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Welcome to another issue of Midweek Moments. This week we find out what happens when too many different patent-holders all try to sue each other at the same time and what it means for the ever-humble sewing machine. We feature the Dresden Plate Template Set and you'll also get to know co-owner Tyson Leybourne a bit better. So put the kettle on and slip into something comfortable...

[Sew 'n' Sews Part 5](#)

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

Sewing machine wars – the great 1850s patent thicket

The earlier legal wrangling over patents between Elias Howe and Isaac Singer proved to be only the first in what soon became a confusing and, for lawyers, lucrative development. As different manufacturers improved upon sewing machine technology with devices and methods of their own, they all began running straight to the patent office to legally enshrine their respective breakthroughs. By the middle of the 1850s, so many different manufacturers were all trying to sue each other over patent infringement, that the sewing machine itself began to languish commercially. This legal gridlock became known as the Great Patent Thicket.

Fortunately, a solution was eventually found when the three biggest companies; I.M. Singer & Co., Wheeler & Wilson and Grover & Baker joined forces and combined their patents as a pool to be administered as a commercial trust. They were then able to fight together as a unified entity to protect their monopoly. Elias Howe was also included as a fourth entity, as his original 1846 patent meant the pool could not operate without him. The newly formed patent pool became known as the Sewing Machine Combination and lasted until 1877 when the last patent expired. By then, sewing machines were so well established that there was no repeat of the sewing machine wars that had earlier threatened to derail the invention as a viable commercial enterprise.

Next week: Girl power at last!

[Product Review on the Dresden Plate Template Set](#)

You can make some stunning blocks and features with the Dresden Plate Template Set.

Watch the video below to see what you can make with the Dresden Plate Template Set.

There are two packs available and each pack has six different sizes.

The small pack contains sizes 4" to 9" and the large pack contains sizes 10" to 15".



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Click here to purchase the small pack for \$20 or click here to purchase the large pack for \$22.

[Co-Owner Profile on Tyson Leybourne](#)



Sibling support

As co-owner of Blueberries, Tyson Leybourne freely admits that, unlike the other staff and tutors, he doesn't come from a creative background. However, this dearth of creative expression hasn't mattered a bit.

"I'm involved in the marketing, taking the photos, putting things on the website, and doing some of the more laborious manual labour like lifting and moving things", he says.

"Tyson is also able to provide valuable practical and moral support for his sister Jackie, the other co-owner, and who works full-time in the shop. Tyson says that he and Jackie make a good working team as they both have fairly different approaches, viewpoints and strengths, which complement each other nicely.

"There's a good balance between Jackie and I," he says. "She comes up with some great creative ideas and then I help to implement some of these great ideas. Working on your own can be a bit de-motivating as you always have to keep pushing yourself, but when there's two of you, there's someone else to bounce off."

Tyson works in the corporate world 9 to 5 week days and works for Blueberries either a week night or weekend when needed. Tyson has enjoyed his journey with Blueberries so far and enjoys being part of a small family business. "The whole family gets involved, including Toby the dog! It can be really hard work, but also quite rewarding," he says.

Til next week!
The Blueberries Team