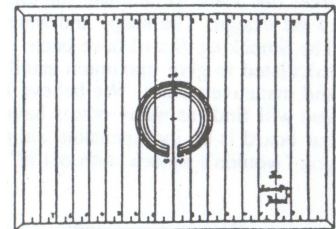


Vaune's November Newsletter

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays. Seems like just yesterday that it was holiday time, and here it is again. I hope that you have a chance this holiday season to relax and take time to enjoy.....your friends, your family, and you sewing! Blocking your pleated fabric tips are at the end. Next time around I am going to list my Top 10 Favorite Sewing Items! Send me yours! (If you could only have 10 things in your sewing bag, what would they be)?

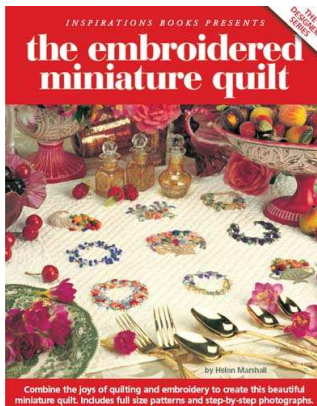
Smocking Board \$30.00

This one of my favorite notions!!!! I would like to clarify that I do **NOT** smock while my fabric is on the board. I know that the Smocking Board was created for this purpose, but I like my method of smocking much better (I actually hold my fabric sideways and smock from bottom to top, if you can picture that). I do use my smocking boards (I actually have 2 of them) to block all of my pleated fabric. The cork that is used for these is a much higher quality than a cork board that you would get at an office or home supply store. I have used mine for 10-15 years, and the cork looks just as good as when I bought it, except for some Sharpie marks from where I was tracing something. The cork has not disintegrated and still holds the pins fast and firm. When you are blocking your fabric, make sure that you block to the actual size, both at the top (yoke) and the bottom (side seam to side seam) of the pleating threads. More about blocking at the end of the newsletter.....



**for extra pins, instead of using the pins that come with the smocking board, I use appliqué pins. They are still short – ¾ of an inch, with a white head, and even better, they come in a little snap close plastic case, so they don't spill!

Applique' Pins special \$5.00 a box (\$6.25 reg price)



the embroidered miniature quilt is a wonderful book for quilters, and we have it for you!

Reg. \$22.00, this month only

\$18.00

German Interfacing is another wonderful product that I have started carrying. It is 100% lightweight cotton batiste and perfect for working with fine heirloom fabrics. It is 36 inches wide and I have it in white. Because it is cotton and not rayon, it will not melt when exposed to high heat. Besides the 'regular' uses – collars, cuffs, etc., it can also be used to as an interlining, and to avoid distortion on collars and pieces that have a bias. For very lightweight fabrics and netting, it can be used to give the fabric and pleats a bit more substance. When used to line fabric that will be embroidered, it helps to keep the trailing threads and securing stitches from showing through. To apply, heat is applied (through a press cloth) first, to make sure the positioning is correct. Then apply steam to set it permanently.

Reg. \$13.50 per yard, this month it is on special for

\$12.00 per yard

The little white leather **Ballerina** and **Mary Jane** baby shoes that I have started to carry have been such a success, that I am adding the boys version! The Shoey model is made from the same soft leather, this is a perfect shoe for a special outfit – Christmas, Christening, Blessing, or any special occasion. It is a lace up, white on white, soft-soled oxford shoe, perfect for that handsome baby boy!

Reg. \$34, this month we have all 3 of them for **\$30**



Shoey



Ballerina



Mary Jane

Each Style is available in Size 0,1,2,3, and 4

DOVO Scissors

Have you tried them? They are wonderful!!!! The workmanship in these scissors is wonderful, truly made by master craftsmen. I am adding to the styles that I carry! I stock the following styles:

5 inch Shears 6 inch Shears 7 inch Shears
Black 3½ inch Embroidery Scissors
1 Nub 3½ inch Lace scissors 2 Nub 3½ inch Lace scissors
3 ½ inch **Shears**, gold handles with sheath

I am adding the following styles:



3 ½ inch Round Nose Lace Scissors
The round nose blades on these are a bit larger than the nub lace scissors. These are wonderful when you don't want to have a fine blade! Reg. \$33.00 **Special \$30.00**

This 3 piece Scissor Set with case is sure to light up your eyes! It contains 4 inch embroidery scissors and 5 inch and 6 inch shears. They come in a beautiful handcrafted leather zippered case. Even better, you can fit another pair or two, depending on the size! Reg. \$175.00 **Special \$150.00**



DOVO Pinking Shears – and they cut like a dream! Perfect to add to any stitcher's sewing room! Reg. \$82.00
Special \$75.00

These 3 1/5 inch Scalloped embroidery scissors have a tiny scallop along each handle. They are perfect for all types of embroidery. Reg. \$36.00 **Special \$32.00**





Set 1

Color Variations, a new DMC Cotton floss that offers you a wide range of colors in only one thread. In 6 to 7 stitches, each thread from the DMC Color Variations line unveils a succession of color changes. Color Variations come in tone on tone shades, and soft multi-colored shades. Each set contains 12 different colors. Reg. \$18.00 each,

\$ 14.00 each



Set 2

Pattern Ease

Pattern Ease is a notion that is used to trace patterns! I used to use a Pellon (or similar) non-fusible interfacing, but the problem with this is that it STRETCHES!!! That means that the pattern pieces may not always be the correct shape or size! Pattern Ease does not have the give that interfacing does. It is wide – 45 inches, compared to 25 or 36 for interfacing, so if you have a large pattern piece (pants, bubbles, etc.), it will still easily fit. Reg. \$2.00 / yard, for this newsletter, it is

\$1.75 / yd

Last but not least, in one of my earlier newsletters, I talked about making sure that your right and wrong sides matched. With some fabrics, it is hard to tell the right side from the wrong side. If this is the case, just make sure that you cut all of the pattern pieces with the right side on the same side! To help me remember this, I use red and white glass head pins –

WHITE for RIGHT
and
RED for WRONG

I match the color of the pin with the side of the fabric I am marking.

Remember – when you are pressing or ironing, the iron gets hot! If you are using pins with plastic heads, they can melt! Glass head pins will **not** melt.

Blocking Tips

For any of you that have taken a construction class from me, you know that I am a big believer in preparation! I spend a considerable amount of time preparing my pleated fabric so that when I have finished smocking, everything fits together, which makes construction a breeze! Here are some things that I do that work for me!

I pleat 3 holding rows – **TWO** on the top and one on the bottom. Typically, if you look at a pleated piece of fabric, the messiest pleats are at the top and bottom. Adding an extra row at the top gives me a little more room for the pleats to be nice and even.

I use a Smocking Board to block my fabric. Pinning the fabric to cork is more stable than pinning to a lace shaping board, so I know that my fabric is not going to shift – it will stay the size that I know it off to. Block to the exact measurement – at the top yoke and at the skirt sides. Many moons ago, when I learned to smock, I was taught to block my fabric about 2 inches narrower than the actual measurement. The problem with this is that after you smock your skirt front (let's say to 10 inches), and then you stretch it to 12 inches to fit into a yoke, you have just distorted your smocking, before it has even been sewn into your garment!

Count your pleats accurately and make sure that you have an even number! Smocking stitches are always over 2 pleats, so there is never a center pleat, but 2 center pleats! Baste down the top of the pleat with a noticeable basting thread, and leave this in until your garment is finished. This will help match center yoke, center skirt front and center collar!

I smock from one side of the skirt to the other, so I have more pleats at the bottom of my smocking than I do at the top (yoke). I block the bottom first (from side to side) and then I block the top, pulling the pleating thread out of the pleats that I am not going to use. I follow the armhole curve and block the middle rows to the curve, again pulling the pleating thread out of the pleats that I am not going to use. This way, I am not smocking into the seam and trimming away smocking that I am not going to use.

Once I have my fabric blocked, I starch it, and I mean I saturate it! I usually use Magic Sizing Extra Crisp, which is a spray. It doesn't flake as much as some of the other brands. I try to do this at night before I go to bed, so that it can dry overnight.

And then.....on to smocking!

I hope you have a wonderful Holiday season, and don't forget to send me your 'favorites' for you sewing basket!

Vaune