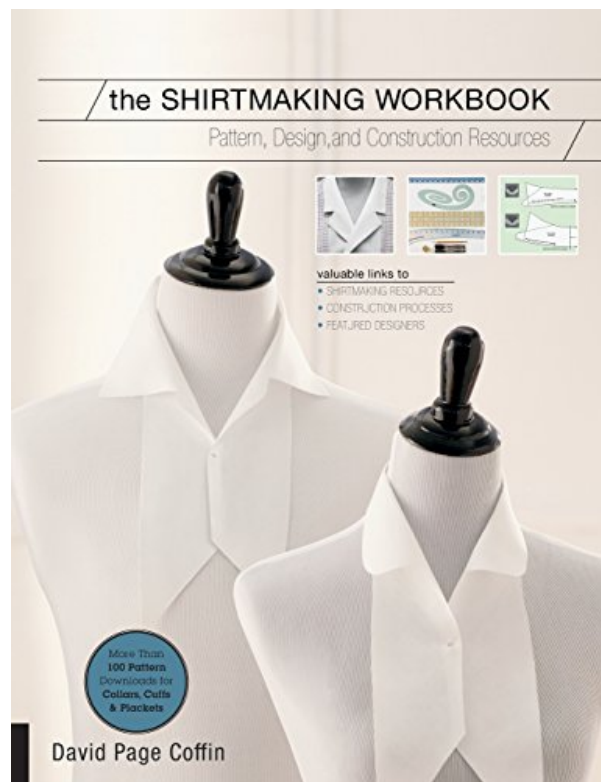
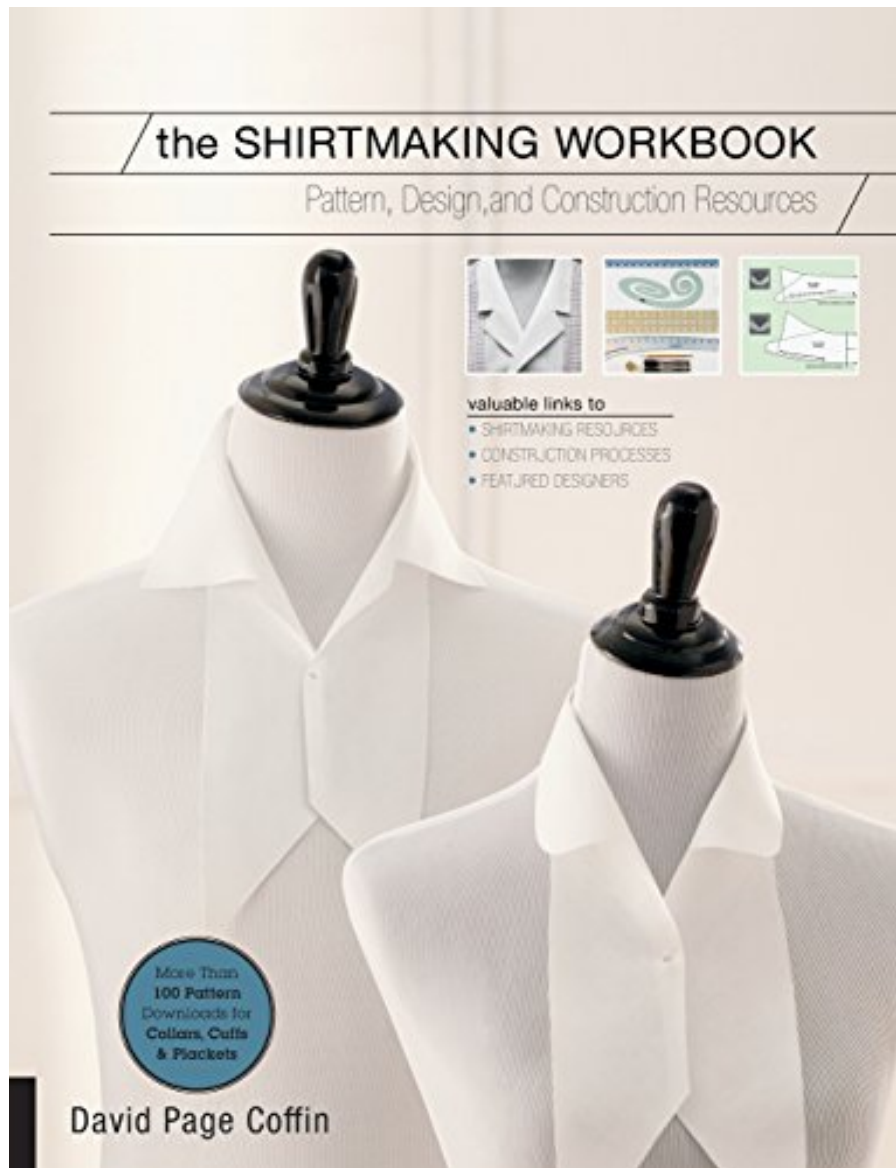


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## Review

"...an immersion course in design, with a particularly in-depth look at collars...David doesn't tell you how to sew a shirt from start to finish; you can buy a pattern to do that. But if you start with a pattern and apply his design inspirations, you'll soon be a shirt geek, too." - American Sewing Guild Notions magazine

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## About the Author

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sewing forums and has hosted live chats on PatternReview.com. He has appeared on Sandra Betzina's HGTV sewing program, and his instructional videos have been broadcast on YouTube.com and have received great reviews on ThreadBanger.com, PatternReview.com, and other sewing sites. David hosts <http://makingtrouserswithdpc.blogspot.com/> and <http://myvirtualworkshop.blogspot.com>. He lives with his wife, Ellen, in Brookings, Oregon.

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM AUTHOR: August 24, 2015: The complete package of Online Content for the Shirtmaking Workbook, including all the promised patterns and many articles with additional information is now fully available. THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE! I hope you'll find the new material worth the wait!

So you've made a basic shirt or two and you are looking for more options and directions... Well, you are in luck! David Page Coffin, author of *Shirtmaking*, a complete guide to the dress shirt, is back to help you with an amazing collection of custom detail patterns and ideas for men's and women's sport, knit, dress, and even simple coat and jacket shirt styles! Inside you'll find helpful guides to drafting or draping a custom pattern, copying or converting a favorite pattern or garment into a more basic pattern ready for customizing to your heart's content, mastering four different placket types so you can use these classic structures in ways you never imagined, understanding and reinventing most any sort of shirt and coat collar type in common use, along with how to construct them all, whether you want a couture creation or a workshop coverall. You'll get an introduction to digital pattern-making and alteration, a close-up and thorough look inside a closetful of classic shirt-type garments, explore a host of pocket and cuff options and have access to dozens of full-size detail and even full garment patterns for printing and customizing. And, of course, you'll learn how to finally turn those collar points all the way out like you've always wanted. The *Shirtmaking Workbook* includes extensive lists and links to further reading, supplies, and references to help make your custom shirtmaking easier and more masterful. With this unique and comprehensive workbook by your side, you'll never wonder how to make THAT shirt again.

- Sales Rank: #68273 in Books
- Published on: 2015-06-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.13" h x .50" w x 8.63" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

## Review

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

37 of 39 people found the following review helpful.

What A Delightful Book- Been Designing for Years, But Good For Beginner's Too

By Colorgirl

I know that the title of this review might be off putting to some who would view this book, but let me explain. When I first began to sew and design clothing, I wanted to do it right. I didn't care about the shortcuts or the quickie solutions to just slipping by with creating clothing. I wanted to make high quality designer level fashions eventually. With this in mind, all of my sewing pursuits were based upon building one concept upon another and getting each one right as I went along until I learned a new one.

With this in mind, I recommend this for veteran sewers as well as beginners who want to learn how to do things right from the beginning. Yes it will take more time at first, but in the end, you will be glad you took the time to learn it correctly. **HOWEVER IT IS NOT A HOW TO SEW BOOK.** You will need other resources to compliment this one for basic sewing information.

#### WHAT IS THIS BOOK LIKE?

Author David Page Coffin breaks down the shirt types in terms of modular thinking. Each style has a particular look to the basic form of the shirt, which he calls blocks. Then there are sub blocks which mean that specific design shapes of shoulders, armscye, and center front and neckline, for example. The garment industry uses these blocks as generalized means of making a shirt to fit a wide variety of people. This book attempts to show you how to make your **OWN PERSONAL** block to fit **YOU**. These blocks are used to spin off of to make any type of shirt that you desire- adding details and interesting changes which reflect your personality.

This book has a large variety of photos of processes for things such as collars, plackets, cuffs, and anything that would apply to shirts. There are sections on specific styles of shirts with featured details laid out in progression. There are also designers featured in the book with examples of what they have done with shirts.



There are a lot of resources listed in the book, such as other books with good designing information in them so that you can build your own library of sewing reference- something that I have always found invaluable for my own sewing and designing pursuits.

He gives examples of each type of shirt block (think style here) and then places you can find these types of styles in patterns, books, and online.

The pages of the book are thick and durable (think good text book weight) and easy to read. The binding is not spiral and won't lay flat easily on a table unless weighted down.

#### HOW WOULD THIS CONTRIBUTE TO AN EXPERIENCED SEWER?

This book is an invaluable resource for any experienced sewer who wants to make high quality and good looking shirts that equal or excel beyond what is found in the general marketplace. The photos are well laid out, and the many tips in here offered will apply to many different types of patterns that you might develop or encounter. You can design your own shirts, or just use the many tips in the book to make excellent patterns from that are commercial patterns.

#### HOW WOULD THIS BOOK HELP A NOVICE SEWER?

This book might have some parts which are overwhelming for a novice sewer such as how to copy an existing shirt or perhaps designing, but if you are highly motivated as I was, it might be right up your alley. If you tend to be a bit more hesitant to try going out on your own, I would say that this book has enough in it to help you do one good thing for every pattern you try to sew. You can use a tip or two for your patterns and incorporate them into your daily sewing over time. When you are ready to do more, this book will provide it for you.

#### WHAT I LIKE

- lots of photos
- designer pages inspire greatly
- LOTS of references for more information
- breakdown of tips for all aspects of sewing
- diagrams helpful
- photo profiled garments, online patterns, and online articles are clearly marked in the text for easier reference

#### WHAT I DON'T LIKE

- flow of the book seems a bit jumbled -takes time to plow through it to find what I need
- spiral bound might make it easier to work with at the sewing table/machine

#### THE BOTTOM LINE

If you have ever wanted to make nice shirts of any kind, this book is an excellent resource to have. The information contained in the book is invaluable for improving sewing technique and making high quality durable clothing that looks designer. Even novices can use many tips in here until they find their grounding in the sewing world. Experienced sewers will find plenty in this book to keep them busy improving and learning and challenged. The designer cameos are very inspirational and encourage me to want to branch out into designing new things. All in all, although I wish it were spiral bound or bound so it stays open better, and the lay out of the book was a little less jumbled, this book is a huge winner! I highly recommend it to anyone who truly wants to sew and do it well.

This book will have a center place in my library for years to come. It is a jewel- not always easy to find these

days. FIVE HUGE STARS !

#### ONLINE CONTENT

At the time of this review, I have not had a chance to work with the online content enough to evaluate it so I will update in the future as that opportunity presents itself to let you know about that aspect of the book as well.

33 of 35 people found the following review helpful.

No promised collar, cuff or placket patterns in book, only 20 (not more than 100) online

By Jacqueline Kiffe

Please note that I increased the number of stars from one to two based on the author's statement that all links now work. I will go through the book and check online and revise my review further a bit later. One of the problems is that a second book and an assortment of web documents are all necessary to make sense of it, and they are not well integrated. It should not require a juggling act to read it -- two books and a laptop.

I fully expected to adore this book, since I consider the original shirtmaking book (Shirtmaking: Developing Skills For Fine Sewing) one of the best sewing books ever written. I consider DPC to have had more influence on me than any other figure in sewing. I have been drafting my own patterns for decades, and the statement on the back cover ("Full-Size Patterns and Construction Steps for Practically Every Detail Imaginable!") sealed the deal for me, although it is a complete fiction. The promise on the front cover (More than 100 pattern downloads for collars, cuffs & plackets") is a complete lie, too. They may intend to do something in the future, but I would recommend waiting until they do, since by then quite a few people will have given up and resold their copies on Amazon.

There are no patterns in the book. Online, there are exactly 15 hyperlinks in the guide (five pointing to nothing), and most of them are worthless. There are seven nearly identical dress shirt collar patterns, an equestrian collar pattern, and 12 extremely similar detachable collar patterns, which I find astonishing. Thus, you get 20 collar pattern representing only two collar types, and zero plackets, zero cuffs, zero details. Of the aforementioned 15 links, 5 pointed to nothing, one just repeated pages in the book, one had basic instructions for a camp shirt collar (but no pattern), one just showed pictures of store-bought shirts in the author's collection, and one had ideas (but no patterns) for a single pocket and cuff (and if you need to be shown how to do a cuff that basic, then this book is too advanced for you). Just six had any patterns, and the range of those patterns went from A almost to B, but not quite. That is a far cry from what the cover promises.

Here is a list of the 15 links:

1. online copy of two pages in the book
2. basic camp collar instructions (no pattern)
3. 2 basic collar/stand patterns
4. 1 basic collar/stand pattern
5. 2 basic collar/stand patterns
6. sized equestrian collar
7. nonfunctional (broken) link
8. 12 detachable collar patterns
9. 2 dress collar patterns
10. nonfunctional (broken) link
11. nonfunctional (broken) link
12. nonfunctional (broken) link
13. photos of store-bought shirts the author owns
14. ideas (no patterns) for a pocket and a basic cuff
15. nonfunctional (broken) link

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

A new sewing classic

By karen viser

I would give this book 10 stars if I could. I preordered in December thinking I might pick up a few tips to transfer to women's blouses. When I received the book today I realized that I can spend years working my way through all the wonderful ideas and techniques. Not only is the book great, there is on-line access to patterns and tons of additional material. This is a "must have" for every sewing library.

[See all 68 customer reviews...](#)

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