Sew a Dopp Bag with Ashley Nickels

Chapter 1 - Introduction
Overview
(playful guitar notes) - Hi, I'm Ashley Nickels. I'm a modern quilter and a sewing and quilting instructor. I'm gonna show you how to make a really easy Dopp kit. This Dopp kit is perfect for traveling, for both men and women. In this class, I'm gonna show you a really easy way to attach a zipper, a really clever way of boxing a corner, and we're also gonna be working with a laminate cotton, which will make your bag water resistant on the inside. This is a really great project for the beginning sewer, and it makes a really nice gift. (ethereal music)

Materials
- For the dopp kit materials you'll need two rectangles of fabric cut to 15 by 20 inches and for the fabric choices I've used a thicker denim fabric for the exterior and you'll wanna use the same weight fabric so I recommend a thicker canvas or an upholstery weight fabric. And then for the interior I've used this BPA-free laminated cotton. Two strips of the denim fabric cut to 10 inches by three inches. A zipper, a 14 inch zipper. Some pinking shears. I like to have some snips for trimming threads. A pair of fabric scissors. A ballpoint pen or a Sharpie for marking on the fabric. Some pins. A gridded ruler. And you'll need a zipper foot. I'm gonna use my walking foot attachment for this project because I'm going to be sewing through a lot of layers of fabric so if you also have a walking foot I recommend using it. And lastly, you'll need your sewing machine.

Chapter 2 - Make Dopp Bag
Attach zipper and start sewing
- The first step with our dopp kit is to attach the zipper. I'm gonna take these two rectangles and I'm gonna place them right sides out. And because these pieces are quite big, and sometimes the fabric can move around, I'm gonna place a few pins all around, maybe not all around, but halfway down on either side, just to hold them in place. And then at one of the edges, the 15 inch edge, I'm gonna take my zipper and with the right side down, the side with the tab is the right side, right side down, I'm gonna line it up in the middle, meaning I'm gonna make sure there's equal parts hanging off on either end. I'm gonna use a bunch of pins, and I'm gonna pin all along this inside of the zipper, because what I've found is that the fabric can move a little bit, so you wanna make sure you're using enough pins to keep that in place. I'll take it over to my machine with the zipper foot attached, and always remember that when you use your zipper foot attachment, your middle needle placement will need to be moved over. And I'll start with a backstitch, and I'll just use the edge of the zipper foot as my seam allowance guide. And see how I'm gonna have to pull my fabric through a little, you might have to do that. A little backstitch, and then just go straight down. (machine whirring) And you'll see how I put my pins perpendicular to the edge so I don't even need to move them. 'Cause that's gonna help me keep my zipper in place. (machine whirring) And here you just maybe use your fingers to hold down this edge by the tab, 'cause it can get a little, a little, it lifts itself up. Okay, and then I'll end on a backstitch. I'll take these pins out, and I'm gonna go right into a topstitch, which simply will be-- I'm just gonna flatten this out first, so the topstitch means we're gonna sew one more seam down this whole length to finish that off. And now, I'm not gonna move my zipper foot placement, so I'm gonna flip-- when I sew I'm gonna flip it around and sew this way, which means I'll

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have to kind of roll this up, but that's okay. So we'll take it over and you might have to use a little finesse to get your fabric in place, and again, let's start with a backstitch, and then you just keep going, and try to keep the same amount of the zipper showing, just use your finger to flatten out your fabric as you go down. (machine whirring) And then I'll end on a backstitch. Okay, now our first side is done. Our next step is to attach the second side of the zipper. And we'll do that in almost the same way, so I'll take the right side of my zipper, which is of course the side with the zipper pull, and I'm gonna put it against the right side of our exterior fabric. I'm gonna do the same thing as I did before, which is to put these pins in parallel with the edge of the dopp kit, just to securely hold this in place. Careful not to poke your fingers. Okay, and then we will use the same technique, which is the zipper foot to sew this down. And since we're starting on this side with the zipper pull, just be careful that you are using your finger to hold that down, 'cause it'll move a little bit, and we'll start with a backstitch again. And then we're gonna go straight down all along the edge, using the edge of the zipper foot for our seam allowance. (machine whirring) And you'll notice that the cut of my laminate is a little bit jagged, but that's okay. You don't have to perfect. (machine whirring) And then we'll end again on a backstitch. Okay, and then I'll take out my pins. And we're ready to topstitch. And this side is gonna be a little tricky. I'm gonna unzip the zipper, and then I'm gonna flip this inside out, just to get my seam flattened. So you can see now because we have kind of a tube shape, and due to the physics of this bag, we're gonna have to do some finagling to get that topstitch. When I bring this over to my machine, I'm gonna actually remove my tray, because I need to use-- I need to have more space. And the first thing I'll do is move my needle placement all the way over to the other side of the zipper foot. And then move my threads as well. And we're gonna topstitch exactly the same way we did before, it'll just feel a little bit different because you're on the other side. And we'll start with a backstitch, and then we'll go all the way down. Now careful. I would stop every once and a while and make sure that you've got your material all set because you don't have your tray there anymore. (machine whirring) And it'll go pretty smoothly, the only thing is at the end it'll be a little tough. (machine whirring) And so as you start getting towards the end, you'll notice that it'll start to get a little bunched, so just keep moving that, and then keep going. We really just have this two inch space at the end where you really have to kind of manipulate the whole thing in order to get it to be flat. So don't be afraid of just pulling and stopping. Just careful not to sew over multiple layers. And then we're almost to the end. And then we'll end on a backstitch. Okay. So we'll clip our threads and then we'll see how we did with our zipper. It looks pretty good. And over here too, and you know I'm gonna take the opportunity right now to clip these tabs. Just 'cause we don't need 'em anymore. And check this out. Got our zipper.

Sewing seams and handle

- My next step is to sew together my three by ten rectangles for the handle and the tabs. To do that I'm gonna take one of these, and turn if over, and I'm just going to fold one side in towards the middle, and then fold the other side in towards the middle, and then fold that whole thing in half. Doesn't have to be perfect, and then I'm gonna take it to the machine, and I'm gonna sew two seams, one towards each side all the way down, and I've placed my walking foot attachment on. So if you are also going to use one, now is the time, and I'm going to like I said sew, maybe use a quarter inch seam allowance, and just sew straight down this edge. Just making sure it stays sandwiched together, and I'm not even going to cut my thread here. I'm going to turn this corner. I'm gonna go towards the other edge, and then I'm just gonna come straight back down. So go ahead and do the same thing to the other rectangle, and I have mine here. I'll take it and fold it in

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half, and then using my scissors cut it in half, and then I'll set these aside until a little bit later. My next step is to box the corners, and the first thing that I'll do is I'll turn this whole thing inside out, and then I need to find the middle. So I wanna make sure that my zipper is pretty much directly in the middle. So I'll take my ruler, and just measure from the middle of the zipper on either side just to see. So it looks like I almost, I'm gonna move this over slightly. Just wanna make sure it's in the middle. It doesn't have to be perfect, but ya know we don't want it to be way off. So again I'm at almost five, now it's the other way it's wrong. Okay, so we'll just leave it somewhere like there, and I'm gonna put a pin maybe right here in the middle just to hold it in place on either side. Careful with your fingers. I just kind of leave it like that. Now I'm gonna flip it, and check the other side, which it should be pretty good. Once you do one side, it's usually, yeah, we're good, okay, another pin just to hold it, and my next step is to sew a straight seam down both edges. Now that I've got my bag centered , and I have my pins in place, I'm gonna go ahead and put in my tabs. So I'll take one of these shorter pieces that I just made, and it's up to you how long you want your tab to be. I think I might trim mine a little bit, just cause I think that's a little too big for a tab. So now is a good time to do that, and I'm just gonna make sure that both of them are the same, I've trimmed the same amount. So I've trimmed maybe about three quarters on an inch off of both of those, and then you also get to decide, which side of the tab you want to be facing out, and I kind of like this one that has this double fold so I'm gonna use that side as my outside, and I'm gonna go ahead and stick this in where my zipper is, this is gonna be kind of like a zipper pull. So I'll take out my pin. I've bent that pin, so I'll grab another one, and I'm gonna place it right like that underneath the zipper centered, and I'll leave a little bit hanging out there, and then I'll go ahead, and put in a pin, and you have a lot of layers here. So don't be afraid to to stick your pin in like that to hold it in place. Now that the tab is in place, we'll take it to the machine, and we'll sew a quarter inch seam all along the edge. Now you'll go and do the same thing with the other tab, and also sew a quarter inch seam along that edge as well. This is a really good example of why I like to use the walking foot, because there's a lot of layers here, and I'll use a quarter inch seam allowance, my walking foot has a little line that marks the quarter inch seam, but I also just wanna flip the fabric open to see if that seam allowance is gonna get all the fabric, because if that's not the case you might need to make it slightly bigger, or you could make it even slightly smaller, and no need to do a backstitch, we're just gonna start sewing, and keep in mind that as we get close to this tab, we might need to take our pin out, but then that means we need to hold onto it pretty well, and I need to push this material under the zipper, or under the foot, and as I get over the tab I'm going to backstitch, and once we get to the end, we'll go and do the same thing to the other side. We're gonna box the corners, and the first step to do that is to draw a two by two square on each corner, and I like to use the edge of the fabric even though I know that my seam is technically, so it's technically a quarter inch smaller, but I like it because it creates a rectangle in the end, and I'm gonna use my pen, and I'm just gonna draw this two by two square, and I'm gonna do that on all four corners. Just gonna make sure that the pen makes a mark, okay, and now I get to cut these out, and just be careful once you get to the corner. The corner's gonna be a little tricky. I'll come in from this side. Just right on the line, cut right on the line, and it's okay, it's not gonna be perfect. Just gonna clip the fabric. Kay, go ahead an cut out the rest of your corners. I've done that here, and now I'm gonna show you how we box the corner. This is the cool part. At the end of my dopp kitt where the zipper pull would be if closed, is the side that I'm going to attach the handle to. So when we box the corner which means we're gonna bring the seam together and pin. I'm gonna put a pin in here, and then I'll do the other side, and then I'll show you how to insert the handle. I just wanna hold this in place on one side, and then

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the second side. See how when we cut that corner out. It made this straight seam perfectly for us, and I'm gonna pin it, and then my handle is going to go in side, and then through okay, and it's up to you. You need to decide how much handle you want sticking out. So if you wanna push it through or not. I don't really like a whole lot, and then I'm going to use my pin, and see how I'm gonna have to, I'mma have to trim this quite a bit, and then I'll pin, and then I'll pin over here, and now I'm ready to sew these four corners. Here I am at the machine, and I think I'm gonna decide to trim my this excess tab, before I sew, just so it's out of my way, and then I'm going to use a quarter inch seam allowance, and you see how this isn't completely lined up, and that's okay. I just wanna make sure that I don't, that this whoooole piece gets on the right side of this seam. So that all of my fabric gets sewn in. So let's see, and I'm gonna start with a backstitch, and sew in about a quarter inch, but it's really not an exact science here, and then once I get to the handle, this middle where the handle is, I'm gonna also do a few backstitches because I just wanna make sure it's nice and secure, and then I'll keep going, and then I'll end as well on a backstitch. Kay, sew the rest of the corners in the same way. Try to be consistent with your seam allowance, but also make sure that all of your fabric is getting covered in those seams so you don't have any holes, and go ahead and trim all of these, and you could even trim, or your gonna want to actually trim your handle tabs just so they're not sticking in. The way I'm gonna finish these edges, including trimming the handle tabs is I'm gonna take my pinking shears, and even though I don't have a huge seam allowance to work with, it'll still be fun to use these pinking shears to kind of give it a jagged edge. Now just be careful you're not cutting over the seams. I find the pinking shears make it look kind of funky, especially over this laminate cotton. It's kind of fun, and then on the side with the handle tabs, if you haven't already clipped those edges you can do that with the pinking shears. It's just gonna require a little bit of elbow grease. I have to do it a few times. I'm gonna go ahead and finish my fourth corner here with my pinking shears, and after that our bag is ready to flip, and this always the fun part, and we flip inside out, and we see our lovely work. Aaahhh, ta da. Use your fingers there, and now we have our beautiful dopp kit. As you can changing the fabric really changes the look of the dopp kit So you can make it for a man, or for a woman, and it's perfect for travel. So next time you're going on a trip make yourself one, or if you have a friend who's about to go on a trip make one for them. It makes a really great gift.

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