



The Craftster Guide to Nifty, Thrifty, and Kitschy Crafts: Fifty Fabulous Projects from the Fifties and Sixties

Leah Kramer

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You won't find die-cut teddy bears, cross-stitched friendship plaques, or ducks painted with bonnets in this hipster collection of crafts from Craftster.org founder, Leah Kramer. You will find forty easy-to-make, fun-to-wear, and stylish-to-display projects pulled straight from the pages of vintage craft books--plus ten all-new retro-inspired crafts-including: Cigar-Box Purse, Coffee Urn Lamp, Doll Face Fridgies, Glovely Lovely Coin Purse, Sweater Teapot Cozy, Novel Necktie Apron, Slip-On Toothbrush Bracelet, Painted Glass Martini Set, Powder Room Poodle, Space-Age Party Accessories, and much more! An unabashedly tacky craft compendium for lovers of gold-painted macaroni, toilet paper cozies, and everything terry cloth, THE CRAFTSTER GUIDE features full-color and vintage photographs, descriptions of tools and techniques-and enough irony to fill a popsicle-stick purse. Reviews "It's time to get in on the latest social craze-crafting! In this clever book by Leah Kramer, you'll find a world of ideas. . . each with easy-to-follow instructions for even the most amateur craftsters." -Justine Magazine". . . an irreverent combination of recycling and innovation." -Decorating Digest Craft & Home Projects "Craft royalty Leah Kramer has rescued and resuscitated scores of great and so-bad-they'-re-great projects from half a century of crafting history. Thanks to her discerning eye and clever wit, everything from the cinchy Cigar-Box Purse to the terrifying Terry Loincloth has been given a new lease on life. Whether you make them or mock them, this unforgettable collection of improbable projects is guaranteed to keep you crafting-and cringing-for years to come." -Debbie Stoller, editor-in-chief of BUST Magazine and author of the Stitch 'n Bitch books "Leah Kramer's collection of vintage craft books has served her well! She's come up with a kitschy collection of clever crafts that remind us of the days before the ubiquitous hot glue gun. THE CRAFTSTER GUIDE is sure to be required reading for anyone interested in mid-century crafting culture." -Brini Maxwell, host of the Style Network's The Brini Maxwell Show "Leah Kramer has helped advance crafting into the twenty-first century with Craftster.org . . . but she knows the real way to our DIY hearts is with retro projects from the fifties and sixties. Who hasn't pined for a collection of these almost-forgotten classics? Essential for your craft corner library." --Jenny Hart, founder of SublimeStitching.com and author of Stitch-It Kit

The Craftster Guide to Nifty, Thrifty, and Kitschy Crafts: Fifty Fabulous Projects from the Fifties and Sixties Details

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Author : Leah Kramer

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From Reader Review The Craftster Guide to Nifty, Thrifty, and Kitschy Crafts: Fifty Fabulous Projects from the Fifties and Sixties for online ebook

Donna says

wonderful old crafts loved it

Susan says

This is a fun book to look at, but I don't think I'd actually want to make anything in this. I just like the idea of it! It probably makes more sense to just visit Craftster.org, but it's fun to page through and look at the goofy retro crafts, which range from kind of cool to completely hideous.

Jill says

so fun :)

Lee says

really, a slip on toothbrush bracelet? even if you bejewelled it, it would still be an old toothbrush. or how about a purse made entirely out of popsicle sticks? ha!

Amy says

If you like Craftster.org (and who doesn't?) then you'll LOVE Leah Kramer's book, *The Craftster Guide to Nifty, Thrifty, and Kitschy Crafts: Fifty Fabulous Projects from the Fifties and Sixties*. Leah Kramer is also the mastermind behind Crafster.org, hence the comparison.

This is a terrific book for all levels of crafters, although it especially appeals to those of us who love all things kitschy and retro. Some of my favorite projects from this book are the cigar box and book clutch purses, card suit throw pillows, and the tote bag apron. The book also includes instructions for classic projects like record bowls, etched glassware, and DIY snow globes. Some of the projects are just down-right silly (but still fun), like the toothbrush bracelets, foil animals, and "merry" monsters. Near the end of the book you'll find instructions for Christmas ornaments that look oddly familiar. Perhaps I've seen the bits and leftover pieces of such ornaments in my grandmother's house. No matter, now that I have Leah's book, I can finally make my own!

Susan says

Fun, step-by-step instructions on how to make those kitschy, 50-60s era house knickknacks. Some of them are really weird, others are very sweet and clever. But all are authentic from the period which I find interesting!

Jaq says

Ever wanted to make your own toothbrush bracelet? Then this is the book for you. Full of the crafts I grew up with - yes it's tacky, kitschy and chi chi but I loved taking a trip back in time that this book allows.

Melissa Elizabeth says

The title really catches you in as far as finding fun crafts that also have a vintage flair to it. But really there with only handful of crafts in there that I'd actually spend time doing. The others seemed ridiculously juvenile and more useless than crafts normally are anyway haha. I will however say that its a nice basis for crafting if you're just starting to try projects and stuff. But as are as really unique interesting and cool ideas, it lacks.

Sarah says

I soooo want to knit the poodle TP cozy!

Sarah says

I love craftster.com, and the ideas in this book. However, I've only made 1 of the projects (the felt flowers). This would be better to inspire someone without any crafty ideas of their own.

M. says

Sucked

Ella says

The book itself is well designed, and the projects are explained in a way that they are easy to understand and recreate. However, a lot of the projects were not for me and felt tacky - a bracelet made from an old, used toothbrush, for instance. I don't think that is the fault of the author or the book, just my taste, and all of the

projects come from magazines and books from the 50s that had these projects in them, so they are true to 50s kitsch. With that said, there were a few things in this book that I bookmarked: the temptress collar, the recycled record covers, and I have friends that would love the cigar box makeup kit...and the tin foil space helmet, while downright tacky, is charming and hilarious to me.

Nancy says

I really liked the felt flower appliques and the felt animal patches. Super cute!

Jocelynn Broderick says

Hilarious projects! I probably won't make anything from it but still fun to look at.

Ashley says

There were some really neat projects in this book, I kinda want to try the Toothbrush bracelet project. I'd never seen that before!! And it is a great way to recycle the object and not let it end up in a landfill somewhere. There was one project that horrified me, and others that just made me sigh. I know there are definitely 2 I will be trying out, and I cannot wait to get started!
