

Vaune's Newsletter

Please feel free to pass along to your friends!

April 2009

Happy Easter!

Spring has sprung and Easter is almost here – do you have your sewing finished? For me, the answer is never! I always have another design idea and never enough time to sew everything I want to! I am getting ready to go the L.A. International Textiles Show, which should be fun! I have also found some sterling silver baby rattles that are beautiful! I also have a special new embroidery scissor from DOVO! May 1st is just around the corner and that means the start of registration for the SAGA convention. This year it is in Indianapolis, IN, Sept. 29 – Oct. 4 and I will see you there! June brings the Martha's Sewing Market in Arlington, TX, June 18 – 20. It is always nice to see you there, and to put a name to a face!

If you want to place an order, please just send me an email with your name address and phone number – If I don't already have your info on file, I will call and get your cc info.



Great news – the [A-Z of Sewing](#) is almost here! I should have them at my door by May 15! For those of you who have pre-ordered, your copies will ship right away! The pre-order price is **\$25** and that price will be good for this newsletter. It will go up to the Reg. price of \$30 after that. This book is in the same format as the rest of the A-Z books, but will have a hardback covered spiral instead of a softback covers spiral, which you may be used to. This is because they have a different U.S. distributor for this book.

As an introductory special, **ALL Sterling Silver is 15% off** for this newsletter!



This is a beautiful heart shaped rattle that has a lovely jingle. It is approximately 5 inches long and not heavy. Reg. \$78, Special **\$66**



This rattle has a round, flat head. Like the heart rattle, it also has a lovely chime, is about 5 inches high and is not heavy. Reg. \$52.00 Special **\$44.00**



The Teether Rattle – it has a handle that can be used as a teething rind as well as the heart rattle. Very easy for a child to hold! Reg. \$48.00, Special **\$40**



Dumbbell Rattle – the Classic Baby Rattle!
Reg. \$132, Special **\$112**



The First Curl The First Tooth
Sterling Silver containers for those precious memories! Reg. \$40, Special **\$35.00** each



Along with the wonderful baby things, I will feature one Sterling Silver Sewing tool in each newsletter! This time I have a Sterling Silver Needle Threader – Reg. \$18.50, Special **\$15.75** A wonderful addition to your collection!

Several months ago, I took a pants pattern drafting class! While the class was not quite what I hoped it would be, I did promise several of you that I would pass along some pattern drafting references. There is a very good book called Patternmaking for Fashion Design by Helen Joseph-Armstrong. She is a teacher at the LA Trade-Tech College and she really knows what she is doing. It is flat pattern drafting – you start out using the basic size 8 measurements to draft a sloper. The book goes step by step through the bodice and then goes into detail for darts, sleeves, collars, etc. This is an excellent learning tool! The best place to get this is on Amazon.com. I will warn you – it is not cheap – list price is \$106, (it is a text book) but you can get it new on Amazon for less than \$90. Make sure you get the ring bound copy – makes it much easier to see the info on the pages if you can take them out! You will also be using the measurements a great deal, and it saves the book if you take out the measurement pages and make copies! She also had a pattern draping book, which is excellent!

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When taking your measurements, PLEASE use a partner! If you take your own measurements, when you band over to look at the numbers, it will throw your measurements off. When you are creating your own pattern, you want it to FIT, and it won't if the measurements are not accurate!

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Several new patterns have been introduced – just the thing for your special one! Reg \$15 Special Save 20% **\$12.00**



Two wonderful baby daygowns by Jane Soffos redesigned for 2009 by Karen Faylor. The bishop daygown includes a christening gown pattern, as well. Traditional bishop styling or area for embroidery or embroidered tab front. The square yoke daygown is smocked on front and back. Also includes square yoke dress and christening gown.

Embroidery designs, smocking plate included. Fits size Infant to 6mo.



Reg \$15 Special Save 20% **\$12.00**

Evangeline from Petite Poche by Wendy Scheon
 This is a 2 piece diaper set in Infant Size. Cute as a button with wonderful possibilities for many type of embroidery.



Reg \$15 Special Save 20% **\$12.00**

Dainty Heirloom Diaper Shirt from Debbie Glenn / Love and Stitches. This is a sleeveless diaper shirt, embellished with lace and embroidery. Yummmmmmm!

Reg. \$8.00, Special, Save 20% **\$6.40**

Baby's Breath from Judith Marquis



It is seamless in the neckline area making the pleating super easy but has a unique set in sleeve. It comes in sizes 5, 7, 9, and 11 lbs. and was designed to be made in soft flannel or 100% cotton knit. To reduce bulk, it is suggested that the neckline be bound in soft satin fabric. Construction is completed before you start smocking. It can be worn buttoned or domed up the front or back depending on your preference. The bunting bottom has been offered as an option. Dress it up

or keep it plain. Three design plates included. It is a joy to make for your new bundle of joy!

Tips for cleaning – storing your heirlooms!

I have had a few questions about this so here goes! For cottons, one of the best ways to get your garments clean is to soak them in sodium perborate. This is a bleaching agent that releases hydrogen peroxide but does not become hydrogen peroxide. I could bore you with the whole chemistry thing, but suffice it to say that it is a good substitute for “the highly concentrated hydrogen peroxide solutions that can pose a significant explosion hazard and are not commercially available.” (from the Organic Chemistry Portal)

Marion Scoular gave us the recipe using Ivory soap flakes and Snowy Bleach:

1 Tbls Snowy Bleach
2 Tbls Ivory SOAP Flakes
1 gallon water

Here is where it gets tricky! First of all, Snowy Bleach is no longer made. However..... Snowy Bleach contained sodium perborate, so I believe a good substitute for Snowy Bleach would be Borax or Biz, which we have in our grocery stores. Another product that I used to use is Dreft, but I can only get the liquid now, and am still trying to find out if it contains SP. Next, Ivory does not make the soap flakes anymore – I use a bar of Ivory soap and a grater to make my own. Hopefully, you still have water (although in Southern California, sometimes I wonder!).

I have a special bucket that my kids are NOT allowed to use – I put the mixture in this and soak the garment. A couple of things – if it is really stained, I will add more Snowy Bleach and Ivory, so that the water is kind of slimy. I also try to do this when it is going to be sunny – I set the bucket out in the sun to warm it up. I will leave it soak for a couple of days (Marion soaks hers up to 2 weeks). Even if stains are not much of a problem, this will whiten your fabric. Once I am finished soaking, I rinse and rinse and rinse the garment with clean water. You do not want residue left on the fabric, especially if you are going to store it.

At this point, if I am going to be using it in the near future, I will pop it in a ziplock bag, throw it in the frig to cool and then iron it. If I won't get around to ironing for a few days, I will even throw it in the freezer. If I am going to store it, I let it air dry. Do NOT starch anything that you are going to be storing – the starch is a sugar, and sugar draws bugs! I store my

things in acid free boxes and use acid free tissue paper. I use good quality fabric and spend a good amount of time on my handwork. When I make something, I want it to be handed down through the generations. I do everything possible to make sure that my treasures will be able to be handed down to my grand children, and their grandchildren!

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When you are storing garments, you do not have to use a separate box for each garment. As long as the garment is clean and you layer with acid free tissue paper, you can fill the box with garments.

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For this newsletter, I will run the acid free box and tissue paper on Special.



This Acid Free Storage Box is big enough to hold a queen size quilt – 30”x18”x6” and also comes with 24 sheets of acid free tissue paper.

Reg. \$25 **Special \$25**



Acid Free Tissue Paper
20 sheets, 20” x 30”

Reg. \$5.69 **Special \$4.50**

Remember that stains can sometimes ‘appear’ after a time. When your child wears something, it may not look like there is any stain or discoloration, but after a couple of weeks (or months) it may appear to have yellowed. When I am going to store something, especially a Christening gown, etc., I will always wash it before I store it, even if it looks like it is perfectly fine. It is easier to get stains out when they are fresh!

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And finally, a tidbit that I ran across in looking up some of this information! Did you know...liquid detergents are better at removing oily or greasy stains and also work well when pre-treating stains. Powder detergents work better on mud and clay.

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Now I have a question for you Northeasterners! My daughter Annie is a Junior in High school and is starting to look at colleges. She wants to major in Education/Special Ed. Her goal is to teach children that are stuck in a hospital, as in a peds oncology unit. Anyway, she really wants to go to school in the NE. Yes, she has been to Boston in the cold wet and rain, and loved it! She is just starting to do some research on colleges in the NE. Any suggestions or input would be appreciated! Just email me – vaune@vaune.com .

I just got back from the Textiles Show – lots of neat things to see! I went to a Trend presentation and seems that handwork is in! Predictions are that you will see softer clothes (ruffles), handcrafts – beading and embroidery, and the embroidered chambray and denim of the 70's will be around with a 'modern' look.



I did find one bargain that I am passing along! I love this Robert Kauffman print – ladybugs on a pink back ground. Use a white pique collar with some little granites or whip stitch some baby piping and it would be adorable! This retails in quilt shops for \$9.50/yd and I got a bolt of it that I have on special for this newsletter for

\$5.50/yard. First come fist serve, and if it makes it to my website, it will be a bit more!



Australian Smocking & Embroidery Issue #87 is on its way, as well as Inspirations # 62, \$15.00 each.



Happy Stitching, and if you would like to order anything, just send me an email! As always, my newsletter customers get first choice!
Vaune