



August 24, 2018

Door Stop Humor

I'm out & about this morning running errands and wondering when the smoke will go away. My eyes itch, my throat is scratchy and my nose is stuffy. And I'm tired of it.

And the National Weather Service doesn't really know how long the smoke will be around. When asked, they say, "Not a clue." Actually, they are a little more articulate than that. One official said, "As long as the fires are burning, we'll be getting smoke." Like I said, not a clue.

The problem is....the forests keep burning and most of the forests are west of Cheyenne and the winds typically blow from west to east. Forests are currently burning in the Tetons, but the bulk of the smoke is coming from dozens of fires in California, Idaho, and Canada. All points west. But no one is quite sure. And the fire season isn't over.

But I reminded myself, as I drove down the road looking at the haze, at least I'm not living next door to the flames, or in Hawaii with both hurricanes and erupting volcanos, or Phoenix where it's always too hot, or Florida where the bugs are way too big, or West Virginia where there are way too many trees.

Don't get me wrong -- I like trees. I lived in West Virginia for 5 years and the fall colors were glorious. But I missed the wide open spaces where the sky is the brightest blue you can ever imagine....except for right now. Sigh.

Anyway, as I was driving down Warren & wondering about smoke, I watched as the car in front of me started swerving toward the curbs. If you're familiar with Warren, you know that the road humps up by the curbs and that if you drive it just right you can replicate that unique sinking feeling you get when you ride a roller coaster. Admit it. You've done it. The first time I experienced that feeling while in a car was in West Virginia, where the roads are actually hilly and if you speed up then stop accelerating right over the peak, you can get that sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach as you drive down the other side.

The science behind this feeling has to do with gravity, or the lack of it. Normally gravity pushes all your body parts together. You feel solid. In free fall, there is little force pushing at you. You are semi weightless & don't feel solid. Your stomach feels lighter and thus, you get that sinking feeling. On great hills, if you know when to stop accelerating, you can get a great sinking feeling. On Warren, going over a one foot hump, you get a marginal sinking feeling. But a ride is a ride. Some days, you gotta get your kicks where you can, especially on smoky days.

So back to the smoke. Another meteorologist noted that the rain this week took some of the smoke/ash out of the air but not all, which got me thinking about the time I used a sprayer to get rid of the ash when the shop vac backfired and spewed pellet stove ash into the air in my living room rather than into the vacuum. Those of you who think things through a little better will have figured out that water & ash just make mud. On the carpet.

But back to driving down the road. I drive down Iron Mountain every day to get to the shop. But right now Iron Mountain is being widened. And the work has been going on for more than a month snarling traffic (one or two cars). I tell myself every day to find another route in the morning so I can avoid the two minute delay. So what do I do? I turn on Iron Mountain because I've either forgotten or I think there won't be delays this time. Albert Einstein is credited with saying, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results." I'm betting I'm not insane. I think my mind is just clogged with smoke.

But the point of this story isn't about smoke or gravity or driving down the road. It's about a door stop. I stopped at Trader's to pay my bill and I noticed the door was propped open with a plain brown box, labeled in two places, in big black felt tip letters, "Door Stop."

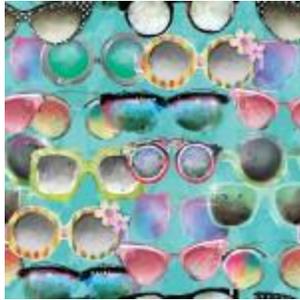
I told the receptionist that I thought it was funny and she said it was the only thing they had to prop open the door. And I said, "No, what's funny is that you put 'door stop' on the box."

She then said that people kept bringing in the box, thinking that it was a package that had been dropped off at the door. The only way she could keep people from picking up the box was to put "door stop" on it.

Sometimes a little humor, like a box that has to be labeled "door stop," or a roller coaster ride down Warren is just what you need to chase away the smoke.

WHAT'S NEW!!

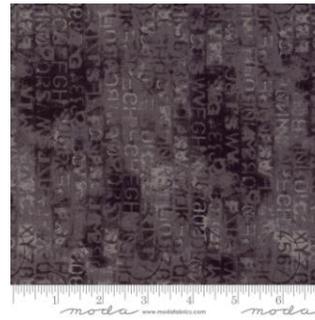
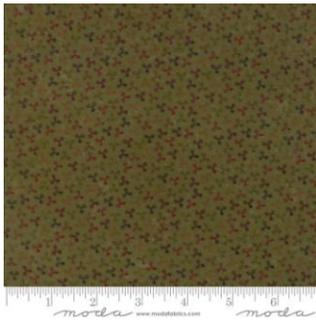
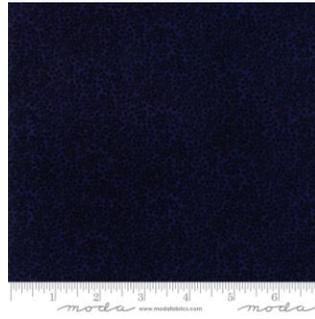
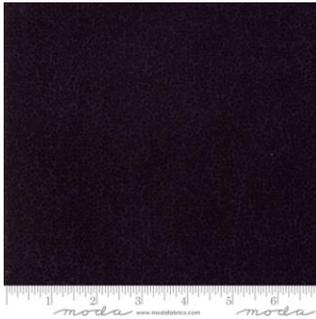
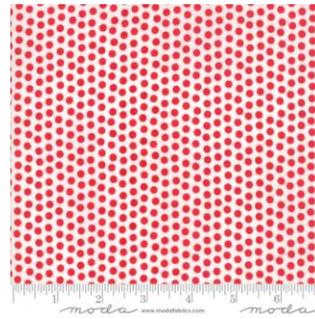
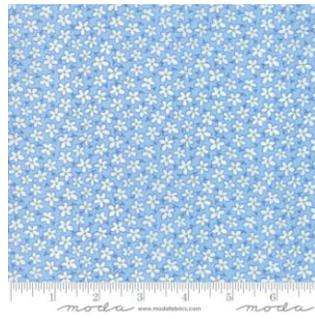
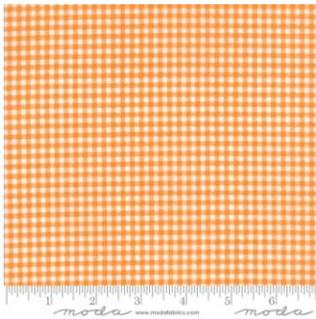
From 3 wishes:



From Alexander Henry:

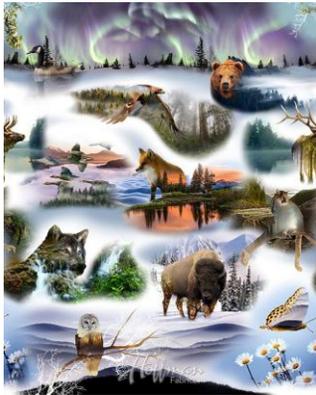


From Moda:





From Hoffman:



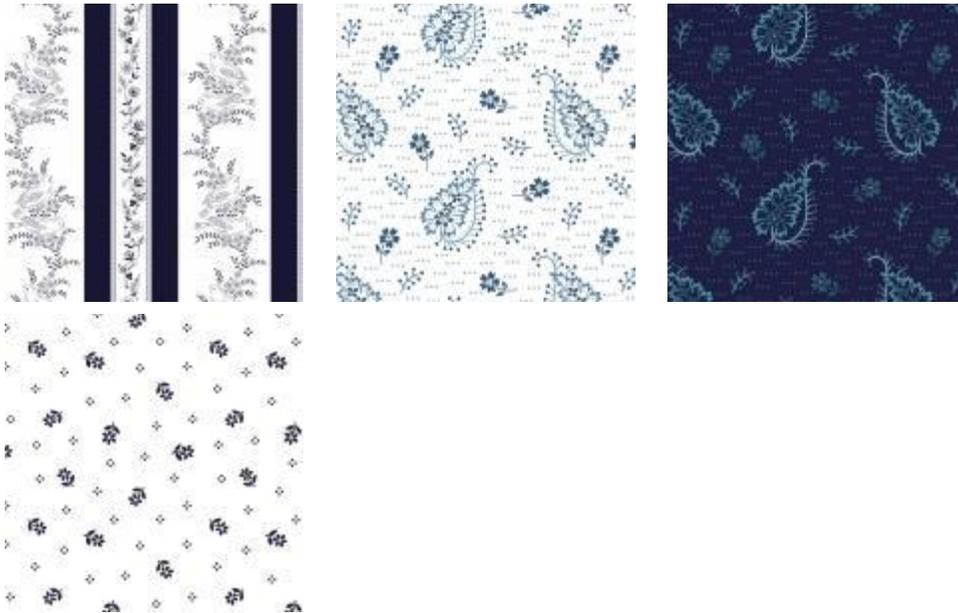
From Northcott:



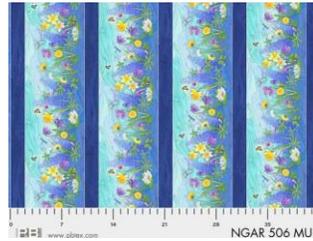
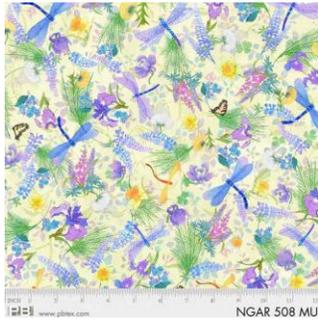


From Henry Glass:

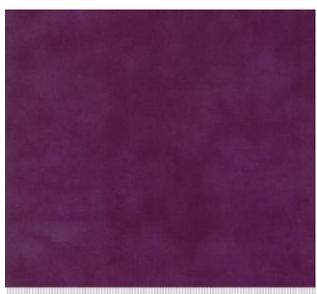
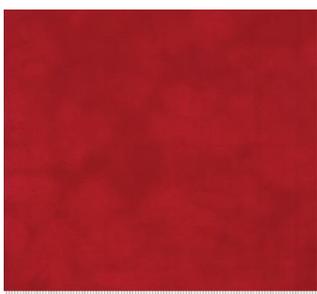




From P&B (digital)



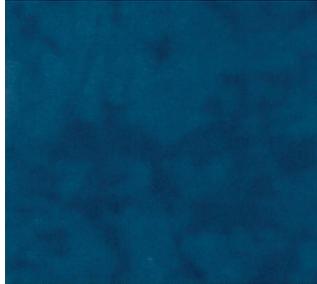
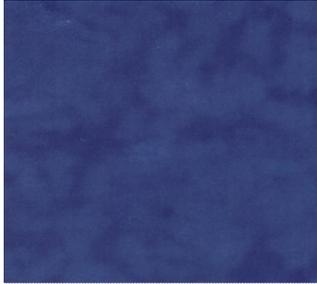
From Moda--digital (bright ones) & the rest are flannel:



moda www.modafabrics.com moda

moda www.modafabrics.com moda

moda www.modafabrics.com moda



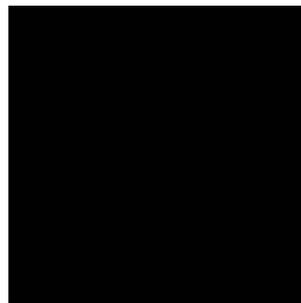
moda www.modafabrics.com moda

moda www.modafabrics.com moda

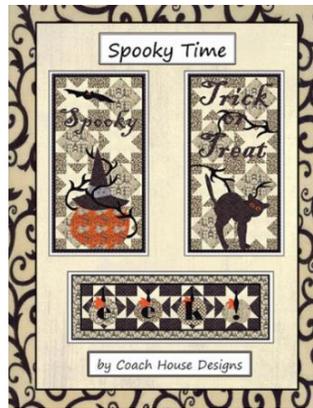
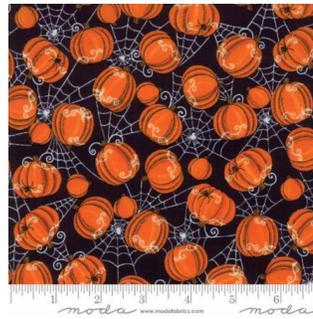
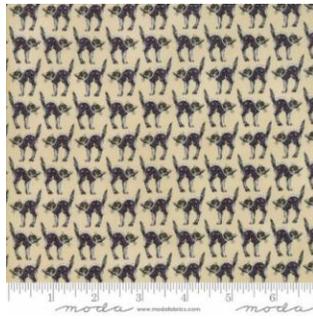
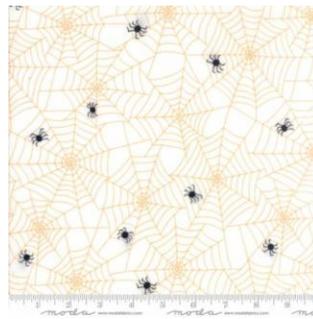
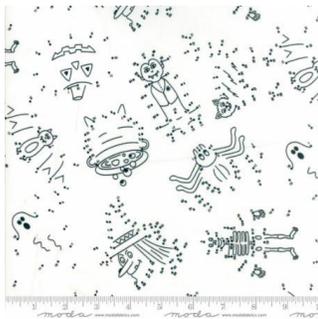
moda www.modafabrics.com moda



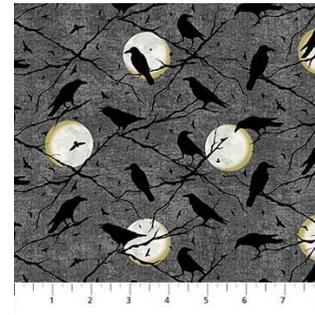
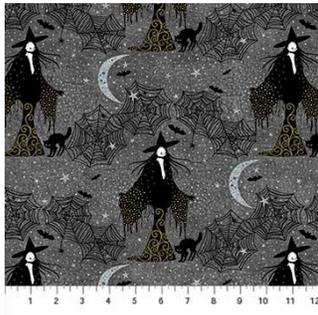
From Henry Glass: All flannels



From Moda:



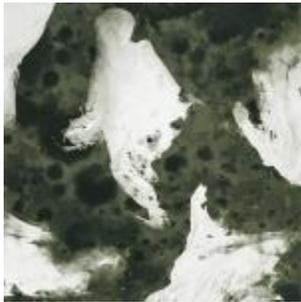
From Northcott:



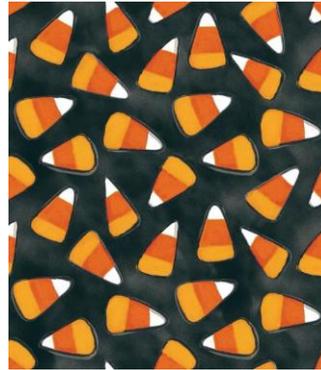
From Hoffman:



From Blank:



These 3 (ghosts,
spiders & long panel)
are glow in the dark



SIGN UP FOR LONG ARM QUILTING CLASSES TODAY!

Classes are on Wednesdays and some Saturdays: 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30, or 6-8:30. Check the calendar for dates. Only 4 to a class.

Rentals have started for those who have taken the class. Tuesdays and Fridays, and a couple of Saturday and Sunday rentals. Check the calendar for rentals. Generally, there are 2 rentals times per day: 10:30-2 and 2:30-6. \$25/hr or \$85 for 3 1/2 hours. \$50 minimum. Plus \$5/bobbin for thread. Most quilts (double and smaller), even for beginners, will take about 2 1/2-3 hours. We will discuss what you plan to do on your quilt and will help you estimate how long it will take.

Class descriptions follow the calendar, so keep scrolling. Classes are listed alphabetically. Fall descriptions will be out soon.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------

			1 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	2 Beginning Quilt 1-4	3 Long arm rental day	4 BOM 10:30 Long arm class 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4- 6
5 CLOSED	6	7 Long arm rental day	8 Disappearing 9-Patch 10:30-5 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	9	10 Long arm rental day	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon Summer School Sessions, 1, 2, 3 & 4
12 Beginning Quilt 1-4	13 Summer School Sessions, 1, 2, 3 & 4	14 Long arm rental day	15	16	17 Long arm rental day	18 Disappearing Triangles 10:30-5
19	20	21 Long arm rental day	22 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	23	24 Long arm rental day	25 Long arm rental day
26 Full Moon	27	28 Long arm rental day	29	30	31 Long arm rental day	
Color of the month: black						

September

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1

						BOM 10:30 Baltimore Woods 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6 Finish Your Quilt Sale
2 CLOSED	3 T-Shirt 10:30-5	Long arm rental day 4	5 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	6	7 Long arm rental day	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Victoria 1-6
9	10	11 Long arm rental day	12	13	14 Long arm rental day	15 Daydreams 1-6
16	17	18 Long arm rental day	19 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30	20 Beginning Quilt 6-9	21 Long arm rental day	22 Frankie quilt 10:30-5
23 Beginning Quilt 1-4	24 T-Shirt 10:30-5 Full Moon	25 Long arm rental day	26 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30 OR 6-9	27 Beginning Quilt 6-9	28 Long arm rental day	29 Hummingbird quilt 10:30-5
30						Color of the month Orange

October

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6

			Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	Halloween Triangle Frenzy 1-4 Beginning Quilt 6-9		BOM 10:30 Baltimore Woods 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6 Finish Your Quilt Sale
7 CLOSED	8 T-Shirt 10:30-5	9 Long arm rental day	10 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30 Back Basting 10-noon Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	11 Zippered Pouches 10-1 Beginning Quilt 6-9	12 Long arm rental day	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon Story Quilt 1-6
14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15 Halloween Candy Bag 1-5	16 Long arm rental day	17 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30 Hand Quilting 10-noon	18 Beginning Quilt 6-9	19 Long arm rental day	20 Zippered Pouches 10-1 Camden Bag 1-6
21 Beginning Quilt 1-4	22	23 Long arm rental day	24 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9 Full moon	25 Beginning Quilt 6-9	26 Long arm rental day	27 Nutcracker 10:30-5
28 Beginning Quilt 1-4	29 T-Shirt 10:30-5	30 Long arm rental day	31			Color of the month Halloween

Block of the Month First Sat of month 10:30-11:15 FREE Barb Boyer

Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block. This year we're making a "modern" quilt. Something new, something different. I will provide some other options as we explore the modern quilt world.



Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

If you want to learn to hand embroider or just brush up your technique, join us on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. You can work on your own projects or you can join the project we are doing. This year we are following a purchased pattern called My Crazy Life. It is wool appliques on flannel backgrounds. Then we will explore a variety of embroidery stitches to embellish each block-4 six inch blocks per month (or whatever you choose to do), for a total of 48 blocks. Each month Kathy Sconce shows us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques. We will also discuss wool, felted wool, wool felt, various threads for embroidery, various techniques for the wool applique and setting options for the quilt.

Long Arm Quilting Classes Wednesdays in April & May from 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 or 6-9 and Barb Boyer \$30 (check calendar for times & dates)

In this class you will learn all about the Nolting long arm quilting machines: loading, threading, quilting. I'll demonstrate how to load and thread, set stitch length, change tension, wind and load bobbins. Then I will load a practice quilt onto the machine and show how to do hand guided quilting. Each student will be given at least 15-20 minutes of practice time. (Each class is limited to 4 students). You will be able to do free hand quilting plus you can practice following a pantograph. Any quilter who wants to rent to machines must take this class first,

regardless of whether you have experience on a long arm machine. This class is not designed to teach you everything there is to know about long arm quilting-it's just a start.

Nolting Longarm Machines

Nolting has 5 main machines, each with different reaches: from 17" to 30" depending on the machine. They are sold with or without a frame, but after I saw & helped set up one of the steel frames this week, I recommend buying the frame. All machines, except for the Standard-- the most economical machine-- have a stitch regulator. I recommend a stitch regulator. All machines can be equipped with a computer and there are a couple of different ones to choose from. In addition, you can get an extended table base so that you can use rulers, you can get larger bobbins on some of the models and on the frames you can get hydraulic lifts to raise and lower the tables. In the coming weeks, I will print out more information on each model.

The best entry level machine is the Fun Quilter. It comes in 17", 20" & 23" reach. It comes with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The Pro Machine has the Intellistitch Turbo stitch regulator, single stitch option, standard speed control, needle up/down and customizable handles in the front & rear. The Pro Machine comes in 20", 24" and 30" reach with 10-12" of inside height. There are easy dials on the front to set stitch length and other options. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The NV Machine is the newest in the fleet of Nolting machines. This machine has a touch screen with programmable stitch regulation. You can stitch in 4 different stitch modes plus single stitch and needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



Nolting also has a commercial machine with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB

If you want to learn to hand embroider or just brush up your technique, join us on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. We use printed patterns and some vintage free patterns that you can embroider, embellish and color. Depending on the projects, each month Kathy Sconce shows us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques.

Knit Pickin' Club

This is another get-together class to sit & knit, work on our projects, share information and get some help. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, but mainly we'll sit & knit (or pick).

Toad Toters

On full moon days (as noted in the calendar) you will get 20% off all purchases (not otherwise discounted) that you can fit in your bag. You must bring your bag to participate.

Full Moon Days: Sept. 24, Oct. 24, Nov. 23, Dec. 23

Discount Policy

We will honor only one discount -- whichever is largest. You can't combine a 10% with a 25% discount to get a 35% discount. On this we can't be bribed."

Color of the Month

September orange, October Halloween, November red, December Christmas

Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.

Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer
Around the Block
307-433-9555

www.aroundtheblockquilts.com