

Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



Scott Goodman, owner of Sewing Machine Warehouse & Kneedle.com has been servicing the sewing public since 1976.

Carpe Sewing Room

Many of us grew up in a home that proudly and prominently featured sewing furniture in the family room.

Historically, Singer led the way; as treadle machines were sold with cabinet and chair. Their pre-ergonomic flat-seated chair, was designed to support your lumbar while providing ample area for your *derrière*. Patterns and notions could be stored within the seat. Singer owned the forest, the railroad, the mill and the plant where cabinets, chairs and cases were produced. Up through the 1980s, Singer became the world's largest private-label furniture producer, supplying three-piece dinettes, bedroom furniture and credenzas through mass retailers like Sears.

During the 1970s, consumers switched to free-arm style sewing machines; machines that lacked standardization on size, shape, and bed height. Most machines were purchased as portables.

The current trend is big...Really, really big! Large machine frame construction, supporting giant embroidery hoops and oodles of quilt fabric. Size matters. While all our machines have handles, the new mammoth behemoths need a sherpa, or a habitat that supports function and your creativity.

Let's be honest. Some of us are sewing on the kitchen or dining room table. Others are fortunate to have a designated retreat in which to create. The sewing room is your retreat, sanctuary and creative space, that right-brained part of your abode that supports and nurtures experimentation and creativity.

I spent time with three sewing furniture "industry leaders" and got their impressions:

Hether Miles-Fiess from Arrow and Kangaroo Cabinets, shared this:

"Most consumers focus on a cabinet as furniture for storage of their stuff and not as a tool to help the sewer sew straighter lines and sit more comfortably for longer. Sitting at a cabinet ultimately helps the sewer have better seam construction and a healthier sewing experience. A cabinet with a flatbed position helps all sewers sew straighter reducing the need for a seam ripper. A cabinet allows you to sit longer because wrist, neck and back are all in proper alignment, so you will have fewer aches and pains when sitting for several hours. Who doesn't want both of these... straighter seams and pain free sewing? Add in the benefit of storage and organization that a cabinet also offers, we feel that a cabinet is a necessary sewing tool".

Ron Kitzmiller from Horn of America, added this:

"All Horn of America cabinets are designed to be modular, so a sewer can pick cabinets to accommodate their room, not to re-design their room around the cabinets available. We currently have more than 20 models in up to 5 finishes to choose from".

Horn cabinets are proudly produced in the US.

Ed Moore from Koala, took this approach.

*"We call our sewing furniture "Studios"
because this is your space to create".*

Koala's design ethos incorporates individual customization. Different strokes for different folks; Koala Studios can be grown into modular suites that can be ordered in varying heights, widths, finishes, and returns. Traditionally, sewing cabinets are placed against a wall. Most Koala Studios can be accessible from all sides, becoming an efficient and creative hub. Designed to be delivered and setup, their cabinets are built to your custom order and can take 4-8 weeks, but the wait is worth it. Koala cabinets were originally produced in Australia, but don't let the name throw you. The Koala factory is in the heart of America's mid-west. Embroiderers, quilters, fashionistas and crafters have different demands, needs and rhythms. Add to that, a 10" variance in height of our average user and special health needs that challenge our aging demographic, customization is king.

For many of us, our kids have left the nest. Hurry...before they come to their senses, seize the moment and make that room the artistic space.

Carpe sewing room.

*Email photos of your creative space, I'll post them on the Great Scott! Facebook page.
GreatScott@kneedle.com*