

Vaune's May Newsletter

Please feel free to pass along to your friends!

June 2008

May flowers and June gloom (at least here in Southern California) are here! I hope you all had a wonderful April and are finding time to sew some fun summertime outfits for your favorite children! I just returned from Palmetto Pleaters in South Carolina – a wonderful group of women! They are now meeting in a new room in the remodeled YMCA and it has the best lighting for stitching of all the rooms that I have taken or taught a class in. They have allowed me to pass on some information about a great fabric coop. The fabric that they get is wonderful.



Most of you know that I love notions! I saw this V95 iron about a year ago, and figured that when my Rowenta (4th one) started acting up (as they always do) and spitting steam, I figured now would be the time to try it. It is made by a company that makes both home and professional irons and steamers. The big difference in this iron is the steam. Instead of being generated at the soleplate, it is actually generated inside the iron. This allows you to have steam at a low temperature. You can even use this to steam garments on the hanger. It is actually the only home iron that has the Woolmark Seal of Approval. I used this while making 2 First Communion dresses (one silk, one cotton) and was very happy with it. It has a large water tank (the iron weighs about 5 pounds with a full tank), so you don't have to stop every 2 minutes to add water. The steam has 3 options – off, low and high. When the steam is on, you do NOT have to keep pressing the button – it is a continuous stream of steam. The only thing that I had a problem with was that I kept accidentally changing the settings – the setting button is where the steam button is on my old Rowentas, so my thumb kept hitting the button, but the more I used the V95, the more I got used to not clicking the button. I have started carrying these and this will be one of my specials this month.

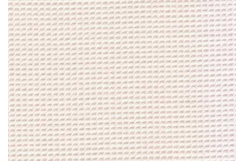
Digital Velocity Steam Iron
Reg. \$149.99

Sale \$120.00

LA International Textile Show was in April, and it was great!!! All types of vendors were there – finished fabric manufacturers (Hoffman, Stylecrest, etc.), trim companies, mills, converters, importers, button companies, etc. Some of the companies had fabric that I will be ordering from, and some only sold to clothing manufacturers (500 yard minimums). It was great to actually meet people that I have talked to on the phone for years! I found a couple of new silk sources, and I also found a few closeout deals to pass along! I will definitely go back next year – it was fun to see everything – it gave me wonderful ideas, even if I will never get around to creating them all.

I have some silks that I picked up – the first 4 are called Relaxed silk, but I would describe them as a washed silk. They feel wonderful – nice and soft! I have a peach and a cream in a herringbone pattern herringbone (you have to look close to see it) and then I have a cream and a mint in a waffle weave (reminds me of long john fabric, but silk). Both of these would make wonderful nightgowns, and I have had some customers use it for baby blankets and baby clothes. 45” wide, 100% washable silk

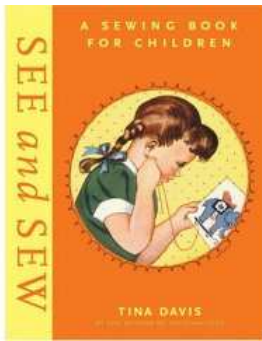
Regularly sells for \$20-\$25 / yard **\$12** / yard, while it lasts



The next ‘find’ is a pink floral silk chiffon – would look wonderful as an overskirt over a fuchsia dupioni! Is also 45”, 100% silk and is on sale for

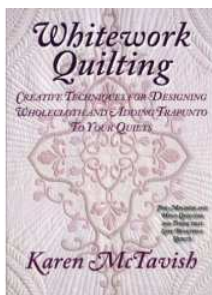
\$12 / yard, for as long as it lasts!





See and Sew by Tina Davis I also saw this at the LA International Textiles Show – this is a great book with fun projects for teaching kids to sew! They like the pictures and the projects. A perfect gift for the little stitcher in your life.

Reg. \$19.95 , this month is **\$16.00**



Whitework Quilting by Karen McTavish This is another great book to add to your collection – it has been OOP (out of print) and has just been reprinted.

This book features some of the country's best quilters, showcasing 60 award winning **Wholecloth**, **Trapunto**, **Appliqué** and **Pieced** quilts. Never before has so complete a collection of wholecloth quilts been amassed. Karen's humor and quilting knowledge make the book a joy to read. In very little time you will understand the core concepts of creating your own heirloom wholecloth quilt.

This book breaks the "Quilt book" mold. The photography has been done by one of the country's premier quilt photographers, making it a book of art and practicality. It will be comfortable on your coffee table or your work table.

This hardcover, square-backed book with a satin marker ribbon, features over 60 quilts, is 192 pages, full color and retails for \$39.95

Special for June newsletter **\$32.00**

My final fabric for this month is a beautiful Gold and white strip silk dupioni.



Again, this is a fabric that I found at the LA International Textiles Show. It is perfect for a special occasion. I can see it as a skirt with a white or black bodice and a little black jacket on a little girl. It would also make a beautiful woman's blouse or jacket. Reg. \$22.00 / yard,

this month's special is **\$16.00** / yard

Now for some fun information on dupioni!

Dupioni (which means double) is actually made when 2 or more cocoons are spun too close together by the silkworms. The cocoons become tangled and this causes the filaments to be uneven and rough. Because cultivated silkworms tend to be in tighter quarters, their cocoons are closer together and have a greater tendency to get tangled together. Dupioni silk usually comes from cultivated silkworms instead of coming from the wild.

If any of you have worked with dupioni, you may have noticed the slubs in the fabric. If you see a slub, DO NOT REMOVE it! This will weaken the fabric and can make the fabric unravel, or leave a hole in the fabric. China has long since been known as the place of silk, but in the last few years, India has become a force to reckon with, as far as milling the fabric. In the past, dupioni has been made by hand, but as technology has gotten better, machine dupioni has become more readily available. There are several reasons that I feel that the machine woven dupioni is a better quality fabric. In having machines weave the fabric, the filling yarns must be more uniform, and the slubs have to be small enough so that when they run through the machine, the machine isn't thrown off. This makes the fabric much more consistent in its appearance. The slubs are smaller and more uniform in size, and for those of you who are smockers, it makes it much easier for the silk to go through the pleater! With the smaller slubs, it also makes the fabric stronger and more durable.

For more information on silk, check out All About Silk. I carry this as well as the Cotton and Wool books and they are a marvelous resource!

Happy Stitching, Vaune

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