

Grand Haven: Laurie Simpson's Sweet Farewell

Written by Linzee McCray @seamswrite

Laurie Simpson is a quilter extraordinaire. The patterns she creates under the Minick & Simpson name include intricate piecing, appliqué, and the occasional touch of whimsy. Many involve handwork and hundreds of pieces of fabric, and Laurie often hand quilts the finished product.

Her start in quilting, however, was more modest. "I was maybe 13 or 14 and saw a quilt in Women's Day magazine that I thought was pretty neat," she remembers. No one in her family sewed, so Laurie bought small quantities of fabric and taught herself to handpiece blocks. "I was just a kid and then a poor student," she says. "So it wasn't until I was in my 30s that I got my first machine, a Featherweight."



Laurie Simpson holding her quilt,
In the Garden (MS 2105)

In addition to her richly detailed patterns, she's known for the 65 lines of fabric she's designed for Moda, more than 40 of them with her sister Polly Minick. Their connection with Moda came in 2003 when Polly called to buy five yards of ticking fabric. She learned that Moda only sells to wholesale accounts, but her call was passed along to Moda's then-design director, Cheryl Freydberg. A Country Home magazine story featuring Polly's home had introduced Cheryl to Polly's style, and she asked Polly if she'd like to design a line of wool. Polly, an experienced rug hooker, admittedly couldn't sew on a button and called Laurie, her quilting sister, to see if it was an idea worth considering. Laurie excitedly said yes, and the design team was born. Polly retired in 2018 and Laurie has continued to design fabric, including her newest line, Grand Haven.

A Day at the Beach

Minick & Simpson fabric lines are inspired by vintage textiles, and Grand Haven is no exception. "The red, white, and blue collections are light, happy, and summery—and summer makes me think of beaches and cottages," says Laurie. "I'm reminded of all the great beach towns here in Michigan—many of the collections have Michigan place names. Grand Haven will be the last one."

Yes, you heard that right. Laurie is retiring from fabric design. "Moda has been so supportive and I felt so appreciated," she says. "I've also come to appreciate what a nice guy Mr. Dunn is. I'm so fortunate to be working with them."

Though designing patterns and fabric will be a thing of the past, she won't be leaving the world of textiles behind. In response to demand from the customers Polly acquired



Laurie & Polly at Polly's 80th Birthday Party

through 28 years of selling antiques in New York, Nantucket, and through Ralph Lauren, Laurie will sell her one-of-a-kind quilts and Polly her hand-hooked rugs via the Minick & Simpson website. (The Minick & Simpson Etsy shop will continue to sell patterns.)

We appreciate the beauty and pleasure that sewing with Minick & Simpson's beautiful fabrics brings to our lives, and we're grateful for the many times we've been wowed by one of Laurie's masterful quilts. We wish her well as she finds more time for travel, reading, and dog walking, some of the activities she intends to pursue in retirement.

"And of course I'll still make quilts," says Laurie. "It's who I am. It's what I do."

For more with Laurie and Polly, visit their website, minickandsimpson.com, and follow them on social media, @minickandsimpson.

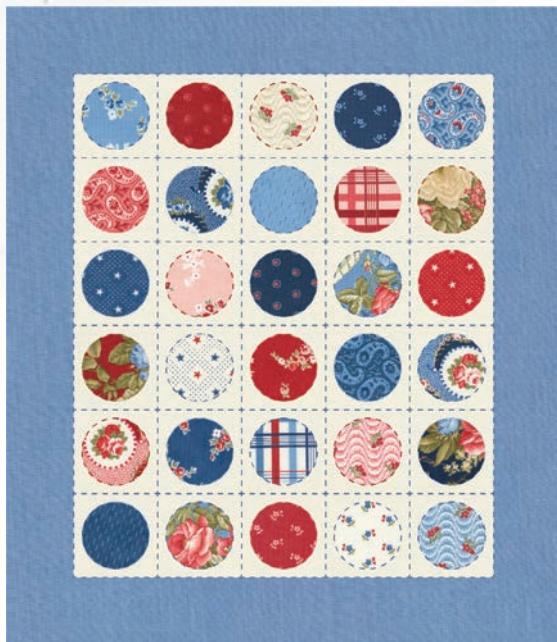


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Grand Haven

MINICK & SIMPSON



PS14980 Circle Game | 16" x 19"

Grand Haven is a beach lover's dream. The wind and waves from Lake Michigan make this a summertime delight. Our Grand Haven fabric group is a happy red, white, and blue textile bundle perfect for quilts and home dec. We have loved showing you our home through these wonderful Moda fabric collections.

SEPTEMBER 2024 DELIVERY

IG | @minickandsimpson
#grandhavenfabric

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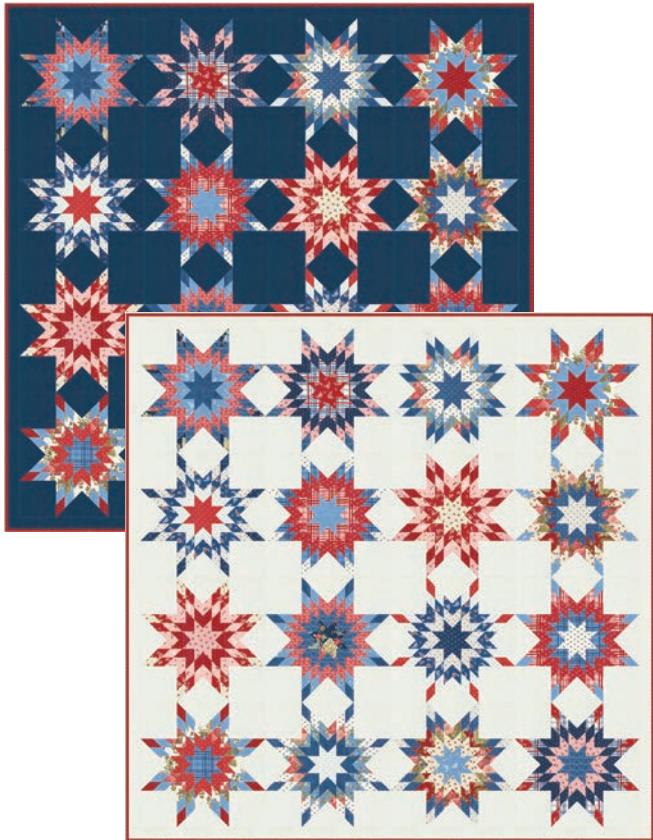
KIT
14980

MS 2308 Braeburn | 60" x 60"



LS12GH10

Grand Haven Aurifil Thread Box
10 Small Spools • 100% Cotton
12wt (56 yds each)



MS 1201 Ellen's Sewing Basket | 88" x 88"

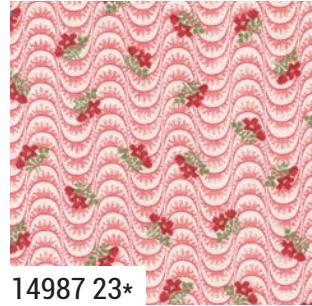
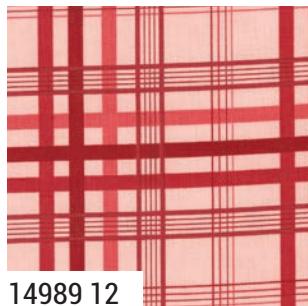
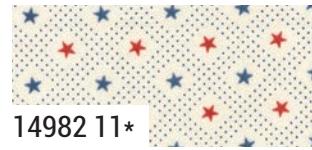
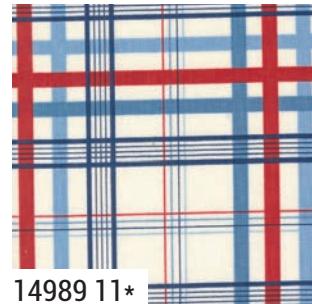


MS 1302 Nantucket | 67" x 67"

Grand Haven

MINICK & SIMPSON

9900 182 PORCELAIN



14983 14*

9900 88 BUBBLE GUM

Bella Solid Coordinates

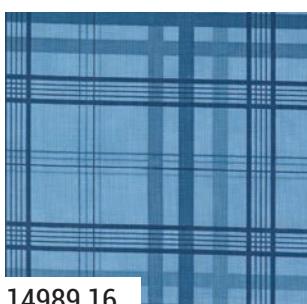
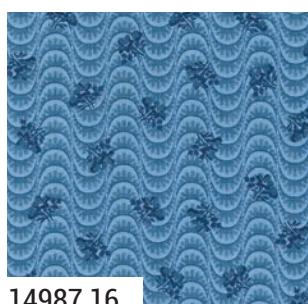
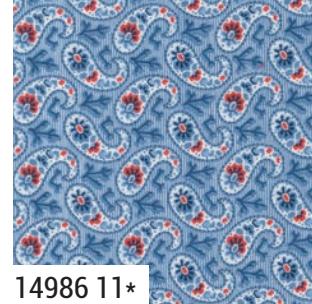
9900 423 SUMAC

moda

SEPTEMBER DELIVERY

Grand Haven

MINICK & SIMPSON



9900 49 FRENCH BLUE

9900 236 NAUTICAL BLUE

Bella Solid Coordinates

14980

Asst.
15

Asst.
10

Low Cal
10

AB

JR

LC

MC

PP

PS

KIT

SEPTEMBER DELIVERY

•34 Prints

•100% Premium Cotton

JRs, LCs, MCs & PPs include 34 skus plus two each of 14980 & 14983-14 & 18. Bella Solid Coordinates are not included in assortments or precuts.