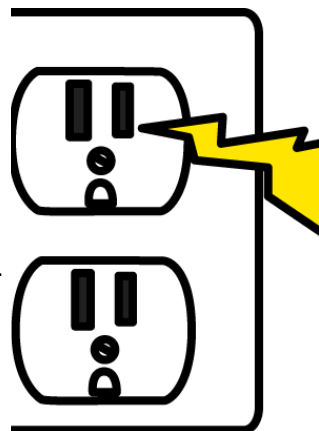


TOP STITCH

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Power Check-UPS



Last week I turned on my iron, and then the steam station, and with that a high pitched squealing howled thru the room. It was the uninterruptable power supply (UPS) kicking in, meaning the steam was drawing too much from the circuit. I turned off the steam and the squeal stopped. Flick on - squeal, flick off - quiet. Obviously no steam that day.

Just the week prior, the steam wouldn't come on at all so Jonathan replaced a switch and it was fine. With this new problem I was convinced the iron was now shot (over 15 years of use after all) and I wasn't really looking forward to needing something new. But I decided it would be a mission when we go to the industry market in May (we'll be closed May 17 - 19)

Then today I wanted to iron pillow cases and flicked the steam switch without thinking. But there was no squeal. I realized my initial belief was wrong. The day of the squealing our house was getting less than optimal power from the electric company, otherwise known as a brown out. The problem wasn't the iron, the problem was the power source.

Brown outs happen much more frequently than black outs, and generally go unnoticed since most equipment will function. They also can be as damaging as power spikes but because of a subtle, long term drain, not the instant flash of a lightning bolt. Circuit boards are particularly susceptible to operating under stress; it weakens them and reduces lifetime.

In this day and age, with almost every electronic gadget, it is 'cheap insurance' to plug the most expensive ones (like TV's and sewing machines) into one of these products. Over time the battery inside a UPS will lose its power, but they can be easily replaced so you don't have to buy a whole new unit. They generally have several outlets, but are much bigger than the typical 'power strip'. You should be able to stay under \$100 when shopping.

Signs you are experiencing a brown out while sewing usually involve screens and lights. A machine doing inexplicable, wonky things may be experiencing 'brain drain'. Un-responsive to your commands, or seemingly ghostly hands choosing for you, are often accountable to low voltage. But keep in mind, many older homes present problems of their own browning because too many demands are being put on one circuit. Jonathan and I had our sewing room put on a separate breaker several years ago because every time someone went into the bathroom, the dreaded squeal would return.

Everyone talks about protecting their equipment and wanting to take care of it. This simple step should be on everyone's list in today's tech driven world. More power to you!

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Top Tips (Not Top Needles!)

Jonathan and I have been dealing with a rash of calls, all with the common complaint of **skipped stitches**. Nearly every single case has been traced back to TOPSTITCH needles (style, not brand).

These needles have an extra large eye and groove ONLY meant for the thickest of threads, such as a buttonhole twist or Cordonnet. When used with smaller threads, there is too much looseness creating sloppy timing.

Think of the little girl trying on mom's pumps; may be cute, but not typically successful. Despite what you hear online and in chats, **topstitch** needles are the cause, not the solution.

A signature, likely of Jonathan or the author, written in cursive.

In the Works: Britt Quilt Unwrapped

AS we wrap up here, I can tell you that the Britt quilt has been fully completed and 300 copies of the poster have been printed. It was pretty exciting to see the first come off the press at RAM offset in White City. The large scale equipment is pretty sophisticated compared to the print room I was exposed to while in High School graphics (ha, ha). Their sales exec Sam Tinsley asked for the first autographed copy...as they need that to confirm I'm happy with the quality! 😊

Because so few have seen it, I was quite relieved to get so much positive response. I've loved it, but I wasn't sure if others would, so it has been nerve wracking. (It feels a bit more pressurized when you know people are expecting.)

So that brings us to how will any of you get to see the actual quilt, not just the print. The traditional unveiling is scheduled for May 15, which is when I can finally post full photos. But the event is by invitation only because it is being held at J'ville Elementary in conjunction with their students' music and arts program. Space is limited to those families and their special guests. The only other viewing they scheduled is during the **Best of Britt** event on June 21 - when the quilt will be auctioned off as part of the annual fundraiser along with a night of food and music. (tix still available at box office)

To add another opportunity, I have been putting together a presentation event I'm calling Britt Quilt Unwrapped. I will be going through the steps of creation - similar to the blog - with additional candid commentary, and answering your questions throughout. Without giving it away, I can also say this will be **one of the only times** to see a special surprise feature of the piece that makes it one of my favorites.

The Festival is graciously supplying their conference room at the downtown box office for this program. We will have posters for sale, and I will be personally signing those who wish to buy that day. The attendance fee is \$15 and includes a coupon for \$5 off a poster purchased at the event. Jonathan promised to bake for us too! Space is obviously limited, so please sign up early. Cancellations will be refundable up until June 2.

WHEN: Thursday, June 7, 3:00 - 4:30

WHERE: Britt Box Office, Downtown Medford (specific directions provided with reservation)

HOW: Call (with credit card) 541.608.7722 or come in to **Top Stitch** to reserve with \$15. (cash/check/cc)

Meanwhile, I am continuing to add chapters for you to see at www.TopStitchBernina.com, click on Blog.

When you Buy a **BERNINA** at **TOP STITCH** the following services are included:

1. Complete Class Instruction for use of your new machine at no additional cost.
2. Free, unlimited trouble-shooting assistance by phone, e-mail or in-store.
3. Full warranty coverage performed on our premises by a BERNINA specialist.

Plus our exclusive BERNINA BUYERS' BONUS Discounts:

- ▶ **15% off** regular priced fabrics, notions, books, machine accessories, embroidery designs, etc.
- ▶ **Discounted*** maintenance & service on purchased machine saves you up to \$110. each time.
(*only applicable when our authorized technician was the last to work on the machine)

Your 15% discount is good for one full year after purchase and will be renewed automatically for another 12 months whenever you pay for maintenance on the machine.

These New Owner classes are complimentary with your purchase of a machine from TOP STITCH.

- Taught by master technician, experienced tailor and all around sewing guru, Jonathan Hanken, these classes surpass the information usually provided and greatly enhance your success and enjoyment with **BERNINA**.
- Choose one of the options listed below for your model, then call, email or come in to **reserve your space** (pre-registration is required). The Embroidery segment can be taken before OR after your basic sewing class.
- If you **purchased your machine here** (new, demo or USED) you can take your New Owner's Guide classes additional times at **no additional charge**.

Class Policies:

Space is limited; as a courtesy to others, please inform us immediately if you need to cancel (there may be others on a waiting list)

We will cancel a class three days in advance if we do not have the minimum number of students.

You are expected to put a reservation on your calendar; we do not make reminder calls.



Your BERNINA SEWING MACHINE - \$200.00 (*Free with machine purchase*)

- Saturday, May 12, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 30 and Thursday, May 31, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Tuesday, June 19 and Wednesday, June 20, 10:00 - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, July 28, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, August 14 and Wednesday, August 15, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)

Your BERNINA EMBROIDERY USAGE - \$100.00 (*Free with machine purchase*)

- Wednesday, May 23, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Saturday, June 9, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm,
- Thursday, July 26, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Saturday, August 4, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Your BERNINA SERGER - \$200.00 (*Free with machine purchase*)

- Saturday, June 23, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 8 and Thursday, August 9, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)

TOP STITCH BERNINA⁺

made to create



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YEARS

CELEBRATING YOUR
CREATIVITY

Looking for a USED BERNINA? Call us first! Jonathan can discuss which models would be best for your needs (including budget), and can make sure it is in perfect working order - **GUARANTEED**.

You also are automatically enrolled in our

BERNINA Buyer's Bonus program - saving you hundreds on service alone!

Monday—Friday 10:00 - 5:00
Saturdays 10:00 - 4:00

CLOSED

Thurs, May 17 -
Sat., May 19

Memorial Day Weekend
May 26 - 28

July 4

Sat., July 21 -
Monday, July 23

Sat., August 26 -
Mon., September 3

Britt Quilt

Unwrapped

A presentation and signing
with Karen Hanken

Thursday, June 7, 3:00 - 4:30

Reservations \$15

(includes \$5 coupon for poster purchase that day)

More details on page 2

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