Sewn Shirring with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Shirring
(upbeat music) - Hey everybody, welcome to creativebug. We're coming at you live, like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which means you can write in and ask questions, and I'm here with... - Hi, I'm Ashley Nickels. - Ashley is one of our longtime modern quilters, sewers, instructors. What kind of stuff do you do? - I'm a quilter, on creativebug I have a lot of really simple sewing projects. You should check those out. - Some of our blog of the month stuff, you've done some great projects with. - Blog of the month, yep, some simple sewing techniques and quilting as well. - And your water color quilting. - And of course, my water color quilting class. - And that's like your signature thing. That's something you developed. - That's right. - And that came out of a drawing practice, right? - Yeah it came out of my watercolor practice. Actually, for example, yeah it was a class on creativebug. Really helped me kind of hone that technique in, and then it turned eventually into water color quilting. - Which I love. - Thank you. - And Ashley's local, and so we always call upon her to be the expert resident sewist, and we had kind of a question about something that you see a lot in summer fashion, especially in kid's wear, which I think we were all calling smocking, but actually that's something different. And you're going to show us this technique, it's called what? - It's called shearing and it is often confused with smocking. I mean, they kind of are interchangeable, there's slight differences, and lots of technical definitions that you can find out there. And I'm just going to show a really easy shearing technique using a sewing machine because smocking is usually done by hand, using hand embroidery stitches, which is a very beautiful technique, but this one is so easy. It's like super, super easy. - But it's something that people ask about a lot, right? - Yeah. - Because you use elastic thread. - Right. - So just, if you haven't heard of smocking or shearing, this is just a little tiny sample. Ashley is going to show you a little bit more, but it's basically parallel lines of stitching. - Yeah. - Using an elastic thread that gives you this gathered bunch look. - [Ashley] That's right. - So I think the tops of like summer sun dresses. - Yeah, think about like those bunched dresses where like this whole bodice section is sheared, or a lot of times skirts in the waistband will have shearing. Another place that you'll see it a lot is in little girl's dresses - Yeah - You know, where the top is sheared, and then like two little straps for the ties. So there's some really, really easy patterns out there that you can find to practice this technique on. And we're going to use a cotton fabric, so a lot of the light-weight fabrics that are using garment sewing work really well with this technique. - Yeah, and it sounds like it gives you some shape like I was imagining if you had like a little girl's dress which is basically like a box. If you sheared the top, this would kind of suck in and then have that cute little bell skirt. - And it gives you some freedom for sizing, too. - Nice. - If you're not 100% sure what size to make, this is like one of those, almost one size fits all kind of things, within reason. - That's awesome. So we're using a Bernina because that's your like favorite machine. - It's my favorite. - And then what else do people need to set this up? - So, you'll need you're sewing machine and for the top thread, you'll use just a regular cotton. I'm using a 100% cotton thread. And then, you're going to need to find some elastic thread for the bobbin. And this is a Gutermann brand, which is pretty easy to find. - Does is come in different colors, or does it matter? - Yeah it comes in different colors, and again, there's different types of this elastic thread. And the thing that people get sort of tripped up by on this technique is that you have to hand wind the bobbin. Which normally, you know, you don't have to do that. And I've already started to wind this bobbin here,

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and it's really just as simple as I just said. Like, you just have to take the thread and wind it. - Now is it okay if it crosses a little bit? - Yeah, it's going to look a little messy, and the thing to keep in mind is to not pull on it. So don't pull it too tight, but also don't have it be too loose. So it's kind of just like even tension. And then, depending on how much you're going to do, you don't need to fill up the whole bobbin. Like I'm not going to fill up this whole bobbin. But if you're going to do a whole bodice, then you probably fill the whole bobbin up. And then you might have to change it, as well. Cause this uses quite a bit of... - Yeah you need it big enough for when things scrunch down. - And these come in like big cones as well, so if you think you're going to do a lot of it then I would buy a bigger spool. - Since you're hand winding it anyway, this cone doesn't have to fit on the machine? - No. - So it doesn't matter. - Yeah. - Okay, cool. And we're set up with what kind of Bernina? - This is the creativebug classic. This is the 350. (laughing) That's what she's called. Creativebug classic. And so, the other thing to keep in mind, you shouldn't need to adjust the tension on your bobbin casing. Okay, so load it in just like you would any other normal thread. And it's going to fit in just like a normal bobbin. And then, you're going to treat it just like normal thread. I'm going to bring the bobbin thread up, which is my elastic thread, and then you should be good to go. The only other thing that I would change on your machine is your stitch length. And, you know, some people would say go all the way up to your biggest stitch length, which is the basting stitch. And I've put this almost up to that. On this machine it's a five. So average normal stitch length is 2.5. So I brought it up to five. - And I just want to say, remember that we're live. So after Ashley does her little demo, if you guys have questions about what she's working on and how this is going, just feel free to write in and Allie will ask us your questions. So you're just practicing on a scrap of fabric. It's not that you're having two layers, or anything like that? - No. - You're just going to create multiple rows of parallel lines of stitches. - And this is going to look different for what project you're doing. Sometimes projects will have shearing just in the middle patch, if you can imagine like a dress where it just has it in the middle. Some have it all the way around. Some patterns will have you do one side sheared and then the other side sheared, and then you sew them together. Some patterns will have you sew the two pieces together into a tube, and then do the shearing all the way around. It just depends on your pattern. - Okay. - So I'm just going to dive in. - [Courtney] So same needle, same foot. - [Ashley] Everything is the same. And technically you shouldn't have to... The other is that I have 1/4 inch foot on this machine which you don't need because that's normally for quilting. So, you could have your normal foot on the machine. And then, I'm just going to do a straight row of stitching. And you can already see that this is bunching. That's supposed to. And its really cool cause you can already see how this has started to bunch. - [Courtney] Oh, that's awesome. - [Ashley] And it's elastic, so that's really cool. And it looks really good, like our tension and everything looks good. And then for the second row and then every row in continuation, the only real tricky thing is that you have to keep the fabric that you're sewing on flat, which means you kind of have to use your fingers to flatten out what you've already sewn because it's bunching. So I want to make sure I'm using my fingers. - [Courtney] But you're not pulling it, you're just keeping it flat. - [Ashley] I'm just keeping it flat, and that's really going to be the only challenge. And I am probably am doing like 1/2 inch between these rows. And that's going to depend on the pattern. I could do them closer together. Again, I'm not really pulling on it, I'm just keeping it flat. And then, we can see that now we have these two rows. - [Courtney] Cool. - [Ashley] And I used white thread against this turquoise so you can see it, but if you were to use a turquoise thread you wouldn't even see it. - [Courtney] Lets do one more. - [Ashley] Let's do one more, yeah. - [Courtney] Let's do a third one. - [Ashley] A third one. That's very exciting. And if you made your stitches a little closer together, like lets say a

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four stitch length, it'll have a slightly different effect, as well. This machine is so smooth. - [Courtney] It's like butter. - Ooh. - Let's set that down on the table so you can see it. - Yeah. - That's really cool. - Yeah, now it's starting to look really cool. - [Courtney] Let's do one more line. - [Ashley] One more line. Courtney, you're crazy. - I'm not the one that has to sew it, so I can just tell her to do one more line. - This is really living on the edge here at creativebug. - [Allie] We have our first question. - Ooh. - [Allie] Joan asks, "When sewing into a garment, "do you have to take special care to catch the elastic thread? "Will it slip out of the seam?" - Hmm. So I guess that's going to depend on... Sorry, I'm like going a little crazy. - [Courtney] Here, we can move this and we can answer these questions. - Okay. So let's do this. - I love that. - Oh my gosh. Looks so good. I guess that's going to depend. I think the question is about the ends, perhaps the ends of these. And, for this for example, I might have sewn all the way to the edge. And then, I would take two of these, potentially, and sewn them together, which that seam would close those... - [Courtney] So it would trap those elastic ends. - [Ashley] Would trap those elastic ends. If it was in the middle of your garment, you are going to have to tie off each of these. - [Courtney] Gotcha. - [Ashley] Does that make sense? - [Courtney] That's a good question. Yeah. - [Ashley] So yeah, you do need to-- - [Courtney] Can you backstitch with this thread in? - [Ashley] You can. Some people find that, depending on their machines, the machine doesn't like a backstitch with elastic thread. So you just have to try that out on your own machine and see. We didn't try it here, but I would probably not want to backstitch. I wouldn't really want my machine to get... - [Courtney] Yeah, it'd get caught up in there. - [Ashley] I don't want that thread to get eaten up in the machine. - [Courtney] So yeah, you would just hand tie these off. - [Ashley] Yeah, and then another cool thing that they recommend is if you want it to be really tight, if you want to make it be even more bunched, take a steam iron to it and that sucks up the elastic threat a little bit. So it'll make it a little bit tighter. - It shrinks the thread. Oh that's cool. - So that's another variation. - Oh my god, I love it. I mean, this totally just feels like summer looking at it. - [Ashley] I know. - [Courtney] Like a little doll dress. - [Ashley] Yeah (laughs). This is for Charlie. - This is Charlie's new frock. (laughing) I love it. It could be a cape. - [Allie] Next question. Chelsea asks, "So when you're sewing a pattern "that calls for a knit fabric, "would this be a good way to cheat and use a woven?" - (inhales) I would not try this on a knit. That's just my personal... Knit, and I can't really speak to sewing with knits because that's not my forte. - Yeah, yeah Ashley's more of a quilter, which you use all woven fabrics for. - I have sewn with knits and I recommend using a serger. - Yeah, it's a little tricky to do that on a home sewing machine. - Yeah. - I mean, of course, like experimentation, that's how things are discovered. So feel free to try it, but yeah. So knits is not really, yeah. - Yeah, I guess I just wouldn't want to speak to that just because it's not my area of expertise. - Yeah, totally. - [Interviewer] Can we see what it looks like on Charlie? (laughing) - Yes. - [Allie] All right, we have another question. Cathy is wondering, "Should you only use elastic thread "on bobbins for this? "Could you use standard cotton thread?" - Well, if you want to get this elastic effect, you have to use the elastic thread. That's kind of what makes it. - Yeah, otherwise it's just parallel lines of stitching. - Oh my gosh. - He's pretty fancy. (laughing) - Oh my god. - Charlie, that fits you perfectly. I think it's your color. - [Ashley] We'll sew some ribbons on it for him later. - [Courtney] Yeah. Oh, you're so fancy. - Oh my gosh. - I think he likes it. What do you guys think? - I think he does, too. He's just, he's like mesmerized. - He might be a little sad, we're not sure. - (laughs) He's ashamed. - Oh, you're so handsome Charlie. - He's like, "Why do you always do this stuff to me?" - I know. It's so true. Well, I love that. That seems like such a technique, but you said it's something that people are really confused or questioning about because the elastic thread is the big unknown. - Yeah. - But it sounds

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like as long as you hand wind your bobbin, you're good to go. - And you know, troubleshooting, each machine might respond to it differently. I've done it on three or four different machines now and they've all worked really well with this elastic thread. So, just try it out. - Yeah. So remember, regular cotton thread in the top, the elastic thread in the bobbin that you hand wind. And then, just take it slow. Flatten out your fabric as you go and just do parallel lines of rows. And you can get these great effects. Try it with a very simple boxy pattern and it gives you some shaping. I think, obviously, it'd be great for a little dog cape, as we have demonstrated here, or else on a little girl's dress. Or even, just like a woman's, you know, like a maxi dress could have some cool shirt bodice. - Totally, and skirts as well. That's another place where I see it a lot. Really comfy, really comfortable summer skirts. - Yeah, one size fits all. Awesome. - [Allie] Cindy just commented, she said, "Love Ashley, I just finished your reversible hat class." - Aw. - Thank you. Thank you. I hope you enjoy your hat. - It's the perfect time for that hat. - It is. - I love it. It's so cute. - You know, I just wore mine the other day. - Awesome. Well, check out all of Ashley's classes on creativebug and a lot of them are great for summer, but for all year round as well. - Yeah. - Thanks for joining us live and we'll see you on Thursday. (upbeat music)

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