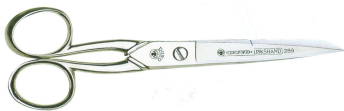


Hello everyone! (feel free to forward this to your friends!)

Happy New Year!

I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday and are starting of the New Year with lots of ideas and energy! Spring is right around the corner, bringing lots of ideas for smocking and stitching! I have been working on projects for my new classes for next year, and I am also in the process of revamping my website. I have a new 'face', and hopefully in the next few weeks will be adding pages for floche, DOVO scissors, fabric, Baby shoes, laces, etc.

For all of you **lefties**.....I have been in contact with the DOVO scissors company and am happy to say that I now carry 3 different styles of **leftie** DOVO scissors!



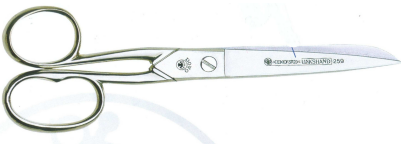
5 inch **Leftie** Trimmer

\$34.00



6 inch **Leftie** Trimmer

\$ 38.00



7 inch **Leftie** Shear

\$50.00

These high quality scissors are made by the DOVO company, in Solingen, Germany. They have the highest quality blades and cut through fabric like butter!

*** Currently, I carry 15 styles of DOVO scissors, from 2 nub lace embroidery scissors to shears to pinking shears. I try to keep all styles in stock, but keep in mind that these are shipped from Germany and have to go through customs.....need I say more? Sometimes I get an order in a couple of weeks, and sometimes it takes up to 2 months, so please bear with me! If I am out of stock, I keep a backorder list and send them out as soon as I receive them, usually the same day.

Last newsletter, I asked for a list of your favorite notions. Several of you listed sewer cloth, to trace patterns on. I did a little research and have found out some information on a neat product! Being of the 'sewer' background that I am, when I saw sewer cloth listed at Home Depot, I just hauled myself right over there and bought a roll. Available in the plumbing department, that is when I realized that 'sewer' (pronounced so, with a long o) is in actuality 'sewer' (as in sue-er) cloth, thus explaining why it is in the plumbing department. As I started looking around for information on this, I ended up talking to Brooke, who works at the company that actually makes it. Come to find out that they have branched out a bit, since so many sewers seemed to be using. While many started using the sewer cloth to trace patterns on, it was soon tried as a both a interfacing and a stabilizer for machine embroidery. Because our needs are a bit different than that of a plumber, they have upgraded the 'fabrics' that they market to the sewing industry. I will give a little info about each.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sewer Cloth | Made to go in a trench under pipes. Has a lower melting point, which may run into problems if used with an iron. |
| Sewing Fabric | 0.5 oz – this has a different composition than the sewer cloth. Higher melting point, so ironing should not be a problem. I do find that this can stretch in one direction, so I do not prefer this for tracing patterns. |
| Embroidery Fabric | This comes in both a 0.5 oz weight and a heavier 1.5 oz weight. The 0.5 oz still has a bit of a give to it, so I prefer the 1.5 oz. The embroidery fabric also has a higher melting point, so ironing is not a problem. It does NOT stretch, and has tiny, tiny bumps on the surface, which help patterns pieces stay in place when you are tracing. I like the 1.5 oz for tracing patterns. |

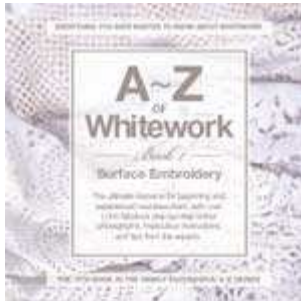
I am now carrying the 1.5 oz Embroidery Fabric! Great for tracing patterns and as a stabilizer! The roll is 24 inches wide by 100 yards and

24 inch x 100 yard roll for	or	24 inch x 10 yard package
\$36.95		\$5.00

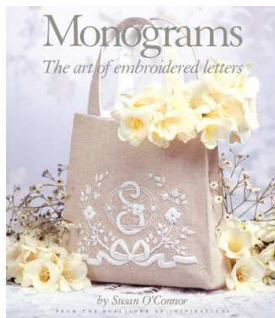
The 100 yard roll can be bought and divided among friends!

Books.....Books.....Books!!!!

Country Bumpkin has several new books on the horizon, each one more wonderful than the last!

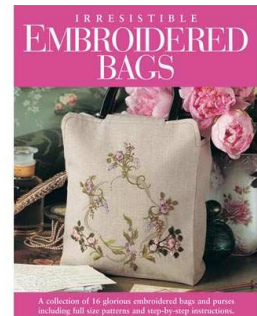


Due out in the April/May timeframe, depending on that slow boat from China! Retailing for \$33.00, pre-order now for only **\$28.00**



Due out in May, these books wonderful!!! Retail is \$38.00 each, but pre-order now for only

\$32.00 each



Every time I ask about this one, I get a different answer! The latest and greatest (as of 12/27/06) from Country Bumpkin is that it will be available in the US in the fall of 2007, retail \$33.00. I will keep checking – as they say it is already available in AU! Preorder now for **\$28.00**

and finally



Designer Smocking for Tots to Teens is scheduled for June. Retailing for \$30.00, Pre-order now for

\$25.00

Here are some **helpful hints** for when you are sewing!

After you tear your fabric, cut a tiny clip off each corner (just a couple of threads). This will stop the threads from unraveling past the end or selvage of the fabric.

When smocking on a fabric that is very colorful

1. Pleat the fabric before you pick the smocking colors, whether you are using floss, flohce, etc. Often when the fabric is pleated, it looks different than when it is flat. Different colors are more dominant or recede.
2. After your colors are chosen, smock a little practice area (maybe in the armhole or the neckline), to make sure the colors are going to work. **DON'T BE AFRAID** to change the colors if they don't give you the look you want!

New Notion!!!

Clover, the maker of the Mini Iron (looks like a curling iron with a small metal heart at the end that heats up), has outdone themselves! They have introduced the Mini Iron II, which comes with 5 interchangeable tips, to help you get at the most out of the way and inconvenient places and still be able to press!



It has the Small Iron Tip, the Large Iron Tip, the Ball Tip, the Slim Line Tip, and the Hot Knife Tip

Retail is \$59.95 for the mini iron and 5 tips. This newsletter special, only

\$50.00



Also available,
 Mini Iron II Cooling Stand
 Reg. \$11.95
 Special
\$9.50

Mini Iron II
 Tote
 Reg. \$10.95
 Special
\$9.00



More Sewing Tips!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

To help keep fronts and backs straight, use 1 clip or mark for the front and 2 clips or marks for the back. This can be on sleeves, yokes, collars, etc.

On your back yokes, it is a good idea to make a mark on each yoke piece at the seam line at the neck edge and at the skirt edge. Remember that each back yoke has to have the same finished measurement. If one is longer than the other, then the neck edges and the skirt edges will not match!

When hemming a skirt, or any garment, for that matter, knot off your thread every few inches. If the hem does get loose, it will stop at the knot, instead of pulling all of the way out.

Inspirations #53 has just arrived – another wonderful magazine to add to your collection! \$15.50 per copy.

Easter is just around the corner! For my last newsletter special, all of my Swiss voile (Reg. \$26 - \$28 / yd) is on sale for **\$22 / yd!** Stock up now, so you'll have plenty to so when those last few days of winter make you want to sit by a fire (or in my case, a heater), and sew!

My website is sl..o..w..l..y coming along! I have a new home page, but the only links that are hooked up are the About me page and the newsletter page. This will be posted there, along with all of my back issues! Hopefully it will be up and running by next newsletter! For those of you who are SAGA people (and future SAGA people!) – convention is in Dallas in September. Registration starts in May, and the convention brochure should be posted to www.smocking.org by the beginning of March.

I am working on a couple of women's blouse patterns that should be ready this summer – I will keep you posted!

Happy Stitching!

Vaune