

Buckboard Quilts

Judy Howard, Owner Since 1976

Author of three award-winning books

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www.BuckboardQuilts.com & www.HeavenlyPatchwork.com

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Quilt Collecting

Benefits! Grandma's old bedcover is now being recognized as art, valued as an investment and coveted by collectors and decorators. The quilt represents history, art, emotion and personal expression. There is romance and humor in the names, optical illusions, stunning graphics, symmetry in design and vibrant color.

Like a magic carpet transporting us back in time, quilts stitch our past to the present evoking nostalgic pleasant memories and warm, happy feelings. By collecting quilts, you can own a unique and irreplaceable historic piece of American handiwork stitched with pride, patience, and love. What else can you invest in that will decorate a room so dynamically, have value as an antique and original American art form and still be affordable.

What to look for: Buy quilts in excellent to mint condition, unless you've fallen in love with a spectacular wall hanging, or something of great historic significance. Since you'll be decorating with the quilts, judge them as you would art for graphic design, color, symmetry and personal appeal. **Buy what you love!** Look for quality of piecing and quilting. Stitches should be even and close.

Signatures, dates or initials greatly enhance the value. The quilt provenance or history should be carefully preserved by typing on muslin and basting on the back of the quilt to increase the value.

Collecting quilts from each decade or of each pattern has become popular and provides an invaluable education. Patchwork quilts like the Double Wedding Ring and Grandmother's Flower Garden are extremely versatile because they're beautiful in any changing color scheme. The simple Nine Patch type country or scrap bag quilt works well in an informal setting. The floral appliqués tend to enhance a more formal room or a sun room.

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(Cont) Spectacular quilts of great graphic design in two colors with bold distinctive borders make dynamic wall hangings. **Good borders frame a quilt like artwork.** Lone Stars, Ocean Waves, and Trip Around the World designs are great patterns on the wall. Also try using a Lone Star on a round table.

Red and white and blue and white quilts are favorites for decorating. Try stacking quilts in a cupboard or rolled up in a large basket. Grouping similar colors together is the professional decorator's favorite trick for greater impact.

What Size? Almost any quilt can be used on a twin, full or queen bed.

Even working with a small quilt you can **use the length for the width**, cover the top fourth of the bed with a coordinating sheet and pillow cases and use dust ruffles. Generally a 6 ½" drop will cover the standard mattress. Following are minimal widths recommended:

TWIN	measures 39 x 75" so 52" in width or length covers mattress width.					
FULL	measures 54 x 75" so 67"	"	"	"	"	"
QUEEN	measures 60 x 80" so 73"	"	"	"	"	"
KING	measures 78 x 80" so 91"	"	"	"	"	"

Remember that borders and ruffles can be added to quilt to increase the size for a King bed. Because the demand for small crib quilts for wall hangings has greatly increased their price, you can effectively use large quilts folded over a rod.

Summary Picture your home warm and cozy with your friends admiring your wonderful quilt collection which decorates your home so beautifully. Investing in these heirlooms for your children's legacy can be fun and profitable. And you deserve the best. After all, *"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."*

Happy Quilt Collecting!