

Teddy Bears



Presented by:

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Edith & Barry's prototype

Teddy Bears

What is very cuddly, less demanding, always available, and the best friend you could ever have? Of course it is your Teddy Bear. Stuffed bears have always been popular, but like some other crafts the making and collecting of them waxes and wanes.

History claims that “Teddy Bears” began in 1903. “Teddy” Bears were named after Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt the President of the United States from 1901 – 1909. They have been made in a variety of materials, but the plush variety remains the favorite.



Early Teddy Bears were fully jointed with moveable heads, arms, and legs. In the never ending search by manufactures to reduce costs the “bag” bears came into being. This not only eliminated all joints, but reduced the number of parts and seams, thus reducing the labor costs. Steiff and Herman were two of the very small groups of manufacturers who continued to emphasize quality and their bears are still collectable today.

In the 1980’s and 90’s there was a Buffy Bear craze. These small bears became the Beanie Baby craze of the mid 1990’s, a few years later. During this time Teddy Bear shows were happening frequently around the country. Workshops with well-known Teddy Bear artists were an event worth attending.

Memory Bears: Stitch a Memory Bear. Some memory Bears are made from children’s clothing and the bear was sent to college with the student who wore the clothes when they were much younger. T-shirts from school or 4-H or Church camps, or places you have visited can all become Memory Bears. Help mend a broken heart. A comforting companion made from clothing from the departed.



Lisa Maharg's 1st bear

Bibliography info:

Many Teddy Bear magazines were published from the late 1970’s through the early 1990’s to entice readers and ‘would be’ Teddy Bear Artists. Prices being paid for Teddy Bears were high and the market was great. Several Teddy Bear Magazines are still available. Type: “Teddy Bear Magazines” into your on-line browser and you will find them quickly. You can also purchase many “retired” Teddy bear magazines on Amazon. “Teddy Bear & Friends” is available in print. The cost is currently under \$25.00 per yearly subscription of six issues. Several international magazines are also available.

Type: “Teddy Bear” into your Facebook browser and you will be amazed at the thousands of Teddy Bear folks are out there...

Your local library is also a good place to find books on making Teddy Bears. Fabric stores often carry patterns for Teddy Bears as well.