

smocking a honeycomb texture

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/smocking-a-honeycomb-texture>



I really love how this smocked honeycomb texture adds elegance to any garment. You can use it just for decoration, but also to reduce width when you're making a waistband in a straight loose dress for example. I still plan to do that :-). The amount of fabric you need is twice the length your final piece needs to have.

Step 1 — mark out a grid



The regularity of your honeycomb structure all depends on how neat and regular your pleats are placed in the fabric. To help make them as neat as possible, I marked the part of fabric I wanted to smock with chalk. I made three rows of dots, all at 2 cm (1 inch) apart from each other. Feel free to mark more rows, if you want a larger smocked surface.

Step 2 — making the first pleat



I'm right handed, so I work from right to left. Reverse the whole story if you're left handed. Make a tiny stitch at the first dot of the first row, and another tiny stitch at the second dot of the first row.

Step 3 — secure the pleat



Pull the thread tight. You'll see how a pleat forms when the two dots are against each other. Add a few stitches to secure the pleat.

Step 4 — the second pleat



It's easy to do two rows of alternating pleats in one go. To do so, stick your needle into the fabric close to your first pleat and pull it out at the second dot that's marked in the second row.

Step 5 — finish the second pleat



In the same way you made the first pleat, now pull two dots in the second row together. You will see how a diagonal fold forms from your first pleat to the next because they are placed alternately.

Step 6 — the third pleat



Once you've secured your second pleat, return to the first row of dots and make a third pleat. Continue this way until you've reached the end of your work.

Step 7 — it starts to look like something



This is how your work should look after you've made several pleats in the first two rows of marked dots.

Step 8 — reverse for the next row



When you're at the end of your work, reverse and continue with the third row of pleats. Since I only made three rows of dots, I don't need to alternate between two marked rows for this last row of stitching. If you've decided to smock a bigger surface you can do the third and fourth row of stitching in the same way as the first two.

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