



April 1, 2023

---

---

In like a lion and out like a lamb. It's March.

But the saying doesn't really have anything to do with the wind and weather. It's about the constellation Leo rising in the east at the start of March and the constellation Aries, the lamb, setting in the west at the end of the month. Nevertheless, we always hope that if it's windy on March 1 that will signal the beginning of the end of winter and that when it's calm on March 31, it will signal the beginning of spring flowers and April rains.

Alas. It was windy on March 1 and now on March 31 I have locked the front door at the shop because it is extra crazy wind. I was afraid my door would get sprung from popping open. In the spring. Get it? Sigh. You know it's windy when you can feel a draft of air through the car as you drive, and you know all the windows are closed tight.

But I don't want to talk about wind and weather. And I don't want to talk about March, which is fast becoming my least favorite month. I want to talk about Aurora Borealis and what could happen tonight. Remember the big hole in the sun I talked about last week? Well....just after I posted, I saw another article that showed pictures of Northern Lights seen as far south as Phoenix, Arizona. Yup. And it had happened about 12 hours earlier, during the wee morning hours on Friday. And I missed it. They were visible from Cheyenne, too.

Well, we've got another chance, if the wind will blow away all the clouds. There is another, actually several, big holes in the sun that have erupted and blown cosmic rays toward us. So tonight, after midnight usually, you might have another chance. Get your aurora apps loaded on your devices and have them send alerts.

In other news, a con artist has finally been arrested in Manhattan. No, not him. This guy, Filippo Bernardini, has been impersonating book publishers and editors and has been stealing unpublished manuscripts from high-profile authors, like Margaret Atwood and Ethan Hawke. He stole them because it made him feel like he was part of the industry. He started in 2016 and he was finally caught in January & sentenced this month.

"Every time an author sent me the manuscript I would feel like I was still part of the industry," he said. "At the time, I did not think about the harm I was causing," he added. "I never wanted to and I never leaked these manuscripts. I wanted to keep them closely to my chest and be one of the fewest to cherish them before anyone else, before they ended up in bookshops."

Because he never leaked any of the manuscripts and because of other extenuating circumstances, he is not being jailed, just being deported to England, where he lives with his partner and dog, and he's being fined \$88,000, the money to be paid to Penguin Random House books.

In other news, did you know there is such a thing as a conch blowing contest? Yup. And the person who won didn't play a tune, like the Jimmy Buffet song "Fins" – the conch had holes in it and the guy, who didn't win,

played it like a flute. Nope the woman who won just blew a long, loud blast and took home the Conch Shell Blowing trophy. Actually, I don't know what she won. Probably another conch shell. She said, "You sorta have to just buzz your lips when you're blowing into it. You have to make a 'pfft' noise with your lips in order to generate the sound." She plays the conch at home to celebrate the sunset. Not unlike the guy around my house who used to play the bagpipes in the evening during the summer around sunset.

And finally, a Wyoming legislative subcommittee has begun work on a proposal to dig a tunnel under the mountains between here and Laramie. This winter has been a true test of keeping I-80 open to traffic during the winter. Snow is one issue, wind is another.

"Colorado put a tunnel through their mountains," Representative Chris Evans said. "It's time, way past time, that we do the same. I know we call part of this road the Lincoln Highway, so we can call the tunnel the Lincoln Tunnel. We can keep commerce moving across the state and save lives in the process."

Evans is optimistic about the tunnel proposal. "I know it will take time," he said. "The Eisenhower Tunnel was started around 1964, with the main construction starting in 1968. It officially opened in 1973 for 2-lane traffic and then fully finished in 1978 and it runs under the continental divide. It's the highest point on the U.S. Interstate system and it's also the longest tunnel. Our tunnel will not be that high or that long," he said, "so the construction shouldn't take the 10 plus years the Eisenhower Tunnel took."

Meetings will get underway in April and then resume in July. Public comments are being taken. "Contact your local legislator," Rep. Evans said. "We welcome all comment."

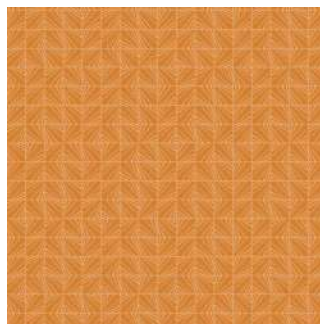
So Happy April Fool's Day. One of the stories above is a spoof. The others are real, unless I've been spoofed. April's Fool's Day is thought to date back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian calendar, thus changing the date of the new year from April 1 to January 1. Those who didn't know about the change were pranked by their friends for not being with the times. The pranks included having paper fish placed (unknowing to the wearer) on their backs and being referred to as a "poisson d'avril" or April fish, meaning a young, easily caught fish and thus a gullible person.

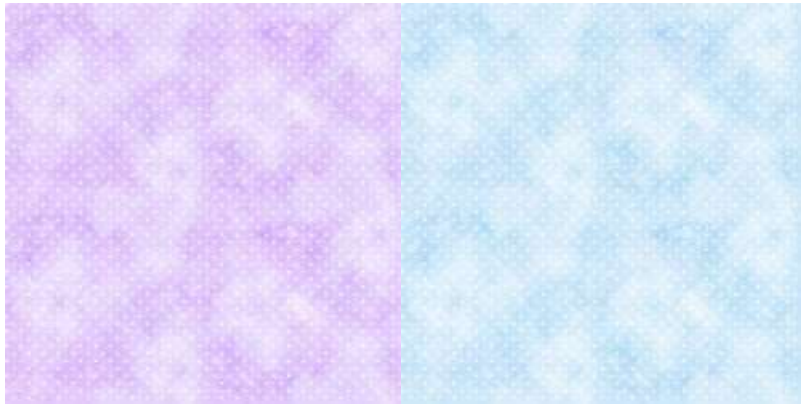
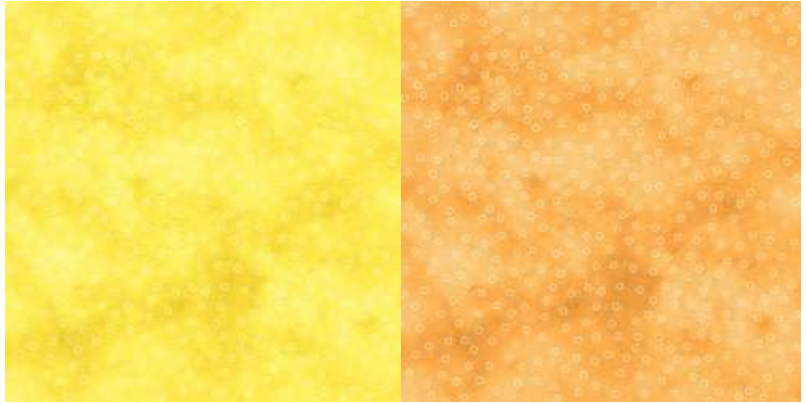
Here's hoping you're not an April Fish. (Answer on which story is a spoof, below, under the last fabric)

---

## What's New

---





From P&B

---



From Clothworks

---

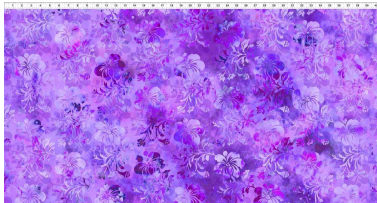




Prism: From In the Beginning  
We have a couple of extra kits  
available. Patterns are subtle in the  
fabrics.

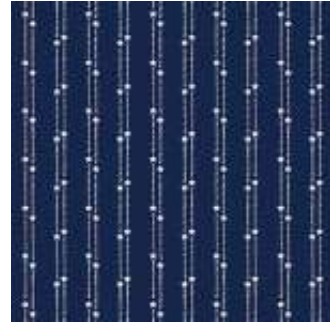
!"





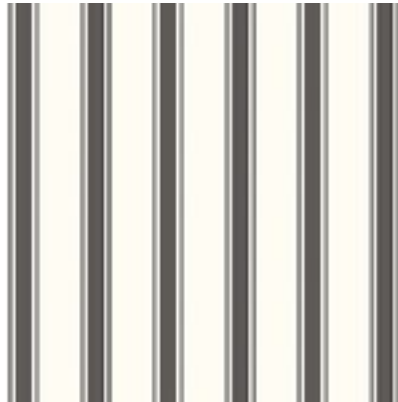
From Michael Miller





From Windham

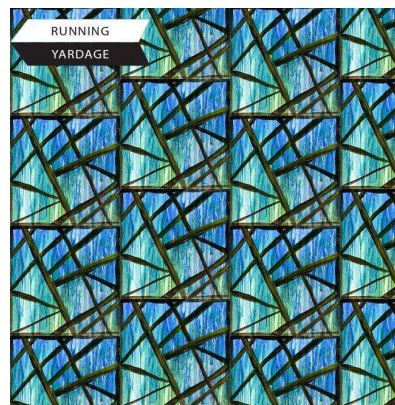
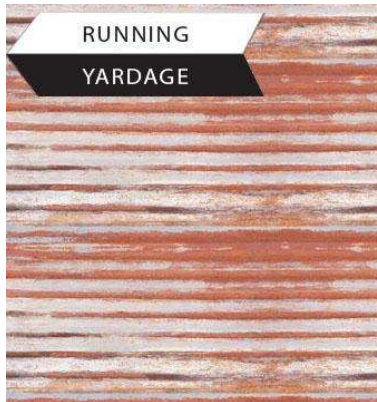




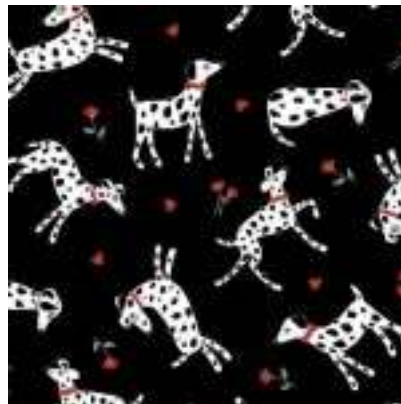
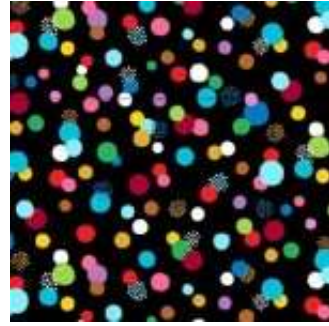




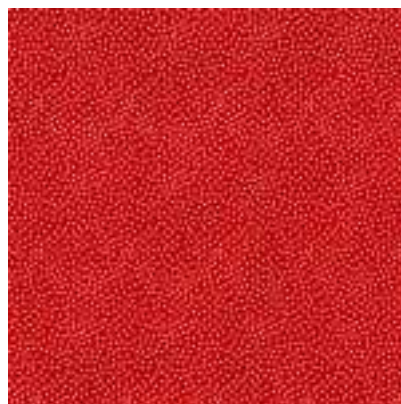
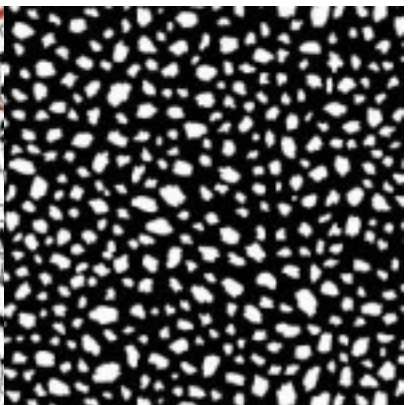
From Northcott

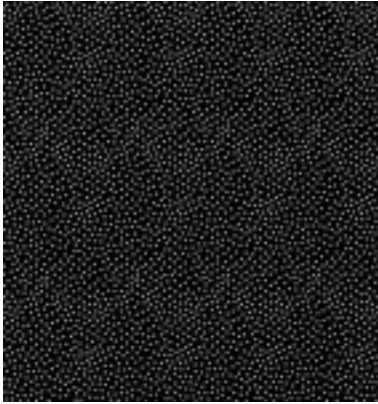




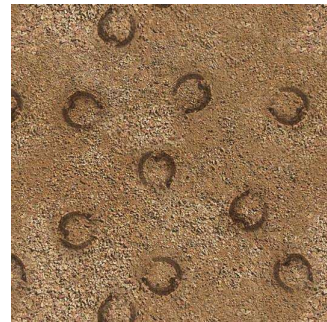


From Michael Miller





From Kennard & Kennard



PANEL SIZE APPROX 24" x 44"







From P & B Textiles (the floral/prints are 108"



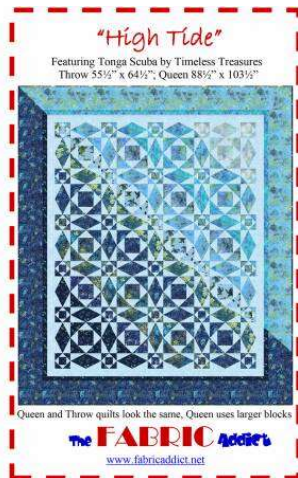
---

We're not building a tunnel. And Chris Evans is an actor. He was proud to play his part in this year's April Fool's story.

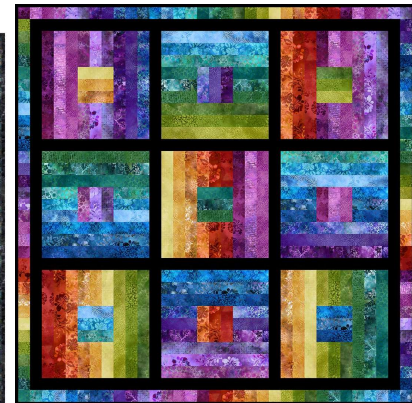
---

## Spring Newsletter

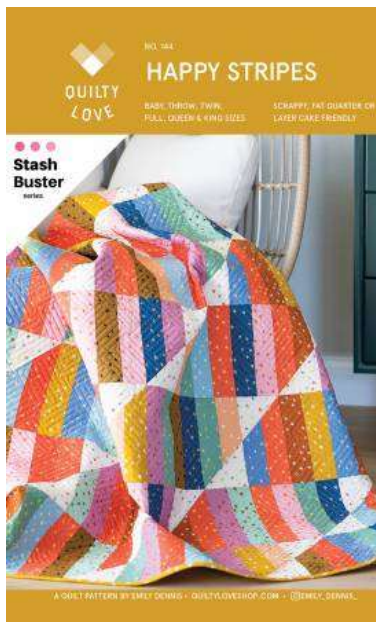




Y



Class Pictures of some of the quilts: Storm at Sea (High Tide); Shakespeare in the park; Two Scoops, Prism; Happy Stripes (Striper); San Marcos, English paper piecing bag (one of several options); Exploding Hearts.



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  
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 Starry Skies. Challenge #1 is to use at least 25

different fabrics in the quilt – should be easy. Challenge #2 is to choose backgrounds for the blocks that aren't the typical cream/white neutrals that we generally use. Instead, we will mix it up a bit, using both traditional backgrounds for some blocks, and then choosing "colors" in both light and dark fabrics for other blocks.

**Hand Embroidery Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, which is Garden Belles. Each block features a lady in vintage costume, in the garden, or similar outdoor setting. These are old fashioned ladies in dresses, which offer all sorts of stitchery creativity.

**Knit Pickers' Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler

Come join our Knit Pickers' Club. We knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, from 2-5. The Club is open to all skill levels and, despite the name, includes crocheters as well. 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. We can even help you get started—teach you the basics.

**Hand Sewing Club** every Tuesday afternoon 2-5

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch.

**Third Monday (usually) Open Sews 10-4 \$10**

The classroom is now open on the third (usually, check calendar) each month for open sewing. There is a charge for the use of the space, but you will have access to the flannel boards, all the cutting tables, AccuCutter, fabric (of course) and help, if you need it. I chose the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday because in January & February, that day is a holiday. If I get enough interest, we can look at having other open sew days.

## April Classes

**Domestic Machine Quilting Sat April 1 1-4 \$40 Barb Boyer**

This is a hands on class. I will provide the practice materials, you will bring your machine. You will need a hopping/darning foot for class. You will also need to be able to drop or cover your feed dogs. If you have a walking foot, you can bring it as well, but it is not necessary for class. In class you will practice various patterns and techniques for machine quilting.

**Prism Strip Quilt Sat April 8 1-5 \$35 Jean Korber or Barb Boyer**

This is the first of the In the Beginning Prism quilts. The class is intended for those who purchased the strip kits from the Prism collection. If you do not have these pre-cut strips, you are still welcome in class, you will just have to choose fabrics for your strips and have them cut prior to class.

**Storm at Sea Sat April 15 10:30-4 \$40 Barb Boyer**

This quilt used to be intimidating—then a ruler was developed and now it's a breeze! We will work with Deb Tucker's ruler for the construction of the block. We will also talk about various color schemes, one of which includes coloring the blocks to make a heart appear within the design.

**San Marco 10:30-4 \$40**

This quilt is made from Northcott's collection called Surfaces. While we have a sample quilted for display, we did not piece it – it's a digitally reproduced image of the quilt. We haven't looked at the pattern yet, but we know that it is paper pieced and it is not constructed in the round, although it looks like it. That means ... it isn't as hard as it looks and it is well suited for beginning paper piecers.

**Quilt #4, CHANGE: TIC-TAC-TOE: Fat Quarter Favorite Quilts Sat April 29 10:30-4 Jean Korber & Barb Boyer \$35 (or \$120 for all 6 quilts)**

The **FOURTH** quilt is called **Tic-Tac-Toe**. We're making our sample from kitty paw fabrics for the background, and then 16 theme related fat quarters in brights. This quilt uses two-at-a-time half square triangles, and modified flying geese constructions for the blocks. Borders are pieced, so the lesson to be learned is how to keep an accurate quarter inch seam allowance in order to get the borders to fit. Don't worry, we'll show you how to "fudge" if something goes wrong.

## May Classes

**One Block Wonder Saturdays May 6 noon-5 & 20 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber**

If you haven't tried making a one block wonder quilt from panels, you are missing out on a spectacular quilt. This quilt uses 7 panels; 6 are cut into triangles and the remaining panel is incorporated intact into the quilt. You will learn how to accurately stack your 6 panels, cut them apart into strips, which are then cut into 6 identical triangles. After piecing your half hexagon units, you will design your own quilt. Jean has great tips and suggestions on how to make this quilt, how to incorporate additional fabrics into your quilt, and how to evaluate what panels make the best One Block Wonder quilts.

**Shakespeare in the Park Sat May 13 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer**

This quilt is made up of stars and Snail's Trail blocks. The pattern is an old time favorite from the legendary Judy Martin. It is a classic quilt, one of those on the bucket list of "to do" quilts.

**Quilt #5, CHANGE: SSEARCHLIGHT: Fat Quarter Favorite Quilts Sat May 27 10:30-4 Jean Korber & Barb Boyer \$35 (or \$120 for all 6 quilts)**

The **fifth** quilt is called **Searchlight**. This quilt takes 15 fat quarters plus background. You'll learn the "square in a square" technique plus a unique way to make pieced corner triangles. It's a speedy version that doesn't involve cutting triangles!

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Hand Work Club FREE!**

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-5, 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).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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 6; February 4 (observed); March 7; April 6; May 5

### **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**

# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Long Arm class 10:30	2 Long Arm Rental Day	3	4 BOM 10:30 Pieced Baltimore Beauty quilt 1-4
5 Beginning Quilt 1-4	6 Hand work Club 2-5 Full moon	7	8 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	9 Long Arm Rental Day	10	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon Happy Stripes 1-5 \$35
12 Beginning Quilt 1-4	13 Hand work Club 2-5	14	15 Long Arm class 10:30	16 Long Arm Rental Day	17	18 National Quilt Day Demos TBA

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>	<b>Open Sew 10-4 \$10</b>	<b>Hand work Club 2-5</b>	<b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-5</b>	<b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>		<b>6 fat quarter quilts: Quilt #3 10:30-4 \$35</b>
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>		<b>Hand work Club 2-5</b>	<b>Long Arm class 10:30</b>	<b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>		<b>Color of the month: green</b>



# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 Domestic Machine Quilting \$40 1-4
2 CLOSED	3 Hand work Club 2-5	4	5 Long Arm class 10:30	6 Long Arm Rental Day Full moon	7	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Prism strip Quilt 1-5 \$35
9 CLOSED	10 Hand work Club 2-5	11	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2- 5	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Storm at Sea 10:30- 4 \$40

16 CLOSED	17 <b>Open Sew 10-4 \$10</b>	18 Hand work Club 2-5	19 Long Arm class 10:30	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21 San Marco 10:30-4 \$40	22
23 CLOSED	24 Hand work Club 2-5	25 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	26 Long Arm Rental Day	27	28 6 fat quarter quilts: Quilt #4 10:30-4 \$35	29
30 CLOSED					Color of the month: yellow	

# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day	Full moon	BOM 10:30 One Block Wonder noon-5 \$45
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CLOSED		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Embroidery Club 10-noon Shakespeare in the Park 1-5 \$35
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CLOSED Mom's Day		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		One Block Wonder 10:30-4



21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day	6 fat quarter quilts: Quilt #5 10:30-4 \$35	
28	29	30	31			
Shop Is now open 1-5!	Open Sew 10-4 \$10	Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30		Color of the month: whites	



## 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.

---

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)

