



August 14, 2020

Why it's covid's fault. [Please read disclaimer below]

Cop: "Do you know why I pulled you over, ma'am?" Ma'am. Cringe.

Me: "No," said as innocently as possible. I've watched enough cop shows to know that you never ever volunteer info to the cops.

Cop: "You were driving on the wrong side of the road."

Me: "I was?" Again, all innocent.

Cop: "Yes, ma'am. And you strayed over onto the shoulder several times. In fact, you were out of your lane more often than you were in it. Were you talking on your phone?"

Me: "No officer. I never talk and text." This is true.

Cop: He spots something on the passenger side of the car, among the workout clothes, books, various New Yorker magazines, mail and Richard's pumper upper. "Were you trying to eat while you were driving, ma'am?" He'd spotted my Monkey Balls, a cinnamon sugar concoction.

Me: "Well, I ah..." I gave in to his hard questioning tactics. "Do you know how hard it is to drive when you have a stray hair tickling your nose? And that's because I haven't gotten my hair cut since January because of covid. And, and, when you're trying to eat Monkey Balls and the brown sugar crystals are all over your fingers while you try to get the hair off your nose. And then that stray hair

or whatever it was gets in your mouth and now the brown sugar is all over both hands and you don't want to get any of that on the steering wheels? Do you know how hard it is to drive down the road like that?"

Cop: He just stares at me.

Me: "And besides, there was nobody on the road. I checked. That means I have the whole road to myself. I can drive wherever I want. I'm not hurting anyone."

Cop: He continues to stare.

Me: "And then, and then, the radio starts playing this absolutely horrible song that just gets into your brain, you know one of those ear wigs, or whatever they're called, you know the one, American Pie, such an idiotic song, I mean what does "Now, for ten years we've been on our own, And moss grows fat on a rolling stone, But, that's not how it used to be." I mean, really what does that mean? Did he pick the words because they rhymed? So then you have to change the channel and you're not sure which button on the steering column to push - either the right or left up downs or the top or bottom up downs. And then you hit a station that is playing way too loud, so you have to remember which one of those buttons you just pushed is the volume control? And your hands are still sticky with brown sugar from the Monkey Balls." I paused & looked at the cop. "Do you know how hard it is to stay on the road while you're trying to figure all that out?"

Cop: "Ma'am, when was the last time you drank alcohol?"

Me: "I don't remember." Actually, an honest answer because the last drink I had was one of those slurppy frozen adult drinks from Vinos. And that was 2? 3? weeks ago. But you should never answer a question like that with an "I don't remember."

Cop: "Ma'am, have you taken any narcotics?"

Me: "Well, I couldn't get to sleep last night, so around 1:30 I took an 8-hour sleeping pill [it's about 9:30, I'm on my way to work]. I think I was on a sugar high from the Monkey Balls. Does that count?"

Cop: Quietly starts writing the ticket.

And that's how not getting a haircut since January caused me to get a traffic ticket. It's also possible that repeated use of the words Monkey Balls had something to do with it. I'm sure it wasn't my driving.

Disclaimer: I didn't get pulled over, I didn't get a ticket, and I wasn't on any medications. But I was eating Monkey Balls and my hair was straying into my mouth, my hands were sticky and I was weaving on the road a little. But no one no one else was on the road at the time. And American Pie wasn't playing, but it is a song I think is too long, too ear wiggy, and one that tries too hard.

But as I was driving down the road, I did wonder what I would tell a cop if I got pulled over. It's always a good idea to get your story straight before you need to have a story straight. And don't laugh....you do it, too. We always make up stories, practice what we want to say. Unfortunately, usually it's what we really wished we had said-one of those smart comments that make you look good.

Side note: I have finished Little Dorrit. When I got to the end, there was an Appendix I, The Denouement of Little Dorrit, a page and half synopsis of the entire plot that Dickens takes 860 pages to tell. I'm not sure if I'm glad I read it at the end or whether I should have read it at the beginning.

Regardless, Little Dorrit is a great read and it reminded me that Charles Dickens is first and foremost a romantic writer. In all, or most of his books, there is romance, despair but always hope and happy endings. It's a good story and he's a good author to read in these times. The best of times, the worst of times.

Recipe for Monkey Balls:

2 tubes of biscuits (any flavor), butter, brown sugar, cinnamon.
Take an angel food cake pan & spray or coat with butter. Put slivers of butter, cinnamon and brown sugar in the bottom. Cut the biscuits into small squares, roll into a ball and add a layer to the bottom of the pan. Continue layers (butter, sugar, cinnamon, balls) until you run out of balls. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35-45 minutes or until a toothpick comes away clean.

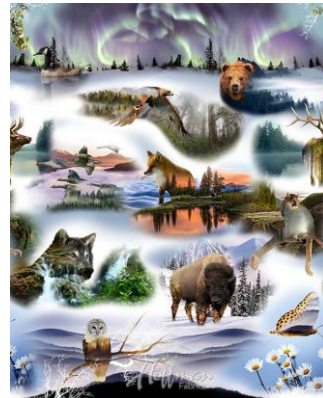
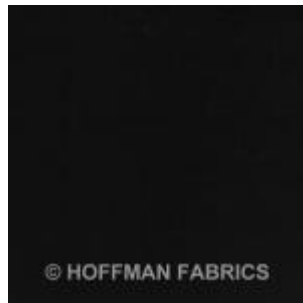
Note: Class schedule for Fall should be out by next week, I hope.

We have several fun and easy classes that will be held on Saturdays, Beginning Quilting will be on Sunday so we will have Sunday hours again, I'm hoping to organize a "Christmas Club" class that will offer a variety of small, gift items, using a variety of techniques so you can learn something new, do something different, and have something ready in time for Christmas. Stay tuned.

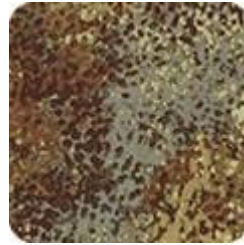
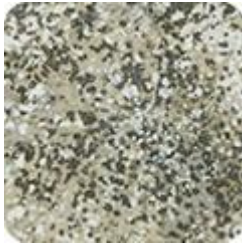
WHAT'S NEW!!

We also have new patterns (one using the Steampunk Halloween Owls from Quilting Treasures), books (Buttermilk Basin), wonder clips, bias strip makers, flower head pins, curved safety pins, Zirkel pin cushion, Zootroplois book, Allique sheets, and a variety of new embroidery patterns, including the Owls, various Halloween and Christmas patterns.

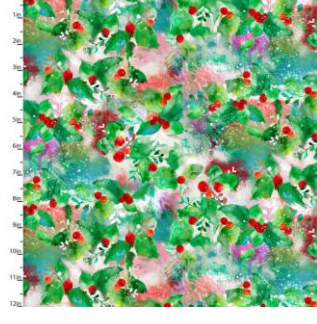
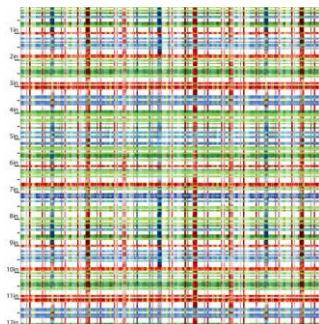
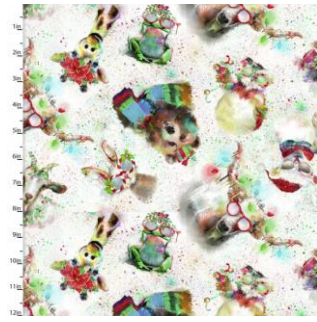
From Hoffman, Michael Miller



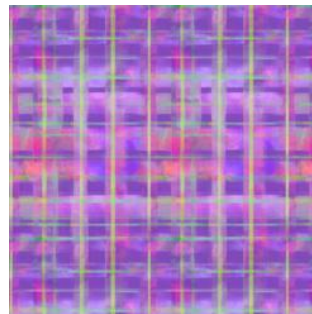
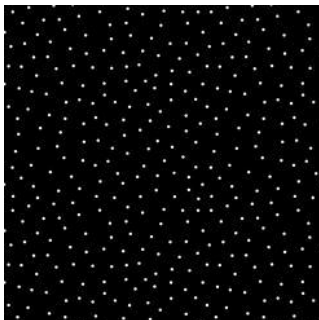
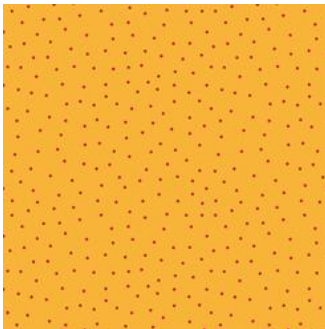
From Robert Kaufman:



From 3 Wishes:



From Quilting Treasures:





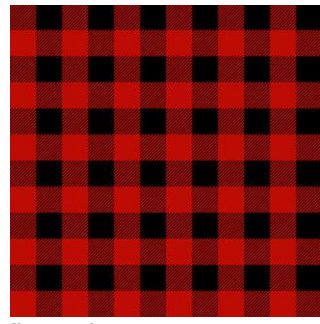
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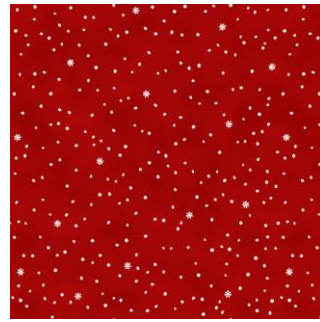
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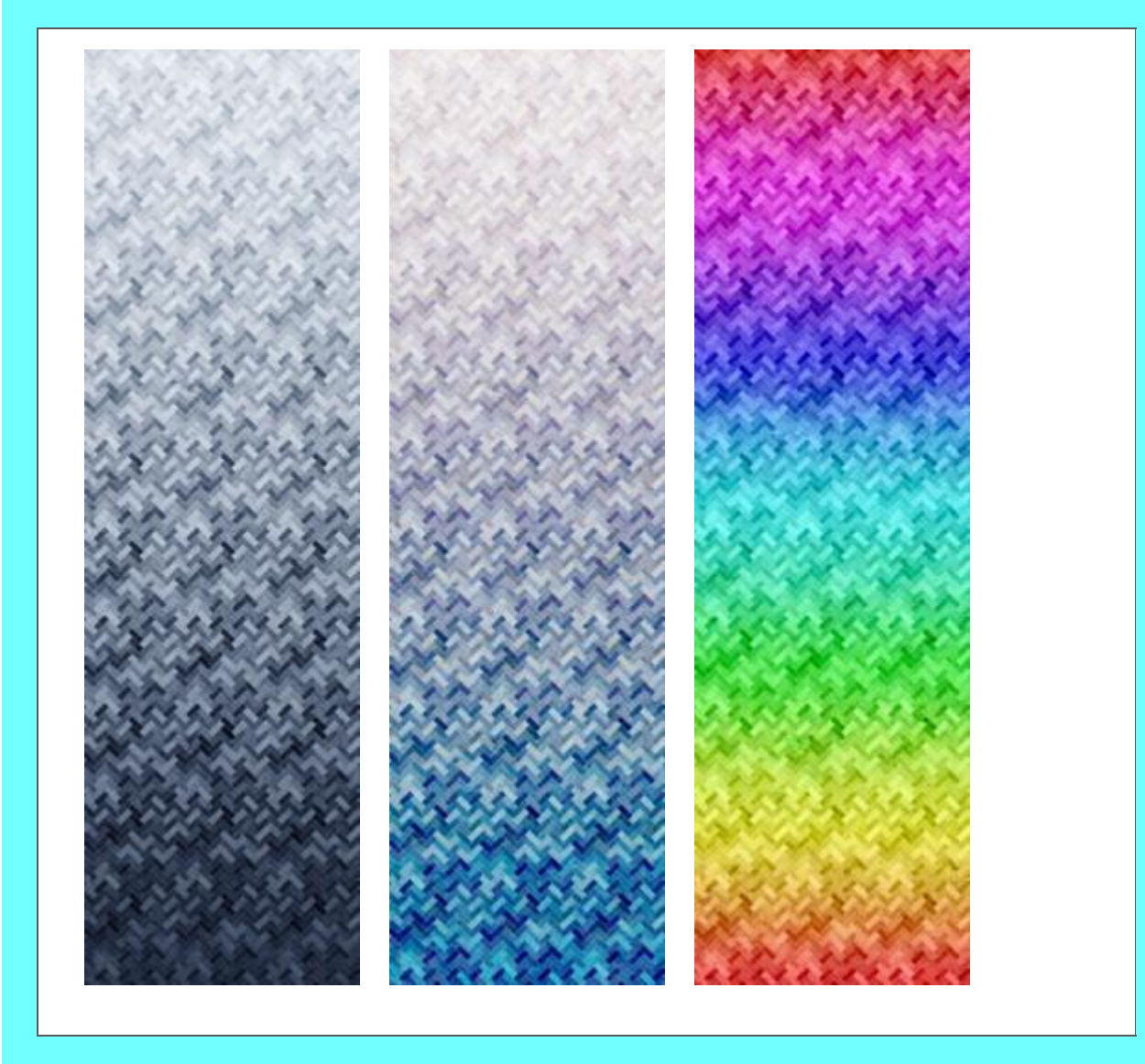


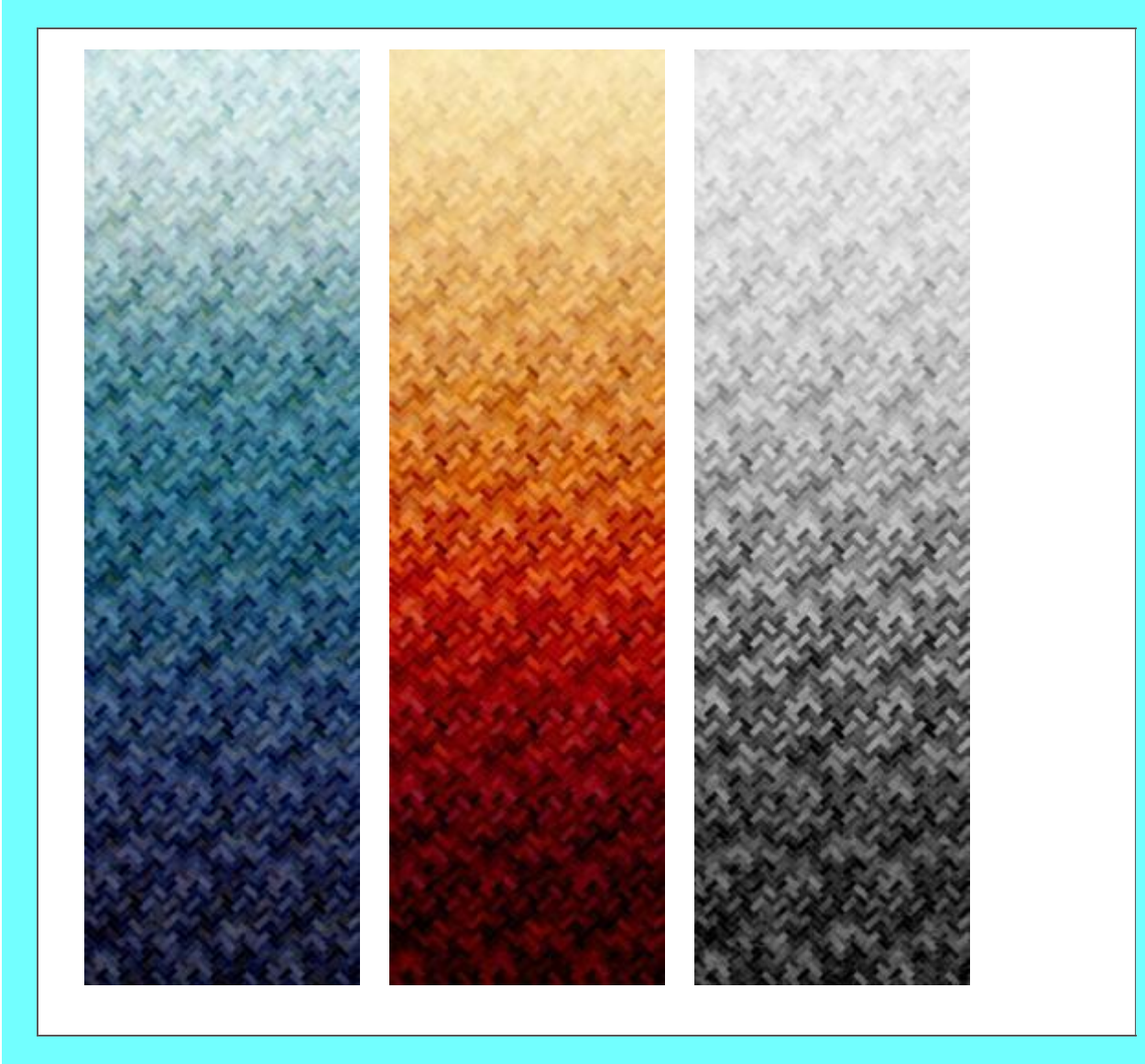
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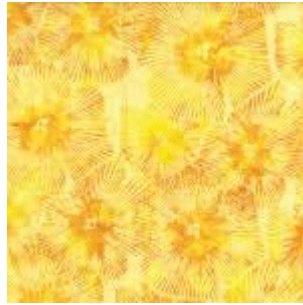




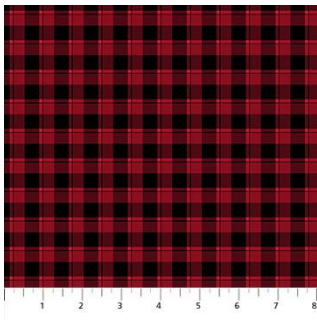
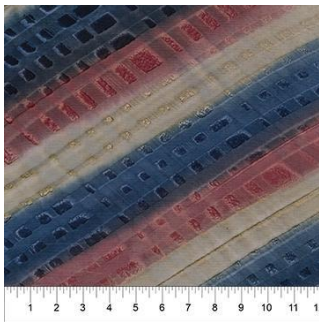
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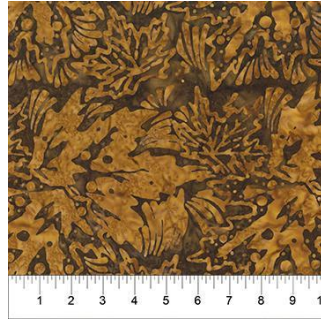
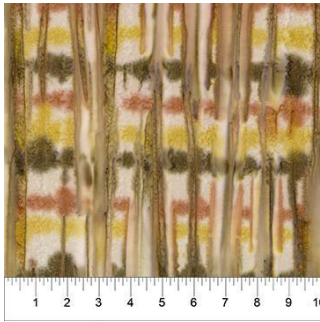
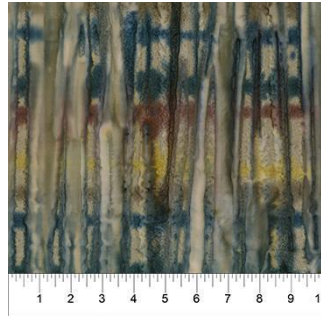
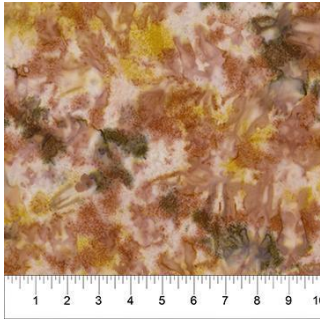






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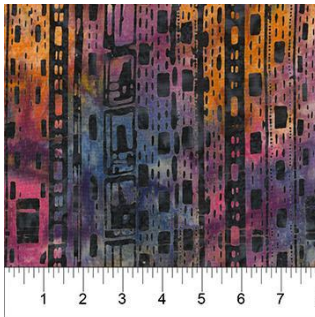
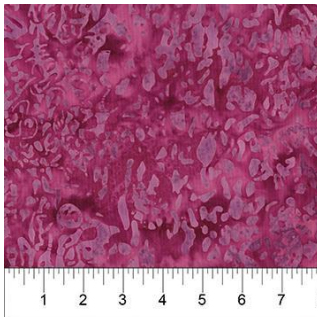
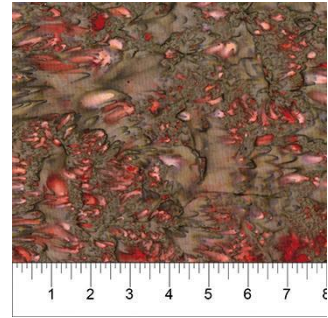
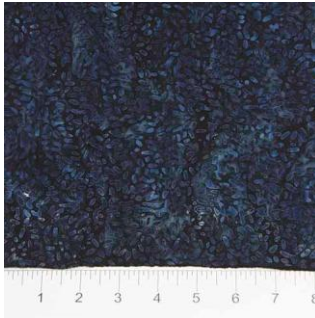


36" X 54"



54" x 65"

Northcott:



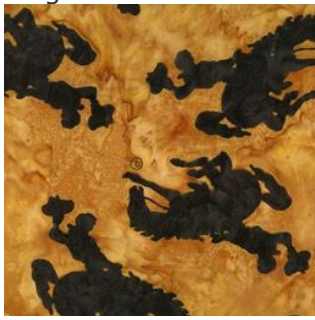
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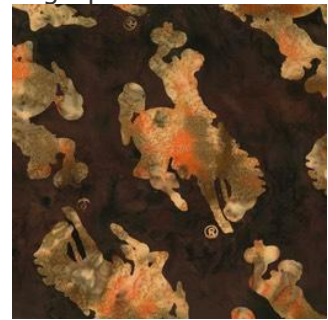
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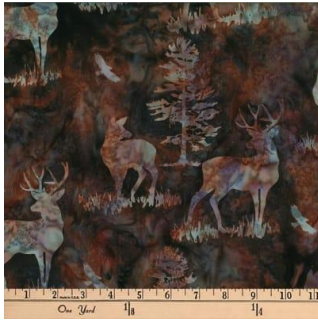
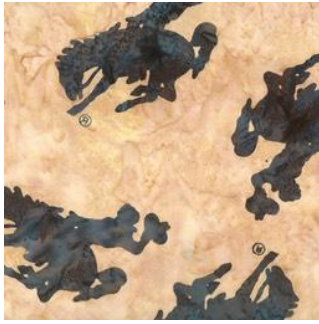


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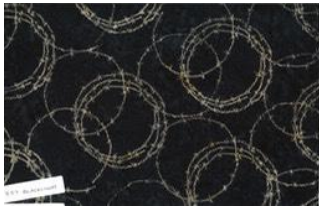
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on



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AUGUST 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 There Be Dragons 1-5
2 Closed	3 Magic Triangle Quilt, 11- 3 Full Moon	4 Hand work Club 2-4	5 Knit Pickers' Club 3-7	6	7	8 Embroidery Club 10- noon Embroidery Club 10- noon Magic Triangle Quilt, 11-3
9 Closed	10	11 Hand work Club 2-4	12	13	14	15 A Study in Subtle 11-3
16 Closed	17	18 Hand work Club 2-4	19 Knit Pickers' Club 3-7	20	21	22 Zootropolis 11-3
23 Closed	24	25 Hand work Club 2-4	26	27	28	29 There be Dragons Here 1-5
30 Closed	31	Color of the month: blacks				

A Study in Subtle August 15 11-3 Sue Frerich \$30

This is one of the quilts we were not able to teach this spring. The quilt uses soft shades of taupes, grays, browns, and other subtle colorations to create light and medium/dark blocks. The block is simple, but small, and there are tricks to getting everything to line up. You can also make this quilt in any combination of fabrics, so it is perfect for scraps.

Let There Be Dragons Quilt Sat Aug 29-5 \$25 Barb Boyer

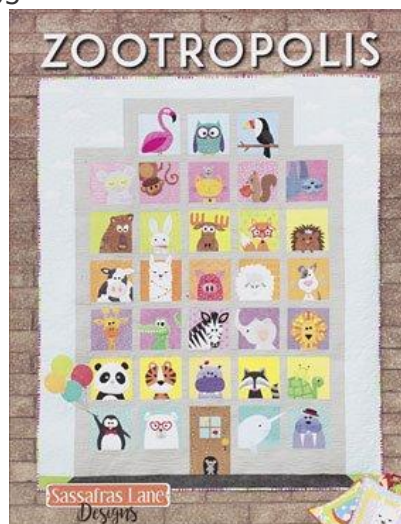
In the Beginning has created this marvelous dragon fabric: in orange & flame colors, or cool blues & purples. The dragons are in a panel and there is a coordinating border stripe. The blocks are easy and the panel makes this quilt go together quickly. You will also learn how to miter the borders-a new skill to add to your toolbox!

Magic Triangle August 3 11-3 OR 8, 1-4 Sue Frerich \$25

This is a "design it yourself" styled quilt. The block is simple, but placement is key. You can create many different patterns depending on how you twist and turn your blocks. The "magic" part is how you cut your blocks in half, thus avoiding all those pesky triangles.

Zootropolis August 22 11-3 Sue Frerich \$35

You've seen her quilt. You want to make one, too! Zootropolis is a skyscraper of animals, each to its own window. You can use a simple fusible process for raw edge applique for the animals, or you can use a special product that allows you to turn under all of your edges so it looks like you've hand appliqued everything in place. The fun part of the quilt - well there are a lot of fun parts: choosing the fabrics for each animal, adding embellishments to your animals, and then choosing fun quilting patterns for each block. This class will have follow up class(es) in the fall.



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**

Color of the Month and Full Moon Schedule

Since I don't have classes posted, I forgot that I also didn't post the full moon and color of the month schedule.

Full Moon: June 5 (today, but we will observe it tomorrow as well); July 6, August 3 and September 1.

Colors: June blue; July Christmas; August black; September orange.

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