

# BUYER'S EDGE



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SOUTHERN MADE

## Calendar, cases, quilts give elegant start to year

Hand-crafted products showcase distinctive materials and designs.

By Linda Jerkins  
For the AJC

### Save the date

Megan Fowler grew up in an artistic family. For a while, Fowler thought she lacked the creative gene. But then she found it in letterpress class at the University of Georgia.

Now Fowler and her mother, Gaelle Boling, run Brown Parcel Press in Sparta, near Milledgeville. Their small letterpress and design shop is located in a former general store on the farm where they live and work.

With an emphasis on quality, touch and beauty, they strive to produce paper goods that are playful, smart and striking. For month-at-a-glance elegance, get their 2014 "Take Root" calendar. As an ode to farming and food, each calendar month features farm produce ranging from fennel and leeks to okra and watermelon.

Hand-printed on 100 percent cotton on their Vandercook letterpress, the calendar measures 7 inches square. Prop it on your desk or hang it on the wall. Available for \$35 at [www.brownparcelpress.com](http://www.brownparcelpress.com). Also find the calendars in the Atlanta area at West Elm, 260 18th St. NW, in Atlantic Station.

### Case studies

As creator of Willow & Company, Christa Sievers has an eye for smart design. It's evident in her handsome iPad, tablet and computer cases.

Hand-crafted in her home studio in the Buford area, the stylish cases are constructed of thick, protective German merino wool felt and integrated leather. The "prairie" sleeve is a favorite in the iPad line. MacBook Pro and Air owners like the "colonial" cases with chrome snap closures.

As colors go, the combination of graphite black wool felt with chocolate brown leather has been No. 1. But the boutique company recently introduced a black leather cover, which adds a sophisticated update.

Prices range from \$28 for iPhone sleeves to \$120 for larger laptop cases. Available at



For month-at-a-glance elegance, order the 2014 calendar from Georgia's Brown Parcel Press. CONTRIBUTED BY BROWN PARCEL PRESS.

[www.willowandcompany.com](http://www.willowandcompany.com)

### Artful stitches

At age 11, Mandy Blankenship made her first quilt. She picked up quilting again after college, finishing two begun by her grandmother.

Recently, the Texas native began creating hand-stitched quilts at her studio in the trendy village area of West Greenville in upstate South Carolina.

Unlike more traditional patchwork quilts, Blankenship's quilts have a minimalist and monochromatic look. With the sashiko (Japanese style) stitching, quilts in denim and army green are popular. The white cotton thread on the traditional indigo blue cloth gives sashiko its distinctive appearance.

Made of sustainable fabrics, quilts (\$500) measure 4 feet by 6 feet and are available at [mandyblankenship.com](http://mandyblankenship.com). This year Blankenship plans to offer larger sizes and possibly baby quilts.

### BEST OF THE SOUTH

Do you have favorite finds from around the South that you give as gifts, buy for your home or rave about to friends? If so, please share them with us. Send your suggestions to: [lljerkins@gmail.com](mailto:lljerkins@gmail.com). Please include your name and contact number. Also find more Southern-made products, featured in the AJC, at [Southernfinds.com](http://Southernfinds.com) on Facebook.



Mandy Blankenship uses Sashiko (Japanese style) stitching in her modern quilts. CONTRIBUTED BY CHRIS ISHAM PHOTOGRAPHY



The merino wool felt and leather sleeve is popular with iPad users. CONTRIBUTED BY WILLOW & COMPANY.

## Where Can I Find It?

By Sabine Morrow  
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**Q:** I have a 3-year-old little boy at home who would be overjoyed to receive just one Kinder Egg Surprise as a gift. For over a year, he has tirelessly watched videos on YouTube of people opening their "eggie surprise" with the play-by-play documentary of each one's contents. Needless to say, he is obsessed! To the best of my research, I believe that these foil wrapped, white-and-milk chocolate-enrobed candies with a surprise toy center may actually be banned in the U.S. for safety reasons. Are you able to help make one little boy's dream a reality? — *Richelle Vega, Woodstock*

**A:** Richelle, it's going to take a little finagling to make that dream as close to reality as legally possible. Kinder Eggs are still banned in the U.S. because the tiny toys inside the chocolate shell could pose a choking hazard. However, there's a substitute that might work for you and your son. Check out Choco Treasure, which makes a variety of chocolate eggs that have toys inside. The eggs, from a New Jersey-based candy company, are designed in such a way that they comply with the FDA and Consumer Product Safety Commission. You can order a box of a dozen eggs for \$14.49 through [chocotreasure.com](http://chocotreasure.com).

**Q:** Can you please help me find some Twiglets locally? I love these English snacks but haven't found them. Thanks. — *Al Patton, Roswell*

**A:** Al, all you need to do is head over to Taste of Britain, 73 S. Peachtree St., Norcross, 770-242-8585. Each bag of original Jacob's Twiglets costs \$2.50.

**Q:** When we completely re-did our kitchen several years ago, the granite installers told me I could use glass cleaner to clean our granite as long as it was ammonia-free glass cleaner. It cleans beautifully, and our granite has never had to be re-sealed. We cook at home and I'm constantly cleaning the granite. I've been buying it at Sam's Club in the gallon container, but they're no longer offering it and I've been unable to find it anywhere else. Can you help me find a source, please, for ammonia-free glass cleaner in gallon or larger containers? Thank you so much. — *Marty Kinchen, Woodstock*

**A:** Marty, thanks for a terrific tip that a lot of readers who have granite counters will appreciate. I found ZEP ammonia-free glass cleaner concentrate in gallon jugs that will ensure you don't run out anytime soon. Check out [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com) and you'll find a case of four gallons for \$49.97. Simply find the Home Depot store nearest to you, and you can have your glass cleaner shipped for store pickup free of charge.

**Q:** I've got very dry skin, which only gets worse in winter. I prefer to use natural, unscented soaps whenever I can, and was told about a bar soap that also moisturizes. It's called Verve. I've checked drug stores and even a health food store, but no one has heard of this soap. Can you please help me find it? Thank you. — *S. Jayson, Alpharetta*

**A:** Verve unscented moisturizing bar in the aqua-and-white box is a product that's distributed by Whole Foods. You'll find 4-ounce bars of Verve for \$1.39 each in the bath and body section of Harry's Whole Foods, 1180 Upper Hembree Road, Roswell, 770-664-6300.

GEAR

## Gloves make it easier to be on the go

One pair keeps you hydrated and another keeps you connected.

Staying hydrated on a run is important, but it's not the easiest problem to solve. Some runners go without, some grab a water bottle belt and some carry a no-frills bottle in hand. But bulky belts can weigh you down and irritate skin, while holding a sloshing bottle for miles isn't exactly ideal either. Salomon's Sense Hydro S-Lab Set is a nice solution if you don't need the heavy hydration of pack. The set includes two carrier gloves that hold one soft PVC-free flask that's lightweight and flexible for bounce-free thirst-quenching.

The carrier gloves are lined with silicone for stick-free comfort. They have a mesh palm for breathability and a soft cloth outer shell that wicks sweat and is machine washable. They also include reflective detailing for nighttime visibility.



Seirus' SoundTouch HeatWave Original All Weather Glove has a weather-resistant liner and special fingertips that can activate any touchscreen. MCT

The gloves easily secure the flask to your hand and allow you to grab a drink without a fuss. The set won't

strain your wrist like a standard water bottle, and you don't have to think about it when not in use — just strap on and go. The included flask holds 8 ounces, but the gloves can expand to hold larger sizes.

The set includes two carrier gloves and one flask. Larger flasks are sold separately. Price is \$40. To purchase or find a retailer, visit [salomon.com](http://salomon.com).

### In touch with your screens

There are a lot of gloves on the market right now boasting their touchscreen compatibility, but how many of them actually keep your hands warm while you operate your smartphone?

Combining two proprietary designs in one, Seirus' SoundTouch HeatWave Original All Weather Glove provides both protection and functionality with a weather-resistant liner to keep you warm and special fingertips that can activate any touchscreen.

Its heat-retaining lin-

ing keeps in more warmth than a traditional glove liner while simultaneously reflecting body heat. The form-fitting style isn't bulky like other gloves with similar protection, instead providing what feels like a second skin.

It also has a knit cuff to keep the elements out, in addition to a weather-resistant shield that provides protection against water and wind.

The palm has an ultra-grip feature to avoid slippage, and the specially designed SoundTouch fingertip allows users to operate the touchscreen of smartphones, cameras and other touchscreen devices. So whether you want to snap a pic in action or take a quick call on the slopes, the glove has you covered.

Available in men's sizes small to extra large and women's sizes small, medium and large. Price starts at \$54.99. To find online retailers, visit [seirus.com](http://seirus.com). Also available at [REI.com](http://REI.com) and Dick's Sporting Goods.

Shelby Sheehan-Bernard,  
McClatchy-Tribune

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](mailto:sabinem.morrow@gmail.com) (include your name, the city you live in and a daytime phone number).