

Bags with Paper and Stitch:
Innovative Surface Techniques for Embellishing Bags
by Isobel Hall

With an emphasis on recycling and experimentation, **BAGS WITH PAPER AND STITCH** (Interweave Press, September 2007, \$24.95), is an inspirational and instructional guide to making paper from scratch to create beautiful yet functional bags. This exciting book provides more than 48 projects and hundreds of ideas for working with papers or creating your own from materials like onion skin, newspaper, brown paper shopping bags, coffee, shoe polish, dyes, peeled paints, and other readily available household supplies.

“This book is really a starting point and a guide to experimentation,” says author Isobel Hall, a teacher and textile designer who specializes in creating paper by hand for use in handbags. “Using new materials and experimenting with new techniques can be both exciting and rewarding. The papers you create don’t necessarily have to be made into bags, although I think making paper and making bags do go hand in hand.”

Hall begins the journey into bag making with an introduction to **handles**—which can make or break a handbag—taking the reader through the vast spectrum of ways to create sturdy personalization for their one-of-a-kind creation: cord, cane, plastic, tubing, recycled handles, paper handles, tubular knitted wire, and much more. She also touches on **fastenings** such as jewelry, eyelets, hardware, buttons, curtain rings, buckles, and straps which can be used for additional embellishment. **Tags for bags** play the next important role. Hall explores embossing enamels, silk papers, embossed metals, distressed luggage labels, Translucent Liquid Sculpey, and various other types of fibers as excellent materials for tags.

The author then moves into creating paper from fibers with stunning projects highlighted along the way. Each bag is accompanied by beautiful photographs, a thorough materials list, and step-by-step instruction plus additional time-saving tips or project-specific insights from the author. Some process photography is also provided, along with illustrations as needed. Readers will learn to create textured papers, evenweave fabric and appliqué, paper made from liquid clay, how to transfer images, and how to work with color and pattern.

Gorgeous handbags to create include:

- **Glitterati Bag:** Created with Glitterati fusible film and peeled paint distress embossing powders for a stunning wet-oil looking effect.
- **Onion Skin Paper Bag:** Created with onion skin paper panels, fabric, and chenille wool for a delicate-looking yet sturdy bag.
- **Rustic Newspaper Bag:** Created from layers of newspaper and furnishing fabric, aged and distressed to give an organic effect. Handles from sticks complete the natural look.
- **Malachite and Azurite Shoulder Bag:** Inspired by rocks the author found in Spain, this bag is made out of brown paper shopping bags, blue webbing spray, gold bronzing powder, and beads, wool, ribbons, and embroidery thread.
- **Primitive Clutch Bag:** Inspired by primitive cave paintings or ancient Egyptian art, this bag has an aged appearance. It is created from a base of store-bought paper artificially aged with coffee, shoe polish and dye, and decorated using a rubber stamp and embossing it.

BAGS WITH PAPER AND STITCH is the ideal book for embroiderers, textile artists, and paper makers who are fascinated by bags and the paper making process or other three-dimensional techniques.

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by Isobel Hall**
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About the author:

Isobel Hall is a teacher and textile designer who specializes in creating handmade paper to make embroidered bags. She teaches papermaking, bookmaking, and bag making. Isobel lives in Almeria, Spain.

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Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colo. For more information on Interweave Press, please visit www.interweave.com or call (970) 669-7672.