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The Peter Max Book Of Needlepoint



Synopsis

Trade size paperback, full of illustrations, designs for needlepoint by sixties artist, Peter Max, near fine condition, instructions, hard to find

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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Perhaps the worst book on needlepoint ever printed. Lets start with the cover that advertises "step-by-step" instructions for "dozens of designs." There are no step-by-step directions. The instructions for the peter max designs follow the same basic directions written in one paragraph: "enlarge the design, trace onto needlepoint canvas, work in the continental stitch." And even the basic instructions for each type of stitch (stitch guide in the back) are off (the issue I purchased has notes written in pencil by the previous owner correcting the directions) There are 28 designs, so I guess 2 dozen equals "dozens", but even that is a bit deceptive. Many of the designs are not by peter max. The actual peter max designs, as seen on the cover, are not explained or graphed in the book. In most cases only small crude drawings are provided for you to enlarge using your best methods. Many of these designs only have black & white photographs to go by, so it's up to you to decide what colors should be used. There are a few charted patterns -but these only show traditional needlepoint patterns, like the zig-zag pillow shown on the cover photo in the lower left. The actual peter max patterns, like those shown on the cover purse and poster should have stitch

charts, as that is what makes a pattern after all, but those are not included in the book. Someone did, in fact, make these projects, but was too stingy or lazy to chart them for use. You are expected to hand draw the peter max illustrations onto canvas. One could just as easily download images of Max's work online and do the exact same thing as what this book provides. If you are a consummate collector of Peter Max stuff, you might find this light book an amusing addition to your bookshelf, but it is unlikely that you would find any new or never before seen peter max designs or material -it's apparent that this was just a licensing-deal, "sure you can use my designs for a needlepoint book" without any regard as to whether these designs were translated to needlepoint very well -or at all, and without much oversight by peter himself -if at all. The forward "by Peter Max" is doubtfully even written by him, it's a short 1 page essay on color theory to the likes of "warm colors are exciting, cool colors are calming", perhaps written by the editor as an after thought realising that the book had completely missed the mark, as noted, in regards to the colors actually employed by Peter Max for his designs. Susan Sommers Winer (101 quick'n easy hairdos, 1973; Cellulite Free, 1975) wrote the book, needlepoint designs seen in the photos were worked by Regina Cohen.

great

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