

Wednesday 23 September 2009

In this week's Midweek Moments we continue our column exploring everyday inventions by women. This week you'll meet Bette Nesmith, inventor of that old favourite – Liquid Paper. We also have new fabric that arrived today with a diverse selection to choose from and last but not least we have information on our new cushion club!

Mothers of invention



Bette Nesmith

Bette Nesmith - inventor of Liquid Paper

Bette Nesmith was an executive secretary in a bank in Texas, USA, who raised extra money on the side by painting decorative store windows at Christmas, Halloween and other festive holiday times. Decades before word processors had been invented, Nesmith became frustrated with having to manually erase typing mistakes, so she decided to apply the principle of covering up rather than rubbing out mistakes, which is what she did when painting store windows.



Her very first batch of what would become known as Liquid Paper was improvised using tempera water-based paint and mixed in her kitchen blender. Although her bosses disapproved of the “messy” invention, it proved a hit with other typists and co-workers, and Nesmith realized there was a huge untapped market for the product. She marketed her typewriter correction fluid in 1956 under the somewhat cumbersome name of ‘Mistake Out’. A few years later when she started her own company, the name was changed to Liquid Paper.

By the time Nesmith sold her company to Gillette Corporation in 1979, she employed over 200 workers and produced 25 million bottles of Liquid Paper a year. Gillette paid Nesmith \$47.5 million for Liquid Paper, but unfortunately she died the following year at age 56 so was not able to enjoy the fruits of her labours for long. Her son

Michael Nesmith, incidentally a member of the popular '70s rock group The Monkees, was sole beneficiary of her fortune.

New Fabric

We have had some lovely new fabric arrive today, the selection is quite diverse with something for everyone. Below we have picked out a few highlights. Click here to view all the new fabric arrivals.

Patchwork Heritage Classics
Valley Forge
Gathered Over Time
Clara Barton

Space the New Frontier
Colonies Reserve
Worn & Loved
Basic Brights

Traffic Jam
New Town Farm
Seneca Shirtings
Imperial Fusions

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Other New Fabric arrivals...



Graceful Geisha
Panels available
\$14.50 per panel
\$21.00 for larger panel



Maisy
Something for the little ones
\$25 per metre



Hit the Gas
For the Bigger kids
\$24 per metre



Cotillion by Faye Burgos
a lively dance originating in
France in the 18th century
\$24 per metre

Cushion Club



*Cushion with Basic
Machine Appliqué*



Closeup view of cushion

Basic Machine Appliqué

Over the coming months Monica Poole will be conducting a cushion club where you can learn various techniques.

The first being the Basic Machine Appliqué. You can learn this technique in a one day class where Monica will show you how to do this using decorative stitches available on your sewing machine. Tips, information on what sewing machine needles to use along with types of machine threads suitable will also be discussed.

The project will be designed so that you can make your work into a cushion. A sample cushion is see here to the left.

The first class is next Wednesday 30 September 2009 from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

With a second and third planned for:

Thursday 1 October 2009 9:30am to 2:30pm

Monday 7 December 2009 9:30am to 2:30pm.

Class fee: \$40 plus requirements [click here to book](#).

Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.

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