

CACTUS CABLERS OF TUCSON, AZ

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My letter will encourage you all to continue to be "creative in smocking" even when our daughters and granddaughters grow into teenagers and adults. There are no boundaries. I can look at anything and visualize smocking. I recently saw a sunburst on a blouse. It

intrigued me. Ever since then I have been trying to figure out how to pleat a blouse with no insert and smock a sunburst. I finally figured it out. However, I just have not had time to make one, yet; but I will!

Recently, my two granddaughters, 15 and 19, were shopping in the mall. They saw a dress on a girl who was walking toward them. Being my granddaughters, they knew the dress was shirred and strapless. As soon as they left the mall, they came over to my house. They described the dress to me. They each wanted one but they wanted their dresses smocked. "Can you create one, Grandma?" Of course, I couldn't resist the challenge nor did I want to disappoint my granddaughters. It was an all in one-piece smocked dress with pleating past the waist. The smocking held the bodice in place. I

made the first two dresses and both girls had a little difficulty with the strapless bodice. They had to keep pulling it up. Amy decided to add ribbon straps to her dress, which helped solve the problem. Maria decided to keep her dress strapless. I realized that I could improve the original design. I decided to try to add darts and see if I could get a better fit. The first two dresses seemed to be styled more for a younger girl. I made two new dresses and added the darts. Without darts, the waist rises and with the darts, the dress does not rise. The dresses fit better and there was no longer a problem with the dresses slipping down.

My smocking interests have changed. Now that my granddaughters are older, I have turned to constructing and smocking for teenagers and adults. As all of you know there isn't as much out there for these age groups. So, you can see now that I have a continuing challenge. I am looking forward to "growing" with all of these challenges. Keep on creating and smocking. Terri



EDITORIAL

I did not start sewing with a machine until I was 36 and that was after I had my 4th child and 3rd girl. I went out to buy three Easter dresses and guess what, they were so expensive. My first machine was an old Kenmore from a great Aunt who had passed away. I couldn't get enough of sewing. I was hooked. In those first days, I just sewed clothing and some home decorating items like curtains and bedspreads. Then I just wanted to sew everything. I was definitely hooked.

A friend of mine tried to get me into quilting. I resisted for a while because I knew I was going to love it and, of course, I got hooked on that too. I joined a quilt guild and learned so much from some very talented women.

I have been embroidering since I was 22. I am now 59. I could not get enough of it. I knew very few people over the years who even knew what embroidery was much less did it. I got interested in smocking and found Cactus Cablers of Tucson on line. I think you know the rest of the story; I'm hooked again!

I have been fortunate to become a member of the most talented and knowledgeable group of women. It does seem that our art is fast becoming a lost art; but, then I go to my meetings and I read all the smocking and heirloom sewing magazines. I am not alone. We all love this art. It will always be my first love (not really before my hubby) and I can keep on learning.


Keep on smocking. You are not alone.



LUNCH TIME

We are changing our lunchtime system in February. Because we always have an over abundance of food, we would be best served by utilizing the Alphabet System. It will be an alternating system. So in February it will be those ladies whose last names begin with N - Z. No need to call anybody about who

is fixing what. We will still be doing Pot Luck. It has never failed us yet.

Paulette Claver  is now our lunchbox angel. She will send out a reminder notice several days before each meeting.

The Sit 'n Stitch meetings will still use the old system. Each attendee brings either a salad or a dessert. The hostess supplies the beverages.



2007 DOLL RAFFLE

Wow!! Our 2007 Doll Raffle was a huge success. We made more money than ever before. Final accounting was \$1,404.16. Thank you ladies, all of you, for all of your hard work. It really paid off this year. No pun intended.

The winner of our 2007 Doll - "Jill" was Kay Read. Kay works in Medical Records at TMC. She was very excited when she found out that she won the doll. Now, she has to decide whom to give it too. She has several nieces but which one to give it to remains the big question.



Kay Read our 2007 Doll Winner

NOTE: As of this writing, Kay Read has been missing since last week. Kay is disabled. She had polio and now must use a wheelchair and crutches - both were still in her home. Her car was found and it had been set on fire. Please pray for Kay and her family. Her family is so worried about her.



MONTHLY

MEETINGS/PROGRAMS/SIT 'N STITCHES

The following is a list of the 2008 dates of our monthly meetings with programs and our Sit 'n Stitches. Our monthly meeting is always on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The meeting is always held at St. Jude's Anglican Church at 8245 E. Seneca. The cross streets closest are Pantano Rd/Wrightstown Rd. - phone 296-5570. A few days before each meeting you will get an e-mail reminder from Linda Richards. She will remind us of the program. She will also let us know what supplies are needed for the program. If she doesn't inform us of the supplies, the teacher will e-mail us with a list. Our Sit 'n Stitch, affectionately known as our Stitch 'n Bitch, is always at the home of a volunteer. Linda Richards sends an email reminder as to who our

hostess is and where she lives. Please RSVP the hostess so she will know how many guests to expect. You can call or email the hostess for directions to her home or you can use Mapquest.

MONTHLY MEETINGS/PROGRAMS & SIT N STITCH

FEBRUARY 4TH - Sit 'n Stitch - Linda Salazar

FEBRUARY 20TH - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM: 2008 WORKSHOP - Bring whatever you are working on, especially those items with which you are having difficulty.

MARCH 3RD - Sit 'n Stitch - Paulette Claver

MARCH 19TH - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM - 2008 WORKSHOP - Final wrap up! All raffle items and donations, goody bag stuff, doll dresses, table favors etc. must all be accounted for and finished by this meeting or at this meeting. There are now only 16 days left for food preparation and other set-up and organization needs. We're almost finished!

APRIL - No Sit 'n Stitch

APRIL 16TH - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM: EVALUATION OF WORKSHOP -

MAY 5TH - Sit 'n Stitch - Patty Grabher

MAY 21ST - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM: Hanky Program Part I with Paulette Claver

Ugly Fabric Handout

JUNE 2ND - Sit 'n Stitch - Judy Reagan

JUNE 18TH - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM - Hanky Program Part II with Paulette Claver

JULY 7TH - Sit 'n Stitch - Joline Albaugh

JULY 16TH - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM: Catch up on Stitch Game

AUGUST - VACATION - NO SIT 'N STITCH & NO MEETING

SEPTEMBER 8TH - Sit 'n Stitch - Linda Salazar

SEPTEMBER 17TH - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM: Darts in Smocking by Terry Kilgore and Ugly fabric projects.

OCTOBER 6TH - Sit 'n Stitch - Linda Richards

OCTOBER 15TH - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM: Button Embellishment - Patty Grabher

NOVEMBER 3RD - Sit 'n Stitch - Betty Olson

NOVEMBER 19TH - MONTHLY MEETING

PROGRAM: Smocked Birdhouse - Linda Richards

DECEMBER - NO SIT 'N STITCH & NO MEETING

DATE OF XMAS PARTY TO BE ANNOUNCED



FAVORITE RECIPES

This month our recipe comes from the kitchen of Linda Richards.

Cinnamon Scones:

1/3 cup of sugar

2 cups flour

1 tbsp baking powder

1/3 tsp salt

1/2-cup butter

2/3 cup milk

1 egg, beaten

1 tsp vanilla

****1 cup Cinnamon chips**

Coarse sugar

Pre heat oven to 400°. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Using a pastry blender or fork, cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs (I use my food processor). Combine milk, egg and vanilla in a separate bowl. Add liquids to flour mixture and stir until ingredients are moistened.

Stir in cinnamon chips with a spatula and use two spoons to scoop the batter into the scone sections (spray them with Pam first.) Then sprinkle the tops with some course sugar and bake at 400 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Turn them out of the pan after cooling for about 10 minutes.

******You can sometimes find Hershey's cinnamon chips in the grocery stores along side the chocolate chips. You can also order them from www.kingarthurfLOUR.com which is what I did the last time I needed them.

Variations:

Orange Cinnamon Scones: Add 1 T. grated orange peel to dry ingredients.

Gingerbread Scones: Add 1 tsp ginger to dry ingredients and 2 T. molasses to liquid ingredients.

Enjoy with a good cup of hot tea!!



LET'S DO TEA

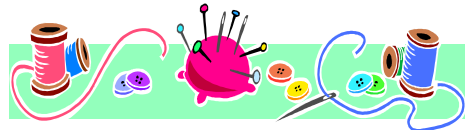
Phyllis Kroupa is our "Tea Lady". She will be arranging our teas at local teahouses as she did last year. She will email us with choices of dates at a particular location. Then we need to RSVP as soon as possible. We had a wonderful time last year. Y'all come!!



2008 STATE WORKSHOP

It is our turn to host the Arizona State Workshop this spring on April 5th. We are so excited! We have all been working very hard to make it our best. The theme this year is "Tea with Dolly and Me". We have many surprises and wonderful raffle items. We have an embroidered doll quilt (twin bed or throw size) which was a group effort and it is

gorgeous. We also have three 9" inch porcelain dolls with handmade trunks and clothing. Those are just a few of our raffle items. This year Terry Kilgore will teach Spanish Smocking and Linda Richards will teach Beaded Smocking. We have guests from around the state planning to attend along with our SAGA Region Rep, Joanne Paine.



SEWING GLITCHES & TIPS

Reprinted from Cactus Cablers Newsletter Winter, 2001.

Doll Patterns of Every Size

I will bet that you didn't know that you already own an entire collection of doll patterns and these are patterns that match your favorite little girl's clothes!!

Thanks to a wonderful tip **Suzanne Coulter** (CC member from several years

ago) picked up from the president of the Tucson Doll Club, you can now create your own patterns. You will need access to a copy machine and depending on the size of your doll, you might need to do a little math, but you will never need to buy another special pattern again or even try to duplicate something by using other patterns!



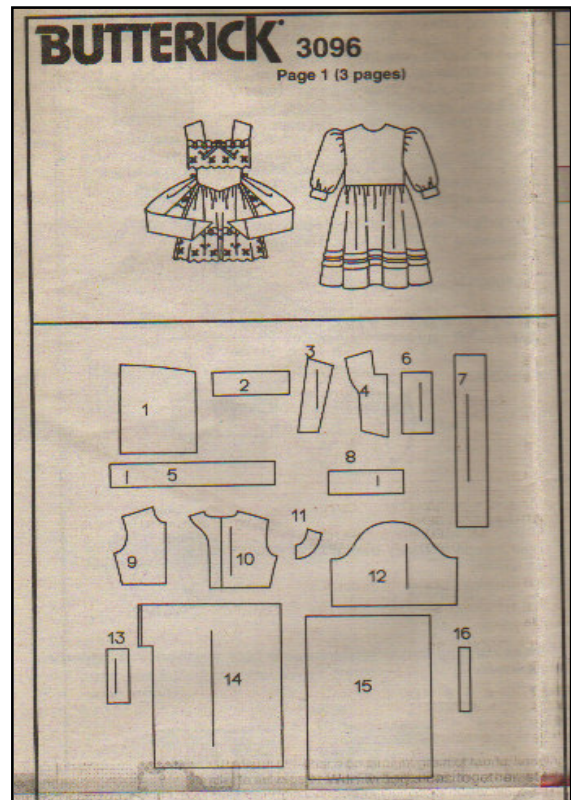
Every commercial pattern comes with a sheet of instructions and layout guide. On that guide is a scaled drawing of each pattern piece. Do the following to get a perfect pattern for a 14" doll.

1. Photocopy the drawing of the pattern pieces at 200%.
2. Take that enlargement and photocopy it **again** at 200%.
3. You now have a pattern that will fit your 14" dolls perfectly. As always, though, check necklines, armholes, sleeve lengths, etc. for your individual doll.
4. Use ¼" seams to construct your garment from your new pattern! It's so easy!!

Here's where the little bit of math may come in, if you have a doll that is larger or smaller than 14" you can still make a pattern by following these instructions.

1. For a **larger doll** – divide the larger number (size of larger doll, example 18") by the smaller number (14" pattern you have just created). The resulting number is the new number for setting the photocopy machine to make a larger pattern. **Example: $18 \div 14 = 1.285$** **Round the number up and set the copier to enlarge 130%** (or you can select 128% if your copier has infinite settings). Copy the pattern pieces you made for the 14" doll again at the new setting and you will have a new pattern for an 18" doll. Again, check necklines, armholes etc.
2. For a **smaller doll** divide the smaller number (size of smaller doll, example 10") by the larger number (14" pattern you have just created). The resulting

number is the new number to set the photocopy machine by to make a smaller pattern. **Example: $10 \div 14 = .714$** **Round the number down and set the copier to print at 70%** (or 71% if your copier has infinite settings). Copy the pattern pieces you made for the 14" doll again at the new setting and you will have a new pattern for a 10" doll. **Always** check necklines, armholes etc.



You can use this same formula for enlarging or reducing patterns for any doll pattern you currently own to make it fit other dolls. I have taken a pattern for an 18" doll and enlarged it to fit a 29" doll and it worked beautifully.