



## 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.



June 5, 2020 We've cut more than **6899 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 **5208 completed masks!** to a variety of groups in the medical /first responder groups. And that does not count the masks that you have made and have given away. The hospital foundation reports that of the 5,000+ masks that have been donated, about half of those came from us! (our count is 3848)

Our mask project will continue, but at a less aggressive pace for now. With more areas of the hospital and other medical areas opening up, everyone will be required to wear a mask. Which means, more masks will be needed, but right now there is an adequate supply.

But the probability that the virus will resurge is high, and with all of the marches, the opening up of the country, the tourist travel commencing, we anticipate seeing cases beginning to spike again as early as July.

Consequently, we will continue to supply the health care community with masks, in part, to get ahead of the looming curve we believe will come in a

month or two. But we don't have to work at a frenetic pace right now; we can slow down, a bit.

If Cheyenne's case numbers start to rise, I will let you know if the community needs more masks. I will continue to cut kits and provide them to you. You have also been very generous with your own fabrics, and that is greatly appreciated.

## **Block of the Month**

We're going to try something new. Tomorrow at 10:30, I will have all of the flannel boards propped outside the shop. Please come, place your blocks (just 3 of them, the pig, one of the triangle blocks, and the cat) on the flannel boards. Step back, and look at what we've been doing during covid-19!

If you have other show and tells, you can bring those as well, but we will be doing all of this outside.

Masks must be worn and please try to keep yourself distanced from your neighbor.

You can pick up the block in person, or download it from from an email delivered tomorrow afternoon. I will not instruct on the block, because it is easy and if you got the cat together without help, this block will be a breeze.

You can pick up your fat quarters inside the shop on the classroom side. We will have that door open, and if all you need are your free fats, then please come in and leave from that door.

If you want to buy more fabric, you are welcome to come into the fabric side of the shop. However, I will limit the number of people in the store at any one time. I'm not going to take reservations or have people take numbers. We can monitor this ourselves, you can hang around outside, or simply come back later. Staff will be limited to me and Jo.

I thought about doing two separate block of the month classes, but I'm afraid we will have weather tomorrow. I am hoping we'll have a window in the morning that we can do this and have everyone there.

I know this is not ideal. If you need chairs to sit on, let us know and we can bring a few out on the sidewalk. You can spread out in the parking lot, just watch for cars of course. I can't block off anything and there will be people passing by to get to the other businesses.

But....at least we can see all of our blocks and I can't wait for that. And

we can show our local neighborhood what we do. I bet we get a lot of lookie loos.

If it rains, we'll punt. And I don't know what that means.

## **Springtime in the Rockies is cancelled.**

For all the right reasons, Springtime in the Rockies is cancelled for this year.

We chose not to attempt to organize an "on the road" shop hop, mainly because of the difficulties that imposed as well and because encouraging larger car pool groups of quilters could pose difficulties for shops.

Instead, we encourage everyone to support their local shops, travel to participating shops this summer on your own mini "shop hop," and, as always, be mindful of safety.

## **Row By Row**

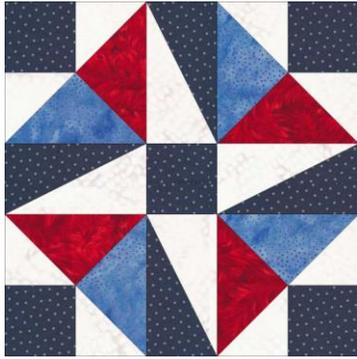
Row By Row will start June 21. I have designed a star block, but I have also designed a 9" X 36" row of stars. These stars interlock. The pattern given will be for one block, but I will include cutting directions and the layout for the full 9" X 36" row. This row will be the first row for my Wyoming Row by Row quilt, designed since we were first allowed to participate. If you've been collecting since the first year, the top row will be these stars, then the mountain row, then (in any order) the horses, the camping, the log cabin and square dance (bow ties).



## **State Shop Hop**

The State Shop Hop has started. We have fewer shops participating this year because of the pandemic. The theme for this year's Shop Hop is Stars. And no, I'm not using the same star for the Shop Hop and the Row by Row. Please call ahead to the participating shops to find out if they have any special requirements

for visiting.



### 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.

We're living in an amazing time. It gives my heart joy to see Americans protesting against the murder of one man. A black man. Whose life we didn't know or care about a week ago. It also pains my heart that we have to protest against the manner of his death, so loudly and so long. In four hundred plus cities in the United States, in every state, and in cities around the world people are marching. Young, old, black, white, brown - all colors, because we have some amazing gene pooling blends that defy description other than to say, beautiful.

"Red, what about red," Becca interrupted. Becca, if you don't know, is my nosy, opinionated mini Red-tri Australian Shepherd. She has her own built in arsenal called teeth. We'll get to that in a minute.

"Okay, red can be included. It was a color assigned to Native Americans a long time ago, which doesn't do their skin color justice and is not a term to be used any more," I told her.

"And there's yellow, and porcelain, and ebony, and carmel, and green," Becca pointed out. Remember, she's a dog and her breed comes in all sorts of colors. It's how her mind works. But....

"Green?" I asked.

"You know, aliens. You sit out and watch for them at night."

"They are probably more gray, than green, I think," I told her. "But my point was, it was every flavor American coming to protest against the death of a black man, to protest police brutality and violence, and affirmatively state that black lives matter. It's a beautiful thing to watch. Even the Rev. Al Sharpton spoke about this difference in color and age of the current protest marchers, during his eulogy for George Floyd.

"And the other amazing thing," I told Becca, "is that most of the marches and protests have been peaceful. I can understand the rage in Minneapolis on the night of Mr. Floyd's death. I think we've all experienced situations when we get so angry all we can do is hit something, but most of the time we can figure out a way to channel all that anger into more productive means. But there have been times when I have wanted to throw a brick through a window or a book at the wall or jump up and down and scream or play the "Fried Green Tomatoes" trick of deliberately using my car as a battering ram against an idiot driver because, 'I have insurance.'"

"What a minute," Becca said, looking horrified. "You're not serious? Look," she said, "I'm a predator. I have teeth. Big teeth. I carry them around with me all the time. I come from predator lines, like wolves. But I know I can't use them, even if I get angry or scared. I could really hurt someone. That's the difference between me and a wolf. I'm domesticated. So are you."

"That is one of the big arguments in this country, Becca. We have police bringing weapons to "police" these marches. But like you, bringing a weapon doesn't mean that they need to use them. Unfortunately in many instances weapons were used against innocents. We also have protesters bringing weapons, big honking machine-style weapons, to the marches to protect against...? Well, I don't know who they planned on using them against, because it certainly wasn't needed for protection purposes."

"So what are you going to do?" Becca asked. "You usually don't write about stuff like this. You stay out of politics, generally."

"I don't know, and I know. I don't feel right writing about the Strawberry Moon and the lunar eclipse that we won't be able to see because it will happen over Africa. Or about the rumors that Yellowstone is going to erupt- Yellowstone being the mother of all super volcanoes. Or about the new theory on why the dinosaurs got wiped out. Or about the moths, or pumping up a tire so I could ride my lawn mower around my property last night in my

pajamas. And we haven't even begun to tackle the Tiger King story."

In all seriousness, I struggled with this newsletter. I couldn't ignore George Floyd's death nor the protest marches. Not saying anything is akin to playing ostrich with my head in the sand. I couldn't ignore the militarization of Washington, D.C., where unidentified uniformed presumably federal "officers?" people? mostly men, stood around in riot gear protecting? Policing?

Nor the use of helicopters in D.C. to "show force" against peaceful protesters. Nor the use of tear gas-I don't care what specifically was used, it caused tears, against peaceful protesters. This is not a time to use semantics as a justification or excuse. My niece and a friend of hers (and mine) live within blocks of the White House and the "not" tear gas came through their open windows.

If I ignored what was going on, I would be treating all of this as someone else's problem, it doesn't happen here, it happens elsewhere. And I couldn't do that. Because it does happen here. The guy with the big honkin' machine gun was out in force in Idaho. Some other non police guy was hassling drivers in Casper.

Instead, I will ask of you - and I have asked a lot of you over the last two months because of Covid-19 - to do something positive to support our country. I hesitate to use the word "great" country, because Trump uses it all the time and it has become one of those bingo kind of words: Every time a person, like professors, teachers, parents, other people who talk lots, use the same words over and over again, you create a bingo chart and play the game while listening. Some of Trump's bingo words are "a very bad" or "a very good (fill in your own word, like "numbers" or the unidentified "thing"), the most, everybody believes, nobody's ever had, all the time, many many, it's far better than, spectacular, really big, incredible, believe me, terrible, stupid, beautiful, and the word great, which has begun to lose its meaning and significance. The hyperbolic use of adjectives diminishes the credibility of the speaker.

But I do believe we have a great county, and we need to support it. Please pick an action and do something deliberate in support. Actions always speak louder than words. Write to your congressional delegation. Attend a protest. Talk to a police officer you know about what is going on and listen to her or him. Support a treasured institution, whether it's the library, Youth Alternatives, the Hospital Foundation, a nursing home, the VA, the women's jail project, Laramie County Community Quilts, a church. Volunteer. Listen to reliable journalists and dig deep to see the truth. Find the good as well as the bad stories, because what we need is a thoughtful balance, not a one

sided view.

And I know. You are already doing these things. Quilters have wonderful hearts and their ability to share is tremendous. Just look at how many masks you've made to make your community safe. Your efforts have paid off.

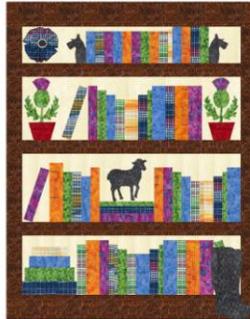
I'm off my soapbox. I'll be on my lawn mower tonight (in shorts this time), watching the sunset, chopping down grass, making my place less safe for bunnies. Don't send letters. I like bunnies.

## WHAT'S NEW!!

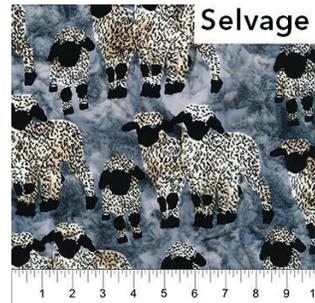
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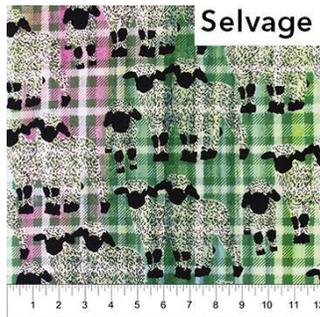
pattern



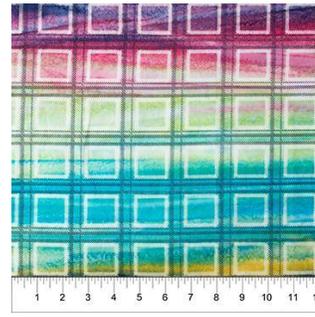
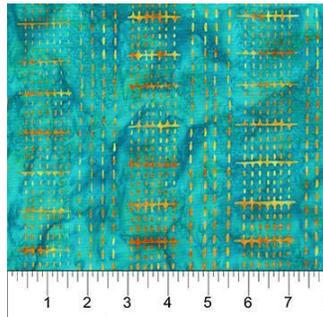
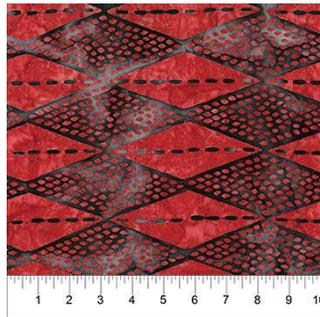
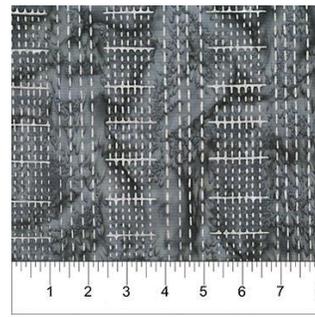
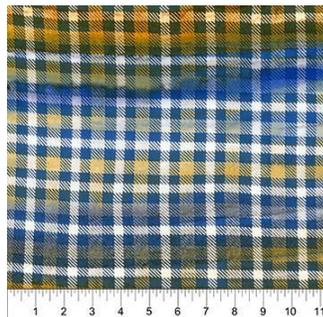
pattern



Selvage

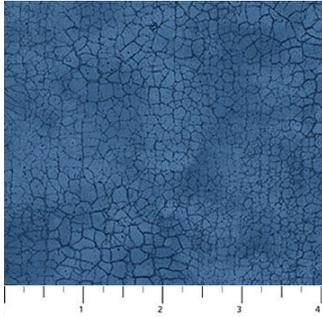


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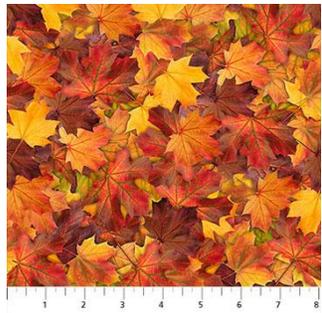
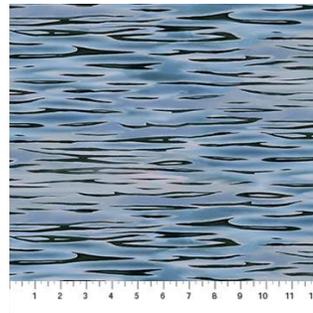
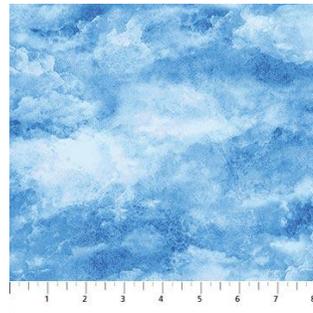
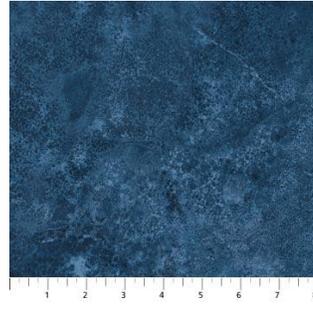




overwide



overwide





From Hoffman:



small BH&R-capp.



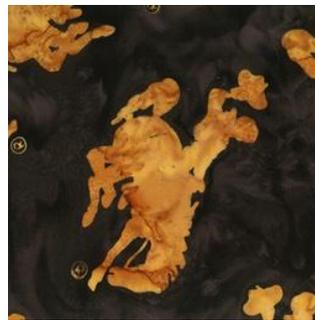
small BH&R-dijon



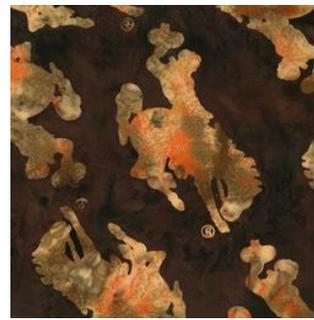
large-dijon



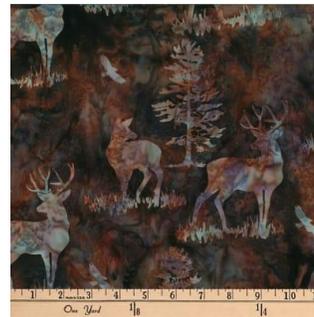
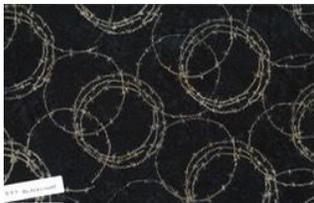
large--denim

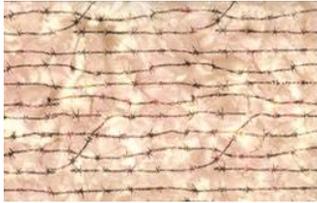


large-cap



large-palomino

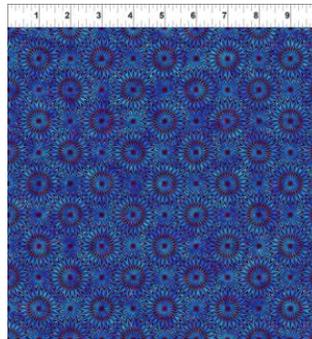
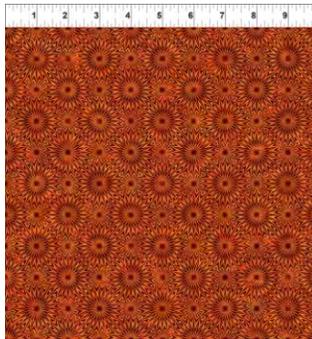
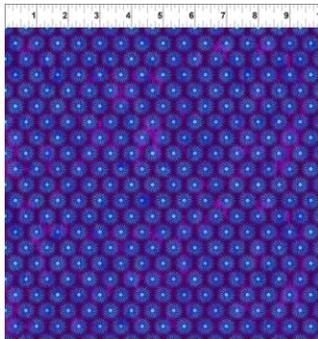
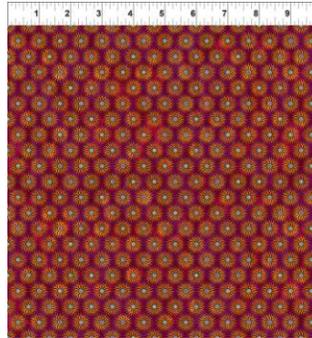
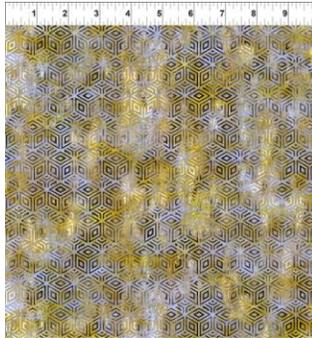
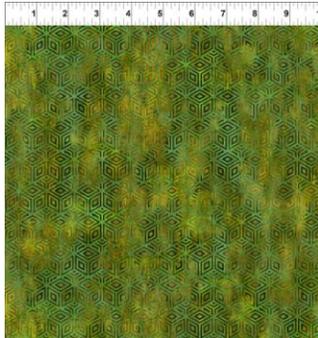
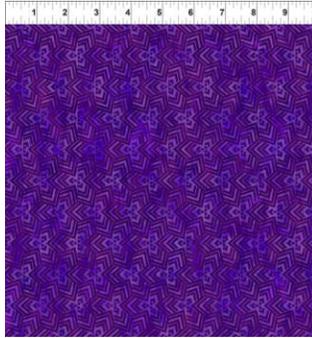
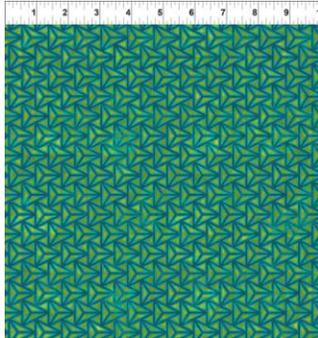
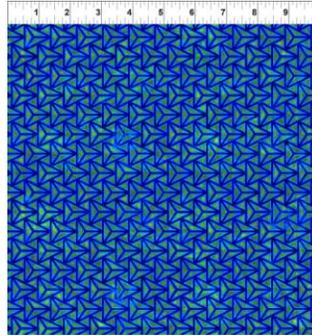
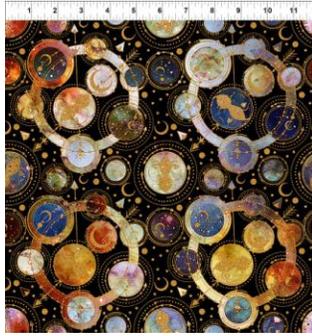


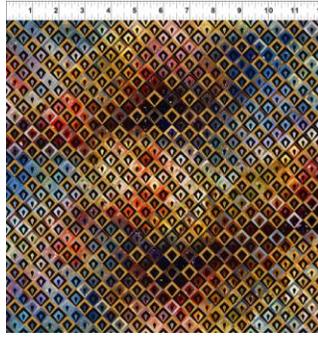
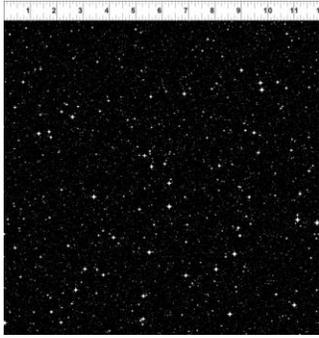


From In the Beginning -- we also have 4 kits of the quilt:

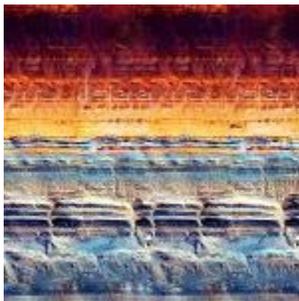


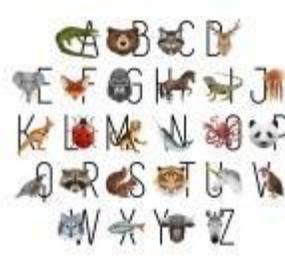
Quilt: 4 kits available





From Hoffman:





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

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## **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

307-433-9555

[www.aroundtheblockquilts.com](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com)