

# TOP STITCH

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Summer 2017

## To Pre - Or Let it Be



Several years ago I wrote an article titled "To Pre or Not to Pre" about the ongoing dispute amongst quilters whether to prewash fabrics or not, so this may sound familiar to you. As someone who started the sewing hobby with garments - not quilts - I absolutely believe in pre-washing; manufacturers recommend doing so as well. And after years of hearing horror stories at the cutting counter, from uneven shrinkage to irreversible staining, and concerns over exposure to processing chemicals, the evidence is on the side to wash.

But here's a story where things didn't quite go according to norms.

During the winter cold snap we had some plumbing issues in our laundry room. In other words there was a floor covered with water, and in it sat a pile of fabrics waiting to be pre-washed. This discovery - amongst the chaos of getting ready for work without any usable taps - meant that I ran out of the house asking Jonathan to clean up the mess...without further direction. Sweet man that he is, I came home to running water, a sparkling floor and notification that I'd find my fabric in the dryer.

So the next day I'm going to get that fabric for the project I'm starting (no...still not the Britt quilt...). I open the dryer door and everything is decidedly...pink! The greens had a tinge of rust, the blues a hint of purple, the yellows were blushing peach, and of course the whites were no longer. (The reds however were indeed still red.)

My gut reaction - and probably the one my well-meaning partner would have received if standing next to me like the night before - was to be upset and angry at the calamity. But as I extracted this ball of twisted cottons I realized that many of them had the ubiquitous quality of being this year's surprise hit color: millennial pink. A pink that is a soft, pale, generally warm, neutral, blush. Suddenly that border print I had saved for a sundress was not just pretty (and needing a lining), but absolutely, smashingly modern (and acceptably opaque). And I realized that the subtle washes gave me more choices of colors for my requisite stash. But most productively, it gave me a jolt of fresh inspiration for the next project. So I texted Jonathan telling him I loved him for being such a lucky guy!

As an artist I've learned that there is a muse to be had in accepting what is presented, not what you imagine is available. I try not to get obsessed with finding "that thing in my head" because so often it is a path of wasted time; the challenge of "making it work" has produced some of my most successful creations. The surprising, spontaneous results of letting the art happen are the moments that bring me the most joy and satisfying self-reflection.

Like the song says: Speaking words of wisdom, "Let it Be" (...and always, always "Pre").

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### Top Deals

- Help us keep you updated on flash sales and newest arrivals

AND

- Receive a FREE pack of sewing machine needles on your next visit:

Text  
topstitch  
to 85100

## In the Works: Summer-ized

The first quarter has whizzed by and it is finally drying out in our yard. I swear an eddy was forming from this winter's deluge until Jonathan dug us a moat to divert it. We had a beautiful showing of hyacinths to brighten Spring but my daffodils did not last as long as usual. I'm extremely disappointed (and worried) that we haven't seen any nuthatches for over a year, but we were treated to at least four Bullock's Orioles on Easter Sunday (and I have pictures to prove it).

Behind the scenes at the store I have been working on getting a new website designed and implemented to go live soon. This platform will allow me to make more frequent changes and I am specifically hoping to be more pro-active with a blog. I have assembled the email group for those that requested to be updated on the Britt quilt (...no news yet if you're wondering...) but the blog is where I expect to be posting most of that progress.

Another advantage to the new communications platform will be the ability to use texting as a quick and unobtrusive way to keep you updated on flash sales, new arrivals and any unexpected changes (and reminders) to our schedule. Normal data rates of your cell plan apply, but I don't expect to overwhelm you with constant notifications. With your initial sign-up you will receive a confirmation text entitling you to a free pack of BERNINA Universal 80/12 sewing machine needles at your next in-store visit. If you are new to texting I am happy to show you how; just ask.

With that store visit you may notice a lot of construction stuff going on. FedEx Office (formerly FedEx Kinko's) is downsizing to about half their current space, so they have shipping containers and disposal bins parked at their end of the lot. I expect the area will look haphazard for another couple of months, but access to our store is the same as usual so don't let that intimidate you.

In July we will be driving to Las Vegas to attend BERNINA University for dealers and staff. Because of that we will be closed the week of July 9 - 16. B.U. - as it is affectionately called - is the annual convention where we get to see what BERNINA is coming up with next, and keep up to date with current product education. It is also a fun time to catch up with our long-time BERNINA friends and meet newbies to our network. The week before that we will be closed Monday and Tuesday for the July 4th Holiday, so I'm assuming July will seem like a very short month.

For those that haven't heard, the northern part of Oregon will experience a TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE on Monday, August 21, the first such eclipse over the continental US since 1979. The next time it will cross the states near us (N. California) will be August 12, 2045. To see it in 2024 (April 8) you would have to be in the narrow strip from Texas to Ohio, and in 2033 (March 30) aim your sites for northern parts of Alaska. I hope that puts in perspective how unique this opportunity is! We will be closed Saturday, August 19 thru Monday, August 21, and crossing our fingers for typical dry-side weather. (Though the beaches could be spectacular, morning fog would make the opportunity moot, so considered less reliable.)

Summer wraps up with our annual staycation (Aug. 28 - Sept. 4) - and there you have it - Summerized! Hope we get to see you along the way.

### 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.



**Text:**  
**topstitch**  
**to 85100**  
 receive a FREE  
 package of sewing  
 machine needles at  
 your next store visit  
 and get updates on  
 sales & new arrivals  
 in real time

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

- If you purchased your machine from us you are welcome to take the New Owner's Guide classes additional times at no extra charge.
- Choose one of the options listed below then call or come in to reserve your space (pre-registration is required).

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

- Tuesday, May 16 and Wednesday, May 17, 1:00 - 4:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 7 and Thursday, June 8, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, July 29, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, August 15 and Wednesday, August 16, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)

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

- Tuesday, May 23, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- Saturday, June 10, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Saturday, August 5, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 23, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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

- Saturday, June 3, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, July 26 and Thursday, July 27, 1:00 - 4:00 pm (both days)

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.

# TOP STITCH

## BERNINA<sup>+</sup>

made to create



1596 Biddle Rd.

Medford, OR 97504

(between Progress & Morrow)

[www.TopStitchBernina.com](http://www.TopStitchBernina.com)

[topstitch@qwestoffice.net](mailto:topstitch@qwestoffice.net)

541.608.7722

\$5.00 off FABRIC purchase of \$25 or more  
\$10.00 off FABRIC purchase of \$50 or more  
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With coupon. Applies to fabric purchase only. Expires 5/31/17

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

# CLOSED

May 27 - 29  
(Memorial Weekend)

July 3 + 4

July 9 - 16  
(BERNINA University)

August 19 - 21

August 28 -  
September 4

**30% OFF**  
**ALL**  
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**and**  
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In stock only, while supplies last.

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