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📣 🗨️ **LAST CALL** for the 30% off sale at ShopMartingale.com! We're flipping the switch and turning off the sale at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time tonight (Friday, May 15)! Visit ShopMartingale.com now before the clock hits midnight! 📺: Nooks and Crannies from "Simple Whatnots: A Batch of Satisfyingly Scrappy Little Quilts" by Kim Diehl. Finished quilt: 16-1/2" x 22-1/2". Download the "Simple Whatnots" eBook and treat yourself to some sewing time this weekend! If you spend \$40 we'll ship your print books for FREE (USA only)! #madewithmartingale

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Happy holidays! And for those of you still sewing...

Posted by Jenny Wilding Cardon on December 23, 2013, in quilting & sewing, just for fun, meet us



"To All a Good Night" quilt and "Joy to the World" pillow from 'Tis the Season

Another year is coming to a close...and what a year it's been at *Stitch This!* We've given away more freebies than ever, packed the year with special sales, seen posts go viral (like [this one](#)), and oh yeah—Martingale has published 64 beautiful books too! It's a time to be proud of accomplishments, grateful for teamwork, and thankful to all of you, who have inspired us with your passion, enthusiasm, and stories all year long.

At Christmas, the best gift is that of friends and family. We consider ourselves family at Martingale, and we most certainly consider you our friend here at *Stitch This!* So, as friends, let's share one of our best-kept Christmas secrets, shall we? You know the one. **The annual stitching sprint to the finish line.** We know it so well that we've written a little ditty to honor all of you who are burning the midnight oil to get finished gifts under the tree.

Without further ado, we bring you our ode to a stitcher's holiday.

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- Bonnie Olaveson – Cotton Way
- Cheryl Brown – Quilter Chic
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- Christa Watson – Christaquilts.com
- Cindy Lammon – Hyacinth Quilt Designs
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- Kim Brackett – Magnolia Bay Quilts
- Margo Duke
- Mary M. Covey – Mary M. Covey Designs
- Pat Durbin – Pat’s Quilts
- Rebecca Silbaugh – Ruby Blue

The Christmas Stitching Sprint (sung to the tune of “Jingle Bells”)



Two days left to go
 Until Christmas day
 Seams still left to sew
 Keeping sleep at bay!

Chocolate, coffee, tea
 Quilt, knit, and crochet
 What fun it is to cut and piece
 and stitch two days away!

Oh, stitching sprint, stitching sprint,
 Happens every year
 No matter how well we plan
 We’ll greet midnight with cheer!

Stitching sprint, stitching sprint,
 Christmas morning’s here
 Celebrate the gifts you made
 And know they’ll hold each dear.



If you can relate to the stitching sprint, know you’re not alone. Share what you’re making in the comments; together, we’ll encourage each other to get to the finish line!



Detail of “Night Before Christmas” quilt from Christmas is Coming

We’ll be away from the office until January 2, 2014. When we return, we’ll gather together with the goal of bringing you more inspiration at *Stitch This!*, and introducing you to exciting new books throughout the coming year. From all of us at Martingale, we wish you the warmest and cheeriest of holidays—and a New Year filled with your favorite creative pursuits!



One year ago: A holiday party with heart (+ free pattern!)

Related Posts

- Staff stitch + show: recent pictures of quilts we made!
- Still stitching on Christmas Eve? A song (and video) for you
- In gratitude: thank you



37 Comments (leave a comment)

Quilting Studio

- o Sara Lawson – Sew Sweetness
- o Stacey Trock – FreshStitches
- o Sue Abrey – Quilt Times
- o Susan Purney Mark
- o Tonya Alexander – Eye Candy Quilts
- o Vanessa Christenson – V and Co.



Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night! I have to sew granny squares together to make a scarf.

—Stephanie Dunphy on December 23, 2013

LOVE the ditty!

—Mickey Hunt on December 23, 2013

Finishing quilts for my grandchildren!!

—Lonormi Manuel on December 23, 2013

Christmas stockings for my 11 month and 4 month old granddaughters!

—Melinda McMahan on December 23, 2013

I have soup cozies and a binding to hand sew on a cat quilt for my niece!!

—Lee on December 23, 2013

I thought for sure I could get a new Christmas tree skirt done for this season, but I only have 3.75 out of 12 panels completed. I have had fun building my stash of green fat quarters though and if not this year, there's always next year.

—Cathy Kind on December 23, 2013

I was on a knitting sock marathon! Hopefully they will keep feet warm and toastie this winter!

—Sherill V on December 23, 2013

First let me wish everyone a very merry Christmas! And let us not forget that this is Jesus' Birthday we celebrate as I try to finish two 'organizer portfolios' for my kids to use for work.

—Cindy on December 23, 2013

Gave the Christmas quilt gifts I made to my nieces on Saturday at our family party (at my house this year!)

Oh, what a good feeling! Done and delivered. Crunch time is over, and it ALL got done!

And, they loved them!

Now I can relax and celebrate on Dec. 25th.

Merry Christmas everyone. And a joyful and healthy New Year.

—Karen on December 23, 2013

I actually finished the baby quilt for a special baby to celebrate her first Christmas on December 11! I am so surprised and pleased with myself. I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and peace in your hearts always.

Here is a link to the baby quilt on my flickr site:

<http://flickr.com/photos/tutu-qltr/11349901156/in/photostream>

—Josefina on December 23, 2013

I am making a Quillow for my Husband, a bag for my son's girlfriend, two wall hangings, and a partridge in a pear tree. Wish me luck! Deb Quiltbeeme

—Deb Johnson on December 23, 2013

Who isn't still stitching? LOL I'm finishing the binding on a table runner for my daughter. I always say to family that if my quilted gifts were paintings the paint would still be wet!

—Marion on December 23, 2013

Only 9 rows left and three days! Getting a snowball quilt for Ellie's first big girl bed! It might still be unquoted but she will get the idea! Merry Christmas and thanks for the year of great blogs!

—Kathy on December 23, 2013

I am finishing 6 Christmas placemats for a special friend. My family is visiting, and they'll be snow boarding tomorrow. I'll be able to finish and deliver while they're gone. Besides who needs sleep!

—Eileen on December 23, 2013

By Christmas Eve, I should have my workspace organized enough to be ready to start seriously sewing. Your poem is so perfect, except it forgot "more choklit" on Christmas morning as the last sewing is (hopefully) finished.

—Lynne on December 23, 2013

This year I managed to get all the gifts done & mailed on the 13th. But last year I was madly quilting and putting a binding on at 11 pm Christmas eve. Decided not to do that ever again! Whew!

—Joy B on December 23, 2013

I just finished two Christmas stockings and a Christmas table runner today. I think I am ready for Christmas now. I liked the cute little song!

—Renea on December 23, 2013

I have finished all my Christmas gifts. Of course, there were not too many this year as I was busy with wedding present and a tote bag for my relative for the end of January.

—beth daniels on December 23, 2013

Down under it is Christmas eve already and I'm trying my best to finish a sock for under the tree.

—mistea on December 23, 2013

Just need to make a few travel bags.. won't see the peeps until boxing day. so I've got time 😊

—Carol on December 23, 2013

Finished a quilt this morning practically sewing the quilt label on as I walked out the door, for my best friends 3 year old. She loves purple so I picked out every purple print fabric I had in my stash and whipped up a simple squares pattern (simple? still took a lot of hours). As she's pulling it out of the tissue paper... I ask "What's your favorite color?" ... smiling coyly she answers "GREEN!" But she loved it and her favorite color really is purple.

—Sherry on December 23, 2013

I really thought I had it together this year and would meet my deadlines with ease — so I added more projects!! Two wine-themed table runners needed wine-totes for "wrapping" — which then got xmas paper wrapping per usual, plus two more totes for other wine-lovers. I made some cute little mini-quilt card/ornaments for special folks, and they were so quick and easy to make that I added 17 more people to the list!! I guess I am just incorrigible on this xmas-stitching-dash — somehow, "I could" becomes "I must" — why??? Maybe I get high on the adrenaline? or is it a form of xmas spirit?

I loved the xmas-dash song — could you make it into something we could download? I'd love to print it on some cards!

Merry, merry, merry to all, and thank you so much for your great work! Happy New Year!

Hi Carol, I hadn't thought of making the lyrics downloadable for printing but it's a fun idea—I'll see what I can do! Thanks for your comment, and happy holidays to you! ~Jenny

—Carol Barringer on December 23, 2013

My new Christmas tree skirt won't be finished, but I also had fun assembling funky green, red, and ice blue fabrics. I am going to finish it before the year is over. Besides, after all the presents are opened and gone from under the tree, my new tree skirt will really shine ... and then it will be ready for next year 😊

—SewRaggedyAnn on December 23, 2013

P.S. laughing hysterically at Lynne's comment... Christmas eve & she has her workspace ready for some serious sewing. Mine now looks like I threw a grenade into a craft store.)

Joy B. – You give me hope & inspiration :)

—Sherry on December 23, 2013

My socks are all hung...the tree is alit...got to stop stitching...and sit down for a bit...the quilts half stitched...the squares are aligned...one more cup of coffee...two days til xmas time...Santa'll be here and the stichin's not done...oh well..hide it til next year...this year is almost done...and me tooooo...Have a very merry xmas...and Happy New Year...it doesn't quite rhyme...maybe next time.....

—Darlene Krystal on December 23, 2013

Still laughing from the grenade in a craft store comment because that is exactly what my sewing room looks like right now. I too thought I had plenty of time to finish all of my projects. Best laid plans of mice and men right? I sat up till 2AM this morning trying to finish a special pillow for my Mom, as I still have to mail it out. I really wanted to finish it because I had a procedure done on my neck and the discs there this morning that may put me out of it for a couple days. Well, I got one side totally appliquéd and it's readily to be quilted and I have the appliqué set up for the other side before I went to sleep last night. Hopefully, I'm will be back in business tomorrow and I can finish it off. The perfect plan would be for me to finish it before 5pm tomorrow so that I can still get it in for overnight shipping. I'm always a day late and a dollar short.

Lisa

—Lisa S on December 23, 2013

Oh my goodness, I just finished one more frilly scarf
I've made so many, you'd think I'd not eaten and would starve.

Taking a break is the thing to do,
must check in with Facebook to play a game or two.

Knitting six stitches, back and forth, back and forth
my eyes aren't crossed yet, however my behind is sore.

—Nancy on December 24, 2013

Shouldn't be blog reading, I should be finishing the hand sewing on my hubby's Christmas gift. It's been tough finishing as I usually hand sew in the evenings to keep him company, watching tv. Can't do that with this jacket project. Merry Christmas.

—Colleen Gander on December 24, 2013

I am finishing dresses made from my husband's old shirts for my four granddaughters –
But it's a secret!!

—Joyce on December 24, 2013

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, and with that thought in mind, I found and purchased all the fabrics I needed for my next quilt project. Meanwhile, I'm working on the Bonnie Hunter Celtic Solstice mystery quilt and my Graphix Southwest quilt, I started in September. Will I finish the GS quilt this year...probably not, but I'm not worried...there is always next year, which brings me new hopes of finishing All my quilt projects and the beginnings of a brighter tomorrow finding new ones.

God's Blessings to ALL my quilting friends.

Keep smiling,

—Lynnita Shipman on December 24, 2013

A very Merry Christmas to you all and many, many thanks for all the wonderful things that you have given and all the inspiration that you have generated. I look forward to trying to finish everything up before next Christmas !!!

—Marti Morgan on December 24, 2013

Merry Christmas to You and many thanks for the great giveaways- even though I didn't win – it is fun to participate! You have inspired me in many directions!

—Nancy on December 25, 2013

Was so close to finishing the three twin sized quilts for my boys. Our power went out a few days before Christmas due to an ice storm. Once the power comes back I'll finish the binding and be done. But I'll probably add matching pillowcases. Never had time to make myself a tree skirt. Next year...

—Erin on December 25, 2013

Sent four knit hats and one crocheted one to the Lutheran program for homeless and almost homeless here in Seattle, for Christmas gifts. Plus two I bought. I have a quilt from one of your patterns wrapped around the tree as a skirt.

—Linda Carlson on December 27, 2013

Finished up a flannel backed, heart appliqued baby quilt for our first grandbaby, due in March. I presented this to my daughter and son in law on Christmas day. They loved it!

—Renee Welton on December 30, 2013

Finished binding the quilt for the grandnephew last night! Pillowcase will come later. Packed the gift bags and baked goods for transport, finishing side dishes that will go too, then off to church and then to family Christmas dinner. Merry Christmas!

—Karen on December 25, 2016

I love this quilt and pillow! Do you have kits and or patterns?! Thank you, Thalia

—Thalia on December 25, 2016

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