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The Workbench Guide To Jewelry Techniques



Synopsis

This comprehensive and ambitious workshop reference for jewelers brings together a vast range of skills, techniques, and technical data into one volume. Offering detailed explanations and step-by-step photography to demonstrate procedures, this handbook includes a complete reference section featuring tool shapes, an index of gems, a glossary, standard sizes and measurements, conversion tables, and an extensive list of resources. Additionally, the manual offers a directory of tools and materials—including a key to identifying tools for a “beginner’s kit”—a historical introduction to jewelry, and suggestions for photographing and promoting completed pieces. Remarkable cutting-edge pieces by jewelry makers and designers from around the world are used to illustrate the various processes involved in creating exceptional jewelry. Covering everything from traditional metalsmithing skills and using alternative materials, such as plastics and resin, to discussing issues involved with outsourcing work to specialist external suppliers, this is an indispensable and essential resource for both students and professionals.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Interweave; 1 edition (April 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596681691

ISBN-13: 978-1596681699

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 8.8 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (74 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #22,574 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Jewelry & Beadwork > Jewelry #7 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Metal Work

Customer Reviews

This is a new book by second time author Anastasia Young. Her website is located here: [...] . Her first book, *Jewelry Techniques: The Essential Guide to Choosing and Using Materials, Stones and Settings*, was a well received reference source. The *Workbench Guide* is a high quality hardcover, 320 page text which a reader might like to consider adding to his or her permanent library of "how to" books. Packed with 400 photographs, 200 illustrations and 100 charts, it doesn't allow your mind to wander for a second as it guides you step by step through the five sections it is divided into.

Whether purchased by a serious student of jewelry design and technique, or just by a passionate lover of jewelry who privately, safely teaches herself as much as she can, there is valuable knowledge to be found in this book. I am not a believer of choosing one book as the "be all and end all" for any process of learning. I am well aware that there are fine books in existence already [here are a few, for example ,1. Jewelry: Fundamentals of Metalsmithing (Jewelry Crafts) by Tim McCreight2, The Complete Jewelry Making Course: Principles, Practice and Techniques: A Beginner's Course for Aspiring Jewelry Makers by Jinx McGrath3. Jewelry Making Techniques Book (Quarto Book) Elizabeth Olver .There are many, many more]. However it is a good idea to stir up new energy and insight by adding to older favorites, whether you are the teacher or the student. Artists create amazing new styles of jewelry all the time and some of them are exhibited in here. How to make them is explained, carefully.

The review above covers the content of this book, so I'll just go on to add my own observations.. This is a lovely, fully illustrated book - full of photo's and a good variety of work. It covers a lot of techniques and gives a brief demo of them. These are not in depth though, they don't go into great detail and if a certain technique interests you or you want to learn it, I'd say you would probably need to find further, more detailed, reference. It covers a lot, so this was to be expected. I think its a very good book for showing the large variety of techniques available to us and it does a really good job of introducing the reader to the various methods with photo's and work examples.. It also has some great sections near the back of the book covering personal design work and the business side of jewellery making - what jewellery do you make? ie; is it studio jewellery, fashion jewellery, fine jewellery etc.. These sections are really useful to read. The author, anastasia young, is a lecturer at central st martain's in london and the work that comes out of that university is incredible. Having visited there I can confirm that it is a high achieving course and the students push themselves utterly. Considering the work that emerges from this university, I find it very exciting that one of its lecturers/tutors is now sharing her knowledge and thoughts/processes/techniques in beautifully put together books.. She has also added a section on outsourcing - getting work electroplated, cast, set etc.. this is a brilliant resource - particularly for us brits! (as it has extremely useful addresses and contacts) (O:To sum up, this is a beautiful and useful book - somewhat of an encyclopedia of techniques - it is definately worth having and will be informative.

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