

Hello, welcome, and THANKS for continuing to support the Support Group! This is our 4th year of celebrating creativity, finished projects, and supporting sewing, quilting, and embroidery! Please review the rules and patterns.

We are changing the monthly challenges this year to a Top-ple your stash pattern challenge.

Ground rules:

1. It is about encouraging, supporting, being kind and having fun. If your posts and comments do not support these goals then you will be removed.
2. This group is for sewing, not for selling.
3. We do look at the requests to join the group and if there is not sewing or something that could link you to The Sewing Center we will most likely decline the request.
4. WE CAN CHANGE OUR MINDS AT ANY TIME. Yep. If something is not working or coming together like we want, we will try something different!
5. Please note that most of the managing and posting for this group is not done in the store, and we all have other jobs. We do our best, but sometimes we are late to post or miss something. Please let us know if something needs to be updated or fixed.
6. You must be on Facebook. Sorry...we don't have any other way to make this work.
7. **If you want to participate, then we want you too as well.** We are here to help. If you can't find the group, not sure about how to do albums...whatever is holding you back please let us know and we will help!

For those loyal customers who wish to participate but are not local please DO! We would love to see what you are making. If you want to use your coupon please call to make arrangements. You will be responsible for all shipping costs.

Here are a few of the things we will be doing:

1. **All finished projects can be posted into an album on Facebook.** We will draw for FREE fabric from all of the finished projects. Please only post 1 photo of your project in the album. We love to see the back, a photo with the recipient, and all of the other details but that is best done on the group wall. Staff and teachers can enter as well. If they are drawn, we will have have another winner. We will use a tiered system for drawing:

1-50 finished projects: 1 winner of 2 yards quilting cotton

50 + finished projects: 2 winners of 2 yards quilting cotton

2. **Sewing parties!** We are planning 3 this year...no dates yet, but we will try to get them out at least 1 month ahead of time.

3. **Secret sales.** It might be a heads up on one happening at the store, an extra day to shop a sale, or a special sale just for this group. There will not be a schedule for this.

4. **UFO challenge post.** Make a list in Jan. We will make a UFO post each month. You will post your goal and post IN THE SAME THREAD if you complete it.

All complete projects will go into a drawing for a 2-yard cut of quilting cotton.

5. **Monthly challenge. Top-ple your fabric stash!** The challenge is to dig into and use up (eek!) that fabric stash you have built up. Each month will feature a pattern and if you complete the top and post a photo of the project in the correct Facebook album you will receive a coupon on \$10 off a \$30 purchase. The coupons are good until the 15th of the following month. Example: Post in challenge for Jan. Coupon available Feb 5th until March 15th. We will do our best to have the coupon list up and at the till by the 5th of the month, but please note this is a manual process and also, sometimes...life. The pack of 14 patterns is available at The Sewing Center for a discounted price of \$20. We have curated this collection to help you dig into every corner of your stash and use it up! Pre-cuts, Fat quarters, 1/2yards, full yards are all featured and most project can be tweaked to utilize your scraps. Like always make this work for you- make pillows instead of full quilts, table runners – whatever works with your stash and your needs. Not particularly fond of a pattern? Pick fabric your wondering why you bought and make a top for charity!

6. In conjunction with Top-pling our stashes. We will also be **sponsoring two charities** every quarter. One that we can sew for with our stash, AND a charity we can donate supplies too- you can clean out the stash without even sewing a stitch.

ITS GOING TO BE OUR MOST PROCUTIVE YEAR YET!!! LET'S GET GOING-

We will announce quarterly charity projects as we go- if there is an organization close to your heart you think we can support call Tammy at The Sewing Center so we can add them to our idea list.

FIRST Quarter (there is a separate document with charity details.)

- *Charity to sew for: WAVI : they need zipper bags and pillow cases*
- *Charity to donate to: Suzi Cappa Art Center- they need what we may need to move out of our stash!*

Monthly challenge patterns; these are meant to be guidelines.... we are creative people! Pull out those wonderfully aged fabrics, spend a weekend putting piles together for the full year- OR just concentrate on one month at a time. We will be posting inspiration and ways to tweak the patterns along the way.

TOP-PLE PATTERNS

JANUARY- Sweet Love. Calls for jelly roll strips, we think scarps would be great.

FEBRUARY- Sew Charmed- crank out multiples of this clever runner that uses charm squares.

MARCH- Stargazer OR Star queen. This fun pattern uses up the FQ's, choose which size you want to do OR make them BOTH

APRIL- Sheryl, uses fat quarters or 10" squares. Great place to feature interesting prints

MAY- Belle Amie. It's a busy month make a quick runner using jelly roll strips or scraps.

JUNE- Picnic Time- Use up a large focal fabric piece, makes a great table cloth or baby quilt

JULY- Smidge/Smudge. Fat quarters make a smidge, 1/2yds make smudge. Super fun one.

AUGUST- Crossroads. Fat quarters and 2yds of an accent fabric says you've made something beautiful.

SEPTEMBER- Falling. Really great large leaves using Fat quarters

OCTOBER- Chefs Special uses 10 squares and 1 yard for binding. Make it seasonal or with holiday fabrics.

NOVEMBER- Fernanda- a fun way to use up a panel!

DECEMBER- Diamonds- quick make up some dazzling Christmas gifts with 5" squares.

Remember we want this to work for you- not be hard. You can use just a few blocks from the pattern to make pillows, table runners, bags, etc. As long as you utilize the pattern and your stash it counts! I know some of you don't have much of a stash. You can obviously purchase fabric to do this too.

If you'd like to sew for charity and need fabrics please let us know. I have donated fabrics hanging out in back rooms that would love to me made into something useful. I also have some donated zippers etc.