

Pat's Calico Cottage Newsletter June 2008

BREAK THE SILENCE CAMPAIGN

www.ovarian.org
1-888-Ovarian



The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) "Break the Silence" campaign is a national education program created to increase awareness and encourage public dialogue about the symptoms and risk factors of ovarian cancer among women and their physicians.

"Break the Silence" is enlisting nearly 80 local NOCC chapters committed to providing support for women and their families to launch ovarian cancer educational initiatives throughout the year. By arming women with the tools they need to begin a dialogue with their physicians, NOCC is striving to facilitate earlier diagnosis and to ultimately improve survival rates of this disease.

To facilitate the understanding of signs and symptoms and to spur patient/physician discussion, NOCC has developed a downloadable Conversation Starter to help women effectively ask questions and to seek out information from their doctors.

Additionally, "Break the Silence" radio health programming will air on stations across the country, and public service announcements will run during Ovarian Cancer Awareness month in September. These resources, as well as information about ongoing research and how to find a local specialist, cancer center and/or local NOCC chapter, are available at the NOCC Web site www.ovarian.org

Since its inception in 1995, the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) is committed to raising awareness of ovarian cancer in communities across the country.

The staff of Pat's Calico Cottage has made 15 Ovarian Cancer Donation Quilts. All of the quilts were made to help raise money for the NOCC. The quilts are made with the teal colorway fabric from Blank Quilting. Check our website for pictures and a description of each quilt. Tickets are 5 for \$4.00 or 1 for \$1.00. The donation quilt raffle will be held in September 2008.

Batting Survey Results from Machine Quilters Showcase

We hear a lot of talk about this batting and that batting. WE NOW HAVE SOME FACTS THAT ARE NOT OPINIONS. At the machine Quilters Showcase in Kansas City, Kansas 2007 the following are facts:

- Total number of quilts that were in the survey was 316.
- Total number of quilts with Hobbs Batting = 193 or 61.3%.
- Total number of quilts with all other company batting = 123 or 38.7%.

FACTS

1. Hobbs had 61.3% compared with all other companies combined at 38.7%.
2. Of the 193 quilts that had Hobbs in them, 92 had Heirloom 80/20, which was 48% of the quilts with Hobbs in them. Those 92 quilts represented by itself 37% more than other companies with all their batts combined.
3. The nearest cotton batt to Hobbs 80/20 was 23 quilts, which means that Hobbs 80/20 was in more than three times any other cotton batting for any other company.
4. Hobbs Heirloom wool was in 39 quilts, which means it was in more quilts than all the quilts than any company except one – including all their quilts.
5. The top five batting s from Hobbs were in this order:
 - Heirloom 80/20
 - Heirloom Wool
 - Heirloom Organic with Scrim

- PolyDown
- Heirloom 80/20 Black

6. There were more quilts with Heirloom 80/20 black than the totals of all batts from any of the following companies: Fairfield, Airtex, Matildas, Mountain Mist, and Morning Glory.

What this all means is a matter of opinion. To Hobbs and their distributors it means that machine quilters have by a huge margin picked Hobbs batting over all other batting companies. It means that Heirloom 80/20 is by far the number one batting in the United States in the opinion of machine quilters. It also means that machine quilters are beginning to recognize the value of superior batting and selecting our wool, 80/20 black, and 100% cottons more and more often. Though silk batting is a new item for Hobbs, there were as many Hobbs silk batts as there were Fairfield batts in the show.

There is no question that Hobbs is the number one batting for machine quilters. Hobbs has the best assortment of batting on the market, Hobbs has the best pricing on the market, and the best line of premium products for not only machine quilters, but hand quilters as well. With the new Tuscan Assortment, small businesses can now by eaches and have a great assortment of products with very little investment.

Note: The US Postal Service will not ship the Hobbs Heirloom 80/20 120" x 30 yds because it exceeds the size regulations. The cost to ship via FEDX, DHL, or UPS is cost prohibitive. Therefore, we no longer ship this batting. We still carry the batting but it is only available for pickup at our studio.

How is this for Customer Service: If we are in your area making a delivery and you are willing to meet us along our travel route, we will gladly bring this batting and any other supplies you may need.

What Threads Should I Use With My Machine?

What's great about your Gammill Longarm or Statler Stitcher is it will stitch with just about any thread that will fit through the eye of the needle as long as you are willing to adjust the tension settings. Don't let adjusting the tension intimidate you and limit the possibilities.

The key to successful quilting is choosing a good quality thread – whether that is polyester, cotton, metallic or another type. Each has positives and negatives.

Many quilters prefer polyester thread (So Fine, Bottom Line, PermaCore, and PremoCore) because it runs smoothly through the machine and creates almost no bobbin lint: however, many quilters insist on only cotton thread in their quilts which means more diligent cleaning of the bobbin area and the bobbin case. Lint build-up can fill the bobbin raceway and cause tension trouble, not to mention the possibility of sewing ugly lint to the back of the quilt if you are not careful. Since cotton thread is generally weaker than polyester, it also means adjusting the top and bobbin tension for better stitch quality.

Specialty threads such as Signature (Metallics, Rainbows, LAVA, and Brytes), Isacord, and invisible thread can also be used in your machine, but require some speed and tension adjustments to run successfully. With metallics, you'll need to slow down your machine a bit so that the needle doesn't get so hot from the friction and cause the thread to break. Spraying the thread with silicone can also reduce the friction. You will also need to loosen your top tension, and choose a bobbin thread that is smooth and light weight. (So Fine or Bottom Line). For invisible thread, loosen the top tension as well, sometimes as much as two complete revolutions. Thread socks are ideal for use with specialty threads.

If cotton is preferable, then look for mercerized, long staple cotton (King Tut, Signature, or ProCott), which produces less lint than other types.

Pat's Calico Cottage Newsletter June 2008

Updates – New Products – Special Deals

- Need to place an order? We now have a dedicated email just for supply orders. Please send all of your longarm quilting supply orders to supplyorders@patscalicocottage.com. Be sure to put **Supply Order** in the subject line of your email.
- **Need to register for a training class?** Send your request to trainingclasses@patscalicocottage.com to reserve your spot. Be sure to put which training class you are registering for in the subject line of your email.
- **Coming Soon!** Enhance your creativity and productivity at a Mid-Arm Size. Introducing the NEW Statler Premier (18-8) Model \$22,495. Check our website for details .
- **Creative Studio Software** V1.0.0 for the Statler Stitcher has been released. CDs are \$15.00 each. You can also purchase a spiral bound hardcopy of the User Manual for \$85.00. This manual can also be printed directly from the CD.
- **We now have all 50 colors in Bottom Line Thread.** Bottom Line Thread from Superior Thread is an original bobbin thread for working with all types of top thread including metallics and designer threads. Bottom Line has a silky finish that allows it to slide, not grab, to form the perfect stitch
- **Thread Charts** are in so call for yours today while they last! We have thread charts for King Tut, So Fine, Signature, Metallics, Bottom Line, Isacord, and LAVA. Only paper charts are available for the other lines we carry.
- **Thread Special!** I will no longer be stocking YLI Thread due to very low demand. Buy 5 spools of Variegated and get 1 solid spool FREE! Buy 10 spools of Solid and get 1 Variegated FREE!
- **New Owners and You Not So New Owners!** We are almost halfway through the year. If you have not signed up for your 2 Day Skill Class Training and the Maintenance Class you need to do so before all the classes are full. Check our website for details and send an email to trainingclasses@patscalicocottage.com to make your reservation. Be sure to put Skill Class and/or Maintenance Class in the subject line of your email.
- **Having Trouble Adjusting Your Tension!** You can download from the Pat's Calico website a guide on how to properly adjust your tension. Check it out today!
- Need to educate your customers on **How To Prepare Your Quilt Before Taking It To A Longarm Quilter!** Thanks to one of our sales representatives, Mavis Rosbach, we have a document she prepared to help you educate your customers. Check our website under Click HERE for our latest news to download your copy.

2008 Upcoming Shows

- August 20 – 23 the **AQS Quilt Show in Nashville, TN.** For more information on the show go to www.americanquilter.com.
- October 16, 17, and 18 the **Georgia Quilt Show** at the Gwinnett Center in Duluth, Georgia. This quilt show has been crafted to show the best of the best in quilt making. Pat's Calico Cottage will be the featured Gammill longarm and Statler Stitcher Dealer at the show. Be sure to stop by our booth. For more information on the show go to www.georgiaquiltshow.com.
- October 30 – November 2 the **International Quilt Festival** in Houston, Texas. For more information on the show go to www.quilts.com/home.

Be sure and enter a quilt in one or all of these shows. What an honor to be accepted and you could be a winner in your category!

If you have any suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please let us know! Many thanks to all of you for your continued support!

Pat and Richard Walker

Can You Name That State Block?

Time for more fun! Thanks to all who have participated in our previous challenges!

Correctly match the block # to the state and you will win a free cone of YLI Solid Thread!

Send your answers to supplyorders@patscalicocottage.com. Please put NAME THAT STATE BLOCK in the subject line of your email.

Alabama
Georgia
North Carolina
South Carolina

Florida
Virginia
Tennessee



Block 1



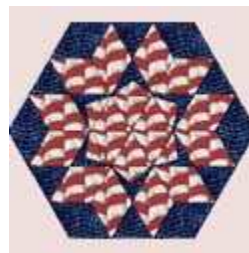
Block 2



Block 3



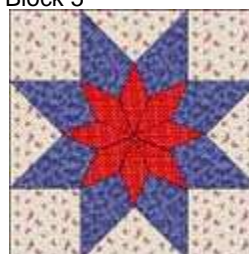
Block 4



Block 5



Block 6



Block 7

Pat's Calico Cottage
2150 Ridgedale Drive
Snellville, GA 30078
Toll Free: 888-987-8458
thequiltlady@patscalicocottage.com
www.patscalicocottage.com