

[Free read ebook] Simple Soft Furnishings: 50 Stylish Sewing Projects to Transform Your Home

Simple Soft Furnishings: 50 Stylish Sewing Projects to Transform Your Home

Katrin Cargill

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Katrin Cargill : Simple Soft Furnishings: 50 Stylish Sewing Projects to Transform Your Home before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Simple Soft Furnishings: 50 Stylish Sewing Projects to Transform Your Home:

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An illustrated how-to reference. There are five key areas of the home where soft furnishings can make a big difference: bath, bedroom, kitchen, dining and living room. Best of all, soft furnishings can be easily created by anyone with a sewing machine -- even beginners. Simple Soft Furnishings covers the core sewing items needed to

transform any home into a fashionable and welcome environment. With an irresistible collection of projects, ranging from simple cushions to elegant curtains and sumptuous bedding, these designs are a mix of timeless classics and current trends with appeal for all ages. Each project will bring style to any room at an affordable cost. The focus is on quick and easy ideas that can be readily made in a weekend. This beautifully presented book features: Fifty original soft furnishing designs for the home Projects for cushions, curtains and blinds, seating, bedding and table linens Simplified techniques for the beginner sewer Illustrated step-by-step instructions Advice for alternative fabrics, fastenings, trimming, patterns and color schemes List of resources and suppliers Tips for adding special touches to customize each project. Simple Soft Furnishings is an inspiring and practical guide to creating fashionable home furnishings.

Inspiring and practical guide to creating fashionable home furnishings. (Woman's Day Walls, Windows and Floors)Plenty of projects... There are step-by-step instructions for each project and each step is illustrated. (Carolyn Leitch Globe and Mail)Pages are cleanly designed, sample fabrics are inspiring and the instructions are straightforward -- a combination that makes it all seem possible. (St Louis Homes and Lifestyles)You can sew these objects yourself. Apparel for the home doesn't have to be expensive, hard to make or bought from a specialty shop. (Joanne Hatherly CanWest News Service 2005-03-26)"How to" instructions in clear straight-forward prose that lets even a beginner feel confident. (Linda Turk Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal 2005-01-16)Refreshingly unique. 50 projects, 100 color photos and loads of color illustrations make every step easy. (Sew-Whats-New.com 2005-01-05)Its designs are beautifully simple, almost Zen-like in their austerity. They are illustrated with crisp Scandinavian style fabrics and photographed in clean sun-filled settings. (Deborah Rouse Salisbury Post 2005-08-24)Gives renewed meaning to elegant simplicity... full-color how-tos and rich color photography lead readers on an orderly journey. (Laura Rintala SEWnews)Style ideas that work with any decor. (Jenn Houlihan Style at Home)Fresh, affordable sewing projects... all have a current look. (Jennifer David Canadian House and Home)Cargill... knows her stuff. She also knows enough to simplify things for newcomers to the ready-made revolution. (Michael Gordon Hamilton Magazine - Interiors)Quick-and-easy designs that can be made in a weekend... simplified techniques for the beginning sewer and illustrated step-by-step instructions. (Miami Herald 2005-01-02)An irresistible collection of projects, ranging from simple cushions to elegant curtains and sumptuous bedding, these designs are a mix of timeless classics and current trends with appeal for all ages.... Simple Soft Furnishings is an inspiring and practical guide to creating fashionable home furnishings. (SewingKitBiz.com 2005-06-08)About the Author Katrin Cargill is a stylist and former editor of World of Interiors. She is the author of the The Soft Furnishings Book and The Curtain Bible. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Introduction The busier our lives and the less secure the outside world becomes, the more we want to cocoon ourselves in our homes. And the more conscious we are of our home environment. As a result, the home furnishings industry -- from furniture superstores to fancy fabric houses -- has boomed over the last few decades. With the plethora of interiors books and magazines, it's hard not to want our houses to resemble the glossy images that bombard us. But creating the individual style we are most comfortable with, be it farmhouse county or city chic, doesn't come easily to most of us. Either we try to put together a "look" ourselves, or we have to use an interior designer -- at considerable expense. So, it is a good idea to gather as much information and knowledge as possible. Cut out photos from magazines to create a file of favorite looks, collect paint and fabric samples that you like and, before you know it, you will have honed down your personal style -- something unique to you. I grew up as a rather nomadic child, living everywhere from Tunisia to America, via Scandinavia and England, so my immediate home surroundings have always been very important to me. Getting nested in a new home meant fixing up my bedroom as a matter of urgency. Usually it took a coat of paint in one of the colors of the moment (during my teenage years it was a groovy luminous orange) and, if I was lucky, I got a new pair of curtains, a bedspread and some pillows. Gradually I developed a color palette of my own and, as I travel and see new color combinations and styles, so my look develops and changes. The next step is to implement these ideas in your home. You can transform a room dramatically with a few new soft furnishings. Because the projects in this book are easy to make, you won't be stuck with them forever; when styles and colors change, so can your home with a few quick and easy sewing ideas. Simple Soft Furnishings is divided into five sections: pillows, with everything from a basic bed bolster to a gathered round plump pillow; drapes and blinds, ranging from a simple no-sew drape to a more sophisticated contrast-lined roman blind; bed linens, filled with fun bedspread ideas; table linens, including cute gingham napkins with velvet edging; and seating, which is filled with ideas from a simple loose cover to a fitted chair cover with box pleats. Each chapter is devoted to ideas that can take mere moments, like the Lace-edged Coverlet on page 60, or more personal projects that involve some planning and a bit of hand stitching, like the Crib Quilt with Embroidered Initial on page 110. One of the first challenges is choosing your fabric. The projects in Simple Soft Furnishings call for fabrics made of natural fibers -- cotton, linen, wool and silk. But fabric stores today are filled with a wealth of good-quality man-made fibers, fiber blends and fleeces that can make very beautiful and successful soft furnishings as well. And they may even be better suited to your budget. Many people are overwhelmed at first by the amazing selection. But if you go back to your basic file of favorite looks, you may find you have a relatively small range of fabrics, colors and textures that

really attracts you. Stick with those. Remember, too, to be practical. A loose sofa cover made from a heavy unwashable cloth doesn't make sense; a dark, dye-laden fabric for bedding or a table project might cause problems later. If in doubt, prewash a sample to see how it reacts. I have deliberately used strong colors to create graphic images, so you may want to adapt the colors to your own palette. Because so many of these projects are simple, attention to detail is paramount. Combining colors is important, and details like trimmings, beadings and ribbons go a long way toward creating a really great stylish product. This book has been designed not only to inspire you to transform your home but also just to get you sewing. Many of the projects can be made by simple hand stitching, but of course a sewing machine will make the job much easier. It really does make sense to be as well equipped as possible -- and a good sewing machine will be with you for life. A solid work surface for cutting fabric is also useful and good light is essential. Don't scrimp on scissors, pins, tape measure or cotton thread, as you will only compromise your efforts. Happy sewing!