



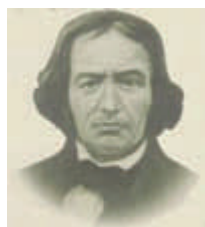
Wednesday 5 August 2009

Welcome to another edition of Midweek Moments. As well as the staff profile on Rachael Porter, we also have the second instalment of the history of the invention of the sewing machine, this week involving more drama than a reality T.V. show. So make yourself a cuppa and break out the Scotch Finger biscuits...

### [Sew 'n' Sews Part 2](#)

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

#### **Barthelemy Thimonnier - it was a riot!**



In the early 1800s a few industrious individuals attempted to improve on Thomas Saint's primitive sewing machine model, which he patented in 1790 without a prototype. These clumsy attempts all came to naught, until 36-year-old French tailor Barthelemy Thimonnier took up the challenge in 1830 and created the world's first functioning sewing machine. This contraption involved a hooked needle, which made a chain stitch using only one thread and was capable of 200 stitches a minute, compared to a tailor's 30 a minute.



Thimonnier worked with his friend Auguste Ferrand, a mining engineer, who assisted him with construction of the prototype. Although the patent was in both men's names, it is Thimonnier who is historically most linked to this invention because of what happened next. He opened the world's first machine-based clothing factory, which was designed for the production of army uniforms. Unfortunately, the only combat they ended up seeing was when the factory was ransacked and then burned to the ground by rioting workers who thought the patent would put them out of work. Thimonnier had to flee for his life, abandoning his invention.

*Next week: the drama continues across the Atlantic in America.*

### [Product Review on Roxanne's Glue-Baste-It](#)

This incredible appliqué glue is 100% water-soluble, dries in minutes, holds firmly until you want to loosen it, and does not feel stiff when dry. The unique syringe applicator allows controlled placement of droplets of glue. Contains no dyes, waxes or harmful chemicals, pH neutral. Great for scrapbooking, appliqué work, quilt binding, chenille strips - use anywhere you would normally use pins.

It is available in two sizes, [click here](#) to purchase the 59ml bottle for \$18.50 or [click here](#) to purchase the 15ml bottle for \$10.00.

*continues next page...*

Click here or on the picture to watch a VIDEO on how to use Roxanne's Glue Baste-It!



Click here to watch the VIDEO on how to clean and maintain it.

[Staff Profile on Rachael Porter](#)

### **Confessions of a fabric addict**

The description "fabric addict" is Rachael Porter's own, and one she uses with pride. After many years of exploring different creative outlets, such as ceramics, folk art, machine embroidery and scrapbooking, patchwork has proven to be the "one mainstay", the perennial constant she has returned to again and again. "Rather like that one enduring true love after lots of affairs," she says with a laugh.



However, not unlike true love, the relationship had some rocky patches along the way, especially in the beginning. "I hated sewing when I was at school and my first sewing project, which was a skirt, ended up in the bin," she confesses. "I did textiles and enjoyed screen printing and batik, but I could never quite get my head around using a sewing machine."

That changed about 14 years ago when she went to a beginners' patchwork class put on by a colleague and quickly became addicted. It was through her love of patchwork that she "finally made peace" with sewing machines. Rachael has now registered a business name and has written her first pattern, which is available at Blueberries.

"Working at Blueberries is the perfect job for me and I've learned so many new techniques here," she says. "It's been an exciting journey that's opened up a world of opportunity."

Just like true love, really.

Til next week!  
The Blueberries Team