

Travel, Explore, Cruise, Quilt!

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



All Aboard!

The Princess sale continues through February, but don't wait until the last minute to sign up. The sale includes free premium beverage package, payment of gratuities and free wifi. On board credit will also be offered. This offer will be good through the end of February. You can still sign up to travel with us, even through next December, but I doubt if this specific sale will be offered again.

Those of you who have already signed up, please send me an email with the following information (I have some of this already, but not all of it): Name on passport, passport number, date of birth, email (I know I have it, but it helps if I just have to copy & paste rather than type it in), and telephone number.

February 14, 2020

How to fix practically anything.

Hit it.

For example, my garage door had an incredibly irritating ear damaging screech when it shut. Not when it went up, only when it shut.

So I did what normal people do-I'm only guessing what normal people do in these kind of situations. Since I really don't know how things work, I obviously don't know what normal people do.

But I got out the grease gun thingy and tried applying grease to the tracks, figuring that was where the screech was so any lubrication would solve the problem.

Not really. All I managed to do was grease up the tracks and make them harder to move, especially in winter, and the grease had a tendency to drip on the car. I'm guessing normal people don't do that.

So I got some advice, which I really don't remember now because, like I said, I don't really know how things work so this kind of advice doesn't stick around in my brain very long. Anyway, I used a different product that was better for getting better or smoother traction on the cable thingies that pulled my garage door up and down.

Of course, that didn't work either.

So my solution was to sit in the car with the radio on while the garage door went down. That muffled the sound a bit. When I forgot or when I had to corral

the dogs in the backyard -which means hollering at Cassidy to stop running around the prairie and get in the backyard-I was forced to plug one ear, hit the button to lower the door and quickly plug the other ear before the screech started. Problem was the door was faster than my finger - I could never get my other ear covered before the screech started.

By now I'm sure you're thinking to yourself that my problem lies in bad cables, bad little wheels that run on the track, crooked metal and that the only way to fix the problem is to buy a new garage door. My thoughts exactly until a few weeks ago.

So I get into my car, in the garage, and realize I haven't opened the garage door yet. No problem. I hit the switch on the remote on my sun visor, turn the car on and back out of the garage. Before the door had gone all the way to the top. Well, I immediately stopped after hitting the garage door with the car, waited for the garage door to finish opening all the way, backed out of the garage and then surveyed the damage as the garage door quietly closed.

Did you catch that? Quietly closed. I was so impressed I raised the garage door and lowered it again while sticking my head out of my car window. Quiet. Remarkable. Who cares that there is a dent in the bottom of the door that will allow some snow to blow into the garage. I have lots of other "holes" where snow blows in. I have a door that doesn't always close right because it is warped. I have dog doors without flaps where snow blows through. A small gap on the garage door is nothing.

So the teaching moment of this story is: To fix the screech in a garage door as it lowers is to run into the door with your car. Problem solved. (In case you're wondering, I did check the car, and it fared very well in its encounter with the garage door.)

Now, lest you laugh, remember that you've fixed all sorts of things by hitting them. Computers, windows, plumbing pipes, televisions and almost everything electronic. And it's worked, right?

There is a name for this: It's called "percussion maintenance." It's a real thing. Now you should really only "tap" and not hit it with your car, but the tap often aligns electrical connections so that they touch again. It's often not a permanent solution, but it does save me from having to buy a new garage door for awhile.

Remember the Fonz? He used it. And NASA even uses it.

On the Apollo 12 space flight, Alan Bean, astronaut, was recorded talking to

Edward Gibson, crew member on the ground:

Gibson: There's no change down here, Al. (Pause) That's coming in there, now,

Al. Okay, what change did you make?

Bean: I hit it on the top with my hammer. I figured we didn't have a thing to

lose.

Gibson: Skillful fix, Al.

Bean: I hit it on the top with this hammer I've got. (Responding to Gibson)

Yeah, that's skilled craftsmanship.

It's time to think about Shop Hop!

Our theme for this year's challenge is flashback to the 1960s. Beatles, peace signs, hippies, tie dye, long hair, rock & roll, being hip or being square. Make your own project around a 1960s theme, using a commercial pattern or one of your own creation. Wall hangings, totes or other interpretations of a 60s theme no larger than 60" X 60" will be accepted. Projects will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 17 & 18. Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$250 1st; \$200 2nd; \$150 3rd as picked by Viewer's **Choice.** To participate, fill out an entry form and submit it to a participating guilt store with your project by April 13.

I will have the forms available later--or just ask me to print you one. For now, it's time to start thinking of what project you want to do! The prizes are big this year!

WHAT'S NEW!!

From Print Concepts & Windham:







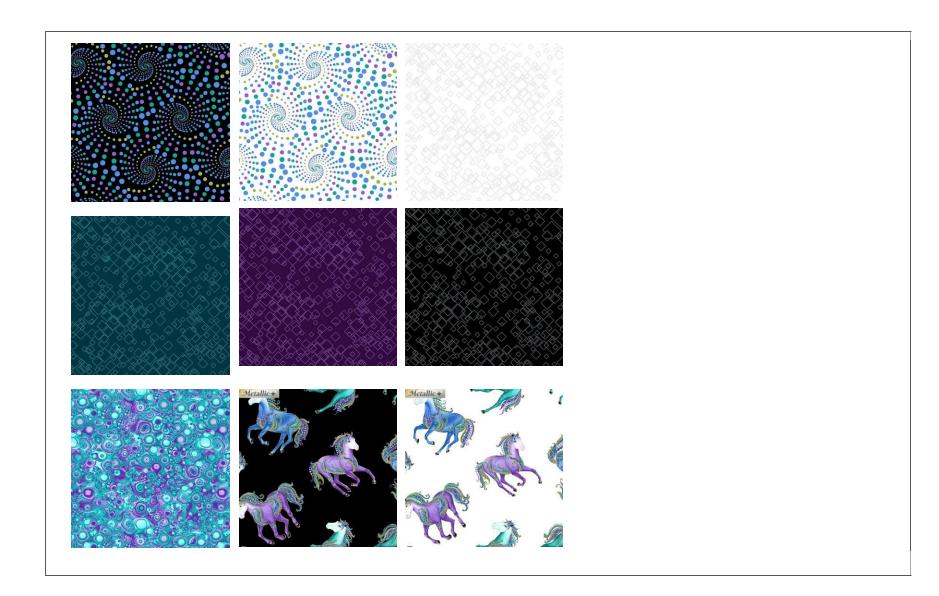


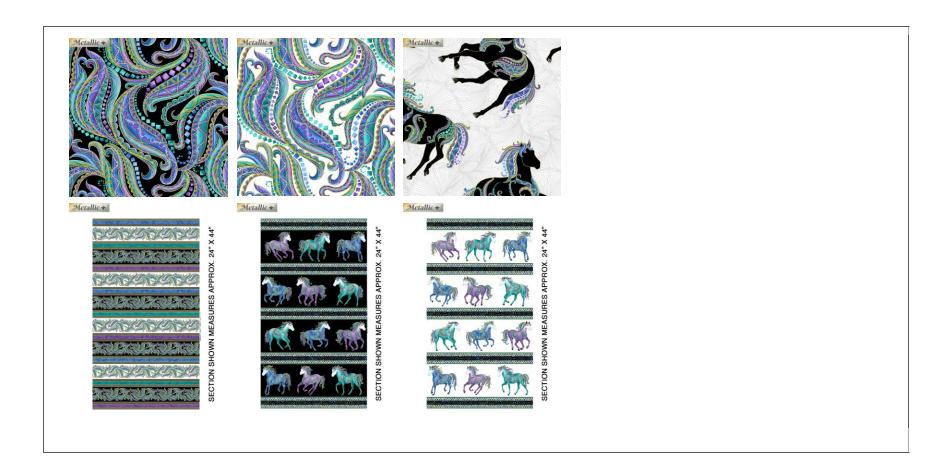
From Benartex:







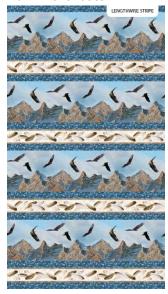








From Northcott:















From Robert Kaufman:













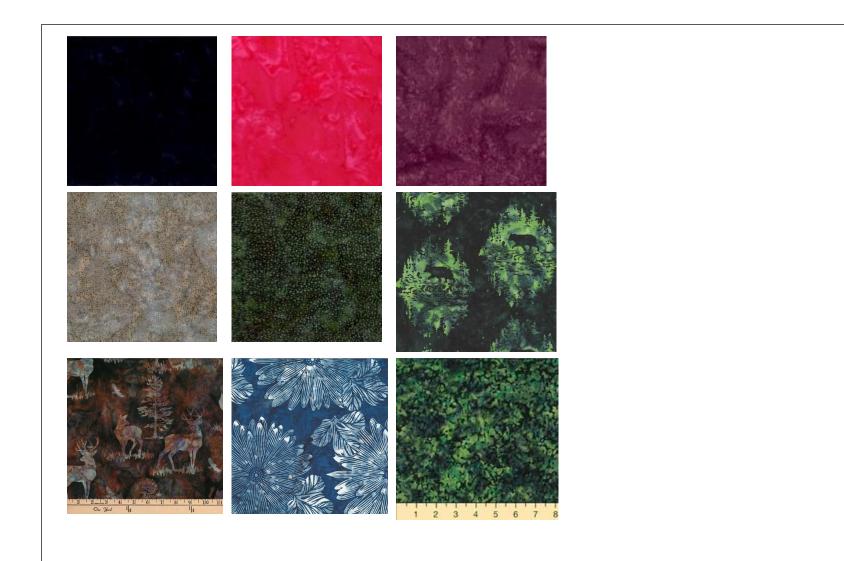


From Hoffman:

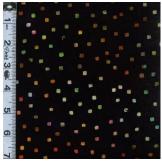












And a couple more that I couldn't grab pictures for.

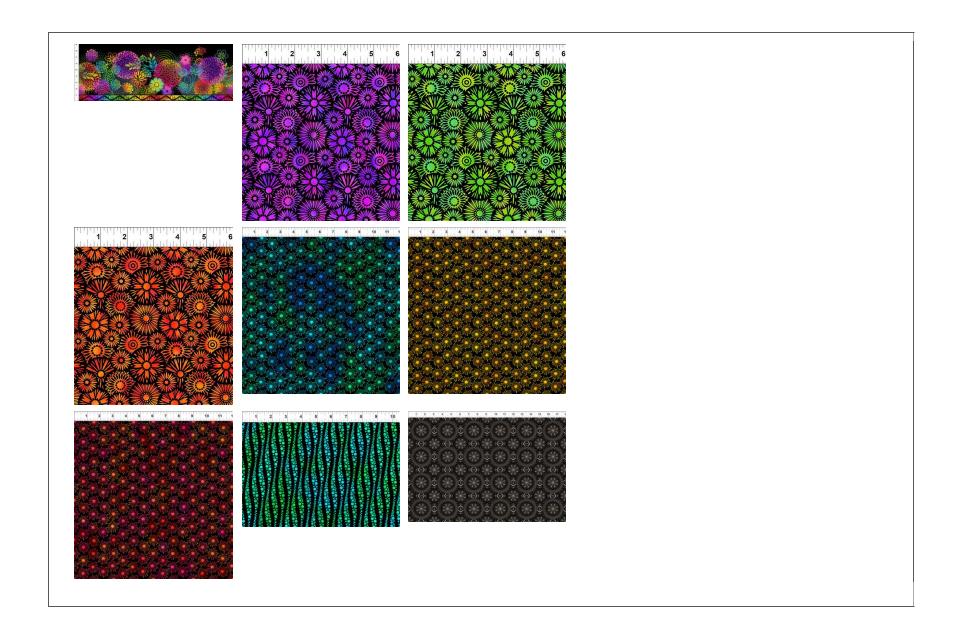
From In the Beginning: (We will have kits)







pattern--we are making kits



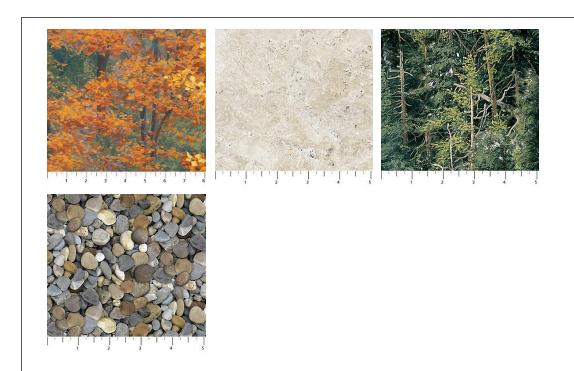


From Northcott:









From Moda:

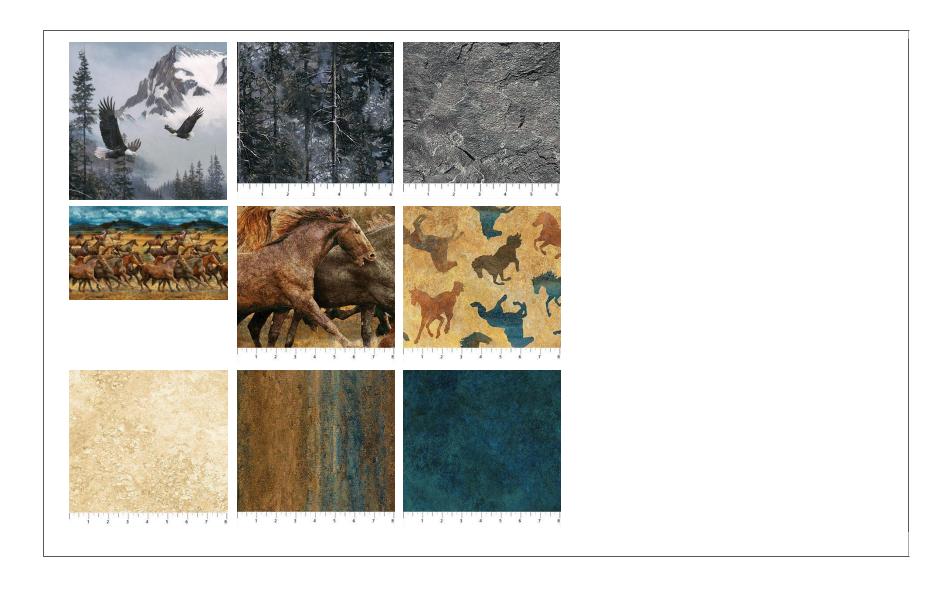


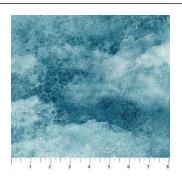






From Northcott:





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, by month.

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						BOM 10:30
	Color of the month: red					BOM 10:30 Working with Rulers: Drunkard's Path 1- 6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Embroidery Club 10- noon
Closed		Hand work Club 2- 4 Long Arm Rental Day	Knit Pickers' Club 3-7	Beginning Quilt 6-9	Long Arm Rental Day	Embroidery Club 10- noon How to Use Strips: Strip Stacks noon-6
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Beginning Quilt 1-4 Full Moon		Hand work Club 2- 4 Long Arm Rental Day	Wool Ornaments 10-1	Beginning Quilt 6-9	Long Arm Rental Day Valentine's Day	Bermuda Sunset 10:30-5
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Beginning Quilt 1-4	T-Shirt Quilt 10:30-4 Presidents' Day	Hand work Club 2- 4 Long Arm Rental Day	Knit Pickers' Club 3-7	Beginning Quilt 6-9	Long Arm Rental Day	Working with Rulers: Circular Motion 10:30-4
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Beginning Quilt 1-4	English Paper Piecing: Dresden Plate 2- 4	Hand work Club 2- 4 Long Arm Rental Day		Beginning Quilt 6-9	Long Arm Rental Day	

MARCH 2020							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 вом 10:30	

Closed		Hand work Club 2-4 Long Arm Rental Day		Beginning Quilt 6-9	Long Arm Rental Day	BOM 10:30 Wyoming Bear's Paw 1- 6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Embroidery Club 10-noon
Beginning Quilt 1-4	Full Moon	Hand work Club 2-4 Long Arm Rental Day	Knit Pickers' Club 3-7		Long Arm Rental Day	Embroidery Club 10-noon
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Beginning Quilt 1-4		Hand work Club 2-4 Long Arm Rental Day	Hand Piecing Dresden Plates 10-noon	Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4	Long Arm Rental Day	How to Use Strips: Design Challenge 10:30-4
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Beginning Quilt 1-4		Hand work Club 2-4 Long Arm Rental Day	Wool Ornaments 10-1 Knit Pickers' Club 3-7	Beginning Machine Applique 1-4	Long Arm Rental Day	Working with Rulers: Mini Dresden Plate 10:30-4

29	30	31			
	English Paper Piecing: Dresden Plate 2-4	Hand work Club 2-4 Long Arm Rental Day	Color of the month: green		

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates.

Ongoing Classes & Clubs

AccuCut Rental most Thursdays 1-4 check calendar or call to be sure \$10/30 minutes

We have an industrial size AccuCut cutter with several dies: strips, squares, triangles, rectangles. Sign up for time of the AccuCutter to change your stash into usable strips, squares, rectangles and triangles. We will rent to machine in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour intervals (you can get a lot cut in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour). Be sure to check which dies we have before you come in.

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 the challenge is to use polka dot fabric in each block. The quilt will be whimsical, and will lend itself to bright colors, stripes, stars, and dots. To start you off we will give you a fat quarter that you must use in your blocks (at least in some of them). But...if you don=t like the fat quarter or dots,

you can choose any color scheme you like.

Dresden Plate, English Paper Piecing last Monday of each month, 2-4 Barb Boyer \$20 (one time fee)

We will teach the basics of English Paper Piecing, the simple & easy way to hand piece. 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 **Dresden PlateCthis is the pattern we=re doing this year**.

Hand Embroidery Club2nd 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. We are still doing the Gardner=s Alphabet Quilt Block of the Month by Crabapple Hill. We will explore a variety of embroidery stitches for each block each block (2 letters per month), plus we will learn how to color with regular crayons to enhance the 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 are also looking at new patterns, for those you do not want to do the Alphabet quilt or who have finished those blocks.

Knit Pickers' Club2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 3-7 Carol Moler We are changing up the Knit Pickers= Club. We=re going to knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, and we=ll start earlier in the day at 3. For those you you who work, we=ll still be knitting >till 7. 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. We work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. And we're experimenting with group projectsBmeaning we will demonstrate a particular project (fingerless mitts, cables, stranded work, charts) and then everyone does the same pattern. Each month (or so) we will switch to a new project.

Long Arm Quilting ClassesWednesdays from 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 Barb Boyer \$30 (check calendar for specific times & dates)

In this class you will learn all about the Nolting long arm quilting machines: loading, threading, quilting. I=II 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 quiltingBit=s just a start.

February Classes

Bermuda Sunset Sat Feb 15, 10:30-5 10:30-5 \$25 Sue Frerich

It may look like it's just squares and half square triangles -- and it is. But the true joy of this quilt is in its colors. Learn color placement from Sue to achieve a beautiful cascading sunset colored quilt! You can use subtle morning colors to turn your quilt into a Bermuda Sunrise, or working with deep yellows, oranges & reds for a sunset version.

Circular Motion Sat Feb 22, 10:30-4 Sue Frerich \$25 (The third of our "working with rulers" class)

This quilt uses a 2 Peaks in 1 Triangle ruler, and it creates a triangle in a square block, which when placed with other blocks form a circular pattern. The ruler is very versatile, allowing you to create a number of different triangle blocks in a variety of sizes.



Hand Applique/Back Basting TBA, 10-noon Sandra Freeburg \$30

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!

Summer Swag Quilt RESCHEDULED FOR SUMMER \$25 Jean Korber (Another of our "working with

rulers" series + 2 ½" pre cut strips)

This quilt is another Krista Moser quilt, no template piecing. If you did FanFaire, you can use the same ruler. And it uses precut 2 ½" strips! The pattern shows you how to combine strip piecing with diamond star cuts to create a magical three dimensional effect. The pieces are large and uncomplicated, which means in no time you will have a wonderful "summertime" quilt.

T-Shirt Quilt Mon Feb 17 10:30-4 \$25 Barb Boyer

T-shirt quilts are popular and easy to make - but with a little coaching from Barb it will make that graduation gift a snap to make. She will also help you design the quilt (especially

helpful when you have different sized t-shirts), choose sashing colors if needed, and pick borders to make your quilt unique.

Wool Ornaments Wed Feb 12 10-1 \$25 Barb Boyer



Each month we will make a different wool ornament. Not all ornaments will be displayed prior to class. Some will be kitted, others you will need to buy supplies. Lessons learned will include how to use fusible web with wool, whip or tack stitches, blanket stitch, and various other embroidery stitches.



March Classes

Beginning Machine Applique Thurs March 26 1-4 \$30 Barb Boyer

So many quilts use applique these days. Learn the ins and outs of machine applique, from points to curves. We will practice the button hole/blanket stitch, satin stitch, and you can also play around with your decorative stitches. Threads, fusibles and stabilizers will be discussed.

Beginning Machine Quilting Thurs March 19, 1-4 \$30 Sue Frerich

Be prepared to quilt! You will practice your quilting skills on various samples, using both your walking foot and darning foot. Batting, threads, needles and patterns will be discussed. Who knows? By the time you leave you may even be able to write/quilt your name!

Design Challenge: Using 2 ½" Strips Sat March 21, 10:30-4 \$25 Sue Frerich (Another of our precut quilt series)

Sue will teach you the basic block. The challenge is how to set your blocks together. For those of you who have the EQ program on a laptop computer, you can bring your computer to class and Barb will help you design the block in the program and show you how rearrange blocks in the quilt. For those of you who do not have the program, there will be some limited time for students to work on Barb's computer to design your quilt.

Hand Piecing Dresden Plates Wed March 18 10-noon \$30 Sandra Freeburg

Everyone who quilts needs to learn to hand piece. Sometimes we need to have small portable projects to take with us in the car, to doctor appointments, and sometimes, just for relaxing stress free quilting. Learn to hand piece with traditional methods. There are many patterns that are so difficult to piece by machine, but are beautiful when done by hand. This spring, in keeping with our "Dresden Plate" theme, Sandra will teach hand piecing using the Dresden Plate pattern.



Mini Dresden Plates Sat March 28, 10:30-41 \$25 Barb Boyer (Another of our "working with rulers" class)

This class will teach you how to use a small and a mini Dresden Plate template to make little Dresden Plate blocks. You can choose how you want to use your little Dresden Plates: Big quilt, wall hanging, tea towel, tote bag. We will have suggestions to help you decide, or you can simply chose a project from the book. Book and templates are required.



Wool Ornaments Wed Mar 25 10-1 \$25 Barb Boyer

Each month we will make a different wool ornament. Not all ornaments will be displayed prior to class. Some will be kitted, others you will need to buy supplies. Lessons learned will include how to use fusible web with wool, whip or tack stitches, blanket stitch, and various other embroidery stitches.



April Classes

Beginning Machine Applique Sun April 26, 1-4 \$30 Barb Boyer

So many quilts use applique these days. Learn the ins and outs of machine applique, from points to curves. We will practice the button hole/blanket stitch, satin stitch, and you can also play around with your decorative stitches. Threads, fusibles and stabilizers will be discussed.

Beginning Machine Quilting Sun April 19, 1-4 \$30 Sue Frerich

Be prepared to quilt! You will practice your quilting skills on various samples, using both your walking foot and darning foot. Batting, threads, needles and patterns will be discussed. Who knows? By the time you leave you may even be able to write/quilt your name!

Binding Thur April 9 1-4 Barb Boyer \$25

You'll learn how to accurately cut your bindings, whether bias, cross or straightBand when to use which one. You'll learn how to cut, then sew, join (so easy) and hand stitch it down. Bindings so easy peasy you=II wonder why you were ever nervous about putting on the binding.

It's Not too Early for Halloween Quilt Sat April 25 10-2 \$25 Barb Boyer

This cute quilt is an embroidered Halloween Quilt from Buttermilk Basin. The first class will get you started on your embroidery. I'll show you the basic stitch (outline or stem stitch), satin stitch, chain stitch and French knot. We'll discuss tracing options, floss colors and background colors. Then, this summer when your embroidery work is finished, we will get together for the final part: setting the quilt. I will have an alternate way to set your blocks, so you will a different option from the pattern.



Let There Be Dragons Quilt Sat April 11 1-6 \$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!

Running Wild Sat April 4, 1-6 \$25 Barb Boyer (Another of our "working with rulers" class) This quilt is a combination kaleidoscope and panel, using Northcott's Wild Horses fabrics. This cascading colored quilt can be made just with the kaleidoscope blocks, or, just like the sampler, you can insert parts of the Running Horses panel in random places. This block uses a Creative Grid specialty ruler to cut the wedges for the kaleidoscope blocks.

Wool Ornaments Wed April 22 10-1 \$25 Barb Boyer

Each month we will make a different wool ornament. Not all ornaments will be displayed prior to class. Some will be kitted, others you will need to buy supplies. Lessons learned will include how to use fusible web with wool, whip or tack stitches, blanket stitch, and various other embroidery stitches.



May Classes

A Study in Subtle Sat May 16, 10:30-5 \$30 Sue Frerich

This sample quilt uses taupes 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.

Binding Sun May 31 1-4 Barb Boyer \$25

You'll learn how to accurately cut you bindings, whether bias, cross or straightBand when to use which one. You'll learn how to cut, the sew, then join (so easy) and hand stitch it down. Bindings so easy peasy you=II wonder why you were ever nervous about putting on the binding.

Credit Card Holders Sat May 9 3-6 \$25 Barb Boyer

Make a fast, easy credit card holder that is lined with that special stuff that prevents hackers from stealing your info. Two fat quarters will make several card holders, or you could use a fat quarter and our cork fabric, to make an extra special card holder.

Heart's Desire Sat May 2 1-6 Barb Boyer \$25 (Another of our precut guilt series)

This quilt uses 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips plus yardage to make the oversized hearts. Our choice for fabrics is the new line from Alexander Henry: Ghastlies Fall In Love-as only the Ghastly characters can. This is a quick quilt to sew and if you still need a graduation present, you should be able to get the top done in no time.

Intro to Sashiko Sat May 9, 1-3 \$25 Kathy Sconce

Sashiko is a form of decorative reinforcement stitching from Japan. Traditional Sashiko embroidery used white thread on a blue background, but today's sashiko uses many colors of thread, including variegated, and a variety of different colored backgrounds. The main stitch is a type of running stitch and the patterns are often geometric. Learn the basic stitch in the intro class and make a small wall hanging, tea towel, or quilt.

Machine Applied Binding Thur May TBA \$30

Jean will show you several ways to cut and apply binding, completely by machine. Then if you bring a small project, that is already quilted and ready for binding, you can use Jean's techniques and tricks to apply the binding to your project. You probably won't finish your binding, but you will get hands on experience so you can take what you've learned & finish at home.

Pillow Case Party Sun. May 17 1-4 FREE

If you've never made a pillow case, or just want some time to sew a pillow case, this class is for you. This is a great mother/daughter styled class and pillow cases make great presents!

Wool Ornaments Wed May 13 10-1 \$25 Barb Boyer

Each month we will make a different wool ornament. Not all ornaments will be displayed prior to class. Some will be kitted, others you will need to buy supplies. Lessons learned will include how to use fusible web with wool, whip or tack stitches, blanket stitch, and various other embroidery stitches.



CLUBS

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUBBFREE!

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.

Hand Work ClubBFREE!

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4, join us to just sit & hand stitch, crochet, bind, or knit group. Bring what you're working on, sit up at the table in front by the window and work on your projects for awhile. You can get advice & suggestions from your fellow quilters and share your experiences about your projects.

Knit Pickers' Club FREE!

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). We are discussing trying to do a group projectBmeaning everyone does the same pattern. Each month we will learn a different pattern, make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one projectBafghan, scarf, bag, etc.

Block of the Month Club FREE!

First Saturday of the Month, 10:30-11:15. Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block.

Toad Toters Club

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: January 10, February 9, March 9, April 8, May 7

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 whites.

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.

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Color of the Month

December Christmas, January purple, February red, March green, April yellow, May white

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