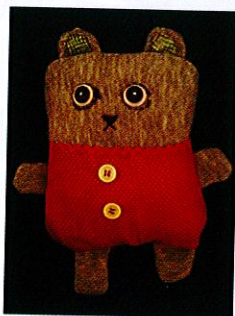


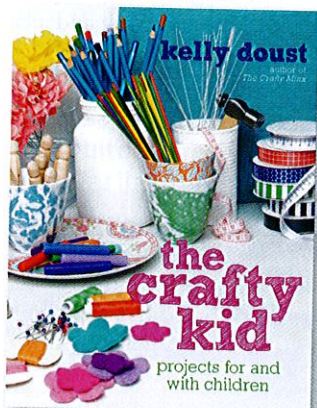
I love it when the word 'simple' is in a craft book's subtitle. Especially when the cover is as inspiring as the **Sew Darn Cute** cover. Simple? Really? You mean I could whip up that adorable little teddy bear? (Yes, I could. He's a little wonky but undeniably cute – as you can see.) Jenny Ryan has some great, simple ideas for making your crafty

items just a little prettier: like making your own bias tape or adding a fabric button. And her finished items, due to a judicious use of beautiful fabrics and some cleverly easy designs, are all gorgeous.

This is a lovely production and the fabrics and images alone are enough to spark off some great ideas. I also really like how she uses secondhand fabrics and encourages you to spend time in Vinnies and look at old clothes differently. Her instructions are clear and the book is chock-full of tips and variations.



Sarah's version of the 'square bear'.



The publisher of **The Crafty Kid**, Murdoch Books, really knows how to create craft books and cookbooks. The production values are simply stunning with beautiful, inspiring photography, gorgeous covers and endpapers and a wonderful visual layout. I've yet to find a dud.

The Crafty Kid is from the author of *The Crafty*

Minx, Australian Kelly Doust. Her personality really shines through in both of these books, her humility and humour and patience, but I think even more so in this second book. Like Jenny Ryan, Kelly has an eye for fabric and for giving new life to old things. You'll look at pilling woolly jumpers differently after reading this book.

The Crafty Kid gives you patterns for things you can make *for* children, like toys and clothes, things you can make *with* children, like simple egg cosies, and things you can make in order to get children creating, like mini-aprons. Every

pattern has suggestions for how to get your kids involved in the creative process, whether by choosing the fabric or learning how to hold a needle. More please!

Sew Darn Cute | Jenny Ryan
 ★★★★★ Penguin \$29.95
The Crafty Kid | Kelly Doust
 ★★★★★ Murdoch \$39.95
 Reviewed by Sarah Minns



Kelly Doust's Pirate T-shirt from *The Crafty Kid*.

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