

# Lisa Bongean: Weaving Threads of Tradition and Connection

When Lisa Bongean of Primitive Gatherings first discovered quilting over 30 years ago, it was in the unlikeliest of places—at a YMCA swim lesson. As she watched someone hand stitching, her curiosity was piqued. At the time, she couldn't have imagined that this simple moment would not only shape her personal journey but also have an impact on the quilting community at large.

## From Curious Beginner to Designer

Lisa's path into quilting began with a class at a local quilt shop. "That's all I really needed," she says. "I took a [quilt] pattern off the wall and changed it so much that it didn't even look like the original!" she laughs.

Her quilting business grew "so organically and so fast," she admits, and before long, Lisa was deeply embedded in the quilting community. By 2000, she had already published two books and several patterns,



Lisa Bongean of Primitive Gatherings.

and even launched a line of hand-dyed wool. It was clear that quilting wasn't just a hobby—it was her calling.

## A Life-Altering Decision

In September 2003, Lisa faced the loss of her father. This personal milestone became a turning point in her life, one that would change the course of her professional quilting journey. "Life was too short to waste time at a job I didn't really like," she reflects. That realization led to a bold decision: In December 2003, she quit her job and, by May 2004, opened her own brick-and-mortar shop.

Her store quickly gained recognition, and in 2005, American Patchwork & Quilting named it one of the Top 10 Shops in the country. That exposure helped propel Lisa and her business to new heights, and she soon found herself part of the Moda family in 2010—"one of the biggest milestones" of her career.



Primitive Gatherings quilt collection.

# The Power of Social Connections

As her business expanded, Lisa opened a retreat center, and through it, she came to fully appreciate the social side of quilting. "I've realized that quilting has a whole other side to it," she says, emphasizing the friendships, collaborations, and inspiration that come from quilting together.

Her retreats are not just about making quilts but about creating lasting bonds. "It's so much deeper than just how many quilts you can make," she explains. "It's about making friends and connections, and how much you can grow by hanging out with like-minded people." These gatherings provide a sense of community and purpose that extend beyond the craft itself.

## A Passion for the Past, and Honoring the Present

Lisa's fabric collections are a reflection of her love for the art of quilting and the quilters who came before us. Her latest collection, American Gatherings III, is no exception, as it coincides with America's 250th anniversary. Included in the collection is a large eagle panel, perfect for making Quilts of Valor—an initiative close to Lisa's heart. She hopes to use this collection for a fundraiser to benefit honor flights, further deepening her commitment to giving back through quilting.

Though Lisa has a long list of ideas for future fabric collections, she admits that her fabric design process is very "in the moment," using prints from her extensive antique quilt collection as a guide to curate each new line. "Go big or go home" isn't part of the Primitive Gatherings aesthetic—her fabric collections and patterns are known for their small-scale prints and



Primitive Gatherings shop and retreat center.

piecing. "I like to add something quirky to each collection," she adds, like the hand-drawn snowmen in her annual Snowman Gatherings lines.

## The Future of Primitive Gatherings

The journey from her hobby to a thriving business hasn't been without challenges, but Lisa's ability to pivot has been key to her success. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she embraced YouTube as a way to connect with her customers and continue growing her business. Meanwhile, her new 23,000-square-foot warehouse, retail store, and studio and 10,000-square-foot retreat center opened in July 2021, offering quilters an expansive space to create and collaborate. "I'm not doing all this by myself," she's quick to point out. "We are a family business with 47 employees," she adds proudly.

In every aspect of her business, whether it's designing fabric or hosting a retreat, Lisa Bongean embodies the spirit of quilting—not just as a craft, but as a powerful means of connection, creativity, and community. To learn more about Lisa Bongean and Primitive Gatherings, visit [primitivegatherings.us](http://primitivegatherings.us) and follow along on Instagram at @lisabongean.

# AMERICAN GATHERINGS III

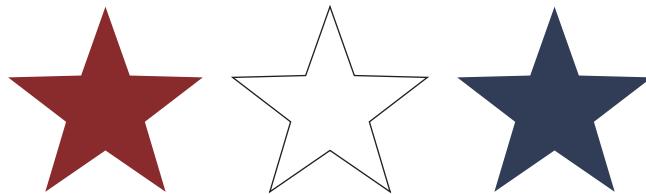
*By: Primitive Gatherings*

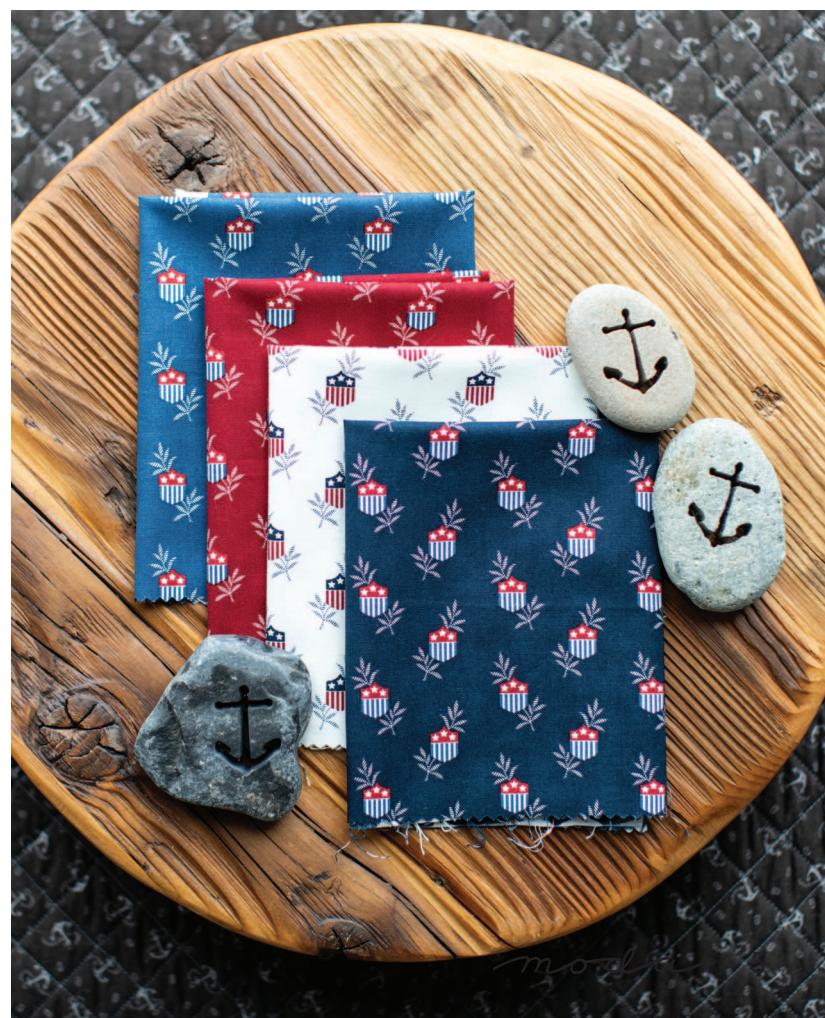
This collection embodies the timeless spirit of America, blending true reds, steadfast blues, and crisp whites in traditional designs that echo the heart of our nation's history. Each fabric carries the essence of classic Americana – bold stripes, proud stars, and intricate patterns reminiscent of early American textiles – celebrating the enduring values of freedom, bravery, and unity.

As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's fight for independence, these quilts and fabrics serve as more than just artistic expressions; they are a heartfelt tribute to those who sacrificed for our liberty. Every stitch honors the courage of our founding patriots and the unwavering dedication of our veterans – the heroes who have defended freedom through generations.

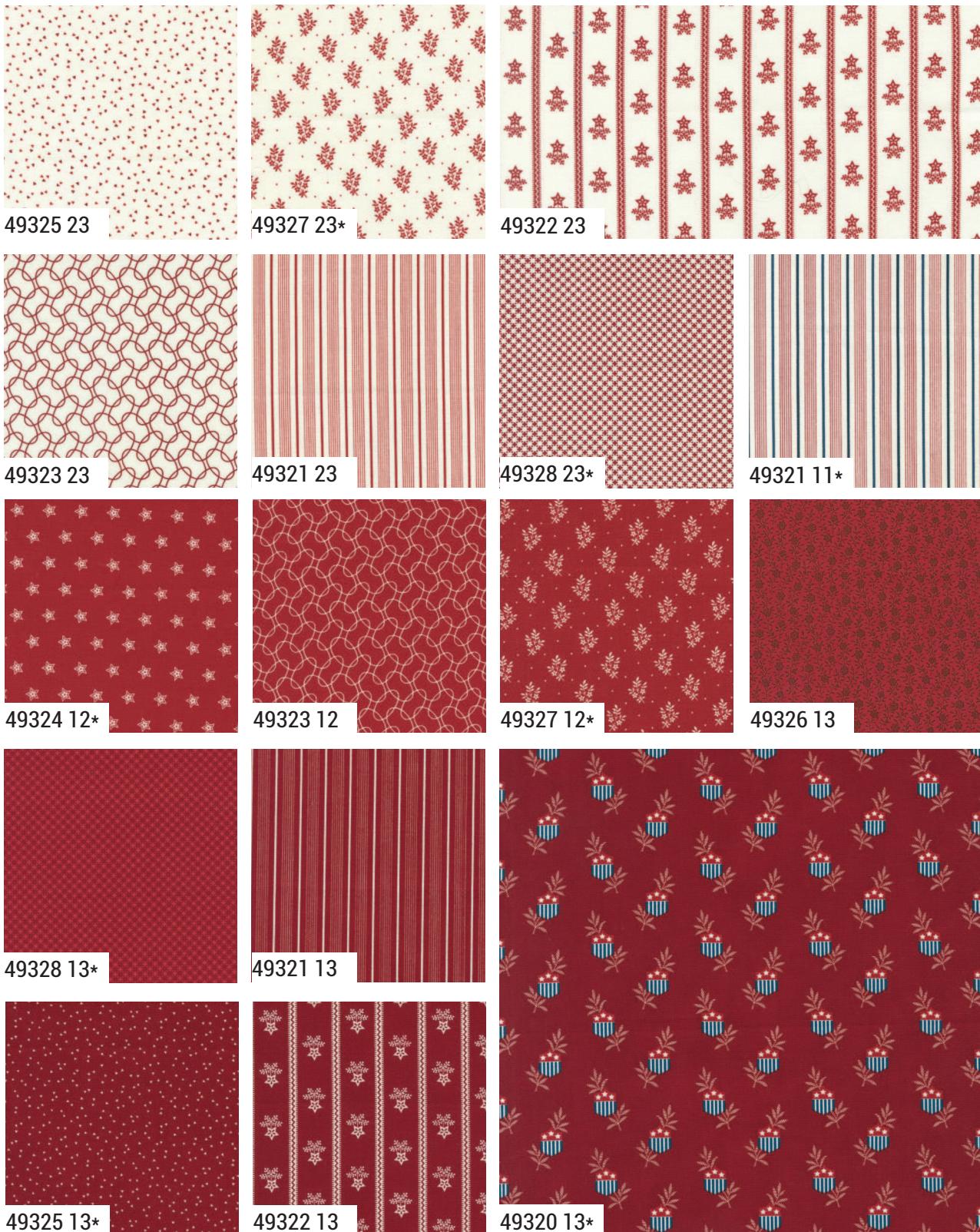
This collection invites quilters to stitch their own lasting tribute to the American spirit, weaving together past and present in every thread. Whether displayed with pride or gifted with gratitude, these quilts stand as a reminder that freedom is not just won – it's preserved, cherished, and passed on.

*moda* DECEMBER DELIVERY





# AMERICAN GATHERINGS III By: Primitive Gatherings



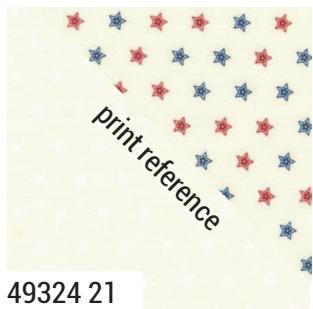
*moda* DECEMBER DELIVERY

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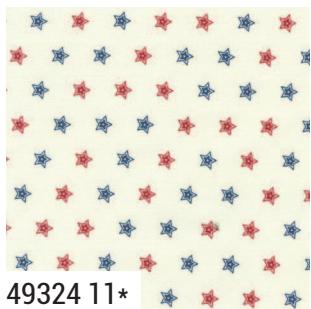
By: Primitive Gatherings



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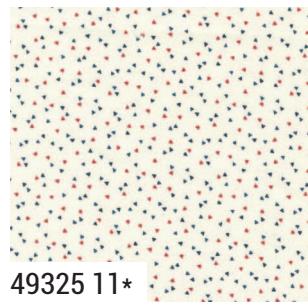
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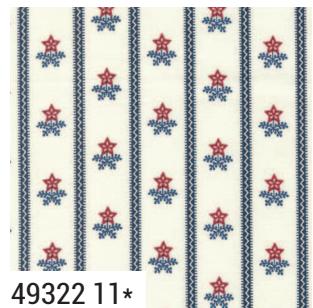
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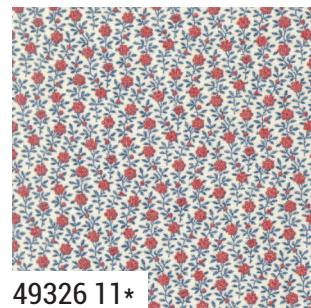
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49325 11\*



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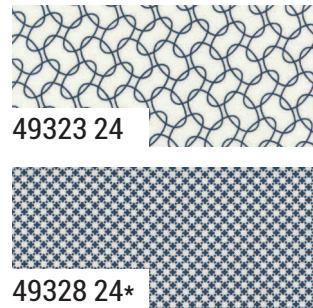
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49322 24



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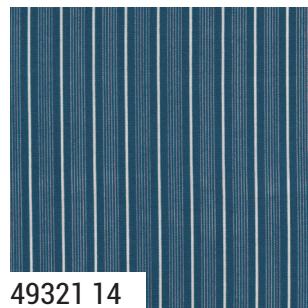
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49321 24



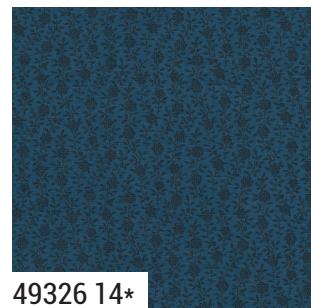
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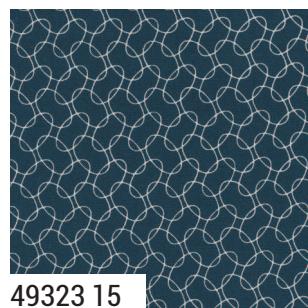
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49326 14\*



49327 15\*



49323 15



49324 16\*



49320 16

*moda* DECEMBER DELIVERY

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# AMERICAN GATHERINGS III By: Primitive Gatherings



49329 11 Panel Size: 36" x 44"

49320

Asst.  
15

Asst.  
10

Low Cal  
10

AB

F8

JR

LC

MC

PP

PS

KIT

DECEMBER DELIVERY

•38 Prints   •3 108 Inch Quilt Backs   •100% Premium Cotton

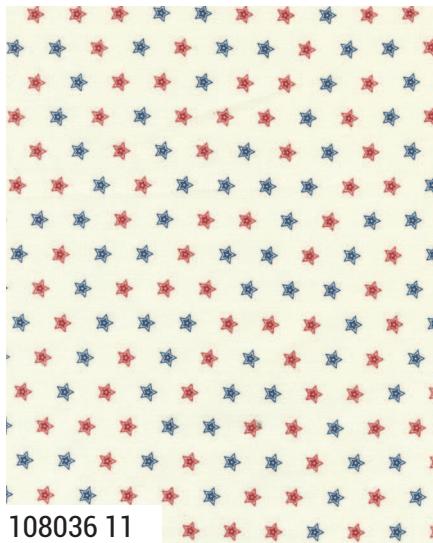
AB & F8 include 37 skus. JRs include 37 skus with two each of 49324-11, 12 & 16. LCs MCs & PPs are the same as JRs plus one extra of 49326-13 & 14. Precuts do not include panel 49329-11.

# AMERICAN GATHERINGS III By: Primitive Gatherings

## 108 INCH QUILT BACKS



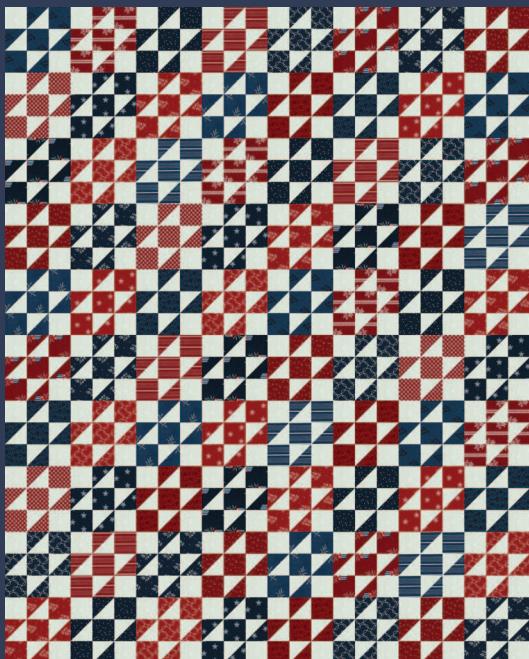
108036 12



108036 11



108036 16



MTIN49320

Primitive Gatherings' American Gatherings III Tin  
Peace, Love and Patchwork 24" x 30"  
Only available with purchase of Collector Series Tin



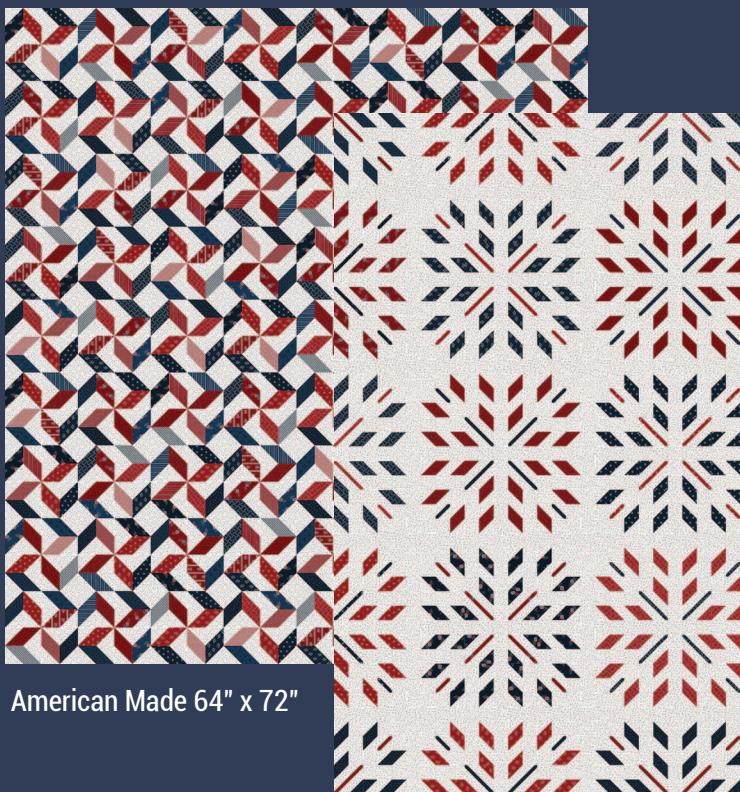
## Moda Collector Series Tins

We are thrilled to announce our new Moda Collector Series program featuring our fabric designers. Each tin will include:

- Custom artwork
- An exclusive precut and pattern
- A mini Piece catalog highlighting the designer
- A mini charm pack of the fabric collection
- A few other exclusive goodies such as zipper pulls, notebooks, needle minders, notepads, stickers, patches, and more!

# AMERICAN GATHERINGS III By: Primitive Gatherings

All patterns below are included in the book, PRI 1030

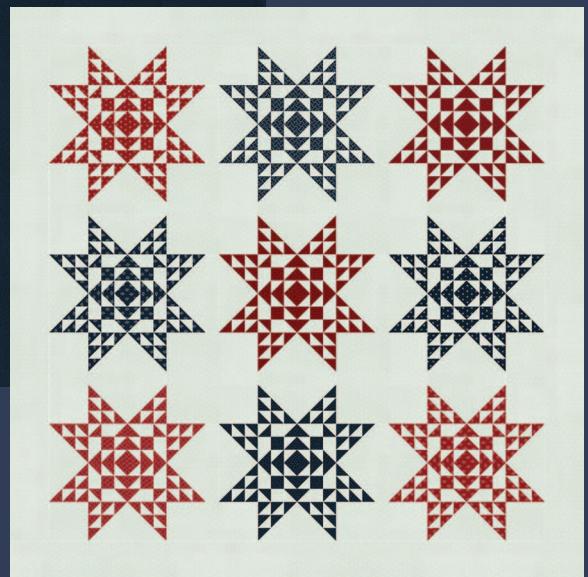


Bursting with Pride 52" x 70"

A Little Freedom 72" x 72"

Reveille 72" x 94"

Marching to Freedom 76" x 96"

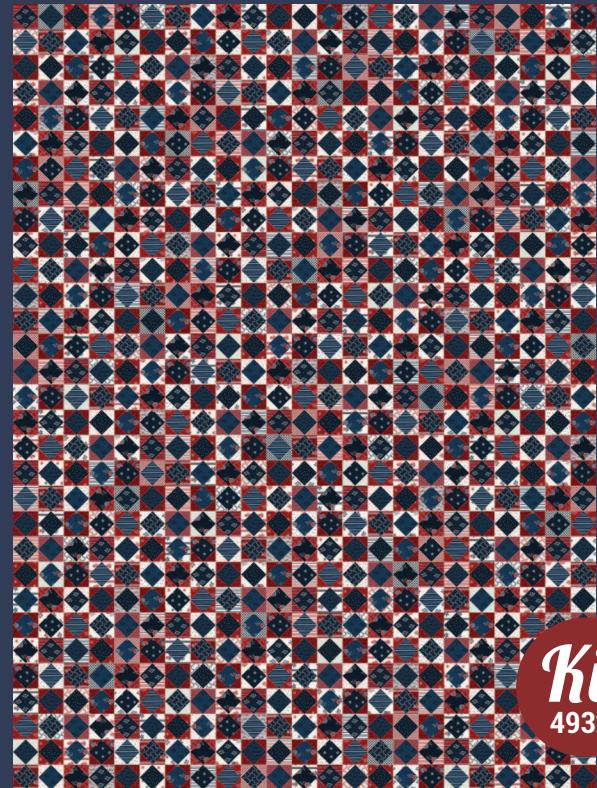


Take Off 62" x 72"



# AMERICAN GATHERINGS III

By Primitive Gatherings



**PRI 2100 American Vintage**  
46" x 62" AB Friendly



**PS49320 Wings of Freedom**  
12" x 15" MC Friendly