

Where Samplers Rule

THE ATTIC

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In no particular order, thinking about what we saw this past weekend in Nashville, these are some of the things that screamed "Stitch me now."

The WOW Factor

THE CREATIVE, REMARKABLE, UNUSUAL HAVE-TO-HAVE ITEMS

FROM *LITTLE HOUSE NEEDLEWORKS*

"Needle and Thread" w/*Crescent Colours* hand-dyed cotton floss + its accompanying limited-edition Scissors Bed/Pin Pillow (\$36) combining the creative talents of Diane Williams and *Impie, Hattie & Bea* and featuring another of Diane's original verses:

"Needle and thread, needle and thread
"When starlight fades I lay them to bed"

The chart calls for 32c linen for the coverlet/36c for the scissors fob. We think it would be perfect as well using 36c or 40c for both, and we've photographed it with two *Lakeside Linens* colors that we think go well with the beautiful Moda reproduction fabric used for the bed.

We think the crocheted button trim would provide a wonderful finish ~ watch for Linda's upcoming class!

Give us your preferred linen count (32, 36, or 40) and we will include the *Lakeside* hand-dyed fabric + a small piece of "skin-toned" cotton floss for the sleeping needleworker's face/hand for a package price of \$40.

Also shown on this page, *on the far right*, "Singing Mermaid" (\$24) from *Stickideen von der Wiehenburg*, a sampler that cries out to be stitched on a higher-count linen so that only one ply of silk is required. The verse:

"And heard a mermaid on a dolphin's back
"Uttering such dulcet and harmonious breath
"That the rude sea grew civil at her song
"And certain stars shot madly from their spheres
"To hear the sea-maid's music."

On 40c linen the design size will be 9 x 28.75 inches.



The Attic, Mesa, AZ Toll-Free: 1.888.94-ATTIC (1.888.942-8842). www.atticneedlework.com

From *Darlene/The Marking Sampler*: “My Favorite Stitching Box” (chart \$15 ~ Tennessee Shaker \$96) The fob, pin keep, top and bottom panels are stitched on 40c, and the inside band uses 28c Zweigart banding.



The bottom of the box features a very special verse from Ann Capon’s sampler, stitched in 1791. Of course, you may substitute your name in place of Ann’s. Inside the lid is a tribute to mothers and daughters, a great place to personalize your box with your ancestors or your special needlework friends. I could only bring home a small number of boxes. More will be coming soon.

From Jim Lara of *The Marking Sampler* about the Tennessee Shaker box:

Handmade by a true Tennessee master craftsman, your American Black Cherry Shaker Box is truly a work of art that will become a family heirloom. The box starts as a number of pieces of straight, flat lumber that have been hand selected from the log by the Master Craftsman. The wood is then cut into the various linear and oval shapes that are required, tapered (look at the thinness of the ends of the wooden bands) and hand sanded. The Cherry strips that will form the sides of the box and the top are then steamed for an extended period to make the wood somewhat pliable. At the appropriate time, the wood is removed from the steamer and bent around a form to create the sides of the box and top. Very small holes are then drilled thru the sides into the flat portion of the box’s top and bottom pieces. Tiny wooden dowels or pegs are inserted, joining the sides and the top/bottom together. Incidentally, both the flat top and bottom pieces are beveled just as a wooden barrel was made by a cooper to hold liquid. Today, a wine barrel would be a good example of fine cooperage.

Once the wooden pegs are inserted and countersunk, the cooper rivets are inserted and hammered to flatten both sides, holding the rivet (and the box side & top) in place. No glue, adhesive or plastic of any kind is used in the construction of your box.

Now it’s time to make the classic “Square Oval” Shaker swing handle. This is among the most difficult feats because the wood is so hard, the handle is quite thick, and the two angles of the “Square Oval” are almost 90°. Starting with a straight piece of wood, the soon-to-be handle is boiled for several hours. At the appropriate time, it is removed from the caldron and taken to the Bending Form for work. During the bending process, about 25-30% of the handles are broken.

Once the handle is properly shaped, it is fine-sanded, then drilled to accommodate the large copper rivet. The washer between the handle and the box is white maple, ensuring years of useful life.

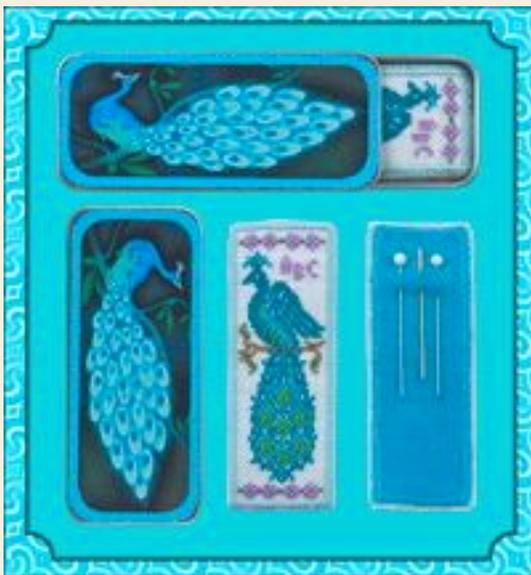
Both the interior and exterior of the box are fine sanded, by hand, bringing out the beauty of the wood grain. Then linseed oil is hand rubbed into the Black Cherry wood, yielding a beautiful patina. Any excess oil is removed with a Cheese Cloth, then the box is re-sanded. The final step is the application of a very high-grade Bee’s Wax.

Your box’s patina will darken over the years as you use it. It is made to be touched and the American Black Cherry wood loves the natural oils from your hands. If your box starts to dry out too severely, as might be the case in hot and dry climates, just apply a light coating of very high-grade Bee’s Wax, being sure to remove any excess with a dry piece of Cheese Cloth.

*On behalf of **The Marking Sampler**, we hope that you thoroughly enjoy your Tennessee Shaker Box!*

From *Just*Nan*: “Keep a Little Secret” (\$13) This latest and greatest Needle Slide features a gorgeous peacock, and hidden inside is the “secret” peacock sampler stitched over 1 on 32c linen, backed with peacocky blue wool to hold needles or a special pin. The magnet in the slide holds the needle sampler in place. Kit contains leaflet, finishing instructions, overdyed wool, fusible interfacing and Peacock Needle Slide. The slide is not available separately until the kits are gone.
 “Peacock Charm Garden Pin”(\$10) The hand-painted peacock perched on a tiny heart is backed with a gold round bead and peacock blue flower. He is ready to make noise in the garden or to keep a little secret!

AND “Willow Bay” Sewing Set (\$38) with its Victorian basket (\$70) and matching beaded fob (\$37).



The *Fern Ridge* artistic and talented Pat+Peggy team always have things that we love and two were WOW kits: “Day’s Catch-All” Sewing Set (\$59) and matching beaded fob (\$37) ~the bag that carries it all comes already made for you, but you do get to make the fish hook. Very clever set!



From *Chessie & Me, aka Linda*, “Chessie’s Fern” (\$22) is a complete kit with 32c *Lakeside Linen* and *Belle Soie* to make the adorable pincushion and fob starring our favorite cat! We’ve attached the Chessie fob to a pair of DOVO scissors (\$60), our favorite scissors. The stitched model next to the fabric and silks underscores the difficulty sometimes encountered with photography in capturing the true color.



From *Lori/La-D-Da*, a charming sewing box (\$60) starring everyone’s favorite, “Miss Mary Mack.” The box inside has room for your scissors and other tools, a corner pincushion, and several thread rings to hang your favorite silk.



From *Anne/The Goode Huswife*, her “Book of Designs Vol IV” (\$80) featuring all Quaker samplers.



From *Linda/Erica Michaels*, several in her *Petites Collection*, but the very charming design combined with the verse from *Ecclesiastes* in the border of “Time & Seasons” brought tears to my eyes: “He has made everything beautiful in its time” ~ the chartpack includes the 40c silk gauze (\$15)



From *Praiseworthy Stitches*, “Temptation” (\$14) ~ not new but new to us ~ somehow we missed it several months ago ~ but we loved the whole design, the verses, the peacock in the tree, the red birds everywhere and, most of all, the stags.



From *Ebeth/Dames of the Needle*, her “Maritime Needle Book” (\$25), a former teaching piece, has just been released ~ and her “Adam & Eve Sampler” (\$16)



From *Cynthia/Little by Little*, “Quaker Faith” (\$8) combines the medallions, roses, carnations, acorns, and typical Quaker alphabet style into a very charming design.



Much more to come in Part 2 but if you can, join us on Saturday for our Nashville Market Day, to see all of these and much much more in person. Doors open at 9 AM for Attic Addict members and at 10 AM for the general public.