Customized Play Tent with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
How to make a play tent
- [Cameraman] Recording, and... - Hey, everybody. It's Courtney from Creativebug, and we're coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and it has been quite a day for me, and I'm really excited to be in the studio and share with you this really cool and fun idea. JOANN just released this really awesome, customizable fabric. Now, if you joined us for an earlier live shoot in the season, you may have seen Liana turn that into a stocking or maybe Ursula wearing a really cute little personalized apron, and I'm gonna show you how to turn it into an A-frame play tent. This is great for camping or just putting in the living room for a cozy little reading nook. It's something that is collapsible and can easily fold away, and then be brought out at a moment's notice, perfect for a rainy day like today. It's rainy here in San Francisco and has been all week. This fabric, I'm gonna use canvas, rather, but it comes in five different styles of fabric. You can do minky velour, which is this really soft, super supple and lush kind of fabric which is great for baby blankets. You can do a jersey fleece, a knit jersey, a canvas, and I think I'm missing one, but, oh, a poplin, which is great for garments. And it comes in over 400 different styles, so you can select between many, many different types of prints, and then you get to customize it. You can do a monogram, you can do a child's name, this would be great for, like, a puppy bed. You could do a puppy name, and like I said, I'm gonna show you how to do a play tent. You're gonna need for this project about three yards, and I'm using the canvas. And this one says, "Liesl." This is one of Liana's super little friends. And this is really great. I picked a pattern that was an all-over print, which means that the characters are going upside down and right-side up as well as the text, so the customization where it says, "Liesl." Because of the A-frame, if you didn't choose something that had the print going everywhere, when it goes up on the left it would be right side, and when it goes down on the right it would be upside down, so you just want to remember to look for that. You could also, instead of just doing a single panel of fabric, if you happen to order the wrong thing, you can make a seam so that you have two sides facing the right side. So, even if you make a mistake, it's no big deal. I've got three yards of it. I also have three 3/4-inch dowels, and they're 48 inches long. So 48 inches from tip to tip, and the diameter of the dowel itself is 3/4-inch. You could do something, maybe half inches. I wouldn't go any smaller than half inch, 'cause you need something to be sturdy. You could go a little bit wider, but the reason I chose the 3/4-inch is because it fits perfectly into a one-by-two. So this is a one-by-two. You can find this at the hardware store. You need four of these, and they're also 48 inches long. At my local hardware store, they came in eight-foot lengths, and I just had them cut in half, and the guy charged me for one single cut which was two bucks. It was awesome, so easy to do. I'm gonna use one other power tool. Don't be afraid. I use this all the time. It's a drill, and we're gonna use with that a 3/4-inch boring bit. So this is meant for wood. It has a sharp tip, and it's gonna create a little hole in the one-by-two that we can slip the dowel through. You don't need screws for this project. You don't need any glue for this project. It comes together really, really quickly. We're gonna start by building our frame out of our wooden components, and then we're gonna do the fabric part later. So move that aside. This is gonna be a really fun live shoot because I'm gonna be moving around all over the studio, which means if you have any questions, feel free to ask them. Alright. So I've got all four of my one-by-twos. They've been cut down to 48 inches, and I want to mark these at the five-inch point, and that's where we're gonna drill our first

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set of holes. This is gonna be at the top of the play tent, and these pieces are gonna be overlapping. So I like having a little bit of exposed wood coming up from that kind of crossbar area. I've got a tape measure and a pencil. And a lot of this is just like, kind of eyeballing. You can adjust this to whatever you like. Five inches. And we're gonna drill these first, and then I'll mark and drill the bottom section. Got my drill, got my 3/4-inch. (drill running) And I want to kinda eyeball, I could draw a line if this helps you guys. Just draw a line here. And you're looking for roughly the middle of this one-by-two, and that's where you're gonna put this little sharp point. (drill whirring) All the way through. So you see it's important that I've got this wood hanging off the edge of my table, so I don't drill into the table. You could flip it over and just peel away any extra. Make sure you have your vacuum handy. You can do this in a kitchen as well. And I need to do this to all four posts. So just roughly the center. (drill whirring) Same thing here, roughly the center. (drill whirring) Last one. Roughly the center. (drill whirring) Oop, it's called an exit wound. At least, that's what we call it in book binding. You just peel that away. Definitely keep that vacuum handy, 'cause you're gonna need it. Alright, so that's on one side. We're gonna flip to the other side, and about an inch up, we're gonna mark and do the same thing, and that's gonna be at the bottom of our tent. So just rotate these. Line them all back up again. You can measure this, or you can kinda just say, like, "Yep, that's roughly an inch. "Let's just draw the line." Maybe that's an inch-and-a-half. This is gonna be at the bottom of the tent, but we also need a hole in each of these. Oop, maybe that's more the middle. (drill whirring) Number two. (drill whirring) There are those exit wounds. - [Woman] Maybe people are just tuning in. Can you tell 'em, can you tell 'em you're making-- - Yes, we're live. Thanks for tuning in. I am making an A-frame play tent using customizable fabric from JOANN. This is awesome because it comes in a ton of different styles, 400 different prints and five different types of fabric. I'm using a canvas because I want this to be durable for a kid's play tent, and right now, where you've caught me is I am marking and drilling through my one-by-twos. I have four one-by-twos to make this A-frame tent. On one side I measured in about five inches and drilled a 3/4-inch hole using this boring bit. It's a 3/4-inch boring bit. And now we're on the other side of those same one-by-twos at the bottom of where our tent is gonna be, and going up about an inch, an inch-and-a-half, we're continuing to bore those last holes. And this is where our dowels are gonna go, and you want your dowel to be the exact same size as your boring tool. And I didn't say before, but when you're picking out your wood and you're picking out your dowels, try to get the straightest pieces possible because sometimes dowels have a tendency to bow. So you want to find something as straight as possible 'cause it'll be easy to slip into those holes that we've drilled out. If you have anything that is really curvy, you might have to, like, really pound it, which means you might need a hammer or a mallet. Again, this is a very forgiving and easy and quick-to-whip-up project. Thanks for joining us live, and let me know if you have any questions. I'm gonna drill these other two holes. (drill whirring) Again, if you have that, you can just easily pull it off. You can even sand this if you need to, but really, kids are not gonna come in contact with any of this. You don't have to worry too much about it. Last bit here. And these boring tools are nice and sharp. They're doing the work for us. (drill whirring) I'm really not pressing very hard. I'm letting the bit do its job. Alright. Now, things are gonna get a little dusty. So I'm just sweeping that onto the floor. You definitely want to vacuum that up later. And now it's time to start by assembling our tent. So the components with the five-inch holes here, sorry, the holes rather, at five inches down from the top, that's gonna be the top of our A-frame. And the pieces at the bottom, so just one inch from the bottom, that's where dowels are gonna go, at the bottom. So again, I'm working with 3/4-inch dowels. And this part can be a little fiddly. You might need a second pair of hands or a hammer, and

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that's fine. - [Woman] Courtney, how big is this tent gonna be? - This tent is gonna be about, I think it's 44 inches high, depending on how wide you kinda splay this out. Let's take this off. There we go. But you can kind of adjust it. Sorry. - [Woman] So Faith Ann was wondering. - Faith Ann, thank you for writing in. Thanks for that question. Alright, your other one-by-twos are gonna go on this other side, so join me over here. Like I said, this part can be a little fiddly, especially if not all of your pieces are perfectly milled before they get to you. Alright. So you're gonna just kinda expand these 'til you have them roughly the same. Now, I thought about, oh, like I said, you can use a hammer or a mallet. If things aren't going on perfectly, (hammer pounding) you can just give this a little hammer to move it in a little bit. (hammer pounding) I think about, like, two inches in from either end is the best way to go. (hammer pounding) I thought about different ways to really secure this. What's nice is this will fold up, even if we secure it. I thought about zip ties, I thought about gluing it, and actually, what I like the look of best is just tearing some strips of fabric and adding it. It's a nice little decorative touch, and it's actually the most sturdy. It still allows you to collapse this. I'll show you that a little bit later. Let's add our dowels at the bottom. So again, you're gonna hope that your pieces are as straight as possible, and if not, you can use your hammer. A little wiggle is helpful. Good. And this just creates a little bit of sturdiness, especially if you have a very rambunctious child or who's playing really heavily. This is helpful. I use my hammer on this back end. (hammer pounding) Perfect. And you can still adjust this. So I usually extend it, so it's maybe three feet when open, three feet in the opening. Alright, so your A-frame tent can kind of hang out. And while that's there, we're gonna work on the sewn component. Alright, so I actually started this. The canvas and any of the fabric, when you order it, also, did I mention it's digitally printed? I'm working with an all-over pattern, which means the motifs are going the right way and the wrong way. That way, when we hang it over the tent, nothing is upside down. Everything is going every which way, which is perfect for this project. It's very wide, so you're gonna need to cut off the selvedges, and I just measure everything relative to my A-frame. So, if you like more of this dowel sticking out, then that means your dimension in here is gonna be shorter. If you like less sticking out, then this is gonna be longer. So this is easy. You just measure this. This is 41 inches. I think mine was closer to 42 when I first did it. So whatever your measurement is that you like, you're gonna add two more inches, 'cause you're gonna have a one-inch seam on either end. So if this is 41 and you like the way this looks, you're gonna cut your fabric to 43 inches wide and do a one-inch seam on each side. I've already done that here, just so you can see it. So I've got a seam. You can pink the edges underneath if you like, as a way to finish. You can sew first and then pink your edges, and you just do that with some pinking shears. Alright. And then you want to make a pocket at the bottom. And this is to hold the bottom dowel, and I did mine about three inches, okay? So I'm gonna actually show you how to do that. I've already measured and cut my fabric, but just for good measure, let's just put it over the tent and just make sure everything's looking good. So I know one side I've done a pocket. We're just gonna throw that over. You will have to remove your dowel to put that pocket on this side, so just if you take a look at it. That's gonna go right there. Grab your pens. Brian's doing a really good job following me. Thank you, Brian. This is a fun live shoot, right? We're doing something much bigger than we normally do. - [Woman] Courtney, can you just repeat the dimensions for us again of the one that you cut out? - Yes. (hammer pounding) I haven't secured this all the way, so these are still moveable. This is about 41 inches wide, and you can measure yours. Yours might be 42 inches or 40 inches, depending on how far this crossbar comes in on your dowel. You want to add one inch to each side for your hem. So I have a one-inch hem here. That's side's not pinked. This side I pinked the inside to finish that edge, just whatever your preference is. Then,

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on this back side, I've got a three-inch pocket that's gonna go onto this dowel. I've already sewn it. It's also pinked. And it's gonna go right there. And now, I just want to make sure that my fabric is cut so that I have room to make a three-inch pocket on the side, which I do. It's not taut yet, because it's not actually on the tent, but it will be soon. Alright, so we can remove this. And I am going to just roughly pin this in a few places. So I'm working on that short side. My edges have already been pinked. I'm gonna have the wrong side facing me. And what's handy about having a printed fabric like this is, usually, you can use one of the motifs to line things up. So let's just take a look here. I want roughly a three-inch pocket. I don't want something too deep, 'cause I want this to fit on the tent. Alright, so that looks like it's gonna fall kind of right in the middle of the word Liesl. And this fabric seems to be printed on grain pretty consistently. I've done this with a few. And I'm just gonna pin it in a few places. And then I'm gonna just whip this through the sewing machine with a straight stitch. Let's just pin it on this side, 'cause we're gonna be stitching here. - [Woman] We have a question from Emily. - [Courtney] Yeah. Hi, Emily. - [Woman] And she wants to know if you made forts as a kid. - That's an excellent question. Emily is asking if I made forts as a kid. The answer is yes, I used to make a lot of them. I had this, like, really tall mirror, and we would tie bed sheets up, and that would go then onto my bed, and then onto, I had a trundle bed, so when, like, friends spent the night, they could also have a bed. And so we tied things to all kinds of different points in my room. I didn't have a play tent like this, though. I think it would be really fun for playing, but for me I think the best thing would be just like getting really cozy and reading a book. You could put a really pretty quilt down, some custom pillows, which I'm gonna show you in a just a minute, and I think it would be a really nice, like, special kind of retreat space. I think kids need some privacy sometimes to just, like, curl up when they're feeling sad. I know I could use a play tent today. So I think this would be a really fun project for that. I might curl up in this one later, actually. - [Man] You and Charlie. - If you saw what my dog looked like. We had a trip to the emergency vet this morning. He's fine, but it's been a hectic day. - [Woman] Brian, can we get a little shot of Charlie? (laughing) - Charlie's with Liana. - [Liana] Charlie. Oh, in the cone of shame. (laughing) - Can you see Charlie's a little sad? Alright, so I've just pinned every six or eight inches. This is really not precise. That's the thing that's awesome about this. I am not a stupendous sewer. I can sew straight lines. I've made a few quilts. I don't sew garments or anything like that like some of my very talented coworkers, but this is totally the kind of project that I would love to do because it's a little bit of woodworking, it comes together super quickly, it's customizable using this fabric, which is awesome, and, like, what kid wouldn't want this? They're gonna feel so special. Alright, we're just gonna put this into the sewing machine. Nothing fancy, just straight stitches. We are going to backstitch at the beginning and the end. I'm using just a regular white thread that coordinates, and I've got a little scrap piece of fabric in here just to test. (sewing machine running) Things are goin' smoothly. Now, this fabric is heavy, so you just want to kinda guide it though the machine. Just because I've got so much yardage here, we're gonna lift up that presser foot. (sewing machine running) Right, little more. (sewing machine running) Backstitch a bit. (sewing machine running) And I'm not being precise. I know that this needs to be about three inches. I'm gonna stay probably about a half inch from this side, my pinked side. (sewing machine running) You can go as slow as you need. I'm not sewing over my pins. (sewing machine running) It looks like I am, but I really, I promise I'm not. (sewing machine running) I'm not pushing the fabric at all. I'm not pushing. I'm just allowing the feed dogs to pull the fabric, but I am guiding it to make sure everything stays as lined up as possible. (sewing machine running) Can take out that pin. (sewing machine running) Like I said, I'm using the canvas weight for this play tent. I think that's the best weight. (sewing machine running) And there are over

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400 different styles to choose from, so that was really fun picking it out. (sewing machine running) You can see I've got that long seam already done. This is the one that we didn't pink, just to show you the difference. (sewing machine running) Backstitch. (sewing machine running) Alright, pull that off. And now is the moment of truth. So we're gonna actually put this onto our frame. That means we have to remove the dowels at the bottom to slide into these pockets, but then, once it's all set up, we'll add those little securing fabric strips in a coordinating color just to secure this, and then you can see just how it easy it is just to pop open and fold away. Grab your hammer 'cause you may need this, especially if your dowel is not perfectly straight. Wiggle, wiggle. Alright. Might have lost my mic. There we go. - [Cameraman] Got it? - Give me two seconds, yeah. We'll just scoot this up a little because now we don't have our site support. Alright, here we go. So I'm allowing the fabric just to hang on the top. And we are going to just run that dowel through that pocket. You can sand the edge of the dowel, too. If it's a little sharp from being milled, it can catch on your fabric, but once you get it going, it's pretty easy. And this goes back into those openings. Easy, peasy. Use your hammer if you need to. (hammer pounding) Great. We're gonna do that on the other side, same process. Remove our dowel. Oh, I've got my scrap fabric and a pin still there! No problem. Do this back side. (hammer pounding) Just give this a little adjustment. And you have the cutest little play tent, reading corner, ever. You can see this actually just folds up super easy, so you can just go tuck this in a closet, behind a sofa, pop it back out. Now, to secure this. Let's say that you had a larger drill bit, your dowels weren't perfectly milled, and just to add a decorative accent, we're gonna use a coordinating solid fabric. I'm gonna tear it and tie it on, so I'll show you how to do that. - [Woman] Great, we have a few more questions for you. - A few more questions, yeah. I'll tie on one, and then we can answer some questions. So this is just a cotton, think it might be a broadcloth or a poplin. You could customize this, too. If you have some left over, and you're using the poplin, the canvas, you can't tear like we're gonna do with this cotton, but the poplin you probably can. You don't have to tear it. You could just cut strips. I just love using a coordinating solid to go with your customized fabric. (fabric ripping) Plus, this is so fun to tear. You've seen us do this before on live shoots. Cut off probably about a yard, and then I just kind of weave it around. I should have taken that sticker off. You guys can see that. Maybe we'll go through here. And I just do a little tied knot, and it kinda acts like a little flag or bunting, too. If you're working with a thicker fabric, it would have a little more body, and you can make it longer or shorter. And I do the same thing on the bottom dowels. And this keeps everything in place, and it's super cute. And you can still fold it up and open it back. So just kind of looping the one-by-two and the dowel. I'm just tying it in place. Just a super-cute little accent. I love this. There. And I would do that on all points, all connection points. - [Woman] You have to show how it folds up. - Oh, yeah, it still folds. Still folds, even with these connections. Because they're fabric, they have enough give in them to open and close, but it's very solid. So it's not gonna allow the dowels and the one-by-twos to slip off. But you do need to do it to all sides. I'm just showing you how to do it to two sides. And then, with the other fabric, so they also do a jersey flannel, which is awesome. We made this super-cute little reading pillow. This is with the jersey flannel. It's an easy envelope backing. You can check out Annabel Wrigley's class for other pillow ideas. I think she has three different kinds of pillow ideas, so you can do like a big, cozy pillow, a bed pillow to go inside of your play tent. And I think we have some questions as well. - [Woman] Yes, sorry. They're, like, buried down here now. There are so many comments. - Sorry. - [Woman] So, who was it? Somebody wanted to know what the dimensions were. How many, okay, Kris-- - Dimensions. - [Woman] Kris Shaffer wants to know - Hi, everyone. - [Woman] how many yards did you use? How did you measure length? Maybe if you could just give a quick-- - Yeah, actually, if Eric

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can go to C cam for me, or Brian can get this. I actually drew a little diagram when I was kinda coming up with this idea. So, we're using one-by-twos. You need four of those. A one-by-two is a standard dimension in the hardware store, and each of those is 48 inches. And that gives us this A-frame to work with. We're also using 48-inch dowels, and by the time you have all your connections here, what you're left with is about 42 inches wide for fabric. You want to add an inch to each side for your one-inch seams, so I used about 44 inches wide of fabric. And it's almost square. This dimension is about 44 inches, but we're gonna do a three-inch pocket on either side, so total, you need something about 94 inches long, so just under three yards of personalized fabric. You also need one yard of scrap fabric for those ties I just showed you, and if you're using 3/4-inch dowels, you also need a 3/4-inch wood boring bit. If you can read that handwriting, kudos to you. - [Woman] And then, we also want to know if you could use glue or tape. - People are asking what other kinds of things can you use, glue or tape, and I was mentioning earlier, when I was thinking about the dowels and the one-by-twos and their connections, about using glue and tape for something to be really sturdy. The fabric, I think, is the absolute best design. It gives that really cute little accent. It still allows you to fold this up, and nothing is gonna break. It's all a little bit flexible, which I really like. So, using the coordinating solid fabric in, like, a broadcloth or a 100% cotton just as a little tie would be so cute. You're also gonna have some printed fabric on either side when you cut down the sides of your canvas, and you can make a really cute little bunting with that. You could mix it with some of your solid coordinating fabric, and you could even hang that in the play tent, which I think would be adorable. You could also make a pillow. - [Woman] Tell them one more time about the deal. - And, better yet, there's a great deal. So, right now, you can get 25% off your custom fabric. All you have to do is go to joann.com, and that is only until this Saturday the 14th. So make sure you log on. There are over 400 different styles of fabric to choose from, which is awesome. Comes in five different types of fabric. We used the canvas for the play tent. This cozy pillow is a jersey flannel, but there's also minky veloura, which is very popular for baby blankets. So check that out. You also get free shipping with that. It's about a week until it ships, so make sure that you plan ahead if you have anything special like a birthday or something coming up. If you need more ideas for the play tent, the teepee class on Creativebug, or any other sewing projects that you can use this awesome personalized fabric with, be sure to go to Creativebug.com. We have over 1,000 classes for your enjoyment. We'll see you guys for our next live shoot.

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