



December 13, 2024

"So what's on your Christmas list, Becca?" Becca, for those of you unfamiliar with these posts, is my materialistic mini Australian Shepherd, as you'll discover if you continue to read.

"I want another pair of snow shoes," she said with a triumphant look on her face. It actually should have been a sheepish look. But don't tell her that. A few years back she ordered a pair of snowshoes off the internet. One pair. It's taken her this long to figure it out.

"Okay, what else. You can ask Santa for three things," I reminded her.

"Just because your parents instituted a 3-gift limit from Santa doesn't mean you have to along with it," she grumbled. She's referring to the present limit my dad imposed on my older brothers (I wasn't around yet), to keep the Santa toy list to a manageable level. It wasn't until I was an adult, that I learned the origin of this 3-present limit. Growing up, I always wondered why kids gave me strange looks when I'd ask, "What 3 things are you asking Santa for at Christmas?" or "What 3 gifts did Santa give you this year?"

“It’s still the rule,” I told her. “Just go with it, or it will only be one thing, and in your case maybe only one snow shoe. You’ll have to wait till next year to get the last one.” Becca growled at me, but sighed in resignation.

“Okay, how about putting Padfoot up for adoption?” She turned her puppy dog eyes on me. Actually, that’s not really true. She doesn’t have puppy dog eyes. She doesn’t carry the sad puppy dog eye gene. Her look was more gleeful.

“That’s not nice. Santa will take away one of his gifts, if you’re not careful,” I told her.

“You’re making stuff up again,” she said, but signed again in resignation. “Okay, how about a subscription to the Disney Channel?”

“Already got it in the house, and no,” I said before she could interrupt me, “you can’t have the password for your dog house. You’ll watch it with me in the house. What else? How about a day at the spa?” Becca looked worried at that suggestion.

“I don’t think so. That’s a whole day, I have to get wet, strange people, toenail clippers, blow dryers...” She started to pant. She worries a lot about stuff.

“Okay, calm down, why don’t we look up on the internet what the best presents for 2024 are?” I suggested. She grinned and nodded her head.

“How about a set of 3 mini 10” high, from base to cowboy hat, cacti in little pots?” I asked.

“Somebody put miniature cowboy hats on top of miniature cacti, and they’re marketing it as a best Christmas gift? Seriously? How much does that set you back.”

“\$60. But it’s free shipping. And it’s not available if you live in Hawaii.”

“Hawaiians are smart,” Becca said. “What else is on this list?”

“Ice cube trays that imprint your state into the ice?” Becca shook her head. “Okay, there’s a popcorn bowl with a kernel shifter at the bottom.” Becca looked puzzled. “The unpopped kernels drop through holes in a metal grid, and collect at the bottom of the bowl.” She still looked confused. “Away from the popcorn,” I clarified.

“Aren’t the kernels heavy enough to fall to the bottom of the bowl, anyway?” she asked. “Why do they need a special little holding container, which” she peered at the picture “looks like it makes the bowl top heavy, easy to tip.”

“Well, for \$48, it can be yours,” I told her. “Okay, not a great idea. How about 3 wooden carved ducks, the tallest 12” high, wearing wellies.”

“What’s a wellie?” Becca asked. “This list is ridiculous. Who else has made a best present list?”

“All right, how about a Kelvin 17 all purpose household gadget tool?”

Becca stared at me. “You, doing household repairs? I just don’t see it. Anyway, isn’t that just a fancy Swiss Army knife?”

“It’s got a measuring tape and a teeny tiny hammer,” I said.

“And you carry it in your pocket in case you find a nail that needs to be hit?” she said. “There’s a joke in here somewhere that I’m not going to touch.”

“Moving on. How about a spy pen that records conversations up to 40 feet away?”

“Isn’t that illegal?” Becca asked. “I can’t use any of this, although the spy pen would be fun to use on Padfoot.”

“She doesn’t say much,” I reminded her. “How about a Squatty Potty Oslo Folding Bamboo 7 inch Toilet Stool for Kids and Adults. You put your feet on when you’re sitting on...”

“I get it,” Becca said. “They actually named it that? And it’s on a Christmas best gift list? That’s even worse than giving your wife a gift with a cord attached.”

“Becca, that’s a bit politically incorrect these days. Besides, who doesn’t need a new kitchen gadget. I got a new frying pan! And socks!”

“Socks and a frying pan. That’s almost sad,” Becca said.

“The frying pan is great, though. And it wasn’t one of those tv commercial brands that claim you can save up to \$1500 if you buy right now. I think there is something seriously wrong about a product when it costs so much that the company is willing to discount it by thousands of dollars.”

“If they can sell millions of product, then they only need to make pennies per sale,” Becca said wisely.

“I get it. It still irritates me. How about this: a bird feeder with a built in camera. Now that’s a fun gift.”

“Padfoot would like that,” Becca agreed. “But what about me? I still don’t have 2 more Santa gifts.”

“How about an Apple Air Tag. I can attach one to you and I’ll always know where you are. And if I can’t find you I can activate an alarm.”

“Nope. Nope. Nope.”

“How about this: an R2D2 Star Wars popcorn maker. You can stick it in your doghouse. It pops 5 cups in 3 minutes. It’s about the same size as you, though.”

“A distinct possibility,” Becca said. “One more.”

“An Ember smart mug that keeps tea, coffee, and hot cocoa at a constant temp, up to 145 degrees. It’s controlled with a smart phone and has a long-lasting battery. No? Or maybe a bowl with your name on it,” I said.

“That way Padfoot won’t eat my food,” Becca said, thinking out loud. Between you and me, Padfoot doesn’t touch Becca’s food, but Becca has a narcissistic streak in her and...

“I could also label it, Queen Becca,” I said.

“Done. And since you’ve already got everything you want for Christmas, I guess we’re set. All Padfoot needs is a lap to sit in and she’s happy,” Becca said. “But now you

need to make cookies for Santa. And you ate the last of the carrots, so you need to go to the store. The tree is up. The ham is here. You've got packages to mail...."

"Becca, go outside and play. Christmas is still 12 days away. Go swing on a swing, or bark at joggers. Run some of your energy off." Becca spun around and trotted outside.

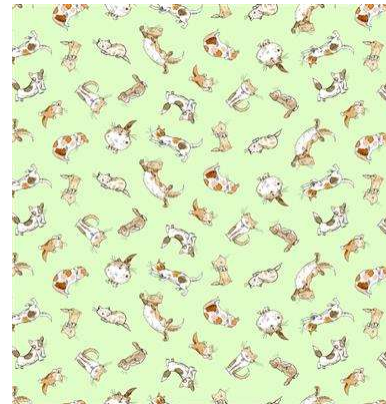
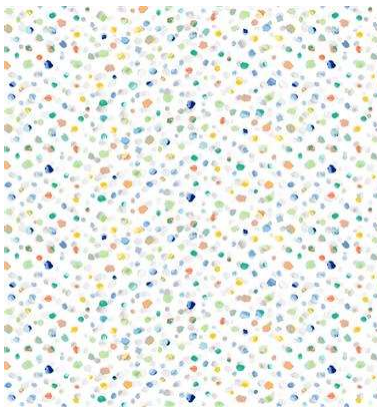
The count down to Christmas is on! (Another creepy Victorian Christmas card below)



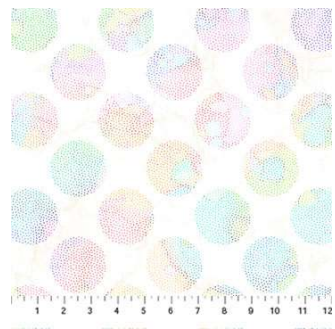
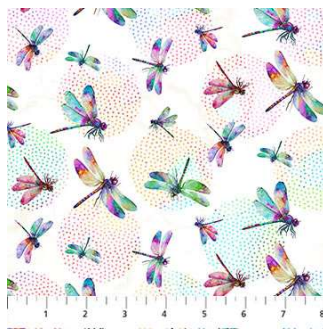
New Fabric



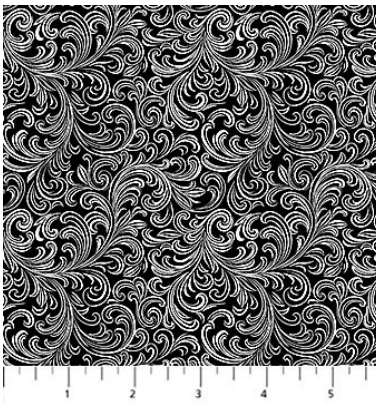
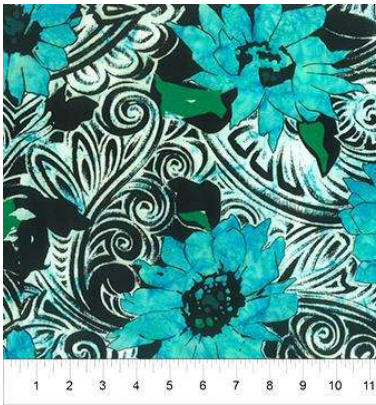
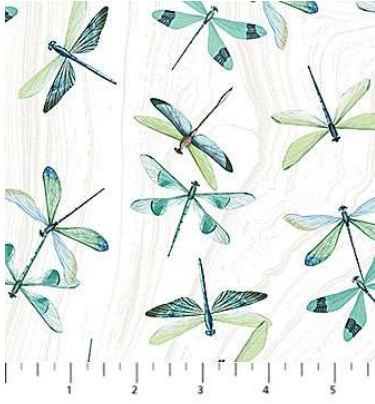
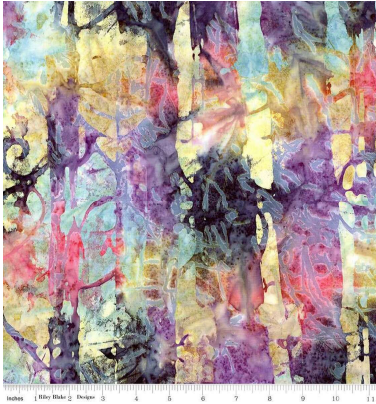
From Clothworks



From Michael Miller

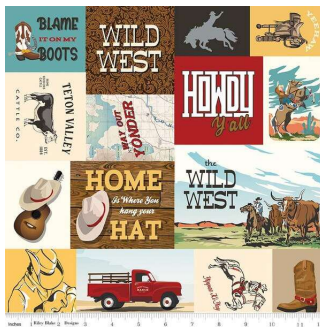


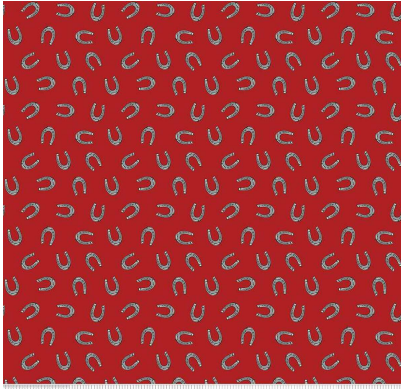
From Northcott





From Kennard & Kennard



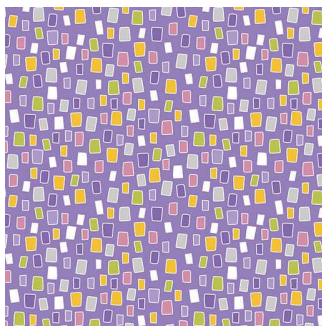


And one other fabric with the lyrics Home on the Range printed on the fabric. Couldn't grab a pic

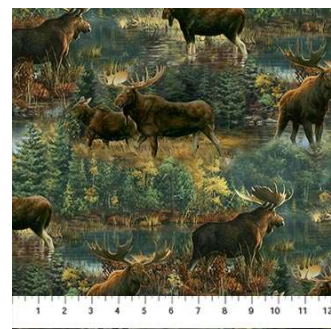
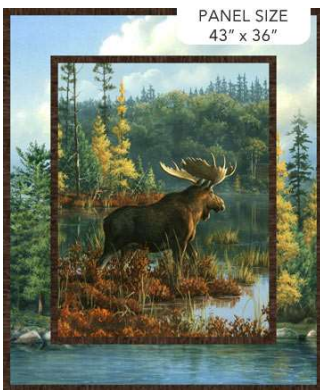
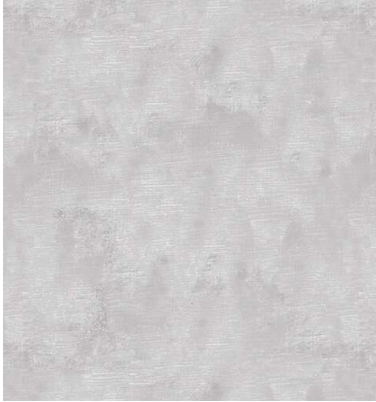
From Riley Blake



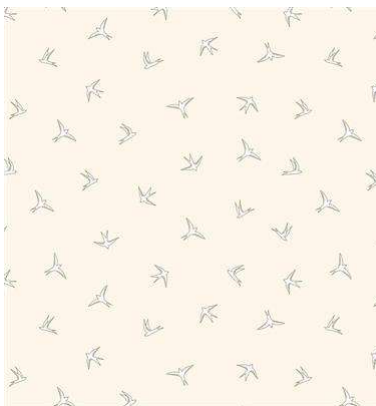
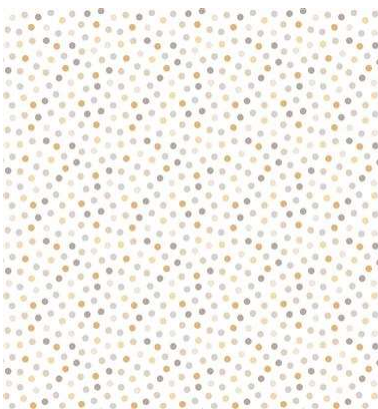
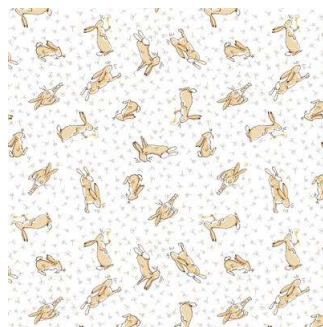
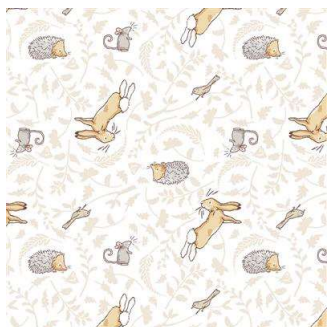
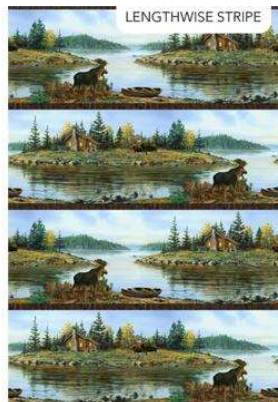
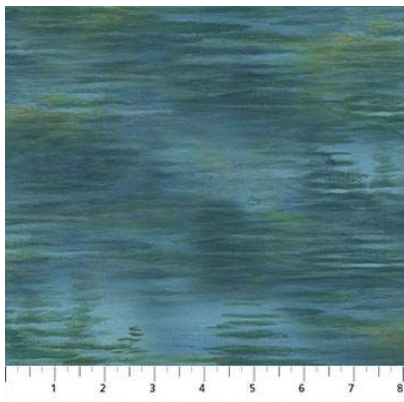
From Quilting Treasures



From Benartex. All but the yellow is flannel.



From Northcott

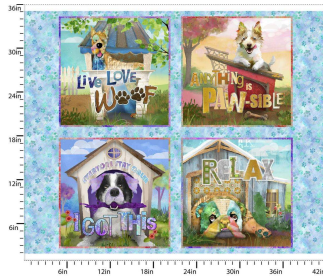


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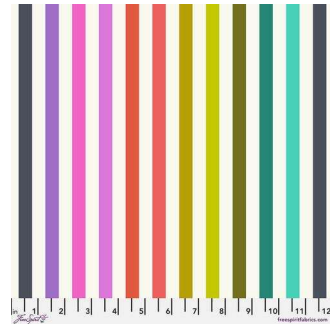
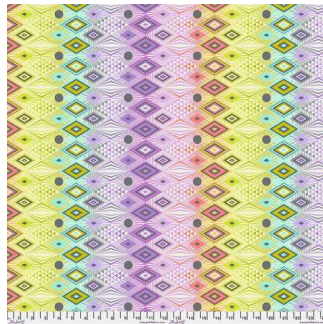
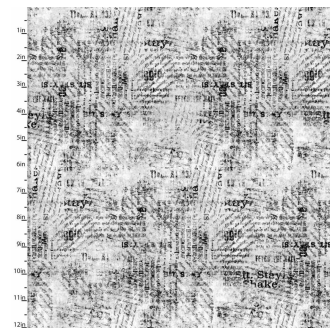
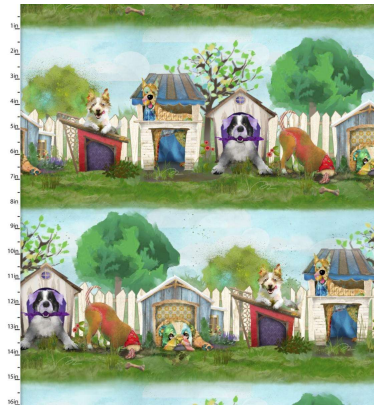
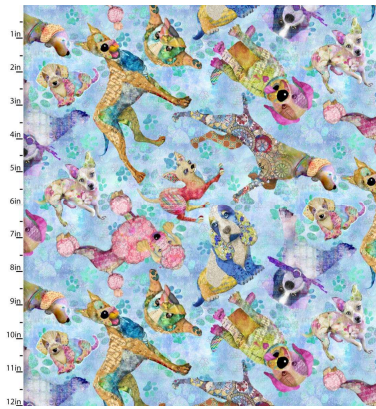


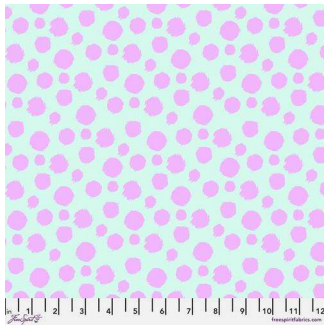
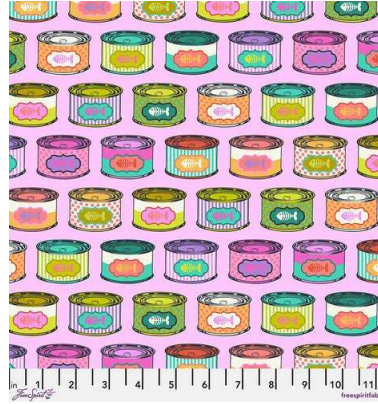
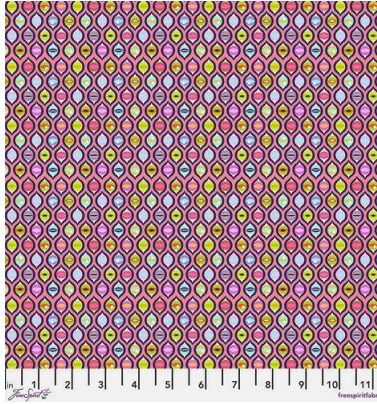
From Clothworks





From 3 wishes

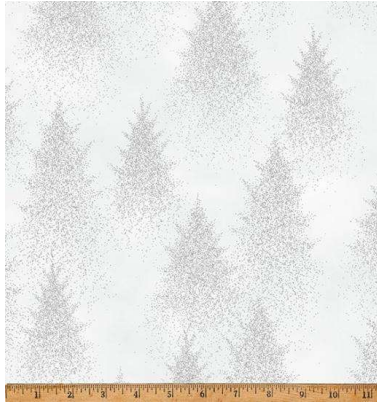




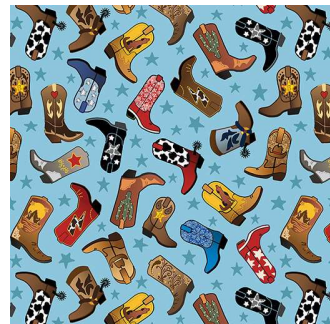
From Tula Pink



Yoy 7 remaining!"

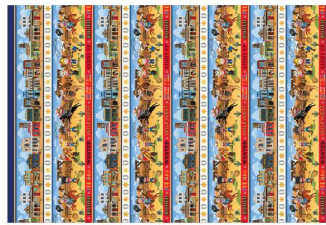


From Hoffman





AS SHOWN 42" X 24"

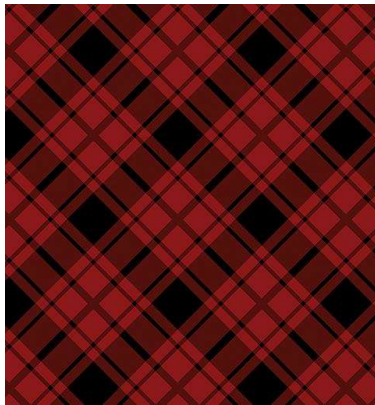
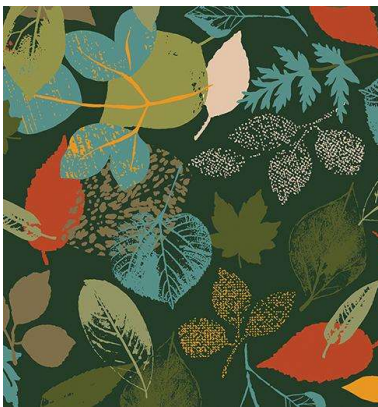


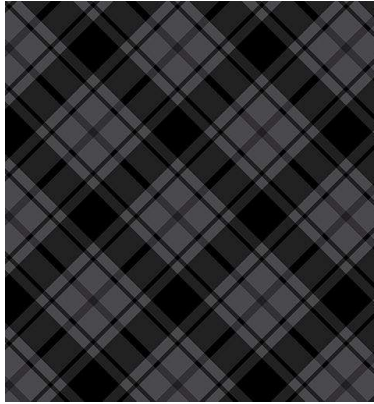
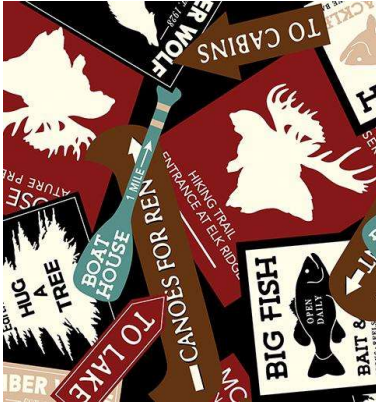
AS SHOWN 44" X 30"
*stripe runs parallel to selvage



PANEL MEASURES APPROX. 18" X 27"

From Benartex: The fall looking ones are flannel





A Reminder:

First Saturdays of the month, from September thru December, is the Finish Your Quilt Sale! Backing, Binding and Batting are 20% off any of the three, BUT you have to bring in your finished quilt top for show & tell to get the sale price. No exceptions. We want to see your quilts!

| DECEMBER 2024 | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 CLOSED | 2 | 3 Hand work Club 2-5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Machine Quilting with your BSR 1-4 |
| 8 CLOSED | 9 | 10 Hand work Club 2-5 | 11 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5 | 12 | 13 | 14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Storm at Sea Part I 1-4 Full Moon |
| 15 CLOSED | 16 | 17 Hand work Club 2-5 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Storm at Sea Part II 10:30-4 |
| 22 CLOSED | 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas | 26 | 27 Toad Toter Sale | 28 Year End Sale |
| 29 CLOSED | 30 CLOSED | 31 CLOSED | | | | Color of the month: red |

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 ... come in January and find out!

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 are sheep! From Crabapple Hill

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.

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 17, October 17, November 15 and December 14.

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 and Book of the Month

September orange; October Book of the Month; November purple; December red

December Classes

Storm at Sea Sat December 14 1-4 and 21 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

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



Normal Shop Hours:

Monday-Saturday 10-5:30

Sunday 1-5

Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

New Hours for Winter Time (starting Nov 5-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

