



July 8, 2022

“Look! Look!” Becca hollered at me. “Padfoot has figured out how to climb trees!” I looked up from reading on the reclining cot on the deck and watched Paddy burst up the tree, pause, and zoom back to the deck. It’s hard to describe what she’s doing except to say she does it at light speed. Like she does almost everything else.

“She needs a tree house,” Becca told me.

“She already has a house. Yours,” I told her, “and if I build her a treehouse I bet she won’t use it any more than you use your doghouse.”

For those of you who don’t know my household, I live with two Australian Shepherds, one full size and one mini, red and opinionated. Becca. The cats are Padfoot, because she has that extra toe, and Mags.

“But tree houses are so cool,” Becca whined.

“Becca, you’d never be able to use it. You can’t climb.” Becca opened her mouth. “Let me rephrase that. You can’t climb 8 feet up a tree.”

“Well maybe we can rent one somewhere. Go clamping,” she said.

“Clamping? How do you even...never mind, I don’t want to know. Have you looked at the price tags for a nightly visit to a tree?” I told her. “I thought Air B&Bs were a strange way to go when they first came out. If I go to a hotel, I want someone to make my bed. Not me. I don’t want to cook and clean up after myself. I have to do all that for myself at home. The word is ‘vacation.’ And tree houses are even more primitive and you probably have to carry your own luggage. At \$300+ a night.”

Becca just stared at me. “Whimp,” she said. “Are you through complaining?” she asked. “Are we going to vacation anywhere this summer?”

“We? Becca, you hate to travel. And besides, it’s too hot for you to be in the car. But I am going to Omaha in a couple of weeks,” I told her.

“That’s like going to Phoenix in June for a wedding,” she said sarcastically.

“Been there, done that,” I said. “I know it will be hot, but I’m going for tomatoes. And peaches. And watermelon. And corn.”

“You can’t get that here? Seriously? Add up the gas miles and that is a he...” “Becca, watch your language” “of an expensive tomato,” she concluded. “Aren’t you forgetting something else?”

“Oh yeah, I’ll see my brother, too,” I said. “Always a plus.”

“Well at least you’re going to Nebraska,” she said. I looked at her quizzically. “It has a great commercial on tv right now. ‘Nebraska, honestly it’s not for everyone,’” she quoted.

She’s right about that. Nebraska launched a new come-to-Nebraska-for-a-visit campaign this summer. “People love the campaign,” said John Ricks, Nebraska Tourism Commission executive director. “They love the humor and the honesty of it. Since unveiling ‘honestly, it’s not for everyone,’ we’ve seen an increase in travel guide requests, website traffic and lodging tax collection.” One ad depicts quirky destinations, like the Carhenge in Alliance sculpture coupled with a 9-year-old kid, who represents the campaign as “that odd kid who didn’t say much in school, slightly peculiar maybe. But when you took the time

to get to know him, turned out he was pretty interesting.” You see him darting in and out of odd buildings and working at playing a cello. Another ad focuses on the sport of tanking, or floating down a creek in a horse tank. It all looks fun and inviting.

“I’m glad we’re not going to Texas, though,” Becca said.

“I told you, you’re not going anywhere. But why not Texas?” I was intrigued.

“I think they hired the same ad company to do their commercial but it's not funny like Nebraska's. It’s just down right snotty and pretentious.”

“Becca! That’s not nice.”

“Neither is their commercial,” she retorted. “I don’t want to go anywhere near Texas.”

And....I’ve got to agree with her. So I’m sorry Texas. I find your ad about coming to Texas for a vacation annoying and not very inviting. And those are my nice words. You show all sorts of people doing all sorts of fun things, but then one of them says, “This is my vacation. Go get your own.” And that is just not very friendly, especially since it is said in a kind of snotty way. This ad is all over tv and the internet and my take away is ... I can find more hospitable places to visit. And they also turned the word Texas into a verb: Let’s Texas. I misuse/abuse words all the time when I write, but turning the noun Texas into an action verb....maybe if the ad were a little less pretentious I might find it cute. But I don’t.

“So Texas is out,” Becca said. “And you’ve decided that the best summer vacation is going to Nebraska to get tomatoes. Your life is a bit boring, isn’t it?”

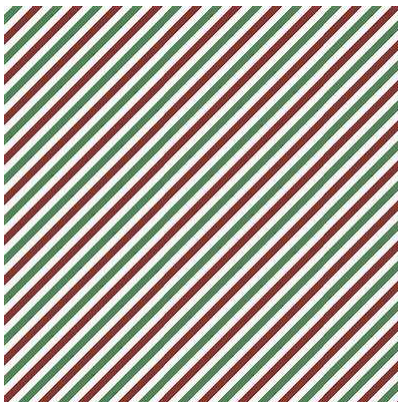
“I’d say quirky. I am from Nebraska, after all.”

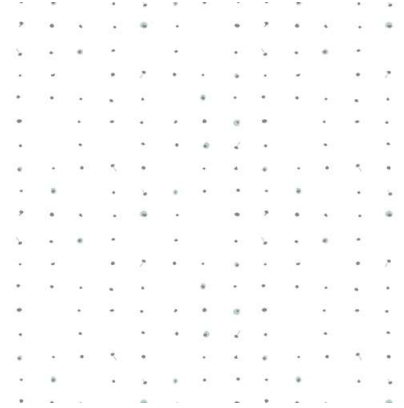
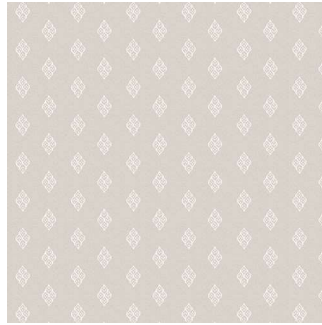
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## What's New

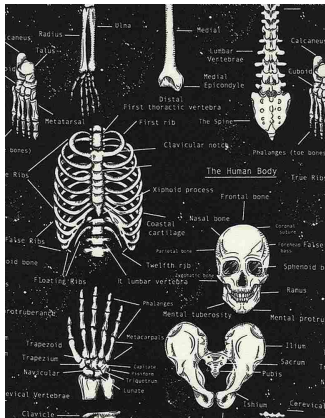


From Clothworks



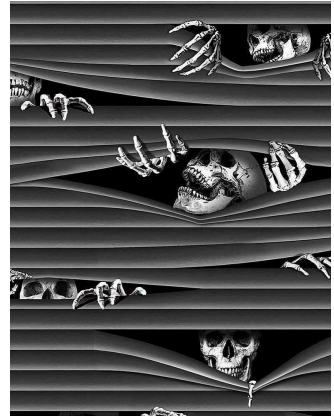


From AGF

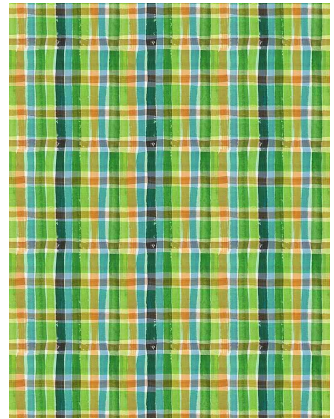
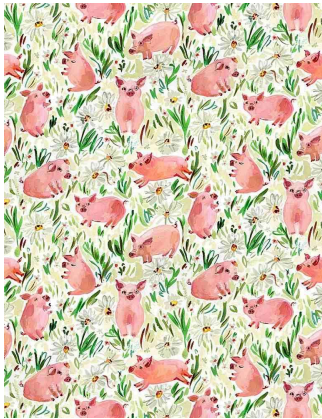


Timeless: The 2 black/skeleton fabrics glow in the dark

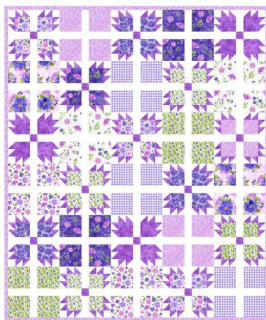




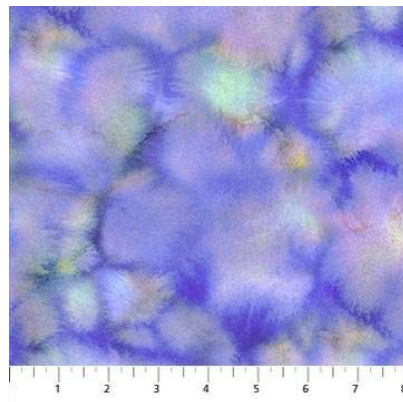
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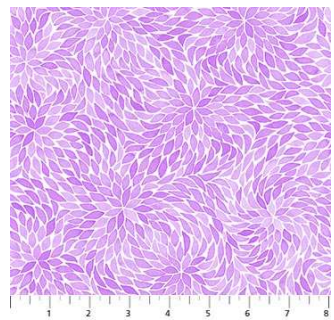
From Dear Stella



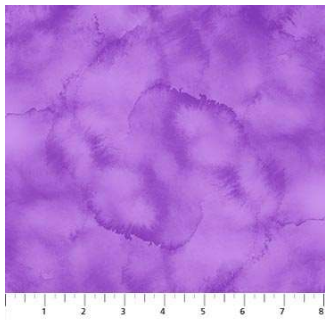
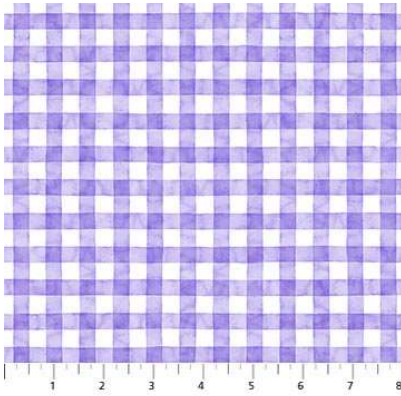
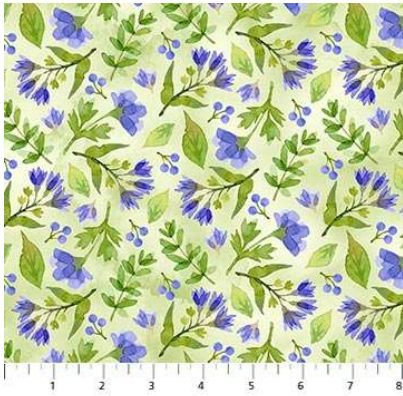
This print is also in overwide.



From Northcott: and we did 3 kits of the bear's paw pattern.







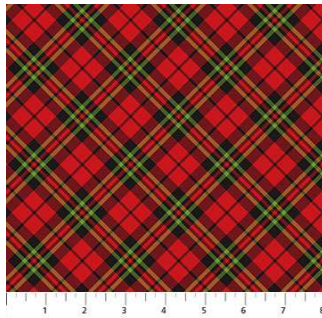
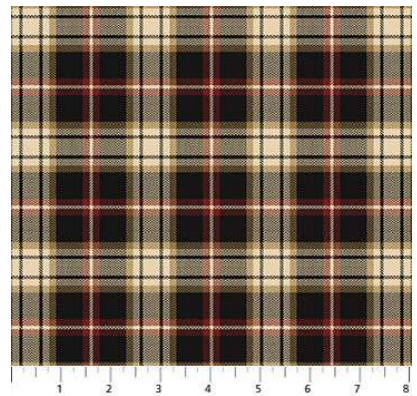
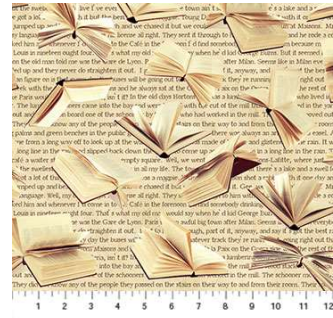
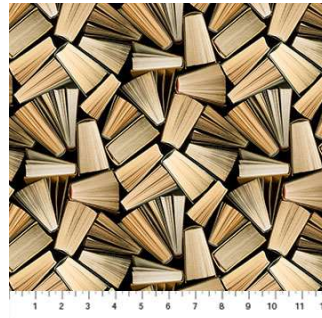
From Hoffman. The new shipment of Bucking Horse & Rider fabric is in. It is hard for me to capture the images because these are custom prints. In addition to the BH&R, we've got Big Horn Sheep, Antelope, Barbed Wire, Bull Riders, Grizzly Bears, Wildlife Paws, Buffalo, Cowboy Boots, and Moose -- all in batiks. The three colors below are in the small print. We also have the BH&R in the large print in the cappuccino and dijon colors, plus a bolt in Saddle (dark brown/cream horse and Palomino (brown with goldish horse)





Dijon

Tea Rose



From Northcott



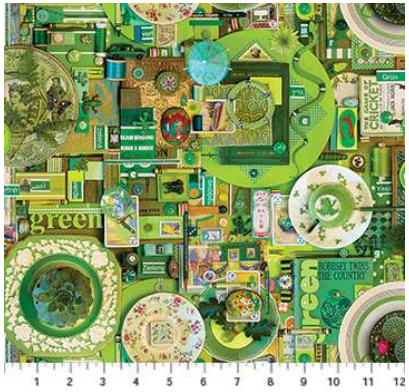


From Riley Blake--Note: These fabrics are bundled in a one yard package. There are 21 pieces, which include 1 each of the six panels. Pictures are representative of what is in the bundle. THERE ARE 15 DIFFERENT FABRICS, PLUS THE 6 PANELS IN THE PACKAGE.

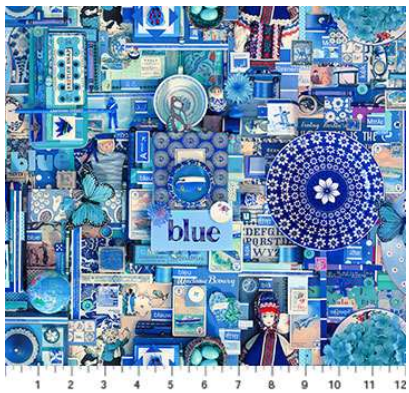
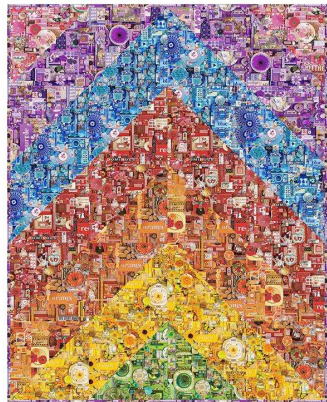
WE HAVE ONLY ONE COLLECTION LEFT AND 2 BUNDLES OF FAT QUARTERS.

**Also have the Elk and Deer panel on the bolt.**

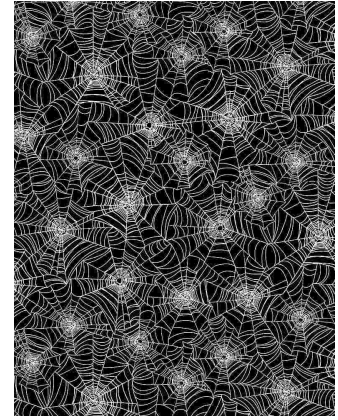




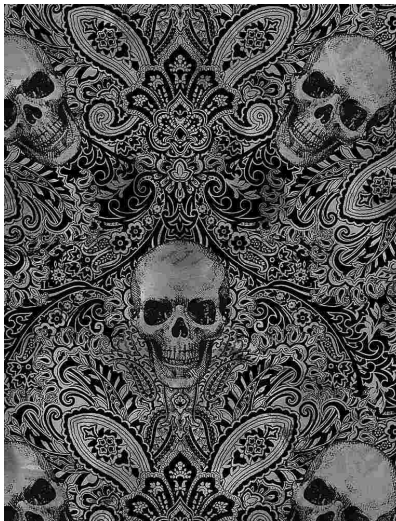
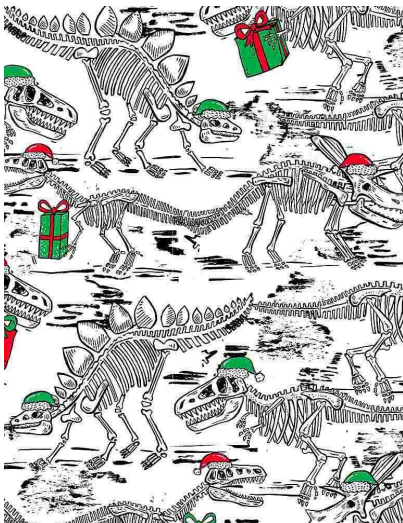
From Northcott







From Timeless Treasures



## July Classes

**Cotton Candy Sat July 30 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer**

Cotton Candy uses the large SideKick Ruler to cut triangles and diamonds. These are sewn into hexies and then sewn together in rows – no inset seams! Choose a color wheel color scheme or just use scraps. There is a lot of piecing in this quilt, but by chain piecing (and we will show you the easy way to do this) you will get this quilt done in no time. If you want a little bit of a challenge this summer, this is the quilt for you!

**Creative Grid Ruler Demo Sat July 9, 1-2 FREE**

**Stripology Geese Ruler.** With this ruler you get slits at  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch intervals, allowing you to cut all sorts of different sized strips.

The ruler can also be used to cut squares from your strips. And you can use it to square up blocks, specifically half square and quarter square triangle blocks. Very versatile. 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.

#### **Make & Take Thurs July 14 1-4 \$30 Barb Boyer Includes kit & pattern**

**Grocery Bag Tote:** We will make an easy and fun grocery tote bag, complete with elastic to roll it up. **SPOILER**

**ALERT: Around the Block will be going bagless this fall.** We are going to move away from offering plastic bags to customers. We will always have some bags, just because and just in case, but we hope you will start bringing in your own reusable bag to this store and others. This grocery tote is approximately the same size and shape as the plastic bags you get at the grocery store. We will provide kits for class; all you need to do is bring your sewing machine.

#### **Patriotic Turning Twenty July 16, 10:30-4 \$30 Barb Boyer**

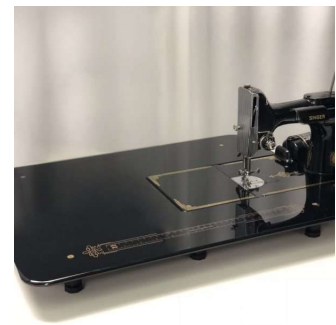
We used 20 red, white and blue fabrics for our quilt, but any 20 fabrics will work. Go Western, Wildlife, Sewing, dogs, flowers – they will all work. This Turning 20 has 2 different blocks and uses a partial seam construction, which is easy to do. It's a quick quilt and you will learn a new skill!

#### **Take Five July 2, 1-5 \$30 Barb Boyer**

It takes 5 minutes to choose 5 fabrics and in 5 hours you have a quilt! Yes, you can do it! It really doesn't take long to find the right fabrics and because the fabrics are stacked on top of each other (only 5 layers) you can cut the pieces you need from each fabric very quickly. I'll show you how to quickly sort your fabrics into the blocks and the a quick & easy chain piecing technique gets your blocks done quickly. It's a fun, easy sew and if you need a quick gift, this is the perfect quilt.

#### **Three Yard Quilt July 23 \$30 Jean Korber**

The ever popular 3-yard quilt keeps your fabric choices easy and your sewing simple. Choose any quilt from the popular books and we will help you get your cutting and sewing going. You are bound to have most of this quilt finished by the time you leave! Great for gifts!



## **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.

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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](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com)

