



September 13, 2024

It's time to trot out the book list. We have about 4 months to go. I have 5 books left on the list and am almost through one of them. I have underlined the books that I have read, so you will know which ones I'm counting. I have listed other titles for some of the categories to give you options if you are struggling to find the right read. This year's list has been a little surprising to me. Some of the books I have read, I didn't really like. Others, I read everything the writer has written, like the Finlay Donovan books. A few, I barely remember, which probably says more about my memory than the value of the book.

So first, my favorites: I liked all of the Finlay Donovan books. They are fun reads, improbable plots, which make them even better.

My Mechanical Romance was better than anticipated. It involves teens who build robots for competitions. This really happens, and I suspect that the detail involved designing the robots, "training" them (which means training the humans to make them work), and finally competing with them was accurate. And then I ran into a grandmother at the store who was attending one of these competitions to watch her grand kid, and from what she described, the book nailed it.

Animal Farm was a particularly good read, especially as an older and, I hope, wiser adult. It was well worth revisiting.

The Ink Black Heart by Robert Galbraith, a.k.a. JK Rowlings, was a long listen. So much of the book occurs in messaging, either through gaming platforms, phones or emails. Which means all of the headers get read, just like the phone app in the car that reads all sorts of details on text message before getting to the message. That was tedious. But I decided that eventually the detectives would figure out the important things within those texts and talk about them to each other, thus eliminating the need for me to play Miss Marple and try to figure out who dun it through the clues dropped by the author in those texts. While I have my issues with Rowlings, the detail she includes in her books makes me feel like I am living in the moment with her characters.

Anything Dorothy Sayers does is good. Margaret Mizushima's series is also good, easy to read.

The Wool, Shift and Dust dystopian series by Hugh Howey was reasonably predictable. A younger reader would find the issues presented more novel, but I was intrigued enough to get through the trilogy.

Central Park West by James Comey was surprisingly good. I didn't expect it. Everyone in my Family has Killed Someone Benjamin Stevenson was hilarious. And on this one, you could play Miss Marple & try to figure it out. He drops enough clues. He even tells you he's doing that.

Turtles all the Way Down by John Green is probably the best read of the year. It's a coming of age story, a little autobiographical, and shows the difficulties faced by teens who have to maneuver through, and maybe around, mental health issues. The story was compelling: It was fascinating, educational and encouraging.

One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus demonstrates how we all keep secrets, which is a gentle way of saying, we all lie. At least about some things. The story is told from the perspectives of all the teens involved in a death of a classmate.

Leigh Bardugo never fails and her Six of Crows was excellent. And while I generally don't like memoir kind of books, Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me by Mindy Kaling was funny and interesting.

Books I don't remember: Full House by Janet Evanovich; The Secrets of Wishtide by Kate Saunders; What's the Matter with Mary Jane by Candace Jane Dorsey; and The Death of Kings by Rennie Airth. But that doesn't mean I didn't like them.

I didn't like Mary Poppins, for all the reasons I stated a couple of weeks ago. I also didn't like [The Night Circus](#) by [Erin Morgenstern](#) (sorry Mel). It's a magical realism kind of story, and while I like sci fi and fantasy, and most of Barbara Kingsolver's novels, I don't find magical realism all that intriguing.

I also didn't like A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah Maas, although I typically like fantasy books, and hers are routinely touted as being some of the best. As I told my niece, I'd rather have more story and less panting. It's a teen book, so when it gets to those parts, it's mostly panting and nothing else. The unfortunate part is that the young woman who is being held captive and who is the protagonist, takes as her due the abuse inflicted upon her, because, of course, she is in love with her captor. Save me.

Below is the book list. All the books have left impressions upon me and have made me think. Which is what books are supposed to do.

1. A book with the word "leap" in the title One Giant Leap by Heather Kaczynski

2. A bildungsroman: Demian by Hermann Hesse; ["Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#); The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini,; The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath; The Tin Drum by Günter Grass; The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt
3. A book about a writer The Writing Retreat by Julia Bartz; Finlay Donovan is Killing It by Elle Cosimano
4. A book whose title begins with an H H.M.S. Ulysses by Alistair MacLean 5. A book with a sheep on the cover Black Sheep by Rachael Harrison
6. A book about pirates Murder at Pirate's Cove by Josh Lanyon [not really about pirates, but there are pirates in the book. It will count, unless I find another book]
7. A book with the word house in the title Full House by Janet Evanovich
8. A book and movie combination, one based off the other The Snowman by Jo Nesbo
9. Pick a war, any war: A book about a war, historical fiction to non fiction City of Lies by Victoria Thompson; H H.M.S. Ulysses by Alistair MacLean; Partisans by Alistair MacLean
10. A book from a genre you typically avoid My Mechanical Romance by Alexene Farol Follmuth; My Dad's Funnier than Your Dad by Kelly Conway
11. A book from an animal's POV Animal Farm by George Orwell
12. A book originally published under a pen name The Ink Black Heart by Robert Galbraith
13. A book recommended by a bookseller Burning Ridge by Margaret Mizushima
14. A book recommended by a librarian
15. A book set 24 years before you were born The Documents in the Case by Dorothy Sayers; Strong Poison by Dorothy Sayers
16. A humorous book, one that makes you laugh, not just smile: Finlay Donovan is Killing It by Elle Cosimand; Finlay Donovan Knocks 'Em Dead by Elle Cosimand
17. A book set in space Dare Mighty Things by Heather Kaczynski
18. A book set in the future Wool by Hugh Howey; Shift by Hugh Howey

19. A book set in the snow The Snowman by Jo Nesbo; The Darkness by Ragnar Jonnason
20. A book that came out in a year that ends with "24" Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice by Elle Cosimano
21. A book with the word secret in the title The Secrets of Wishtide by Kate Saunders
22. A book with a dragon on the cover Rise of the Dragons by Morgan Rice
23. A book with a direction in the title: north, south, east or west Central Park West by James Comey
24. A psychological thriller The Housemaid by Freida McFadden; The Whisper Man by Alex North
25. A book that was turned into a musical Mary Poppins by P.L. Travers
26. A book where someone dies in the first chapter 7 ½ Deaths; Everyone in my Family has Killed Someone Benjamin Stevenson
27. A book where the protagonist is female and over 50 years old Vera Wong's Advice for Murders Jesse Q Sutano; The Little Old Lady Who Broke all the Rules by Catharina Ingelman-Sunderberg
28. A book with a neurodivergent main character Turtles all the Way Down by John Green
29. A book with a one-word title you had to look up in a dictionary Marazan by Nevil Shute
30. A book with a title that is a complete sentence What's the Matter with Mary Jane by Candace Jane Dorsey
31. A romance book with a pink cover My Mechanical Romance by Alexene Farol Follmuth; Cat in a Flamingo Fedora, by Carole Nelson Douglas
32. A book with an unreliable narrator One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus
33. A book with the words King, Queen, Prince or Knave in the title The Death of Kings by Rennie Airth
34. A book with magical realism The Cloisters by Katy Hays
35. An award winning YA book Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

36. A book written during NaNoWriMo

[Water for Elephants](#) by [Sara Gruen](#),; [Persistence of Memory](#) by [Amelia Atwater-Rhodes](#),; [Anna and the French Kiss](#) by [Stephanie Perkins](#),; [The Night Circus](#) by [Erin Morgenstern](#),; Dust by [Hugh Howey](#),; [Cinder](#) by [Marissa Meyer](#); [Fangirl](#) by [Rainbow Rowell](#), published by [St. Martin's Press](#) ; [The Darwin Elevator](#) by Jason M. Hough; [Side Effects May Vary](#) by [Julie Murphy](#); Assassin's Heart by Sarah Ahiers,; [The Forest of Hands and Teeth](#) by Carrie Ryan; The Cut Out by [Jack Heath](#); The Beautiful Land, by Alan Averill; The Wedding

37. A cozy fantasy book A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah Maas

38. A book with Heaven or Hell in the title A Cold Day in Hell by Lissa Marie Redmund

39. A book a character in a movie or tv show is reading Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me by Mindy Kaling

40. A book with a ship on the cover H H.M.S. Ulysses by Alistair MacLean; Ghost ship by Clive Cussler

41. A book filled with robot characters My Mechanical Romance by Alexene Farol Follmuth

42. A book about a dystopian future I Keep My Exoskeletons to Myself by Marisa Crane; Wool by Hugh Howey; Dust by Hugh Howey

43. A gothic horror novel The House with Good Bones by T. Kingfisher

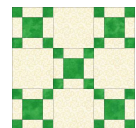
44. A book with 24 letters in the title Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun by Elle Cosimand

45. A Christmas horror book



## Nine Patch Challenge

July 1-October 5

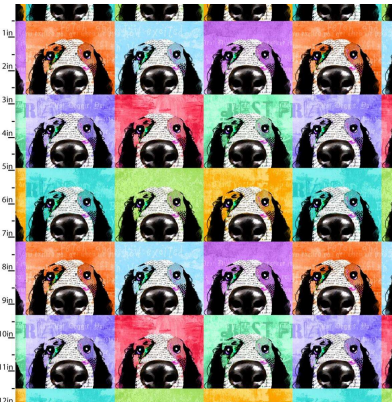


The summer scrap bag challenge is to make a quilt using the classic 9-patch block. Each bag purchased gets you one quilt. Each quilt finished from one bag gets you one entry for a \$100 gift certificate.

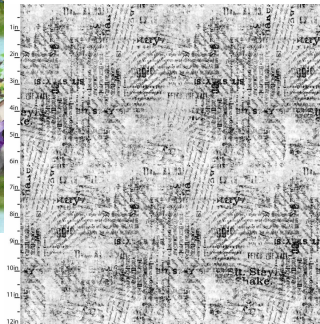
For purposes of this challenge, a 9-patch block can be any block that consists of 9 squares of a uniform size. So long as the block is based upon a grid that is 3 X 3, the individual squares can be a regular square, a half square triangle or a quarter square triangle unit. So blocks like the Ohio Star, 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)



### New Fabric



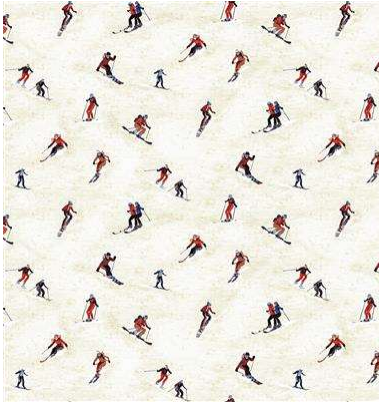
### From 3 wishes















From 3 Wishes



Y



From Riley Blake

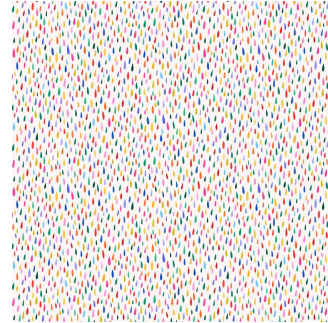
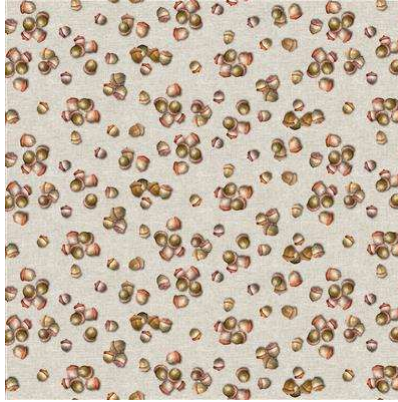




From Clothworks: Secret Life of Squirrels II

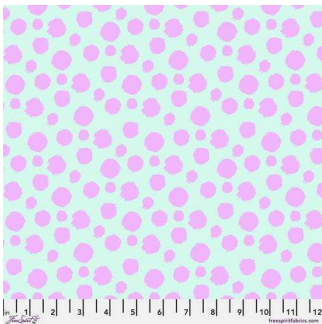
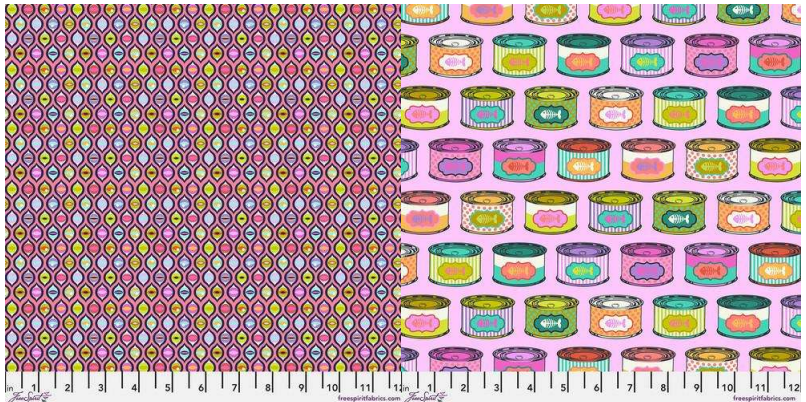
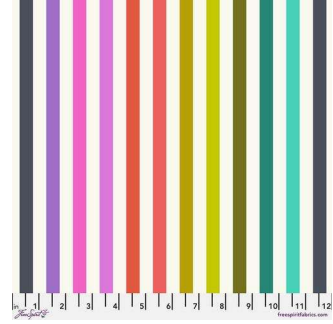






From Dashwood





From Tula Pink



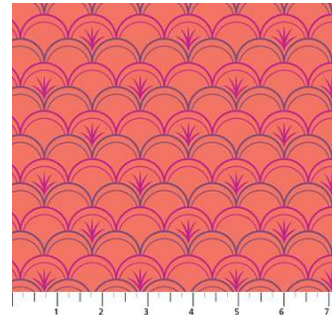
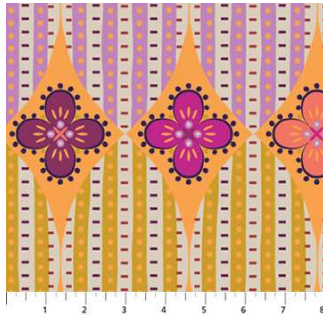




From Dear Stella



From Dashwood



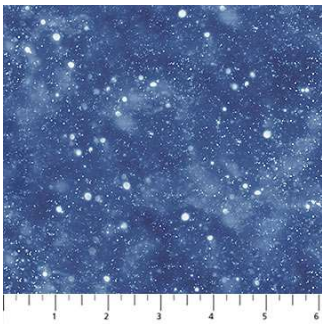
From Figo + rolls & squares







From Paintbrush



From Northcott: flannel,  
except for the 2 sports  
fabrics



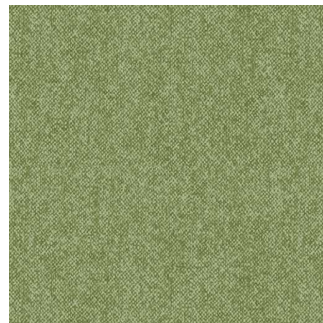
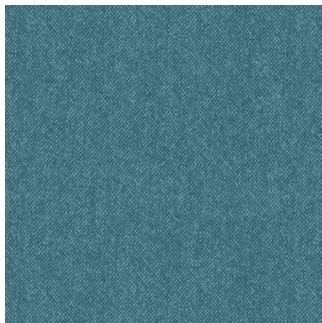
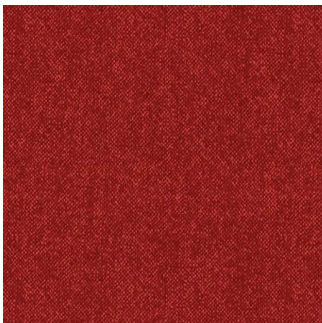
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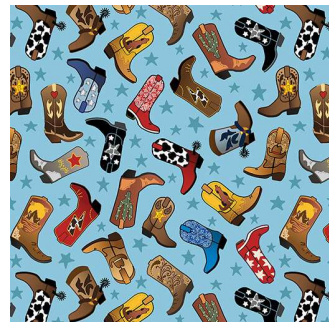
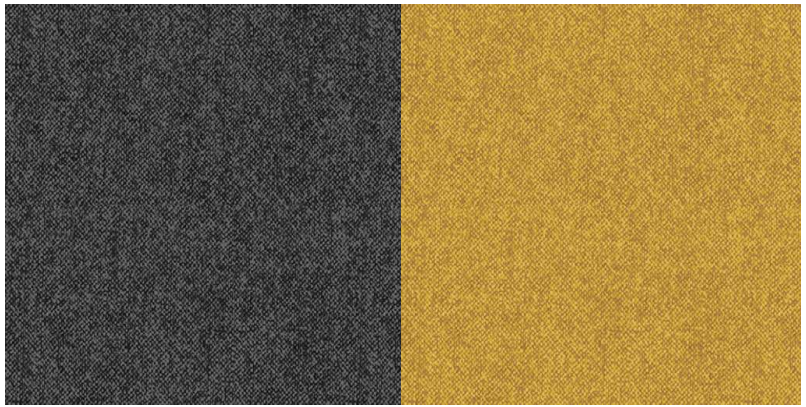
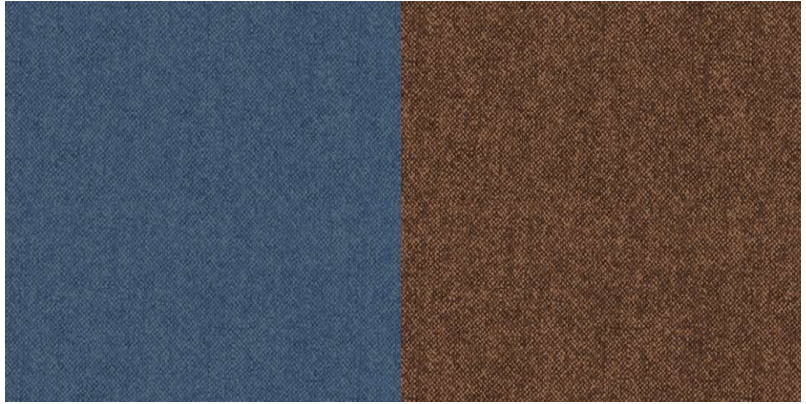
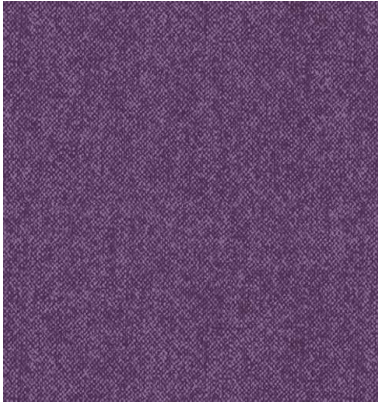




From Hoffman



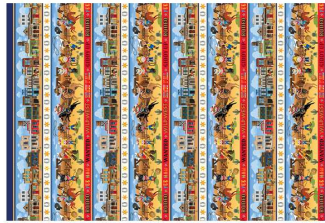
From Benartex Flannel







AS SHOWN 42" X 24"

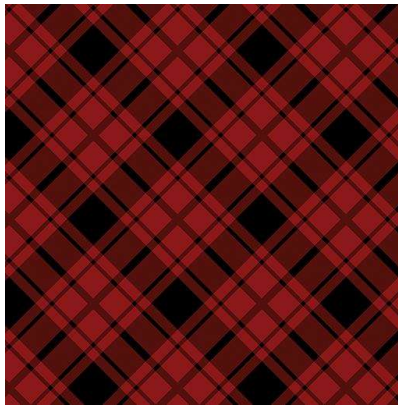
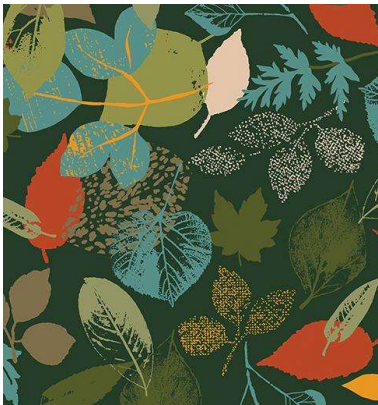


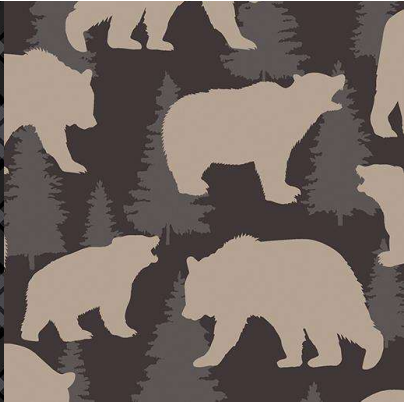
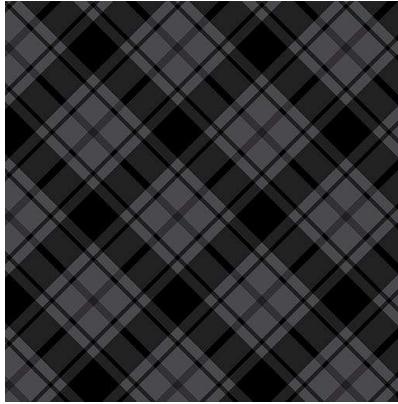
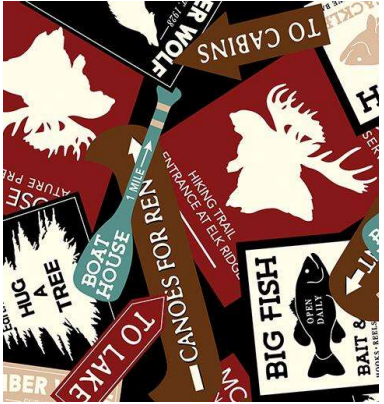
AS SHOWN 44" X 30"  
\*stripe runs parallel to selvage



PANEL MEASURES APPROX. 18" X 27"

From Benartex: The fall looking ones are flannel





Y

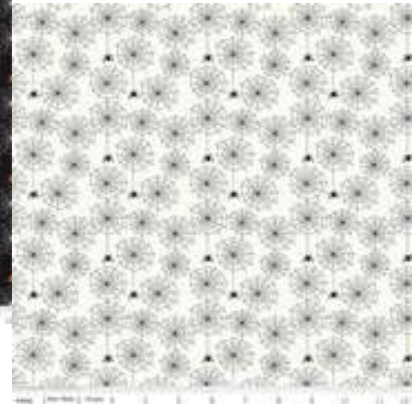
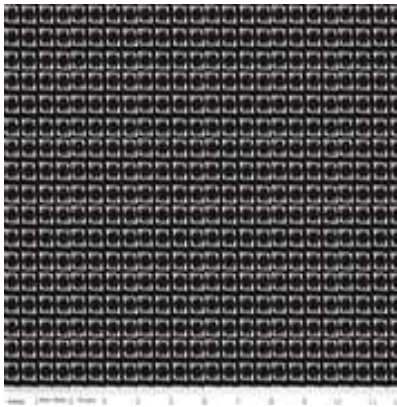
From Clothworks



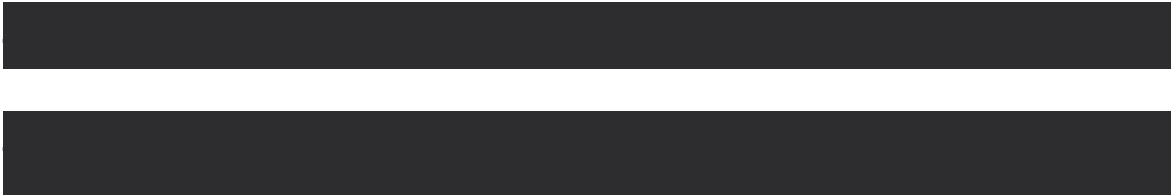
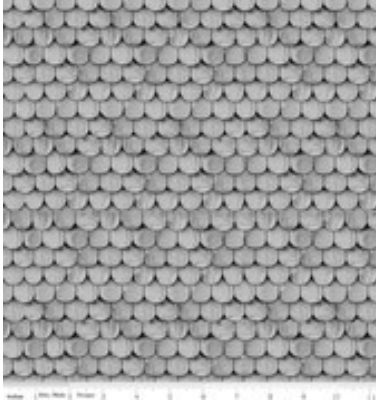




From Riley Blake. The blacks glow in the dark







SEPTEMBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2 Labor Day	3 Hand work Club 2-5	4	5	6	7 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings  Cozy Flannel Quilt 1-5
8 Beginning Quilt 1-4	9	10 Hand work Club 2-5	11 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	12	13	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon One Block Wonder Part I 1-4
15 Beginning Quilt 1-4	16	17 Hand work Club 2-5 <b>Full Moon</b>	18	19	20	21 Strip Quilts 10:30-4
22 Beginning Quilt 1-4	23	24 Hand work Club 2-5	25 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	26	27	28 Travel Bag Part I 10:30-4
29 Beginning Quilt 1-4	30					Color of the month: orange

## OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hand work Club 2-5	2	3	4	5 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings  Lost Socks 1-5
6 CLOSED Beginning Quilt 1-4	7	8 Hand work Club 2-5	9 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	10 Long Arm Rental Day	11	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon  Jingle Pops Christmas Tree 1-5
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14 Columbus Day	15 Hand work Club 2-5	16	17 <b>Full Moon</b>	18	19 <del>One Block Wonder</del> Part II 10:3-5
20 Beginning Quilt 1-4	21	22 Hand work Club 2-5	23 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	24	25	26 Travel Bag Part II 10:30-4
27 Beginning Quilt 1-4	28	29 Hand work Club 2-5	30	31		Color of the month: green

## NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: Purple					<b>1</b>	2 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings  Bison Wall Hanging Part I 1-5
3	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	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	<b>18</b>	19 Hand work Club 2-5	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	23 Krista Moser Christmas Tree Skirt 10 30-4
24 CLOSED	<b>25</b>	26 Hand work Club 2-5	27 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	28 Thanksgiving Day	<b>29</b> 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 <b>Full Moon</b>
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 <b>Toad Toter Sale</b>	28 <b>Year End Sale</b>
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** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

## September classes

**Cozy Flannel Quilt, lap size or queen size Sat Sept 7 1-4 \$30 Barb Boyer Max. 5 students**

This quilt can be made in two sizes. The patterns, and our samples, are 48" X 48". But you can make 4 units and sew them together for a 96" X 96". Or add borders to make the lap size into a twin or double. The quilt uses 5 different flannels and we have great choices. The class is limited because we only have 5 patterns.

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

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.

**One Block Wonder Parts I and 2 Sat Sept 14 1-4 and Oct 19 10:30-5 \$45 Jean Korber**

If you haven't tried making a one block wonder quilt from panels, you are missing out on a spectacular quilt. This quilt uses 7 panels; 6 are cut into triangles and the remaining panel is incorporated intact into the quilt. You will learn how to accurately stack your 6 panels, cut them apart into strips, which are then cut into 6 identical triangles. After piecing your half hexagon units, you will design your own quilt. Jean has great tips and suggestions on how to make this quilt, how to incorporate

additional fabrics into your quilt, and how to evaluate what panels make the best One Block Wonder quilts.

**Let's Strip! Quilts Sat Sept 21 and Nov 16 10:30-4 or 5 Jean Korber and Barb Boyer \$130**

6 quilts, 1 book, every other month, 1 price for all 6 classes. (or \$35/class if you pick & choose). We did this last year, using one book and fat quarters, and the quilts were amazing. So we're trying it again, this time using 2 ½" strips. Each class will employ different techniques, and we sometimes change things up a little. We want you to learn something new in each class. The book is Striking Strip Quilts by Kate Henderson. You'll have to find the book on line, as it is no longer being published. If you have trouble finding it, let me know. January's quilt is called Summer Holiday; March is Tulip Patch; May is Day Dream; July is Twinkle Twinkle; September is By the Sea Shore; and November is Heading Home (which uses a lot of flying geese so if you want a jump start on the quilt, come to the Let's Make flying Geese class on Jan 15).

**Travel Tote Bag September 28 10:30-4 and Oct 26 10:30-4 \$50 Jean Korber**

This is a bag you can slip over the handles of your roll along luggage. Perfect for traveling, perfect for traveling to class with your sewing machine on a roll along cart. The class has 2 parts: first preparing your fabric and figuring out the pattern—Jean will tell you what parts need to be constructed before you put the bag together. The second class will be assembling the bag, adding pockets, learning to put in zippers. She's also made a few modifications, of course, and she'll explain how to do all of that.

**October Classes**

**Lost Socks Sat Oct 5, 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer**

We all have a lost sock or two. This quilt celebrates all of the lost socks that no longer have a match. There are big socks and small socks and they are machines appliqued onto various backgrounds. You can make the quilt out of flannels, brushed cottons, wovens or regular fabrics. Make each sock unique and use all different applique stitches to secure them.



**Jingle Pops Christmas Tree Sat Oct 12 1:00-4 \$35 Barb Boyer**

The Jingle Pops are Hoffman fabrics famous 2 ½” strip sets, done in golds or silvers. Or you can use your own strip set to make this delightful Christmas Tree quilt. Easy to do and done before Christmas.

**One Block Wonder Parts I and 2 Sat Sept 14 1-4 and Oct 19 10:30-5 \$45 Jean Korber ongoing**

**Travel Tote Bag September 28 10:30-4 and Oct 26 10:30-4 \$50 Jean Korber ongoing**

**November Classes**

**Bison Wall Hanging Parts I & II, Nov 2, 1-5 and Nov 9, 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer**

The Bison Wall Hanging comes from Wyoming pattern designer Sewn Design. The head of the bison is made in a crazy quilt style or from left over bits from your stash. The rest of the bison is created from one piece of fabric. The two pieces are then fused into place on a background. I'll show you how to “window pane” the bison, to reduce the amount of fusible needed for the quilt. Then the bison is secured using a machine blanket stitch—or any other decorative stitch. Part I is making the head and Part II is fusing in down and appliqueing in place.

**Let's Strip! Quilts Sat Nov 16 10:30-4 or 5 Jean Korber and Barb Boyer \$130**

March's quilt is Tulip Patch. You will need 25 assorted green strips for stems and 25 assorted strips for the tulips, plus background (and borders, if you want them). This quilt teaches different ways to use the 45 degree flip method for making flying geese-styled blocks.

**Krista Moser Christmas Tree Skirt Sat Nov 23 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber**

Krista has done it again with a great eloquent tree skirt. We love Krista Moser patterns because they go together so well and look like they are so complicated: Not. We also like offering her classes because the quilts use a 60 degree diamond ruler and we like to get as much use out of our specialty rulers that we can!

## **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 napping, 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](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com)

