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Felt To Stitch: Creative Felting For Textile Artists



Synopsis

Versatile and easy to make, felt provides an ideal base for surface embellishment. This inspirational guide explores the possibilities, from creating felt from scratch to selecting unusual dye combinations and producing three-dimensional pieces. Using the sample projects that illustrate the main techniques, both beginning and advanced fiber artists will soon be experimenting with color, line, shape, pattern, and texture. Special sections on Japanese Shibori (knotting and dyeing the surface) and Nuno (combining felt with other materials to create rich and interesting fabric surfaces) make this a must-have for all fiber artists.

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Customer Reviews

Sheila Smith is a longtime feltmaker who teaches the fabric arts worldwide. She's the former chair of the International Feltmakers' Association, and writes for several textile and embroidery magazines, including *World of Embroidery*, *Beautiful Stitches*, *Sewing World*, and *Workbox*. Smith is the author of the bestselling *Felt to Stitch* (Batsford). She lives in Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

I bought this book to use with developmentally disabled adults. These adults live on a ranch, helping care for several fiber producing animals. This book is part of a cottage industry proposal that the staff and I are working on and I couldn't be more pleased. The pictures are vivid (appealing to my imagination) and the presentation is logical and orderly (appealing to the teacher/student part of me). The directions are simple and straight forward. The projects are adaptable for all levels of cognitive functioning and motor skills, and provide absolutely beautiful results. From making flat felt

as a raw material to three dimensional objects, from surface designs to combining felt and fabric, as well as jewelry, this book covers the basics and gives lots of creative ideas for projects. The results that my "students" came up with were lovely, and as always with felt, nearly impossible to duplicate. The experiences we used from this book were satisfying for those who love texture (wet/dry, bubble wrap, different types of fibers, raw fleece/fulled fabric). They were also satisfying for those who are visually stimulated, as color is well used throughout each project. The surface design ideas were usable by all, regardless of functioning level, because many different options are presented (paint sticks, stitching, stencilling, block printing, beadwork, cobweb, needle felting). The skills required are repetitive and not technical, the materials are easily found and readily available, and the actual individual tasks of going from raw fleece to finished product are varied, interesting and appeal to short-moderate attention spans. The working process provided a wonderful atmosphere for cooperation and conversation, as each adult helped or received help from their peers and shared the excitement as their project began to take shape. We now have finished items that my students can use, sell, or wear and they know which animal gave its fleece to them to make it. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is fascinated by fiber and feels intimidated by the current "fiber artist" trend. Nearly anybody can make felt and be delighted with the results. This book is an excellent guide to finding the different ways to make and use felt, and is suited for the beginner and the seasoned alike. Excellent!

I have devoured this book from front to back. It is truly a beautiful book with excellent information and gorgeous pictures. It is very well written with easy to understand instructions for those new to felting as I am. There are a few projects; again easy to understand and the book encourages the felter to explore their own creativity and generally have a ball!! Congratulations Sheila Smith on a book which will easily become one of my treasured possessions.

I love the book for its inspirational quality, but did find that the instructions were lacking for the beginning felter. However, the items in the book are very beautiful, and do inspire me to get better. I do anticipate using the book more after I've figured out what the author is talking about.

Okay. I get it; the authors want to show off their designs, and one has to read around the corners for details of technique and process. I'd rather have more photos of works-in-progress than the finished projects.

Simple, detailed directions for getting started and good ideas for projects. A very good explanation of the process for beginners.

I recently took a few felting workshops and was looking to build up a reference library. After going through my local library system and reviewing many, many books on-line, I purchased three books. "Felt to Stitch" was one of my purchases and I am so glad! I love the photographs, the instructions and the projects. It is a great reference tool and a great find. Definitely worth adding to your collection of felting books -- for the beginner or the advanced felter!

Great pictures and instructions to get your art moving.

This is a beautiful book and very inspirational. There are instructions about how to approach different techniques or how to accomplish certain looks. The information is just to get you started and may not be good for everyone, especially a beginner, for technique but everyone can definitely benefit from the great items and ideas in the book.

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