



January 21, 2022

“Congratulations,” I told Becca. “You aren’t the only thing that escaped this month. And not the scariest thing.”

“I didn’t escape,” Becca argued.

“Well, you climbed through the hole in the fence. I’d say that was escaping.”

“It’s not my fault the hole was there,” she countered. “And besides, I just went around to the garage and stayed there.”

“Technically, that’s true,” I told her. “But you didn’t go there until Richard showed up to fix the fence. But I don’t want to talk about your antics. I just wanted to point out that you aren’t the only thing that escaped.”

“What?” Becca asked. “Don’t tell me the cats escaped?” She looked hopeful.

“That’s not nice. No, did you hear about the flock of 80 ostriches that escaped their pen and were found running down the road somewhere in China?”

“Why were ostriches running. They are birds. They should have just flown away.”

I looked at her. Surely she’s smarter than that....

“Okay.... well what about the two zebras that were just caught. They escaped from a Maryland farm 4 months ago.”

“So are the zebras going to have to wear black and white striped prison suits when they are returned to the farm?” Becca looked serious.

“Becca, you know zebras are already black & white?”

“Well then why did it take so long to catch them? They should have been easy to spot against all that green grass. Or was Maryland all covered in snow? They could camouflage against snow banks.”

“I have no idea.” This conversation was not going well. “So did you hear about the tarantula that was found

on a London subway or the lost hermit crab that was found by a neighbor weeks later wandering the road?"

"Okay," Becca said. "I get why someone would want to leave a pet tarantula on a subway. I'd love to see the video of that scare. But don't most hermit crabs look alike? How would you know that the hermit crab that was found was the one you lost? Can you call it by name? Will it come? Did they tattoo its name on its back or microchip it for identification? That story sounds more like the dead goldfish story, where an identical fish replaces the dead one and the kid is never the wiser."

"Calm down. I just report the stories, I don't explain them. So what about the seal in Grimsby, England, that led police on a slow pursuit until it was captured in front of a lawyer's office."

"Well at least it was going in the right direction," Becca said. I just looked at her.

"You know, lawyer's office. Seeking representation for breaking out of jail?"

"Becca, that's almost a joke," I told her. Now it was Becca's turn to look confused.

"Okay, then. Did you hear about the load of potatoes that spilled out of a truck and got stuck on the road? The truck crashed on the interstate in Minnesota and all the potatoes froze to the highway. The DOT needed special equipment just to get the potatoes off the road."

"So you're saying the potatoes escaped their truck only to get caught because they froze to the road?"

"Potatoes don't escape, Becca. They just roll off a truck."

"Then why did you include that story when it has nothing to do with escaping animals?"

"All right, how about this? Wildlife officials in Florida found an 8-9 foot long alligator swimming in wastewater at a former phosphate mining facility. The Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program was called in to help trap & remove the gator."

"The state has a program called the Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program?"

"That's your takeaway from that story? Didn't you hear the words wastewater, phosphate and alligator? You know that's how Godzilla was created, don't you?" Becca looked puzzled.

"Okay, what's going on with you? That was funny. You're not your usual sarcastic self."

"Well, maybe I need a toy to help me with my intelligence. I seem to be slipping these days. You know they have all these cool programmable toys that are supposed to increase my intelligence."

"You mean those balls that automatically move so that you chase them? Becca, the cats fall for the long feathered teaser toys. I can run Paddy right out of the house chasing one of those. You don't even play fetch. Why do you want an automatic rolling ball?"

"That's not the toy I want. I want those buttons that I can push to talk to you. I can tell you that I want to go outside. That I'm hungry. That the cats are annoying. That Cassidy is stealing my treats."

"Becca, you talk to me all the time. You don't need buttons to push."

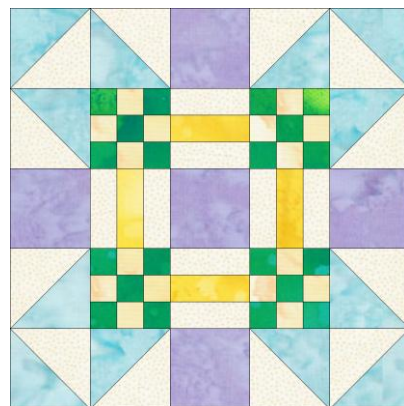
"Other than yours. And by the way, you should have led with the gator story. It is funny." She grinned and ran outside. Sigh. It's not easy living with a smart, aleck, dog.

Christmas Mystery Part 4

Time to put it all together! This is just the written instructions. I have a pdf link to the pattern below, that will have all the pics of what the quilt will look like.

The block is sewn together in rows.

You need 12 half square triangles (did you keep yours pinned together?), 4 nine-patches, and 4 rail fences, plus 5 solid squares. Square to 15 1/2" X 15 1/2". Make 25 blocks.



If you kept all your groups together, then you can choose one color for the half square triangles, a different color for the nine patches, different for rail fence and different for the solid squares.

Of course, if you made yours more scrappy or you ran out of a color, then just put whatever colors together you want. I like the controlled scrappiness of this block, but it doesn't really matter. It is also okay that if most of the blocks are controlled scrappy, and then the rest of the blocks are made with whatever is left over.

And so you are not in any more suspense, I've given you directions on how the quilt goes together. And because I changed my setting after I gave you the fabrics requirements, you will need extra fabric for the sashings and posts. If you want to do the quilt without sashings and posts, I have given you a picture of what it will look like.

If you choose sashing & posts you will need 2 1/4 yard for sashings and 3/8 for posts. Sashings are cut at 15 1/2" X 2 1/2". Posts are 2 1/2" X 2 1/2". The picture shows sashings in a background fabric, but you can choose a color.

Side triangles are cut at 26" X 26" cut on the diagonal twice. You will need to cut 3 squares. These squares are cut slightly bigger than you need. This will provide a little "float" room on the corners. Corner squares are cut at 13 1/2". Cut on the diagonal once. These squares are also cut slightly larger than needed.

The quilt is sewn row by row, but on the diagonal. This gets a little tricky keeping everything lined up, especially when you get into the middle rows. Also, the posts on the edges are cut as squares, not triangles. After you have finished piecing the top, you will trim the edges, lopping off the parts of the posts that are sticking out and making sure you have a quarter inch seam allowance from the edges. This is a little easier to show than to describe. When you are ready for this step and need some help, come in for a visit.

Setting triangles for the no sashing quilt version are cut at 23" X 23" cut on the diagonal twice. You will need to cut 3 squares. These squares are cut slightly bigger than you need. This will provide a little "float" room on the corners. Corner squares are cut at 12". Cut on the diagonal once. These squares are also cut slightly larger than needed.

You can also just set the blocks in a horizontal setting, but the quilt is not as pretty. And you will only need 20 blocks. If you do this setting, I would encourage you to put borders on the quilt. 2 1/2" inner and 6 1/2" outer.

Christmas Mystery Part 4

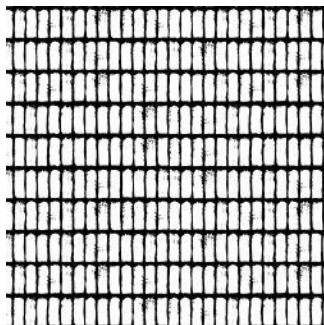
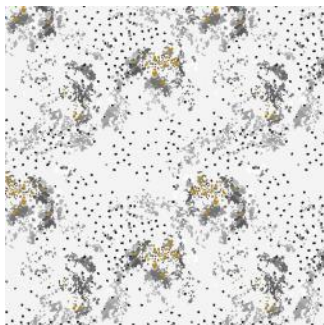


What's New



From Clothworks





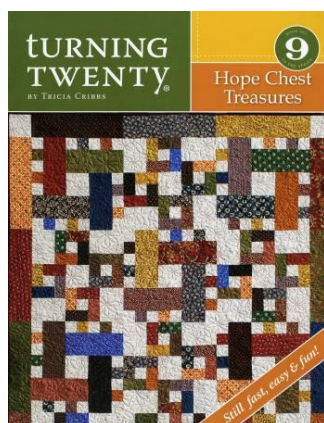
From RJR



From Riley Blake



From Checker

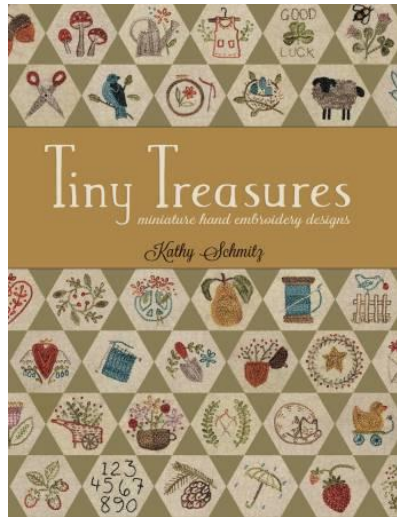


CDH-302

"Snowed In, Lovin' It"



www.chickadeehollowdesigns.com



CDH308

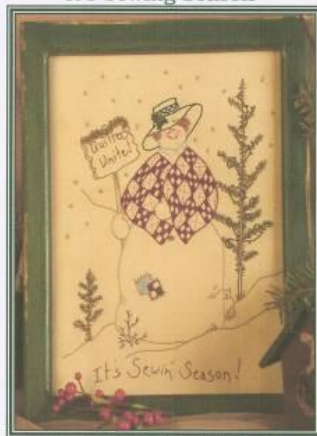
"I'd Rather Be Quilting"



www.chickadeehollowdesigns.com

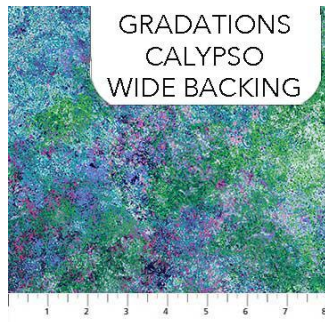
CDH-301

"It's Sewing Season"

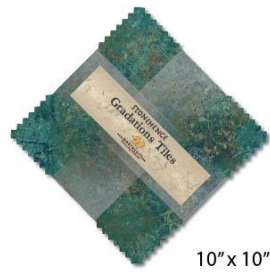


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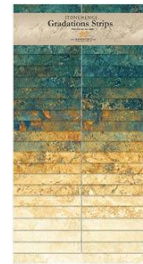




Northcott



10" x 10"



There are a couple more that I just couldn't get copied from the web site



BLUE PLANET
OMBRE
WIDE BACKING

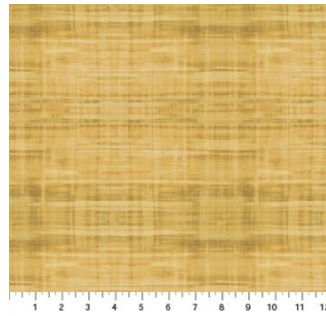
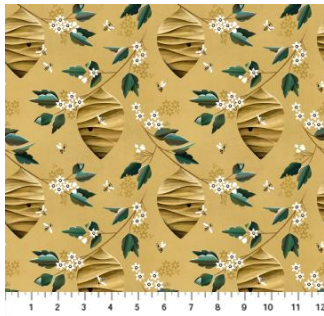


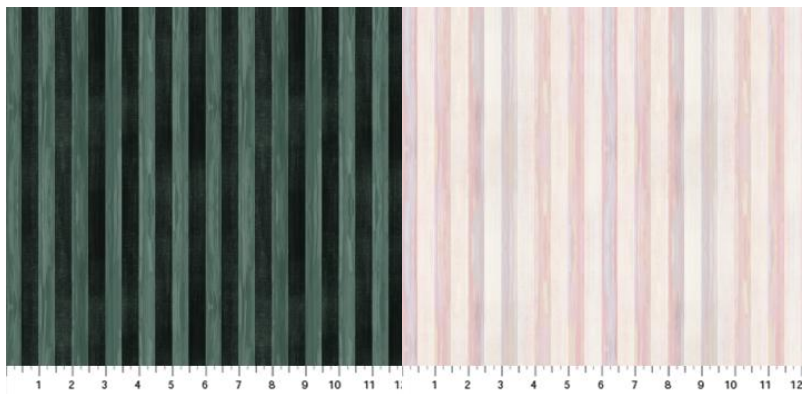
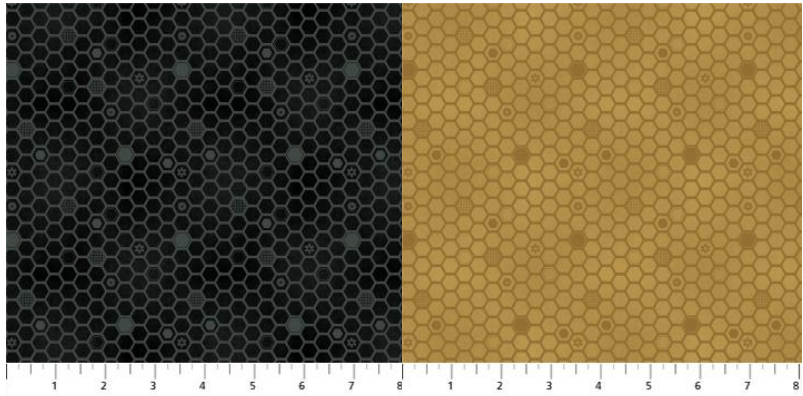
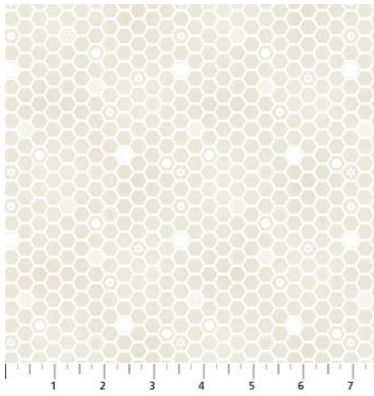
MIDNIGHT
OMBRE
WIDE BACKING



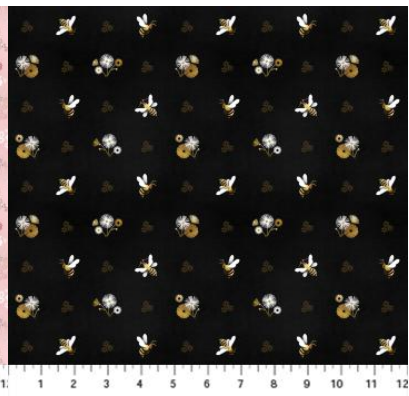
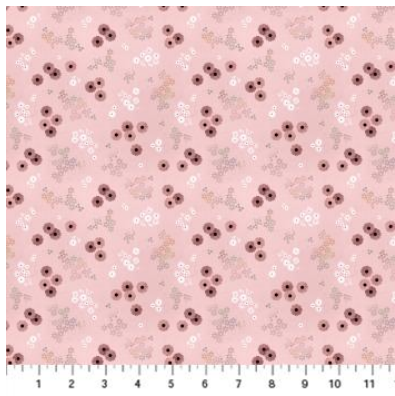


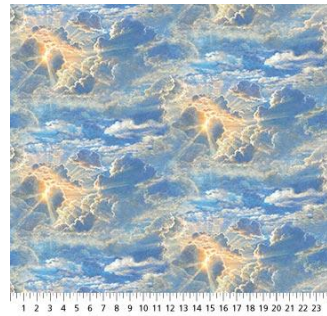
Northcott





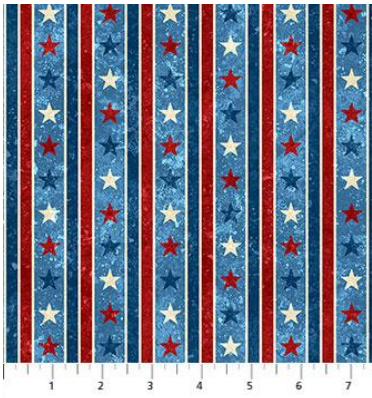
Northcott/Figo





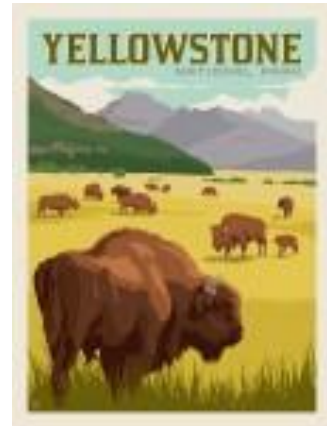
From Northcott: Stars & Stripes







Riley Blake (the 3 juvenile prints are flannel)





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 CLOSED New Year's Day
2 CLOSED	3	4 Hand work Club 2-4	5	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 BOM 10:30 Northcott BOM tips and tricks 1-3
9 CLOSED	10	11 Hand work Club 2-4	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	13 T-Shirt Class 1- 4 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Embroidery Club 10-noon Paper <u>pieced</u> <u>gift bag</u> 1-5
16 CLOSED	17 MLWD Day Full moon Machine Applied	18 Hand work Club 2-4	19 Long Arm class 10:30	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21	22 Plaid <u>Pigs</u> <u>10:30-4</u>
23 CLOSED	24	25 Hand work Club 2-4	26 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	27 T-shirt Class 10:30-4	28	29 Plaid <u>Pigs</u> <u>10:30-4</u>
30 CLOSED	31	Color of the month: Purple				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hand work Club 2-4	2 Long Arm class 10:30	3 Long Arm Rental Day	4	5 BOM 10:30 Wonton/Hex n More ruler quilt
6 Beginning Quilt 1-4	7	8 Hand work Club 2-4	9 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	10 Long Arm Rental Day	11	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon Crazy Quilt Day 1-4
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14	15 Hand work Club 2-4	16 Long Arm class 10:30 Full moon	17 Long Arm Rental Day	18	19 Buggy Barn/One Sister 10:30-4
20 Beginning Quilt 1-4	21 Presidents' Day Elizabeth Hartman <u>choose</u> your favorite pattern	22 Hand work Club 2-4	23 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	24 Long Arm Rental Day	25	26 Buggy Barn/One Sister 10:30-4
27 Beginning Quilt 1-4	28	Color of the month: red				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Long Arm class 10:30	3 Long Arm Rental Day	4	5 BOM 10:30 Northcott BOM tips and tricks 1-3
6 Beginning Quilt 1-4	7	8 Hand work Club 2-4	9 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	10 Panel Workshop 1-4 Long Arm Rental Day	11	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon Crazy Quilt Day 1-4
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14	15 Hand work Club 2-4	16 Long Arm class 10:30	17 Long Arm Rental Day	18 Full moon	19 National Quilt Day Demos TBA Crazy Quilt Day
20 Beginning Quilt 1-4	21	22 Hand work Club 2-4	23 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	24 Long Arm Rental Day	25	26 Laura Heine collages & working with fusibles
27 Beginning Quilt 1-4	28	29 Hand work Club 2-4	30	31 Long Arm Rental Day	Color of the month: green	

April 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: yellow					1	2 BOM 10:30 Nova/Sidekick ruler quilt 1-5
CLOSED 3	4	5 Hand work Club 2-4	6 Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4	7 Long Arm Rental Day	8	9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Spider web 1-5
CLOSED 10	11	12 Hand work Club 2-4	13 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	14 Long Arm Rental Day	15	16 Deb Tucker's Tumbling Triangle w/V Block Ruler
CLOSED Easter 17	18	19 Hand work Club 2-4	20 Beginning Machine Applique 1-4	21 Long Arm Rental Day	22	23 Spider web 10:30-4
CLOSED 24	25	26 Hand work Club 2-4	27 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	28 Long Arm Rental Day	29	30 Sewing Apron with lots of pockets 10:30-4

January classes

T-Shirt Quilt Thursday Jan 13 from 1-4 & 27 from 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

You will learn how to cut, stabilize and trim your t-shirts (first day). The second class will be all about designing and sewing your t-shirts together. Homework before the first class: Choose all your t-shirts and make sure they are washed. If you are confident, you can separate the front from the back at the shoulder seams. If you aren't, there is plenty of time in the first class. In the second class, I will help you design your quilt based upon your t-shirts – which means I'll help with all the math, provide options for getting both small & large t-shirts into the same quilt, and help you choose all the other fabrics (borders and sashings) to make your quilt special.

February Classes

Beginning Quilting 8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Feb 6.

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.

Buggy Barn/One Sister quilt Sat February 19 & 26 \$35 Jean Korber

This cute quilt is made using the “Buggy Barn” technique, now called the One Sister technique. Fabrics are stacked, slashed, & resewn, mixing the fabric so that each block uses the same fabric but in different positions.

Crazy Quilt Day Saturday Feb 12, 1-4, and March 12 (1-4) & 19 (2-5) \$40 Barb Boyer

It's time to cut up and use all those old prom dresses, wedding dresses, brocade jackets, silk blouses, and velvet skirts that you are collecting in your closets and not wearing – you've grown out of them, you have no where to wear them, you're never going to get married again or go to the prom and no one in your family wants them. So why are they still hanging in your closet? Day one, we will cut up those dresses into usable parts, to get them ready for piecing in crazy quilt blocks. We will also share out bounty with everyone in class. Don't have anything in your closet to cut up? I bet Good Will has racks of interesting items. The next class, we will discuss (and start sewing) the crazy quilt blocks. You will need a foundation (of muslin, light weight cotton, sew in interfacing) for your piecing. The last class we will discuss (and start stitching) all the embellishments that crazy quilts are known for. You can make a small wall hanging, just one block (for framing & putting on the wall), or a larger quilt for the couch or bed.

Elizabeth Hartman Quilts (your choice) Mon Feb 21 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

EH quilts are all pieced, not paper pieced. They use the 45 degree/flip & sew method to create all sorts of fun animals: llamas, bees & beehive, swans, African animals, desert animals, forest creatures, dinosaurs. You can use any pattern you like and I'll teach you how to organize, cut and stitch the blocks. You won't finish during class, but you will get some or all of the quilt cut and some of it pieced.

Wonton/Hex N More Saturday February 5 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

Jaybird Quilts has many fun projects using the Hex N More ruler. The Wonton quilt is a perfect introduction. It uses only 8 different fabrics and can be made in any size you like. I'll show you how to cut the blocks using the ruler, how to sew the blocks together, and then, most importantly, how to sew the rows together – which can be a little tricky keeping things lined up. It's a perfect class for learning a new skill and a good introduction to the ruler. Coming this summer, look for additional quilts using the Hex N More ruler!

March Classes

Laura Heine Quilts (your choice) Sat March 26 10:30-4 \$35 Jean Korber

LH quilts are collage quilts, built from a foundation by adding colorful prints in various shapes to create the quilt. Jean will walk you through the essentials, help you decide fabrics and placement, teach you about using the fusibles, and show you finishing techniques – from no sew to machine quilting. Then fun part of these quilts is choosing the fabrics to create your design, whether it's a sloth, a cat, an owl, a horse or a day of the dead skeleton. You get to decide, plan, design and build your unique wall hanging.

Northcott BOM Tips & Tricks Mar 5 1-3 Barb Boyer

I will walk you through the last 6? Blocks, offering suggestions on cutting and piecing. I have a couple of different ways to do some of the parts on the blocks and some suggestions on cutting and sewing. If you have bought the kit and want some guidance, please feel free to attend. If you have not bought the kit, but are still interested, you can also come. Class is free.

Panel Workshop Thursday March 10 1-4 (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!

April Classes

Beginning Machine Applique Wed April 20 1-4 \$40 Barb Boyer

Learn the basics of machine applique. I will teach you how to do the satin stitch and button hole (blanket stitch) around the edges of you applique, including doing points or tips (like on Christmas trees and stars), corners and curves. I will provide the samples for your practice. All you need is a foot that will allow wide (zig zag) stitching.

Beginning Machine Quilting Wed April 6 1-4 \$40 Barb Boyer

Learn the basics of machine quilting from start to finish: Getting the top pieced properly, pinning the quilt sandwich, choosing the pattern and thread, and quilting. You will practice on samples provide in class. You will need a hopping/darning foot as most of the class will focus on free motion quilting.

Deb Tucker's Tumbling Blocks Saturday April 16 10:30-4 \$35 Jean Korber

By Combining two contrasting fabrics you will create triangles tumbling down the quilt. Using your V Block tool, this quilt is fun and quick. Just jump right in and give it a whirl! It's fun to work with new rulers to create new and interesting blocks!

Nova/SideKick Ruler Saturday April 2 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

The SideKick ruler is another of the Jaybird Quilt rulers (Hex N More). The Nova pattern is for a table topper and you will learn how to cut a piece using the SideKick ruler. And just like the Wonton class it's a perfect class for learning a new skill and a good introduction to the ruler. I know it's really early to start thinking about it: But this table topper would be great in Christmas colors. I'm just saying..... Coming this summer, look for additional quilts using both the SideKick and Hex N More rulers!

Sewing Apron with lots of pockets Sat April 30 10:30-4 \$30 Jean Korber

You've seen Jean and her sewing apron that she wears during classes? One with all sorts of pockets for all the things you need to keep handy when you're sewing? Well, she's not teaching that apron (she'll you how she does it, though, in class). But she is teaching a similar apron pattern, with lots of pockets. You may even get the entire apron made in class! And think what fun gifts aprons would be for Christmas! It's not too early to get started!

Spiderweb Quilt April 9 (1-4) and 23 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt incorporates strip piecing/panel sewing and 60 degree triangles. You will need a 60 degree triangle ruler (8 or 10 inch is the most useful size, but if you have the 12" which is used in Triangle Frenzy quilts, it will work just fine). You will also need lots of 2" scraps. I suggest cutting all your strips (or a bunch of them) prior to class. Most useful is 2" X 42", but shorter strips can also be used. Best colors are medium and dark—scrappy is fun! The first class is sewing & cutting the blocks. The second class is sewing the rows together: new skill learned is how to make the seams all meet properly!

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).

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!



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 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

