

Bear in Mind

An electronic newsletter from Bear Threads Ltd.

Volume 5 – Issue 10

November/December 2013

From The Editor –

I can't believe that this is our last newsletter for the year and the holidays are upon us! We have had a full and fruitful year here at Bear Threads adding many new fabrics, attending numerous trade shows and SAGA convention, and publishing 10 packed issues of our newsletter *Bear in Mind*. Remember you can always go to our website, www.bearthreadsltd.com to view all of the past issues.

Once again welcome Cheryl Davidson from A Frayed Knot and B & B Blueprint Pattern Company. She has an adorable new pattern to be released in spring of 2014, and it has some fresh and wonderful new features. After reading her article, and seeing this adorable little dress, I know you will be ready to order the patterns for your shop. One note: while she says the fabric is 'peach' Dotted Swiss, it really is 'pink'. It is such a yummy light pink it does give the hint of peach, just FYI...

Personally, when I think of the holidays, I think of rich, elegant (and yes, royal) fabrics such as velvet. So I hope you enjoy a little study on Velvet/Velveteen. And, though totally unrelated to needlework, with the magic of Christmas near, I could not resist sharing an old story of the Velveteen Rabbit. I am certain he cared not whether he was made of Velvet or Velveteen!

Happy Thanksgiving and A Merry Christmas to you All, and To All –

Happy Stitching –

Sheila



THANKSGIVING POEM

YOU'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE

As Thanksgiving Day approaches,
Our blessings we recall;
The things we are most thankful for,
We recollect them all.

You are very special,
In all you say and do.
You've made a difference in our lives;
We're thankful now for you.

By Joanna Fuchs



From the Royal Closet
Dressing Your Little Prince



The second is Chery Williams *Baby Romper & Jumpsuit* made of one of our newest Swiss cotton fabrics, an emerald green and white check. It features trains across the bodice - what could be more appropriate for Christmas as we all associate trains, Christmas and little boys!

Happy Holiday Sewing!

Editor's Note: Chery Williams Patterns are now available from Sandra Riley at Thimbles in Hoover, Alabama.

Believe it or not, the Holidays are upon us, and even though our British friends across the pond do not celebrate Thanksgiving, we in America begin the Holiday Season with the packing of the ghosts and goblins.

We enjoy dressing our little princes and princesses for the winter holidays just as we do for Easter, and I am quite sure Duchess Catherine will dress Prince George in special clothing for the holidays as well. I admit I have one big pet peeve in mom's who dress their little ones in miniature Santa suits...or red *anything!* Red is simply not a flattering color for a tiny baby. So we have gone "green" for our holiday outfits. And the best part of the little rompers we feature this month is that they can be worn any time of the year.

First we have a bubble made of our Swiss Mini-micro check. The collar and sleeve trim is a geometric pattern with smocking in several shades of the forest green fabric adding some interest, but no red, which would shout 'Christmas'.



“Dolly”

By

Cheryl R. Davidson

**Look for this new addition to the B&B’s
Blueprint patterns
coming this Spring of 2014.**

Material List:

Pattern: Dolly from B&B’s Blueprint pattern Co.

Fabric: Peach Dotted Swiss fabric from Bear Threads (#FDSP)

Fabric: Peach Swiss batiste

Lace: Antique ecru insertion and edging from Bear Threads antique collection.

Entredeux: from Bear Threads.

DMC floss: # 209 and # 369

Buttons: 3 antique M.O.P. shank buttons

Thread: Mettler 60 weight #800 for construction and top stitching

Coats, ecru Button Craft thread

This dainty little girls’ Dotted Swiss dress reminds us of days gone by, when we may have lived at a little slower pace of time.

A small amount of geometric smocking is framed by two ¼” tucks on each side of the smocking. The tucks are hand stitched in place with 6 strands of matching embroidery floss using a running stitch, and at the bottom of the 4 front tucks are hand embroidery bullion flowers.



The high front yoke is designed with a fabric point that is centered between the 2 tucks on each side of the smocking.

Another grouping of bullion flowers is used to embellish the center of the 2 front yoke points, and also at the bottom of the back placket.

A machine triple stitch was used for the top stitching across the front yoke, and down each of the back 6 tucks, 3 tucks on each side of the back placket.



The neck edge is finished using a bias peach color matching fabric band. The front and back yoke lining was made from the same matching Peach Swiss batiste.

Instead of machine button holes, I handmade button loops using button/craft ecru thread from Coats Thread Co.



A tip from Cheryl

I am sure you are like me and hold onto the “lace remnants” left from previous projects. Here is a way to “justify” keeping your lace stash.



Instead of purchasing light weight interfacing for your buttonholes on heirloom garments, slide a piece of lace edging along both of the fold line of your back yokes. It is the perfect interfacing weight for these garments and the sheerness of the heirloom fabric allows the beauty of the lace edging to show through for that extra touch of beauty.

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VELVET vs. VELVETEEN

The term 'velvet' refers to the method of making the material, not the fiber from which the ending fabric is made. Velvet is an ancient fabric, having been produced for nearly 4000 years in one form or another. Traditionally it is made of silk, and today can cost upwards of several hundred dollars per yard. However, velvet today can be made of cotton as well as rayon. It has long been considered the most luxurious of fabrics because it requires more threads than any other fabric as well as multiple steps in production. Today, other fabrics with a similar pile are produced for those on a budget such as velveteen, velour and corduroy.

Velvet is known as a warp-pile fabric. Warp yarns are the lengthwise threads attached to a loom before weaving begins. It is woven as a 'double' cloth on a special loom. Warp threads go through two pieces of cloth instead of just one and when the fabric is finished a blade cuts the two pieces apart along the warp. Each piece must be rolled separately as it is cut. The result is the fabric creating its pile or 'nap' because threads stick up as it is rolled. After cutting it is often sheared to ensure evenness. At this point the fabric is dyed. Cotton and silk both take dye very well, but the silk produces a more lustrous sheen. Special effects can be created by twisting the fabric while wet to produce crushed velvet. When the pile is more than one-eighth of an inch in height the cloth is then called plush.

Velveteen is also a type of fabric woven with a short pile, but is woven with the low pile created from filling loops. Consequently the pile on velveteen is usually shorter than velvet. Velvet will have a denser pile and deeper color because of the greater quantity of threads used in the weave.

Because both fabrics may be produced from many fibers today, it takes some experience with fabrics to identify them more readily.

"THE VELVETEEN RABBIT"

By
Margery Williams

A stuffed rabbit sewn from velveteen is given as a Christmas present to a small boy, but is neglected for toys of higher quality or function, which shun him in response. The rabbit is informed of magically becoming REAL by the wisest and oldest toy in the nursery as a result of extreme adoration and love from children, and he is awed by this concept; however, his chances of achieving this wish are slight.



One night, after the boy has misplaced his cherished china dog, he is pacified through the presence of the rabbit, who attracts more attention from his owner from then onward as a result, to the extent of his promotion to the position of the child's favorite toy. However, when the toy rabbit's owner contracts scarlet fever, he is prescribed a trip to the seashore and is pacified upon receiving a stuffed rabbit of higher quality as a replacement for the Velveteen Rabbit, which must be burned alongside all of the other playthings due to potential bacteria. Before the rabbit can meet a painful demise, he is greeted by the Nursery Fairy, who transforms him into a living rabbit to spare him from an agonizing fate, as he'd acquired greater affection from the boy than all of the other toys and surpassed all qualifications required. The rabbit accompanies several others in rejoicing, gleeful upon having received his dream.

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