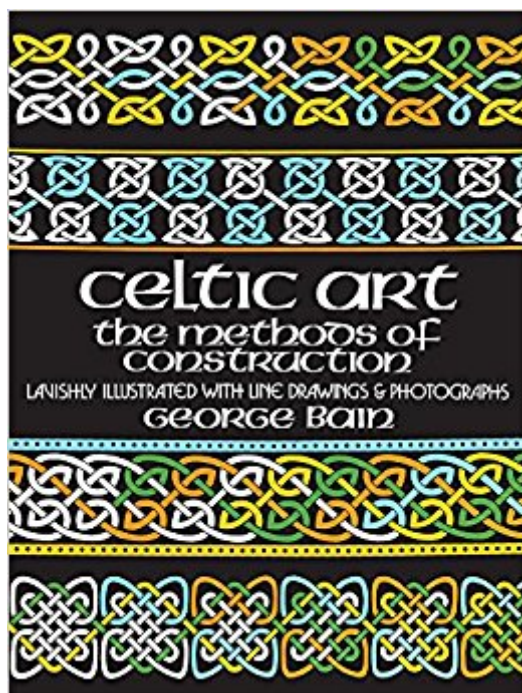


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# Celtic Art: The Methods Of Construction (Dover Art Instruction)



## Synopsis

The construction principles of Celtic art were re-discovered in the middle of the 20th century by George Bain. Until his writing, the intricate knots, interlacings, and spirals used in illuminating The Book of Kells and in decorating craftwork and jewelry seemed almost impossible, "the work of angels." In this pioneering work, George Bain shows how simple principles, no more difficult than those used in needlecraft, were used to create some of the finest artistic works ever seen. He also explains how you can use these principles in re-creating artifacts and in creating your own Celtic designs for art and craft work or even for recreational use. Step-by-step procedures carefully introduce the simple rules and methods of Celtic knot work and the well-known designs from the great manuscripts and stone work. Later chapters build up to complex knot work, spiral work, and key pattern designs, with special coverage of alphabets and the stylized use of animals, humans, and plants. Altogether over 225 different patterns are presented for your use, with hundreds of modification suggestions, 110 historical and modern artifacts showing designs in use, a great number of letters including six complete alphabets and 25 decorative initials, and a number of animal and human figures used in the original Celtic works. Artists, students, craftspeople, even children can work with these patterns and instructions for creating dynamic designs for use in leather work, in embroidery and other needle work, in metalwork, jewelry making, card design, borders, panels, illuminations, and in countless other ways. Mathematicians will find a great deal of pleasure in the geometric principles on which the patterns are based. Art historians and others interested in studying Celtic art will find a great number of outstanding art works and the best presentation in English for understanding Celtic design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The construction principles of Celtic art were re-discovered in the middle of the 20th century by George Bain. Until his writing, the intricate knots, interlacings, and spirals used in illuminating The Book of Kells and in decorating craftwork and jewelry seemed almost impossible, "the work of angels." In this pioneering work, George Bain shows how simple principles, no more difficult than those used in needlecraft, were used to create some of the finest artistic works ever seen. He also explains how you can use these principles in re-creating artifacts and in creating your own Celtic designs for art and craft work or even for recreational use. Step-by-step procedures carefully introduce the simple rules and methods of Celtic knot work and the well-known designs from the great manuscripts and stone work. Later chapters build up to complex knot work, spiral work, and key pattern designs, with special coverage of alphabets and the stylized use of animals, humans, and plants. Altogether over 225 different patterns are presented for your use, with hundreds of modification suggestions, 110 historical and modern artifacts showing designs in use, a great number of letters including six complete alphabets and 25 decorative initials, and a number of animal and human figures used in the original Celtic works. Artists, students, craftspeople, even children can work with these patterns and instructions for creating dynamic designs for use in leather work, in embroidery and other needle work, in metalwork, jewelry making, card design, borders, panels, illuminations, and in countless other ways. Mathematicians will find a great deal of pleasure in the geometric principles on which the patterns are based. Art historians and others interested in studying Celtic art will find a great number of outstanding art works and the best presentation in English for understanding Celtic design.

George Bain clearly demonstrated in his classrooms, to judge from pupils' work here illustrated, that through practice and application in his methods of constructing decoration, anyone with the initial interest can release this innate interest to beautiful and mark out the impress of their individuality that has been a quality in man since the Neolithic times of the cave artist and still finds expression through the subconscious outlines of the phone-pad doodler.

Working in celtic artwork or engraving is an art that can take a lifetime to master; a fact the author makes clear indirectly throughout this work. Nothing quite compares to celtic knotwork for

complexity and detail, nor is as difficult to master. This book is the best place to begin learning how to draw, or etch this style of work.

The book illustrates many techniques for creating Celtic patterns. Some of the text is interesting, but it is dry and stodgy, especially for children who it says is the intended audience. The diagrams are good but about half the resolution they should be. Much of the text in them is barely legible. For the price, the ebook is a good value. Though there are some quality issues.

This book is great reference material. It's very clear and if you want something that is more outlines and less finished designs this is perfect. It shows you how the designs are intended to be interwoven, allowing you to start from the simplest and build up to more complex options. Some of the illustrations are perhaps a little small considering the level of detail but being that this is part of a series this is a good book to begin with. Definitely worth considering buying additional books from the series to complete the collection if you're looking to pad your reference library. I would like to have seen a few small finished designs, the infinity bands are great but they don't join up as finished pieces so you do have to use your brain a little to puzzle out how to join them up if you're not going to use them on a wrapping design. Other books in the series do have them so it's curious that this one is so concentrated on long bands instead.

Good Lord what ingeniousness of people with a drive to create art... You gotta see this if your into calligraphy, illumination, or art of any kind. The possibilities of the mind, hands and colors are astounding and this little gem shows how one impossible art form can become possible for mortals.

My dad and I have been through two copies of this book now. The first was used so much the spine wore out. I have never seen another book of this quality for both artistic and historical interests.

I'm looking for a book to identify different celtic patterns as celtic. This has some history, helps b you to see the drawing process and gave me a good idea on how to identify patterns as celtic. Would like a book with a lot more design but it served my purpose for the few items n I need to confirm as Celtic style.

I got this book as a gift for my artistic husband. He and I both have Celtic heritage. He has carved some very cool things in bone and he expressed interest in Celtic design so I got this book. It is

great.

This is an older book published by Dover, and it is full of knotwork and ornament patterns, instructions on how to do them, variants, and all sorts of goodies. Now here's the thing you may not know about why it's so grand that this is an older book: the designs and research are based on Celtic artifacts, like stone carvings. Environmental factors are causing these to degrade rapidly, so that we can't see detail today that we could see easily 40 years ago. George Bain was able to work with and preserve the details of designs that we've largely lost. So, whether you simply like Celtic things or if you're a serious historical artist struggling to find good source material for the original designs used in the past, this is a great book at a very low price.

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