



THE SEWING GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2009

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

Back to School Already?



Is it really September? That means the cooler weather is on it's way. It's time to start thinking about my fall wardrobe. Traditionally, when I unpack my winter clothes, I sort them into keepers and donaters (and the inevitable pile of I really like them but probably won't ever wear them again). Then it is time to fill the gaps and add a few new styles. This year I have been reading several re-purpose blogs and have a few ideas to

turn some of my old clothes from the discard pile into really cute, very new items. I have long wool skirts that are only 20 years old. The fabric is in great shape, and could become a row of pencil skirts. I may even try to felt one skirt and turn it into a cute little bag.

I have so many ideas, I ran out of my own clothes and have raided my husband's closet (Sssh, don't tell him. He'll never notice a few pieces missing). I permanently "borrowed" a few sweatshirts to make into jackets. The instructions say to use a sweatshirt that is larger than my size to allow for shrinkage when I quilt the new shell. The additional fabric will allow for styling, seams and room to move.

Honey's old flannel shirts have been hidden away for

months. They were in the mending pile before I tucked them away for the winter. I wonder how long before he recognizes them in the blanket I made for him. There is nothing like patchwork to help use the good fabric and allow the worn out sections to disappear.

I think I am ready for the cooler weather. I still have plans for a corduroy blanket for the back of my car. That project may wait until spring though. I don't have quite enough fabric yet.

Take advantage of the change of seasons and take a good look at what you are ready to give away or throw out. There may be something beautiful hiding in those items that may extend their usefulness.

Julie Pieri
Editor

Am I Really Behind?



Do you spend the first six months of the year thinking about all the wonderful things you would like to make for your friends and family? The holidays are just around the corner for those of us that make gifts. I always have grandiose plans in March and April. "I'll make everyone a quilt this year." I have four sisters and a brother by the way. They are all married or close to married and most have multiple children. By the time July rolls around, I have become a little more realistic. By July I start thinking about

smaller projects. There are many wonderful patterns for place mats, table runners and wall hangings. My sisters' loved the purses and tote bags they found under the tree last year.

How can we gift makers check off our lists without going crazy (or having to wrap the half-finished project with a note and a promise)? You know the answer is a little planning. Here are a few tips to help you get ready.

- Start with a list of all the people you want to give to. Decide early who you should receive handmade gifts.
- My sister loved the Halloween throw I gave her for Christmas. Don't limit yourself to the winter holidays

themes when considering potential gifts.

- Check your fabric or quilt store class list for ideas. Can you learn a new technique while making a gift for your favorite Aunt?
- Start the larger projects on your list first. If you finish that throw in August you'll feel like you are well on your way.
- Make a few smaller projects through the year and set them aside for unexpected additions to your gift list.

Don't make yourself crazy. If that king sized quilt won't get finished, set it aside for next year and work on something smaller. Your gift will be appreciated all the same.

Sign up for your copy!
www.sewinggazette.com

You can also follow us
on [Facebook](#).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Cool Tools</i>	2
<i>How to Insert a Zipper</i>	2
<i>Leftover Hot Plates</i>	2
<i>Zip, Zip, Zip</i>	3
	3
<i>Chocolate Covered Brownies</i>	3
<i>Burning the Midnight Oil</i>	4

Traveling Soon?



Most of the time when I fly everything goes like clockwork. Planes come into the airport, planes leave the airport relatively on time. I took a short trip to Florida in August. This trip didn't flow quite as smoothly. My flight out was delayed because the airline could not get the plane to my airport. They had flight crew issues in the airport it was coming from.

I spent many hours waiting in the airport that day. Waiting, checking the flight status, updating the people waiting for me. Fortunately for trips like that, I carry a small

hand applique project with me when I travel. It seems I only work on this project when I am flying. I keep this project ready to go on a moments notice. I have a travel pouch with all the notions I need to work on my project. There are many patterns for small bags or pouches if you would like to make your own project pouch. My pouch is about 7"l x 3"d x 3"h. I quilted the fabric before I cut it out. I used a bright bold fabric that I can find regardless of how much or little sleep I get on my trip. It is very distinctive. I have never mixed up pouches with someone else on the plane. It is long enough to hold a marking pencil and a 6" ruler. I keep a needle case with both sharps and betweens at the ready. A few pins are always needed when working in applique so I have added a piece of felt to hold

my pins and needles. I usually tuck the felt into my needle case. I learned that lesson the hard way when trying to quickly pack things up when it was time to board the plane. I was lucky to have a tissue at hand to wrap my poor finger. I keep most of the thread I need for this project in my little travel bag, and a thread cutter (scissors may still be an issue on airplanes and I am afraid of losing one of my favorite pairs). The last thing in my bag are the prepared pieces for the block I am currently working on and the next block, just in case it turns into an extended wait.

At the rate I am going, it will probably take me another 20 years to finish this quilt. I may start working on it between flights, but then I'll just have to find another travel project.

fab ric

Pronunciation: \□ fa-brik\

Function: noun

Etymology: Middle French fabrique, from Latin fabrica workshop, structure

Date: 15th century

1 a : structure, building

b : underlying structure : framework <the fabric of society>

2 : an act of constructing : erection; specifically : the construction and maintenance of a church building

3 a : structural plan or style of construction b : texture, quality —used chiefly of textiles c : the arrangement of physical components (as of soil) in relation to each other

4 a : cloth 1a b : a material that resembles cloth

5 : the appearance or pattern produced by the shapes and arrangement of the crystal grains in a rock

Provided by the [Merriam Webster Online Dictionary](http://www.merriam-webster.com/)



How to Insert a Zipper

Do you need help putting in a zipper? Take a peek at the links to the right for directions. Check out the standard zipper, lapped zipper and invisible zipper. Keep in mind you will need a zipper foot or an invisible zipper foot for your machine. I have used 1/4" Wonder Tape to help keep things in place

while sewing.

Threads Magazine
<http://www.threads magazine.com/item/3728/sewing-in-a-zipper>

The Sewing Diva's Invisible Zipper:

<http://thesewingdivas.wordpress.com/2006/11/08/sewing-invisible-zipper/>

Sew Mama Sew:
<http://sewmamasew.com/blog2/?p=87>

Zip, Zip, Zip

Have you ever stopped to contemplate the technology that went into creating the zipper? Can you get through a day without using a zipper? Not very likely. Zippers, both functional and decorative, have invaded our world. They fasten pants, purses, jackets... the list is endless. How did the zipper ever get to be so popular? Through the support and promotion of the fashion industry.

Elias Howe (the same man that invented the sewing machine) received a patent for an "automatic continuous clothing closure" in 1851. He did not

market his new invention though. Whitcomb Judson created a "clasp locker" in 1893. The "clasp locker" was very similar to Howe's "automatic continuous clothing closure" and was used on shoes. Judson partnered with Colonel Lewis Walker to create the Universal Fastener Company. They debuted the new device at the St. Louis World's Fair. As Head Designer of the Universal Fastener Company, Gideon Sundback made several improvements in the design, creating what we recognize as the modern zipper by 1913. The Separable Fastener was patented

in 1917 and a new machine was developed to manufacture the new fastener. The new machinery was able to produce several hundred feet of the fastener daily. How did this fastener become a "zipper"? B.F. Goodrich renamed it when they used it in rubber boots. The zipper did not become popular until the 1930's though. The fashion industry began to promote the zipper in children's clothing as a way to allow children to become more self sufficient.

Use It Up!

The Everyday Living radio show devotes one day a week to “Use It Up”. They talk about those leftovers in your refrigerator. What I would like to know is how you use up that stack of single blocks? Leftover sample blocks that never made it into a quilt? Leftover blocks from a class where you learned a new technique but never finished the project? You could make these trivets to swap with your guild friends or to give away as gifts. Reminder, the holidays are not

that far away. Why not whip up a few trivets with your leftover blocks and be prepared for that unexpected guest.

- Start with a block that is anywhere between 7” and 12”. You can use any size block, but these sizes are large enough to work as a trivet and will not overwhelm your table.
- Choose a batting or filler. I use leftover batting from my quilts.
- Quilt the batting to the

wrong side of the square.

- Cut a backing piece the same size as your square and line up right sides together.
- Sew around the edges, with ¼” seam allowance. Leave a small hole to turn right-side out.
- Clip corners and turn right-side out.
- Turn in seam allowance at opening and top stitch around the entire square.



Secret Pals?

For many guilds the new season of Secret Pals has begun. While it is exciting to see what your pal has come up with for you each month, you also have an obligation to be just as creative in your gift ideas to your secret pal. There is nothing like that last minute panic an hour before the meeting when you realize you don't have your package wrapped and ready. Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

- A selection of fat quarters is always appreciated. Tie them together with a pretty ribbon.
- Do you have a favorite tool

or gadget? The best gifts I have received were tools I had not yet tried.

- Try making a small bag or tote for your secret pal to carry their projects in.
- Make a small notion bag that can be used for all the little things you need for class. You can add a few notions to the bag as well.
- Have you run across cute tidbits that are adorable, but you wouldn't buy for yourself. I received a pin cushion flower with a spool of variegated thread that I just love.

- Does your secret pal have other collections besides fabric that you can add too? Maybe they like angels or collect bells.
- A gift card to a favorite restaurant is always a pleasant surprise. It doesn't have to be a large dollar amount. Maybe just enough to cover dessert.
- My favorite is always chocolate in a cute container.
- Take advantage of the seasons and holidays for themes as well. Chocolate hearts for Valentine's Day, for example.

THE ONLY PLACE WHERE HOUSEWORK COMES BEFORE NEEDLEWORK IS IN THE DICTIONARY.

~MARY KURTZ

Chocolate Covered Brownies

My sister makes the most amazing brownies. The added nuts, raisins or chips are always a surprise, but the brownies are always delicious. Feel free to experiment with nuts, raisins or even dried cherries then crown these brownies with chocolate. YUM! By the way, the chocolate ganache “frosting” is also great on pound cake, angel food cake and for dipping sweet treats.

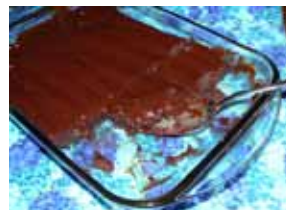
Chocolate Brownies:

- 1 c. melted butter
- 2 c. sugar
- 2 t. vanilla
- ¼ t. salt
- 4 eggs

- ¾ c. cocoa
 - 1 c. flour
 - ½ t. baking powder
 - ¼ t. salt
 - 1 c. chocolate chips
 - 3 T. chocolate sauce
- Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 9” x 13” pan. Combine butter, sugar and vanilla. Add eggs one at a time and mix well. Set aside. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder and cocoa. Combine with wet ingredients. Add chocolate chips and chocolate sauce. Pour into pan and bake 30-35 minutes.

Frosting:

- 6 oz. chocolate chips
 - ¾ c. heavy cream
- Heat the cream to just boiling. Watch carefully to keep from boiling over. Pour cream over chocolate chips in a medium bowl and whisk until smooth. Allow to cool slightly and pour over finished brownies.



Sign up for your copy!
www.sewinggazette.com

You can also follow us on
[Facebook.](https://www.facebook.com/sewinggazette)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Quilted Pleasures

3210 Washington Avenue
Erie, Pennsylvania 16508
Phone: 814-864-0466
e-Mail: julie@quiltedpleasures.com
www.quiltedpleasures.com

THE SEWING GAZETTE
3210 Washington Avenue
Erie, Pennsylvania 16508
Phone: 814-864-0466
e-Mail: julie@sewinggazette.com

Heather Finnell

Burning the Midnight Oil Quilts

How long have you been sewing/quilting and what got you started? I have sewn since grade school. I didn't start quilting until I was 19. I was living in Berlin, Germany with two small children and time on my hands. I saw a program with Eleanor Burns...and I was hooked!! I found a book, some tools and set out to make a quilt. I have never looked back.

Why did you decide to start designing and selling your patterns? I was always one of those types that would change a pattern, or wing it as I went. After showing some of my quilts to people and having them ask where I got the pattern, I decided to give pattern writing a try.

What is your favorite part of designing? I love the fabrics! I get to play with fabric all the time. The colors, the feelings that they can invoke. It is so rewarding to see the finished project and see if the design captures that feeling.

What are your favorite techniques and why? I like to try as many different things as I can. I love it all. I would say that I am a traditionalist though. I like to take traditional blocks and break them down to a simpler design, to make them easier for the novice as well as the experienced quilter.

What is your "I can't work without it." sewing tool?
My brass seam ripper!

What else would you like us to know about you? I don't know! LOL I guess just that quilting has been such a joy in my life on so many levels. And I love to share that with all the other quilters I come across! Quilter's are so loving and giving and it is a pleasure everyday to see the ones I know and to meet the new ones that come along!



Pocket's Full of Love Thinking of You
These patterns are so cute with the center pocket to stash your cards. Heather has designs for all of the events that you would receive cards for. Check out her web site for the other designs.

Heather Finnell
Burning the Midnight Oil Quilts
8845 Wattsburg Road Suite 2
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509
Phone:
814-825-9000
e-mail:
heathersquilts@gmail.com
Website:
www.burningthemidnight-oilquilts.com

Sign up for your copy!
www.sewinggazette.com

You can also follow us on
[Facebook](#).

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please visit www.sewinggazette.com. You can also send an e-mail to Julie@sewinggazette.com with comments and suggestions for topics.

This newsletter is published by The Sewing Gazette. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.