Beach Towel Pockets with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Beach Towel Pockets
(upbeat electronic music) - Hi, everybody! This is Liana from Creativebug. I hope you all had an amazing fourth of July, if you're in America. Other people abroad, I hope you're having a great summer! I know I'm having a great summer. One of my favorite things to do is actually go to the beach and swim. This is my favorite time of year, and I figured this would be a good time to talk about how to customize your beach towel because anybody can have a beach towel, but a customized beach towel is really something special. So let me show you what we're going to be talking about today and what I'm going to show you how to do. I have taken this very ordinary little zebra print beach towel, I think we got it at Target, and I have created pockets for it, all kinds of pockets. Up here you will see I have created a long tube and that is for, you can stuff your clothes in there or another towel, or anything like that, and make a little pillow. I have added some amazing tassels to this. We also have some pockets down at the bottom of the beach towel. It's a little hard to show you the whole beach towel here on camera. So one is opening up this way and that is perfect for putting a book in. And then another one over here that goes a long way, this is great for your sunblock, keys, cellphone. It's really endlessly customizable and so, so, so, so easy to do. I'm going to go ahead and move this out of the way, and get down to it. Now as we go along if you guys have any questions, you always have such great questions when we do these demos, please feel free to write in with them in the comments section, and Alison here will ask me those questions, and I will answer them live, or at least attempt to. So I'm going to start by creating a pocket. So if you want to pockets that are like the ones down at the bottom of the towel that I just showed you, then you're going to want to cut out a piece of fabric, let's see, what did I cut this to? That is about eight inches by 11 inches, but again, just cut out whatever size makes sense for you. If you're a magazine reader, you might want a big pocket like that, you know, I'm kind of a book girl. So I have my piece of fabric right here, you're going to need an iron, and typically I would do a double fold for a pocket so that the raw edges are sealed, but for this I'm just going to do one fold and I'll show you why. Part of the reason why is because you're going to be sewing this onto a piece of terry cloth and terry cloth is pretty bulky and you're trying to minimize bulk, so a single fold of fabric is going to be fine. We're just going to go all the way around the edges here. I'm doing about a half inch fold. I also have this feeling like, summertime off the cuff up-cycling project, I never want to spend more than an hour on them, (laughs) I need to like crank it out and get that little boost of dopamine that you get when you complete a project in an hour, so I never want to spend too much time on this kind of stuff, so I would not concern yourself with cutting things out perfectly even and making sure that all the sides match. Just have fun with this. Rummage through your closet, see what towels you already have, you really can't go wrong with this one. I'm just going around all the edges here and not even pinning because I am just crazy like that. - [Alison] We have our first two questions. - [Liana] Two questions? - [Alison] Lynn is asking, will pockets have velcro or something so things don't fall out? - [Liana] Lynn, that is such a great idea. I did not put any velcro or closures on mine, but I was going to say that either velcro, you can also do buttonholes, and you could also do a zipper. And we have some great, great classes on Creativebug that show you how to do all of those things, so Ali will post a link for you. In fact, if you are curious about Creativebug, or this is the first time you're hearing about us, and want to give it a shot, and see how to do a buttonhole or put in a

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zipper, then you can go right now to start a two month free trial, so that's all the classes that you can watch, and we have over 1,000 craft classes, a whole bunch in sewing, so go ahead and give it a shot, it will cost you nothing, and we've got some great tutorials. I highly recommend, I think it's Ashley Nickels, has a yoga mat bag and she shows how to do a zipper, where you actually put it down the middle, so you sew it on around all four corners and the zipper would go right there. How great would that be on a beach towel? So, great question, and we had one more question, didn't we? - [Alison] We did. Judith wants to know what ironing pad are you using? - [Liana] Oh, isn't this great! This is, I can't remember what it's called, but it just opens up like this. I bet that Courtney can tell us, maybe she is watching right now. - [Alison] She is, and she says you look fabulous. - [Liana] Oh, thanks Courtney! Courtney, tell us what ironing pad this is. She does all the buying, so I don't even know. I'm going to get to the sewing. So we have ironed our four sides down. I'm going over to the sewing machine, and I am such a huge fan of zigzag stitch, so I'm going to go ahead and zigzag stitch around all of these edges, and it's a nice wide, I think I'm doing a 2 1/2... I have my machine set to 2 1/2 width. And it's a little bit long too, so we're just going to go around the edge here. The reason I'm doing zigzag stitch right now is because I want this to be a little big flexible. So it is a beach towel, it's going to get a lot of use, you're going to be snuggled up on it and drying yourself off with it and throwing it into a bag, so you don't want any really rigid stitches that are going to break easily, and the other reason why, is because then I can capture this raw edge here and keep it from unraveling. And it's quick, and you guys know I love quick. So as I get to the corner and I have, you can see right here there are these raw edges, I'm actually going to go in reverse, a little trick, and then move forward. It's just an easy cheater way. And right here, again, you can see, I'm coming up, I've got this fold here, and so I can capture it and it's not loosey-goosey. I'm going to sew all the way to the end, and then back up. Woops, starting to get a little knotted there, that's okay. And with the machine still down, the needle still down, I'm going to turn it and do this last side. So that's it, that's how you make a pocket. And like I said, you can make these any size that you want. Make sure you backstitch at the beginning and at the end. And then we're ready to add it to our beach towel. Okay, so I have the most fabulous beach towel here. It is a giant hotdog. (laughs) How great is this hotdog? Again, like I said, Courtney does all of the buying, so she's the one that ran over to Target, and she said, guess what I got you, a hotdog beach towel. And we're all fighting over it now. So I'm going to go ahead and add a pocket to my hotdog beach towel. Funny story, I've been saying all day long, I can't wait to do my hotdog blanket live today, and many people did not know what I was doing in today's live shoot, and they've been saying, what is she making? A hotdog blanket? Okay. So I've got this all ready to go. I think I'm going to a pocket that's open at the top, so I'm going to be sewing around these edges. And just to make it even more fun, I think we should add some pom-poms. Don't you guys think so? So I'm just going to add it right along the edge here. This stuff cannot be any easier to use, I love working with pom-pom fringe. So I'm just going to cut it at the length I need, and tuck it in as I pin. And you can do this all around the edge, you can really have fun with this. So, it's just a tape and you lay it down flat, and then, this I want to line up, so you have this folded edge of the beach towel, don't sew it to that. That's going to be too thick to run through the machine. You see that right there? Just put it right above that stitch line and start pinning in place there. While I'm pinning, do we have any other questions, Ali? - [Alison] We don't, but I need to tell you that Shana just did three hotdog emojis. (Liana laughs) So hashtag hotdog towel, hotdog blanket, it's a thing. - [Liana] I'm telling you, Target's going to sell out of the hotdog towel now just based on this live shoot, right now. At Creativebug we have that kind of brand power, (Alison laughs) as you all know. So let's go ahead and pin down this little pom-pom fringe.

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So you can go pretty close to the edge up here because the edge of a beach towel is just a selvage, so it's not a super thick layer to go through. And (clicks tongue) we're almost there. I am totally stealing the black and white towel, as I've already announced. - [Alison] Liana, for folks just joining us, like Lisa Eckert, can you tell them what you're doing, what you're making? - [Liana] Yes! I am making a customizable a beach towel, my friends, and I'm adding pockets, so this is little pockets that you can add to your beach towel that are great for putting your sunblock in, or your keys, or cellphone, or things like that. I don't know about you, but when I go to the beach everything goes, I put it all out on my towel, and then it all gets completely ruined when my dog comes back to the towel and wants to walk all over it, and everything gets covered in sand. So this is just a little way to protect your belongings. Another idea for these pockets at the corners of the towel, is you can also put rocks in them. I know that sounds a little bit boring, but if you are a person who likes to have your towel smoothed out at all corners and it drives nuts when the corners come creeping up, just fill it with a couple rocks and it'll stay put. So I'm going to take this over to the sewing machine. And in fact, I see I have a little extra tape here. - [Alison] Such a great comment. Nicole says, I'm learning to sew. Lie, I just learned how to thread the machine, but that's still learning to sew. Thank you for showing me something super easy that I can do. - [Liana] Awesome, that's what I love to hear! This is, honestly, how I learned to sew was just coming up with fun, easy little projects like this. I am a person who believes that the hardest part of sewing is learning how to thread the machine. It really can just be the thing that stumps you, and keeps you from sitting down and doing it again, so coming up with reasons to practice and just sit down and sew something, especially if it's functional and fun, that's my favorite thing. That's my favorite thing about sewing. Okay. So my thing went off the rails. Okay, we are ready to attach it. Now, don't be scared of these little pom-poms, you just have to keep your eye on them, I swear to you they will stay out of the way. They will behave. So I'm just about a quarter inch from the edge and I'm going to continue using my little zigzag stitch here. See how those little pom-poms balls just stay nice and out of the way? They behave. If they go like that, just push them out of the way. I also want to mention that I am using a red bobbin thread, so on the backside of this, it will be red. And if the back of your beach towel is white and you want your thread not to show up then make sure you use a different colored bobbin thread when you attach your pocket or that's going to drive you nuts. - [Alison] Okay, we have another question. - [Liana] Okay! - [Alison] Someone is wanting to know if you are using felt fabric. - [Liana] If I'm using felt? - [Alison] Yes, felt fabric. - [Liana] I am not, but why not? You could totally use felt, and then you wouldn't have to go through the step of doing a zigzag to fold over the hem, so that's a great idea. I also love, love, love working with upholstery fabric. I think that for this project upholstery fabric works great. For this, I'm just using a regular quilting cotton, which is a lot of us have on hand in our drawers. But the upholstery fabric, which is kind of like a canvas weight, it works beautifully, so work with what you got. I was actually thinking about felt, and I thought that might be a good option, but something about it, I wondered if, when you're laying on your towel if you would mind feeling felt on your skin. If felt is like anti-summer, but I don't know, up to you. Okay, I'm just going up the third side here, right along the edge, we're almost done. And you can see how quickly I just added one pocket. Okay, back to the beginning, and remember you've got to leave that one pocket open. I'm going to slide this out. We have a pocket! Hooray! So it's got it's fun fringe. You'll see here what I mentioned before, I didn't change my bobbin thread to white, so it is red on the back, so think about if that's going to bother you. On this side, I actual add another pocket, and I used white for both the front and back, so you can't see it on the backside, but you can see it on the front. So these are design choices that you will have to make. And then in order to add the top part for the

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pillow top, you're going to do pretty much the same exact thing. I have piece of fabric here that I already cut out and sewed, and I'm not going to show you how to sew it on because you already know how to do that. So let me just measure this for you so that you know. I cut out a piece of fabric that is 15 inches by 27 inches, and I folded up the edges about half an inch on all sides. I sewed them down just like I did before and when you go to add them onto your hotdog towel, or whatever towel you're using, you're just going to sew them along the top and the bottom. You want to show me? Do you want to hop up on the table and fall asleep? - [Alison] Yes. (laughs) - [Liana] Here we have the one that is already done and I sewed along the top and the bottom and as I added the top part and sewed it down, I just took this really fun fringe here, and this is actually on a string, and I just sewed the string in there and pulled the tassel out a little bit as I went, so that's just in there. And then you can take, like this little towel here, and you just insert it - [Alison] And make a pillow. - [Liana] And make a pillow, Or your clothes, or whatever you have lying around. And now, I think we should all go to the beach. What do you think? Thanks so much for joining us today, everybody. I hope you learned a few new fun tricks, and maybe have some ideas for how to upgrade you beach game. And we loved having you here. We do this every Tuesday and Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Pacific time and at 7:00 p.m. for you East coasters, so we will see you next week and we look forward to it. Bye, everyone. (upbeat techno music)

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