

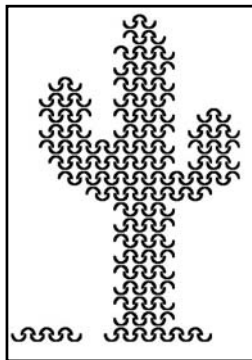
# CACTUS CABLERS

Spring/Summer, 2002

Vol. 14, No. 2

## Letter from the President

I don't think I would sew if it weren't for the challenges.



I recently had a problem with chiffon. The pattern called for five layers of chiffon with the hem seam to be smooth as if it were all on the straight of grain but all of it was really on the bias. It's hard enough for me to keep it smooth while using a rolled hem foot - next to impossible on the bias!

I took time out and read a couple of books. When my husband asked why I was wasting time reading when I had a dress to make, I explained that I was clearing my head.

It worked, ten days later I had solved my problem. I cut inch wide strips of paper and sewed first one turn down on the paper, trimmed and then folded a very narrow hem and sewed again on paper. I won't say how many years I had to go back to remember that solution but it worked like a charm

Now, if I could only find that piece of ecru voile I know I have around here someplace!

*Terri*

## In This Issue

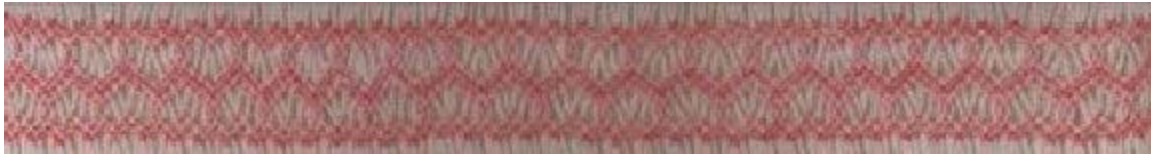
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## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Due to the fact that many of our members are away on vacations during the month of June, there will be **no meeting** scheduled.

We hope to see all of you at the next meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy your vacations and keep cool!



## PROGRAMS & NEWS

### July 17<sup>th</sup> - SAGA Logo - Linda Richards

This program is a SAGA Chapter program, which was developed as a nametag. We are going to modify it slightly and make it into a needlecase. Please bring a smocking needle and scissors. **Supplies:** A kit will be provided for \$2.00.

### Mini-lesson - Bargello Smocking

Create complex designs and color shadings with stitch combinations. This is the stitch that was postponed from April.

### August 21<sup>st</sup> - WEE CARE WORKSHOP

The middle of summer is just kind of slow and hot around Tucson! It's the perfect month for us to catch up on our Wee Care preparation. Please come with the usual supplies - pleater, sewing machine, serger, scissors, fabric markers,

etc. Call Terri if you need more information.

### Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> - Surface Honeycomb Ornament - Pat Allen

This was to have been the June meeting. It is also a SAGA Chapter program and it is a lovely ornament. The stitch spirals around the ornament and Pat's sample is just beautiful! **Supplies:** A kit will be provided for \$1.50, please bring scissors and smocking needle.

### Mini-lesson - Lozenge Smocking - create beautiful texture with this stitch.

### Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> - Claire Embroidery - Terri Kilgore

I don't have to tell you that when Terri does a program you are in for a treat - you all should know that by now! This is a gorgeous Irish hand embroidery stitch. I know you will love it, more details later!

## Refreshments

**July** - Gwenn Engle & Dorothy Badart

**August** - Pat Allen & Mary Glenn

### September - ????

We had such a great lunch in May with the boxed lunches provided by the caterer that Ethel set up. It was so much fun to not have to even think about preparing lunch and to have a delivery guy show up carrying a huge basket of gift-wrapped boxes! We should do that more often!

## Sit & Stitch

**July 2** - Linda Richards

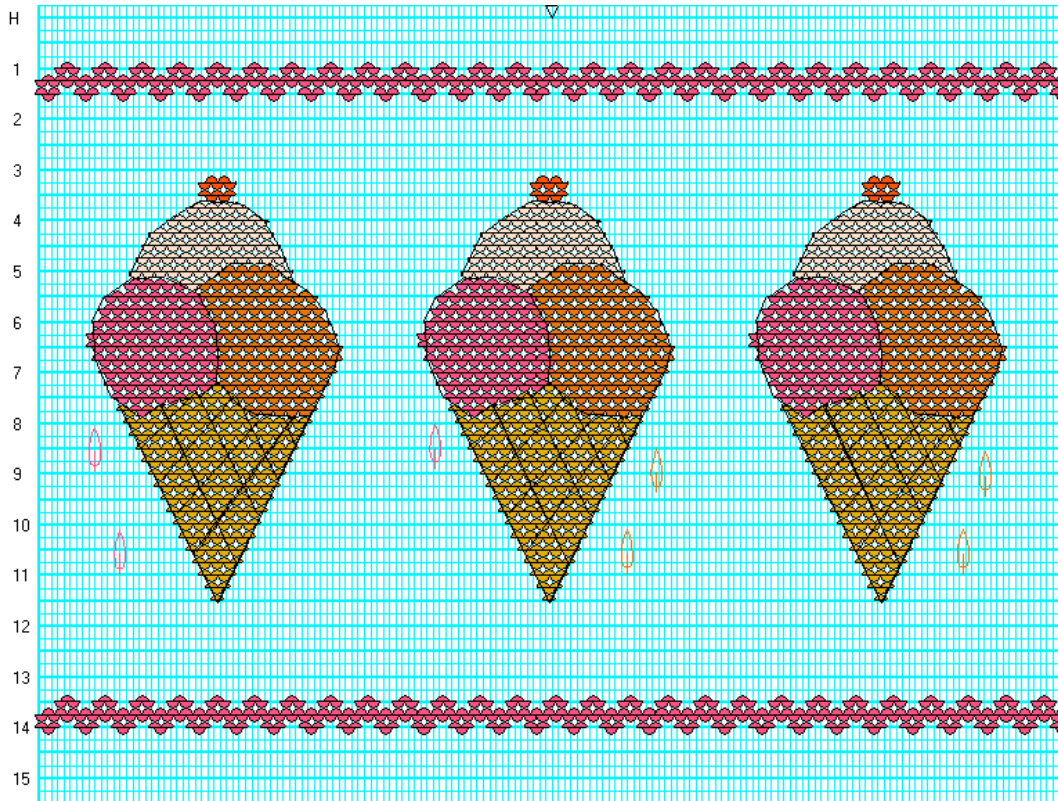
**August 6** - ????

**September 3** - ????

If you have not volunteered to hostess a Sit & Stitch, why not plan do it in August? Give Jacki a call and let her know! We always have a great time and the food is yummy!



## Smocking Plate



Linda Richards © 1995

## Triple Treat

Design covers 165 pleats and is smocked with four strands of floss. Pleat 16 rows.

**Row 1 1/4 & 13 3/4** - Cable across row beginning with a down cable. Go back to the beginning and alternate cable three below and above across row.

**Row 2 through 13** - Backsmock

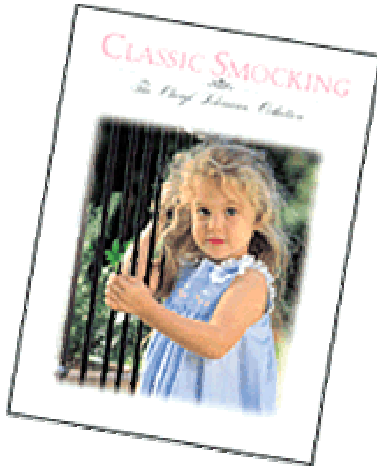
**Ice Cream Cones** - Stack cables as per graph. Use freehand backstitches to outline scoops of ice cream and cone. Add cherry on top and lazy daisy ice cream drips.





## BOOK REVIEW

### **Classic Smocking** by Cheryl Lohman



I was fortunate enough to receive this beautiful book as a birthday present this year. It is wonderful!!

Cheryl Lohmann designs beautiful smocking plates. The book contains patterns for two dresses and a bonnet plus 11 uniquely beautiful smocking designs!! *Kimberly's Sundress* is the delightful little pattern featured on the cover. I just love the ruffled straps.

I find myself going back again and again just to look at the beautiful pictures. I'm sure you will want to add this to your collection of books and smocking plates! It is available through [Elegant Stitches](#) for under \$18.98.

## SHOPPING! SHOPPING! SHOPPING!

Here's a fun little site I found for shopping! You all know how tough it is to find smocking and heirloom sewing supplies in Tucson (harder than finding hen's teeth as my grandmother would have said!)

You can buy fabric, lace, books, children's clothing (ready to smock, or already smocked), baby items, hankies and more.

I think the name of the shop [Tea Parties & Lace](#) is fun and you can e-mail your order or order via snail mail if you are more patient than I am!! They have the above book also for \$18.95.





## WEBSITE UPDATE

The Cactus Cablers website has moved to a new address. You can now find us at [www.cactuscablers.org](http://www.cactuscablers.org) That address is a lot easier to remember than the last one!!

I have not completely finished updating the site as yet. I have spent many hours getting it where it is today but I have many more to go to get it finished! You can visit it as is though. I have added many new pictures and a page for each member - please give me pictures of your things so that we can share them with others. If you would like to have a different picture of yourself on your page, I'm leaving it up to you to get one to me!

I'll be doing some more reorganizing and I'm going to change the background on the pages. I'm open to suggestions from all of you - what do you want to see on the site? After all it represents us and we have gotten new members and visitors from those who have found us online - right, Debi?

## SAGA WEBSITE

As most of you know, I have taken on the job as editor for [SAGA](#) for the E-Zine. That is the online newsletter published alternately with the paper magazine, SAGA News. The latest issue (my first as editor) is now available online. If you haven't registered on the SAGA site, you are missing out on a lot of good information. The only way you

can get your copy of the E-Zine is to be a registered member. To do that you need to visit the site just click on the hotlink in this section to go there or type [www.smocking.org](http://www.smocking.org) into your Internet browser when you are online. There is a special section for SAGA members to register and then gain entrance into the members' only section. Once you have registered wait a few minutes for verification of your valid SAGA # and then have fun looking around!

I want to say a special thank you to the Cactus Cablers members who contributed items for me to use in this issue. You helped me tremendously and I am ever so grateful! I am not a bottomless pit of information and I need all of you to share your wonderful projects with others in order to make the E-Zine a successful publication. I look forward to sharing more of your wonderful things in future issues.

## SAGA CONVENTION BASKET

Just a little reminder, that we have decided to contribute a basket full of doll clothes and accessories for an 18 1/2" doll. Please either make (after all we are a smocking group!) or buy something to contribute and turn it in by the September meeting. We will then either mail it or if anyone gets to go to convention it can be hand delivered. Please help make the basket a success by contributing something beautiful!

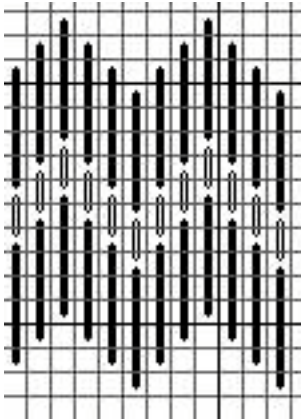


## JULY FEATURED STITCH

### Bargello Smocking

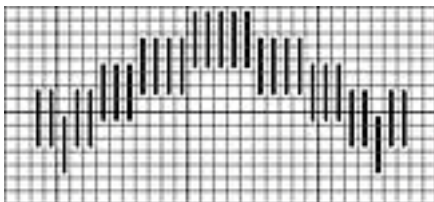
Bargello is generally defined as any design worked on canvas with straight needlepoint stitches. Traditionally Bargello is a unique form of needlepoint using the Florentine stitch or one of its variations to produce dramatic, colorful patterns. Bargello designs are produced by a basic single design element repeated in different color sequences throughout the piece. You can repeat the basic element across the row and row after row creating a **Row Design**. Mirroring it on the next row can expand the basic element and creates a **Motif Design**. Or you can create a **Four Way Design** by positioning the basic element at right angles creating a square. **Row Designs** and **Motifs** lend themselves very well to a smocking interpretation.

Two simple traditional Bargello patterns are shown below:



#### CHEVRON

This is a typical chevron stitch in Bargello. Each row would be a different color and then this would be repeated across the row. It's easy to visualize how this could be translated into a smocking stitch using any one of several different stitches to fill in the space.



#### SCALLOP

The same thing holds true here also - imagine substituting smocking stitches to create the design and then building the design by repeating the rows in a color sequence.



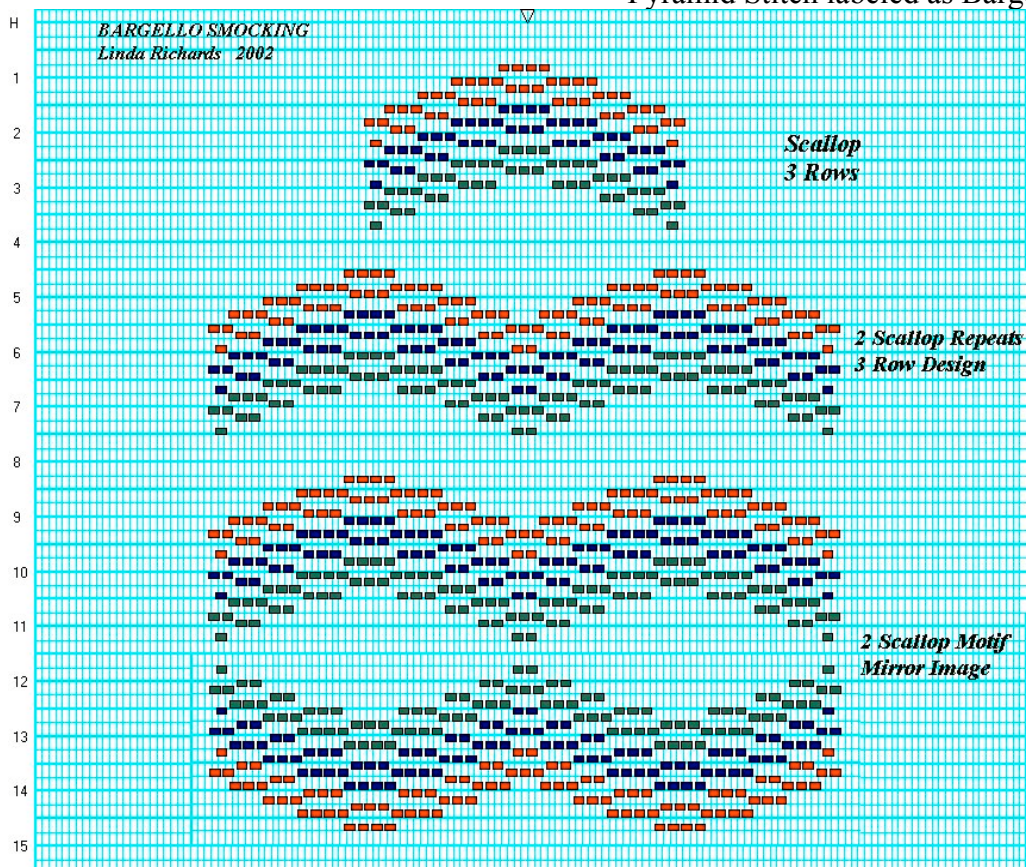
## Bargello Smocking Plate



I found the **Surface Honeycomb** stitch to be very suitable for Bargello smocking but challenge yourself and try other stitches to see how the design looks. This stitch mimics very well the straight stitches of Bargello needlework.

This design segment covers 46 pleats and as Surface Honeycomb is very elastic, it should all be backsmocked. See design variations below.

For another interpretation see *AS&E A-Z of Smocking* page 12. However, this is Chela Thornton's Pyramid Stitch labeled as Bargello.





**For The Love of Smocking  
Philadelphia  
October 15 - 20, 2002**

I hope all of you have received your convention brochures by now. There are a lot of great teachers and exciting new classes available this year. It sounds like it is going to be a lot of fun! I do hope some of us are going to get to go!

Be sure to make your decisions as early as possible as classes and the hotel will fill up quickly.

**Cactus Cablers' Smocking Guild**  
**c/o Linda Richards**  
**E-mail: [cactuscablers@yahoo.com](mailto:cactuscablers@yahoo.com)**  
**Website: [www.cactuscablers.org](http://www.cactuscablers.org)**



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