



# Alternacrafts: 20+ Hi-Style Lo-Budget Projects to Make

*Jessica Vitkus, Brian Kennedy (Photographer), Elizabeth Lee*

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With an emphasis on recycling, making projects from scratch, and improvisation - as well as detailed, easy-to-understand instructions - this title gives crafters the skills they need to self-express, by shaping their own environments, whether they're working on their bodies, their bedrooms, their lockers at school, or their first apartments.

## Alternacrafts: 20+ Hi-Style Lo-Budget Projects to Make Details

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Author : Jessica Vitkus , Brian Kennedy (Photographer) , Elizabeth Lee

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## **From Reader Review Alternacrafts: 20+ Hi-Style Lo-Budget Projects to Make for online ebook**

### **Ashley says**

Wasn't bad, had a lot of crafts I have seen before though. Sorry

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### **Heather says**

I was in love with this book from the first mention of resin. The resin bottlecap necklaces look hard, and the resin itself is a little toxic, but oh, geez, what a completely happy craft. For teens, for grownups. I made a few lovely gifts, and they are totally not expensive, except for the resin! Here's what I do know--a t-shirt made out of rugs sounds like a fun time to me.

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### **Sarah says**

I loved this book, it is one of the best craft books I have ever read. It contains simple, cheap, hip, and beautiful items that don't require complex instructions, expensive parts, or tons of technique. I highly recommend it to anyone who likes cool handmade stuff but doesn't have an art degree.

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### **Beth Roberts says**

The basis of this book is being crafty with every day items on hand at home without having to outsource so much. It starts with a little blurb about Pretty in Pink. Molly Ringwald apparently has inspired more than a few of us to pick up the old needle and thread and turn scraps into a masterpiece. Lo cost and hi style, these crafty ideas seem fun and simple.

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### **Evan says**

This book had some interesting "alternative" ideas for crafting, but relied heavily on clothing-based crafts. Which is fine--if that's your bag, baby.

My favorite chapter was the one on crafts to make and give to friends. I especially loved the dog bed!

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### **Charlotte says**

feh... I like the concept. I'm always wanting to take traditional arts and apply them to more edgy/modern ideas. It's what I do. But the projects in this book weren't for me. I'm not going to cut up an old sweater and

wear it as a hat. I can't see myself making a purse out of jeans. But if you did want to do any of these projects, the instructions and pictures are clear. The text is lighthearted. It's fine. I just really wanted ALTERNATIVE. This isn't very cutting-edge.

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### **Mary McDonough says**

Things I don't like in craft books:  
Insistence that crafting is cool/young  
Ugly crafted items  
Boring ideas I've seen a million places, like cutting up t-shirts.

This book has all of the above. Not my style.

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### **Amy says**

This is a great book with lots of projects that use recycled materials - things you would find around the house. If you want to learn how to re-fashion an old pair of jeans or make use of bottlecaps then this is the book for you.

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### **Sonja Isaacson says**

I was pretty disappointed with this book. There just were not many projects that I would want or use. It does seem to have pretty good directions though, but I don't understand why the page directions keep changing. At first I thought maybe it was about setting up the book to read while you are making something... but probably not.

I did like the Bottle-Cap Lockets. I would probably do them as magnets instead, but it would make nice little gifts for family members. And I like the jeans-into-skirt...however that would mean giving up a pair of pants and I am just not prepared to do that.

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### **Birgit says**

I love, love, love this book! In fact, I now want my own copy! And its funky chic style is right up my alley. Most of the projects build themselves upon using recycled materials (bottle caps, old postcards, that unworn t-shirt that's taken up permanent residence in your bottom drawer). And unlike the knitting books I've grabbed lately, this book is full of totally doable projects, regardless of your skill level. The perfect book for the make-it-yourself gift giver looking for the perfect quirky gift!

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## **Marcia says**

Wait long enough and everything comes back around again. Ha! We made denim skirts out of old jeans in junior high (no "middle school" in 1974) exactly like those in this book. We also re-purposed bandanas and made flowers out of paper. This book would be fine for a beginner crafter looking for low cost ideas. The wallet made from candy wrappers was cute and those are in vogue right now with the green crew. Fun to browse through.

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## **Jessi says**

I don't know how you can call something "hi-style" when a significant portion of your book is just doing stupid stuff to t-shirts. And stamping white pillow cases. I like fun, kitschy crafts, but I found the stuff in here to be horribly disappointing. It was all either pointless ways to mess up your already ok clothes, or crafts one might find at a middle school summer camp. : /

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## **jess says**

this wasn't the worst book i've ever read. if i were a girl scout troop leader, i would appreciate reading this book and being reminded of crafts to share with a group of young ladies. if i had never spent time making things, or considering the politics of making things yourself instead of buying them, i would have gotten a lot out of this book. as a person who is neither a beginning crafter or a girl scout troop leader, i had trouble really sinking my teeth into this book. however, i did appreciate the insight it brought me - now i know how all that identical stuff shows up different tables at the craft shows i have attended!

based on the title and description, i was not expecting too much in the way of in-depth descriptions of complicated (or simple!) processes, nor inspiration for totally sparkletastic original ideas. this book delivered on my expectations.

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## **Pat says**

Some fun ideas, some kind of ho-hum. Most of them recycling old into new which I always love. My favorite is the Shaggy Dog Rug. Cute way to use old t-shirts. Most interesting: the Skant, turning pants into a skirt. These are short versions, but I was in high school in the 70's and had a long skirt made from old bell bottom, hip huggers complete with patches (I remember one was a peace sign, one the Woodstock symbol and one the flag) and embroidery. What I wouldn't give to have that skirt back again!

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## **K says**

Bright design, engaging layout. A few cute things: metallic cuffs, sweater purse, knitted metallic scarf & cuffs. Some junky stuff too that most people above the age of 12 wouldn't be caught dead wearing, but might have fun making.

