

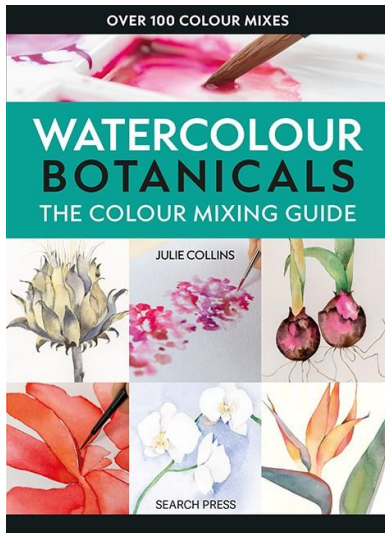
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IMPROV QUILTS
BY LAURA LOEWEN



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The Colour Mixing Guide: Watercolour Botanicals

Julie Collins

Key Selling Points

- **WIDE AUDIENCE:** An extremely practical handbook for watercolour artists of all abilities
- **POPULAR SUBJECT MATTER:** perfect for beginners who wish to improve their understanding of colour and the painting of botanicals.
- **INCLUDES OVER 100 COLOUR MIXES** along with colour charts, step-by-step projects and practical watercolour tips.
- **SECTION ON WATERCOLOUR TECHNIQUES** including wet into wet, wet onto dry, washes, creating texture, layering, masking and more.
- **POPULAR, TRUSTED AUTHOR:** Julie Collins' other titles have sold over 50k copies.

Summary

Create over 100 vibrant watercolour mixes and paint a range of inspiring botanicals including flowers, leaves, seedheads and bulbs with award-winning artist and colour-mixing guru Julie Collins.

This colourful, practical book features 15 vibrant and varied botanical subjects including a geranium, hydrangea, maple leaf, cardoon and allium bulb. All 15 subjects feature a complete list of colour mixes used with colour ratios and finished swatches for inspiration, and five of the subjects are painted step by step so that you can follow the process of selecting colours, mixing and painting from start to finish.

Discover:

- Comprehensive information about colour, including a colour wheel and a guide to pure and mixed pigments;
- Essential watercolour techniques such as painting wet into wet, wet on dry, washes, lifting off and more;
- 15 inspirational paintings with colour swatches, 5 shown step by step from start to finish;
- Useful tips and tricks scattered throughout.

This book will inspire your love of colour, provide you with colour mixing inspiration and is designed to equip you with the knowledge you need to confidently create your own colour mixes.

Mix the perfect colours for every painting with the inspiring and easy-to-use *Colour Mixing Guide* series. Each book features over 100 key colour mixes on a popular theme, showing you how to create exactly the colours you want, and building up your colour knowledge at every stage. These handy, pocket-sized paperbacks make ideal gifts or on-the-go reference guides: each contains 64 pages bursting with colour and jam-packed with practical information.

Contributor Bio

Julie Collins studied Fine Art at the University of Reading and has been an artist, writer and teacher since then. She has written a number of colour mixing guides and artists' problem-solving books and also writes for *The Artist* magazine. She works from her studio in Hampshire, UK, where she explores her passion for painting, drawing and crafts.

Julie has received numerous prestigious awards for her painting, including from the Royal Watercolour Society, the Royal West of England Academy and ING Discerning Eye. Julie was elected a Member of the Society of Women Artists and on to the SWA Council in 2022.

Julie is also the author of *Colour Demystified*, published by Search Press in 2021, which has sold over 9k copies to date.

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INTRODUCTION

My great love of gardening and flowers was the inspiration for this book. It all started in my nan's garden during the 1960s, where she inspected her beloved lupins and poppies on more than a daily basis. Had I not been an artist I would have loved to have been a gardener; indeed my garden is my pride and joy. Flowers are a subject close to my heart and it is through them that I learnt about watercolour.

Flowers are the perfect subject as they are readily available in countless styles and sizes. If you don't have access to a garden then a trip to a supermarket, florist, garden centre, open garden or a historic house will provide endless inspiration.

This is not an extensive book about colour in flowers but aims to cover most colours seen in different plants. I have used a limited palette of 23 watercolours that are essential in my flower painting, with the addition of some genuine mineral pigments and luminescent watercolours.

The first part of the book includes colour information and watercolour techniques. Four sections follow, focusing on different parts of the plant: flowers, leaves, seedheads and bulbs. I have included five step-by-step projects as well as many finished paintings showing the colour mixes used.



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Colour wheel and colour charts

Key
P Primary
S Secondary
T Tertiary

COLOUR WHEEL

The colour wheel is very important in helping us identify primary, secondary, tertiary and complementary colours. I have used the primary colours cadmium red, cadmium yellow and French ultramarine.



PRIMARY COLOURS

There is a lot of information available about the theory of colour but for the purposes of this book, I want to keep it as accessible as possible. Red, yellow and blue are the primary colours. You cannot mix them and therefore you must have these colours. From them you can mix a broad and useful set of colours.

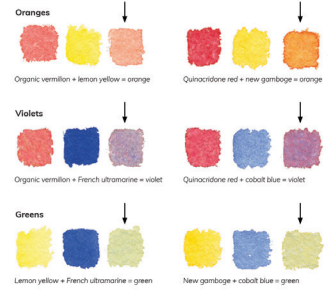
Below are swatches of two other reds, yellows and blues that are used in this book. Begin by noticing the difference between the two reds, yellows and blues. All of the colour swatches have been painted on Forast 300gsm (140g) rough surface 100% cotton rag watercolour paper.



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SECONDARY COLOURS

Secondary colours are made by mixing one primary with another in equal amounts, e.g. red + yellow = orange. This is illustrated below and can also be seen in context on the colour wheel.



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geranium *pelargonium*

FLOWERS

Flowers are the most exciting part of a plant, so I have included two step-by-step flower projects in this section: geranium and hydrangea. The hydrangea project (page 20) covers how to incorporate a background and what to consider when drawing it. For the geranium project shown here, we don't include a background.

PAINTING WITHOUT A BACKGROUND
There is something very beautiful about a plant or flower painted on plain white paper and most of the studies in this book are painted in this way. I show off the watercolours at their brightest and, as you don't have to incorporate a background, it makes it easier to deal with any subject. However, it is still important to consider your composition carefully and plan where your subject sits on the page.

I thought this subject worked best in a landscape format. The red geranium exerts a hobby or Mediterranean feel, especially the bright red illustrated here. This is a perfect combination of complementary colours, as seen in nature. The bright clusters of flowers and the delicate shapes of the leaves are wonderful to paint.

Draw lightly, using an HB or H pencil so that it will look like you have painted without drawing first. Sketch approximately seven flowerheads, stems, buds and leaves. You will remove any visible pencil lines using a putty eraser once the painting is complete and the paint is dry.

TIPS

To ensure that you achieve a good composition, try out various arrangements in your sketchbook before committing to watercolour paper. Test your colour mixes on scrap watercolour paper first.

Take your time and be careful not to nudge your board or drag your hand across what you've painted.

In traditional botanical painting, flowers are painted on various white papers ranging from bright white as well as on vellum.



You can download and print the outline for this project on the Bookmarked Hub: www.bookmarkedhub.com. Search for this book by title or ISBN; the files can be found under 'Book Extras'.

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tulip *tulipa*

If I had to choose only one flower to paint, it would be the tulip. Its attractive form and the way it changes as it opens fully make it such an inspiring subject. Here I painted a deep violet flower to show just how many colours can be seen in this plant. Painted on smooth surface HP 300gsm (140g) watercolour paper.

bird of paradise *strelitzia*



COLOUR MIXES

- Quinacridone purple + French ultramarine (P030): dark
- French ultramarine + lemon yellow (P030): medium
- Lemon yellow + French ultramarine (P030): medium
- Burnt sienna + French ultramarine + violet in equal parts: dark
- Quinacridone purple + French ultramarine + biostone gentiane in equal parts: dark

COLOUR MIXES

- Phthalocyanine blue shades + French ultramarine (P030): medium/dark
- Organic vermilion + new gamboge (P030): medium/dark
- Cadmium orange hue + new gamboge (P030): medium/dark
- Quinacridone purple + French ultramarine (P030): medium/dark
- Phthalocyanine blue shades + new gamboge (P030): medium/dark
- Burnt sienna + French ultramarine + violet in equal parts: dark
- French ultramarine + new gamboge (P030): medium/dark
- Quinacridone purple + French ultramarine (P030): medium/dark

The strelitzia, with its striking bird-like form and amazing array of colours is a wonderful flower to paint. The first time I drew and painted them was in the large greenhouse in the garden in South Africa and in gardens throughout the Mediterranean. It is sufficient to buy only one flower to work from as this can be arranged at various angles in your picture if you want a more complicated composition. Painted on smooth surface HP 300gsm (140g) watercolour paper.

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spray of flowers

This painting needs careful planning and then a lively approach when painting. Mix the colours you will need before you start. Draw some work resist or masking fluid onto the paper to retain some white areas. Apply background washes over the entire picture. Allow to dry thoroughly before painting the coloured flowers and stems.

Painted on CP 100 surface 335gsm (250g) watercolour paper.

COLOUR MIXES

Background: pale/medium

- Phthalocyanine green (yellow shade), lemon yellow + French ultramarine in equal parts
- French ultramarine + lemon yellow (P020)

Stems: medium

- Phthalocyanine green (yellow shade) + lemon yellow (P020)
- Phthalocyanine green (yellow shade) + lemon yellow (P020), plus a touch of burnt sienna
- Phthalocyanine green (yellow shade) + lemon yellow + burnt sienna (P020)

I also used the following pure colours:

Background: pale/medium

- French ultramarine

Flowers

- Pyral orange
- Quinacridone red
- Quinacridone blue
- Indiscent vibrant raspberry
- Rhodite gentiane

Stems: medium/dark

- Dioxazine green + burnt sienna (P030): medium
- Dioxazine green + burnt sienna (P030): dark

Background: pale/medium

Flowers

- French ultramarine + quinacridone pink (P020): pale
- French ultramarine + quinacridone pink (P020): medium
- French ultramarine + burnt sienna (P030): pale
- Indiscent garnet + French ultramarine (P030): pale
- Lemon yellow + raw sienna light (P030): pale
- French ultramarine + burnt sienna (P030): pale
- Indiscent garnet + French ultramarine (P030): pale

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orchid *phalaenopsis*

Painting white flowers is a delicate matter, as you need to draw enough tone in your shadows to make the flowers look convincing. If the tone is too light, you won't see the flower and if the tone is too dark it will look like a coloured flower instead of a white flower. Here I have painted a subtle background which helps the flowers stand out. The various pale grey shadows and yellow details were added last, using a very light touch. Painted on smooth surface HP 300gsm (140g) watercolour paper.

COLOUR MIXES

Background: pale/medium

Flowers

- French ultramarine + quinacridone pink (P020): pale
- French ultramarine + burnt sienna (P030): pale
- Indiscent garnet + French ultramarine (P030): pale
- Lemon yellow + raw sienna light (P030): pale
- French ultramarine + burnt sienna (P030): pale
- Indiscent garnet + French ultramarine (P030): pale

Stems: medium/dark

- Dioxazine green + burnt sienna (P030): medium
- Dioxazine green + burnt sienna (P030): dark

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cardoon *cynara cardunculus*

I have a large area of cardoons in my garden which provides interest for most of the year. They are such a wonderful plant to paint. The seedheads are magnificent, but it requires time and care to draw them. If you start with a strong drawing, it will provide a convincing structure and you will have definite shapes to paint. Painted on 300gsm (140g) HP watercolour paper.

COLOUR MIXES

- Burnt sienna + French ultramarine (P030): dark
- Burnt sienna + French ultramarine (P030): dark
- French ultramarine + Indian red (P050): medium
- French ultramarine + Indian red (P050): dark
- Indian red + French ultramarine + Indiscent antique copper in equal parts: dark
- Indian red + French ultramarine + Indiscent antique copper in equal parts: dark
- Indiscent antique copper + biostone gentiane (P050): medium

I also used the following pure colours:

- Raw sienna light: pale

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hollyhock *alcea rosea*

Hollyhock seedheads provide a beautiful and delicate subject to paint. It is a good idea to take a while planning where to place them on your watercolour paper and then allow yourself plenty of time for drawing. Here they are delicately drawn and painted life size. I spent a long time doing preparatory drawing in my sketchbook before committing to the red thing. This is the smallest painting in the book and, as you can see, I have painted a lot of detail with a tiny brush. It is important to keep small work as lively as larger pieces. When working on a reduced scale there is the potential to lighten up and paint in a very restricted style. The first layer of paint was applied wet into wet and allowed to dry before adding the detail and the few detail with a size 1 brush that has a very good point. Painted on vellum.

COLOUR MIXES

- Sage + French ultramarine (P030): medium
- Sage + French ultramarine (P030): dark
- Burnt sienna + French ultramarine (P030): dark
- Raw sienna light + French ultramarine (P030): medium/pale
- New gamboge + French ultramarine (P030): medium/pale
- Burnt sienna + French ultramarine (P030): dark

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hyacinth *hyacinthus*

BULBS

A bulb holds a huge amount of interest in its colour and structure, and including the roots makes a very striking composition. The obvious advantage of drawing and painting bulbs is that they dry out more slowly than flowers, so you have longer to plan and draw them before they start to wither. I have frequently dug up my tulip bulbs after they have flowered, shaken off the soil and brought them into my studio to paint. They painted them back in the garden afterwards.

In this section I include three varieties of bulb: a violet-brown hyacinth, a brownish lilybulb on page 61, and a white lilybulb on page 60, although obviously there are thousands more to choose from. You can download and print the outline for this project on the Bookmarked Hub: www.bookmarkedhub.com. Search for this book by title or ISBN; the files can be found under 'Book Extras'.

Prepare mix J and K

5 Gleazing Using your size 12 brush, paint clean water to three-quarters of the bottom of the bulb. With the size 8 brush, carefully add mix K into the wet areas, making sure the dark colour doesn't flood in and hide all your pink – leave about fifty per cent showing.

6 Repeat on the other bulb, writing the area marked by the pencil sketch where the layers of onion skin are built up.

7 Return to the alternate leaves using the size 12 brush and mixes D-1 to fill them in. Allow to dry.

8 Roots Using the size O brush and a rigger brush, paint the roots on scrap paper as they are so delicate and require a steady hand.

9 Finishing touches With mix J (see step 5), add stippling and dry strips to the bulb with the size O brush to indicate some texture and structure.

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55

TIP

I recommend practising the roots on scrap paper as they are so delicate and require a steady hand.

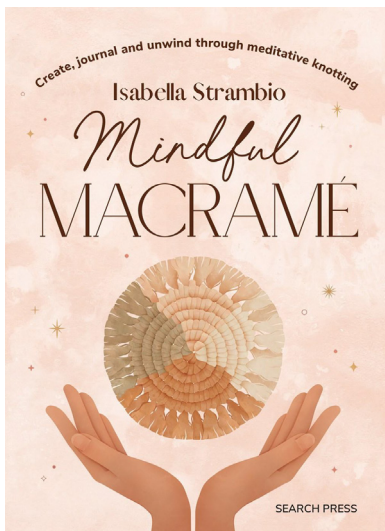
Prepare mix L

8 Roots Using the size O brush and a rigger brush, paint the roots on scrap paper as they are so delicate and require a steady hand.

9 Finishing touches With mix J (see step 5), add stippling and dry strips to the bulb with the size O brush to indicate some texture and structure.

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Mindful Macramé

Create, journal and unwind through meditative knotting

Isabella Strambio

Key Selling Points

- **VERY POPULAR CRAFT:** #macramé has over 10M posts on IG. This is aimed at complete beginners to intermediate-level macramé enthusiasts and anyone wanting to engage in an activity to promote mindfulness.
- **GROWING AUDIENCE:** Isabella has a growing audience on social media – 20,000 IG followers (@_twome), 26,000 followers/193,000 monthly views on Pinterest.
- **AUTHOR WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD:** Isabella's previous titles, *Macramé for the Modern Home* (2020), *Macramé Christmas* (2023) and *Macramé Jewellery* (2022) have collective sales in excess of 70k copies.
- **UNIQUE FUSION OF MACRAME AND MINDFULNESS:** *Mindful Macramé* stands out from other macramé books by introducing readers to the concept of combining knotting techniques with mindfulness practices. It offers a holistic approach that promotes both creativity and self-awareness.
- **STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIALS:** Detailed step-by-step instructions, accompanied by illustrations and photographs, enable readers to follow along easily and create their own macramé masterpieces.
- **MINDFUL EXERCISES:** Throughout the book, readers will find various mindfulness exercises and techniques integrated into macramé projects. These exercises promote relaxation, focus, and a sense of inner calm.
- **INSPIRING PROJECTS:** All with a sustainable and eco-friendly theme organized by time (less than 30 mins, less than 60 minutes, more than 60 mins): *Mindful Macramé* includes a collection of stunning projects that range from simple wall hangings to plant hangers, allowing readers to develop their skills and create beautiful, meaningful pieces for their homes or as thoughtful gifts.
- **INSIGHTFUL GUIDANCE:** Isabella Strambio shares her personal experiences and insights into the mindful practice of macramé, offering valuable tips and suggestions to enhance the reader's journey.

Summary

Combine the art of macramé with the practice of mindfulness in this stunning gift book. Each of the 17 projects contains breathing exercises, questions to reflect on and guided journal prompts so that you can centre yourself while crafting something beautiful.

Written by acclaimed macramé artist Isabella Strambio, this book offers a unique combination of practical and personal, inviting you to embrace a mindful and meditative experience through knotting. Each knot tied is a chance to slow down and experience the satisfaction of making something beautiful with your hands while nourishing your soul in the process.

Choose from quick 30-minute creations (jewellery, belts, keyrings), those that take less than an hour (coasters, placemats, plant hangers) to more intricate designs that invite a few hours of you-time (wall hangings, baskets). Each one is customizable in colour and size, offering opportunities to decorate your home with meaningful pieces or make thoughtful gifts.

Included within are:

- 17 simple-but-stunning beginner-friendly projects including wall hangings, jewellery, plant hangers, placemats, coasters and keyrings, ordered by the time needed;
- Breathing exercises and guided journal pages with space to note down your thoughts and reflections for every project;
- Easy-to-follow step-by-step photography for all the knots, patterns and projects.

Whether you're dipping your toes into the waters of mindfulness and crafting for the first time or seeking fresh inspiration and support, this beautifully illustrated gift book welcomes you with open arms.

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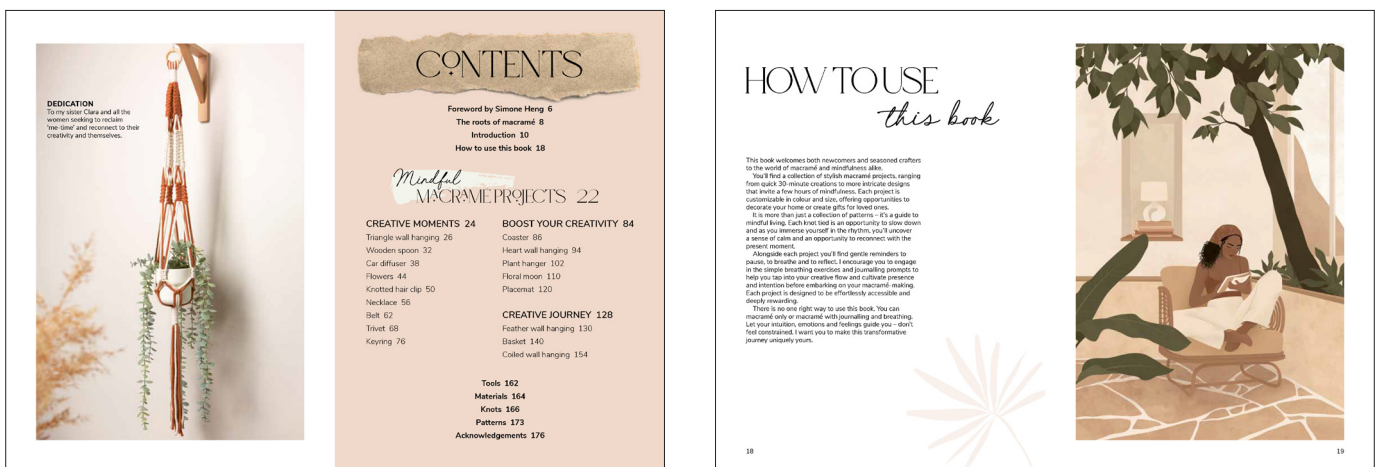
Contributor Bio

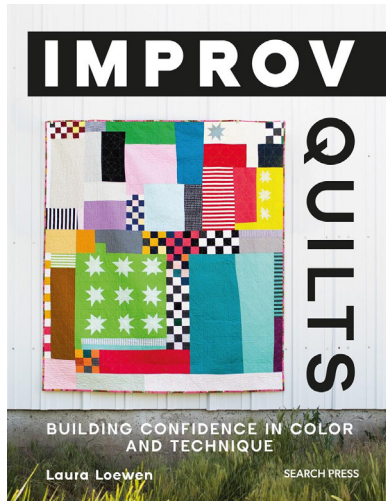
Isabella is a macramé artist and author who has turned her love for knotting into a business after the success of her blog, which followed her journey to learn 12 crafts in 12 months. She is inspired by design, natural materials and textures, and her passions are reflected in her work.

Her mission is to share her macramé knowledge and encourage her students to explore their creativity through the art of knotting as well as promoting macramé as a form of mindfulness, having witnessed the benefits first-hand.

Isabella runs online macramé courses and live events as well as experiences to help women connect and explore their creativity. She regularly contributes to craft magazines and blogs in the UK and US with easy-to-follow macramé patterns, knots and creative inspirations. Her website www.isabellastrambio.com is packed with 'all things macramé' as well as information on how to turn a craft passion into a creative business.

Follow Isabella on Instagram @_twome





Improv Quilts

Building confidence in color and technique

Laura Loewen

Key Selling Points

- **IDEAL FOR CONFIDENT BEGINNER QUILTERS EAGER TO EXPLORE NEW SKILLS AND CHALLENGES:** step away from traditional piecing methods and embrace the freedom of improv quilting. Discover the joy of ruler-free cutting, explore the world of colour play, and dive into creative piecing with Laura's expert guidance.
- **SKILLED IMPROV ARTISTS WILL FIND INSPIRATION AND NEW WAYS TO DESIGN QUILTS.**
- **10 STUNNING DESIGNS** that build in difficulty, and contain a wealth of clearly-explained technique, visual inspiration and expert advice.
- **CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TECHNIQUES** needed, following award-winning quilter Laura Loewen's personal working methods and creative process.
- **TAKE IT FURTHER** with confidence-building prompts for your own projects.
- **PACKED WITH COLOUR PHOTOS FOR INSPIRATION.**
- **LAURA LOEWEN, OWNER OF QUILT FORT COMPANY (@quiltfortco)**, has over 18k Instagram followers, and is based in Colorado. Her work has been published in Curated Quilts, Quiltmaker, QuiltCon Magazine and more. This is her first book.
- **LAURA IS A QUILT DESIGNER, RUNNING QUILTING WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES IN THE US** and internationally online, and an award-winning quilter, with pieces exhibited at the National Quilt Museum, Houston Quilt Festival and QuiltCon.

Summary

Embrace the freedom and creativity of improv quilting with award-winning quilter Laura Loewen (@QuiltFortCo).

Discover the joy of ruler-free cutting, explore the world of colour play, and dive into fun, fearless creative piecing using Laura's expert guidance.

This book is a must-read for confident beginner quilters eager to discover new skills and looking for a vibrant, playful quilting experience, but any level of quilter can use this book to begin their improv journey. Laura showcases her own working methods - from sketches and fabric play to painterly colour movement - covering all the necessary techniques in detail, and helping you to create a solid base of colour knowledge before you launch into combining colour play with improv shapes. Inside you'll find:

- 10 stunning colourful step-by-step quilt projects that build your skills as you work through the book;
- Techniques throughout, from building harmonious colour schemes and value sorting to going ruler free and working with curves;
- Stunning photographs and easy-to-follow illustrations, as well as key guidance on quilting essentials including basting, quilting and binding;
- Confidence-building prompts for your own improv quilts;
- Colouring sheets so that you can work out your colour schemes on paper before committing to fabric.

This book is your ticket to fearless, fun, and utterly unique improv quilting. Discover inspirational finished pieces, prompts to begin your own individual improv projects and new ways to design quilts through the mouthwateringly colourful projects inside.

Laura has exhibited quilts at QuiltCon (#quiltcon) in 2019 and 2020, and in 2020 her *More Is More* quilt won 1st Place in the Appliqué category.

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Contributor Bio

Laura Loewen is the owner of Quilt Fort Company, a modern quilt artist, pattern designer, and quilt educator. Since making her first quilt as a teenager, her style has grown more experimental, and she now has over twenty years of quilting experience with a love of color and improv. Laura's award-winning quilts have been shown at galleries and museums, including the National Quilt Museum, and her work has been published in *Simply Moderne*, *Curated Quilts*, *Quiltmaker*, *QuiltCon Magazine*, and more. She has a professional background in interior design and photography, and spends her days at home raising her two boys outside Boulder, Colorado in the US.

Introduction

When I first came to improvisational design after almost 20 years of quilting, I wasn't sure how I felt about this uncertain formula but I was ready to try something new. I decided to stay in my comfort zone and simply improvise some traditional designs of quilt blocks. For these beginning experiments, I used a straightedge ruler to cut and stayed around with color and prints. Admittedly, I was reluctant because I am a self-proclaimed perfectionist. What about the corners that won't match? How will my project stay organized if everything is willy-nilly? The instant I finished my first block I fell in love with the imperfections of improv.

You could say I was hooked from that moment on. I have since gone on to make and teach ruler-cut and ruler-free improv piecing, and improv applique. I have worked with my favorite traditional blocks to create improv quilts and have created original compositions. All the while, I have also been experimenting with color and creating gradient and flow in my work. I am often asked how I choose colors for my quilts and how I approach improv quilting. Many makers who ask for guidance are new to the improv process or want to improve their color and placement. Whether you are an experienced quilter new to improv or have tried out improv quilting in the past but want to learn to master it, this book will provide a guided approach to help you gain the confidence you need to create your own original improv quilts.

... the qualifier for improv is not knowing the result before you begin.



WHAT IS IMPROV QUILTING?

There are many ways to define improv quilting. For me the qualifier for improv is not knowing the result before you begin. However, there are two more parts to my answer.

First is about technique. What part of your design are you going to improv? The color choice, cutting or piecing can be a solo improv component to your design. Or you can combine those for a more complex composition. Each ingredient requires a specific cut, and this book will teach you to be confident in developing and integrating those skills.

Second is the approach you take at the beginning of your project. Just because you don't know what the result will look like, you can still have an idea of where your work will go. To me, improv does not mean not having a plan. It just means having an open-ended plan that can change as you create. You can start with just a concept and make decisions organically, making and changing as the work time. This can be applied to any of the aforementioned components.



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

I've written this book to be read from beginning to end to conduct the projects to be worked through inside to develop your improv quilting and color confidence. However, feel free to jump around and play with different techniques described at the beginning of the book in any order before you get to the later chapters on advanced improv and how to design from a blank slate.

If you choose to work on the projects in order, they will build upon each other, adding new skills and techniques as you go. Use the approach I provide you with but by all means, feel free to adapt to design your own original improv quilt. That way you can build up your confidence before jumping forward to advanced design. There is no reason to feel panic and fear at the prospect of making an improv quilt. Improv quilting should be fun and relaxing.

How improv quilting can be intimidating, and color selection can be daunting. It might seem a bit basic to start at the beginning, but if you have been a quilter for a while, but taking a step back and building your eye for color really is the best place to begin. After getting comfortable with how color selection and placement can affect your quilt design, you will build confidence in your ability to improvise for many quilts to learn ruler-cut and ruler-free improv piecing techniques. When you have built your confidence in those skills, you can move into advanced improv, curved piecing. By the time you reach the end of the book you will have learned techniques to try on your own and take on your projects without fear.

This book provides detailed descriptions of the ability you will use for improv quilting and sometimes includes measurements for the quilt pattern. It is not a prescription for you to make exact replicas of the sample quilts, but to develop your own improv quilts so you can use them to create unique quilts. My hope is that you can work through the projects in this book and gain the confidence to be the improv quilter you want to be.

Project 2: Your rainbow in squares

Using your colorful fabric stash you will create a quilt that represents your rainbow, or your preferred colors. Your fabric stash looks different than mine so your finished project will look different. Use whatever fabric you have—you probably like it if it's already in your stash. Solid, woven, or print fabric will all work for this project. No project is made with my collection of solids, linen, and short cotton fabric. If you do not have a large enough stash you can always request pieces of fabric from friends or purchase a charm pack of 5in (12.5cm) squares from a fabric manufacturer.

If you love jewel tones, your rainbow will be saturated, deep colors. If you prefer muted colors, you will have a dusty rainbow. If there's a color that you really don't like using, you probably won't have any in your stash anyway, so skip that color in your rainbow.

Let's get started!




Please read through all the instructions for Project 2 before starting. Series 75-175 unique color fabric, 1/2 in x 1/2 in (1 1/2 in) size of border fabric.

Color sketch

First, determine your color harmony. Use any of the color harmonies discussed in Chapter 1 or use your own rainbow colors. Using colored pencils to represent your fabric colors. Illustrate a coloring sheet of the Santhosh Star quilt (page 127) to determine each color location.

Apply colors by moving through both value and color gradients. Create interest by grouping like values together in nearby blocks. This will create order and a sense of unity of the quilt. Balance the darker values across the quilt. Center squares and 1/2" parts of the Santhosh Star block creating the star will be part of the rainbow color palette. HSTs and shading will be background fabric.

Cutting

From color fabrics: Cut 20 color fabric squares using your straightedge approximately 6 1/2 x 6 1/2 in (16.5 x 16.5cm). Intentionally cut squares without 90-degree corners. Place on design wall according to coloring sheet.

From background fabric: Cut 80 square for outer corners using your straightedge approximately cut 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 in (9 x 9cm). Intentionally cut squares without 90-degree corners. Cut 80 squares to use for HSTs. Using your straightedge, cut approximately 4 x 4 in (10 x 10cm). Intentionally cut squares without 90-degree corners. Reserve remaining background fabric for sewing.

Assemble - HSTs

You can refer back to page 45 for more on making ruler-cut HSTs.

Step 1 Using your straightedge, diagonally cut all 160 approximately 4in (10cm) squares, color and background fabric.

Step 2 Pin each diagonally cut section of the color fabric with a diagonally cut section of background fabric.

Step 3 Sew the pairs right sides together along the diagonal using a 1/4 in (5mm) seam allowance. Press open.

Step 4 Place the untrimmed HSTs onto your design wall/ruler in designated color sections based on your Santhosh Star coloring sheet.

Step 5 Add corner squares to the design wall layout. Pinched on the right.



Assemble - quilt top


Step 18 Join blocks together in sections of Four-Patches or Two-Patches, not using traditional construction methods of sewing together. Press open. Avoiding a topstitch, page 130. Trim all edges being joined with a straight edge prior to sewing. Press open.

Step 19 Continue joining segments together non-traditionally until quilt top is complete. Trim all edges being joined with a straight edge prior to sewing. Press open after every seam open.

Step 20 Add stitching to the top and left sides of quilt. Cut strips approximately 2in (5cm) wide, and assemble to the width and height of the quilt. Sew right sides together. Press open.

Finishing the quilt

See notes on quilt finishing, pages 118-124. The sample quilt is quilted on a domestic machine with an edge to edge grid and cross-hatch design and machine binding.




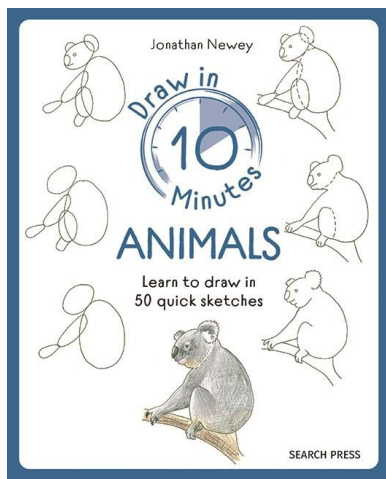
4 Advanced improv piecing: Curves

After working through the first six projects, you have learned skills for traditional quilt shapes like squares, rectangles, and triangles with both ruler-cut and ruler-free improv piecing techniques. Now you can explore more advanced shapes. Curves are notoriously tricky quilt shapes that typically require precision, possibly a lot of pins or glue, and trimming for accuracy. But you're in luck because improv curves are relatively forgiving.

Keep in mind the secret to ruler-free improv—the mirrored contour—and you will be successful making improv curves. If you are a beginner at sewing curves, keep them shallow and the construction will be less complicated. More experienced quilters can choose deeper curves. Never shy away from dividing your curve into easier-to-sew segments to reach the result you desire.

There are several types of curves or curved units you will encounter while improv quilting. Time to do it!





Draw in 10 Minutes: Animals

Learn how to draw in 50 quick sketches

Jonathan Newey

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.
- **PERFECT GIFT FOR ANIMAL LOVERS:** Wonderful present to give to any recipient who adores all creatures great and small.
- **USEFUL TOOL FOR STUDENTS:** Students of all ages can easily see how complex shapes can be created with a simple pencil line.
- **WONDERFUL DRAWING PROMPTS FOR BUDDING ILLUSTRATORS:** With 50 subjects included, from wild mammals and aquatic creatures to beloved domestic friends, woodland and farmyard familiars, there's plenty for avid artists to sketch.
- **10-MINUTE SKETCHES** for fast, impressive results.
- **50 ANIMALS TO DRAW** through 8 illustrated steps per project.
- **COLOURING MADE EASY:** each animal project includes an inspirational 'colour me' tip box with advice on colouring in your final sketch - including handy colour swatches.
- **SKETCHES BY AN ACCLAIMED WILDLIFE ARTIST,** the author is a member of the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and has been selected for their 'Wildlife Artist of the Year' exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London for 7 years.
- **WRITTEN BY AN ART TEACHER OF OVER 20 YEARS:** Jonathan Newey is an internationally best-selling author and a founding member of the UK Coloured Pencil Society.

Summary

Sketch 50 amazing animals, step by step, in just 10 minutes each!

Draw all creatures 'great and small', including woodland, farmyard, aquatic, domestic and wild animals using this stunningly simple, easy-to-follow book.

Guaranteed to boost your drawing confidence and skill, award-winning artist Jonathan Newey uses simple shapes, built up step by step, so that you can quickly and easily sketch 50 different animals from all over the world, including:

- Brilliant big cats such as lions, tigers and cheetahs;
- Feathered friends such as birds of prey, flamboyant flamingos and wise owls;
- Playful pets such as adorable rabbits, loyal dogs and mischievous kittens.

Every project contains between 6 and 10 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 Jonathan's case, coloured pencils have been used, but you could use whichever medium you like.

This book is perfect for beginner artists who've never drawn before and who want an easy guide to drawing their favourite animals; it's also a perfect prompt for more experienced illustrators searching for sketching ideas and keen to observe and recreate the character, poise and energy of a range of species. 10 minutes at a time is all you need!

Other titles in this stunning new series include *Draw in 10 Minutes: Botanicals*.

Contributor Bio

Jonathan Newey is an award-winning artist with extensive experience in many drawing and painting mediums including coloured pencil. He comes from a long line of artists in the family and studied art and design at the London College of Printing. He is a City & Guilds qualified teacher and has over 20 years' experience of teaching in adult education. He has many drawings and paintings in collections both nationally and internationally and has demonstrated for most of the top manufacturers in the UK. Jonathan is an active promoter of the coloured pencil as a serious drawing medium and is a founder member of the UK Coloured Pencil Society.



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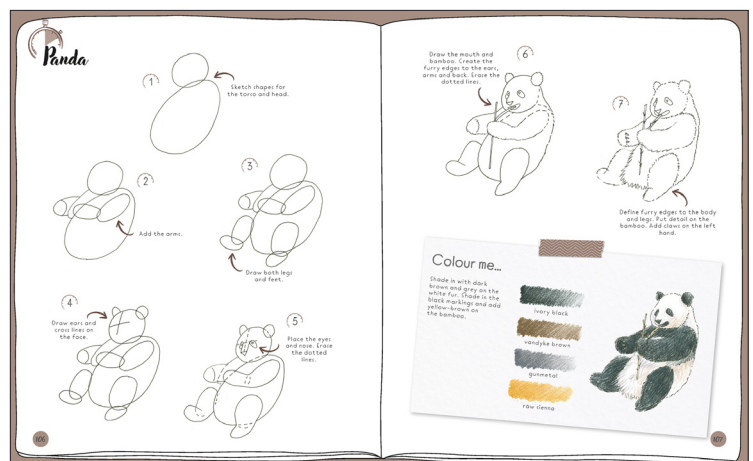
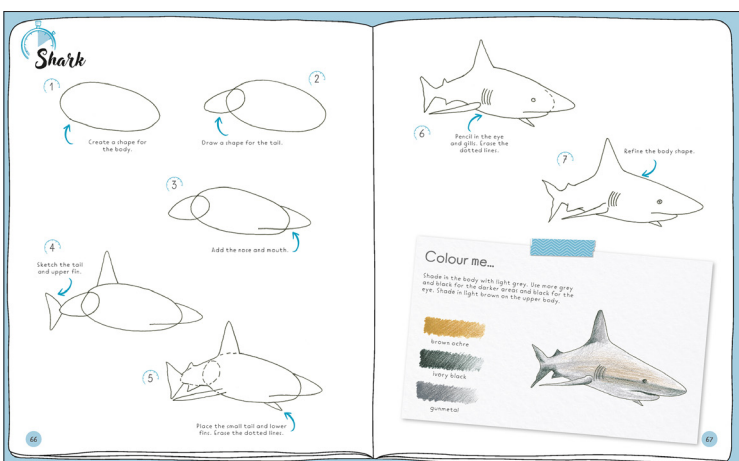
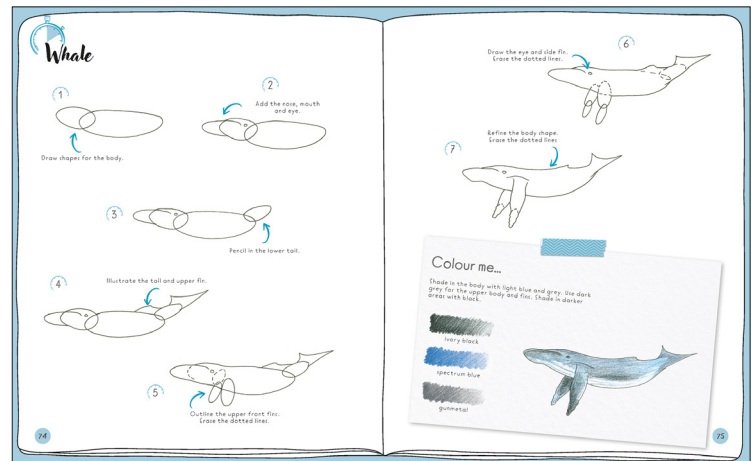
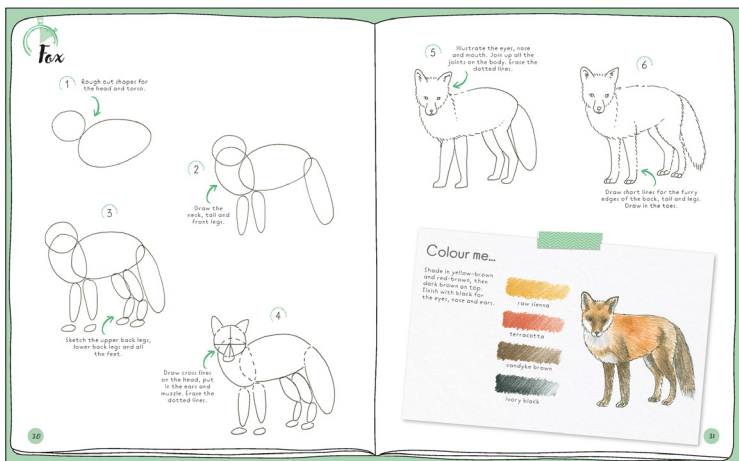
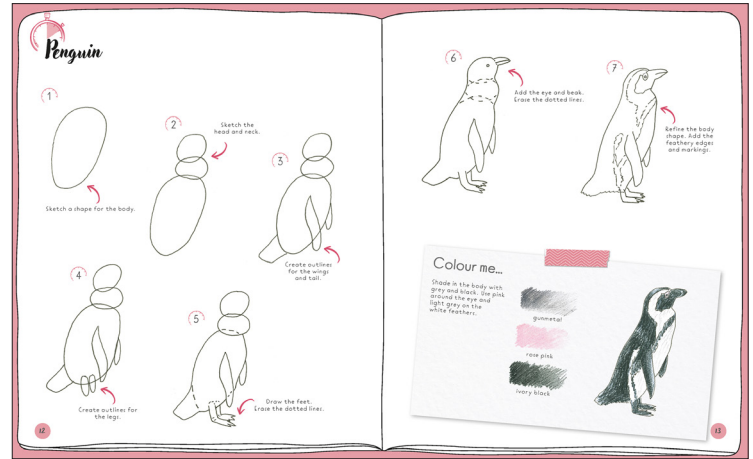
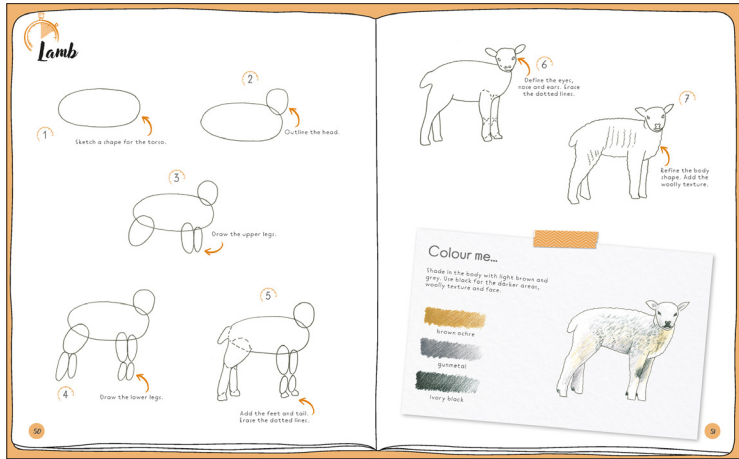
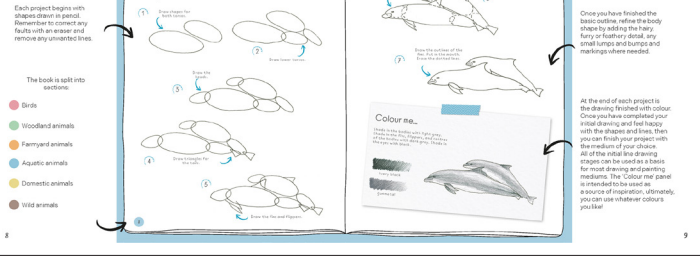


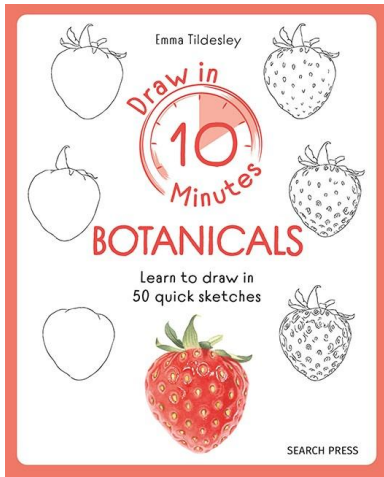
How to use this book

In this book you will find a large selection of animals to choose from. Each animal is drawn using basic shapes and lines. Work your way through the steps, making sure that you have drawn the shapes correctly by comparing the width of the shapes to the length.

New lines are added for each subsequent shape with some of the lines that need to be erased indicated as a dotted line.

Tip
 Practice makes perfect so draw as much as you can. The more the drawing you work with, as well as you have fun, discover a little bit of creativity you will get to. The more you do, the better you will get!





Draw in 10 Minutes: Botanicals

Learn how to draw in 50 quick sketches

Emma Tildesley

Key Selling Points

- **PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS OF ALL AGES** looking to develop their skills.
- **PERFECT GIFT FOR NATURE LOVERS:** A wonderful present to give to any recipient who adores plants.
- **INSPIRING DRAWING PROMPTS FOR BUDDING ILLUSTRATORS:** With 50 subjects to choose from, and each taking less than 10 minutes to draw, there's plenty for avid artists to sketch.
- **50 GORGEOUS BOTANICAL SUBJECTS TO DRAW:** in just 6 to 8 illustrated steps each.
- **WIDE VARIETY OF BOTANICALS TO SKETCH:** from stunning succulents and flowers to wild berries, foliage and mouth-watering fruit and veg.
- **COLOURING IS EASY:** each project includes an inspirational 'colour me' tip box with advice on painting your final sketch with watercolours, plus handy colour swatches.
- **WRITTEN BY EXPERIENCED AND POPULAR BOTANICAL AND NATURE ARTIST,** Emma Tildesley. Her YouTube channel (where she posts painting and drawing tutorials) has nearly 6.5k subscribers; she has also over 70k followers on Instagram.

Summary

Sketch 50 beautiful botanical projects, step by step, in just 10 minutes each!

Create your own blowsy roses, delicate orchids, geometric succulents and glistening strawberries using these stunningly simple, easy-to-follow techniques.

Guaranteed to boost your drawing confidence and skill, popular botanical artist Emma Tildesley uses simple shapes, built up step by step, so that you can quickly and easily sketch a gorgeous botanical collection including:

- A fabulous variety of flowers in all shapes and sizes, including the stately bird of paradise, delicate hanging fuchsia and cheerful daffodils;
- Glossy and gleaming fruits and vegetables, including chillis, tomatoes and a juicy slice of watermelon;
- A stunning selection of cones, leaves and berries, including holly, poinsettia, mistletoe and rose hips;
- Bold and beautiful cacti and succulents, including aloe vera, echeveria and a prickly pear cactus.

Every project contains between 6 and 10 illustrated steps, simple instructions and an inspirational 'colour me' tip box containing colour mixes and advice, in case you'd like to transform your finished drawing with colour - in Emma's case, watercolour paints, but you could use whichever medium you like.

This book is perfect for beginner artists who've never drawn before, who want an easy guide to drawing and replicating their favourite flowers and more; it's also a perfect prompt for more experienced illustrators searching for sketching ideas and keen to observe and recreate accurate botanical structure.

Other titles in this stunning new series include *Draw in 10 Minutes: Animals*.

Contributor Bio

Emma Tildesley is popular and talented watercolour artist specializing in botanicals. For as long as she can remember she's been captivated by the intricate beauty of plants, and her journey as a botanical illustrator is one dedicated to capturing the essence of the plant and translating it onto paper. Emma studied for a diploma with the Society of Botanical Artists and graduated in 2022 with a Distinction. She is a Fellow of the Society of Botanical Artists and a member of the UK Coloured Pencil Society.

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Emma started posting tutorials on her YouTube channel nearly 10 years ago. Since then she's amassed nearly 6.5k subscribers, a number that keeps on growing; she also has over 70k dedicated followers on Instagram, where she shares news of her latest tutorials and special watercolour commissions.

Emma is based near Birmingham, UK.

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Tools and materials

All you really need to begin drawing is a pencil and something to draw on, but once you gain experience it 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: Use all my sketching with a Pentel EnerGel 100% with a B lead. It is a quality mechanical pencil with soft lead that comes in a variety of leads. I use a 0.5mm weight and use it. I use the B lead because it is a very fine lead, which is great for sketching and gives you more control over the line weight.

Pencil holder: I use a pencil holder that fits snugly around the pencil without damaging the delicate surface.

Eraser: When starting out, you may wish to practice on general purpose paper. As you progress and may want a softer paper so that you can refine your work, I use a pencil eraser that is made of a soft material and is easy to use. I use the Staedtler Mars Plastic eraser. It is a soft eraser that is easy to use and is resistant to water once dried, so you can use it to correct mistakes on your paper.

Pen: I use a Pentel EnerGel 100% with a B lead. It is a quality mechanical pencil with soft lead that comes in a variety of leads. I use a 0.5mm weight and use it. I use the B lead because it is a very fine lead, which is great for sketching and gives you more control over the line weight.

Brushes: I use a variety of brushes for my work and tend to work with three main sizes, number 2, 4 and 8. A good choice of synthetic watercolour brushes are Princeton Fineline or they hold a good amount of paint and retain a flexible point, which is great for fine detail work such as stems and leaves.

Other tools you may need: I like to use a sponge to wash my brushes in and a clean one for applying paint to the paper.

For painting

Watercolour: Use any paints you like to blend, but I use the same brand for consistency. I use the same brand for consistency. I use the same brand for consistency. I use the same brand for consistency.

Brushes: I use a variety of brushes for my work and tend to work with three main sizes, number 2, 4 and 8. A good choice of synthetic watercolour brushes are Princeton Fineline or they hold a good amount of paint and retain a flexible point, which is great for fine detail work such as stems and leaves.

Other tools you may need: I like to use a sponge to wash my brushes in and a clean one for applying paint to the paper.

Cherries

- Draw the outline for the first cherry, leaving a gap for the stalk.
- Add the stalk plus an ellipse for the indentation.
- Draw the outline of the second cherry to sit behind the first.
- Add the cherry's stalk and indentation.
- Draw the third fruit outline.

Complete this cherry with a stem and indentation too.

Map out the main highlights.

Colour me...

To achieve the high shine on the cherries we highlight and contrast. Make sure that your paint dries and is not too wet. Don't forget to leave a soft edge around your fruits to show reflective light.

- French yellow - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine

Olive Branch

- Draw the first branch with a split at the top and bottom.
- Add the first two small leaves.
- Create the rest of the olive.
- Bring in a branch that sits behind.
- Add another leaf, making sure to include the vein.
- Draw and attach the body to the stalk.
- Add another two leaves.
- Finish with a final leaf on the front.

Colour me...

When painting the olive branch, be consistent with the direction of your light source. Add shadows to the olive branches to show depth. Don't forget to leave a soft edge on the top of the olive from the stalk.

- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine

Bird of Paradise

- Begin at the bottom of the flower and draw the stem.
- Next draw the spathe.
- Add the first of the upright spathe.
- Position the stem behind it.
- Add the small vector cup.
- Draw the stigma and add some detail.
- Attach the anther.
- Draw some details on the spathe.
- Add some markings to the spathe to finish.

Colour me...

Lots of tropical brights are used to paint the unique Bird of Paradise flower. Good good use of highlights when painting the individual petals requires lots of gentle water to blend the colors.

- French ultramarine - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine

Fuchsia

- Draw the narrow stem and top of the ovary.
- Add the tube.
- Create the first two sepals.
- Draw the first petals.
- Add a couple of petals to the right-hand side.
- Draw the last sepal on the back of the flower.
- Start to add the stamens and anthers.
- Draw the remaining petals and the stigma.
- Finally add some detail.

Colour me...

Add plenty of water to the pink mix as you move. Try to keep the mix as light as possible. Try to keep the mix as light as possible. Try to keep the mix as light as possible.

- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine

Butcher's Broom

- Draw the first berry pointing and add part of the branch.
- Add another berry and another set of leaves of branch.
- Repeat step 2.
- Draw the first two leaves on opposite sides of the branch.
- Add the second set of leaves.
- Add a further two leaves.
- Add the tip of the branch and a leaf.
- Add the final leaf to stem.
- Finish off by drawing the middle on each leaf.

Colour me...

To add a little bit of texture to the berries on this branch, a few dots of the same color. The will help to add a more natural, textured appearance to the berries.

- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine

Moonstones

- Draw the first two leaves on the left-hand side.
- Add two small central leaves.
- Draw the first part of the stem and add a back leaf.
- Connect two leaves on opposite sides at the bottom of the stem.
- Draw the stem down on the right-hand side and back to the small stem line.
- Add a leaf and stem line to the left-hand side.
- Correct any blemishes down the stem.
- Add the last leaf and stem line to finish.

Colour me...

Similar to the great moonstone, the moonstone is a very pale green color in a very bloom. Add a little bit of color to the stem. Add a little bit of color to the stem. Add a little bit of color to the stem.

- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine
- French yellow light - French ultramarine

Bella Coco's Crochet Stitch Card Deck

A pocket stitch library in 50 cards

Sarah-Jayne Fragola

Key Selling Points

- **IDEAL FOR BELLA COCO'S 2 MILLION FOLLOWERS:** Sarah-Jayne is a popular YouTube crochet expert with over 1.6M subscribers; her "HOW TO CROCHET FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS" video has had over 13M views. She has over 200k followers on Instagram (@bellacococrochet).
- **FANS OF BELLA COCO'S FIRST BOOK:** *You Can Crochet with Bella Coco* has sold nearly 40,000 copies worldwide and has been translated into five other languages.
- **ON-THE-GO DECK FOR CROCHET FANS:** an essential library of 50 different crochet stitch patterns, for confident beginners upwards looking for pattern inspiration.
- **PERFECT GIFT FOR CROCHET LOVERS:** this is an incredibly useful tool for crocheters of all levels, with 50 key stitches that can be adapted for any project and referred to time and again.
- **CROCHET IS A HUGE ON-TREND CRAFT:** crochet has exploded in popularity since lockdown. There are over 51M IG posts with #crochet and over 9M posts with #crochetaddict.

Summary

Create 50 versatile crochet stitch patterns with this stylish on-the-go card deck from best-selling author and YouTube sensation, Bella Coco (Sarah-Jayne Fragola).?

Discover Sarah-Jayne's clear and friendly teaching style, known and loved by her more than 2 million online followers.

This gorgeous card deck is the perfect on-the-go tool for every crochet enthusiast: a deck of 50 different stitches in an elegant card format, designed to accompany you on all your crochet adventures. Wherever you crochet, you'll have Bella Coco's friendly and informative guidance in the palm of your hands.

The cards are organized into two different categories - 'simple stitch combos' and 'textured stitches'. On each card you'll find:

On the front

- The stitch-pattern name;
- A clear full-colour photograph of a swatch made from the stitch-pattern;
- The skill level (easy, intermediate or advanced);
- Key stitch-pattern details (including multiples, and stitches required to make the pattern).

On the back

- Written instructions (how to start the stitch pattern, create the pattern repeat and how to end the stitch pattern).

The cards measure 8.5 x 14cm (3.3 x 5.5in) and are enclosed in a sturdy, chic box. There are 50 cards, each with a stitch pattern, and 2 further cards which contain a guide to using the cards plus stitch and hook conversion tables. In addition, you'll find a 16-page booklet providing all the essential knowledge you need to use your cards, plus simple instructions on the basic and special stitches that make up the stitch patterns.

With 50 crochet stitch patterns at your fingertips, this card deck opens up a world of creative possibilities for the confident beginner upwards.



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Card Deck

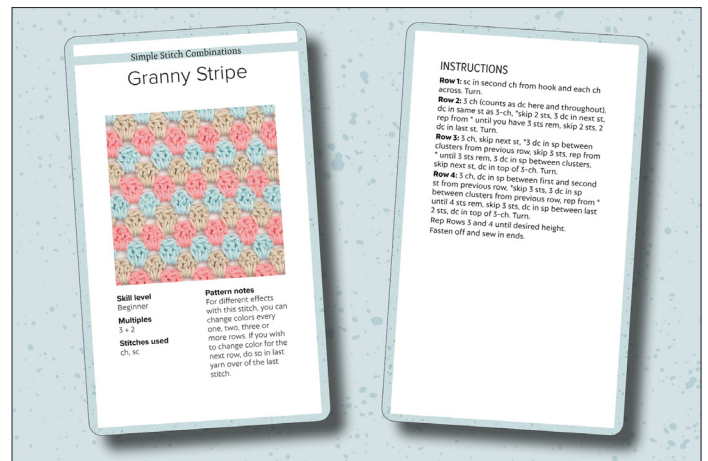
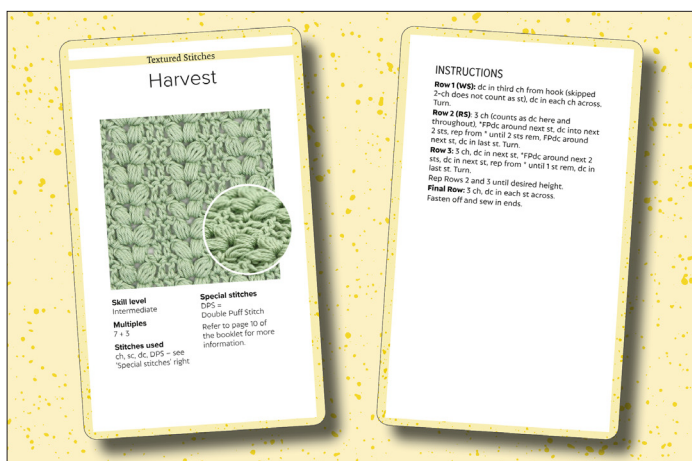
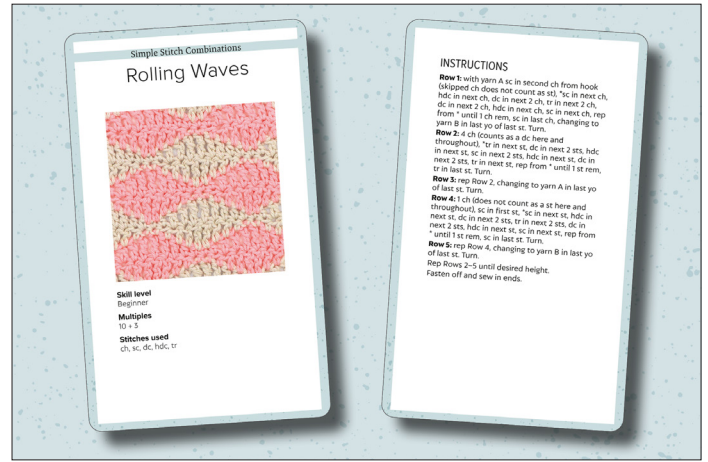
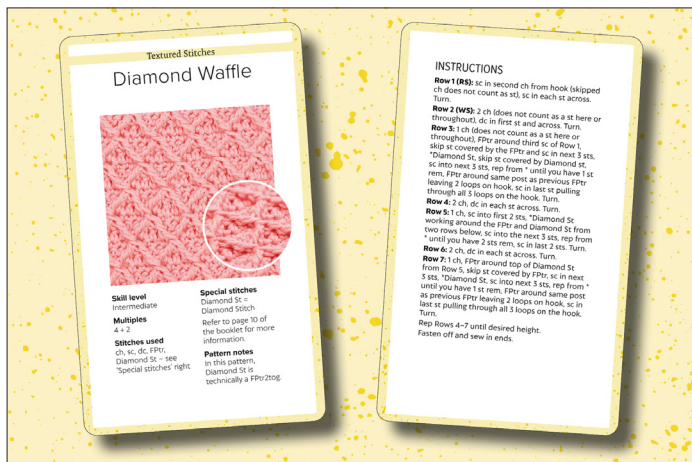
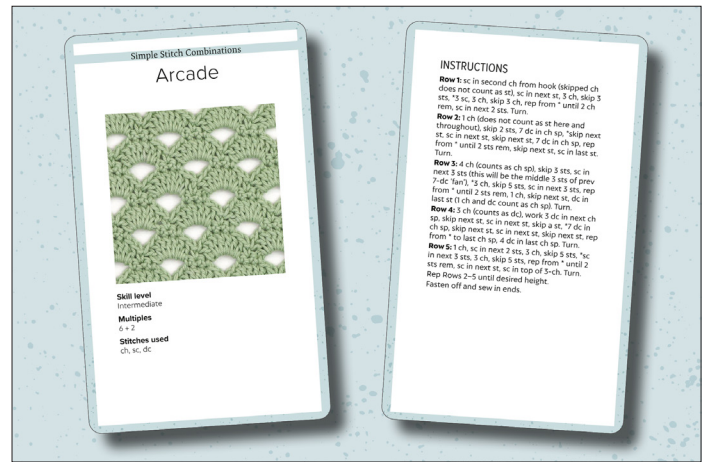
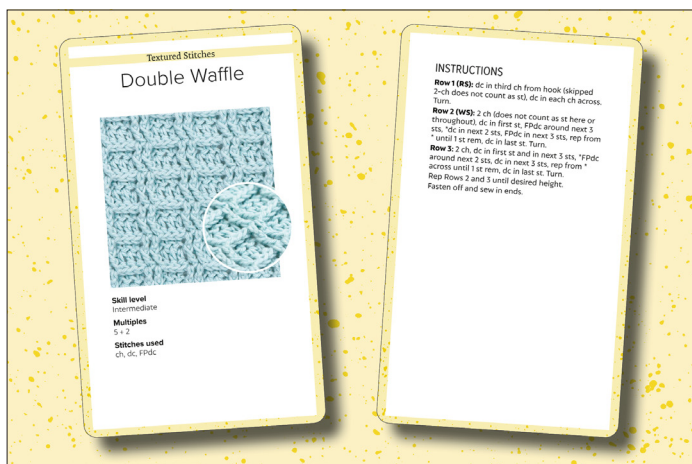
66 Pages - 52 cards + 14 page booklet
WFBS
Series: Craft Card Decks
Territory: WORLD
14.6 cm H | 8.9 cm W

Note: This deck has been expertly curated from, and is a card-deck companion to, the brand-new book by Sarah-Jayne Fragola: *Bella Coco's Crochet Stitch Library* (9781800922198: Search Press, 2025).

Contributor Bio

Sarah-Jayne is the creator of Bella Coco Crochet and a well-known crochet designer. She started her blog in 2011, where she shares her passion for teaching people to crochet. Since then, she has created numerous tutorials to help crocheters build their skills. Sarah-Jayne has more than 1.6 million subscribers on YouTube alone, and a huge following across @bellacococrochet social media. Her first book, *You Can Crochet with Bella Coco*, has sold nearly 40,000 copies worldwide and has been translated into five other languages. She lives in Nottingham, UK, with her husband and two daughters.

- Website: www.bellacococrochet.com
- YouTube: @bellacococrochet
- Instagram: @bellacococrochet
- Facebook: @bellacococrochet



Bella Coco's CROCHET STITCH LIBRARY

My Top 100 Stitches, Borders and Motifs
Sarah-Jayne Fragola



SEARCH PRESS



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WFBS

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26 cm H | 20.3 cm W

Bella Coco's Crochet Stitch Library

My Top 100 Stitches, Borders and Motifs

Sarah-Jayne Fragola

Key Selling Points

- **IDEAL FOR BELLA COCO'S 2 MILLION FOLLOWERS:** Sarah-Jayne is a popular YouTube crochet expert with over 1.6M subscribers; her "HOW TO CROCHET FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS" video has had over 16M views. She has over 200k followers on Instagram (@bellacococrochet).
- **FANS OF BELLA COCO'S FIRST BOOK:** *You Can Crochet with Bella Coco* has sold nearly 40,000 copies worldwide and has been translated into five other languages.
- **PERFECT GIFT FOR CROCHET LOVERS:** this is an incredibly useful book for crocheters of all levels, with 100 key stitches that can be adapted for any project and referred to time and again.
- **CROCHET STITCH DIRECTORIES ARE INCREDIBLY POPULAR:** many of Search Press' best-selling books are big stitch libraries, including *Handbook of Crochet Stitches* (over 56K copies sold) and *200 Crochet Stitches* (over 25K copies sold).
- **CROCHET IS A HUGELY ON-TREND CRAFT:** crochet has exploded in popularity since lockdown. There are over 51M IG posts with #crochet and over 9M posts with #crochetaddict.

Summary

A stunning directory of 100 adaptable, inspirational crochet stitch patterns and 3 gorgeous projects from best-selling author and YouTube sensation, Bella Coco (Sarah-Jayne Fragola).

Discover Sarah-Jayne's clear and friendly teaching style, known and loved by her more than 2 million online followers.

Following on from her best-selling first book, *You Can Crochet with Bella Coco*, comes this practical guide to over 100 carefully curated stitch patterns.

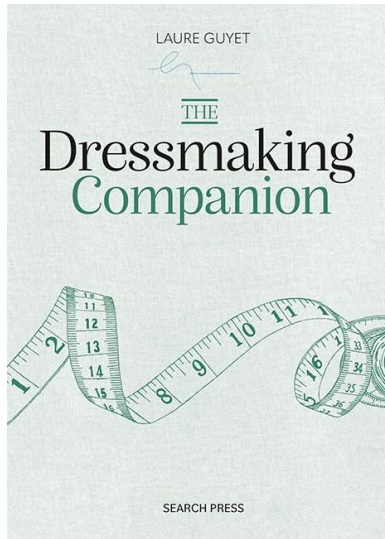
Starting with the key things you'll need to get crocheting, from advice on yarn and notions to essential techniques, Sarah-Jayne then takes you through a gorgeous collection of stitches - from simple repeat patterns to incredible textured designs. The stitches are divided into four sections - 'basic stitches', 'simple stitch combinations', 'textured stitches' and 'squares and shapes' - so you can easily search for a stitch that suits your desired finish.

Discover:

- A clear, overhead, close-up photograph of each of the 100 stitches worked up into a swatch, so you can examine the stitch repeats closely;
- All stitches categorised by difficulty level, from easy to advanced, so you can choose a stitch that suits your skills;
- Stitch multiples/repeats for every stitch pattern, so that you can calculate how to work the pattern into an upcoming project;
- Written instructions (including both UK and US terms) on starting the stitch, how to work the repeat and how to finish off.

As a bonus, you'll also find Sarah-Jayne's five favourite border stitches - all photographed and clearly explained - for edge-finish inspiration, and three stunning projects that include a selection of stitches in the library: a basketweave tote bag; a gradient crochet wrap; and a colourful, multi-textured patchwork blanket.

Whether you're looking for new ideas, or trying to remember that perfect stitch, this is a timeless book that you can delve into now and for years to come.



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The Dressmaking Companion

Laure Guyet

Key Selling Points

- **SUITABLE AS A REFERENCE TOOL FOR SEWISTS OF ALL ABILITIES:** the easy-to-follow step-by-step photography guides you through every stage of the process.
- **PRACTICAL, POCKET-SIZED MANUAL PACKED WITH INFORMATION:** includes a complete guide to tools and materials, along with 40 essential step-by-step dressmaking techniques.
- **POPULAR, ON-TREND SUBJECT:** sewing, especially dressmaking, has a solid following; a search for 'dressmaking' turns up over 11 million Google search results; and *Dressmaking: the easy guide* by Helen Rhiannon has sold more than 15,000 copies worldwide since publication in June 23!
- **PERFECT ACCOMPANIMENT** to *The Embroidery Stitch Companion*, published in September 2023; with *The Knitting Companion* and *The Macramé Companion* to follow.
- **IDEAL FOR FANS OF** Helen Rhiannon, Debbie Shore, Jenniffer Taylor, Portia Lawrie, and Tilly and the Buttons.

Summary

The practical, pocket-sized dressmaking manual that every sewist needs.

Tips, techniques and trusted advice on everything from threading your machine and selecting your fabric to fitting zips, darts, pockets and vents.

Whether you are making your first garment or your fiftieth, this comprehensive mini guide is a treasure trove of knowledge, perfect for dipping in and out of for quick reference and trusted advice. Inside you'll find:

- **Sewing machine anatomy:** a tour through a machine's anatomy along with advice on choosing needles, threads and feet.
- **An overview of essential tools:** everything you need to get going, including cutting tools, marking and measuring aids and pressing tools.
- **A complete guide to fabric:** understand construction, grain and bias, and discover an indispensable photographic library of 30 key dressmaking fabrics, each given with suitable garment use and care instructions.
- **Patterns demystified:** understand pattern language and symbols, how to take key body measurements and learn how to arrange your pattern pieces on fabric most efficiently.
- **40 key hand and machine sewing techniques:** discover 40 essential techniques, each shown clearly step by step. Start with hand-sewing, seams and hems; discover more advanced techniques such as adding bias binding and piping; before moving on to adding details and features such as darts, pleats, pockets and gathers.

Contributor Bio


Previously a professional stylist, Laure Guyet turned to the teaching of sewing and dressmaking, as she is passionate and enthusiastic about the idea of sharing her know-how with young and older enthusiasts alike! She supports her students in understanding how to use a sewing machine to bring their creative ideas to life. The promotion of sewing, and the understanding of different fabrics and the construction of a garment are all essential elements in the definition of her profession.

Laure works in Paris, France.
Instagram: @laure.guyet


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Zips (zippers)


Open-ended zip (zipper)



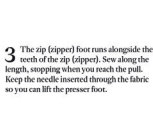
1 Align the closed zip (zipper) right sides together against the edge of the fabric (assuming you have torn (tint) seam allowances if they are bigger, reposition the zip (zipper) accordingly). Pin into place, then tack.




2 It is easiest if you begin your seam at the far end from the zip (zipper) pull. Identify the side on which you need to position the needle in relation to the presser foot to the left or to the right. Then insert the special zip (zipper) foot accordingly.




3 The zip (zipper) foot runs alongside the mouth of the zip (zipper). Sew along the length, stopping when you reach the pull. Keep the needle inserted through the fabric so you can lift the presser foot.




4 Slide the zip (zipper) pull backwards to open the zip (zipper) fastening.




5 Before you finish your seam, don't forget to lower the presser foot again.



6 Turn the right way out and press. You have attached the first side of the zip (zipper).



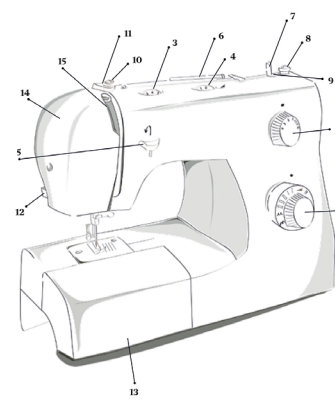
7 Rotate your work so you can position the other side of the zip (zipper) against the edge of the second piece of fabric (same process as in step 1).



8 Follow the same steps as you did for the first side, turn the right way out and press. You can also topstitch along either side of the zip (zipper) if you wish.

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Sewing machine anatomy



1. Stitch selection control.

2. Stitch length control.

3. Thread tension control.

4. Stitch width control and, consequently, needle position control (not all machines have this).

5. Reverse control lever (for backstitching at the beginning and end of a line of stitches).

6. Horizontal spool pin (on some models of sewing machine it may be vertical).

7. Bobbin winder spindle.

8. Bobbin winder stop (indicates when the bobbin is full).

9. Hole to insert a second spool pin.

10. Bobbin winder thread guide.

11. Top thread guide.

12. Thread cutter.

13. Removable arm (accessory box).


14. Front cover plate (remove to change the light bulb).

15. Thread take-up lever (also known as the hook).


- 8 -

Gathers

Gathers are a very simple dressmaking technique that can be used to create a particular look on a garment, form smocking or draw up excess fabric.



1 To make gathers, you first need to sew a straight line (tint) from the edge of your fabric. Use long stitches (stitch length: position 4) with no backstitching at the beginning or end. Then sew a second line, still using straight stitch on the same setting, (tint) below your first.




2 Take hold of the threads at the one end of your row of stitches (your fabric should be right-side-up). Then pull gently to create gathers and distribute them as you wish.

***** Warning! *****

On electronic machines: you simply need to select the buttonhole stitch and have the foot attachment for automatic buttonholing.

On mechanical machines: you need to check whether it has automatic buttonholing depending on whether you have the right foot. You also need to think about turning the stitch length selector to the buttonhole symbol and selecting 6 for the stitch width.



- 120 -

Buttonholes

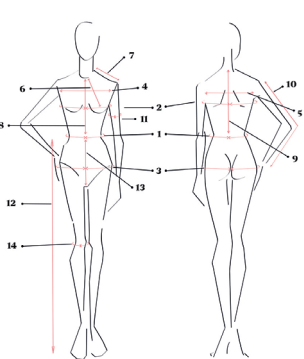
To make a buttonhole, check whether your machine has an automatic buttonholing function. Automatic buttonholes are represented by a single rectangle on the stitch selector, whereas manual buttonholes are represented by three rectangles.

- 121 -

Patterns

Measurements

It is important to check your measurements against the pattern size guide to avoid any unwanted surprises at a later stage. Dressmaking sizes do not necessarily correspond to the size you might go for when buying clothes in shops.



1. Waist
It is quite high! You need to find the narrowest point under your ribcage.

2. Bust
Pass the tape measure under your arms, straight across your back and round the fullest part of your chest (the nipples).

3. Hips
The fullest part of the hips, around 22cm (8 1/2in) below the waist. The tape measure will go round approximately halfway down your buttocks.

4. Armpit to armpit (front)
Imagine that you do not have any arms (like a tailor's dummy) and position the tape measure from armpit to armpit.

5. Armpit to armpit (back)
As for the front - you will need someone to help you take this measurement.

6. Upper chest
Take the tape measure from the notch at the top of the sternum, between the collarbones, to the fullest part of the bust.

7. Shoulder length
Take the tape measure from the point where the neck meets the shoulder to the end of the shoulder.

8. Front waist
Take this measurement from the little notch at the top of the sternum, between the collarbones, to the waist.

9. Triple straight stitch and straight stretch stitch
Used for sewing pieces together and topstitching (suitable for woven fabrics).

10. Zigzag stitch
Used to reinforce a seam, or to overlock edges to prevent the fabric from fraying. It can also be used for decoration or to insert lace.

11. Blind hem stretch stitch
Used for sewing together stretch fabrics and knits. If you use a standard straight stitch with these types of fabric, seams can split when you put on your clothes. Triple straight stitch and straight stretch stitch allow you to sew seams that retain their stretch properties. You use the same thread - no need for elastic thread.

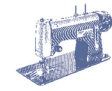
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The different stitches



5. Blind hem stretch stitch
Used to form invisible hems on stretch fabrics.

6. Multi-stitch zigzag stitch
For sewing elastic or darning your clothes.

7. Overlock stitch
Enables you to sew and finish a seam in one operation.

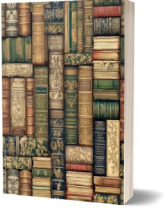
8. Double overlock stitch
Enables you to sew and finish a seam in one operation on stretch fabrics.

9. Buttonhole stitch
This stitch allows you to make buttonholes on your garments.

10. Feather stitch
Basically a decorative stitch but also useful for sewing together quilted fabrics.

11. Scallop stitch
A fancy, decorative stitch.

- 24 -



Vintage Books Notebook

David and Charles

Summary

Introducing our premium lined notebook, the perfect companion for all your writing endeavours. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, this notebook seamlessly blends functionality with elegance. Whether you're jotting down ideas, sketching your thoughts, or organizing your to-do lists, this notebook is designed to inspire creativity and productivity.

Featuring a sleek and durable cover adorned with a gorgeous abstract image of vintage books, this lined notebook exudes sophistication, making it ideal for professionals, students, and creative enthusiasts alike.

With its ample 160 pages, there's plenty of space for all your thoughts and inspirations. The faintly ruled lines provide the perfect balance, guiding your writing without overpowering it, enabling you to maintain neatness and structure.

Portable and lightweight, this notebook easily fits into any bag, making it ideal for on-the-go note-taking. Whether you're attending meetings, capturing ideas, or simply journaling your day, this lined notebook is a versatile and indispensable tool.

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21 cm H | 14.8 cm W



Japanese Waves Notebook

David and Charles

Summary

Introducing our premium lined notebook, the perfect companion for all your writing endeavours. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, this notebook seamlessly blends functionality with elegance. Whether you're jotting down ideas, sketching your thoughts, or organizing your to-do lists, this notebook is designed to inspire creativity and productivity.

Featuring a sleek and durable cover adorned with a gorgeous image of waves reminiscent of a Hokusai painting, this lined notebook exudes sophistication, making it ideal for professionals, students, and creative enthusiasts alike.

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Abstract Leaf Notebook

David and Charles

Summary

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Featuring a sleek and durable cover adorned with a gorgeous abstract watercolour botanical image, painted by Kate Rebecca Leach of Essoldo Design, this lined notebook exudes sophistication, making it ideal for professionals, students, and creative enthusiasts alike.

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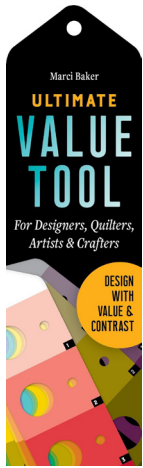
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Ultimate Value Tool

For Designers, Quilters, Artists & Crafters; Design with value & contrast
Marci Baker

Summary

Determine value with ease!

Elevate your design by using this instrumental color value tool! The Ultimate Value Tool is a set of 30 cards with five calibrated sections, spanning from lights to darks. Ideal for all crafters, place the closest matching color card on top of your chosen material and view through the 7/8" round die-cut "window" to help pinpoint the color value of any fabric or substrate. Use the small (1/4") round hole to isolate and determine the value of smaller items such as patterns, books, photos, etc.

- Versatile set of 30 color cards: 24 color cards, three neutral color cards, and three instruction cards, all with a glare-reducing matte coating
- Each card has a range of five values from light to dark for each color, with a large (7/8") and small (1/4") round hole die-cut into each color section for viewing fabric or other materials
- Designed by best-selling author Marci Baker

Contributor Bio

Marci Baker is internationally recognized for her quilting expertise, having been featured in magazines and television. She resides in Fort Collins, Colorado. quiltwithmarcibaker.com

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NEW WHOLESALE TITLES COMING SOON



Japanese Paper Craft

A Guide to Making Your Own Books, Notepads, and Keepsakes

Aya Nagaoka

Summary

Crafting and making beautiful objects from scratch has been rediscovered by a new generation. *Japanese Paper Craft* will teach readers all the skills needed to craft it at home, creating personal pieces with meaning that are practical as well as decorative.

Japanese Paper Craft starts with an overview of the tools and materials needed to make the projects, along with simple basic techniques such as gluing corners and spines and sewing bindings. It then progresses through 30 projects, including practical step-by-step photos and detailed diagrams, with tips on the best tools, techniques, and materials to use.

Projects in the book include:

- Tiny book (Miniature book-shaped notebook)
- Three-partitioned notebook
- Stand/folder for photos
- Nested pen tray
- Washi-paper notebook for collecting stamps
- Rubber band flipbook

And many more!

Contributor Bio

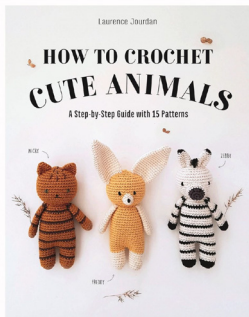
Aya Nagaoka is an editor and bookbinder. She holds regular workshops in Tokyo and is a member of the Japanese Bookmaking Association. She posts bookbinding tutorials on her Instagram, @weekend.bookbinder.

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How to Crochet Cute Animals

A Step-by-step Guide with 15 Patterns

Laurence Jourdan

Summary

From kittens and zebras to mice, teddy bears and more, this **colourful and whimsical book** – perfect for fans of amigurumi – will let you scratch that creative itch by showing you how to **bring to life 15 adorable cuddly toys** through the addictive art of crocheting.

The book is broken down into **four manageable sections**, in which author and designer Laurence Jourdan covers the principles of the art, the essential tools needed to get started, how to master the different techniques, and finally **directions and advice** on how to perfect his gorgeous animal designs so you can **make your own cuddly friends!**

With **step-by-step instructions** and **handy photographs** to guide you through each stage, *How to Crochet Cute Animals* will have you 'hooked' on this absorbing activity in no time.

Contributor Bio

Laurence Jourdan is a crochet designer and creator of the online store and Instagram account Arkidée, which has over 13,000 followers.

Micheal O'Mara Books
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Tunisian Crochet - The Japanese Way

Combine the Best of Knitting and Crochet Using Clear Japanese-style Charts & Symbols
Nihon Vogue

Summary

Combine the best of knitting and crochet using Japan's visual notation style!

Tunisian crochet is the knitwork style that combines the cast-on method of knitting with the hook method of crochet, resulting in fabrics that look woven as well as knitted. *Tunisian Crochet—The Japanese Way* gives knitting and crochet enthusiasts a chance to create beautiful patterns and textures using the clear chart-and-symbol method of visual notation pioneered in Japan and now popular worldwide.

Step-by-step illustrations for 13 classic stitches are provided, along with the 20 stylish projects:

- **Wave Stitch** — Used to create an intricate multi-colored shrug
- **Seed Stitch** — Perfect fun bags of all sizes, from a fabulous drawstring bucket bag (with a scallop stitch) to a beautifully patterned pencil case
- **Cube Stitch** — You'll enjoy using this to make a colorful vest and splashy tippet
- **Domino Stitch** — A versatile stitch that can be used to create an elegant beret
- **And many more!**

Each project comes with complete instructions and schematics. A dedicated section at the end shows you in detail how to execute each stitch, pr..

Contributor Bio

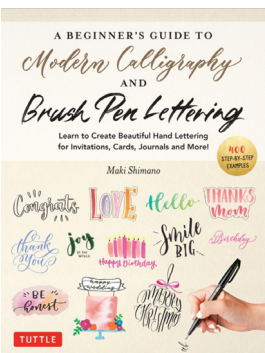
Nihon Vogue is Japan's preeminent publisher of craft books, with a long history and hundreds of titles on knitting, sewing, quilting, embroidery, paper crafts, tole painting and more. Many of their books have been translated into English and other languages, including works by Hitomi Shida, Yoko Hatta, Yoko Saito, Hikaru Noguchi and other internationally recognized needlecraft designers.

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96 Pages
500 colour photos, charts
and diagrams

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27.9 cm H | 21.6 cm W



A Beginner's Guide to Modern Calligraphy & Brush Pen Lettering

Learn to Create Beautiful Hand Lettering for Invitations, Cards, Journals and More! (400 Step-by-Step Examples)

Maki Shimano

Summary

Create beautiful hand-lettered journals, invitations, cards, menus and more with convenient brush pens!

Master calligrapher Maki Shimano shows you all the techniques and provides hundreds of colorful examples to inspire you. Creating your own calligraphy is very easy using Shimano's time-tested method of breaking down each letter into a small number of strokes. And she provides dozens of ideas for decorative motifs such as wreaths, balloons, birthday cakes—and so much more!

This easy step-by-step guide by an experienced calligraphy teacher allows you to develop your skills quickly.

- Start with the basic tools and techniques of hand lettering
- Learn to draw 8 elegant typefaces with just 2 or 3 simple strokes
- Create compositions with fancy flourishes, "bounce" and rhythm
- Design a planner, journal, place cards, greeting cards, gift tags, invitations, etc.
- And much more!

Contributor Bio

Maki Shimano began learning calligraphy at an early age and has become the preeminent teacher and practitioner of modern calligraphy in Japan. She is an author, typographer and freelance artist who works in the bridal industry as a wedding planner. She creates traditional Japanese calligraphy as well as modern English calligraphy for a wide variety of clients and applications.

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Designing with Dried Flowers

Creating Everlasting Arrangements

Hannah Rose Rivers Muller

Summary

Step into the world of beautiful everlasting flowers with this book of thirty-two dried flower arrangements that can be made all year round.

The beauty of flowers is often fleetingly lovely, but a dried bouquet is a gift that can last for years. In *Designing with Dried Flowers*, farmer-florist Hannah Muller of The Wreath Room at Full Belly Farm shares her everlasting floral arrangements that are full of color and texture. Bursting with images of her stunning creations, from small vases and centerpieces to wreaths and wall hangings, *Designing with Dried Flowers* is for anyone looking to learn the art of dried flower arranging.

Hannah walks readers through the process of growing and drying flowers as she does at Full Belly Farm, with plenty of tips and suggestions, whether you're an avid gardener or just picking up blooms at the supermarket. Dried arrangements are a natural and sustainable way to add beauty to your home, and *Designing with Dried Flowers* offers more than thirty floral designs for every occasion. Hannah shares her suggestions of what flowers to use and how to dry them—includ...

Contributor Bio

Hannah Muller is a farmer and florist in Northern California. She was born and raised on Full Belly Farm, which is located in the beautiful Capay Valley in Yolo County. Full Belly Farm grows over 350 acres of certified organic fruits, vegetables, animals, and flowers. Over the last decade, she has helped to pioneer the Field To Vase movement in Northern California, reminding supporters of local organic farming to not only eat local produce but to enjoy locally grown flowers as well.

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Millie Marotta's Precious Planet

A mindful colouring adventure

Millie Marotta

Summary

A brand new colouring collection from number 1 bestselling illustrator Millie Marotta, exploring wildlife conservation – a subject very close to her heart.

This gorgeous book features 77 amazing animals and plants from around the world to colour, with a focus on endangered and vulnerable species. Containing a rich mix of wildlife from the much-loved snow leopard to the the adorable axolotl, from the vibrant ladybird spider to the otherworldly galaxy frog, it's a celebration of creatures that are currently at risk but that humanity is making efforts to save.

Use your pencils or pens to bring colourful life to a wealth of wonderful wildlife, all rendered in Millie's beautifully intricate style.

Printed on high-quality paper with minimal show-through, suitable for all sorts of colouring media, this is a glorious treasury of the wildlife we don't want to lose.

Contributor Bio

Millie Marotta is an illustrator working in her studio by the sea in a little corner of West Wales. A pioneer in the global colouring movement, Millie had been an illustrator long before she inked her first book. Millie's intricate illustrations are inspired by a love of wildlife and fascination with the natural world. In 2015, Millie's debut title *Animal Kingdom* spent a record 22 weeks as the official paperback non-fiction No.1. Since then, she has sold 9 million books around the world and her books have been translated into over 30 languages. Her books include *Curious Creatures*, *Secrets of the Sea*, *Woodland Wild* and *Island Escape*.

Visit Millie at www.milliemarotta.co.uk and follow her on social media @milliemarotta.

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77 illustrations to colour
Series: Millie Marotta's
Animal Adventures

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Australia and New
Zealand

25 cm H | 25 cm W



Woven

Make Your Own Accessories from Raffia, Rope and Cane

Tabara N'Diaye

Summary

Learn how to create modern handwoven accessories using traditional techniques with *Woven*.

Tabara N'Diaye will teach you how to apply traditional basket-weaving techniques to create modern accessories to elevate your style. With a collection of 15 projects, including a beach bag, backpack, straw hat, earrings, bangles and more, bring texture into your outfits.

Featuring common materials for weaving such as raffia, rope and cane to the more unusual like plastic bags and scrap fabric, discover how to use different resources and techniques through clear instructions accompanied by beautiful lifestyle photography and illustrations throughout.

Whether you've made baskets before or you're a complete beginner, *Woven* will show you how to weave in a new way.

Contributor Bio

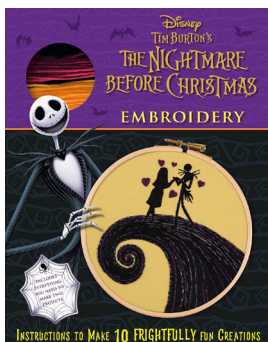
Tabara N'Diaye is the co-founder of La Basketry, a homewares brand offering baskets and accessories designed in collaboration with a group of female artisans in her native Senegal. Her range of products has been featured in some of the UK's best press such as the *Telegraph*, *The Sunday Times*, *Living Etc*, *House & Garden* and sold at the world-renowned Victoria & Albert Museum.

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Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas Embroidery

Deborah Wilding, Kate Barlow

Summary

Get ready for the festivities by embroidering the 10 projects featuring characters and scenes from the classic film, *Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

Brighten your home for the holidays and year-round by crafting the nostalgic embroidery pieces in this kit that includes all the materials you need to make two frighteningly fun designs. *Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas Embroidery* includes a step-by-step instruction book, iron-on transfers for each of the 10 projects, and all the supplies needed for two projects (the Pumpkin King and the iconic spiral hill): 7 colours of embroidery floss, 2 pieces of fabric (yellow and white), 2 pieces of calico backing, 2 needles, and a 6-inch bamboo hoop. New and veteran embroiderers can revisit their favourite moments from this classic stop-motion film while embroidering Jack Skellington and the rest of the characters and scenes from Halloween Town.

Contributor Bio

Deborah Wilding specializes in hand embroidery, using traditional methods to produce work of exceptionally high quality.

Deborah is highly trained in historically accurate techniques, including goldwork, silk shading, whitework, blackwork, and crewelwork, among many other needlework techniques. As well as working on freelance embroidery projects, she also teaches embroidery skills on behalf of the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) in private companies. After completing the RSN's "Future Tutor" course (the world's leading educational establishment for the teaching of hand embroidery to a professional level) and graduating with distinction in 2015, Deborah has been employed by the RSN to teach on both their Certificate and Diploma Programme and their extensive Day Class Programme, both in the UK and abroad.

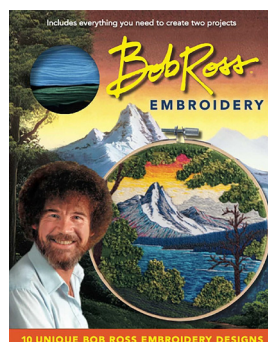
In her freelance capacity, she works from her seaside studio on day class designs, restoration projects, and private commissions, as well as teaches private lessons.

Kate Barlow is a graduate of the Royal School of Needlework in London. When she's not involved in freelance projects, Kate works as a stitcher for the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) in their commercial studio, working on conservation, restoration, and private commissions. She also teaches classes, workshops, and private lessons. She lives in the UK.

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Bob Ross Embroidery

Deborah Wilding

Summary

Stitch your way to happiness with these Bob Ross-inspired embroidery projects.

Create your own embroidered Bob Ross paintings with the materials in this kit. Included are a step-by-step instruction book, iron-on transfers for all 10 projects, and all the supplies needed to make two projects: multiple colors of embroidery floss, 2 pieces of fabric, 2 pieces of calico backing, 2 needles, and a 6-inch bamboo hoop. The designs are based on Bob's signature paintings, and several also include famous quotes by Bob to add a happy little touch to the scene.

Contributor Bio

Deborah Wilding specializes in hand embroidery, using traditional methods to produce work of exceptionally high quality.

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