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Classic Teddy Bear Designs-Heirlooms To Make & Dress



Synopsis

Projects for the beginner to the advanced bear making aficionado. Includes full-size project patterns for 24 bears (both jointed and non-jointed) ranging from 3-1/4-18" as well as complete wardrobes for each. Gives a concise history of teddy bears and their clothes. 22 color and 101 b/w photos. 150 pages.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The things I liked about this book is it goes into history of Teddy Bears. Seems to have good instructions on contructing your bear and the clothes. It has a lot of cute clothing patterns including sweaters for your bear and how to make them from your old sweaters. My only con and it's really not a big deal, is that as it's an older book it doesn't have as many step by step photos as the newer books seem to have. It does just not as many. And much of it is in black and white. Still, it seems to have a lot of useful information. I am very new (extremely) to bear making and am not an experienced sewer. But I love the bears!

This book is a great resource for both beginning bear makers and experienced bear makers. It has a wide variety of bears from simple no-jointed to beautiful antique style jointed ones. There are patterns for clothes for all the size bears in the book. The instructions are well written and photos are clear. An excellent Book for every bear maker.

great book to work from, full of good ideas and several patterns to choose from in a range of sizes good for grandchildren

This would have to be the best value for money, beginners book on bear making that has been published in the last 10 or more years. The author has written this for the home sewer and doesn't assume that there is a teddy bear supplies shop just up the road where you can buy those expensive specialty items like joint sets, mohair fur, etc. Everything you need can be found at home in the sewing cupboard, at the local sewing shop or general store; eg: like buttons for joints, teddy jumpers/sweaters out of socks. There are numerous bear patterns of various sizes; eg: dad, mum & baby; both jointed and unjointed, along with clothes patterns for just about all of them! Estelle also explains how to customise the clothes patterns for different bears and garments; eg making a shirt into a coat. I still use this book if I want to dress bears from other patterns. For example I compare the bear that I'm making with Estelle's bear pattern pieces; ie leg to leg for trousers, body to body for dresses or jump suits, etc; and when I find one that is similar I use the clothes pattern that fits Estelle's bear as a base clothes pattern for the bear I am making. The bear patterns themselves are excellent for beginners as all the bears are quite chubby (makes for great cuddling!), so are easier to sew, to turn inside out and to stuff - no narrow nooks and crannies to make for difficult stuffing. Some of the head patterns don't have a full head insert ie down to the nose, again making for easy sewing and more chance of a "nice muzzle/nose" for a beginner. Virtually all the bears in the book are made from something other than mohair, either synthetic fur, felt, coat fabric, etc, so you get a pretty good idea of what your bear will ACTUALLY look like. Mohair is gorgeous, but is often deceptive as it is usually a woven fabric, which doesn't stretch, so if you use synthetic fur, felt or coat fabric, for example, you end up with a very different bear to the mohair one you are hoping to reproduce. (I have a 1980ish edition of this book around which this review is written. PLEASE NOTE: there may be changes to the later edition SO the comments in the following paragraph may not be correct for this more recent edition.) Full colour books are the norm these days, so it is disappointing there aren't MORE of the gorgeous colour photos - although there are still plenty of black and white ones. There is quite a lot of text, (including the usual "teddy bear" history), which comes under logical headings so it is generally easy to find info on subject. All the patterns are on pages of the book - great - no misplaced pattern inserts. This is a value for money book - lots of bear patterns with clothes patterns and how to do's. You won't make a Stieff reproduction, but you will get lots of practise with the numerous options this book offers.

This is a fantastic book for people learning to make bears. I really love the miniature bear patterns, the jointed bear with the hidden buttons, as well as the realistic bear. There are good instructions for making bear clothes from human clothes, even though I never cared much for dressed teddies. Mine are little nudists, but some of the clothes are highly tempting!

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