



A New Challenge!

Some small businesses that are suffering because they are closed are the personal service providers: Physical trainers like Mary's Fitness, hair cutters, massage therapists, individuals who clean our houses and businesses, and other similar service providers who can't offer their close contact services right now.

Many of us, on the other hand, collect regular salaries in the form of social security, pensions and regular wages (those who can continue to work). If you regularly schedule training or cleaning or massages every week or every month, you have just gotten a pay raise because you aren't getting those regular services so you're not paying for them. At least that's how I view it.

So I challenge everyone who still gets a regular paycheck and who uses these kind of personal services to continue to pay your providers. They are your friends and you want them to be in business when this is over.

So when you have to clean your own house this week, send your regular payment to your cleaning service. If you exercise with a trainer, continue to exercise on your own and pay your trainer. Please don't cut your own hair.

April 17, 2020 We keep cutting kits, but it's a moving target as to how many we will have when you come through the door. We've cut more than **4212 kits** now, and that does not count the hundreds of masks that individuals have cut and donated from their own stash! We have delivered at least **2358 completed masks** to a variety of groups: Salvation Army, Frontier Vet, Fire District 2, First Responders, Cheyenne Hospital Foundation, the VA, nursing homes, clinics, nurses, individual doctors, Comea Shelter, Health Reach, A&C Feed, Meals on Wheels, other delivery services to the elderly, WIC, anyone who has come to the shop to ask for a mask,....I know I am forgetting all the places masks have been donated. And that does not count the masks that you have made and have given away.

We cannot supply every individual who comes to the door for a mask, although I try. We have gotten calls from lots of big corporations, various departments within the State of Wyoming, the military and the guard. I want my community to be safe, but we can't handle

all needs. It breaks my heart that we can't, but we can't.

So I ask everyone who comes in wanting masks to sew at least 5 masks, keep a couple and bring the rest back for donation. If they can't sew, they know someone who can. Within two degrees of separation, you'll find a quilter, a mom or grandmom with a sewing machine, a neighbor, a friend, a friend of a friend. Anyone can operate a sewing needle and can stitch these by hand. It's not hard. I challenge every regular customer to make at least 5 masks and bring them back for donation.

For those you who have already donated masks, you are marvelous (do I sound like Billy Crystal?) AND please keep making more! I know you are tired of making them, but the need continues to grow because our Covid-19 numbers in the state continue to rise.

For everyone who has donated elastic, fabrics, your time and talent, and money to keep this project afloat: Thank you very much! And please, send me an email reminding me what you have given, from fabric, to elastic, to ties, to masks, to money. I am trying to keep a list, and I have many of you down, but I know I have forgotten others in all the chaos. I will throw a big party for us when it's safe -- sometime this summer!

So I have been taping all sorts of movies that I can watch without too much concentration. Are you finding it hard to pay attention even for the small stuff?

Without looking up medical info on the internet or talking to the experts like Dr. Phil or Dr. Oz, I bet what's happening is called stress. When we get stressed the first thing we lose is our minds. I loose track of what customers tell me to cut. I gave the wrong fabric sack to a customer today, requiring her to come back to actually get what she paid for.

I've lost two masks-although I did find one, which led me to consider where the first one went-in someone else's sack. Or perhaps the trash. I took it off my ear and stowed it somewhere. I have no idea where.

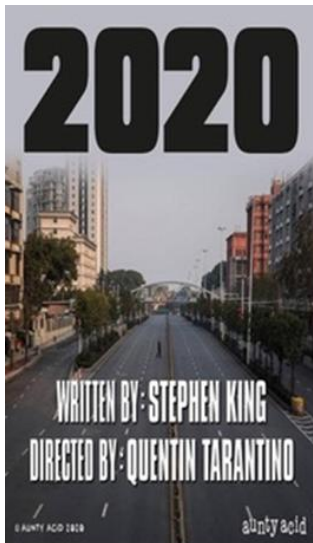
Are you having weird dreams? Yeah, that's part of the stress, too, I think. I had some lady pop into a dream last night. She was complaining that this business of keeping businesses shuttered was just too much. She needed hair dye to cover her roots, and she proudly showed the newscaster the top of her head. Yup. Gray. Then I woke up and realized that was a woman from Michigan and I had seen her on the news. It wasn't a dream.

But for now, I will leave you with a list of my movies and other things I've

taped, and a few cartoons sent to me from a friend. Might as well share.

Movies: Anything with Fred Astaire: Top Hat, Gay Divorcee, Royal Wedding, Swing Time, Shall We Dance, Band Wagon. Other easy to concentrate on movies: Spiderman, Far From Home; Wizard of Oz; The Thin Man; any Doris Day movie like Move Over Darling, That Touch of Mink, Pillow Talk, The Thrill of it All; Glenn Ford movies like Don't go Near the Water and Teahouse of the August Moon; and anything on Turner Classic Movies, which is having a virtual Classic Film Festival instead of the in person one originally scheduled. And the tv show Psych is airing all of its episodes. Like 10 years worth. The problem with Psych, though, is you do have to pay attention because in every episode is a pineapple. Somewhere. So you have to watch to "I spy" the pineapple.

Lots to see. And the advantage of all of these? I've seen them, so they are easy to follow.



**MY HUSBAND AND I
DECIDED WE DON'T WANT
TO HAVE CHILDREN.**

**WE WILL BE TELLING THEM
TONIGHT AT DINNER.**

**AFTER LISTENING TO,
LINDA, HIS HUMAN, FOR 12 DAYS
WHILE IN QUARANTINE AS SHE
COMPLAINED FOR HOURS ON END**



**SPARKY REALIZED HE
WAS NOT CUT OUT TO BE
AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG**

**I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY
DOGS GET SO EXCITED WHEN
THEY SEE AN OPEN DOOR.**



© AUNTIE ACID 2020 auntie acid

Quarantine has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told 'no' if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.



**I'm so over
being part of a
major historical
event right
about now.**

auntie acid

**Anyone else's car
getting 3 weeks to the
gallon at the moment ?**

**The Good News Quilt
Scroll Down for Part 4 & 5
(I hope to have another quilt for you
next week--it uses a roll of 2 1/2" strips
and a 60 degree triangle ruler)**

We will not let this pandemic get the best of us! Quilters have a strong history of stitching through any kind of crisis, so we are well equipped to manage, stay hopeful, and have a finished product at the end.

Sew (clever, huh) here we go!

Total fabric yardage needed:

1 1/4 yards of background, preferably whitish.

1 1/4 yards of colors (we'll get back to this)

1 1/2 yards of another background, preferably whitish

1 1/2 yards of colors (we'll get back to this)

2 1/4 yards border

Size of quilt 75 X 84 (you can make it larger, but you will have to adjust fabric requirements, of course)

Step one: Find your fabrics! For background, you can choose 2 different white on whites, 1 1/4 yards of one white and 1 1/2 yards of a different yet compatible white. You can also choose 3 yards of various whites from your scraps, all different but all compatible. Not to confuse you further, you can choose compatible styles of 1 1/4 yards white on whites and different compatible white on whites for the 1 1/2 yards. I will be very clear, in the instructions, which whites go where. And I'll give pictures. You can add some black on whites (or blue on white, etc) for this part, if you wish, just make sure the visual aspect of the background is primarily white.

For your colors: The brighter, the better. We're not going to make this quilt in somber colors. You can if you wish (the quilt will come out just fine) but we need cheering up and bright colors are what the doctors (quilt ones) are ordering. My suggestion: Pull a pile of bright colors from your stash. If you don't have a stash of bright colors, come in. We've got lots of brightly colored fat quarters. This quilt will look best if your bright colors are tone on tone, meaning, don't choose various brightly colored flying pigs on a multicolored background.

For both the whites and the colors, if you are using up scraps, the minimum size you need is 5 1/2" X 5 1/2". If you are working from fat quarters, you will need about 13-14 fats of color and 13-14 fats of white.

Part 2:

Cut 56 squares of white(s) and 56 squares of color. Pair a white with a color. Draw a line down corner to corner. Sew a scant 1/4" from each side of the line. You will get 2 half square triangles from each square. Square each one to 5" X 5".



That's it! Don't worry about color or placement. NOTE: If you have already cut your squares and you cut them at 5" X 5": DON'T PANIC! You can still use them. Just square your triangles to 4 1/2" X 4 1/2" .

Part 3:

From your remaining fabrics cut 2 3/4" X WOF strips of color and white. You need 15 white strips and 15-16 color strips. If you are using 2 different colors of white, now is the time to use your second white. NOTE: If you cut your squares in Part 2 at 5", cut your strips at 2 1/2" X WOF.

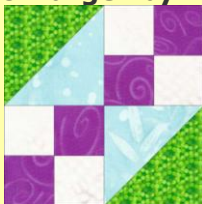
If you are working with fat quarters, you will need to cut at least 30 strips, making sure you cut your strips 22" X your width (2 3/4" or 2 1/2").

Sew your strips together. Cut apart into 2 3/4" (or 2 1/2") segments. Sew the segments into 4-patches, mixing your colors.



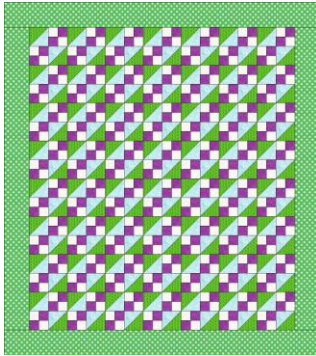
Part 4:

You now have half square triangles that are 5" X 5" (or 4 1/2" X 4 1/2") and 4-patch blocks that are the same size. You will pair these together to make your block! These will square to 9 1/2" X 9 1/2" (8 1/2" X 8 1/2"). But there is more! Stay tuned for the final instructions on how to put it together. The pattern I have drafted calls for 56 of these blocks. But you can make it smaller or larger by making more or fewer blocks.

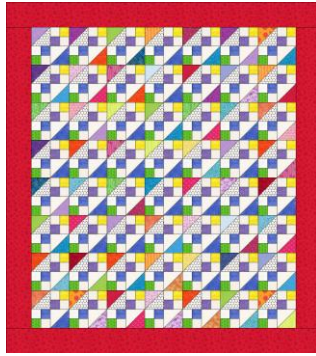


Part 5: Putting it all together. This is where the fun starts, because there is no one way to put the blocks together. Your challenge is to experiment with turning the blocks every which way to create the design of your choice. But I will provide some examples. This block is an excellent example of how a 1 block quilt can look very different depending on how you place the blocks. And because you have plenty of time to fiddle with the placement of the blocks --- have fun! Add borders of your choice. Mine will be 6 1/2" and will be cut to the size of the quilt. Inner borders (while not shown in the pictures) can also be used.

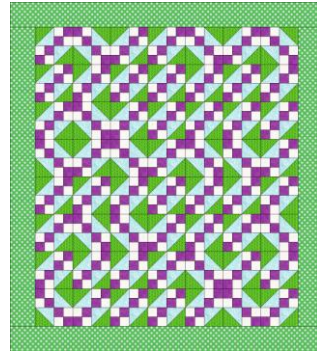
My examples are just that, and they are not my best work. It is hard to manipulate this block on the computer without going crazy. It is easier to do it with the actual blocks--my blocks are still in pieces on the floor by the sewing machine.



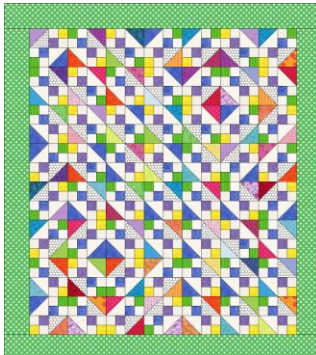
basic & boring



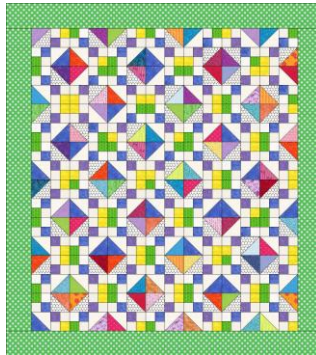
basic, but because of all the colors, not as boring



more interesting



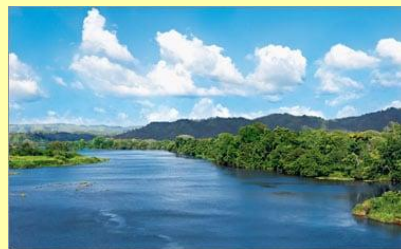
interesting



better, very uniform

Travel, Explore, Cruise, Quilt!

We are sailing with Princess Cruises on December 29-2020-January 8, 2021!



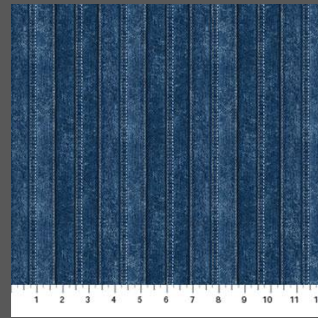
All Aboard!

The Princess sale has been continued. The sale includes free premium beverage package, payment of gratuities and free wifi. On board credit will also be offered. I don't have the date when this sale ends, but don't wait too long. You can always sign up to travel with us, even through next December, but it's hard to say whether this specific sale will be offered again.

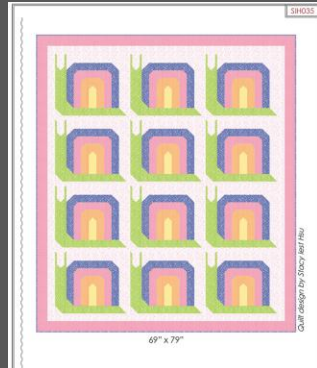
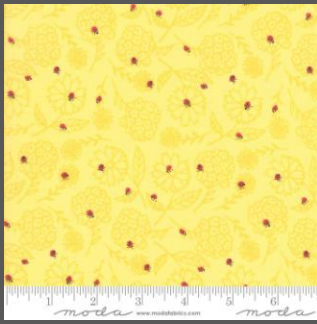
WHAT'S NEW!!

We have very few new fabrics in and I will not be getting many through the April, it just depends upon which companies are open for shipping, my bottom line, and whether we need critical supplies for this Covid-19 pandemic.

From Northcott:



From Moda:



My Garden
Featuring *Sunday Picnic* from Moda
STACY IEST HSU

Rainbow Trail
Featuring *Sunday Picnic* from Moda
STACY IEST HSU

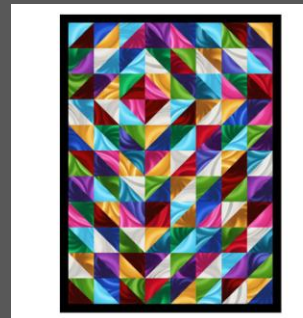
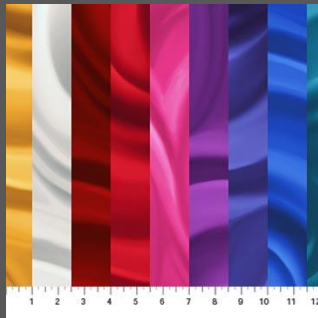
From Riley Blake:



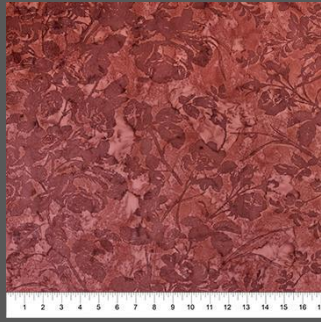
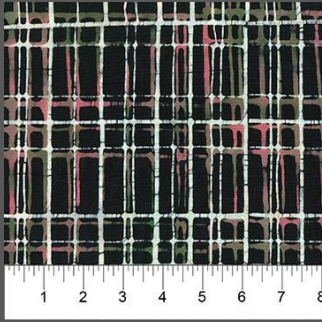
From Hoffman:



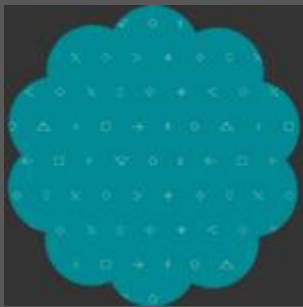
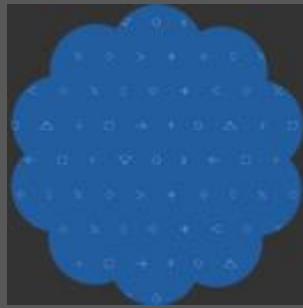
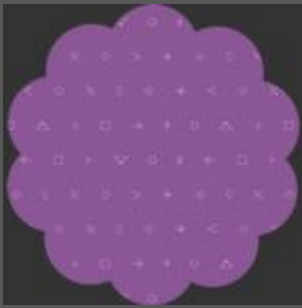
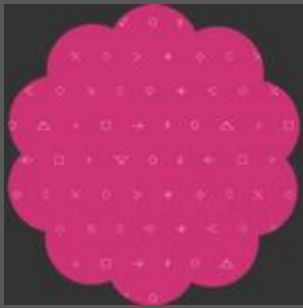
From Northcott:



What you can do with the stripe. It's a pattern that I don't have in right now.



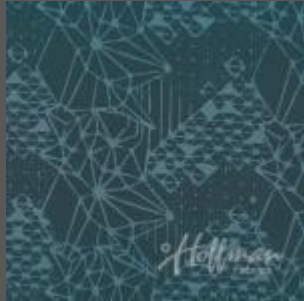
From AGF:



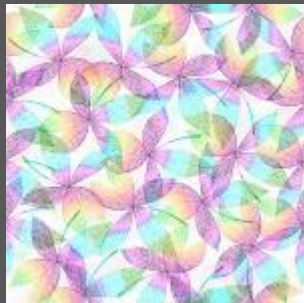
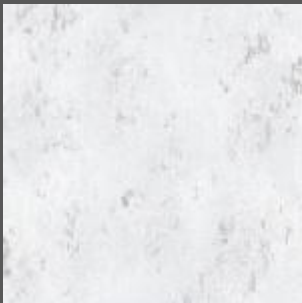
From AH:



From Hoffman:

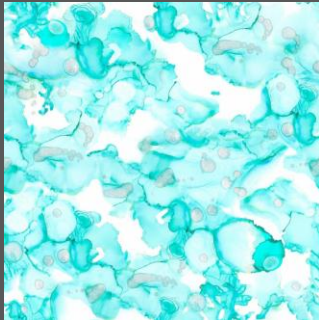


This is Peter Pan





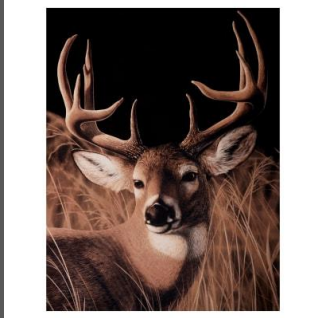
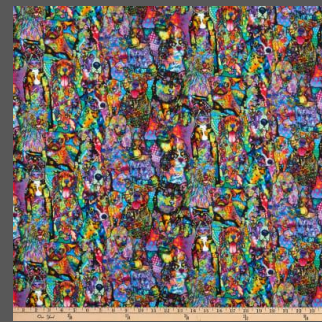
From 3 Wishes:





We're still looking for that camper fabric. It's possible I actually didn't order it.

From Print Concepts & Windham:



All Classes are on hold for right now. I will come out with a new calendar as soon as things calm down.

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 needle up/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.

**Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-6
Sunday 1-5
Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)**

**Covid-19 Hours
M-s 10-5. Closed Sundays**

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

Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer

Around the Block

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