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A Vintage Reality Check

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

One benefit of my new normal - my house is becoming super organized. Yesterday, I tackled my "vintage closet" where I have saved clothes that hold special memories for me.

One surprise way in the back was a box of patterns. I used to sew a lot back then. Maybe I should give it a try again?

This one is dated 1974. Size 8 - Oh boy! I wear a size 8 now. Oops, maybe not - WAIST 24 INCHES? YIKES!



What size would I need? Size 14? Or if I wanted to breathe comfortably, size 16



I always knew that clothing manufacturers over the last 40 years have been gradually adding inches to each size as we have added inches to our bodies. The pattern industry has not done that.



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Note: "Sizing Creep" is different from the vanity sizing that has always occurred between manufacturers. Still, it was quite a wake up call to see it in black and white.

Oh well, acknowledging reality is no reason to be discouraged and one reason to explore this closet is to remember good times past.

I bought this pattern when DH sent me some "real silk" from Vietnam in 1970. While "real silk" wasn't a practical material for a new mother whose life revolved around a colicky infant, I wanted to show him I appreciated the gesture. So I bought this pattern



I wanted to make the middle view but there wasn't enough material so I made the jacket without sleeves. AND HERE IT IS!



I bought a blouse which had lovely embroidered sleeves to compensate for the lack of jacket sleeves.



It was a sad, scary time. I wondered then if we would ever go out together again so I could wear it.

We were more fortunate than many. I thought a lot about that over the Memorial Day Weekend.

Whenever I feel down about my new normal, I remember those who never got to live this new normal & resolve to do the right thing.

Stay safe. Stay well.

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Member Comments About This Blog Post ٧ Thank you. We are fortunate as well. Thank you both for your dedication and sacrifices. 257 days ago JULIJULINN ٧ Beautiful work. 348 days ago METAFUKARI ٧ I was born in the 70's and never cared for the styles of the decade. I do appreciate good workmanship and quality though~ 360 days ago **NANCYPAULINE** ٧ I love vintage sewing patterns. And yes, I've experienced the up-sizing. 370 days ago **BEESHELL8** ٧ how beautiful that outfit and material are! 371 days ago **MWHIGGINS** ٧ 372 days ago

I use to do a lot of sewing too. I also went to a lot of yard sales. Well, about five years ago I hit the jackpot and went to one which the owner of a fabric store closed it. She had four tables of



fabric and each one was nicer than the other. My DH told me to stop looking and buy them all. He offered her a ridiculous price and she accepted it. I made loads of stuff for the Gkids, myself and gifts. I donated a lot as well. I still have two dresser draws full. What fun!!!! 375 days ago



DIANNEMT

Love the patterns and that silk outfit is lovely!! 375 days ago





THOMS1

A vintage closet and I for one could certainly fill one. Always good memories and if you wait long enough everything sooner or later comes back into style. I try to go through my closet whenever I come home from a trip and it is a very hard job to do. We certainly become attached to our clothes. I know I have a younger sister and when we visit she always has to go through her closet and we help her determine what she should keep and what to donate. She appreciates our





HAYBURNER1969

I think your Size 10 dress pattern says "Bust - 32.5 inches". Makes sense because I fit in Grandma's formal gown from the 1960s(?) and it's a 10.

input as it is a big help. Have a great day and enjoy the weekend.

376 days ago

376 days ago

Comment edited on: 5/29/2020 8:28:23 AM



CD15653250

Lovely blog...and the walks down memory lane.

376 days ago





2DAWN4

I actually remember the first pattern. I use to sew for 4-H but hven't sewn clothes in many years!

376 days ago



ELSCO55

Nice 376 days ago





MARKSMOM3







376 days ago



GETULLY

Love the silk suit! 376 days ago





BUTTONPOPPER1

A beautiful story. How wonderful that you saved these treasures to bring back cherished memories from your life. And what a blast from the past for me, too--I remember going "downtown" in our small Southern town of 3000 and buying Simplicity patterns at the variety store. But I never progressed to your skill level--you did a fantastic job on that outfit! So glad your story had a happy ending. I pray that our new normal will be even better than the old



376 days ago



STORKBYTE

I too found 2 patterns from when my boys were young. So at least 20 to 25 years ago. I had made a pair of shorts, which I actually wore and a summer dress which I didn't finish. When I looked at the size on the pattern envelopes I felt sad. They too were size 8 patterns. Those days are long gone. Even with hard work and exercise, our menopausal bodies will only change so much. And genetically, I'm not a size 8 at 59. Just want to say, a vintage closet is such a great idea.

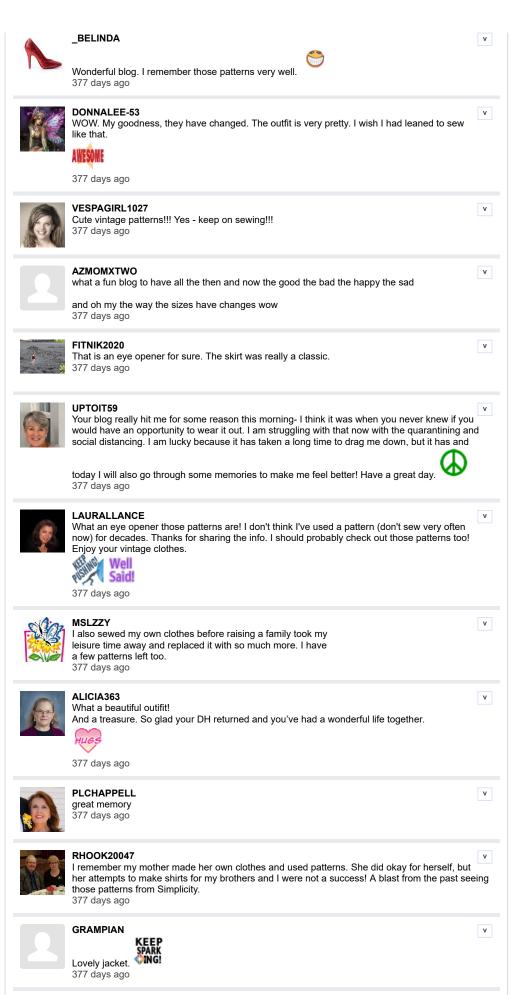
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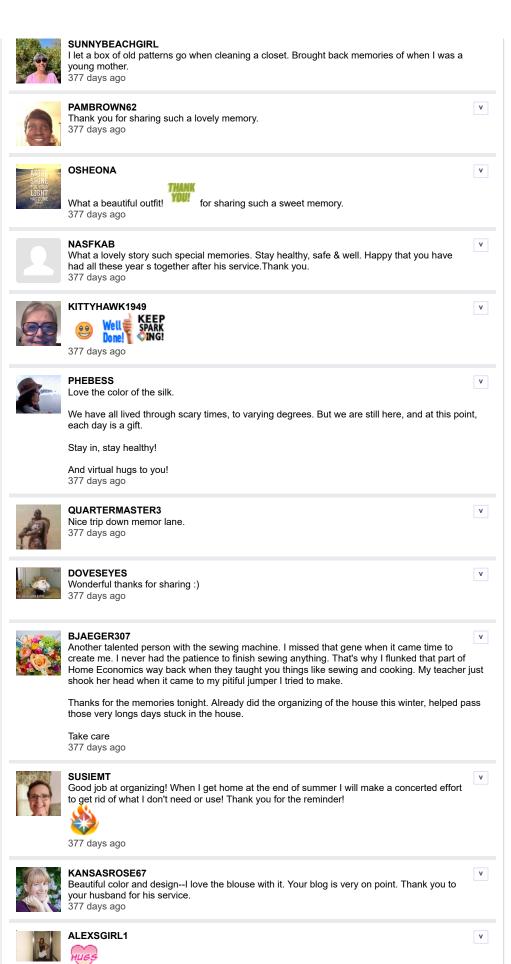




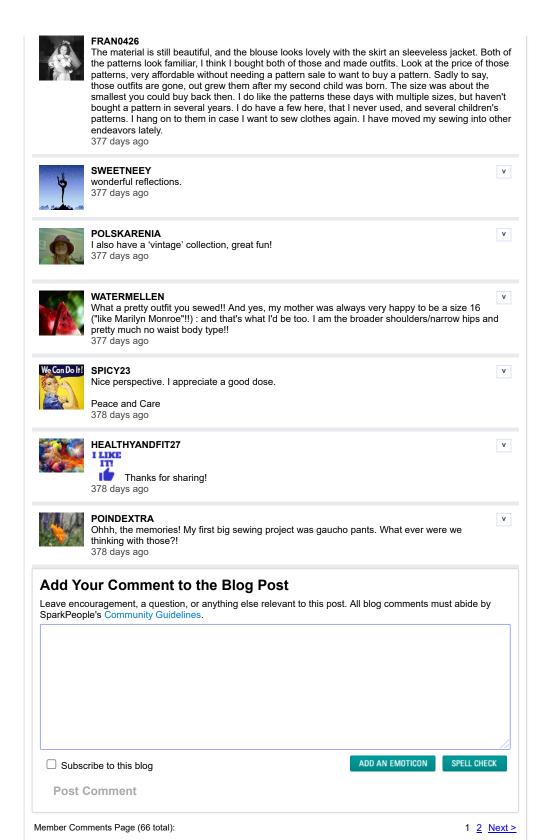
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result of following the SparkPeople program.