



Wednesday 29 July 2009

Monica Poole's Sewing School has now moved to Blueberries!
Vacancies are available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
To find out more click here to email your interest.

Ever wondered how the sewing machine came to be invented? In this week's Midweek Moments we begin a seven part series that tracks the long, bumpy and occasionally treacherous road that led to the sophisticated machines we spend so much quality time with in the twenty-first century. You may be a bit sceptical that there could possibly be any drama behind the invention of such a commonplace item, but prepare to be surprised. This is a tale of epic proportions involving passion, pain, betrayal, redemption and all the other emotions in between. So settle comfortably and be transported back to 1790s London, where it all began...

[Sew 'n' Sews Part 1](#)

A brief and roughly stitched together history of the people who invented the sewing machine

Thomas Saint – Big on words, small on action



This London cabinet-maker holds the distinction of being the very first person ever to take out a patent on a 'sewing machine'.

Very little is known about him, except that his machine, which he patented in 1790, was intended to be used mainly on leather and canvas with a notched needle and awl for a chain stitch.

Saint was obviously more of an ideas man than an action man, as he never got around to actually building a prototype for his invention.

The other thing working against him was the title he gave his patent – “An Entirely New Method of Making and Completing Shoes, Boots, Splatterdashes, Clogs, and Other Articles, by Means of Tools and Machines also Invented by Me for that Purpose, and of Certain Compositions of the Nature of Japan or Varnish, which will be Very Advantageous in Many Useful Appliances”.

Understandably confused staff at the patent office incorrectly filed the patent under “Glues & Varnishes” where it languished, unnoticed for another 83 years.

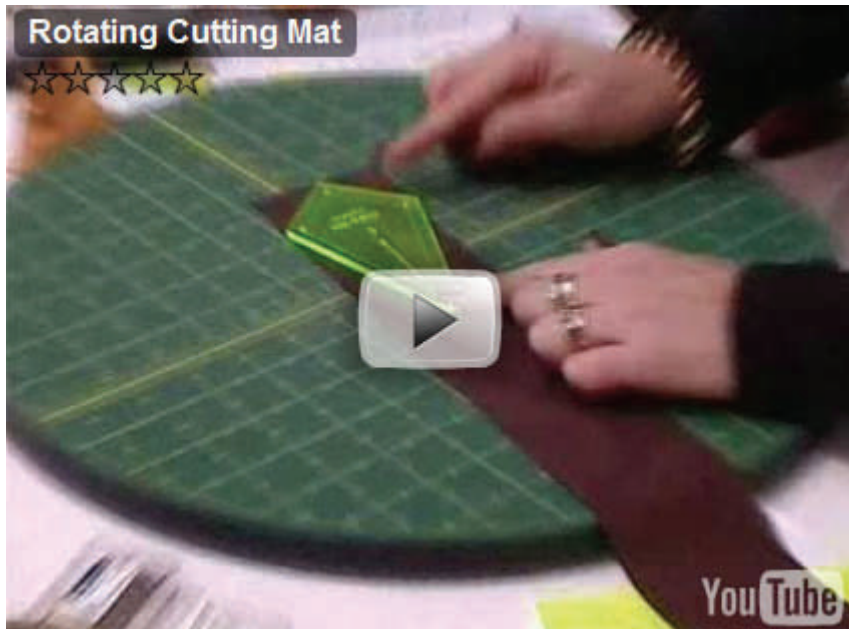
Next week... the quest jumps the channel to France...now for some more interesting items in this week's newsletter!

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Product Review on the Rotating Cutting Mat

This Rotating Cutting Mat makes it very easy to cut out templates. It is a self-healing 15" diameter mat with a 360 degrees rotation, on a sealed ball-bearing base.

Click here or on the picture to watch a VIDEO on how to use the Rotating Cutting Mat!



It is available for \$55.00 click here to purchase.

[Staff Profile on Linden Airey](#)

From Cheesecakes to Layer Cakes

The most unexpected thing about Linden Airey's journey to Blueberries was the big fork in the road that she didn't see coming.

Linden's background is in the hospitality industry and started at Blueberries last October serving the food and coffee at the first demo day.



Linden then started working at Blueberries serving in the shop. Her talent was not realised until a staff meeting when other staff members saw the sketch Linden had been quietly doodling in the background and they suggested she try her hand at embroidery.

"I had a little bit of sewing experience," Linden says. "When I was a kid I used Mum's machine to sew clothes for my Barbies and I made my cossies on the old treadle, but I'd never really done embroidery before. But now that I think of it, it kind of makes sense to me – you could say that embroidery is where drawing and sewing overlap."

Like the other staff at Blueberries, Linden really enjoys the enthusiasm of the ladies who come into the shop, and the excitement they have for the projects they're working on. Linden finds their passion and enthusiasm "very infectious" and is able to use the inspiration for her own projects, which she says she has "a hard time putting down".

Til next week!
The Blueberries Team