

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Happy New Year to ALL! I had the pleasure of having my daughter, Melissa Watson, home over the holidays. Since she is taking the one-year "Fast Track" fashion design course at Parsons in New York, she had a five-week break, of which she gave me three. I got to watch her drape a muslin on a dress form and then make the pattern and sew her New Year's Eve dress. I will share photos in an upcoming *Fashion For Real People* online newsletter.

If you made a resolution about sewing, teaching sewing, or growing your business, send it to me to share in the next newsletter.

*Happy Sewing,  
Pati Palmer*

## News from Palmer/Pletsch

### CERTIFICATION

We are still working on streamlining our certification program. Jeff is trying to send renewal notices via our database system, but he says it is still a bit of a hand process. We have just cleaned the website teacher listing so only those who are active are listed. This is important because if you aren't teaching, it is confusing to the consumer to find you, contact you, and then be disappointed.

My design director has agreed to add your photo to your listing if you send a head shot as a 72 dpi jpeg sized at 8" x 10 or larger to: [wizbiz@wisnercreative.com](mailto:wizbiz@wisnercreative.com).

Not sure if this will help you get more action, but it will personalize your listing.

You can renew your CSI online at [http://www.palmerpletsch.com/workshop\\_teachtrain.htm](http://www.palmerpletsch.com/workshop_teachtrain.htm). Then you can send, fax, or e-mail me your PDUs. I love seeing what you are doing. If your CSI has lapsed for a while, simply reapply using the same link. Check your listing on our website to see if you want anything changed. We offer to post your name, city and state, phone number, e-mail, and website, but content is your decision.

We are doing a number of things to drive traffic to our website such as advertising in the national ASG newsletter. We also have our website as a link on McCall's.

### UPDATE NEWSLETTERS FOR TEACHERS

This is how we all share ideas and information to enhance our businesses. Past **Update Newsletters** can be found on our website under teacher resources: [http://www.palmerpletsch.com/teacher\\_resources.htm](http://www.palmerpletsch.com/teacher_resources.htm)

### NEW TEACHER TOOL FOR TEACHING FIT!!

#### NEW TISSUE-FITTING ORDER for BASIC BODICE OR ANY TOP from Pati Palmer

First, do only what affects other areas of fit. Do what doesn't affect other areas last. Use the following order to make it easier:

#### First tissue-fitting

- **Bodice length:** If design has a waist seam, make sure the length at the side seam is at your waist. If design has no waist seam, you can adjust waist length now or at the end, or not at all if there is no reason to.
- **Back:** Check for broad/narrow, high round, and low round.

Take off pattern. Unpin completely. Do those alterations. (Broad back affects ability to check bust width. The round back alterations move the neck seam higher, which in turn moves the shoulder seam at the neck more forward, which affects other shoulder alterations.

## Second tissue-fitting

- **Shoulders:** Check for square or sloping shoulders since these can affect dart or princess bust fullness placement. Re-pin shoulder seams deeper at armhole for sloping and shallower for square shoulders, tapering to nothing at neckline.
- **Full Bust:** For princess, first raise or lower pattern fullness to match your fullest bust. Measure pattern center front to your center front for amount of width to add.

Take off pattern; unpin completely. Alter for full bust. If you may need more waist or hip width, add a chunk of tissue to front and back side seams. When you re-pin side seams, match cutting lines and pin them together. Then trim the chunks you added so an even amount is added to front and back, tapering to nothing at underarm.

## Third tissue-fitting

- **Dart placement:** For a darted front, check amount to raise or lower dart, if needed.
- **Sway/flat/erect back:** Don't check this until width is correct. Pin side seams so waist and hip width skim your body. (Don't pin back to bra or you won't be able to know if you need a sway/flat back alteration.) Make a tuck as needed for sway/flat/erect back.
- **Shoulders:** Check for forward shoulder; repin seams if necessary. Check shoulder width. If you are broad or narrow, mark your shoulder on the tissue and taper the armhole seam from there to original armhole stitching line about 2/3 of the way down from shoulder seam.

And remember: Always tape on the right side; press on the wrong side.

## TELEVISION OPPORTUNITY

From Sheryl Borden,  
Producer/Host of *Creative Living with Sheryl Borden*  
KENW-TV

Pati, I know that I have contacted you in the past about taping some segments with me for "Creative Living." Of course, the invitation still stands; however, I also thought perhaps you might recommend some of your colleagues whom I could contact as well. Here's a letter that gives more details:

"Creative Living with Sheryl Borden" is a half-hour television show designed for the active lifestyles of the new millennium. Celebrating our 35th season on PBS, the magazine-formatted show allows us to feature two or three different segments on each program. All of our shows are now produced in high definition, and each show includes captioning for the hearing impaired as well as descriptive video.

As producer and host, I'm always looking for new ideas and new guests to be on the show. "Creative Living" is fed via satellite to PBS stations across the country and is currently carried on more than 118 PBS stations in over 40 states, as well as in Canada, Guam and Puerto Rico. In the past we've had representatives from Wilton Brands, Dannon, California Raisin Marketing Board, Minwax, PartyLite, TexaSweat Marketing, Inc., and DairyMAX. Other guests have represented Mirassou Winery, Fairfield Processing Corp., Honeysuckle White & Shady Brook Farms, Simplicity Creative Group, Islander Sewing Systems – and many others too numerous to mention. We've also worked with crafters and designers, book authors, motivational speakers, spokespersons with utility companies, and state and county extension agents. I think all of them

feel the visibility and television exposure was well worth their time and expense in coming to Portales to tape with us.

I would like to visit with you about the possibility of you being on the show. We began our 35th season in September and are currently scheduling guests for February through April 2012. Since I usually tape three or four different segments (ranging in length from 5-9 minutes) with each guest, the trip is very cost effective for both you and your company. I will look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience at 575-562-2112 or you can e-mail me at: sheryl.borden@enmu.edu. If you would like to visit our website and view the types of guests/topics we feature on the show, the address is: www.kenw.org – then click on the "Creative Living" tab at the top of the page.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Borden  
Producer/Host  
*Creative Living with Sheryl Borden*  
KENW-TV

(Mailing Address)  
1500 S. Ave. K - St. #52

(Physical Address)  
1450 S. Ave. N

Portales, NM 88130

575-562-2112 or 1-888-367-5369

sheryl.borden@enmu.edu

www.kenw.org – click on Creative Living tab

Blog: <http://sherylborden.wordpress.com>

Creative Living on Facebook

# FOLDING CARD-BOARD CUTTING TABLE UPDATE

From Donna Alongi

I am at the end of my stock of fold-away cutting tables. Because my husband has a serious illness, I will not be importing another shipment from Australia at this time. As of right now, there are no other suppliers in the United States. Once my husband is through the major part of his treatment and I see that he is on the road to recovery, I will start watching for a favorable exchange rate and will import another shipment of FOLD AWAY TABLES. This won't be before late next year and until then there may be no other way for you to get one.

**DISCOUNTS:** Most of the tables I have left have some minor bruises to larger imperfections. . .from small scrunched corners to some torn areas in the bases. I will be discounting these tables accordingly. I have photos of each table with a "map" of where the imperfections are. If you are not concerned about beauty, most of the bruises are cosmetic only. Some tables may need a little help, e.g., some glue or stabilization, but there is an inexpensive solution and I can advise you or even provide the self-adhesive backing board at my cost.

The tables that I repair will be repaired to a state of "better than new" as I will make sure the repairs are consistent to the look of the table, which will make the table stronger overall. Therefore, these tables will not be discounted. (Regular price is still \$129.00.)

**PAYMENT:** I can now accept CREDIT CARDS. For those of you who inquired early in my import days, I was only taking PayPal, which was unacceptable to some. I am a one-woman business and I do not store numbers.

**SHIPMENT COST:** Shipping is a little less expensive now, too!!! I have a track record with FedEx and am finally at a discounted rate. So if shipping put you off before, while it is still not "cheap," it may be less than what you were originally quoted.

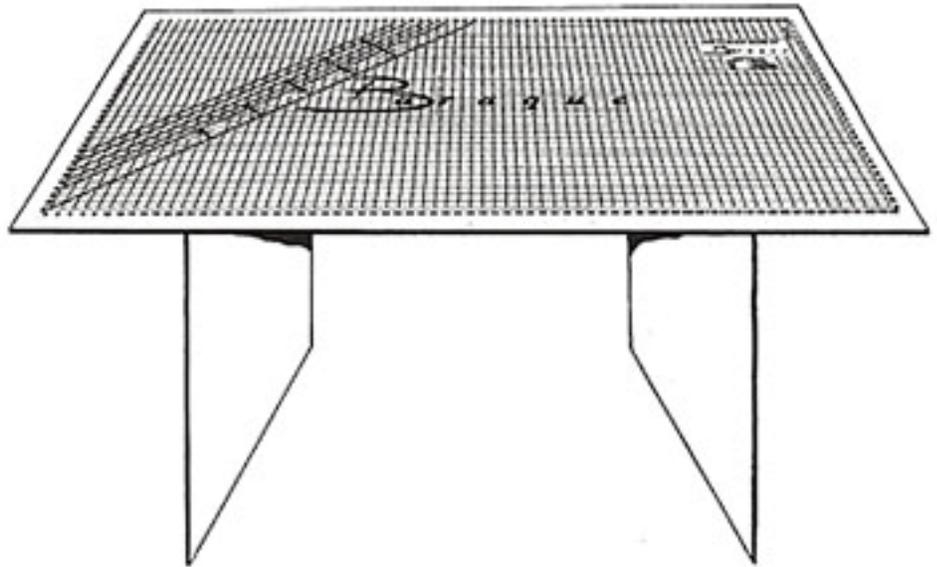
**JUST IN CASE:** If you're still not ready to purchase, but decide you are in the future, drop me an e-mail. If I don't have any tables left, I'll put you on a list for when I do finally import more. There's a good chance someone else will pick up the U.S. distributorship and I will absolutely put you in touch with that person.

**SAD:** I have grown rather attached to my little import business and am sad to see it coming to an end for a while. That's why I think I'll be back to it as soon as I can. If you or anyone you know might be interested in being a U.S. distributor, please put them in touch with me. I'll help out in any way I can!

## Pati says:

Donna is located in San Jose, CA  
Visit [www.primadonnadesign.com](http://www.primadonnadesign.com)  
or [www.baraque.com.au/  
FoldawayCuttingTable/tabid/56/  
Default.aspx](http://www.baraque.com.au/FoldawayCuttingTable/tabid/56/Default.aspx)

Donna's email is:  
[primadonna@alongi.net](mailto:primadonna@alongi.net)



# Pants for REAL People 2nd Edition Released by Palmer/Pletsch

Forget the fitting shell! Toss the tape measure—after taking just one measurement! Now, with just the hip measurement and the help of the new Palmer/Pletsch book, *Pants for REAL People*, Second Edition, by Pati Palmer and Marta Alto, women of all sizes, shapes, and ages can try on the tissue-paper pattern to see how to fit the pants they sew. Tissue-fitting is a technique devised and perfected by Palmer/Pletsch over four decades of hands-on teaching.

*Pants for Real People*, Second Edition, makes pant fitting so logical that even a beginner can follow. It is clear and easy to understand, with over 850 illustrations and 250 photographs of REAL people being fitted in pants. Plus, there are hundreds of techniques for waistbands, zippers, pockets, hems, linings, jumpsuits, men's pants, maternity, designing, and more.

## What's NEW in the Second Edition?

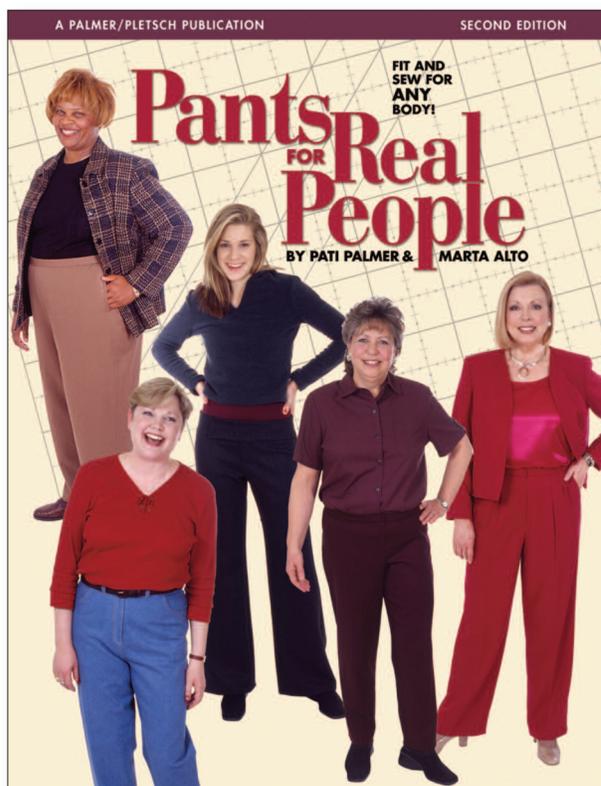
After using *Pants for Real People* with our students for nearly a decade, we have refined our methods throughout and added these great new features:

- **It is full-color throughout, making it very reader-friendly to use!**
- **New step-by-step order for tissue-fitting.** Our students tell us it's now easier than ever!
- **Ten pages on sewing your own designer jeans!** Learn the latest about fitting and sewing and you'll never want to bother shopping for ready-made jeans again.
- **New jeans sewing order for faster results** when using BOTH topstitching and regular threads and the serger.
- **Expanded information on contour waistbands.** Get the curve of the band just right for YOUR body. Match contour band seams at zipper opening.

- **The latest updates about fabrics for pants.**
- **Page reference numbers added to the Body Map fit chart** for easy reference and for use by teachers.
- **More on no-side-seam pants.**
- **New zippered pockets.**

We learn as we teach, so Palmer/Pletsch books keep getting better and better! Stay up to date with the latest tried-and-tested methods.

Co-authors Palmer and Alto have been working together in sewing education for nearly four decades. Besides conducting workshops, Alto does technique research and development for Palmer/Pletsch, and Palmer is an author and publisher who also designs for the McCall Pattern Company. She began teaching pant fitting in 1972 and four years later designed the first pant-fitting pattern for Vogue, using gingham to show fit variations. In 1980 she switched to McCall's and in 1989 introduced tissue-fitting. She has since designed dozens of pant patterns for McCall's.



Available March 1, 2012

## NEWS FROM YOU!

### FROM CRISTIE McGUIRE

San Diego

The San Diego ASG chapter organizers are potentially seeking certified Palmer/Pletsch sewing instructors to help out with a workshop this spring in some way, perhaps even helping fit people if they are broken into smaller groups on Sunday. I am writing to let you know that I would be interested in helping out. I don't know if you have worked out the details yet with the local organizers, but I wanted to express my interest directly to you.

Just to catch you up a bit on my activities since I became a certified Palmer/Pletsch sewing instructor, I have been giving garment construction and fitting classes using the Palmer/Pletsch methods since August. I have written an article for the local ASG newsletter, which was published in the August/September edition. The word is getting out. I have a steady stream of people asking to take classes. It is very exciting to be doing this.

I look forward to hearing from you when you have a chance.

P.S. I saw the announcement in your recent newsletter about the contest for persons making Palmer/Pletsch garments and submitting pictures to you by January 31, 2012, for a potential prize of another workshop with you. It has prompted me to finish a couple of jackets and knit tops that I have in progress. I plan to enter the contest!

cmcguir1@san.rr.com

### FROM KAREN MARCHBANKS

Boise, ID

Pati,

One of the ladies attending the class has had a mastectomy. Any special considerations? How can I be more sensitive to this lady's needs? Karen

### PATI'S SUGGESTIONS

A few considerations:

Double or single? Breast reconstruction or wears prosthesis?

Make sure that both breasts are at same level in the bra.

In the old days, surgeons removed arm muscle and you needed to make two sleeves since one was always larger than the other. This is rarely done today, I believe.

Just up front ask if she had reconstruction surgery or does she wear a prosthesis and is it one or both. You need that info to make decisions. Most women I find are not embarrassed about it. They went through too much and are glad to be alive. They just want to look nice. Ask the questions somewhat privately until you get a feel for their sensitivity.

Pati Palmer

### FROM SANDRA WILLOUGHBY

Seattle, WA

Sandra sent me this question and I think you may want the answer as well - Pati

Hi Pati,

I am so excited about the jeans workshop. Susan Pfaff and I are going to room together, which should be great fun.

I have a question for you. I went to Jo-Ann's here and bought three pieces of denim. They are all by different companies. I could only find one with any spandex so I

bought it. I've done the "wash 3 times" and straightened the ends, and all three are very off-grain. Denim has so much memory that I'm worried they will bounce right back if we straighten them. Do you know how Marta dealt with that? Do I need to keep buying and washing till I get some that's not so crooked?

### PATI'S ANSWER:

Don't straighten denim since it has a mind of its own and will just go back to where it was. It is a thick twill weave, which may be the cause, so don't worry. Just make the selvages parallel and together and don't worry about the crosswise grain. Marta, are there any other cutting tips? I would suggest having at least an extra 1/3 yard of your denim in case we do need to recut something, like the yoke, after fitting. Pati

Hi Everyone!! Yes, do not try to straighten, just make it smooth as Pati says with the selvages even. I would suggest, if you can, buy 1/4 yard extra and wash 3 times. I found several pieces at Fabric Depot that were bad. Buy 2 1/2 to 3 yards if you want to do bias jeans. See you soon, Marta

### FROM ANN OHME

Pike Road, Alabama

Hi Pati,

Yes, I am still alive out here. I just want to bring you up to date on happenings here.

I am excited to tell you that I have been tutoring my sister, long distance, on fitting pants! Yes, you read that right. She lives a 4-hour drive away and was able to visit for a couple of days in September. She is 5 feet 8 inches tall and has broader shoulders than I do. We fitted a jeans jacket and talked about altering pants. She has since made several pairs of pants. I sent her

one of your patterns that I had not used and thought she might like. It was a wardrobe with a single-button short-sleeve jacket and pants with a wide contour waistband. I don't know the number, but it was about a year old. We talked frequently about little problems and she would make the adjustments and call back in a couple of days to give me the results. She is so excited to get pants that fit!! She had decided to just sew other garments and buy pants since she didn't think she could get them to fit. Now she is on a first-name basis with the clerks at the local Hancock Fabrics.

Now I have some news about me. I have decided to retire from teaching sewing. For about a year and a half I have been trying to teach daytime classes. I had taught for about 25 years for two or three nights a week and decided I didn't want to do that anymore. Daytimes have not been good since most people in this area work during the day. The alternative was to teach weekends. I have been teaching at Hancock Fabrics for 15 years. Someone else was using the classroom on Saturdays, so that left Sundays and I really have not wanted to do that.

Also, there just isn't as much interest in sewing in our area. Hancock's was a good location because of the exposure. I tried another location but the exposure wasn't good and I didn't get much response even with promoting with signs and flyers.

It all comes down to the fact I am just not as young as I used to be and it is time to retire. Being a certified instructor has brought a lot of pleasure and rewards too numerous to mention. I have met so many wonderful and helpful people; you and Marta are at the top of the list.

I do have some books that I would be willing to send so you can distribute them if someone can use them.

They are listed below:

**SEWING WITH SERGERS** 3rd edition, 3 copies, copyright 2004, 24th printing

**CREATIVE SERGING** 3rd edition, 5 copies, 2005 revised

**FIT FOR REAL PEOPLE**, 5th printing, 2007

**PANTS FOR REAL PEOPLE**, copyright 2003, second printing, Fall 2004

I am saving copies of each maybe to give as gifts. If you could advise me what to do with the rest I would appreciate it.

Again, thank you for all your help and support over the years. I read the newsletters and know I just can't live up to this standard anymore.

It was actually a rather easy decision so I guess it was time and somewhat of a relief.

All the best to everyone, Ann Ohme

#### FROM MARILYN ELLIOTT

San Antonio, TX

I just taught a pant fit class in Corpus Christi for about 15 ladies from the ASG chapter there and received the thank you note at the bottom.

I really was very apprehensive about fitting pants – especially as much trouble as I have had before you added the “W” sizes to your line. Most people seemed very pleased and some looked absolutely wonderful. If in the future you can add 16 W to your sizing as well as take the jeans pattern as large as the trousers, it would be very helpful. I ended up sizing down an 18W for a lady who measured a 16 but had very large thighs in proportion to her hips.

Also we had a lady with a sizable downward slope from back to front and no well-defined waist, large thighs and small lower legs!

Somewhat challenging to say the least. Have you ever tried basting in the center front of each leg to help in this process? I did not think of that until I got home, but suspect she will be back at the January retreat we are planning for another pair of pants and I hope to make it easier next time. Any other hint would be greatly appreciated.

I will get in my teacher renewal in the next couple of weeks.

Marilyn

#### CONSUMER LETTER TO MARILYN ELLIOTT

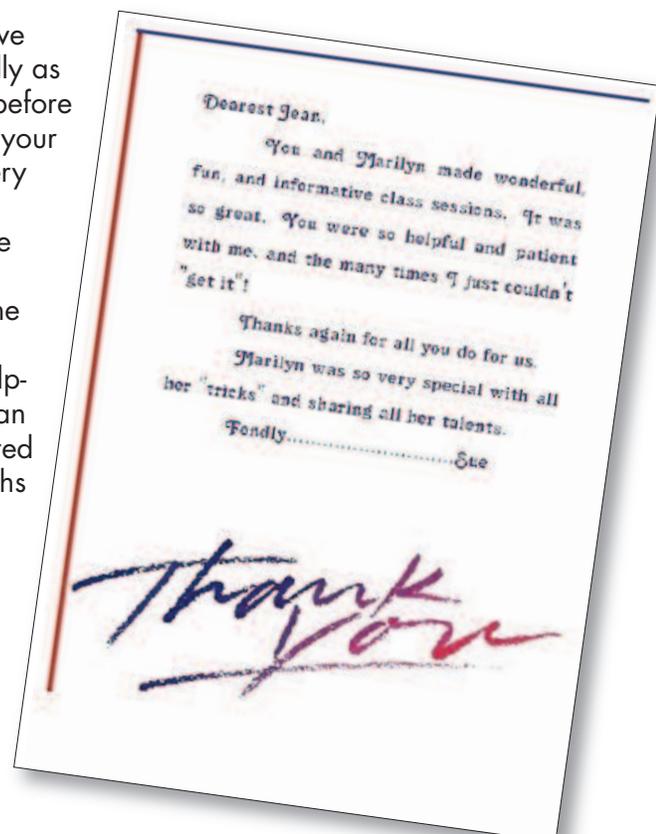
From: J. Gribi  
[mailto:jgribi@stx.rr.com]

Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2011 7:32 AM

To: Marilyn Elliott

Subject: FW: Thanks...

Hi Marilyn – Hope you had a safe drive back home...and even were able to sleep a little en route. Below is a thank you note from Sue Bell (light blue poly dupioni pants). I echo her sentiments and know that the others do as well. Thank you so much for coming down to work with us. You made all the difference for



us – without you I don't think we would have ever had pants that fit! I'll follow up with Jane this weekend and start investigating the retreat. I hope they are available the time that we want.

All the best... Jean

**From: Marilyn Elliott**  
[mailto:mielliott@satx.rr.com]

Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2011 10:19 AM

To: 'J. Gribi'

Subject: RE: Thanks...

You made my morning. Thanks so much for all you did to make this a wonderful time for all.

Marilyn

**FROM RACHEL CARLSON**  
McKinleyville, CA

Hi, Pati –

I wanted to tell you about the 3-hour Fitting Tips class I did last week. It was such a hit! I changed the format a bit from previous sessions and added slides. After seeing in your Fit workshop how useful (essential?) the slides are, I decided that I'd just set up the computer, sit the ladies around a table, and show them the visuals as we went through the most frequently made alterations to bodices, skirts, and pants. Much easier than giving them my books and having them flip pages. (Why didn't I do this before? Well, I don't have a projector, and showing the computer screen only works with small groups.) We took a break so that I could demo the FBA and the high-round back alterations on an actual pattern; then I showed them how to tissue-fit using my assembled fit pattern on my personal dress form (paper-tape double, quite accurate).

After the demo, I walked them through skirt and pants alterations,

again with slides. The grand finale: I measured each lady and fitted her in a gingham bodice to determine size. As we did so, they were able to see (and I was able to point out) a lower shoulder here or a high hip there. It was quite a revelation for all. They each purchased a fit pattern. I hope they'll follow through and purchase the books and DVDs. And, of course, I hope to see them in a full hands-on bodice and pants fitting class in the near future.

It was a satisfying evening. They have so little knowledge and are so happy to have the lights turned on. One of them said, "I could have saved a lot of fabric if I'd known this before I made those garments that didn't work." Indeed.

So thanks again for giving me the tools to make this happen.

Rachel

**FROM MARY ANN DUFF**  
Virginia

I had to share this! One of my longtime sewing students is a top five finalist in a contest to design a prom gown. The contest is sponsored by *Seventeen Magazine*. In the next column is the link to the site for people to view the top five designs and vote (for those on Facebook).

If she makes the top three, David's Bridal will make the dress for her. If she doesn't, then she and I will be working on this dress.

Sam has been taking lessons with me for about 5 years now and I'm really proud of her!!!

Mary Ann

**Copy and paste this link to LIKE Samantha's sketch:**

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150424074507216.424633.8028997215&type=1>

But if that doesn't work, here are the steps:

Step one: Go to [facebook.com/seventeenmagazine](http://facebook.com/seventeenmagazine).

Step two: Go to photos.

Step three: Click on the photo album named "FINALISTS: sketch your dream prom dress with David's Bridal."

Step four: Click on her sketch, should say from Samantha of Virginia in the description. Click the "like" button.



## FROM JANICE LANGAN

Rohnert Park, CA

Hi Pati,

I am not the best at writing about my classes, but when I saw this issue of the newsletter I thought I would share what I have been doing in my classes.

Each month I pick a topic and suggest Palmer/Pletsch patterns. I have to admit with your ideas in your newsletter and new patterns, I may need to shift which patterns I was thinking of sewing/teaching for the next 6 months.

Everyone loved Melissa's jacket when we made it and this past month we did the Palmer/Pletsch jeans jacket, the traditional-looking one. The pattern had been discontinued but so many of my students are pattern addicts that they had them in their stash. Those that didn't used the current pattern.

The next six months are going to be a polar fleece jacket, a knit shirt, a vest, a pant, a trench coat and jeans. All of the patterns are Palmer/Pletsch except the trench coat, unless you have one coming out soon.

I have had two jeans classes already and they sold out. Jeans are fun.

The only challenge I have had was a lady with thin legs and a much full bottom. I am thinking it would have been easier to start with a much smaller pattern that would be right for her legs and then add for the hips. I did the opposite and I had a heck of a time getting the legs and crotch correct. Any suggestions?

I haven't sewn as many pairs of jeans as Marta but I am working on it. I am hooked on embroidering the jeans.

Are teachers eligible to win a workshop? (PATI says YES!)

I would love to come back and sew with you and Marta again. I am hoping to get to one in the fall of 2012.

Are you going to be in Puyallup this year? I have never been, so this year I will be there.

Thanks for all you do.

Janice Langan

## ABOUT BEING LISTED AS A SEWING EDUCATOR ON ASG WEBSITE, FROM BETTY WATTS

You can be listed as a Sewing Educator on the ASG website only if you're advertising in "Notions." We expect this new section to become a valuable resource for the Chapter Advisory Boards of all 138 ASG Chapters as they plan their programs each year. Since you don't have a lot to sell as some small advertisers do, I certainly understand why you left us a few issues ago. But I hope listing you as an educator on asg.org might be enough additional incentive for you to reconsider.

\*NOTE: Educator listings on the ASG website will be updated with the mailing of each new "Notions" issue. So if you want to be listed for the full year, you'll need to advertise in all four issues.

We'd love to have you support the American Sewing Guild and "Notions" again with any size ad. And we'd love to have your classes listed on the new Educator section of the ASG website.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

## FROM KAREN TINNEY

Darby, MT

For nice brochures, visit the website [www.vistaprint.com](http://www.vistaprint.com). Though the brochures are normally priced at \$39.99 for 25, you can get them and everything else on the site much cheaper. They run continual sales for things for either free or very, very cheap. I just wait (rarely more than 1 or 2 weeks) for the free sale and then make my order. I had a one-time \$4.99 setup charge for loading my own design, got the first 25 for free, and the second 25 for \$15. I can save the order and reorder whenever I want, and even make changes whenever I need. You get a choice of shipping, slowest to fast, and I think I paid around \$10 for the slow shipping. The site is great because of the quantity of materials, the ability to either upload your own design or use their own templates, and the high quality. They usually ship faster than they say too. I have ordered cards, brochures, flyers, banners, lawn signs, loyalty cards, tote bags, hats, pens, notebooks, note pads, sticky pads and mouse pads from them for my business as well as my husband's. All top quality.

## FROM RACHEL CARLSON, A QUESTION ABOUT MARFY PATTERNS

My colleague, Kirsten Wolff, and I will be attending the Fit Workshop this month, and we have some questions about Marfy patterns. Marta mentioned that you have used them, so we're wondering if you could advise us about sizing and pattern selection.

1) How are these patterns in terms of ease? Do they run snug, like Burda? Or do they have lots of ease?

2) Does the bust seem to be drafted for a small B, like the Big 4, or more like a Burda C?

3) Here are some numbers (metric): what size would you recommend?

High bust 86

Full bust 93

Waist 79

Hips 100

According to Marfy's chart, these numbers indicate a 42, 44, and 46 from top to bottom.

Pati's advice is to go by the high bust, but she hasn't worked with Marfy, either.

Any advice you can give would be much appreciated!

Rachel Carlson

### **RESPONSE FROM NANCY SEIFERT, ISSAQUAH, WA, ABOUT MARFY PATTERNS**

I have only fitted a couple of Marfy patterns. The patterns I fitted were a coat, jacket, and a shirt. I would classify the fit as "semi-fitted," very similar to a Vogue pattern. I had to make the exact same alterations, in pretty much the same amounts, that I usually do on a McCall's, Vogue, Simplicity, etc.

The Marfy patterns come cut to the exact size that you order. They do not include seam allowances, nor any instructions. These patterns are aimed at the expert sewer, one who knows how a garment is constructed. The coat pattern I fitted was lined, BUT there was no lining pattern included. Therefore, I had to draft the lining pattern myself (not difficult, but there is no info on how to do it, or even that you HAVE to do it if you want to line the coat).

I traced my Marfy pattern onto Perfect Pattern paper, added my own seam allowances, then proceeded to fit the pattern as usual. In my opinion it makes no difference how much "ease" is built in to a pattern, nor what size "cup" the pattern is drafted for. If you are tissue-fitting, you have the choice to make the fit to your liking. I would go with the "high bust" measurement as a starting point for the size and just proceed as usual. It really is not more complicated than that!

### **FROM SANDY DAVIS**

Jefferstown, KY ,

I have submitted 6 class proposals for the 2012 "It's Sew Fine... Sewing Expo" at General Butler State Resort Park, so we'll see what comes of it. If they choose the "20 Tips..." presentation, I'll be ordering the slide program and product to sell. The teachers are allowed a two-hour window, on the first night, to sell product in a booth, which we can have at no charge. It isn't much time, but if I can do the Tips presentation on the first afternoon, I'll sell more product that night!

Sewingly yours,  
Sandy Davis

### **FROM JEAN BAXTER**

Granite Bay, CA

I have a Fit class next weekend (20th and 21st) with a lady coming from down in the valley because she went on your website and saw my name on the list. That is the second person that has taken a class from me after having learned of my location from your teacher list. Thank you for putting our names on that list.

### **FROM CRISTIE MCGUIRE**

San Diego, CA

I have been busy since I got back. Among other things, I met with the store owner to set up a schedule for classes in the next 6 weeks. I am encouraging her to schedule classes further out. She is excited as I am about the upcoming classes. She is getting positive feedback so far. The store owner has also asked me to write periodic e-blasts and articles for her store newsletter.

I happened to belong to an informal craft and sewing group that meets monthly. We met two days ago. It just so happens that the immediate past-president of San Diego ASG chapter is a member of that group and the current chapter newsletter editor is also a member. After chatting briefly with them both about my Palmer/Pletsch class in Portland and the new classes at Sew Hut, I've been invited to write an article for the chapter newsletter!

And to think I was worried that I would not earn enough PDUs to maintain my certification.

Best regards,

Cristie McGuire

P.S. Yesterday I made the bran muffins from the Bob's Red Mill oat bran cereal that I purchased at the Bob's Red Mill store and eatery on our shopping excursion day. The muffins are indeed delicious as you said they would be. My husband ate three in one sitting! Thanks for the recommendation. Fortunately we have a grocery store down here that sells Bob's Red Mill products.

**FROM CONNIE HAMILTON,  
Hartwell, GA**

Hi Pati,

The new quilting fabric store in our little town has opened! It's small, but the owner is doing everything right (welcoming atmosphere, classes in a dedicated room, promotional discounts, etc.) and she can expand if business warrants it. There have been inquiries about beginning sewing classes and Ann (the owner) has asked if I'd consider teaching some adult classes – and perhaps starting something for teenagers. (Would I? You bet!) Ann was impressed by the P/P Beginning Sewing course and we'll be using it. My question involves Nancy Zieman's *Let's Sew* book, which was used for the student's reference book several years ago. I don't see it on your website or in Nancy's online material either and assume it's no longer in print. Are you using another book now or just relying on lecture and demos to teach?

I've gotten a couple of reminders – from Jeff, I think – about CSI renewal. I need four more hours and will be doing fitting with Tina in another week to finish my requirements. Will send everything in as soon as that is done.

Loved the FIT workshop this past fall. If I lived closer I would come to workshops twice a year! We will FINALLY be moving into the whole house in a month or so. Thank goodness!

**PATI'S ANSWER**

Connie, that is GREAT about the store! About the out-of-print Zieman book, most didn't use a book at all, but why not use ***Painless Sewing*** if you'd like to have a book? It is fun, complete, and even though it doesn't talk about machines, that is up to you, the teacher, as the students will all have different models. It is also inexpensive and the 4th edition is very up to date.

Thanks. Pati

