

FEATURED MEMBER PATTI HOWELL

How long have you been quilting? About 25 years.

Who taught you how to quilt? Nobody. My mother taught me to Embroider and make doll clothes when I was 6 years old. I continued to sew from then on making my clothes, home decorations, crafts, and grandchildren heirloom dresses. So I just assumed I knew how to sew and could start quilting whenever I wanted. Both my grandmothers quilted and I wanted to, but I didn't have time until my children were grown. I then just started quilting. It didn't take me long to realize that I did need instruction and then I began taking classes from some very knowledgeable national teachers. I highly recommend learning how to quilt before starting.

What are your favorite quilting techniques? I don't think I have a favorite. I like it all. I especially like to finish a quilt so I can start another. I like piecing, paper-piecing, appliqué and hand quilting.

What are your favorite colors to work with? I seem to gravitate toward the bold, bright colors. I love the soft colors but never seem to have any of these. I guess pastels are my least favorite.

What are your favorite fabrics to work with? I use cotton most of the time. I have never used anything else but would like to try silk and wool.

What is your favorite quilt shop? My favorite is Intown Quilters, but I really like them all. I like Intown because they carry so much of the fabrics I really like and many different lines. I always seem to find something to buy at each shop.

If you sew by machine, what kind(s) do you use? I have two Berninas; one is very old and the other is newer. I have a featherweight which I leave at the lake house and then I always have something to sew when I go over there. I also have an HQ-16 quilting machine and I enjoy doing all my quilting on it.

What inspires you to make a particular quilt? I think I'm backward. I usually find a fabric I like (can't live without) and then look for a pattern to make. I am more of a textile person. I have favorite fabric designers such as Jane Sassaman (she lights up my world), Kaffe Fassett and Company. There are many others, but I can't think of them.

What is your favorite quilting book or pattern? Again, I think I like them all. I have quite a few books and want to make something from all of them. I also see things in magazines and want to make them. I especially like the Fig Tree books and fabrics, but I haven't made but one of their quilts.

On average, how many quilts do you make in a year? Probably 10 to 12 large quilts and a few wall hangings.

Do you quilt your own quilts or do you send them out? I quilt all my quilts.

What quilt-related item(s) are you working on right now? I have three large quilt tops ready to quilt right now and two wall hangings. I hope to finish these before January as I want to start something new.

What other hobbies do you have? I am a pianist and organist. I also love to paint. I refinish furniture and do faux painting. But I haven't done very much of this for the past ten years. I have spent all my time quilting and still have a lot of UFOs.

Tell about one way that quilting has changed your life. The one thing quilting has done for me is kept me busy. Being busy keeps me healthy and happy. I have also made some really good friends at the quilt guild. Also, it keeps me out of my husband's way. He used to complain because I made messes in his shop when I worked on furniture.

Are you on any committees with the CRQG? Yes, Challenge quilt.

Feel free to tell us more about yourself and your family. I have two wonderful children and five grandchildren. Of course, they are the best ever. Grandchildren are my greatest joy.

