



Around the **Block**
QUILT SHOP

2022 Block of the Month from Banyon Batiks

Now taking orders from the Illusions Sampler BOM from Banyon Batiks/Northcott.

We are now taking orders!
Cost for the top only, without borders, binding and backing: \$300/\$25 mth

With binding, borders and **exclusive backing--only available through the BOM**: \$480/\$40 mth.



To reserve your BOM, you need to pay me \$25 (\$40) by June 15. Then, I will set up your account with a valid cc, and on the 5th of each month starting in September I will begin charging your card for each additional month. (If you want to change the month in which I start charging, just let me know).

In January, the fabric will arrive and we will start cutting the kits. We will provide some support for the blocks, but we won't be actively teaching each block. Stay tuned for more info about that.

As an added incentive to buy this beautiful quilt kit, we will give you a

DISCOUNT DISCOUNT DISCOUNT (just in case you didn't read this far) on the entire quilt: Top only \$255 Complete quilt \$410.

But you must pay up front no later than June 15.

May 14, 2021

I've taken to throwing my snow shovel at the brazen rabbit who was perched on my stoop last night, the better to survey the remaining grass seed, kinda like when you go to a smorgasbord and you have to look at all the pots of food before you pick & choose. Don't worry, I only came close to hitting him.

But that's not what I want to rant about, because it's kinda been a rant about week.

My Subaru is getting its dents fixed and I'm in a rental car. All of my nightmares about not getting the tiny, cheap rental didn't happen. That was the good news. I had expected a bait and switch at the rental, where the very nice guy says, "Oh, I'm sorry we don't have a small compact, hard to get in and out of car on the lot at the moment. But for an extra \$500 we've got a great upgrade, only one, take it or leave it." Covid has made me cynical, I guess.

But that didn't happen. What did happen is I got a very tiny black car that thinks it's a 4-door. As with all new cars, it's a challenge figuring out where everything is. Like the seat adjuster. That took me four blocks down the road before I convinced myself they wouldn't have made a car where you have to drive with your knees in your chin. The adjuster is in the front, not on the sides, in case you're wondering. Got that fixed, readjusted the mirrors and continued down the street.

Lights. Not sure if the headlamps are on or off, but it was daytime so I could wait until I got to my garage to see if they're beaming off the wall.

Wiper blades. Not too hard to figure out, but I still can't figure out how to keep the back one going. It will swipe about 3 times and just stop. Fortunately it doesn't rain much here.

Until it does rain. And snow. And the combo made the road really muddy and slippery. And I discovered that most people who drive on that road don't drive little cars: the tires of this car don't fit into the smoother ruts. The wheel base is so much narrower and I have no option but to hit every pot hole going bumpity bump for .7 miles.

Side note: I was coming to work on the really muddy slippery day this week and I followed two other cars on the road, all appropriately spatially distanced, all driving in the center of the road for a greater "shoulder" cushion against sliding off the road unexpectedly. And there was this beautiful white pristine SUV sitting at the end of where the pavement meets the dirt. He was just sitting there. I assumed he was waiting for the three cars to get off the muddy road so he could claim the center part of the road. Nope. He was waiting for us to pass so he could turn around. Not getting that clean car all muddy. Not him. I wondered if he was going to get a hotel and not go home for the next two days and how he planned on not getting mud on his car while getting there.

And then, down a little further on the pavement was a cute little black car (one of those ones no one can easily climb in and out of, but are old, kinda vintage, and probably expensive). And the driver was out with his handkerchief (or some kind of a pristine rag) and he was wiping the rain/snow off the very clean and dry windshield. And I wondered to myself...well I wondered many things: If he was afraid the rain would spot the car, why take it out? If he was afraid of snow, same question. If he was afraid of mud, same question. I wondered how he would get home if he had to stop all the time to wipe off the snow, slush and mud from his windshield. I bet he turned around, too, rather than tackle the bumpity bump slippery muddy road.

Anyway, back to the little black rental car. I didn't realize that I had rented a hatchback car until I was talking about going to the grocery store and having to put bags into a trunk, and someone said, "Isn't it a hatchback?" And, you know what? It is. Getting it to open was another challenge. So I'm standing in the rain and cold with my groceries punching the button to lift the hatch. Nothing. I get all the doors unlocked. Still won't open. I worry about trying to load the groceries into the back of the car through the front seats and wonder how people actually get into the back seats of the car. Then I spotted a button on the inside of the car door that didn't seem to have anything to do with windows or locking. It had an x across it. So I pushed it and voila, the button release on the hatch worked.

After I stuffed the groceries in the back and walked back to the front, still wondering about the back seat, I spotted the handles for the back doors, way up on the side of the door. Oh...so that's how you get into the back seat. This was day 4 of driving the car.

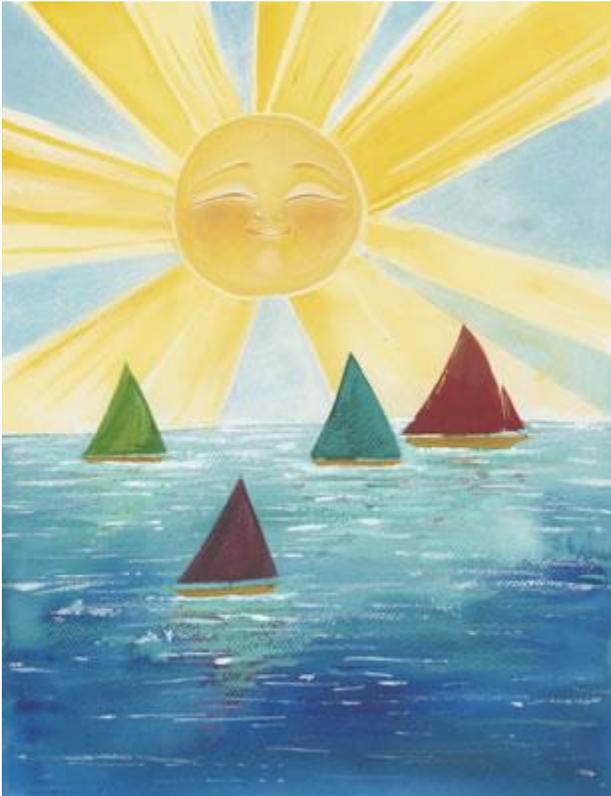
I have also figured out the head lamps now, and the turn signals, the cruise control and the fact that if you use the key to open the car, the car alarm starts sounding. It's been 5 days.

But what's still a mystery is how the audio system works. I can turn it on

& off of course and adjust volume. But somewhere there is a favorites list, and I think I have saved to it, but I can't find it. So when I listen to 91.5 in the morning and 104.7 in the afternoon I have to browse through all the channels in between. And there are a lot of them.

And the last thing about this little car. Or the last thing so far. I'm sure it still has mysteries to reveal: The driver door doesn't really open all the way. It's either sprung or the rental company doesn't want the door to swing wide and get dinged. For someone who only needs one leg to stand on while getting out, it's not a big deal. Swinging both legs out into the narrow opening is a bit treacherous. I'm hoping we don't get many big winds while I'm still driving this thing. I'm not sure I can both keep the door open and stand up before the door swings shut.

Did I mention I hate this little car?



Quilt Challenge!

We're doing another quilt challenge, this one is called May Day! You will have to buy a panel of tulips (we have it in the store), then create a quilt (minimum size 40" X 60") incorporating, in any way you like, certain

themes: 1) Put a bird in your quilt; 2) incorporate a gardening theme in some way; 3) add some new born animals (and remember, we're animals, too); 4) add a little sunshine; and 5) make sure you put in your favorite color.

Now all of these elements, plus the tulip panel, need to be recognizable in your quilt. You can interpret the themes anyway you like: sunshine can simply be yellow fabric, or it can be a pieced sun, or a yellow circle, or a sun button - yes embellishments are acceptable, so is embroidery, yo yos, rick rack, etc.

The challenge officially starts May 1 (but you can get started any time you want) and it will end on June 21 (first day of summer is June 20 at 9:32 p.m. MST). You must have your quilt top (does not need to be quilted) turned in by June 21, closing time at the store. Winners will receive prizes. We may have more than one winner, who knows? Staff will pick the winners and the quilts will hang around the store for display.

So put your thinking caps on, come get your tulip fabric, and get in the spirit of spring even if it looks like winter outside!

WHAT'S NEW!!

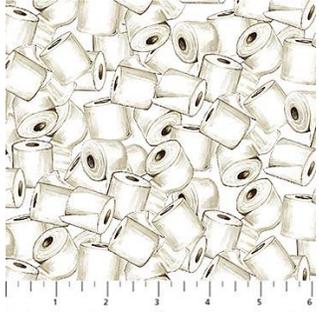
From Alexander Henry:



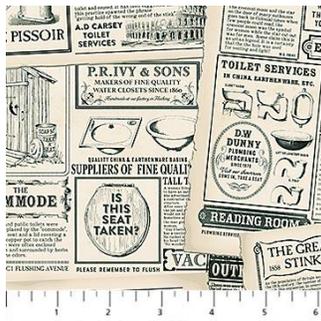


flannel

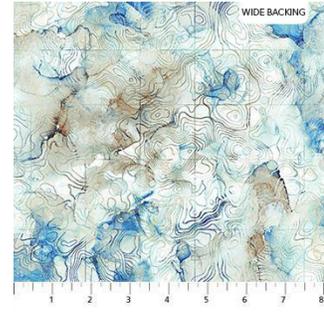
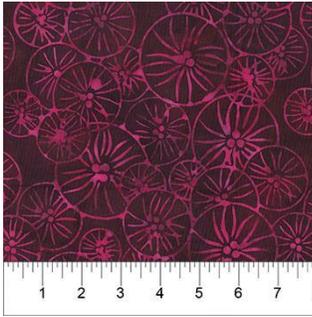
From Northcott:



Do you see a theme here?

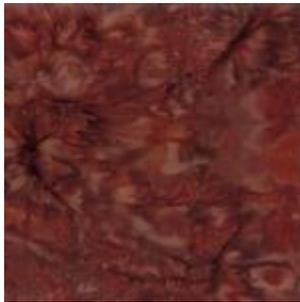
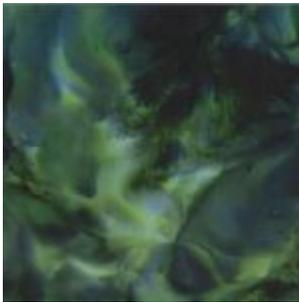


other reading material



overwide

From Hoffman:

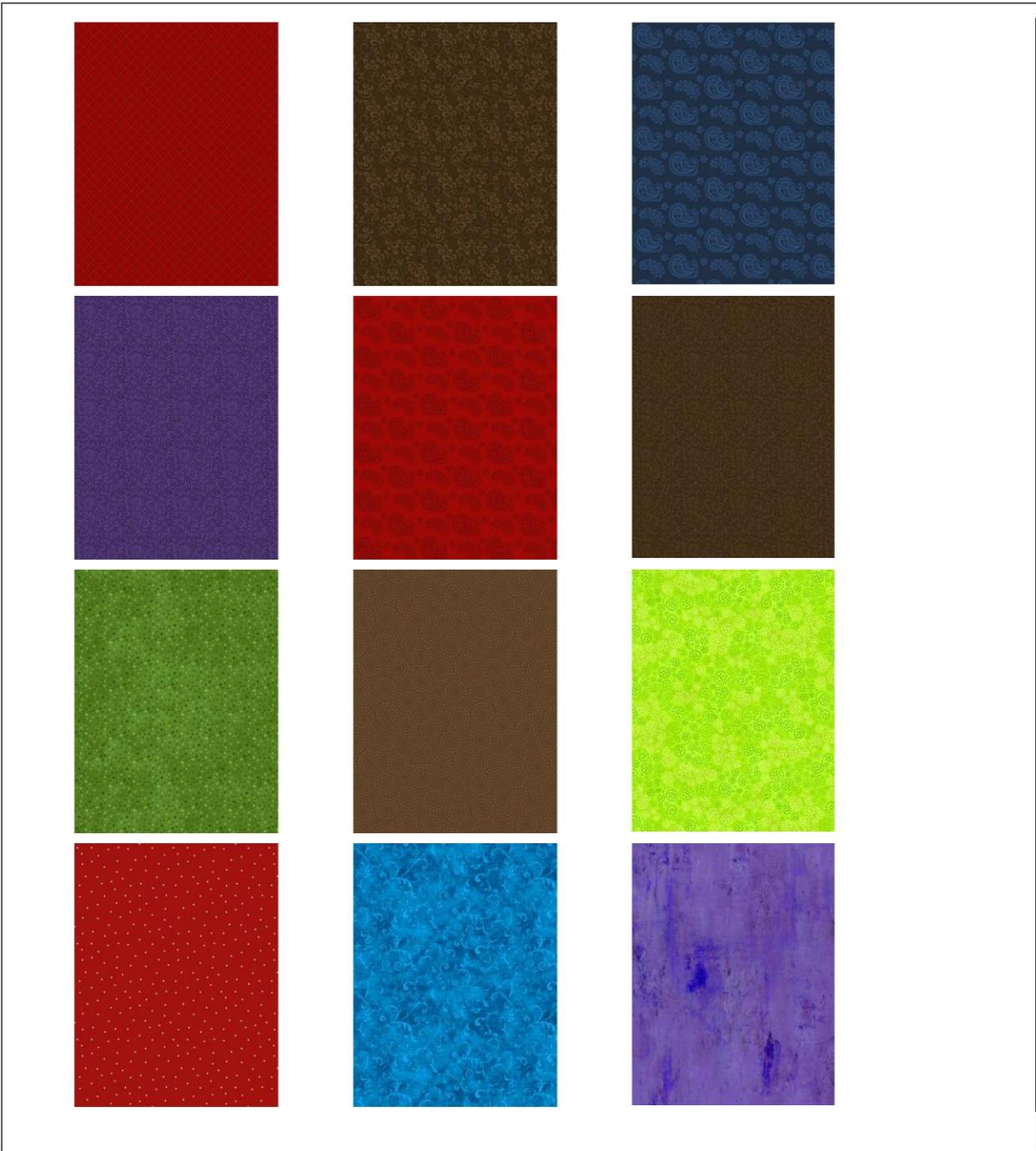


From Michale Miller -- all pre cuts:

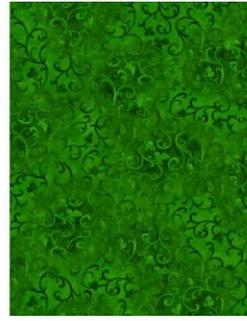


From Wilmington:





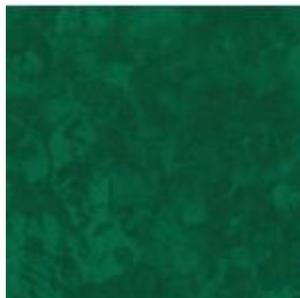


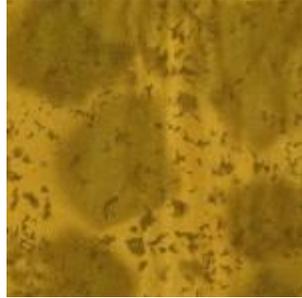
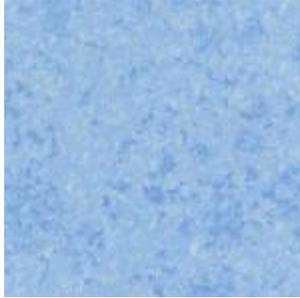
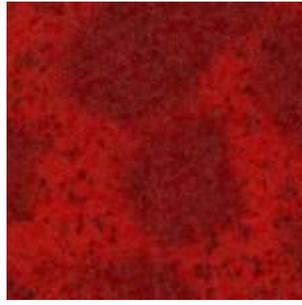
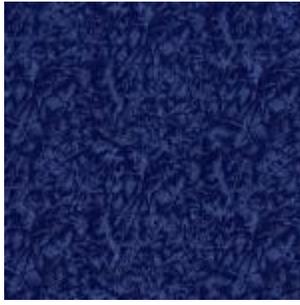


From Robert Kaufman:



From Michael Miller:



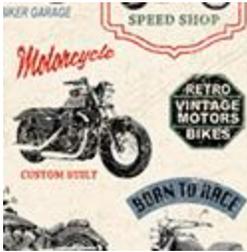
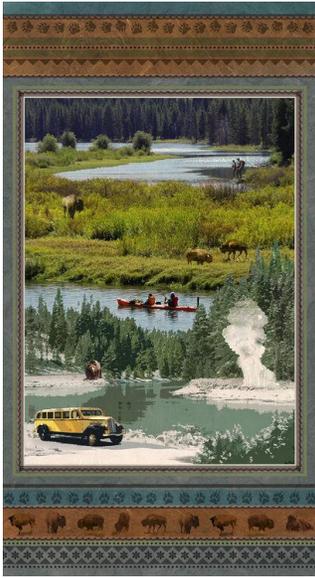


From Hoffman:



We got another bolt of the animals, but the trees are gone for now.

From Henry Glass:

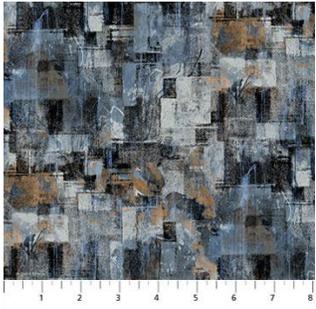
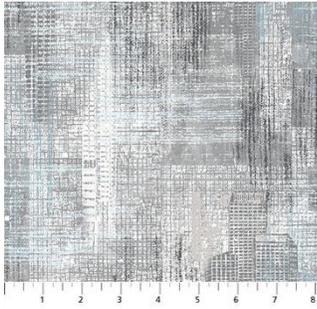


From Windham

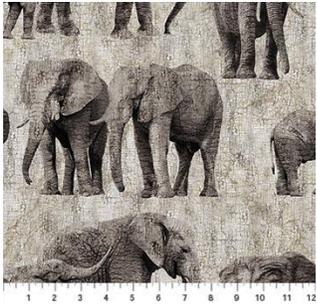
from Hoffman:



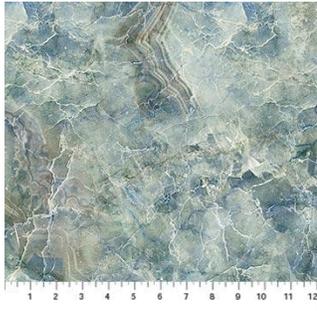
From Northcott:



From Northcott:



This line is selling out.
Come see the elephant
quilt we just got done.

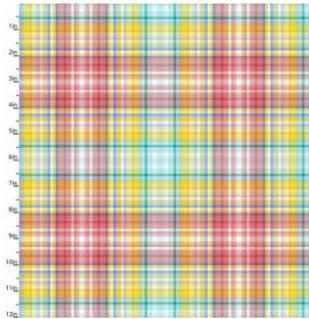
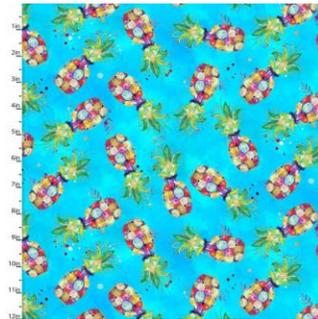


wide back

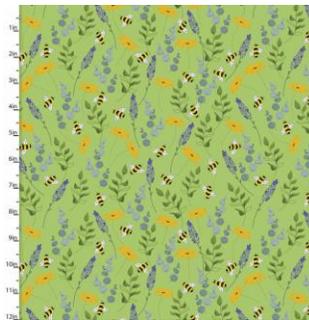
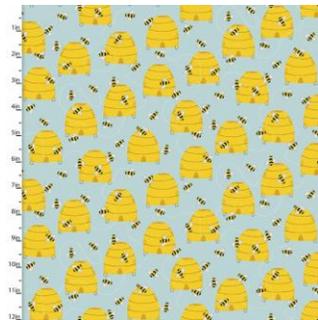
From 3 Wishes:



We've done a cute BQ quilt with this fabric. We have not kitted it yet.



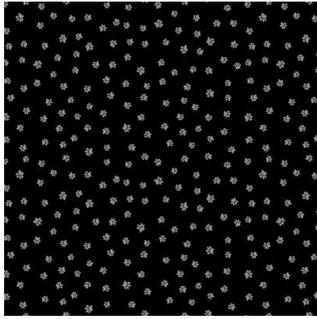
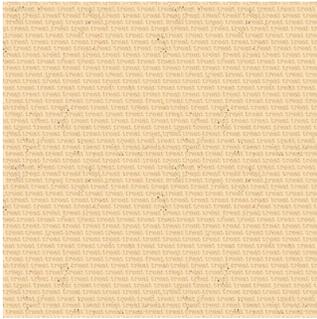
We've done a cut Take 5 with this fabric. Kits are coming. At least one.



Clothworks:



Snarky Cats



Come see our quilt in progress!



May

2021

Watch the May schedule--I may take a couple of Sundays off.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 Lone Star 1-4
2 CLOSED	3	4 Hand work Club 2-4	5	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Lone Star 1-4
9 Moms' Day Closed	10	11 Hand work Club 2-4	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Lone Star 1-4 Party for Sue 11:30-12:30
16	17	18 Hand work Club 2-4	19	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21	22
23	24	25 Hand work Club 2-4	26 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4 Full moon	27 Long Arm Rental Day	28	29 Charm meeting 10:30-11:30
30	31 Memorial Day	Color of the month: whites				

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

Note: January class will be held on the second Saturday

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 houses and seasons. Each row will have houses, trees and other "neighborhood" objects. Each house will have a place for a pieced block. Each "row" will be a season: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We'll also have a quilt store, school, "village" shops, church, outhouse, dog house, barn - as many as I can squeeze in!

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

Note: January class will be held on the third Saturday

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 will be starting Crabapple Hill's Snow Days. This is an embroidered and pieced block. So we will help you through the piecing, tracing and embroidery.

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

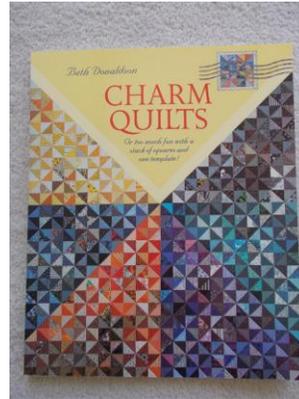
We are changing up the Knit Pickers' Club. We're going to knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, and we'll start earlier in the day at 2 and go to 5. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and knit. We may work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. By summer, we may extend the knitting time into the evening.

Hand Sewing Club every Tuesday afternoon 2-4

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch. During covid, we sit 6 feet apart and wear our masks, but at least we can share our projects, get a little stitching done and just enjoy the companionship.

Charm Quilts, last Saturday of each month (discussion, no sewing) Jan 30 10-noon, then on the other class dates from 10:30-11:30 \$20 Barb Boyer

Charm quilts date from the 1880s and 1890s. They tend to be one patch quilts (all squares or all triangles) and they use lots and lots of fabrics-999 to be exact. But the catch is, you can only use one fabric per each patch. We need lots of people to sign up for the class - but don't worry about covid. We will do this very carefully. In order to get to 999 different fabrics, we will be exchanging 5" squares of different fabrics, each month exchanging different colors. We won't exchange 999 different fabrics, but we may exchange up to 300-400!



Class one - discussion and set up. Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize into groups for exchanges. We will have 4 different meeting times: 10-10:30, 10:30-11, 11-11:30; 11:30-noon. I know, complicated. If I don't have that many people sign up, I will consolidate the class - remember, it's just a discussion class. I'll talk about charm quilts, explain the rules, and set up what we will be exchanging in the upcoming classes.

Class two - Exchange the first color ways. You will cut Xnumber of squares of the first colors for each person in your group: (example only) red, orange, yellow, blue. 10, 5" squares of each color per each class member. If you have 5 in your group, that's - 50 squares of red, 50 squares of blue, etc.

Now don't panic. I will adjust the number of squares to be exchanged based on how many people sign up. I don't expect you to buy all of the fabric: use your stash. AND the squares you exchange can be different for each person in your group, as long as each person gets 10 different reds, for example.

If you're interested, more info will be given in class, all questions answered, etc. The book we will use is called Charm Quilts by Beth Donaldson. Buy a used copy on Amazon.

May Classes

Lone Star Quilt Saturdays May 1, 8, 15 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This is the perfect "next" quilt for everyone who has taken the beginning quilt class. You will build on your skills, like learning how to do inset seams. All you need is 6 fabrics plus a background. It will be helpful if you have your fabrics chosen before class, so just come in and I'll help with that. The class has three sessions and by the third session you will be in-setting your squares and triangles, completing the inside of your quilt.

CLUBS

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUBFREE!

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 ClubFREE!

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: January 28, February 27, March 28, April 26 and May 26.

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.

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

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.

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