



# Saving pennies

There's no denying that quilt-making isn't the cheapest hobby around... Luckily **Kim Smith Soper** has narrowed down her top 20 ways to quilt no matter your budget!

If you've been quilting for a while, you probably know that the costs can add up quickly! But there are ways to keep expenses down, and inspiration high, while participating in the craft you love:

## FRUGAL FABRIC

**1** Shop your stash. Challenge yourself to make a quilt using fabric you already own and see how crafty you can get!

**2** Get thrifty. Thrift stores and yard sales all have great deals on fabric, if you're willing to put in a little effort. You can, of course, also upcycle clothes!

**3** Sew with solids. Solids can often be purchased for a lower price and can be more versatile than prints.

**4** Use your scraps. Making a quilt with scraps is a great way to save on buying new fabric, cut down on waste

price, shopping the clearance section will get you more value for your money.

**7** Take advantage of destash sales. These are a great way to find high-quality fabric for a lower price online. What one quilter no longer needs can be your fortune – and shopping secondhand is a win for the planet!

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

**8** Keep supplies to a minimum. While it might be tempting to buy every new notion, you can make beautiful quilts with just the basics. You can always borrow supplies too!

**9** Buy in bulk and share with a friend. Some quilting supplies cost more

*Making a quilt using scraps of fabric is a great way to save on buying new fabric, cut down on waste and challenge yourself to work with value and hue in an exciting way!*

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**5** Make your own pre-cuts. Purchase yardage and trim to smaller sizes. You can also cut scraps down to these sizes to make a scrappy quilt.

**6** Visit the clearance section of your quilt shop. Rather than paying full

than others... sometimes, it can be more economical to buy in bulk. Why not find a quilting friend to split the cost with?

**10** Save on your sewing machine. Machines are an investment. One way to cut costs is to buy secondhand. Refurbished machines look and operate like brand new, but at a discounted price.

Solid fabrics are often much cheaper than prints and can create amazingly striking quilts, like Karen Lewis' on p46!

## BATTING, BACKING, BINDING

**11** Make "frankenbatting". Stitch leftover pieces together using the zigzag stitch on your machine.

**12** Buy batting by the yard. Buying batting in project-specific sizes will cost more than purchasing by the yard and assembling it by yourself.

**13** Piece backs from small cuts. While wide-back fabrics are easy, you'll pay for the convenience. Try piecing quilt backs from leftover blocks and yardage.

**14** Check Your linen closet. Low thread count sheets can make great quilt backs!

**15** Make a scrappy binding. They're adorable!

## BARGAIN BOOKS & INFO

**16** Take advantage of your library. Find and borrow any quilting book your heart desires.

**17** Learn techniques on YouTube. You can pretty much learn how to do anything online. If you can think of it, odds are, there is a tutorial for it.

**18** Find free patterns online. Fabric companies, thread companies, bloggers – free content is plentiful.

**19** Join a guild. There's no better source of quilting information than other quilters. They are notoriously generous with their knowledge – and their fabric scraps!

## QUILTING

**20** Quilt it yourself. Using a longarm quilting service can be expensive. Invest in a pair of quilting gloves to use with your domestic machine or use a quilting hoop for hand quilting projects, and get stuck in!

Keep an eye out for destash sales, both online and in real life! It goes without saying that one quilter's trash could be your perfect treasure

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