

## *Amish Quilting*

by Vannetta Chapman

Amish women are known for their quilting skill. So what makes Amish quilting different?

1. Amish hand-quilt or quilt using a treadle sewing machine, since they do not have electricity in their homes.
2. Amish use solid color fabrics when quilting for their own home or their family members, though they may use calico prints, etc. for a quilt that will be sold to *Englischers*.
3. Amish have sew-ins, what our grandparents might have called a quilting bee. This is a group of 8-16 women from the same church district who show up to work on a quilt.
4. Amish do not use red material in a quilt and they do not wear red, though again, they may use it in a quilt they've been hired to sew for an *Englischer*.
5. Amish do not quilt on Sunday as it's considered a day of rest.
6. Quilting is often considered a salvage art, because the Amish use small pieces of material left over from other sewing projects or even old pieces of clothing. Most Amish do still sew their own clothes.
7. Quilts often provides additional income for Amish families.
8. Quilting techniques are passed from one generation to the next. Many Amish girls begin quilting at a young age.

Websites where you can find more information on Amish quilting:

Lolly's Fabric Store. (Shipshewana, IN) [www.lollys.com](http://www.lollys.com)

Down A Country Road. (Cashton, WI) [www.downacountryroad.com](http://www.downacountryroad.com)

Miller's (Lancaster County, PA) [millerssmorgasbord.com/shopping.php](http://millerssmorgasbord.com/shopping.php)

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Vannetta Chapman is the author of the bestselling Quilt Shop Shipshewana Amish Mystery Series which includes *Falling to Pieces* and *A Perfect Square*. Her newest release, *A Promise for Miriam*, will be in stores by July 1. You can find out more about her at [www.VannettaChapman.com](http://www.VannettaChapman.com).