



Wee Wonderfuls: 24 Dolls to Sew and Love

Hillary Lang

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Super cute! Darling! How adorable is that?! Welcome to the world of *Wee Wonderfuls*. In this charming collection, acclaimed toymaker and popular blogger Hillary Lang presents a captivating gang of 24 huggable, lovable creatures to sew—from classics like Margot, a topsy-turvy doll, and the button-jointed teddy bear Bjorn Bjornson, to irresistible Evelyn, a wool felt inchworm decked out in mod glasses and a kerchief, and Koji, a fiercely cute spiked softie monster. There's something for everyone here—from kids to grown-ups and from beginning sewers to advanced dollmakers. Each pattern includes clear illustrations and pattern templates to ensure perfect results.

Wee Wonderfuls: 24 Dolls to Sew and Love Details

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Author : Hillary Lang

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From Reader Review Wee Wonderfuls: 24 Dolls to Sew and Love for online ebook

Kristen says

I've made several things from this book, so far with 100% success. Almost no pattern errata, which is especially important. Built-in seam allowances, full size patterns, and all incredibly adorable and creative ideas. Many items are two dimensional, but there are some more complex three dimensional toys as well (gussets). This one will be on my shelf permanently. Great appendix/resource guide in the back with illustrated instructions.

Laura says

Super simple - which I like. The patterns are very manageable.

I want a bit more seam allowance. Right now the patterns demand very precise sewing. I'm going to play with size to see if it helps make a more manageable project.

Update: I definitely, definitely recommend playing with sizing.

Wendy Darling says

The whimsical sweetness of Hillary's designs is appealing to crafters of all levels, and the book is written in a cheerful, encouraging tone that makes no project seem too difficult to tackle. The bright colors and interesting fabric choices are lovely to peruse, and the author ably demonstrates her techniques for creating distinctive hair styles using different materials, including ribbon, stitched yarn, cut yarn, etc. This trend toward full color, hardback craft books with cloth spines is a pleasing one, since it eliminates the waste and shabby corners of a dust jacket while maintaining the good quality of a hardcover.

The projects in Wee Wonderfuls include soft animals, dolls wearing real clothes, embroidered and decorated pillows, bags shaped like animals, and more, all of which are appropriate for gift-giving. My favorite projects are probably Hillary's versions of a topsy turvy doll (pictured in yellow on the book cover), as well as bookish Evelyn Inchworm and her flowered head scarf.

Each charming toy is accompanied by a short anecdote with the source of Hillary's inspiration for the piece. The stories are just long enough to give a little peek into her creative world without being distracting, and they enhance the reader's appreciation for the featured doll or animal. The usual basic glossary and sewing techniques are covered here, along with a satisfying list of online resources. The book also includes all the patterns necessary for each toy, which may be photocopied and enlarged as needed.

This book is a must-have for any fan of Hillary's work, as well as for any crafter who loves quality handmade toys. The toys are adorable, the projects are fun, and the book will be one you'll reach for again and again for inspiration.

This review originally appeared on the happy honeybee blog, where there are also free projects linked from the book and from Hillary's website. Check out my interview with the author as well!

An advance copy was provided by the publisher for this review.

Angela says

Some very cute things to create in this book. A few would be simple enough to do easily, most would be somewhat complicated or time consuming. However the instructions read well and are not hard to follow, and the patterns would be easy to scan onto a computer and print out. The word adorable has been used a good bit in reference to this book, and I can see why. My favorite thing to be made is the Ellie bag, an elephant shaped stuffed animal bag.

Jo says

Delightfully cute selection of soft dolls. There is a nice variety of styles, all very sweet. The instructions & diagrams are top notch as is the basics section, which should give confidence to those new to the sewing techniques used in the projects. The photography adds to the charm. For those new to making softies, I think this book would be a great place to start.

Kristena says

My 4 year old daughter went nuts for everything in this book! I made her the mermaid, which had fantastic instructions. I do suggest reading through the instructions before cutting out your pattern pieces. I made the mistake of cutting along the seam line in my overzealousness and had to start again. Operator error! Anyway, I love Hillary's debut book and hope it's only the beginning. I'll be making the Kitty next!

Emily says

Would probably give this book four and a half stars if I could, the bonus half star being mostly for surprising me. I didn't think I would even be interested in this book, as I have never really had any interest in making dolls, but I loved it. The projects are great and there is a really wonderful variety. There are several I may consider, but I can't wait to make Hansel and Gretel out of wooden spoons as seen on page 113.

Stephanie Unson says

I love the aesthetic of these toy designs - classic and timeless, but without being dated. I've made the Bjorn Bear several times, and the boy and girl dolls are just delightful. Her instructions are easy to follow, and the illustrations help clarify any confusion.

The patterns are in the back of the book; you trace them onto paper (and you can magnify them if you want your toy to be larger). I'd recommend transferring the original tracing onto cardboard; the patterns will last longer, especially if you're likely to re-use a favorite pattern.

Candace says

Ok, this has got to be the cutest book ever! The dolls in this book are all so cute (except the pixie, I don't care for that one). I plan on making the kitty first for my daughter. I need to own this one so I can make them all. There are some simple dolls and some to stretch my ability a little.

If you are looking for a great book to make some toys for your little ones... Pick this book up.

Margaret Chind says

As a mother to a toddler girl and expecting a little sister to join us in late summer, dolls are definitely something I am being friendly and familiar with. I am a crafty person, but these are not the types of crafts I am used to. However the pictures and instructions from crafty mama Hillary Lang make it appear that I am capable. I am very excited to add such a book to my quilting den library.

Thanks to the publisher for providing a copy for review.

Originally posted: <http://creativemadnessmama.com/blog/2...>

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

3.5

Some of these dolls are cute, some not so much, but there are a lot of interactive extras that are nice such as a pillow with a two dimensional doll on the front and a pocket in back with clothes to attach, much like a paper doll. There's the doll I remember in my childhood that are two dolls in one attached upside down where the skirt covers the one not being used. I liked the version I saw better which was little red riding hood with the wolf/grandmother on the other side.

The instructions are good with small steps and good illustrations. There is information on how to stitch on yarn hair. The biggest problem is that other than the few creative interactive projects and the stuff animals, the dolls look very similar. So there were some clever projects, and all were well executed, most just weren't my style.

I wish good instructions went with projects I like. I repeatedly see one or the other but rarely both and this is no exception. Sigh.

nicole says

So far I've only made one doll (Patchwork Penny), but it came out great. And, coming from someone who had prior to this sewn a total of two square pillowcases, that should tell you a lot about the detail and understandability of Lang's text and diagrams. You can read a more detailed account of my experience using the book on this project in my blog post [here](#).

Overall though, it's a great book. The patterns/instructions work, for one. There's a real variety, for two; lots of different styles of hair/dress/body type for infants to older kids. And it's just pretty. The selection of vintage fabrics used throughout really speaks to my own visual aesthetic, the photography is crisp and a useful comparison to your own project, as well as just being attractive. I initially borrowed this title from the library to make sure I would be able to use it. After completing my first project, I immediately ordered a copy for myself. Planning on referencing this a lot.

Lindley Walter-smith says

Lots of patterns, and good value because of that. Also, it gets a full extra star for full sized patterns, omg.

To review doll making books, I generally try to make at least one of the dolls. I started off with Katy, which made a well shaped Richard Scarry inspired cat head, and then at some point lost interest and started using her as a pin cushion. Sorry, Katy. But it was a nice head.

I had less luck with Margot, the topsy-turvy doll my son wanted. The body itself was nice, but I got thoroughly tangled up in the clothes instructions, and they still seem to be like a counterintuitive way to do it. The sizes seemed all wrong--maybe I measured them wrong. Damn imperial measurements. The yarn-embroidered hair looked nice, but it just wasn't happening.

Still, the results are cute, and fascinate my son.

Jeni says

Lang is an orginal. I'm completely enamored of her ability to create, from her imagination, lovely playthings that children actually WANT to play with! My daughter earmarked nearly every project in this book. I've made 4 or 5 of the dolls and plan to make the Sleepover Friends. Lang's patterns are clear and easy to follow. In addition, you can check out her flickr pool to see how people have been inspired to build on her fantastic designs.

Jessietaylortanner says

I don't know how helpful my review will be since I haven't actually made anything from the book yet- but I still love it. I got it mainly to learn more about construction and technique, so I have been reading it through,

almost like a novel. I am going to try a few to practice the techniques to help in my own doll making. The instructions seem very clear with easy to follow diagrams, so I am anxious to try them out. I would make a lot of the designs in the book, and consider this a great resource.
