

Vaune's Newsletter

Please feel free to pass along to your friends!

November 2008

I hope you all have had a nice fall, a Happy Halloween and are looking to a wonderful Thanksgiving! For those of you who made it to Atlanta for the SAGA convention, wasn't it wonderful! It is always fun to see long distance friends and to meet new people. We drove around Sunday afternoon before I left – drove right by Margaret Mitchell's home! For those of you in my neck of the woods, there is an expo in Long Beach on Nov. 14-16 – ETACalifornia (Education in the Textile Arts in California). There are classes all 3 days, and a market. I will be teaching a couple of classes on Saturday and Sunday. If you want more information, you can go to www.etacalifornia.com. I have a few new goodies this month, just in time for Christmas, and I will be talking about working with silk!

I have included some new ceramic items that I am carrying. My next order is arriving around Thanksgiving. I don't know what my availability is after that, so I am giving my newsletter customers first dibs before I list them on my website!

Fabric!

For those of you who are familiar with Sea Island cotton, you will love this, and for those of you who are not, you are in for a treat! This fabric comes in White (sorry, white on white does not show up well!)

It is 92% cotton, 8% silk, and 60 inches wide!

Reg \$20 / yard, for November it is on special for **\$16 / yard**

I am also running a stock up sale on 100% cotton pique'. It is 60 inches wide and is wonderful for collars, cuffs, hems, as well as dresses and blouses.

Reg. \$16 / yd, on special for **\$13.00 / yd**

** Please note that I have my initial order for all of the ceramic items coming in around Thanksgiving. Once they are gone, I am not sure what the availability will be before Christmas, so order early!***

This is a wonderful new line that I have discovered! I love ceramic tea sets, especiall children's tea sets. When my girls were little, they each had their own set, but it was so small that cups only held a swallow of liquid. I didn't realize it then, but they actually had doll tea sets! I have collected several tea sets since then, but when I found these, I just had to share them! The children's tea sets come in 2 different patterns, a pin strip and a floral. Each set contains:

Tea Pot and Lid

Tea Tray

Sugar Bowl and Lid

Creamer

4 cups, 4 saucers

4 sandwich plates

These tea sets are perfect for a daughter, granddaughter, niece, or any special little girl. And if that special girl is you, that is OK too!

18 piece Tea Set with Tray

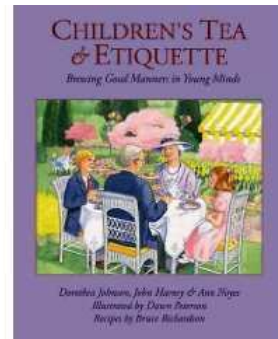
\$50



In addition to this, I also have the book

Children's Tea and Etiquette

This is a wonderful book for your children! Follow 2 children as they are invited to a tea party! From the R.S.V.P., to introductions and table manners, finishing with a thankyou note. Included are some delicious recipes for your very own tea party. The book is hard back and beautifully illustrated. Reg. \$24, special this



month is **\$20**

I also have some adorable purse banks! They come in an assortment, so if you are ordering, when you email or call, please give me a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for patterns! **\$10 each**



Rose bank – 1



Rose bank – 2



Rose bank - 3



Stripe bank - 1



Stripe bank – 2



Stripe bank - 3

And 2 more items!

This is a 5 inch mini tea set – comes with cup, saucer, mini-teapot and lid. Pink pinstripe pattern

Reg \$15, Special this month

\$12.50



And another of my favorites..... a

4 piece covered tea mug set! I am always cold in the winter, and this is perfect! It has a cup, a saucer, and a lid (to keep my drink warm) as well as a s

trainer that fits inside the top of the cup!

Reg. \$15, Special this month

\$12.00



Last but not least, I have some

Cupcake banks! **\$10 each**



Sewing Hints

Now for some sewing! I have recently been doing quite a bit of sewing on silk. If you have a nice quality silk, there are some things you can do to make your project easier! The first thing you want to do is look for a good quality piece of fabric. Are there a lot of slubs? How big are they? Can you see things other than silk yarns woven into the slubs? Smaller slubs give the fabric more consistency, and if you are going to pleat the fabric, this is definitely a plus! I have seen silk with slubs that are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide or more, and with actual twigs in the threads. Not only does this not look nice, it actually makes the fabric weak in those spots, as the thread is not tightly woven at those areas. If the slub gets caught and pulled, there is actually a hole in the fabric.

I am often asked if I wash my silk dupioni. Although it is washable (and if you plan on washing your garment, pre-washing the silk dupioni is a MUST), I find that it loses its shine and luster when it is washed by machine, so that is something that I typically don't do.

If you have ever worked with silk before, you know that it unravels very quickly! While clipping corners of the fabric works very well for cottons, it doesn't seem to do much for silk – it just keeps on unraveling. To help keep this from happening so much, there are a couple of things that you can do. The first is on raw edges. Before I cut out a pattern piece, I actually lightly trace it on the silk with a pencil, and then I stitch a very narrow zigzag just inside the cutting line. Then I cut it out right next to the zig zag stitch. The zigzag is in the seam allowance and will be trimmed away, along with the pencil marks.

If I am pleating a width of fabric for the skirt front, I make sure I stitch a narrow zigzag along the top edge BEFORE I run it through the pleater. I also zigzag along the bottom edge.

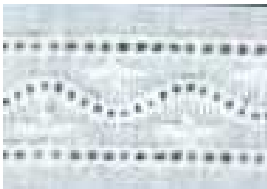
If I am doing handwork on a piece, I will trace the design on the fabric and leave a large border around the outside of the piece and then zigzag around that. If I do get threads, I clip them as I go.

Zigzagging around the pattern pieces before you cut them out can take a bit more time, but it is worth it in the long run. Pay special attention to any piece that is going to be gathered (skirt top, bottom of sleeve), as when you start pulling the threads to gather, you can almost hear the fabric say “Let the unraveling begin!” It can be very frustrating to cut your skirt pieces and have the pieces be shorter (and even worse – uneven) by the time the garment is actually sewn together.

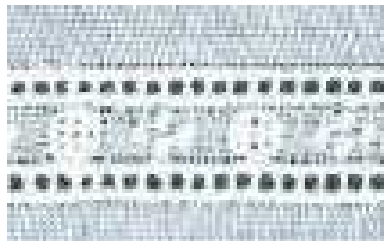
Another thing to be aware of is design variances. If the silk is hand woven, the design may not be exact. Stripes are a good example of this. While the stripes may appear to be 3/8” wide (or any measurement), if there is any minor variation in the width size at all, then the stripes will probably not match up at the seams. If you have enough fabric to play around with, you can work with it to get the best match, but it is no always possible. You have to decide whether you can live with it (some of us are more particular than other). I have my moments of perfectionism, but I try to keep it to things I can control!

Odds and Ends

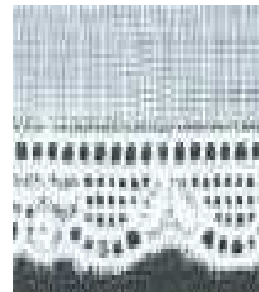
I have a few new Swiss embroideries and laces – all less than 12 inch wide, so they are perfect for daygowns, sleeves, bodices, hem insertions, and shaping! **All at 20% off!**



Wave Reg. \$5.70/yd
Special \$ \$4.50 / yd



Dots Reg. \$6.50/yd
Special \$5.20/yd



Edge \$6.00/yd
Special \$4.80 /yd



Lace wave

Reg. \$2.60

Special

\$2.05 / yd



Beading

Reg. \$4.00

Special

\$3.20 / yd



Lace wave with dots

Reg. \$3.10

Special

\$2.45 / yd



Flowers

Reg. \$3.00

Special

\$2.40 / yd



Also! The black serrated 4 ½ inch scissors for trimming seams, etc., are back in! I sold out at convention, and if you did not get a pair, I have just received another shipment from Germany.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and lots of time to stitch!

Vaune