



Hello Sewing Friends,

I'm writing to you from beautiful Toronto Canada. The leaves are turning vibrant colors and the air is crisp and cool. The harvest is here and it's clearly the season for Thanksgiving celebrations. The month of November has always been a reminder for me to be thankful. With the gathering of friends and family it's the perfect time to show an extra measure of gratitude. What better way to express appreciation to our loved ones than with an act of a sewing service? Be sure to check out our monthly projects for instructions on how to make a "Cherish Friends and Family" table runner, a 'Cutie Patootie' felted purse, a "Leather Basket Weave" book cover and a novelty 'Pamper the Chef' apron.

This month we have oodles of new products to introduce to you.

Mark your calendars for November 19th when a new Singer Today's Special is revealed. My pastor's daughter is getting married at the end of December and I'll be showing the FOUR embroidered flower girl dresses that I designed and made for Kaitlyn's special day. I'll also be wearing various designer look alikes that I made with the TS offering.

For all of you that picked up on a computerized sewing machine, I hope that you've been experimenting with the beautiful stitches and versatile functionality that today's machines offer. Their ease of use and assortment of patterns and presser feet make them a worthwhile investment for all your sewing needs. Following are a few tips and tricks to help make your next project with a computer machine even better!

COMPUTER SEWING TIPS:

AUTO TENSION is for straight stitching only.

DECREASE tension for decorative stitches

INCREASE tension for Pin-Tucking

AUTO BUTTONHOLES are made in one easy step

Line up the red mark on the buttonhole foot to the bottom of where you want the buttonhole to stitch.

The Singer exclusive underplate prevents puckering and enables you to make buttonholes in hard to maneuver areas such as cuffs or collars.

NEW ITEMS:

MELROSE CRAFT IRON

Introducing...My brand new “hot off the press” powerful Melrose Mini Craft Iron with temperature control and bursts of vertical steam that fits in the palm of your hand. It’s the perfect size for small clothes, quilt blocks, sewing & crafting --- even travel! This charming dynamo sports a non-stick Teflon soleplate with 4 steam holes and a seven foot nine inch cord!!!

The travel friendly Melrose non-stick iron has a detachable brush for vertically steaming napped fabrics while removing lint and pet hair. The vertical steam also helps to eliminate odors on dry clean items. This dual voltage wonder works dry or with steam to eliminate wrinkles and to set in pleats. The tiny presser is also a favorite among sewers and crafters for small piecework and appliqué projects.

The Melrose Mini Craft Iron comes with a two ounce beaker to measure and pour water into the opaque Caribbean blue reservoir.



SINGER FELTING MACHINE

Warning: Machine Felting is addictive!



When they sang, “Everything old is new again”--- they must have been thinking about felting! Consider this: Felt is one of the earliest textiles known to man, dating back to the Bronze Age (ninth century B.C.)--- yet today it is the hottest new trend in sewing! You don’t have to know how to sew or draw to have fun with machine needle felting!

Whether you’re making felt fabric or decorative surface embellishments, there are several ways to blend the various fibers together. One technique is hand held felting needles with a sponge or brush. This mind numbing method has been used by textile crafters for centuries and simply screams ‘carpel tunnel syndrome’! Today, felting by machine has taken the sewing world by storm. Easier, faster and more gratifying, machine felting is often referred to as ‘punching’ because the surface fibers are ‘punched’ into a base layer.

SINGER is proud to introduce the world launch of its brand new affordable Felting machine this month on Nov. 19th. The irony is that even though this looks like a ‘sewing machine’, it doesn’t sew at all. It has no bobbins, uses no thread, runs super quiet and works with 1 to 5 specialized barbed needles! It’s a decorative surface embellishment dream come true! Today’s creative opportunities abound with interesting yarns, wool rovings, silk ribbons and decorative trims.

So set your Tivo or tune in on November 19th to join in on the fun of machine felting. Gather your stash of trims, old sweaters, jeans, jackets, purses or totes that you would like to repurpose and glam up.

I’ll be showing a designer inspired jacket (worth thousands) I made with an old table covering that I completely resurfaced with felting, embroidery and glamour gems.

MELROSE METALLIC THREAD

It's here in time for the holidays! Melrose introduces the two most popular shades of top quality metallic thread for the 2008 Holiday season. The silver and gold four piece combo pack comes in a 9"Hx1-3/8" diameter transparent tube with removable end caps make thread easily accessible. These brilliant metallic threads in 500 yard double snap spools are easy to work with and will add sparkle and pizzazz to all of your quilting, embroidery and appliqué. Melrose Metallic Thread is made from the highest quality materials manufactured with precision and special attention to detail. Combine the strength and sparkle of Metallic Thread with the high tenacity and subtle sheen of Melrose 40 wt. trilobal Embroidery Thread for interesting and endless possibilities.

- Metalized Poly Film over Nylon Core
- High tenacity
- Less friction
- Vibrant non-fade color
- Gently wash and dry
- Use cool iron
- No bleach



This brilliant thread adds remarkable luster and sparkle to your project.

SEWING METALLIC TIPS

EMBROIDERY—1) Use cut -a -way stabilizer and a metallic needle size 14

2) Set Futura tension to "0"

3) Skip the final thread guide located directly over the needle

MACHINE DECORATIVE STITCHING—

1) Loosen thread tension

2) Choose patterns that aren't too tight (stitches too close together)

3) Increase stitch length

The photo on right was done with Melrose Metallic Thread in Silver combined with Melrose Black Embroidery thread on taffeta. The design was manipulated from SINGERS 3900 design CD --- with the top design rotated and mirror imaged and the bottom design cut and pasted into the Futura's large hoop.



FUTURA EMBROIDERY

SINGER has done it again!! The Futura Electronic Sewing and Embroidery machine is the November Today's Special with more extras than ever before! There are new features built in such as repeat design and mirror imaging. You can also rotate, size, cut and paste and combine designs with fonts in the large 5"x7" hoop. There is also an editing feature and an on screen color chart as well as trace design and a draw package.

In addition to the 120 built in designs, the built in tutorial and digital artwork,

the Today's Special will include over \$1300 worth of accessories :

3900 Design Anthology CD - Never before offered with the FUTURA!

Instructional DVD "What to do with all those feet" Never before offered with the FUTURA!

Drop and Sew Bobbin Plate- Never before offered with the FUTURA!

Cut and Sew serger attachment- Never before offered with the FUTURA!

Auto punch software- which converts digital artwork into stitched designs,

HyperFont- software that allows you to stitch out any font on your computer's Word program.

Auto Cross Stitch- software that converts digital artwork into cross stitched designs

PhotoStitch- software that converts photographs into stitched designs

A bundle of **extra presser feet** with heirloom needles and sew much more....

Watch and reserve yours on the 19th.

MELROSE EMBROIDERY SCISSOR GIFT PACK

I'm so excited! My exclusive Melrose Embroidery scissor gift set has arrived and will be in stock on November 19th.

This beautifully monogrammed velveteen boxed set contains

- 1) double bent embroidery scissor- to trim embroidery threads in the hoop while protecting your sewn design.
- 2) duck billed appliqué scissor- to accurately trim appliqué and cutwork.
- 3) fine tipped 6" tweezers to grab threads, place stones, thread sergers, etc....
- 4) a razor sharp seam ripper for efficient seam removal.

All four instruments are 'must haves' in any sewers arsenal and are carefully crafted with surgical steel. The sturdy box makes an elegant gift presentation and doubles for stylish and safe storage.



WHEN TO WATCH

November 19th 12am, 1am, 5am, 7am, 8am, 11am, 12pm, 4pm, 7pm, 10pm

November 25th 5pm

November 26th 7am, 3pm

November 27th 2pm

November 28th 2am

WHERE TO GO

The Original Sewing and Quilt Expo in November

Minneapolis, MN November 5-7

Chicago, IL (Schaumburg) Nov 12-14

I hope you enjoy your holiday and make time to try out a few of my new projects. Drop me a line to crow about your repurposing sewing adventures and shared creative time with a friend or loved one. .. Reuse an outdated drapery to make a new slipcover, reuse an old bedspread by fashioning into pillows or turn last season's leather jacket into this year's prized vest! It's all up to YOU. I know that you CAN do it!

Sew Your Dreams, *Darlene*

