

THE RAG FOR FALL

Hey there, nice to connect!

Who would have thought this day would come to have this technology at my fingertips! I'm not saying that I'm well versed as yet, but I'm working on it.

Fall is definitely here so we have a great opportunity to take advantage of the cooler weather and organize our wearable projects. Maybe we don't need to have a whole new wardrobe, just a few new pieces to add some interest. Take stock of the pieces you love --- the means trying them on, see what needs mending, or what could need an accessory to perk it up.

I have just made 3 scarves using my wonderful rayon batiks --- the Purple Botanical, black & white Branches, and a mottled gold one called Celery Effects. The scarves take very little fabric and are quick to make for yourself or for a gift.

I made my new pattern in the Studio #11--- the Blouse in the celery 'Branches' and trimmed it with the Celery Effects. There are also several more blouses using this pattern in the gallery section, check them out. The blouse pattern prominently features on each view a fabulous buckle. Of course the buckle isn't mandatory, you may use buttons or other fasteners.

After the blouse pattern was printed I had an afterthought with a clever idea (at least I thought it had potential) for a vest using 3 of the pattern pieces plus an additional one. You may like it too, let me know. There are instructions for the vest on a pamphlet in the pattern.

See the in the Studio #11 --- the Blouse in the pattern listing and in the gallery.

One of the things I mentioned on the reminder postcard was an opportunity to obtain fabric samples of my work from my classes and magazines articles that I have written over the years. They can be used as a gift for a sewer, an idea for a project, or simply framed. These designer details can be the creative start of a garment or used for class samples for teaching. I have usually grouped them by color -- neutrals, bl./red, etc.

Many of the samples are made from kimono fabrics, silks or other exotic materials. There are 1, 2, or 3 pieces in each package depending on the size and content --- i.e. a pocket, an embroidered piece & a pleated sample (3 items)..... a layered linen stamped/embroidered sheer & printed designs with a grid (2 items).... a closure or collage (1 item). There are instruction sheets relating to the techniques included in each packet.

Note: to identify my books these are drawn from, the page numbers at the bottom relate to the Options book. The Opening & Closing books have an enclosed rectangle with the

numbers.

The price per package including shipping is \$29. each. There is one special packet with 10 pieces in it, from the article of the Japanese Crests. I decided to keep those all together ((\$145.) This article was featured in #129 of Threads.

I recently made the vest that I talked about in the pamphlet in the new pattern. I used a silk pillow top that was black with accents of red and white kimono pieces. The design was already made for a pillow so it occurred to me that most of the work was complete. I cut the pillow top nearly down the center and added more fabric at the sides to fill in.

One set of two tops are hand dyed cotton and kimono fabrics with Japanese birds appliqued that would be perfect as the front and back on the vest (maybe not symmetrical perhaps). I have more of these silk pillow tops, about a dozen, so if this idea appeals to you, it could be a fun project.

These pieced squares are: Small ones, 16" -- \$35., Large ones, 20" -- \$45.
Of course, you can also sew a back on it and make a gorgeous pillow.

TOO PRECIOUS! Have you ever saved some fabric so long that it becomes too dear to use? This is a story of Jean and her wonderful very expensive Italian wool. She could still envision the sign neatly printed. The price was high as one would expect from a fabric of this quality. Over the years the tissue wrapped fabric became more dear, no occasion was quite right or good enough to make a garment of this exquisite yardage.

Jean came to a workshop of mine and brought THE fabric. She cut it out with care and sewed it meticulously. When she tried to press it however --- it became clear that it was not wool at all (at least not entirely). After testing, it turned out to be a polyester/wool ... not the fine Italian wool she was lead to believe. I can't reveal what she really called it. We do have a moral to this story: don't save something for that super occasion ... use and enjoy your treasures or eventually someone that has to clean out your 'stuff' may give it to the Goodwill or sell it at a garage sale with a sign that says --- Fine Italian Wool -- \$1.00.

"The trick in life is not getting what you want.... that's easy. It's wanting it after you get it."

I hope you enjoy the e-mail newsletter and offer suggestions as to what I may include from time to time.

The Holiday Season is fast approaching so I wish you and your family joy and peace in the coming year.

Lois

