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Ceramic Bead Jewelry: 30 Fired & Inspired Projects (Lark Jewelry Books)

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Synopsis

This is by far the most attractive volume on ceramic bead-making anywhere. The 30 colourful jewellery projects are wonderfully simple and will be loved by crafters. Crafters will eagerly snap it up to learn how they can create a variety of striking projects using low-fire clay and a rainbow of colourful glazes. The basic techniques include hand-rolling, cutting, stamping, press-molding and extruding, as well as surface embellishment. Nothing says love more than the flirty urban-hip ring with a metal clay arrow shot through the heart. A bohemian chic big-bead necklace mimics the look of traditional majolica and rivals any pricey boutique find. Charming photography captures the colours and textures of a festive outdoor market, making every page playful, fun and accessible.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Practicality is the theme here; instead of, for example, advocating the purchase of an expensive kiln and other equipment, the author recommends asking to share space with a local studio, yielding a much smaller payout. About half of her book demonstrates the fundamentals: tools and materials and the making, decorating, and firing (bisque as well as glaze) of beads, along with techniques, like raku, metal clay, and luster, among others. Then on to the 30 projects, ranging from a boyfriend black-and-white bead on a cord necklace to an elaborate autumn-bounty (with acorns and leaves)Ã Â necklace,Ã Â with rings, brooches, and bracelets well represented in the projects. Each design includes the requisite list, color photographs, and instructions (though not labeled by level of

difficulty). A velveteen cuff is studded with ceramic beads for a luxurious impact; a multistrand bracelet, on the other hand, is fairly straightforward and middle of the road. --Barbara Jacobs --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Heynen’s work is known for its color and whimsy, and her projects are much along these same lines. Some are full of wonderful, bright color combinations, and others are a mix of earthy tones. I found this book to speak to those jewelry designers who want to really do something different and possibly more challenging when it comes to creating jewelry." (5-star review) -- About.com Jewelry Making

I stopped making pottery on the wheel about 15 years ago when my arthritis became too severe. Now I find myself making jewelry, and I am excited to return to working with clay as part of my new hobby.This book would be most useful to those who have a background in working with clay. I do not want to suggest that the author failed to cover any necessary information; this is a field in which details are important, and I don’t know how you could learn everything you need to know from any book. If you really want to make clay beads, pendants, etc., and you’ve never worked with clay, this book would be an excellent addition to a pottery class. Even though the book is very thorough, I don’t think you can expect to pick it up (or any other book, either) and have all of the information you need. For one thing, the information you need will in part depend on what’s available in your area from your local suppliers. There are different kinds of clay bodies and various kinds of glazes - you can even make your own, but that’s getting pretty advanced. Electric kilns are different from gas kilns, which are different from wood-fired kilns. . .which are often artisan-made, and no book will provide what you need to know about those, as they are all different, and often must be fired several times before their quirks are understood.A few weeks ago I went out and bought 25 lbs of porcelain, and even though I have quite a bit of experience with it for throwing and handbuilding, when it came to making small objects with holes, I had a lot of questions. This book answered every one of them, and I’m grateful I found it. Although I won’t be making any of the author’s projects, as her taste and style are very different from mine, reading through the projects still yields a lot of important information. If your taste, also, varies enough from the author’s that you don’t think you will make any of the projects, that’s not a reason to shy away from this book. There’s enough information there to guide you through your own variations so that you can produce your own artistic vision.Read her instructions carefully, as they contain a lot of information. If you’ve not worked in clay before, I would strongly suggest taking a pottery class and using this book, along with your

instructor’s direction, to fine tune your craft. Then find another instructor. Just as one book can’t possibly teach everything, neither can one instructor. This is a wonderful, rewarding hobby, and this book is an important part of the literature.

I have purchased many books published by Lark in the past and have been delighted, but this one is not up to their usual standard. I found the writing a bit awkward and confusing.I’ve never heard of glazes referred to as overglazes...took me a while to figure out what she was talking about.Here is one example of a confusing statement: ... "Once you’ve fired the bead in the kiln, you embed the wire permanently into the clay." I had to reread the paragraph 3 times before I realized that the wire is put into the bead before you fire it. The sentence would have been more clear had it been: "Place the wire loop into the soft clay bead, and once fired it is permanently embedded in the bead"I was particularly interested in using pmc with clay beads, the section on that idea left me with more questions than answers.I also thought the photos, while well shot, didn’t quite illustrate what the author intended.I presume all the illustrated projects were by the author as I saw no credit given to them...another disappointment. I would have liked to have seen other artists interpretations/examples. I would have wanted to know that before I bought the book.A list of sources for material was also lacking in the book. Usually Lark books include that.

I would never have bought this book if I had seen it first. The designs in clay are so SIMPLE. There are no inspired projects. One project consists of bracelet with little round dents in the circle beads and square beads. Another project a pair of earrings consisting of 3 flat round beads with two circles in painted in black underglaze on each and she calls them targets.I do object to even mentioning techniques for which she gives no instructions like lusters and raku. They are both complicated and potentially hazardous.Jeniffer Heynen clearly rushed this book into print and it needed a bit more time and thought first. To be the first book on ceramic bead jewelry is not as good as writing a useful and fun book on the topic.The only thing that I did like in this book was the photos and description of hanging the beads for firing.

Lots of great ideas and good instruction

There aren’t too many books on creating small-scale ceramics such as jewelry components. I wanted specific tips for making ceramic beads and got some good information from this book, which for me makes it worth the money. It was missing a few things... it stated that you can make your

own decals for ceramics but didn't have any information or references about how. Also it didn't have a list of specific resources for where to buy things, just a general "from your ceramic supply store." If you don't know anything about loading a kiln (I didn't, I use a paint your own pottery studio to fire pieces) this part of the book is worth the money, it has a good, basic explanation that anyone can follow. I enjoyed the author's style - the projects are visual and creative. I would recommend this book highly for anyone that specifically wants to start making their own beads.

If you tried, on your own, to make ceramic jewelry and you were discouraged by the tiny details of the making that just do the trick, this is the book you need. It was so hard for me to come across bibliography in this field, but thannks to the generous reviews of other cutomers, i chose this one. i do not regret it. Everything is SO CLEARLY described!"NOBLEZA OBLIGA", we say in my mother tongue. well, here is my own bit. DO NOT MISS OUT on this one.

I just bought a new small kiln and wanted to learn more about making jewelry. After searching for information, I was happy to find this book. It is filled with projects and just enough information to get you on your way to making beautiful clay beads but isn't too technical or overwhelming. I am happy I bought it.

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