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# Tandy Leather Handmade Leather Bags & Accessories 61957-00 (Design Originals)



## Synopsis

Learn the art of creating elegant accessories from genuine leather with this inspiring guide.

Handmade Leather Bags and Accessories shows how to make classic handbags and accessories with a decidedly modern flair. Gifted fashion designer Ke Yi Lun shares 28 simple strategies for enhancing any wardrobe with high-end luxuries without the high-end price tag. Even novice leatherworkers will be surprised at how much fun it is to make durable and sophisticated bags using these basic techniques. Gorgeous photographs, step-by-step diagrams, and easy-to-follow instructions make it easy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Publisher Fox Chapel established the Design Originals imprint to capture arts-and-crafts ideas not necessarily available in the English language. This particular book is a case in point: it features the leather words of Taiwan-born Ho (now practicing in Japan), who brings an elegant sense of minimalist whimsy to handbags and accessories. Don't expect a session in how-to basics or, for that matter, a logical progression of pattern-instruction. Instead, designs (all in color photographs) appear first, followed by very helpful illustrated step-by-step directions, and, in the back of the book, pattern templates. The actual instructions, too, are a bit unorthodox: the list of materials is replaced by color drawings (with dimensions) of each leather piece; the only written list

belongs to other materials (e.g., embroidery thread and needle). All this underscores the almost universal appeal of Hoang's 28 creations, including a charmingly sophisticated polka-dot clutch, formal luxury shopping bag, and the eminently practical student backpack. Great design knows no geography. --Barbara Jacobs

Learn the art of creating elegant accessories from genuine leather with this inspiring guide. *Handmade Leather Bags & Accessories* shows you how to make classic handbags and accessories with a decidedly modern flair. Gifted fashion designer Ke Yi Lun shares 28 simple strategies for enhancing your wardrobe with fashion-forward luxuries at a fraction of what you'd pay in fine stores. Even if you've never tried leatherworking before, you'll be surprised at how much fun it is to make durable and sophisticated bags using these basic techniques. Gorgeous photographs, step-by-step diagrams, and easy-to-follow instructions make it easy! Create a chic purse or shoulder bag to go with every outfit. Find fresh and fabulous ideas for satchels, hobos, messenger bags and totes. Learn to make chic and urbane accessories for every taste, including iPad holders, business card cases, coasters, key ring tabs and much more. Inside *Handmade Leather Bags & Accessories* you'll find: " How To Make Elegant Upscale Leather Bags " High-End Accessories Without the High-End Price Tag " Purses, Shoulder Bags, Satchels, Hobos, Messenger Bags and Totes " iPad Holders, Business Card Cases, Coasters and Key Ring Tabs " Step-by-Step Diagrams and Easy-to-Follow Instructions " Gorgeous, Inspiring Color Photographs

Look at the instructions for a fairly complex camera bag, 1 page of primitive drawings with virtual no actual instruction. The page of 'how to' is all you get. No tips on how to hand see leather which is not the same as sewing cloth. Also, there are no finishing techniques, or how to attach the hardware. Just helpful little tidbits like 'attach hardware'. It almost pisses me off that some person let this through. Also, the large photos are repeated in slightly varied positions, or close ups from the larger pic. How about a pic of turning that bag after sewing? That would be useful. Not a waste of a pic showing the strap on a shoulder, that is visible three times. I have basic leather working skills and this book annoys me. If you tried to use this and never tried leather work before, it would be a guaranteed fail. I can forgive a craft book for not many pictures, but it would have to have good text, this has neither. I didn't have high expectations for this, but thought I'd get some use in the tips area at least. But those are sadly not there either. The only 'helpful' thing is two pictures of supplies and not even their use! the only perk is the included patterns that may be useful, after I find a different book.

I was very disappointed in the instructions part of this book. There are a lot of cute projects in this bag but there is little to no discussion on techniques for beginners. I am new to leather craft and many techniques required to make these projects work are not covered with enough detail. Basically the book is layed out like this:- A big picture of the tools needed and their names but no descriptions of how to use them.- 58 pages of photos and short quips on what inspired the author on the design. Cute but useless.- 1-2 pages per design (28 projects) on how to assemble them. Only hand drawn sketches and minimal words of explanation.- Full-sized patternsThe instructions are the part that I have a problem with. Some instructions only have 5 steps for the whole bag. There are hand drawn illustrations which are cute, but more like artist's personal construction notes rather than helpful guides to novices. There is no real discussion on leather weights, what to look for in leather, or basic leather sewing techniques. If you don't know how to hand stitch, there are a lot of tools that require explanation, such as how to use a stitch groover, stitching pony, or over stitch wheel. Some of those tools aren't even listed. Also, there is no discussion on if you can machine stitch and no sewing machine is listed as a tool, but use of one is implied in several. No discussion of leather dying or finishing at all. The full sized patterns are very good, the sole reason this book was given a 3 not a 2. The projects themselves are darling and with practice and another book (I recommend Basic Leathercrafting by Bill Hollis), I might be able to use this book. In closing, I think I could have done without the project gallery entirely and have had that replaced with real instructions.

**Warning:** This book contains zero instruction about working with leather. There is two pages with a collection of tools and their names, entitled, "Tools you will need", and that's it. There are a few 'tips' provided along with the assembly instructions, but they are completely devoid of usefulness.

Example: "Thin edges with razor blade". That is somehow supposed to suffice for instructions on skiving. As an experienced leather worker, I did find some value in the book, the patterns and assembly procedure for three (3) of the 28 bags, that I would actually make. I was hoping to find some instruction on leather working techniques, but found nothing. If you don't already work with leather this book is useless. If you are experienced with bag fabrication using a sewing machine, you may be able to build a few of the bags, but expect nothing with regard to leather-working techniques or tools. I would not recommend this book to anyone just starting with leather-working.

Very good book, very informative, good pictures and simple instructions. I would recommend it more

for inspiration than actually using the patterns included. A few of the designs are unique and I will definitely be constructing the bags but as an example the "Tartan" bag pattern #6 I think, looks to be very big in the picture but when you actually get the pieces cut out and ready to assemble it is very small almost child size. So I would say look at the pictures, get some tips from the instruction pages, but mostly use this book for inspiration, don't purchase it just for the patterns inside.

This book is a nice size for reading/learning, getting ideas/examples, & patterns for leathercrafting. The main thing I don't care for is it seems to have similar projects & not enough creativity; it seems really repetitive. But I got this book to show me a specific technique when making bags with linings. It does that OK, that's why I get so many different books on this subject & glean what I can from all the books. Not too many books out there on bag making.

This is great if you have all the necessary equipment (I don't), plus it really never mentions if this work can be done on a regular sewing machine using 'leather' needles. It is rather inspirational if you are wanting to start a new hobby!

The pieces in this book are significantly lower quality than I expected. Pretty disappointing. But not altogether useless, especially considering how dreadful the selection is for quality leather craft books in English. I'd say it's worth buying for the variety of things in it, if you don't have a better book on leathercraft, but it's not great.

good book

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