

# Creative Festival Displays New Products, Methods

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**KING OF PRUSSIA** (Montgomery Co.) — If you sew, do crafts or like to see what's new on the market, The Creative Festival is the place to go.

The Creative Festival is a three-day show held in 30 different cities throughout the year. Local and national companies exhibit machines, tools, supplies, kits, patterns, books, videos and more for almost every craft in existence. Free educational classes, workshops, demonstrations and lectures are offered throughout the festival.

If you want to purchase a sewing machine or serger, you can try hands-on classes offered by most of the major sewing machine companies. That way you can make a better qualified decision because you have first-hand experience on how fabric feeds through the machine and how easy it is to switch to different stitches.

Many of the exhibits demonstrate crafts at the booths, but for those interested in more in-depth teaching, 30-minute to one-hour

workshops are held. These include free workshops on bowmaking, banner making, sewing swimwear, fabric painting techniques, strip quilting, tumble dyes, and much more.

Even if you are an expert quilter or cross stitcher, you will find new methods and equipment available to make these crafts quicker and easier. For example, there is a quilting thimble that you do not wear on your finger, and it allows even the novice quilter to make quick, tiny stitches. For those who like to finish projects in a hurry, several booths demonstrated new methods of quilting with machine without marking the quilt.

For those who cannot or do not have the time to sew but like home decorating, valance frames are available in which straight pieces of fabric can be inserted and turned into puffy valances and swags.

Some of the craft exhibits that gathered large crowds were Creative Ideas by Patti who used broccoli, celery, and other produce in an unique fabric painting projects; Magic Dip, a marbelizing paint kit

that transforms trash into designer works of art; and sweat shirt decorating.

Several exhibitors demonstrated products such as irons, fabrics, tools, and saws. Recent developments in irons and ironing board covers make ironing a breeze. A Miracle Ironing Board Cover, made of Owens-Corning Fiberglass yarn is guaranteed not to burn. It reflects 95 percent of the heat placed on it, which means that the iron never needs to be set above a medium heat setting. Because the iron reflects the heat, both sides of the fabric are pressed at the same time.

Several irons on the market allow you to press clothing while hanging on the hangers. These steam irons give professional results.

Machines, tools, supplies, kits, patterns, books and videos may be purchased at the show. Many of the exhibitors have special sale prices during the show, but you must be careful according to Fay Strickler, Penn State Extension economist. She said, "Like any show, some prices are marked up. It pays to have a general idea on prices so that you can determine which are truly sale prices and which are not."

Strickler was one of the economists who manned the Penn State Extension booth at the show. The Extension focused on distributing information for hobbyists to start their own business. The Extension also taught workshops on turning a hobby into a business, which includes information on legal issues, zoning, taxes, record-keeping, licensing, pricing, trademarks, and insurance.

Last week, a three-day Creative Festival was held at King of Prussia. It is an annual show and will be held next year about this time. Upcoming festivals located in Lancaster Farming's patron area include Howard County Fairgrounds in Baltimore, Md., on June 11-13; Meadowlands Convention Center, Secaucus, NJ, June 18-20; Erie County Fairgrounds, Buffalo, September 10-12; and I/X Center, Cleveland, Ohio, November 5-7.

For a complete listing of shows or advance tickets, write to Roth Exposition Group, P.O. Box 9, San Mateo, CA 94401. Regular admission is \$6 per ticket, but tickets purchased in advance cost \$5.



Sandra Larsen, holds a mailbox dipped in Magic Dip, a marbelizing paint kit that transforms trash into designer works of art. In the background are other items dipped in the same solution and transformed within minutes.



Creative Ideas by Patti show how broccoli, celery, and other produce is used to make unique fabric painting projects. The roses were made in seconds by covering a cut-off stalk of celery with paint and stamping on fabric.



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Large crowds gathered to watch Kit show the audience how easy it is to dip a vase in Magic Dip.



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*Homestead Notes*