

Sew Fine



MARY-ALICE DALTON likes to work small. Tiny collars. Delicate details. And top stitching that is straight as an arrow. After 20 years of designing women's clothing, she burned out on the fittings and fabric selection. She decided to try limited-edition baby, toddler and little girls' dresses — all with lovely fabrics, ruffled (ruffled piping) collars, pin-tucked bodices and hand-sewn finishing touches. Maybe like grandma would have made.

With their classic look and quality craftsmanship, Dalton hopes the dresses will be passed down from this generation to the next. There is no unnecessary frill or trendy machine embroidery with her designs.

Who doesn't love little girls' dresses? Dalton found that some people were using them just for display. So she created her "petite couture" line of miniature dresses. Each is a 65 percent–70 percent reduction of a size 2 in her design line. They are made in the same exacting manner, complete with lining and covered buttons. Placed in a frame, dated and signed, they are tiny works of art. You don't even need a little girl to appreciate them.

— Susan Laughlin

Sleeveless dresses from \$78, others from \$125, framed dresses \$150

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Dresses available at League of NH Craftsmen shops in Sandwich and Meredith (framed only) and Exeter Fine Crafts.

1 Round collar ensemble 2 Fun sundress with pin-tucking 3 Peter Pan collar, pin-tucked bodice and ruffled neckline 4 Petite couture