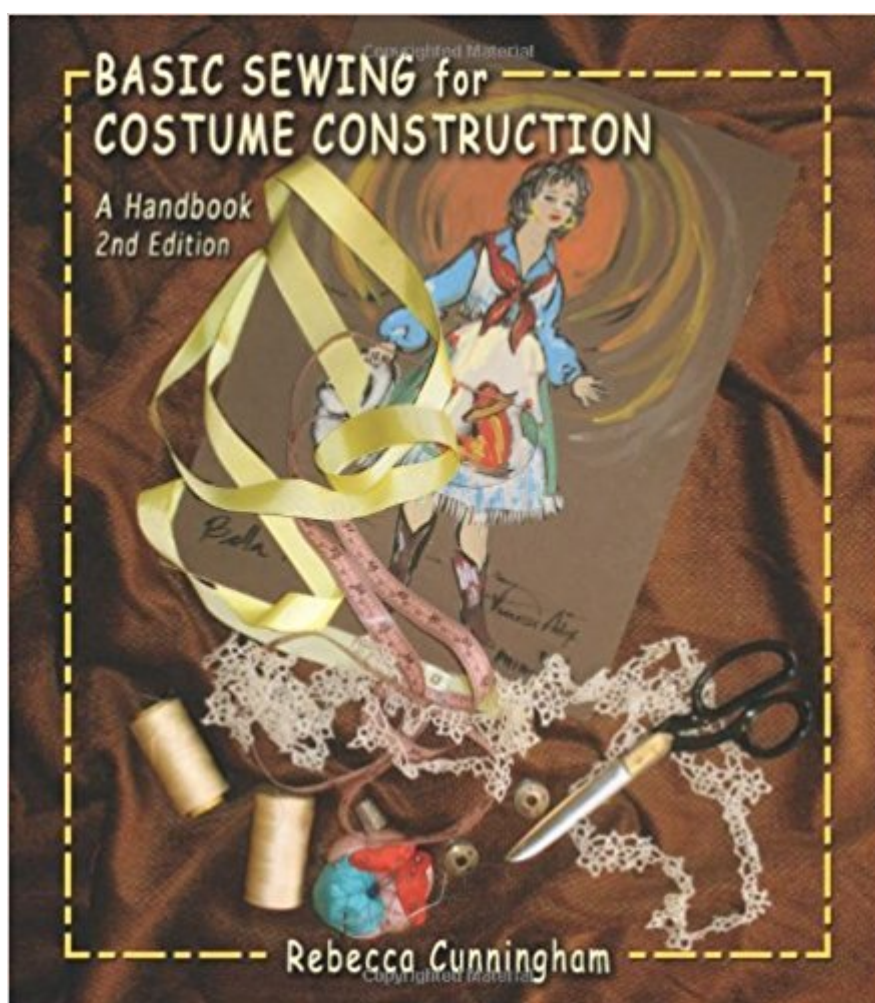


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# Basic Sewing For Costume Construction: A Handbook, Second Edition



## Synopsis

All students of costuming need to learn basic sewing techniques to build costumes for theatrical performance. Basic Sewing for Costume Construction teaches just those fundamentals. Cunningham brings decades of classroom experience as she guides readers with clearly laid-out projects covering hand stitching, fasteners, pinning, sewing, and seams. Additional material on measurement, fabric selection, and use of commercial patterns, as well as three complete construction projects, round out the Second Edition. Each project builds on the previous one to develop a full understanding of the costume construction process. Also by Rebecca Cunningham and available from Waveland Press: *The Magic Garment: Principles of Costume Design*, Second Edition (ISBN 9781577666134). Titles of related interest available from Waveland Press: Brackelsberg-Marshall, *Unit Method of Clothing Construction*, 7E (ISBN 9781577660545) and Strand-Evans, *Costume Construction*, Second Edition (ISBN 9781478611295).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The revisions in the second edition of Basic Sewing for Costume Construction are well thought out and beneficial to the costume practitioner. Cunningham has taken a well-done workbook and made it even more so." --Theatre Design & Technology  
"Nice improvement on the First Edition. The drawstring bag project was a good idea. All in all, an excellent workbook." --Don DiFonso, Point Park University  
"I love that the book is in binder format so pages are easy to remove, use, and put back in. It's a wonderful step-by-step process that has been boiled down and simplified for

beginning students." --Suzanne Mann, Hartnell College

Titles of interest also from Waveland Press: Cunningham, *The Magic Garment: Principles of Costume Design*, Second Edition (ISBN 9781577666134) and Strand-Evans, *Costume Construction* (ISBN 9781577660750). --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I used this book in my very first costume design class in college, however when I was finished with the class I gave it to my sister. She uses many of the skills she learned in this book to make purses and my niece's clothes and costumes (my niece is rather tall and curvy for her age and we have a hard time finding clothes that are appropriate for her). I made all different size dresses to send to African orphans using this book! It would be a great addition to any homeschool home ed class as well.

This book is great for step by step instruction. It has space to attach your samples of your attempted work so it doubles as a workbook. I love this book because it taught me a lot about the basics. I know how to measure someone now, I know how to do a lot of different stitches and their purposes based off this book. I have since gone on to sew pillows, puppets, gloves, full cosplays, and more. I have even shared my knowledge with others. Very good book to teach a complete novice how to sew.

I knew some of the basic stitches the book teaches but this goes over it in more detail than I was taught. I was slightly disappointed when the book came in (I knew it was going to be a binder as I saw this in our school book store before I bought it) but the pages were not hole punched properly and all of the top holes needed to be reinforced with those round stickers. This book was required for class and after only getting through chapter one and two I know I've learned a lot more. I like the set up of the opening chapters, and the chapter discussing measurements is set up ok. It was a bit out of order from the measurement sheet that comes with the book, but the descriptions of what needed to be measured was great. Overall I think it was a good purchase, and this book will be kept with my sewing kit at all times. The ability to attach samples of the stitches is a nice touch that will let me know, ok yeah I did this before I can do it again.

This book is good for the theater student and costume design and someone who aspires to being a costume designer for the theater. It's a lot different and it's not like making your own clothes but

it's for the characters in the play and a good job if your talented and love theater.

I have taught costuming for the past three years. Finally I feel like I have found a student text that helps teach what I want my students to know. The illustrations are clear and easy to follow. The three-ring binding and workbook format makes it easy for students to store their samples in a good spot for easy retrieval and reference. The organization makes it easy to develop a syllabus to lead students through the lessons. There is even enough meat in here to make it a good student text for a basic sewing course.

Some of the instructions weren't as clear as I'd have liked. Our instructor had us go by the book as much as possible, but some things weren't perfect. All in all, still an excellent resource. Some friends are chatting about the a photo of some pleating on a dress as shown in this book, and that was one thing we had to do. Not easy, but it was one thing I had never done before and now know how to do because of that class and this book.

The diagrams can be a bit confusing, and the binder arrived with a ring that is partially bent and won't close. However, the book has good basic information for teaching beginning sewing.

I bought this for a class that my husband and I are taking at our local college ASU this fall. It looks to be a very informative book and I am sure we will get a lot of use out of it.

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