

Lynne Schroder

I have been a lover of fabric as long as I can remember. As a child, I was fascinated by my grandmothers' sewing rooms. One of my earliest pre-school memories is telling my mother, "I need to sew something." I did my first quilting project in the early 70's, a hand-embroidered and hand-quilted pillow with a rose motif.

Regarding the finished work, I was somehow filled with patriotic fervour, so I packed it up and sent it to Queen Elizabeth. I didn't tell my parents, so they were caught slightly off guard when a very gracious thank-you letter arrived from Buckingham Palace. To this day, when anybody claims something is fit for a queen, I think, "oh yeah, where's your thank-you letter?" I never stopped quilting after that, though I did let my correspondence with Her Majesty lapse.

Some years later, as I grew tired of work in supply chain management and contract law, I wanted to devote my life's work to something creative. I decided to get myself a long arm quilting machine and forge a new path. Confirming the old maxim, "measure twice, buy a long arm once," I bought the largest long arm Gammill had to offer and quickly discovered that it was, in fact, larger than any of the rooms in my house. A move to a commercial premise was hastily arranged and in 2007 Kismet Quilts was launched. (Hence the name of the store: this was no plan, this was destiny).

It is a privilege to work in the store helping people on their quilting journeys. One of the great things about owning a store is I have been exposed to so many new things I might otherwise never have known about. Many of the tools we use every day have improved tremendously, none more-so than rulers and I will be happy to demo Creative Grids Rulers for you at the show.