

KENTUCKY

MASTER

CLOTHING

VOLUNTEER

PROGRAM

CLOTHING & TEXTILES PROGRAM

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Bobbin' along with Marjorie



"extending clothing knowledge and skills"

I think spring may finally be here. It seems like it has been a long time coming but I saw the first signs last week in the blooming of the crocus on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University – a welcomed sight after the destruction they saw earlier from the infamous ice of 2009.

This time of year we often think of “spring cleaning.” As we go about cleaning out our closet, this year it may be appropriate to ask, “How can I reuse this?” Sewers are known for being recyclers. They save even the smallest of scraps to use in a quilt. It is important to send the message that when the economy gets hard, sewing can save you a bundle. Remember to reduce (your stash), reuse (your scraps), and recycle (your projects). I know everyone will do their part. Earth day is April 22.

It seems like every major department and grocery store is selling reusable bags these days. This has been a way of life for me for years. I have more tote bags than you can shake a stick at. But the problem is they all have projects stored in them. So now is the time, if you need another excuse for a new tote bag, to sew up a simple utilitarian bag to use only for toting your groceries (or fabric) from the store to your car and into your house. This newsletter’s featured quick project is just that and will go together in a “snap.” You’ll see what I mean when you look at the instructions. You might just want to make several of these, fold them up and keep them handy in your car for the next trip to the store.

I hope many of you are working with 4-Hers to get their sewing projects ready for spring style revues. It is always a rewarding experience to see the finished projects on the “runway.”

Happy Spring everyone!

Marjorie M. Baker

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Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles

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SPOTLIGHT



Valerie Middleton

CMV Mason County, Class of 2000

Valerie, tell us about your earliest sewing experiences.

My mom began teaching me to sew when I was 8 years old. I began by sewing doll clothes for my sister's collection of Barbie dolls. As a teenager, I made my own clothes. My favorite was a granny gown I made of raspberry-colored gingham. I wore it to every sock-hop we had at Tollesboro High School.

How about your experience as a Master Clothing Volunteer?

When Jean Carlson talked me into joining the Master Clothing Volunteer Program, I felt very intimidated. It seemed that everyone knew more about sewing than me. But boy, did I learn! Making those samples really improved my ability and shot my confidence sky high! I have since shared what I have learned by holding adult sewing classes as well as 4-H Youth sewing classes. In addition, I have taught serger and needlework classes for adults and youth. I am especially fond of heirloom sewing after taking Sandy Davis' class and smocking is also a favorite. I have shared these skills with others as part of the Master Clothing Volunteer Program.

In 2007 and 2008, I had the privilege of attending Martha Pullen's Sewing School in Huntsville, Alabama. I learned so much! Teaching others gives me great satisfaction and pleasure. Becoming a Master Clothing Volunteer and attending Martha Pullen's school have been wonderful experiences.

How about your family?

After marrying the best man ever, my husband Garry, we were blessed with two girls. They benefited from my sewing skills. I made Garry's shirts and the girl's clothes.

They were plain and sturdy, just what my husband and two tomboys needed. Only when there was extra money could I sew outfits for special occasions. I remember making my husband a sky blue leisure suit in polyester (yes, a few years ago). However, it didn't get as much use as those broadcloth and denim shirts! It wasn't until my granddaughter came into the world that I started looking for cute dress patterns. I fell in love with Daisy Kingdom patterns and have made many of them.

SPOTLIGHT



Cammie Brown

CMV Hardin County, Class of 2000

Cammie, tell us about your earliest sewing experiences.

As a young girl, I loved playing with my mom's fabric scraps. She made a lot of my clothes from feed sacks that my grandfather would save for her. She would give me a needle and thread and I would make Barbie doll clothes. I still have my first doll quilt that I made from feed sacks and 60's wild print polyester fabric. My dolls loved it!

My first dress was made in middle school home economics class where I learned a lot about sewing. Not everyone in my class was so eager to learn and I often remember that poor teacher! As a MCV, I help teach beginning sewing to young 4-H'ers and I'm glad they are there because they want to learn how clothes are made.

How about your experience as a Master Clothing Volunteer?

I have learned so much from the MCV program and I am so thankful to be a part of it and for all of the interesting people I've come

to know across the state. I enjoy working with children and adults in our area.

Any other thoughts?

With four children and four grandchildren I have stayed very busy mending clothes, sewing many costumes for school, church, and fun, and quite a few home-deco projects. I think these are all things that every young woman should know how to do and that's why I love to pass on the knowledge that I've gained thru the MCV Program throughout our state.

Spotlight Bios needed

Thank you to those of you who submitted bios for the Spotlight column. I will continue to collect forms from the class of 2002, 2004, and 2006. Forms will be available at the training in the fall.



“Be In the Top Ten”

Spring brings with it the renewal of color into our lives and 2009 looks to be a vibrant year. The top ten colors for spring 2009 have been announced by Pantone, Inc., the global authority on color. A favorite that can be paired with just about any of the other new colors will be Palace Blue, followed by Lavender, Super Lemon, Salmon Rose, Fuchsia Red, Rose Dust, Slate Gray, Vibrant Green, Dark Citron, and Lucite Green.

The lively colors are hoping to convey an optimistic outlook. But when paired with more neutral tones these hues can also be a grounding effect for us in these days of economic uncertainty.

When looking at colors don't forget they can also flatter our complexion in our choice of lipstick and nail polish selections. Watch for cool red to come in as a real show stopper this season.

Now as spring blossoms you are ready to be a part of the top ten!

Submitted by Jennifer Howard
MCV Steering Committee

Time to Sew

Are you having a hard time getting the daily chores done and still having time to sew? Here are some tips to help you make the most of your sewing time:

1. Get organized. Keep all your sewing equipment, patterns, notions, fabric, and accessories in close proximity, even if you don't have a permanent sewing area. Time is wasted if you have to hunt for missing items. Store smaller sewing items like thread, buttons, and measuring tools in separate containers. Remember to return them to their own container after using.
2. Schedule a set time to sew daily and/or weekly. Even if it is only 15 or 30 minutes, it all adds up in the end. This time should be set when you are least likely to be interrupted – after the kids go to bed, before they wake or perhaps a weekend morning.
3. Work on one project at a time. Try to finish one before starting another. Too many unfinished projects can lead to frustration.
4. Ignore the phone; let the answering machine take a message. Trying to handle a phone while sewing limits the use of your hands and takes away from your concentration. If you just can't bear not to answer it, invest in a headset to keep your hands free while continuing to sew.
5. Turn the radio or stereo on if you need background noise. Avoid the television as it can be a distraction, except if it's a sewing show!
6. Take a sewing class at a fabric store or county extension office. Getting time away from other distractions will yield its benefits.
7. If you have recently purchased a new sewing machine, be sure to take advantage of the sewing classes offered by your dealer. Learning how to use it properly from the start saves time and frustration.
8. Maintain your sewing machine properly. Clean it, oil it, and have it professionally serviced on a regular basis. There is nothing worse than getting in the middle of a project only to have your machine stop working.

JUST SEW YOU KNOW

facebook

Did you know that Master Clothing Volunteer's are on Facebook? Yes, there are a few of us that have been bitten by the social networking bug. It's not just for college kids; increasingly older adults are logging in and reconnecting with people from their past and present. Because we are fast becoming so reliant on technology, I thought it time to start a "group" on Facebook where we can share what is going on around the state and even post pictures of projects we are involved with. Now you don't have to wait until the fall training to be with your sewing friends. The MCV group on Facebook is a private group just for volunteers and agents. This is a great way to share information on upcoming events, too.

Anatomy of a Thimble



What do we mean when we refer to these parts of a thimble?

RIM – is the lower edge of the thimble. Sometimes it is has a rolled edge, sometimes it is left flat. The rolled edge may be more comfortable but it is really a matter of personal preference.

KNURLING – the dimples or indentations that hold the needle in place when stitching.

BAND – the area between the rim and knurling. It may be plain or embellished with a design. Plain bands are suitable for engraving.

CAP – the top of the thimble. It may be domed (rounded outward) or recessed with a slight edge around it. Tailor's thimbles are open on the top and have no cap at all.

CARTOUCHE – a shield-like space reserved on the band for initials, dates, or inscriptions.

Source: Thimbles, etc. *Just a Thimbleful*, March 2009 newsletter.

Fashion in Film: Period Costumes for the Screen



Those of you that will be attending the KEHA Annual meeting in April may be interested in taking a side trip to the Taft Museum in Cincinnati. The Taft Museum is hosting the only regional exhibition of *The Fashion in Film: Period Costumes for the Screen* exhibit. According to their Web site, the exhibit has been setting records and charming visitors around the country. The exhibit will run thru April 26, 2009. For more information go to: <http://www.taftmuseum.org/pages/exhibitions.php>

This tour would count towards continuing education for recertification.

Calendar of Events



April 14-15 – *It's Sew Fine*

Sewing Expo, General Butler State Resort Park

April 20-23 – KEHA state meeting, Drawbridge Inn, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky

May 5 – **Come Sew with Us**, hosted by Pennyrille Area at the Princeton Research and Educational Center

May 7 – MCV Contact Agent training, Hardin County Extension Office

July 15 – Steering Committee Meeting

July 23 – Agriculture All Commodity Field Day, University of Kentucky, Research and Education Center, Princeton, Kentucky.

September 19 – *Clothing as an Art with Mary Ray*, Louisville, Kentucky

October 14-16 – Mid-rotation training, Lake Cumberland 4-H Educational Center, Jabez, Kentucky

It's a Snap Tote Bag


Materials needed:

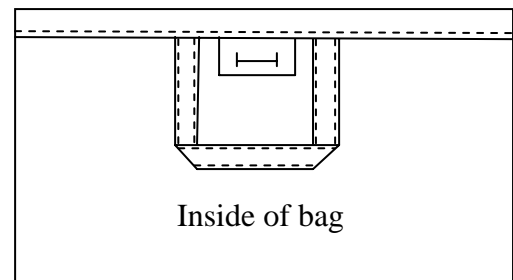
- Nylon pack cloth or other medium weight firmly woven fabric – 1 1/8 yards
- Peltex® or similar heavy/stiff interfacing – (2) pieces cut 5 inches by 7 inches for bag bottom
- Heavy duty snap (1)
- Thread

Equipment needed:

- Sewing machine
- Iron

Instructions:

1. Cut bag fabric to dimensions listed with the long sides going in the lengthwise direction of the fabric grain.
 - (1) 20 inches by 40 inches for bag
 - (2) 3 inches by 20 inches for handles
 - (1) 7½ inches by 6 inches for buttonhole tab
 - (1) 12 inches x 16 inches for bag bottom liner
2. Mark the fold lines for bag sides with chalk pencil or other fabric marking pen 3 inches in from each side of the bag on the right side of the fabric. Fold right sides together and press along fold lines.
 
3. Prepare handles. Fold each handle in half lengthwise and turn raw edges to inside. Top stitch close to both long edges of each handle.
4. Prepare buttonhole tab. You will use this tab at the store to hang the bag allowing it to stay open to pack your items. Fan-fold the tab piece to measure 2½ inches by 6 inches. Sew across short ends with ½ inch seam. Turn right side out, you will have three thicknesses of fabric for a stable buttonhole. Sew a 1¼ inch (40mm) buttonhole approximately one inch from the lower folded edge (the top side of the tab has the raw edge exposed).
5. With right sides together, sew side seams with ½ inch seams. Overcast edges together. Trim corner diagonally. Press seam to one side.
6. Press top hem down forming a double 1 inch hem. Don't sew it yet.
7. Position handles inside and under the top hem 2½ inches each side of the bag center point. Pin in place.
8. Position buttonhole tab between the handles on one side. Pin in place.
9. Stitch close to the lower folded edge of the hem, securing handles and tab as they lay to the inside of the bag.



10. Fold handles up, pin in place. Stitch close to the upper folded edge of the hem and through the handles. For added security, stitch a reinforcement “X” at each handle as you go.
11. Refold sides along previously creased lines. Edge stitch each fold from top of the bag down and stopping 2 ½ inches from side seam, back stitch.
12. Prepare bag bottom liner. Fold in half matching 16 inch sides together. Sew a ½ inch seam the length of the piece leaving both ends open. Turn right sides out and press so that seam is centered. Fold in half matching end to end, mark this line, unfold and stitch across the fold line dividing the liner into two pockets. Insert stiff interfacing into each “pocket”, tuck ends in toward seam side.
13. Insert bag bottom into bag, positioning it between fold lines. Pin the fold lines over the edge of the bag bottom. Triangular folds should form at the bottom of each side. Press triangular folds. Edge stitch across each end and side through the bag bottom.
14. Apply snap to ends of triangular “tab” so that ball and socket portions are facing up towards the top of the bag.
15. How to fold your bag:
 - Flatten bag over bag bottom with ball and socket of snap facing up.
 - Fold handles down over hem
 - Fold top down one third of the way and again to cover bag bottom
 - Bring snap ends together and fasten.



Photos by Marjorie M. Baker

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