



July 24, 2020

I just can't get away from the pandemic, no matter how hard I try. Don't send letters. I'm not talking about physically getting away. There is nowhere in the world you can do that, or even if there was, you can't even get there. No I mean mentally, escaping into books, tv, movies, etc.

For example, during April, I decided to watch the PBS series, the Spanish Princess, which was set in the mid 1500s. It's the story of Catherine of Aragon (Spain's daughter), who is wed to Arthur (England's son). Arthur dies and Catherine eventually marries Henry VIII (Arthur's brother), and produces Mary 1 before Henry figures out how to divorce her (not behead her).

So I thought this would be a nice distraction from covid-19. And then the sweating sickness hit the 16th century, killing all sorts of people almost instantaneously. The characters on the show were seen wearing these oddly beaked masks and people were told to stay indoors. So I'm watching as the characters contract this deadly disease, that resembles covid in some ways (some believe the sweating sickness was a form of hantavirus - in other words a VIRUS), and I wonder whether this is the best show to be watching right now.

So much for escaping the pandemic.

And then I watch a show called Chicago MD, a show I had never seen before, but "there was nothing else on" and it came on after whatever I was watching before, and right from the beginning, there is a virus scare in the hospital. The scare happened because a

hospital worker was overworked and didn't properly clean an instrument, which was then used on an incoming patient, thus transferring the virus. The show actually offered a warning, and said it was filmed before the pandemic hit.

Great. Another reminder of how dangerous a pandemic can be. All I want to do when I get home is talk to Becca (well, maybe), and watch some escapist tv that's a little more involved than Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune.

So, I decided to try reading. That seemed like a good idea. Until the books I picked were all about WWI, trench warfare, gassing, shell shocked soldiers, death and dying, amputations....It's amazing to me that I can wander into multiple different books, by different authors, that all are based around the same theme. The stories were good, but I couldn't take it any longer. So I gave up on WWI stories and went onto historical fiction, The Gates of the Alamo. And once again I am surrounded by deprivation, sickness, war wounds, death & dying. I can't catch a break.

I decided to go a completely different direction: Charles Dickens. Granted his books are set in the 1800 England, London, dirty, smoky, dingy, poverty, sickness. But at least he's funny. I love Dickens. His characters are wonderful and once you get into the rhythm of the language, his thick books read quickly.

So I start reading Little Dorrit, and it starts out with a group of travelers stuck in Marseilles, quarantined because of the black plague. Of course they are.

So these characters are in their last day of confinement when they enter the story, and their first words are about being locked up:

"I mean the French people. They're always at it. As to Marseilles, we know what Marseilles is. It sent the most insurrectionary tune into the world that was ever composed. It couldn't exist without allonging and marchoning to something or other - victory or death, or blazes, or something." [said one character] [He's talking about the French national anthem: Allons enfants de la Patire...Marchons! Marchons!]

Another character replied: "Allong and marshong, indeed. It would be more creditable to you, I think, to let other people allong and

marshon about their lawful business, instead of shutting 'em up in quarantine!"

And there we have it: That pretty much describes the fights currently going on in various states between various political leaders. Sigh. Even in Charles Dickens, I can't get away from quarantine, viruses and complaining about it all.

But, I got admit, Dickens came through a few chapters later, and I about fell off my cot laughing.

One of the characters had to go off to a government office to look up some information. The chapter begins:

"The Circumlocation Office was (as everybody knows without being told) the most important Department under government." I thought to myself, things are looking up. Dickens went on:

"No public business of any kind could possibly be done at any time, without the acquiescence of the Circumlocation Office. Its finger was in the largest public pie, and in the smallest public tart. It was equally impossible to do the plainest right and to undo the plainest wrong, without the express authority of the Circumlocation Office."

Now, if you're not tracking this, Dickens is talking about the inability of government offices to function in any helpful manner whatsoever. Things haven't changed much in the years since the 1850s. And Dickens had very little respect for government.

It goes on:

"This glorious establishment had been early in the field, when one sublime principle involving the difficult art of governing a country, was first distinctly revealed to statesmen. ... Whatever was required to be done, the Circumlocation Office was beforehand with all the public departments in the art of perceiving - HOW NOT TO DO IT." And that's when I fell off my cot.

It goes on:

"It is true that How not to do it was the great study and object of all public departments and professional politicians all round the Circumlocation Office. It is true that every new premier and every

new government, coming in because they had upheld a certain thing as necessary to be one, were no sooner come in than they applied their utmost faculties to discovering, How not to do it."

Dickens goes on for several more hilarious pages explaining the How Not To Do It form of governing, and his main character comes up against this wall of not doing anything, as he gets transferred from department to department because no one is in charge and no one will take responsibility. I wish Dickens were still alive and writing.

But I am no closer to escaping than I was. So instead, I'm watching reruns of Rizzoli and Isles. That's pretty safe all around.

And don't miss comet Neowise. It won't be back for 6,800 years. Look northwest under the big dipper after sunset. It's still there. Binocs help to see it. Under the dipper, to the right, make sure it's dark outside. If you can't see the stars in the dipper, it's not dark enough. Or it's cloudy. :)



The t-shirts are here! All sizes!

The art work is by Adam Orla-Bukowski, a local Cheyenne artist.

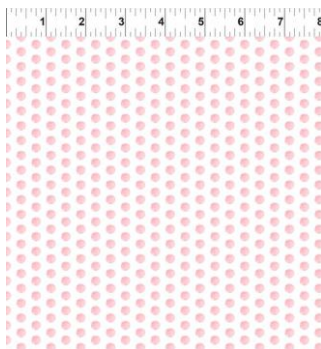
For those of you who have contributed 100+ you will get a free t-shirt.

I'm also selling them for \$20, with the proceeds being split among the store, the artist and the Hospital Foundation.

WHAT'S NEW!!

We have more fabric coming next week, including some Christmas.

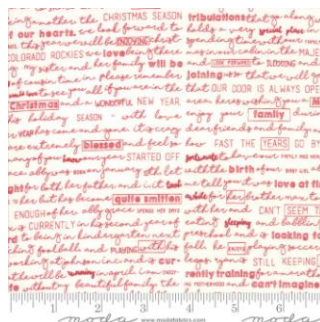
From In the Beginning:



From Moda:



Christmas Card line
Also have layer cakes
and jelly rolls.



A Canvas to go with
some canvas prints:

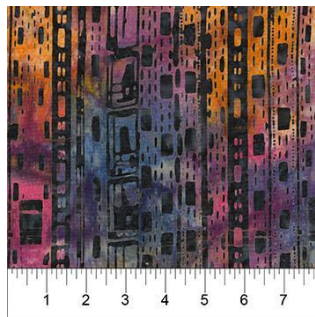
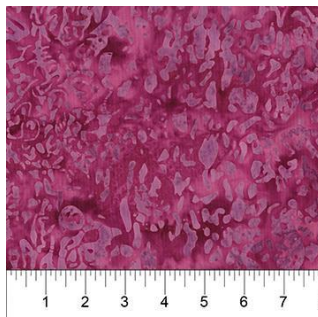
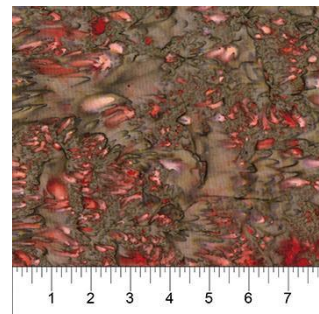
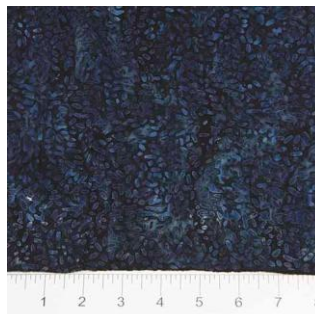
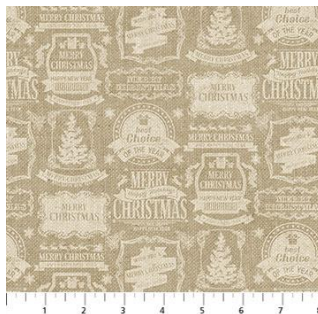
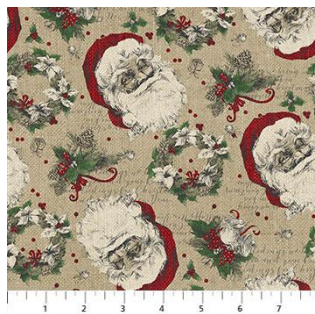


36" X 54"

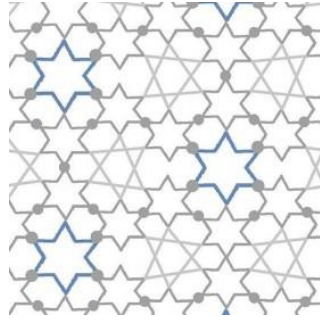


54" x 65"

Northcott:



Fabri-Quilt

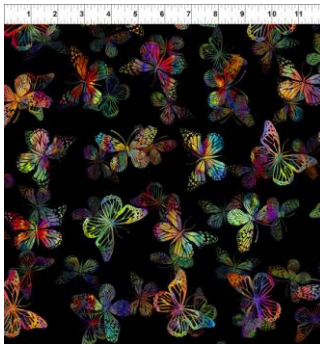


And one other I
couldn't grab a pic for

From In The Beginning:



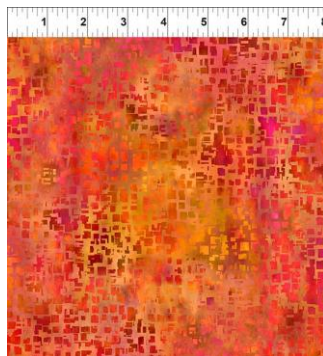
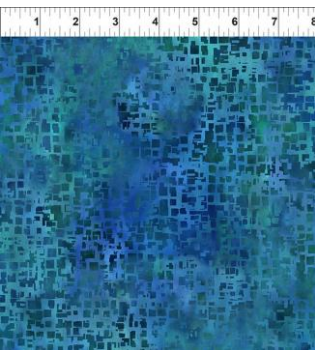
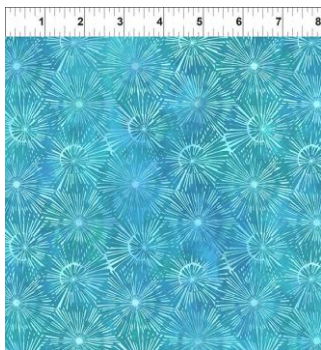
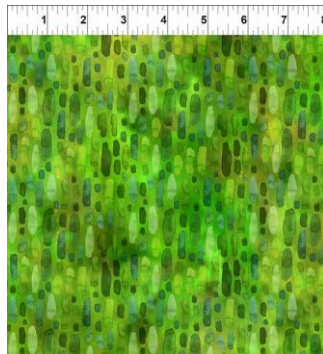
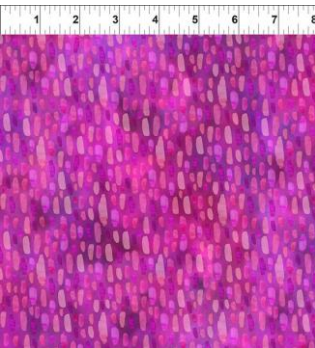
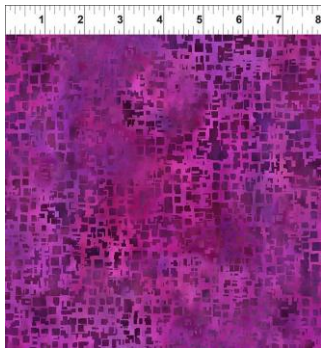
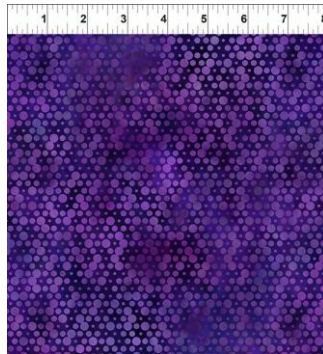
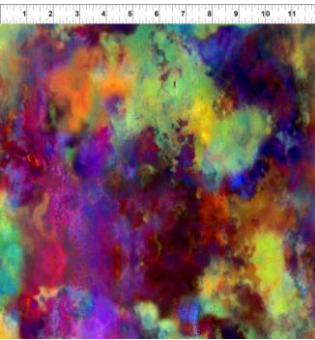
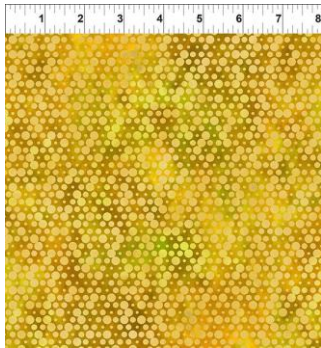
We 1 kit

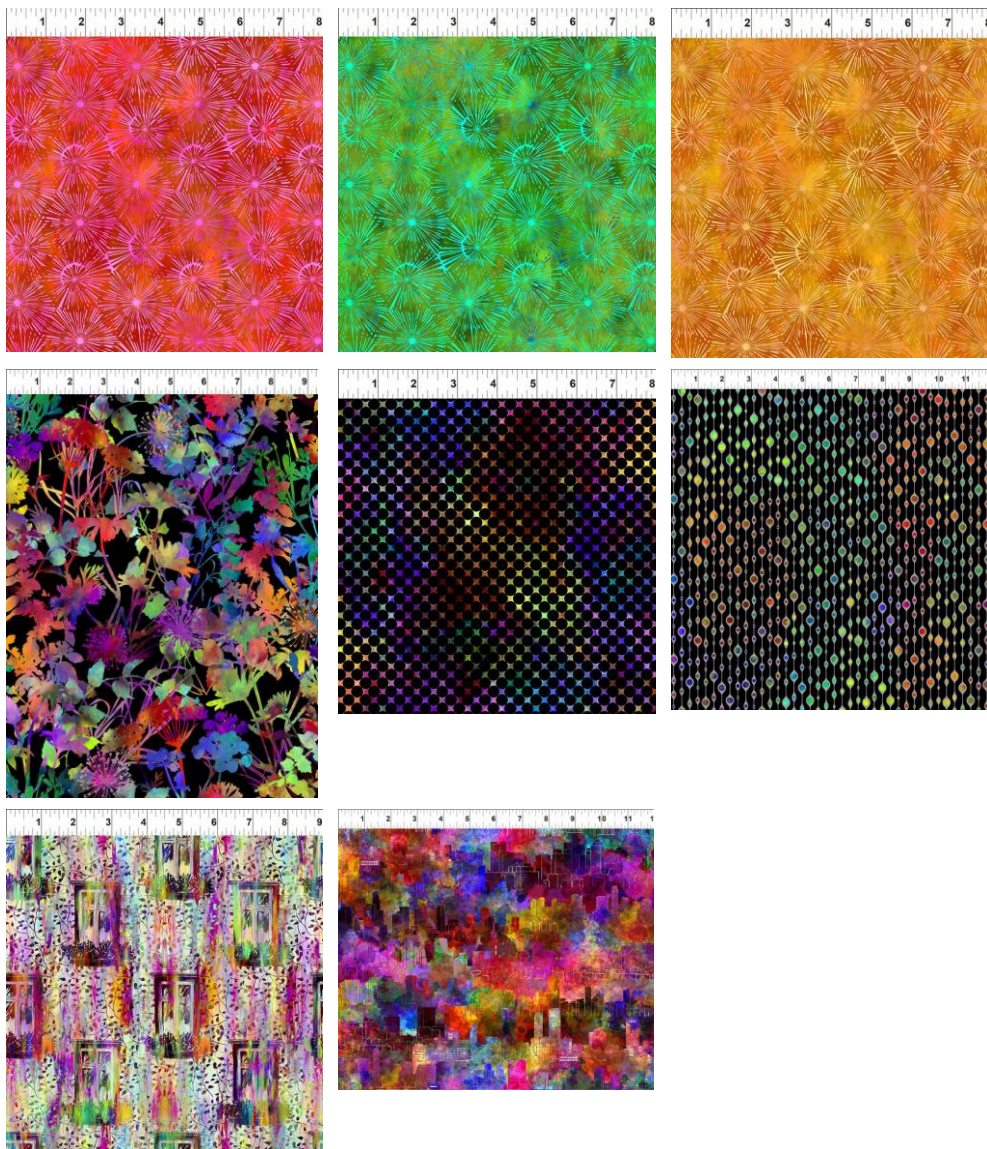


We will have limited
kits: 2 maybe 3.

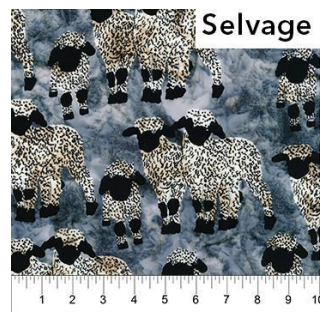
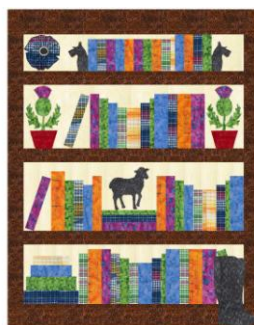


limited amount

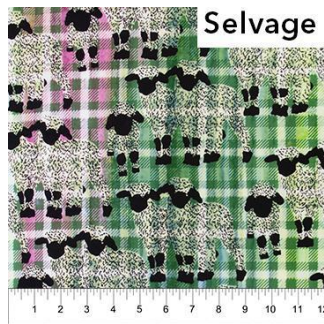




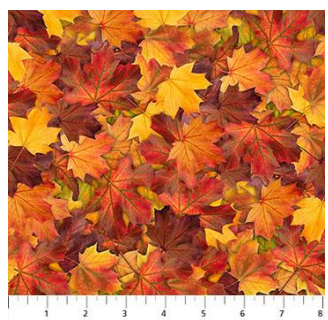
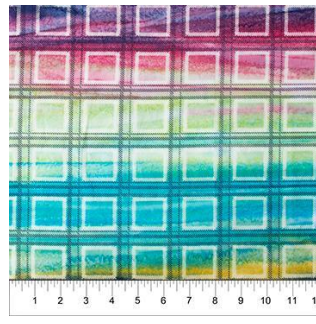
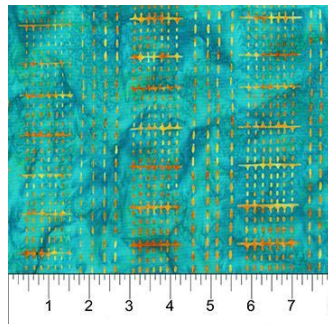
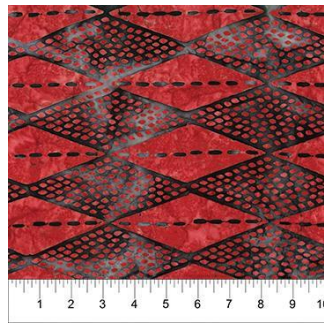
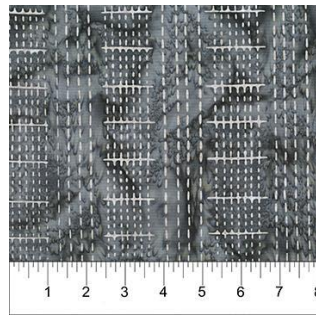
From Northcott:



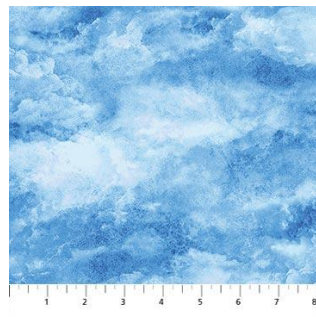
pattern

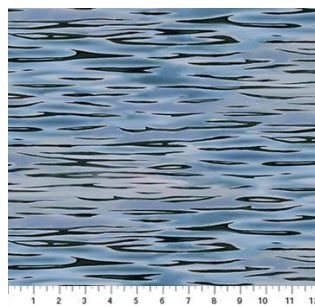
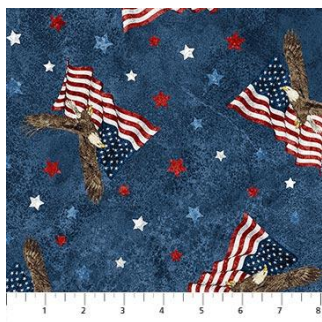


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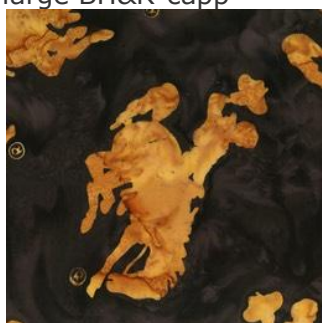


overwide





From Hoffman:
large BH&R-capp



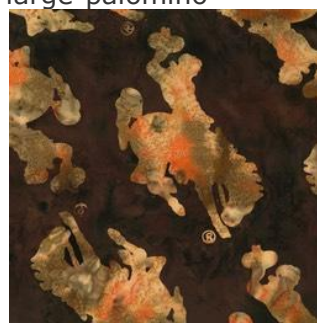
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large BH&R dinon

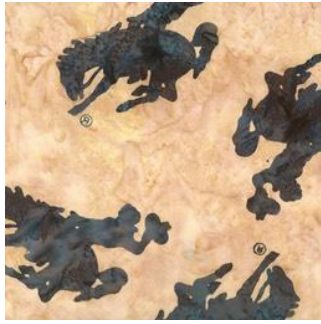


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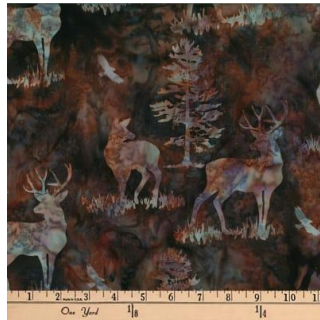
large-palomino



on



large--denim





JULY						
Sun	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	Color of the month: Christmas		1	2	3	4 BOM 10:30 Independence Day Close at 3
5 Closed	6 Full Moon (observed)	7 Hand work Club 2-4	8 Knit Pickers' Club 3-7	9	10	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon Elizabeth Hartman Quilts 1-4
12 Closed	13 EZ Breezy Tablerunner 11-3	14 Hand work Club 2-4	15 Binding 1-4	16	17	18 Radiant Quilt 11-3
19 Closed	20	21 Hand work Club 2-4	22 Knit Pickers' Club 3-7	23	24	25 Elizabeth Hartman Quilts 1-4
26 Closed	27	28 Hand work Club 2-4	29	30	31	

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
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 1 1-5 \$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