

Hello All You Wonderful People,

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I know that it has been really rough all over the US. Customers and Instructor/Dealers have been hit by storms. A lot of those storms have been recordbreakers. I feel for all of you. Our part of the storm was not as bad as had been predicted. We never lost electricity and we got our long, long driveway plowed so we can get out. Our Postal Person has delivered mail every single day – and I really appreciate it.

Jean has been here from Arkansas and she was supposed to have flown out on Thursday. Southwest let her change her flight, at no extra cost, since at the time she did it, we were still snowed in and weren't sure we could get her to the airport.

Since she was here, and is one of my computer gurus, she helped me get my 'battery back-up' system up and running. Our electricity is so strange – electricity stayed on during the storm, but today it's a nice sunny day, with no wind, and the electric has been 'glitching'. Thanks to the 'battery back-up system' my computer never went off and the screen didn't even bounce once.

I heard from Phyl Phillips' daughter. Phyl was killed in a car accident in mid-December.

I will continue with the Lighthouse Quilt blocks, mostly using her charting.

I have a couple more quilt sets that she has sent me in the past and gradually I will get them out in the Line.

The Mythological Creatures quilt is still a 'work in progress'. What creatures would you like to see in this quilt? Are you an artist? Could you draw and send your design to me? I need creatures for this quilt rather than things like fairies or wizards or centaurs. (Those are for next year.)

In the future I would like to do a 'Fairy Quilt'. I'm looking for designs for that one, too. I would like to bring it out all at once. It can be 6 designs, 9 designs or 12 designs. It will depend on how many designs I receive.

The Pegasus design was more interesting to do than I thought it would be. That is because I painted it the way that I thought I wanted it – then decided that it wasn't right. Instead of starting over again, I just left the bottom layer of paint on and added to the top of it to get the muscle-tones I was looking for. That way the bottom layer became part of the shadows to make the body look more 3-dimensional. I do like the way it turned out and I hope you had fun shading and highlighting in this way. What do you think of the new colored pictures that are coming with your Quilt Blocks of the Month? Have they been a help in reading the transfer directions (charts)? Let me know what you think about them.

The February Mythological Creatures' quilt block is done with a little different technique. Instead of painting the unicorn – then shading it – you are going to paint the unicorn and then highlight it. This is the way to do dark things and still get the three-dimensional effect. You can put the 192 down first where the highlights are going to go – then – fill in the rest of the unicorn with 138. Now go back and feather those two colors together where you need to. Remember – you are doing the highlights in 192 – so you just ignore the shading that's there.

When you do the sky first, you can get right into the tree branches and you don't have light spots around it. Do the sky and then let it dry completely before you do the tree. Since the tree is done in darker colors – those colors will go right over whatever little bit of the sky colors that you got on the tree.

The 'Creatures' quilt will be done playing with a lot of different techniques, just like the Dragon quilt was. We will be using a lot of the same techniques that you learned on the dragons.

The unicorn design is done using a dry brush. (This just means that you don't put any water on the brush or in the paint that you're using.) This technique works best if you use a really light hand to put the color down. Have your hand moving BEFORE you touch the brush down so you don't have globs and too heavy amounts of that color. If you do mess up – all you need to do is streak on a little more of the paint that 'globbed' and pull it out so it doesn't look like a mistake. It will just look like that area is a little darker or lighter.

When you do the sky – you streak in a little bit of 137 – then using 162 on your brush – you meld both colors together. You can continue adding color until you get the design looking the way that you want it to. After that, you just put a little 161 on your mini-palette and using just a little bit on your brush, you streak a little color in the sky.

When you put the stream down in front of the little island the unicorn is standing on, be sure to streak a little 161 in the water after you get it all done with it so it appears to be reflections from the sky shining on the water.

Don't forget that the Flower Garden Quilt blocks are nice beginner shading designs. You are learning to shade two or three colors together, using your Fiber Blenders, to get that 3-dimensional effect that everyone needs to learn. The most important thing you need to remember about shading is that it won't happen if you don't put enough paint down so that it will smear together. That's what you are doing – smearing to paint colors together with your Fiber Blender. If you have enough paint down on the material – you can GENTLY use your Fiber Blender to blend them together. If there is not enough paint – it won't work.

The Hex Signs Quilt blocks are great. They are just outline and fill in. You are going to use your Fiber Blender to smooth the paint out. This is, again, done GENTLY. It just pushes your paint into all the nooks and crannies of your material so that the paint dries nice and smooth looking. This is a great 'quick' project and a good 'starting' project for those of you that are just learning to make your paint do what you want it to do.

The Birds and Lighthouses designs use combinations of painting with the tip and learning other techniques to put your paint on your designs.

The Oriental designs are all done with the tip, but include shading and highlighting within the designs.

Basically, I just want you to learn how to make your paints do what you want them to do and I want you to have fun doing it. In learning new techniques you are just giving yourself more abilities to do the job that you want to do and make everything look great. You and your family and friends will be astounded by what you can learn and enjoy yourself while doing it.

Monthlyspecialss

So how about we put the IK on sale for 10% off for the next three (3) months. This will give you a better chance of ordering the IKs that your customers want a little earlier and make a little extra money at the same time. How many do you want?

January – February – March 2011 IK = \$284.30

So now let's put the C660 – Ideal Accessory Kit on sale for the next three (3) months. This will give your customers that buy the IK while it's on sale, a chance to get all the accessories that go with it – including the number of C350-Paint Racks that they need to put all their new paints in. We'll go with the same 10% off that we are doing for the IK. This will run one month behind the first sale. So they can get their IKs, then the next month they can get their IK Accessory kit.

<u>February – March – April</u> <u>C660 – Ideal Accessory Kit = \$76.50</u>

(Your customers can buy both kits at the same time in February and March.)

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February Workshops

February 12th – Workshop in Brooklyn – at Sharon's – 2:00 PM February 17th – Monthly Workshop here – from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Bring paints, Fiber Blenders, Brushes)





You can see last month's quilt blocks and this month's quilt blocks in each of the Monthly Quilt Block sets.

Order in: ones=\$2.50 (1 quilt block & 1 transfer) {or} sixes=\$15.00 (6 blank quilt blocks & 6 of same transfer)

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