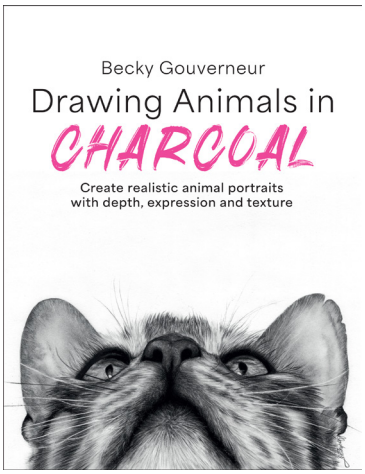
# SEARCH PRESS

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Drawing Animals in Charcoal
by Rebecca Gouverneur

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# Drawing Animals in Charcoal

**Create realistic animal portraits with depth, expression and texture**

Becky Gouverneur

## Key Selling Points

- **PERFECT FOR THOSE WITH SOME DRAWING EXPERIENCE:** Aimed at those with some experience but who may be new to charcoal or want to explore new styles.
- **CONTEMPORARY, PHOTOREALISTIC STYLE:** Stunning artwork, with incredible detail and realism.
- **POPULAR SUBJECT:** Animals of all kinds are always well-loved art subjects.
- **A RANGE OF EXCITING TUTORIALS TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS:** including 5 quick studies and 4 large-scale tutorials.
- **MEETS A GAP IN THE MARKET:** Becky's stunning work and clear teaching style make this a must-have title on an under-published subject.
- **AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR:** Becky is a very popular artist and teacher, with a strong following and loyal fan base; she was a finalist in the DSWF Wildlife Artist of the Year 2024 and a runner up in People's Choice category of the SAA Artist of the Year 2023.
- **AUTHOR USES A RANGE OF POPULAR INTERNATIONAL BRANDS:** Coates Charcoal; Conté à Paris; Nitram; Faber-Castell and Pitt pencils.

## Summary

**Create your own stunning, photorealistic animal portraits in charcoal, with renowned teacher and artist Becky Gouverneur. Discover the complete masterclass guide to capturing expression, creating texture and building a narrative composition.**

Aimed at those with some drawing experience but perhaps new to charcoal or wanting to explore new styles, Becky breaks down her astonishingly detailed, photorealistic techniques so that you can create the same effects for yourself.

Opening with general information and techniques, as well as a guide to using charcoal, the book explores:

- a series of **5 studies**, which take you step by step through commonly requested subject matter including fluffy fur, silky feathers and glossy eyes, before culminating in a larger study of the cover star, Loki the cat.
- **4 full-length tutorials** of popular animals – including stags, a collie dog and an owl.
- how to **take things further**, from practical subjects like framing and displaying your artwork to important artistic considerations like narrative and composition.

The art of using charcoal can be mindful and meditative, and Becky's popular approach will encourage you to be disciplined and calm, and help you lose yourself as you create something wonderful.

## Contributor Bio

Finding her talent for draughtsmanship at school in rural Buckinghamshire, Becky studied photography and textile design at university. After a varied career – from photography to the police force to teaching – she returned to her creative roots and became a professional artist on her return to the UK from the Netherlands in 2016.

Becky's primary focus is striking, large scale, high contrast charcoal animal portraiture, drawn from her own photographs. The combination of observational photography and highly refined charcoal techniques produces quirky, characterful pieces with a strong sense of presence and personality. She favours Coates willow charcoal, and Pierre Noire pencils by Conté à Paris, along with Faber-Castell Pitt compressed charcoal.

In addition to teaching workshops Becky demonstrates her techniques for schools, art societies and other groups. Becky is an active supporter of Medical Detection Dogs. She exhibits regularly at galleries and exhibitions across the UK and is a member of several art societies.

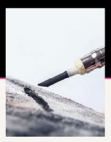
Follow Becky here:

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## why charcoal?

As we begin this journey together there are some things I want you to remember. Learning to draw is more than just developing a skill, it's an act of bravery and faith. It's about embracing possible failure as a step in a greater journey and silencing your inner doubts. Life is far too short to keep putting off pursuit of the things that make us feel truly happy. Practice, persistence and patience are key: nothing worth having ever comes easily.

In May 2015, my world shattered. I was seven months pregnant with my second son, balancing life as an art teacher, when I received a call. My parents had been in a serious car accident. My mother survived, but my father wasn't so lucky. After three days on life support, he was gone. Just like that.

Losing him so suddenly was like having the floor ripped out from under me. Everything I thought was certain, everything I had planned for the future, was thrown into question. I was heartbroken, and forced to confront a painful truth: life is fragile, and none of us know how much time we have.

Before the accident, I had spent years following a traditional path, seeing my creative passions aside in favour of careers that felt more stable. I had studied photography and textiles at university, worked as a photographer, spent five years as a police officer, and then began teaching art. I loved inspiring my students, but my free time was swallowed up by planning and marking. I felt like I was watching my life, and my children's early years, pass me by.

My father's death changed everything. It forced me to ask myself: if I had only a limited time, is this how I wanted to spend it? The answer was no. That was the moment I decided to stop waiting.

Soon afterwards, a friend asked me to draw a large, one metre-square, portrait of his two beloved dogs as a present for his wife. I hadn't drawn in years, but gave it a go. Although I was most comfortable working in graphite pencil, charcoal was the more sensible option for a piece of that scale. That decision changed everything. When I shared the final drawing online, the response was overwhelming, and commissions started coming in. Before I knew it, I had a new path. One that felt right. One that was mine.

I took a step back from teaching and began building my own drawing business, having fallen in love with charcoal – its depth, the richness of the blacks, and how it allowed me to capture expression and texture – I wanted to continue working with it. What started as a commission turned into a passion, and that passion became my career.

Of course, nothing happened overnight. It took years of dedication, drawing five or six hours a day, every single day, to get to where I am now. Skill is built through repetition, observation, and perseverance. It's a cycle: the more you practice, the better you become. The better you become, the more you enjoy it. And the more you enjoy it, the more you want to do it.

Now, I spend my days creating, teaching, and sharing my love for drawing with others. Not because I was lucky, or because the stars aligned, but because I made the choice to take a leap.

The key is to keep going, even when you feel like you're not getting anywhere. And that's the message I hope you take from this book.

If you've ever told yourself you're not good enough, not ready, not 'talented' enough to draw – this book is for you. Together, let's prove those doubts wrong.



**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**
42 x 59cm /16½ x 23¼in
An Angus/Simmental cross cow named Poppy, who lives in a village local to me, drawn accompanied by a Large Blue (Phengaris arion) butterfly. This is one of the largest and rarest blue butterfly species in the UK – not to scale in this drawing, it's not that big! Extinct in the UK by 1979, it has since been successfully reintroduced, but is still classified as Endangered.





## LIFTING

One of the best things about working in charcoal is that it's just as easy to lighten as it is to darken. Simply take a putty eraser and start lightening. You can apply a large flat area and then use an eraser to shape, lighten or create details. This is where not overworking things earlier will pay off – you can't subtract successfully if the charcoal has been pushed heavily into the paper.

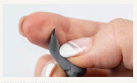
The putty eraser is ideal for light areas because you can get very fine detail by shaping it into a point between your fingers (see right). This can then be used without the lines. The Tombow eraser is harder so you can use it with more pressure for subtracting highlights from darker areas created with multiple layers of charcoal.

On this wing detail, I have established the dark tones, and so now I can return to add contrast and detail by lifting some highlights.

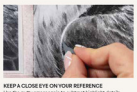




**FINE CONTROL**
The very fine highlights along the feather filaments are easy to lift. Use the point of your putty eraser. Place the tip where you want the mark to start, and draw it towards you in a light motion that lifts away for a tapering mark.



**RESHAPE AND STAY CLEAN**
The point will quickly get saturated in charcoal – often after just a few strokes. Reshape the putty eraser frequently to keep the highlights clean.



**KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON YOUR REFERENCE**
Use the putty eraser again to subtract highlight details from the willow charcoal along the top of the wing. Work carefully and gradually to match the tone to your reference.



**TOMBOW FOR PIERRE NOIRE**
The harder Tombow eraser is needed to lift out the tone from the darker feathers, which was made with the Pierre Noire pencil. Keep the nib clean either by pressing it into the putty eraser when it gets dirty, rubbing it on a spare sheet of paper, or simply wrapping the end off.



## FINISHING THE STUDY

When you think you have finished, go somewhere else look at something else for at least ten minutes (it's a good excuse for a cup of tea). When you come back, play 'spot the difference' and start looking for the differences between your reference photograph and your drawing.

Use the putty eraser to lighten areas that are too dark, adding up or subtracting tone as necessary. Keep your reference close to hand all the way through this process – don't overwork it. Work from the most obvious differences through to the most subtle, taking breaks as and when needed to refresh your perspective.

You can keep refining and improving like this as long as your patience – and sanity – hold out! After that, you can carefully remove the masking tape to reveal the finished study.







FULL STUDY

## STUDY 5: LOKI

Before moving on to the larger tutorials and framing going really big, let's start with something a bit more manageable. I originally drew this portrait of Loki, a very cheeky Bengal cat, for his owner a few years ago, and it's stayed one of my favourites ever since. Now he's ended up on the cover of this book, it feels only right that he's the one to guide you into your first full drawing, bringing together the techniques we've been building up so far.

If you're still feeling a bit unsure, don't worry. That's completely normal at this stage. This is meant to be enjoyable, not stressful, and charcoal is wonderfully forgiving, most mistakes can be lifted, blended, or quietly corrected without anyone ever knowing. If you'd like a bit of extra support, there's also a full video version of this tutorial on my YouTube channel and on Bookmarked.

We'll be working at A3 size – 42 x 29cm (16½ x 11¾in) – which is the size I'd generally recommend as a minimum for charcoal. It's large enough to get some lovely detail into a close-up portrait like this, but you may find it a bit too small if you're trying to do a full body portrait, a scene or are aiming for photographic level detail.

Because Loki's face is almost perfectly symmetrical, we'll focus on the left-hand side in detail, working section by section and gradually moving across the page to avoid dragging our hands through finished areas. Once you've worked through that, you can repeat exactly the same process on the other side.

**TECHNIQUES USED**
- Working at scale
- Cartooning core techniques
- Preparing for the larger tutorials
- Transferring the image with a lightbox
- Basecoat with powder
- Blocking and blending
- Flicking edges
- Subtracting
- Resist



The finished study.

**TIP**

Throughout the book I often talk about working from left to right to avoid smudging, purely because I'm right-handed. If you're left-handed, you can either follow along as written and be extra mindful of where your hand is going, or flip (edit your drawing and reference image horizontally) the whole thing and work right to left. It might feel slightly odd at first, but it works, and as a bonus, drawing upside-down can actually help you see shapes and relationships more clearly, rather than getting distracted by what you think the subject should look like.





## REFERENCE PHOTOGRAPH

The unusual angle of this photo is a big part of what makes it work, so keep a close eye on the main shapes. The mouth in particular is a slightly unexpected shape, and the eyes recede as they move up the face, so the pupils don't quite look how your brain thinks they should. All of the small differences are what create the sense of perspective, so it's worth slowing down and observing them carefully.



## OUTLINE DRAWING

Before you begin, cover the right-hand side of your paper with glassine to protect it from charcoal dust. The outline shown here can be photocopied and enlarged to A3, or downloaded from Bookmarked (see page 30). You can then transfer it over more using the lightbox method explained on page 36.

Keep your lines very light; you should barely be able to see them, you can see the lightness of my lines in the image for stages 1 and 2. Remember, it's much easier to add than the charcoal you're about to apply. I will show through your work later. If needed, gently go over the lines with a putty eraser to lighten them until they almost disappear.





**WHITE WHISKER RESIST**
If you've ever used embossing tools in pencil drawing, this is the same principle. Rubbing the side of a sharpened white pencil forms a barrier that stops the charcoal from sticking to the surface. It's a simple trick, but very effective.

## STAGES 1 AND 2: RESIST AND POWDER BASE

Using a sharp white Polychromos pencil, draw along the white whiskers and add a small highlight in the eye. This creates a resist layer to keep those areas clean. Use a firm back-and-forth motion, finishing with a flick, and work alongside the whisker outline marks rather than directly over them so you can erase them afterwards.

Starting in the darker areas, apply a powder base with a soft brush (see page 37), then gently carry some of that tone into the lighter areas. Don't worry about trying to judge values early on. Don't worry about going over the edges at this stage, it's very easy to tidy up later. Just make sure the main area is evenly covered before lifting off any excess with a putty eraser.



**IDENTIFYING TONES**
Keep checking your reference, especially in areas like the mouth where there are no hard edges, and build until the main shadows feel correct.

Squinting at your drawing and reference reduces the amount of detail you're seeing, which can help allow you to focus clearly on the tonal relationships and bigger shapes.

## STAGE 3: DARK TONES

Getting your darks in early makes everything else easier to judge. Use a Pierre Noire H pencil for sharp edges and finer detail around the eye using light, flicking strokes, then switch to a 2B for filling larger dark areas. Follow the direction of the fur to keep the texture natural and consistent with the reference.

Work outwards from the darkest points around the eye, nose, and mouth. Where edges are soft, blend with a stump to smooth transitions, using your strokes to reinforce the fur direction and texture.

**TIP**

When working towards the centre line, particularly along the nose and mouth, leave soft, blended edges rather than sharp lines. This makes it much easier to join the two halves of the face later on.





## Depth and distance



Part of creating a photographic effect in your drawing is understanding and being able to imitate what the camera does. If you have ever explored photography you might have come across the term 'depth of field'. It sounds a bit technical, but simply put it is just the range within an image that appears sharp and in focus.

When you hear 'shallow depth of field', it usually means your subject is crisp and clear, and everything behind it softens away into a blur. Photographers use this all the time, partly because it looks beautiful, but also because it helps guide your eye. It stops you getting lost in unnecessary detail and holds your attention on the subject. And that's something we can absolutely avail for our drawings!

In the tutorial that follows, *Stag Party*, we're going to explore how to deliberately soften and blur the more distant areas of your piece. Nor in a dramatic way, but just enough to suggest distance. We'll also look at how tonal values also add to this effect, because depth is never just about blur, it's about contrast, clarity, and subtle tonal variations.

By the end of this chapter, you will be able to push those background elements, like trees and distant animals, further away, allowing your foreground subjects to stand out and dominate the scene.

**HERD IMMUNITY**
64 x 86cm/25 x 33¾in
A sense of distance was created here by the gradual blurring of the details in objects getting progressively further away.





TUTORIAL

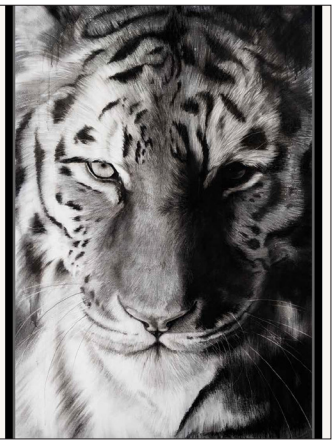
## TYGER, TYGER

This tutorial, featuring a rather stunning tiger, nudges you gently out of the 'paper and pencil' comfort zone and into working with charcoal on canvas. If you enjoy being a bit looser, a bit more expressive, or even a little bit messy, you'll have a lot of fun with this one.

A big part of what makes this particular piece work is the use of darkness. They push lighter areas forward, sharpen contrast, and give the whole image a sense of the dramatic. It's less about gently building tone and more about committing to it and being brave.

**YOU WILL NEED**
- Basic kit – see page 30
- 60 x 91cm (24 x 36in) canvas – I used Winsor & Newton Cotton Smooth
- Willow charcoal – thick sticks 7–9mm (¼–⅜in) in diameter
- Electric eraser
- Acetone and a small spray bottle
- Spray varnish, clear matt varnish and a large household brush

**Optional**
- Latex gloves, if you like keeping clean
- Baby wipes



Opposite:
The finished Tyger, Tyger



## FINDING INSPIRATION

One way I particularly enjoy building narrative is through small, subtle details. An object, like the oval pocket watch (see page 105), a setting, or even a texture. It doesn't need to be obvious. In fact, some of my most successful pieces have come from not spelling everything out. If you explain everything visually, there's nothing left for the viewer to do, and the work risks becoming 'just a pretty picture', something that's easily forgotten. Leaving things unsaid allows people to form their own interpretation, and often creates a stronger emotional connection. That's what makes an image stay with someone.

Sometimes, though, I'll start with a story, like *The Raven & The Pitcher* (see right), but it doesn't need to be literal. My drawing *The Raven & The Pitcher (Do The Great Do Not Always Prevail* on the previous page, was inspired by Aesop's fables. Environmental issues, our wasteful consumerist habits, and the power and strength of an individual's actions are things I feel strongly about. These pieces are a way of expressing that. They allowed me not just to tell a story, but also to say something more personal. Having that kind of connection to your subject really matters. It turns a drawing into something with meaning, and that's what makes it memorable.

If you feel strongly about something, let that come through in your work. Artists have always used their work to express ideas, opinions, and observations, sometimes subtly, sometimes more directly. You don't need to force meaning into everything you create, but when it's there, it can add something special.

A good drawing shows skill and is enjoyable to look at. A drawing with narrative gives people a reason to connect with it, and more importantly, a reason to remember it.

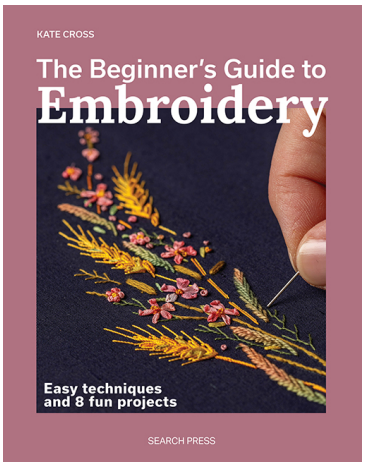
**Aesop's fable**

In a spell of very unsettled, unfair, hot, thirsty weather, a Raven could find very little to drink, until one day she found a pitcher with a little water in it. But the pitcher was high and had a narrow neck, and no matter how he tried, the crow could not reach the water. The poor thing felt as if he must die of thirst. Then an idea came to him. Picking up some small pebbles, he dropped them into the pitcher one by one. With each pebble, the water rose a little higher until at last it was near enough so he could drink.

Moral: In a pinch, a good use of our wits may help us out.



**THE RAVEN & THE PITCHER**
30 x 40cm/11¾ x 15¾in
My first modern interpretation of Aesop's fable (see opposite): the raven stands on a stack of books, representing humanity's knowledge, understanding, and technological advancement. He is surrounded by dried, withering rose petals, symbolising decay and loss, as he pours money, a nod to modern consumerism, into the jug. The water level is high, but not quite high enough. The moral is something very different. It mirrors the impact of our current way of living, with rising sea levels driven by climate change. Within the jar are coins from different countries, a reminder that this is a shared issue. Our actions are not isolated, what happens in one part of the world affects us all.




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# The Beginner's Guide to Embroidery

**Easy techniques and 8 fun projects**

Kate Cross

## Key Selling Points

- **PERFECT FOR BEGINNER EMBROIDERERS:** 8 simple beginner projects, each building in difficulty throughout the book, teaching you new stitches and techniques as you go.
- **SUITABLE FOR ALL ABILITIES:** contains clear step-by-step photographs and full-size traceable templates.
- **CLEAR, THOROUGH TECHNIQUE SECTION MAKES THIS AN ESSENTIAL VISUAL STITCH LIBRARY.**
- **8 CONTEMPORARY, STYLISH PROJECTS** including wearables, accessories and homewares.
- **EXPERT EMBROIDERY AUTHOR:** Kate Cross trained at the world-renowned Royal School of Needlework; she uses simple stitches to create extraordinarily sophisticated results.
- **NEW TITLE IN A BEST-SELLING SERIES:** *The Beginner's Guide to Crochet* by Claire Montgomerie has sold over 63k copies since 2023; *The Beginner's Guide to Knitting* by Lynne Rowe has sold 23k copies since 2023.

## Summary

**The essential beginner's guide to embroidery, with 8 stunning projects and over 30 essential step-by-step stitches, from renowned tutor and Royal School of Needlework-trained author, Kate Cross.**

**Use simple stitches to create stunning and sophisticated results with this inspiring, fully illustrated guide, complete with full-size traceable templates.**

In this complete course, perfect for absolute beginners, embroidery teacher Kate Cross shows you everything you need to get started. She combines helpful, friendly guidance with 8 colourful modern projects, which build in complexity throughout the book, each one teaching and consolidating new stitches in achievable steps. Discover:

- how to choose the right **tools and materials**;
- how to **prepare your fabric, transfer your designs** and **cast on**;
- how to make a range of over **30 stunning stitches**, from simple embroidery staples like stem stitch and French knots to exciting stitches that will challenge and inspire you, such as trellis stitch, silk shading and raised stem band stitch;
- clear **step-by-step photographs** for every single stitch;
- **full-size traceable templates (including a complete monogram alphabet)**, which make it easy to get stitching quickly;
- Choose from **8 simple-but-stunning designs:** a sweet-and-simple needlecase featuring a needle and thread design; an elegant feather motif bookmark; two stunning hoop art embroideries featuring a vintage teaset; an embroidered floral headband; an embroidered fabric clutch bag with an elegant nautical design; a neckline-hugging floral sweatshirt embroidery; and a customisable monogrammed napkin, complete with full traceable alphabet.

Whether you want to create the same finished items as Kate (for which instructions are provided), or simply work the stunning embroideries to display on their own, the choice is yours!

## Contributor Bio

Kate is an accomplished hand-embroider, artist and teacher who found embroidery at the age of 7. After completing an art degree, she trained on the Apprenticeship Program at the Royal School of Needlework, and has built up a huge repertoire of embroidery techniques and knowledge.

Kate has worked on prestigious commissions as part of the RSN team of stitchers, including the Princess of Wales' wedding dress and the coronation robes of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Kate runs her own thriving business, Bespoke Embroidery, based in Godalming, Surrey, working both public and private commissions and teaching. She works regularly for fashion houses, with clients including Hermès, Dior and Stella McCartney.

Kate's first book, RSN: Applique, published in 2016 and has sold 5000 copies. This is her second book.

Find her online at: www.bespokeembroidery.net or on Instagram @cross.kate

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# General embroidery advice...

## THE EMBROIDERY PROCESS

• Unless stated otherwise, your stitches should be worked using two strands of embroidery cotton/floss.

• Make sure you work with tight material in your ring frame; the material should sound like a drum (see pages 29–21).

• Try to work so that your dominant hand is underneath the frame and your less dominant hand is on top of the frame; this should make embroidery quicker.

• Always start your thread with two small stitches inside an area you will fill with embroidery.

• Where possible, complete embroidery with two small stitches and cut the tail off on the top of your frame. If you are unable to do this, you can cast off on the reverse of your work.

• Work from the background of the design to the foreground, unless suggested otherwise.

• When embroidering, ensure all the pencil lines are covered. To ensure you do so, work any outlining embroidery stitches on the outside of your design lines.

• I'm right-handed, so this is what is shown in all the photographs. If you are left-handed and want to see the process in reverse, take a photograph of the step(s) in question and flip to switch the orientation; using a mirror can achieve this too.

## STITCHING ON THE MOVE

I can regularly be found stitching in moments of 'dead time' perhaps on the train, waiting to pick up the kids or in meetings. Here are a couple of tips to make transporting your embroideries easy:

• Shower caps make great coverings for ring frames that are carried and worked.

• Zip-lock bags are great for keeping all your individual embroidery elements together.

## KEEPING COMFORTABLE

• Lighting makes all the difference; seat yourself in a comfortable position with good light and if you can invest in an embroidery light this will help. Position the embroidery lamp on the opposite side to your stitching hand to avoid shadows.

• Give your eyes frequent breaks by looking at a distance from your embroidery and all its fine detail.

• Sit with a straight bac, and try not to hunch over; frames can be adjusted so they are at chest level, to avoid stooping.

• To ensure you don't strain your arms, your thread should be no more than 30cm (12in) long.

## FINISHING YOUR EMBROIDERY

• If your fabric is dirty you'll need to wash it gently by hand. Check your thread labels first to ensure that your threads are colourfast, then wash by hand with a mild detergent (sponge gently from the reverse of the fabric). To dry, lay the fabric flat on top of a towel.

• To remove any hoop marks, press around the embroidery with a steam iron from the reverse. Never iron the front of the embroidery – all that texture you've just created will be flattened!

## Must-have kitlist

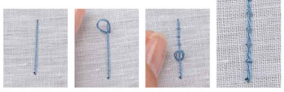
• An embroidery hoop: 15cm (6in) or 20.5cm (8in) is a good starting size.
• Embroidery needles (size 5–9 for general use).
• Embroidery threads (stranded cotton/floss; in a few colours you love).
• Light or medium-weight fabric (like cotton or linen).
• Small, sharp scissors.
• A pencil or water-soluble pen for marking fabric.






## SELF-COUCHING

Using one piece of thread, you will create a long stitch on the fabric surface and then secure it with a succession of small, evenly spaced couching stitches along its length, before the next long stitch is laid down.

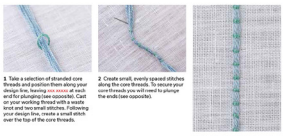


1 Lay a long stitch down.
2 Come up close to the end of this long stitch and work a small stitch over the top.
3 Continue to create small, evenly spaced stitches along the length until you return to the beginning of the longer stitch.



## COUCHING

Couching is used to attach a thread or group of threads (known as your core threads) to the fabric surface when they are too thick to be stitched through it. Usually a finer thread is used to secure the larger one down (this is called your working thread).



1 Take a selection of stranded core threads and position them along your design line, leaving one strand at each end for plunging (see opposite). Cast on your working thread with a waste knot and two small stitches. Following your design line, create a small stitch over the top of the core threads.
2 Create small, evenly spaced stitches over the core threads to secure your core threads you will need to plunge the ends (see opposite).

## PLUNGING

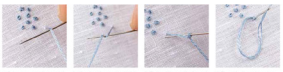
Follow this method to take your core threads through to the reverse of the fabric and secure them.



1 The number of times you need to split your core threads will depend on how many you have used. Lift them up and take several from the underneath of the set and thread them into a large eye needle (see opposite and here). Pull the needle through to the reverse of the fabric.
2 Continue to thread up groups of core threads and take them down, working from the bottom of the set to the top. Take them through to the reverse of the fabric at another point in the fabric, so that you are not putting pressure on one grain of fabric.
3 Once all your core threads are plunged, turn the embroidery over to the reverse and weave them through the back of the stitches for around 2cm (¾in). If your core threads are particularly thick, they can be divided up into groups and woven separately.

## FRENCH KNOTS

These gorgeous textural knots make lovely filling or decorative stitches, and are often grouped together, scattered or used singularly. Try to keep a tight tension on the thread as you form the knot.



1 Bring your needle up and pull the thread across the needle's shaft.
2 Keeping the tension tight, make one complete wrap towards the needle's tip.
3 Return the needle through the fabric's surface at a point near to where the thread emerged.
4 Draw the loop down to the fabric's surface and then pull the needle through to the reverse of the fabric to complete the knot.




# Needlecase

This simple sewing themed design is a great way to practise new or unfamiliar stitches. You could create the design as it is and display it in a hoop or it would be perfect for adorning a needlecase, as I've done here; if you want instructions for making one up, you'll find them on page 47.

## SIZE

9 x 6cm (3½ x 2½in)

## NEEDLES

Size 9 embroidery needle
Size 24 tapestry needle

## THREADS

Half skeins (4m/13ft) of stranded cotton/floss in shades:

- Blue-purple (DMC 161)
- Mid-grey (DMC 414)
- Mint green (DMC 3817)
- Deep blue (Anchor 178)
- Pink (T 913)
- Purple sparkly (DMC E166)

## FABRIC

One piece of beige linen with the design traced on (see pages 25–27) 35 x 35cm (14 x 14in) square will fit nicely inside a 20.5cm/8in hoop

## OTHER TOOLS

- Hoop frame, 20.5cm (8in)
- Embroidery scissors

## STITCHES USED

- backstitch (see page 34)
- whipped backstitch (see page 34)
- couching (see page 36)
- stem stitch (see page 35)
- split stitch (see page 38)
- satin stitch (see page 39)
- self-couching (see page 36)
- French knots (see page 37)

## TEMPLATE

See page 128






## Instructions

**Step 1: Backstitch lines**
Thread your size 24 needle with one strand of dark blue embroidery wool (920) and cast on. Work a short, even backstitch (see page 34); my stitches were approximately 2mm in length.
Repeat, using two strands of mid-blue (931) in a size 9 needle, at the top-left of the design.

**Step 2: Stem stitch lines**
Thread your size 9 needle with two strands of dark blue (939) and cast on. Work the isolated lines of stem stitch (see page 35). Using my stem stitch outlines for reference, change to the mid-green (501) stem-stitch line at the top of the feather, and the dark green (500) stem-stitch line mid-way down the right-hand side.

**Step 3: Whipped backstitch line**
Thread your size 9 needle with two strands of mid-blue (931) and cast on. Work an even 2mm-long backstitch then cast off. Thread your size 9 needle with two strands of mid-green (501) and cast on. Whip your line of backstitch (see page 34).

**Step 4: Fishbone stitch sections**
There are three sections worked in fishbone stitch – two in blue and one in green. For the blue sections, begin at the tip with light blue (932), then gradually blend into mid-blue (931), finishing with the dark blue (930). When shading an area, it's helpful to keep at least two needles threaded with the colours you're using. Alternate the shades as you transition from one to the next to avoid creating distinct blocks of colour (see page 50).
For the green section, start at the tip with light green (502), then blend into mid-green (501), and finish with dark green (500).

**Step 5: Bullion knots**
Thread your size 9 needle with two strands of coral (352). Work the three bullion knots (see page 53).

**Step 6: Pekinese stitch**
This is worked as a backstitch along the design line in dark blue (930), then looped through with a second thread in mid-green (501) (see page 51). Use two strands of each shade in a size 9 needle.

**Step 7: Fly stitch**
Using mid-green (501), create three fly stitches (see page 48).

**Step 8: Van Dyke stitch, with stem-stitch outlines and straight stitch details**
Using two strands of thread and a size 9 needle, work Van Dyke stitch (see page 52) up the centre of the barb, in both light blue (932) and mid-blue (931) (refer to the photo on page 57 for placement).
Add small, single stitches in peach (352) to create a trellis effect.
Outline the area barb with stem stitch in mid-blue (931) along both the top and bottom edges.

**Step 9: Dot stitch**
Thread your size 9 needle with two strands of thread and cast on. Two backstitches are worked on top of each other, using the same holes in the fabric (see page 51) in coral (352) on the right-hand side of the design and peach (262) on the left-hand side.



**Step 10: Closed fly stitch**
Thread your size 9 needle with two strands of mid-green (501). Create a line of fly stitches with the anchoring stitches placed so they touch each other (see page 49). Outline the area in mid-green (501) using stem stitch.

**Step 11: French Knots**
Work three French knots using two strands of coral (352), nestling them neatly within the fly stitches made in step 7 (see page 37).

**Step 12: Shaded satin stitch areas**
There are three areas worked in shaded satin stitch – one in blue and two in green.
Thread your size 7 needle with two strands of mid-tone thread. Outline each area with split stitch (see page 38).
Work satin stitch diagonally over the outline. To create a smooth transition between tones, alternate the shades as you move into the next block of colour (refer to the photograph on page 57 for colour placement).

**Step 13: Rows of stem stitch for the shaft**
This area features four vertical rows of stem stitch, shaded from the darkest on the right to the lightest on the left. The goal is to keep the rows close together and leave no gaps.
Start at the bottom right of the area. Work the first row in dark blue (930), then the second row to the left in mid-blue (931). Move further left for the third and fourth rows, working upwards in light blue (932). You can begin and end your stem stitch threads within the satin blocks at the top and bottom of the feather.

**Step 14: Satin stitch areas**
There are three satin areas – one towards the top-left of the feather, and at the top and bottom of the shaft. Work all of them in light blue (932). Begin by outlining each shape with split stitch, then fill in with diagonal satin stitches over the outline.
Start stitching from the centre of the area and work outward. Once one half is complete, return to the centre to fill the opposite side. The satin stitches should fully cover the base stitches and extend slightly beyond the outer edge for a clean, polished finish.

## Making up the bookmark

Measure and mark your embroidered linen to 20 x 4.5cm (8 x 1¾in), marking in a 2cm (¾in) triangle at the bottom of the shape. Add a 5mm (¼in) seam allowance all around, then cut out. Cut an identical piece of linen for the back. Cut a layer of thin padding to the same shape but 2mm smaller all round, then tack this onto the reverse of the linen backing piece.

Sew your two linen pieces right sides together, stitch along the tacking lines through both layers in backstitch on a machine. Leave a 5cm (2in) turning gap along one side. Trim the seam allowance to 1cm (½in). Press the seams open.

Turn the bookmark right side out, and gently poke out the corners.

To create a loop for the tassel, take a full 4-ply thread of mid-blue (931), knot the end and thread it into a size 22 chenille needle. Going through your turning gap, push through the tip of the bookmark. Return the needle back to the interior and knot inside or alternatively make several casting off stitches within the seam allowance. Slip stitch the turning gap closed, then remove the tacking stitches.

To form the tassel, take seven 16cm (6½in) 6-ply lengths of mid-blue (931) thread, pass these through your loop and fold in half to create fourteen 8cm (3¼in) lengths.

With a 6-ply length of coral (352), wrap around the top of the tassel, just below the loop, making sure you cover the thread tail; run the thread through the inside threads several times so the end is hidden.




# Teapot Embroidery

A perfect companion project to the Teacup embroidery on page 64, this vibrant design makes for a perfect stitch sampler. Embroider the teapot's lid as shown, or fill the design outline with stitches of your choice for a really personal finish.

## SIZE

13 x 11cm (5¼ x 4¼in)

## NEEDLES

Size 9 embroidery needle

## THREADS

Half skeins (4m/13ft) of Anchor stranded cotton/floss in shades:

- Yellow (303)
- Orange (316)
- Orange-red (335)
- Purple (117)
- Indigo (123)
- Green (211)

## FABRIC

One piece of beige silk dupion with the design traced on (see pages 25–27). 35 x 35cm (14 x 14in) square will fit nicely inside a 20.5cm/8in hoop
One piece of medium-weight calico for backing. 30 x 35cm (14 x 14in)

## OTHER TOOLS

- Hoop frame, 20.5cm (8in)
- Embroidery scissors

## STITCHES USED

- seeding (see page 60)
- backstitch (see page 34)
- split stitch (see page 38)
- satin stitch (see page 39)
- heavy chain stitch (see page 74)
- stem stitch (see page 35)
- padded satin stitch (see page 69)
- fishbone stitch (see page 50)
- coral stitch (see page 73)
- trellis stitch (see page 72)
- herringbone stitch (see page 68)
- chain stitch (see page 62)
- French knots (see page 37)
- herringbone ladder stitch (see page 70)

## TEMPLATE

See page 129






# Embroidered Sweatshirt

This is an asymmetrical design stitched on a medium-weight jersey fabric. You'll need to source a cotton or cotton-polyester jersey that is thick enough to support heavy embroidery. Choose a jumper made from medium-weight material — avoid lightweight fabrics, as they won't provide enough support for dense long-and-short stitch embroidery.

## SIZE

22.5 x 8.5cm (9 x 3¼in): this measurement is for the widest areas of the design. The entire piece of embroidery that sits asymmetrically to the right of the neckline.

## NEEDLES

Size 9 embroidery needle
Size 24 chenille needle

## THREADS

Full skeins (8m/26¼ft) of DMC stranded cotton/floss in shades:

- Yellow (3820)
- Orange (782)
- Green (936)
- Pink (3687)
- Mid-pink (3688)
- Pale pink (3689)
- Very pale pink (23)

Two full skeins each (8m/26¼ft) of DMC stranded cotton/floss in shades:

- Brown (829)
- Red (3858)

## FABRIC

One jumper in a medium-weight jersey fabric with design tacked on (see page 99)

## OTHER TOOLS

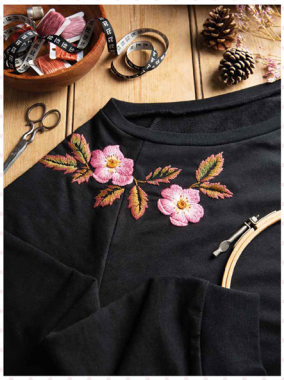
- Hoop frame, 20.5cm (8in)
- Embroidery scissors
- All-purpose white sewing thread, HB pencil, pins and tissue paper for design transfer

## STITCHES USED

- long-and-short stitch (see page 94)
- split stitch (see page 38)
- stem stitch (see page 35)
- pistil stitch (see page 96)
- French knots (see page 37)
- satin stitch (see page 39)
- woven wheels (see page 97)

## TEMPLATE

See page 130






# Monogrammed Napkin

The perfect gift for a special occasion, a monogrammed napkin makes a wonderful keepsake. However, with the full alphabet to choose from, don't just limit yourself to napkins! There is nothing to stop you customising other items to give an wonderful, unique gifts.

## SIZE

The size required for two letters with a suitable gap in between is 8 x 3cm (3¼ x 1¼in)

## NEEDLES

Size 9 embroidery needle
Size 24 chenille needle

## THREADS

Half skeins (4m/4½yds) of DMC stranded cotton/floss in shades:

- Dark blue (930)
- Mid-blue (931)
- Light blue (932)

Half a skein (4m/4½yds) of Au Ver A Soie D'Alger silk thread in shade:

- grey (1235)

Half a bobbin (10m/11yds) of Au Ver A Soie Metallics silk thread in shade:

- metallic grey (19)

## FABRIC

White linen of your choice with design traced on (see pages 25–27)

## OTHER TOOLS

- Hoop frame, 20.5cm (8in)
- Embroidery scissors

## STITCHES USED

- long-and-short stitch (see page 94)
- couching (see page 36)

## TEMPLATE

See pages 132–133






Search Press
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Paperback

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$29.99 AUD
£9.99 GBP

96 Pages
Series: Color by Numbers

Territory: World English language

27.9 cm H | 21.6 cm W

# Color by Numbers: Around the World

**40 mystery pictures to reveal**

Search Press

## Key Selling Points

- **40 STUNNING ARTWORKS TO COLOUR IN, FEATURING INCREDIBLE COUNTRIES AND ICONIC CITIES:** Take a colouring journey through the world's most exciting destinations!
- **SINGLE-SIDED, HEAVY-WEIGHT PAGES:** Every chart is printed on one side of perforated paper: your pens won't bleed-through, and the perforated pages can be pulled out to display.
- **ACCESSIBLE ART:** Colouring by numbers is an easy, relaxing way to create beautiful art! Just match your pencils or markers to the numbers in the key to get started.
- **AFFORDABLE EQUIPMENT:** These artworks require only basic colouring pencils or marker pens.
- **TRAVEL POSTER AESTHETIC:** Unlike many colouring books, these are artworks you'll love to pull-out, trim, and frame up in your home! Each artwork measures 17.75cm x 23.5cm (7 x 9.25in).
- **POPULAR SERIES:** UK editions of the *Color by Numbers* series have sold over 30K copies so far since launching Dec 2025, with huge in-store purchases.
- **TRANSLATION OF A BEST-SELLING FRENCH EDITION:** over 60k copies have been sold of the original French edition.

## Summary

**Hidden within this innovative colouring book are 40 stunning travel posters for dream destinations around the world. Simply follow the colour key to reveal the hidden locations...**

**From Jamaica to the Grand Canyon, and from Seville to Sydney, where will you travel today?**

The latest trend in fun, mindful colouring books!

- Featuring **thick, uncoated paper**, and printed single-sided, there is no risk of bleed-through whether you prefer colour pencils or markers.
- Each artwork has a **travel poster aesthetic**, with **perforated pages**, making it easy to pull out, trim and frame your stunning artworks.
- No more than **14 colours are used to colour in each destination**, making this a mindful and portable activity.
- **Full-colour versions** of the illustrations are available to refer to at the back of the book.

So gather your markers or your pencils, make yourself comfortable, and enjoy the process of watching each stunning location reveal itself zone by zone.

*This is a translation of the best-selling French original.*

## Contributor Bio

Lovingly drawn by a team of artists from the Larousse group. The artists have created drawings that are designed for color by numbers. Every page is ready for your creative energy to produce a beautiful artwork.












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Paperback

$14.95 USD | $20.95 CAD
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£9.99 GBP

96 Pages
Series: Color by Number

Territory: World English language

27.9 cm H | 21.6 cm W

# Color by Numbers: Animals

**40 mystery pictures to reveal**

Search Press

## Key Selling Points

- **40 STUNNING ARTWORKS TO COLOUR IN,** featuring incredible animals from all around the world.
- **SINGLE-SIDED, HEAVY-WEIGHT PAGES:** Every chart is printed on one side of perforated paper: your pens won't bleed through, and the perforated pages can be pulled out to display.
- **ACCESSIBLE ART:** Colouring by numbers is an easy, relaxing way to create beautiful art! Just match your pencils or markers to the numbers in the key to get started.
- **AFFORDABLE EQUIPMENT:** These artworks require only basic colouring pencils or marker pens.
- **MODERN, POSTER-STYLE ART:** Unlike many colouring books, these are artworks you'll love to pull-out, trim, and frame up in your home! Each artwork measures 23.5cm x 17.75cm (7 x 9.25in).
- **POPULAR SERIES:** UK editions of the *Color by Numbers* series have sold over 30K copies so far since launching Dec 2025, with huge in-store purchases.
- **TRANSLATION OF A BEST-SELLING FRENCH EDITION:** Over 60k copies have been sold of the original French edition.

## Summary

**Hidden within this innovative colouring book are 40 incredible posters featuring magnificent animals from around the world. Simply follow the colour key to reveal the hidden wildlife...**

**Vibrant parrots and cute pandas, or a fearsome lion and mighty panther – which animals will you discover today?**

The latest trend in fun, mindful colouring books!

- Featuring **thick, uncoated paper,** and printed single-sided, there is no risk of bleed-through whether you prefer colour pencils or markers.
- The **pages are perforated**, making it easy to pull out and frame your stunning posters.
- No more than **14 colours are used to colour in each animal,** making this a mindful and portable activity.
- **Full-colour versions** of the illustrations are available to refer to at the back of the book.

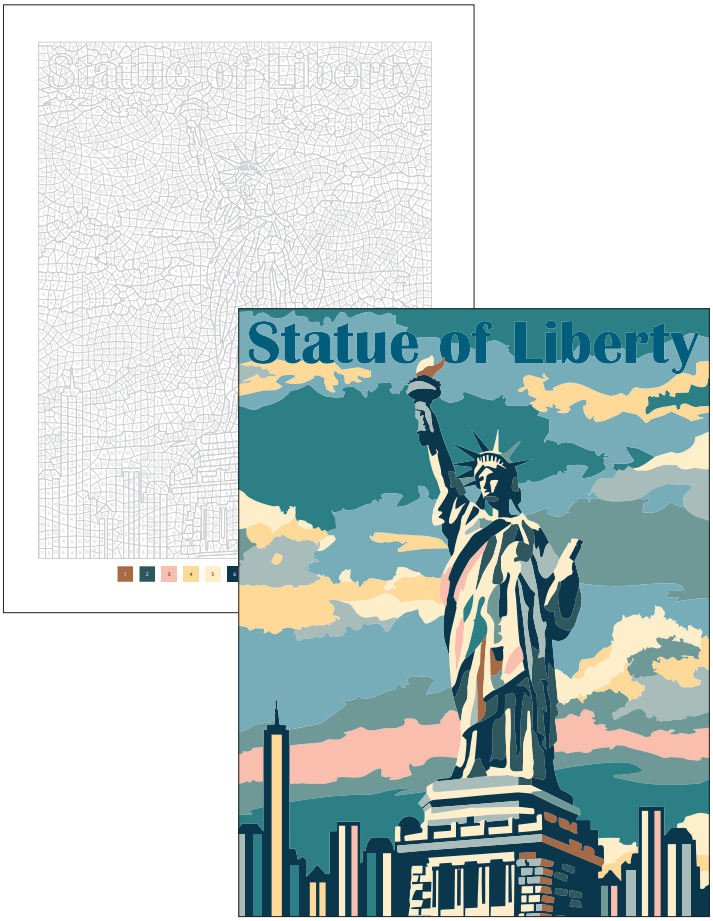
So gather your markers or your pencils, make yourself comfortable and enjoy the process of watching each striking creature reveal itself zone by zone.

*This is a translation of the best-selling French original.*

## Contributor Bio

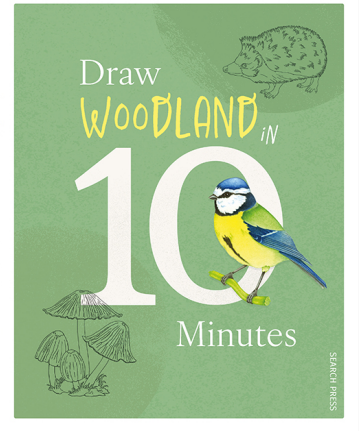
Lovingly drawn by a team of artists from the Larousse group. The artists have created drawings that are designed for colour by numbers. Every page is ready for your creative energy to produce a beautiful artwork.


SEVILLE


Statue of Liberty


COSTA RICA


Vietnam




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£9.99 GBP

112 Pages
AFF
Series: Draw in 10 Minutes

Territory: World

23.5 cm H | 19.1 cm W

# Draw in 10 Minutes: Woodland

**Learn how to draw in 50 quick sketches**

KJA Artists

## Key Selling Points

- **PERFECT FOR THE AMATEUR OR BEGINNER ARTIST** and those looking to develop their skills.
- **SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES:** With very minimal text this book may be used by both children and adults.
- **USEFUL TOOL FOR STUDENTS:** Students of all ages can easily see how complex shapes can be created with a simple pencil line.
- **INSPIRING DRAWING PROMPTS FOR BUDDING ILLUSTRATORS:** With 50 subjects including trees, flowers, foliage and fungi, birds, bugs and animals, there's plenty for avid artists to sketch.
- **10-MINUTE SKETCHES** for fast, impressive results.
- **50 DIFFERENT SUBJECTS TO DRAW** in just 6 illustrated steps each.
- **COLOURING MADE EASY:** each project includes an inspirational 'colour me' tip box with advice on painting your final sketch – including handy colour swatches.

## Summary

**Fill your sketchbook with 50 diverse and colourful woodland creatures and plants, in just 10 minutes each!**

**Draw a rich variety of woodland trees, flowers, foliage, fungi, insects and animals using this easy-to-follow step-by-step book.**

This book is perfect for beginner artists who've never drawn before and who want an easy guide to capturing woodland trees, birds and animals. It's also a perfect resource for more experienced illustrators searching for sketching ideas without the time to spend in nature.

Guaranteed to boost your drawing confidence and skill, this guide uses simple shapes, built up step by step, so that you can quickly and easily sketch:

- **8 trees**; from apple to willow;
- **2 examples of flora and fungi**; from acorns to sycamore leaves, and from inkcap mushrooms to common toadstools;
- **10 birds**; from friendly robins to a confident pheasants;
- **10 bugs**; from busy bees to industrious spiders;
- **10 animals**; from dainty mice to intrepid bears.

Every project contains 6 illustrated steps, simple instructions and an inspirational 'colour me' tip box containing colour swatches and advice, in case you'd like to transform your finished drawing with colour.

10 minutes at a time is all you need!

Other titles in this stunning new series include *Draw in 10 Minutes: People*, *Draw in 10 Minutes: Animals* and *Draw in 10 Minutes: Botanicals*.

## Contributor Bio

**KJA Artists**, founded over 42 years ago by Kevin Jones – renowned for co-creating the iconic 1989 Batman logo with Anton Furst – has grown into one of the world's leading illustration and animation agencies. Representing a global roster of top talent, KJA plays a major role in the publishing industry, from young children's books to adult reference and everything in between. With decades of experience and a legacy rooted in creative excellence, the agency champions innovation and storytelling across all media. KJA proudly embraces diversity, supporting illustrators and animators from all backgrounds to shape bold, original visual work for clients worldwide.

**Pat** is an illustrator based in the UK. Her career spans over 40 years, with work published both nationally and internationally. She works mainly in watercolour on a wide variety of subjects including plants, birds, food, room interiors and pattern design. Her illustrations have been commissioned for books, cards, magazines, gift wrap, textiles, packaging and animated e-cards. Pat's extensive list of clients includes The Sunday Times, Jacquie Lawson, Tower of London, *Dorling Kindersley*, National Trust, Santoro Graphics and the World Health Organisation.

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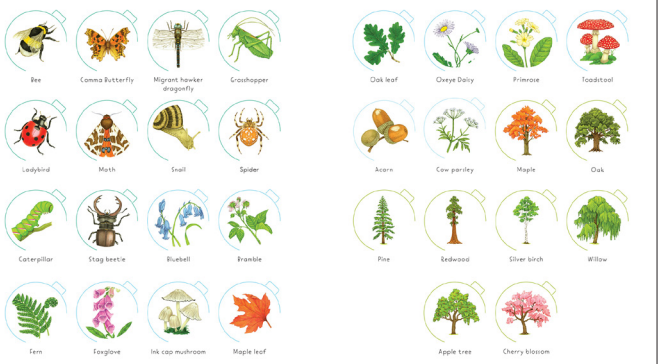
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# INTRODUCTION

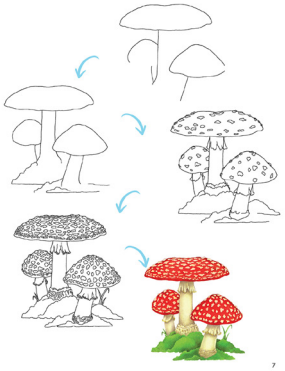
Woodlands are peaceful, inspiring places, filled with plants and creatures that offer endless subjects for drawing. This book guides you through capturing a woodland in all its richness – from birds in the canopy to insects on the forest floor.

Each project is built in six simple steps, taking you from basic shapes to final details, helping you grow your skills and confidence. You can also paint every subject, with clear advice on colour mixes and painting stages.

We begin with animals from woodlands around the world, including bullfrogs, deer, foxes, hedgehogs and even bears. You'll also meet woodland birds, including glossy crows, bright blue tits and vivid cardinals, learning how to bring feathers, beaks and markings to life. Down below, the woodland floor is alive with insects and other tiny creatures. Bees, dragonflies, butterflies, grasshoppers, snails and spiders all make fascinating subjects, each with their own colours and shapes to explore.

Foliage and fungi add colour and beauty to the scene: spring bluebells, foxgloves, brambles, mushrooms and iconic leaves such as oak and maple. We will conclude with trees, far beyond the lollipop shapes of childhood. Draw eight distinctive species, from sturdy oaks and pines to fiery maples and graceful willows.

By drawing this wide range of woodland life, you'll deepen your appreciation for the biodiversity of forests and discover that a stag beetle's mandibles can be every bit as captivating as a butterfly's wings.







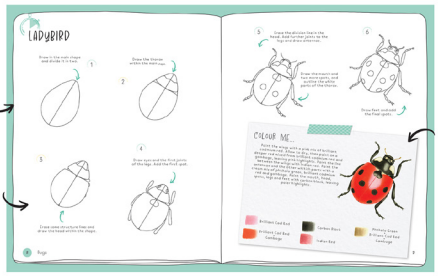
# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Woodland subjects are a timeless source of inspiration for artists, and illustrating them is a rewarding and meditative practice that allows you to connect with nature. If you are just starting out on your artistic journey, the idea of capturing the beauty and essence of a flower, a tree, or a woodland creature on paper can be both exciting and challenging.

Think of this book as your introduction to this fascinating world, helping you to unleash your artistic potential and share your personal interpretation of the woodlands. So, gather your drawing tools and let's embark on this journey together. You don't need to start at the beginning of the book and work through in order – just pick a project you like the look of and give it a go.

The book is split into sections:

- Animals
- Birds
- Bugs
- Flora and Fungi
- Trees



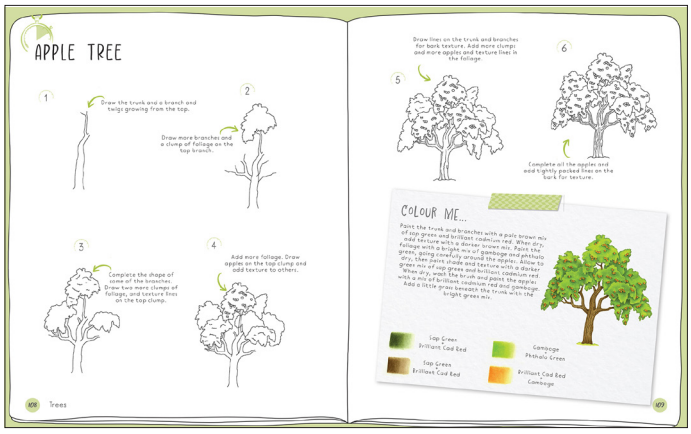

Follow each project line by line, building up a complete drawing in very little time using easy-to-follow steps.

In time, you may wish to start adding colour to your drawings. There is a coloured version of each project provided, painted in watercolour, to serve as an inspiration for those looking to explore further.

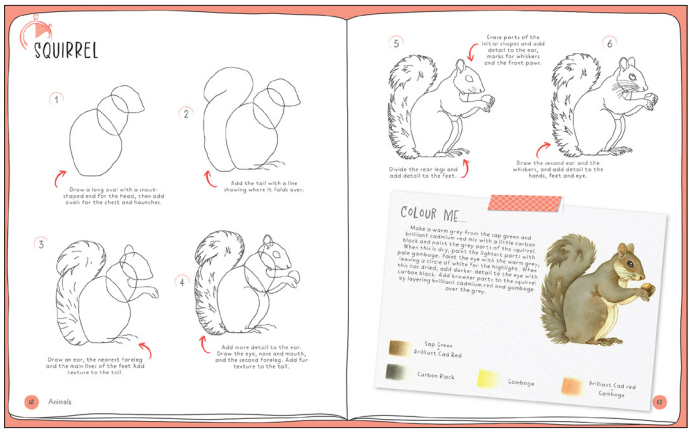
Once you become confident in drawing a few of the subjects, try putting them together and creating your own arrangement, perhaps a parade of animals among trees, for example.









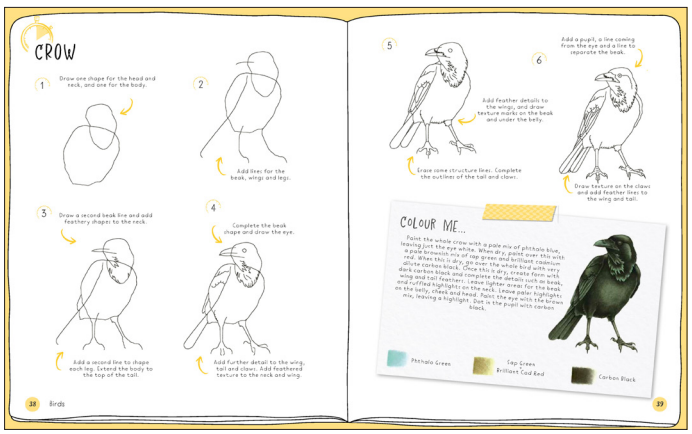



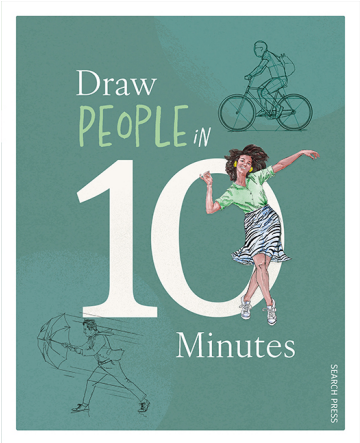













Search Press
9781800924390
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On Sale: 27/11/2026
Paperback

$16.95 USD | $20.95 CAD
$29.99 AUD
£9.99 GBP

112 Pages
AFF
Series: Draw in 10 Minutes

Territory: World

23.5 cm H | 19.1 cm W

# Draw in 10 Minutes: People

**Learn how to draw in 50 quick sketches**

KJA Artists

## Key Selling Points

- **PERFECT FOR THE AMATEUR OR BEGINNER ARTIST** and those looking to develop their skills.
- **SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES:** With very minimal text this book may be used by both children and adults.
- **USEFUL TOOL FOR STUDENTS:** Students of all ages can easily see how complex shapes can be created with a simple pencil line.
- **INSPIRING DRAWING PROMPTS FOR BUDDING ILLUSTRATORS:** With 50 subjects including adults, teenagers, tweens, children and babies, there's plenty for avid artists to sketch.
- **10-MINUTE SKETCHES** for fast, impressive results.
- **30 FULL-BODY PORTRAITS AND 20 BODY PARTS:** Selected to give you confidence with hands, feet, facial features and a range of dynamic poses.
- **COLOURING MADE EASY:** Each project includes an inspirational 'colour me' tip box with advice on colouring in your final sketch – including handy colour swatches.

## Summary

**Fill your sketchbook with 50 inspiring, realistic portraits, in just 10 minutes each!**

**Draw a variety of adults, teens, babies and kids, in an inspiring range of dynamic poses, with this easy-to-follow, step-by-step book.**

Perfect for beginner artists who've never drawn before and who want an easy guide to capturing the human form, this visual guide is guaranteed to boost your drawing confidence and skill. It's also a perfect prompt for more experienced illustrators searching for sketching ideas and keen to observe and recreate the personality, poise and lifestyle of a range of people.

Using simple shapes, built up step by step, you can quickly and easily sketch a crowd of dynamic individuals. Choose from:

- 30 full-body portraits and 20 body parts, selected to give you confidence with hands, feet, facial features and a range of dynamic poses;
- A diverse collection of adults, teenagers, tweens, children and babies: discover adults working, children playing, teenagers posing, people chatting and much more;
- A selection of drawings that celebrates the human form in different shapes, sizes and skin tones.

Every project contains 5-8 illustrated steps, simple instructions and an inspirational 'colour me' tip box containing colour swatches and advice, in case you'd like to transform your finished drawing with colour – in this book, watercolour paints have been used, but you can use whichever medium you like.

10 minutes at a time is all you need!

Other titles in this stunning new series include *Draw in 10 Minutes: Woodland*, Draw in 10 Minutes: Animals and *Draw in 10 Minutes: Botanicals.*

## Contributor Bio

**KJA Artists**, founded over 42 years ago by Kevin Jones – renowned for co-creating the iconic 1989 Batman logo with Anton Furst – has grown into one of the world's leading illustration and animation agencies. Representing a global roster of top talent, KJA plays a major role in the publishing industry, from young children's books to adult reference and everything in between. With decades of experience and a legacy rooted in creative excellence, the agency champions innovation and storytelling across all media. KJA proudly embraces diversity, supporting illustrators and animators from all backgrounds to shape bold, original visual work for clients worldwide.

**Laurence** is a highly experienced artist and illustrator with a passion for bringing diverse creative visions to life. For over 30 years, he has seamlessly adapted to a wide range of styles and media. From captivating digital illustrations to hand-crafted traditional artwork, Laurence possesses the technical expertise and artistic flair to have delivered exceptional work for many of the world's most recognized global brands.

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## Tools and materials

All you really need to start drawing is a pencil and something to draw on, but once you gain experience it's likely that you will want to experiment with different tools and materials. There is a bewildering array of options available, so I will list my favourites here to try to help you make informed choices.

### For drawing

**Pencil:** I do all my sketching with a graphite pencil – 6B.

**Putty rubber:** a malleable rubber that lifts graphite gently from the paper without damaging the delicate surface.

**Fine liners:** these pens can add depth and dimension to your drawings. My favourite brand is Faber-Castell. I use PITT artist fineliner pens in size 0.5mm (fine) and 0.7mm (medium). The ink is waterproof and lightfast.

**Paper:** when starting out, you may wish to practise on general copy paper. As you progress, you may want a sturdier paper so that you can display your work. Paper choice is personal but I always use Canson® XL® Fluid Mixed Media Spiral Pads, 250gsm (90lb). It has 30 sheets of extra white A4 (21 x 29.7cm/8.3 x 11.7in) paper. It is acid-free, durable and great for pencil, ink and fineliners.

### For painting

**Watercolours:** use any paints you have to hand, and try to mix your colours from a minimal selection, to give you practice in creating a variety of shades.
I use the Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolour range, but substitute your own paints as you wish. Alternatively, use any other colouring medium you like, for example coloured pencils.

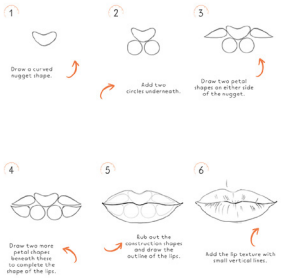
**Brushes:** My go-to for watercolour is a #Phoenix series 3715 nylon watercolour artist brush, size 4.

**Other tools:** you may need kitchen paper to wipe and clean your brushes. Two jars of water: one to wash your brushes in and a clean one for applying paint to the paper.





## Lips





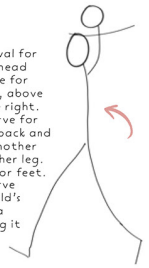




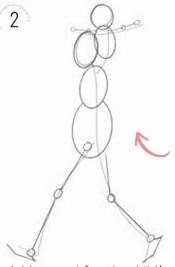


## Sitting tall

1 Draw an oval for the man's head and a circle for the child's, above and to the right. Draw a curve for the man's back and leg, and another for the other leg. Add lines for feet. Draw a curve for the child's body and a line crossing it for arms.



2 Add an oval for the child's body, one for the man's upper torso and a larger one for his lower torso. Draw smaller ovals for the man's hip, knee and ankle joints and tiny circles for the child's elbow and wrist joints. Begin to shape the man's feet.



3 Draw bucket shapes between the joints to outline the man's and the child's arms and legs.



4 Begin to flesh out both figures, giving them a life-like shape. Draw the man's t-shirt, trousers and shoes. Rub out the original construction lines.



5 Draw construction lines across both faces to show the position of features. Draw the profile of the man and sketch a central line down the child's face. Draw the child's top, trousers and hair bunches and add detail to the man's shoes.





6 Add definition to the child, and draw her hair in bunches. Draw her shoe and complete the man's shoes.



7 Complete the facial features of both figures and add marks to suggest the fabric of their clothes stretching as they move. Rub out any remaining construction lines.

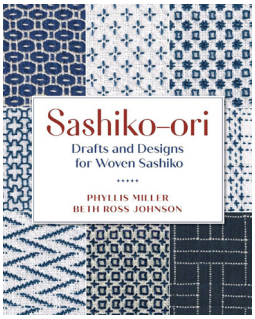


## Colour me...

Paint the man's t-shirt and the girl's striped leggings with ultramarine, leaving paler highlights where the light catches folds in the fabric. Paint the man's belt and trousers with pale burnt umber, leaving highlights on the knees and shins. Add shade with a stronger mix. Use ivory black for the man's trainers, leaving white for the pattern. Paint the girl's shoes with phthalo blue and cerulean blue, leaving the sole white. Use strong cadmium yellow for the girl's top, leaving white spots. Paint the skin tones with pale cadmium red and burnt umber. When dry, add shade and detail with cadmium red. Use a strong mix of burnt umber for the man's hair, allow to dry, then add detail with ivory black. Paint the girl's hair with a mix of alizarin crimson hue, cadmium yellow hue and burnt umber. When dry, add detail with burnt umber and cadmium yellow hue. Allow to dry and add final details to her hair and both their features with ivory black.



STACKPOLE BOOKS




## Sashiko-ori: Drafts and Designs for Woven Sashiko

Phyllis Miller, Beth Ross Johnson

Stackpole Books
9780811778176
Pub Date: 16/01/2027
£30.00 GBP
Hardback

192 Pages

Territory: Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

25.4 cm H | 20.3 cm W

### Summary

**Discover the Art of Sashiko-Inspired Weaving**

**Sashiko-ori** is a weaving approach that mimics the beauty of sashiko embroidery in handwoven cloth. Most of these patterns are made with a warp and/or weft supplementary structure and have been found in traditions as diverse and far flung as Japan, ancient Peru, and in various locations in the west. Until now, no collection has put these drafts together for handweavers. In addition to more than 130 drafts and 200 woven samples, this volume gives weavers information on the history, particular technical considerations, and design possibilities of sashiko-ori.

Drawing inspiration from historical Japanese collections, traditional sashiko patterns, and related global textile techniques, this book offers an exciting assortment of innovative drafts and woven samples. Inside, you'll find:

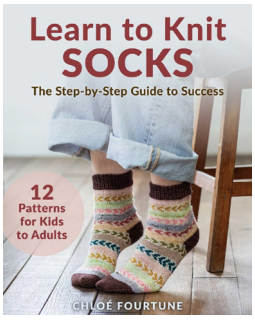
- Practical considerations for successful weaving
- More than 130 drafts and 200 woven samples based on hitomezashi, moyouzashi, and koginzashi patterns
- Amime-ori and kuguri-inspired designs

The expertly woven samples and unique designs are sure to spark your creativity and inspire you to experiment, adapt, and weave your own interpretations of sashiko-ori!

### Contributor Bio

Beth Ross Johnson has been weaving since 1970 and her interests have gravitated toward the folk textiles of Japan. She has had two extensive stays in Japan to study kasuri and sakiori. While studying for an MFA in Textiles at Georgia State University, she was given a book on weaving drafts collected during early 20th century Japan that includes examples of sashiko-ori and other structures not known in the US handweaving scene. A covid-induced sideline teaching sashiko embroidery online compelled her to start weaving these designs and realizing their potential for exploration.

Phyllis Miller discovered weaving in 1968, and her curiosity led her to explore many weaving techniques and structures. She has exhibited in New York City, throughout the Southeast, and in Minnesota. Her interest in Japanese sashiko-ori grew from an appreciation of the rich tradition of Japanese textiles and their patterns. She has devoted her time to research, collecting patterns, and weaving sashiko-ori since 2018and has been published in Handwoven magazine, most recently with two articles on sashiko-ori.




## Learn to Knit Socks

**The Step-by-Step Guide to Success**

Chloé Fourtune

Stackpole Books
9780811777735
Pub Date: 16/01/2027
£18.99 GBP
Paperback

112 Pages

Territory: Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

25.4 cm H | 20.3 cm W

### Summary

**Step into the cozy world of sock knitting—one stitch at a time!**

Knitted socks are more than just warm and practical—they're a joy to make and a treat to wear. But for beginners, the thought of turning a heel or working in the round can feel daunting. *Learn to Knit Socks* is your friendly guide through every step of the process, from casting on the cuff to shaping the toe. With clear, confidence-building instructions and detailed photos at each stage, you'll be knitting your first pair in no time.

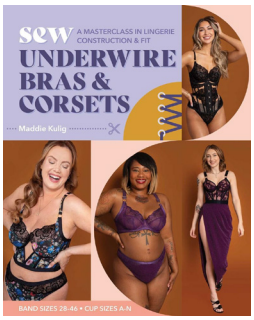
Learn how to:

- Size the foot for a perfect fit for all ages
- Use double-pointed needles and circular needles
- How to choose the best yarn fiber and weight for your socks
- Knit an accurate swatch both flat and in a round
- Cast-on for toe-up and cuff-down styles
- Knit different types of heels
- Work stripes in the round and stranded colorwork
- Bind-off in several different styles
- Care for your handmade socks and give them a long life

Once you've mastered the basics, dive into 12 beautiful patterns designed for every age and style—from tiny baby booties to cozy adult socks. Whether you're knitting for yourself or gifting handmade warmth to loved ones, this book will keep your needles clicking and your feet happy.

### Contributor Bio

Chloé Fourtune has been immersed in the world of fibers and handcrafts for as long as she can remember. She learned to knit at a young age and developed a particular passion for sock knitting during her daily commutes. Over time, she began modifying existing designs and experimenting with construction techniques, eventually creating her own patterns to help knitters build technical confidence and master the art of sock making.




## Sew Underwire Bras & Corsets

**A Masterclass in Lingerie Construction & Fit; Band Sizes 28-46, Cup Sizes A-N**

Maddie Kulig

C&T Publishing
9781644037133
Pub Date: 31/01/2027
£20.99 GBP
Paperback

144 Pages

Territory: Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

25.4 cm H | 20.3 cm W

### Summary

***Learn the essentials of bra and corset construction with expert guidance!***

Master the art and skill of sewing underwire bras and corsets with this empowering, hands-on guide from expert lingerie-maker Maddie Kulig, owner of Madalynne Intimates and author of Sew Lingerie. This book builds a deep-reaching technical foundation and inspires with creative designer details so you can craft beautifully supportive garments with confidence! Features a deep dive on fitting and sewing underwire bras and different styles of corsets, including five step-by-step projects, patternmaking techniques, and a guide to selecting professional materials. With inspiration on how to transition between underwear and outerwear, you'll be able to make beautiful, comfortable lingerie for any occasion.

- Make perfectly-fitting, customizable, comfortable lingerie from five size-inclusive patterns that range from band sizes 28-46 and cup sizes A-N
- Detailed, easy-to-follow visual instructions make these structured garments accessible and well-constructed; plus, includes expert tips for fitting, adjusting patterns, and choosing the right materials
- Expand on the wide-ranging patterns of Sew Lingerie with this deep dive on structured lingerie, so you can make projects that feel fun or flirty, but that are always high-quality and comfortable

### Contributor Bio

Maddie Kulig is the founder, lead designer, sewist, and driving force behind Madalynne Intimates. As a designer, sewing teacher, and successful blogger, she offers DIY lingerie kits, online tutorials, workshops, and sewing patterns. madalynne.com




## Conquering Cosplay Competitions

**From First Contest to Global Championships**

Casey Welsch

C&T Publishing
9781644037362
Pub Date: 31/01/2027
£16.99 GBP
Paperback

96 Pages

Territory: Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

22.9 cm H | 15.2 cm W

### Summary

***Step Into the Spotlight: Your Complete Guide to Cosplay Competitions***

Award-winning cosplayer and veteran judge Casey Renee demystifies every stage of cosplay competition—from choosing the right contest and crafting a winning build, to creating impactful performances and understanding how judging really works. Learn how to pick competition-ready costumes, document your progress with build books, navigate prejudging like a pro, and turn both wins and losses into growth. Packed with real-world examples, insider tips, and compassionate advice, this book empowers novices and masters alike to level up their skills, find community, and share their art with the world.

- Confidently choose the right contests and categories for your skills and goals, from novice hall contests to global-level craftsmanship and masquerades.
- Plan and execute competition-ready builds with smart costume selection, strong build books, and polished prejudging and stage presentations.
- Grow as both an artist and community member—learning how to ask for feedback, handle wins and losses, support others as an assistant or volunteer, and engage ethically in the cosplay competition scene.

### Contributor Bio

Casey Welsch is a multi-award-winning cosplayer who focuses on sewing and detail-heavy projects. Casey's passion for construction and costume making has allowed her to travel to competitions as both a contestant and a judge. She lives in Marietta, GA. Visit her website www.caseyreneecosplay.com



## Quilter's Retreat Tote

**3 Interior Pockets Perfect for 24" x 18" Cutting Mat, 24" Ruler, Rotary Cutter, Fabric, Snacks & More**

C&T Publishing

C&T Publishing
9781644037836
Pub Date: 31/01/2027
£17.99 Incl VAT GBP
Tote bag

Territory: Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

48.3 cm H | 71.1 cm W

### Summary

***Pack it full with your mat, ruler and more! This is your go to retreat-ready tote!***

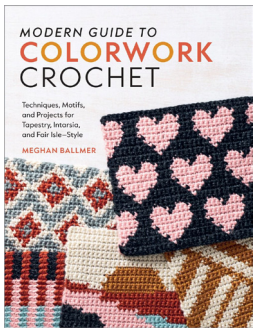
Take your sewing on the go with a tote that's as organized as it is roomy. Designed with quilters in mind, this bag keeps your cutting mat, ruler, patterns, and fabric perfectly together, so heading to a retreat, class, or guild meeting feels effortless and brings a spring to your step. With smart interior pockets, versatile straps for the way you like to carry it, and a handy reference panel on the back, it's the perfect companion for every sewing adventure.

- Oversized tote with an easy-access opening, roomy interior measuring about 28" wide, 19" high, and 3" deep, and dual strap lengths so you can carry it by hand, on your arm, or over your shoulder
- Three interior pockets keep a full-size cutting mat, long ruler, and patterns or smaller notions neatly separated so your essentials stay organized and protected in transit
- Printed reference panel on the back provides quick hints and tips, making this bag especially handy at retreats, classes, and guild meetings

### Contributor Bio

C&T Publishing is a crafty group of people creating books and products encompassing a range of subjects, including quilting, sewing, embroidery, crochet, cozy mysteries, cosplay, and more. Made for makers by makers, our team works together to create practical and dynamic products that stir creativity and promote self-expression. ctpub.com

# NEW WHOLESALE TITLES




## Modern Guide to Colorwork Crochet

**Techniques, Motifs and Projects for Tapestry, Intarsia and Fair Isle–Style**

Meghan Ballmer

Quarto
9781577157182
Pub Date: 17/09/2026
£18.99 GBP
Paperback

128 Pages

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

24.6 cm | 19 cm W

### Summary

**Master colorwork crochet with step-by-step techniques and stylish projects.**

Expand your crochet skills and explore the art of color with *Modern Guide to Colorwork Crochet*. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced maker, this is your source for learning the fundamentals of tapestry, intarsia, and Fair Isle–style crochet, providing clear guidance on everything from seamless color changes to working with multiple strands.

Featuring 18 stunning motifs and 9 full projects, this book allows you to start small and build confidence before tackling larger, more intricate pieces. With detailed charts, step-by-step instructions, and expert tips, you'll be able to create bold, graphic patterns and stylish crochet projects with ease.

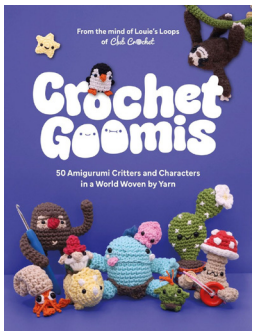
Inside, you'll find:

- **A complete breakdown of tapestry, intarsia, and Fair Isle–style crochet,** with visual guides for each technique.
- **Step-by-step tutorials** for mastering color changes, working with multiple strands, and reading charts.
- **18 practice motifs** to help build confidence before starting full projects.
- **9 stylish projects**, including home décor, accessories, and wearables.
- **Expert tips and troubleshooting advice** to ensure smooth and frustration-free crocheting.

With *Modern Guide to Colorwork Crochet*, you'll gain the skills and inspiration you need to bring vibrant, intricate designs to life. Whether you want to add geometric patterns to pillows or craft statement accessories, this book is your go-to resource for bold, modern crochet.

### Contributor Bio

Meghan Ballmer is the creative professional behind Meghan Makes Do, a blog dedicated to crochet, knitting, and sewing. With over 25 years of experience in fiber arts, she has built a strong following by sharing accessible tutorials and modern crochet patterns. She resides in California with her husband and two children, where she continues to inspire the crafting community with her innovative designs. Follow her on Instagram @meghanmakesdo and explore her free patterns at www.meghanmakesdo.com




Quadrille
9781837837069
Pub Date: 17/09/2026
£20.00 GBP
Paperback

240 Pages
WFBS

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

16 cm H | 21 cm W

# Crochet Goomis

**Explore 50 Amigurumi Critters and Characters in a World Woven by Yarn**

Louie's Loops

## Summary

**Step into the magical world of Goomia – and discover the cutest and enchanting amigurumi crochet characters you'll ever make!**

Inside, you'll discover *50 adorable amigurumi patterns* to crochet your own collection of irresistibly cute Goomigurumis. Created by crochet expert Louie's Loops (founder of Club Crochet), *Crochet Goomis* is packed with personality – featuring unique characters like butterfly-loving Bigfoot Bobby, Barnaby the gossiping walrus, and Flint the treasure-hoarding dragon.

Whether you're a **beginner learning to crochet** or **an experienced maker** looking for fresh inspiration, this book is your go-to **amigurumi crochet pattern collection**. You'll discover:

- Easy-to-follow, step-by-step crochet instructions
- Beginner-friendly amigurumi techniques and stitches
- 50 unique crochet patterns for cute, collectible characters
- QR codes linking to video tutorials for every design

Learn essential **crochet skills**, build confidence, and enjoy the relaxing, mindful benefits of this popular craft. Perfect for making **handmade gifts**, starting a new hobby, or growing your own collection of **cute crochet animals and creatures**.

But there's more – discover ***Battle Goomis***, a fun and interactive game where you can **collect, trade, and battle your crochet creations** with friends and family.

If you love **amigurumi, crochet patterns, kawaii crafts, and DIY projects**, this book will quickly become your new obsession.

Start stitching today and discover the joy of creating your own Goomigurumi world!

**Get ready to stitch, collect, and discover them all!**

## Contributor Bio

Louie, the creative force behind Club Crochet and Louie's Loops, has been passionate about crafting since childhood. Club Crochet is a vibrant community of crafters and unique subscription service offering crochet kits and tutorials, providing both free and premium resources for crochet enthusiasts. Louie's journey began with a simple bow, and over the past 18 years, he has designed hundreds of patterns, collaborated with talented craftspeople, and even created his own RPG and board games featuring crocheted amigurumi characters.




Quadrille
9781837836383
Pub Date: 17/09/2026
£16.99 GBP
Paperback

176 Pages
WFBC

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

22.5 cm H | 17.5 cm W

# Embroidery Workshop

**Learn how to hand embroider and create 15 beautiful projects**

Anastasia Zhelezniak

## Summary

***Embroidery Workshop*** **is an inspirational, comprehensive guide to everything you need to know about hand embroidery.**

Featuring a stitch directory for both core and advanced embroidery stitches, Anastasia will guide your embroidery journey, introducing you to the tools, materials and techniques to use in the accompanying 15 step-by-step projects. Weaving in the importance of creativity and mindfulness, this book offers a unique balance of inspiration and practicality.

Useful QR codes will take you to additional instructional videos and provide templates for the beautiful projects in the book. With nothing but a needle, thread and hoop, you'll learn how to slow down and stitch up the featured designs including homewares, accessories and decorations. From beginner tips to expert techniques, Anastasia will show you how to embroider with confidence and then go on to even make your own designs.

## Contributor Bio

**Anastasia Zhelezniak** is a self-taught embroidery artist and founder of the Whynotstitching Academy, an online stitcher offering workshops, live meet ups, courses, and exclusive designs that inspire creativity and build skills. With no formal art background, she have built a career by making embroidery approachable and exciting for modern crafters. Her designs, often inspired by botanical elements, blend traditional techniques with contemporary aesthetics, appealing to a global audience.




Quadrille 9781837838042
Pub Date: 08/10/2026
£16.99 GBP
Hardback

176 Pages
WFT

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

22.5 cm H | 17.5 cm W

# The Art of Snail Mail

**20 Mail Art Projects for Crafting Connection**

Martina Calvi

## Summary

**Dear Reader, You are invited to rediscover the joy of sending thoughtful, handmade post with author and memory-keeper Martina Calvi.**

Whether you're new to snail mail or already love writing letters, collecting beautiful stationery and creating meaningful keepsakes, ***The Art of Snail Mail*** is your inspiring guide to slowing down, getting creative and connecting with the people you care about through the art of handwritten correspondence.
Martina shares everything you need to begin your snail mail journey:

- The foundations: including the ritual of letter writing, designing your own signature and making handmade envelopes and wax seals.
- 20 projects for snail mail, paper craft and mail art.
- Creative ideas including sticker letters, embroidered postcards, care packages, secret message mail and miniature letters.
- Step-by-step techniques to personalise every letter and craft every individual detail.
- Inspiration to embrace the beauty of analogue creativity by celebrating everyday moments and strengthening friendships.
- Advice on how to find pen pals, and start a snail mail club.

Perfect for stationery lovers, scrapbookers, paper crafters, memory collectors and anyone looking for a more thoughtful way to stay connected, The Art of Snail Mail will inspire you to create heartfelt post, celebrate life's little moments and find the lasting joy of sending something truly personal.

Snail mail, forever.

## Contributor Bio

Martina Calvi is a mixed media creative and online creator from Sydney, Australia. Since 2015 she has used the internet as her scrapbook, sharing illustrations, mixed media projects and moments from her life with a community of over 300 thousand creative followers. Throughout her career as an online creative she has gained major collaborations with Adobe, Adidas, Nike, Snapchat and more. She is the author of *The Art of Memory Collecting* and *A Year of Junk Journaling*.




Fox Chapel
9781639811700
Pub Date: 11/08/2026
£9.99 GBP
Paperback

48 Pages

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

# Festive Blocks for a Mega Christmas Quilt

**25 Traditionally Pieced Designs**

Tracy Perks

## Summary

Christmas is the number #1 reason quilters take to their machines to make gifts and festive home dec, starting months before to piece, layer, and quilt their creations in time for the giving season. With 25 Christmas-inspired blocks, the *Festive Blocks for a Mega Christmas Quilt* gives holiday lovers the inspiration they need to complete a 73” x 73” quilt, select a few blocks to join into runners, or turn single blocks into wall hangings, or pillows. All 25 blocks are traditionally pieces with no curves or paper-piecing required.

Quilters will love the:

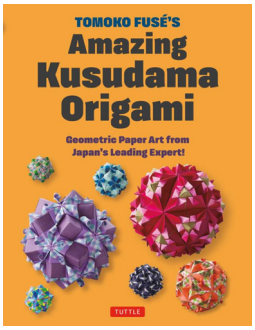
- Visual, row-by-row instructions and easy-to-follow diagrams to build each block
- Worksheet arrangement to keep track of pieces cut and used
- Three bonus block-based projects

## Contributor Bio

Tracy Perks is the face and name behind Rope & Anchor Trading Co. Limited. She has a huge passion for quilting and textile arts, and just can’t get enough of sewing, quilting and designing.

She lives South East of England, on a 62-foot narrowboat with her husband and two dogs, and has her very own floating studio, called The Little Boat, where she creates her quilting designs, stitches, bastes and quilts.

She specializes in creating beginner-friendly quilt patterns that feature visual, row-by-row instructions and easy-to-follow diagrams. Her designs are perfect for confident quilters looking for quick and enjoyable projects.




Tuttle Publishing
9784805319918
Pub Date: 02/07/2026
£14.99 GBP
Paperback

128 Pages

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

27.9 cm H | 21.6 cm W

# Tomoko Fuse's Amazing Kusudama Origami

**Geometric Paper Art from Japan's Leading Expert!**

Tomoko Fuse

## Summary

***"Tomoko Fuse is considered a living master of modular and practical origami."* —The New York Times**

This incredible book by Tomoko Fuse, Japan's most famous living origami artist, shows you how to create dozens of amazing geometric kusudama spheres using many small paper squares that are folded then locked together (without the use of glue or tape) by the tension of the paper itself!

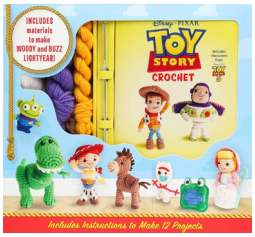
**She provides detailed step-by-step instructions for more than 40 wonderfully decorative models, including:**

- The skeletal Amaryllis and Unity models, whose delicate frames are filled with voids and openings
- The chunky Slash and Patchwork models, with their robust construction and strong lines
- The Twist Flower and Tornado—stylish models incorporating triangular color schemes
- Exquisitely frilly models, such as the Pomegranate and Iris, bristling with decorative flourishes
- The visually striking Spica and Dandelion, boasting spiky zig-zag cone-encrusted surfaces
- And so many more!

*Tomoko Fuse's Amazing Kusudama Origami* features over 650 folding diagrams with easy-to-follow instructions and photos showing you how to create each geometric model!

## Contributor Bio

Tomoko Fuse is a leading origami artist, teacher and author. She discovered the art of paper folding as a young child and has since become known as "The Queen of Modular Origami." Her work has been exhibited around the world in solo shows in Paris, Tokyo and Dessau, Germany. She has written over 65 books on origami paper folding art and was a featured artist in the PBS Nova special "The Origami Revolution." Her life as an origami artist is portrayed in the new NHK World film "Unfolding a Life with Origami" (2025).




Thunder Bay Press
9781667210285
Pub Date: 04/06/2026
£20.00 GBP
Crochet Kit

88 Pages
WFB

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

22.9 cm H | 25.4 cm W

# Toy Story Crochet

Editors of Thunder Bay Press

## Summary

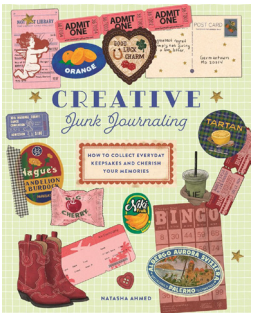
**Go to infinity and beyond—one stitch at a time—with this Toy Story crochet kit for adults!**

Fans of the beloved Toy Story films will enjoy creating 12 favorite toys in this kit—including two new characters from *Toy Story 5*!

- Includes an 80-page book with step-by-step instructions and all the materials needed to make Buzz Lightyear (with detachable wings!) and Woody!
- Comes with a crochet hook, two needles, nine colors of yarn, black embroidery thread, two pairs of safety eyes, and fiberfill stuffing.
- Additional instructions demonstrate how to crochet other fan favorites such as Bo Peep, Rex, Hamm, and Alien.
- Designed for confident beginners and seasoned crocheters alike.
- Each project is thoughtfully designed to be rewarding—not too simple, not too hard—with guidance that helps you succeed from the first stitch to the final detail.
- The finished projects are great to display in your home or office and also make wonderful gifts for fans of the movies!

## Contributor Bio

**Thunder Bay Press** is an imprint of Printers Row Publishing Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Readerlink Distribution Services, LLC, the largest full-service book distributor to non-trade booksellers in North America. Thunder Bay publishes across a wide and varied range of formats and categories, from fun, interactive activity titles and kits on subjects such as origami, cooking, crafts, games, and art to reference books suitable for gift-giving in categories like art, fitness, pets, travel, history, culture, sports, and nature. Thunder Bay Press celebrates the book in all its forms, and publishes something for everyone. They’re headquartered in San Diego.




Quarto
9781577156147
Pub Date: 11/06/2026
£18.99 GBP
Hardback

208 Pages

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

25.4 cm H | 20.3 cm W

# Creative Junk Journaling

**How to Collect Everyday Keepsakes and Cherish Your Memories**

Natasha Ahmed

## Summary

**Embrace the scrappy side of creativity and turn your treasured junk into a charming book of memories.**

If you're more interested in treasuring keepsakes than crafting them to perfection, the mindful practice of junk journaling is for you. In *Creative Junk Journaling*, Natasha Ahmed (@natashahmedx) shows you how to create your own less-polished scrapbook, transforming "junk" into playful works of art that capture moments big and small. Random objects—sticky notes, flower petals, ticket stubs, receipts, stickers, photos, and more—now have a place in your journal with this accessible and crafty how-to guide.

Follow **guided prompts and crafts** to craft your own junk journal, including advice on what items to gather, stickers to collect, paper to find, notebooks to use, digital software to try, and more. *Creative Junk Journaling* is not only an accessible guide for beginner crafters with materials to get started, but for expert crafters, it's an opportunity to discover **new techniques, amazing crafts, inspiring prompts, and materials for your projects**. Explore helpful tips and content, including:

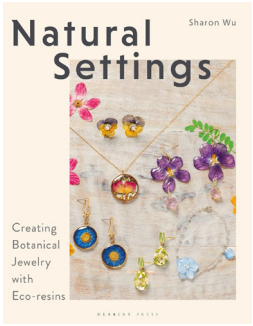
- **20 inspiring junk-journal prompts**, like travel memories, "What's In My Bag," and vision boards.
- **5 creative crafts to customize every day objects**, such as phone cases and makeup tins.
- **2 sticker pages** full of customized art by Natasha.
- **12 pages of collage images t**o cut out and paste into your junk journal.
- **9 pages of backing paper** to use as backgrounds or frames for photos.
- **A guide to digital journaling** for those who don't collect everyday tokens but still want to collect memories.

As you immerse yourself in the process, free from judgment and the mind-numbing screen, you will discover a nurturing new way to unwind and express yourself. By taking time to slow down, look around you, and connect with your emotions, you can find and appreciate the small joys in everyday life. The pleasure of junk journaling lies in the act itself.

Enjoy a fresh take on journaling as you write down your thoughts and capture extraordinary memories with ordinary ephemera.

## Contributor Bio

Natasha Ahmed is a content creator and graphic designer known for her maximalist jewelry and eclectic fashion, along with her distinct illustrations, drawn mood boards, and digital scrapbooks that are taking the internet by storm. Natasha has numerous brand partnerships, including July Child Jewelry, Kodak, Adobe, and Airbnb. Natasha is based in the UK.




Bloomsbury
9781789943450
Pub Date: 18/06/2026
£20.00 GBP
Paperback

176 Pages
WFJ

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America, Australia & New Zealand

28 cm H | 21.6 cm W

# Natural Settings

**Creating Botanical Jewelry with Eco-resins**

Sharon Wu

## Summary

**A sustainable guide to making plant-based resin accessories with your favorite flowers, including earrings, bezel necklaces and pendants.**

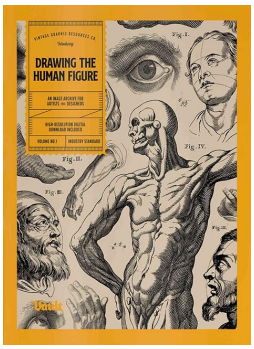
Whether you're a beginner looking to take up an eco-friendly hobby, or an established crafter looking to ditch harmful petroleum-based resins, these 33 projects provide essential advice for creating your own botanical jewelry.

You'll learn to select, pick and prepare flowers, leaves and other natural materials for preservation, before following a beginner-friendly introduction to encasing objects in resin, working with bezels and jewelry tools. Once you've got to grips with shaping and curing plant-based resin, later projects open up a world of sculptural creativity – using a range of molds, you'll learn how to cast, layer and assemble like a pro.

Brimming with tips and tricks throughout, including the addition of colorants, foil and glitter to your finished pieces, Sharon Wu's step-by-step instructions will help you create personalized, vibrant and sustainable accessories for every occasion. Whether preserving the first flower of spring or the leaves from your Christmas wreath, Natural Settings is the indispensable guide for anybody interested in making resin jewelry.

## Contributor Bio

Sharon Wu, Ph.D., is a Research Scientist specializing in material science. Since 2018, she has been teaching flower pressing and resin jewelry making, sharing her passion for blending science and art. In 2020 she launched Flower Reader, her handmade jewelry shop on Etsy, and in 2021 she founded 12 Dalton, an initiative to spread the wonders of science and empower women in STEM.




# Drawing the Human Figure

**A Drawing Reference Book and Image Archive for Artists and Designers**

Kale James, Vault Editions

Vault Editions
9781922966094
Pub Date: 26/02/23
Paperback

£16.99 GBP

106 Pages
AKLB
Series: Vault Editions Image Archives

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America

28 cm H | 22 cm W

## Summary

Master the art of drawing the human body accurately and confidently using *Drawing the Human Figure: An Image Archive for Artists & Designers* by *Vault Editions*. This expertly curated reference book provides essential guidance for artists, illustrators, and designers, helping you develop a deep understanding of anatomy, proportion, expression, perspective, and movement. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, this collection of 153 images is designed to refine your craft and elevate your knowledge of the human figure.

**This comprehensive visual archive features:**

- **Anatomical studies** – Learn to draw the human skeleton and muscle structure with precision
- **Proportions and ratios** – Study the arms, hands, legs, and feet in relation to the rest of the body
- **Dynamic movement and poses** – Understand how limbs move to create lifelike illustrations
- **Facial features and expression** – Master the proportions of the mouth, nose, eyes, and ears

With detailed proportional guides and expressive reference drawings, this book provides the fundamental tools needed to perfect human figure drawing.

**Instant access to high-resolution files** – Each book includes a unique download link providing high-resolution, 300 DPI files of all 153 images, perfect for:

- Illustration and fine art practice
- Tattoo and graphic design projects
- Printing and framing anatomical studies for easy reference

**Bonus Content:** Includes a print-at-home gridded workbook to assist with your drawing practice.

Improve your artwork today and take your knowledge of the human figure to the next level!

## Contributor Bio

Kale James is an illustrator, graphic designer, and Creative Director of *Vault Editions*. He is an Amazon best-selling author with 60+ acclaimed art and design books.

*Vault Editions* is an independent, family-run business based in London, England, dedicated to helping the creative community unlock their potential by providing captivating visual reference books, instructive tutorials on various areas of art and design, and business advice tailored to the creative industries. Vault Editions offer an invaluable resource for artists and designers of all levels to develop their techniques and expand their knowledge. They are passionate about celebrating and sharing the valuable heritage of artistic expression while nurturing the talents of tomorrow's creatives. They are committed to inspiring creativity in everyone, fostering growth with practical guidance, and fueling excellence with knowledge-rich resources.




Vault Editions
9781922966735
Pub Date: 21/11/25
Paperback

£16.99 GBP

142 Pages
AKLB
Series: Vault Editions Image Archives

Territory: CRAFT TRADE ONLY - Worldwide excluding North America

28 cm H | 22 cm W

# How to Draw Manga and Anime

**Step-by-Step Lessons for Drawing Faces, Figures, Poses and Anime Characters**

Kale James, Vault Editions

## Summary

Start your journey into manga and anime illustration with a structured, beginner-friendly approach that teaches you exactly how to draw with confidence. This book gives you the foundations, proportions, and character-building skills used throughout authentic manga and anime art.

**A Complete System for Learning Manga Drawing:**

- The Vault Editions 12-Step Drawing Method: Our proven framework breaks every subject into simple, repeatable stages. You'll understand exactly what to do at each step, making complex drawings manageable and helping you improve quickly from your very first page.
- Anatomy and Proportion Made Simple: Master the essential measurements and structures for male, female and chibi characters. Learn expressive faces, natural poses, body balance, and simplified proportions that make your drawings look convincing and consistent.
- Master the Essentials: Gain practical techniques for drawing faces, hands, feet, hair, clothing and accessories. Each section focuses on clarity and accuracy so you can build reliable drawing habits.
- 40 Essential Manga Archetypes: Learn the underlying structure, gesture and storytelling logic behind 40 iconic manga archetypes. Instead of copying images, you'll understand how to design your own characters with personality, purpose and visual impact.

**Download Included:**

- A custom set of Procreate brushes (liners and shaders) optimised for drawing manga characters
- A free digital copy of the publication – perfect for drawing on your tablet or on the go
- A printable, gridded practice workbook to support your drawing progression

Skip the vague tutorials and guesswork. This book gives you a structured path, reliable techniques and the visual foundations needed to build expressive, original manga characters.

## Contributor Bio

Kale James is an illustrator, graphic designer, and Creative Director of *Vault Editions*. He is an Amazon best-selling author with 60+ acclaimed art and design books.

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