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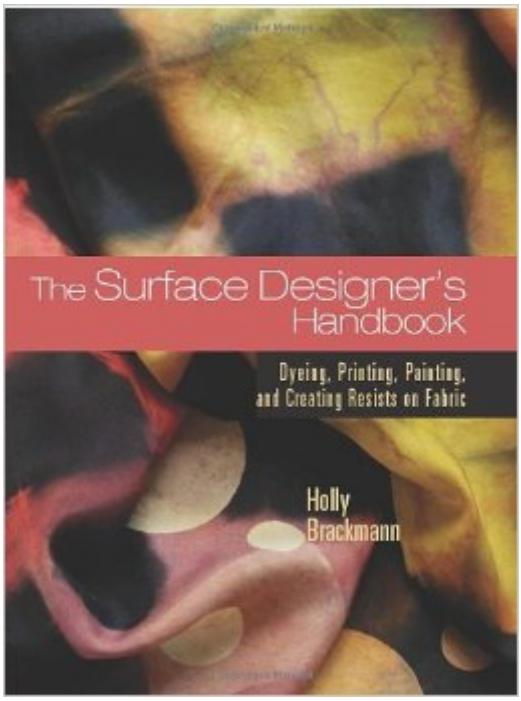
The Surface Designer's Handbook



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Synopsis

Beginning with studio practices and safety rules, this information-packed handbook is appropriate for both newcomers and experienced dyers but assumes that readers have a serious interest in textile design. An overview of dyeing starts with fibers and fabrics and discusses all aspects of the dyes favored by textile studios--fiber reactive, acid, vat, and disperse--before explaining discharging, screen printing, monoprinting, stamping, stenciling, resist dyeing, devore, and painting. Would-be fabric artists are advised along the way to identify a personal approach to dyeing--free spirit? rule-follower?--and color photographs of work by today's top fiber artists elucidate prevailing styles. Recipes and techniques are accompanied by step-by-step instructions with photographs, and a concealed spiral binding allows the book to lie flat. Ten appendices include a worksheet for recording chemicals, procedures, and costs for all projects; a guide to washing fabric; descriptions of stock solutions, thickeners, and steaming; a metric conversion table; and a guide to water temperatures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have learned so much from this book. Holly Brackmann explains not only the how-to aspect of surface design in incredible detail & easy-to-follow steps, but also the how-it-works aspect of the processes. She begins her book with an all-important chapter on safety and then goes on to explain dyes, fibers & fabrics, followed by a chapter on color. Then she gets into explaining not only dyes (e.g., fiber-reactive, acid, vat, and disperse), but also discharging, screen printing, monoprinting,

stamping, stenciling, resists, devore, textile painting, & embellishments. I love the clear instructions of the processes and the amazing photos, but what I love the most is that she empowers the user to explore and become profient in the processes. That empowering of the student is the mark of a great teacher.

Holly Brackmann’s new book The Surface Designer’s Handbook is long over-due and I have ordered it as the textbook for all my fibers classes. As soon as it arrived my students all wanted their own personal copy so several of them purchased it outright just on sight alone. The spiral binding is excellent and the extent of the techniques covered is wonderful. I teach both beginners and advanced fibers students and this book has everything we need as a textbook.I use it myself for my own work and find it very helpful, well organized and thorough. The information about making color cards with diluted MX dye on watercolor paper is worth the selling price all by itself. It is a technique I knew nothing about and I am thrilled to learn about it. It has saved hours and hours of dye testing time.In my classes we had been using Kate Wells’ book Fabric Dyeing and Printing and prior to that, Proctor and Lew’s Surface Design for Fabric. Now, 16 years later, Holly’s excellent book has arrived and is the handbook of the hour. It is up to date, comprehensive and thorough, and should be in everyone’s library that works with dyes, textile paints and cloth. It improves on and surpasses every handbook published to date and encompasses a massive amount of information.I look forward to using it in my classes for many years to come and I salute Holly for the enormous amount of work that went into creating this book. She has provided a gift for the entire surface design community both here and abroad.Morgan Clifford, ProfessorArt Dept / TextilesUniversity of WI-River Falls

Holly Brackmann’s beautifully produced new book, The Surface Designer’s Handbook: Dyeing, Printing, and Creating Resists on Fabric, is both a "how to" and a "why." Drawing on her many years’ experience as a fiber artist and a college-level textile arts instructor, Brackmann covers the topics promised in the title of her book--and then some--in an encyclopedic manner. Chapters on the different topics begin with readable summaries of the historical and technological development of the process. Clear and detailed recipes and instructions for each process enable beginners to proceed step by step to successful and rewarding results as well as remind the more experienced of pitfalls to watch out for and enhancements to experiment with. The attractive arrangement of a hidden spiral binding is a practical element that enables the user to keep the book open to a particular page while working. Safety considerations, helpful hints, and other useful lists are set apart in different type and colored boxes for easy reference. The "why" comes in with the hundreds

of excellently reproduced photographs of the work of Brackmann and many other fiber artists. These illustrations make the book an inspiration to artists as well as a delight for all others interested in the scope and range of textile arts today.

Whatever your interest in textiles--weaving, quilting, or surface design--and whatever your level of expertise--beginner to professional--this well-written reference will be your most valuable tool. Many years of teaching experience and lots of research are reflected here. It is easy to read, easy to use and VERY easy on the eyes. Thank you Holly!

This beautiful book will be a valuable resource to both beginner and advanced surface designer. If Julia Child had written a recipe book for surface designers, this would be it. With detailed instructions, dye recipes, techniques, helpful hints and gorgeous illustrations, one cannot help but be inspired by this book.Further the spiral binding makes it user friendly, although I may need a second copy; one to treasure and one to use.

This book is such a gift. No more fumbling around looking for that special dye recipe or surface design technique and trying to remember which book or file folder it’s in. Aside from it’s practical tips & EZ to ready instructions with delightful color bars, photos, & illustrations; this book appropriately addresses dye chemistry and history. I think I can now safely box most of my collection of surface design techniques and recipes.

This book is just what the fiber artist or textile hobbyist need as a reference for surface design on fabric. Techniques are covered in detailed chapters. The instructions are clear and precise. The book is also quite beautiful, inspiration on every page. Holly Brackmann’s well thought out book is a must for textile schools, institutions and artists. I know I will be using mnine for years to come.

This book is so complete that you nearly do not need any other books for working with surface design, dyeing and all processes related to fibre arts.Congratualtions to the author, Holly Brackman for putting together the most comprehensive manual ever.

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