

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

Happy Halloween!

The kids have settled into school and fall is here! If you missed the national SAGA convention, you missed a wonderful time! The classes offered were wonderful and the chance to meet and be with other needlework enthusiasts never fails to inspire me and spur me on to new projects (at least until I get home and reality sets in)! Next year's convention is in Anaheim, CA and will be a wonderful time.....make plans now to visit in my neck of the woods!

One thing that I am bringing to you from convention is a brand new book from Lyn Weeks! Lyn is an accomplished designer and teacher the heirloom sewing world. Not only is she a beautiful stitcher and a wonderful teacher, but she is also a creative designer, with her own line of patterns. As many of you know, she and her husband Brian are moving back to Australia next year (targeted date is fall of 2006). Both of her children live in Australia and they are getting ready for the arrival of their first grandchild, due later this year, so this is a wonderful opportunity for Grandma and Grandpa to be closer than clear across the ocean!

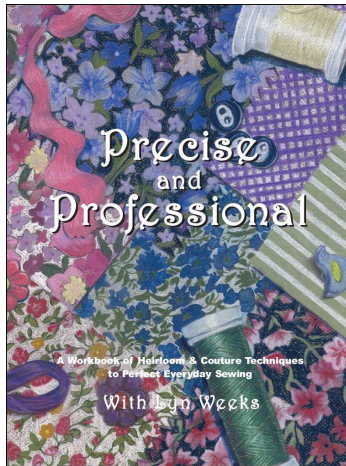
I have taken several classes from Lyn and her expertise in so many areas makes her classes not only a delight, but a wonderful learning experience. I am excited to spread the news that she has authored a new book,

Precise and Professional

which does an outstanding job of conveying her knowledge in a clear, easy to understand manner. Printed with in a spiral bound form, this book will become one of your favorite sewing resources

for years to come. Mine sits right next to my copy of Elizabeth Travis Johnson's Heirloom Sewing for Children (now out of print) and I am sure that Lyn's book will look just as worn, loved, and well-used in no time at all!

As our one of our October specials, we are offering Lyn's new book,



Precise and Professional

A Workbook of Heirloom and Couture Sewing Techniques
To Perfect Everyday Sewing

For only **\$29.50** (regularly \$34.95)

* * Lyn sold out of this book at the SAGA convention market, so I have access to the next batch from the printer. This price is **only** good through October 31st, 2005!

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Fabric Store to visit!!!!

Mood Fabrics
225 W. 37th St.
3rd Floor
NY, NY 10018
(212) 730-5003

Has beautiful fabrics – many designer end cuts! Also has some different embroidery appliqués and trims. They DO have mail order!
open Monday – Saturday

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Button, Button, Who has the Button? This month I am going to pass along some information on buttons!

Did you know that originally, buttons were not actually used to fasten clothes, but as decorations. As far back as 2000 B.C., they were attached to clothing using wooden pins. They were made from many different substances, from pearl, to ivory, to gold and precious stones!

In the 1200's (finally!), as clothing styles changed, sew-on buttons made dressing much easier than pins. Also at this time, the ability to weave finer fabrics came into play, as buttons caused much less wear and tear on fabric than pins, which damaged the garment. Buttons still continued to be fashionable as well as functional, with slits and closures made in non-essential places, just to show off buttons! **King Frances I of France wore a black velvet suit to meet King Henry VII of England that had 13,400 gold buttons attached to it.**

Men button their clothes from right to left. Women, on the other hand, button their clothes from left to right. Buttoning from right to left is easier for right handed people, and since men tended to dress themselves, this was the most convenient. Women, however, usually had maids who dressed them. Since the maids were usually right handed, it was easier for women's clothes to button from left to right, so that when the maids were facing their mistresses, they would actually be buttoning from right to left. As times changed and women started dressing themselves, tailors and dressmakers have not changed this practice. Sewing an extra button on coat sleeves was not done as a convenience, but to discourage gentlemen from using their coat sleeves as a hankie to wipe their nose!

Buttons come in various shapes and sizes. The size and shape of the button determines the size of the buttonhole.

BUTTON CHART

Linge is the traditional European sizing of buttons.

LINGE	DIAMETER	METRIC DIAMETER
100	2½"	64mm
75	1⅞"	51mm
60	1½"	38mm
45	1⅛"	29mm
40	1"	25mm
36	7/8"	22mm
30	¾"	19mm
24	5/8"	16mm
20	½"	13mm
18	7/16"	11mm
16	3/8"	10mm
14	Just under 5/8"	9mm
12	5/16"	8mm
10	¼"	6mm

If you do not use the size button that a pattern calls for, please keep in mind that the difference can throw off the center back of your dress.

Sizing a Buttonhole

A buttonhole needs to be large enough to accommodate the button, but not so large that the button can slip through and become undone.

Flat Button: to determine the length of the buttonhole, the buttonhole should be the length of the diameter of the button PLUS 1/8th of an inch.

Fat Button: Add the measurement of the diameter of the button PLUS the width (button stance) of the button.

Irregular Shaped, Flat Button – Add the width of the widest part of the button PLUS 1/8th of an inch.

During her period of mourning (which lasted many years), Queen Victoria used black jet buttons. This started a trend that made black glass buttons the most popular buttons in the 1800's

When placing buttonholes, keep the following in mind:

The distance from the neckline to the first buttonhole should be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the button width PLUS $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

The finished overlap (when the button is placed through the buttonhole) should be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the button width PLUS $\frac{1}{4}$ inch beyond the center.

Horizontal buttonholes should begin $\frac{1}{8}$ inch BEYOND the center line, toward the garment edge.

Vertical buttonholes should be aligned on center and begin $\frac{1}{8}$ inch ABOVE the center of the button.

When marking buttonholes, it will help to keep the buttonholes straight if you mark a 'ladder' on the garment – make two vertical lines (one to indicate where the button hole starts, one to indicate where the button hole stops) and mark horizontal 'steps' where the button hole is to be stitched.

When stitching buttonholes, the stitching should START at the end that is closest to the edge of the fabric.

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Tip! When stitching the buttonhole closest to the neck edge on a bishop dress, mark the buttonhole and stitch the button BEFORE attaching the neck bias! It is much easier without the bulk!
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Make sure that you make a practice buttonhole on a piece of your scrap fabric first! This will save much headache!

One of the more common mistakes made when stitching buttonholes is using a very close satin stitch. If your machine does not have an automatic buttonhole stitch, play around with your buttonholes and see what works for your machine and your fabric!

Using a light stabilizer on the back of your fabric can make a world of difference on your buttonholes! I use a tissue stabilizer or Stitch-and-Tear. Sometimes if I am using a fine fabric such as Swiss Voile, I will line my yoke or button plackets on the inside with a strip of organdy. This works wonders!

[In America, the early settlers used buttons to trade with the Indians.](#)

When sewing the buttons on, place a toothpick between the button and the fabric. This allows a bit of 'give' so that the button can lay flat when it is pulled through the buttonhole.

After the button is stitched, bring the needle to the right side of the fabric and wrap the thread around the stitches (under the button, between the button and the fabric) 3 times, and then take the thread to the back and knot off. This will help keep the button from falling off if the stitching breaks.

Since I am talking about buttons this month, one of our October Specials will be for**Buttons!!!**

We have several styles of mother of pearl buttons:
 Refer to chart above for the Ligne size (L)

1700 – 12L (5/16")	2 hole	25 cents each
1700 – 16L (3/8")	2 hole	50 cents each
1700 – 20L (1/2")	2 hole	70 cents each



1100 – 10L (1/4")	4 hole	40 cents each
1100 – 12L (5/16")	4 hole	40 cents each
1100 – 14L (just under 3/8")	4 hole	45 cents each



Great for bullion buttons!

210 – 12L (5/16")	2 hole	45 cents each
210 – 16L (3/8")	2 hole	50 cents each



350 – 14L (just under 3/8")	2 hole	85 cents each
350 – 16L (3/8")	2 hole	95 cents each
350 – 18L (7/16")	2 hole	1.00 each



Special!!! The more you order, the more you save!

Order 1 dozen of any button, **save 10%**

Order 2 dozen buttons (in one dozen bunches), **save 15%**

Order 3 dozen buttons (in one dozen bunches), **Save 25%**

I also have mixed up some of the Snowy Bleach / Ivory Soap Flakes Stain Remover! Each packet contains enough to mix with one gallon of warm water to soak your clothes clean!

These are available for **50 cents / packet!**

Last month I also told you about Coton a Broder, a wonderful thread used for High Relief French Monogramming and Embroidery. I have talked to my source who is now in the process of importing more colors! Originally I could get 17 colors – he had already added black, and is trying to get 40 or so more colors. I will let you know when they come in!

Hope you have a great October and get busy with your Christmas Sewing!!!

Happy Stitching,
Vaune