

Bear in Mind

An electronic newsletter from Bear Threads Ltd.

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From The Editor –

I know time flies, and I have *heard* that it seems more pronounced the older you are!! But Jonquils blooming in Atlanta in January is a bit much. And my tulips are not far behind. I only hate to see this happening because I know that we will get a freeze for sure, and then be denied our spring flowers. What a pity.....Guess we should just start embroidering flowers on our Easter dresses not to miss out!

I am delighted to welcome back Cheryl Davidson from *A Frayed Knot* and *B&B Blueprints at A Frayed Knot*. She has a wonderful talent for design, and her workmanship is impeccable. What I find most refreshing about her designs is the ability to take what would be a tailored look and make it feminine and sweet at the same time! Thanks again, Cheryl, for sharing with us this beautiful interpretation of *Emily*.

We are so excited as we near the completion of our new website. Of course it will always be a work in progress as we add new items and photographs. You will find the new site easier to navigate, and you will be able to save items to your wish list, so that you can remember what you were contemplating. AND all of our newsletters will be posted so that you can read them over and over. Watch for an announcement soon!!

During this month of Cupids and hearts, know you are each a special Valentine to us at Bear Threads, and we do appreciate your business. Hugs!

Sheila



Sweethearts are small heart-shaped candies sold around Valentine's Day. Each **conversation heart** is printed with a message such as "Be Mine", "Kiss Me", "Call Me", "Let's Get Busy", and "Miss You". Sweethearts are made by the New England Confectionery Company, or Necco. A similar type of candy is sold in the UK under the name Love Hearts. Necco manufactures nearly 8 billion Sweethearts per year.

The heart-shaped conversation candies to be called Sweethearts got their start in 1901.

In the 1990s, Necco vice-president, Walter Marshall, wanted to update some of the sayings and retire others, including "Call me", "Email me", and "Fax me". The romantic expressions continue to be revised for young Americans. Necco receives hundreds of suggestions a year on new sayings.

Necco produces the hearts from late February through mid-January of the following year. Approximately 100,000 pounds of hearts are made per day, which sells out in about six weeks

Emily: from B & B's Blueprint Co.

By

Cheryl R. Davidson

This little girl's dress pattern ***Emily***, comes with a front yoke that includes a smocked panel insertion down the center yoke.

The re-fashioned design is made using White Swiss Baby Dimity, Swiss insertion and edging instead of the smocked center. The dress is made from the Mint Silky Cotton, and all materials including lace, come from Bear Threads.



Measure down the side seam of the Emily yoke pattern to adjust the pattern for the desired length of your child, or the style you wish.

Start by using the pattern piece marked for the smocked insertion panel to make a pattern for the new design.

Measure the width of this pattern piece, at the widest area, and cut a block of Baby Dimity fabric this measurement plus 3 inches, for insurance.

Fold the Swiss Dimity together length wise to find the center of fabric block and mark. Place and pin the Swiss insertion along this center marked line having right sides together, and straight stitch together. Cut along the marked

center line to separate the insertion/Dimity, from the other half of the dimity. Press the insertion away from dimity, keeping the seams pressed away from insertion and on the Dimity. Attach the second half of dimity to the remaining side of Swiss insertion with right sides together, and stitch.

Press again.

After pressing seams, adjust your machine for pin stitching and sew this stitch down the seam line between the insertion and dimity, along both sides,

Use a hand sewing needle that will accommodate 6 strands of DMC cotton floss and weave through the holes of the pin stitch. This adds just an extra touch of color for the design, and enhances the color of the Swiss insertion.

Use the lines of the dimity fabric as a guide for stitching the tucks. Place 3 tucks along each side of the insertion by folding along line in the fabric. After stitching each tuck, press the tucks away from the center insertion.

Place the center yoke pattern on the fabric block and cut out.

From the mint silky cotton fabric, make enough piping for each side of the center yoke panel, around the waist, and along the belt edges. The seam allowance for the piping should equal the seam measurement of the pattern pieces.

Pin the piping down each side of the center front yoke panel and stitch.

Follow pattern directions on constructing the yoke, and attaching skirt.



Sleeves:

Each sleeve has the matching Swiss embroidery insertion used on the front yoke panel attached down the center using the machine pin stitch. The DMC floss was also woven into the pin stitch to enhance the color of the insertion.

The sleeve edge was gathered to Swiss beading with color coordinating silk satin ribbon woven through the beading. A wide Swiss embroidery edging that coordinates with the insertion was attached to the beading.



Frill:

Instead of using the collar pattern, I substituted a Frill around the neck edge. To make the Frill, you will cut a piece of the Baby Dimity fabric 2 inch wide x 1 ½ the neck measurement for length. Fold the fabric strip right side together and stitch the short end together. Turn the right side out and press. Along the folded edge of the Frill place the shell stitch. I made this stitch by hand, but can be accomplished by using the sewing machine.

Run 2 rows of basting stitches along the unfinished edge of the Frill and use the bobbin thread to slightly gather and fit to the neck edge. Pin to neck edge and straight stitch in place.

Cut a piece of bias 1 ½ in. wide x the neck measurement (*plus 2 in. insurance and to turn under*) from the mint green silky cotton fabric to finish the neck edge. Fold wrong sides together and gently press so as not to stretch the bias. Stitch the cut edge of the bias together to keep the edges even while sewing. Pin the bias along the neck edge and stitch in place.

Tuck at Hem:

The tucks along the hem line are ½ in. wide. Fold the 4 in. hem up so you can measure and mark the placement for the first tuck above the hem line. After folding along the traced tuck line, pressing, and stitching the ½ in. tuck, measure

1½ in. from the stitching line of the first tuck to mark placement of the second tuck. Repeat for the third tuck.

Sew a line of straight stitching along the hem edge ½ inch from the raw edge. Use this as a guide to press up and have a finished edge from which to stitch your hem at the right measurement length.

Belt:

Instead of a sash, I decide for this classic tailored dress design that a belt would give the desired look along the waist line. The belt is self-piped around the outer edge. Hand crochet belt loops were attached to keep belt at waist. Two antique buttons are used to close the belt, and 4 matching antique buttons are down the center back.

*Cheryl R. Davidson
B. & B's Blueprint Co.*

Note: Bear Threads, Ltd Trims used are E-150TR Insertion and E-149TR Edging



History of Valentine's Day

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine.

Over time, February 14 has become the date for exchanging love messages and a celebration of St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers. The date is marked by sending poems and simple gifts, such as flowers, to loved ones and secret loves. By far, flowers are the most popular gift today.

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards in the late 1840's. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.



Pink Bearlin and Pink Bearissima II are the perfect match for color and transparency. This combination is perfect for Madeira work. This simple dress and detachable bib are great for an older girl that wants femininity but not frou-frou.



Simplicity is the key for this Children's Corner toddler dress in our Swiss Lawn. Piped in pink for just a touch of color, the lawn is just crisp enough to hold pleats smartly.





This float dress of Bearissima II features the Swiss tulle insertion with pink rosebuds (E-32). The pink entredeux adds just a touch of additional color. I like the 'yoke' style with interest on the diagonal.



Pink Voile Stripe is the basis for this tucked dress using the stripe in the fabric as a measurement for the tucks. Ecru trims provide a warm look vs. white which offers more contrast. This 'warm' look is very attractive and complimentary on young girls with darker skin tones.





By popular demand the ecru Bearissima is back and here you see a stunning testament to its' regal beauty. This is a version of the Chery Williams 'Wedding Ring' pattern with tucks and a more traditional fancy band in the skirt. Note the extra lace ruffle on the sleeve to add a bit more softness.



Sheila's mother's antique apron is made of white organdy with a beautiful heart and dove applique. Make one for yourself and wear it while cooking dinner for your "Someone Special"



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