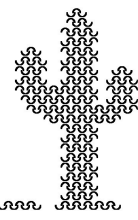


CACTUS CABLERS



Summer/Fall, 2004

E-NEWSLETTER

Vol. 16, No. 3

Letter from the President



After a long hot summer, my thoughts are of a **Magical Place**. I want to share with you a poem written by my granddaughter in 1996.

It was published in "An Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans". She is now 22 and her thoughts are still fresh and wonderful. Our youth want world peace.

Jacki

The Magical Place

This is a magical place
Where I sit alone without a sad face
Where colors don't know the meaning of race
Where cats and dogs all get along
And you can hear the anthem our nation's song
And see all children having fun
And feel the blaze of the hot yellow sun
And somewhere your problems all go away
And sometimes your thoughts have nothing to say
And somebody somewhere always feels peace
Where they sit all alone in this magical place
I pretend I'm a princess in a faraway land
Where equalness of people is every bit grand
Here the wind whispers words of joy
Making you laugh like a child with a toy
What you wear means nothing to me
It's what you are and what you can be
So be kind to every human in this race
While you sit alone in this magical place

Kristin Schmidt, Age 13

In This Issue

Programs

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Sit & Stitch

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A Tuck in Time

Smocking Plates – "Miniature Counterchange Basket" and "Strawberries for Martha"

Free Stuff

Book Review



Needle-Lace Buttons
(see book review on last page)

PROGRAMS

September 15th - One Stroke Painting – Linda Komo

Linda has a wonderful new technique for us. We will be learning how to take a stacked cable smocking plate design and create a pattern to transfer that design to fabric with paints and markers. We will end up with fabric that coordinates with our smocking. How cool is that?!!

October 20th – Shadow Embroidery – Marion Deniston

Marion has agreed to teach us Shadow Embroidery. This is a gorgeous embroidery technique that adds something very special to any garment on which it is used.

November 17th – Doll Judy – Gail Bastian

Many of you have seen Jacki and Terri bring their beautiful little doll dresses for show & share on a doll dress form or “judy”. It is a special

way to display these beautiful little dresses. Gail will be walking us through making one of these forms.

December - ?? Holiday Party

Can you believe it is that time again?! Pat Allen has a fun even planned for us all at the party, so make sure you attend and don't miss out!

Ideas about where to have the party?

January 19th – SAGA Trunk Show

We usually start the year with our first meeting featuring the SAGA Trunk Show and viewing the work from our smocking friends across the country. No one has to prepare anything, just come and be inspired!!



Refreshments

September 15th – Phyllis
Kruppa & Kathy
Kromoski

October 20th – Terri
Kilgore & Jacki Spatafore

November 17th - ???

January 19th - ???

Sit & Stitch (aka Stitch & Bitch!)

October 5th - Linda
Richards

November 2nd - Phyllis
Kruppa

We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. unless otherwise announced. **We are now focusing on Wee Care? gowns at each Sit & Stitch.**

Bring a salad or dessert to share for lunch. The hostess will provide the beverages. Please call (or e-mail) the hostess if you are planning to attend – if you don't, you might not have a chair! If you need directions to any of the homes for the next meetings, get in touch with the hostess.

**Ongoing
Community
Service Projects**

UMC, TMC & St. Joseph's - Wee Care? gowns in three sizes, hooded blankets & knitted caps

Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind - "Joanie doll" and quilts

The year is winding down but we still have commitments that need to be met. Please try to attend the Sit & Stitch each month so that you can help us keep up with our community service projects!

**2004 Raffle Doll
"Jill"**

The raffle is well underway and *Jill* is getting a quite nice wardrobe. But like any young lady, she can never have too many clothes! You have a few more weeks left to get your outfits made. They need to be turned in preferably by the November meeting but must be turned it at the Christmas party.



"Jill"

A pattern was published in the last newsletter but you can use any pattern for the American Girl dolls. Jill is a little thinner but they fit OK.

There are two smocking designs in this issue that are suitable for doll clothing.

How Much do I need for an Insert?				
Size	# of Pleating Rows	# of Smocking Rows	Depth of Insert	Width of Insert
6 mos.	10	8	4 ¼	36
1	10	8	4 ¼	36
2	10	8	4 ½	38
3	10	8	4 ½	40
4	11	9	4 7/8	45
5	12	10	5	45
6	13	11	5 ½	45
7	14	12	5 ¾	45
8	14	12	5 ¾	45
10	15	13	5 ¾	45
12	15	13	6 3/8	45

A Tuck in Time

By Barbara Meger

Reprinted from - Chesapeake Treasures Chapter
Volume X, Issue 5; July/August 2004

Has this happened to you? You let down that deep hem in your daughter's favorite smocked dress only to find you cannot get rid of THE LINE where the old hem was creased. Carolyn McGarvie offered some good solutions in the March/April 1987 issue of *The Smocking Arts*, but I would like to share with you what I call my "tuck in time". The beauty of this method is that all the camouflage work is done while the dress is under construction--that means while the matching bobbin thread is still in the sewing machine!

In its most simplified form, a "tuck in time" is a line of machine stitching applied near the bottom of the skirt after the hem is turned up. When the hem is let down, what was the crease of the old hem becomes the bottom of a tuck and the extra needed length extends below.

However, a single tuck like this looks rather lonely. Let's plan and construct a more decorative version where one or more tucks are added during construction above the "tuck in time" to achieve a more balanced look. We must plan the tucks before we tear off the skirt lengths. For example, if our skirt length is 26 inches (this includes a 6 inch hem) we need to add extra fabric for each additional decorative tuck. These tucks can be any depth; my favorite size is the width of the sewing machine pressure foot. Since each tuck requires twice the amount of fabric as its finished depth, let's use 1/2 inch tucks to make the math easier. This means we need to allow one inch of fabric for each tuck. To our original 26 inches of skirt we will add 2 inches for two 1/2 inch tucks for a total of 28 inches. The "tuck in time" doesn't require any extra fabric.

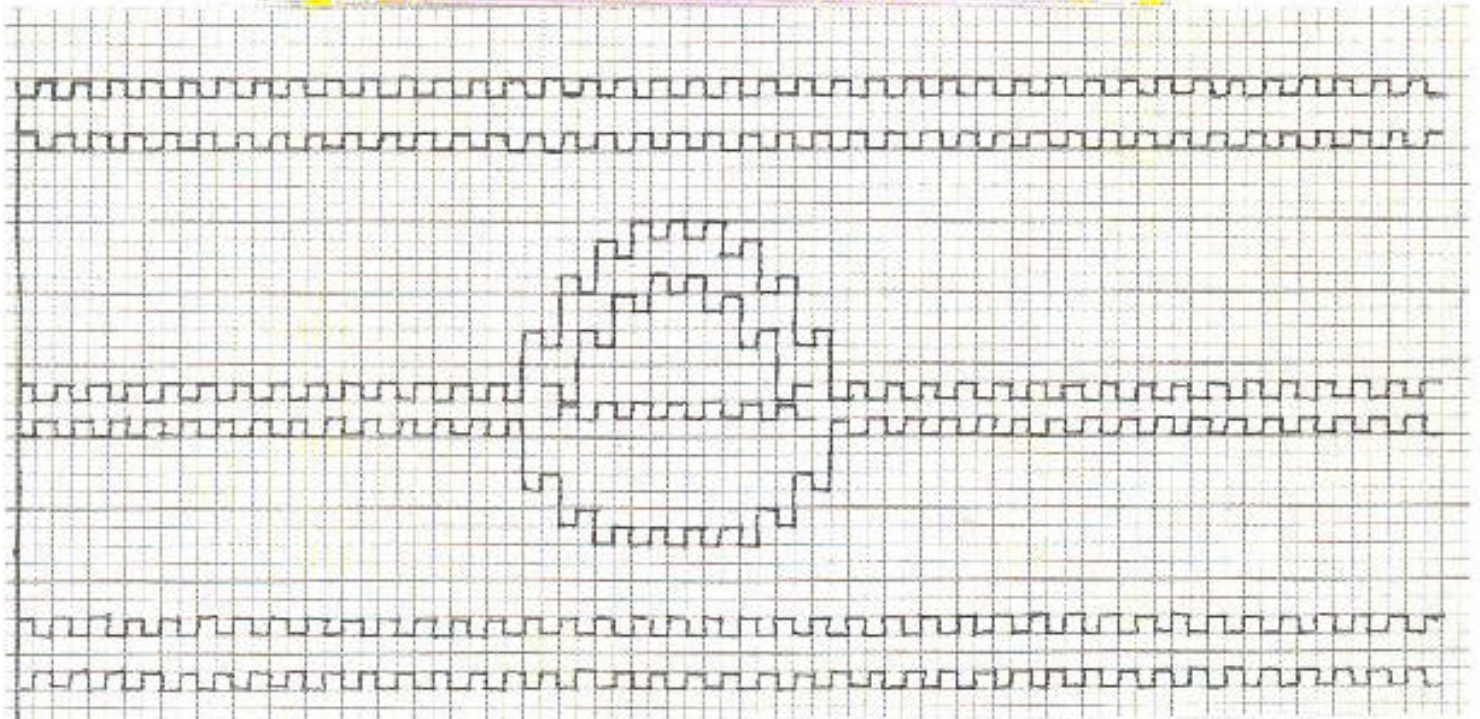
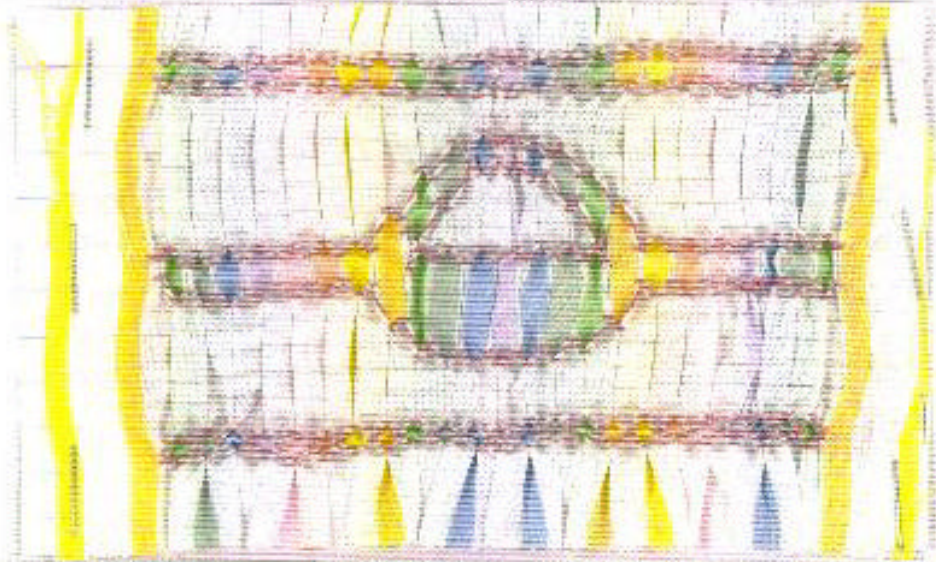
We take our tucks after the side seams are sewn, but before the hem is turned up. You may space these tucks however you like, but they should have some relation to the final "tuck in time". For our example we will first turn up the lower fabric edge 10 inches to the inside and press well. Pin securely and stitch 1/2 inch from the fold. Open out the turned-under fabric and press the tuck down. Now turn up the lower fabric edge 8 inches to the inside and repeat the procedure used for the first tuck.

We are now ready to do our "tuck in time". Our skirt length should now measure 26 inches, and we will turn up the 6 inches originally planned for our hem. Again, we press it well and stitch 1/2 inch from the fold. This time, however, we do NOT press the fabric down away from the stitching. We leave those 6 inches turned and blind hem after finishing the raw edge. Six months from now we will be able to lower our deep hem and not have to worry about the tell-tale LINE, because it is part of our "tuck in time".

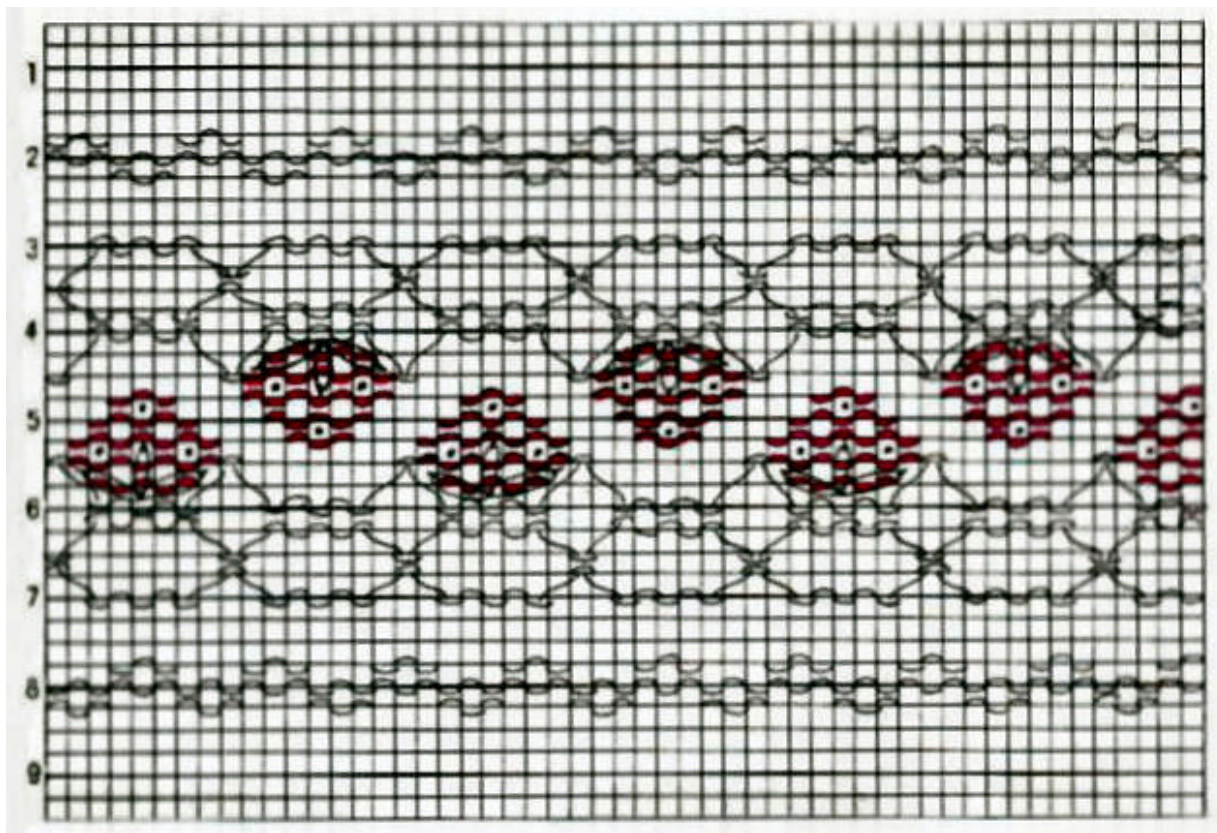
COUNTERCHANGE SMOCKING PLATE by Terri Kilgore

This is a design and plate that Terri contributed a few years ago. Since we will have counterchange again as a program in the near future, I thought it was appropriate to resurrect Terri's basket design.

You will need to use a 1/8" striped fabric and mark your grid off in 1/8" increments.



Strawberries for Martha



DMC colors 954, 913, 962, 304, 310

©1994 Linda Richards



1. Pleat 9 rows. Do not smock on first and last rows.

2. Cable across row 2 beginning with an **up** cable with 954.

3. Cable across row 8 beginning with a **down** cable with 954.

4. Cable three above and below rows 2 and 8 as per graph with 962.

5. Work $\frac{1}{4}$ step wave cable 5 combination between rows (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2) and rows (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 5) with 954.

6. Work mirror image between rows 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 and 5 and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ with 954.

7. Repeat step 5 between rows 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 with 954.

8. **Strawberries:** stack cables according to graph with 304, add black **French knots** for seeds and **lazy daisy leaves** in 913 for strawberry caps. This is a small design that was designed for a doll dress.

I STILL Need Your Help!!

This time I am asking for an assistant!

As I said before it takes a great deal of time and effort to put the newsletter together. I have been doing this for our group single handedly for the past 19 years!!!!!!!!!! I find I just don't have the same amount of time to devote to doing the newsletter as I once had.

I need one or two of you to volunteer to help me publish the newsletter. I know many of you have computer skills and are very capable of working on the newsletter. I will still help with content and many other things but I need someone else to take over compiling it and typing it. Please consider helping with this project. Our newsletter is read and enjoyed by many women across the country ~ not just our little group!! We get lots of feedback and compliments on the projects that you share with the smocking world!

The next newsletter is due to be published in January so there is plenty of time

Free Projects

Hearts and Roses Bow Pillow

More free projects are available to you if you are willing to surf on over to Martha Pullen's site:

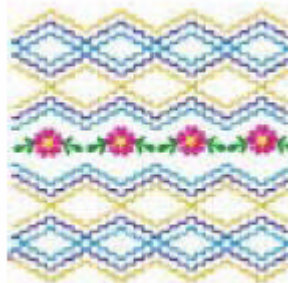


<http://www.marthapullen.com>

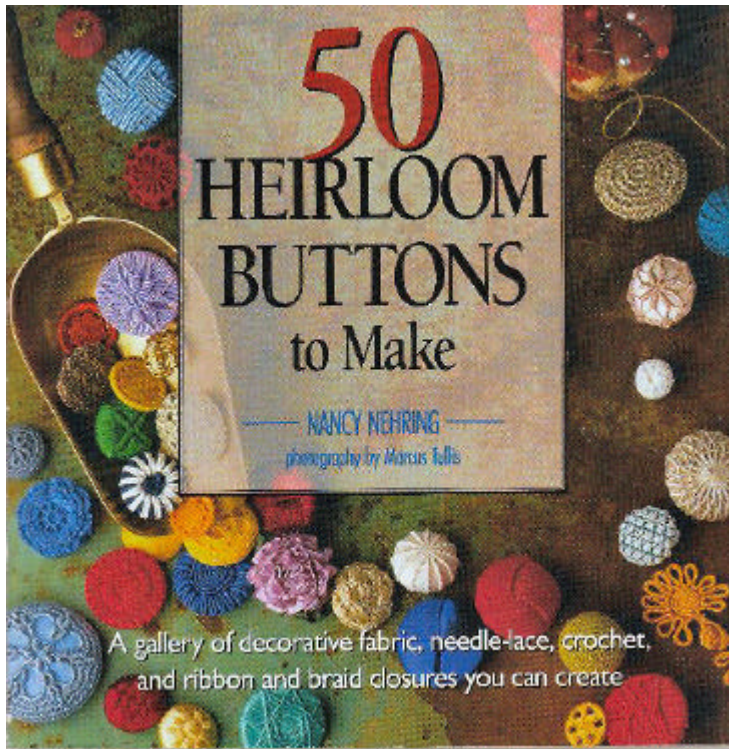
You can now find instructions for a picture frame and a linen placemat purse. I guess there are no excuses for not having the inspiration or instructions for a great project!

FLOSSIE SMOCKER SAYS....reprinted from *Pleater Platter*, Palmetto Pleaters Chapter, Greenville, SC ; Vol. 3, Issue 12, July 2004

Now y'all, am I the only one with needles floatin' around loose all over my house? Why, the other day my toe kept hurtin' and hurtin', so I thought maybe there was a nasty ol' spider in my bedroom slipper nibblin' on me, but when I took it off and 'xamined it, I found an innocent little ol' needle hidin' in there! Now, that's the absolute truth! I'll have to admit I was just a tad bit embarrassed when that happened 'cause my mama always did tell me to put things back in their proper places when I finished usin' 'em, but I just can't seem to keep up with those precious little ol' needles. Maybe it's 'cause I use them in so many places at so many different times. Do you reckon that might be the case? I surely do need some assurance that I'm actually capable of keepin' up with something as small as a needle! But then, I guess I needn't worry, 'cause my cousin Floche told me that she's always stickin' needles in the arms of her favorite chair and that sometimes her sweet little ol' hubby "finds" them accidentally for her when they get pressed down too far into the chair arms. Well, he shouldn't be sittin' in her chair anyway, don't you know? No matter, I'm tryin' to turn over a new leaf and be a little more careful with my needles these days. Now I limit myself to puttin' them in my collar or in a corner of whatever I'm workin' on, but there's always that time when the phone is ringin' and someone is at the front door sitting on that awful ol' doorbell while I'm tryin' to end a stitch and put my needle where I'll be able to find it when I come back. After I almost choked on one when I had a terrible cough, I decided not to just stick needles in the corner of my mouth for safe keepin' any more. That seemed to be the sensible thing to do, don't you know? That surely was a handy location, though. I guess everything just comes with a price! Anyway, one of those sweet ladies from another chapter was tellin' me that I really did need to think about what I did with my needles, especially the old ones I relegate to the trash can. I nevah evah would have thought of this, but she said that those innocent little ol' needles could cause those poor dear sanitation engineers absolutely worlds of trouble, 'cause if they pick up a bag with a stray needle sticking out, they could get stuck and even bleed, for goodness sake! Now can you just imagine how that would feel? And they certainly can't examine everything they pick up to see if there are needles stickin' out ready to jab them in some awful place! My friend had really thought this thing out, though, and she said that she was goin' to always put her old needles in a labeled container, maybe something like an old plastic film canister, so they couldn't hurt a soul! Now wasn't that just the most thoughtful thing you evah heard? I 'preciate her sharin' that thoughtful ideah with me, and I'm definitely goin' to start bein' more careful about where I put those sweet little ol' departed needles. Now you think about it, and you may want to take her advice, too! My, my, isn't it good to have so many smart people in this little ol' world. What one of us doesn't think of, the other one does!



50 Heirloom Buttons to Make: A Gallery of Decorative Fabric, Needle-Lace, Crochet, and Ribbon and Braid Closures You Can Create



I added this book to my collection a few years ago and I just love it! I only wish I could sit down and take the time to make a sample of each and everyone of the 50 buttons.
Linda

**Review from the Publisher
\$19.95**

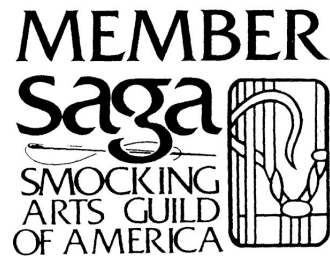
Buttons can add a most distinctive touch to a garment. And whether you sew or not, here are a host of beautiful buttons that you can easily learn to make, no matter what your experience or skill level. Featured in this beautifully photographed book are dozens of buttons, many inspired by vintage and antique designs. You'll find techniques for delicate needle-lace buttons, elegant frog closures, Victorian crocheted buttons, braid buttons, and fabric and ribbon buttons.

www.barnesandnoble.com

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