

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year !

This is a 'Pressing' issue (pressing and ironing, that is)!
Read on for more information.....

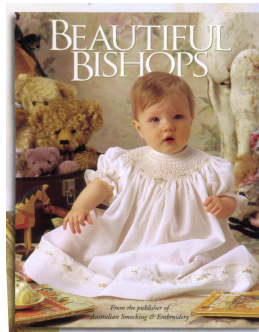
I hope you all are having a wonderful Christmas Season, with lots of time for the things and people you love! No matter how I try to be better prepared, there always seems to be way to many things to do! As my kids are getting older and we are forseeing a future with them not here as much, we are trying to make more family memories, which means that some of the hustle and bustle just doesn't matter any more! Our intentions are good, anyway!

The next book from Country Bumpkin is due out in January and I can't wait to drool over the wonderful ideas and designs!

December – January Special!

\$27

(Reg. \$32.95)



If you are familiar with Gail Doan (she made the dress on the cover of Australian Smocking Mag, Issue #72), you know

what a wonderful seamstress/smocker/designer she is. She has been instrumental in the production of Beautiful Bishops and this will be a book that not only has wonderful ideas to inspire you, but will also be full of information on how to construct a beautiful bishop! This price is good until the end of the month – email me if you'd like a copy and I will get it out to you New Year!

Country Bumpkin has also published several other A-Z books that you may not have heard of –

A to Z of Needlepoint (\$33.00)
and
A to Z of Beading Embroidery (\$33.00)

I have also found a supply of some back issues of Australian Smocking magazines and special issues. I have the following until they run out:

The Best of Australian Smocking (\$25.00)

Australian Smocking Special Gifts (\$15.50)

Issue # (\$15.50)

26 27 29 30 31 44 49 50 54

57 59 60 62 64 thru the current issues

Thru December and January, all Country Bumpkin and Australian Smocking Magazines are

15% off !

If you want to fill in your library, place your order before these issues are gone forever!

Since this is my 'Pressing' issue, I also have the

Vin-Max Puff Iron

Regularly \$70
on sale this month for

\$55

Last but not least, to get you in mind for your Spring Sewing, I have a Stock-up special on entredeaux! The more you buy, the more you save! Regularly \$2.40/yd,

10 yds \$1.92/yd (Save 20%!)

20 yds \$1.80/yd (Save 25%)

30 yds \$1.68/yd (Save 30%)

This is the perfect opportunity to stock up for that wonderful heirloom outfit you are going to make 'one of these days'!

I also have information for those of you in my neck of the woods – Roseann Saldinger is going to host Marion Scouler in February – she will be teaching one day in Simi Valley. For more information, contact Roseann Saldinger at 818-340-7642. Marion was one of our teachers at Stitching Serenity last summer and is delightful as well as knowledgeable. I can't wait to take another class from her!

Pressing or Ironing?

This is the 'Pressing' issue – pressing and ironing, that is! I am including some information on pressing and ironing, to help you make your garments look even better!!! I know that it is easy to 'skip' pressing a seam here and there, if I am short

of time, and I always regret it! I have to remind myself that the time I put in during construction pays off when my garment is finished. Good pressing techniques can make a poorly sewn garment look its' best, but on the flip side, poor pressing techniques can make a finely constructed garment look mediocre.

PRESSING is done with an up and down motion, and done during construction.

IRONING is done with a gliding motion and is done after the garment is finished.

In other words, press while you sew, and iron while you wear!

The three elements of pressing are heat, pressure, and moisture. Using the correct balance of each will lead to successful pressing. Knowing your fabric and what it requires will assist greatly in achieving the right balance and getting successful pressing results.

Cotton and linen fabric – more heat than wool, silk, or synthetic.

Thick fabric can stand more heat than thin fabric, even if the content is the same.

Pressing without a pressing cloth requires less heat than pressing with a pressing cloth.

For heavy fabrics or thicker seams, more pressure will be necessary than for fine fabrics. You can apply pressure in several ways – with an iron, clapper, fingers, etc.

Moisture can be applied with a press cloth, a steam iron, or a sponge. Steaming is the easiest, but it is also the most unreliable, since it can leave water spots, depending on the fabric you are working with. If you are working with fabric that will water spot, cover with a dry pressing cloth, then a damp pressing cloth.

Pressing Tools:

Tailor's Ham – looks like a ham covered with fabric, usually unbleached muslin or heavy cotton. Used to press curved seams (top of sleeve, armhole).

Seam Roll – a long padded cylinder with a cover that is usually cotton on one side and wool on the other. Helps prevent ridges when pressing a seam open.

Sleeve Board – shaped like a tiny ironing board. It is used to press sleeves without a crease.

Point Presser / Pounding Block – a pointed piece of wood, which is attached to a clapper. This helps to press points (point of a collar), and also to press open enclosed seams before turning them to the right side, such as a facing seam.

Puff Iron – Iron that looks like it has a silver egg on a pole. This 'egg' heats up and makes it very easy to iron puffed sleeves!

Needle Board – used when you press corduroy, velvet, or any pile fabric that might crush or show seam ridges.

Pressing Cloth – a layer of protective fabric between your garment and the iron. There are several different types, depending on the fabric you are working with:

-Wool-back press cloth (wool on one side, cotton on the other)

-Sheer Press Cloth – usually of cotton batiste, voile, or lawn.

Can see through it to know where to place the iron.

-Moisture Press Cloth – best are 100% cotton diapers or 100% linen towels. They hold moisture and can be used with a dry iron.

-Bristled Press Cloth (see Needle board)

You should never see shine marks, iron marks, or unwanted creases on a well-pressed garment.

All seams should be pressed flat after stitching – this helps to set the seams, and prevents puckering.

Typically, seams should be pressed from the wrong side of the garment.

Seams should be pressed in the direction that they were sewn.

On curved seams, place the iron perpendicular to the seam when pressing.

Press seams on a like-shaped surface. For instance, a curved seam on a ham, a straight seam on a flat surface, a point on a point presser.

For straight seams, open the seam with one hand and press (remember, up and down!). You can use a shot of steam if you have a fabric that does not want to lay down.

To avoid seam imprints, you can either use a seam roll, or use brown paper strips between the seam (or hem allowance) and the garment before pressing.

Embroidered areas should be pressed on the wrong side, face down on a thick padding, such as flannel or velour.

Silk Ribbon Embroidery should be ironed on the right side of the fabric, moving the iron around the embroidery.

And last but not least.....do you have scorch marks that you need to get out? Make a paste of lemon juice and salt and rub it onto the scorched area. Rinse clean, repeat as needed. Hopefully you won't need this, but it is nice to know, just in case!

Have a wonderful holiday!

Vaune