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The Spoonflower Handbook: A DIY Guide To Designing Fabric, Wallpaper & Gift Wrap With 30+ Projects



Synopsis

Designing fabric, wallpaper, and gift wrap used to be the stuff of dreams. Only a few select creatives got to do it, and it required formal training and significant financial investment. But times have changed, and today anyone with a computer, Internet connection, and idea can upload a file and order their own fabric or paper, printed affordably one yard or more at a time. At the forefront of this revolutionary DIY movement is Spoonflower, a North Carolina startup that produces designs for hundreds of thousands of users worldwide 24 hours a day/seven days a week to keep up with demand. With step-by-step tutorials and projects that span a wide spectrum of skills, The Spoonflower Handbook is written for both new and experienced users of this print-on-demand technology. Covering everything from equipment to software to working with photos, scans, repeats, vector files, and more, it is an essential guide to a booming new creative outlet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I suppose that i should begin with a few disclosures, as i am hardly an impartial reviewer. I bought the book at the book release party on-site at the Durham production facility. Spoonflower is a local company with offices literally just up the street from my house. I count more than one friend (and one alumna of the graduate program in which i teach) among their employees, and I have been a customer and designer of theirs for years. That said, i don't have any affiliation with this book and its authors beyond being a fan of the text. So, what's the book like? One could argue that it is a book-length infomercial for Spoonflower, which i suppose is technically true, in that there's a lot of

information about how specifically one can use the company to produce textile designs, wallpaper, and gift wrap (the three products they print). But on a general level, there's an enormous amount of useful information about the basics of print designs--everything from how to use both analog and digital tools to create your designs, to how one might create a seamless repeat in a range of different configurations. The book does touch on some of the more "pro" programs for digital design, but also illustrates techniques and methods that are decidedly low-tech and non-intimidating for those who have no proficiency with, say, Photoshop. The first section is a sort of overview of textiles and design--discussions of everything from types of fabrics one can print on (knits/wovens, fiber contents) to the definition of digital design terms like raster and vector based image files, hex codes, dpi, and so forth. The structure of the second half of the book is project-based, with specific how-to craft projects, each of which addresses a different technique or medium.

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