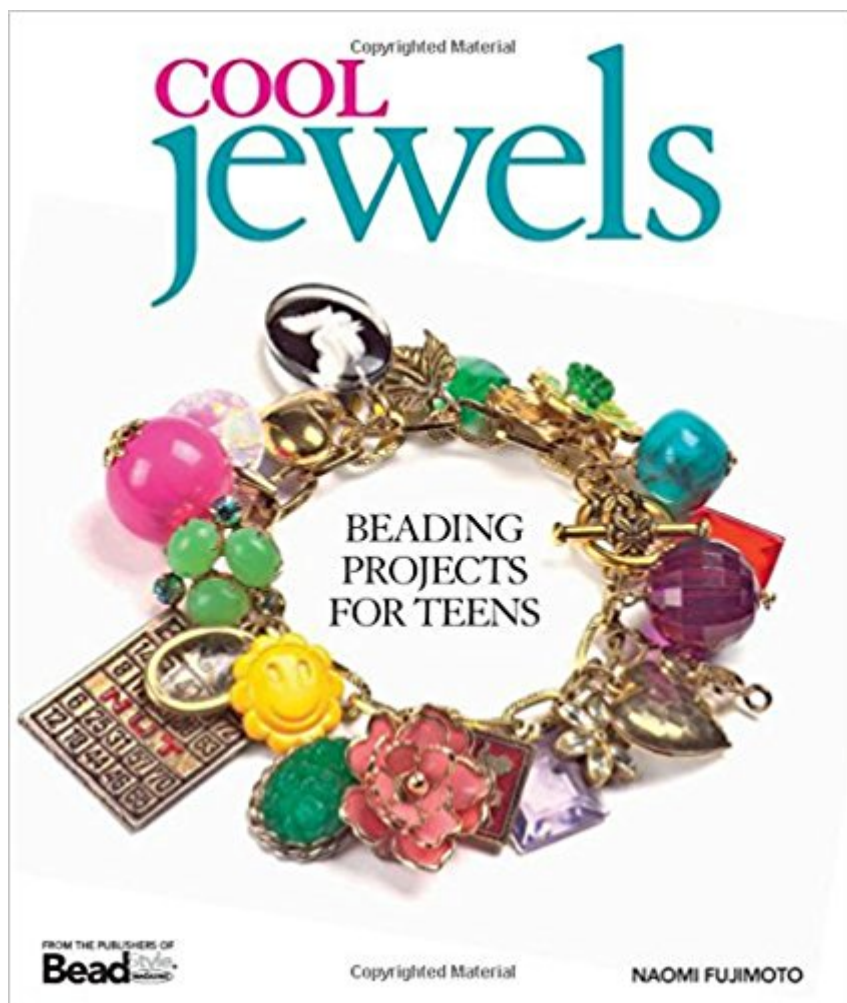




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Cool Jewels



Synopsis

Designing and making jewelry is so much fun, teenagers can't get enough of it. Cool Jewels: Beading Projects for Teens not only gives the lowdown on tools, techniques, beads, and findings, it also presents 35 irresistible step-by-step projects sure to get teens hooked on the hobby.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Naomi Fujimoto began designing jewelry while earning her master's degree in sociology. In 1999, she left academic life to pursue a career in making pretty things. A senior editor at BeadStyle magazine, she lives in Milwaukee.

I purchased this book for my 13 year old grand daughter...who has become fascinated with making bead jewelry. She absolutely loves the book...and finds the details easy and very helpful! In fact she tells me...that I should get a copy for myself! I am amazed at the ability and creativeness that a young girl has....her designs are already as good as an experienced beader's. And this book has been a great help!

Cool Jewels, by Naomi Fujimoto, is a jewel itself! It is a book of such clarity that a beginning beader in her teenage years can enjoy it. Yet it is more than this: beaders of all ages, whether new to beading, or more experienced, will enjoy wonderful inspiration from this jewelry design book as well!

I thoroughly enjoyed it from start to finish. It begins with the first [color coded] section called "Getting Started". This consists of colorful, concise and detailed photos and descriptions which will enlighten the reader as she makes her way through the early stages of understanding what it "takes to bead". All the supplies, tools, materials and techniques are shown in a well laid-out manner. This sort of section is very helpful to a beginner. Having it up front, nice and clear, is a great way to get the reader going! Then Cool Jewels is divided into more color coded sections. These consist of "necklaces", "bracelets", "earrings", and a section called "a few more ideas". I would say that this is an excellent way to clarify to a teenager how to choose a project. For example, does she want to make a bracelet? Go to the bracelet section and check it out! The offerings are beautifully designed and mindbogglingly different, but because of the way the book is laid out, easy to understand and always, always fun! The author knows her stuff: she is Senior Editor at BeadStyle magazine, one of the most highly respected magazines in the beading world. She has an incredible grasp of what is hip and up to date. She knows what will appeal to teens, and yet her designs appeal to me, a jewelry designer myself, as well. Why? Because she is a flat-out top designer, and good designs know no age limit. I love some of her designs in particular: one which I fell for instantly was called "Seeing Stars". What a gorgeous, gorgeous earring project! She also adds variations to her projects (for example, "Seeing Stars" has a variation with funky charms on the ends which changes the look completely!--it is great!). I love getting variations on projects. It gives the reader a whole new perspective! She guides the reader through creations such as the most delicate of bangle bracelets, always using the proper techniques, and yet being innovative enough so that the reader doesn't have to go out and buy a lot of extra equipment (that particular project, "Celestial circles", uses a drinking glass instead of a bracelet mandrel--what a relief not to have to buy a bracelet mandrel, if that project appeals to you, as it did to me!). Additionally, she has a great eye for color. One example of this is her "Lucite brights" necklace. She employs simple lucite rings on chain to great effect. She adds lucite and chain earrings to that project as an extra. Her "It's a Wrap" bracelet, made of hot pink suede lace and stones, is stunning and perfect for high fashion as well as high school! I love that one! As for what is hip and in for teens, her "Tokens of Affection" necklaces are trendy and cool, and look like a lot of fun to make. That is just one example--there are tons more! This book is packed with great projects! In her "A few more ideas section", she really goes to town with some fab rings, a cool belt you can wear with your jeans, which also converts to a great necklace, and she also suggests how to host a jewelry party! She lets the reader know exactly what to do to have a fun jewelry party at home with her whole group of pals, now that she is a beading expert! Which is what she will be, if she is the teen getting this book. As a parent, I believe it is a super gift for the teen or

young woman in your life who is looking for something to "be good at". It is great for self esteem to be good at something. Cool Jewels carefully instructs and enthusiastically inspires. I would say YOU will be begging for that teen of yours to make YOU something from Cool Jewels very shortly after you present this book to her. Either that, or BOTH of you will be learning to create, taught the proper way, enjoying the experiences you are having together as you learn all the fun skills it takes to make fabulous, beautiful and COOL JEWELRY! This is a super book!

Teenagers can be a wonderfully fickle bunch. Something that was trendy last week is out this week, never to be seen or worn again. Which is why the hobby of jewelry making is perfect for teen and tween girls. Necklaces, earrings and bracelets can be easily created and then taken apart and made into something else when the mood strikes. And any teen who wants to show off her creative skills will love Naomi Fujimoto's Cool Jewels: Beading Projects for Teens. But don't let the title fool you, this book is great even for older girls (ahem) who are looking for some fresh ideas or beginners who are interested in jewelry making. The book starts out with the basics of bead types, findings and tools needed, as well as a section on different techniques used to make jewelry. The rest of the book is divided into chapters concentrating on the different types of projects that can be made: necklaces, bracelets, earrings and a section of 'more ideas' that includes beaded snowflake ornaments, stack rings and a chain belt. Cool Jewels also contains concise instructions and full-color photos of each project in several stages, which makes it helpful for beginners. Many different styles are illustrated, including a long and girly "Pretty in Pink" necklace, a simple pendant hung on a cord, a chunky wooden bracelet using memory wire, a bracelet bursting with charms and funky earrings made from chains. So whether your teen is princessy, crunchy or punky, she'll find something in this book to her liking. Fujimoto also includes instructions on how teens can host a cool jewels party and get creative with friends. Although the book provides listings of internet sources, the majority of materials can easily be found at your local craft or beading store, making it perfect for those teens who are anxious to get started on these fun projects. Difficulty: Newbie to Advanced Beginner.

Cool Jewels is designed to "teach you how to make trendy jewelry with the hottest materials and very little effort." Naomi covers the basic information about beads, findings, tools and materials, and techniques. There are 33 distinct jewelry projects, plus a snowflake design, and information on how to plan a jewelry party with friends. I found the book's focus on talking to girls about making jewelry and spurring their creative efforts to be fresh and new. There are very few jewelry books that are written with younger girls in mind, and this one is a great example of what I would call a "bridge"

book. By that I mean that it successfully bridges the gap between little girl plastic bead designs and designs that would appeal to grown women. It could be called a successful "tweener" book, perhaps. These designs could be described as chic, trendy, and hip. These are youthful designs, but not childlike. If you want to spark a young girl's interest in designing jewelry, or help her knowledge of components and designs grow, this is a great book to achieve those ends. Further, if you want to offer a group of girls some options on a project they can complete during a party, or as part of a team goal, Cool Jewels is a great option.

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