

One-of-a-kind jewelry is her fashion mark

By SHIRLEE IDEN

All that glitters may not be fashion, but one of a kind jewelry of any description can enhance the total glamour picture.

Susie Fox is a jewelry maker. Her tools are pliers, saws, bench pins, soldering torches, hammers, drills and burs. Just five feet tall, she's about 100 pounds soaking wet. An independent contractor, she works at Tupper Jewellers in the Racquette Building in Southfield.

Everything Ms. Fox does is right out in the open. The petite craftsman works in an irregular space about seven by 12 feet, divided from the remainder of the store by chest high (for her) counters.

Even her outside wall is huge window space. And in her open workspace, she creates one-of-a-kind jewelry including stickpins, bracelets, earrings, rings and such.

Born in North Carolina, she grew up in this area and attended three different colleges but never graduated.

"I never took jewelry making in high school because I was an apprentice to a jeweler then and worked for him a total of seven years," she said. "That's where I got my training."

A LEFTY. Ms. Fox said she doesn't find her left-handedness too much of a problem except when starting to work at a new job.

"When you first go into a shop, you find everything is set up for a right-handed person, but I just have to make my own set-up and it works out OK."

She finds gold the easiest metal to work with, explaining that the properties of silver demand heating the entire batch of metal and it can get fire-scaled.

"That makes for a lot of clean-up work when you finish a piece and that's the part of the job I hate the

most," she admitted.

She said a wedding ring can demand about eight hours of her time while an intricate necklace can mean an investment of perhaps 30-40 hours.

"Ever since I remember, I've been making things," she said. "Working with my hands has always given me great satisfaction. My way to relax is

to work with fabric, weaving, applique or embroidery.

"I like the tedious kinds of projects that turn most people off, like hinging a necklace or working with tiny figures on a stickpin. I just don't like working on a large scale."

One of the pieces she is executing currently is initials set in diamonds.

But to Ms. Fox, diamonds are just like any other stone.

She spends 30-40 hours at her workbench and has been at her current location since January.

"I DON'T keep an inventory of merchandise because everything I do is made to order and customized for that person. I never do anything twice," she said.

"Even if someone sees a piece I have done for another customer, usually they will request changes or I will innovate myself."

I like it best when a customer leaves the design up to me. Many times they don't really have what they want

clearly in mind."

Many of her customers are referrals from satisfied customers and others are referred by the store itself when something unusual or original is requested.

Ms. Fox lives in Southfield with her parents, Muggy and Herman Fox, and attended Oak Park High School. She made stabs at studies at the University of Arizona, Syracuse University and the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.

She doesn't regret at all the lack of a formal degree since her long apprenticeship and experience have taught her to harness her natural talent and use well the tools of her trade.



Close, detailed work like the figures on a stick-pin are what Susie Fox likes to do best. (Staff photos by Gary Friedman)



Working with saw, pliers and soldering torches are all part of the job for Susie Fox, a seasoned jewelry maker.

Autumn footwear

Fall 1978 footwear is expected to be a catalyst transforming fall ready-to-wear into understandable lines and shapes. It will be the anchor for widened shoulders, shorter jackets, narrowing skirts, thinner ties and slimmer pants.

It will fulfill the need for perfect balance from head to toe.

Fall footwear holds its own in this exciting fashion season with interesting bottoms, sleek toe contours and harmonious colors.

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Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Love that shirt

Tennis aficionados, take note! There's a new girl in town. Tennis Lady, already located in most of the major American cities, has opened at Somerset Mall. Among the many goodies you'll find there is this T-shirt. The front declares (in kelly green lettering): "I'm gonna win" while the back announces "You're gonna lose". The neck and sleeves are trimmed in matching green. Available in ladies' sizes small, medium and large, the shirt is priced at \$14. Another good item is the adhesive-backed brass plates (with your choice of full name or initials) that stick to your recquet (\$5-\$6). Orders take three weeks. Tennis Lady, Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-7743.



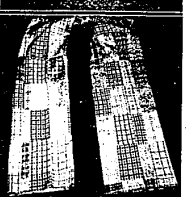
Trash with flash

Bette Midler would love them and so will you. These colorful, stylized garbage cans are great by the pool, in the kitchen, nursery or what have you. Baked enamel on galvanized steel, two sizes are available: the 20-gallon container costs \$28 and the 30-gallon cost \$33. The smaller one features red, yellow and orange tulips plus green stems on a white background. The larger has a variety of multicolored flowers and a white picket fence design. Some are in stock; orders take three weeks. The Paper Place, Applegate Square, Northwestern at Inker, 356-6488.



Once upon a madras

Country Squire has an abundant selection of colorful patch madras trousers in mens' sizes 32 to 40. The traditional cut, straight leg slacks are in stock in your choice of all cotton (\$59.50) or washable polyester (\$55). Lightweight and lined, no two are the same so you might as well plan on giving yourself plenty of time to pick out your favorite. By the way they're a great way to pick up any of your solid color golf shirts. Country Squire Shop, 75 W. Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills, 644-3170.



Wrinkle-free

Hotel valet services are not that expensive. Nowadays, they seem to keep bankers' hours. That's why frequent travelers swear by Wrinkles Away (\$14.95), an electric hand steamer that uses tap water and weighs only 15 ounces. Guaranteed not to scorch or mark any fabric from the sheers to the heaviest, all you do is hang up your garment and steam your wrinkles out in minutes. It's also good to know that if you're traveling abroad, you can use the steamer with a Franzus converter.

Harrison Luggage and Leather Goods, 152 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 646-8063.

