Online Resources for Quilt Making November 2017

**Classe sites**

Craftsy www.craftsy.com

CraftU www.craftonlineuniversity.com

Iquilt www.iquilt.com

**Webinars**

Modern quilt guild www.themodernquiltguild.com

Academy of quilting

These are just a few of the available online resources. If there is enough interest we can continue exploring resources at another Create and Connect day. The process of accessing these classes is generally very similar. I’ve giving the most directions for enrolling in Craftsy but once you can navigate there you’ll be able to easily figure out the others. Craftsy has FREE classes that you can practice with!

**Craftsy**

This is my favorite online quilting class platform. You will have access to all the online classes you purchase forever. If you use the Craftsy app you can download the classes for offline viewing. The platform has notetaking, bookmarking, and 30 second replay capability. It also has a sidebar for student questions that is updated throughout the class. The instructor will answer your questions there and you can view all the questions/answers that have been asked to date. With each class there is a projects board where you can upload or view student projects for the class and you can comment there as well. You can enroll and take the classes at any time. The only drawback I’ve found with craftsy is that if your class includes a hard copy of a pattern it takes forever to receive it in the mail. Most of the quilt classes use downloadable pdf patterns so it’s not generally a problem.

1. Register for a free account using your email or Facebook. You will create a password and then be guided through a brief series of questions about your craft preferences. At the end you will be offered a free online class. The free classes are shorter than the paid classes but still have useful content and are a good way to get familiar with how to navigate Craftsy classes. If you go to the Craftsy home page and scroll to the bottom you will see a link for free classes. Click on the link and you will see the free classes in all categories.
2. Click on a class, then click enroll, this will add it to your shopping cart, since it’s free you won’t be charged but you still have to click check out. After you click check out the class will appear in your class library.
3. To find your library go to the far right top of the home page, you’ll see an icon that looks like a stick figure person with a “v” to click down. Hover over it with your mouse and you’ll see your account info and libraries. You’ll see two libraries because you can buy and sell patterns on Craftsy too. Click on your class library and then the class you want to view.
4. Once you are at your class homepage you will see your class video screen and a red bar across the top. On the bar you can click on lessons, notes, materials, activity, and projects.
5. To start the class video click the play button.

CraftU

CraftU format is very similar to Craftsy. Some classes are start anytime and some have specific start and end dates. You usually have one year to access the courses but you can download all the lessons and videos to your computer for viewing offline. They offer certification courses (this is where I got my Sulky teacher certification). You can interact with the instructors but, in my experience, they are slow to respond.

1. Create an account using your email and pick a password.
2. Add your class to your shopping cart, pay and checkout then class will show in your library.
3. If it is “on demand” you will have immediate access but if it has a start date the class will show in your library but you will not be able to access it until the start date.
4. Click on the class from your library and you will come to the homepage of the class. On the left is a panel with lessons, resources, gallery, and notes.
5. Click on lessons and then the ”we are glad you’re here” lesson. You will now be on the how to navigate the class page and it very clearly walks you through how to navigate the class. . It’s a bit different than the Craftsy format, the arrows at the top right and left move you through the screens.

Iquilt

Iquilt is associated with the American Quilter’s Society. If you are a member of AQS you get a discount on classes and the format is similar to the craftsy and Iquilt formats. If you take a class through one of these three sites you should be able to easily navigate all of them. You cannot download the videos for offline viewing but you can download some of the class materials and you have access to the course forever. Some of the classes allow instructor interaction but some do not; you have to read the class description. Most of the online class sites will have a getting started page or a FAQ that will walk you through the entire process of buying and taking their classes. Iquilt has a very clear step by step on the getting started page.

1. Create and account using your email address and pick a password
2. Add class to your cart and checkout.
3. Go to the top of the page, on the right, and click on the text of your name. This will take you to your account and on the left panel you will see My Courses, profile, notifications, and messages.
4. Click on My Courses. This takes you to your course library.
5. Click on your class.

Academy of Quilting

The Academy of Quilting is my least favorite of all the online platforms because you cannot download the videos and you have limited time to access the class materials. It feels more like a collection of YouTube videos and written tutorials than an online class. You can interact with the instructors on a chat board but there doesn’t seem to be much activity there. I did learn things in some of the classes but one was just text onscreen, not really much new info and cost the same as full class.

Modern Quilt Guild

MQG is a national guild and you can join as an individual for $30.00. In the resources/members only sections you will find free live and recorded webinars and tutorials. The focus is on modern quilting but many of the techniques and theories apply to traditional quilting as well.