

2010 fave quilting websites

Man, oh man! There have been mega changes in the Net-world of quilting in just 16 months! Most of the old standbys that made our fave list last year are still out there — although a few dropped out of sight — but there are so many fresh, new websites to explore that we just had to concentrate on the newbies in our second annual Fave Websites review.

With a couple of exceptions, this year's list is all-new! However, as a service to you OCD types — and we're right there with you — we are reprinting the June/July 2009 list of *Best Websites* on the QH website. (Who's gotcha covered, huh?)

What the Posse noticed right off the batting was most of these sites are über-pro and glossy — fresh design, great photography (where appropriate) and easy to navigate. What a HUGE difference to look at pure eye candy instead of laboring through over-busy sites with annoying, flashing things covering the screen!

We again include online shops in the mix. And we concentrated on quilt pattern and fabric designers instead of teachers this time around. Why? Because we found so many free, free, free projects and patterns on the designers' sites that we think it's more of a treat for you. (Thank us later...unmarked bills are just fine.)

Etsy is the big repeat this year, mostly because this behemoth of handcrafted goodness has grown even faster than the national debt. There are so many more quilt-related Etsy shops that to not include Etsy means you miss out on all these cool quilty places to spend your money! Besides shopping, Etsy gives us unending ideas

for things we can do ourselves. And, if you open an account on Etsy, you also get tons of free info to market your wares and designs.

Now remember, unlike the web — which seems to have no limits — we do have a finite number of pages to lavish on you. If you think there's something critical missing from this second annual *Fave Websites* list, drop us an e-mail and we'll have a look. Now, turn the ringer down on the phone, pour some wine and start surfing!

Online fabric shops

quilthome.com Looking for a source for those wonderful modern and contemporary fabrics? This is the place! Come surf your fill of Kaffe, Heather and Amy.

www.modabakeshop.com You don't have to love Moda to love the Bake Shop, but it doesn't hurt. And if you don't love Moda, people, what's wrong with you?

fabricworm.com Welcome to another great online store for contemporary fabrics and patterns. They also have a way-good selection of precuts and bundles, so stock up!

quiltinggallery.com If there was ever an online five-and-dime for quilting, it's here. There's a little bit of everything, including blog listings, cool links, how-to videos and tips for connecting with other quilters.

buntefabrics.com Bunte specializes in imported European fabrics and patterns. This is where you go when you want that great printed knit or cord to whip up a skirt for your kid or grand-kid. There are quilt fabrics here, too.

www.thefabricfairy.com This online store has just opened a brick and mortar stop in Madison, Wisconsin, but don't let that stop you from lurking and spending online. With a definite bent toward kids, Fabric Fairy has plenty of kits, patterns and Euro mags to keep you stitching along. It has quilts, too!

www.equilter.com Luana Rubin's online store remains on the Posse's top list because it's deep and rich with fabric offerings. The search engine is fab, and you can maintain a wish list if you can't buy it right away.

www.maisonnetteoceanside.com Our Posse is filled with Francophiles, which is why we turn the sound up, not off, when we visit on this online fabric shop. Edith Piaf aside, it's one of the slickest sites we've seen in a while. The

shop is in Oceanside, California, and its site feels like you're walking through its small but nicely stocked rooms.

www.hancocks-paducah.com We still love Hancock's! Tons and tons and tons of fabrics keep us coming back for more. And that catalog just makes our day when it appears in the mailbox.

www.cityquilter.com One of us is a diehard NYC gal, and this shop brings tears of homesickness to her eyes. Sharp fabrics and some way fun citified kits keep the Big Quilt Apple vibe alive in our heart.

www.sewbaby.com If you're into kids, even a little bit, this shop has what you're looking for, including unique baby quilt patterns and a couple of freebies.

thequiltedcastle.com An awesome site for those who drool over bright and hip fabrics and patterns! Also, it's a great source for Japanese fabrics. Play around here for even a few minutes and be prepared to spend some cash-o.

sarahsfabrics.com Serving mid-America since 1973, this Kansas shop — in an historic building restored in 2001 — is deep in desirable yardage. It's fun to search through the categories because there's so much in each one.

www.imaginefabric.com We were sold at the Marimekko pillows! That aside, there's a bunch of free how-to lessons and projects to enjoy.

www.keepsakequilting.com One of the best known shops on the Eastern seaboard, Keepsake Quilting puts out a drool-fest catalog as well. It's the perfect size to hide inside the notebook when you're supposed to be taking notes at your guild's board meeting.

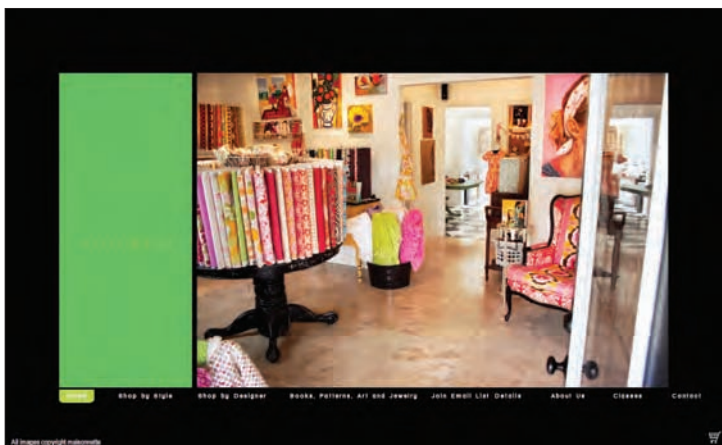
Fabric companies

www.michaelmillerfabrics.com Yet another fabric company with bunches of free quilt patterns on its site. Many are proprietary to a specific panel fabric, but there are enough that are interesting and adaptable to your own stash that it's worth a lingering visit.

www.hoffmanfabrics.com What's not to love about Hoffman? And there are way more than 100 free patterns on its site, and most of them are really cool!



www.rileyblakedesigns.com Like Moda's Bakeshop, Riley Blake's site features way more than just glorious, fun fabrics and notions. It also has Cutting Corners College, an online project workshop with free tutorials.



www.freespiritfabric.com The fabric home of some of our fave designers has a ton of awesome free quilt patterns and previews of upcoming collections.

www.robertkaufman.com At last count, this steadfast fabric company had more than 130 free projects and patterns on its site. If you happen to have a Boy Scout or Girl Scout around you, check out the projects made using the scouts' fabrics Kaufman produces. Who says only boys can have an Explorer's belt pouch?

Notions, tools, publishers and sewing machines

www.sewingrepublic.com This online community by Bernina features some excellent online video tutorials for basic sewing skills and projects. Not too much is quilt related, but it's still relevant to other sewn crafts.

www.electricquilt.com The home of EQ programs (EQ7 was released a few months ago), this site offers great support for everything to do with the EQ software. Video tutorials, projects, a shop with EQ products and an online community devoted to loving EQ can all be found here.

www.needletravel.com If you're looking for a shop in the Ozarks and can't drum up a Yellow Pages, this is where to go. It lists quilt shops, as well as yarn and other needlework retailers throughout the U.S. And it doesn't require the shops to advertise, which means it has a pretty complete listing.

www.martingale-pub.com Martingale's site has grown up over the last two years, and we're happy to declare it list-worthy. Freebies include downloadable screensavers of popular quilts from their authors.



www.stashbooksblog.com

www.stashbooksblog.com Yeah, technically it's a blog, but Stash Books is C&T Publishing's new imprint catering to the DIY/modern quilter in us all. Their site overflows with great 4-1-1.

Designers

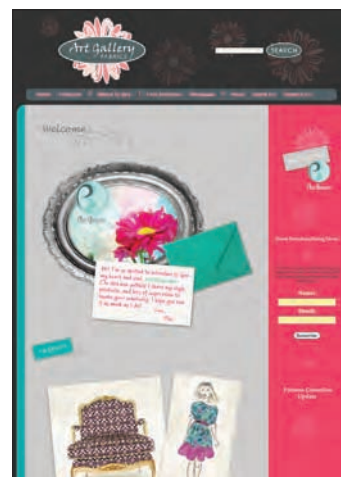
www.ohfransson.com Elizabeth Hartman's site is deep, informative and beautifully illustrated. She's packed it with tutorials, free projects and patterns.

www.amybutlerdesign.com If you're an Amy disciple, this is the place to surf. Pics of her studio while she's working, patterns, inspirational shots. And — hold on to your sewing tables — tons and tons of free downloadable patterns.

valoriwells.com Valori's site has only three free patterns, but the rest of her site is filled with visual inspiration, from her wonderful photography to her new-found love, painting. Check it out...

www.sandihendersondesign.com Sandi, designer of Portabellopixie patterns and fabrics for Michael Miller Fabrics, has a neat site featuring her happy designs and photography, as well as several free fun projects.

www.artgalleryfabrics Patricia Bravo's site is attractive, easy to navigate and best of all it features Pat's stuff: fabrics, patterns, kits, oh my! Her look is today and her designs are bright, sophisticated and used in all of her quilt, clothing and home décor projects.



www.artgalleryfabrics.com

www.heatherbaileystore.com Much like Amy Butler, Heather Bailey is a sewing empire onto herself, and we're glad! Her shopping site is chock-full o' fun stuff to buy. And you'll find the link to her blog here, which is where the free stuff — tutorials, projects — is found.

www.frenchgeneral.com So it's not enough to worship the fabric of your fave designer by making quilts and wearables with it? Well, try coordinated vintage style jewelry. You can if your fave designer of the moment is French General. With Kaari Meng's fantastique fabrics from Moda, this jewelry hound offers coordinated kits on her site as well as the fabric in question.

www.figtreequilts.com It's Joanna Figueroa's site for her über-popular style of fresh vintage fabrics and patterns. Now, there weren't any freebies here, but we added her to the list based on sheer site gorgeousness.

whipup.net An online group devoted to helping you slow down and take your time — with your crafts and quilting, natch! This site's great projects and tutorials won't disappoint.

Online communities

craftgossip.com Ooooh, get your daily dish here! This site pulls in craft blog posts and offers them in one daily bundle. You'll find tutorials, projects, book reviews and news.

decor8blog.com Technically, it's a blog, but decor8 features wonderful, hip, fresh decorating looks, all of which will inspire some incredible quilt designs! Study the site for fresh takes on color and line in the rooms featured. Also, check out the listing of shops that cater to the simple design aesthetic.

www.designspongeonline.com Another design-focused site that will fill you to the brim with inspiration. And, there are scads of DIY projects. We like Haylie's Spool Hooks as a way to up-cycle those old spools rolling around your studio floor!



www.designspongeonline.com

quiltqua.com A little more seasoned since our last review, this site is a great resource for searching out all things quilty.

www.lostquilt.com This is the Internet lost and found for MIA quilts. Its poignant stories will have you thinking it's kinda like *Lifetime TV* for quilters.

www.quiltart.com If you're even vaguely interested in art quilts, this active, veteran e-mail list-cum-community is where you need to be.

www.threadbanger.com Billed as the first network for people who make their own style, ThreadBanger features videos of projects and features covering all crafts, especially sewing.

www.quilterschoicenetwork.com A fledging network of nifty biz news and other offerings, the network's plan is to expand into television-style shows featuring several different hosts.

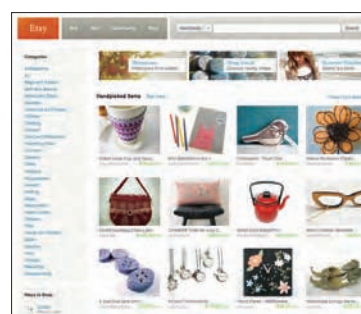
themodernquiltguild.com Like the modern movement? Looking for a chapter near you, or just wanna get into the groove online? The site for the Modern Quilt Guild parent organization is here and has it all for you.

www.sewing.org The Sewing & Craft Alliance's site gives you tons of resources for sewing and quilting. One of our faves is the link to *www.SewTrendy.com*, an offshoot site catering to teen sewers with projects and in-school programs.

www.quiltersclubofamerica.com Can 30,000+ quilters be wrong? That's the population on this lively, active site, dipping into its blogs, forums, videos and other fun stuff. Now, the majority of action is kinda traditional, but there's room for the trendier modern vibe, too. After all, we all love fondling fabric!

Miscellaneous

etsy.com We love etsy! From inspiration to splurges, this is the site where you spend quality time. It has loads of — maybe too many! — handcrafted and vintage items to choose from. And, if you're even slightly interested in selling your own stuff, it's rich with advice and coaching to get you going.



etsy.com

zazzle.com If you're into designing your own stuff, this is one of the two places to visit on the Internet. Picture having your favorite quilt design put onto a pair of Keds sneakers?

cafepress.com And this would be the other place. Independent artists, writers and general smart alecks upload art and cute sayings and have them printed on everything from things to beer bottle holders. Serious fun here.

www.flickr.com Whether you're looking to share pics of your quilts or find inspiration from what others have made, this is the site to search. Just the word "quilts" in the search engine garnered a half million pics!

www.facebook.com Yes, Facebook is having its struggles these days, but still, if you're looking to commune with other quilters of any persuasion, this is where you go to find them.

