

Introduction

Hi! My name is Tetiana Skalozub. I am the toy designer and the owner of TSminibears trade mark.

All we know how it is difficult to make first steps when trying to learn something new. Most often reason of this fear is the absence of information and its structure.

That is why I made up my mind to share all useful links I use during my 13-year toy making career.

I hope they will help you to find necessary materials and save during shopping, to start your handcraft business and to promote it, to take part in exhibitions and travel around the world.

I will be very grateful to you if you share your ideas as for the services you use and I will be able to include them in my list.

Let's help each other in art creating and making the way easier!



Tools and materials SHOPS

Rakuten

This is **the first link I recommend** you before you start shopping materials and tools for toy making. The service will give you cash back when you buy from a lot of online shops. This will help you to save some money! And as we know the artist ideas always need investments ;)

Ebay

Search here for Clover tools, needles, Fray check, Keiba nose pliers, Omnigrid scissors.

TSminibears

This is my shop on Etsy. Here you can buy fabrics, sewing kits and PDF patterns from TSminibears.

Probear

All you need for making teddy bear is here: mohair, viscose, stuffing, discs and cotter pins. My favorite shop of professional materials.

Other shops fo tools and materials

- 1) [Tiekids](#) - also teddies and materials shop in Germany.
- 2) [Knoovelkes](#) - materials for teddy bear making in Netherlands.
- 3) [Berelijn](#) - tools and materials in Netherlands.
- 4) [Bearmaster](#) - tools and materials in Russia. This is my partner and you can find my fabrics here.
- 5) [Mishkodel](#) - tools and materials in Russia.
- 6) [Do-Mishka](#) - tools and materials in Russia.
- 7) [Cristiebears](#) - tools and materials in Great Britain.
- 8) [Bearbasics](#) - tools and materials in Great Britain.
- 9) [MohairBearMakingSupplies](#) - tools and materials in Great Britain.
- 10) [Teddysbits](#) - tools and materials in Australia.
- 11) [Gerrys](#) - tools and materials in Australia.
- 12) [Japan Teddy Bear](#) - tools and materials in Japan.
- 13) [Santacruzbear](#) - tools and materials in Japan.
- 14) [Primera-corp](#) - tools and materials in Japan.
- 15) [Edinburghimports](#) - tools and materials in United States.
- 16) [Intercaltg](#) - tools and materials in United States.
- 17) [Crcrafts](#) - tools and materials in United States.
- 18) [ShamrockRose](#) - tools and materials in Canada.
- 19) [BearLandDesignes](#) - tools and materials in Canada.
- 20) [Teddytech](#) - tools and materials in South Africa.
- 21) [Silkribbon](#) - silk ribbons to decorate your toys.
- 22) [Artbeads](#) - beads and Swarovsky elements in United States.
- 23) [Greenbird](#) - beads and Swarovsky elements in Russia.
- 24) [SW-strazy](#) - Swarovsky elements in Russia.
- 25) [Carisma](#) - beads and Swarovsky elements in Ukraine.

Where to sell your toys

When you are ready to start selling your toys, you have to think some questions:

Where to sell them? Online or Off-line?

How to accept payment?

How to pack and ship?

How to promote?

How to collect customers and make them happy with your product?

If you are interested in developing your toy making career, please let me know. I think about creating a course to teach students but not sure a lot of you take the idea seriously.

It is ok if you treat toy creating only as a hobby. This will definitely fill your life with joy ;)

But if you want to go ahead, to share your artistry with the world and get happy customers, start with the services I mentioned below.

Mailerlite

I highly recommend you to start with **making Mail list** to save your customers and get them back every time you make new toy or collection. There are lots of services to do this.

Long time I used [Mailchimp](#) for this purpose, but finally I found [Mailerlite](#) and it turned out very easy to use and understand.

Of course, it is up to you whether to collect customer emails or not, but keep in mind that it is such easier to motivate people to buy from you when they bought from you before and like your product. So this is my #1 and must have method of developing toy business.

[Etsy shop](#)

The second advice is [to open your Etsy shop](#) if you haven't done it yet. You will get [40 listings](#) for free using my link.

I run Etsy shop since 2009. I have 5 star rate and excellent reviews with more than 4K sales. That is why I recommend only the ways those work for me and I am sure it their's efficiency.

Some **services** to help you with Etsy

[Marmalead](#) - helps to find appropriate tags

[Craftcount](#) - see top sellers on Etsy and learn from them

[Pinterest](#) - to drive traffic to Etsy shop

[Tailwind](#) - makes posts to Pinterest in advance

Use all social media you have to drive traffic to Etsy shop. Use advertising when the shop has appropriate tags, descriptions and beautiful pictures.

Other online shows and marketplaces

<https://www.bearpile.com>

<https://tedsby.com/>

[BCA show](#)

Off-line conventions and shows

[TBAI](#) - Taiwan and Beijing teddy bear shows

[Quinlan convention](#) - Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention in Philadelphia, USA

[JTeddy](#) - Teddy bear with friends convention in Tokyo, Japan

[TeddybearTotal](#) - Teddy bear exhibition in Munster, Germany.

[Hugglets](#) - Teddy bear show in London, Great Britain

[HelloTeddy](#) - Teddy bear exhibition in Moscow, Russia

[Artdolls](#) - Art dolls and teddy bears exhibition in Moscow, Russia.

Travel services

As I travel a lot around the world taking part in exhibitions and leading workshop I am happy to share some useful link with you

First thing before going to another country is to get all the information about the country, traditions, transportations and then to create a plan of staying there.

We use the following services:

[Booking](#)

This is where you can find any hotel around the world and book it with your app. Here you can use Rakuten to get 2% cash back.

AirBNB

This is my favorite service to book an apartment from other people. It is safe and cheaper than Booking. Moreover you have access to kitchen and can cook your dishes yourself also saving this way.

<https://www.tripadvisor.com>

<https://www.edreams.com>

<https://www.rentalcars.com>

Thank you for reading this document. I am sure it brought some insights to you and now you are going to use some them.

I will highly appreciate your feedback and suggestions as for this list. If you have something to add or to share YOUR favorite links and services, don't hesitate to write me, I will include them with pleasure.

Best wishes

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