



# The Buzz

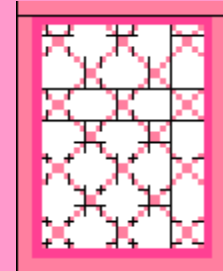
From the Thistle Bee Quilt Shoppe

[www.thistlebeequiltshoppe.com](http://www.thistlebeequiltshoppe.com)  
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July-September 2006



Shop block  
and quilt  
for  
Quiltpink



We are excited to be participating in Quiltpink. This is a great time to combine your love for quilting with the fight against breast cancer. We have decided to dedicate this whole quarter to Quiltpink. We will be offering technique classes (see the class calendar for more details, classes highlighted in pink!) where the teachers are donating their time to teach you a technique and you will be donating your quilt block to one of the shop's Quiltpink quilts. For every block you donate you will be able to enter your name in a drawing for a gift. If you decide you do not want to take a technique class we have a shop block you can buy to make and donate to the second shop quilt (See above block and drawing of finished quilt). The finished quilts will be sent to *American Patchwork & Quilting* magazine and they will auction the quilts online, starting in May 2007, to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer foundation. For more information see [www.quiltpink.com](http://www.quiltpink.com). Our hope is that the community will get involved with this project, so please help us spread the word. Our goal is to donate a minimum of two quilts. Grab a friend who has always wanted to learn to quilt and take a technique class! Nationwide, September 30<sup>th</sup> is Quiltpink Day. We are planning to offer some of our technique classes (times and techniques to be announced later) that day too. Lets see just what Goldsboro and the surrounding areas can do!

If you would like to help to piece together quilt blocks, quilt or bind one of the shop's quilts please come into the shop and sign up for the job of your choice. As time goes on there will be more jobs that may need filling so if you would like to help please let us know what you would like to do to help make this a success.

## Christmas in July

Mark your calendars, we are having Christmas in July! We will be unveiling our Christmas fabric on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 10am. Come and see our exciting new fabric for the season, as well as gift and project ideas. We will be serving refreshments. Come and join in on the fun!



## Clearance Rack

Don't forget to look at our new clearance rack near the classroom. You will find the fabric discounted 30%, a great place to find deals. We have both cotton and flannel available at the moment. This is a wonderful way to get the backing fabric for your quilt. If you get a 4-yard or greater cut off a bolt in the clearance rack you will increase your discount to 40%!

# Stash Management

Are you finding that your current fabric stash is getting unruly? Are you ready to use up some of that wonderful fabric you have at home? Need some ideas as to what to do with it all?

The first step in managing that stash is to organize. It is not that bad of a job, even for those of us who do not like to organize. After all just think of all that fabric that is waiting to be touched! It is amazing to see just what lovely fabric is on hand. A great book to help you get ideas on how to organize your sewing area/room is *Creating Your Perfect Quilting Space Sewing-room Makeovers for Space and Budget*. This book is a great source of ideas and inspiration. There are sure to be some ideas in the book that you can put to use. Once this step is taken care of you will most likely be ready to start at least one new project with your stash.



Did you find that gorgeous fabric that you can not bring yourself to cut up into small pieces? Or do you just want to highlight a large print? Maybe your goal is just to finish a quilt quickly? The pattern, *Just Can't Cut It*, might be just what you are looking for as it achieves all these goals. We made ours in the shop out of flannel and it pieced up quickly and highlighted the large print fabric beautifully.



Rediscovered your flannels or yarn dyes? How would you like to whip up a cozy quilt for this winter or Christmas gift giving season?

*Rag Time Quilt* or *Raggy Squares* can help you out. *Raggy Squares* is a quilt-as-you-go pattern



which will help you speedily get a handle on this area of your stash. Remember when you make a rag quilt to clip as you go so the job of clipping is not as daunting at the end. Also, when you go to fray your rag quilt, wash it at a Laundromat so you do not clog your washing machine with threads. If you do decide to launder your rag quilt at home, please be sure to clean out your lint filter on the dryer every ten minutes to avoid fire and to speed drying time.

Did you find a large stash of fat quarters? There are so many books and



patterns that are dedicated to fat quarters. Ever popular are the *Turning Twenty* and *Turning Twenty...Again* books. These quilts work up quickly. Other books that allow you to use your fat quarter stash: *Super Simple Fat Quarter Quilts*, *11 Laps From Fats*, and *Monterrey Medallions*. The biggest problem you may have is deciding which one to start first! We have numerous patterns that use fat quarters to make the quilt.



Were there a lot of scraps in your stash?

Cut them into 5" squares and then pull out the *Nickel Quilts* and *More Nickel Quilts* books and see what quilts can be made from there. The author of these books has a pattern out now called *Steamer Trunk Treasure*. This pattern gives you a choice of three different size quilts to make.



While you were sorting out and organizing, did you discover strips of fabric leftover from various other projects? Sort out those strips according to width size and store in a labeled container. *Little Quilts All Through the House* is a great resource for using up those strips of 1 1/4", 1 1/2" and 1 3/4".



A popular pattern here at the shop has been the *Knick-Knack Sack*. It is a wallet that can be made in two different sizes. People have been raiding their stash to find coordinating fabric to make a few of these easy projects. These would be perfect for gift giving; fast and easy, but useful.



Still finding leftover odd shaped scraps? Look into paper piecing books to see if there is a project in which you can use them. *Quilt Block Bonanza* has more traditional blocks, while *300 Paper-pieced Quilt Blocks* has a mix of both the picture paper-pieced blocks and more traditional blocks.



Did you happen to find orphan blocks? *Pollo Loco* is a perfect pattern for them. This cute little chicken has gotten so many comments here. There are chickens turning up everywhere. Another great gift idea, this year you may be ready for Christmas early and put a dent in the stash!



Stash continued on page 3

## Summer Quilting

Do you have that special loved one who is going away to college this fall? Or are you going away to college this fall? *Quilts for the Dorm* may be just the right book for you! This book features four different quilts using rather large pieces of fabric so the quilt will stitch up quickly.

If you have travel plans and would like to know what quilt shops are in the area your travels will take you to, we have the *WRBQ Inc Showtime Quilts Guide and Directory for the South*. This guide is updated every six months. Not only does it tell you where the quilt shops are, but it has a section of quilting events you will find in your traveling locations. A great deal for \$5.95, they have lowered their price for this helpful book! The *Quilter's Travel Companion* is due to arrive any day now too.

Do you have plans for your children during summer vacation? If teaching them to quilt is part of those plans then Alex Anderson can help you. Her book, *Kids Start Quilting with Alex Anderson*, has seven easy projects. She addresses the safety issues, our future quilters safe.



### Stash continued

When I sort out my sewing room I tend to find fabric that I bought for a reason. Sometimes I can remember what I bought the fabric for and other times I can not. I now have a new way of organizing my stash. When I figure out why I bought that beautiful fabric, I put all the fabric together for a particular project. Then I find the pattern, book, or magazine that has the pattern in it, and I will put the pattern with the fabric in a Ziploc bag. If the pattern comes from a book or magazine I will scan the book cover or first page of the pattern and slip it in the bag. With a magazine I will scan the page with the title, yardage, and magazine's issue number and slip that in the bag. This way I know what the fabric was for and where I can find the pattern. I have baskets full of my very own kits at home!



A good way to store and protect the fat quarter stash that still remains after organizing, is by using the Fat Quarter Bag Grand Sac. This bag has a see-through lid and a divider that is removable. It is also waterproof, has strong handles, and is stackable; meaning easy storage. It could also be used to tote your class supplies.



## Celebrate America

We have fabric and patterns to help you celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. What could be more Americana than red, white and blue? Throw in stars and stripes and you are all set for your July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic or get together!



## Tips

- To check for accurate  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew three  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " strips of fabric together. The middle strip should measure 1" if seams are an accurate  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
- Fat quarters fray when you launder them? Try folding them into a nice little square and safety pinning the raw edges together on opposite side from fold, through all layers. No more knots of frayed threads... it works!
- Use a size 80/12 needle when piecing. Change the needle if you hear popping sounds when sewing, as the needle is dull.
- Keep small alcohol pads handy near your sewing machine so you can easily wipe down your sewing machine needle when using glue sticks or adhesive on your fabric.
- When you are piecing and have one fabric patch slightly larger than the other, put the larger on the bottom when feeding it through the sewing machine. The feed dogs will ease in the extra fabric on the bottom.