

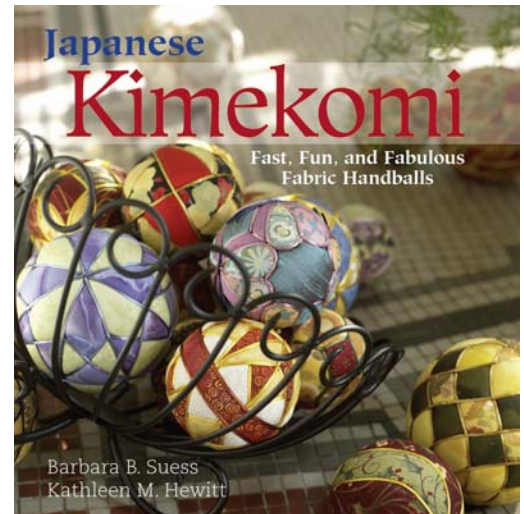
# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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## Japanese Kimekomi Fast, Fun, and Fabulous Fabric Balls

Here is the perfect creative outlet for those in search of a fast, easy, and oh so fun craft to amaze friends and family. With a selection of pretty fabric scraps, some basic tools, and a little practice, anyone can make these beautiful Japanese fabric handballs. Inspired by Japan's dollmaking tradition, kimekomi are unbelievably simple to make, and each one makes a delightful and unusual gift.

Starting with a smooth Styrofoam ball, crafters choose from one of 16 pretty patterns. Using a hot knife or an exacto blade, the next step is to cut grooves into the ball, following step-by-step design drawings. Next, a dab of glue and a thin layer of batting make the ball soft to the touch. Now the fun part begins. Crafters select from among their fabric scraps to decorate each section of the design, tucking the fabric into the grooves. As a finishing touch, pretty trim or cord hides the grooves and makes for a colorful embellishment. Nothing could be easier—and there is no sewing skill required!



Kimekomi make perfect Christmas ornaments—there are even instructions for adding a hanging loop. They make eye-catching home-dec accessories all year round. And, of course, what child wouldn't love to play with one of these colorful, lightweight handballs. There is even a pattern for a set of Easter eggs. Once the

basic skills are learned, it is easy to adapt kimekomi techniques to new shapes, like pretty valentine hearts.



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*Japanese Kimekomi* includes:

- \* 16 bright, colorful designs--including one in the shape of a traditional Easter egg!
- \* Color step-by-step drawings, sensational photos, and easy-to-follow text
- \* Full size cutting templates for every design
- \* Beyond the basics—a special section on creating new designs

Bright, colorful, and with an intricate appearance that is easily achieved in an afternoon's pleasant handwork, Japanese kimekomi are a delight to make—and to give.



Expert temari maker, teacher, and pattern designer **Barbara B. Suess** was introduced to temari while living with her family in Yokohama, Japan. She is self-taught in temari and a member of the Japan Temari Association, the Embroiderer's Guild of America, National Academy of Needlearts, and the National Embroidery Teachers' Association. She lives with her family in Raleigh, North Carolina where she enjoys running her temari business, Kiku Designs ([www.japanesetemari.com](http://www.japanesetemari.com)). Suess is the author of *Japanese Temari* (Breckling Press, 2007).

**Kathleen M. Hewitt** is a designer, pattern writer, and teacher specializing in Japanese handicrafts, including temari and kimekomi. She lives in Tacoma, Washington. This is her first book.

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