

Vaune's September Newsletter

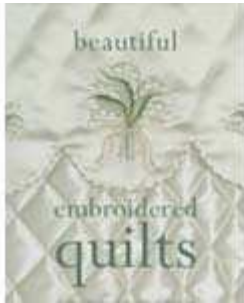
After I sent out my last newsletter (July), I lost my email service for 13 days! Anyone who tried to email me received an 'Address Unknown' message. Since then, I have changed email providers, so I should not have that problem. If you tried to order something and your email could not get through, I will honor the July newsletter sale prices, just let me know. This was the newsletter with the DOVO scissors and the cute Mary Jane and Ballet Slipper style crib shoes.

I always laugh at the Staple's commercial that I see this time of year...the kids are dragging through the store getting school supplies, and the parents are singing "It's the most wonderful time of the year!". I love my kids, but I have to say, I do not get much done when they are home for the summer! School has finally started, and I am gearing up to go – I have a one skirt front smocked and another one that I am working on – and about a hundred ideas on my head. In October, our smocking guild is having a sewing retreat in Santa Barbara – Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon we can sew and stitch to our heart's content (just in time to work on Christmas projects), and we don't have to cook! If you are interested in joining us, let me know. It is \$150 for meals and room, and it is the last weekend in October. A little later on I am going to talk about smocking and proportion, so don't miss that!

I have a few new things this month! Judith Marquis has just introduced 2 new companion patters to go along with her (adult) Summer Breeze Nightgown Pattern. All 3 patterns retail for \$10 each and this month they are on Special for **\$9.00**



Another wonderful book has just been introduced from Country Bumpkin (publisher of Australian Smocking and Embroidery, and the A –Z series of books).



Beautiful Embroidered Quilts

Reg. \$39.95

Special this month

\$35.00

This is a wonderful addition to your stitching library!

Many of you are familiar with my **Olivia Bonnet**, and have asked for the kit. Well, it is finally here! The Olivia Bonnet is made from Ulster Linen and has a pink organdy insert that is pinstitched into the brim and the crown. The brim and the crown are embellished with bullion rosebuds.

The Olivia Bonnet Kit includes Ulster Linen, Swiss Organdy, floche, thread, needles, pattern, instructions, and a Bonnet Box.



Olivia Bonnet Kit

\$25



This is a 100% cotton lightweight twill that is 60 inches wide. I am working on a little smocked dress that is made from a beautiful floral print – light and dark pink flowers with yellow flowers for accents. Not only does it pleat well (read easy), the pattern when it is pleated is pretty, too! Reg. \$13 / yd, it is on special this month for **\$12.00**, and with every order of this fabric, I will send you a **FREE** set of 4 skeins of Anchor floss that are perfect for smocking and embroidery on this fabric!

Now for some hints!

Smocking and proportion – what is this?! If you look up Proportion in the dictionary, two of its meanings are:

1. Comparative relation between things or magnitudes
2. Symmetry, harmony, or balance

Both of these are relevant when talking about smocked garments. When you are designing your garment, it is very important to make sure that the relation of the different parts (sleeves, smocking design, collar, fabric print, etc.) is in proportion. If it is, you will have a garment that has symmetry. In other words, when you look at it, it will look balanced, all the parts together will be in harmony.

Some of the things to think about:

1. The fabric print. If you are making a small outfit, do not use a large print! This will overwhelm the little one who wears it!
2. The smocking design – again, the size should be in proportion to the garment. If you are smocking a skirt front on a small garment, don't design the smocking to go almost to the waist. This will make the dress lay funny, and poof up in the wrong places! The larger the dress, the more rows you should smock. Conversely, if you are making a larger garment, don't smock just a few rows. The dress will look unfinished.
3. Smocked collars – the width of the collar needs to be in proportion! If the collar is too wide, it will look like a clown ruffle!
4. Fabric width – typically, the width of the fabric is used for a smocked skirt front (45 inches). If you are making a small size dress, say 6 or 12 month, you will not need this much fabric – you can cut the front between 36" – and 40", and still have the desired fullness. If you are making a large size, say 6 or bigger, be on the lookout for wider fabric. Fabric that is 54" or 60" is great for larger sizes, because it gives you a little extra fullness.
5. Hems – the hem should be in proportion to the skirt length! Do not make a size 1 dress and put in a 6 inch hem. This is almost half of the skirt length, and it ruins the drape of the skirt!

Hope you have a nice fall, and I hope to see some of you in Anaheim at the SAGA Convention! If you have any questions, just send me an email!

Vaune