



December 17, 2021

Is all of your shopping done for Christmas? You have about 9 days left to find the perfect Christmas present. And I have a list of unusual items in case you're stuck for what to get your Great Aunt Barb or Uncle Ted or Grampa Frank or Cousin Sherry. Or your kids, siblings, spouse, mom, dad...just how far behind are you?

Anyway, this might be the year to give something other than material things: You know, the stuff that sits around, collects dust, goes into the basement eventually, stays there for 20 years, only to be discovered by your kids when they're cleaning out your house.

The easy gifts in this category are ones that can be used up, like food. Back in the day, my next door neighbor always gave my family a box of fruit and nuts. I thought this gift was rather odd at the time, but I was 5, so what did I know. I was into toys, not oranges. When the movie Christmas Vacation came out, the Christmas bonus that Clark got was a subscription to the jelly of the month club, a gift that keeps on giving all year, according to Cousin Eddie. Clearly not a spectacular gift/bonus.

Other food gifts that once seemed rather lame, to my brain, included the cheese and sausage packages from Hickory Farms. When you don't know what else to get, get cheese and sausage and little packages of crackers. Secretly, I always loved those boxes, but when Grampa Boyer got multiple boxes from multiple givers, it was clear that the gift givers just didn't know what else to do. And at some point, there is only so much cheese and sausage any one person can eat.

I also figured that a gift of food was a once time shot: You get it, you eat it, you have nothing to show for it. Whereas the cute little figurine sits on the shelf, collects dust and reminds you every day of the gift giver. Until it gets packed away in the box, put in the attic, stored in an offsite storage locker, waiting to be sold to the highest bidder 30 years later.

So in my mind food gifts have much more appeal these days. Packages of nuts from nuts.com, pears from Harry & David, steaks from various meat places, popcorn from the Popcorn Factory and yes, even sausages and cheese from Hickory Farms make ideal gifts for the person who has everything. Because even if that person has a sack of popcorn, he won't for long and another bag will be welcome.

But food gifts aren't the only gifts that have a one time appeal. You can buy a subscription to Master Classes, where you can choose all sorts of things to learn, from cooking, to music, to

painting, with the classes being taught by professors, master chefs, and other experts. You can learn ballet from Misty Copeland, writing from R.L. Steine and tennis from Serena Williams.

A company called Atlas Obscura offers lessons in taxidermy, perfumery, and travel guide tours that explore L.A.'s graveyards or Washington D.C. spy networks (Spies of Embassy Road, for example).

Virgin Experience gifts go into Skydiving and hot air ballooning adventures, but also ziplining, flying a helicopter, glass blowing lessons or a bioluminescent paddle boat adventure in Florida. Granted not all of Virgin's offerings may be available in Cheyenne. But if your Great Aunt is traveling somewhere, a gift card for a bioluminescent adventure might be just the ticket. This great aunt wouldn't say no to that trip.

You also can't go wrong with a membership to local museums and zoos. While some museums might be free (like the Smithsonians in D.C.) having a membership entitles you to special productions held within the museums and free tickets to events. Give a Smithsonian membership to a kid and she'll get a magazine several times a year and when you go to D.C. on that trip this summer she will be ready.

For other travelers, you could buy them a Pub Crawl ticket—Boston has private literary tours, New York has a literary pub crawl, Dickens literary tour in London. Every city worth visiting is going to have pubs, most are going to have tours, literary to ghostly. I wanted to do a Dickens tour when I was in London a year or so ago, but didn't have the time.

Another place to find the unusual is Uncommon Goods. You can find classes on baking, mixing cocktails, bath-bomb-making, magic lessons, astrology, tie dye, edible art, DIY hot sauce class, paint your pet (its picture, not literally painting a poodle blue), card making, map making – an amazing assortment of things to do and learn.

You can also find all sorts of cooking and baking classes, from a one-off to every month, to private lessons. Art classes for kids and adults that last several months, monthly guitar lesson from Fender Play, Broadway shows from home (BroadwayHD), and a monthly mystery in a box game from Cratejoy Finders Seekers. And if that's not enough, look up Ice Cream Samplers, monthly cheese samplers, Bark Box (for your favorite pet), Book of the Month subscription, and Loose Tea Sampler. And most, if not all, of these gifts don't require mailing – so you can procrastinate to Christmas Eve and have something ready for the tree the next day.

I'm happy to say that my gifts are purchased and mailed. I think. Meaning, I think I'm done. Gotta check my list.

NOTE ON THE MYSTERY CLASS: Many of you missed my email with the first set of instructions for the Christmas Mystery. So this time, instead of sending a separate email, instructions are in this newsletter -- just keep scrolling.

Sew Steady Products

I am a dealer in the Sew Steady Products. The Sew Steady tables offer an expanded work area around your machine, flush to the machine arm. Advantages of this table include a large surface that is flush to your machine, giving you plenty of space to lay your blocks flat before stitching.

If your only “prep” surface is the tiny arm that only gives you about 1-2 inches before your fabric hits the needle, the Sew Steady Table is for you! Do I sound like an advertisement? What I can tell you is that when I teach classes and students are sewing long strips together, it is often hard for them to manage those strips when the only flat surface is the 1-2” surface right in front of the needle. The Sew Steady table (and it’s portable!) offers up to 8 inches of a flat surface.

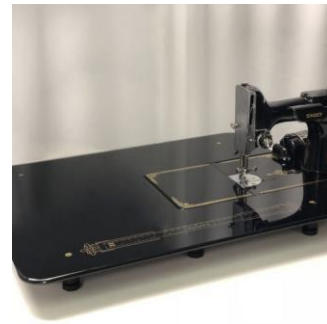
Also, the Sew Steady products can include a “grid glider” which is a slick (it’s both slick and slick, if you get my meaning) surface that you adhere to the table and it helps your fabrics glide smoothly toward the needle. It also provides a “grid” with $\frac{1}{4}$ ” lines and a center line (for flying geese constructions) and other measuring lines. So helpful.

In addition, the Sew Steady Products include quilting rulers that can be used for machine quilting. With the large flat table, ruler use becomes easy (with a little practice).

I will eventually put some pictures of the products in the newsletter, but for now take a look at the sewsteady.com for the wide variety of products. And the pics below.

Each table is built according to the specs of your machine, which means the tables are custom ordered. You decide which table (size, extras) you want, you let me know your specs (I will work with you to get the right measurements), I’ll place your order and in app. 3 weeks (it’s custom made remember) you will have your table!

If you’ve never seen a Sew Steady table, come to the shop and see the table I have attached to my Bernina. It’s wonderful!



New Hours for winter. During Standard Time (Nov. 7 thru March 13), I will have new closing hours. M-S 10-5. Sundays will be closed unless I have a class scheduled. Hours for those Sundays are 1-5. Check the schedule to see if a class is being held.

Also I have added Machine Quilting on your domestic machine on Thursday Nov 18 from

Christmas Mystery Quilt!

Step One Cutting

25 assorted dark & medium fat quarters. Use tone on tone, mottled prints. Batiks work well. Choose all colors on the color wheel: greens, blues, teals, yellows, purples, lavenders, pinks, reds, oranges. This quilt will be prettier if you avoid multiple colored fabrics—like novelties, but batiks that use several colors in a mottled blend will work.

25 assorted lights, backgrounds. Use tone on tones, mottled prints. Batiks work well, but you can mix regular screen prints. Choose your lights either in whites, off whites, or creams.

2 1/2 yards of one background. It can be the same fabric that you used in your fats. Again, if you've chosen off whites (whites or creams) for your background fats, stay in the same color palette for this background.

From each color fat quarter cut:

two 4" strips LOF (or 4" X 18") Subcut into 6, 4" squares (save the remainder)
one 3 1/2" strip LOF. Subcut into 5, 3 1/2" squares (save the remainder)
four 1 1/2" strips LOF.

Now this is important! Pin the 4" squares together (in other words, keep them together by color). Keep the 3 1/2" squares together. Keep three of the 1 1/2" strips together. And the last strip is on its own. In other words, you have 4 different piles. If you pin each group together, you can put all of the 4" squares (pinned together) from all 25 fats into one bag (1), all the 3 1/2" squares in another bag (2), 3 of the 1 1/2" strips into another bag (3), and the remaining 1 1/2" strip into a 4th bag (4). Got it?

From each background fat quarter cut:

two 4" strips LOF Subcut into 6, 4" squares (save remainder)
five 1 1/2" strips LOF

Now this is important (But not as important as the colors. If you get the backgrounds mixed around, it will just add to the charm of the quilt.) Pin the 4" squares together (in other words, keep them together by color). Keep three of the 1 1/2" strips together. And the last strip is on its own. This time you only have 3 piles. If you pin each group together, you can put all of the 4" squares (pinned together) from all 25 fats into one bag (put in bag 1 from previous step), 3 of the 1 1/2" strips into another bag(3), and the remaining 1 1/2" strip into the last bag (4). You add no background parts to bag 2. Got it?

Finally, to keep organized, have one final bag for all the scraps and remainders. If you want to make more blocks or something goes wrong, you will have extra parts in this bag to make extra parts, as needed.

That's it for step one.

Christmas Mystery Quilt!

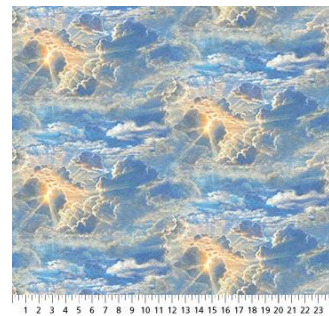
Step Two

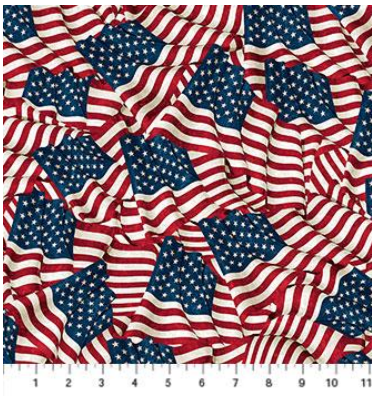
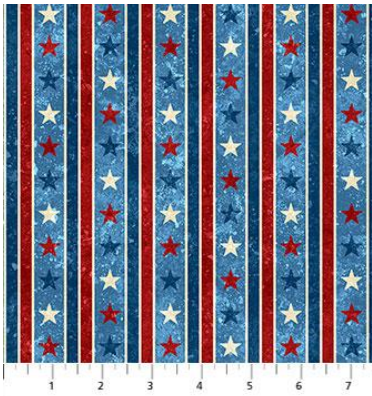
Take a pile of 6, 4" colored squares and 6, 4" background squares. Draw a line from corner to corner on the wrong side of the background squares. Sew a scant 1/4" on each side of the draw line. You are making 2 half square triangle units per square. Square to 3 1/2" X 3 1/2". Make 12 half square triangle units for each color group. You have 25 groups. That's 150 half square triangles. Pin your color groups together! Put them back into bag 1. You don't need pictures for this step. You know how to do it

What's New



From Northcott: Stars & Stripes



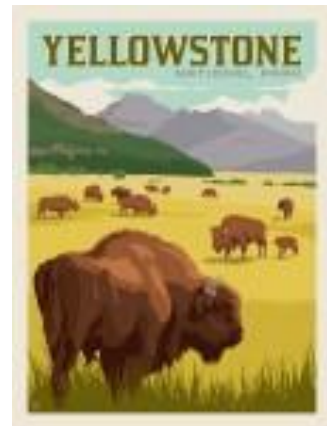


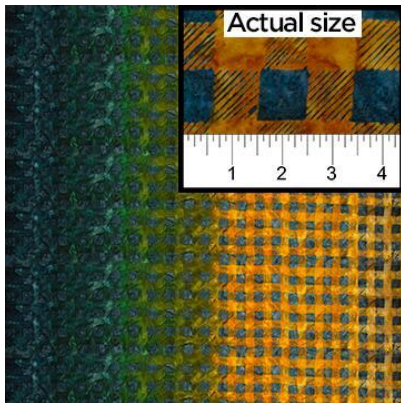
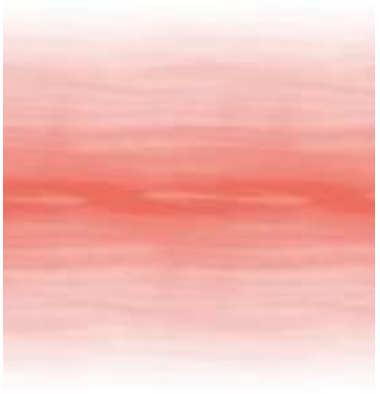


From Hoffman and Maywood

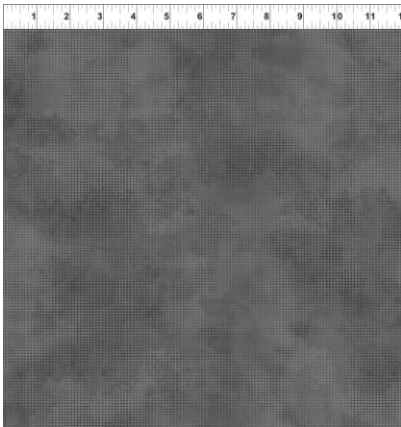
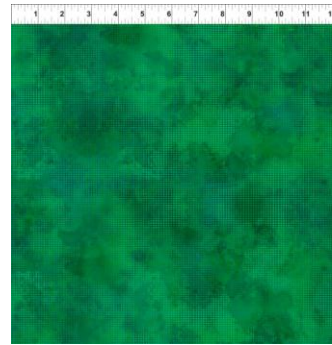
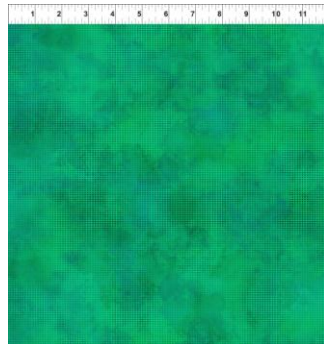
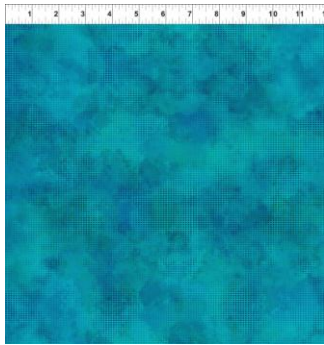


Riley Blake (the 3 juvenile prints are flannel)





Northcott



In the Beginning

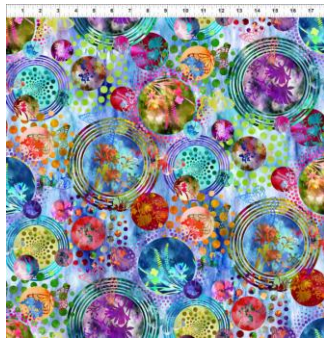
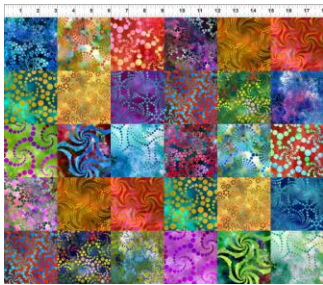


There is more Hoffman fabrics, but the website wouldn't let me download the images for some reason. The fabrics are used in this quilt, and we have kits!

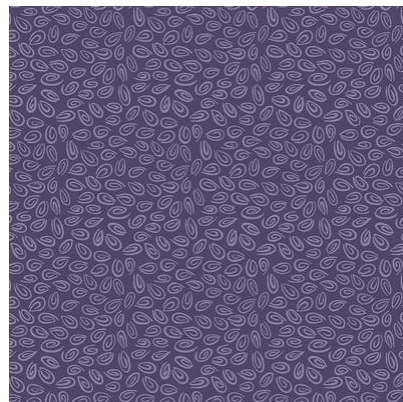
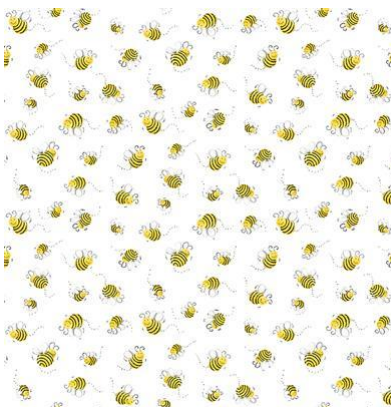
Light as a Feather Quilt Kit



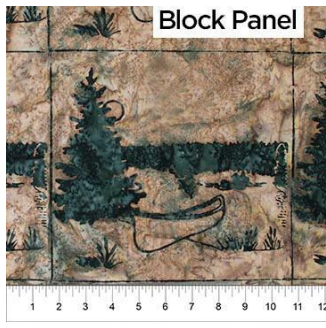
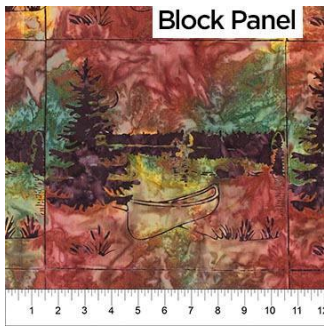
From Hoffman



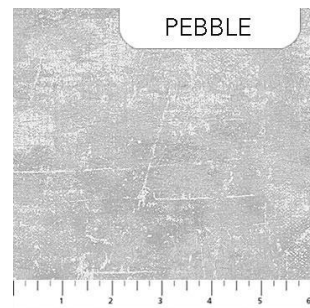
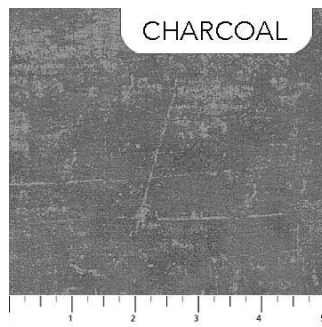
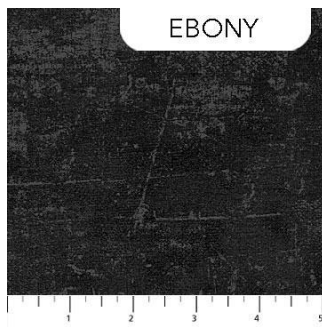
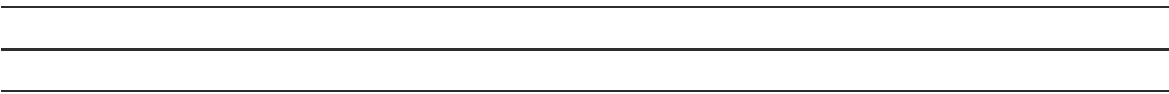
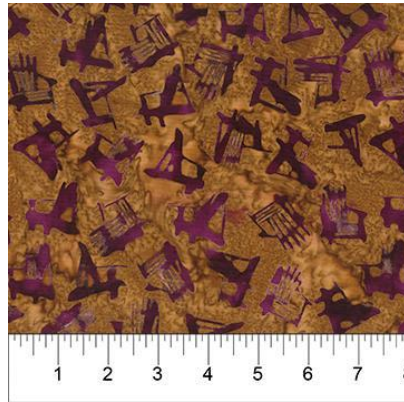
In the Beginning



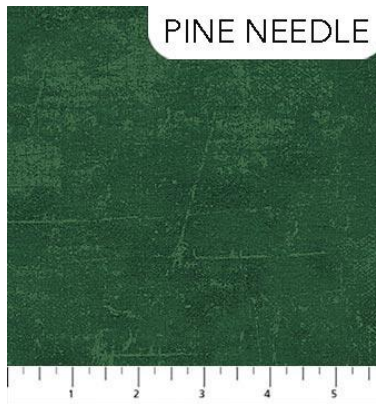
From Clothworks



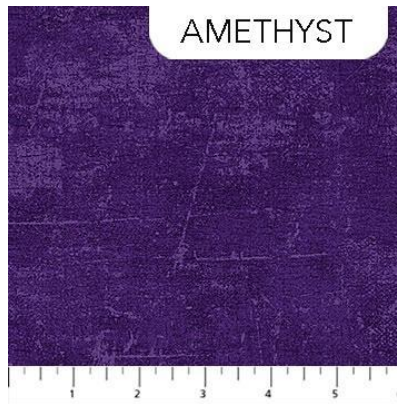
From Banyon Batiks



From Northcott -- flannel



PINE NEEDLE



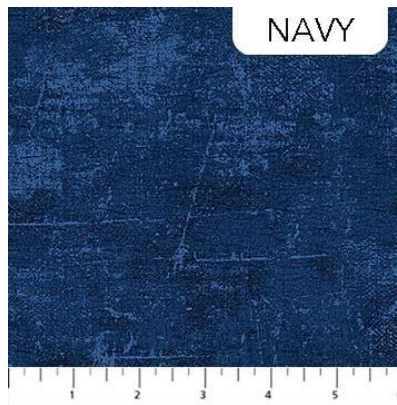
AMETHYST



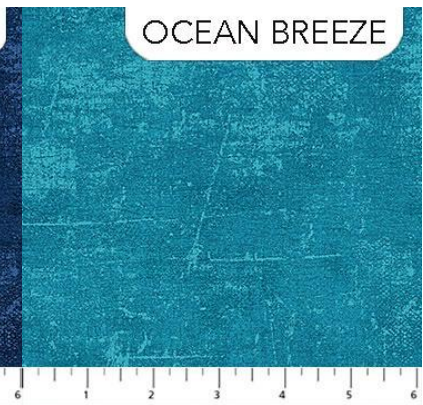
PEACOCK



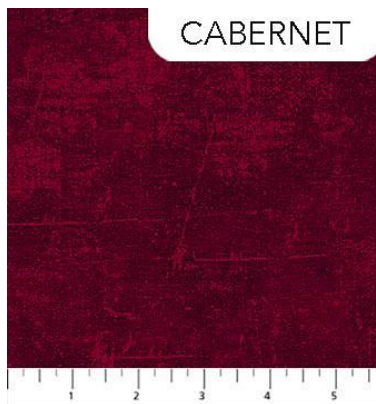
BLUE JEANS



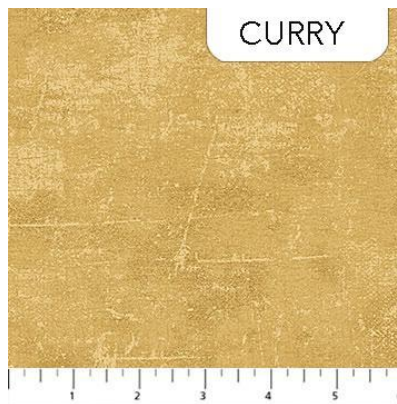
NAVY



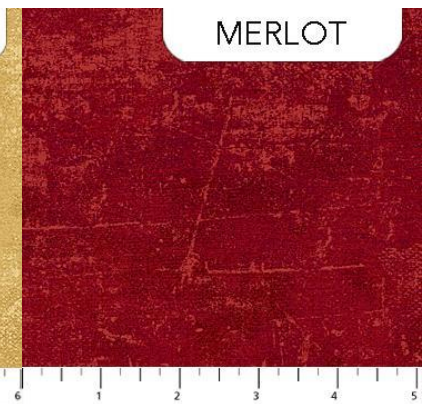
OCEAN BREEZE



CABERNET



CURRY



MERLOT





Art Gallery



From Riley Blake:



Continued Store Policies

Masks will be required for entering and shopping in the store, even if you are

vaccinated. This policy is subject to change, depending on whether the pandemic gets under control. We have been allowing vaccinated persons to come into the store without masks this summer, but because of break through covid cases, it is becoming clear that the recent variants are getting stronger than our vaccines. If you do not have a mask with you, and wish to shop I will sell you a mask that you can then just keep in the car. Or if you know what you want you can tell/call me and we can do a "curbside" business like we did last year.

Class policies for the Fall Semester

I welcome anyone who has been vaccinated to attend classes. If you have not been fully vaccinated, for any reason, I ask that you choose not to attend classes this fall. Perhaps by spring, if the pandemic comes under control, I will change this policy. Classes that are small in number, you will be able to choose whether you wear a mask or not. Larger classes, like block of the month, masks will be required. I will be masked regardless of class size.

Note the changes to the December schedule. No technique class on Thursday, moved the Penguin paper pieced class to Dec 16, added the machine binding class on the 18th, and am closed on all Sundays.

If you are interested in the Gift Bag/Penguin paper pieced class, please let me know. If you are coming to the Machine Binding Class. you will need a small, already quilted project plus fabric for binding. The small project can be anything and it's best if it's about 30" X 30", not much bigger or smaller. It can be rectangular; doesn't have to be square. Please don't cut the binding before class. I will demonstrate cutting the binding and sewing it on. Then you will cut your binding and sew it onto your project.

December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thur	Fri	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 BOM 10:30 Wool Club 4:30-6
5 CLOSED	6	7 Hand work Club 2-4	8 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	9	10	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon
12 CLOSED	13	14 Hand work Club 2-4	15	16 Paper Pieced Penguin gift bag 1-5	17	18 Full moon Machine Pieced Binding 1-4
19 CLOSED	20	21 Hand work Club 2-4	22 Knit Pickers' Club 2-	23	24 CLOSED	25 Christmas CLOSED
26 CLOSED	27	28 Hand work Club 2-4	29	30 Toad Toter Sale	31 SALE	CLOSED Color of the month: red
CLOSED						



Ongoing Clubs

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 will be houses and seasons. Each row will have houses, trees and other "neighborhood" objects. Each house will have a place for a pieced block. Each "row" will be a season: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We'll also have a quilt store, school, "village" shops, church, outhouse, dog house, barn – as many as I can squeeze in!

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd 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 doing Crabapple Hill's Snow Days. This is an embroidered and pieced block. So we will help you through the piecing, tracing and embroidery.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler (**NOTE: time is 2-5, not 4 as calendar shows**)

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 2 and go to 5. 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 may work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks.

Hand Sewing Club every Tuesday afternoon 2-4

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch. During covid, we sit 6 feet apart and wear our masks, but at least we can share our projects, get a little stitching done and just enjoy the companionship.

ONGOING CLASSES

Techniques Thursdays Sept 9, Oct 14, Dec 9, 2-3 \$10 Barb Boyer

Dec 9: Tips on how to square up any block, including flying geese, by just using basic Creative Grid Rulers. You don't need specialty rulers to square up your blocks! Learn to use what you already own.

Wool Club Sat Oct 2 4:30-6 \$35 Barb Boyer Ongoing, each 1st Sat of the month

Each month we will do a small seasonal, associated to the month, mini wool hanging. We have a collection of 12 different patterns, and if you buy the entire collection you will get a wooden plaque for displaying each mini every month. We will start on November's mini to make sure you get it done before November gets here. So we will stay only one month ahead, giving you incentive to get each mini done. The patterns are not kitted, but we have plenty of wool for sale and we also have some extra bits & pieces for some of the small parts that the shop will contribute to the cause.

NOTE: Pictures of the quilts are in the Fall Newsletter Class description newsletter. I will begin to incorporate them into this newsletter, but I will wait until next week.

November Classes

Pumpkin Patch wall hanging/throw Sat Nov 6 (1-4) & 13 (1-5) \$35 Barb Boyer

This cute quilt is made using the "Buggy Barn" technique, now called the One Sister technique. Fabrics are stacked, slashed, & re sewn, mixing the fabric so that each block uses the same fabric but in different positions: Pumpkin, star, background, stem. The challenge in this particular quilt is to group your colors into big and little pumpkins. Which is why we are allowing two sessions for this quilt, just in case.

Trip Around the World Thursday (Veterans' Day) Nov 11 10:30-6 \$35 Barb Boyer

This stripped quilt is made with In The Beginning precut strips. We have 4 kits only. But You can make this quilt with your own fabrics, cut into 2 ½" strips. The class is one day only, but that's all you'll need to understand how to sew the panels and put the quilt together. Finish it up quickly and you'll have a beautiful quilt for a Christmas gift.

Krista Moser's Bespoke Stars Sat Nov 20 \$35 Jean Korber

Krista has done it again, designing a compelling new quilt using the Creative Grids 60 degree triangle ruler. If you have not done one of her quilts, sign up early, because she has quite a following who love the quilts and love the class. This quilt is colorful, with white stars centered in the middle of colorful spokes. It's a wonderful first quilt if you have never used the 60 degree triangle ruler.

Pillow Case Party Sun Nov 21 1-4 FREE

Learn a special way to make a "hot dog" or "burrito" pillowcase. I have some quick cutting techniques that will make the pillowcase easy to stitch. All you need for class is fabric for your pillowcase and your machine.

December Classes

Paper Pieced Penguin gift bag Sat Dec 11 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

This is a basic paper pieced penguin that goes on the front of a basic bag pattern. But if you've never done paper piecing this is a perfect way to get started. The book has other patterns that you can choose, so if you don't like penguins, you could substitute Santa. This is the cutest gift bag for the holidays and the greatest part! It's reusable!

Ongoing Classes & Clubs

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 will be houses and seasons. Each row will have houses, trees and other "neighborhood" objects. Each house will have a place for a pieced block. Each "row" will be a season: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We'll also have a quilt store, school, "village" shops, church, outhouse, dog house, barn - as many as I can squeeze in!

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

Note: January class will be held on the third Saturday

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CLUBS

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB FREE!

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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 a while. 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 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 Afghan, 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: June 24, July 23, August 27

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:

November -- flannels; December -- red

Nolting Quilting Machines



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)
New Hours for Standard Time (starting Nov 7-March 13)**

**Monday-Saturday 10-5, closed Sundays unless a class is scheduled. Then we're open 1-5.
Check the schedule.**

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

