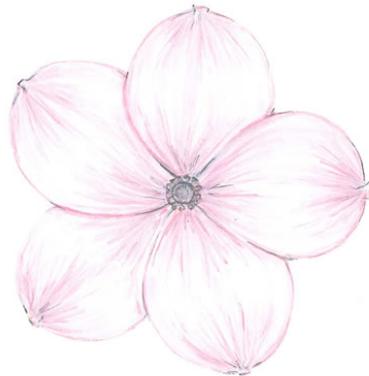


Q Dear Marylou: I love to wear brooches, and, yes, I know that their 15 minutes of fashion fame have passed. That just means I'll look more special. Now that blazers are back, I'd like to wear a brooch on the lapel, and I'm trying to find one that's light enough not to damage the fabric. Any ideas?
__P.J.M., Littleton, CO.



Detra Kay

Dear P.J.M.: The **brooch illustrated here** is from a collection made of semi-precious stone flowers. You don't have to worry about snagging fabrics or leaving pin marks because this brooch is magnetic.

It's the brain child of Palm Beach-based jewelry designer **Detra Kay**, who says she first came up with the idea of a **magnetic brooch** as a fashionable solution for a friend who was looking for a brooch that would keep her delicate embroidered scarves in place without ruining the fabric.

The resulting collection includes 40 styles from small to medium sizes. They're called Maggies. The larger sizes are called Margarets. Stones include mother of pearl, abalone, amethyst, onyx and more, all centered with vintage Swarovski crystals. And all feature a circular magnet backing that holds through fabric, leather, even glass. The smaller brooches may also be worn as earrings. Prices range from \$65 to \$195. You can get them online as **www.detrakay.com** or by calling 561-659-5700.

Q Dear Marylou: I work out and am proud of my biceps, but I can't stand sleeveless T-shirts on men. Any recommendations for alternatives to knitted polo shirts and T-shirts? __J.S., Leeds, NY.

Dear J.S.: Almost every major menswear designer showed **short-sleeve woven shirts for spring 2007**. These range from club-collared dress shirts to more casual notch-collared shirts and safari shirts. You can get much the same effect with the long-sleeve dress shirts in your closet by rolling up the sleeves—way up, past

the elbows. If you like that idea but find the roll-ups too bulky, cut off the sleeves just below the elbow and get rolling.

Q Dear Marylou: What is the difference between matelasse and brocade? __T.W.W., Newark, NJ.

Dear T.W.W.: **Matelasse** is the French word for padded. It's a fabric with raised woven designs in quilted or irregular blistered effect. It is imitated by designs that are stitched or embossed, not woven in. A **brocade** is a jacquard-weave fabric with an interwoven design of raised figures, usually flowers, with a pattern emphasized by contrast of surfaces in weave or by contrasting colors. Brocades often have silver or gold threads. Matelasses typically do not.

You didn't ask, **but cloque—the French word for blistered**—is another term for a fabric with a raised or blistered surface. It is similar to matelasse. All three fabrics are fashion-favored right now.

Q Dear Marylou: I can no longer find pants to fit my 13-year-old son. His inseam is 29 ½ in. and his waist is 28 1/2 in. Does anyone specialize in pants for tall boys? __T.T., Cleveland, OH.

Dear T.T.: Most pants, especially the casual styles your son is probably looking for, don't have an age association, so take your son shopping in stores or departments that specialize in **clothes for tall men**. Two of the best-known companies specializing in clothes for tall men are **Rochester Big & Tall** (800-282-8200 or rochesterclothing.com) and **Kaufman's Tall & Big Men's Shop** (888-761-8255 or kaufmans.com).

(Marylou welcomes questions for use in this column, but regrets she cannot answer mail personally. Send your questions to info@fgi.org.)