January 28, 2021

I was forced to look at it. I admit I got sucked in: Home decorating mistakes that prove you're over 45. Or something like that. The slide show didn't talk about the mistakes that the under 45 crowd makes - IKEA put together yourself furniture, those modular furniture parts that lets you rearrange the furniture into new groupings every day, zig zags everywhere and posters on the wall. But I'm over 45, way over 45, so I need to know what mistakes I am making. And what better place than the internet to explain to me what I'm doing wrong.

Mistake #1: Themed bathrooms - like beach themed. Okay. I'm safe there. No theme. And no ruffled shower curtains. Okay, good to go there. No ruffles.

Mistake #2: Matching toilet covers, rugs, especially if fuzzy. Okay, mine aren't fuzzy, and they're old & should be replaced, but not done away with. Who wants to sit on a bare toilet cover? For those of you under 45, you don't need to sit down to pull your socks on. Toilets are the perfect height for sitting. So, guilty on this one. I'll keep my covers.

Mistake #3: Patterned sofas and floral seats on hard backed chairs. Not guilty. But...my couch (not sofa) does have a southwest pattern on it, but right now it's covered with a Star Wars quilt because of the holes/worn places in the cushion fabrics. So does that mean, guilty?

Mistake #4: Honey oak stained cabinets. Guilty. Although one of the cabinet doors to the pots and pans cabinet under the stove broke off many years ago, so now no honey stained doors on that section. But I guess that still means, guilty.

Mistake #5: Displaying antiques. The advice is: no one wants to look at that kind of clutter. It just isn't 2021. Along with this mistake comes no farmhouse décor (think decorating with roosters everywhere) because "no one lives on a farm anymore," no doilies, no fake plants and no hanging tea cups under the shelf.
Okay, I have no fake plants. Actually I only have one plant that thrives on not being watered much. Plants shed and require attention, so I got rid of them long ago. I don't have doilies sitting out because I don't want them ruined. Mine are all being saved in a chest of drawers. I don't have roosters, well, I do, but they are in the china cabinet (see Mistake # 6), and my hanging tea cups are more like tall mugs and they're antiques and they sit on the counter (see Mistake #7) on a hanging stand. I think I'm guilty.

Mistake #6: China cabinets. So 1990s or 1800s. My china cabinet has feet, curved glass doors and 19th century glassware inside. I also have various pieces of china, the roosters, and other ancient pieces behind the honey oak stained framed glass cabinets over my kitchen counter. Sigh. Guilty on all counts.

Mistake #7: Random items by the sofa or on counter tops. Guilty Guilty Guilty. Why live in a house if you can't keep your knitting, embroidery, books and magazines within easy reach of the couch (it's not a sofa, there is a difference) covered with a Stars Wars quilt? And if you have a big kitchen island counter top without anything on it, why have it in the first place? Might as well just have empty space. And while this mistake didn't include stacks of books on the bedstead, stacks of books on the toilet tank and quilting and knitting projects in bags stuffed into all available corners of the house---it probably should have. So, guilty on this account as well.

Mistake #8: Formal Victorian Style living room. See Mistake #7. There is nothing Victorian about my living room. And no La-Z-Boy furniture (too chunky for good taste). See Mistake #7. I have a couch.

Mistake #9: No heavy drapes with tassels. Okay. No problem there. I don't have drapes. And I don't have vertical blinds, another no no for the over 45 crowd. Don't worry, I do have those honey combed blinds for the living room. I think those are still chic. Although the bent and twisted tin blinds in the kitchen that don't go up & down any more probably date me, as do the wooden slatted blinds in the bedroom, which also don't work, and the new curtains that I did hang in the spare room which are too small for the window. Unfortunately this tassel business goes for furniture as well. I do have two old red chairs (antiques-see Mistake #5) with fringe. Now the problem with the chairs really isn't the fringe. It's the missing fringe because the cat used some of the fringe as a scratching post.

Mistake #10: One color bedrooms or one color any room for that matter. The advice is, if the walls are blue, then nothing else in the room should be blue. I'm good here. All my walls are white. That way I can decorate with multiple colors in all my rooms: Meaning the more quilts hanging
around and lying on surfaces (beds, chairs, couches, walls) the better. Mix & Match.

And finally, Mistake #11: No more sleigh beds. I was really upset to read that. I never got a sleigh bed, although I wanted one because they looked so cool. But it wasn't in the budget at the time and now, when I probably could get one, it's out of style. It's a little like when I finally discovered beach movies with Elvis and Annette and thought it would be fun to go to the beach for a spring break, and then realized that all the kids in the beach movies were at least five years younger than me and I was past the appropriate age for spring break on the beaches. Life has a funny way of passing you by when you don't realize it.

I like my house. It has a frumpy quality to it. It needs a better house keeper (not cleaner, as the woman who helps me clean does a wonderful job but it's not her job to keep the house) and a few parts need to be fixed (like the curtains) and perhaps reupholstering the couch, but otherwise my house and I are well suited.

Sometimes I feel like I live in a Weasley house (Harry Potter books), that Ron Weasley describes as "It's not much, but it's home," and Harry replies, "I think it's brilliant!" and Ron smiles back, grateful for a friend like Harry.

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**Quilt Challenge!**

In the current edition of Fons & Porter is a quilt pattern called Corinthian Stars. It calls for just two fabrics: a background and an ombre.

Jean and I are issuing a challenge to everyone: Get a copy of the magazine at Barnes & Noble, local grocery store or wherever quilt magazines are sold. Then, find your 2 fabrics: You don't have to work with an ombre, but the stars are made from the ombre, which provides a cascading effect of different colors for the stars. The challenge is in the placement of the fabric to create the best looking stars.

Now, you don't have much time for this challenge. You have until March 6, during the Free Block of the Month Class, to submit your quilt. We will then display the quilts in the store and over the next 3 weeks, everyone can vote on their favorite quilt.

Did I mention prizes? For everyone who turns in a quilt, made with fabric purchased from the store for this purpose, you will get a $25 gift certificate. In addition, all quilts submitted for the contest (regardless of where or when you bought your fabric) will be eligible for the Viewer's Choice Prize! (Okay, this prize will be announced later. Jean & I just dreamed up this contest, and I want to contact some of my fabric companies to see if they might contribute to this little venture. If not, I'll come up with the prize.)
My quilt is sewn, except for border. Jean's, of course, is done. So we have our examples at the shop. Join the fun! Get a great quilt! Use interesting fabric!

**Nebula!**

**Another quilt from Jaybird Quilts & rulers.**

This is a month by month quilt along, with videos showing how to do all the blocks. Journey2Nebula on YouTube.

What we are going to do at the shop is 1) provide the pattern, 2) provide the rulers, 3) help you with your fabric selection if you need it, and 4) provide in person help as needed.

Right now, I am not teaching this class, because you can get all of your help on line. However, this summer we will put this quilt on the schedule for a 3-session class: Once you learn how to use the rulers, putting the blocks together is a breeze.

For those of you who have made Park Bench and Gravity, this quilt is similar in construction. You have the rulers, all you need is the pattern!

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**WHAT'S NEW!!**

From Northcott:
From Northcott:

From Moda:
From Henry Glass:

From Benartex:
It is in now!

From Windham:

My apologies: This was the fabric we got in.

map of london

From Figo:
These are linen/cotton

From Northcott:
pattern—we have 4 kits for this pattern: everything except the borders—you get to choose what you like.
This should be here next week.

From RJR & Riley Blake:

From Northcott:
From Tula Pink:

wideback

One Daybreak kit

10" squares & fat quarter bundles, limited supplies
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**Full moon on March 28, 2021**
# April 2021

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Please look on the calendars above for times and dates.

**Ongoing Classes & Clubs**

**Block of the Month**  First Sat of month 10:30-11:15 FREE Barb Boyer

**Note:** January class will be held on the second Saturday
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
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 will be starting 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

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. By summer, we may extend the knitting time into the evening.

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.

Other Classes

TBA Our schedule is limited this spring because of the pandemic. Face masks will be required in class and space will be limited. Classes will not run through lunch, so no eating (snacking & water okay, but no lunching). Bathrooms may or may not be available, but there are facilities within walking distance.

Please check the calendar regularly because we will swap out classes as needed and add others as we get back to more normal times. Machine quilting, machine applique, long arm classes, hand quilting and hand applique will also be coming back-I’m hoping by summer!

We may also teach the Elk Quilt, once the fabric comes back in sometime in April. And we’re (meaning mainly Jean) are always sewing on new things, so those quilts may also be added to the schedule.
January classes

2-fer Quilt Mondays January 18 & February 15 1-4 $35 Barb Boyer
This is a crazy quilt using the Scrap Crazy Creative Grid ruler, making it easy to stack cut the pieces. Then, and this is the 2-fer part, you will embellish your seams using the decorative stitches on your machine! If you’ve never tried out those stitches, this is a simple, easy way to experiment.

Bumblebee Blossoms Sat January 30 from 10-noon (discussion), & February 20 & 27 1-4 (sewing) $35 Jean Korber
Krista Mosher has done it again with her Bumblebee Blossoms quilt. The pattern uses ombre fabrics, but Jean will show you other ways to choose your fabrics—thus the Jan 30 class where she will help you pick your colors. The next two classes will be all about sewing the blocks.

Charm Quilts, last Saturday of each month (discussion, no sewing) Jan 30 10-noon, then on the other class dates from 10:30-11:30 $20 Barb Boyer
Charm quilts date from the 1880s and 1890s. They tend to be one patch quilts (all squares or all triangles) and they use lots and lots of fabrics—999 to be exact. But the catch is, you can only use one fabric per each patch. We need lots of people to sign up for the class—but don’t worry about covid. We will do this very carefully. In order to get to 999 different fabrics, we will be exchanging 5” squares of different fabrics, each month exchanging different colors. We won’t exchange 999 different fabrics, but we may exchange up to 300-400!
Class one—discussion and set up. Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize into groups for exchanges. We will have 4 different meeting times: 10-10:30, 10:30-11, 11-11:30; 11:30-noon. I know, complicated. If I don’t have that many people sign up, I will consolidate the class—remember, it’s just a discussion class. I’ll talk about charm quilts,
explain the rules, and set up what we will be exchanging in the upcoming classes.

Class two - Exchange the first color ways. You will cut X number of squares of the first colors for each person in your group: (example only) red, orange, yellow, blue. 10, 5” squares of each color per each class member. If you have 5 in your group, that's - 50 squares of red, 50 squares of blue, etc.

Now don't panic. I will adjust the number of squares to be exchanged based on how many people sign up. I don’t expect you to buy all of the fabric: use your stash. AND the squares you exchange can be different for each person in your group, as long as each person gets 10 different reds, for example.

If you're interested, more info will be given in class, all questions answered, etc. The book we will use is called Charm Quilts by Beth Donaldson. Buy a used copy on Amazon.

Fractured Quilt  Sat January 30 1-4 $30 (includes pattern) Sue Frerich
Take a piece of fabric, cut it into strips and sew it back together and you get a fractured quilt. It looks a little like an attic window quilt that collided with a bargello quilt. Well, kinda. And depending on which fabric you pick, you can applique some of the images from the fabric onto the fractured quilt, making it appear even more dimensional.

Lone Star Quilt Saturdays Jan 9, 16 & 23 1-4 OR May 1, 8, 15 $35 Barb Boyer
This is the perfect "next" quilt for everyone who has taken the beginning quilt class. You will build on your skills, like learning how to do inset seams. All you need is 6 fabrics plus a background. It will be helpful if you have your fabrics chosen before class, so just come in and I'll help with that. The class has three sessions and by the third session you will be in-setting your squares and triangles, completing the inside of your quilt.

February Classes

2-fer Quilt Mondays January 18 & February 15 1-4 $35 Barb Boyer (ongoing)
This is a crazy quilt using the Scrap Crazy Creative Grid ruler, making it easy to stack cut the pieces. Then, and this is the 2-fer part, you will embellish your seams using the decorative stitches on your machine! If you've never tried out those stitches, this is a simple, easy way to experiment.

Beginning Quilting 8 weeks $65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Feb 7.
This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

Bumblebee Blossoms (ongoing, see January) Sat February 20 & 27 1-4 (sewing) $35 Jean Korber
Krista Mosher has done it again with her Bumblebee Blossoms quilt. The pattern uses ombre fabrics, but Jean will show you other ways to choose your fabrics - thus the Jan 30
class where she will help you pick your colors. The next two classes will be all about sewing the blocks.

**Charm Quilt (ongoing, see January)**

**Oriana (Circles) Quilt Saturdays February 6 & 13 1-4 $35 Sue Frerich**
You can use precut 2½” strips for your circles, cut your strips from fabric using our AccuCutter or cut your own strips. You will make your strata (strip pieced units) and then cut out the circles using overlarge plastic templates (you can make your own or borrow our templates).

**March Classes**

**Bear's Paw Quilt Saturdays March 6 & 13, 1-4 $35 Barb Boyer**
This retro looking quilt is easy to do, but be warned, there are many pieces. This is a perfect scrap quilt - chose a color way, pull from your stash, cut your pieces and sew! I used blue calicos and a background calico that I have carted around since 1978 for the "claws" and assorted "darks" and "mediums" in a variety of colors for the "paws." I am looking at some vintage lines of fabrics to bring in, but they may not be available by the time of class. So just hunt for dark and medium scraps (don't worry about color just darks and mediums) in your stash or buy 30-40 fat quarters (to give yourself a variety).

**Charm (ongoing) See January**

**Designing With Panels March 31 (discussion, no sewing) $30 Barb Boyer**
We all have panels, but we don't know what to do with them. I will show you how to turn your panel into a wall hanging or full sized quilt. We will discuss how to add blocks to "border" out the quilt, add lights to a Christmas or Halloween quilt, change patterns to fit your panel, chop up your panel into attic windows or other designs----so bring some of your panels to class and go home with a plan!

**Dinos with Teeth Wednesday March 3, 1-4 $30 Barb Boyer**
In the Beginning has done it again with great digital fabrics of dinosaurs. The quilt is big, but the piecing is simple. In class you will be able to get the panel and blocks cut out and you'll start sewing on the half square triangle blocks. At the end I'll show you how to miter your borders-simple. I recommend using Marvelous Miters by Susan Cleveland - get it on Amazon as a used book.

**Tiger Tiger Saturdays March 20 & 27 $35 Sue Frerich**
This beautiful tiger wall hanging is paper pieced - the green eyes just glow! From the book Animal Quilts, you can choose to do the tiger or any of the other animals in the book. This is not a class for beginners, however. You must have some experience doing paper piecing to join this class as it will stretch your sewing skills.
But what a wonderful way to learn and grow in your quilting!

**April Classes**

**Attic Window Saturday April 17 1-4 $30 Barb Boyer**
Take a panel (or two, always recommended), cut it apart and turn it into an attic window marvel! Skills learned: y-seams or inset seams. You will have a choice or using a pattern or creating your own design using your panel. All it takes is a panel (or two), and window sill fabric!

**Crazy Pumpkins Saturdays April 3 & 10 1-4 $35 Barb Boyer**
This quilt is like a stack and slash quilt—with a little more organization. Actually a lot more organization. But I've got it all figured out and sometimes organization is just over rated. Learn this fun way to stack, cut, rearrange and sew to create whimsical looking pumpkins - no two pumpkins are quite alike, which makes this style of sewing so charming. Once you've done one, you'll be itching to do her dogs, cows, barns, santas, flowers.....

**Thanksgiving Quilt April 26 1-5 $30 Barb Boyer**
I used Thanksgiving fabric for my quilt, but the quilt is essentially a pieced nine-patch scrap quilt. This is an easy strip pieced quilt with an old fashioned feel. Choose darks and mediums for the blocks and a neutral background that compliments. Did I mention that the left overs went into the Bear Paw Quilt? Scraps and Scraps, it's fun to use it up.

**May Classes**

**Lone Star Quilt Saturdays May 1, 8, 15 1-4 $35 Barb Boyer**
This is the perfect "next" quilt for everyone who has taken the beginning quilt class. You will build on your skills, like learning how to do inset seams. All you need is 6 fabrics plus a background. It will be helpful if you have your fabrics chosen before class, so just come in and I'll help with that. The class has three sessions and by the third session you will be in-setting your squares and triangles, completing the inside of your quilt.

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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 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: January 28, February 27, March 28, April 26 and May 26.
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.

Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-5
Sunday 1-5
Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

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 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.

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