It did not disappoint! Although I am an amateur "sewist" at best, I have really enjoyed perusing the many types of embellishments for visual delight and inspiration. I expect some day to use the book as a reference when I need just the right "touch" to finish off a garment or other project. Both the pictures and the texts are clear and helpful. Thank you, Ellen W. Miller, for filling the need for such a complete, well organized treatment of embellishments!

Flipping through the pages of this beautiful book renewed my enthusiasm (and courage) for projects I'd set aside as too complex or too frustrating to continue. I have a bone to pick with the author, because I spent an entire precious beautiful summer New England day INDOORS sewing. I'm excited to make progress again with better outcomes for items I had thought abandoned forever -- and others I might not otherwise have attempted.-Dr. Seat-of-the-Pants

Having flipped and read parts of this book. I have nothing to say other than it's a slap in the face of the petit mains who work in the ateliers in Paris and a complete disservice to any fashion student who wants a career after completing their degree. CLEARLY this writer having recommended "Reader's Digest Encyclopedia of sewing" as a precursor to this book proves herself to be completely ignorant as to how Couture garments are REALLY constructed or embellished. IF I could give it less or negative stars I would. So the 1-star is for her section on pleating and smocking (rarely used). The feather, bead & sequin as well as the flower section really could have been lifted from

any other "loving hands at home" artsy-craftsy 1980 book. Claire Schaeffer's book even from over 20+ yrs ago is more accurate in terms of actual techniques. As a person who had actually worked for the grand maisons of Paris, I feel insulted and patronized and ultimately that this book will ruin any chance of the general public understanding how those amazing garments are really constructed or embellished. Biggest pile of horse manure that I have ever seen written by someone who clearly has taken Mary Kay's "fake it till you make it" motto too far.

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