

Website Spotlight



Two Websites of Interest *Elaine Sims**

Two websites of interest to costumers include a blog with DIY articles on creating clothing and accessories with linen, and a shoe site with an online creator to customize their shoes.

With this month's theme of hats, I wanted to share a blog that came across my feed a few months ago. An online fabric store that I adore for linen sourcing, Fabric-Store.com, has an associated [blog](#) with many ideas of projects to be created with the linen they sell.

There are quite a few DIY tutorials on the blog. The projects are all fairly simple, so even a beginner can complete them successfully. While I have not yet made any of the projects, there are so many to choose from! They range from accessories like pincushions and napkins, to articles of clothing like dresses, skirts, and tops.

One of the tutorials is for a [cloche-style hat](#) (right). This simple hat is made of several gores and a small brim. The tutorial provides a full-size patterns for the pieces that you can download and print. Step-by-step instructions with lots of photos guide you through the process. The tutorial

says that the hat fits sizes 22"-23", but it shouldn't be a problem to adjust the pattern somewhat for other sizes.

I may have to try their [linen bread bag](#) with all the baking that we are doing these days. (Experimentation with Gluten-Free baking results in many, many loaves.)

The site also features articles on aspects of linen, including several that may be of interest to historical costumers, such as "[Colonial Linen: A Step Towards American Independence](#)" and "[The Many Uses of Linen throughout the Roman Empire.](#)"

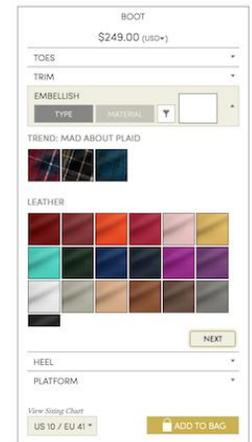
Another site that came across a mailing list I subscribe to is [Milk and Honey Shoes](#). If you've ever agonized over having the perfect pair of shoes to go with that costume you've slaved over for months, you might want to check them out. Sorry guys, it's a women's shoe only site.



Example of project from a Fabric-Store.com DIY tutorial: an easy-to-make cloche hat.



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Shoe creator on the Milk and Honey Shoes website.

One of the most interesting aspects of this site is their online shoe creator (above), which is certainly fun to play with. It lets you select from a range of shoe styles, customize the shape by selecting different heels, trims, and embellishments, and select from a range of colors and materials. You can even chat with a stylist if you need help.

They don't do historical shoe styles, and they are most definitely not inexpensive (the least expensive starts at \$149 USD).

Elaine Sims is a work-at-home mom who specializes in quilting, but can be found creating costumes & clothing as well. She has been creating and sewing since a young age, and is in the process of corrupting her daughter and son into the costumer's fold as well. Check out her [website](#).