

Think Pink with Leather & Lace And Amazing Grace

by Linzee Kull McCray @seamswrite

Opportunity comes in many forms. For Moda designer Cathe Holden, her latest was designing fabric for October's Think Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The "opportunity" came about because of Cathe's personal experience with breast cancer, and while it's one she could do without, she took on the challenge. The result is Leather & Lace and Amazing Grace.

"I created the line so that it could be appreciated by anyone," says Cathe, adding that while the fabrics can be used to support anyone going through tough times, they would also make a sweet little girl's dress.

The collection's focus fabric is designed in the digital collage style that's made Cathe's lines so beloved. Working from her studio on her family's property in Northern California, Cathe layers scans of vintage postcards, antique textiles, buttons, and more from her vast collection of objects and ephemera. These fabrics work equally well as yardage for quilt backs or fussy cut for blocks and English Paper Piecing.



Beauty in Symbolism

When it came time to create this line, Cathe chose imagery that was not only visually arresting, but also held personal meaning. "I thought about feeling brave and tough and delicate and fragile all at the same time, and that's where the leather and lace came in," she says. "I also wanted to emphasize my faith in dealing with something beyond my control—in letting go and letting God—and Amazing Grace speaks to that."

The resulting imagery includes a pink leather belt and buckle incised with roses (the leather for toughness and the buckle signifying "Buckle up! You've got cancer"); a worn hankie (for the tears); a millinery label (for hats that cover hair loss); a locker key pin (for the many times she had to undress and store her clothing for tests and treatment); a postage stamp quilt (for comfort); and sheet music of Amazing Grace (for the blessings found



in her journey). When creating these fabric collages Cathe enjoys contrasting the masculine and feminine, the hard and soft, and artfully placed an industrial pin next to pretty little birds, and a label's sturdy typography next to curvilinear roses.

Healing Creatively

Working on this collection (and others) during her treatment and ongoing recovery provided Cathe with a much-needed escape from the world of chemo and radiation. “Being able to do that made me feel grounded and more like myself,” she says. “It was everything.”

Along with the energy provided by her creative work, Cathe gathered strength from the online world. “It made me feel like I had a purpose—to inspire, share, and dialogue with others.” After she shared how she discovered her cancer, Instagram followers reported getting their own check-ups. “If you have a platform, it would seem a shame not to try and help someone.”

That communication was definitely a two-way street and she fully appreciated the heart emojis and words of encouragement that filled her feed. “In these tough times, in this tough world, you have no idea how lovely people are and that helped me a lot,” says Cathe. Along with the significant challenges posed, Cathe cites the positives that came with breast cancer—the people like her oncology nurses that she grew attached to, and the kindness, love, and support she felt from her Moda family that meant the world to her. The experience also taught her about items that bring comfort to breast cancer patients, like heart-shaped pillows that alleviate post-surgical discomfort, and she worked with Moda to provide patterns and avenues for sharing them with hospitals and clinics. These appeal to Cathe’s love of small projects and her desire to give back.

For Cathe, Leather & Lace and Amazing Grace is akin to a visual journal. “Cancer isn’t my identity, it’s just my experience and Leather & Lace and Amazing Grace reflects that,” she says. “It’s filled with many blessings.”



Leather & Lace AND Amazing Grace

BY CATHE HOLDEN



**KIT
7400**

WEB PATTERN

Leather and Lace Stars 64" x 76"
Suggested Backing: 7401 11



QUILTING LIFE DESIGNS

QLD 204 Heartstrings 63" x 78"

Often through the most difficult of times, we summon the courage to be as tough as possible, though in contrast, there are many moments we feel so delicate and frail. My experience through recent breast cancer treatment and my current recovery, I've also felt incredibly blessed in many ways.

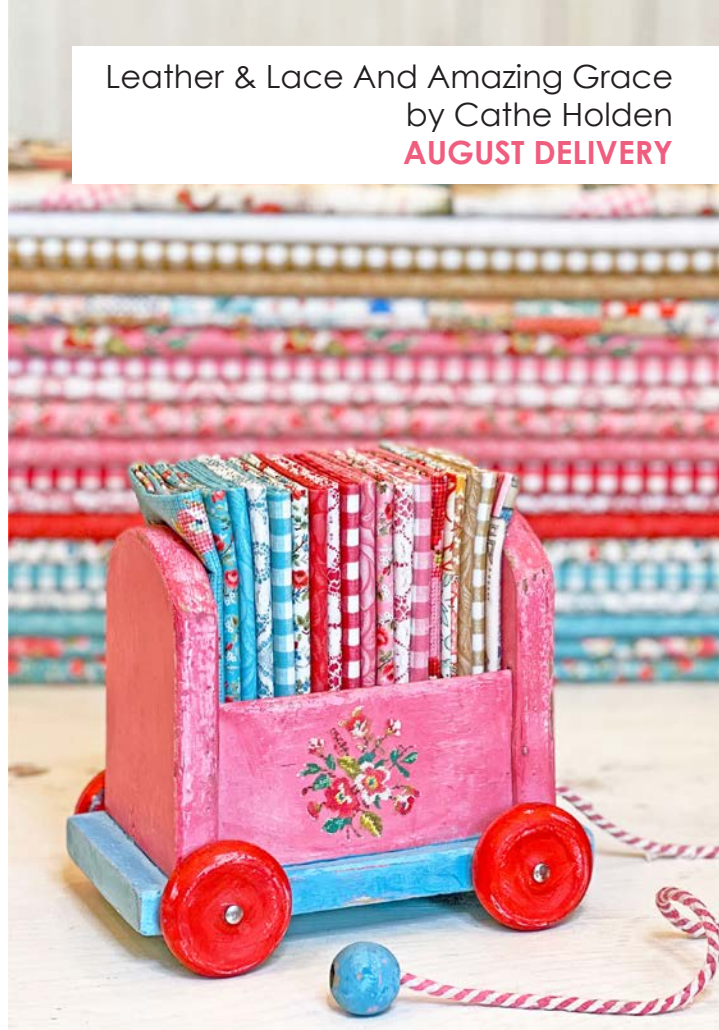
Tough as leather, delicate as lace, but always blessed by Grace.

My "LLAG" fabric collection with its pretty florals, sweet gingham, vintage needlework, and journal collage has been designed to shine a beautiful light on those who journey through the most difficult experiences, and to the beautiful souls who carry us through. - Cathe

AUGUST DELIVERY



Leather & Lace And Amazing Grace
by Cathe Holden
AUGUST DELIVERY



DESIGNS BY LAVENDER LIME

DLL 169 Feather Bed 66" x 82"



COACH HOUSE DESIGNS

CHD 2206 Vintage Embrace 64" x 80"

Leather & Lace And Amazing Grace
by Cathe Holden
AUGUST DELIVERY

PS7400

Leather & Lace and Amazing
Grace Project Pack

4 small projects benefiting those
going through treatment for breast
cancer:

Heart Post-Surgery Pillow - Ideal to
support and separate arm from chest;
Optional pocket and shoulder strap

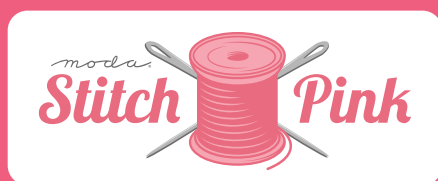
Seatbelt Pad - A must for post-surgery
and chemo port protection from a
car's seatbelt

Folio - Convenient storage for patient
appointment paperwork, fits a standard
file folder, or keepsake storage for
loving cards and notes

Snuggle Patchwork Throw - An easy,
extra-soft throw using the cheater
patchwork print, backed in Moda's
cozy Snuggles. 58" x 68"



OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Stitch Pink 2022 takes on a different story this year, a personal one. Designed by Cathe Holden, this year's featured collection, *Leather & Lace and Amazing Grace*, is filled with personal meaning—and the projects are items that will bring comfort to those fighting breast cancer.

To share Cathe's story, and this collection, there will be blog and social media posts beginning in August, continuing through October. There will be tutorials for the comfort items designed by Cathe, and other project options for the collection including quilts, pillows and bags.

Moda Fabrics is proud to be a contributing sponsor of
National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.®

Leather & Lace AND Amazing Grace

BY CATHE HOLDEN

ZIPPER BAGS, JOURNAL AND MINI NOTES



1001 66 Pack of 24
Pocket Notepads



1001 67 MUL 4
Wire O Journal



1005 48 MUL 6
Glam Bag Collage



1005 47 MUL 6
Glam Bag Quilt

Leather & Lace *AND* Amazing Grace

BY CATHE HOLDEN

AUGUST
DELIVERY

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The personal meaning behind everything Cathe included in the collage print:

Buckle

BUCKLE UP - You've got cancer!

Leather

Toughness

Envelope

Supportive letters & cards received

Sewing Machine Card

Beautiful scene/meditational thoughts

Buttons

Just keeping it together

Worn Hankie

For the tears

Calendar

All those appointments!

Lace

Fragility

Flower Basket

Kind gifts and flowers

Music Sheet

Amazing Grace = Blessings found in the journey

Art Studio Card

Healing through creativity, designing for Moda

Pharmacist Card

Meds, meds, meds!

Handle With Care Label

Obvious

Millinery Label

Loosing hair & wearing beanies & hats for months

Bird Card

Apple blossoms in Spring - I finished my cancer treatment in the spring. "Kindest Thoughts" for all the "thoughts and prayers" sentiments

Postage Stamp Quilt

Comfort

Safety Pin/Locker Key

the multitude of times I had to undress & store my clothes for tests & treatment.



7400 11



7401 11

7400

Asst. 15

Asst. 10

AB

LC

PP

PS

KIT

AUGUST DELIVERY

• 19 Prints • 100% Premium

LCs & PPs include two of each sku plus three each of 7402-12 & 7505-11.