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On The Loom: A Modern Weaver's Guide



Synopsis

In *On the Loom*, Maryanne Moodie brings the ancient art of weaving to the modern day in a comprehensive guide packed with step-by-step tutorials and beautiful photography. Learn the basics of this simple and beautiful craft with valuable information on basic stitches, tools needed, and even how to make your own looms. Split by loom type—circular, rectangular, and even found objects—24 lush, bohemian, and uniquely modern projects for the home and to wear draw deeply on the nostalgic quality of vintage textiles. In addition to the how-to, this is the ultimate resource for finding your own creativity and style through this medium, from learning which materials to use for different effects to discovering how to use color to create vintage-inspired projects with a modern twist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Maryanne Moodie is a professional textile artist and teacher. Her work has been featured in *New York Magazine*, *Anthology*, and *O, the Oprah Magazine*, and online on *Design*Sponge* and *The Design Files*. A finalist in the *Martha Stewart American Made Awards* in both 2014 and 2015, she sells her work on *Etsy* and through online shops and boutiques around the country.

After taking an introductory tapestry weaving class last winter, I was looking for additional resources for inspiration and instruction. I have been an admirer of Maryanne Moodie's tapestry work for a while, and when I learned she was publishing this book last March, I immediately preordered it and anxiously awaited its arrival. I received the book today and was so disappointed to find it is not a

comprehensive manual of Maryanne Moodie style tapestry weaving, but rather a how-to book of the kinds of crafts you see on Pinterest or that kids make at summer camp - like a floppy basket made from strips of blue jeans, a yarn-wrapped lamp shade, a "festival hair tapestry", a yarn-decorated bicycle basket, a tote bags made from a store-bought rug, and a gods-eye updated with fringe, to name a few. If you are looking for some projects to entertain an 8 year old on a rainy day, this book may work for you. If you are looking for inspiration and techniques for creating beautiful modern tapestries, I'd look elsewhere. I agree with another reviewer that "Beyond Craft: The Art Fabric," by Mildred Constantine and Jack Lenor Larsen is excellent for inspiration. I also recommend "DIY Woven Art" by Rachel Denbow for both inspiration and for detailed and easy to understand tutorials on various stitches and techniques - this book is basically everything I expected On the Loom to be.

I was so excited to receive this book. I preordered it and was counting down the days for when it would come in the mail. I even waited until I could devote my full and undivided attention to poring over the sumptuous pictures of creatively woven wall hangings. To say, I was underwhelmed is an understatement. I am a beginner weaver and I realize there is an importance of Maryanne fully explaining color theory and the various stitches of basic weaving. But, her tutorials and items she chose to highlight fell completely short for me. I follow her (and have for some time) on instagram and her website. She does incredibly modern things with weaving and has truly elevated this craft to a full art form. I was hoping that she would explain some of her techniques for her truly modern and avant-garde uses of fiber and the loom. While she did touch upon circular looms and looms using natural objects, she did not give any insight in how she played around with pattern and fiber to do some of her truly wonderful works. I understand that she may not want to give all her "secrets" away, but I just didn't think she went far enough in discussing how she lays out her patterns and work prior to weaving and how she incorporates three dimensional objects into her weavings. I know this is not a true secret because other weavers doing similar things have done this in their books. She does incredible work. Her weavings are fresh and dreamy and just altogether fantastic. I wish her book would have inspired me to attempt some of her more unusual patterns or weavings. But, it didn't. It's not a terrible book but like I said, it just fell short. Maybe I expected more from her because I know what she can do. And, I figured she would let us in on how she took this art form and truly made it her own so that we, in turn, could make it our own. I hope she does another book and expands more upon weaving, pattern, stitches, and color.

I like Moodie's work. Unfortunately, the book falls short. I returned it because I did not find a single

project that I consider attractive or useful. I agree with design lover; Rachel Denbow's book on DIY Weaving delivers exactly what I expected from Moodie's book.

I have been a fan of Maryanne Moodie's wall hangings for two years now, and was so excited when she announced she was releasing a book! I preordered it immediately and was pumped then day it came home. Sadly, after examining every page and project, I decided to return it as it really had very little to do with making wall hangings, and even less to do with her stylistic approach. If her name and her forward weren't in the book, you'd never know it was written by her. The projects are hokey, and do seem like they are from a children's craft book. The photos in which she teaches you to weave are so small that you'd be better served going to free internet tutorials like the one at the website "Honestly WTF". The name "On the Loom" and cover photo are very misleading, so this book would benefit from a renaming and rebranding.

I was a little disappointed with the techniques "taught". Although her uses of color and texture are inspiring, the techniques themselves are...amateurish? A lot of these projects turn out to have a weave that look a lot like kids projects. There's a project near the back that just shows you goes to put sticks together to create a sort of fort? No real weaving involved there. It's not a bad book, but I was really expecting more.

I have to agree with the other comments that say that this book falls short of expectations. Maryanne Moodie creates absolutely stunning wall hangings, and I was hoping for some projects that provide instructions for the beautiful weavings shown on the front and back cover and on the first few pages of the book. Sadly, there is one project for a wall hanging that provides only very general instructions- the instructions are not specific to any project at all. Otherwise, the projects are cute but not things I would ever make- they include a necklace, hair weaving, tent, rag rug, placemat with fringe, plant holder, plus some other projects that look best suited for a child. I am returning the book, and kicking myself for not checking it out in real life before ordering.

Lovely photos, but I was really hoping for a more in-depth or creative book. If you have kids or are very new to crafts this will be up your alley. As a designer I could only find 2 projects in here that I will be trying.

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