From The Editor –

SO! Today is the day the weather man is predicting a snow storm in North Georgia, which means it probably will not happen. We usually get the surprise storms here, but you never know since the Super Bowl is here in Atlanta Sunday. Nevertheless, I mentally took note of which needlework projects I could work on, if stuck inside for a few days. I am ready!

I finished the newsletter earlier this week and gosh is it a packed issue! We welcome back Jeannie Baumeister – in case you have been living in a cave – she owns Old Fashioned Baby! She is so very talented and loves designing baby day gowns. When I sent her the supplies for this months’ feature, I admit I was having a difficult time envisioning what she would do with these trims in a daygown. Alas, when I saw the final product, I was amazed, and never would have thought of these working as perfectly together in such a tiny gown! Please visit her website – all you need to do is GOOGLE Old Fashioned Baby – and be prepared to spend time on her wonderful and inspiring blog!

We also have Part II of “An Introduction to Clothing Design”. This month I am concentrating on Texture and Pattern. As well, my Easter vignettes mirror our discussion. Many times I decide on a subject and then realize I too, need to do some research. I have always believed that ‘to teach is to learn twice’, and so it has been with this series. We will conclude next month with Color in Design, so stay tuned.

I will not chatter on so that you can begin reading. As I close, so far it is just lightly raining outside. Will it change to snow as predicted? Time will tell……

Happy Stitching,

Sheila
This lovely little baby dress is as sweet as can be. It’s made with gorgeous white Swiss Lawn and Swiss trim. The sleeves are cut from a 5” wide Swiss Edging and embellished with tiny Bullion Flowers in soft pink with green Lazy Daisy leaves. The neck is trimmed with entredeux and finished with gathered lace edging. The Swiss Insertion that is featured down the dress front is bordered with the same lace edging. The hem is finished with Swiss Edging from the same set. Pink floss has been threaded through the entredeux at the neck, the hem edging and the insertion to add a bit of color. This dress gives you the beauty your little baby girl deserves with a minimum of effort due to the exquisite trims that were used.
Pattern used is Embroidered Baby Clothes One (view 1) by The Old Fashioned Baby. Follow Pattern Instructions to make this Dress with the following Modifications.

Sleeves - You will use the wide Swiss Edging (E-81) for the sleeves. Place the lower edge of the View 1 Sleeve pattern along the finished Swiss Edging and cut out.

Tiny Rosebuds were embroidered on each of the Sleeve Scallops using a 10 Sharps needle and one strand of Anchor embroidery floss. Pink #48 for the Bullion and Green #1042 for leaves.
Front Embellishment - The Swiss Insertion is centered down the front of the dress after the lace edging is zig zaged to either side of the trimmed Swiss Insertion. Four strands of soft Pink embroidery Floss is threaded through the entredeux edge of the Insertion after it is attached to the dress. (press the emb floss)

Hem - After the Swiss Insertion is stitched down the center front of the dress (and the back facings on the dress are complete) you will attach the Swiss Edging (E-80) to the hem. Floss is threaded through the entredeux at the top of the Swiss Edging, just as was done to the Swiss Insertion.

Use four strands of floss that have been seperated and then put back together. Thread in a 6 Crewel needle and iron the floss for best results.
Embroidery - The motif stitched at the yoke between the center Swiss Edging and the tucks is from Jeannie B’s Book of Heirloom Embroidery. The featherstitching is worked in Anchor White embroidery floss. The Bullion flower is in pink #48 and the green is #1042

Neck- The neck is finished with entredeux and gathered lace edging. Thread 4 strands of floss through the entredeux at necks edge.
Last month we started a general discussion of clothing design and discussed the basic ‘elements of design’ which include Color, Line, Shape, Texture, Composition (space and framing) and Form. In the textile world of Fine Heirloom Sewing, we primarily use Color, Texture, and sometimes Line and Shape. Note: Unfortunately, most of the textbooks of design are referring to architecture, art (paintings, sculpture, landscape, etc.) and not so much textiles. Yeah, we are still the stepchild in the art world.

This month I would like to concentrate on texture and pattern (shape) in design. Recently I was working with a friend who had fallen in love with the Swiss embroidered fabric we carry which is embellished with embroidered red dots. (No. F-03-664) She also loved, and with good reasons, the exquisite Swiss Hand Embroidery (Stock number E-906) which is the lovely petit point red roses with green leaves. Trying as I did, I could not combine the two with any workable design. First of all, polka dots, be they screen printed or embroidered, are fun, casual and, yes, a tad funky. This particular fabric is a focal point in its’ own right, with little or no extra trim, as the embroidered dots themselves are exquisite as only the Swiss can do! The petit point rose insertion is nothing short of the most elegant trim we carry. The insertion screams for the finest lace in an ultra-feminine and more formal garment. The fabric is much heavier and the insertion much more delicate. In another example, neither would you pair a heavy textured pique with a Maline lace. So consider the weight of the fabric when selecting the trim; or if you have predetermined the trim, try to find a fabric that will complement the weight and texture of that trim.

Finally, I suggest that when designing a garment, to focus on ONE item, and one item only, in the process. Is it the garment pattern – aka – the garment construction design or pattern design, having nothing to do with the fabrics; or is it a lace, fabric or trim you wish to have the focal point? Take that focal point and develop your garment from there, adding NOTHING that will detract or compete with its’ place of ‘front and center’.

I am always happy to assist in garment designs.

Sheila T. Nicol
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BEARLY PINK – Our first combines the Bearlin (52% Irish Linen/48% Swiss Cotton) with our Bearissima II. Bearissima II is a lighter shade of pink that the regular Bearissima. The E-40 Swiss Embroidery is literally our Bearissima Batiste which has been cut and appliquéd to the white Bearissima giving it a slight texture to complement the texture of the Bearlin without one competing or over shadowing the other.
EASTER BASKETS

– Again the Swiss embroidered baskets are embroidered in a slightly raised stitch so that their design and pattern are distinct. The pink entredeux complements the baskets, and voila all you need is a pretty sash.
MELLOW MAIS – We return to the Bearlin linen and cotton Swiss fabric which is a great medium for combining various textures. They sometimes say ‘opposites’ attract, and here the Sheer Stripe Swiss Dimity definitely works with the heavier linen, especially with the floss woven in the stripe. The Swiss embroideries are a match for the Bearlin fabric (they are stitched on the Bearlin!) and a small vintage padded motif is a finishing touch!
MOODY BLUES - Again the Bearlin is complemented by the opposite weight, but perfectly matched Swiss Voile. The color is exact and non-competing. The padded vintage flowers work perfectly with the embroidered Swiss insertion on Bearlin.
What do you know about February?

Birthstone – Amethyst  
Flower – Violet

Aquarius – January 20 – February 18  
Pisces – February 19 – March 20

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

Before 2002, Super Bowl Sunday was held the last Sunday in January, but since 2002 it is more commonly held the first Sunday in February.

1st week of February is African Heritage & Health Week and the 3rd week of February is National Margarita Weekend

February is:  
American Heart Month  
Bird-Feeding Month  
Black History Month  
Canned Food Month  
Cherry Month  
National Children’s Dental Health Month  
Chocolate Lovers Month  
Grapefruit Month  
Hot Breakfast Month  
Potato Lovers Month  
Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month  
Snack Food Month

Groundhog Day, celebrated on February 2, came about because of the German superstition. They thought if a hibernating animal cast a shadow on February 2nd that winter would last for another six weeks. If there was no shadow, spring would come early.

Happy Valentine’s Day from Bear Threads

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