

# Newsletters in November 2013

## Fusible Adhesives

November 4, 2013

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.



I am thankful that I still have a spirit of adventure, that my body can still climb onto a camel and that someone else had a tight hold on the rope! It was pretty lumpity, bumpity. I would not recommend it for more than a half a block!!

I am also thankful for all of you who support me with your wonderful letters and great feedback and do so much for the quilting community. **This month I have a give away to the person who most closely guess's how many competition quilts I have made in the 17 years that I have been quilting.** These are the quilts that go to shows, not the ones for grand babies. You have until Thursday to respond. The first person closest to the number will be



mailed this calendar. My "Natural Wonders" is the September featured quilt. (Just to show my appreciation for all my students and friends).

**Ribbons and things;** "Natural Wonders" won Best Wall Quilt for the AQS show in Des Moines. That came with enough money to pay for the Christmas cabin with the grands this year.

I love that my quilting can support making family memories. "More than a Memory" won Best of Show at the LaConner Quilt Museum Festival.

The Winter edition of Quilter's World has a 4 page article on me and my quilts. It also has a free pattern and small appliquéd project perfect for a gift.



[click here for a larger view](#)

### Fusible Adhesives

Now I need to share with you my results for trying to find a new fusible product to replace my old stand by - Lite Steam a Seam. It is no longer available. See the results below. I only tried paper backed products.

Fusible Product	Iron temperature	How well it sticks (1-5) 5 best	Soft feel 1-4	Pros and Cons
Wonder Under lite	Wool 5-8 sec	4	2	Easily available. Comes in yardage
Heat and bond. Feather weight	Low 2 sec	2- With repeated ironing of the area it starts coming up.	2	Instructions against the adhesive. It is a big mess getting it off.
Soft Fuse	Cotton 3-5sec	4	3	Available only on line. <a href="http://www.softfusepremium.com">www.softfusepremium.com</a> Does come in yardage.
E Z Pellon lite	Cotton 10 -15	3	2	Horrible paper. It is shiny and my sharpie ink kept coming off on my pressing sheet.

**My favorite was the Soft Fuse.** None of these products have the tackiness that Steam a Seam did. The Pellon EZ had a little tackiness. What I loved about it was the tackiness allowed you to

finger press a whole unit together. Thank you to all of you who wrote with your favorites. Be sure to read the instructions on whatever you choose because the heat set times and temps vary widely. I will let you all know when the Warm company bring Steam a Seam Lite back!

If you are interested in reading more about adhesives and how they can shorten the life of your fabrics [click here for this study](#). For this reason, I rarely use adhesives on my competition quilts. [Click here for the images of how fabrics aged with yellowing using fusibles](#).

Look at this dogwood flower on my ribbon from 2006.



I know that it has fusible in it. Probably not the lite stuff and probably Heat and Bond. If I do use fusibles, it is in very small amounts and only on dark colored fabrics. I prefer to use water soluble, acid free glue if it is such a complex shape that I cannot needle turn it under. Then I machine appliqué the edges . Of course, whether you use fusibles or not depends on your personal preference, and on whether the quilt is going to be an heirloom piece. *So please don't write me rants!* My job as a teacher is just to put out information I think should be shared, any new techniques or cool new products I find. Every two years I google whether a new study has been done on adhesives and their effects on fabric. Two years ago I checked with the curator of the National Quilting Museum and she did not know of any up dated information on this topic either.

### **Tis the Season**

November and December are my months to always step back from travel and teaching. Time to focus on family and starting a new competition quilt. The next one is in my mind and I have been fabric SHOPPING! The title is, "High Country Colors". We have lots and lots of pictures from hiking. Now if I can just pull it together into a real quilt. [Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone. Many blessing on you and yours.](#)

Hugs Kathy