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# Lena Corwin's Made By Hand: A Collection Of Projects To Print, Sew, Weave, Dye, Knit, Or Otherwise Create



## Synopsis

Â In 2009, tastemaker and bestselling author Lena Corwin turned the top floor of her Brooklyn brownstone into a studio and began hosting classes for local crafters. In *Lena Corwin's Made by Hand*, she re-creates and builds upon her popular workshop series in order to reach crafters in Brooklyn and beyond. For this "best of" collection, she has chosen expert teachers and her favorite projects: Jenny Gordy introduces us to knitted socks and elegantly sewn tops and dresses; Cal Patch teaches how to make a modern embroidery sampler as well as a braided rag rug; and Corwin herself presents her favorite screen-printing and stamping techniques. In total, there are 26 lessons/projects, all presented with step-by-step photos and illustrations. Praise for *Lena Corwin's Made By Hand*: "Decorate with coffee table books. A few Glamour picks: *Lena Corwin's Made by Hand* . . . "Glamour Magazine "A must-have for anyone who wants to create unique dÃ©cor." "Decorating Shortcuts magazine "Made By Hand offers the perfect range of usable textile handiwork, presented by fourteen teachers who obviously enjoy their craft "ForeWord Reviews "The 385 detailed illustrations, along with excellent step-by-step photographs and clear instructions, make each project tempting and approachable." "Studios magazine "Those messy hands alone are inspiring me to get creative." "Modern Eve "I got a sneak peek at a mostly lovely book. I can't contain my excitement over this book. The projects are varied and so much fun." "The Stylish Nest "The photography and layout of the book is gorgeous: wide open with lots of white space, reminiscent of Japanese craft books. And there are people, whole people, sitting and doing crafts, not just disembodied hands. Isn't that part of the reason we craft for the human contact?" "Knitty.com "Made By Hand is gorgeous . . . filled to the brim with beautifully executed diy tutorials from a host of talented artisans." "Michelle S Blog "Craft book is like a private studio class . . . this book is a breath of fresh air" "Examiner.com "She's the most talented person I know, and probably in all of Brooklyn." "Lucky magazine "This project is a personal favorite of mine and the colors are easy to customize for fall." "Design\*Sponge "Attention DIYers: You Need Lena Corwin's New Book!" "Lucky magazine "As brilliant as it is beautiful" "The Purl Bee "The diversity of offerings within these pages makes you feel like you're at a retreat with too many good things to choose from . . . except you get to make them all! The photography is clean and simple. Gorgeous really. This is a good one, folks . . . and Lena you've done it again." "maya\*made "Even if none of you know where to begin, you can easily use the projects in this book as a guidebook . . ." "Urban Comfort "A must-have if you want to stretch your creativity and get your hands dirty literally." "Big Cartel "It boasts stunning visuals with simple imagery." "The Capsule Show "Made

by Hand introduces readers to ageless crafting techniques with modern projects. •HGTV.com  
•The 26 delightful projects are scrumptiously photographed as step-by-step tutorials, creating the impression that we, too, are in the light-filled studio among the generous and pleasant makers . . .  
all of these carefully curated projects will result in products that are perfect in their own unique way. • •BookPage.com •We have been fans of designer/illustrator/authorÂ Lena

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have tons of crafts books, I love looking up ideas online, but I have never seen a book like this. Craft books have had to step things up because of pinterest and other digital means of DIY sources- this book has faced that challenge and proves the superiority of pages over a screen. Every page is beautiful and exciting to leaf through- I will honestly try most of these ideas. I have not been this inspired in a long time!! Thank you, Lena Corwin!

This is an amazing craft book! I have followed most of these designers for years and am so inspired by their aesthetic and taste. The projects here are lovely, interesting and inspiring. Some of the projects chosen by the different designers surprised me -such a variety...all beautiful. I looked forward to receiving my preorder of this book and was not the least bit disappointed. I am planning to keep busy all winter with these projects- sewing, knitting, soap making, printing, jewelry making, dying, weaving and crocheting. There are lots of detailed instructions and pictures showing detailed progress. I think you will be inspired to try something new!

Most of the projects are simple - almost too simple. Many of them I had seen before on tv or in magazines. But I will say there were a few that I will use - maybe 3-5. The rest of the projects, well I will probably give the book away after a while..Good quality printing and photos.

This is, simply put, a book of beginner projects for a wide variety of craft types. It is a really great way for a person who likes working with their hands to branch out and try some new crafts; who knows, maybe you'll really like soap making (or weaving, or dyeing, or jewelry making, or rug making, or print making, etc.) Sometimes the first project you make in a new craft is disappointing, but these projects are clearly-written and are all modern useful items. However, if you aren't looking to try a totally new craft and are already very accomplished in most of the book's crafts, you may find this book redundant..

Really great assortment of DIY projects. You can easily expand on them with your own ideas. I like how it pulls from all different areas so you learn a lot of different things. Book is well designed and projects are easy to follow. There are a lot of repetitive DIY books out there, but this one surprised me. I am extremely satisfied with this book.

For crafters (or would-be crafters) seeking to branch out from their usual medium, this book contains a treasure trove of projects. Most of them are simple, many of them are charming, and all are laid out clearly with carefully worded instructions. The projects included cover rotary printing, screen printing, machine sewing, hand sewing, knitting, crochet, tea dyeing, tie-dyeing, batik, marbling, appliqué, soap making, fabric painting, rag rugs (crocheted and braided), embroidery, fabric origami, brass and silk jewelry making, beading, candle making, weaving, stuffed toy making, and basketry coiling. That's a lot to pack into one book, but Corwin does a fabulous job orchestrating and unifying them. The projects are all set out in 3 - 8 steps, just right for a beginner. But even an experienced knitter might be tempted to craft a hedgehog cat toy (ask me how I know), and I imagine the same might be said for Sian Keegan's stuffed radish toys. What a wonderful overview of many things you can make by hand!! I received a review copy of this book--see the full review on the Kangath Knits blog.

Some of the crafts and art forms covered in this book are technical and I wouldn't try them. I know Batik, and found a serious error (don't "wring out" your cloth when removing it from the dye, it will

ruin your project) in the instructions, which leads me to believe there may be errors in the instructions of other projects as well. Also, some of the additions seemed to be "filler" rather than interesting possibilities of something to make. There are some well presented instructions of interesting and plausible projects, however, and I bought this book for a crafty friend because I thought it would help her with making her Christmas gifts.

If you are always interested in creating something with your hands, this book has some great ideas and it is lovely to look at as well as inspiring. I would go through the table of contents first--to be sure that you are interested in doing these projects. It can keep you making things for several months!

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