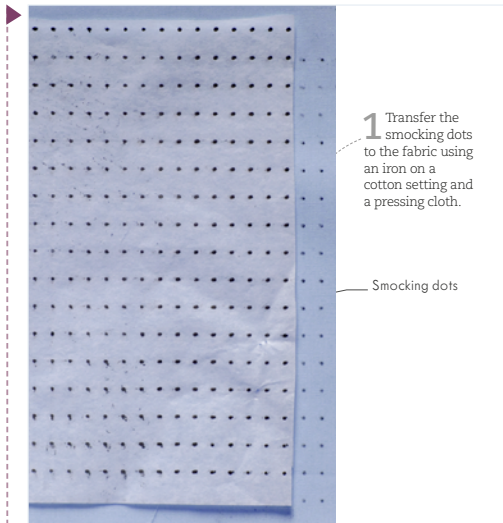


# SMOCKING

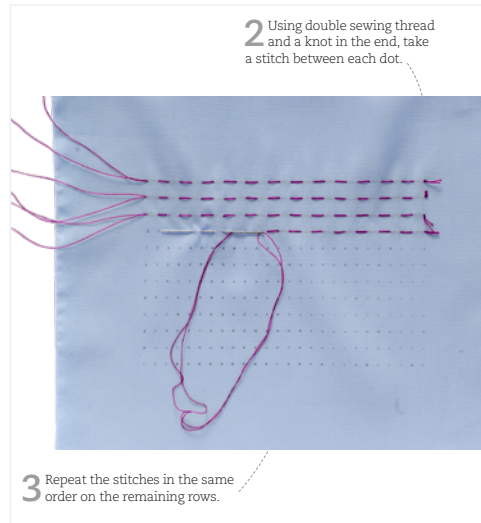
Smocking is one of the oldest ways of gathering fabric. It is very decorative and can add interest to a garment. Smocking involves pulling up multiple rows of gathers that have been stitched in by hand, in line with each other, to produce fine tubes in the fabric. These tubes are then stitched over. Smocking dots that can be heat-transferred to the fabric are used as a guide for the hand gathers. Dots can be purchased with different spaces between them.

Difficulty level \*\*\*\*



**1** Transfer the smocking dots to the fabric using an iron on a cotton setting and a pressing cloth.

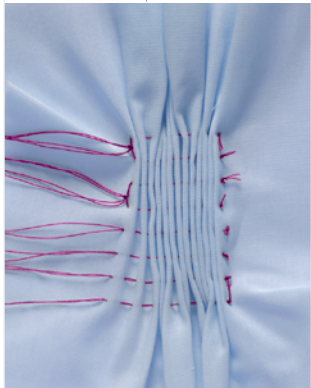
Smocking dots



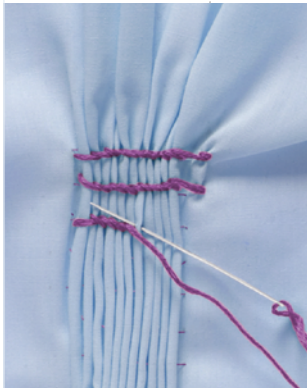
**2** Using double sewing thread and a knot in the end, take a stitch between each dot.

**3** Repeat the stitches in the same order on the remaining rows.

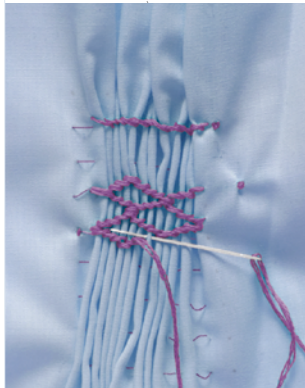
**4** Pull up the threads to produce gathers. Even the gathers out.



**5** Stitch across each tube using a backstitch. Work left to right, stitching through one tube and then moving to the right and repeating the process.



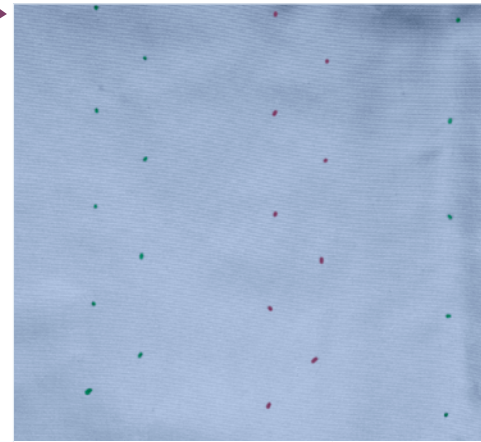
**6** Using the same stitch, patterns can be created across the tubes.



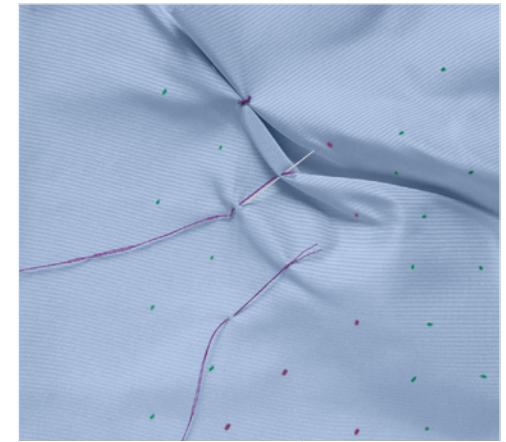
# SMOCKING FOR CUSHIONS

Smocking can be used in a much larger format to produce a decorative effect on cushions. Patterns and templates can be purchased for this effect.

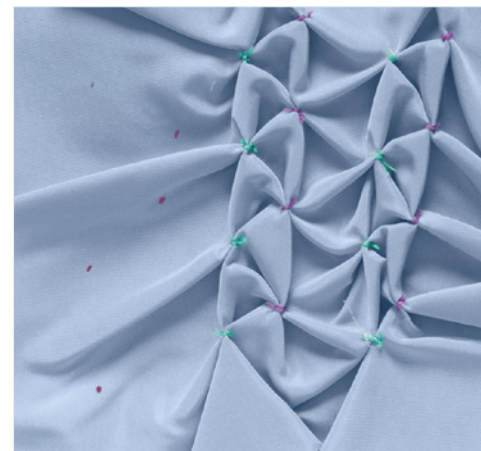
Difficulty level \*\*\*\*



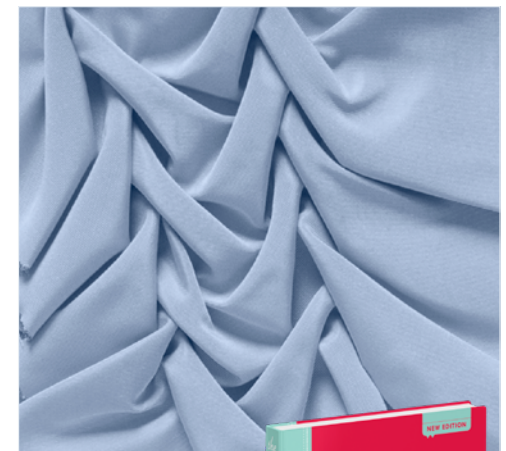
**1** Mark the dots on the wrong side of the fabric with chalk. Use two different colours to distinguish the different kinds of dots.



**2** Stitch adjacent purple dots to purple dots and green to green using an over-sewing stitch or a close whip stitch.



**3** Continue working across the fabric, joining the green dots to green dots and purple dots to purple dots.



**4** On the right side of the fabric, a chevron smocking effect will be produced.

