
I'll probably get in trouble for this, but...I am not a big fan of tipping. I do it when I want to. And I do it when I have to. But I still don't like it. And I don't like being made to feel guilty about not tipping.

When I was much younger, I didn't understand tipping rules. I am now much older and I still don't understand the rules. But I have a lot more guts now when deciding when to tip and when not to.

For example, tipping is a little like keeping up with the Joneses or knowing which way to replace the toilet paper—flap on top or on the bottom. Or how to properly put sheets on the bed—pretty side up or pretty side inside.

“Oh, I can't wait to see how you connect these dots,” said Becca, strolling in from outside. She sat down and looked at me expectantly. Becca, for those of you new to the post, is my cheeky mini-Australian Shepherd. She doesn't use toilet paper or sheets, nor does she tip. Or at least I don't think she does. But she'll have an opinion regardless.

“Well, if you don't do it the right way, as society dictates, then everyone knows you're an idiot. Oh, they won't say that to your face, but if you have company over and they use the bathroom and your toilet paper is hung incorrectly, then you can bet that when you get to work the next day, everyone will know you don't know about toilet paper.”

“And you care?” Becca asked.

“Well, when you're younger you have to act like you know about these things. So I thought about the toilet paper issue for a long time: is it easier to pull one way or the other, is it more germ free one way or the other, is it prettier one way or the other. And I concluded, it doesn't matter. But the University of Colorado decided to study the issue, and they concluded that if the toilet paper hangs off the back, you're more likely to brush your hand against the wall and leave germs.”

“You'd think the University would have better things to do with their time. Like finding cures for cancer,” smirked Becca.

“My thoughts exactly, because if we look closer...”

“Do we have to?” whined Becca. I ignored her.

“We could ask what germs? You haven't yet used the toilet paper, so not those germs.”

“Ewww. Seriously?” I ignored her, again.

“And if you use two hands to tear the toilet paper off the roll, not those germs. Or if you have one of those metal flappy things to help with the tearing process, you have to hold that down with one hand or

the other because otherwise it doesn't work, so not those germs you leave behind. No, it's only the germs you leave behind when you touch the wall.

"So it seems to me that the least of the germ problems are with the wall behind the toilet paper. Consequently, it doesn't matter which way you hang toilet paper on the dispenser. Nothing is going to be germ free. Especially if you don't close the lid before flushing. But that's a whole 'nother topic."

"Okay, enough," said Becca. "I'm glad toilet paper isn't an issue for me. I just use the rug."

"Becca!"

"Hey, you use what's handy," she said with a grin. "But how does all of this relate to tipping?"

"Well it falls into the category doing things the correct way. But pre-internet, it was hard to learn these valuable lessons. You can't ask your coworkers because it's too embarrassing to admit you don't know these things. Like bed sheets. I always thought it made more sense to put the pretty side out, so you could see it."

"Everyone knows you put the pretty side inside," Becca scoffed. "So when you turn down the sheets at night, the pretty side shows. But you never make your bed, so what difference does it make?"

"Exactly," I said. "But I had to learn that from my cleaning lady Hazel, who also taught me that refrigerator doors can hang on the left side or the right side."

Hazel moved my refrigerator out of its left corner spot because it was cumbersome to open the door that hung on the right side. Think about that for a minute. The kitchen was built with a cubbyhole for a refrigerator in the left hand cut away slot. I never questioned the arrangement or the way the fridge fit into the slot.

But Hazel knew. She always brought a can of pop when she came to work and she got tired of having to open the door essentially the wrong way. When I got home, she had left me a note explaining that she moved the refrigerator to a spot along the other wall so it would be easier to open. She said she would have rehung the door to the other side, but she didn't have the tools. She also said she would put it back where it belonged, if I didn't like it.

I didn't have the heart to tell her to move the refrigerator back to its cubbyhole. Mainly because she was right. And I didn't even want to try to rehang the door. I think I owned one hammer and maybe a screwdriver at that point in my life. Neither would be much help in reconfiguring a refrigerator door. So I found something else to stick in the vacant spot and chalked the whole thing up to a learning experience. Who knew?

When I was younger I was usually too scared or intimidated to ask about proper protocol kind of things. Now I'm older and I don't care. Meaning, I don't care how I do things and I don't care whether it makes me look dumb to ask questions about such stuff. What I have found is.....no one else knows the answers, either.

And that includes tipping.

"Finally," Becca said. "I wondered when you were going to get to the point." I ignored her again. It's usually best to do that.

“Well, you first have to know about the laws that allow restaurants to pay employees less than minimum wage because they earn tips to make up the difference,” I told her.

“So customers are expected to supplement wages?” Becca asked. “Who thought that rule up?”

“I don’t know, but it annoys me. But I tip because it is expected. And that’s the problem. Tipping should really be to reward someone for good service, going above their stated job duties. I mean, I don’t give you treats just because you do what I ask you to do.”

“Well you should,” Becca said. “No...” “Yes...” “No....” “Yes....” “No. Stop that’s another discussion. We’re talking tipping.”

I will more than happily tip a waiter if he or she gets me out of the restaurant in time for a show, keeps my water glass always full, works hard at getting large groups served at the same time, knows the menu and makes good suggestions, or is able and willing to split checks. But if the menus are on the table and I see the waiter once for the order, once to deliver the order (assuming it’s the same person) and once, if I’m lucky, for the check, why should that person be rewarded with a 20% tip?

Now, like I said, the wait staff at restaurants are often paid below minimum, and tips are needed to raise their overall salaries. I don’t like it, but I get it. But not all restaurants under pay, and unless you research it ahead of time, you don’t know which restaurants under pay their employees. So....you tip.

Tipping is also generally expected in many of the service professions, like hair cutting, massages, cleaning, training, etc. I think one of the reasons tipping in these areas got started is because the workers providing the services were working for themselves. They didn’t have a job that paid for medical, retirement, social security, etc. So the tips help boost their “salaries.” I am always grateful for services I receive, and I always expect the person charging me has already factored retirement, taxes, and medical into the price charged to me. But...

I usually tip, in part defensively. If I don’t tip a hair cutter, the next time I come in who knows what I will look like when I leave. I do the same with baggage handlers at the airport. I want my luggage to arrive with me. So if I check my bags at the curb, I tip.

But tipping has now gotten way out of hand. You go to the cookie store and when the employee swings around the screen to allow you to add a tip for the service of placing your cookie into a bag, you feel guilty about refusing to tip. So you tip. 10%. 20% 30%. It’s ridiculous. And then you never go back.

“You’re telling me that the kid behind the counter who puts your cookie in a bag asks for a tip?” Becca said. “What’s next, Barnes & Noble asking for tips when you check out or the shoe store seller wanting a tip to bag up your shoes?”

“You got it. There are tip jars everywhere these days. Even fast food restaurants have them. And there usually is no explanation as to who gets that money—the store, that employee, all employees split evenly. Even grocery stores have started asking for tips. Even Amazon apparently has started asking for tips.”

“That’s it!” said Becca. “I’m cancelling my Prime membership.”

“You have a Prime....wait, I don’t want to know. I do remember that at Christmas my folks tipped the mailman who delivered mail on foot to the house every day. I always thought that fell into the “thank

you, Merry Christmas” category. But you didn’t tip for every letter or package delivered. You expect to tip a pizza guy, but that’s mainly because you were too lazy to drive in to pick it up yourself.”

One place you do need to tip, and I found this out the hard way, is when you are cruising. And I don’t mean the mandatory tips that are required for the restaurant staff, the bar staff, the cleaning staff and anyone else who holds their hands out for money. I’m talking about the porters who cart your luggage from the taxi to the ship. If you don’t hand over money when you are dropped off, the porters won’t touch your bags. And you can’t haul them, either. It’s a union thing. So if you don’t have cash, you’re in for a long cruise.....

I like to do a little math to help me figure out how much extra someone earns in tips before I make my decision on how much to tip.

For example, do you tip the driver at the airport who has hauled you and your baggage from the parking lot to the terminal. Because he or she is lifting my bags, I usually tip. If the van holds 10 people and the driver makes a trip back & forth every 30 minutes and works an 8 hour shift, that’s 16 trips. If everyone on board tips \$5 that’s \$50 per trip times 16 trips, or \$800 a day or \$4000 per week. That’s more than I made in a month working for the state.

Granted, not everyone tips and not all vans have 10 people on each trip and couples and families tend to tip as one person. Not all drivers make 16 trips per day. But even if it is only half or one fourth of that, the driver is getting an extra \$2000 in cash per week. Or \$1000 or \$500 per week. And that’s on top of his base salary. That’s a lot of extra cash.

If I were famous, this wouldn’t be an issue. I’d tip and probably tip big. But that would also fall into the defensive tipping category. Because if I didn’t, you can bet that the person who expected a big tip but didn’t get it, would trash me all over the internet.

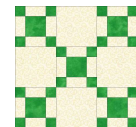
“So you connected all those dots pretty well. I’m impressed,” said Becca. “Toilet paper, bed sheets, refrigerators, dog treats. Oh wait. You didn’t discuss dog treats.”

“You mean bribes.” “No, they’re treats.” “Nope, bribes.” “No.....

This conversation will continue for a while. You don’t need to listen. She’ll win in the end. But it’s still a bribe.

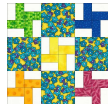
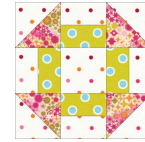
Nine Patch Challenge

July 1-October 5



The summer scrap bag challenge is to make a quilt using the classic 9-patch block. Each bag purchased gets you one quilt. Each quilt finished from one bag gets you one entry for a \$100 gift certificate.

For purposes of this challenge, a 9-patch block can be any block that consists of 9 squares of a uniform size. So long as the block is based upon a grid that is 3 X 3, the individual squares can be a regular square, a half square triangle or a quarter square triangle unit. So blocks like the Ohio Star, traditional 9-patch, or Churn Dash are acceptable. You can add alternate blocks, like a plain block or a snowball block, in between your 9-patch blocks. You can separate your blocks with sashing. Or just piece your blocks together, so long as the result is clearly a nine-patch block quilt. Your quilt needs to be, at a minimum, 60” X 60” (Sorry I couldn’t get the block images loaded better)



Calendar for June-August is displayed below. Some of the classes are self explanatory, like Machine Binding and Machine quilting.

I'm teaching a paper bag log cabin quilt, where I'll teach you the basics of making a scrappy log cabin. It's a great class for color confidence. You will need a bunch (3-4 yards) of dark & medium fabrics cut into 1 1/2" strips (by any length) and the same amount for lights. Choose one color for your center square--you'll need as many center squares as you do blocks. The size of the quilt and setting of your blocks, will determine how many blocks you will need, but 1/4 yard for the centers will be enough.

For the Machine Binding class, you will need a small quilted project (20" X 20" - 40" X 40", and it doesn't have to be square, just something within those dimensions) ready for binding. Choose your binding fabric, **but don't cut until class!**

New Fabric





From Kennard & Kennard

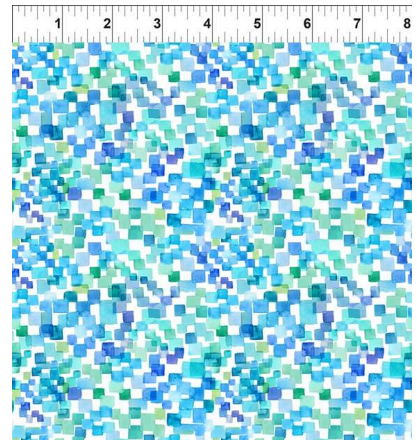
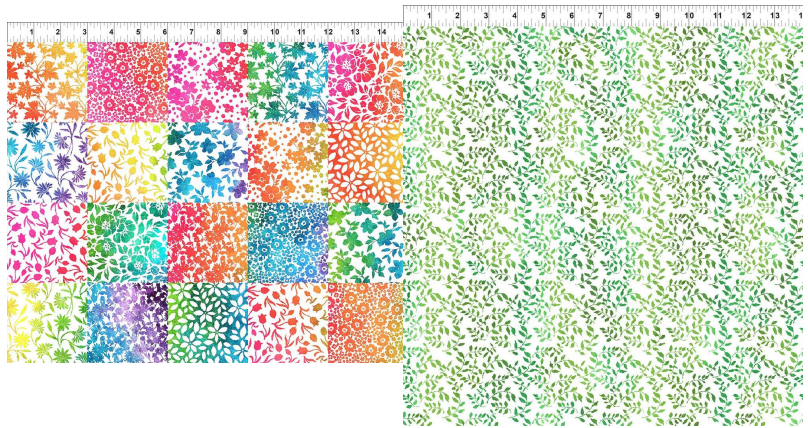
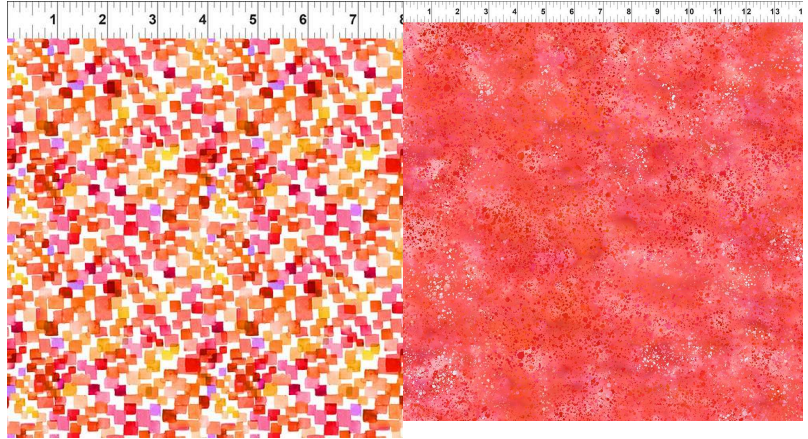


From Alexander Henry



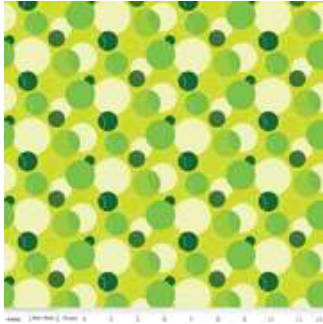


From In the Beginning: **We've made 6 kits: \$175. 4 are sold.** If you are interested, don't wait too long. We have enough fabric to make 1 more kit, maybe 2. We will have a class this summer to teach the blocks & the applique.





From QT--some good panels for one block wonder class in the fall



From Riley Blake, the green plus 10" square packs



From Hoffman



From Riley Blake

JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 T-shirt Quilt Part 1 1-5
2 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	3	4 Hand work Club 2-5	5 Long Arm class 10:30	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
9 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	10	11 Hand work Club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Quilt as you go: Triangle Log Cabin 10:30-4
16 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	17	18 Hand work Club 2-5	19 Long Arm class 10:30	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21 Full Moon	22 Machine Quilting 10:30- 2:30
23 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	24	25 Hand work Club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	27 Long Arm Rental Day	28	29 Sew Spring Quilt 10:30-4
30 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4						Color of the month: blue

JULY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Hand work Club 2-5	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 BOM 10:30 Machine Binding 1-5
7 CLOSED	8	9 Hand work Club 2-5	10 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	11 Long Arm Rental Day STATE QUILT Meeting	12 STATE QUILT Meeting	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon STATE QUILT Meeting
14 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	15	16 Hand work Club 2-5	17 Long Arm class 10:30	18 Long Arm Rental Day	19	20 Strip Quilts 10:30-4 Full Moon
21 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	22	23 Hand work Club 2-5	24 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	25 Long Arm Rental Day	26	27 Paper Bag Log Cabin Quilt 10:30-4
28 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	29	30 Hand work Club 2-5	31			Color of the month: Christmas

AUGUST 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: blacks				1 Long Arm Rental Day	2	3 BOM 10:30 Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
4 CLOSED	5	6 Hand work Club 2-5	7 Long Arm class 10:30	8 Long Arm Rental Day	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
11 Shop Is now open 1-5!	12	13 Hand work Club 2-5	14 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	15 Long Arm Rental Day	16	17
18 Shop Is now open 1-5!	19 Full Moon	20 Hand work Club 2-5	21 Long Arm class 10:30	22 Long Arm Rental Day	23	24
25 Shop Is now open 1-5!	26	27 Hand work Club 2-5	28 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	29 Long Arm Rental Day	30	31

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 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.

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). 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 2-5.

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.

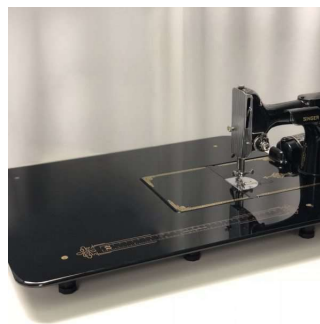
Full Moon Days: June 21, July 20, August 19

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

June blue; July Christmas; August blacks



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 needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-5:30
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

