

# Bear in Mind

An electronic newsletter from Bear Threads Ltd.

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## From The Editor –

**FINALLY**, fall is here with a ‘little frost on the pumpkin’! This is when our sewing juices really start flowing, thinking of all those projects we want to finish (or start?) over the cold winter months.

This month I am offering many ideas for sewing with handkerchiefs. You might just stitch up a few bonnets to have on hand for a special someone. They are quick and easy, but oh so special, when presented with a sweet poem. There are many poems on the internet, but I have included a sweet, short one for your convenience.

I have also included all the information regarding our liquidation sale which continues. We will be clearing the warehouses in Switzerland this fall so there will be some items that you thought were gone that we now have in stock.

**MOST EVERY ITEM** is still in stock – only a few items are gone, so please make your wish list and give us a call. I am also selling much of my personal collections of fine linens, lace and ribbons. Perhaps a hint to hubbies for Christmas might bring a little monetary madness gift!!! I love sending goody boxes from which you can choose. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

So, with lots of food for thought, and some pumpkin spices....

Happy Fall Stitching,

Sheila

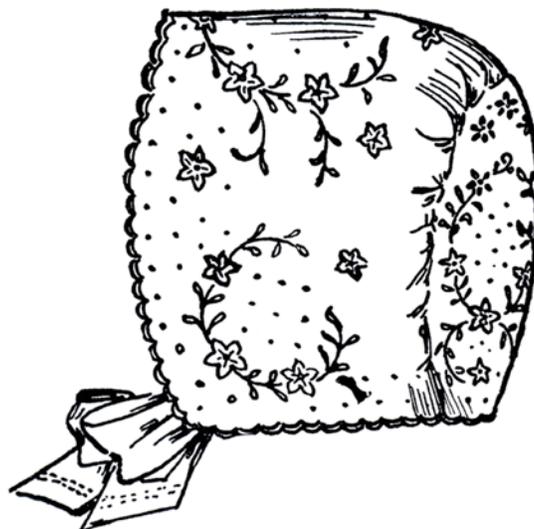
### **BABY BONNET POEM**

*A little square of linen  
With dainty edge of lace  
Fashioned in a bonnet  
To frame your Baby's face*

*After Baby's worn it,  
Fold it square and tuck it away...  
And it becomes a hanky  
For Baby's Wedding Day.*

*And if Baby is a boy,  
On the day that he will marry,  
This becomes the "something old"  
His happy Bride will carry.*

*Author unknown*



## BONNET TO WEDDING –AND BACK!

One traditional use for handkerchiefs that has survived the ages is to make a Bonnet from a Wedding Handkerchief. When the baby gets married the process is reversed turning the bonnet back into a wedding handkerchief and the process continues for many generations. It is a simple process so let's get started.

If you don't have a 'wedding handkerchief' and are shopping for a hanky to make the bonnet, select one taking into consideration the color, and size. Even luncheon or bridge napkins are appropriate, keeping in mind that men's handkerchiefs tend to be even larger than a luncheon napkin. Basically you need this item to be square, clean and free of stains. It is best to hand sew this project, but if you use your sewing machine, use long basting stitches. **AVOID USING ZIG-ZAG STITCHES**, as they will make the reversing process nearly impossible!

Check for embroidery that will clearly create a right and wrong side. Depending on the size square you are working with, fold back one side hiding any wrong side of embroidery, approximately 2-4 inches. The folded side will lie on the top and create the front of the bonnet. You may baste across this top holding the fold in place, or simply tack in place every few inches. Now fold the side opposite to the **UNDERSIDE** approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. This will create the casing into which you will thread a small ribbon. This ribbon will be cinched up and tied in a bow to create the crown. (The depth of this fold is dependent on the size ribbon you are threading.) Baste this fold in place. Insert ribbon, cinch as tight as you can and tie into a bow. Make under the chin ties by cutting matching ribbon and tack to each end of the first fold. You may wish these two ribbons to be slightly wider than that used in the crown. You may hide this tacking with ribbon or lace rosettes.

Voila – bonnet made in a matter of minutes – and with just a few snips can be converted back to a wedding handkerchief in seconds.

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## THE LONG FORGOTTEN HANDKERCHIEF “A NEW LEASE ON LIFE”

Not many items that have survived from the Middle Ages on could tell us stories like handkerchiefs! Both men and women have used them for centuries both for utilitarian purposes and symbols of social status and wealth. The term handkerchief has been also termed kerchief, half-kerchief, neckerchief, and muckinder. The muckinder was the term for a child's hanky that was fastened to their clothing. In museums around the world there are examples of handkerchiefs using the local embroidery stitches and techniques of the time. I am most impressed with those seen in French museums with extremely intricate lace. Personally, I cannot imagine using such delicacies as a utilitarian object!

Men used them to wipe sweat from their brow or blow their nose. Ladies used handkerchiefs to blot their face without ruining their makeup and sometimes to offer a gentleman as a token to suggest that he return to her safely or to wish him good luck. More recently they have been carried by brides as their 'something old', and later converted to a baby bonnet – more on that later. Today, they are made into quilts and pillows, doll clothing, curtains for miniature houses, pocket flaps and collars. One recent issue of Classic Sewing used vintage handkerchiefs as the border of a dress. Some modern brides are using them on which to print 'save the dates' to mail to their wedding guests. What diversified usage!

Handkerchiefs have been made from many fibers over the years: cotton, linen, silk, rayon and polyester to name a few. Cotton and linen are the most practical from an absorbency standpoint. But silks, polyesters and rayons are fine for men's pocket hankies or squares which are for decoration only.

Today we are caught between being environmentally friendly and going 'green', and the convenience of packets of tissue that seem more hygienically friendly and safe. Once a staple in every lady's purse, the hanky seems long forgotten, as it was originally intended. I must admit I always carry one, usually wrapping my reading glasses in one so that I can also put my lipstick in my glasses case. OK, having said that, all my glasses cases are needlepoint or French Sewn, so they double as a small purse. (Ed. Note: See the March 2013 issue of Bear in Mind For instructions on how to make a French Sewn Eyeglass case.)

I was fortunate to inherit not only my Mom's, but my Grandmother's collection of hankies. See photo for some examples. In those days there was quite a variety of decorations. There were bold colored florals, white

embroidered batiste and of course the monogrammed linen handkerchief. I still have my favorite which was a Christmas handkerchief embroidered with a 3 dimensional Poinsettia.

If you are starting a project using handkerchiefs, and are shopping vintage linen shops or e-bay, have in mind a color scheme, size range or fabric weight. I like my projects to have some common denominator, just as I don't like putting every idea that I ever had in one dress!!! (You know I have preached on this before!) And as you are shopping for vintage hankies, you just might be lucky enough to find a handkerchief case. Every proper lady had a beautifully embroidered case to store her most prized fine hankies!

Hopefully this article has given you some food for thought and you will come up with even more ideas for your inherited handkerchiefs or ones soon to be family!

Happy Stitching,  
Sheila T. Nicol  
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To place an order contact us at 404-255-5083 or 404-255-4001 fax

"Bear in Mind" articles are available on our website. Encourage your customers to check out our website for information and inspiration.

We realize many of you are confused with the E-Blasts sent to you the past 9 months. We have combined in this E-mail all the past mailings giving you the details of what is excluded and what we may no longer have. Please note all inventory is subject to prior sale. While we are out of stock of a few items, generally we still have a very complete inventory. IF a buyer is found and we are under contract, the sale will terminate.

**ALL SALES ARE FINAL!  
NO BACKORDERS!**

## **FABRICS:**

All fabrics are 40% off excluding the following:

Bearissima in White, Ivory, Pink, Blue are excluded.

Bearissima in Ecru, Appenzell Pink  
and Lilac are 20% off.

Sorry, Mais, Trisien Rose,  
and Seafoam Green are sold out.

Bearissima II in White, Pink  
and Aqualine Blue are excluded.  
Bearissima II in Cream and Peach are 20% off.

Also excluded are:

Giger/9223 Batiste, Tone on Tone Dotted Swiss,  
5547 and 5961 Baby Dimity, Swiss Flannel in White,  
Ivory, Pink, Blue, and Aqualine Blue are excluded.

Swiss Lawn White, Pink and Blue; Swiss Voile in  
White, Pink, Blue and Aqualine Blue are excluded.

Wool Challis is excluded.

Bearlin in White is 30% off.

**ALL SALE FABRICS ARE 15/17 YD PIECES.**

## **EMBROIDERIES:**

**ALL** Swiss embroideries 5 inches or wider are 50% off Excluding E-81 White and Ivory.

**ALL** Swiss Ecu embroideries are 50% off excluding Regular and Baby Entredeux (E-10 & E-11), E-211 and E-16.

All other Swiss embroideries are 40% off excluding E-79, E-80, E-81, E-82 and E-82B.

Also excluded are E-123W, E-15W, E-16, E-211, E-25 White, E-29 W, P, B, AB, I, L, and U.

Also excluded are E-440, E-49 White, Ivory and Ecu on White; 27" Flouncings and their trims; and E-92A. Handlooms 900 series are excluded.

**FULL CARDS ONLY**

## **MOTHER OF PEARL BUTTONS:**

Our entire stock of buttons are 40% off. Minimum lots are ½ Gross or 6 dozen.

## **FRENCH LACES:**

**All laces with the prefix AB are 40% off.  
We reserve the right to limit quantities.  
AB indicates they are antiques.**

## **ADDITIONAL BEAR THREADS LACES AT 40% OFF:**

L- 215 W & E

L- 307

L- 314

L- 4692 - 4696

L- 80 - 85

L- 92 – 97

L-71 – 73

L-75 – 77

L- 5435

L- 670 -671

L- 21 - 24

L- 320 - 325

L-26 - 27

L-86 - 89

L-136, 137 & 138

L-1252 - 1256

L-187 – 188A

L-805 (Childs Collar)

## **RIBBONS:**

Our collection of 1/8" and 1/16" Double Faced satin ribbons are 20% off. 1/8" Reg. \$7.50 per spool, now \$6.00, 1/16" Reg. \$12.50 per spool, now \$10.00

**PLEASE READ ON FOR FURTHER  
REDUCTIONS ON LINEN FABRIC AND  
TRIMMINGS AT 50% OFF!!!!**

# **BEAR THREADS LIQUIDATION SALE ADDITIONS!!!**

## **LINEN FABRIC AND LINEN EMBROIDERIES NOW 50% OFF**

Linen has always been in vogue and now is a perennial favorite. As the popularity of this fabric increased, so did the price. So, Bear Threads came to the rescue! About 25 years ago, we, along with our Swiss factory, developed a new fabric called *Bearlin*. It is 52% Irish Linen and 48% Swiss cotton – a blend of the best! By nature any blended fabric does not wrinkle as much as a fabric of 100% single fiber. What a success story. A few years later we designed a Swiss embroidery set to be stitched on this wonderful fabric.

**Now, all these fabulous embroideries and  
fabrics are 50% off!**

*E- 501 1 1/4" Edging Pk/Gr, Bl/Gr, Wht/Wht*

*E-502 Insertion " " "*

*E-503 5 1/2" Edging " " "*

*Bearlin* Fabric is 55" wide and available in Pink, Blue, Mais, Peach, Black and Wintergreen. 15 yd. pc minimum

[www.bearthreadsltd.com](http://www.bearthreadsltd.com)

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