

Sheena's Vintage Stocking Re-Make

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I just love that BBC show where people's vintage treasures get repaired and restored by deft artisans. So much richness of skill, dedication, and, of course, loving memories. What a great combination, and what a wonderful career that would have been!



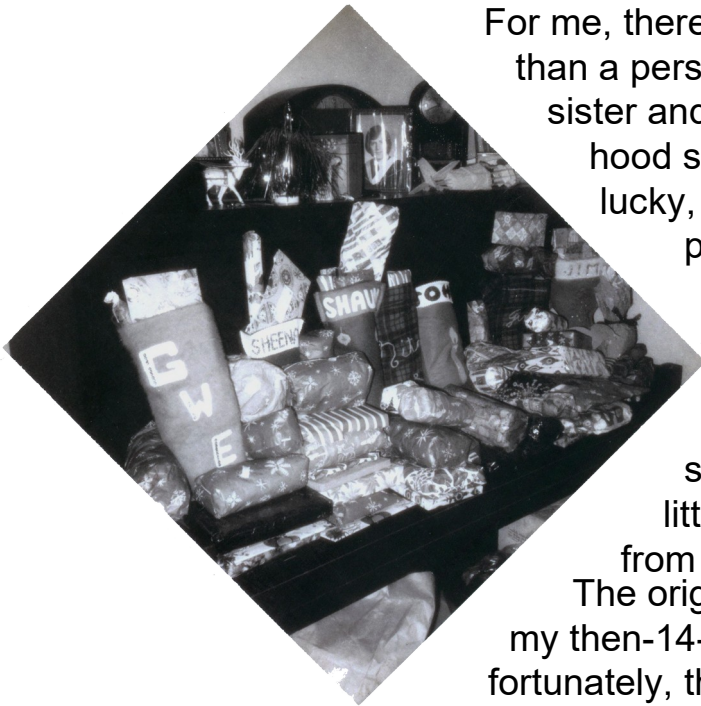
I'm certainly not an artisan of the calibre showcased in *The Repair Shop*, but in my own small way, I too love to create things that bring back fond memories of childhood, and especially of Christmas.

For me, there's not much that's more nostalgic than a person's first Christmas stocking. My sister and I still have our treasured childhood stockings. Not everyone is so lucky, and that's where I come in: in the past few years I've had the joy of recreating several lost childhood stockings for family and friends.

This week's project is another such, this time recreating my little sister's first stocking from the 1960s.

The original was crafted by my then-14-year-old sister. Unfortunately, the reclaimed fabric she used turned out not to be the sturdiest; it began to fray badly after only a few years of use, and eventually gave out.

A teenager myself by then, I made this replacement sock out of wool felt, which my sister still has. Lately, though, and at the suggestion of another sister, I got to thinking that it would be great to try to recreate the original.



Like the one I made for her when she was a little girl, the original was green, with a white band and her name in sequins across the top. Instead of a motif, though, the body of the stocking was decorated with festive stripes of red and white rickrack.



When I set out to recreate the sock, I couldn't at first recall exactly how the stripes had been arranged. With the help of my other sisters, including Karen, who made the original, I ended up with what I think is close to the original configuration. After glue-basting the rickrack into position on the stocking body, I sewed it down with nylon filament thread.

To create a guide for placing the sequins for the name, I machine-embroidered letters in an outline stitch using white thread, then glue-basted the sequins in place.

Once the glue had dried, I stitched them down, again with the invisible thread.

Perfect!

I had initially intended to add the date to the toe, as I do on most of the stockings I make, but I had a bit of a

brainstorm, and decided to add both dates: the current year, and the year when the original stocking was created. I placed them on the inside back of the stocking, just below the top edge. I like the look.

To line the stocking, I selected this gorgeous Christmas print with red and green ornaments on a white background – the perfect colour combo to match the green/red/white of the stocking.



I machine-embroidered the dates on a piece of fabric, then applied that into position by hand. Here are the dates as they appear on the inside

back of the stocking, at the top of the lining. I really like the look and will certainly use it again.

A close-up of the sequined name. I stitched these in place with the sewing machine. If you're careful, sewing the sequins in place by machine makes lighter work of the task.



I really enjoyed this trip down memory lane, and I think my sisters did too. All that remains is Sheena's delight on Christmas morning, when she sees this replica of her original stocking.