



Indian Crafts and Skills: An Illustrated Guide for Making Authentic Indian Clothing, Shelters, and Ornaments

David Montgomery

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Indian Crafts and Skills provides an excellent study of Indian work, both practical and artistic. The book not only describes the skills Indians have developed but gives specific instructions for creating many kinds of Indian handiwork yourself. The author, a skilled artist and craftsman, explains the various types of shelters and tools used by the Indians, as well as the weapons made for warfare or hunting. Trapping and tracking are vividly described, complete with diagrams for help in identifying most every kind of wild animal track. Step-by-step, you can learn brain tanning, the process of tanning leather that gives the most beautiful results, then learn how to make authentic Indian clothing - from elaborate war-bonnets to several varieties of moccasins. Concise, easy-to-read instructions will tell you all you need to know about creating Indian fashions. Discover the basics of the Indian "kitchen," including utensils and cookery, as well as the many foods common to the Indian diet: meats and nuts, fruits and vegetables found in their wild surroundings; everything from buffalo to grasshoppers. Even drinks and seasonings used in daily food preparation, and many plants useful for food and medicine, are illustrated. Dogs, horses, and boats are cited as the main means of Indian transportation, and instructions for building saddles, travois, and canoes are provided for the ambitious enthusiast of Indian skills. The book is full of illustrations depicting these items, as well as the pouches, sabbards, and cases used by the Indians to carry important personal items, much like their modern-day counterparts of purses, wallets, suitcases, and baby carriers. These, too, can be made by the modern outdoorsman in the authentic and distinctive style of the Indian peoples. Not only will you discover the practical aspects of Indian livelihood, but also their methods of adornment and amusement. The beauty and artistry of Indian jewelry, especially their skillful geometric beadwork, comes to life in the colorful description of the art of jewelry-making, an art you can begin learning through careful study of the chapter devoted to it. Another chapter takes a look at a variety of Indian games and musical instruments skillfully created for pure enjoyment. The author provides a complete list of reference books and supply sources to help in re-creating the magic and mystery of Indian handiwork. Indian Crafts and Skills is an authentic and exciting book for people who wish to share in the heritage of skill and artistry of a wide variety of Indian tribes.

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