



# Vaune's February Newsletter

2012

[www.vaune.com](http://www.vaune.com) [vaune@vaune.com](mailto:vaune@vaune.com)

805-529-5005

It seems like I am always talking about time racing past.....and it continues! January has rushed by (and yes, I did turn 50 and am now the proud owner of my AARP card, which I just found out will get me a discount at Michael's on Tuesdays!) and February is in full swing.

I am teaching one of my friends how to sew - she has 2 little girls (ages 2 and 5 - perfect!). We started off with a lesson in fabric (nice vs. yucky) and went to several stores so she could get 'a feel'.. We started off at a store which had several samples of what you don't want, and then we went to a couple of quilt shops. As we walked around, she felt bolt upon bolt and said "Fabric makes me happy!" I let her enjoy her bliss.....as I thought to myself, a fabriholic in the making!

I got a new toy yesterday (see pix and info in the next pages) - an easy as pie button maker! I love covered buttons, but always have a hard time getting them to turn out perfectly. The button maker looks kind of like a hole punch. You put the button top and the fabric on in one squeeze and then the button bottom (with shank) with another squeeze and you are done. I made some cute black gingham buttons for my sample dress for my sleeveless yoke pattern, and then I embroidered a bullion on some linen and made a button with that - beautiful!

***Australian Smocking and Embroidery Magazine***  
says Goodbye

See full details and how to get the last 3 issues on the next page.

*Vaune*

## *Where I'll Be.....*

**March 1-4**

*Sewing and Stitchery Expo  
Puyallup, WA*

**March 17 & 31,**

*Construction of a Yoke Dress  
Cotton and Chocolate  
Thousand Oaks, CA*

**April 14-15**

*Bewitching Stitchers  
Boston, MA*

**April 16**

*Mountain Laurel SAGA Guild  
Newington, CT*

**April 18**

*Charles River Smocking Guild  
Wellesley, MA*

**April 21-22**

*Yankee Stitchers  
Beverly, MA*

**June 21-23**

*Martha's Market  
Arlington, TX*

**June 29 - July 2**

# AS&E says Goodbye

It is with a very sad heart that I bring you the news about Australian Smocking and Embroidery magazine. As issue #98 is getting ready to ship, they have announced that Issue #100 will be the last issue of AS&E. AS&E has always been known for their cute babies and their colorful smocking! A few years ago, I was talking to a friend from AU about the vivid colors and creativity in the embroidery and smocking you see from there. She told me that when you are taking classes at University, embroidery falls under an Art major, while here in the US, it falls under Home Ec (or Domestic Sciences) - 2 completely different ways of looking at it. I know I have enjoyed AS&E from the moment I saw it. For those of you who are newer to smocking, there did not use to be an internet (am I aging myself here?!), and these issues were rare indeed! Country Bumpkin was a mysterious country that lived in a land where everybody smocked, or so we thought, (and they all thought the same about us)! Country Bumpkin didn't travel over here, so the only way to get anything was to order by SNAIL MAIL (you didn't think of making an expensive overseas call) and then wait forever for it to arrive. Oh how things have changed!

That being said, they are giving us a heads up. There are 3 more issues. #98 is getting ready to ship, #98 should be out around June and then #100 will be out in Aug/Sep time frame. Issue #100 will be a Collector's Edition, which will include some of the "Best of AS&E" as well as articles from Susan O'Connor (editor) and Margie Bauer (former editor).

As far as I can tell, #98 and #99 will be the same price (they have gone up to \$23.50, but I have kept mine at \$19.50). Issue #100 may be more, as it is a Collector's Issue. The distributors are filling the autoship orders first, so if you are interested in receiving the last 3 issues, PLEASE send me an email RIGHT AWAY, to reserve them. All of the shops will be doing this, so if the autoship orders take up all of the inventory, there will not be any magazines left.



## Issue 98....and then there were two!

Besides the cute top on the front, there is another smocked top with angel wing sleeves and a baby bishop dress. Don't miss this issue!

**\$19.50**

If you want all 3 of the remaining issues, don't forget to send me an email to reserve them!

# AS&E says Goodbye...but back issues!

There are still some back issues available for those of you who are interested. I will list them here, but again, first come, first served. When they are gone, they are gone! \$19.50, but for this newsletter special, **order 3 or more back issues and they will be \$17.00 each**



#62



#72



#76



#79



#81



#83



#85



#86



#87



#88



#89



#90



#91



#92



#94



#95



#96



#97



#65



#82



#93

I only have one of each of these - they are no longer available through the US dist.



As you can see, Inspirations Issue #73 is another wonderful issue full of great projects!

**\$19.50**

# The Library Shelf

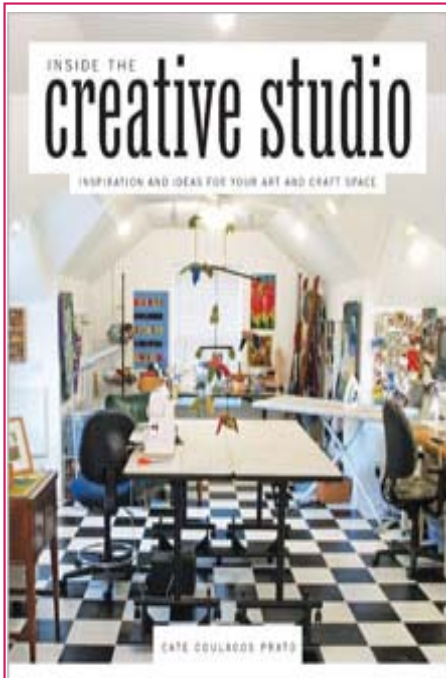


## The Complete Photo Guide to Perfect Fitting

Brand new, this helpful book has over 650 photos to help you every step of the way in fitting a pattern (muslin) to your body. The chapters are grouped by body type and also by garment type, to make it easier for you! You have heard me talk before about the importance of fitting! One of the comments that I hear the most is that you want to sew for your self, but nothing fits! This book is an excellent resource to help you fix that problem!

Starting with Fitting Basics, it goes through step by step how to fit yourself and then how to alter your pattern, with over 650 pictures to help you along the way! Skirts, tops, jackets, and for the adventurous, pants!!! A must for your library if you want to sew for yourself! I challenge you to sew something for your

self and send me a picture! Reg. \$25, special **\$22.00**



Over the last 6 months, I have been slowly but surely been moving everything out of our loft (once my sewing room, but for the last 15 years, my husband's office), rearranging, cleaning, sorting, discarding, and moving things back in. I have found my cutting table, which I had not seen the top of in 7 or 8 years. All of the hard drives, keyboards and computers are no longer sitting on my iron. There are still many file boxes in the hallway, but one by one they are being emptied and my sewing things moved back home. I ran across this book, which has some nice eye candy, especially if you are a 'sorter' like I am. There are several studios from different types of artist, (sewers, crafters, weavers, painters, etc..) and not all of the example would work for me, but it did give me ideas - not only how to's but what and why. There is a to-die for loft that I looked and and thought what a sewing room that would make! Not all of the rooms look perfectly neat, but they are functional. Remember that what you want to achieve is a place that is comfortable, accessible, welcoming, functional, and YOURS!

Reg. \$25, **Special \$22**

# Covered Buttons



I embroidered a bullion bud and then cut out a 1.5 inch circle.



Fabric and button top go in the cup and gave 1 squeeze.



Push in raw edges with Purple Thang



Put shank on top and give one more squeeze!



I have had the most fun with this new button tool! It really is as easy as 1-2-3 to use, and easier to squeeze than scissors. I have made a bullion bud button, black gingham buttons for the sample for my new sleeveless yoke pattern,

a bee button from some fabric that I will make a blouse out of.....my imagination is running wild! The button blanks come in 3 sizes - Small - 16mm (about .63 inch), Med. - 22mm (about .86 inch), and Large - 28mm (1.1 inch). The tool has a head for the small and medium - you can get an optional large head if you want to make the bigger buttons. They also have magnetic blanks that you can make for your frig or magnetic white board!

The Button Maker tool is **\$33.00**

**Special** - order the tool and get one **Free** package of buttons (16mm 22mm or 28mm).

## Button Blanks

Size Small	16mm	10/pkg	\$3.00
Size Med.	22mm	8/pkg	\$3.00
Size Large	28mm	6/pkg	\$3.00
Size X-Lrg	34mm	6/pkg	\$4.00

## Magnetic Buttons

Size Small	16mm	10/pkg	\$4.00
Size Med.	22mm	6/pkg	\$4.00
Size Large	28mm	4/pkg	\$4.00

(The magnets are STRONG)



The tool comes with the Small and Medium caps. You will need the large Cap to make the Large buttons or magnets.

**\$5.00**

See how creative you can be and a touch of personalization to your buttons!



## Piping Cord

I used to use Coats Speed-Cro-Sheen, but much to my distress, they do not make it anymore (sad face). I have found another source and am able to offer a 40 yard card for **\$5.00**

\$\$\$ A bit about piping..... \$\$\$  
Piping is one of the easiest ways to jazz up your garment, whether it is for your self or your child. Most of the pre-packaged piping you find in the fabric stores are bulky and too big, and the colors either don't match or it is not what you really want. The easiest solution is to make your own!

3 things to remember:

1. Use small cording that is pre-shrunk!
2. Use a BIAS strip
3. Make your piping to match your seam allowance.

Think outside the box!

Traditionally, you use a solid color piping for garments, but use your imagination! Especially if you are working with prints, grab another print in the same color palette to add some interest! This garment is made from 2 prints: a white on black floral and a black on white floral. I then used a black gingham to make the piping



## Dotty for Polka Dots

Stay tuned for dot fabric.....next issue!



Choose a polka dot fabric that you like.

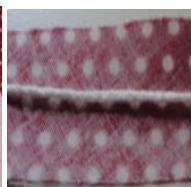
You will cut a bias with an ODD # of rows of polka dots. Bias needs to be **at least 7/8"**.



Mark outside of one row of dots. Measure 7/8" wide and then go the next odd # row and mark again (here I had 5 rows of dots)



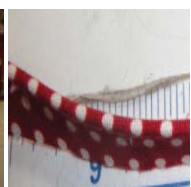
Cut the strip by the DOTS so it will be visually even! If design is off grain, you can fudge a bit!



Place piping cord in center of bias, with the dots wrapped around the cording.



This is one time when I pin the piping before I sew. It is important to get the cording in the center so the dots lay in the middle!



Once you have stitched the cording in, check and make sure that the dots are right down the center of the cord.



Once you have the piping made, you can attach it to collars, sleeves, etc. and it gives it an extra pow!

# A Few More Finds



## Beam 'N Read 2.0

This light has quickly become my 'Can't do without' light for stitching, sewing, and reading at night. It now has 6 LEDs to give strong, clear light wherever I need it!



LEDs give a much whiter light than regular light bulbs, which helps me see more clearly, especially when I am stitching. The 6 LEDs give off amazing light, but I also have the option of switching to 3 lights if I don't need as much! It also comes with 2 lens covers which pop on and off. The red filter can help avoid night blindness when switching between lighted and dark conditions, and the amber filter softens and warms the light and reduces blue light. A magnification lens also comes with it, but I think it is meant more for reading. I need magnification closer to my eyes for the type of work that I do. It takes 4 AA batteries (that may seem like a lot), but they last approximately 45 hours. Even better, you can get an AC adapter (regular plug) AND a DC adapter (car charger). I know when I am driving to Puyallup in a few weeks, this will be in the car with me, in case I need a light for something!

## Beam 'N Read

Reg. \$29.00

**Special \$25.00**

## Beam 'N Read Adapters

AC (plug) \$14.00

DC (car charger) \$12.00

**Special - both for only \$23.00**



Another handy little notion that I have found are Wonder Clips. Quilters use them for bindings, but they work well clothing construction, especially when you are attaching a bias binding through several layers. Even better, when you are sewing on silk, you can use them around the edges (collars, cuffs, etc.) and they do not put pin holes in the fabric! The base is flat, so easy to move to the foot of your machine and there are 1/4 inch and 1/2 inch marks on them. They come in a 10 pack and also in a box of 50.

## Wonder Clips

10 pack Reg. \$ 7.00,

**Special \$6.50**

50 pack Reg. \$33.00,

**Special \$27.00**

# The Fabric Shelf

Speaking of Polka Dots.....

100% cotton, 45" wide, not only would this make a cute dress, it is a great stash fabric for collars and trims. Reg. \$10.00 yd, Special **\$7.00** yd. A fat quarter (Perfect for Piping) is **\$2.50**



I love this floral and can see it with a white pique' collar or a pink stripe collar and maybe yellow gingham for the piping! 100 % cotton and 45" wide. It has a really nice hand. Reg. \$10.00 yd.

*Special \$7.00 yd*



Check out the bib I made with laminate fabric! This pattern was my favorite for my kids, with a pocket to catch things! The laminate makes it easy to wash down! 45", 100% cotton fabric that has been laminated. Reg. \$18.00 yd

*Special \$13.00 yd*



Well, I am on to my next project, so I will end this now. I am working on several new things - I have a **sleeveless yoke dress pattern (with 3 versions)** and an **apron jumper and blouse pattern** that I am working on, along with my new classes for next year. March will fly by - besides the Sewing Expo in Puyallup, I will be attending the LA Textiles show (on the hunt for polka dots for piping!). April will bring me to Boston. If you are interested in attending one of these classes, here is contact information!

I know a few of you CA stitchers have expressed interest - hope to see you there! My schedule will be:

April 14-15	Bewitching Stitchers	Jane O'Brien	603-929-1388
	Prelude to Pin Stitch / Pretty in Pink		
April 16	Mountain Laurel Stitchers (CT)	Susan Misluk	860-583-6507
	Fine Finishes		
April 18	Charles River Smockers	Vera Dreyer	617-484-8372
	Pleasant Pleating / A is for Apprentice		
April 21-22	Yankee Stitchers	Kathy Dacey	(617) 325-7079

Happy Stitching,

*Vaune*