

Q: the posse we do the test-driving for you!

55 best quilting blogs

It's no secret that we are a net-obsessed bunch around here. Between Facebook and Netflix, it's a wonder we get anything done. But our biggest weakness? Quilt blogs. More and more quilters are hopping on the bloggy bandwagon every year, and when we're not drooling over the luscious photography contained therein, we're planning which free project to tackle next. In fact the Internet has become such a central community

for quilters, we're giving it a new name: The Quilternet. This is our second annual listing of the 55 best quilting blogs, though we will admit that there are a few that aren't strictly devoted to quilts. But hey, we're a multi-faceted bunch around here, too, and we get inspiration from all kinds of crafts and crafty types.

Here's how we developed this list (and science has nothing to do with it): We canvassed our Facebook

friends, our personal quilty contact lists and basically anybody who'd answer our e-mails, and we asked what blogs they enjoyed reading. That's it. The number 1 criterion was fun. (You expected maybe advocacy of nuclear disarmament?)

We also looked for frequency of posts, good tutorials, tips, wit and warm fuzzies AND we tried hard to come up with new blog sites, ones we did not feature in last year's Best Blogs story

(April/May 2010). That doesn't mean that last year's listmakers aren't worth returning to. They are and we've posted them on the *QH* website for you to enjoy. We just wanna give up some new goods to you all.

If you think we've forgotten something vital, just drop us an e-mail. And if your blog is included, hop on over to our blog (quiltersclubofamerica.com/blogs/quiltershome) to pick up a web badge so you can let everyone know!

quiltville.blogspot.com

Ask any group of quilters about their fave blogs and Bonnie Hunter's Quiltville will come up every time! The teacher, author and self-described "Hopeless Scrapaholic" has lots of tips, tutorials and free patterns—and even some recipes so you can nosh while you stitch.

myquiltskickass.blogspot.com

Mary Kenyon's quilts are inspired by tattoo art, and she often works directly with tattoo artists to create the designs. Her blog gives a peek into her process and life with her six-year-old daughter. And her quilts do, indeed, kick ass.

alamodefabric.blogspot.com

This is a gateway to a world of Flickr groups, where Heather oversees a wonderful cyber planet of block swaps and fun themes, such as the Little Red Riding Hood group. But don't miss her tutorials. Her Cathedral Windows instructions will change your life.

twinfibers.blogspot.com

Twin sisters Jennifer and Jessica have a weakness for bright color and bold designs in their quilty, crafty projects, making their blog the sweetest kind of eye candy. Check out Jessica's Floral Medallions template for an easy appliqué project that will get you thinking about designing your own.



artfabrik.blogspot.com

Laura Wasilowski is a fused appliqué guru, with several books on the subject under her belt, but she is also an expert in embroidery and hand-dyed fabrics and threads. Click over to her shop to load up on her books, DVDs, threads, fabrics and patterns, then back to the blog for a ton of tips. Our fave post? The 12-Step Rejection Recovery Program, in which she advises: "Get a tattoo. My friend Frieda's tattoo says, 'I love my quilts!' Make sure to get large type so you can still read it at age 90."

poppypintcreates.blogspot.com

When we're not drooling over Krista's gorgeous projects, we're plotting to kidnap her and make her tell us her photography secrets. All her pics of projects have that pop of color and detail we just adore—and when she takes her camera outdoors to document the wonders of British Columbia, we're ready to pack a bag and go for a visit.





www.gingerhendrix.com

Ginger calls her blog “wienerdog tricks,” a reference to an old Far Side cartoon about excitable dogs getting their caffeine buzz in the morning. Ginger’s excess energy goes into her sewing, where she uses 100% re-purposed, thrifted, found and otherwise recycled fabrics. She never shops at a fabric store, and says she never will. She claims she’s not skilled, only gutsy—but we’d argue with that. The best part is, she makes us want to be gutsy, too.

ryanwalshquilts.com

Ryan claims he’s “just a guy who quilts,” but we think he’s a lot more than that. Besides making quilts with a great modern aesthetic, Ryan also has interviews with some of the hottest fabric designers in the q-biz and previews some of their upcoming lines. Not a bad gig for a crafty dad!

miss-print.blogspot.com

When not working on her graduate degree, Kaye Prince is whipping up drool-worthy quilt projects, posting nifty tutorials and presiding over the Toronto Modern Quilt Guild. Her designs have been featured on the Moda Bake Shop Blog and Sew, Mama, Sew—and she knits, too! We’re tired just thinking about it!

www.psiquilt.com

Rachel Griffith taught herself to quilt by looking up everything she needed to know on the Internet. Now she’s one of the most popular go-to sources for inspiration and information, and she’s starting to publish her own patterns. Got a fave project from the Moda Bakeshop? There’s a darn good chance it was one of Rachel’s many contributions.

blog.lukehaynes.com

Quilter Luke Haynes creates utterly striking portraits of people in quilt form. But that’s only a part of what Luke does with fabric and thread. Check out his Virtual Tour of Gallery LUKE video for a great overview of his incredible work.

moderndayquilts.tumblr.com

Tumblr is a short-form type of blog that allows users to post images or links easily and quickly, and it was just a matter of time before someone used it to highlight quilts on the ‘net. Showcasing one Modern quilt a day, with a photo and link to the original blog post, Modern Day Quilts is a compendium of the amazing work being done every day by a new generation of quilters.

pieceandpress.blogspot.com

Landscape designer Dan Rouse has only been quilting since 2009, but already his work is getting noticed. His eight-bit Mario pillow, made for a game-loving nephew, attracted the attention of crafty geeks, and we spotted his grey and red table runner on Modern Day Quilts and just swooned! We can’t wait to see how Dan’s talent progresses.

www.textileevolution.com

Our own contributing writer Liz Kettle offers up a buffet of thoughts, experiences and lessons on fiber art. Her latest endeavor (at press time) is an online book study following her latest effort, *Threads: The Basics & Beyond*, which she co-wrote with Debbie Bates. These exercises on her blog can be done at your own pace and will help bring more art and creativity into your sewing efforts.

ayumills.blogspot.com

If you aren’t yet totally addicted to Japanese fabric, you will be after perusing Ayumi’s blog, Pink Penguin. Her projects are made with some of the most adorable fabric we’ve ever seen, and we are not just talkin’ Kokka, babe. Her intricately paper-pieced block designs (check out the ice cream bars) will make you want to take up a new technique ASAP!

duringquiettime.blogspot.com

So many of us are parents and have to squeeze in our creative activities during naps and after dark, and Amy’s blog shows us just how much we can get done in that time. Her linocut-printed fabrics are adorable times ten and you HAVE to see her miniquilt posted on February 17.

lavieenrosie.typepad.com

Do you love Schnibbles? You know you do. We certainly do, along with everything that comes out of Miss Rosie’s Quilt Co. Carrie Nelson is the genius behind Miss Rosie (a golden retriever, BTW), and her blog gives a peek into what goes into being a quilt designer extraordinaire. (Apparently, there’s a bit of cursing on occasion. Who knew?)

tallgrassprairiestudio.blogspot.com

Jacqui is one of the goddesses of the modern quilt movement, and her 2009 Project Improv had ripples throughout the interwebs. She has so many great tutorials, from basics to block patterns, that you *will* find something new and inspiring.

filminthefridge.com

Ashley's blog was supposed to be about photography, but quilting and sewing took over. Are we grateful! Her combo of colorful quilts and expert snapshots—plus her Starburst block and string quilt block tutorials—will have you rooting through your scraps.

stitchindye.blogspot.com

This blog is a feast of color. Malka Dubrawsky has a way of working with solid fabrics that makes us writhe with envy, plus she's expert in dyeing—creating her own multi-colored wonders to mix in with all those lush solids.

vintagesheets.blogspot.com

Brand spanking new yardage fresh from your fave designer is always a good thing, but there are other ways to get your fiber thrills. Jen at All Things Vintage Sheets has tons of pics showcasing projects made with vintage linens, plus links to online sources where you can buy those linens.

angrychicken.typepad.com

Amy Karol's been blogging since 2005, which pretty much makes her one of the grand dames of online sewing sites. And sure, she's got quilts, but there are lots of other fab sewing projects to grab your fancy. She's already got two books under her belt, so keep reading to see what's coming next.

thehappyzombie.com

Monica Solorio-Snow is SO our favorite kind of blogger. She's got the coolest blog name, she's extremely funny and her new fabric line is called "Happy Mochi Yum Yum." We adore her cute-with-an-edge aesthetic, and as soon as we can get our hands on some of that fabric, we're gonna use it to whip up one of her many free projects.

tessellationnation.com

Listen up, math geeks! Tessellation is a way of tiling shapes with no overlaps or gaps, and Raymond Houston's entire blog is about creating quilt patterns using this method. The pics are mainly black and white illustrations of each pattern he creates, but when you see how he does it, and the vast array of designs that result, you're gonna have a new word in your q-vocabulary!

cicadadaydream.blogspot.com

Fabric designer Michelle Engel Bencsko is, along with Gina Pantastico, the brains behind Cloud9 Fabrics—one of the first companies to bring 100% organic cotton fabrics to quilting. Michelle's blog is packed with projects and tutorials, and sometimes we get a glimpse of the process of designing fabrics, which is something we, personally, can't get enough of.

viriniagreaves.com/blog

This art quilter creates spectacular portraits in fabric, and she often documents the process of creating the various layers that give her quilts such amazing detail. The details she includes—even the non-artistic ones—are full of life and a fascinating depth of thought.

barbarabrackman.blogspot.com

Barbara is a quilt historian and the designer of some wonderful Civil War and William Morris reproduction fabrics for Moda. Her posts are mini history lessons in themselves. Sign up for her Quilt Detective newsletter to get even more in-depth information about the quilts we love.



trueup.net

As Kim Kight says, "True Up is a blog devoted to fabric." But this isn't just photos of someone's stash. Mondays are devoted to showcasing vintage fabric, and Tuesdays are for new releases (just like books and DVDs!). Wednesdays get you interviews and blog tours, and Thursdays are for digitally printed designs (think Spoonflower and such). But our fave day is Friday, when Kim lists fabric sales across the internet, both domestic and international.

stitchedincolor.com

Not only is Rachel Hauser homeschooling two adorable kids, running two web stores and blogging about it all with a sunny attitude and some fantastic photography, she's also organizing a charity quilt project called "do. Good Stitches," where participants are combined into sewing circles that complete one quilt each month.

quiltstory.blogspot.com

Heather and Megan have their own quilt pattern company, Fresh Poppy Designs, and they do have a blog for that (freshpoppydesign.blogspot.com, natch), but QuiltStory is a way cool side project where readers get to submit photos of their quilts and tell their very own behind-the-quilt stories. C'mon—you know you want to!

syko.typepad.com

One of the great things about blogs is we get to visit quilters and crafters in other countries without ever moving our butts from our computer chairs. Kajsa Wikman lives in Helsinki, Finland, and blogs about her life and crafts (in English!) with Scandinavian flair.

westcoastcrafty.wordpress.com

Susan Beal has written books about beaded jewelry (*Bead Simple*) and crafting with buttons (*Button It Up*) and has a new book, *World of Geekcraft*, that came out in May. Whew! Even with all that, she keeps up a great blog about her super quilty/crafty life in Portland, Oregon.

wendiaarons.com

Okay, sue us. This isn't quilty or crafty at all. It is just so flippin' funny, we're addicted and we want to hook you too. Seriously. We don't even have time to be jealous of how good Wendi is because we're laughing too hard to care.

feeddog.blogspot.com

We've been privileged to feature some of Kevin Kosbab's quilt designs here in *QH*, so we love to check in with him on his blog and see what he's up to when he's not gracing our pages. Turns out he's usually up to something crafty and making us laugh while he tells us about it. And you know how we love that.

thequiltengineer.com

If you belong to one of the new Modern Quilt Guilds out there, thank Latifah Saafir. She, and Alissa Haight Carlton (see our next blog pick) started the very first Modern Quilt Guild in Los Angeles in October 2009. Since then, the movement has grown like the federal budget. Latifah has a degree in mechanical engineering, and says she approaches her quilts like an engineer. She also has a great blog with big, bold pictures to complement her mod quilt designs.

handmadebyalissa.com

Alissa is one of the cofounders of the Modern Quilt Guild, and her blog is chock-full of modern eye candy and fun tutorials. Plus, she raised over \$10,000 through her blog for Action Kivu, an organization that runs sewing workshops for victims of the conflict in the eastern Congo. Now that's inspiring!

www.ohfransson.com

Portlander Elizabeth Hartman is one of the most influential quilt bloggers today, and we've been privileged to publish one of her designs right here in *QH*. Her funky, mod projects are a delight to watch as they come together, and readers can often participate in her frequent quilt-alongs. She does neat giveaways and contests, too. Check out her Tokyo Subway Map quilt for the result of one of those nifty giveaways.

quiltish.blogspot.com

Ever thought about starting your own Etsy shop? It may seem easy, but there are plenty of details to consider. Alissa Jacobs has done it, and she shares her experiences and offers great advice on her blog. She also offers fab tutorials (we're putting fabric flowers on everything) and sells her charming bags in her Etsy shop.

redpepperquilts.com

If you're not already a fan of Rita's blog, you're probably one of two quilters left (and get out from under that rock, you two!). Rita's simple, scrappy designs are so bright and cheerful, and she has a way with color that we envy. She even sells many of her completed quilts and original patterns in her Etsy shop. Lovely Rita is definitely one of our favorite Aussies.

stitchinpostinsisters.typepad.com

If Mecca had a blog, well, this would be it. The Stitchin' Post in Sisters, Oregon, is like the mother ship for West Coast quilters—and, well, quilters everywhere, really. Sisters is also home to the famous Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show, and The Stitchin' Post is a major sponsor of that event. Oh, yeah—it's co-owned by Valori Wells and her mom, Jean. Yep...pretty much everything we love about quilting all rolled into one.

ivoryspring.wordpress.com

Wendy started out as a chemical engineer, but got bitten by the quilting bug several years ago. Now her work appears in major quilt mags, and her home machine quilting rivals that of any longarmer. She has lots of tips for free motion quilting, and an adorable quilt-along project called Ladybug in Polka Dotville.

threadgatherer.blogspot.com

Here's one for all you cross-stitchers out there (and we know there's more of you all the time). Debbie quilts, needlepoints and knits, but her passion is cross-stitch, and she's working on some beauties! We love seeing her progress on what she calls BAPs (Big-Assed Projects), and we can't wait to see what comes next.

stashmanicure.blogspot.com

Stash Manicure is a big net fave and no wonder. Featuring guest posts from tons of different bloggers, it's like the best of the quilternet (yep—we totally love that word) all rolled into one.

sammisofties.blogspot.com

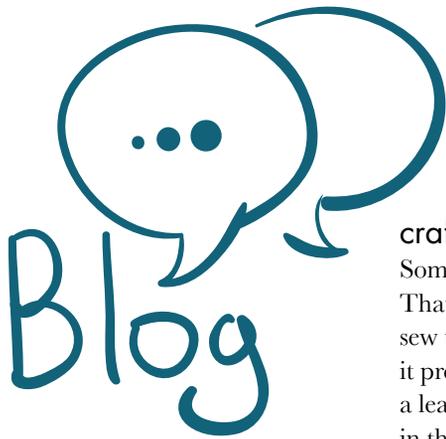
We discovered Samantha Cotterill while researching our Thread Sketching article back in the December/January 2011 issue, and we've been hooked ever since. Not only do we get to see so much of her fabulous artwork, fabrics and other creations, we're also treated to an honest, open and utterly relatable account of life with two young boys.

www.celebrate-creativity.com

This is one of those blogs you just want to dive into and swim around in for hours. Lisa does it all: quilting, crafting, cooking—and she documents each and every project with tons of gorgeous photographs. We're calling it: Give this woman her own TV show. Now. She has an Emmy for on-air TV reporting already, so you know she's a natural. Move over, Martha!

sewmamasew.com/blog2

This blog is a companion, along with the Sew Mama Sew forum, to the online fabric and pattern shop of the same name. Unlike many shop blogs, this one is a major resource for patterns and projects, with tons of guest editors and board members contributing. It also sponsors the now-famous Blog Giveaway Day, where bloggers give away something from their own blogs, which are then publicized on a master list on Sew Mama Sew. Genius!



blog.craftzine.com

CRAFT used to be a print magazine (along with its sister pub, *MAKE*), but now is an online mag only, but with a fantastic blog. While it occasionally links back to its own site, it mostly focuses on the rest of the web, offering links to all kinds of crafty, wonderful things. You'll learn a lot about adding LED lights into your sewing and amigurmi crochet and needle felting and...well, everything!

craftfail.com

Sometimes we just suck. That's right. On occasion, we sew up something so hideous, it probably ought to be put in a lead-lined box and buried in the desert. But one of these days, we'll submit one of our boo-boos to Craftfail, so others can get a good laugh out of it. *Then* we'll bury it.

erinrussek.typepad.com

Appliqué heaven, right here! Erin has some of the best step-by-step instructions we've seen for turned-edge appliqué, and she does a year-long Block-of-the-Month project featuring her gorgeous original designs. If you've been fearful of hand appliqué, but still long to try it, Erin will help you through it.

color-collective.blogspot.com

Coming up with new palettes for quilts and other projects can be daunting, and even seeing certain combos in other mediums can be hard to translate. Lauren Willhite's blog takes works of fashion, art and photography and pulls color palettes from each one. Simple and brilliant.

exitthroughthethriftshop.com

Jenny Ryan has only been blogging since January, but she's a keeper. A contributor to the *CRAFT* blog and Apartment Therapy LA, Jenny is also a member of the group that started it all, the L.A. Modern Quilt Guild. Her blog is beautifully photographed and well-written, and covers quilts *and* tons of other crafts—her own and those she spots around the net.

whilshenaps.typepad.com

If you've been blog-surfing at all in the last few months, you've surely seen lots of buzz about the book *The Artful Bird*, by Abby Glassenberg. Abby, a former teacher, creates amazing soft sculpture animals during the two hours a day her children nap. We love how she deconstructs the process and shows us how she creates these little works of art. 

freemotionquilting.blogspot.com

Leah Day started her blog with the intention of creating 365 free-motion quilting designs in one year. She didn't quite make it, but she did end up inspiring a whole lot of quilters to stop quilting by check and start quilting on their home machines. She's still offering tons of new designs, as well as other quilting advice.

iheartlinen.typepad.com

This is one of those blogs that is just so consistently enjoyable, we confess to being a wee bit jealous of it at times. Rashida Coleman-Hale, author of *I Love Patchwork*, not only shows tons of delicious stitchery, but her background in art and fashion design has led her to designing fabrics as well. Until her new line hits the store shelves, check out her Spoonflower shop (spoonflower.com/profiles/iheartlinen_) to see how good she is!

