

Web Crafty

Try online tools for creative hobbies

I have been sharing my stories of technology and doling out advice on how to be more tech-savvy. I hope you feel as if you have gotten to know my family and me during the past couple of years. So now it only seems right to admit the other side of my personality that you may not guess. Whenever I have a free moment, I am usually at my sewing machine working on a quilt, bag or purse. I may also be working away on a cross-stitch wall hanging or embroidering a household item. I'm an old-fashioned, low-tech crafter whenever I get the opportunity.

So, how does that fit into this technology column? Well, I suspect many of you reading this article may have similar hobbies. If it isn't sewing, it may be baking, woodworking or jewelry-making. What I've been discovering is there are lots of websites, apps and technology tools available to help you create and sell your masterpieces! Here are some of my favorite "crafty" websites and why I love them:

CRAFTSY

Craftsy is one of my newest favorites, accessible through both a website and an app. It gives you access to patterns for



many types of crafts but also includes video instructions. I'm working on a project that takes me step by step with video, written instructions and a pattern. This is a wonderful site if you are looking to learn something new. You'll find instructions on lots of topics, such as sewing, painting, cooking, cake decorating, photography, gardening and much more!

CUSTOM MADE

I've promoted this site for many years. If you are looking to sell your craftwork, or if you are looking to buy a very

specific, specially made item, I encourage you to take a look at this website to see if it would be a good fit for you to sell your skills to potential buyers.

CRAFT GOSSIP

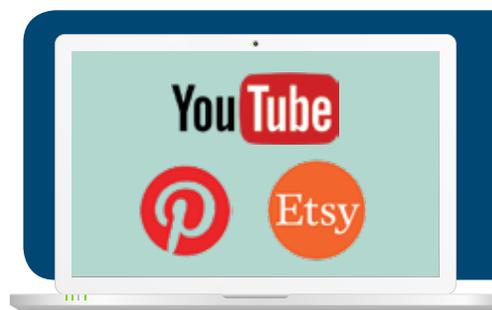
Craft Gossip is a website that hosts a collection of blogs from crafters in all sorts of categories. You can find fun ideas for oodles of projects no matter what your skill set is. You can also find projects based on holiday themes. New content is added all the time, so you can always find a new project.

I believe that technology is

going to help revive the craft and hobby lifestyle. So many of these skills, once passed down through the generations, have been abandoned or forgotten. Now, one person can share his or her skills with millions by putting the instructions online. So try something new today! 📱



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Don't forget about the most common sites, such as **YouTube**, **Pinterest** and **Etsy** for tutorials, patterns and craft buying and selling. These sites are frequented by crafters for a reason!