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245 Scovell Hall
Lexington, KY 40546-0064
Phone (859) 257-7772
Fax (859) 257-3095

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Bobbin' along with Marjorie

I cannot begin to explain the “roller coaster ride” that I have been on the past six weeks. There have been really highs and really low lows. But the one thing that has kept me going is the sanctity that my sewing provided me. In all cases, it's been my respite in my sewing room that brings comfort and healing. I'm sure you all can relate. Sorry that this newsletter is a little later than usual.

The steering committee met last month, getting a great start on the planning for our fall training. Once again we will have two sessions with an overlap midweek. Complete information will be published in the July newsletter. Mark your calendars for Oct 9-11th or 11-13th and talk to your friends to coordinate your schedules. Marilyn Craycroft, KEHA Family and Individual Development chair was able to join us for our meeting. I appreciate the continued support that KEHA gives to the Master Clothing Volunteer program. I will be sharing the video that Ag Communications put together at their upcoming meeting in Owensboro at their chairman training session. If you haven't seen the video, it is now viewable on our website, click on the link above. I you will use the video to recruit new people.

It was good to see a number of you at the *It's Sew Fine Sewing Expo for Home and Family*. I wish that there had been more classes offered for garment and sewing/techniques. This is a great place to share your talents as a teacher and spread the word about our program. I encourage everyone to start thinking of a class that they can teach at the 2018 event and submit it in the fall.

This edition of the newsletter is packed with articles of interest that I hope you all will appreciate. Happy Spring and happy sewing!

Marjorie M. Baker

Marjorie M. Baker, M.S.
Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles



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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Sewing Corner

(This section will be used to share items of interest to 4-H Sewing Leaders)

Attention: The state 4-H Fashion Leadership Board is now taking applications for the 2017-18 program year. Do you know a young person going into grades 9-12 that is interested in learning more about fashion and fashion related careers? Visit <http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/fashion-leadership-board> for more information and an application form. Application forms are due May 1. Here's a picture taken at our February board meeting where the girls completed making half scale dress forms and learned some draping basics.



The 2016-17 board has also been hard at work planning the State 4-H Fashion Revue is coming up in June. Please encourage your senior aged 4-H sewing kids to register for Teen Conference and the Fashion Revue.

✓ **DOROTHY DO RIGHT** ✓

Going Under Cover (Stitch)

One of the classes I prepared for and taught at the recent Sewing Expo at General Butler was called "Getting the Most from your Coverstitch/Serger. The cover stitch or cover hem is the fashion industry's standard hem for knit garments. It is characterized by two or three rows of parallel stitching on the right side while the hem's raw edge on the underside is covered by the chain looper's thread. It is strong and allows the knit to continue to stretch.

When preparing for a class, one needs to research what materials are available on their subject and then use what they have learned to experiment and play with the techniques. The cover stitch or cover hem is a special stitch found on a lot of the high end sergers but can also be done on a stand-alone cover stitch machine. A combination serger and cover stitch machine has the disadvantage of needing to be converted and sometimes that can be quite daunting. With the help of the manual, taking a guide class, and/or watching you tube videos, those fears can be lessened. My advice is to go for it, once you've mastered the conversion process, the rest is pretty easy until your stitches start acting up. Ninety nine percent of the time the problem lies with improper threading. Just like the serger, the cover stitch needs to have the looper thread threaded before the needle threads are employed and all threads must have the correct tension. To learn how tension affects the stitch quality, play with adjusting each tension separately and evaluate how the stitch looks. Label your samples for future reference.



Yo-Yos: The Perfect Thing to Toy Around With

Submitted by Lyon County FCS Agent and MCV Steering Committee Member, Angie York

As long as I can remember I have loved to look at my mom's Yo-Yo quilt. Stretched out across the bed it screamed for me to look at each perfectly round circle and decide from where the precious scrap of fabric might have been salvaged. Could it have been from another quilt, my great-great aunt's old clothes, or maybe from a garment made for a distant cousin? While not typically one for handwork, making Yo-Yo's brings great satisfaction to my heart and hands. I take them with me most anywhere I might have time to complete a few. Am I the only one who traveled with these cute and easily made treasures? When recently researching the history of Yo-Yos, I soon learned I am not. Yo-yos were prominent in the 1920s through 1940s coinciding with the popularity of the wooden toy with a string, you know, the Yo-Yo. According to www.quilts.com, yo-yos were a way to use up small scraps of fabric in a time period when most had very little. The shape and designs made with yo-yos mimic the popular hexagonal quilt patterns of the time such as Grandmother's Flower Garden. Blogger, bygonebanter, discusses the possibility that yo-yos gained such popularity during

this time frame because women were beginning to be on the move and hold jobs outside of the home. The yo-yo was a great project for ladies to take with them as they moved from work to appointments and back home.

Whether yo-yos became popular because they were cheap, portable, or as fun as the popular toy they resembled, none of those reasons can beat the fact that they are beautiful and can be used in a variety of ways. Because they are so quick to make, yo-yo's make great embellishments for tote bags, vests, make-up bags and more. Every little girl's dress could use a few yo-yo flowers to make it special and unique. With the new yo-yo makers that can be purchased at many fabric stores, making the round delights has never been easier. If you haven't tried these fun and economical treats before, check out the tutorial at http://www.connectingthreads.com/tutorial/s/Yo_Yos-two_methods_D84.html for videos and instructions.



Yo-Yo quilt given as a Christmas gift to my parents in 1972. The quilt was made by my great-great aunt, Lily Jackson. She completed 5 that same year to give as gifts with each having more than 1000 Yo-Yos in quilt.



Fitting In and Standing Out

The American Sewing Guild Chapter invites you to register for an upcoming fitting workshop taught by Louise Cutting. Have you stopped sewing clothes because of fitting issues? In this hands on workshop and lecture, you will learn how to enlarge or reduce patterns in various spots to get your personal fit. Throughout the day there will be discussions about correct fit, proportion, and style changes. You will be making a notebook working in quarter scale—known as “mini-pats”—it’s a great way to make alterations and test design ideas. You will learn methods for putting in darts, moving dart boxes, enlarging dart cup sizes, and removing darts that are already in patterns. Your completed notebook will include detailed instructions for dart manipulations, forward shoulders, rounded upper back, blending sizes, enlarging, reducing, lengthening and shortening garments, fitting arm circumferences, and more—everything you need to know to get the fit that will make you stand out.

Registration forms are available at:
<http://www.asglouisville.org/events.html>

Calendar of Events



April 28 20/20 Vision with a Focus on Fashion, 7:00 pm at the Lyric Theater & Cultural Arts Center in Lexington.

June 14 State 4-H Fashion Revue, 7:00 pm, Memorial Hall, University of KY, Lexington

June 16 MCV Steering Committee meeting, 11:00 am, Hardin County Extension Office, Elizabethtown

June 30 Annual service hour reports due to area contact agents

July 15 Online registration opens for Mid-Rotation Training

August 17-27 Kentucky State Fair, Louisville

August 19 Fitting In and Standing Out with Louise Cutting, American Sewing Guild Louisville Chapter sponsored event, University of Louisville Shelby Campus 9001 Shelbyville Road, Louisville

October 9-11 Session I Mid-rotation and Class of 2016 Training, Lake Cumberland 4-H Educational Center

October 11-13 Session II Mid-rotation Training, Lake Cumberland 4-H Educational Center

Yoyo Needle and Thread Holder

Materials needed:

1/8 yard woven cotton fabric – *cut two 3.5 inch diameter circles and two 6.75 by 3 inch rectangles*

Cotton Flannel – *cut one 6.5 by 3 inch rectangle*

Spool of thread – *1.75 inches tall*

Lightweight cardboard – *cut into two 1.5 inch diameter circles*

Scissors for cutting cardboard

Scissors for cutting fabric

One drinking straw – *cut one 2.5 inch piece (this will be used to hold the spool in place)*

Four hand sewing needles

Straight pins

One button

One elastic hair band or narrow elastic – *cut to two inches long*

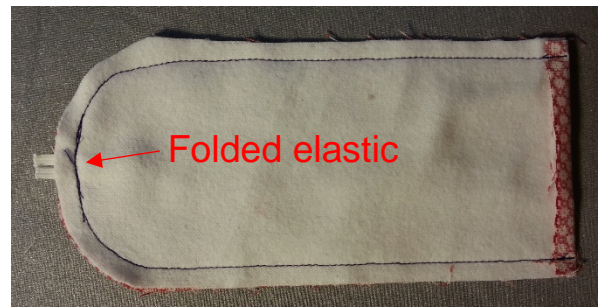
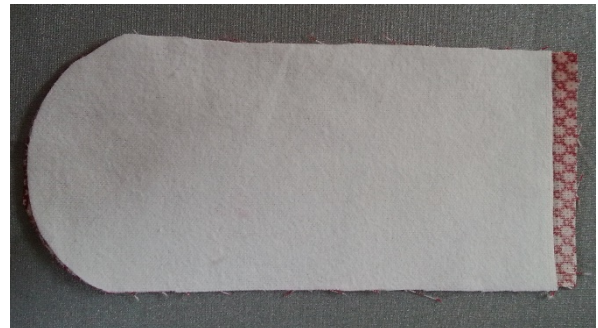
Tape measure

Sewing machine

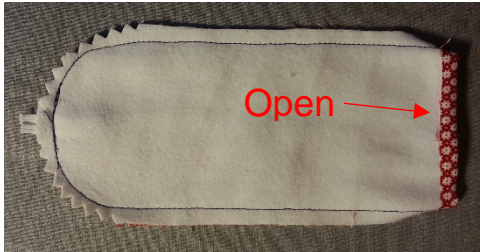


Instructions:

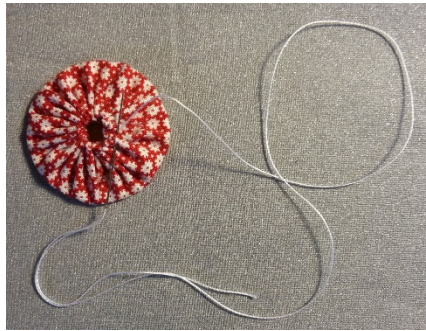
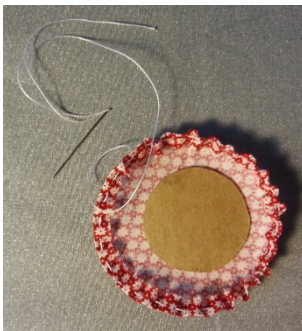
1. Position the two 6.75 x 3 inch rectangles right sides together (Fabric A). Align the 6.5 x 3 inch flannel rectangle with sides and one end matching to one wrong side of Fabric A. Round off the corners of all three fabrics.
2. Fold the two-inch piece of elastic in half and place it between the Fabric A layers centered on the rounded end with the ends of the elastic extending .25 inch beyond the cut edge of fabric A.
3. On the square end, fold both layers of Fabric A over the flannel edge. Beginning at the folded edge, sew all layers together with a quarter inch seam, leaving the folded end unsewn.



4. Notch the seam allowance on the rounded end. Flip the top folded layer on the square end to the backside to create the opening for turning right side out. Turn right side out, press, and edgestitch around the outer edge.



5. **Make the yoyos:** Fold outer edge of the Fabric A circles one quarter inch towards the wrong side of the fabric. With a needle and thread, hand stitch around close to the folded edge with a running stitch. Place a cardboard circle in the center of each on the wrong side of the fabric. Draw the running stitch up to bring the folded edges to the center. Secure the stitches and cut the thread. The center of the yoyo should have about a quarter inch opening. Make two yoyos.



6. With the smooth side of the yoyo ends facing out, wrap the rectangle piece around the edge, beginning at the square end, and pin to hold. Do this with both yoyos leaving about one inch unpinned. The opening should be wide enough to insert the spool of thread. Hand stitch the edges together with a whip stitch, securing at the beginning and the end.



7. Continue wrapping rounded end around to determine where to sew the button. Sew button to outside.

8. Check the length of the straw by inserting it between the small openings at the yoyo centers. The straw will hold the spool of thread. Trim straw to fit as needed. Insert straw into the spool of thread and put both inside the case.

How to use the Yoyo Needle and Thread Holder

The idea behind this clever little thread holder is to have multiple needles threaded and ready to use for say, hemming a dress or hand quilting a quilt. Start by threading one needle. Place the needle through the inside of the holder parallel to the spool of thread. Do not cut the thread from the spool. Pull the thread through the eye of the first needle and thread a second needle. Place the second needle parallel to the first needle on the inside of the cover. Continue doing this for the other two needles. When you are ready to sew, take the top needle (the last one that was threaded) and pull the desired length of thread from the spool. Cut the thread, but leave a tail still threaded through the other three needles. When you are ready for the next length of thread, replace the “empty” needle in the holder and take the next needle out leaving two still threaded as before. Continue in this manner until all four needles are empty. Rethread all the needles and you are ready to start again.



Marjorie M. Baker
April 2017