



December 7, 2018

"You're not getting a cow for Christmas."

Obviously, I'm talking to Becca, my mini Australian Shepherd. She's been watching the late night shows again. I think she's sleeping in the bedroom, but she's secretly keeping an eye on the news. At least the news that's fit to print. Anyway, she learned recently that there was this black & white cow that stood 6 feet, 4 inches, and she decided she wanted one.

"Why not?" she asked me. "You've had cows before. Those cows were little and escaped through the fence. This one wouldn't fit through any holes in your fence. It's too big."

"No, it could just walk over my fences," I told her.

She's right about the fences and the cows. Some friends bought some oreo cookie calves (Belted Galloways) and stored them in my pasture for a brief time. I remember warning them about a gap in the fence they were putting up, but they assured me they knew what they were doing. So I left to go shopping. When I got home later in the evening, I heard these plaintive moos coming from the neighborhood, but not necessarily my pasture. So I went out back to look. The largest calf (T-Bone) was bawling because all of his friends had escaped. I spotted my neighbor driving a small group of them down the road toward my place. And I don't know where the others wound up. But it wasn't my problem. I called the guys and told them they needed to round up their herd. For my troubles in all of this, I got to keep one, Chuck.

But, back to Becca, "Why do you want a cow, anyway?" I asked, though I knew better.

"So I can get over the fence."

"Wouldn't it be easier just to buy a...." I stopped before I could give her any ideas. Instead I asked, "And how would you get on top of the cow in the first place."

"Actually, it's not a cow, it's a steer," she said. "And I would use a ladder."

"Why not just use the....." Again, I stopped. She's a little too clever for her own good and if she can't get a cow, she might start figuring out ways to build a ladder out of the old hay bales in the back yard.

"Becca, you're not a circus dog. You'd fall off the back of a 6 foot cow."

"Six foot, 4 inches. Steer. A Holstein Friesian steer. Its name is Knickers. He's as tall as Abraham Lincoln and he weighs as much as a mini Cooper car. And he lives in Australia."

She's right about that, too. This steer was originally brought into the herd to act as a "coach" or lead steer to guide other cattle around. His owner said, "You'll put him in a paddock and all the other cattle seem to get attracted to him," he said.



"Whenever he wants to get up and start walking, there's a trail of hundreds of cattle following him. We all know when Knickers is on the move."

"I bet you don't know how he got his name," Becca said slyly. "Wait, I'll tell you," she hurried on before I could answer. "When Knickers first arrived, he made friends with a Brahman steer named...wait for it....Bra. So the owner named the new kid Knickers." Becca snorted.

"Becca you don't even know what knickers are," I said exasperatedly.

"Yes I do." "No you don't." "Yes I do." "Okay, what are they." Becca changed the subject.

"The reason why the owner still has Knickers is because he grew too big to fit through the processing facility," she said. "Do I want to know what a processing facility is?" she asked. "Was he trying to immigrate to the U.S."

and couldn't fit through the gate? I'm from Australia, too. Did I have to fit through a processing plant to get here?"

Time for me to change the subject.

"What else do you want for Christmas, Becca?"

"Wait right here," she said over her shoulder as she ran off. "I'll get my list."

This could take awhile. She's seen the Chewy.com ads on tv and wants one of everything.

Christmas Mystery Quilt 2018!

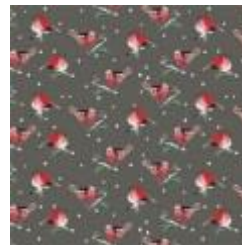
Here's how it will work: First piece of the pattern, pick up starting Monday, Nov. 26.
Second part: Monday Dec. 3
Third part: Monday Dec. 10
Last part: Monday Dec. 17

WE have one red/green kit left.

Quilt size is 64" X 76". Cost of the kit is \$80. Right now, the pattern will only be available if you buy a kit. However, if you want to try different colors from what I have kitted, I can help you choose the correct colors for the pattern. Just let me know.

WHAT'S NEW!!

From Camelot:



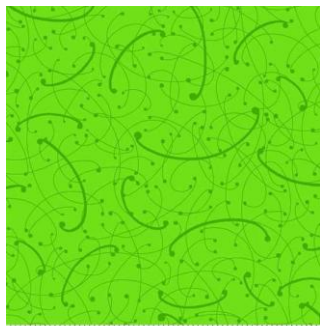


From Timeless:



From P & B:

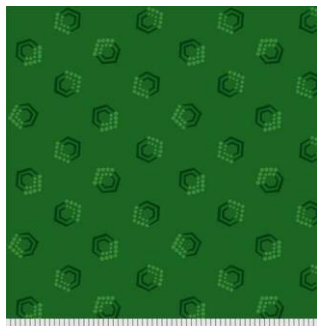




INCH 1 2 3 4
www.pbtext.com ESS4 681 G



INCH 1 2 3 4
www.pbtext.com ESS4 681 R



INCH 1 2 3 4
www.pbtext.com ESS4 679 G



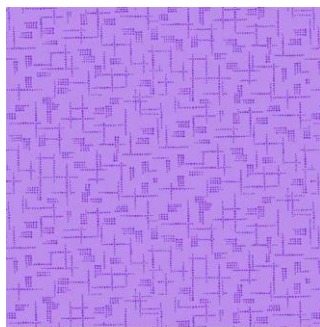
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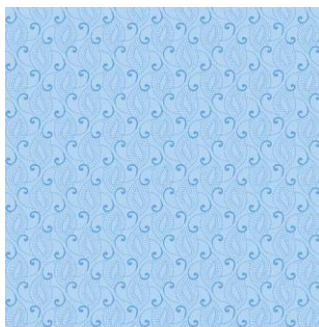
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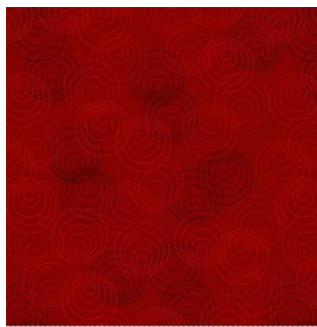
INCH 1 2 3 4
www.pbtext.com ESS4 676 P



INCH 1 2 3 4
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INCH 1 2 3 4
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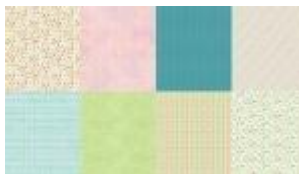


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From Hoffman:

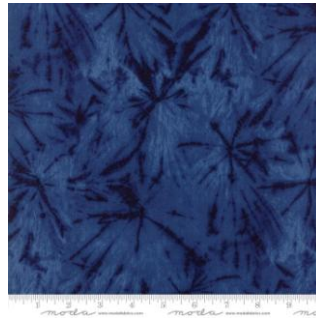
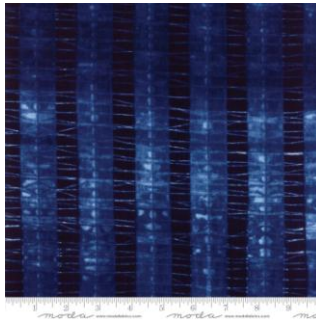


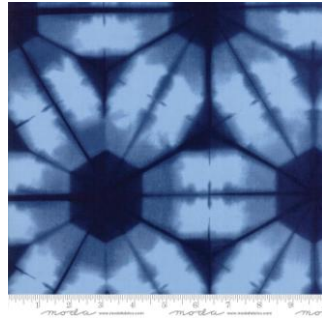
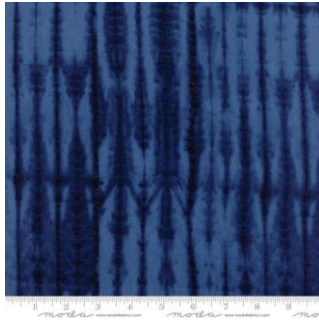
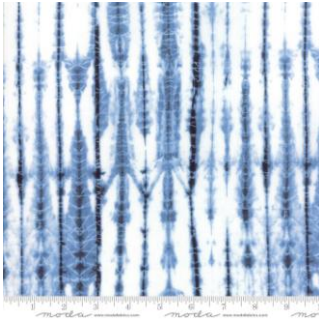
overwide





From Moda:

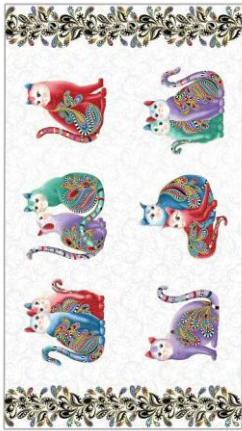




From Benartex:



Section measures approx. 15" x 15"

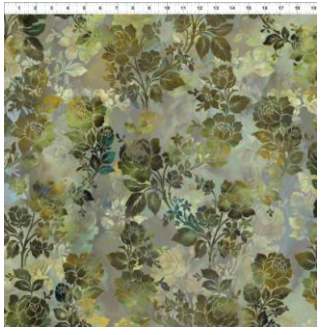
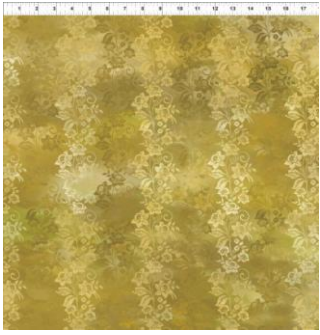
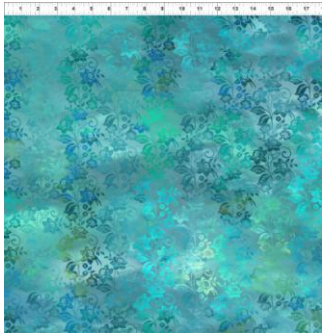
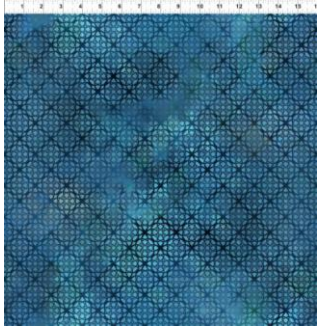


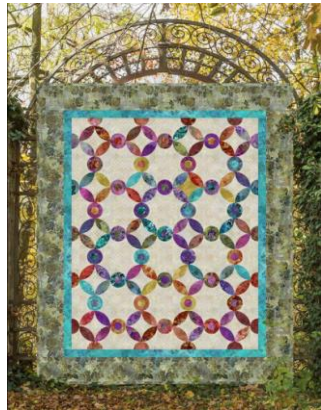
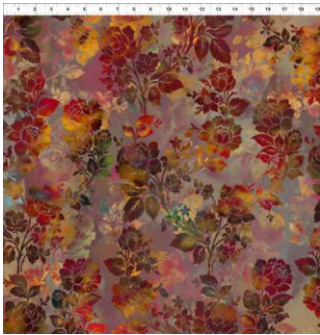
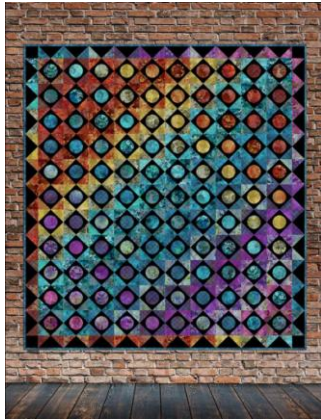
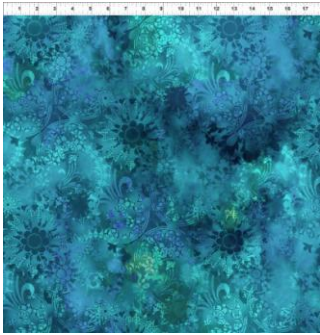
ONE FULL REPEAT MEASURES APPROX. 24" X 43"
(INCLUDES 6 CATS FOR FUSSY CUTTING)



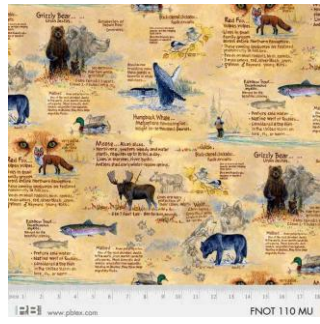
PANEL MEASURES APPROX 24" X 43"

From In the Beginning: Don't wait too long if you want this fabric. Limited amounts remain on the following bolts. I am checking to see if I can reorder.

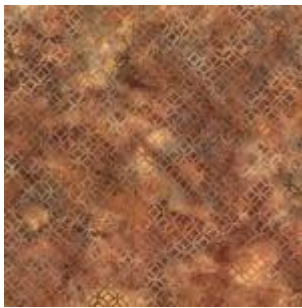
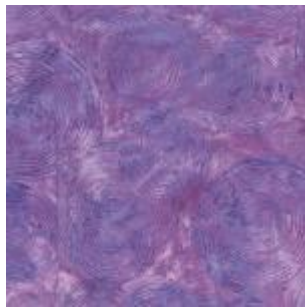


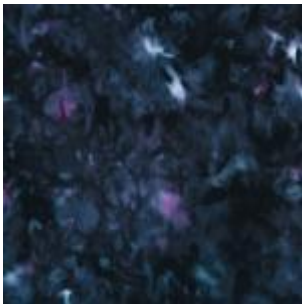
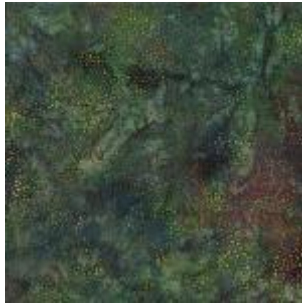
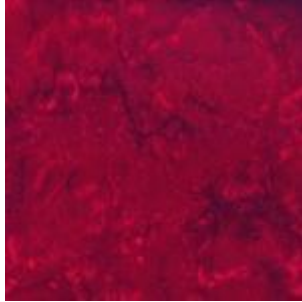


From P & B:



From Hoffman:





And 2 more, one light
& one dark

From Alexander Henry:

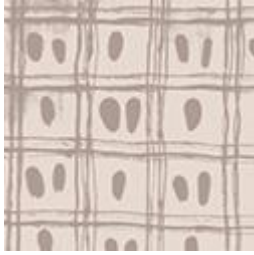


From Free Spirit:

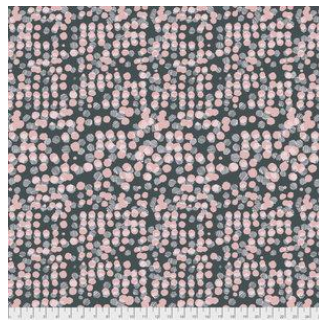
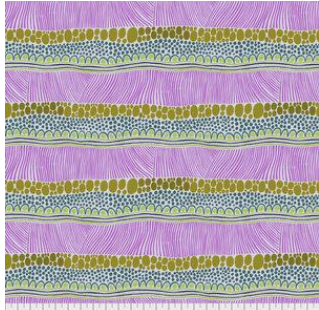
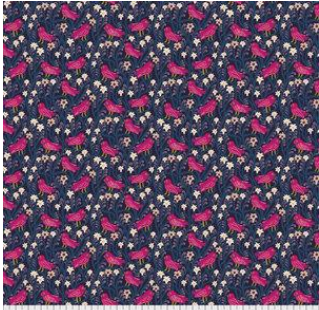


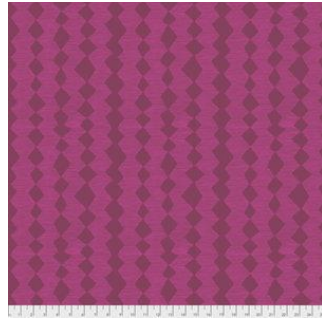
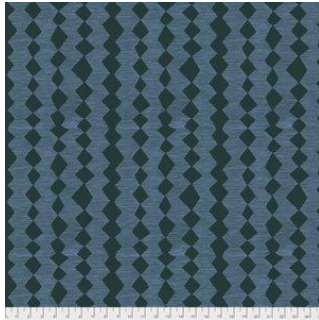
From Windham: Art History





From Free Spirit:





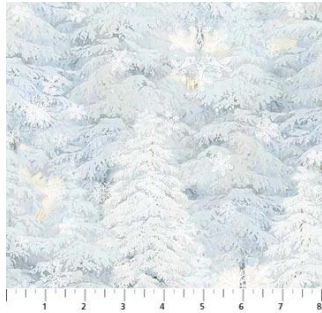
From Hoffman:



From Northcott:



All flannel



From Henry Glass:

From 3 wishes:





yes we do have this one. It was misshelved and I thought we had sold it out.



SIGN UP FOR LONG ARM QUILTING CLASSES TODAY!

Classes are on Wednesdays and some Saturdays: 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30, or 6-8:30. Check the calendar for dates. Only 4 to a class.

Rentals have started for those who have taken the class. Tuesdays and Fridays, and a couple of Saturday and Sunday rentals. Check the calendar for rentals. Generally, there are 2 rentals times per day: 10:30-2 and 2:30-6. \$25/hr or \$85 for 3 1/2 hours. \$50 minimum. Plus \$5/bobbin for thread. Most quilts (double and smaller), even for beginners, will take about 2 1/2-3 hours. We will discuss what you plan to do on your quilt and will help you estimate how long it will take.

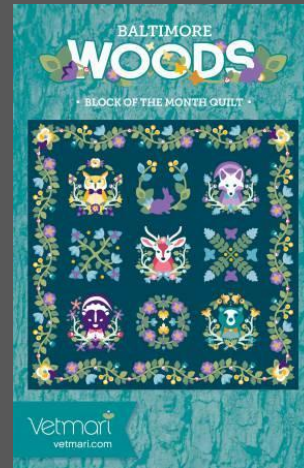
Class descriptions follow the calendar, so keep scrolling. Classes are listed alphabetically.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month Christmas						1 BOM 10:30 Baltimore Woods 1-4 Toy Bags 4-6 Finish Your Quilt Sale
2 CLOSED	3 Market Tote Bag 1-4	4 Christmas Triangle Frenzy 1-4 Long arm rental day	5 Machine Applique 1-4 OR 6-9	6 Origami Bags 10:30-1:30 Toy Bags 2-5	7 Long arm rental day	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Story Quilt 1-6
9 Panels Are Fun! 1-5	10 Hello Pouches 10:30-3	11 Long arm rental day	12 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	13 Origami Bags 10:30-1:30 Toy Bags 2-5	14 Long arm rental day	15 Hello Pouches Bags 1-5
16 Pillow Case Party 1-4	17	18 Long arm rental day	19 Take 5 for Christmas 10:30-5	20	21 Long arm rental day	22 Full Moon
23	24 Close at 2	25 CLOSED	26	27	28 Customer Appreciation Sale Toad Toters Only 3-7	29 Customer Appreciation Sale 10-6
30 Closed for inventory	31 Closed for Inventory					

1st Saturday of the month through Dec 1-4 \$25 Sue Frerich.

This Baltimore album inspired quilt features adorable woodland creatures including an owl, fox, deer, skunk and bear along with a modern take on some traditional Baltimore blocks. These blocks are fused and machine appliqued in place. We have the background fabric in stock-don't wait too long if you want it.



**Beginning Machine Applique Thurs Dec 5,
1-4 OR 6-9 \$25 Barb Boyer**

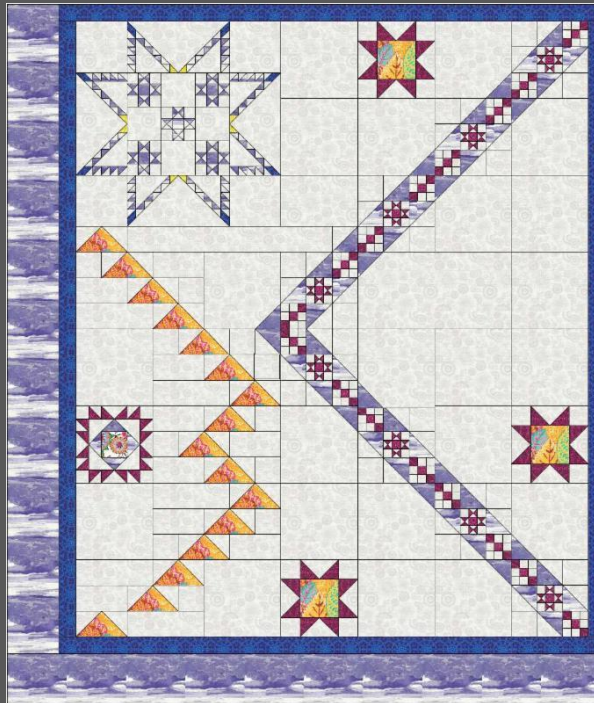
So many quilts use applique these days. Learn the ins and outs of machine applique, from points to curves. We will practice the button hole/blanket stitch, satin stitch, and you can also play around with your decorative stitches. Threads, fusibles and stabilizers will be discussed.

Beginning Machine Quilting Thurs Nov 29, 1-4 OR 6-9 \$25 Sue Frerich

Be prepared to quilt! You will practice your quilting skills on various samples, using both your walking foot and darning foot. Batting, threads, needles and patterns will be discussed. Who knows? By the time you leave you may even be able to write/quilt your name!

**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 we're making a "modern" quilt. Something new, something different. I will provide some other options as we explore the modern quilt world.



Christmas Triangle Frenzy table runner Thur Dec 1-4 Barb Boyer \$20

Make a Christmas table runner using the 60 degree triangle and a yard of fabric (border stripe). Or get a jump on the next holiday and make an Easter/spring table runner. Or make both!. These table runners are easy to cut & sew, and if you haven't made one yet it's time to add triangle sewing to your skill set.

Hand Applique/Back Basting TBA Sandra Freeburg, 10-noon \$25 or call for dates

Back basting is a template free method of needle turn applique. No slippery freezer paper or chalked lines on top that never seem to get turned under quite right. This method is especially great for traveling, because your pieces will be basted onto your background -- no need for pins to get in the way. This class is great for beginners and all levels of appliquers. Don't let hand applique frustrate you. It's really easy and relaxing!

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd 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. This year we are following a purchased pattern called My Crazy Life. It is wool appliques on flannel backgrounds. Then we will explore a variety of embroidery stitches to embellish each block-4 six inch blocks per month (or whatever you choose to do), for a total of 48 blocks. Each month Kathy Sconce shows us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques. We will also discuss wool, felted wool, wool felt, various threads for embroidery, various techniques for the wool applique and setting options for the quilt.

Hand Quilting Oct. 17, 10-noon Sandra Freeburg \$25 Watch the calendar or call for other dates

Hand quilting is an art that should not be lost. By the end of Sandra's class you will be hand quilting with confidence. Everyone has at least one special quilt that calls out for hand quilting. And there is nothing better than the feel of a hand quilted quilt. Do yourself a favor and learn this art that connects us to our past -- our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

Hello Pouches Mon Dec 10 10:30-3 OR Sat Dec 15 1-5 Sue Frerich \$20

Bags and bags and bags. This little zippered pouch has clear vinyl on the top for a see-through look and a quilted base for stability. With the see-through vinyl top you can say "hello" to all your treasured trinkets. Pattern includes instructions to make all four sizes.



Knit Pickers' Club 2nd Wed of each month, 6-8:30 Carol Moler

Every second Thursday, we're getting together to practice our knitting. 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're currently working on some felting projects, but we're planning on heading into fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. 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.

Long Arm Quilting Classes Wednesdays from 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 or 6-8:30 Barb Boyer \$30 (check calendar for specific times & dates)

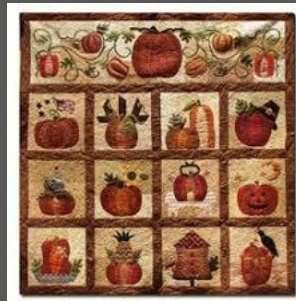
In this class you will learn all about the Nolting long arm quilting machines: loading, threading, quilting. I'll demonstrate how to load and thread, set stitch length, change tension, wind and load bobbins. Then I will load a practice quilt onto the machine and show how to do hand guided quilting. Each student will be given at least 15-20 minutes of practice time. (Each class is limited to 4 students). You will be able to do free hand quilting plus you can practice following a pantograph. Any quilter who wants to rent to machines must take this class first, regardless of whether you have experience on a long arm machine. This class is not designed to teach you everything there is to know about long arm quilting-it's just a start.

Market Tote Bag Dec 3 1-4 Barb Boyer \$20

Bags and bags and bags. This bag is layered, made from fat quarters. It's simple (if I'm teaching a bag, it's gotta be simple), strong, and you'll want to make several so you can take them to the grocery store. I need to be more eco conscious and I plan to make several to keep in my car so that I have no excuses.

Monthly Minis First Month, 4-6

This year we are going to do Quilt, a purchased pattern. It will start in February because year's Holiday Houses in February we will work quilt. We will plan to do 2 the top banner section over we will discuss use of color in pumpkins. We will also various machine applique the blocks.



Saturday of the

the Great Pumpkin

we are still finishing last January. Start on the Great Pumpkin blocks a month, and do two months. In class the backgrounds and discuss and learn techniques to use on

One Block Wonder Panel Quilt Start preparing

now! Sue Frerich

For all of you who missed the class before, you don't want to miss this class-we will have a reunion in January for everyone who has taken the class. So get your quilts done and to the shop by mid January so we can display them. Next classes will start in February. Start choosing your panels for your next One Quilt.



Block Wonder Panel

Origami Bags Dec. 6 OR Dec 13 Barb Boyer \$20

Bags and bags and bags. The origami bag is a folded bag with a draw string closure. It has pockets on the front and can be embellished with button for closures. The bag is the perfect size for carrying your sock knitting, embroidery projects, wallet, book, cosmetics, you name it. It's a perfect little gift bag.

Panels are Fun! Thur Dec 9 1-4 Barb Boyer \$20

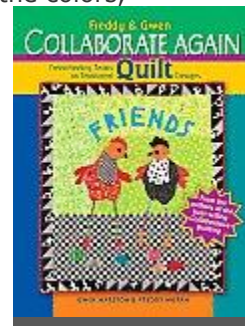
Panels are tricky because they are not always straight. But there are wonderful ways to use panels in very creative ways. In class, we will sew a Christmas panel by putting on simple borders and then I'll show you how to light it up-put twinkly lights in it. We will also explore other ways to use panels, so bring any other panel you have and we'll discuss how you can turn your panels into a quilt or wall hanging.

Pillow Case Party Sun. Dec. 16 1-4 FREE

If you've never made a pillow case, or just want some time to sew a pillow case, this class is for you. This is a great mother/daughter styled class and pillow cases make great presents!

Pot luck 2nd Sat/month 1-6 Ginger Newman \$25 or two for the price of 1(bring a friend)

Collaborate with a friend and discover true freedom to create your own quilt that is beautifully unique. You and your friend will collaborate on the colors, blocks and settings for your quilts. You will share blocks, share fabric and share ideas. But you will make and design your own quilt. The blocks are taken from Gwen Marston and FreddyMoran's Collaborative Quilting books. Each month we will teach a new block, plan a new row, try a new design. It's collaborative and you will have a quilt with its own unique voice and story to tell. This is the first in a series of freeform/collaborative quilts we want to pursue this fall and spring. Join the fun and let your imagination run wild.



Spoon Quilting TBA Sandra Freeburg \$25 Watch the calendar or call for dates

No more sore fingers! Learn to Spoon Quilt, with a special spoon quilting tool. This tool helps you keep your stitches tiny and even without pricking your finger. Need to have basic quilting skills (rocking motion quilting).

Take 5 Quilt, Wed Dec 19 10:30-5 Barb Boyer \$20

In 5 minutes you can find 5 fabrics and in 5 hours you will have a quilt. You can do it, but most people take a little longer. This is a quick & easy quilt. It's great for a kid's quilt, a dorm quilt, or just a quilt to showcase big and bold prints. Come sew all and see how far you get!



Toy Bags Sat Dec 1, 4-6 OR Thurs. Dec 6, 2-5 OR Thurs Dec 13 2-5 Ginger Newman \$20

Bags and bags and bags. Make these reusable toy/gift bags for quick wrapped presents. You can make them any size, even large enough to fit a quilt! These are fast sewn, quickly done, so you can make bunches for Christmas.



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.



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.

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB

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. We use printed patterns and some vintage free patterns that you can embroider, embellish and color. Depending on the projects, each month Kathy Sconce shows

us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques.

Knit Pickin' Club

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).

Toad Toters

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: Sept. 24, Oct. 24, Nov. 23, Dec. 23

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

September orange, October Halloween, November red, December Christmas

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