



Block Party - The Modern Quilting Bee: The Journey of 12 Women, 1 Blog, & 12 Improvisational Projects

Alissa Haight Carlton , Kristen Lejnieks

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The quilting bee gets a modern makeover - From the creators of popular blog, blockpartyquilting.com - Let go of "the rules" with 12 fun, funky, and improvisational projects - The fundamental techniques are outlined - from fabric selection to quilt tops to binding - Projects are perfect for both beginner and experienced quilters - It's hip to be square! In this inspiring book, quilting mavericks Alissa and Kristen chronicle their year-long "virtual" quilting bee. Twelve chapters (one for each month) showcase the designs of today's leading modern quilters along with easy-to-follow guidelines, so you can reinvent their work in your own signature style. Best of all, with this book in hand, you'll have everything you need to start your own online quilting bee and enjoy collaborating with other fabric lovers around the world.

Block Party - The Modern Quilting Bee: The Journey of 12 Women, 1 Blog, & 12 Improvisational Projects Details

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Ciara says

another quilting book. this one has a bit of a gimmick, if you will. rather than just being a selection of patterns, it follows the progress of a year-long quilting bee. each of twelve quilt bloggers was assigned a month & came up with a design & some fabric that she sent to the other bee members, who then made blocks for her quilt. when she received all her blocks, she was responsible for putting together the layout, backs, binding, etc. of course this appealed to my weird obsession with sets of things, year-long projects, etc. i'm so predictable that way. some of the quilt ideas were pretty cool too. i might give some of them a whirl.

quilting books are weird though in how specific they are. i see the appeal. it's nice to have a pattern that tells you exactly how much fabric you need, exactly how to cut it, exactly how to use the scraps, etc etc. but so far, i prefer to just get ideas from books & make up my own patterns. quilt patterns tend to be such weird sizes. like, "this pattern makes a 52" square quilt. but this pattern over here will be 80" by 70"." okay? i don't know why that bothers me so much, but it does.

i am also still trying to figure out what exactly a "modern" quilt is. as far as i can tell, it means combining weird colors, making scrappy borders & pieced backs, & cutting traditional patterns to be "wonky" (which is a word i have never liked). that's cool. i guess. but the word "modern" is starting to lose all meaning for me. i guess it's probably more of a marketing term than anything else, right?

but yeah, i liked this book! nice photos, & i like the quilting bee idea.

Bethany says

Great patterns- they're simple and fresh. It would be easy to change the fabric to make them more of your own style. I like the idea of a virtual quilting bee..it would be fun to get random fabric in the mail to sew!

Kristina says

LOVED this book and all 12 quilts. I would love to make every single one. But so many quilts (and so many other craft projects), so little time.

Jocelyne Broderick says

I love the projects these ladies made! Fun book!

Nonnie says

BLOCK PARTY ... a modern quilting bee

**By Alissa Haight Carlton
And Kristen Lejnikes**

This book has been around since 2011, but it is new to me. I got it as payment from a friend who owns a quilt shop. (Long story but off topic.)

This book is different in that it was more of a chronicle of an on line QUILTING BLOCK PARTY (BEE.) The book discusses a yearlong project among friends. They each took turns designing quilt blocks and sending instructions and fabric to the others in the group. Once the blocks were made they sent them back to the originator who assembled them into a quilt.

Today, I recognize most of the names of the quilters who made the blocks, but if I had read the book in 2011 I would not have recognized any of the quilters. I knew little or nothing about the Modern Quilt Movement. I probably would have rated it very low as I had little or no appreciation of modern quilts and what they were about. I will also be the first to admit that I am rather HIDE BOUND and ridged in some of my opinions. I do not think I would liked many of the blocks / quilts in the book. I have learned a lot about the MODERN QUILT MOVEMENT and what they are trying to accomplish. I have a growing appreciation of MODERN QUILTS and have even made several blocks and quilts using patterns that are considered modern.

I enjoyed the quilters statements that are include with each of the monthly projects. They each discussed what they learned through the projects / quilt party and how it impacted their quilting lives .

There were no real patterns supplied for the quilt blocks, more general directions and instructions. Since most modern quilters feel you should express your own creativity they give you enough instructions to make similar quilts but no real details.

The book includes a chapter called, COLLECTIVE WISDOM. In this chapter they go thru general instructions for making a quilt including fabric selection, batting, quilt backings, general block construction and binding application, among other lessons.

BECAUSE there was a lack of detailed block construction I would only recommend this book to quilters with some experience who want to dive into modern style quilting. I really liked some of the quilts but others left me cold. I think some of the issues I had with the quilts were the background fabrics and the colors selected. I am sure you will remember I dislike complementary colorways as I find them garish, so if the quilts were strongly complementary I tended to dislike it... but colorways are personal preferences. I also find that I do not care for most grey backgrounds as I think they muddy the other colors. That is another matter for personal preference. I might like grey better in the future as I have just painted the majority of the shared areas (landing, hallways and computer room) of the house a pale blue grey.

I rated this book a 3.4 out of 5 (GOOD READS) as I enjoyed the quilter narratives and some of the quilts were interesting, all of them were creative and innovative. I decreased the rating and would only recommend this book to experienced quilters who have some understanding of how to construct blocks. As I have stated there are no detailed directions for block construction in this book.

HAPPY QUILTING,

NONNIE

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NONNIE on Goodreads I have 100s of quilt book reviews on GOOD-READS

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Relyn says

I just love quilts. I don't know how - yet, but I keep reading the books. This one was fine, but not my favorite. I do think it would be a huge hit with young quilters who are interested in less traditional designs and a more collaborative approach. It's not that wonderful for quilt-dreamers in search of eye candy.

Claire says

If you are wanting to organize an online quilting bee then this book describes the process. I was reading to look at Quilt designs.

I have read several of this style of book so there is a high standard set already by other Quilt writers. There were some disappointing aspects to this particular one. The layout was necessarily repetitive. The quilters shared what they had liked or enjoyed about the project, and this was very repetitive. Completely natural that there was a huge overlap in the aspects of the bee which appealed, but considering the reader more they could have drawn out different features.

The instructions and tip sections as basic, and went quickly over the the essentials. The section on colour was very lightweight. I think they could have made a decision to cut out some of the "what I liked" and do this final part with more. The photos of the quilters were poor quality.

Erika Mulvenna says

As a new quilter who prefers modern and more free-form designs I absolutely LOVE this book! Just looking at the wonderful photos of the different ways each of the quilters worked the simple block ideas in different ways has sparked some new ideas and inspired me to want to get quilting. The instructions for piecing the blocks have made some of the designs that I've seen before suddenly seem so simple that I feel like I CAN tackle them. Did I mention that I love this book?

Kristi says

Enjoyed the concept of this book because it discusses a virtual quilting bee and the process of it over a year with various quilters. I found some tips at the back of the book since I'm new to quilting but I did not really learn anything about quilting the various blocks and did not fall in love with any of the designs so 4 stars for talking about the virtual quilting bee concept.

Laurie (Kwiltreader) says

Good tips for picking colors, patterns and layouts for modern quilting. Also good info on how to conduct a Modern quilting bee.

Trish says

Several of the quilts featured in this book stopped in in my tracks. It also helped me remember that I have a bevy of sewing sisters who never feel they have the time to take on a big quilting project, but like the idea of having a quilt of their own. Many of the quilts featured in this book have large patches of solid fabric, which showcase the great patterned fabric the quilting group chose. I always knew simpler designs calmed me and don't grow tiresome, but usually it is fabric, rather than design, which gets my creative juices flowing.

So, give this book a whirl--it will definitely spark some desire to be involved in a virtual quilting bee. What they do is choose a design and specify a finished size for their blocks. Then the coordinator for a quilt sends fabric pieces out to the group, and they send back the block(s). The coordinator puts it all together creatively and quilts it up and *voilà!* They have a quilt with far less effort. Of course, then they help everyone else with their designs...so they learn as they go, without stress. Besides that, many of these women have websites which are sure to make your life interesting. Check out a few: Philistine Made; Film in the Fridge; Unraveled; Looking In. Who wants to start a quilting circle?

Mary says

Yay! I can't wait for my own virtual quilting bee to start in September. What a fun book and so inspiring. I love the modern take on quilting. It's opened up a whole new world for me.

Kimberli says

This year so many new, modern quilting focused books have hit the shelves. This is another good one. I like that it comes from 12 women so the reader gets many points of view. May be inspirational for a new quilter who likes the modern, improvisational style that is becoming so popular.

Susie says

I love this book! Great ideas, well written, and plenty of great how-to. Great for the beginner (like me). I LOVE that they emphasize how to use scraps instead of spending tons of money on fabric! I also love that they allow for "wonky" or uneven peices. It really opens up the creativity and removes the fear of not cutting percisely.

I liked this book enough to buy it.

Seana says

Great book, 12 quilts (one for each month). Lots of great tips and instructions, but not too much beginner stuff.
