

include *How to Use Microsoft Excel and How to Use Microsoft Word*. Highly recommended. Aud: J, R, C, P, G. (Gardner)

## CRAFTS, ARTS & HOBBIES

### The Book Binding Guy Video Workshop

★★★★1/2

(2007) 90 min. DVD: \$39.99. Le Marche. PPR.

In this video workshop, Frankie Ridolfi (aka the Book Binding Guy) teaches his friend Ashley a relatively quick and easy five-step process for creating a handmade journal.

In part one, Ridolfi describes the anatomy of a book and prepares the workspace. Part two covers the construction of the book block—folding, cutting, and stitching (with linen thread and twine) the high quality paper signatures. In the third part, viewers see how to glue on the spine and affix the cover boards. Part four is dedicated to the complexities of the end bands—little strips of twine wrapped in colored thread on the top and bottom of the spine—while the last section adds exterior finishing touches, explaining how to affix leather over the spine and decorative paper on the inside covers. Aimed at beginners, Ridolfi's instructions are clear and concise (and he frequently recommends cheaper alternatives to the materials and

equipment he's using). DVD extras include a PDF guide with materials and tools checklists, step-by-step cheat sheets, and other helpful information. Highly recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (J. Wadland)

### Creating Machine Embroidery with Alison Holt: Flowers & Landscapes

★★★★1/2

(2006) 207 min. DVD: \$29.95. Studio Gallii edit. In The Art Calls. PPR. Closed-captioned. ISBN: 0-87920-234-0

In this engaging and comprehensive instructional guide, British textile artist and teacher Alison Holt demonstrates how to create embroidered pictures using nothing more than straight and zigzag stitches on a sewing machine. Holt, who emphasizes economy at every step (practice with thread and fabric you already own, for example), begins with the basics of freeform embroidery before zeroing in on the program's specific focus: flowers (such as poppies, roses, daisies, and lilies) and foliage. Multiple camera angles are employed, including a three-way split screen to offer viewers 1) an overall view, 2) a look at Holt's tensioning on the machine, and 3) a close-up of the actual stitching. After covering flower specifics, Holt discusses painting silk backgrounds using heat-set dyes, and then demonstrates how to embroider flowers on the top to make miniature landscapes. Highly recommended. [Note: also newly available in the Studio Gallii arts & crafts series are *Creating Wire & Beaded Jewelry with Linda Jones* and *Silk Painting with Jill Kennedy*.] Aud: T, G, (Rogers)

## THE ARTS

### The Genius of Michelangelo

★★★★1/2  
(2007) 4 discs, 1,080 min. DVD: \$49.95. The Teaching Company. PPR. ISBN: 078-2-09823-236-6.

Anyone interested in investigating the life and work of one of the Western world's greatest artists will appreciate this series of 36 half-hour lectures, delivered by Professor William E. Wallace of Washington University in St. Louis, which uphold the high standards of The Teaching Company's "Great Courses" series. Wallace, who has published widely on Michelangelo, proves a knowledgeable and articulate guide, adding personal reflections about experiencing his subject's masterworks firsthand, while also staking out positions on controversial matters of fact and interpretation. Wallace draws on early biographical accounts by Vasari and Condivi in the initial six lectures to paint a portrait of Michelangelo's youth and training, emphasizing that he was a fast study and excelled as an engineer as well as an artist. The remainder of the course offers a chronological survey, structured around detailed, thoughtful analyses of the