

Bustle & Sew Magazine

October 2012

Love to sew and sew with love.



Seasonal Celebrations



Swan Softies

Baby Owls Advent Calendar

"Star of Wonder" & Halloween Fun Stitcheries

"I Saw Three Ships" Table Runner"

A Bustle & Sew Publication

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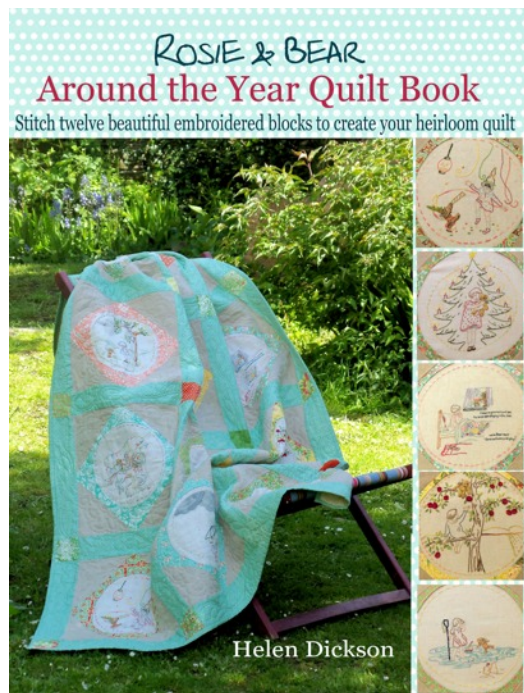
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Hello,

and welcome to the 21st issue of the Bustle & Sew ezine.

October is the month that I begin to plan my Christmas stitching, and this is reflected in this month's issue. Inside you'll discover my Baby Owls Advent Calendar, "I Saw Three Ships" table runner and "Star of Wonder" Rosie & Bear embroidery. October isn't all about Christmas though, and you'll also discover my Blackbird Patchwork Cushion Cover, Swan Softies and a great little Stitchery from SewFlapdoodle - "Halloween Fun".



Autumn berries in the hedgerow

There's also an interview with Pipany, a very talented creator from Cornwall, England, articles, reviews and features, as well as (I am sorry to say) the very last Rosie's Recipes. Rosie is thrilled and delighted to be starting an exciting new job in October. Her travelling time will be longer which means that sadly she won't have time to contribute on a regular basis any more. I am hoping to persuade her to return with some "specials" from time to time though and I'm sure you'll join me in wishing her all the best in her new job.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue and don't forget to go crunching through the leaves - just as Ben and I love to do have a wonderful October wherever you are.

Best wishes

Helen xx

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Baby Owls Advent Calendar

These baby owls have all hung up their Christmas stockings in the hope that Santa will remember them this Christmas Eve.

Deceptively easy project featuring freestyle machine embroidery - the stockings are stitched and then cut out. Then simply peg them to the calendar with those miniature clothes pegs you use for hanging cards. Finished calendar measures 19" x 26".

Caring for your Vintage Fabrics

Some advice on keeping your vintage fabrics in the best possible condition – ready for that very special project



[Calendar Bunnies Quilt](#)

A mixture of vintage and modern fabrics.

If you're a regular reader of the Bustle & Sew e-zine, or have purchased my patterns then you'll already know that I love to source and use vintage fabrics in my designs. These range from elderly moth-eaten blankets, to damaged, unloved and discarded cashmere and woollen garments (great for felting) and all kinds of tweeds, cottons, linens - indeed any sort of natural fibre I can get my hands on.

I'm not a great fan of manmade fibres, finding them far less rewarding to work with, but will occasionally accept a polyester-cotton blend.

I'm a bit of a fabric-addict I'm afraid, and as well as sourcing online I love to rummage through the rails of our local charity/thrift stores looking for unusual fabrics that can be re-purposed into Bustle & Sew designs. I have cupboards and boxes full of my finds, so that I will never run out(!) and almost always have the right piece of fabric for a particular new



Detail from "I Saw Three Ships"

*Some of the scraps I use are less than 1" square.
The boat is cut from a (beyond repair) tweed jacket*



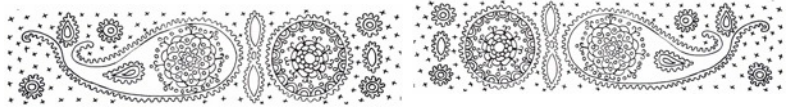
Swan Softie Pattern

These little swans measure 9" tall and are a great way to use vintage blanket or felt pieces. They are not intended to be given to children as toys.

They're probably not a beginner's project, but if you have some experience of softie making then you'll discover that they take more time and patience than skill. There is some simple wiring - just a single piece to support the neck.



Diamond Jubilee Quilt: India block



Fabrics from India

Over the centuries India has been renowned as a major producer of rich, vibrant and high quality textiles. Learn a little more about traditional Indian fabrics and how they're made

As we begin to consider our Christmas stitching projects, if you're anything like me your thoughts will turn to richly coloured cottons, sumptuous brocades and shimmering silken fabrics, needing only the smallest amount to make your creation feel truly festive. It's likely that some of your Christmassy fabrics originated in India, a country renowned for its rich, vibrant textiles and yarns. Today the country is the second largest producer of fibre in the world, and its textile industry is worth about \$55 billion per annum!

Western countries have been importing fabrics from India for centuries - indeed you need only consider the Indian words that have become part of the English language: calico, pyjama, gingham, dungaree, chintz, and khaki to realise how popular and important Indian fabrics have been over the ages. Although most of the fabric production in India is of cotton, Indian silk fabrics are famous for their wonderful vibrant colours and intricate patterns, made possible by complicated dyeing and weaving techniques.

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Fabric shop in Delhi, India

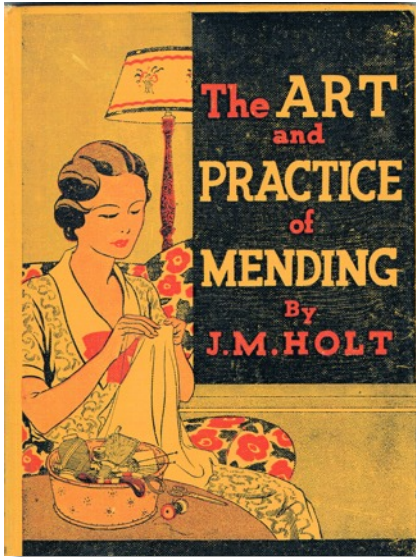


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“Trick or Treat? Halloween Fun”

Another of my friend Jacqui’s wonderfully simple designs - as she tells me “It’s all about the line!” Here the simple stitching is enhanced with a little applique - using vintage fabrics of course!



the wool is thick, and also looped, the darn can be made quite invisible on the right side.

Begin working on the wrong side at the left, a little distance from the worn portion. Notice the formation of the knitted stitch with its series of interlocking loops.

Following a straight line of loops, pick up and lay down a row of ascending loops alternately. The darn is made octagonal in shape; the first row of darning stitches should therefore, be the shortest.

For the last couple of issues I've been featuring extracts from "The Art and Practice of Mending" by Janie Maud Holt published in 1933 - during times of economic hardship when every penny counted and textile items had to be made to last.

We've taken a look at the (nearly) lost arts of patching and darning, and in this, the final instalment, we're going to be taking a look at mending knitted garments. These skills are very useful to have even today as our increasing reluctance to use harsh chemicals to deal with the constant threat of clothes moths means that even owners of the smartest, best-organised wardrobes may discover unwelcome holes in their favourite woollies when they bring them out of storage for the colder months.

And of course children are always making holes in their favourite knitteds - at least if they're anything like Rosie used to be!

This extract is taken from Chapter VI: Mending Knitted Garments and Stockings

A Thin-Place Darn on Stocking Web.

When hand-knitted garments first show signs of wearing thin, they can be mended most effectively by thin-place darning worked on the wrong side. As



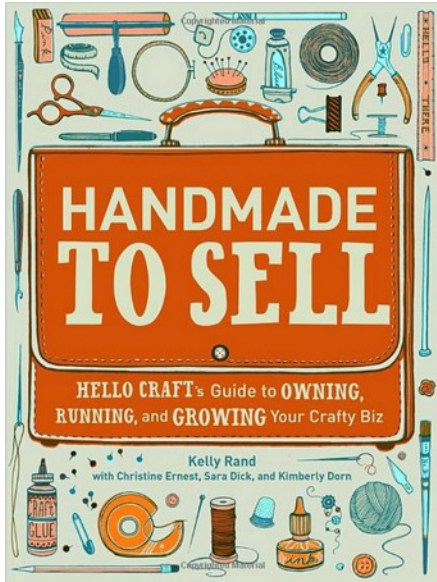
Blackbird Patchwork Cushions

Eagle-eyed readers may well recognise these handsome blackbirds!

Carried away by the ideas of reusing and recycling I decided to slice up and remake the “Love Flew Down at Christmas” cushion I created for the [September 2011 issue](#) of this e-zine. So now, instead of one, I have two blackbird cushions, and I managed to fit in all 9 blackbirds too.

Pattern sizes to fit 18” cushion pad.

Handmade to Sell - Review



[Available from Amazon.](#)

From time to time various publishing companies send me books to review. They are usually expensive-looking hardback books with lots of colourful illustrations and exciting ideas for projects. So when this little paperback book dropped through my letterbox I was underwhelmed to say the least.

All that changed though, once I opened it and started to read. It is 176 pages of really REALLY useful information with stuff I wish I'd known when I first started to craft to sell - too many years ago to remember now!



Star of Wonder
A Rosie & Bear Design

Rosie and Bear are sitting on the old window-seat gazing up at the clear starry sky - perhaps they're hoping to spot Santa and Rudolph making their Christmas Eve deliveries?!

Shown mounted in a 6" hoop.

Pipany & the Poltisko Memoirs.

My website address: www.pipany.co.uk



This month I am delighted to be able to bring you an interview with the nimble-fingered and amazingly talented Cornish designer-maker, Pipany.

I have been a great admirer of her work for a very long time - and am extremely jealous of her wonderful photography skills as she manages to turn even the most every-day scenes and objects into delightful images, with never a wonky horizon or black furry tail in sight!

Like me, Pipany lives on the coast, though she lives in Cornwall, and her [blog](#) is full of her family's adventures in that delightful part of England. She offers a delightful range of hand-stitched items for sale - so if you're a bit daunted by the amount of stitching you still have left for Christmas, then you could always consider "cheating" and visit her [website](#) for some lovely unique gifts.



A trio of Babbits!



Hi Pipany, and thanks for joining us. I'd like to start by asking if you could tell us a little about yourself and when you learned to sew?

Hello and thank you so much for making me a part of this month's issue.

I am lucky enough to live in beautiful Cornwall with my lovely partner Dave and our rather large family of seven children ranging in age from 29 to 6 years old. Though the older ones no longer live at home they do return very frequently for large gatherings which get very noisy!

We also have a growing menagerie of hens, ducks, cats, guinea pigs and a rabbit; a beautiful, rather natural garden where we grow flowers to cut for the house, herbs & vegetables and a fair amount of fruit. There is always something going on.



“I Saw Three Ships” Table Runner

This is a wonderful pattern for using up all those tiny scraps of fabric - and for turning not very much indeed into a unique Christmas work of art - sure to be treasured and brought out year after year!

Finished size 50” x 18” (approx)





Song of The Witches by William Shakespeare



Double, double toil and trouble;
 Fire burn and caldron bubble.
 Fillet of a fenny snake,
 In the caldron boil and bake;
 Eye of newt and toe of frog,
 Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
 Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
 Lizard's leg and howlet's wing,
 For a charm of powerful trouble,
 Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

Double, double toil and trouble;
 Fire burn and caldron bubble.
 Cool it with a baboon's blood,
 Then the charm is firm and good.

Halloween is the perfect opportunity to dress up. When I was younger mum made me a spectacular spider web costume for a friend's Halloween Party. She made the body of the costume out of a sheet and painstakingly sewed on sequins to create a sparkly black web. There was also a spider in the middle, surrounded by little flies that had become tangled in his web. Now I am older my Halloween costumes are not so elaborate, although I always make sure to dig out the cat ears and draw on some whiskers ready for any trick or treaters that knock on my door.

Whether you love it or hate it, you can be sure to hear a chorus of 'trick or treat' this all All Hallows Eve.

Scary Spider Cupcakes



Halloween is almost here, so this month I have chosen some of my favourite Halloween themed recipes. I love fancy dress and



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Bustle & Sew designs



You can also find out about my Bustle & Sew Magazine on my website. This is my monthly e-zine packed with unique projects, articles, features and loads more, and is by far the best (and nicest!) way to build your collection of Bustle & Sew patterns...

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