



Inspiration from the Internet

Edwardsville Public Library

2015

General Crafts

Martha Stewart (<http://www.marthastewart.com/>)

The Queen of everything homemade, Martha has an amazing website with vast numbers of ideas for decorating, crafts, weddings and more. It is easy to move around in the site, photos and instructions are beautiful, and there are links to other resources. You can be sure that Martha's army of assistants have found *the best* method to do anything on the site, so instructions are usually foolproof.

Better Homes and Gardens (<http://www.bhg.com/crafts/>)

A website by the magazine dedicated to published projects. You can find a lot of seasonal ideas, recipes and clear instructions.

Pinterest (<http://pinterest.com/>)

When we began compiling interesting websites for our patrons, Pinterest did not exist. If you are a crafter, baker, or creative person of any type, this website is a useful resource. If you join, you can collect recipes, decorating ideas, patterns, links to tutorials, videos and so much more; otherwise just search for ideas. Whether you are interested in making Barbie clothes, cupcakes, paper flowers or granny squares, there are sure to be examples.

Etsy (<http://www.etsy.com/>)

This site has become a hugely successful place for indie crafters to sell their items, but it is also a wonderful resource for ideas and inspiration. You may not find instructions to make that pea-green, paper-mache, hand painted, zombie kitten figurine (a real item from the site), but if you are a creative person, you can probably figure it out. Links to the Etsy community and blogs are also interesting and inspiring.

Instructables (<http://www.instructables.com/>)

This site depends on submissions from the public and you can find a *wide* range of projects; simple to complex, elegant to wacky, you'll find it all. Not only are there traditional types of crafts, but also projects for the garden, technologically oriented items, furniture, survival gear, and much more.

Whip Up (<http://whipup.net/>)

The motto of this blog: "Whipup.net brings the best original and exciting crafts to the attention of many... (it) is a community of artists, crafters and makers who share ideas in a central space." Guest submissions cover just about any craft you can think of. Most projects are simple and great to do with kids. Tutorials are easy to understand and photographed well.

Needlework & Sewing

Ravelry (<https://www.ravelry.com/account/login>)

Ravelry is a free website for knitters and crocheters. You have to become a member to access services, but the process is simple, fast, and free. Members can upload photos of their finished projects, search for patterns (thousands are free), designers, yarn info, read blogs, ask for advice and so much more. One very helpful aspect of this site is the ability to search for a pattern and see how the finished project looks in a different color, size, or yarn. A fantastic resource for all those who work with yarn.

Threads (<http://www.threads magazine.com/>)

Threads magazine has been around for a long time. The website has been redesigned recently, so it actually looks more like a blog. A variety of guest editors have columns in which they describe techniques, projects, and various sewing topics. If you search around the site, you will find tutorials, book reviews, and lots of photos of unique clothing.

Interior Decorating

Design Sponge (<http://www.designsponge.com/>)

Design Sponge is a blog dedicated to home and product design. If you are into interior decorating, this blog is great. The creator updates the site multiple times per day and you are likely to see discussions about design trends, DIY projects, and reviews of products. Check out the DIY link for classy craft projects for the home.

Apartment Therapy (<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/>)

This blog has been around for a long time and is beloved by interior decorating junkies under the age of 35; it definitely has a “style”. It also has great ideas, lots of information and helpful tutorials covering a variety of decorating conundrums. A common theme is remaking an item into something else or something better; a lot of creativity is highlighted here and many projects are “green”. There are regional “pages” highlighting decorating projects and tours in major cities (Chicago is the closest). A downside is the huge number of advertisements for various products.

Paper-related Crafts

Folding Trees (<http://foldingtrees.com/>)

A blog dedicated to “the best tutorials and paper creations online”. Well, if the designers haven’t achieved their goal, they are pretty darn close. The blog is easy to navigate, so if you want to find blog entries about cards, boxes, or whatever, you can easily find the archived links. Everything is photographed stylishly and clearly; projects are very do-able.

All Things Paper (<http://allthingspaper.net/>)

This blogger searches the internet for beautiful and inspirational paper art. There may not be many instructions (some posts do have links to tutorials), but the works shown here are nothing short of fantastic. Use the items here as a jumping off point for your own paper projects.

Dollar Bill Origami (<http://www.origami-resource-center.com/dollar-bill.html>)

No craft list is complete without a mention of origami. This website has an exhaustive selection of origami patterns, but the dollar bill page is particularly intriguing. Some of the creations are incredibly detailed, others quite simple; all diagrams are clear and easy to read. Either way, fun and interesting!

Celebrations and Gifts

Catch My Party (<http://catchmyparty.com/>)

You can join this site or just browse for inspiration. Members post photos of their own themed parties – showers, kid’s birthdays, holidays, etc. You can see hundreds of examples of decorations, favors, foods and more. There are links to crafts, recipes, free printables and the site’s blog. If you join, you can add photos of your own party.

Save on Crafts (<http://www.save-on-crafts.com/>)

This is a commercial website, but this link is all DIY wedding projects. The projects are elegant and beautiful with a lot of clear photos and easy to understand instructions. If you navigate away from this page, you’ll be into the online catalog and it is a bit difficult to find your way back.

Inspired Bride (<http://www.inspiredbride.net/>)

This blog is run by a woman with a graphic design background. There is a diversity of do-able projects here and loads of inspiration for your own wedding. There is advertising on this site, but it is tasteful and still easy to maneuver through the site. Categories are clearly marked for easy searching.

Pastry Wiz (<http://www.pastrywiz.com/>)

At this site, you’ll find cake decorating recipes and ideas ranging from simple (basic butter cake) to complex (blowing your own sugar swans). It may be a tricky to find what you want (photos aren’t shown with topic headings), but there is *a lot* of information here.

Furoshiki (<http://furoshiki.com/techniques/>)

This is a commercial website dedicated to selling modern furoshiki wrapping cloths (think re-usable cloth wrapping paper). This particular page has links to directions for wrapping a mind-boggling array of items in all shapes and sizes. The finished looks are elegant, unique, and definitely green (the cloth is reusable). It would be great to wrap a gift and include a link to this site so the cloth can be used again in the future.

Looking in the Library? Go to these call numbers for books:

Knitting/Crochet	746.43
Sewing	646.4
Paper Crafts	745.54
Cake Decorating	641.86
Weddings	395.2
Home Decorating	646.2