DIY Nonfiction

By Kaitlin Haley

For the young adult looking for some beauty tips:

*Lauren Conrad Beauty* (2012)

Authors: Conrad, Lauren; Loehnen, Elise; Naine, Amy, Ess, Kristin

In this book, Hills star Lauren Conrad shares her beauty tips, focusing on skin and hair maintenance, makeup, and fitness. A good read for the teen into popular culture and hoping to “steal her look”!


Author: Shoket, Ann; Editors of *Seventeen* Magazine

This handbook, created by the editors of *Seventeen* magazine, discusses make-up techniques, hair advice and clothing style advice for girls. It’s a great item for a teenager who’s into fashion and beauty trends, as well as a nice bridge item for teens who are normally into magazines!


Author: Geer, Donne & Geer, Ginny

This book, written by two sisters who own a nail shop in California and sell nail products on Etsy, is all about how to create a unique and stylish manicure yourself. It’s great for a girls’ club or a young adult looking for a special activity for a party with some friends!
For the teenage fashionista:

*Tie-Dye: Dye It, Wear It, Share It* (2013)

Author: Simon-Alexander, Shabd.

Tie-dye is back again! This book offers a new take on tie-dye with shibori, ombre, and the traditional circle pattern. This book is written by fashion designer Simon-Alexanders, who offers design advice, colour guidance, and how-to tips. The book also contains step by step instruction for DIY projects such as styling your own clothing and home décor renovation ideas.

*99 Ways to Cut, Trim & Tie Your Shirt into Something Special* (2006)

Author: Blakeney, Justina; Blakeney, Faith, Livakovic, Anka & Schultz, Ellen.

This book outlines 99 ways to transform any t-shirt into a unique and trendy new piece, using simple patterns and supplies. Projects are rated on a scale from 1-4, and none take longer than thirty minutes. A great book for someone looking for an easy fashion project!


Author: Abrams, Carol; Lasher, Maureen; & Wenger, Jennifer

This book lays down the basics of how teens can form their own knitting clubs and gives ideas for potential knitting projects. There are sections from teens explaining why they knit, what they knit, or about their experience in a knitting club. A great resource for teen knitting enthusiasts!
Cheap Frills: Fabulous Facelifts for your Clothes (2001)

Author: Knapp, Jennifer; Photographer: Magnusson, Illustrator: David; Knapp, Jennifer

For the fashionista on a budget, this book provides instructions, photographs and drawings of clothing projects that provide a quick and easy facelift for old clothes. Go DIY couture and create garments that are awesome and affordable!

HatHeads: 1 Man + 2 Knitting Needles = 50 Fun Hat Designs (2009)

Author: Anfinnsen, Trond

Trond Anfinnsen taught himself to knit and fell in love with creating hats for his family and friends. This book offers examples of unique hats, each with a photograph, which the reader can copy or even expand upon. Need inspiration for a knitting project? Look no further!

For the trendy crafter:


Author: Lowe, Pearl.

Make old items look new again! Vintage designer Pearl Lowe discusses how to create a vintage look for regular household items. Contains 50 projects (complete with photographs and step-by-step instructions) ranging from personalized rubber stamps to padded headboards. The book splits up sections of the home and lists projects for each section. An ideal read for vintage-loving crafty youth.
**DIY Style: Create Your Own Cool and Original Stuff** (2002)

Author: Cooper, Karen; Danko, Dan.

A guide for DIY projects such as bedroom items, altered clothing, and body lotions! This book is a great recommendation for someone new to DIY or someone just looking for a new project to do.

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**Tinkered Treasures** (2013)

Author: Major, Elyse

Have a teen who wants to give their household items a make-over? This book details 35 craft projects using objects commonly found in the home, giving the reader tips on how to repurpose and alter items without the hassle of expensive tools or elaborate designs. The projects are all created for beginners and designed to help anyone though these household item facelifts.

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**Sticky Fingers: DIY Duct Tape Projects: Easy to Pick Up, Hard to Put Down** (2014)

Author: Maletsky, Sophie

A step by step manual, including photographs, for how to create all sorts of items with duct tape. Each project assigns a difficulty level and time commitment for each project. It's full of fun craft ideas for your creative teen!
For the teen carpenter:


Author: Thatcher, Kevin; *Thrasher Magazine*

Have a teen looking to build their own ramp? This book will teach them how, using detailed, easy-to-understand instructions. It also includes safety tips to make sure the projects are done properly and safely! Great for teens who love skateboarding, DIY, or carpentry.

For a creative mind:

*DIY Comic Book* (2012)

Author: Mostofizadeh, Kambiz

Everything you could ever want to know about creating your own comic books, from templates to storyline suggestions!


Author: Chertkow, Randy & Freehan, Jason

Trying to share your music with the world? This book is full of helpful hints for teens who want to express themselves with music. The authors, who are musicians as well as internet savvy, take the reader through the steps required to make their music available to the public, from recording to marketing and distributing.
**Click: The Ultimate Photography Guide for Generation Now**  
(2009)  
Author: Styr, Charlie & Wakem, Maria  
From Instagram to Snapchat, youth today take more photographs than ever before. This photography guide is written by teenagers, for teens, and includes different photography techniques, tips, and tricks for aspiring photographers. It even includes photographs taken by teens!

**Stolen Sharpie Revolution: a DIY Resource For Zines and Zine Culture**  
(2014) 5th edition  
Author: Wrekk, Alex  
What are zines and how can you create one? This book is about all thing zine related. This book goes over what are zines, what is zine culture, why zines are important and how to create one. It’s a great DIY guide for a young adult interested in self-publishing.

For young adults who love working with the earth:

**Community Gardens: Grow your own Vegetables and Herbs**  
(2014) (From Urban Gardening and Farming for Teens)  
Author: Burns-Chong, Susan  
This book is part of a five-book series called Urban Gardening and Farming for Teens, which covers a range of topics such as food creation, cooking, and food preservation. The series also discusses ethical issues regarding food production and consumption, includes instructions for a variety of DIY projects, and describe a number of charities or projects started and run by teenagers. A great pick for teens with an interest in local and sustainable food production!
**Jarring and Canning: Make Your Own Jams, Jellies, Pickles, and More** (2014) (From Urban Gardening and Farming for Teens)

Author: Heos, Bridget

As part of the *Urban Gardening and Farming for Teens* series, this is a great pick for any teenager interested in sustainable food production. This guide to jarring and canning includes tips on what to do with a variety of fruits and vegetables, from jams to pickles, and has recipes for beginners as well as experienced canners.

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**A Teen Guide to Eco-Gardening, Food and Cooking** (2013)

Author: Green, Jen

Have teen patrons with an interest in ecology? Try this helpful guide to teen eco-gardening! Projects discussed in this book range from individual activities to community group projects. Teens will learn how to grow and maintain plants in small container spaces, how to prepare dishes, and how to conserve water and manage waste.

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**DIY for a tech-savvy teen:**


Author: Sethi, Maneesh

Love video games? Why not design your own! This book works with the BlitzMax platform and outlines steps to learn the programming code required to build a video game. Teens will also learn about stylistic items, graphic elements, and sound effects programming. A step by step guide designed to help techy savvy teens take their programming knowledge and love of video games to a new level!

Author: McComb, Gordon

This is an illustrated guide for how to build a robot. It has 10 robot designs that range greatly in size, materials, mobility, and level of intelligence. This book is created as a step by step guide for how to create robots ranging from motorized platforms to artificial intelligence. This is a great item for any teen who loves building items and/or computer programming.

*Gonzo Gizmos: Projects & Devices to Channel Your Inner Geek (2006)*

Author: Field, Simon Quellen

Love science? Know someone looking for something to build for an upcoming science fair? This book is full of fun science projects, such as building a computer controlled radio transmitters or a rocket engine. The book is organized by scientific topics, and each project (which can be built using commonly found items) includes step-by-step instructions, as well as information about the science behind the project.
References


