

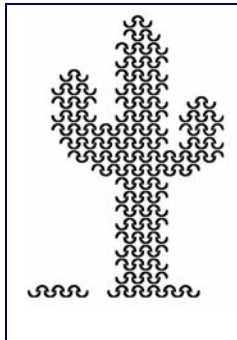
CACTUS CABLERS

Winter, 2002

Vol. 14, No. 1

Letter from the President

What's in a word? Who would have thought that the dictionary would turn out to be the most used book in my house? Years ago when I was in school, when asked the meaning of a word the teacher would say, "look it up!" Now, even today, I find it necessary to look up words.



Want and need definitely do not have the same meaning but some people don't know the difference. It took me a long time to sort it out and even now I sometimes have trouble. Take for instance, a visit to the fabric store or bookstore. Years ago, I never left without a purchase of \$50 or more of things "I needed." Today I look at some of those same purchases and realize what I thought was a "need" so long ago was in fact a "want" and now I'm having trouble remembering why I needed those things.

If this letter confuses you, look in your stash and you'll soon understand the difference between want and need!

Terri

P.S. Welcome to Debi Rix, our newest member who joined SAGA and Cactus Cablers after finding us on the web! We're glad to have you Debi!

Stitch of the Month

We are bringing back the "Stitch of the Month." This was quite popular in the past as we all

enjoyed keeping those stitches we sometimes forget to use filed in the front of our brains instead of buried in the basement! We all get into ruts and just forget to challenge our creativity by using some of the less common stitches or stitch variations.

Please remember to bring a **small pleated piece** for practice stitches each month. You'll need your **thread snips**, **needle** and **floss** of any color. Remember that the goal here isn't to make something you will want to frame, it's a reference and practice piece for stitches you may not yet have mastered.

If you have a stitch that you want to learn or teach, please let Jacki know. We'll spend about 30 minutes each

In This Issue

- **Programs & News**
- **Refreshments**
- **Sit & Stitch**
- **Smocking Plates**
- **Book & Pattern Reviews**
- **Website News**
- **Featured Stitch**

month working on these stitches.

PROGRAMS & NEWS

February 21 – Huck Weaving – Dorothy Badart

Dorothy will be showing us a beautiful huck weaving stitch. This can be used on guest towels or other linens. You might even get very creative figure out how to use it around the hemline of a garment or on a sleeve. Please bring a tapestry needle and red floss. Dorothy will provide a piece of huck weaving fabric.

Mini-lesson - Diagonal Cable Flowerettes surface worked in variegated floss.

March 21 – Pounded flowers – Ethel Walker

You're in for a real treat this month and lots of fun! This is a technique you won't find just anywhere and Ethel is bringing it to us from her travels around the country last summer. You'll be able to incorporate this technique into many of your projects - smocking projects included.

Mini-lesson - Rainbow Smocking - an exercise in color blending floss for dramatic results.

April 21 – Beaded Amulet – Jacki Spatafore

Jacki makes the most beautiful little amulet that would be a perfect accessory for your dolls. This is a special request program from many of our members who have seen Jacki's amulets. Come and learn this

technique and make one for this year's raffle doll!

Mini-lesson - Bargello Smocking - creates complex designs and color shadings with cable and wave combinations.

May 15 – The Three Little Bears - Debi Rix

Our newest member Debi Rix is jumping right in and has volunteered to do a program. These are little handmade teddy bears - another perfect accessory for your doll or our raffle doll! Supply list in the April newsletter.

Mini-lesson - Lozenge Smocking - creating texture

June 19 - Surface Honeycomb Ornament - Pat Allen

This is a SAGA Chapter Program and it is a lovely ornament. There is a nice variation in the design in that the stitch spirals around the ornament. Get a head start on a Christmas gift with this program. Supply list in the April newsletter.

Mini-lesson - Beaded Cable Smocking - an exciting way to embellish a simple cable.

Refreshments

February - Gail Bastian & Ethel Walker

March - Jacki Spatafore & Terri Kilgore

April – Eileen Russel & Dorothy Badart

May - ??????

Raffle

The **50/50 raffle** has turned out to be a lot of fun. We never know how much money the winner might win but all previous winners have been pleasantly surprised and the guild treasury is growing, too! Buy a ticket for \$1 or 6/\$5 and if you are the winner you take home half of the money collected!

Sit & Stitch

March 5 - Linda Richards

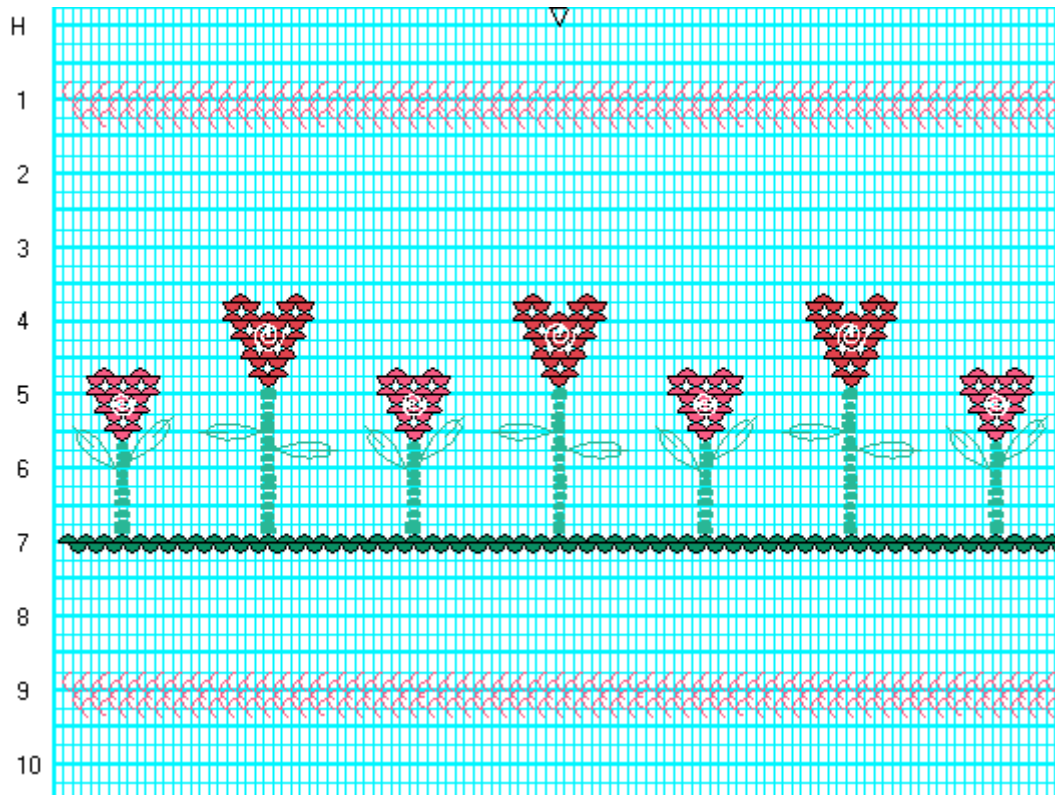
March-29 - Something different - A field trip and lunch out! (This will take the place of April 2)

May 7 -?????

Volunteer to host a Sit & Stitch in your home. The hostess provides beverages and a dessert. You bring a salad to share and a project.

Smocking Plates

Hearts and Flowers



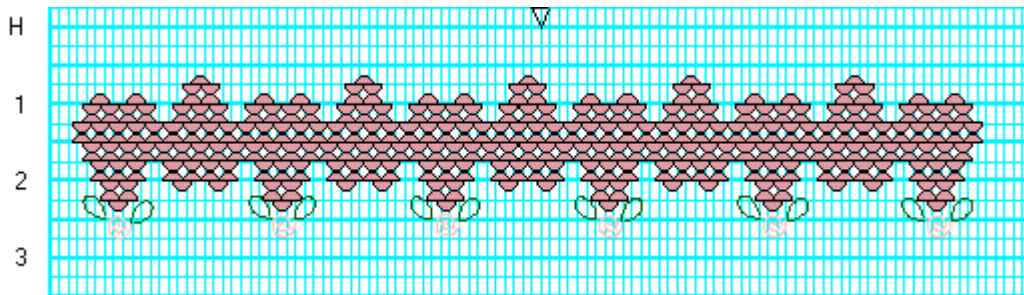
Linda Richards © 2002

Use three strands DMC floss, backsmock rows 2 - 6 and 8. Rows 1, 1 1/4 and 9, 9 1/4 are two rows of featherstitch. Work satin stitch over two pleats for stems, add lazy daisy leaves and add small bullion roses to each heart.

YOUR SMOCKING DESIGNS

I'm requesting that those of you who smock your own original designs (and I know you're out there, I've seen your work!) please submit your designs to be published in the newsletter. If you do not know how to graph a design I will do that for you. Please share your work with our guild members and other smockers across the country who get our newsletter.

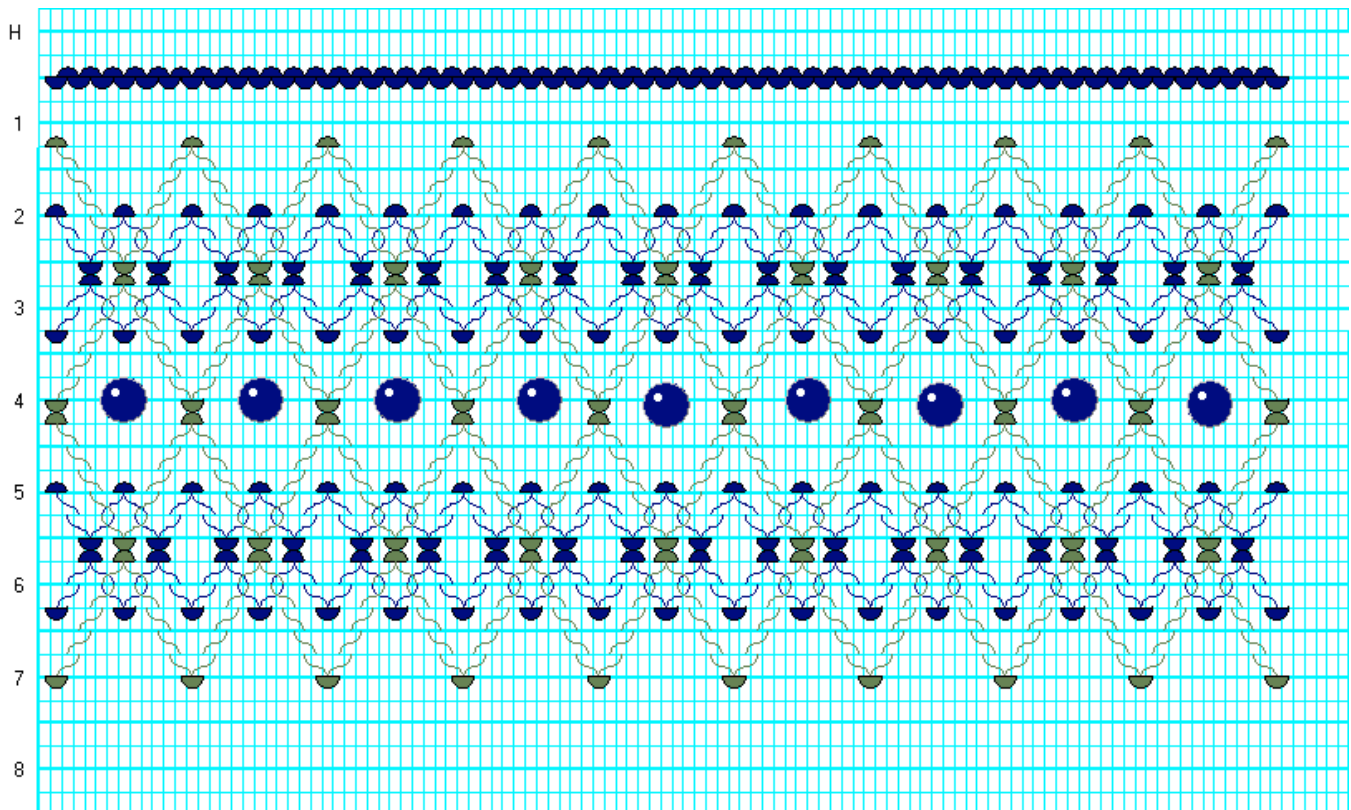
Baby Allyce



Linda Richards © 2001

This is a delicate little design that is sweet used around the neckline of a baby bishop (or Wee Care gown). Use three strands of DMC and add bullion flowers and leaves at the tip of alternating hearts.

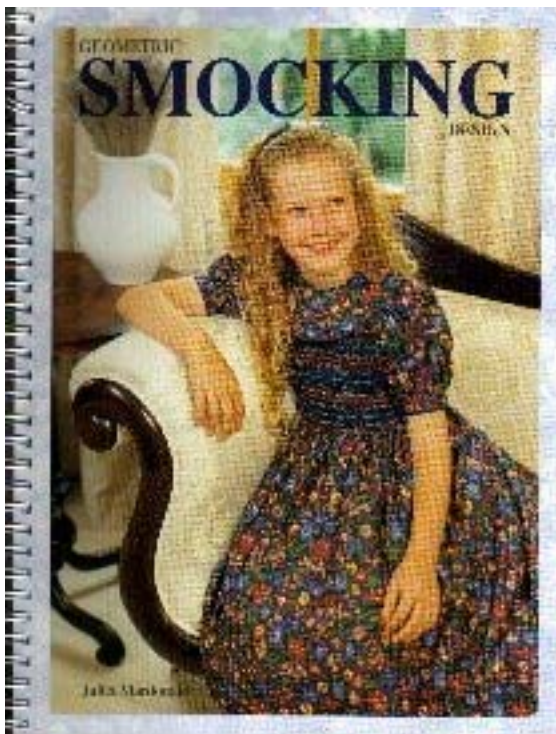
Blue & Green Plaid



Linda Richards © 2002

Plaid designs are easy to create just by using two rows of smocking stitches that cross over each other. Smock this design with three strands of DMC floss and add medium sized beads in the open spaces.

BOOK & PATTERN REVIEWS

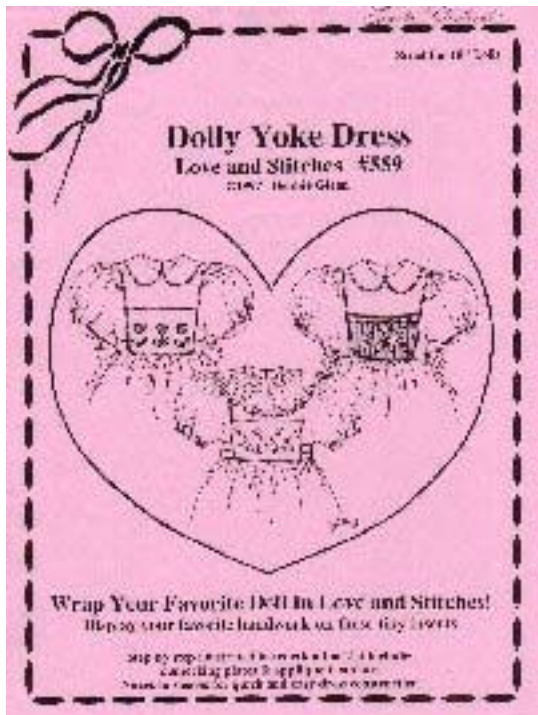


GEOMETRIC SMOCKING DESIGN by Juliet Macdonald (distributed by Fragrant Heirloom, South Africa cost approx \$25.00, reviewed by Linda Richards)

You'll love adding this book to your stitch library! It has 48 smocking designs in it all shown in color and lots of them are smocked on florals, plaids, gingham and checks. Talk about inspiration! The colors are wonderful and the garments are gorgeous.

There are tips on how to choose your colors, ideas for using plain inserts with floral fabric, help with smocking plaids and the best tip ever for smocking with stripes and how to avoid the moiré look on your pleats!

This book is worthy of the investment and I'm sure you'll find yourself referring to it time and time again.



DOLLY YOKE DRESS #559 by Debbie Glenn, from Love and Stitches, sized for 18" dolls (reviewed by Linda Richards)

This has become my all time favorite doll dress pattern! It is so easy to make that you can make several in a day. (I pre-construct and save my smocking for later, kind of like saving the frosting on the cake until last.)

I love the way the sleeves are not actually set in sleeves, they are part of the side panel making construction a breeze. The piping that is added throughout the garment really adds to the elegance of this design.

The pattern is easy to follow with many variations included for appliqué, smocking and embroidery on the bodice. I have even reduced this pattern by 50% to fit a much smaller doll and it was just as easy to make. There is a matching child's size pattern available so that you can make your little

girl and her dolly matching outfits. Don't delay adding this pattern to your collection, it is well worth it.

WEBSITE

I am in the process of upgrading our website and moving it to a new address. Our site gets a lot of traffic and I've been notified that when visits and downloads exceed a certain amount of usage our site is temporarily shut down for short periods of time. If you've had trouble accessing the site in the past this could explain why. I'll notify everyone as soon as all the updates are made and the move is complete. I am creating a page for each member so that your work can be showcased on our site. I'm interested in hearing what kinds of things you as members of Cactus Cablers want to see on our website. Please give me some ideas. I really would like to have some input from all of you! Also, I need photographs from each of you of things you have made. These can be pictures from the past and yes, they can be of your lovely children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends wearing your things. SOOOOOO!!!! If you want the world to be able to see your beautiful work, it will be up to you to get some pictures to me!

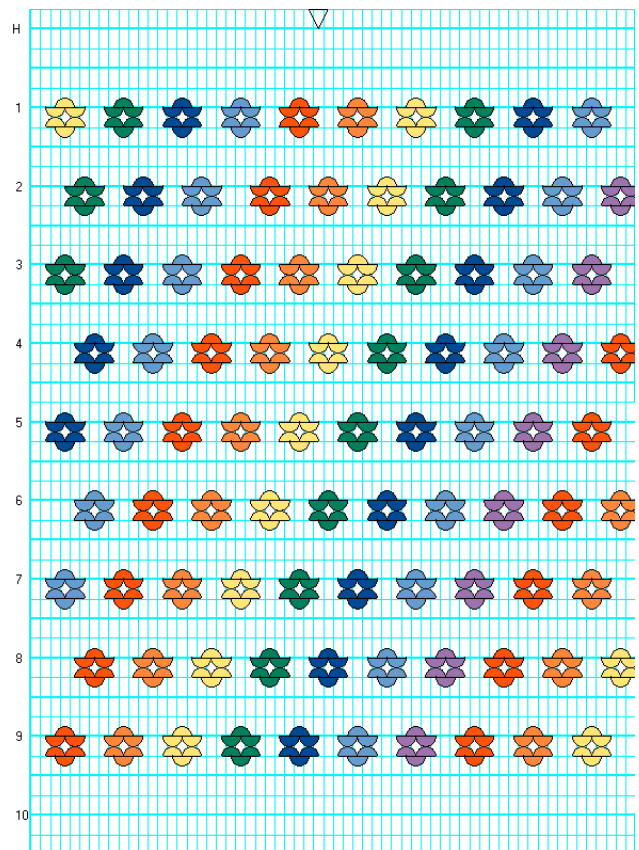
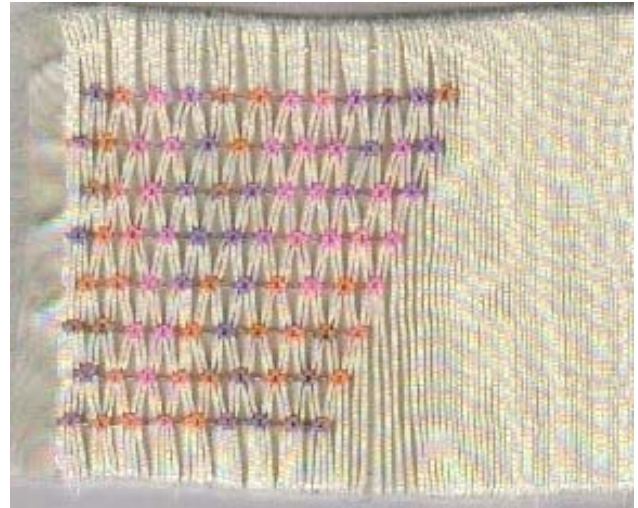
SAGA WEBSITE

If you are online and you haven't gone to the SAGA website you're missing out on a real treat also with your membership you can enter the Members Only section and have access to special areas and tips and other things.



FEATURED STITCH

The "Stitch of the Month" for February is the **Diagonal Cable Flowerette**



Featured Stitch, cont'd

Begin at the lower left of your pleated piece on the last smocking row. Use three strands of floss and smock the lower half of the flowerette first - **up cable, down cable, up cable** - pass the needle through the pleats back to the first pleat and finish the flowerette with a **down cable, up cable, down cable**. Carry the thread on the surface of the fabric in the valley of the last two pleats used and move up your desired spacing. Using the previous last two pleats used, continue making flowerettes as described above. Remember that you will be moving on the diagonal to create this design. This is gorgeous smocked with overdyed floss giving a beautiful flow of colors or choose the colors of the rainbow to a vivid design. To see a garment smocked with this technique check out Australian Smocking and Embroidery, Winter 1994, issue #29.

Cactus Cablers' Smocking Guild
c/o Linda Richards

e-mail: cactuscablers@yahoo.com

website: www.geocities.com/ladida_50/CactusCablers.html



REPRINT INFORMATION: Any non-profit needlework organization has permission to reprint any original material contained in this newsletter. Proper credit must be given to the author and chapter. If you are reprinting an article from another chapter, please give credit to all chapters involved in passing along the information. Please forward a copy of the publication containing the reprinted material to **Cactus Cablers**. Thank you.