

Shirley's Sewing Room

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Fall 2019

Here we are again, at that time of year when summer holidays and warm weather and all that comes with that, comes to an end. I am sure this summer went much faster than normal! I find I spend so much time and effort looking forward to something and then in a flash, it is over. It was great taking time away from the store so I could spend some time with my family while my daughter and her family were here from "The Rock". Many new memories were made.

It is hard to believe that we have been in our new location for almost a year now! It has turned out to be a great building, especially for classes - I love the big classroom. We never froze out in the winter and though there were a couple of pretty hot days we managed just fine without an air conditioner. I really appreciate all the effort you made to find our new "home".

Although it is always sad to see the summer end, it also brings more time for us to get back to what we all love - QUILTING! I must admit I found it a little hard this year to come up with something new and exciting for classes, but I hope there is something that catches your eye.

Charity Quilts

2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
from 1:00-4:00

Come and join us for a fun afternoon of sewing. We provide the fabric, you sew and together we will provide quilts for those in need.



2nd Saturday of each month
starting Oct. 12 at 10:00 a.m.

This years Saturday Sampler is going to be a lot different from past years! For years now we have been making a block each month, so I thought it was time to switch it up a bit. This year we are going to make a different border each month. You will learn 10 different border designs that can be adapted to full size quilts, and that are suitable for any skill level. Maybe it is time to bring out some of those blocks from past years and finish them off with a creative border.

For the sake of the class we will place the border we learn around a focus fabric to make a block. These blocks will then all be joined into a single quilt top so we have a finished quilt and a reference to keep for future quilts.

Because of the amount of fabric required and the increasing difficulty in trying to reorder fabrics, I am going to let each one of you choose your own fabrics, and I will supply the pattern each month.

Cost to sign up for the year is \$25.00



We are now on facebook.
Please check it out and
follow us!



Fall Retreat

October 25, 26 and 27

This year for our instructional retreat we have chosen the pattern "Alaska" by Laundry Basket Quilts. It is a gorgeous quilt with blocks forming a starburst effect using just 6 colors. The shapes for each block are like a kaleidoscope and although there are paper templates included in the pattern, I found the new Wedge Ruler from Studio 180 worked really well!

The retreat will start at 1:00 on Friday and continue until Sunday at 4:00. Four meals will be provided, supper Friday and Saturday, lunch Saturday and Sunday and we will have muffins and coffee available for breakfast or whenever you need a snack. The location will depend on the number that sign up. I am hoping maybe we can have it right in the store.

The cost of the retreat is \$135.00. You are responsible for your own accommodations. Please let us know if we can make any reservations for you. This is a fun weekend to get together and spend time with other quilters. I hope you can join us!



Sewing with Squares

Saturday October 5 9:00-4:00

A couple of years ago we celebrated Jelly Roll day, it was so much fun I thought we should do it again but this time we will celebrate the Square shape -Charm Squares, that are 5" squares and Layer Cakes that are 10" squares.

All you need to do is find some squares. You may have some in your stash already that you don't know what to do with or you can buy some (I have a shipment of new ones on the way) or you can go through your stash and cut some into squares for a very scrappy look. Bring those squares and your sewing machine and supplies and we will have a fun day sewing them together.

I will provide lunch, coffee or tea and several patterns that you could choose, or bring your favourite if you have one.

I think it will be fun to spend the day with a bunch of Squares! Who knows what we might make.

Its my Tuesday and I will quilt if I want to!

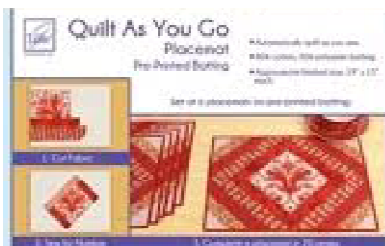
Do you have projects you would like to finish but can't find the time? Maybe you need a little help with a certain technique? On the 3rd Tuesday of each month we will meet at the store and work on whatever you want. You can come at 1:00 or at 7:00 or you can come at noon and stay all day.

Although this is the official day for finishing, you are more than welcome to come any day that there isn't a class and work in our lovely classroom. Just phone ahead to make sure it is available.

Class Policies

You must pre-register for all classes, either by phone or in person. Class fees must be paid in advance to reserve your space as class space is limited. If the class is canceled these fees will be fully refunded.

At the time of registration, you will receive a supply list of what is needed for that particular class. We appreciate you buying your supplies from us so we will give you a 15% discount on all supplies for your class. Most of the classes require a sewing machine. Please make sure yours is in good running order. If you do not have a sewing machine you can bring, let us know and we will have one ready for you



Quilt As You Go Placemats

Tuesday October 8 9:00-4:00

What an easy way to make up some new placemats for yourself or maybe even get a jump on Christmas presents! The batting comes preprinted so you just cut your strips, set them on the appropriate lines and sew. You will be quilting them at the same time. Each package includes the pattern and enough batting to make 6 placemats finishing at 15"x19"

Pattern; \$9.98

Class; \$30.00



Slice Rug

Tuesday October 22 9:00-4:00

Jelly Roll rugs have been all the craze for a while but here we have a new spin on them. Instead of going around in circles, this one just goes back and forth but ends up a semi-circle, perfect for putting by your sink either in the kitchen or bathroom. You work with 2 1/2" strips (maybe a jellyroll) and strips of cotton batting. This is a great place to use up those strips of batting left over from another project.

Pattern; \$19.98

Class; \$30.00



BQ Goes Mini

Tuesday October 29 9:00-4:00

You may have heard of the series of BQ quilt patterns but now we are going to go small with BQ blocks that are 1/4 the size of the original and make placemats or a table runner. A very easy pattern that a beginner could master or a more experienced quilter could make up quickly for a gift.

Pattern; \$13.98

Class; \$30.00

UFO Challenge

Don't forget to hand in your List of completed UFO's to win one of the prizes. If you haven't started, its not too late, just pick up a sheet and list all the projects you have on hand and then color them in as you finish them. Not only might you win a prize but that will leave room for a brand new project! There are prizes even if you didn't complete the sheet don't forget to hand it in.



Quilting with your Embroidery Machine

Saturday November 2 9:00-4:00

Many of you own these wonderful attachments for your sewing machines so you can do embroidery, but did you know that you can quilt your quilt using them as well? In this class we are going learn how to do an edge to edge pattern on your embroidery machine. This adds another option to get those quilts quilted and done. We will load a design from a Cd by Amelie Scott and learn some techniques to make this form of quilting possible. Book with a CD with 10 quilting designs; \$49.98
Class; \$30.00

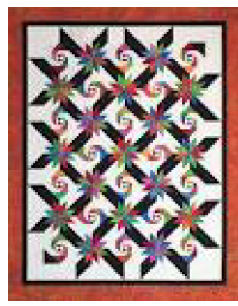


Quilting with Rulers

Wednesday November 6 9:00-4:00

Quilting with Rulers is a relatively new way to quilt your quilt. I have heard it called the "gateway drug to freemotion quilting". It is a form of free motion but you have a ruler or template to follow so you know where to go.

This class is geared to the beginner and we will make a small accessory tote. The back and front are quilted with a template and then we will construct the zippered bag. If you want to give it a try but haven't purchased a ruler foot and templates yet, you can use ours for the day and see if you like it.
Class; \$30.00



Lemoyne Trails

Tuesday November 12 9:00-4:00

If you know me you may know that I am a big fan of Studio 180 tools. This pattern is made using some of my favourites, Lemoyne Star, Tucker Trimmer and the Square Squared. Although at first glance it may look like a pretty complicated pattern but when broken down into blocks and with the aid of the Studio 180 tools it is pretty easy.

Pattern; \$16.98

Class; \$30.00



Ultimate Travel Bag

Saturday November 16 9:00-4:00

This pattern is by Annie so if you have ever made one of her bags you will know the instructions are very good and your finished project will be very professional looking. This bag is the perfect travelling companion, it includes a comfortable padded adjustable strap and quick grab side handles as well as a handy strap across the back to help secure the bag to rolling luggage. With a zippered and slip pockets on the front, back and ends as well as a full zippered pocket, the bag will keep everything organized.

Pattern; \$14.98

Hardware; \$24.98

Class; \$30.00



Twister Holiday

Saturday November 30 9:00-4:00

Christmas is coming and you might need to add to your decorations or this would make the perfect gift for that person that has everything! A unique way to make a wreath, you sew squares and then cut them up with a twister tool to make adorable pinwheels. It finishes at 24"x 24", a nice wallhanging! Pattern; \$8.98 Tool; \$16.98
Class; \$30.00



Machine Embroidery

2nd Wednesday of each month

These are small projects done on the embroidery machine. Each class is geared to teaching us something new. Each class begins with a video to explain the new technique.

Cost; \$15.00 each month



Border Creek Mystery

2nd Saturday 1:00 p.m.

We will be starting another mystery from Border Creek this fall. We all love the mystery and our finished quilts. I am not certain when we will be starting this one, depends when it is released.

Saturday September 28, 1:00 p.m.



Come out and join us this day and see what all we have lined up for the fall. I will try and have most of the samples done up so you will have a chance to look at them and hopefully sign up for a class or two.

At 2:00 I will do a short presentation on how to be more precise with your piecing, I think that is something we all struggle with from time to time and now is a good time to look at some products that may help you with that..

We will have refreshments and door prizes as well. Come for a visit!

Coming Soon

New Block of the Month



Sew Merry

by The Quilt Company

It has been a little while since we did a Christmas quilt and this one certainly caught my eye!

"Sew Merry" has 5 Holiday Tree blocks each showing a different seasonal delight. There is "Frosty's Tree Farm" , "Snowflake Cafe" and the adorable "Ho, Ho, Sew", a decorated sewing Tree, complete with measuring tape Garland, buttons for Ornaments and a Pincushion and Spool of Thread for the Tree Stand!

Along with the fabrics and pattern you will receive an accessory fabric packet and cute little buttons to add to the appeal. The finished size is 60" x 71".

Cost; \$45.98 per month for 6 months

Sewing Machine Tension

How does tension affect the outcome of a stitch?

Sewing machines are factory preset to have the top and bottom thread form even stitches when sewing with a 50 or 60 wt. thread. If the top and bottom threads are identical in fiber and weight, adjustments may not be necessary. However, if we use cotton thread on top and polyester thread underneath, or metallic thread on top and polyester thread underneath, or a heavy thread on top and a fine thread underneath, it is necessary to adjust the tension settings. It is perfectly OK to use different thread types and weights on the top and bottom. Relying on a machine's automatic tension system is not enough.

Think of the top and bottom thread as having a tug of war. If the threads are identical and you are sewing on a single layer of fabric, both sides have equal strength and the result will be a draw. The sewing should therefore produce perfectly even stitches with no top thread showing underneath and no bobbin thread showing on top. However, in the real world, the teams are rarely equal. One team will be stronger or bigger or faster than the other. We sometimes use decorative or sensitive threads on top. We often use different fibers for the top and bottom threads. We also add stabilizer or batting. Sometimes we might use a cotton bobbin thread and other times we use a polyester bobbin thread. All these factors make it necessary to adjust the tension for each project. By adjusting the top tension either up (increasing tension) or down (decreasing tension), we are able to add or take away strength on the top thread team to equalize the tug of war.

The thickness and material of the top thread can affect stitch quality and stitch balance. If the top thread is a thick, 30 wt. polyester thread and the bobbin thread is a fine, 60 wt. cotton thread, the top tension will most likely need to be adjusted (loosened) to accommodate an even stitch. It is not a problem to mix fiber types, cotton thread on top and polyester thread in the bobbin, or thickness, 40 wt. thread on top and a 50 wt. thread in the bobbin. Some threads require very loose tension in order to achieve balanced stitches. Metallic thread, for example, is a beautiful decorative thread. However, it is not as strong as a 40 wt. polyester quilting thread and will need the top tension reduced to 1.0 (very loose). When the appropriate tension adjustments are made, you can use a mixture of threads and obtain balanced stitches.

(This article was taken from the website of Superior Threads)