

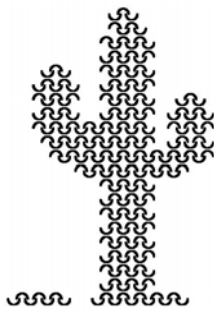
# CACTUS CABLERS

Fall, 2002

Vol. 14, No. 3

## Letter from the President

### Terri's New Nemesis!



I'm sitting here at this computer after just finishing typing up the instructions for a correspondence course, Lace Smocking. The frustration is heavy in the room, not because I don't know how to type, I do, not because I don't know how to do the course, I do, and I'm enjoying it. No, I'm computer ILLITERATE. I sit at this computer with a dictionary beside me because I don't understand what the red and green squiggle lines mean. I thought it meant I had misspelled the words like thread, lace and others, hence the dictionary, but that's not true. Last night, when my son was instructing me as to how to use this "thing", he said to, every once in a while, hit control-s, that way if I happen to do something wrong I won't lose all I've typed. Now I must call him so I can turn this computer OFF!!

### IMPORTANT REMINDER!

#### St. Matthew's

Please donate something small (an ornament is a good choice) to help St. Matthew's with their yearly fund raiser. This is needed before the beginning of November - see Jacki for details.

### New Beginnings

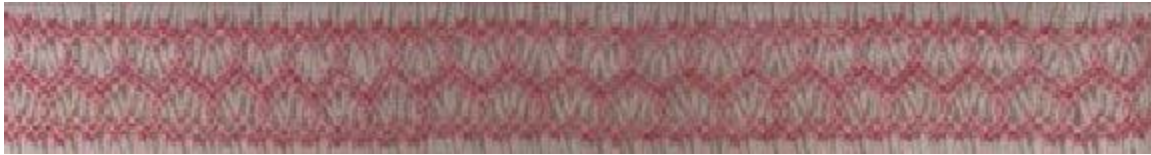
Please bring your things for New Beginnings (formerly Shalom House) for our Christmas donations this year to the November meeting if possible.

*Terri*

(Ed. Note: If you can not bring your things to the meeting make arrangements with Terri to get them to her **before** the December party).

### In This Issue

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## PROGRAMS

### **October 16<sup>th</sup>** **Claire Embroidery -** **Terri Kilgore**

Gorgeous Irish hand embroidery! Bring a 4" - 5" embroidery hoop, needle, thread, scissors.

### **Mini-lesson - Lozenge Smocking - Linda Richards**

A beautiful texture stitch!

### **November 20<sup>th</sup>** **Preconstruction 101 -** **Jacki Spatafore &** **Linda Richards**

Many of you continue to ask about the technique some of us use where we construct our garments completely and save the smocking for last (sort of like saving the cake frosting to eat last!). This month and continuing into February you will be walked through the complete construction process for a doll dress. We will all use the same pattern and do **everything** together at the meetings - no homework, please!!

This way all of the construction techniques & tips will be clearly understood. Everyone will end up with a doll dress that looks gorgeous! We will be including some special little sewing tips throughout the two lessons. Please bring all of your supplies to the November meeting in a little box so that everything can be kept together and brought back in February.

#### **Supplies to bring:**

**Pattern** - Debbie Glenn's Dolly Yoke Dress #559

**5/8 yd. cotton fabric** for dress

**1/4 yd. contrast fabric** for collar and smocked insert

**Pleater, scissors, fabric marking pen, pins, thread, tape measure.**

We will provide the filler cord for mini-piping, a cutting mat and rotary cutter for bias strips. At this meeting everything will be cut and pleated and ready for sewing in February! (Just think, you will be a whole year ahead with

your doll dress for the 2003 doll raffle!!!)

#### **Mini-lesson -**

### **December 7<sup>th</sup> -** **Christmas Party!!!**

We will discuss location and announce that later. Last year we went to Tohono Chul Tea Room and that was a real hit! Preferences??? Should we go to the same place again?

### **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2003 -** **SAGA Trunk Show**

No stress for anyone for the first meeting after the holidays!! Come and be inspired by the sewing and smocking of our SAGA sisters from across the country. This is always a real treat, don't miss this one!!

### **Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** **Preconstruction 101 -** **continued from Nov.**

Bring everything back from November plus your **sewing machine & accessories (different feet)!!**



## Refreshments

**October - Delivered  
box lunch!**

**November - Pat Allen  
& ??**

**December - Christmas  
party**

**January - Bring a  
salad or dessert to  
share**

**February - ??????**

## Sit & Stitch

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - Dorothy  
Badart**

(I had to miss this one  
due to being sick, but I  
hear everyone who  
attended had a great  
time!)

**November 5<sup>th</sup> - Terri  
Kilgore**

**December & January -  
no Sit & Stitch**

(Holiday recovery time  
for everyone!) - ????

**February 4<sup>th</sup> - Linda  
Richards**

## 2002 Doll Raffle "April"



"April" is here, raffle tickets are ready and she already has a wardrobe case in the works and a few dresses to wear! She is quite lovely with her red hair and brown eyes. Her measurements are the same as the past couple of year's dolls. She is all porcelain and 18 1/2" tall. The patterns for the American Girl dolls will fit her although she is a little thinner in the body. The point system is the same as it has been in past years. If you are new or can't remember see Linda for details. Ticket prices are the same also, \$1 ea. or 6/\$5.

We have plenty of time ladies so let's make this one of our most successful raffle years ever. It would be nice to be able to start thinking about bringing another teacher to Tucson! The doll raffle also helps us support the Wee Care program. We buy several bolts of fabric each year along with other supplies.



## Smocking Plate



Linda Richards © 2002

## The Pumpkin Patch

**(DMC - Hunter Green #895; Parrot Green #904; Pumpkin #971)**

**Row 1:** Begin with a **down** cable, cable across row with hunter green

**Row 1 1/4:** Begin with an **up** cable, cable three; move up to **row 3/4**, begin with a down cable and cable three; continue across row alternating between rows **1 1/4 and 3/4**

**Rows 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9:** Backsmock

**Row 9 3/4:** Begin with an **up** cable, cable across row with hunter green

**Row 9 1/2:** Begin with a down cable, cable three; move down to **row 10**, begin with an up cable and cable three; continue across row alternating between rows **9 1/2 and 10**

**Row 6 1/2:** Begin with a **down** cable on pleat 38, cable 9 (Pumpkin #971); cable 3 black; cable 2 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 7 pumpkin; cable 2 black; cable 9 pumpkin; cable 13 black; cable 12 pumpkin; cable 4 black; cable 5 pumpkin; (cable 1 black, cable 1 pumpkin) repeat twice more; cable 5 pumpkin; cable 1 black; cable 7 pumpkin

**Finish bottom of pumpkins first - then go back and finish the top of each pumpkin.**

**Row 6 3/4:** Begin with an **up** cable, cable 6 pumpkin; cable 2 black; cable 6 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 6 pumpkin; cable 2 black; cable 11 pumpkin; cable 1 black; cable 1 pumpkin; cable 5 black; cable 1 pumpkin; cable 1 black; cable 17 pumpkin; cable 4 black; cable 13 pumpkin; cable 2 black; cable 5 pumpkin

**Row 7:** Begin with an up cable, cable 6 pumpkin; cable 2 black; cable 13 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 27, **skip one down cable**, cable 11 pumpkin; cable 16 black; cable 6 pumpkin

**Row 7 1/4:** Begin with an **up** cable, cable 5 pumpkin; cable 5 black; cable 3 pumpkin; cable 1 black; cable 3 pumpkin; cable 6 black; cable 26 pumpkin, skip 3 cables, cable 10 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 3 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 3 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 6 pumpkin

**Row 7 1/2:** Begin with an **up** cable, cable 6 pumpkin; cable 13 black; cable 28 pumpkin, **skip next 5 cables**, cable 29 pumpkin.



**Finish bottom of left pumpkin:**

**Row 7 3/4:** Begin with an **up** cable, cable 8 pumpkin; (cable 1 black, cable 1 pumpkin) repeat three times; cable 9 pumpkin

**Row 8:** Begin with an **up** cable, cable 19 pumpkin

**Row 8 1/4:** Begin with an **up** cable, cable 1 pumpkin, skip 1 cable, cable 9 pumpkin, skip 1 cable, cable 1 pumpkin

**Finish bottom of center pumpkin:**

**Row 7 3/4:** Begin with an **up** cable on pleat 70, cable 15 pumpkin

**Row 8:** Begin with an **up** cable on pleat 73, cable 7 skip 1 cable, cable 1 pumpkin

**Finish bottom of right pumpkin:**

**Row 7 3/4:** Begin with an **up** cable on pleat 94 cable 27 pumpkin

**Row 8:** Begin with an **up** cable on pleat 97, cable 23 pumpkin

**Row 8 1/4:** Begin with an **up** cable on pleat 98, cable 19 pumpkin

**Finish tops of pumpkins:**

**Row 6 1/4:** Begin on pleat 39 with a **down** cable, cable 8 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 6 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 12 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 5 pumpkin, cable 1 black; cable 5 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 9 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 7 pumpkin; cable 5 black; cable 16 pumpkin **(Tie off thread, go back to beginning of row and work all following rows from left to right instead of turning work upside down and working back across)**

**Row 6:** Begin on pleat 40 with a **down** cable, cable 16 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 13 pumpkin; cable 1 black; cable 13 pumpkin; cable 1 black; cable 11 pumpkin; cable 1 black; cable 9 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 16 pumpkin

**Row 5 3/4:** Begin with a **down** cable on pleat 41, cable 9 pumpkin, (cable 1 parrot green, cable 1 pumpkin; repeat once); cable 22 pumpkin; (cable 1 black cable 1 pumpkin, repeat twice); cable 26 pumpkin; cable 1 black; cable 3 pumpkin; (cable 1 black, cable 1 pumpkin, repeat once); cable 2 black; cable 9 pumpkin

**Row 5 1/2:** Begin on pleat 42 with a **down** cable, cable 6 pumpkin, cable 6 parrot green, cable 22 pumpkin, cable 5 black, cable 21 pumpkin, cable 2 black; cable 1 pumpkin, cable 1 black; cable 1 pumpkin, cable 2 black; cable 3 pumpkin; cable 5 black; cable 10 pumpkin

**Row 5 1/4:** Begin on pleat 46 with an **up** cable, cable 1 parrot green, skip 1 cable; cable 4 parrot green; skip 1 cable; cable 11 pumpkin.

**Finish top of left pumpkin:**

**Row 5:** Begin on pleat 46 with a **down** cable, cable 5 parrot green

**Continue with tops of center & right pumpkin:**

**Row 5 1/4:** Begin on pleat 66 with an **up** cable, cable 11 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 23 pumpkin; cable 5 black; cable 5 pumpkin; cable 1 black, cable 1 pumpkin, cable 1 black; cable 10 pumpkin

**Row 5:** Begin on pleat 66 with a **down** cable, cable 59 pumpkin

**Finish top of center pumpkin:**

**Row 4 3/4:** Begin on pleat 66 with an **up** cable, cable 8 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 3 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 9 pumpkin

**Row 4 1/2:** Begin on pleat 66 with a **down** cable, cable 7 pumpkin; cable 4 black; cable 2 pumpkin; cable 4 black; cable 9 pumpkin

**Row 4 1/4:** Begin on pleat 66 with an **up** cable, cable 7 pumpkin, cable 3 black; cable 3 pumpkin; cable 3 black; cable 10 pumpkin

**Row 4:** Begin on pleat 66 with a **down** cable, cable 25 pumpkin

**Row 3 3/4:** Begin on pleat 67 with a **down** cable, cable 23 pumpkin

**Row 3 1/2:** Begin on pleat 68 with a **down** cable, cable 6 pumpkin, cable 7 parrot green, cable 7 pumpkin

**Row 3 1/4:** Begin on pleat 71 with a **down** cable, cable 4 pumpkin, cable 5 parrot green; cable 8 pumpkin

**Row 3:** Begin on pleat 74 with a **down** cable, cable 5 pumpkin, skip 1 cable, cable 1 pumpkin

**Row 2 3/4:** Begin on pleat 74 with an **up** cable, cable 4 parrot green

**Row 2 1/2:** Begin on pleat 71 with an **up** cable, cable 1, skip 1 cable, cable 4 parrot green

**Row 2 1/4:** Begin on pleat 71 with a **down** cable, cable 5 parrot green

**Finish top of right pumpkin:**

**Row 4 1/2:** Begin on pleat 94 with an **up** cable, cable 12 pumpkin; cable 6 parrot green, cable 1 pumpkin, cable 2 parrot green; cable 6 pumpkin

**Row 4 1/4:** Begin on pleat 95 with a **down** cable, cable 14 pumpkin; cable 6 parrot green; cable 1, skip 1 cable, cable 1, skip 1 cable, cable 1 pumpkin

**Row 4:** Begin on pleat 98 with a **down** cable, cable 13 pumpkin; skip 1 cable; cable 6 parrot green, skip 1 cable, cable 1 parrot green

**Row 3 3/4:** Begin on pleat 113 with a **down** cable, cable 7 parrot green

**Row 3 1/2:** Begin on pleat 114 with a **down** cable, cable 5 parrot green

**Embellishments:** Add backstitching according to graph to accent stems and add tendrils, separate and add shape to pumpkins.



## SHOPPING! SHOPPING! SHOPPING!



*Flights of Fancy Boutiques*

<http://www.flightsoffancyboutique.com/>

If you want a dreamy afternoon spent "shopping" or just "looking" at some wonderful items, take a moment to visit *Flights of Fancy Boutiques*.

I particularly love the button collection but they offer many types of trim, silk ribbon, beads, tassels and other yummy things any seamstress would love to add to her collection.

Take a look in the Porcelain Button Boutique where you will find the most delicious buttons I have ever seen. The buttons pictures on the left are *The*

*Chintzes Porcelain Buttons and Jewelry Disks (no shanks)* and are each 1 5/8" in diameter. They are a little pricey at \$7.00 apiece but as an accent on a special project they would be worth it! Some are sold with coordinating silk ribbon & trim.

Another favorite of mine is *The Bride*. This beauty is 2 3/4" x 1 3/4". It is featured as a centerpiece on a ringbearer's pillow that can be seen on their website. Can't you see this on a smocked pillow? What a gorgeous wedding gift it would make!

(<http://www.flightsoffancyboutique.com/cgi-images/jnring.jpg>)



There is a neat *Closeout* section, too, where assorted things are bagged together for sale at discounted prices. Great for your next crazy patch projects. If you love crazy patch, there is also a separate category called the *Crazy Quilt Boutique* with laces, velvets, beads and other items. They even sell the dye for those beautiful dyed laces that have been showing up in *Sew Beautiful* and *Creative Needle*. Don't miss the *Vintage Prints* and the *Christmas Boutique* either!!

I can't visit this site without planning at least three or four projects that I would love to do! With Christmas just around the corner, it would be fun to incorporate some of these wonderful things into some of your gifts!!



## OCTOBER FEATURED STITCH

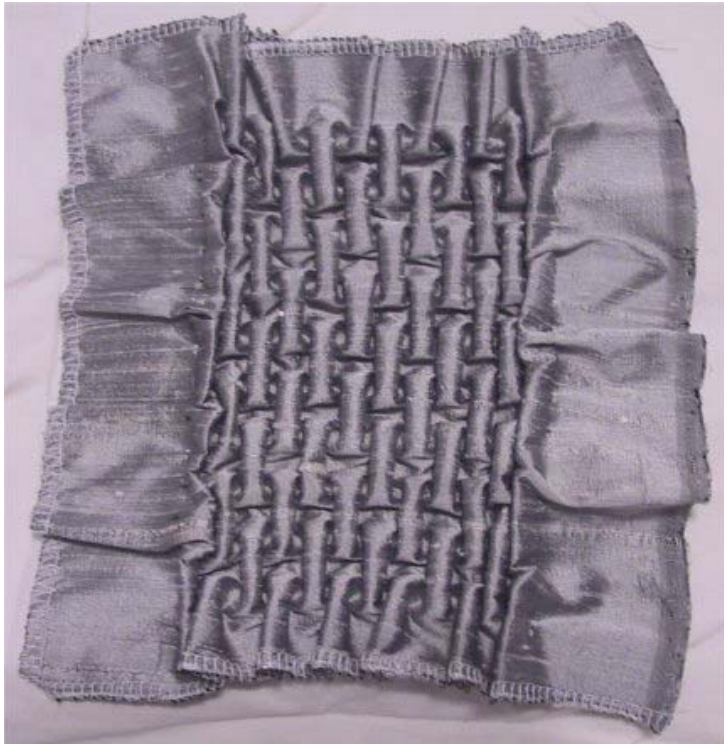
### Lozenge Smocking

Are you still confused by some of the terminology used for different types of smocking - American, North American, Canadian, Lattice - what's the difference? I found a good definition on the website for **The Highveld Smockers Guild of South Africa** (<http://users.iafrica.com/r/ri/ribeneke>)

"Lattice, North American or Canadian smocking cannot really be compared to ordinary smocking as the fabric is gathered in both directions, and is therefore not as elastic as English smocking.

Evenly spaced rows of dots are marked on the back of the fabric, and then the fabric is gathered between the various dots to form pleats which give a plaited appearance on the front of the fabric.

This type of smocking is often used to decorate velvet cushions, as well as clothing. Traditionally lattice smocking has been worked on velvet, but it now also done on lightweight upholstery fabric, satins, track suiting and a variety of crease resistant synthetic fabric. It can also be used with checked fabric."



The Lozenge smocking stitch I've chosen for this month's stitch is a form of this type of smocking.

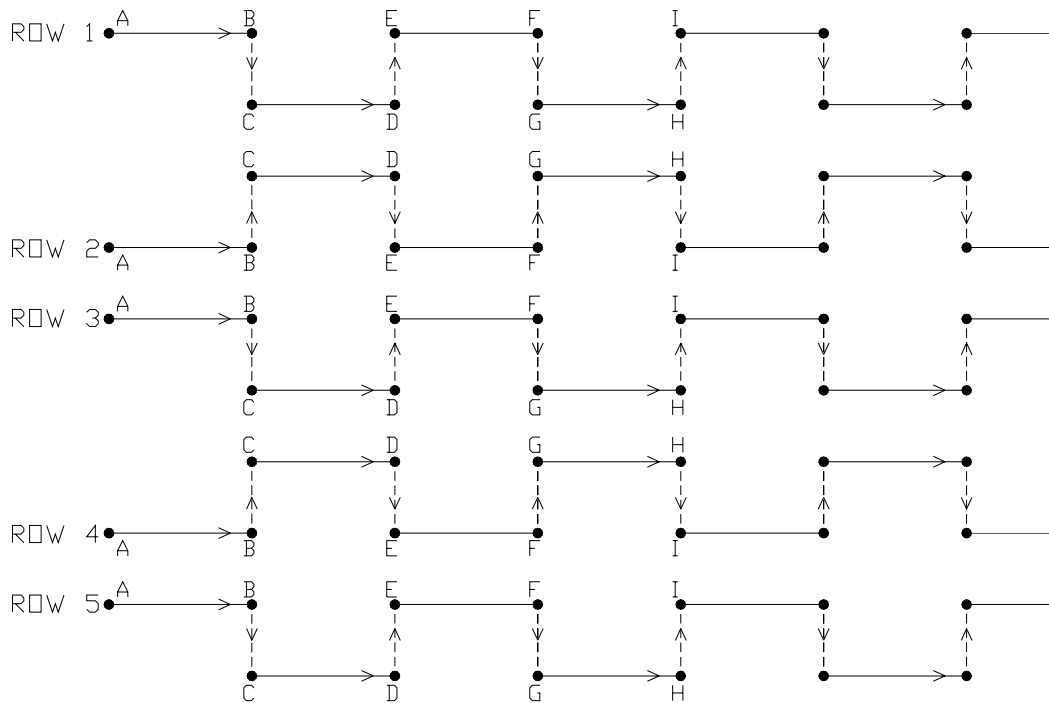
This sample was worked on silk dupioni and it gives a wonderful look and feel to the stitches. The ratio of flat fabric to smocked fabric is 2.5:1 (for every 1" of finished smocking you will need to allow 2 1/2" of fabric) It would also be beautiful worked in velvet and used for the front of a gorgeous holiday vest! Give this old stitch a try and bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! (The actual size of this sample is 6 3/4" x 7")

(American smocking, by the way, is similar in look to English smocking except it is not pre-

pleated. The fabric is picked up stitch by stitch after the fabric has a design grid marked on it and a pleated look is formed as you go along).



## Lozenge Smocking Grid



This grid when printed should have accurate measurements for your convenience. However it would be wise to print and check the measurements before using. The dots are 3/4" apart and the rows are 3/8" apart. If your measurements are different, your lozenges will be a different size which would be fine if that is your choice.

Mark your grid on the wrong side of your fabric. (I print this grid and then use one of the pointed fine tip fabric marking pens and just push the point through the dots onto the fabric.) To stitch, the horizontal dots (A to B; C to D; E to F; G to H) are joined together with a small back stitch. The thread is just carried vertically - no fabric is drawn up. So for the first row you would join A to B, drop your thread down to C, pick up C and join to D with a backstitch. Proceed across the rows in this manner and when your entire piece is smocked - snap the lozenge shapes into place by giving the fabric piece a little tug, hold the piece along the right and left sides and gently pull.

If using for a garment - smock a piece large enough to lay your pattern piece on, mark around the pattern, stitch along the lines to hold the smocking and then cut out just barely outside the stitched line.



## BOOK REVIEW



### Lattice Smocking

by Laura Jenkins Thompson

<http://www.laurajenkinsthompson.com/>

If you get really hooked on this form of smocking here is book you might be interested in adding to your library collection. Written by Laura Jenkins Thompson (whom we've had the privilege of having here for a weekend seminar) this book is available from her on her website for \$12.00.

You will find a couple of different stitch techniques and suggestions for using lattice smocking in clothing and accessories. This was a very popular technique 50's and 60's.

### Cactus Cablers' Smocking Guild c/o Linda Richards

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Website: [www.cactuscablers.org](http://www.cactuscablers.org)



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