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# Pattern Play: A Zentangle Creativity Boost (Volume 1)



## Synopsis

Pattern Play: a Zentangle Creativity Booster is for anyone who wants to have fun, de-stress, and increase their creative confidence. The Zentangle method is a mindful activity that can be done most anywhere and requires little time, space, or equipment. Like other mindful activities, the practice of Zentangle may also help you feel less stressed, increase your confidence, improve your concentration, manage pain better, sleep more soundly, and meditate more deeply. No matter your skill level, this book will help you flex your creativity muscles. It includes step-by-step instructions to guide beginners in understanding the Zentangle method and creating their first Zentangle art.

Pattern Play also shows seasoned tanglers (people who already do Zentangle) how to use their existing repertoire of tangles (patterns) as a springboard to ignite their own creative spark. Along with instructions, it contains: - 21 meditative patterns - over 125 tangleations (variations) - over 50 beautiful pieces of art - over 75 idea starters - tips for better tangling and plenty of space to practice and refine your skills so you can become the artist you were meant to be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am a Certified Zentangle Teacher, and with all of the books out there, the choice of which one to buy can be confusing. Both of Cris's books are valuable additions to any zentangle library, because they address options and choices that are not covered well in other places. Even though I have been teaching this method since 2009, I have learned so many relevant things from her two books that pertain to art as well as zentangles. She has enriched my teaching and I'm grateful to her.

"Pattern Play: a Zentangle Creativity Book Vol. 1" is a fantastic book! This is the book that every beginner learning about Zentangle should read first! The authors go into detail about what is Zentangle, how it was developed, and the ins and outs of tangling. I have read many, many books on Zentangle, and this is by far my favorite one!!

42 pages are left blank for practice. Which means that 36% of the book is blank. I prefer not to pay for blank pages. For this reason the book should be \$7 less. Other wise it is another nice book about Zentangle.

This is a useful and beautiful book, a worthy addition to any Zentangle® library. Unlike other books, which focus on the acquisition of new tangles, Pattern Play explores what is possible with a handful of tangles and their "tangleations" (variations). Be prepared: this is about Zentangle®, so the authors emphasize the Rick Roberts and Maria Thomas method of creating these patterns. This is, in fact, the most thorough introduction to Zentangle® I have yet encountered, other than taking a class with a Certified Zentangle® Instructor (something I really recommend if you are interested in this as a meditation practice). I really appreciated the Pattern Play approach; other tangers, who are more interested in acquiring new patterns, may be disappointed. You will not find an extensive collection of tangles here; instead, you will play around with what you can do with patterns you already know. Experienced tangers will not need this encouragement to experiment. As a beginner, though, I find it exhilarating. This book does not contain colorwork. That was a letdown for me, at first, but I quickly realized I had plenty to enjoy without it. ALSO, I am also puzzled by the nicely bordered blank "Idea Starter" pages, which are silly given that the text insists there are "no mistakes" in tangling, anyway, and that among the Zentangle® "necessities" is high-quality paper. In fact, when you take the introductory class, you dive into using official Zentangle® tiles right away, as a way to value what you're doing and to really grok the method. My advice is that you use nice paper or even tiles as you play around with the patterns in this book, especially for the subtle art of shading. Don't get me wrong. For me, at least, Pattern Play is still worth every penny, but if you are basing your purchase on the number of pages it contains, be aware that 42 of those pages are actually more-or-less blank. And again, if you are exploring tangleations on your own already, this book might be irrelevant. I, however, am having a BLAST with the authors' gentle, inspiring approach.

I've had quite a few Zentangle books and this one by far has the most inspirational patterns and

they do a good job with the instructions. I don't think any book will teach you, you learn as you go but for me the instructions on some have been really strong because I tend to be dyslexic on certain curves, I try to do it right handed when I'm really left handed but acquired right through force so there seems to be a few curves that I do the wrong way because my brain wants to go as a left handed person despite using my right hand. Anyhow, I just got their "Made in the Shade" and am not impressed at all. I was hoping these authors put out a more decent follow up to this one. Overall I recommend this book over others because those I've had are extremely basic to drive you nuts. I've made some beautiful Zentangles just from doodling a few from this book! If you're creative, it's a book you will definitely want in your library. As other reviewers have suggested, there are quite a few blank pages for those who want to try their hand at it in the book itself. I think I counted about 24 but it does not take away from the amount of patterns they have put in this book and with very good instructions. I'm not bothered by the blank pages in the least. I don't use them but there might be those who would use them. As the book suggests "a creativity booster", but nonetheless, did I say they do have some great ideas for pattern play?!!

The stated purpose of this book is to help you develop your skills in Zen Tangling. This book is visually very nice and of a high quality. The zen tangles are beautiful, and of a highly decorative nature with organic shapes, as opposed to static and geometric designs. I personally love the organic and delicate designs when I ZenTangle. It is a teaching book and provides a lot of blank pages and empty spaces meant for you to fill in as you practice your skills. For myself I won't draw in my books, but if I was so inclined I might make copies of the pages and follow the lesson instructions, except I am terrible about "following instructions" in this manner. The book is meant to be a creativity booster, and in that sense I believe it succeeds because the designs are so very beautiful and enticing. It is well written and could be a fantastic starter book because there are many adaptations of each of the designs which are featured in the lessons.

I love this book. Instead of focusing on patterns for lots of tangles, which are easily found online, it encourages the reader to get very good at fewer patterns. The book features 21 patterns, gives at least four variations on each tangle, and gives prompts to help the tangler think of other variations. There is also space to try some ideas. I'm new to this fun hobby, but have looked at and purchased other books. This one gets at the heart of what tangling is all about: being creative, drawing from the heart, and getting to a place, where for me, the stress of the day melts away.

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