



The Buzz

From the Thistle Bee Quilt Shoppe

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January-March 2007

The New Year Is Upon Us

It is hard to believe that a new year is here already, where does the time go? We hope that last year you were able to finish up some of those projects that were lying around your house.



Are you ready for some new projects this year? Or would you like to learn some new quilting techniques? Hopefully you will find some ideas or classes that have just the new technique for you. We do have some exciting new classes lined up for you.

The sweatshirt class is back by popular demand. This class fills up quickly so if you think you want to learn how to make this sweatshirt jacket act quickly, we are offering it two times this quarter!

If you desire to learn how to quilt, now is your chance with the Just Can't Cut It class lined up for January. Jean will show you the basics to piecing with this beautiful, easy to make quilt. If you are in the market to learn how to make a quilt quickly or use up wonderful fabric that you don't want to cut up in tiny pieces this class is for you too. The strip piecing method taught in this class will enable you to stitch a quilt together in a flash.

Also, in January Beverly will be teaching a new twist to the traditional Tumbling Block. In this class you will not have to worry about set in seams as there are none. You will have a choice of making one table

runner or five placemats while learning how to weave the Tumbling Block pattern. The finished project is reversible too! This class is sure to fill up quickly so we are also offering it in February too.

If last quarter was too busy and you wanted to learn how to make the Bargello quilt you have another chance this quarter. The technique will be taught with the end result being a larger size wall hanging.

We are also offering three different classes that are focused on handwork. These techniques allow you to take your work with you. The classes are on wool felt, redwork and handquilting, the frameless way! We hope that you find something you like this quarter.

Since last year so many of you were busy finishing up projects and I am sure that you have a number of quilts in your house now. What are you going do with them? Hopefully the article on page two will give you some ideas. I love having quilts of all different sizes



scattered over my house. I hope that the article helps fire up your imagination and you can find even more ways to display your quilts.



Ricky Tims' Super Quilt Seminars

Interested in the ultimate learning experience for quilters? Come to the shop to pick up your brochure with all the information you need to send you on your way to such an experience. Ricky Tims along with Alex Anderson and Libby Lehman are teaching in Richmond, Virginia, July 19-21, 2007. The event is being hosted by the Richmond Quilters Guild. With this seminar there is no need to buy fabric, lug sewing machines, get supply lists and gather supplies, have too little space to work or feel pressure to keep up with those around you. Hurry into the shop and get your brochure. This would be great for sewing groups or guilds as group rates are available. Pay attention to the different deadlines for sign-up!

Decorating with quilts

Or, how to decorate *everything* with quilts!

by Vicky Iannucci

Here is a question for all of you. How many of you have beautiful quilts folded and hidden away in your sewing room closet, under a bed, in storage trunks, or wherever, with thoughts of, "Some day I'll find a place to display these in my home?"

Now is the time! Pull them out of their hiding places and "Let's decorate!" I love visiting my quilting friends' homes to see how they display their prize quilts, wall hangings, table toppers, etc. Your family and friends will love seeing your quilt collection adorning your home, too.

Do you have a large blank wall that needs a real "pop" of color? Hang a large quilt. I have one hanging over my living room sofa. The colors bring out hues in the coordinating throw pillows. It is a beautiful focal point in my room and instantly shouts, "This is a warm and cozy home!" You can even change your quilts with the seasons or your whim. Redecorating with beautiful handmade quilts on the wall is far easier than changing paint or wallpaper.

Quilts — large or small — make pleasant table coverings or accents. Place quilt "toppers" symmetrically or on a slant to bring attention to the quilt as well as any other items you have displayed on the table.

Don't leave the bathroom out when decorating. I actually have a quilt as my shower curtain. Round rings with attached clips hold the quilt as my outer curtain, while a second shower rod holds the waterproof liner. It looks beautiful, and I receive numerous compliments on the clever idea.

Natural woven baskets make great containers for neatly folded quilts.

You could even add an artificial fern or ivy plant in the basket behind the quilt. Tuck a ceramic cat or dog under the corner of the quilt as if they are snuggled in for an afternoon nap.

Of course you need several quilts in each room to snuggle under while reading, watching TV, or just relaxing and napping. Remember, everyone will want their own. Tucking the family in with quilts, popcorn and a good movie makes for a tradition that will leave long-lasting memories for years to come.

Now what is more fun than making that special crib blanket? I will soon become a grandmother for the first time. I'm so excited that I am making my grandson the layette for his sweetly decorated room. There will be coordinating bumper pads, curtains with small quilted pieces, a quilted pillow for mom's rocker, a changing table pad and I'm even designing a quilted mobile for over the crib.

An antique wooden ladder leaned vertically against the wall is perfect to display several quilts at once. Fold them neatly and hang one on each rung. You can color-coordinate with the seasons. Red and green for the holidays, or pastels for spring.

Dining table side chairs look beautiful each with a different quilt draped over them. Have a bannister or loft railing? Hang a quilt over it.

On an antique 10-foot stepback cupboard in my living room, I have draped folded quilts on the open upper



A simple curtain rod and quilt on a hallway wall lend color, texture and softness.

Even the dining room is a pleasant place to display quilts.



Photo by Heather Lynn, Jacksonville, Fla.

doors. Other quilts are folded neatly on shelves inside.

Drape a quilt over the back of a bench or chair in your foyer. It will say "welcome" to all who enter. Hang a seasonal quilt in your entryway — either inside, or if protected from the elements — outside. Guests will immediately get in a festive mood for each season.

Needless to say, you should have quilts on all your beds. Then, you make coordinating bed skirts, pillow shams and throw pillows. Another quilt in complementary colors can rest "at the ready" across the foot of the bed.

Reflect on this: You can decorate your home with quilts to match your furniture, or now as a quilt artist you can decorate your home to match your quilts.

Vicky Iannucci is the floor manager for The Olde Green Cupboard in Jacksonville, Fla.

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Quiltpink Quilts

The Quiltpink quilts are all pieced together! Thank you for your help in this project. We are happy we reached our goal of two quilts. We are still waiting for the drawing as we have people that are continuing to donate their time and energies finishing these quilts.



Technique class quilt

The finished quilts will be sent to *American Patchwork & Quilting* magazine in January and they will auction the quilts online, starting in February 2007, to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer foundation.

For more information see www.quiltpink.com.

We will send an e-mail to let you know when our quilts are being auctioned off!



Tips



- A tip from one of our customers: To label your quilt rows, take a flower head quilting pin and a fine Sharpie and write the number on your pin according to its corresponding row.
- To give a room color and excitement, hang a quilt! Quick-stitch a hanging sleeve with leftover fabric, sew it to the quilt's back, and slip in a dowel.
- When you mark your $\frac{1}{2}$ square triangles for cutting or sewing, does the fabric rumple and distort? To prevent this, lightly spritz spray starch onto both fabrics before you begin marking!
- Unsurprisingly, opposite sides of a quilt top can be slightly different in length due to all those little variables that add up. To square up your quilt, just add borders of equal length to each side. The key to measuring your quilt is to measure the middle, not the sides, of your quilt and then cutting borders according to that measurement.
- Eat Dark Chocolate M&Ms while you sew! This is great brain food.

The Quilt Show

Bernina Presents The *Quilt Show* with Ricky Tims and a mystery host. The magazine style show will begin airing on your computer in April 2007. The first thirteen episodes will air between April 2, 2007 through December 31, 2007. This is a pay-per-view subscription. See www.thequiltshow.com for more details

Inclement Weather

In case of bad weather please call the shop before you come to see if we are here. We would not want you to put yourself in danger.

