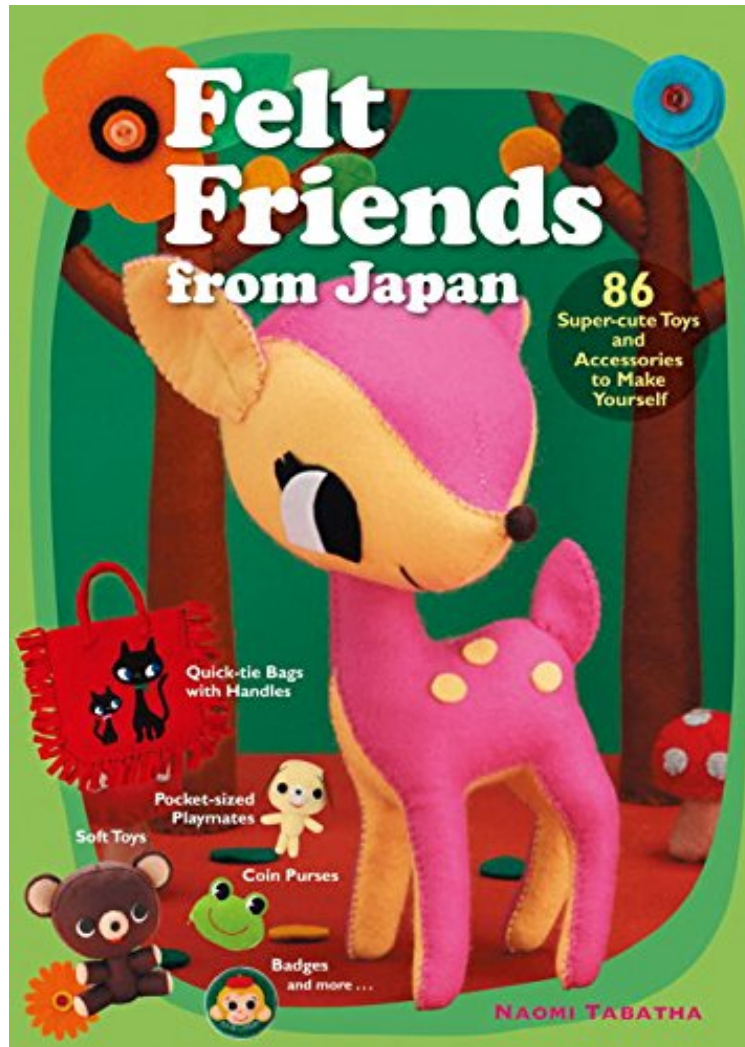


# Felt Friends from Japan: 86 Super-cute Toys and Accessories to Make Yourself

Naomi Tabatha

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Naomi Tabatha : Felt Friends from Japan: 86 Super-cute Toys and Accessories to Make Yourself before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Felt Friends from Japan: 86 Super-cute Toys and Accessories to Make Yourself:

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. One of the Best Felt pattern books~Bar NONE!By redhead83402This book is amazing! The patterns turn out fantastic projects EVERY TIME! Yes, there are overlaps on the patterns ( so you might have to make more than one copy ~ OR , you can just trace the outlines of the ones you want ~ easy peasy!)but in my mind this is not a detriment at all. The author was able to impart many adorable patterns

AND save trees at the same time ~ hey folks, that's a win-win! ;-D Truly, however, it was no problem at all simply make copies trace. I bought this book as a way for my kids to learn about using patterns successfully completing items that would inspire them to sew create. This book did exactly that, and inspired me to make them as well! Every single object in the book is adorable, easy, fun, well-instructed, just cute beyond all. The toys have a certain innocence about them reminiscent of a kinder, gentler era ~ 50's-60's ~. You would never feel awkward presenting any item in here to any child~ they are sweet innocent. You will all be happy to know that Naomi Tabatha has produced at least 2 more books of adorable felt dolls, toys accessories as well! I found mine on ebay, when I entered her name in the search bar. A word about the patterns~ they are dynamic, eye-popping, 3D, with lots of character ~ And her patterns are always correct. I never have to wonder if the time spent on the item will be a waste due to a wonky, ill-thought pattern ~ this simply does NOT happen with Naomi Tabatha's toys ~ I do recommend stuffing very small amounts of fluff into every tiny nook cranny, however~ use a chopstick or the blunt end of a bamboo skewer, and stuff fluff in small amounts, till the toy is packed HARD ~ this will bring out the very most character dimension in these toys. If you can cut a shape, stitch a small seam, patiently cram stuffing, you can make these.ps~ here's a hint to make these awesome toys go faster, so that you can make more ~ simply set your sewing machine on your widest zigzag ( mine is #4), make certain your felt edges are exactly in the center of your machine foot, stitch slowly. For curves, stitch slowly, lifting re-adjusting to match the curves to center of the machine foot. And do be certain to make at least 2 backward stitches to lock the seams at the beginning end of every seam. At first, you might be dissapointed in how the zigzag looks, but if you stuff in small amounts, using a stick, stuff firmly, the action of stuffing will draw apart the stitches, help them look like tiny, perfect handstitched seams. Try it with darker felt colors thread to begin with, then once you have gotten the idea down, try out some of the lighter colors with matching threads. We have had great success in making these this way, I can finish the larger toys in just an hour or 2! I hope this little hint helps someone out there. ;-Dps~ I have also included some photos of our finished objects in the customer images link. I hope this helps you to see just how fantastic, easy, adorable this book truly is!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This book is so adorable. I'm in loveBy MaresThis book is so adorable. I'm in love! I haven't made any of these yet, I just got the book yesterday, but I have no doubt I'll be making many. I wanted to leave a review before time went by and I forgot. I'm so excited to make these I just had to list some things I think might be helpful if you're deciding to buy the book.1. These are cute, very cute. I have some vintage patterns that are very similar in style.2. The pictures are bright and clear.3. I had to look over the book a few times and the instructions to understand how it's set up. The pictures are on the pages in the beginning and the patterns are in the back. Instructions seem to be dispursed throughout. There are some patterns on the inside of the sleeve. I almost missed these. There are no step by step photographs, but there are drawn instructions. They don't seem difficult to follow.4. I would consider myself an intermediate to advanced sewer, but I think if you have a basic understanding of sewing and construction you could make these. You don't even need a sewing machine. The instructions describe how to hand sew these, but I'll probably try a blanket stitch on the machine. The book calls for felt. Wool or wool blend felt would probably be best, but I'm also going to try these with polyester craft felt and and woven fabric using pella as a stabilizer.5. Be ready to enlarge the patterns! They are not removable, so you'll have to scan and print or trace. They are smaller than expected, but don't let that deter you! Some patterns have a specific enlargement amount suggested. What kept me from five stars is the fact that some patterns pieces overlap. I'm not sure how I'll work around that yet.6. There are dolls, appliques, and mini bag patterns. Some of the patterns are: deer, frog, bear, elephant, kitty, weiner dog, bunny, monkey, koala, flowers, and the most adorable little girls. There are also some miscellaneous mushroom, apple, fruit, and foliage patterns. As others mentioned, some use the same base piece and you essentially "dress" them up differently.Hope some of this helps you decide! I plan to start working with these tomorrow. I hope I can remember to update the review after I complete a few projects.22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Cute, quick projects, most patterns full sized.By Ken and BethanyThis book contains a good number of projects--86 is stretching it a bit, since many of them are multiple uses of the same pattern (ie: Change the only ears and facial embroidery, and a cat becomes a bear, or change the applique and one bag pattern becomes three separate projects). However, I don't have any problems with that, as paying close attention allows you to learn how to tweak a pattern or design yourself.So far, I've stitched the deer (what I really bought this book for! I have desperately wanted a pattern for those darling kawaii fawns I've been seeing all over etsy and blogs!!) which came out better than the solo pattern I spent almost as much on, the small kitty at the beginning of the book, and used fleece instead of felt to make those cute little bags for my daughters. All patterns came out very nicely with little to no adaptation.A good number of the patterns are on the inside of the dust jacket, and although they overlap quite a lot, I found them very simple to trace and transfer to cardstock. There were only a few that weren't full sized; mainly the patterns for the bags (which I figured out easily enough without running to a photocopier), and the appliques for the larger bags (which I would need a photocopier for if I chose to do them). Everything else is already full size, unless you want to make a bigger version.I have moderate experience in reading and sewing to patterns, and already know all the basic stitches of hand sewing. That said, I think the patterns in the book could easily be understood by a beginning, though a bit of experience will certainly go a long way to helping you understand it. That could be said of any book though, could it not? XDOne nice thing to be said for this book is that every item that she shows you in the gallery has

a pattern and instructions given--even the appliques, eyes, etc., are given in the pattern section, the only exceptions that I could find being the little mushroom and the trees in the background on the cover. Both of which would be easy enough to figure out given the techniques explained in the book. All in all, I'm very pleased with this book--I really can see myself making most of the items in it--just be prepared for all the items to be basically like what is shown on the cover! The patterns for felt flowers to be made from scraps are intriguing--I bought this book early spring and I can certainly see many of my friends getting pretty little felt flower displays as hostess gifts over the next little while! I like giving seasonal handmade stuff, since the recipient doesn't feel the need to keep it on display forever! LOL Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a whole host of little felties and sock creatures to make--the hazards of ordering a good number of craft books in one go! XD

Felt Friends from Japan is a treasure trove of delightful felt projects 86 in all including not just adorable soft toys, but also coin purses, bags, cell phone holders, badges, and flowers. Author Naomi Tabatha has gone for a retro feel, capturing the style she remembers from her childhood in Japan during the 1960s and 1970s. Here are Mini-mascot Buddies like Mom and Baby Kitty Cats, Little Elephants, Cheeky Monkey, Croaky Frog, Droopy-eared Dog, and Cuddly Koala; Soft Toys like Brown Bear, Rika the Rabbit, and Little Red Hood; Purrty Pussycat and Mr. Sausage Dog, the Tabletop Duo; Forest Friends named Fumiko Fawn and Little Rabbit; and the Beret Buddies, Miki the Monkey and Pao the Elephant. Also included are Cute n Fun Accessories like the Frog Coin Purse, the Sausage Dog Pencil Case and the Little Bear Card Case. Every project features clear step-by-step instructions accompanied by beautiful, full-color photographs and cut-out patterns; and an explanatory section covers the basic stitches and techniques used. Everything is hand-sewn and requires only felt and a needle-and-thread. Simple enough for crafters ranging in age from about 10 years old to adult, the book is sure to please anyone who loves creating cute things from felt.

About the Author After working for several toy manufacturers, Naomi Tabatha began freelancing as a 3D figure illustrator. Her original stuffed toys have graced countless magazine, book, and CD covers. She also creates baby goods and writes columns for Japanese womens magazines. Her love of making things by hand is part of her eco-friendly lifestyle.