

No Block of the Month Class Tomorrow!

I will send the pattern by email tomorrow and it will be available at the shop--I hope outside in a box, just depends on whether it's raining. We will do the free fat quarters in June, I hope.



A New Challenge!

Some small businesses that are suffering because they are closed are the personal service providers: Physical trainers like Mary's Fitness, hair cutters, massage therapists, individuals who clean our houses and businesses, and other similar service providers who can't offer their close contact services right now.

Many of us, on the other hand, collect regular salaries in the form of social security, pensions and regular wages (those who can continue to work). If you regularly schedule training or cleaning or massages every week or every month, you have just gotten a pay raise because you aren't getting those regular services so you're not paying for them. At least that's how I view it.

So I challenge everyone who still gets a regular paycheck and who uses these kind of personal services to continue to pay your providers. They are your friends and you want them to be in business when this is over.

So when you have to clean your own house this week, send your regular payment to your cleaning service. If you exercise with a trainer, continue to exercise on your own and pay your trainer. Please don't cut your own hair.

May 1, 2020 We keep cutting kits, but it's a moving target as to how many we will have when you come through the door. We've cut more than **5487 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 **3457 completed masks (not counting what will be delivered today)** 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.

We will continue to supply the health care community and I ask that you keep making masks. With the state reopening, there will be a greater need. You will also be asked to make masks for your friends and family. I will sell elastic as long as I have some to sell. I have received several shipments and more should be on the way. But....much of that elastic will be used in the kits for the health care community. Elastic will be in short supply again.

I ask everyone who comes in wanting masks to sew at least 5 masks, keep a couple and bring the rest back for donation. If they can't sew, they know someone who can. Within two degrees of separation, you'll find a quilter, a mom or grandmom with a sewing machine, a neighbor, a friend, a friend of a friend. Anyone can operate a sewing needle and can stitch these by hand. It's not hard. I challenge every regular customer to make at least 5 masks and bring them back for donation.

For those of you who have already donated masks, you are marvelous (do I sound like Billy Crystal?) AND please keep making more! I know you are tired of making them, but the need continues to grow because our Covid-19 numbers in the state continue to rise.

For everyone who has donated elastic, fabrics, your time and talent, and money to keep this project afloat: Thank you very much! And please, send me an email reminding me what you have given, from fabric, to elastic, to ties, to masks, to money. I am trying to keep a list, and I have many of you down, but I know I have forgotten others in all the chaos. I will throw a big party for us when it's safe -- sometime this summer!

(I've got a plan for a t-shirt--I have the picture for the t-shirt. Within the week I will get them ordered. More later)

I woke up this morning from a nightmarish dream where I was screaming at someone because he was making bad decisions that would result in people dying and he just wouldn't listen to reason. Now the dream also involved a snowstorm, travel, my dogs and a house I no longer occupy. The setting is a familiar dream place but the anger was extreme. It's been a hard dream to shake off today.

Don't forget that tomorrow is not Kentucky Derby Day, but I'll be wearing a hat anyway. That's assuming I remember..... The Derby has been postponed to the first Saturday in September, but that doesn't mean we can't wear hats and drink mint juleps tomorrow anyway. Becca's thinking about clocking the joggers and the 4 wheelers that are going up & down the road. I'm not sure if she's planning on giving out awards, though.

Things Covid-19 has taught me:

Don't lick your fingers after you've disinfected them. For example, you've used the hand sanitizer before handling dinner. You nuke the lasagna on the reheat setting. When the microwave pings, you pull it out, stick your finger in the middle of the lasagna to test for heat and it's not quite done. So you put the dish back in the microwave, and lick your finger to clean it before punching in the numbers on the screen. Not the best idea.

When you're spraying the outside door handle with Lysol, wear a mask. You are never upwind in Wyoming.

Masks, bi-focal contacts and cheaters don't wear together very well. A customer suggested smearing shaving cream on the glasses to keep them from fogging up. I hadn't heard that one. But I told him scuba divers spit in their masks for anti-fogging protection. To be clear, I haven't yet tried either option.

Two-ply toilet paper really does matter.

And finally, I now have a better understanding of war time movies because of the pandemic. I've always known that a lot of the movies presented right before, during and right after WWII were often silly musicals and screwball comedies. They were light hearted, intended to help people forget what was happening around them. Those are the movies I am watching now.

And I have a theory. In WWII, everyone who stayed at home didn't have access to up to date news. There was news, both in the papers, on the radio and on news reels. But there was also a time delay on most of the information. Today we have up to date news and plenty of it. And I actually don't know which is more stressful: Not knowing whether a loved one had died or how the war was progressing because news was delayed or knowing within the hour or less. Could you stand not knowing? I don't know.

But either way, escapism was key for a lot of people and the movies provided that release.

So with that thought, I'll give two recommendations of probably lesser known/watched movies.

First, Neptune's Daughter, starring Esther Williams (the famous swimming star and precursor to synchronized swimming), Red Skelton, Ricardo Montalban, a hunk in his day, and Betty Garrett. Now the movie will keep you diverted but the plot is pretty silly. But there are two highlights that are

worth waiting for: First, Skelton and Garrett sing "Baby it's Cold Outside," and it is wonderful and not at all bordering on the sleazy side that you hear when Dean Martin sings it.

The other wonderful part is when Skelton is supposed to get on a horse. Two guys plus Garrett try to make him get on board and Skelton winds up climbing on everything except the horse. There are some separate takes, but much of the antics are filmed without editing. Skelton was first and foremost a clown and this scene is one of his best.

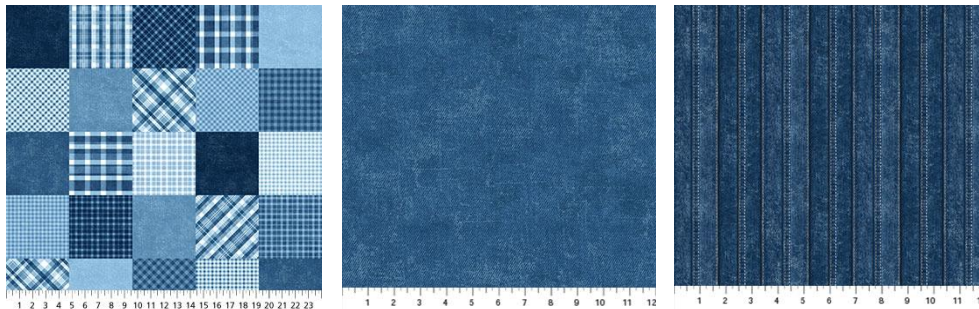
The second film is Murder She Said, an Agatha Christie movie starring Margaret Rutherford as Miss Jane Marple. Marple goes undercover as a housekeeper at an upscale manor house, inhabited by a very cranky lord, to investigate a murder she thought she saw while riding on a train. Now those of you who are Agatha Christie fans, this movie is a bit of a departure from the novel and Agatha Christie herself didn't like it. But it has its moments. Including the scene where Jane goes to the manor to apply for the job. Remember, Jane Marple is an old lady, as is Rutherford. When a servant opens the door, Jane tells her, "I'm Jane, the new maid." And the servant says, "Well, you look old enough to know better."

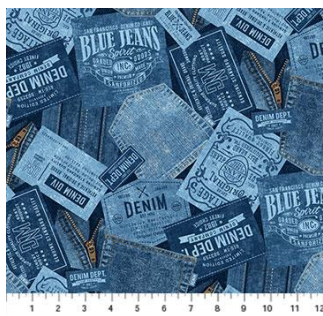
So maybe that's partly where my nightmare screaming dream came from.

WHAT'S NEW!!

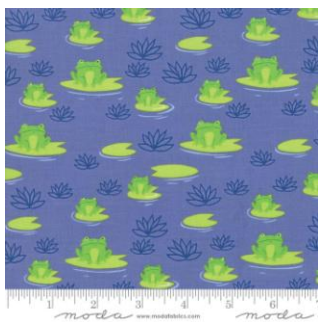
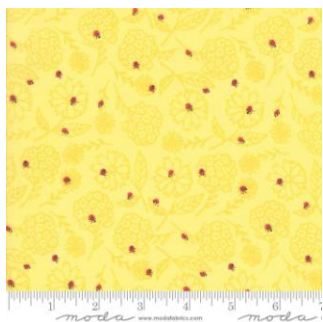
We have very few new fabrics in and I will not be getting many through the April, it just depends upon which companies are open for shipping, my bottom line, and whether we need critical supplies for this Covid-19 pandemic.

From Northcott:

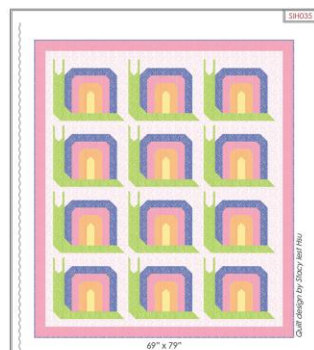




From Moda:



My Garden
Featuring Sunday Picnic from Moda
STACY IEST HSU



Rainbow Trail
Featuring Sunday Picnic from Moda
STACY IEST HSU

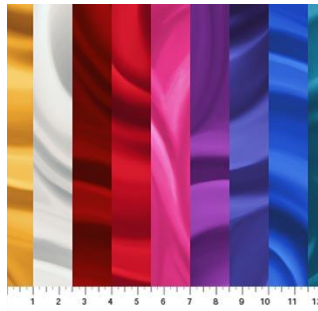
From Riley Blake:



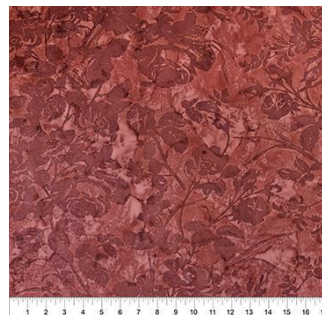
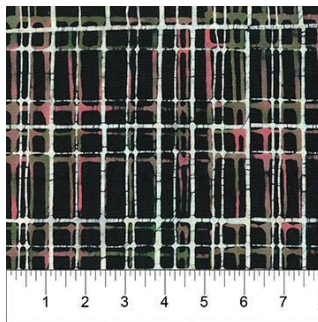
From Hoffman:



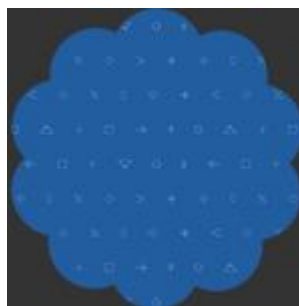
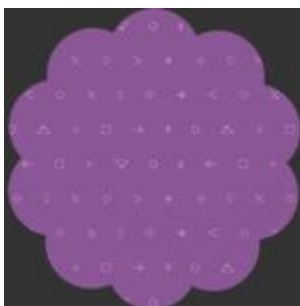
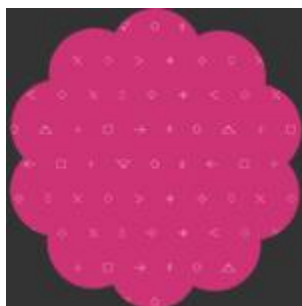
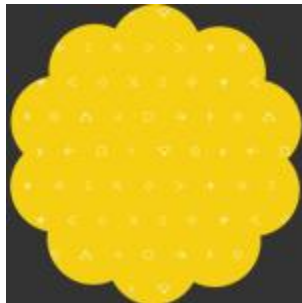
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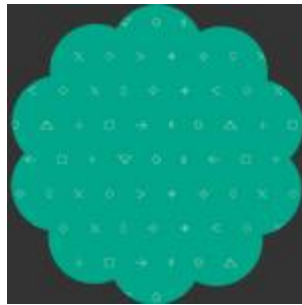


What you can do with the stripe. It's a pattern that I don't have in right now.



From AGF:





From AH:



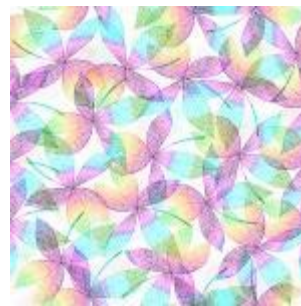
From Hoffman:



This is



Peter Pan



From 3 Wishes:





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

From Print Concepts & Windham:



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

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.

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
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www.aroundtheblockquilts.com