



August 12, 2022

Do you remember Jim Stafford and his song, “Spiders & Snakes,” as in I don’t like spiders and snakes? Stafford was a comedian and song writer. He appeared on the Smothers Brothers show in the 1970s, had his own show during the same time frame and he gave a concert at my college in 1976 or so. I even got to interview him for the school paper.

So the song Spiders and Snakes is about a goofy kid who is trying to impress a young girl, and when she suggests going down to the local swimming hole, he agrees – but he gets nervous, catches a frog and shakes it at her saying, “this frog’s for you.” And she demurely replies, “I don’t like spiders & snakes....” And then explains what it will take for her to love him. It’s a cute song, semi silly, with fun voices and a good beat.

So okay, I know what you’re thinking. Why are we talking about Jim Stafford. Actually, we’re not. We’re talking about spiders and snakes – or spiders and flies. All right, I know that flies aren’t in that song, but for some reason I always think of that song when fly season comes around. And that’s what we’re talking about today. Flies. And spiders.

Fly season starts around Frontier Days and lasts until the last fly dies. If you are lucky enough to have air conditioning, screens on all your windows and doors, and no obvious holes for flies to find, you might have to deal with just a couple of the buggers. I have one screen that refuses to stay fixed and I often keep the back door propped open for the dogs.

Now, I can handle one or two flies. They are annoying, but fun to snap a towel at. When I was a lifeguard during the summer in Omaha, we got very good at killing flies with the pool towels. If you’re good, the flies don’t see that towel tip coming at them. And there were too many to bother investing in more advanced fly killing machines, like fly swatters.

Once when my dad came to visit during Frontier Days, he got so annoyed with the flies that he bought me a fly swatter. I still have it. It’s at least 25 years old and has a hole in it. It’s amazing how many flies escape through that hole. They just duck, wait for the swatter to land, then fly off laughing.

But last week the flies decided to hold a convention in the kitchen. And they don’t care if I attend. They do tend to hide when I start swatting them with the blue fly swatter with the hole in it. And they are good at dive bombing when they get angry. But so long as they stayed in the kitchen, I could work around them. But then they insisted on having dinner with me in the living room and enough was enough.

I bought fly tape, a hanging sticky box and a free standing sticky tube. The cool thing about the tube is you can swing it in the general direction of the fly and if the fly doesn’t see it coming, he might take off right into the sticky tube.

Now you don’t want to know how long a fly lives or what their breeding cycle is like. Trust me. I looked it up. What I noticed was on one day the flies moved fast and then on subsequent days they moved more slowly, almost drunkenly and were easier to kill. And then it started all over again. Smaller zippier, larger slower.

But I’m happy to say, I’m almost fly free. But there are always a couple strays every day and they are good at finding open skin to land on. But fortunately they have an early bedtime, so they are gone by the time I go to bed otherwise I’d have to invest in mosquito netting over the bed.

But there is one other critter to discuss. Spiders. Specifically cat faced spiders. These guys are really cool and really annoying. They infested my garage one year to the point that I felt like Braden Frasier in the Mummy movies, peeling down spider webs to get through doors. I would demolish the webs guarding the garage door in the morning and then by the evening, the spiders had rebuilt. I finally took a tiki torch to the webs. Didn’t know at the time how flammable webs were. I could have been a been a commercial for All State, with Dennis Haysbert reminding people about how not

to deep fat fry a turkey in the garage on Thanksgiving or in my case how not to light spider webs on fire with a tiki torch.

But the spiders got the message and they really haven't been back. Until this week. There was a huge one draped in the middle of his web strung between the deck and the evergreen shrub. I grabbed my phone, went out to take a picture and he heard me coming and disappeared. He probably thought I was coming after him with a tiki torch.

Cat faced spiders are great spiders. They build huge webs and eat anything caught in them. Like flies.

But I'm not inviting them into the house.

P.S. There is a correction of the BOM pattern for the small size. Cut the squares for the half square triangles at 3 1/2" X 3 1/2".

Home for the Holidays Christmas Quilt

84" X 101"

The Holiday Cheer quilt (still) is undergoing a few revisions. (I've been on vacation.) Don't worry – fabric requirements are the same for the big quilt, but we have cut two different kits, one with cowboy boots and one with gnomes, that are smaller, so I have different cutting charts for these quilts. Plus I have labeled the pieces a little differently so that you will know how much fabric for each pattern piece, in case you want to change or add colors when you are picking out fabrics. Plus I have changed the pattern to accommodate directional prints, like the gnomes. Plus I have figured out basic fabric requirements for a queen/king sized quilt. Whew!



I have a couple of pattern corrections, one for the size of the setting triangle and a couple others for number of pieces to cut—for the different sizes of quilts. I am working on getting everything labeled. As soon as those additions are in the pattern, I will post it in the newsletter.

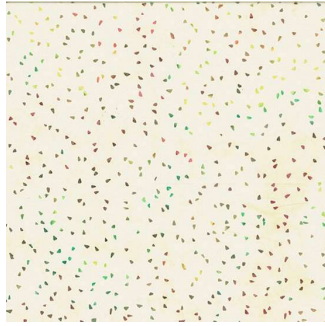
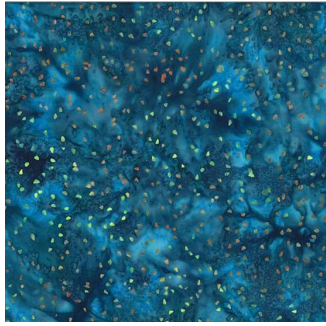
AND POSTPONED: The Kaleidoscope quilt in August will be postponed until the fall. The fabric will not be in until late August (hoping).

Since the Kaleidoscope class is postponed, I decided to put the Holiday Cheer quilt on the schedule for August 20, 10:30-4. CLASS IS FREE IF YOU BUY THE KIT OR CURRENT FABRIC FROM THE STORE FOR THIS QUILT. OTHERWISE CLASS IS \$35. Because this quilt has both grown and changed over the course of its existence, I decided a class in how to put this one together might be helpful. The directional fabric pattern (gnomes) has a little different construction you don't normally see, and because the setting triangles on both quilts are pieced, I will demonstrate how make these tricky little blocks. Just think—you can get a good jump start on your Christmas quilting.

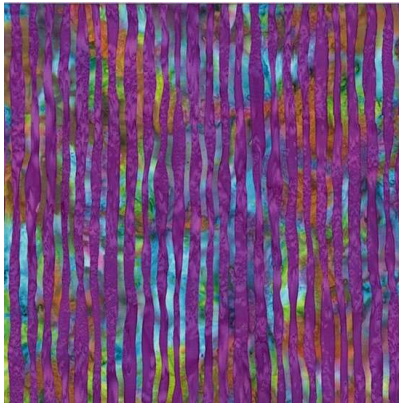
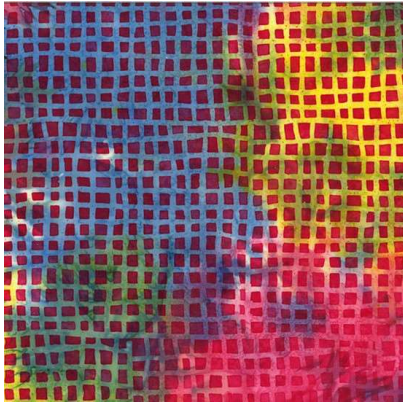
ALSO REMEMBER: The pattern link below is for the pattern. There will be some minor changes to the pattern that I will get out soon but the fabric requirements for the 84" X 101" quilt are good. I have the fabric requirements for all other sizes at the shop and can help you get the right amounts for your chosen quilt. If the link doesn't work, let me know.

[Home for the Holidays Quilt](#)

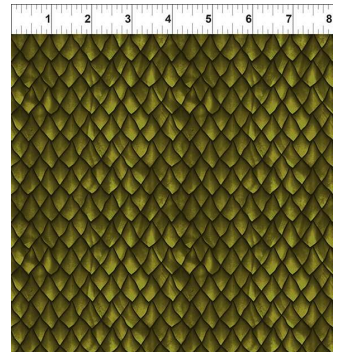
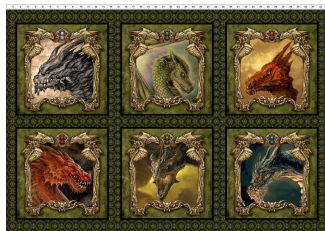
What's New

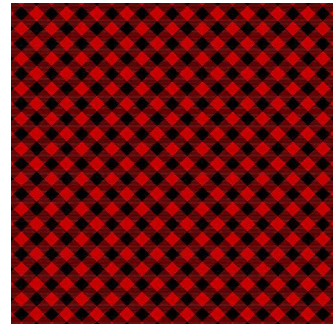


Hoffman

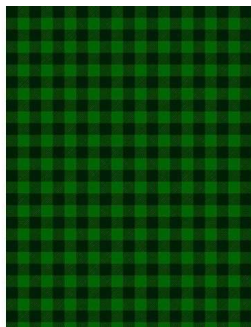


In the Beginning

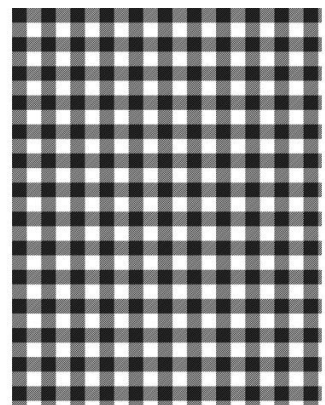




Henry Glass



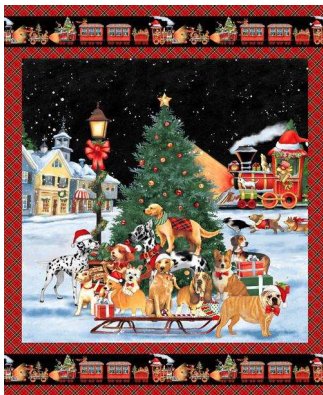
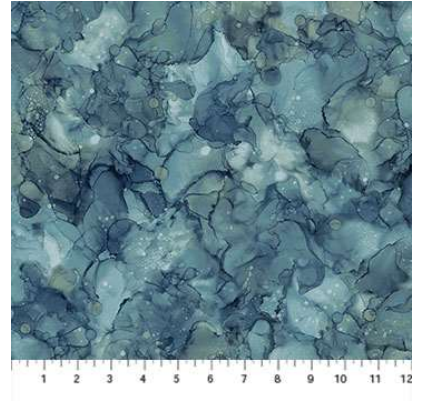
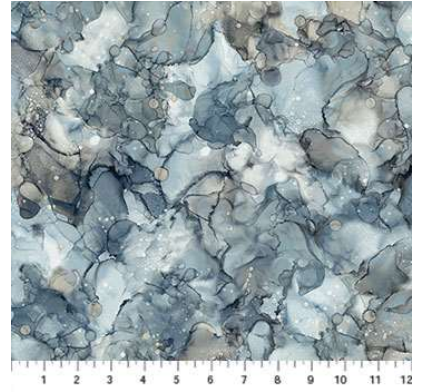
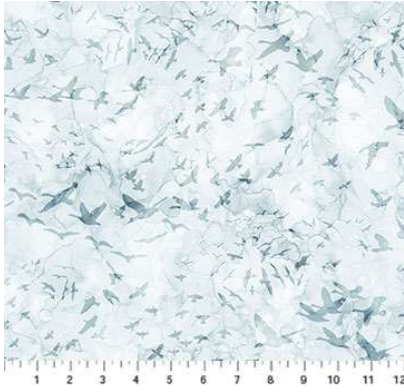
Wilmington





Northcott: Soar WE HAVE KITS!



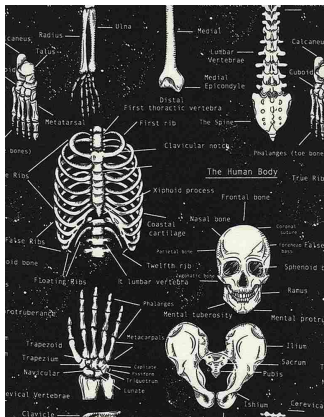
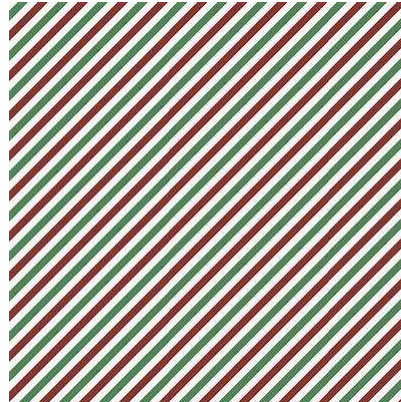


From Studio E

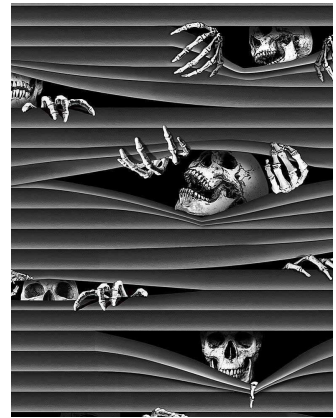




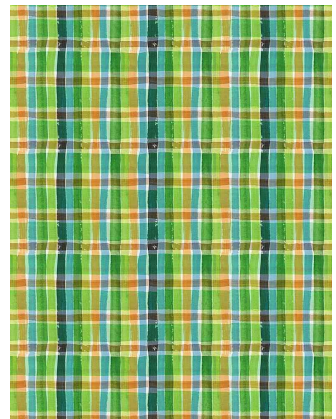
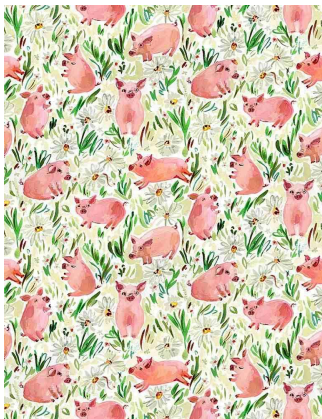
From Clothworks



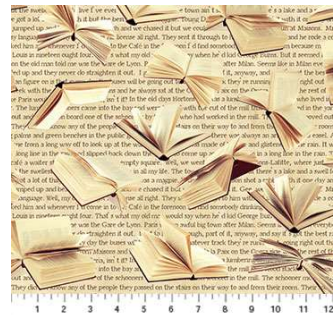
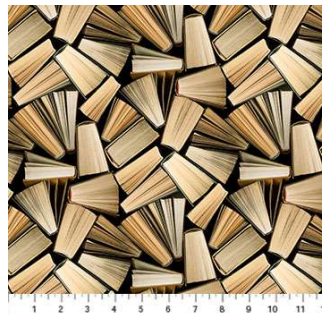
Timeless: The 2 black/skeleton fabrics glow in the dark

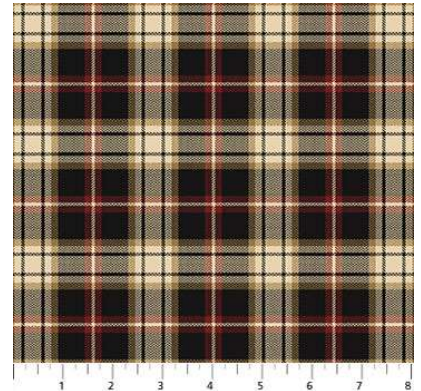
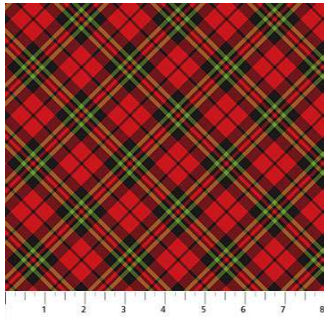


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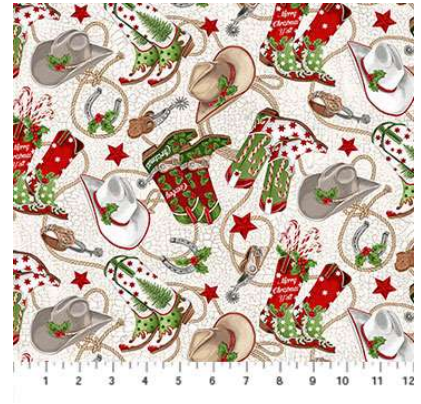


From Dear Stella

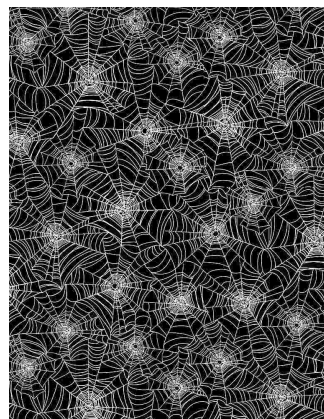




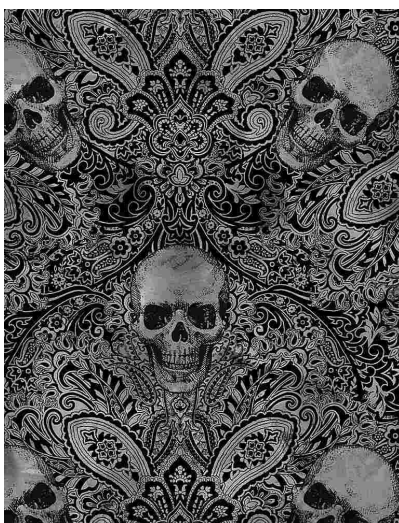
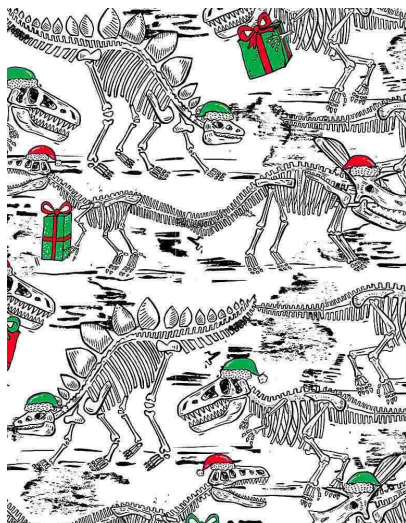
From Northcott



Also have the Elk and Deer panel on the bolt.



From Timeless Treasures



August Classes

Creative Grid Ruler Demo Sat August 13, 1-2 FREE

The third ruler in August is the **Curvy Log Cabin ruler**. By cutting logs at different widths, you can create the illusion of curves and this ruler shows you how. We'll have some cute table runner patterns (mainly holiday) to go with. . Come to the free demo, learn how to use the ruler, and if you buy the ruler that day, 20% off the cost of the ruler. I will have limited supplies of the rulers in stock, but if I run out, if you pay for the ruler, I will order it in for you.

POSTPONED. THE FABRIC WON'T BE IN. CLASS WILL BE RESCHEDULED IN THE FALL. Kaleidoscope Ruler Quilt August 20 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt is from In the Beginning fabrics, although most any 10" wide border stripe would work. You cut 8 identical pieces (similar to One Block Wonder and Stack & Whack) using the kaleidoscope ruler. Full sized blocks are used in the center and half blocks for the setting triangles. It looks harder than it is. Only two fabrics are used for this quilt. If you want a kit, please sign up early (as soon as the fabric arrives) as we will have limited supplies.

INSTEAD: HOLIDAY CHEER QUILT AUG 20-10:30-4 CLASS IS FREE IF YOU BUY THE KIT OR CURRENT FABRIC FROM THE STORE FOR THIS QUILT. OTHERWISE CLASS IS \$35

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NOTE: I can't change the calendar easily, so it still shows the Kaleidoscope class.

Make & Take Sat Aug 27, 10:30-3 \$30 Jean Korber includes pattern NEW INFO

Fabric Bowl: We will make a fabric bowl -- not designed for microwave, although you probably could use it there. It's a bowl for you to put things in, like yarn, apples, mail....you know, all those collectible things on the counter. You will need your sewing machine. You will need 2 1/2" strips, clothesline, wonder clips and some glue. We are NOT kitting this one because most of you have extra 2 1/2" strip sets lying around. We have all of the other parts at the store.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Hand work Club 2-4	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		BOM 10:30
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CLOSED		Hand work Club 2-4	Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	Long Arm Rental Day Full moon		Embroidery Club 10-noon Rulers: Creative Grid Curvy Ruler demo 1-2 20% of ruler
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Beginning Quilting 1- 4		Hand work Club 2-4	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		Kaleidoscope Ruler Quilt 10:30-4
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Hand work Club 2-4	Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	Long Arm Rental Day		
28	29	30	31			
		Hand work Club 2-4		Color of the month: blacks		



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 needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. 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 Winter Time (starting Nov 7-May 22)

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

