



# Making Stuff and Doing Things: A Collection of DIY Guides to Just About Everything

*Kyle Bravo (Editor) , Jenny LeBlanc*

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**Making Stuff and Doing Things: A Collection of DIY Guides to Just About Everything** Kyle Bravo (Editor) , Jenny LeBlanc

Kyle Bravo has assembled a comprehensive book along with dozens of other instructional articles that tell you how to do just about everything. Topics include getting active, direct action, gardening, how to make wine, homeschooling, fixing a toilet, audio phone patch, how to make envelopes, shoe repair, making rubber stamps, how to juggle, composting, DIY toothpaste, getting rid of fruit flies, greywater systems, composting toilets, making hanging and floating tents, saving money at the post office, making posters and stencils, fixing a harmonica, DIY flowerpots, avoiding dangerous household chemicals, preventing ear infections, how women can pee standing up, menstrual massages, and a few pieces for inspiration. I'm sure you can see by now why this is essential.

## Making Stuff and Doing Things: A Collection of DIY Guides to Just About Everything Details

Date : Published July 1st 2005 by Microcosm Publishing (first published January 1st 2005)

ISBN : 9780972696791

Author : Kyle Bravo (Editor) , Jenny LeBlanc

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, How To, Art, Crafts

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## From Reader Review Making Stuff and Doing Things: A Collection of DIY Guides to Just About Everything for online ebook

### Huckleberry says

I really liked how the book was compiled from various zines, and there is a lot of actionable stuff here. Microcosm publishes a lot of excellent writing that might not otherwise see the light of day.

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### Laurie says

This is worth a peek at the least. Pretty bizarre book for the Hipster/Grandoldperson in us all. Contents of this DIY guide include: how to set up your avg. sewing machine, fixing a broken toilet, how to make dandelion wine, make your own toothpaste, etc...lots of ideas on how to make life less dependent on others. :)

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### Mark says

It won't make you a master of self reliance, however it does offer some great suggestions. The fact that some of the articles seemed like they were written by 2nd graders didn't give credibility to some of the information, but it still makes for a quick, fun read.

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### L says

Interesting, but the health advice is suspect.

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### Jenny says

this book is a scatterbrained compendium of zine articles, all DIY how-to awesome. i learned how to, yeah, make my own soy juice (matt d. actually liked it!) and engage in other horrifyingly hippie activities.

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### Ean says

I thought this was a good introduction to DIY. Best article was on how to patch clothing. It is time consuming but VERY durable. I also really dug the bit on making a bathing suit out of bandannas but I mean it's probably easier to wear your undies. The bottom of the suit was ... I could not make it fit properly. The top was easy and really sturdy though I'm not sure how often I have three bandannas on me at any given moment.

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## Ami says

I've read the whole book, but I'm currently revisiting Matte Resist's articles on gardening. The book is really inspiring, makes you feel like you can DIY too. Great cut & paste zine aesthetic (as most if not all the articles were culled from zines), and a wide variety of stuff. Make your own sex toys. Grow your own food. Ways to catch flies, bind books, play guitar chords, and lots, lots, LOTS more.

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## Hannah says

This book brings together lots of Misc. information from word of mouth, friends, and even random articles on the internet. It's great for anyone into D.I.Y.

The book itself includes doodles and illustrations by the author and much of it is written by hand or in an old-fashioned typewriter font. It contains information on everything from mulching, creating your own soy milk, and growing sprouts to making your own butt plug. Seriously, the range of information in this book is vast and eclectic.

The author, Kyle Bravo, is a printmaker involved with Hot Iron Press. You can see some of his work here: <http://www.hotironpress.com/kylebravo...>

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## Liz says

this book really annoyed me. some of the sections were good and useful which is why it gets two stars. but a lot of them exemplified the anarcho-DIY tendency to not even consider that non-punx might have useful skills to share. I don't think radical DIY politics should be about completely ignoring existing resources. the sewing/embroidery section in particular was really fucking half-arsed, which struck me as highly disrespectful to a skill set that's already devalued by mainstream culture. what, you're too cool to go to a craft website that doesn't share your aesthetic? you don't think you have anything to learn from older women who aren't in your scene? fuck you.

also, there is NO SUCH THING AS "PUNK STITCH". urrrrrrgh

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## Terri says

While this book had a lot of good information in it, I wasn't impressed with the way it was presented. A majority of the content was previously published articles in magazines, newspapers, etc. and then COPIED and pasted into book layout. Which means many of the pages are in such tiny print I needed a magnifying glass to read them. Personally, nothing is worth reading through a magnifying glass for any length of time. I would have thought the content would have been retyped and presented in normal format for a book instead of columns like a newspaper.

So while the content might have been compiled with a lot of good information, it wasn't presented well. Therefore I could only give it two stars.

Save your money, most of this information (if not all of it) can be found on the internet for free. And just in case you're thinking this book would be great for kids, be forewarned there is some very explicit sexual content (instructions) in it. Great for adults, pre-adolescents, not so much.

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### **Inge says**

A compilation of different How-To articles from a variety of zines. I almost want to keep this at the Reference Desk. It's like a reference material for the indie/zine/DIY/punk set. I want to try homemade rootbeer most of all.

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### **Finoolaa says**

The compiler of this book (which is a collection of zine articles) and most of the individual writers are well meaning. However as a book that tells you how to "make stuff and do things" it has failed for me. I don't think I will use a single thing that I read in the book. The authors would no doubt think that I am falling into the capitalist trap when I say this, but why would you ever need to make your own rope? Even if civilisation collapses, rope, string, yarn etc. would surely be easier to collect and scavenge than to make for a very long time. Oh and that reminds me, why do we always assume that when/if civilization collapses, that despite all the millions that die WE will survive? But I digress, back to the book. Now while there are a lot of heart-in-the-right-place articles in this book, there are also several that offended me to various degrees. Some were merely preachy, which I'm sure we can all forgive when we deliberately pick up a book like this. Others sneered outright at people who chose to work for a living, and not just sneered but implied that while their (my!) brain was turning to mush because of their collusion in a capitalist "wage job" (as opposed to the other kind of job?) the article writer was living a fuller life and honing his essential skills through dumpster diving. Now I have nothing against people who want to eat out of the bin. By all means I'm sure a lot of good food goes to waste and it would be better if someone had it. However please don't try to tell me that you are somehow expanding your brain by dumpster diving, while my brain atrophies because I have wussed out on life and succumbed to a "wage job"! Not to mention the fact that there wouldn't be anything to scavenge out of a rubbish bin if it wasn't for the society that the crimethic authors so despise. One of the authors actually does address that issue, but merely says it doesn't matter because of the urban scavenging skills that he is developing. Oh! And of course several sideways mentions are made of "other" forms of urban scavenging involving lock picking, spying out unlocked doors etc. They better not try and pick MY locks!

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### **Morgan says**

Kyle Bravo didn't really write this book or even edit it—more like he compiled it. Making Stuff and Doing Things looks like a scrapbook of pages torn out of various photocopied fanzines. It's a nice scrapbook that encourages and guides the reader through everything from "how to play the guitar" to "how to fix your bike" to "how to compost your own fecal matter." That the book is an unedited collection of how-to's is a strength in its collective voice, but also a weakness in who this information can reach. Page 3 has an expletive-ridden Crinmethinky rant, which I appreciated in its spirit, but found its language inaccessible. Granted, not every book is "for" everybody, but we can strive further than the reach of our own unwashed arms. Dig?

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## **Spike Gomes says**

A pretty decent compilation of DIY guides compiled from a multitude of zines. It's pretty hit and miss. Some of the things in there are so stripped down and basic, it's more of a jumping off point than an actual guide. Others are just bizarre. Why anyone would go through the process of making their own dildo and strap-on harness is something so far beyond my ken as to be mind-boggling. Others have flaws, errors or omissions in them that cause some major headaches or sickness, and yet others are so bound by scenesterism and ideological concerns that they overlook non-punk resources that would allow them to do it better and more efficiently (i.e., sometimes it's worth it to invest in buying the right parts and supplies when they're not all that expensive rather than kludging something from spare and dumpstered parts that won't work anywhere near as good and possibly fail catastrophically if you're not very careful). Still, I rate this as a three star must-have, because some of the projects inside you're not going to find resources on anywhere else (like DIY solar composting toilets, how to turn your own bodily waste into fertilizer safely, cleanly and cheaply, making bike trailers from spare parts, etc) and others are just a good resource in general for odd gaps in your own personal library (I have no books on how to make ropes and cords from wild plants, frex).

In my eyes, I think that a person concerned with what to do when they have little money to survive would do best from drawing on both sides of the ideological spectrum (DIY punk anarchists and right-wing survivalists) in order to have a well-rounded approach on what to do when TSHTF, whether it just be an individual catastrophe or a general societal decline. Do yourself a favor and get this book, just use it with a grain of salt.

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## **Ryan Mishap says**

An underground DIY book and the title should tell you that. These are useful little tools if you are the type of person ready to throw yourself into something and figure it out on your own. These type of DIY resource instructions are often just good starting points for the introduction of an idea, the rudiments of making say, a bicycle powered washing machine, and inspiration. The instructions to build something or do a task in this book aren't enough if you are the type of person who needs to be shown something and need another person there to ask questions of or figure it out with.

I haven't tried anything in here, but I am one of the second type of person I described so getting instructions out of books doesn't work that well for me. I do know that the recipe for homebrew is woefully inadequate and will likely lead to disaster. I figure that goes for the rest of the book's ideas.

So, treat it as a cool something that's just a starting point, a jumpstart to ideas--and then do more research or find a mentor.

I put it in science because why shouldn't I?

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