Blair Stocker/Wise Craft Handmade
Teaching Experience and Current Workshops

A former textile and apparel designer, Blair Stocker has been a prolific creative her whole life. With keen understanding of color, color value, and design, she creates quilts, quilt patterns, and design tools for the modern quilter. She has published two books, *Wise Craft: Turning Thrift Store Finds, Fabric Scraps, and Natural Objects into Stuff You Love*, and her newest, *Wise Craft Quilts: A Guide To Turning Beloved Fabric Into Meaningful Patchwork*. She creates online classes, tutorials, and other fun things at wisecrafthandmade.com.

She is inspired by vintage, forgotten, and collected textiles, as well as using every last scrap in her stash. She promotes her philosophy of “use what you have”, “show your hand in the work”, and “there are no mistakes” approach to teach a variety of quilt-related workshops. These sessions explore color and design with traditional sewing techniques, as well as how to apply them in modern quilt making, always incorporating concepts such as creative reuse and finding meaning in patchwork.

“Blair gets it. Cloth and creating can be fraught with “but I don’t want to ruin it!” but with her experience and guidance, fears step aside and you’re left with accomplishments- and friends!”
Wise Craft Quilts- My Journey as a Quilt Maker and Love of Upcycling
60-90 minutes

This is presented as a trunk show and lecture, ending with a q & a. Blair discusses her personal background of working as a designer and merchandiser in the apparel industry, to becoming a mom and rediscovering her creative side at home. She will share all kinds of patchwork inspiration for using those special fabrics in your quilts. She will share favorite tricks and tips on shopping, preparing, and using special textiles and upcycled materials in your quilts.
**Find the Value in your Scraps!**

60-90 minutes

Using scrap fabrics and making do is the very essence of quiltmaking. In this lecture and trunk show, Blair walks through a practical exploration of color value in the old and new fabrics you probably already have in your stash. Not sure what color value is? Blair will demystify what it means and how to use it in your quilt designs. Blair will show you ways you’ve never even thought of to use your scraps and play with design in your quilts. Lots of quilt to show, ending with a q & a. You will never look at your fabric stash the same!

At all of my lectures I bring signed copies of my both of my books, Ruby Rulers, and select patterns and other product available for purchase.

---

**2019-2020 Workshops**

**Find the Value in Your Scraps**

25 Students Max

Skill Level- Beginner who is confident sewing on a sewing machine, and intermediate learning color value design work.

This workshop will open your eyes to new ways to play with color and color value in your quilt designs. Color value is very confusing to many (because it’s really not about color at all!), but Blair has invented a tool called the Ruby Ruler™ that will quite literally open your eyes! Blair will lead the class through a fun exercise using fabrics the student’s bring from their stash, and the Ruby Ruler™. This workshop has an emphasis
on design, the construction is basic units. The project is a large floor pillow/mini-quilt size that can be made larger after class if student desires.

Required for class: Each student will need a Ruby Ruler™ for class ($16 retail).

“Handstitched” English Paper Piecing
Max 25 students
Skill Level- Beginning to Intermediate
3 hour, half day workshop (all hand sewing)

Discover the absolute joy and relaxation of the current trend of “slow stitching”. The basis for this workshop is a project simply called “Handstitched”, from Blair’s newest book, *Wise Craft Quilts: A Guide To Turning Beloved Fabric Into Meaningful Patchwork*. Using the method of traditional English Paper Piecing (EPP), and a collection of your favorite small bits of scrappy fabrics, Blair will guide the class through how to do this process from the beginning (no sewing machine required!). She will share tricks she has learned, as well as how she creates an easily portable carry-along kit for EPP stitching on the go. The project will not be completely finished by the end of the workshop, but the students will be on their way and have a solid plan. The unique finished piece be enjoyed either as a mounted wall hanging, or appliqued onto a base fabric to create a pillow. A truly relaxing, inspiring workshop.
Required for class: Each student will need a set of Handstitched English Paper Piecing kit, ($10 retail).

*The Complete Quilt Design Planner Workshop*
Max 15-20 students
6 hour, full day

Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing) as well as seasoned sewers who are ready for new inspiration.

Students will design and begin piecing their very own personal quilt top design. Using this pattern system and Blair’s guidance, students will learn to use their own personal tastes and inspiration to create a unique color palette. They’ll use the coloring pages provided to create a unique design. Blair will demonstrate the concept of dark and light value in our fabrics and how to create dynamic patterns with it, using her newest acrylic ruler/viewfinder tool, The Ruby Ruler (these are available for purchase within the class, but not a required tool). Blair covers “Patchwork 101”- efficient and safe rotary cutting, measuring, using a design wall, and general patchwork sewing. This class is paced to allow optimum time for designing and sewing. It is a lot of fun to watch all the designs come together!

Requirements for class- Each student is required to purchase Blair’s pattern booklet, The Complete Quilt Design Planner ($14 retail)
“[Blair’s] class really took my sewing skills from basic to more intermediate. There were some things I needed to see to understand. Also, I love that as someone who works full time and struggles to find the time to participate in local quilting guilds, I could take these classes when my schedule allowed. Blair, you are a gift! Thank you.”

Find the Value in Your Scraps! - Value quilt from Wise Craft Quilts book  
Max 25 students  
6 hour, full day workshop  
Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing) as well as seasoned sewers who are ready for new inspiration.

Bring your scraps and prepare to have some fun! This is a full day version of the 3 hour workshop, and dives deeper into the concept of color value and how to use it. Blair will guide students through understanding and using the power of color value in their chosen fabrics. By dividing your fabrics up into color value piles, you create an entirely new way to approach quiltmaking. Students will make half square triangles, combine them with squares, then combine to create a quilt design, similar to the quilt called Value from Blair’s newest book.

Required for class: Each student will need a Ruby Ruler™ for class ($16 retail). Optional is a copy of Blair’s book, Wise Craft Quilts (Blair will have copies available for purchase, but this is not a required supply).
**T-Shirt Quilting- Turn Beloved T-shirts into your new favorite quilt**

Max 15 students  
6 hour, full day workshop  
Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing) as well as seasoned sewers who are ready for new inspiration.

A t-shirt quilt often the first quilt many of us are inspired to make. Our favorite t-shirts (or a loved ones) can have lots of really special memories tied up in them. Worn with love, and ready to retire, bring them and let Blair show you how they can become the coziest quilt you’ve ever snuggled under. We will cover design ideas, how to control the “stretch” aspect of knit fabric, and discuss design strategies on what to showcase from which pieces.

Optional for class- Blair will have copies of her Complete Quilt Design Planner pattern booklet, as well as Ruby Ruler™ design tool available for sale. These are great tools to help with design, but not required for the class.
Creative mending and handwork. An exploration of the make do and mend philosophy of Boro cloth
Max 25 students
6 hour/full day
Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing) as well as seasoned sewers who are ready for new inspiration. There is an emphasis on hand sewing.

Boro cloth is a term used to describe the Japanese art of patching and piecing together old, worn cloth, to make useable cloth. Born out of necessity, today we can explore our own improvisational quilt making using these time-honored make do and mend philosophy. In the 6 hour workshop, we will add hand stitching and surface interest to the quilt top through Sashiko stitching and other embroidery stitches. This project is based on the project Boro in Blair’s book Wise Craft Quilts.

Any questions please get in touch with Blair at Blair@wisecrafterhandmade.