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Handmade Garden Projects: Step-by-Step Instructions For Creative Garden Features, Containers, Lighting And More



Synopsis

Your journey to a made-from-scratch outdoor space starts here. You can transform your garden into a handmade, personality-infused oasis. Author Lorene Edwards Forkner "part eco-friendly non-traditionalist, part crafty creative" will show you how. Projects run the gamut from eye-catching structures, like a pergola made from plumbing pipes, to imaginative details, like a tree-hung chandelier for nighttime ambiance. You'll also find helpful plant guides to accompany projects: delectable herbs to fill a stacking container tower, stellar succulents for a vertical gutter garden, glorious flowering vines to climb a bamboo obelisk, and so much more. Ready to get started? All you need are refreshingly simple, inexpensive materials "hardware store basics, salvaged goods, repurposed castoffs from cluttered basements" along with a little do-it-yourself spirit. With clear instructions and inspiring variations on every theme, this book is easy to follow and easy to love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There's some fantastic inspiration here for the savvy craftsperson. Each project has simple step-by-step instructions along with a full-page color photo (or three) showing you the end result. What I love best about this book is that it's helped me repurpose some of the trash I had waiting in the "go to the dump" pile. The rings from a discarded oak barrel will now be repurposed as a mold for garden stepping stones, which were shown early in the book. And some of the ideas don't require any money at all, like creating "temporary turf tattoos" in the lawn using your mower.

What a fun way of celebrating a holiday, to mow a pattern into the lawn to cheer passers-by. Is this a book of gift ideas? Maybe. Some of the projects are small enough to transport easily and would make great gifts. Others are large, heavy, or simply must be made in the owner's garden, so wouldn't wrap up well for a gift occasion. But enough of the ideas are good for this purpose that I'm certainly glad I got it a few months before my mom's birthday, just in case I want to make a project for her! I have a few pages bookmarked as possibilities for all the gardeners in my life. My one quibble is that many of the photos in the book look a bit messy or "country". For example, in the page showing you how to make a tabletop knot garden (a very classy idea), the finished result is shown in a Red Flyer wagon. It's hard to imagine a more disparate pairing than an elegant French or English knot garden with a kid's red wagon - it just didn't work for me. In another photo of steel tanks used as planting beds (a look that can be marvelously urban and chic), the photographer didn't remove the red and white label from the tank.

I have absolutely no problem with the seller or the shipping on this product- both were great. The book itself is just unsatisfactory, and sits really low in the list of home garden and yard decor books I own. I'll probably be reselling or trading at a local bookseller. It has no real how-to or educational value, and the pictures that are in it are secondary to the layout and text which the author(s) seem to be more proud of. A book like this does not need to go more than a page without a picture- let's face it- a book about garden decor is all about garden pictures and visual inspiration, or at the very least, techniques, but this book frequently has breaks of 4 to 5 pages with nothing but a solid color and LARGE, insultingly insipid, meandering paragraphs. Don't get me wrong, I love words- I just want them to instruct or describe a process or scene in the book. The information in this book is kind of useless. It's almost trying to be poetic or inspirational. The layout is poor too- pictures and paragraphs are placed too near the stiff center of the open book, with generous inches of open space at the sides- it's almost as if the pages got out of order at the printer's- but no- occasionally you will come across a two page spread of huge words across both pages, with no pictures or hint as to what scene (previous or next) that they are referring to. they are basically non-sequitur affirmations about garden decorating. I bought it for myself as well as my garden-savvy girlfriend. As we looked through it, I almost felt the need to apologize that 'it sure looked better online'.... The few craft projects that are spelled out for you in the book are simple, unattractive and a little insulting..like showing how to install brackets to make a shelf out of an existing object.

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