



March 27, 2020 We just cut several hundred more mask kits (we are over 1200 kits cut and app 370 delivered). I am out of elastic and waiting for an order to come in. We will kit with ties in the meantime.

"If you keep washing your hands, they're going to fall off," Becca informed me. "You've never washed your hands this often."

"They won't fall off and besides, you lick your feet a lot. It's the same thing."

"No I don't." "Yes you do." "No it's not." "What?"

"You told me two things that I can disagree with and I have different answers."

"No I...." Yeah I did. Did you have to go back and look, too? She's tricky that way.

The problem with constantly washing your hands is they dry out so fast. I know, I know. People in the fast food industry, medical profession and other places that require lots of hand washing already know this. And now the rest of us get to experience the pleasure of dry cracked hands. Stock tip: Invest now in companies that make lotion.

"Did you hear about the new comet that is whizzing by soon?" Becca asked, bored by all the handwashing. She had that smug expression on her face that told me she thought she knew something that I didn't.

"As a matter of fact, I do." Her face fell.

"But why don't you tell me about it," I told her. This is a time when kindness to others, even if it's only Becca.

"Well," she said brightly, "some guy somewhere saw this ghost and said it came from outer space and it's coming for the sun." I keep forgetting that Becca reads better than she doesn't think she does. If you get what I'm saying.

"Very good," I told her, rather than telling her she was missing a few things.

"Gennady Borisov discovered this new comet on Aug 30 last year," I told her. "He works at an observatory in Nauchnij, Crimea. This comet is believed to be interstellar and may become as bright as Venus in the coming weeks, because that's about as close to earth as it will get as it travels toward the sun," I said.

NASA has a Center for Near-Earth Object Studies (a CNEOS? You'd think they could have come up with a better name using the initials CLOSE: Center for Learning about Objects that are Scary and Extraterrestrial) and they have a Minor Planet Center, which begs the question as to whether they have a Major Planet Center. Maybe that's called NASA...

"Quit dithering and get on with it," Becca interrupted.

"Okay, anyway, these Centers are trying to determine where the comet began and when it's getting here. Apparently it's on a very fast track and we may be able to see it in May," I told her. It is visible now with really great binoculars and a good sense of direction when looking at the night sky, but after May you'll need something more powerful.

David Farocchia, who works at CLOSE said, "The comet's current velocity is high, about 93,000 mph [150,000 kph], which is well above the typical velocities of objects orbiting the Sun at that distance. The high velocity indicates not only that the object likely originated from outside our solar system, but also that it will leave and head back to interstellar space."

"Well that's cool," Becca said. "Now which direction am I supposed to look?"

"Becca, you don't have binoculars let alone a telescope...." Becca grinned and headed outside.

"Becca?"

A Little British Humor (possibly attributed to John Cleese, but it is circulating on the internet). I don't think the Brits will mind.

To preface this bit, I saw on the news this morning that Boris Johnson, Prime Minister, has tested positive for Covid-19. And there is nothing funny about that. But the news reporter, standing outside of #10 Downing Street, said that Johnson would be working in isolation to keep the country running. Then the reporter said that Johnson had no known contacts with the virus so "it was a conundrum" as to how he contracted it. A conundrum. Read on.

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to the recent virus threat and have therefore raised their threat level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, the level may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross."

The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out.

The virus has been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's Get the Bastard." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

## **The Good News Quilt**

## Scroll Down for Part 3

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.

Each week I will give you the next part of the pattern - so yes, it's a bit of a mystery. But the color scheme is very simple and can be done from your stash. You are welcome to come into the shop to select your fabrics, of course. We are a safe space here. But this quilt gives you a good excuse to cut up parts from your stash.

We also have an AccuQuilt die cutter that will cut the right size squares for part of this project.

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 4½" X 4½" .**

### **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").

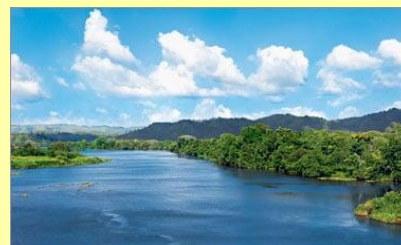
Sew your strips together. Cut apart into 2 3/4" (or 2 1/2") segments. Sew the segments into 4-patches, mixing your colors.



## **Travel, Explore, Cruise, Quilt!**

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

### **All Aboard!**

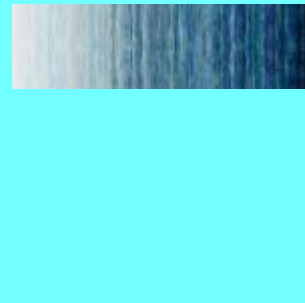


The Princess sale has been continued. The sale includes free premium beverage package, payment of gratuities and free wifi. On board credit will

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.

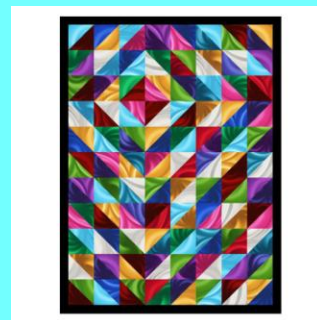
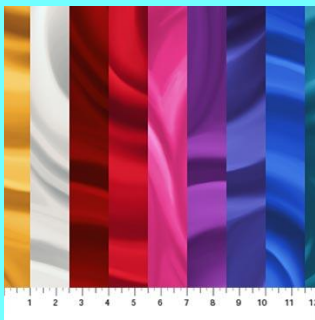
## WHAT'S NEW!!

From Hoffman:

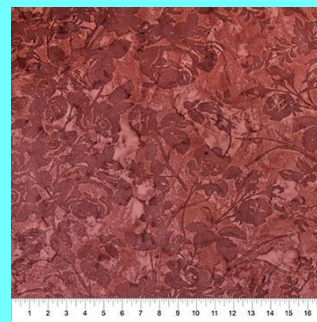
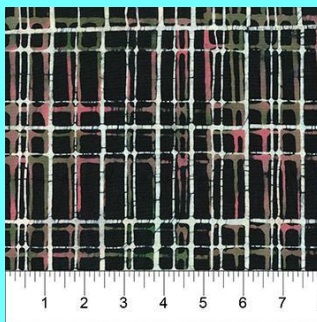


From Northcott:

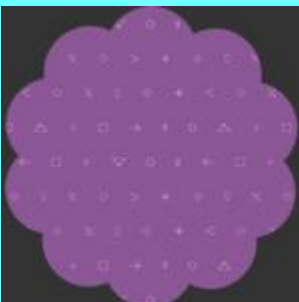
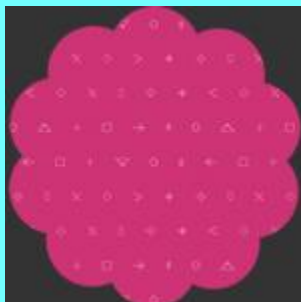


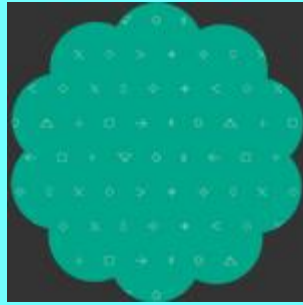


What you can do with the stripe. It's a pattern that I don't have in right now.



From AGF:

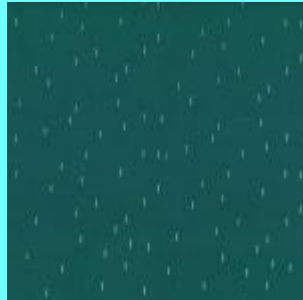




From AH:

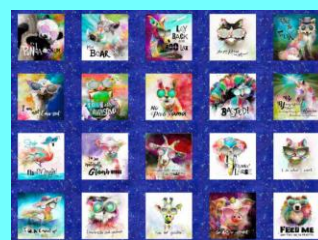
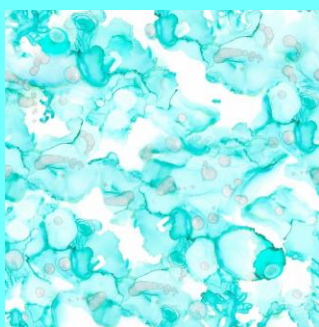


From Hoffman:



This is Peter Pan



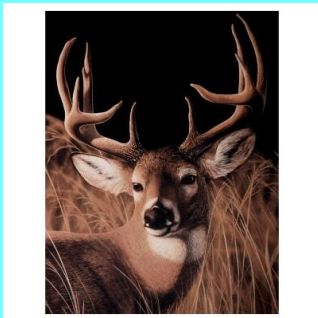




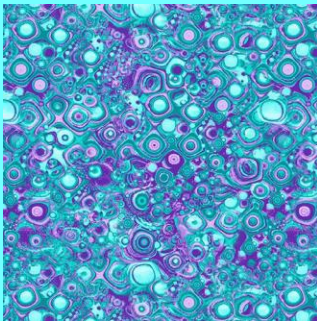
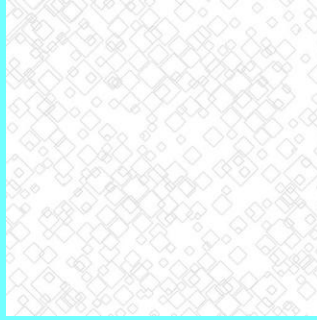


We're still looking for that camper fabric. It's possible I actually didn't order it.

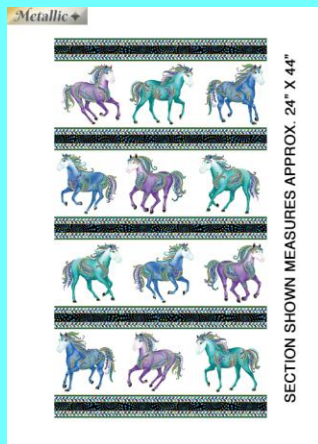
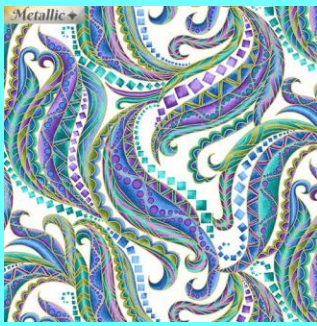
From Print Concepts & Windham:



From Benartex:

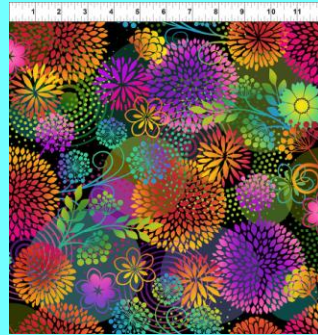




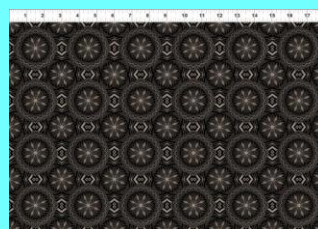
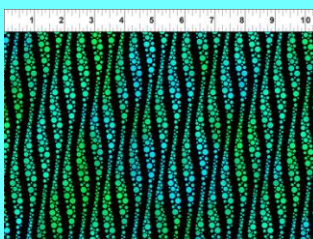
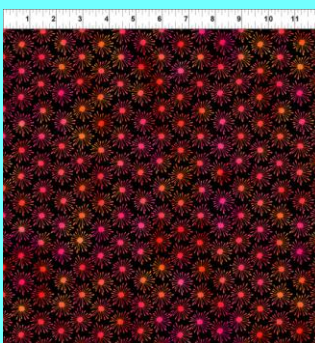
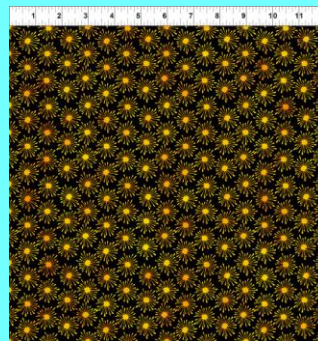
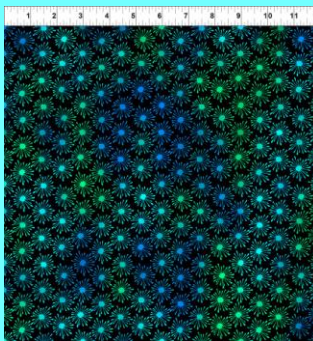
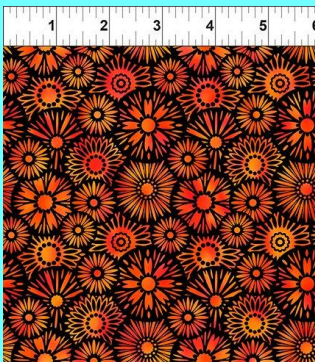


From In the Beginning: (We will have kits)

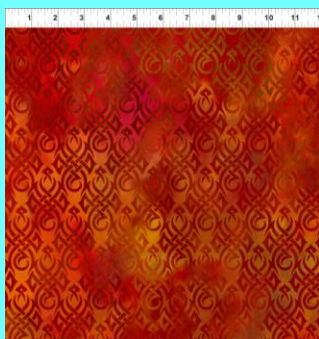




pattern--we are making kits







## **SIGN UP FOR LONG ARM QUILTING CLASSES ~~TODAY!~~**

**I'll let you know when we resume  
classes on the longarm.**

**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.**

**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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**Please look on the calendars above for times and dates. All on hold for now.**

**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 ½ hour intervals (you can get a lot cut in ½ 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 Plate** this is the pattern we're doing this year.

**Hand Embroidery Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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' Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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 projects meaning 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 Classes Wednesdays 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 will 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 quilting It's just a start.

## February Classes

**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.



## 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!

**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 straight. 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'll 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 have 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 your bindings, whether bias, cross or straight. 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'll 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 quilt series)**

This quilt uses 2 1/2" strips plus yardage to make the oversized hearts. Our choice for fabrics is the new line from Alexander Henry: Ghostlies Fall In Love-as only the Ghostly 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.



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**CLUBS**

**HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB FREE!**

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.

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**Hand Work Club FREE!**

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.

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**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 project meaning 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 project Bafghan, scarf, bag, etc.

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**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.

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**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 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)