



August 25, 2023

Everybody is talking about the impact of Barbie – the doll. Because, of course, the hit movie Barbie is now in theaters. Just so you know, I haven't seen it yet. It's supposed to be very funny and very pink.

But the movie has generated a ton of debate about the doll. Pros include being a role model. She is a go getter after all, an adult looking (we'll get back to that) doll that wore make up, dressed impeccably, and had more going for it than a baby doll that simply peed and cried.

Cons include an impossible shape, make up, and a strange boyfriend.

Barbie was created by Ruth Handler, co founder of Mattel, in 1959. She got the idea from a German doll named Lilli," and she named her doll after her daughter Barbara. Mattel started marketing the doll in 1959. It sold for \$3.

Ruth Handler wanted this doll to be an inspiration for his daughter, to help her believe she could be anything she wanted to be. Over the years, Barbie showed up as doctors, nurses, lifeguards, paratroopers and astronauts. She's been dressed in designer clothes, wedding gowns, swimsuits and high heels. And she now comes in various skin tones.

But Barbie, apparently, threw young girls into depression, because she represented an unattainable goal for them. She made them believe they could be anything they wanted and when that didn't happen they got confused instead. I'm not making this up.

I pulled an essay on line that purportedly was written by some student, but there was a chat bot that kept popping up with a picture of a woman asking if I needed help writing my Barbie essay. I'm betting she doesn't exist. Kinda like the unattainable perfection of Barbie, intended to just throw me into a confusion.

Anyway, this "AI bot writer" believes that the negative influences of Barbie are greater than the positive ones. Barbie is often shown in skimpy clothes, which, according to the bot writer, is shameless and obscene. Young girls want to be like Barbie, to wear flimsy clothing, and look hot and sexy. They want the designer clothes Barbie wears, but because they don't have that kind of money, they get depressed. They want the cars, and houses, and education that Barbie has, which is unattainable for "ordinary middle class" families. They want Barbie's unattainable figure. Even adult women want to emulate Barbie.

And let's not get into what Ken stands for. That's a whole separate bot essay.

“[S]ince the young girl will be hallucinated and fantasized by Barbie’s charm and because her wishes will not be fulfilled, she will go into depression or go on a wrong track to fulfill her desires and wishes. Parents are usually unable to make their children understand that such fantasies are not meant for them and that they should live in the real world.” Bot essay.

Now the bot essay did describe some positive, or I should say, a positive effect of Barbie. One doll is marketed as a Presidential candidate. Not the president, but a candidate. “This of course will have a very positive impact on the young girls. This Barbie will allow the girls to discuss with their parents the responsibilities of American citizens and how can each citizen contribute towards the progress of the country.” Of course. I’m sure young girls will have this conversation with their folks once they buy them a presidential candidate Barbie.

The essay basically concludes with this dire warning: “As responsible citizens of our respective countries, it is our moral as well as social duty to stop such advertisements and ensure a safe and sensible future for our children.”

Wow. Who knew Barbie had such influence?

But this bot essay is just pulling info from many different articles, spouting the same negative rhetoric. That’s how AI writing works. You tell it what conclusion you want and it will hunt up stuff to prove it. For example, a poem by Marge Piercy called “Barbie Doll,” which basically describes the doll as a symbol of how women have been “plasticized,” with all humanity removed from them. Or a different article, that notes many women try to emulate Barbie’s shape. But the article only cited one woman, a founder of Cosmetic Surgery Network, who has tried, through 20 operations, to form her body to look like Barbie. Some how I don’t think Barbie is the true cause of her affliction.

I had a Barbie Doll. I bought her with my own money a couple of years after she came out. My mom and grandmother sewed clothes for her. I bought an accessory pack of high heeled shoes for her. I had a convertible car, a dorm room “house,” and a collection of Barbie support dolls: Midge, Skipper and Ken. I also owned baby dolls, a bride doll, a black baby doll, and a talking Chatty Kathy doll. Has all of this molded and shaped me?

I’ve never gone on to own a convertible, I don’t wear high heels, I’ve never been married, I don’t do well with babies, and I’ve never desired the plastic shape of Barbie.

I guess something’s wrong with me.

Playing with unrealistic dolls from baby to Barbie apparently didn’t have the intended impact. How did I miss being subjected to the stereotypical ideologies that “define women as weak and emotionally dependent on men” conveyed by these toys. I also had a play stove that semi worked and two different sets of China tea sets. These are all toys that, according to some, are given to little girls to “clue them in to societal expectations,” like being a homemaker or a Stepford Wives kind of woman.

I guess the indoctrination didn’t work on me. I am not a housekeeper and am not good at it when I try. I don’t drink tea, I have few social graces to call my own, and while I do cook, I do it mainly because it is cheaper than eating out. And, if I do say, I cook better than most of the fare I can order at restaurants. I’ve never had a desire to attain a shape like a Barbie doll (clearly), and obviously I’m not married, so no Ken in my life, though I am still open to the possibility.

I guess the biggest influence Barbie had on me was her dorm room. I went to college. But I was going to college anyway, so I don’t think the dorm room accessory had anything to do with that plan.

I just like playing with my Barbie dolls. I liked the hand made clothes that were better than anything store bought. I liked playing Barbies with my friends. I never tore the heads off my dolls (probably another topic that psychologists are really interested in) and it wasn't until I was a lawyer that we shot Ken dolls and GI Joe dolls out of a spud gun one 4th of July. That was tricky, because you had to attach the parachute just right otherwise the dolls slammed into the neighbor's house. Don't worry, nobody lived there yet.

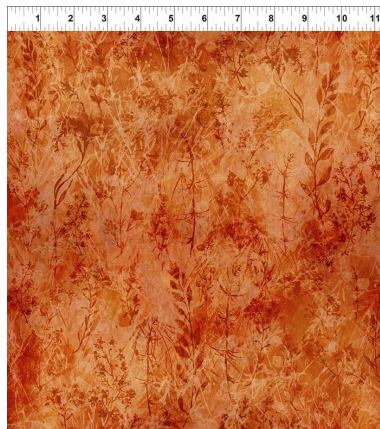
So will I go watch the Barbie movie? Probably not at the theater. But I understand it is a funny movie, meant for adults not children. It's also very pink. My mother transformed my room into a pink nightmare when I was 9 or 10. Hot pink walls, pink floral bedspread with matching curtains, pink throw rug. It was as though someone had vomited Pepto Bismal across the entire room. I think she was trying to indulge her girlish fantasies.

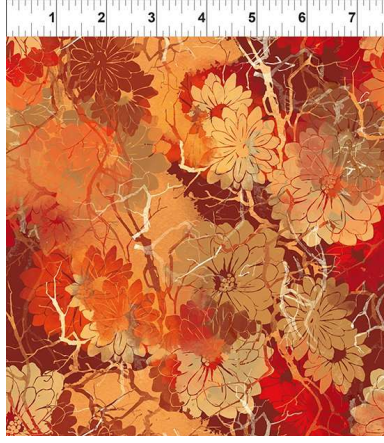
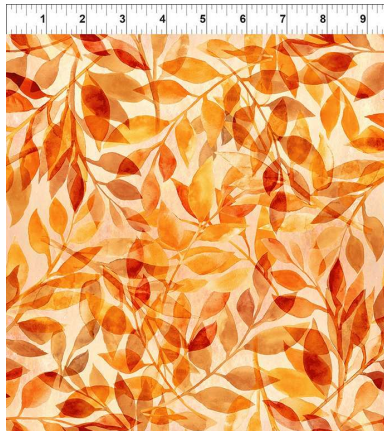
I learned to love that room, though. And just a few years ago, I was on a pink craze in quilting: Every quilt I made was pink. But I don't think Barbie had anything to do with that. Or did she? Maybe I need therapy and just don't know it.

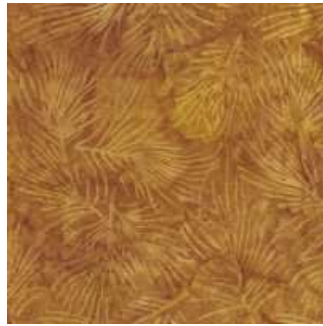
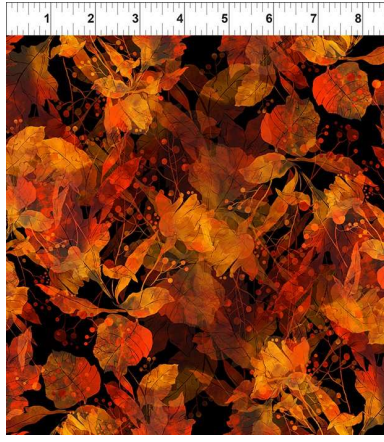
What's New

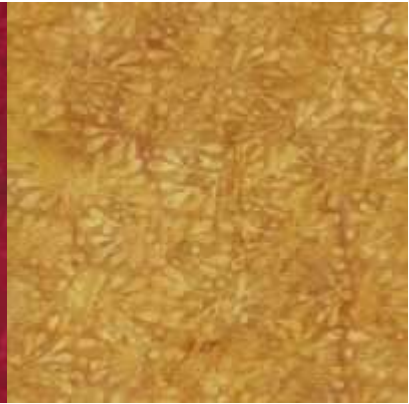


From In the Beginning. We have 3 kits using this fabric.









From Island Batiks





From P & B



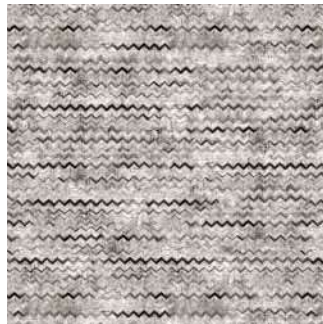
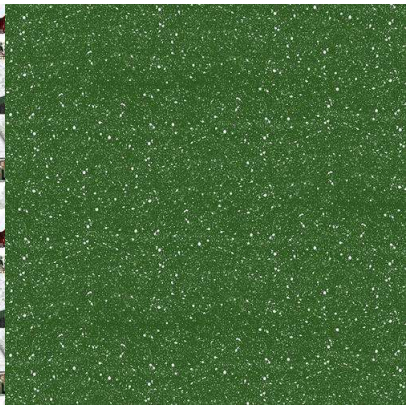
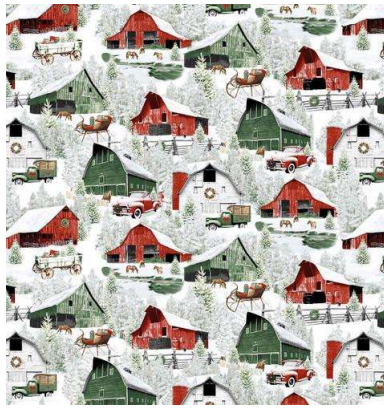


From Windham

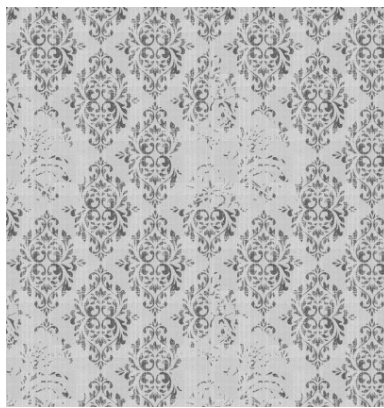


From Henry Glass

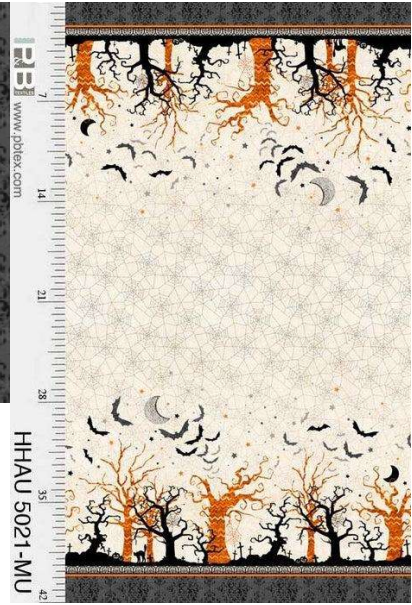
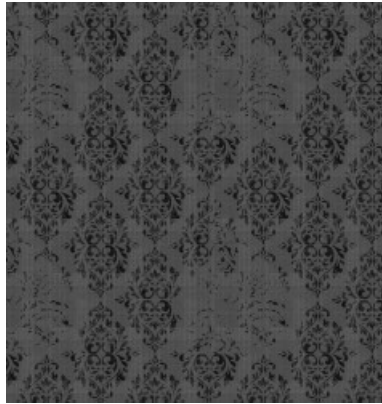




Also in orange



From P & B Textiles Happy Haunting



From Dashwood Studios

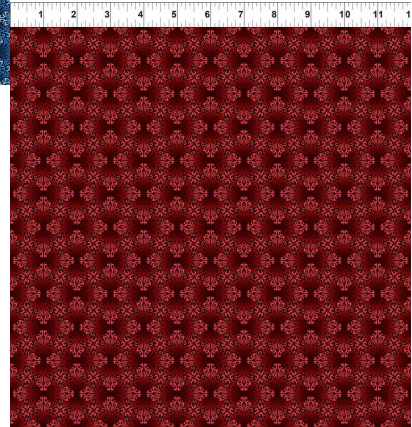
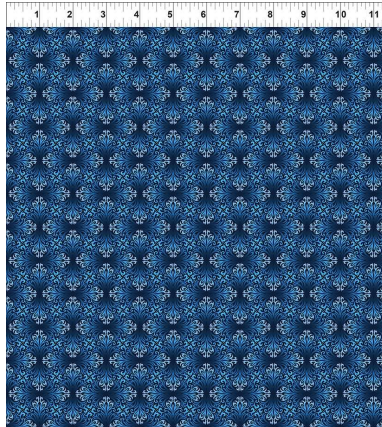




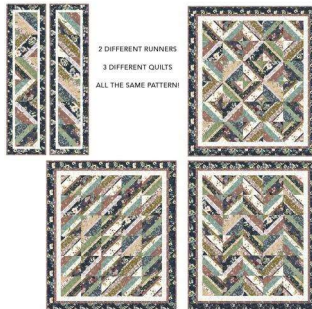
From Timeless Treasures



From In the Beginning



Fall Newsletter



It's hard to grab pics of everything. I don't have pics of the Trip Around the World, Chit Chat, one of the Happy Haunting. But samples are in the store.

From upper left: Wildflower Path, Lone Star, Applique Tree, Happy Haunting, Bargello, tree skirt.



Please look on the calendars 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 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, 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 2nd and 4th 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.

August Classes

Patches of Life Sat August 26 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This is an Eleanor Burns pattern, which uses 48 precut strips (generally one roll plus a few extra strips) and fabric for the half square triangles and the Triangle in a Square blocks, which create the illusion of curves. Class will be all about how to create the 9-patch blocks, the half square triangles, and, of course, the Triangle in a Square block.

September classes

Beginning Quilting 8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Sept 10

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

Chit Chat, an English Paper Piecing Project Mon Sept 4 1-4 and Sat Oct 7, 1-4 \$40 Barb Boyer

English paper-piecing is a method of piecing by hand. Essentially, you work with paper templates, baste the fabric edges over the template, and then sew the prepared pieces together using a tight whipstitch on the edges. Yes, this is a slow quilting kind of project, but it is perfect for keeping hands busy in the car, in meetings, in doc offices, on planes and all the places you can't haul a sewing machine. And the technique is simple to learn and master. The Chit Chat part of this quilt is finding "chit chat" fabrics that have meaning to your life. For example my fabrics include ones that remind me of my family members, my dogs & cats, where I've lived, and my other interests. Each fabric has a story. Start searching for your meaningful fabrics, small prints are best. We can also share our fabrics, so be sure to bring your novelty fabrics to class that you are willing to share. We also have a big box of left over fabrics that you can dig through to supplement your own fabrics.

Fun, Fusible easy tree applique Sat Sept 2 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer (Please check with me to see if class is a go. We are having trouble getting in good fusible web)

This wall hanging tree can be done for any season: Fall, Christmas, Easter, pastel, red/white/blue. You will learn how to use fusible web and then I'll show you some easy applique stitches on your machine for securing your edges. You must have a machine that can do some fancy stitches.

Happy Haunting Saturday Sept 16, 10:30-4 \$40 Barb Boyer

A fun, easy to make Halloween wall hanging, made with a collection from P & B fabrics. A large border stripe, panels, and flying geese make up the quilt. You can use the creative grid flying goose ruler to make all of the flying geese quickly. We'll show you how.

Pot Luck Sat Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11 \$45 Barb Boyer

This quilt is from the Gwen Marston and Freddie Moran quilt books, and it's a little hard to describe. Many of the blocks are free form—you just stitch fabrics together to form pinwheels log cabins, houses, trees, etc. You also can use a variety of left over blocks from other projects. Black & white fabrics are used as neutrals and function as a resting place for your eyes. We will also give out some pieced blocks and paper pieced blocks: birds, chickens, people. We will help you decide on a plan for your quilt, including the size of the quilt, how to make things fit, keeping it all together and just having fun making unusual blocks. You've got to see it and we have two samples in the store.

Lone Star Sat Sept 23 & Oct 21 10:30-4 Jean Korber \$45

The Lone Star quilt is a very traditional quilt and if you haven't made one, now is the time to learn. The star points are made from strips sewn into panels, to make the sewing easier: meaning, you don't have to cut individual diamonds & sew those back together. The quilt has Y-seam constructions, so this is another learning opportunity. It's easy. We will provide the pattern in class, but make sure when you sign up you ask for the fabric requirements so you can start picking your colors. We'll help with that, also. We've got lots of tips. And you can choose your size: smaller vs larger.

Trip Around the World Sept 30 & Oct 28 10:30-4 \$45 Barb

The Trip Around the World quilt is another classic quilt. But this one has a special twist: The center is on point! You will need 8 fabrics for the "trip" part, plus two borders. Pattern will be given out in class, but when you sign up please ask for fabric requirements so you can get started picking your fabrics. We will help with that as well.

October Classes

Chit Chat, an English Paper Piecing Project Sat Oct 7, 1-4 \$40 Barb Boyer On going

Lone Star Sat Sept 23 & Oct 21 10:30-4 Jean Korber \$45 Ongoing

Pot Luck Sat Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11 \$45 Barb Boyer On going

Trip Around the World Sept 30 & Oct 28 10:30-4 \$45 Barb Boyer Ongoing

November Classes

Paper Pieced Tree Skirt Nov 4 1-4 \$30 Barb Boyer

Ah, paper piecing. This quilt is a free pattern, done with wedges. Parts of the wedges are paper pieced, then the wedges are sewn together to form a circular tree skirt. Paper piecing is easy and this quilt is not complicated, so if you haven't learned how to paper piece, this is the project for you.

Bargello Saturday Nov 21 10-4 \$40 Jean Korber

Bargello is a form of strip piecing, similar to Trip Around the World, but the panels you make are sliced into different widths, creating a cascading effect of colors.

Fat Quarter Class Quilts Show and Tell Sat Nov 25 11-noon (or longer as needed)

To everyone from this spring's Fat Quarter class: Bring your completed quilts or quilt tops to the shop for a show and tell on shop Small Business Saturday! To everyone else: Come see the quilts and learn what we are going to do in the spring!

Pot Luck Sat Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11 \$45 Barb Boyer On going

December Classes

Cathedral Window Ornament Dec 2 1-4 \$25 \$30 Barb Boyer

The Cathedral Window quilt block is a traditional quilt block made with a folded construction technique resulting in a dimensional block. While the block is not complicated, it requires a little time and a little patience. Consequently, we will teach the block as an ornament: You only have to make one and then you can decide if you want to make an entire quilt. These are spectacular quilts, meant to mimic the stained glass windows in churches.

Wildflower Paths Saturday Dec 9 1-5 \$30 Barb Boyer

This quilt may look hard, but it's the fabric that makes the stripes! So there is no piecing to make the individual blocks. This is another free pattern. If you need a quick Christmas gift, this would be it.

Attic Window Sat Dec 16 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$40

This quilt is another Jason Yenter showcase quilt! I've called it Attic Window, because the main block is the traditional attic window block. We will use the Marvelous Miters method of making the block (easiest way to make accurate attic window blocks), and then I'll show you an easy way to make the circles so you will have no raw edges. The circles will then be appliqued using invisible thread (if you want to) and a blind hem stitch on your machine.

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: August 1 and a blue moon on August 30. Watch for something special!
September 29; October 28 ; November 27; December 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

August: blacks; September: orange; October: green; November: flowers; December: red

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hand work Club 2-5 Full Moon	2 Long Arm class 10:30	3 Long Arm Rental	4	5 BOM 10:30 Rail Fence, design your own 1-5 <u>\$35</u>
6 CLOSED	7	8 Hand work Club 2-5	9 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	10 Long Arm Rental Day	11	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon
13 Shop Is now open 1-5!	14	15 Hand work Club 2-5	16 Long Arm class 10:30	17 Long Arm Rental Day	18	19

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Patches of Life 10:30-4 \$35
27	28	29	30	31		
Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30 Full BLUE moon	Long Arm Rental Day		Color of the month: blacks

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and <u>battings</u> Fun, Fusible easy tree applique 1-4 \$35
3 CLOSED	4 Chit Chat, English Paper <u>Piecing</u> 1-4 \$40	5 Hand work Club 2-5	6 Long Arm class 10:30	7 Long Arm Rental Day	8	9 Embroidery Club 10- noon Potluck \$45
10 Beginning Quilting 1-4 \$65	11	12 Hand work Club 2-5	13 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	14 Long Arm Rental Day	15	16 Happy Haunting 10:30-4 <u>\$40</u>

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Beginning Quilting 1-4 \$65		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		Lone Star 10:30-4 <u>\$45</u>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Beginning Quilting 1-4 \$65		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day	Full moon	Trip Around the <u>World 10:30-4</u> \$45
Color of the month: orange						

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Beginning Quilting 1-4 \$65	2	3 Hand work Club 2-5	4 Long Arm class 10:30	5 Long Arm Rental Day	6	7 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and <u>batings</u> Chit Chat, English Paper <u>Piecing 1-4</u>
8	9	10 Hand work Club 2-5	11 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	12 Long Arm Rental Day	13	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Potluck
15 Beginning Quilting 1-4 \$65	16	17 Hand work Club 2-5	18 Long Arm class 10:30	19 Long Arm Rental Day	20	21 Lone Star 10:30-4

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Beginning Quilting 1-4 \$65		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Full moon Trip Around the <u>World 10:30-4</u>
29	30	31				
Beginning Quilting 1-4 \$65		Hand work Club 2- 5				Color of the month:

November 2023

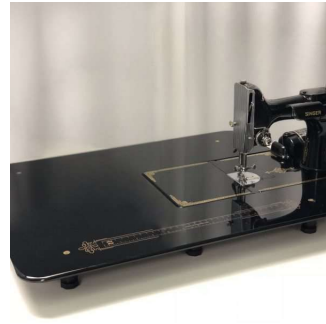
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Long Arm class 10:30	2 Long Arm Rental Day	3	4 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and <u>battings</u> Tree Skirt 1-4 <u>\$30</u>
5 Beginning Quilting 1- 4 \$65	6	7 Hand work Club 2-5	8 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	9 Long Arm Rental Day	10	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon Potluck
12 CLOSED	13	14 Hand work Club 2-5	15 Long Arm class 10:30	16 Long Arm Rental Day	17	18 Bargello 10:30- <u>4</u> <u>\$40</u>

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
CLOSED		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	CLOSED Thanksgiving	Black Friday Sale	Shop Small Business Sale TBA Show & Tell Fat Quarter Class Quilts 11-noon
26	27	28	29	30		
CLOSED	Full moon	Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		Color of the month: Flowers

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Color of the month: red						BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and <u>battings</u> Cathedral Window Ornament 1-4 <u>\$25</u>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CLOSED		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day Long Arm Rental Day		Embroidery Club 10-noon Wildflower Path 1-5 <u>\$30</u>

10 CLOSED	11	12 Hand work Club 2-5	13 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	14 Long Arm Rental Day	15	16 Attic Window 10-4 <u>\$40</u>
17 CLOSED	18	19 Hand work Club 2-5	20 Long Arm class 10:30	21 Long Arm Rental Day	22	23
24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 Hand work Club 2-5 Full moon	27 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	28	29 Customer Appreciation Pre Sale for Toad toters 10-5	30 Customer Appreciation Sale <u>10-3</u>
31 CLOSED						



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



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