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Little Bead Boxes: 12 Miniature Containers Built With Beads



Synopsis

A charming assortment of one-of-a-kind miniature boxes in a variety of shapes for all skill levels. Julia S. Pretl offers crafters her original method for creating decorative beaded boxes and lids in a wide range of surface designs and shapes. Working only with cylinder and seed beads, needle and thread, crafters can create an impressive array of clever and colorful miniature containers. With step-by-step illustrations and easy-to-follow word graphs and patterns, Pretl leads the reader through the techniques for creating three-sided, five-sided, and six-sided rectangular, square, and stacked boxes. Four-color photographs of each of the 12 designs introduce each set of instructions. Detailed drawings illustrate the beading techniques.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Julia S. Pretl (Baltimore, MD) is the author of *Little Bead Boxes* and *Bead Knitted Bags*. She has been featured inside and on the cover of *Beadwork* magazine. Her work has also appeared in the *Baltimore Sun* and in several galleries and exhibits. She was an invited artist for *Beading for the Soul* (Interweave, 2005). She teaches classes and workshops and is well known in the online and off-line beadwork community.

I like it, but it has a rather odd pattern method. I found a couple of times, the written pattern did not work with the work already done. I am an advanced beader, so I was able to adapt. It would say something like: C(3), which in some areas meant 3 beads together, and 3 beads together wouldn't fit, where it really meant: 1 bead 3 times. The boxes in the book are quite lovely.

issue 1 is that in the 1 box i'm trying to make, the bead chart does not match the word chart, so i had to try to sort it all out. issue 2 is that there needs to be a little more explanation. in the word chart there are BOLD numbers. it isn't explained that these are corners. issue 3 is that the bead path to get to the next round is not shown, so i had to compare the bead chart with the word chart to figure out where to start each round. THAT BEING SAID i would recommend this book for beader weavers who have a moderate amount of experience. so far the box i'm working on will be beautiful when it's done, and i look forward to making all of the boxes in this book.

I thought I would save a few dollars by purchasing this book in Kindle format. Now, I wish I had not been tempted by the savings. Often the directions refer to page numbers and page numbers do not exist in the Kindle version. I am still struggling to understand the concept and often have to take a guess regarding page numbers. I also wish there were charts to go with the written directions. I'm sure I will puzzle through the process of creating these precious boxes, but feel I would have saved time and aggravation if I had purchased the hard copy edition. I am revising my original review now that I have had time to accustom myself to the highlighting and note taking features available using my Kindle App. I actually prefer having the option to highlight as I go. It's still a pain flipping back and forth even with the bookmarking option, but I do find it is very easy to pick up where I left off when I highlight each step as I go. The author has also kindly posted the charts that were available in the printed version on her website so that you can download graph papers and create your own unique baskets.

I love complex projects and this book fills the bill. Made one box, totally amazing, and I plan to make more. Do not try this book if you are not an experienced Beadweaver or if you like projects you can complete quickly, but if you're into the zen of beadweaving you will love it.

Perfect book, I believe I got the recent edited version that corrected any pattern mistakes that were previously mentioned in the comments. This book might seem difficult for those just getting into the craft, so I'd recommend you have a good understanding of beading before diving in. My only peeve is the fact that all the tutorials are in the front of the book, and you have to keep bookmarking and flipping pages back if you need to see how to do the next step. In the end, it was worth the buy, as the boxes come out beautifully, perfect for holding necklaces, rings, rosaries, or any small item you want to keep inside a small box. Great for gifts, or just simply for display.

I was so excited to get this book. I think I would have been happier if I had bought the hard bound rather than the ebook. You have to flip back and forth constantly which gets really annoying when there isn't any page numbers. The patterns are wonderful to look at but I think a different layout would have been 1000% better even if it took more pages to print.

It was with great delight I opened the parcel and started in on a square (simple?) beading project. I am an experienced beader/craftie and seldom find difficulty with written directions. However despite the photos and directions, I have been unable to reproduce the corners and follow the pattern. At the twelfth attempt I have an approximation only. It's frustrating. Perhaps even clearer example diagrams may help. Without a workshop and personal support, this beading project is not for the faint hearted. I hope to crack it eventually! Stamina is the operative word. There is no way of contacting the author, her website does not provide such a link, this might be overcome in a later edition, especially for those in distant places who need more specific un-winkling of the directions. Quite a challenge. bd.

The overall instructions are separate from the bead maps for the specific boxes so one is constantly flipping pages back and forth. The corners are especially difficult to get to come out right. It would be much easier to follow the instructions if they were complete for each box, even though that would mean repeating some of the general instructions. Beading "experts" often do not test their instructions on a new student to see if they are making them clear. The boxes are adorable, but be prepared to have some failed projects before you master these.

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