



Sew Darn Cute: 30 Sweet & Simple Projects to Sew & Embellish

Jenny Ryan

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Sought after for her one-of-a-kind handmade gifts, Jenny Ryan has created a collection of adorable projects in *Sew Darn Cute* that anyone can complete in a jiffy. Simple sewing techniques and quick yet stylish projects combine in this appealing book that teaches readers basic sewing skills while they create adorable yet useful items to keep for themselves or give as thoughtful presents. Use surface embellishment techniques including applique and embroidery to transform plain tees or old linens into pretty and unique signature items like a pillowcase purse or a skinny summer scarf; create lovable critters or a set of crafty coasters from scrap fabric and felted sweaters; or clean up the clutter in your craft room with easy-to-sew organizers for your crochet hooks, knitting needles, pins, and more. A focus on using vintage and thrifted, repurposed fabrics shows readers how they can whip up unique sewing projects that are also easy on the planet (and on your pocketbook). Colorful photographs reveal the projects and fabric selections up-close; step-by-step instructions, plus Jenny's tricks and tips, make it easy for home sewers to re-create these sew darn cute items for themselves.

Sew Darn Cute: 30 Sweet & Simple Projects to Sew & Embellish Details

Date : Published February 3rd 2009 by St. Martin's Griffin

ISBN : 9780312383831

Author : Jenny Ryan

Format : Paperback 144 pages

Genre : Art, Crafts, Sewing, Nonfiction, Reference

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Sheila says

These are sweet projects, perfect for someone who is still building confidence in their sewing. I will hang on to it for a little while in case my sewing daughters decide to try one of the projects. The directions are VERY clear for beginners, and written in a no-nonsense fashion. I love the photographs of every project, and really appreciate that the finished projects are so beautifully pressed.

Jessietaylortanner says

There were several projects from this book I want to make, 1 that I already have. I like the overall look of the book, which is important of course, but more importantly the ideas within. I'd probably buy it. If I had any money of course.

Lisa says

Love, Love, Love this one! So many cute, very simple little projects to give as gifts. I am making tank tops as soon as the weather turns nice!

Amy says

I am loving this book - its definitely one of my favorite sewing books on the market right now. First of all, the title doesn't lie, these are some seriously cute projects, folks. Almost a lethal dose of cute. Not in a bad way. The book is beautifully laid out - love the gingham and polka dots! Jenny's fabric choices are brilliant - I especially love the fact that she used vintage fabrics and pillowcases, with a little bit of cute Japanese fabric thrown in.

The book begins with a bio/ introduction as most craft books do, then goes into tools and techniques. I'm excited to find that I have a lot of these tools already (bias tape maker and yo-yo maker) - but I don't know how to use them so I'm excited to learn. Next there's a bit on free-motion quilting and some other "basics" like sewing a zippered pocket. Jenny promises it's not as hard as it looks and I believe her, which is half the battle, I think. If you are a more advanced seamstress, you might skip this part. If you are a more advanced seamstress, you might skip this part.

Most of the projects seem easy enough for a beginner so I'm excited to try them. I am loving the necklace tank, fabric button necklace, and reversable headband in the Pretties section. The eyeglasses cozy and appiqued tote are also a couple of my favorites, as is the merit badge wristlet (genius!), in the Totables section. In the Nest section, I am eager to make the Happy Hostess Dishtowels. Another section for Kid's Stuff includes instructions for a Silly Snake that reminds me of a puzzle my dad made me when I was younger. It also gives you a new use for shrunken sweaters. The Square Bear is also adorable and I love the

fact that Jenny incorporates embroidery and vintage buttons. One last section called Crafties includes a crochet hook cozy that makes me want to learn to crochet and a Nifty Needle Book that I really need for my embroidery needles. I love how the projects are not only cute but practical.

I read another review that accused this book of being un-hip and to that I say "un-true!" Ok, so I'm not the coolest kid on the block but I do keep up with the latest handmade fashions and as far as I can tell, cute is definitely "in." Besides, if you don't like Jenny's use of mellow fabrics, you can always substitute color combos like black and hot pink or skull prints. Plus the cover gives a good indication of whether the projects will fit your personal style. Personally, I love them.

Leah says

So darn cute. For reals. From stuffies to refashions, every one of the projects in this book have "Make me!" written all over them. Just need a little more confidence with the sewing machine, and then I'll be ready to tackle these simple, well-instructed projects.

Emilie says

I was really disappointed with this book.

Although it was filled with beautiful photographs and cute design ideas, the designs themselves were so totally elementary that I am pretty sure you could google and find a free pattern for everything featured. For example, sewing coasters? It's 2 pieces of square fabric sewn together and then top-stitched.

Perhaps a VERY new and beginner level seamstress might like this, or a very young teenager, but to have an entire page dedicated to cutting a letter out of fabric and sewing it onto a white tee shirt seemed like a cop out.

Deirdre Keating says

Read Emilie's recommendation for the "very new beginner" so sounds just right for me!

Sarah says

I just bought this book and I absolutely love it. It has awesome ideas for embellishing and adding your own look to different projects. It has about 30 projects in the book and gives all the directions and supplies you'll need. I haven't started a project yet but they look fun and doable and the great thing is that the tricks/tips/ideas can be used in numerous other projects.

Katherine says

This book disappointed me a bit. I love the cover, had read heaps of reviews, but when I opened it up, I found that many of the projects were same-old, same-old. The bear (top right image on the cover) is definitely worthy of making, but the other projects didn't inspire me. I want easy, cute projects that don't require a huge time commitment or advanced skill set, but I've seen variations of the ones in this book elsewhere.

Mandy says

some cute things, some non-cute things

Meghan says

Not really my style. Some of the projects were ok.

Tamara says

Embellished tank tops? That doesn't sound like me at all.

@Mandy Knapp, I think you need to make the fabric button necklace on page 33.

Alexis says

They really are just simple little sewing projects, good for learning how to sew. I'm going to use her backing-as-binding technique on the quilt I'm making for my sister right now.

Mckinley says

Nice photos of simple sewing projects. Enjoyed seeing materials and fabrics used although they aren't my preference.

Sarah says

Cute and easy projects for a beginner. Not much I want to make. Has a cute laptop purse pattern. Lots of

ideas for embellishing other things like shirts, towels, etc. I love the square bear pattern for a stuffed toy.
