



May 18, 2018

We are at Spring Market in Portland. To give you an idea of what today has been like, this was our schedule of events:

Get out of bed. That may not seem like much, but trust me, it was hard. And that's mainly my fault. The day before we toured Portland, going to the Pendleton Mill in Vancouver, Washington, and of course buying fun Pendleton wools. Then to Joe's Crab Shack for lunch (crab wasn't on our tour menu, go figure, but the Mason Jar Bloody Mary was to die for). Then to the Rose Garden, which was beautiful and will be more so in about 3 weeks when most of the roses actually bloom. Then a short tour around the city and back home to the convention center.

We had about 1 1/2 hours until our dinner meeting, where we hooked up with industry leaders, listened to an entertaining panel of women who discussed the greatest "mistakes" they made and why that was a good thing. They were all inspirational and through their discussion I realized that I am probably making more good decisions than bad. We came away with swag - which we will turn into an after market party for all of you. I will have more on that when we get back. Some owners won bolts of fabric, so when I say swag, I really mean swag.

But that meant we had a late night and we still had to go over the agenda for Thursday -- School House sessions. There were 221 classes to choose from and we could only take 13: from 10-6, most of them 1/2 sessions, plus the opening session that lasted 1 hour. So I kept the crew up later Wednesday night going over all of the classes we could choose.

So getting out of bed Thursday morning was a bit challenging and I wanted

to be at the Convention Center about 8 a.m. so we could get registered and go back over the schedule of School House sessions--you can get a basic list of classes before Thursday, but you don't get the room assignments or a good description of the classes until Thursday morning. You especially want to know which sessions hand out the best stuff--oh, I meant which classes would teach us the best stuff.

So we learned a lot on Thursday and we also won door prizes consisting of bundles of fabrics, patterns, sales info: you name it, we got it and hauled it back to the hotel. Lunch was grabbing the provided for boxed up sandwich & chips, bolting it down and heading back into a session.

But this day was not yet over. The last class ended at 6 and then we stood in line & waiting for Sample Spree to begin at 7 p.m. Sample Spree is like Quilt-A-Fair or Springtime in the Rockies on steroids. At 7 the doors opened -- the line started forming by 4:30 -- a great cheer was heard, and 4-5 lines of quilters filed into the hall. Most headed to the Moda tables. Moda had an area of tables on the far side of the hall. Essentially, take 10 of or long white tables, form them into a square, put the Moda reps on the inside and place the quilters 3 & 4 deep around the perimeter. Two things are important here if you want to visualize what the frenzy is like at this booth: First, the cloth bag (very nice, btw) you get from Moda when you buy something is so big that when you hang it on your arm it touches the floor. And second, Moda was sold out of everything it brought (all precuts, mostly fat quarter bundles) by 7:30. Think of a piranha stripping an unfortunate stray cow and spitting the bones back onto the river bank. It was that kind of a feeding frenzy.

I usually don't buy much at Sample Spree, but I did snag some wonderful Japanese prints, a bag of bundles of wool, a great new pattern that Sue may get coopted into making, and....a Moda bag complete with a fat quarter bundle at \$20 off the asking price. The Moda folks wanted to go home and they were making deals.

We left Sample Spree about 8 and headed back to the hotel, with a detour through Denny's for a second breakfast: meaning dinner, but with breakfast foods like bacon, eggs, and pancakes. We (3 of us and 7 bags) took up a booth and a table: We had to buy two seats just for our bags we were hauling. Just kidding. The seats for the bags didn't cost anything, but only 2 of us could fit in the booth. Jean had to sit at the neighboring table.

When we got back to the hotel we sorted through everything we collected: tossing duplicates and stuff we didn't like and collecting the good swag to

bring back. Then we had to talk about what Friday would bring: A 1 1/2 hour class starting at 8, then the Market open at 9:30. I have appointments with reps from 9:30-6. Lunch may consist of chocolate. And then that night is the Moda banquet. Needless to say, it was (is) a late night getting organized for Friday and, again, mostly my fault.

And on Saturday, we do it all over again. And on Sunday, we do it all over again, until about noon. When we were on the Pendleton tour, our guide said, "It must be nice to be able to have a quilting vacation. I wish I could do that." There was a momentary pause from the group, a slight groan, & then someone explained that tour day on Wednesday was the only day resembling vacation.

So it is now 12:12. My companions have crashed. Tomorrow begins at 6.

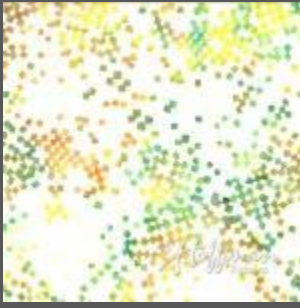
But we really are having a wonderful time. My feet might take issue with that last statement and my eyes are crossing. Please excuse any typos--the screen is slightly fuzzy.

WHAT'S NEW!!

Also, we just got a shipment from RJR & I'll get those fabrics in next week.

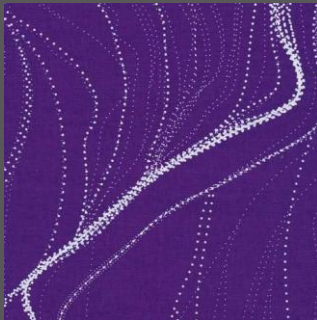
From Hoffman: And there may be others. We got dumped on today. Lots of fabric in.





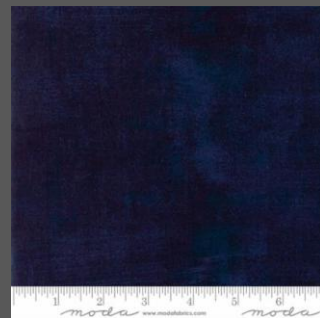
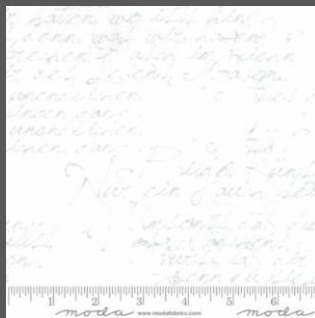


From M&S Textiles:

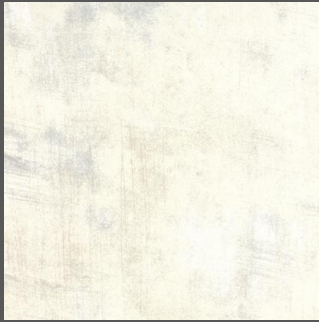


Plus 2 or 3 others--
couldn't quickly locate
the pictures. Also we
have 2 1/2" strip sets
of Dreamtime, and 10"
squares of the
Dreamtime collection

Wide back from Moda:

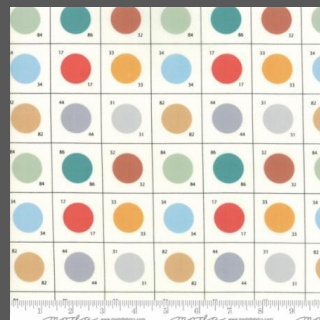
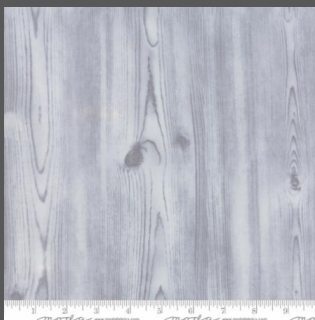


grunge



grunge

From Moda:

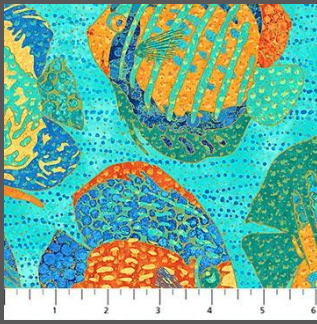
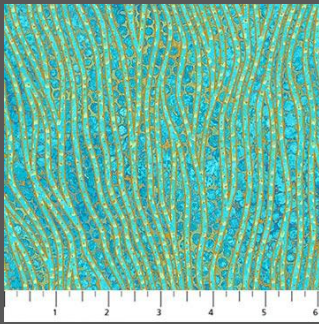


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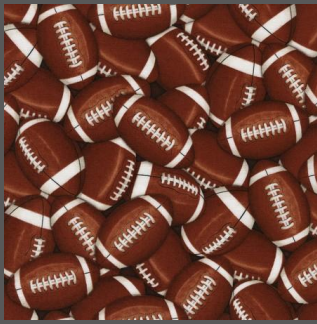
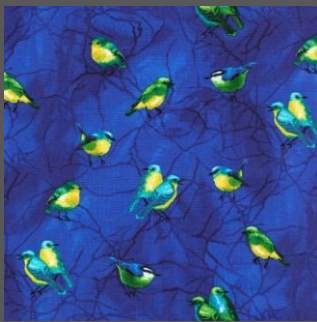


From Northcott:

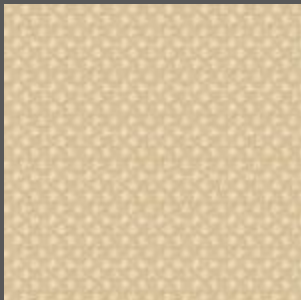




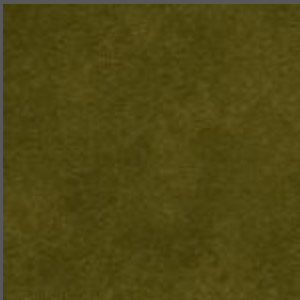
From Timeless Treasures:



From Henry Glass:



wool



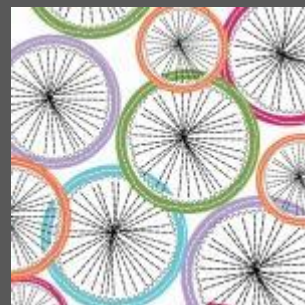
wool



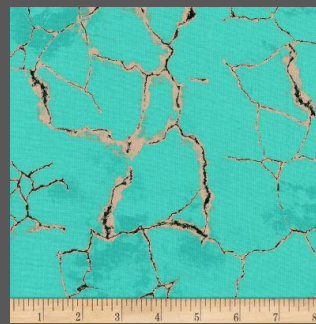
wool



wool



From Cotton & Steel:

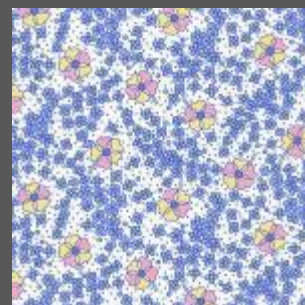
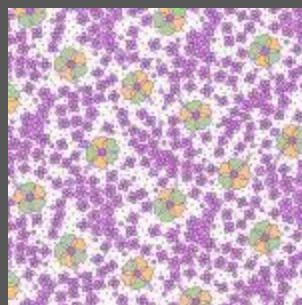
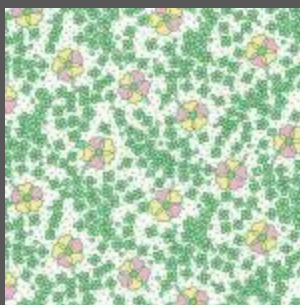
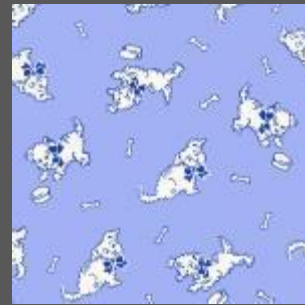


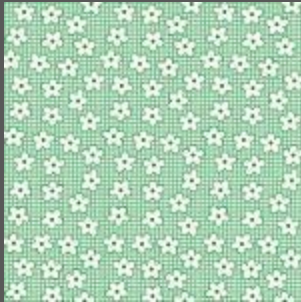
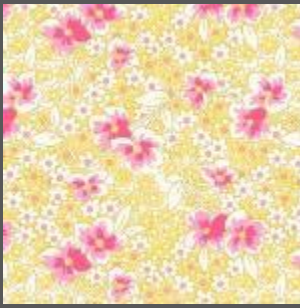
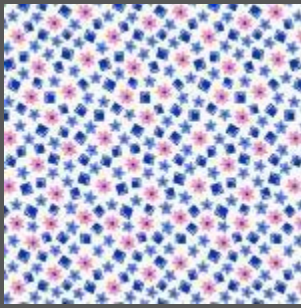
From Hoffman:



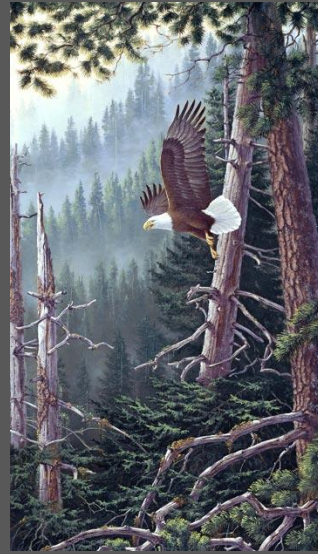


From Henry Glass, the Nana Mae 30s collection:





From Northcott:



SIGN UP FOR LONG ARM QUILTING CLASSES TODAY!

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

Rentals have started for those who have taken the class. Tuesdays and Fridays, and a couple of Sunday rentals only for right now. Check the April calendar for rentals on Sunday. 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.

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Long arm rental day	2 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	3	4 Long arm rental day	5 BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6
6 CLOSED	7	8 Long arm rental day	9 Long Arm Quilt class; 2:30-5:50 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	10	11 Long arm rental day	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon One Block Wonder Panel 1-6
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Long arm rental day	23 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30	24	25 Long arm rental day	26 One Block Wonder Panel 10:30-4
27 Long arm rental day	28	29 FULL MOON	30 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	31		Color of the month:

						Neutrals: beige/ white

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6 Long arm rental day 1-6
3 CLOSED	4	5 Long arm rental day	6 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30- 1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	7 Beginning Quilt 1-4	8 Long arm rental day	9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Summer School Sessions, 1, 2, 3 & 4
10 Beginning Quilt 1-4	11 Summer School Sessions, 1, 2, 3 & 4	12 Long arm rental day	13 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30 Knit Pickers' Club 6- 8:30	14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15 Long arm rental day	16 Hunter Star 10:30-5
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

Beginning Quilt 1-4		Long arm rental day	Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30- 1:30; OR 2:30- 5:30	Beginning Quilt 1-4	Long arm rental day	Window Squares 10:30-5
24 Beginning Quilt 1-4	25	26 Long arm rental day	27 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30- 1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	28 Beginning Quilt 1-4 Full Moon	29 Long arm rental day	30 Zig Zag 10:30-5
Color of the month: brown						

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2	3 Long arm rental day	4 CLOSED AT 3	5	6 Long arm rental day	7 BOM 10:30 Long arm rental day 1-6 Great Pumpkin 4-6
8 Beginning Quilt 1-4	9 Summer School Sessions, 1, 2, 3 & 4	10 Long arm rental day	11 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; OR 2:30-5:30 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	12 Beginning Quilt 1-4	13 Long arm rental day	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Summer School Sessions 1, 2, 3 & 4
15 Beginning Quilt 1-4	16	17 Long arm rental day	18 Disappearing 9-Patch 10:30-5	19 Beginning Quilt 1-4	20 Long arm rental day	21 Jelly Roll Race 10:30-5
22 Beginning Quilt 1-4	23	24 Long arm rental day	25 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	26 Beginning Quilt 1-4	27 Long arm rental day	28 9-Patch- Snowball quilt 10:30-5

					Full Moon	
29 Beginning Quilt 1-4	30	31 Long arm rental day	Color of the month: Blue			

**Beginning Quilting Thurs. starting Thus June 7 1-4 OR Sun June 10 1-4
8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer**

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

**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.



Disappearing 9-Patch Wed July 18 Barb Boyer 10:30-5 \$20

Take 48 5" squares, plus some extra fabric, make 9-patches, cut apart & sew back together again and voila! you have a fun, quick quilt. You don't have to worry about biased edges with this one. This is another one of our summer fun quilts.

Techniques to learn: What happens when you chop up a perfectly good 9-patch!

English Paper Piecing Club 4th (or last) Mondays 2-4 Barb Boyer \$20

English paper piecing dates back to the early 1800s. It is a hand sewing method that uses paper templates to help sew complex angles together, like hexagons. Any number of different designs can be made, including Grandmother's Flower Garden-this is the pattern I am STILL doing this year. Several patterns will be available, including traditional Flower Garden and the Downton Abbey free pattern.

Hand Applique/Back Basting Wed As scheduled Sandra Freeburg \$25

Back basting is a template free method of needle turn applique. No slippery freezer paper or chalked lines on top that never seem to get turned under quite right. This method is especially great for traveling, because your pieces will be basted onto your background -- no need for pins to get in the way. This class is great for beginners and all levels of appliquers. Don't let hand applique frustrate you. It's really easy and relaxing!

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.

Hand Quilting Wed As scheduled Sandra Freeburg \$25

Hand quilting is an art that should not be lost. By the end of Sandra's class you will be hand quilting with confidence. Everyone has at least one special quilt that calls out for hand quilting. And there is nothing better than the feel of a hand quilted quilt. Do yourself a favor and learn this art that connects us to our past -- our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

Hunter Star, the easy way, Sat June 16 10:30-5 Barb Boyer \$20

The Hunter looks complicated, but with the fast & easy tool, it's a snap. We are getting beautiful collections that I bought specifically for this class. If you are looking to learn a new technique, this is a great quilt for that.



Jelly Roll Race Barb Boyer Sat July 21, 10:30-5 \$20

Using 1 2 1/2" strip set (you need 40-48 strips) plus

fabrics for borders, you can stitch this colorful quilt in less than an hour. I'm kidding. You can't get the borders on. Okay, I'm kidding. But most can get the inside sewn in about 4 hours. But it is a race and I throw some extra fun into the class. This is a great quilt to use to practice your long arm machine quilting! And it is easy. You can add borders or leave as easy. This is another one of our summer fun quilts. Technique to learn: sewing strips together on diagonal without drawing your lines.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd Wed of each month, 6-8:30 Carol Moler

Every second Thursday, we're getting together to practice our knitting. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and knit. This year we are doing a knit along project involving 6" squares. Each month we will learn a different pattern (or 2), make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one project-afghan, scarf, bag, etc. Join us & learn some new stitches!

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.

**Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Feb-Dec.
4-6 FREE**

This year we are going to do the Great Pumpkin Quilt, a purchased pattern. It will start in February because we are still finishing last year's Holiday Houses in January. Starting in February we will work on the Great Pumpkin quilt. We will plan to do 2 blocks a month, and do the top banner section over two months. In class we will discuss use of color in the backgrounds and pumpkins. We will also discuss and learn various machine applique techniques to use on the blocks.



Nine patch Snowball Quilt Sue Frerich Sat July 28, 10:30-5 \$20

Learn how to the 9-patch block + snowball block turns squares into circles. We will teach the block in one size, but offer other sizes of blocks that are also suitable for 2 1/2" pre cut strips. If you need a quick western quilt, baby quilt, 30s reproduction quilt--this one makes up quickly. This is another one of our summer fun quilts. Technique to learn: How to make the corners of snowballs to the 9-patch seams.

One Block Wonder Panel Quilt Sat April 28 & May 12 & 26 see calendar for times

\$30 Sue Frerich

For all of you who missed the class before, you don't want to miss this class-we won't have it on the schedule again for awhile. The technique is called One Block Wonder and you need 7 panels for the quilt. Sue used a beautiful eagle print (keep your fingers crossed, we may be able to get 1 bolt). But we have lots of interesting panels that would make a fantastic One Block Wonder Panel Quilt. (I'm looking at the Star Wars panels....). The technique used is similar to a Stack & Whack quilt, but the difference is in how it is sewn together. This is truly a stunning quilt. You don't want to miss this class!



Spoon Quilting As scheduled Sandra Freeburg \$25

No more sore fingers! Learn to Spoon Quilt, with a special spoon quilting tool. This tool helps you keep your stitches tiny and even without pricking your finger. Need to have basic quilting skills (rocking motion quilting).

Summer School Sessions Barb Boyer \$5 June 9 (Sat), 11 (Mon), July 9 (Mon), 14 (Sat), classes at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. & 4 p.m.

We are holding refreshed classes, called Summer School, that last 1 hour each. At 1 p.m., we will teach how to put on borders; at 2 the class will be on half square triangles, including how to measure, how to cut, the math involved and how to square up; at 3 the class will be on quarter square triangles; and at 4 the class will be on flying geese, how to cut, sew and square. So if you need a refreshed on one or more of these techniques, each class is only \$5 and lasts 1 hour. The classes are scheduled on Mondays and Saturdays (generally the second Monday and Saturday from June through August). Class is demo only; you don't need to bring anything but yourself.

Window Squares Sat June 23, 10:30-5 Sue Frerich \$20

Frame your square with a rainbow of colors, and a stripe border and you have a cute sunshiny quilt! You can add novelties in your squares, keep them low volume or make the polka dots. It's a quick & easy quilt. We call it Window Squares, because the quilt is hanging in our front window! This is another one of our summer fun quilts. Technique to learn: piano key border.

Zig Zag Barb Boyer Sat June 30, 10:30-5 \$20

Using 1 2 1/2" strip set (you need 38 strips) plus fabrics for the sides, you can stitch this colorful quilt in an afternoon (especially if you have all your strips cut & ready to go). You can add borders or leave as is. This is another one of our

summer fun quilts. Technique to learn: How to keep track of all the colors.

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 progra

mmable 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: Jan 1, Jan 31, March 1, March 31, April 29, May 29, June 28, July 27

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

January purple; February red, March green, April yellow; May neutrals: whites & beiges; June brown; July Blue

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

Around the Block, 453 Vandehie Suite 120, Cheyenne, WY 82009