

## June/July

### Letter from the Editor

Memorial Day officially ushers in the summer season. The kids are out of school and with those vacation plans to the beach or mountains, or perhaps a family or friends' wedding, come plans for that summer sewing project. Lori Popelka, our June guest, has shared her techniques for a smocked collar. As she says, there is nothing more practical than a collar that can be used on several dresses, (and on several siblings!). Thank you, Lori, for your inspiration for a take-along sewing project. You might during the summer, even get collars made for several occasions in the coming year!

Summer for us at Bear Threads, Ltd will be a busy one. By the time you read this the bears will have moved into their new den. But certainly not hibernating!!! PLEASE, as you read this make note of our new address:

288 Hedden Street  
Atlanta, GA 30342

The phone and fax are the same.

Our spring cleaning yielded some surprise finds, so we will have lots of 'odds and ends' at the Birmingham market and with us on our sales trips later in the summer. Oh! And for those who saw the new 'Baby Dimity' fabric last winter, but missed out because our quantities were so limited.....it is now in stock in White. Baby Pink and Blue will follow in September. Do get your orders in early, because we anticipate another sellout on this adorable old fashioned fabric.

Wherever you travel we leave you with the following:

"The sewing machine joins what the scissors have cut asunder, plus whatever else comes in its' path". Mason Cooley

Sheila Nicol

### **BI – DIRECTIONAL BEADING**

Today's fashion rules are quite different from decades ago; different even than five years ago!! Today we mix together colors that in the past would have been unthinkable. Pinks and purples marry daily. Blues and oranges, yellows and oranges, greens and blues – it seems the brighter and bolder the better. We mix prints with stripes and dots. We even mix textures. But do you ever feel uncomfortable that your garment has no common thread (O.K., I couldn't resist that one!)? Let's explore ribbons.

Ribbons are useful and decorative fabrics that are almost infinite in their variety, texture, and manufactured from every kind of fabric from velvet and satin to synthetics. Ribbons appeared when civilizations began crafting fabrics. They are among the oldest decorative materials. People have always looked for ways to personalize their clothing and household goods. When all textiles were handmade, items with the finest threads were the most expensive. But the simplest, most coarse textiles in plain colors could be made

more elegant and individual with a bit of ribbon as decoration. The modern ribbon with selvages (finished edges) came into being by 1500. Ribbons were so identified with luxury that, during the sixteenth century, the English Parliament tried to make the wearing of ribbons a right of only the nobility. They were also identified with certain orders of merit; the Knights of the Garter wear broad blue sashes to this day, and the Knights of Bath wear red.

By the seventeenth century, ribbons stormed the fashion world. Both men's and women's clothing of this period were extravagant, and every accessory from gloves to bonnets was festooned with ribbons in many forms.

Today ribbons are incorporated into clothing as adornments as well as functionality. Here we will show pictures of how to 'tie' garment colors together with our Bi-Directional Beading (E-15). This item comes in White, Ivory and Ecrú and carries 1/8" ribbon. The ribbon is woven in a whipping fashion. You can use one or two ribbons as seen in the photo. We also stock the ribbon in every color imaginable. Perhaps you would like to send a sample of your print for us to match some colors of ribbon. We are offering a special this month on this beading of 10% off. Use your imagination to decorate your next garment with this bi-directional beading. Enjoy!





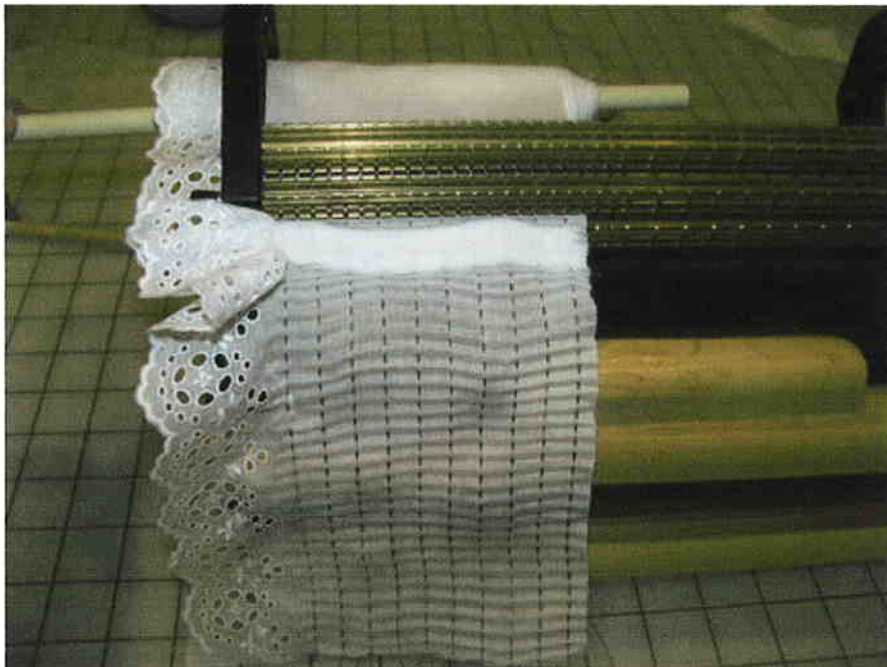
Sheila T. Nicol

## Smocked Detachable Collar

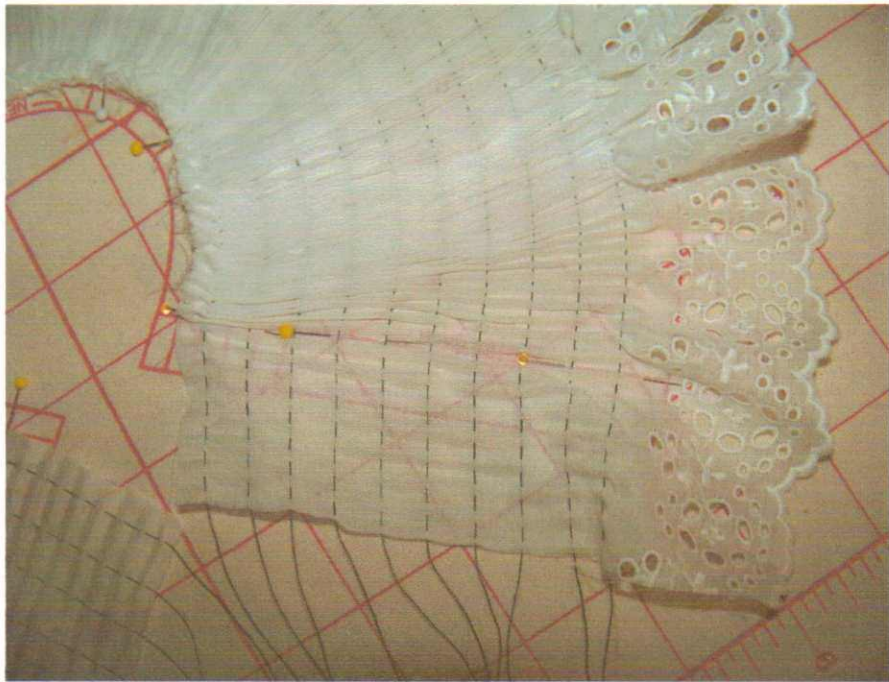
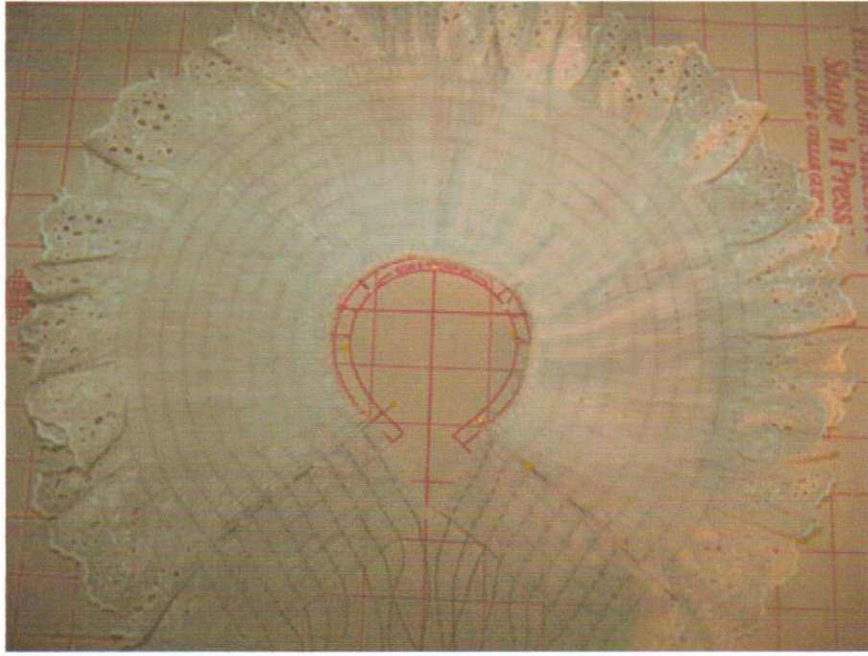


There is nothing that is more practical than a detachable collar. You can achieve an heirloom look that can be utilized with many different base garments and at a fraction of the cost. This type of collar works great for girls or boys depending on the Swiss edging that you choose. Making a smocked collar is a relatively simple process. Once you have chosen the edging you will need roughly 2.5 to 3 yards, depending on the fullness that you prefer. Smaller sizes require only 2.5 yards.

Use the plate that you have chosen to smock to determine the number of pleating rows the piece will require. You will need to remove any rough edges at the unembroidered side of the edging. If your edging is wider than you need, remove any excess fabric. It is important that when pleating, that the embroidered area does not go through the pleater. It will break needles.



Block the collar into a circular shape using your neck guide for reference. You may also use the garment neck measurements to get this. Leave enough un-pleated edging at center back to be able to fold the design repeat equally into your back lap for your buttons or beauty pins to go. Tie off the pleats to this size.





Back smock the first holding row to use as your sewing guide for construction. Continue smocking the front.

**Bias neck biding:** It is important when determining the length of the bias strip, that you make the collar slightly smaller than the garment neck. This will prevent the garment from showing at the top of the collar. You may want to place some strategic snaps to hold the collar in place once completed. If you are constructing the garment separately, you may make the neck seam allowance 1/8" larger than the pattern requires. This will allow you to use the seam allowance measurement, plus enough to turn back at the edges, for your bias strip. If you are using a finished garment, measure the finished neck edge and take 1/4" away, but make sure you have enough at the ends to turn back and finish the center back and lap.

Press the bias strip into a curved piece before stitching onto the collar. Sew right sides together on the back-smocked stitches. This provides a straight line for stitching. Stitch again 1/8" to the inside of the collar by moving your needle position. Trim to the first stitching line, at the back-smocked row. Turn and hem stitch the bias strip tightly into place.

Place buttonholes if using buttons. Otherwise your collar is complete and ready to enjoy.

By Lori Popelka

### **Bear Threads Version of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'**

*We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience our move may have caused you. The bears are very happy in their new home, but we know what Goldilocks felt like. Some things did not fit just right, some were too big, some too small, some computers did not like their*

*new home, others did. At any rate, the June newsletter is in your hands, and the July should be out in the next week.*