

Embroidered Books: Design, Construction and Embellishment

Isobel Hall

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Isobel Hall : Embroidered Books: Design, Construction and Embellishment before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Embroidered Books: Design, Construction and Embellishment:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. DisappointingBy Susan WoodI own a copy of Isobel Hall's earlier book so I was happy to take a gamble on this one. But if I'd had the chance to look at it first, I would not have bought it. My bookshelf is overcrowded and books have to earn a place there - I've since passed this one on to a new owner. This is not really a book about embroidered books. The author doesn't have a lot to say about what goes inside the book and, as another reviewer noted, it doesn't provide much detail on the construction of the books either. If you want to know about exposed spine sewings you would be better off with one of Keith Smith's books. I was going to say that it was a book about embroidered book covers, but it's not even that. It is really a book full of recipes for using the latest mixed media tricks and gimmicks. The book covers are just a convenient surface on which to display these

experiments, some of which are more successful than others. If you are interested in experiments with mixed media, you would be better off spending your money on some raw materials and spending some time in your own studio. I can't help feeling that this is one of those instances where the author of a successful book (I liked her first one) has been pressured to come up with something else too quickly. I'm afraid that the end result feels superficial to me. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Another great fiber art book By Roberta L. Payne Wonderful book for experienced fiber folks. Anyone who has created books will enjoy a new take on using different fibers and mediums to create books. 20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Beyond "How to Make a Book" By Artzee Books and More The person who will benefit the most from this book is someone who is already experienced in and comfortable with various means of binding books, and/or just looking for ways to decorate the covers using a wide variety of materials and treatments. There is a single chapter on basic book construction, but for the most part, is not detailed enough for someone who is taking their first venture into binding. I was hoping for more comprehensive instructions on the exposed spine bindings shown in the book. The emphasis here is on the covers, and this book will give the book artist a dazzling array of techniques using embroidery on various papers and other substrates; using encaustic wax, paints, inks, fiber and molding pastes, and many more materials. The photographs of the projects are well-done and large enough to help guide the artist in executing the techniques. The author's examples are gorgeous! Especially recommended for artists who love to experiment.

Books with embroidered bindings and covers can be true works of art treasured heirlooms to be handed down for generations. Now all needleworkers can master this traditional craft with the help of these detailed instructions and patterns. The projects combine several binding methods including wrap-up and zig-zag books with a range of exquisite embroidery designs, from a Wild West themed wallet book to an intricately bound volume strewn with flower petals.

I cannot praise this book highly enough. It is tremendous. All the things a craft book should be - full of information, ideas and inspiration - the work is exquisite. On the practical side, the book contains all you need to know about book construction. There are numerous suggestions for embellishing book covers including digital imagery and printing. All are accompanied by detailed instructions. If you just try some of the projects from this book it would be worth the while, but I think you will want to have a go at most of them, which makes this book worth its weight in gold. Altered books have become very popular in recent years and this is the best of the books I have seen on the subject. This 128 page book is immaculately produced with high end printing, superb photography and clear instructions.

<http://www.karenplatt.co.uk> About the Author Isobel Hall is a teacher and textile designer who specialises in creating handmade paper and using it to make embroidered bags. She teaches papermaking, book-making and bag-making and also takes on commissions.