



# Vaune's January Newsletter

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Welcome to 2013! Christmas was wonderful, as all the chicks were home to roost for a few days. I am making turkey noodle soup, to finish the last of the turkey (dry-brined it - the easiest way to make the best turkey EVER!), 10 pounds of mashed potatoes bit the dust this morning (I always make enough to have leftovers - fried in the am with eggs and leftover ham, or in a bowl with chopped turkey & gravy for a quick lunch), and the desserts are about gone. I still have coffeecake in the freezer, - John likes to take a frozen piece, put a pat of butter on top and nuke it for 30 seconds so that it is nice and warm.....mmmmm!

I am sad to say that I have not gotten much sewing done in the last couple of weeks - my sewing room is filled with a mattress and suitcases full of clothes, not to mention the ones laying all over the floor. Small price to pay to have the girls home! I am working on a couple of more patterns, as well as class samples for next year. I have also been playing on Pinterest, and keeping up with my Whitework Wednesdays on my blog, [www.vaunesewingroom.blogspot.com](http://www.vaunesewingroom.blogspot.com)

Blissful Beginnings has arrived and been shipped. If you have not received it, please let me know. I didn't order many extras, and I want to make sure that everyone has their copy before I take them to market!

I have been watching the weather as it seems to be raging in the Midwest and Northeast. Keep your fingers and toes warm! I must say that I am a bit envious. It was been a long time since I have been in real winter weather. Deep down, I am a homebody, and there is nothing I'd like better than to be snuggled in during the winter. Many years ago, my husband and I visited Mackinaw Island (in the summer). When we learned that most of the inhabitants leave for the winter because they get iced in, I thought that as long as I had my freezer full of food, a heater and a generator, and of course all of my sewing supplies, to me that seems like heaven. I could get so much stitching and sewing done!

*Happy Stitching,*

*Vaune*

## *Where I'll Be.....*

**November 11-13, 2012**

**Santa Barbara, CA**

*Sewing Retreat*

**February 3-5, 2013**

**Santa Barbara, CA**

*Sewing Retreat*

**February 28- March 3, 2013**

**Puyallup, WA**

*Sewing and Stitchery Expo*

## *Never Say Never!*

One of my daughters (an avowed non-sewer) called a few weeks ago, from Boston. "Momma", she said (and Momma is what she uses when she wants to ask a question), "I am at the fabric store." Right away, my husband piped up and asked "Is she lost? is her GPS not working?"

"We are making scarfs to sell to raise money for one of our groups - is there a nicer fabric than polar fleece that is not expensive and you don't have to sew?" (None of the girls had a sewing machine). After some conversation, she decided polar fleece was the way to go.

But she was in a fabric store - be still my beating heart!

# Library Shelf

The response to this book has been overwhelming! It contains 12 dresses that feature smocking and embroidery, in sizes 2-10. All patterns for the smocking and embroidery designs are included AS WELL AS the patterns for the dresses AND 3 petticoats!

The US retail on this is \$44, but my New Year's newsletter special is **\$40**. All of you who have pre-ordered will get the New Year's special price, of course! I am very excited about this book - the pictures from Country Bumpkin are always wonderful this book looks to be a 'coffee table' book, as well as an informational, inspirational design book.

Right now, it is scheduled to be here sometime in February. I can hardly wait!



Did you know that A-Z of Smocking is currently OOP (Out of Print)? To the left, you can see the front cover (the bottom is the original cover, the top is the newer edition). Right now, you can find them on Amazon for \$1000 (used), \$763.06 (new), \$359.01 (used) and \$60.88 (used). Holy Moly! The good news is that Country Bumpkin is reprinting, and they will be shipped with the Perfect Party Dress book, in February. If you do not have your copy, now is the time to get it! If you have ordered Perfect Party Dresses also, they will ship together. Reg. **\$40**, my New Year's Special is **\$35**.

Info on pricing for books from Australia. Over the years, as I have bought or carried books from AU, the prices seem to vary, even for the same book, so I thought I'd pass along a little info. When books are first printed (in China), they are shipped to AU and to the US distributors (one shipping charge). Us pricing is based shipping from China, along with customs fees. If a distributor runs out of a book and reorders from AU, or if there is not a US distributor and a shop has to order it directly from AU, it has to be shipped to the US, so there are additional shipping fees (now the book has gone from China to AU to US), along with customs fees. Also, at one time, Quilter's Resource (a distributor that has since been bought out) had printing rights to the A-Z books, so those were printed here in the US. Often those books would retail for \$19.95, while the same book would run \$35 if ordered from AU. Hopefully this will give some background on the how/why of the pricing structure of these books!

# What's New.....



HELEN MCCOOK

## Goldwork



SEARCH PRESS

## RSN Goldwork book is here!

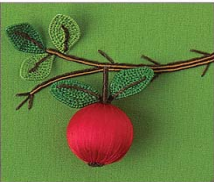
This book is the newest in the Royal School of Needlework's Essential Stitch series of books. It is full of wonderful information, not only on goldwork techniques, but on some of the history as well. I think knowing the background makes the techniques more interesting. Add this to your collection! (Stumpwork, Blackwork, Silk Shading, Whitework, Crewelwork)

Reg \$24, New Year's Special, only **\$20 for Any RSN book**



KATE SINTON

## Stumpwork



SEARCH PRESS



SARAH HOMFRAY

## Silk Shading



SEARCH PRESS



LIZZIE LANSBURY

## Whitework

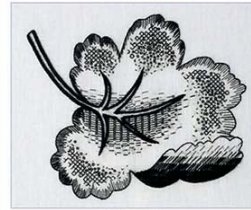


SEARCH PRESS



BECKY HOGG

## Blackwork



SEARCH PRESS

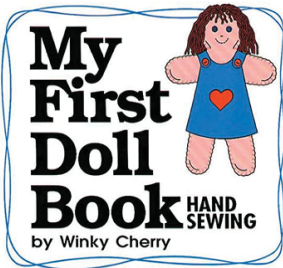


JAQUI MCDONALD

## Crewelwork



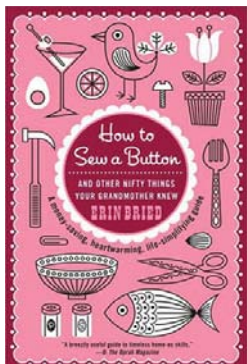
A PALMER/PLETSCH BOOK FOR CHILDREN



FOR AGES 5 to 11

Encourage your little ones to sew! My First Doll Book (hand sewing) by Winky Cherry (gotta love that name) is another in her series of My First.... books. Easy and fun, this is a great way to get kids started sewing, and a perfect opportunity to spend time with our next generation of sewers and stitchers!

Reg. **\$15.00**, New Year's Special is **\$12.00**



Nowadays, many of us "outsource" basic tasks. Food is instant, ready-made, and processed with unhealthy additives. Dry cleaners press shirts, delivery guys bring pizza, gardeners tend flowers, and, yes, tailors sew on those pesky buttons. But life can be much simpler, sweeter, and richer-and a lot more fun, too! As your grandmother might say, now is not the time to be careless with your money, and it actually pays to learn how to do things yourself!

304 pages Reg. **\$15**, New Years Special - **\$12.50**



Reproduction of the 1929 book - The Sew-It Book - Things to make with needle and thread and odds and ends. 17 projects including a child's apron, smock, sun bonnet, rag doll and Kimono-type jacket. Techniques include sewing, embroidery, doll dress pattern making and tie-dying. With an embossed cover this keepsake treasure with darling graphics will charm sewers and quilters, young and old! Great Projects for children!

Reg \$20, New Year's Special **\$16**



What is this you ask? A Ham Holder!!! A ham (see right) is a pressing tool that has cotton on 1 side and wool on the other and is used to press curves (think peter pan collars, princess seams, etc.). When you place your ham in a Ham Holder, it is like having an extra third hand to hold it stable. This is especially helpful if you need to hold it an angle (again - peter pan collars).



The Ham Holder is **\$30**, the Ham is **\$11.00** (the Hams come in different colors, just FYI)

New Year's Special - purchase both for only **\$35**

Remember: Ironing is a back and forth motion, pressing is an up and down motion. BOTH are a MUST in construction!



Congrats to Kathy Rieuf on her Christmas bishop, using the Riley Blake fabric that I sent her earlier this year! The elves are cute as a button - they look like the elves on the 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' tv special.



Luscious as always, this 100% cotton Striped Dotted Swiss is wonderful to sew and work with. I makes a gorgeous christening gown.....as well a women's blouse (one of my next projects!)

100% cotton and 61 Inches wide! Reg. \$60/yd  
New Year's Special **\$50/yd**

*Gift Certificates available!* Perfect for any occasion!  
Perfect for you! Available in any amount!

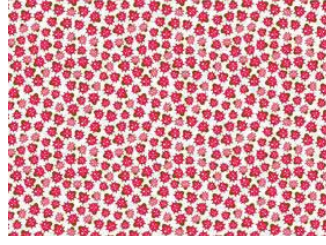
# *Fabric Makes Me Happy!*



Ladybug Garden



Ladybug Glowlers



Ladybugs



Ladybug Stripes

New line of fabric from Doodlebug by Riley Blake, shipping in February My mind is racing with what I can make with these companion prints! Can't you just see a floral dress with the striped fabric for a ruffle, and the ladybug fabric for collar an a pair of bloomies?!Reg.

\$11.50/yd, New Year's Special - **\$9.50 / yard each.**



## *Wish I was there..... Santa Ana, CA CUT! Costume and the Cinema*

Bowers Museum  
Through March 10, 2013

Located in Santa Ana, CA, the Bowers Museum is hosting an exhibit that has 43 costumes from 27 movies that cover 500 years of fashion! "The Duchess" (can't wait to see these 6 ensembles from this movie!), "Sherlock Holmes", "Phantom of the Opera", "Sense and Sensibility", and "Howard's End", to name a few.

According to the info, it says that "visitors get a chance to closely examine the artistry and the luxurious handcrafted fabrics, embroidery, and embellishments of original costumes created by the London house of Cosprop, Ltd." Cosprop, Ltd. organized the exhibition and is one of the main designers of period costumes.

As an added bonus, if you go by January 6, there is also an exhibit: Faberge': Imperial Jeweler to the Tsars

Bowers Museum, 2002 North Main St., Santa Ana, CA  
Tuesday - Sunday 10-4

*another*  
*Wish I was there.....*  
*Valentino: Master of Couture*  
*Somerset House, London*  
*through March 3, 2013*



I sure wish I could visit this one! Most of this info is from the website blurb

<http://www.somersethouse.org.uk/>

This major new exhibition celebrating the life and work of Valentino showcases over 130 exquisite haute couture designs worn by icons such as Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Grace Kelly, Sophia Loren and Gwyneth Paltrow in an exciting installation created specially for Somerset House.

Divided into three sections: a private view of Valentino's world through photographs from his personal archive. The exhibition then unfolds into a couture fashion show where roles are reversed with visitors walking the catwalk to view a staggering one hundred and thirty Valentino haute couture designs. It is a journey into the secretive world of Italian couture.

The final section unpicks the painstaking processes of crafting couture exemplified by the stunning wedding dress of **Princess Marie Chantal of Greece**, (gorgeous from what you can see in the videos) demonstrating the beauty of the work of les petites mains who sew each stitch by hand. Also, a specially commissioned group of films allows behind-the-scenes access to the Valentino atelier, where the craft of couture is demonstrated in a series of fascinating samples. Finally, discover more about the man, the icon, by exploring the Valentino Garavani Virtual Museum. There are a series of talks, screenings and events to accompany the exhibition.

Here are links to 3 youtube videos showing behind the scenes of the exhibit. Just the flowing silk chiffon in the beginning makes me want to touch!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl8ekPI-iDU> Part 1  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJLe\\_9PWiwU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJLe_9PWiwU) Part 2  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoVaSXhbDiY> Part 3

I am attracted to couture sewing - even though we don't do everything by hand, enough of our work is done by hand and I know we all can appreciate the time, the talent and the technique involved in making something so perfect, so beautiful. You can also find out more about Valentino in the documentary *Valentino: The Last Emperor* (it is available on Netflix).

# Baby Bundle!

*Floche*

*Coton a Broder 25*



Two beautiful threads in beautiful baby colors! Floche is my favorite embroidery thread! It is what they use in Madeira, so who am I to argue with that? And my next favorite thread is Coton a Broder #25. Both are wonderful to work with, and this month, I have made the Baby Bundle - colors that you reach for first when making something for babies! Colors include 210/369/745/775/776/818. Floche is \$6.25/skein, \$37.50 for the set and Coton a Broder is \$1.50/skein, \$7.50 for the set.



## New Year's Special

Buy the Floche Baby Bundle (**\$37.50**) and get the Coton a Broder #25 Baby Bundle

**FREE!**

### *The Fine Print*

Some things never make it to my website, as they are one time buys and you all get first crack! Send me an email (vaune@vaune.com) with what you want and your phone number and I will get right back to you! If you need to call, my number is 805-529-5005

Don't forget to check out my blog, [www.vaunessewingroom.blogspot.com](http://www.vaunessewingroom.blogspot.com) Besides Whitework Wednesdays, I am going to be talking about starch v. sizing, and which one I use, finger shields, and color - shades and tints. I will also be blogging about the Sewing and Stitchery Expo in Puyallup, WA, which will be here before I know it.

If they let me take pictures, I will share those when I visit the Bowers Museum for **CUT! Costume and the Cinema** in the next week or so! So much to do before school starts back up again!

I wish you all a blessed, happy, and healthy 2013, with lots of stitchin' time!

Happy Stitching,

*Vaune*