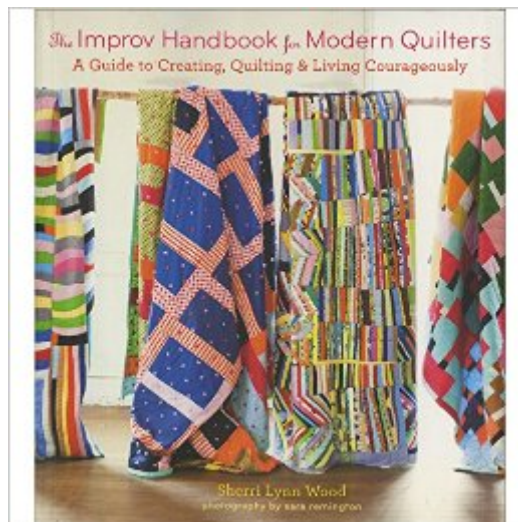


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# The Improv Handbook For Modern Quilters: A Guide To Creating, Quilting, And Living Courageously



## Synopsis

Forget step-by-step instructions and copycat designs. In *The Improv Handbook for Modern Quilters*, Sherri Lynn Wood presents a flexible approach to quilting that breaks free of old paradigms. Instead of traditional instructions, she presents 10 frameworks (or scores) that create a guiding, but not limiting, structure. To help quilters gain confidence, Wood also offers detailed lessons for stitching techniques key to improvisation, design and spontaneity exercises, and lessons on color. Every quilt made from one of Wood's scores will have common threads, but each one will look different because it reflects the maker's unique interpretation. Featured throughout the book are Wood's own quilts and a gallery of contributor works chosen from among the hundreds submitted when she invited volunteers to test her scores during the making of this groundbreaking work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a fantastic book! I am self-taught and am by no means an expert. I have only done quilting for fun, but sometimes it hasn't seemed like much fun when I feel like my work is not as 'perfect' in the traditional sense as it's supposed to be. It sucks to feel like something you put so much work into is disappointing because it's not technically perfect. This book is genuinely liberating; I did not realize how beautifully your work can turn out when you're not trying so hard to do everything with strict, straight lines and angles. I love that these show so much character and soul of the people who create them - I don't feel like traditional quilting really allows that as much. I am also shocked

that you don't have to use a ruler at all and that you get breathtaking results nonetheless. This never occurred to me, but I love it and cannot wait to use this technique. The pictures are incredibly bright and lovely. The projects are quite open to interpretation and offer a lot of room to put your own spin on them. The methods are easy enough that even I can understand and see myself putting this into practice without hesitation. I generally don't feel that after trying to learn something entirely new from a book (rather than video, etc.), but this is so clear and simple to read and understand that I was amazed. The results she shows, and how other people came up with such different takes on the same project guidelines she gives, are interesting and beautiful as well. I highly recommend this book; it has already changed my view on quilting drastically and for the better. I feel fortunate to have found such a great resource that opens my eyes to the fun I can have without the strict parameters I thought had to be there!

Wow, this book has completely changed my perspective on making beautiful quilts. I've made many traditional quilts over the years and never really enjoyed the piecing process, mostly due to the fact that I have a very old sewing machine and it is impossible to maintain an accurate quarter inch seam allowance. The lessons in this book give you the freedom (and courage) to break away from perfection in piecing, color selection and pattern; enjoying the process of improvisational cutting, stitching and color selection. I think this is the BEST instructional and design quilting book and I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a new direction in quilt making.

I love this book so much. I love to sew, but following someone else's pattern is not for me. This book is basically a list of very, very loose recipes for quilts. The author shows how she does it, but then shows several examples of other quilts made using the same general instructions. There is also a techniques section where you learn how to sew curves and do whatever else you need to do to make truly unique and personal quilts. There is even a "round robin" activity in here that I am very excited to try with friends.

Sherri Lynn Wood has a unique and compelling voice in the modern quilting community. It's no simple task to instruct people how to improvise - much easier to give precise cutting and sewing instructions. But Ms. Wood succeeds brilliantly, laying a strong foundation in exploratory and corrective techniques, placing a strong emphasis on mindfulness, and rolling out projects, or 'scores' in Ms. Wood's improvisational terminology, with just enough guidance and constraints to get you started, and keep you sewing, even if you don't know where your finished project will end up. A

beautiful book, with lots of photos of finished quilts from beginners and experts who tested the improvisational scores. You'll love paging through and seeing so many fantastic quilts, and you'll grow as a quilter when you work with Ms. Wood's instructions.

Lots of food for thought for those who prefer not to adhere to directions in commercial patterns. I especially like the ideas expressed in Chapter 3 of this book, "Improv is....a 'Yes, and' Conversation;" good advice for life and free-spirited quilters alike. If you're a quilter who needs to cut every piece exactly to given measurements, and have every seam match perfectly (though I do envy your skills!), you will most likely be happier with other books. If you want to play with fabric and use your own imagination, this book will add ideas to your collection of books on liberated quilting.

I rarely write reviews, but was compelled to this time. I have paged thru this entire book and am eager to start digging into the projects. I've been quilting for about 12 years now and find that I get very little use out of the usual quilting books with patterns / ideas. I am an avid blog reader and fairly knowledgeable re: quilting techniques. I do find that blogs tend to provide what I used to look for in a book. So, what I'm interested in are ways to push my creativity and ideas re: color theory or quilt design, etc - broader topics that are going to hold my interest for longer than my train ride home. It does also seem like the projects would be perfectly fine and interesting for beginners as well. Since the idea is to be free form and highly creative, a beginner won't be overwhelmed with difficult techniques (other than maybe curved piecing which isn't actually very hard at all). I'm considering inviting a non-quilting friend over to "play" and try some of these ideas together.

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