

End of Year 40% off Sale
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
BECAUSE THE RULES HAVE CHANGED

Great News! We will still have our end of year sale, **but things will be different. There will be rules and restricted access and tickets to get in.** Please read carefully, because I will abide by the rules I have set. This is the only way I can feel comfortable about holding the year end sale. My choices were trying to figure out how to limit traffic, cancel entirely or hold the sale in July. And I didn't want to cancel or wait until July.

Because of the restricted access to the sale, I am holding the sale for a two week period, rather than just a day and a half, so that everyone who wants to come will have an opportunity. And you get to choose your sale date(s).

Part One:

Between December 7-19 you must buy one item from the store to get your Wyoming Wind Express Ticket. This ticket will get you into the year end sale on your chosen date and time. I will have time slots from 10-1 and 1-4 each day, 8 customers per slot. (More about this below)

For the sale, I will restrict the number of customers in the store at any one time. And I will restrict how long you can spend in the store (don't worry, you can get up to 3 hours, should be plenty of time). If you want to come on several different days, you can get additional tickets, but....you have to **come back** to the store between December 7-19 and buy something else. Two different sales for 2 different tickets.

Sound complicated? Not really. For each sale between Dec 7-19 you can get a ticket. You get to select your time and date to come for the year end sale. This means, you need to know what day you want to come for the big sale. If you are eager to be first (on Dec. 20 if you are a Toad Toter) then be sure to be here on Dec. 7 to get your ticket and time slot. The first 12 to sign up will also receive a small gift. If you have to change your date after you have chosen it, that's okay. Just call and I'll let you know what other times and dates are available.

Part Two:

If you are a Toad Toter or if you have a Keep Smiling (covid) t-shirt, your sale dates are between December 20-23.

For everyone else, including Toad Toters, the sale will be between December 26-31.

General Notes:

If you are a Toad Toter, you must **either wear or bring your tote bag with you to the sale and bring your ticket.** When you pick up the ticket, if you tell me you have a tote bag or t-shirt that's all I need in

order to assign you a time & date. But in order to get into the store for the 40% off sale during Dec 20-23, you **MUST** have your tote bag or wear your t-shirt and have your ticket.

If you are not a Toad Toter, your sale will start on December 26. **You must bring your ticket with you on your chosen date and time in order to get the 40% sale price.**

I am not advertising this sale in the Traders in order to keep the general traffic down. I will allow other customers into the store (but they can't buy at sale prices without a ticket), so long as there are no more than 8 people in the store at one time. Keep that in mind-if you intend to bring family, they must have a ticket unless there are not more than 8 in the store at one time. If you want to guarantee that family or friends can get in with you, make sure they buy something between Dec 7-19 and get a ticket and assigned to your same time slot.

The only way to get the 40% sale price is to have a ticket. If you want to shop more than one day, you need additional tickets.

You must wear a mask.

Please use hand sanitizer both before you enter the shop and when you leave-carry your own supply in the car.

Please stay 6 feet from other customers in the store as much as you can. We have tight aisles so please be patient and try to stay distanced.

Please don't come to the store if you believe you have been exposed to covid-19, have been to any gatherings that are larger than they should be, or if you have traveled during the Christmas holidays.

And I will apologize for being so rigid, but this disease is spreading rapidly and easily and I don't want this sale to contribute to the escalation. I want you to feel safe in the store and I want you to have a good time. And I also want to protect my staff.

I love this year end sale because I get to see a lot of happy, creative people having fun. So I hope I still get to see all of you, but just over a longer period of time.

Thanks for being understanding.



December 11, 2020

I succumbed. I usually don't go in for the hype. But who could pass up the thrill of perfect home made crispy French fries from a frozen box?

So I bought an airfryer. But not just any air fryer. I bought a duo crisper Instant Pot 8 quart air fryer. It's the Go Big or Go Home option. You can air fry and pressure cook, although not at the same time. Give me a break. They were on sale.

Day one of the adventure: Get the sucker into my car (things are delivered to the shop), roll it out into my wheelbarrow when I get home, and haul it to the house. It's a bit heavy. I decide it can rest on the kitchen floor for a day.

Day two: Get it out of the shipping box. Get it out of the container box. Don't forget to look inside the pot. It's a bit like a Russian nesting doll, things inside other things. Or the gibblets inside the turkey. You don't want to plug anything in until you've turned the thing inside out.

Day three: Wash everything. Okay that wasn't so hard. Maybe I can use it tonight....? Oh, read the instructions.

Day four: I have never had an appliance, or anything with a cord for that matter, that has 6 pages of IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS. 53 separate instructions, and then following that in all caps: SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS followed by 3 more warnings. And then there were 3 pages of Troubleshooting - and they left off one item, which I'll get to.

Day five: I'm through the first booklet of instructions, warnings, safeguards, and how to call 911. I'm ready to cook. On to booklet 2. Page 1-4, all the parts are explained. Next up, how to open & close the lid. Okay. Onto how to remove the seal, with the last instruction telling me the sealing ring must be installed before use. Same with removing and installing the float valve, the anti-block shield, the steam release valve, the inner pot and the condensation collector. I finally figure out the instructions are just teaching me and encouraging me to do all of this before I even use it. Okay.

Day six: BTW, I bought the fries a week ago in anticipation of cooking them the first night. Now I finally get to do an initial test run on the Instant Pot, the pressure cooking part. 1) Fill the pot with water, 2) plug it in, 3) put the lid on and turn until it jingles, 4) select pressure cook from the Smart Program on the cooker, 6) adjust the time to 00.05 minutes, 7) "Float valve rises when cooker has pressurized."

So I'm now standing in front of the pressure cooker, waiting for it to cook water and wonder how long will this take, because nothing seems to be happening. I go back to the instruction book and find an additional sentence for instruction #6 (bad graphic placement, because after the sentence that said adjust cook time to 00.05 minutes, there should have been a comma and the words "Press Start." Simple. Instead that instruction is in a different column above a picture of the pot.)

So I press start. Sometime later, the water has cooked, I've released the steam and the last instructions say, "Discard Water. Start cooking!"

Day seven: I'm going to air fry frozen clams. I need more sustenance than fries. So I internet search, get approximate times, put all the pieces together for air frying, stick the clams strips in the cooker, press start and go sit down. 16 minutes later I have burned the strips. I try again. 8 minutes later I have dinner. It reminded me of the story my dad used to tell about the first microwave oven he bought for my mom: "You can cook one hot dog in 1 minute, 2 dogs in 2 minutes, 3 dogs in 3 minutes and if you cook 4 dogs in 4 minutes you burn 'em, all." He was so proud of that microwave.

Now if you're wondering, did I ever fry my frozen French Fries? Well, yes I did.

Day 1 of French Fries: Put all the newly washed pieces back together. Stick fryer pot into Instant Pot. Put in fries. Put on lid. Adjust time. Press start. And the whole sucker lit up like a Christmas tree. Every possible light was blinking at me and making noise. So I unplugged and started troubleshooting. I reread the manual, all 3 pages of trouble shooting and all 53 safeguard instructions. Nothing. I hunted on the internet. Nothing. So I did what people do in these situations. Try it again. And again. And again. "The definition of insanity [stupidity] is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." So I gave up & put the fries back in the freezer.

Later that evening. I was in the kitchen cleaning up and decided to get everything back together to save some space. So I put the inner pot back into the Instant Pot. Then put the air fryer pot inside that and it dawned on me. When I had tried to do the French Fries, I hadn't put the inner pot into the pot.

Day 2 of French Fries: Put all the newly washed pieces back together. Stick inner pot into the Instant pot. Stick the fryer pot into inner pot. Put in fries. Put on lid. Adjust time. Press start. Krispy Fries for dinner!

Ask me later how the rice went.....

Pillow Case Party Saturday 1-4

Making last minute Christmas gifts? We have specially cut Christmas fabrics for Christmas pillow cases. If you've never made a pillow case, now is the time to learn. It's easy, and you can whip up easy gifts in under an hour. Plus the pillow cases can double "sacks" for gifts: Each person gets a pillow case filled like Santa's bag with gifts! You can also coordinate your gifts with the theme of the bag: A cat pillow filled with cat toys; a Grinch pillow case with Dr. Seuss books inside. A fly fishing pillow filled with fly fishing gifts. Get the idea?

Anyway, come tomorrow afternoon and learn the simple way to make perfect pillow cases every time.

WHAT'S NEW!!

From Windham:



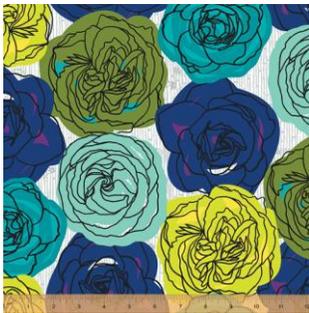
wide back



fat quarter bundle of Marsha Derse's collection



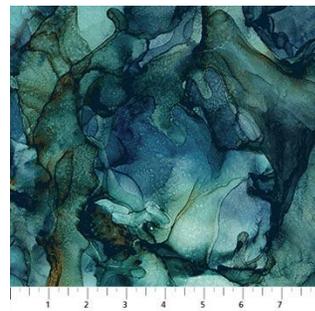
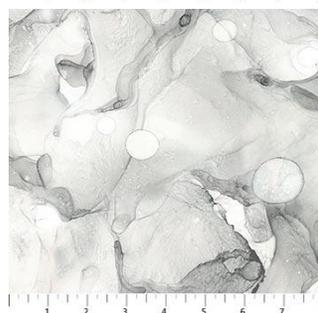
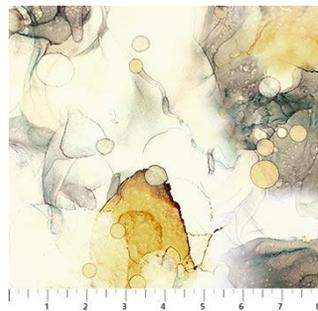
we've already put it on a quilt as a border. Come in & see!



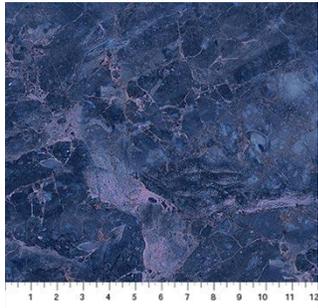
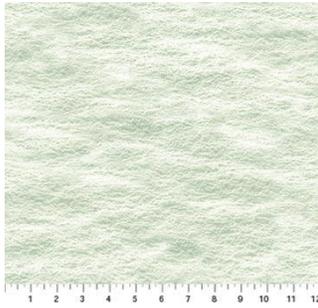
From Northcott:



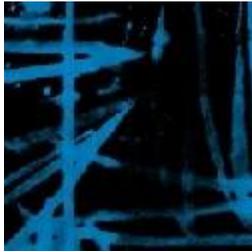
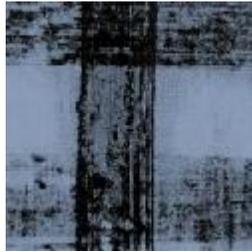
44/45" and 108"



From Northcott:



From Windham:



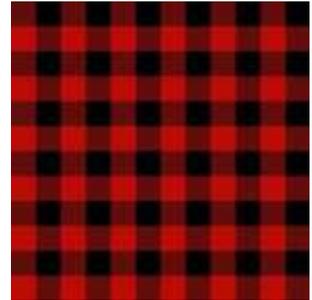
From Henry Glass:



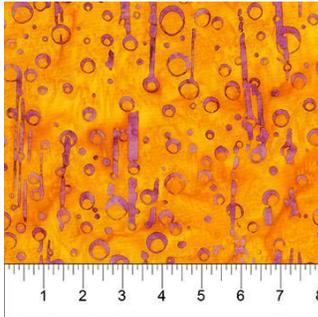
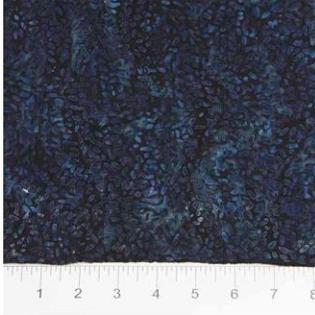
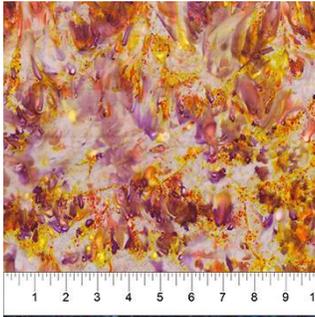
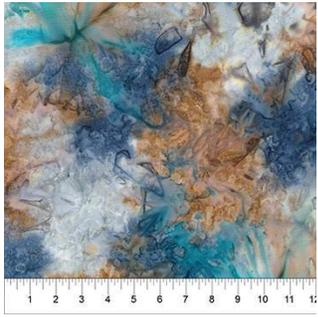
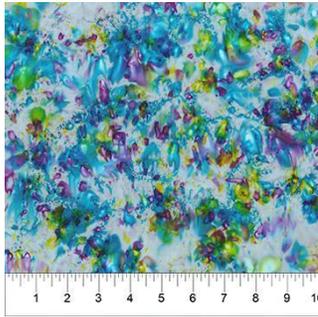
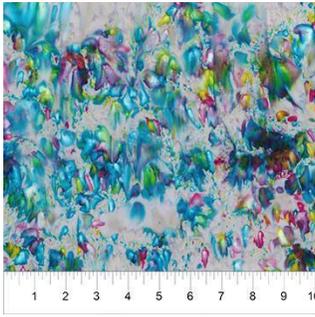
flat & flannel



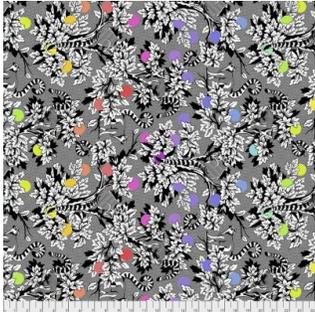
flannel



From Northcott:



From Tula Pink:





wideback

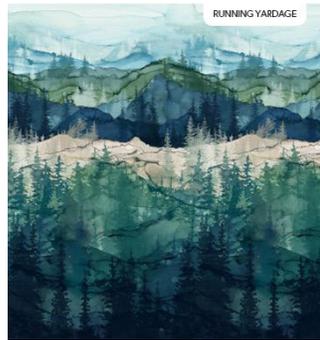


One Daybreak kit

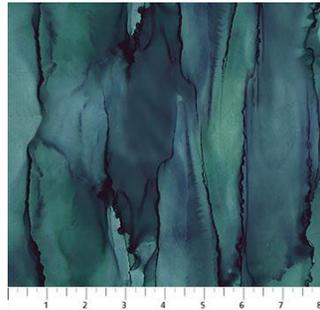
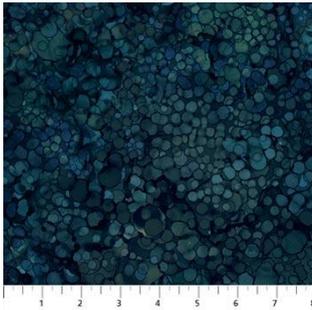
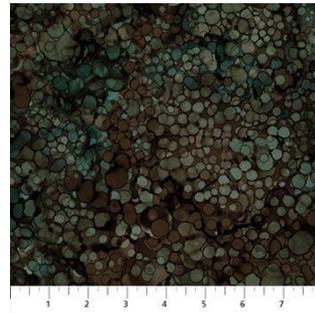


10" squares & fat quarter bundles, limited supplies

From Northcott (really cool):



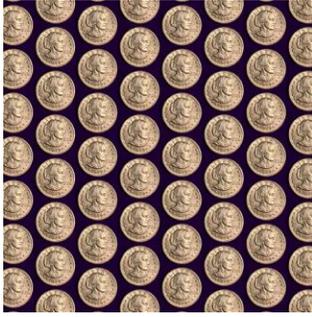
The wide back is back in.



We've ordered more. But it won't be here until April.

I will be able to make a few more kits from the fabrics that arrived today. Then we have to wait until April.

From Benartex (and more from this line should be coming)



From Studio E:



From Quilting Treasures:



DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
	Color of the month: red	Hand work Club 2-4		Long Arm Rental Day		BOM 10:30 Pillow Case Party! 1-4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Closed		Hand work Club 2-4	Knit Pickers' Club 3-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Pillow Case Party 1-4 Embroidery Club 10-noon
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Hand work Club 2-4		Long Arm Rental Day		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Toad Toter sale	Toad Toter sale	Toad Toter sale	Toad Toter sale	Closed		Customer Appreciation Sale
		Hand work Club 2-4	Knit Pickers' Club 3-5		Christmas Closed	
27	28	29	30	31		
Customer Appreciation Sale	Customer Appreciation Sale	Customer Appreciation Sale	Customer Appreciation Sale Full Moon	Customer Appreciation Sale		



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 is to use polka dot fabric in each block. The quilt will be whimsical, and will lend itself to bright colors, stripes, stars, and dots. To start you off we will give you a fat quarter that you must use in your blocks use (at least in some of them). But...if you don't like the fat quarter or dots, you can choose any color scheme you like.

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. We are still doing the Gardner's Alphabet Quilt Block of the Month by Crabapple Hill. We will explore a variety of embroidery stitches for each block each block (2 letters per month), plus we will learn how to color with regular crayons to enhance the 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 are also looking at new patterns, for those you do not want to do the Alphabet quilt or who have finished those blocks.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 3-5 Carol Moler

We are changing up the Knit Pickers' Club. We're going to knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, and we'll start earlier in the day at 3. For those you who work, we'll still be knitting >till 7. 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 work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. And we are working on 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.

Other Classes

TBA Our schedule is limited this fall because of the pandemic. Face masks will be required in class and space will be limited. Classes will not run through lunch, so no eating (snacking & water okay, but no lunching). Bathrooms may or may not be available, but there are facilities within walking distance.

Other classes that I hope to schedule include Hand Quilting, Hand Applique, teaching long arm quilting, pillow case class, a quilt using our new ombres, machine quilting, machine applique, and machine applied binding. So stay tuned as we continue to tweak the schedule.

December Classes

Pillow Case Party -- FREE Sats Dec 5 & 12, 1-4 Barb Boyer

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 2-4, 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). 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.

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: September 1, October 2 & 31 (we'll do something special for this Blue Moon), November 30, December 30

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 green, November flannels, December red.

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.

**Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-5
Sunday 1-5
Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)**

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