

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">21.06 - June 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</p>
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Recent Events

Arizona just lifted a lot of restrictions for vaccinated people – we are edging closer to being able to get back together.

Nola had to leave Jean here while she went to Tennessee. Jean would love to see some of us – she is at:

Brookdale
4050 E Bluefield Ave
Phoenix AZ 85032

It's near the 101 and Union Hills
They are allowing visitors

Minutes

Still no Minutes - but getting closer

But – have a minute of humor .(courtesy of laughoutloud@thinkandlaughdaily.net)

Smoking will kill you. Bacon will kill you. But smoking bacon will cure it... (Ye editor's sons LOVE bacon)

What do you call a row of rabbits marching backward? A receding hare line... (And this one is for ye editor's husband)

What do teachers drink at school? Facul-tea! (For our Tea Scout friends)

What do you call an average ogre? Mediogre. (for out D&D playing friends)

Why did the chicken cross the basketball court? He heard the referee calling fowls! (Because ye editor loved why did the chicken cross ... jokes)

For all of use trying to fit into last year's costume: According to this BMI chart I am too short...
And Finally – remember: STRESSED is just DESSERTS spelled backward.



Briefs

SEND ME MORE!

Dyeing with Bleach

(Your editor has adapted this from an email she received from Threads magazine. It sounds like fun!)

Removing color with bleach is a new slant on easiest surface-design techniques: removing color instead of adding it (the technical term is discharge).

It is fun to experiment with the less-predictable but still compelling effects of applying ordinary household bleach to dark, natural-fiber fabrics. The primary methods are either: spraying / brushing the bleach on flat fabric (Resist-and-spray technique), or protecting part of the surface in some way from contact and then dipping the fabric into the bleach it (Wrap-and-dip and Pipe-wrapping techniques).

This technique works on natural fibers only like cotton, linen, and rayon. When fabrics contains polyester, the color may not discharge.

The darker the fabric is to start with, the more dramatic results you will get. Blacks are interesting because fabric dyed black in many different ways, usually by multiple dye applications of various colors. Removing the top layers of dye from black fabrics you may see white, cream, gold, pink, green, blue, brown, or gray uncovered. Plain colors will clearly show the discharge pattern, but the techniques also works on prints. Experiment; be prepared for surprising and sometimes disappointing results as you remove layer(s) of color.

Preparation: prewashing is fine, but not needed; the bleaching solution may bead up on the surface if the sizing is still in it - which could be interesting. The bleaching solution may be applied on wet or dry fabric.

What you need:

- Three 5-gal. or larger buckets (four if bleaching by dipping) (Label them clearly: water, vinegar, water, bleach (if doing dipping).
- Plastic sheeting or trash bags to cover the work surface
- Rubber gloves
- 1 qt. to 1/2 gal. fresh household bleach (Brands differ in results)
- Bleach-neutralizing chemical, such as Bleach Stop (www.dharmatrading.com) or AntiChlor (www.prochemical.com)
- Plastic spray bottle with an adjustable nozzle
- Paper towels
- Optional equipment: anything that will help you apply the bleach or protect the fabric from the bleach in interesting ways: e.g., brushes, sponges, syringes, string, metal clamps, patterns to spray over – made of cardboard, cardboard or leaves. Let your imagination go.

Indoor spaces need to be well ventilated, and able to take splashes of bleach. Wear rubber gloves and old clothes. Clean off the plastic work surface between experiments.

Bleach recipes: Use fresh bleach; it works more quickly. Bleach discharging is not an exact science; approximate measures are close enough.

For brushing or spraying, use a solution of 1 part bleach to 2 parts water.

For dipping use 1 part bleach to 4 or 5 parts water. (The fabric will be submerged; the solution doesn't need to be as strong as for spray/brush). This goes in the 4th bucket.

Once you've applied the bleach using either method and you're ready to stop the action, rinse the fabric in water, soak it in a neutralizing solution for five or ten minutes, then rinse it again. This is where the buckets come in: you'll need two filled with plain water, and one with 4 gallons of neutralizing solution, mixed according to the instructions on the neutralizing chemical package. After the last rinsing, you can wash and dry the fabric normally.

After the bleach is applied, nothing much happens in under two minutes; you probably don't want to leave it longer than eight to ten minutes. In every case. Go by what it looks like, but remember that wet fabric is wet will appear darker than dry.

Originally from Threads #72, pp. 65-69 by Lois Ericson

SHOES (on PBS)

Review by Mahala

A half hour program on shoes, their history, purpose, fashion and future, some trivia that you might find interesting, and some stuff that might warrant discussion at a future time.

They talked about how high heels got started -- men wore them first before women. Cossacks or Mongols wore them on their boots with a curved heel that they could hook into their stirrups so they wouldn't fall off their saddles in battle.

Henry VIII was over 6 feet tall, was very heavy, had gout and leg ulcers, his feet hurt a lot so they invented a style of shoe to accommodate his feet, (forgot the name, fish-something – mouth, tail?) which was even incorporated into his last set of armor, and because he was king, he set the fashion trend so everyone at court started wearing the style.

On a more political, disturbing note, they talked about the present day, and all the different types of shoes we wear and how disposable they are. There X-billion shoes that go into landfills, and how we should wear less shoes and even go barefoot to lessen the amount (dare I say "footprint"). They are working on making recyclable shoes or making sturdier shoes that last longer. (Probably a sensible idea for some shoes but it doesn't work for changing fashions.) Historically shoes were better made and some men even put them in their wills. (Can't see that happening today unless maybe very expensive boots?) What I took exception to was the statement that we have a global population of (?) 7 billion people and 20 billion shoes. "That's more than 3 pairs of shoes per person and that's too many." Agree? Disagree? And why?

Anyway, I thought this was a very interesting show and might make for a good discussion at a future meeting. What do you think?

Calendar

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please contact your editor with the details. **Red text and an asterisk*** designate an SWCG-sponsored event. *Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.*

GUILD GET TOGETHER – Sunday, June 13th 1pm – Denny's - 51st Ave and Thunderbird
No agenda, but a chance to get back together and see each other. And make plans

Westercon 2021/2022 - <https://westercon73.org/> - *Westercon 73 will NOT be in-person*

Virtual Westercon 73 will be held on the originally planned weekend of July 1-4, 2021. Westercon 73 will be offering a film festival, filking, and all the programming that can be managed effectively in an online format. The cost of a full attending membership has been dropped to \$35 for the weekend to reflect the online nature of the convention.

CoKoCon. September 3-6, 2021

It's FREE to attend, but you do need to register. We recommend you do that soon on our website:

Register: <https://www.cokocon.org/2021/members.html>

We're adding stuff weekly to the website now as we build this virtual event, so we should highlight what's happening.

Website: <http://www.cokocon.org/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CoKoCon/>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/cokocon1/>

Address: PO Box 67457, Phoenix, AZ 85081

Tuscon 48 Nov 12-14 2021 <https://tusconscificon.com/>

Tuscon appears to be planning an on-site con – registration is open

<https://tusconscificon.com/tuscon-registration/>

Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites
5151 East Grant Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712
Registration is now OPEN!
[Register Here](#)

Loscon Nov26-28 2021 <http://loscon.org/47/>

At this point, Loscon appears to be coming back to on-site - Marriott Los Angeles Airport Hotel

FanCon – Saturday January 29 10am – 4pm

The Tempe Public Library is hosting the 2022 Tempe FanCon

Note: Due to Covid-19 the event may look a little different than previous years. Our plans will be fluid and may need adjusting depending on CDC and City of Tempe health guidelines at that time.

Comic and cosplay fans grab your capes and superpowers and come to the Tempe Public Library for a celebration of comics and pop culture. Join us for free family fun including costume contests, authors and artists, entertainment, activities for the kids, photo ops with characters, fandom related items for sale, and food trucks. There is no table fee and the event is free and open to the public.

The event will be held outdoors in the Library plaza.

Ye editor does not want to speculate further out

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Better yet, send us some content for the next issue. We're always open to costuming news, how to and other feature articles, reviews of events, books, film, television and web, and calendar items of interest to Arizona costumers.

Send your submissions to

editor@southwestcostumersguild.org.