



Black Friday Sale

Shop Small Business Saturday

Friday and Saturday Nov 29-30

Fabric is on sale: 25% off--only fabric we cut from bolts. No precuts, fat quarters, kits or scrap bags.

Books are 25% off

AND

For every purchase over \$50, your name will be entered into a drawing for a 7-yard bundle of Riley Blake fabrics.

A \$100 value!

Drawing will be Saturday at 5 p.m. No need to be present, we'll give you a call.



November 27, 2024



'Tis the season to get annoyed. I know, I know. It's supposed to be, 'tis the season to be jolly. Fa la la la la la la one more, I think, la.

It started at Wicked, during the pre movie ads. And before you ask, I liked Wicked. I liked the original musical and unlike what happened in Cats, Mama Mia (sorry fans, I like ABBA, just not Pierce Brosnan and Meryl Streep singing it), Into the Woods and Les Mis, they actually cast people who could sing. And dance. And boo to the critics who said it would be better if they cut all the talking animal scenes and even Elphaba's sister because none of that nonsense had anything to do with the plot. It just takes up space and time. I think those critics are only interested in movies with pretty songs and dancing lights for distraction.

Okay. Like I said, I'm annoyed. Where was I. Oh, the pre movie ads. So this ad for a local financial company came on the screen and admonished everyone to not put up/light up Christmas lights before Thanksgiving. Seriously. I am being lectured about when I can and can't turn on Christmas lights by a financial company at a movie theater? I was so annoyed that I wrote them a letter expressing my annoyance. Who are they to tell me what I can and can't do. Are you also going to tell me I can't wear white after Labor Day?

Which brings me to the question, when do you put up Christmas lights? Okay, that's not the right question. In Cheyenne, you put up Christmas lights anytime from October through November when 1) the wind isn't blowing and 2) it's above freezing. So when do you turn on these festive, happy jewels of light?

That is the ubiquitous question, if questions can be ubiquitous. Moby Dick, by the way, is ubiquitous.

Anyway, I looked it up, because everyone who is nobody is an authority on this issue. So tradition says, after Thanksgiving. But in the last few years, it's now any time after Halloween. So that's not much help with the Ann Landers/Martha Stewart/financial company protocol authority lecturers. Whatever.

So a little history is in order here. Many of our Christmas traditions come from Germany. Trees, especially. Old carols, like the Holly and the Ivy, indicate that holly branches were used in England for decorations way back when (15th century), and, with a hop skip and jump, we go from branches to the whole tree. We have Germany to thank for the tree tradition. Trees were so popular in the 15th century that ordinances in the Alsace region were enacted that limited households to only one tree. That's like having only 1 tv. We had 3: to watch all three games on each network at the same time. If you're younger than 60, that might not make much sense. Even at the time, it was a bit peculiar.

German immigrants brought their traditions to America, so in the late 1700s and early 1800s, the tradition of Christmas trees began to spread across the burgeoning country. But it was Queen Victoria and Prince Albert who gave the tradition a firm foothold. In the late 1840s, Godey's Lady's Book reprinted an illustration of a decorated tree with presents underneath, with the queen, prince and children gathered around. It was a hit.

Our Christmas songs give other hints about when and how decorations came about. For example, the "I'll be Home for Christmas" song about presents "on" the tree. Not under, as the song has been changed in more recent years. Presents may have been under the tree, but in the old days other presents were also tied onto the tree. The movie A Christmas Story shows the parents putting up the tree and decorating it mere days, if not the day, before Christmas. Same with It's a Wonderful Life.

Traditionally, back in the days when Christmas trees first became a thing, they were real. And that dictated a lot about when they could be decorated. A Christmas tree decorated with candles could only last a few days before it became a real fire hazard. Electricity allowed us to extend the life of a real tree, and then polyester was invented, sometime after/during WWII, which gave us fake trees and tinsel trees, the ones that Lucy wanted Charlie Brown to bring back from the tree lot. And that's probably when decorating taboos began to spring up.

But other concepts also drove Christmas traditions, back in the day. And again we have Germany to thank. The Advent Calendar.

The story goes that Gerhard Lang's mother put 24 cookies into a box for him, representing the 24 days before Christmas. Obviously starting on December 1. And that must have been one tough final cookie by Christmas Eve. I'm just saying. But it inspired Lang to invent an Advent Calendar, ticking down the 24 days before Christmas. And the start date was December 1. After Thanksgiving.

I remember my mom had her own traditions and time tables for Christmas. Clearly, nothing could be done before Thanksgiving, because one woman can't do all the cooking and decorating for two upcoming holidays at the same time, in addition to handling two birthdays in November and a wedding anniversary. So our Christmas never started until after Thanksgiving.

She kept lists in little notebooks to guide her about what to do, how much, and when. For example, baking. She made cookies. Lots and lots of them. Cookies were for sharing with everyone, from teachers to principals to church to friends. Everyone got a plate. So each day she had a rota of things to do. The Santa Claus cookies were especially dear. She mixed the dough one day. And baked various other things. The next day she took the chilled dough and cut out the faces. And baked various other things. The next day she took the dried cookie cutter faces and added blush and chocolate chip eyes and baked them. Along with various other things.

Over the course of the next few days, she added icing. I think the red went on first. Then white. Then red again for the mouth. Different pips for different swirls. And she made probably 4 dozen? More likely 6. And everyone got one or two or more. They were the Christmas Day breakfast. They lasted longer than they should have.

In between the baking came tree decorating, house decorating, roof top decorating, package buying and wrapping, Christmas letters written, addressed & mailed. I

mean, the whole month was a production. And we, as the family, helped marginally. Why would anyone start this prior to roasting the Thanksgiving turkey, having the whole family over, baking all sort of side dishes, putting out the fine China, and then washing everything by hand while everyone else watched football? You'd be nuts.

So we still haven't answered the question as to when it's proper to light up the lights. What you do inside your house is up to you. I won't get into that argument. But I like seeing the twinkling colors on the houses, outdoor trees and lawns. It's peaceful. It's happy. It's calming. It's pretty.

So now is a great time to bring a little joy to the world. I say, Turn on the lights!



Christmas Mystery 2024

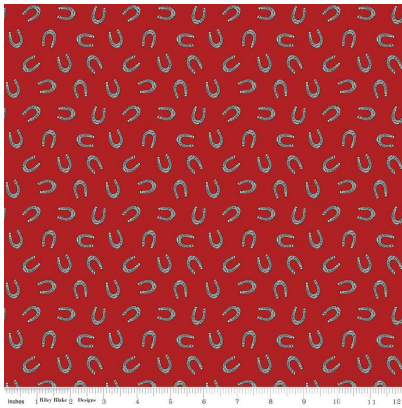
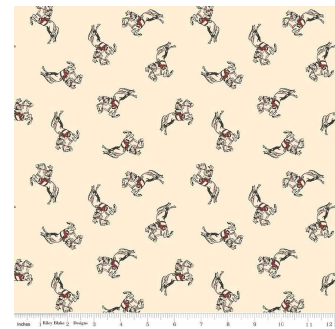
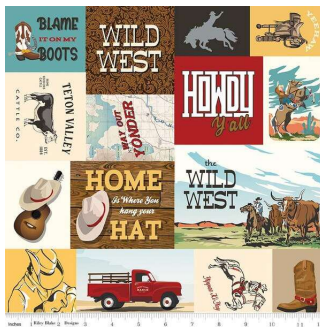
[Christmas Mystery 2024](#)



New Fabric



From Kennard & Kennard

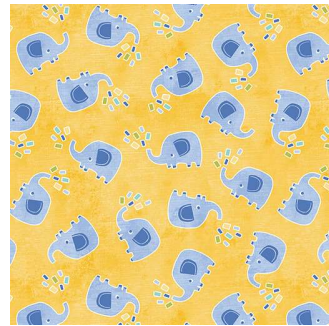


And one other fabric with the lyrics Home on the Range printed on the fabric. Couldn't grab a pic

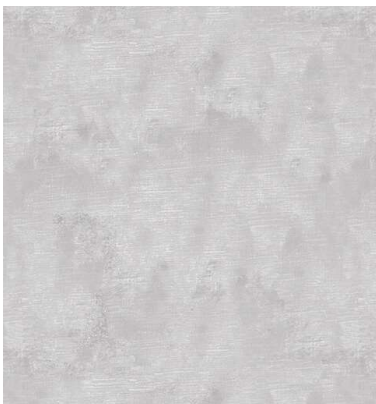
From Riley Blake

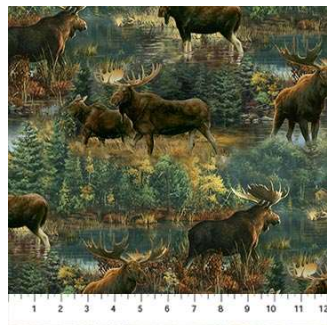
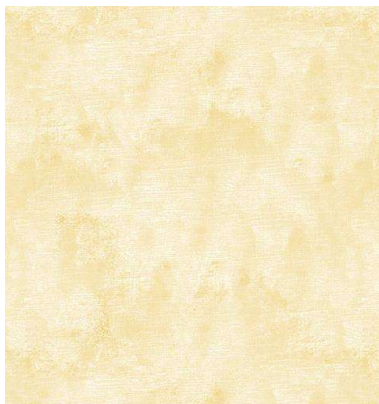


From Quilting Treasures

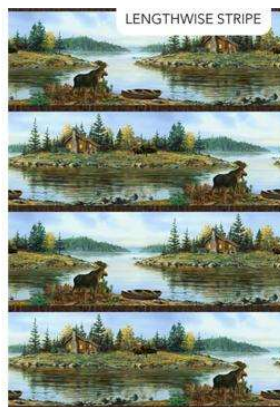
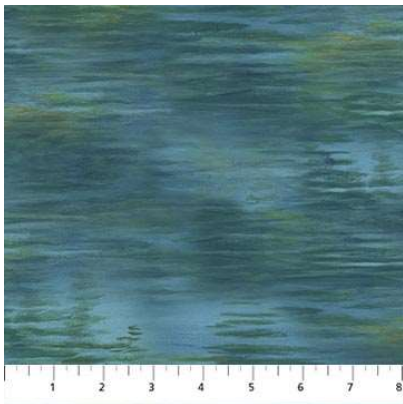


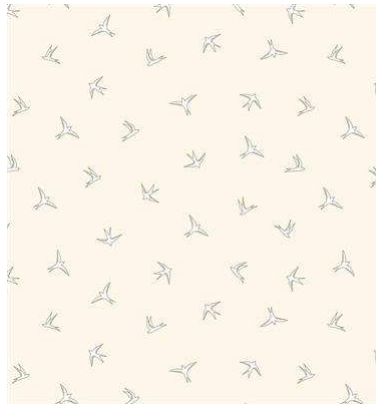
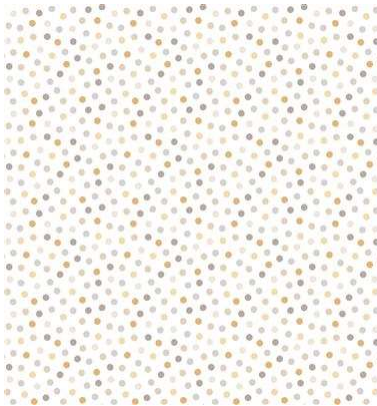
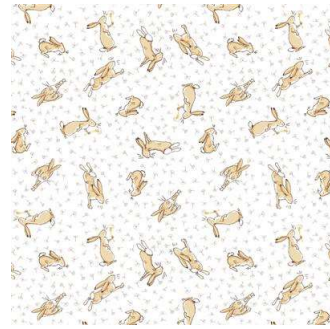
From Benartex. All but the yellow is flannel.





From Northcott

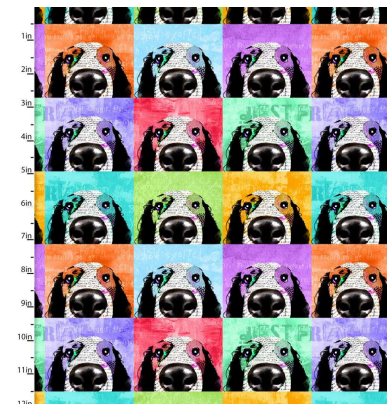




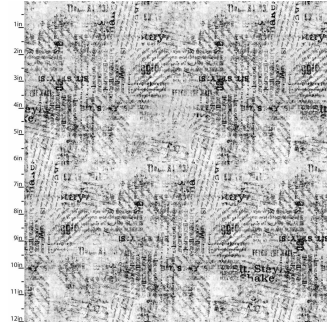
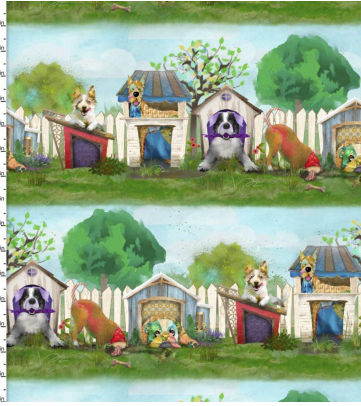
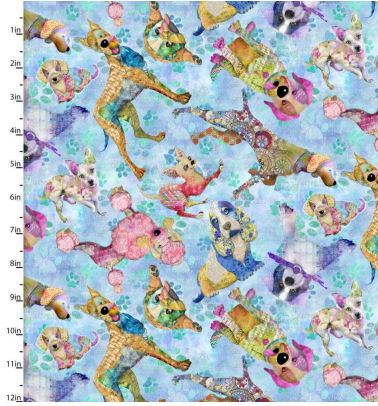
Y



From Clothworks

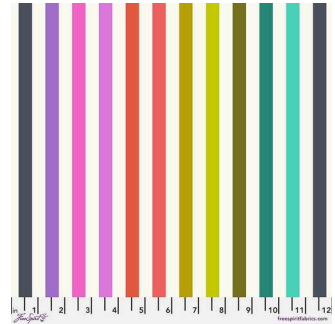


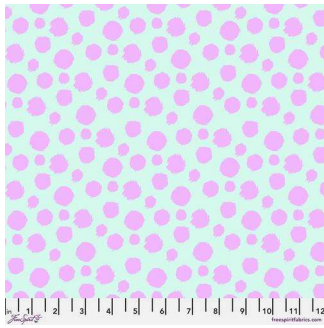
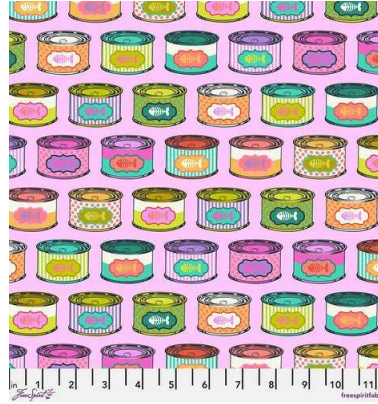
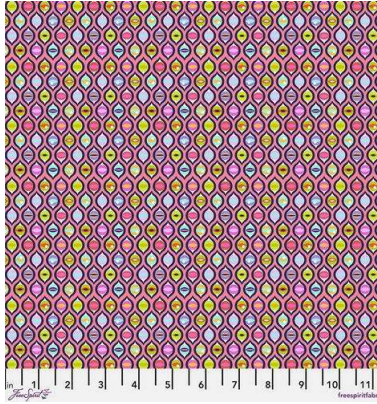
From 3 wishes



From Clothworks: Secret Life of Squirrels II



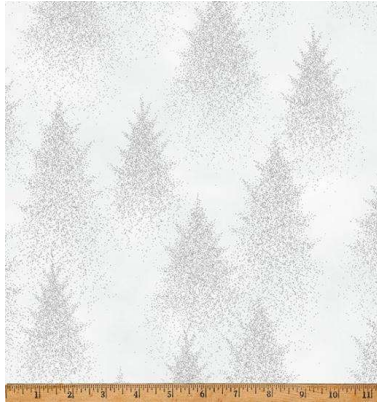




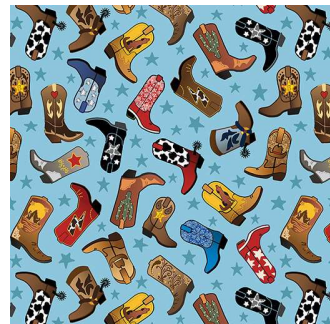
From Tula Pink



Yoy 7 remaining!"

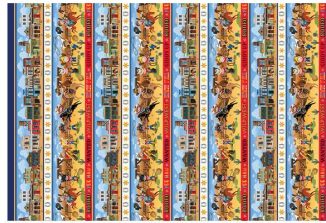


From Hoffman





AS SHOWN 42" X 24"

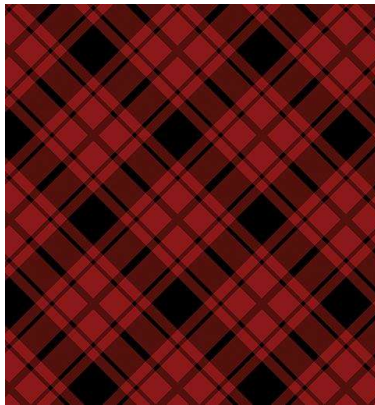
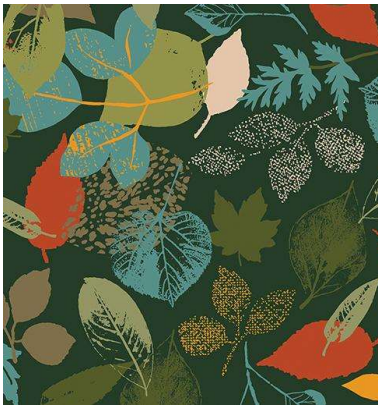


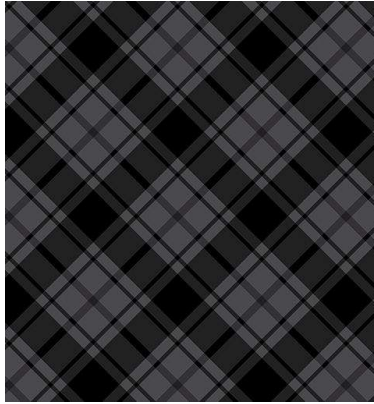
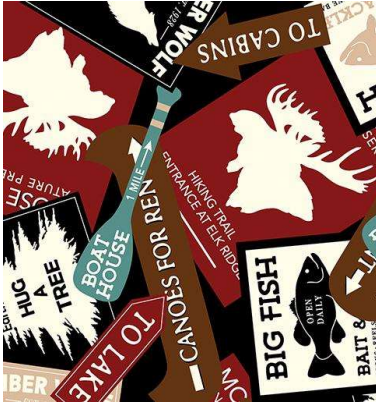
AS SHOWN 44" X 30"
*stripe runs parallel to selvage



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!

NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: Purple					1	2 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Bison Wall Hanging Part I 1-5
3 CLOSED	4	5 Hand work Club 2-5	6	7	8	9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Bison Wall Hanging Part I 1-5
10 CLOSED	11 Veterans Day	12 Hand work Club 2-5	13 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	14	15 Full Moon	16 Strip Quilts 10:30-4
17 CLOSED	18	19 Hand work Club 2-5	20	21	22	23 Krista Moser Christmas Tree Skirt 10 30-4
24 CLOSED	25	26 Hand work Club 2-5	27 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 Black Friday Sale	30 Shop Small Business Sale

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

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates. NOTE: I will be doing a pillow case workshop in October on Thursdays in the afternoon. I will post the times and details soon.

Also, we did not include Machine Binding in the class schedule, but I will try to include it in November. Details to follow.

We may also do something special on Veteran's Day. So much to plan....

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

Machine Binding with your BSR Sat December 7, 1-4 \$45 Jean Korber

Do you have a Bernina and you have the BSR (stitch regulator) and don't know how to use it? This class is for you. Jean will show you the ins and outs of machine quilting on your Bernina with the BSR. This is hands on class. You will need a small project (10" to 40", table runner, small wall nagging, place mat, etc) that is ready to be quilted. When you sign up, we will tell you how to prepare your project so you are ready to quilt in class.

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

