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Sue Dolman

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Sue Dolman : Sue Dolman's Book of Animal Toys: Creative Your Own Superb Collection of Country Characters before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sue Dolman's Book of Animal Toys: Creative Your Own Superb Collection of Country Characters:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Spoiler Alert! They're not really toys.By E. TucciaroneThis book contains patterns and instructions to make several anthropomorphic animal characters wearing full suits of clothing. These animals include foxes, bears, a koala, rabbits, a badger, and a mother, baby, and children mice. Each project is accompanied by a clear, full-color photograph of the character, and each step is well documented with color illustrations. The patterns are full-sized, and the book can easily fit on a photocopier for duplication.The book is, overall, visually appealing and looks like a great deal of fun. Rather than call for a quarter yard of this or a half yard of that, the author makes it clear that each project really only requires scraps of fabric to make. This is significant, because that would put each character between ten and twelve inches tall. I cannot imagine any difficulties in enlarging each pattern even to 200% (i.e.: twice the size); in fact, I think that might improve them significantly (see below).The title includes the word "Toys" but on page 10 it says that the characters "are not suitable gifts for babies or young children" because the beads and other accoutrements might pose a hazard. In fact, if made as directed, these

toys would not stand up to being played with at all! In several instances, raw edges of clothing are not hemmed or treated at all (at one point you are advised merely to handle a piece of unhemmed woven cotton fabric "carefully"). The outfits do not come off the figures at all--in fact, the instructions state that you'll need to put stuffing between the clothes and bodies to get them to look and fit correctly. While the heads of the animals are made out of various colors of fur fabric, the bodies and limbs are made of felt. Here's my suggestion: Enlarge the patterns to 200-300% and make them either entirely out of fur fabric, plush felt, or fleece, or substitute a stronger fabric for the felt (I'm thinking moleskin or ultrasuede) for the bodies and limbs. A larger size means you can use 7 or 9mm safety eyes instead of the 3-4mm beads she used, and makes the use of a sewing machine a more realistic possibility. Furthermore, you should be able to add enough to the clothing patterns to make a viable hem, or otherwise alter them to function like their full-size prototypes rather than merely appearing as such. A bit of careful hand sewing for the clothing can make a stuffed toy that a younger child (no handmade toy should be given to a child under ten, unless you've got your own multi-million dollar liability policy) can actually hold and play with, if not dress and undress. Bottom Line: You can follow the instructions and make beautiful art dolls (art animals?), or you can enlarge the patterns and, with a little bit of work, make them safer and frankly more professional. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By hollySweet book with adorable animals. Great instructions. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. nice By Mrs. Lori A Baker-Corelis Very good for those wanting to learn to make dressed animal toys. Nicely written, easy to follow and good photos.

Each project in this collection includes actual size trace-off patterns, instructions and accompanying line drawings to guide even the beginner through the stages of making the toy. A dozen different animal characters are featured, from Mr Badger and Mrs Mouse to an Australian koala.