

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR QUILTERS by Anita Peluso

A. My background

I grew up on a farm in Iowa. I have 2 younger brothers. And my mom sews as well.

1. 4-H – www.4-h.org – I started sewing when I was 8 through our local 4-H club.
2. College – www.aeshm.hs.iastate.edu – BS in Textiles & Clothing at Iowa State University
3. My blog – www.bloominworkshop.wordpress.com, my patterns – www.bloominworkshop.com

B. The Internet

So much of my inspiration and quilting support comes through the Internet.

1. Flickr – www.flickr.com – originally just photo storage but now it is as much of a social network as Facebook.
 - a. Swaps – Doll Quilt Swap, Scrappy Mug Rug Swap, Placemat Quilt Swap, Scrappy Pincushion Swap
 - b. Support Groups – Scrapbusters Challenge
 - c. Quilting Bees – Quilting Bee Blocks
2. Spoonflower – www.spoonflower.com – print your own fabric or buy fabric others have printed
3. Ravelry – www.ravelry.com – social network for knitting, crochet, and spinning – even groups for sewing and vintage sewing machine enthusiasts.
4. Pinterest – www.pinterest.com – tag things you see around the internet – add notes & follow friends
5. Glorious Color – www.gloriouscolor.com - Kaffe Fassett & Rowan fabric designers – has a tool to search by color theme.

C. Blogs

These are just a few of my favorites. The best way to discover new blogs is to follow links from the ones you already read.

1. True Up – www.trueup.net – all about fabric
2. Crazy Mom Quilts – crazymomquilts.blogspot.com – lots of great free quilt tutorials
3. 365 Days of Free Motion Quilting – freemotionquilting.blogspot.com – quilting ideas
4. Ann Champion – www.annchampion.com – has a cupboard full of antique quilts

D. Tutorials

Tutorials are a great way to learn a new method or technique. They have become the virtual classroom for the young, inexperienced quilters and those who don't have the plethora of quilt shops like we do. Nearly every blog has some sort of tutorial.

1. Cluck. Cluck. Sew – www.cluckclucksew.com – blog with links to tutorials around the web
2. Oh, Fransson! – www.ohfransson.com – blog with tutorials
3. Sew, Mama, Sew! - www.sewmamasew.com – an online shop with lots of tutorials
4. Moda Bake Shop – www.modabakeshop.com - where they call them “Chef Recipes”

E. Quilt-Alongs

Quilt-alongs are step-by-step projects posted on the web where everyone can follow along at the same time and instructions for an entire project are posted daily, weekly, monthly or on some sort of regular schedule.

1. Old Red Barn - www.flickr.com/groups/oldredbarncoquiltalong2009 - ongoing
2. Bloomin' Workshop – www.bloominworkshop.wordpress.com – that's me! – Medallion and Wild Goose Chase

F. Electric Quilt

1. Designing for Clothworks – www.clothworkstextiles.com – I use EQ to design quilts used as free pattern handouts – current collections include: Isabella, Lily and Peony, My Country Garden, Paisley Denim, Shades, Sweet Caroline
 - a. They send electronic fabric swatches
 - b. I reduce the size for EQ
 - c. Offer them 3 or 4 design ideas, Clothworks chooses 1, submits others to magazines for possible publication
 - d. Create quilt image in Photoshop & write pattern instructions
2. www.electricquilt.com – the best part, I think, is the ability to make any block any size.
 - a. Electric Quilt 7 – quilt design software
 - b. Dear Jane – software to make all 225 blocks from the famous “Dear Jane” quilt – blocks & fabric libraries can be linked to EQ (www.dearjane.com to see the original Dear Jane quilt)
 - c. BlockBase – block library based on Barbara Brackman's book “Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns” – block libraries can be linked to EQ