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BUYER'S EDGE: SOUTHERN MADE

Hip bag ladies

Totes and purses range from humble to haute.

By Linda Jerkins
For the AJC

She's a stitch

North Carolina's Holly Aiken is known for her playful collection of retro-styled vinyl bags that are chic and sleek.

The founder & company: Aiken earned her degree in art and design at North Carolina State University. She made bags for friends before starting Holly Aiken Bags in 2004 in Raleigh.

The goods: A range of totes, messengers, backpacks, wallets and small personal accessories.

Materials: Primarily made of vinyl and bold, black webbing trim accented with stripes or crisp geometric shapes.

Best sellers: Coupe (medium tote, \$104); Turbo (large, side-snap tote, \$148); and Blast (large wallet, \$59).

Other favorites: The Auxiliary (cross body, \$108) and the Beacon (bucket, \$118).

Custom too: Select any style in the line then choose from six patterns and more than 25 colors.

Claim to fame: The North Carolina Museum of History has acquired a selection of bags for its permanent collection as part of the History of Style in North Carolina.

What's next: New materials and a men's line of bags and accessories.

Where to buy: www.hollyaiken.com or at Stitch, Aiken's design studio and retail shop in downtown Raleigh.



Holly Aiken's vinyl bags feature bold, graphic patterns and retro colors. CONTRIBUTED BY HOLLYAIKEN.COM



Stephany Lyman uses boots, belts and other recycled items to create distinctive purses and hip bags. CONTRIBUTED

Boot up

In New Orleans, Stephany Lyman uses cast-off boots, belts and other recycled goods to create her classy, quirky purses and bags.

The creator: Lyman, an Emory University graduate, taught English for 31 years at the University of New Orleans. She created the first purses in the early 1990s from old cowboy boots. After her younger sister Marea's death in 2012, her pastime became her calling.

The company: SideKick, in memory of Lyman's sister and childhood sidekick, started in 2012 in New Orleans. A portion of each purchase is donated to Grace House of New Orleans, a non-profit that helps women in their journey to recovery.

The goods: Purses (\$115 to \$265), hip bags (\$165 to \$265) and glasses cases (\$25).

What's popular: Red bags, purses that have outer pockets for cellphones, and hip bags (with a loose, low fit, like a holster).

Other favorites: Purses with cross-body straps.

Big break: Being accepted as an artist at the 2013 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Where to buy: www.facebook.com/sidekicknola. In New Orleans at GoGo Jewelry, 2036 Magazine St., and Dutch Alley Artists' Co-Op in the French Quarter, 912 N. Peters St.

French connection

Veronique Lindell once worked for Ralph Lauren in New York. Today the Georgia designer makes casual and fashionable bags from vintage fabrics and old military materials.

The founder: Lindell graduated from Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and landed her first job at Polo Ralph Lauren, where she established her style cred and learned how to reinvent, retell and redesign a piece of fabric.

The company: She started Ocean Rock Design in 2010 and named it after her two sons: Merrick and Slater. Mer means ocean in French and Slate, her Rock. Lindell and her mother sew the bags in a barn-like studio on a 17-acre farm in Canton.

Inspiration: Her grandmother and mother, who were seamstresses in postwar France, and all the textiles, patterns, threads and buttons in her childhood home.

What's popular: Roomy bags (\$100 to \$350).

Other favorites: Whale pillows (\$35 to 55).

Materials: Old military canvas, such as duffel bags (often with owner's name and rank) and tents. Also postal bags, boat fabric and men's work clothes. The bags' inside linings are colorful and feature vintage fabric the 1940's to 1970's. She uses old leather belts or equestrian tack for handles and straps.

Fun challenge: Making a bag from an old fire hose.

Where to buy: OceanRockDesign.com. In Atlanta, find goods by Ocean Rock Design at Crafted West Side, 1000 Marietta St. N.W., Suite 102.



Designer Veronique Lindell makes most of her handmade bags from old military canvas, often preserved with the owner's name. CONTRIBUTED BY OCEANROCKDESIGN.COM

Eyecatchers

By Nedra Rhone
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WEDGE OF COMFORT

Get ready for fall with Atlanta-based OkaB's newest shoe style. The Emery is a peep-toe wedge sandal with built-in comfort. Flexible soles feature massage beads to soothe feet as you walk and the waterproof material means you can keep them fresh by popping them in the dishwasher. As with all OkaB shoes, the Emery wedges are made in the U.S. It comes in 10 colors including Tangerine, Blush, Fawn, Slate, Hot Chocolate and Licorice. The shoes cost \$56 (embellished versions like the Blakely pictured are \$60). Get them online at www.oka-b.com or retailers including Exhale Spa, 1065 Peachtree St. N.E., Atlanta.



YOU GLOW, GIRL

Hold on to your summer glow with Sun Defense Minerals from Eminence Organic Skincare. The all-in-one powder brush provides natural SPF 30 protection with non-pore clogging minerals and micronized zinc oxide. The formula also includes fruit extracts and vitamins A & E. The translucent powder comes in six shades to blend even with the darkest skin tones and is perfect for women who prefer the no-makeup look. Coverage is buildable so you can add more or less as you desire. Get it for \$58 at BuyNaturalSkincare.com.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Looking for a way to display your fall flowers? Invest in this porcelain giraffe vase from Ace Intown Atlanta Hardware. The vase is 6 inches tall and ready to show off your all your fall cuttings. It is available in yellow, white or orange and costs \$16.99 at Ace Intown Atlanta Hardware, 854 N Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta. 404-874-5619.



Buyer's Edge Where can I find it?

By Sabine Morrow
For the AJC

Q: I am looking for L'Oreal Age Perfect sheer tint moisturizer. Please help me find it. — Martha Davis, email

A: According to the L'Oreal representative I spoke with, your Age Perfection tinted moisturizer was discontinued about six years ago. However, there is a suggested alternative that is similar to the cream you used. Look for L'Oreal Youth Code Skin Illuminator tinted all-in-one moisturizer, SPF 20, at CVS, 3439 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, 770-216-8604. A 1.4-ounce tube costs \$18.99. This cream is formulated to hydrate and illuminate your skin while diminishing discoloration. Al-

though it's tinted, the moisturizer comes out of the tube as a white cream that takes on a bit of light color as you apply it to your skin.

Q: I grew up in North Carolina and was almost raised on a soft drink called Cheerwine. I seem to remember, at one time, I found it somewhere in Atlanta, but do not remember where. It would have been quite a few years ago. I would love to savor the taste again. Thanks. — Priscilla Wyndham, email

A: Priscilla, there's a local outlet where North Carolina transplants can easily find their favorite cherry-flavored soda. Check out David's Produce and Country Store, 3561 Lavista Road, Decatur, 404-325-0709. Each 12-ounce glass

bottle of Cheerwine sells for \$1.99. Last week, a reader was looking for the diet version, which is more difficult to find, and David's carries that version as well, whenever possible.

Q: I have this very healthy and delicious dessert I used to make, but these days I cannot find the main ingredient. It's biscotti savoiardi ladyfingers. These are crispy, not soft ladyfingers. I've looked in so many stores around us. No one carries this item. I'm willing to go, if it's available, somewhere else in Atlanta. Thank you so much for your consideration and help. — Basak Ozgur, Kennesaw

A: Biscotti savoiardi ladyfingers are the dry, crunchy cookies with sugary tops that

often are used in various desserts, including some tiramisu recipes. You usually find them packaged in crackly cellophane. I found two brands for you at E. 48th Street Market, 2462 Jett Ferry Road, Dunwoody, 770-392-1499. The deli uses these Italian cookies for its tiramisu. The Italian deli stocks Bonomi savoiardi ladyfingers that sell for \$5.99 for a bag that weighs in at just over a pound. Balocco savoiardi ladyfingers come in a 7-ounce package and cost \$2.99. Either of these crisp ladyfingers should work perfectly for your recipe.

Q: I have searched for Tussy brand deodorant in Georgia, but I cannot find it. I have found it in Pennsylvania only. Can you find this particular

brand? Thank you. — M. Baldwin, email

A: Tuxedo Pharmacy, 164 W. Wieuca Road, Atlanta, 404-255-3022, always is a reliable source for Tussy deodorant. The store stocks the red original fresh spice Tussy that matches the photo you sent. A 1.7-ounce Tussy antiperspirant and deodorant sells for \$2.93.

Having trouble finding a particular item? We'll try to help you locate it. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot track down every request. Write to us at Buyer's Edge Find It, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 223 Perimeter Center Parkway N.E., Atlanta, GA 30346; email sabinem.morrow@gmail.com (include your name, the city you live in and a daytime phone number).