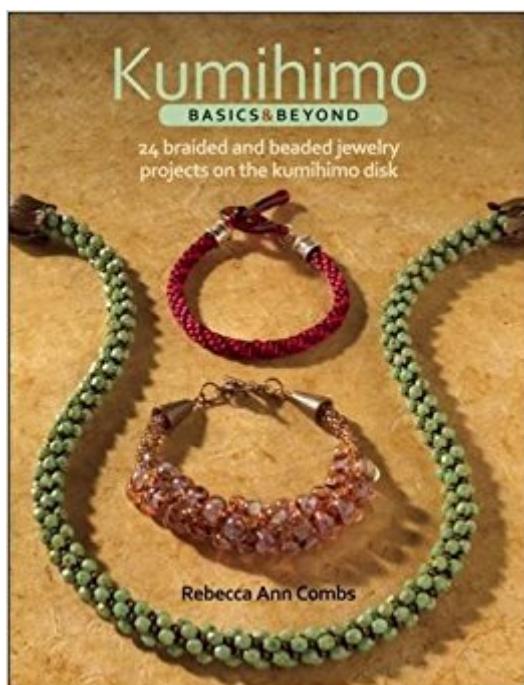


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Kumihimo Basics And Beyond: 24 Braided And Beaded Jewelry Projects On The Kumihimo Disk



Synopsis

Kumihimo Basics and Beyond presents techniques for creating all-cord braids and beaded braids, then teaches beaders how to transform them into finished jewelry. Short demonstrations of the key techniques needed for each project are presented in easy-to-grasp portions, allowing beaders to learn and practice as they go. Rebecca Combs demystifies tricky kumihimo math by providing detailed supply lists for each project in the book, plus teaches beaders how to calculate the amount of fiber and how many beads they'll need for their future kumihimo projects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rebecca Combs is the owner of Design & Adorn Beading Studio in Tucson, Arizona, and has been teaching a variety of classes in jewelry making there since 2008. Her specialty is kumihimo jewelry. She leads a variety of workshops at other venues as well, including the Bead&Button Show.

I own dozens of beading books, and this one is truly exceptional -- even the book design deserves an award! I am fairly new to 8-strand beaded kumihimo, and this book has clear and well-illustrated answers to all my questions, from selecting the right-sized cord and combining fibers, to braiding with large or multiple sizes of beads, to incorporating pendants and multiple focal beads on a braid. Combs' projects each introduce a new technique, but it's not just "follow these instructions and

make what I made." For the various projects, she explains why it works, how to modify it, and how to change the length. Her many "Troubleshooting" pages are invaluable, as are her easy-to-follow explanations of "Kumihimo Math". She also shows you how to arrange both different colors and larger-scale beads (teardrops, magatamas, etc.) to achieve different patterns. Her explanations are so clear, I feel like I'm sitting in the same room with her. I am not someone who usually writes book reviews (this is my first!) and I don't know Rebecca, but she's definitely written a classic.

Whether you are a beginner or even an intermediate braider, this book lays it all out. I especially appreciate the detailed explanation on alternate approaches to finishing besides the bulky knot, trim and glue. Answers questions both verbally and visually on layout of colors (fiber or with beads, adding focals etc. Couldn't ask for more, no exaggeration! Design suggestions are for wearable pieces with materials that are available to all; (doesn't leave me yearning to make a piece for which I have no chance of ever finding all the elements, a real frustration with other beading publications. The repeated placement of "kumi math" boxes throughout the book is a real stroke of brilliance. Have been waiting months for this book in hopes it would be an improvement over other kumi publications, and have not been disappointed.

The text and photos make it easy for a beginner to understand. The "math" (for example, the length of cord required for a desired final braided length) for each project is clearly stated. The projects are in a logical sequence and build upon each other. Can't wait to try many of the projects, now that I have finished my first round braid.

I am a beginner at Kumihimo and this book is very clear and concise on the variations that can be done with kumihimo braiding. I especially have enjoy the little hints that she gives throughout the book. The instructions are clear. The illustrations are clear. The hints make sense. The only problem is finding some of the different materials that she uses to make the different braids. After searching on the web, I ended up with about 6 different sources to get the materials at the best price. The best way I found was to make an Excel spreadsheet with the materials I would need for each project and then spent a good amount of time finding web sites that had the material or beads and then putting the data in the spreadsheet. Then depending on sales or coupons and how many projects I wanted to purchase for - then I had the information to place the order.

I had the good fortune of taking a class with the author of this book, but believe that I could have

easily learned how to do this with just her book alone. I won't say that her class didn't make it easier. I had always wondered how to figure out how many beads to put on each warp, whether they were required on each warp, etc. This book spells it all out, and quite concisely. It is written in easily understandable terms. I have found that not all beading authors are also capable of writing instructions that can be understood once one is away from their personal guidance, but such is not the case with Ms. Combs writing. This is not my first Kumihimo book purchase and I have found excellent information in all the books I have purchased, but so far, this is my favorite. I will admit that this may well be because I was taught under the author and found her to be quite personable, patient and humorous. But, she has also written a very good book on the subject. I hope she writes many more.

First of all, I love this book. It is well designed. The instructions are clear. Every piece is something I'll try. Kudos to the author for doing a great job. Okay, the only problem I have with it is the following statement. "The jewelry designs in KUMIHIMO BASICS & BEYOND are the copyrighted property of the author, and they may not be taught or sold without permission. Please use them for your education and personal enjoyment only". Let me start by stating that I'm a retired librarian and, I know a little bit about copyright protection and believe in it. No problem copyrighting this book start to finish. No, you can't copy it, sell parts of it, use it as the basis for a class. Just fine. Just what copyright was meant to do. Three cheers for you. But then it goes terribly wrong. The designs in it are your interpretations of existing designs. You may have used colors in each project that are unique but how would you know even that. I have many books on kumihimo with projects just like yours. In fact, I would be concerned, if I were you, claiming copyright on any of the designs you feature. They are everywhere. What you did better than anyone was write an excellent tool for learning to do kumihimo. That you can copyright proudly. The rest, seriously? Kumihimo has been around for a very long time. I venture to say there is little original anywhere. Copyrighting ideas that are not your own cheapens the intent of copyright protection. Enough said

This is a newly published book and it is a must have for kumihimo crafters! Great illustrations, great instructions and covers information not usually seen in other kumihimo books. Especially the topic of finishing the ends of your project. And the projects are really beautiful and wearable!

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