

Chapter 1

Getting Started

I find I learn easiest by being shown how to do something. That is one of the reasons we put so many photographs on my web site. But another way to be shown is to take a course. Pick a beginner class and take some time for yourself.

Not only is quilting a very productive craft – you finish with wonderful quilts! -- it is also a very relaxing and healing process. It is amazing what problems you can solve while concentrating on stitching together bits of cotton.

- 1. *Quilting is something that I think I would like to learn. Growing up I was never around anyone who did quilting. So I know nothing at all about how to do it. Do you think that there is any hope for me? - Peggy***

YES! You CAN learn to quilt -- have you had a look at my [beginner lessons](#)? Quilting is a skill, just like knitting or crocheting, so go ahead and give it a try!

I was the first one in my family to learn to quilt, and after that, my sister and my niece learned too. It doesn't matter whether you grew up with the role models or not - you can do it! There are quilters all over the world and most of us are pleased to share our knowledge!

- 2. *How to start ?- Eileen***

A great way to start is to sign up for beginner quilting lessons at your local quilt store.

If that is not an option, then either purchase a beginner book "[Quilters Complete Guide](#)" by Fons & Porter and choose a simple pattern to start, or follow the "[Learn to Quilt](#)" lessons on my website.

3. *I am making my daughter a T shirt quilt....my problem is that I saved them since she was 2 years old & is now 33. She wants them ALL. If I do that, it will be larger than a King Size blanket. I'm thinking of doing it two sided or something to that affect...any ideas would be welcome - Brenda*

It would be great if she could choose her very favorite ones and you use those on the quilt top. You could also make two quilts!

You could certainly use the t-shirts on both sides; -- the only downside is that the quilt will get quite bulky. The t-shirts need a stabilizer fused to the back of them, so that adds to the bulk.

You can see [how I made a t-shirt quilt in 7 days](#) – it may give you some ideas

4. *Getting all my tools together in one place and then finding a place to work in. Time is also hard to find. Very hard to do while taking care of an elderly mother (96) – Norma*

It might be a good idea to get a plastic “tool” box from the hardware store to keep all your quilting tools in. Then it’s always ready to go when you are. The kitchen counter makes a great cutting table, and perhaps you could sew at the kitchen or dining room table.

Finding time is always a challenge, but when we really enjoy something as much as I love quilting, I can always find the time!

5. *My biggest challenge is trying to find someone who can teach me how to quilt...But I am sure that is not what you are looking for. – Dana*

Do you have any quilt shops nearby? They usually have classes for beginners.

There are also instructions for [beginner quilting](#) on my website.



“As ye Sew ..so Shall Ye Rip”

