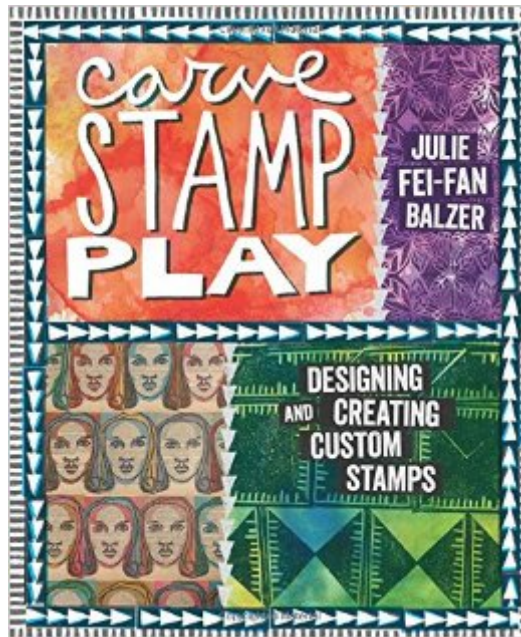


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# Carve, Stamp, Play: Designing And Creating Custom Stamps



## Synopsis

Take an exciting journey into printing with custom-carved stamps! In this complete stamp-carving workshop, Julie Fei-Fan Balzer covers every aspect of creating and using rubber stamps, including carving linear and curved designs, alphabets, complex and repeating geometrical shapes, and image transfers. After carving your own unique stamps, you'll also learn: How to combine and layer stamps into original designs. How to design stamps that work together as well as individually. How to create stamps that combine with or enhance other stamps (hand carved or commercial). And how to create complex, layered effects that resemble screen printing. This book also includes simple projects that explore various applications for stamping, including printing on different surfaces such as fabric, leather, paper, and canvas. Find your "authentic" design voice and get carving today!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (54 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I love this book! It's a very in depth course on creating your own stamps. The book starts off with the basics and then progresses to more complex designs. She covers alphabets, simple designs, faux woodcut stamps and interlocking and layered stamps. The icing on the cake, though, for me is the inclusion of how to take a photograph of a person and make that image into a stamp. How fun is that! I have been waiting for a while for this book to be released and I have to tell you, it does not disappoint!

If you are new to rubber stamp carving Julie makes this soooo... easy. Everything you need to

know, explained in great detail is in this book. Supplies you will need and why you need them are listed. There is clip art you can actually copy so your first stamps will turn out like the authors. Tons of big pictures and clear directions. You can't help but succeed. If I could give this more than 5 stars I would.

I have followed Ms. Balzer's blog for some years and enjoy her work a lot. When I pre-ordered her book I wasn't sure how it would turn out. There have been times in the past when I have enjoyed people's work, and then they produce a book - and it turns out to be a disappointment in one way or another. I am happy to say that this is NOT the case with this delightful book! It's a great book! It's well done, well thought out, well illustrated, and it is beautifully photographed! It's a whimsical, easy to follow joy ride through the fascinating, art-full world of creating your own stamps and artwork. There are lots of tips and tricks included with the basic directions. This book is a great place to start carving stamps, but there is plenty in the pages to tantalize even well seasoned stamp carvers. It's a well done winner that's sure to please!

Julie Fei-Fan Balzer has long been a favorite of mine for her dedication, inspiration and plain hard work at her art. This book takes you from a smooth, uncarved block to success with simple instructions, clear guidelines and wonderful photos. The type in the book is large enough and clear enough so you can easily understand the steps. Best of all, the projects are interesting and fun. You learn not only how to carve, but how to use what you carve--layering patterns, repeating patterns, combining them. She even shows you how to make whole alphabets. It's on my worktable and will stay in use for a long time.

This book is excellent - from beginners and on to advanced. It gives plenty of info on designing, cutting and placement. And it goes on to show how to do patterns and more. If you get just one book on stamp carving - I would go with this one.

I have been carving my own stamps for a long time and have all the books that are related to the art, so I was delighted to see a new one out there that might have a different approach. It isn't the best book out there for actually learning to carve, but it is more than sufficient in that regard and will get people started quite well. What I most like about the book, however, is that it really does promote the "play" aspect of the title. These little units of art can be used very effectively in patterns and with different coloration, etc.. Julie Fei-Fan Balzer has a lovely and lively collage style of art and

she wields her stamps with great imagination and flair, inspiring me to use my many (1000+) hand-carved stamps in new and more relaxed ways - renewing my joy and fun in my art form. It's a very good book for getting started in stamp carving and a great rejuvenator for experienced carvers, too!

I love this book ! Julie Fei-Fan Balzer is one of my favorite mixed-media artists, and in this book, she takes you step-by-step through the making of several different types of rubber-stamp making. From product suggestions and choices, to carving, stamping, designing, and visual samples of how to use the rubber stamps, Julie does a wonderful job in leading us through this wonderful and creative process !

I think this book has some good info and some good ideas. For someone that has no idea how to make a stamp, has never looked around on-line, this book may help you. It's a 141 page paperback with lots of colorful pictures and a small resource page. Chapters include: The Basics, Stamp-Carving Workshops, Designing Stamps:Sets and Interlocking Stamps, Designing Stamps:Pattern Stamps, and a Wrap-Up. In between some of the different chapters are Gallery pages with pictures. I found them the most interesting, perhaps the best part of the book! She lists skills you will practice and gives tips. But with the internet and searches, today it's easy to find info on almost any subject. If you're interested in making your own stamps and you've watched any of the YouTube vids, then you already know most of what is in this book. I didn't learn anything new. That's my basis for giving this review and only 3 stars - the info inside is old news. I'm sure I would have passed this book up if I'd had the chance to look through it first. I would not have purchased it. Trying to make a decision by reading what others say in a review is always hit and miss. It's really hard to judge a book or tell much about it online. To be honest, I seem to learn best when I observe and I saw several videos that taught me alot about making my own stamps. And YouTube is free! What could be better? I wish I'd saved my money instead. This is one of those craft books that you shove to the back of the library shelf, forget about and try not to think how you wasted your money (again)!!!

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