Frankenbias with Sonya with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Frankenbias
(playful music) - Hi everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live like we do every Tuesday and Thursday and this time I have a special guest. Sonya Philip is in the studio and what are you doing with us? - I am filming two classes, I am filming a shirt class and pants class with a ton of exciting modifications. - It's like a wardrobe expander. Are you having a good time? - If you made all of them? - Yeah. - Your closet would be bursting. - We're so excited, we're having a great time. - Bursting with all the handmade goodness. - And aside from someone in the studio today teaching classes, who are you? - Well, I am a. - I know you as the brilliant seamstress from the 100 Acts of Sewing project. - Yeah, I started back in 2005 a project called 100 Acts of Sewing, and fun fact. I took a class with Cal Patch who is a teacher here, at Verb for Keeping Warm who Kristine Vejar owns in Oakland and so, so many connections. So, I took Cal's class which was a basic pattern making class, and it's the same class that she teaches here online, so I took that. And Cal was such an amazing instructor, I had already known how to sew, I learned in middle school, but was frustrated and had really convinced myself, nope, sewing, closed door, you can't do it. I took the class with her and literally two days later, I made two dresses, by the end of the week I had four, that kind of snowballed and I turned it into a art project and in one year I made and documented, which was the, in some ways the hardest part. - Right. - Taking photos of everything. I made 100 dresses. I continued it on the second year. And then I started teaching and selling patterns of my own designs, and so, fast forward five years. I have seven patterns available, and I teach throughout the country and here in the Bay Area and I'm real excited to now be entering into the world of online classes, so I can be in your tiny screens in your home. - Or medium sized screens. - Or medium sized yeah, HD. - Or really tiny, because people will watch on their phones. - Yeah, not just big, small. - And if people want to see your 100 Acts of Sewing, where do they go? - I have a website, which is www.100actsofsewing.com and there you just see a whole, like, all the dresses. You can scroll back, back, back, and see all of them and also there are tutorials there as well as a link to the shop, and if you wanna buy the patterns at a store it has a list of stockists. It has a blog. You can sign up for my newsletter, all sorts of good stuff. Also on Instagram, I'm @100actsofsewing. - And don't forget, we are live, so if you have any questions for Sonya or me, about how great it is to work with Sonya, we're happy to answer them. And this project is something, so I actually had taken a class with Sonya at Craftcation that was so exciting and didn't know that she would be teaching here. And when they told me I got very riled up, obviously. And so one thing that I remember from the class that was so exciting is she had this bias tape that would be a couple inches of one pattern, and a couple inches of another pattern, and it blew my mind, and so we're going to make that today. And Sonya calls it. - Franken-bias. - Franken-bias, so what will you need? - It's alive. (laughing) - We hope so. - Stitched together, yeah. - So, what do we need to make franken-bias? - So, you probably know that you can buy bias tape at any store, but it's usually in solid colors. It's kind of like the rare unicorn to find some fun printed ones. I like to make my own. If you take the class which is coming out in the fall, I'll show you how to make that. And so you can make your own with fun colors, but once you've used the bias tape. And what bias tape is you put it around the neckline. And so when you cut something on the bias, think of like a grid, and that you've got the warp threads which go up and down, and the weft threads that go back and forth. And that's grain,

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which goes up and down. And when you turn that on a diagonal and the threads are crossed, then they get all loosey-goosy and stretchy. If you've ever worn anything that's cut on the bias, it's usually kind of slinky and figure hugging. And so I'm just gonna point to. When you finish the neckline, if you were just to take a strip of fabric and sew that on, it would get all kinda clinky, but the bias since it is so stretchy and goes every which way but loose, then it's just been non-stop, like, I don't know. - Yep. - Just funny fun stuff all week long. So, when you attach it, then that's the properties of bias tape, and the bias shine through. So, that's why you would make it. And when you're attaching it to the neckline you know, you sometimes have, like, little bits that made it, you made too much. But, they're not enough to cover a whole neckline. But, you've made them, you've cut them, you've folded them, you put all this work into it. What are you going to do? You might just have a little collection. I am my mother's daughter, and I kind of just save all these little bits, and then it's like, well, before you end up with just thread and fabric coming out of your ears, you could put to work. And do you wanna show. - [Faith] Sure. - This dress here? - Here is an example, and this is actually from Courtney Zed, and we took it down. So sorry, Courtney. So, is this dress, I was wearing all white, but I looked so boring next to Sonya. So, this is one of Sonya's tunics. - She got hit with the Sonya brush. - I will hopefully be wearing it forever. And so this is one of the dresses, and here is. - [Sonya] This is dress number one, in an ecot. And super colorful. - [Faith] How many different ones do we have? - [Sonya] I don't know, why don't you count? Look at there, there's like. - [Faith] Pimento olive. - [Sonya] I know, it does look like pimentos. - [Faith] And these, this blue. And then strawberries. - [Sonya] Strawberries. - [Faith] Oh, and this is different, too. - [Sonya] More pimentos. - [Faith] So when you make a franken-bias, do you make a long, long, long amount? - Yes, I sew them together, and make a long amount, and then I can just, you know, I don't even really plan on, you know, when I put them together. Say like here are two, they are really similar. I probably won't put those next to each other. I'll break them up, so. - [Faith] Okay, so let's attach them. - [Sonya] Yeah. - [Allie] We have our first question really quick. We have a couple of them. - Okay. - [Allie] Brianne is wondering, what should I sew for my first piece of clothing. - So, good question, Brianne is asking what should she sew for her first item of clothing. Of my patterns, shirt number one is the simplest. And dress number one, which is here. This is my first pattern, and it's a sleeveless dress. But, when you have sleeves, you're not only applying bias tape to the neckline, you're also applying it anytime you have those raw edges on a curve you have to finish them. You have to use bias tape. So, it's kind of like, okay, you have to do it this once, twice, three times. And a lot of times people are like, oh, I'm sick all ready, no more bias tape. - [Faith] Enough of it - Enough of it. - Brianne, I'm telling you, the shirt class, is you're gonna love it, it's really good. - So many people in that class, Faith did her first one. - That was my class, I did it with you. - Yeah, she took the class and it was a three hour class, I want to say, and the first shirt took maybe two, two and a half hours. And then, literally, there were several people that made the second shirt, cut it up, sewed it up, in like the last half an hour. Because once they had done it, then they just whipped right through. - It's really cool and it looks great. It's got a very modish cut. - [Sonya] I'm wearing one right now. - That's the shirt number one. - This is shirt number one that I'm talking about, yeah. So, I recommend, is there another question? Or is that it? - [Allie] Oh yes, there is another question. Pamela Jane, who is a big fan of yours, is asking, can I sew dress number three with a center seam? - Oh, Pamela, you asked this on Instagram. And I've been so busy because I've been here all day. I think you did. - [Allie] Oh, she said without, I'm sorry. - Without, yes, you did, and I've been meaning to answer you, yes you can. So, I think that you wanted to do it with just both side, with the back, and you can just use the back to cut two backs. And actually my good friend, Ellen Mason, she made it, and she

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called it lovingly the B-side Tunic, so when you think of, like, you know, back in the day with cassettes and records, when you had the A and the B sides, so she's using the back for both. So, absolutely yes, you don't have to have a center seam. - Perfect. - Thank you for asking and following up, and chasing me down, Pamela Jane. I love it, sometimes you really do have to just like answer my question, answer my question, answer my question. - And she always will eventually. - Yeah, it's (mumbles) right now. Is there another question? No, that's it, what? - [Allie] That's it for right now. - Okay, all right. â™« Let's get to the franken part â™« - So, these are all ready folded. I'm just going to hit them with the iron, press them open just a little bit. And I'll also just cut this, so it's a little neater. And I will attach it to this one first. - [Faith] And we're ironing it open to make the sewing smoother. - [Sonya] Yeah, so these have already been folded. When you make bias tape, just regularly, you start off with it not folded and then you would join it. And then you would then run it through either iron it, I like these bias tape makers which I don't have one right here. It's probably in a bag somewhere off camera. Brian is going to see if he can't chase one down. So, yeah, for your purposes, they're usually, you're doing this unfolded already. - [Faith] Oh, he found it. - [Sonya] Oh, it's been found. Oh, there's another one. - [Faith] (laughs) He's just finding them all over the place. - [Sonya] So many. These are what are called bias tape folders. They come in different widths. This is an 18 millimeter. And what you do is, these are super handy, you take the bias tape and you just feed it through. You would put the bias tape with the right side down, feed it into the wide mouth there, push it through. If it doesn't want to go through you can just use the channel and scissors. And then you can see how it goes from not folded to folded. It doesn't fold it. I'd doesn't do everything for you, unfortunately, you can just like do that and walk away. You do have to grab an iron. Iron, or press, you call it pressing. You press a lot in sewing, I learned. I used to resist. - [Faith] Oh, pressing versus ironing? - [Sonya] Well, technically you say that ironing is what you say, you iron your clothes. And pressing is, somebody told me that once. - [Faith] I didn't know that. - [Sonya] Someone told me that. They said, oh do you iron? And I said, I never iron, I press. Because they never iron their clothes. - [Faith] Oh. - [Sonya] I think Geno, you asked me, didn't you? Or no, you did, someone said, do you iron all the time? I said, I never iron my clothes. - [Faith] Is that why you like such bright patterns? (laughing) (talking over each other) - [Sonya] What is it, dazzle camouflage? - [Faith] Yes. - [Sonya] It's so bright. - [Faith] I was looking at that the other night. - [Sonya] Also hides the stains, too. - [Faith] It's perfect, it's a best case scenario. - So, yeah, that's how you would make bias tape with using these handy-dandy bias tape folders. - And so we already have. (talking over each other) - Yeah, so I've got my ironed out bits. It's gone, here it is. And how you attach bias tape, you're not just going to sew them together. - [Faith] I've tried that, it doesn't work, you're right. (laughing) - [Sonya] The way I explain it is, and like everything in sewing, you're attaching right side to right side. Because then you're working backwards you know, you're working with the wrong side and sandwiched together. So, right side up, and this is going to form, an upsidedown L. That's just what it makes sense to me. - [Faith] And you're matching the edge to that edge? - [Sonya] Yeah, so that edge is going to go there. And that top edge there. And then you're going to sew from the outside corner down, outside, to there. So, I'm just gonna put a pin so it doesn't shift and move. All right, Geno, follow me over to the sewing machine. What were my lines going to be? I've forgotten this morning. I got out of the shower and I was like, I'm going to use these on set. And this one was â™« let's go on with the sew â™« (laughing) - That's a good one. - And others were, hm. - Were they all sung? - No, another one was, it's that time again, pinking time. - (laughs) We did a lot of pinking. - There was, and believe me, tomorrow there will be more. We will live to pink another day. (laughing) All right, so when I sew especially, so this is pretty thin, this is a

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lawn. I really like using thinner weight fabrics. If you're sewing linen or double gauze, a lot of people like to do that. I do not recommend using that, unless you really, really like, I personally love the kind of contrast and surprise that you don't usually see the bias tape. This is bias tape facing, meaning that it's on the inside. But it's like a secret zap of color. When I'm sewing really thin fabrics I like to start just a little bit in, not right at the edge. If I started right at that corner, the fabric is going to get sucked down into the feed dogs, so I start sewing a couple of stitches, then I backstitch. Remove that pin, and go down to the corner, backstitch, and off. Where did my little scissors go? They are all the way over there. Thank you. And I can kinda see, I didn't quite get to the edge there. But, then you're going to snip that triangle off, and have just a scant quarter inch. And then you can come back over to the iron and refold the refold, even though I didn't do it perfectly. You can, oh what is the word, just massage it. Ooh, that is so. So, just in case you've done something like that. That looks like an elbow right there. So, no worries. What to do when you make mistakes? Just snip it off and do it again. - [Faith] Snip it good? - [Sonya] Snip it real good, and then just try it again. Try and be successful this time on your life shoot. - [Faith] You know now I'm just writing lyrics in my head of, â™« When the bias tape screws up you must snip it â™« (laughing) We can work on the lyrics. (laughing) - [Sonya] I'm like thinking in my head, too. (Faith humming) â™« When a mistake comes along you may snip it â™« - Yeah, thank you, that was better. - But, I don't know, mistake doesn't really roll. - No, error? - If anybody has any suggestions just type them out on Facebook. - Please send your lyrics to Allie? - We're taking requests here. - [Allie] Okay, next question. - Yes. - [Allie] While you do that. - While I do this. - [Allie] Sylvia asked, is that purchased bias? Or did you make it. - This is bias tape that I made. - [Faith] So we have some of the original fabric, which turns into this, and this turns into this. Really lovely. Is this Liberty? - No, that is actually by a Japanese company called Lucian, but it has that kind of tiny, floral. - It's so pretty. - Liberty bias tapes, Liberty from Liberty of London, makes such, oh that is like the Cadillac of bias tape. Because it's this beautiful, beautiful, really tightly woven. It's cotton, but it's so tightly woven that it's almost like silk. And they make really beautiful prints. - [Faith] Sorry to jump in, but I don't know if I noticed before You ironed that open. - [Sonya] I just pressed it open, yes, this one was a better one and I pressed it open. So, I cut it and then I smushed it open. And then I fold it in, and fold it in. And then while I'm doing that, I'm un-ironing other bits there. And look at that. And you can see, that I've. (laughing) Nice, lovely, yup. Looking tasty all right now, next one. Faith, what else should. - [Faith] I like that purple. - [Sonya] You like that, yeah I know. - [Faith] Or would you not do that next to that. - [Sonya] No, I'd do that. - [Faith] Because that's too floralish? - [Sonya] I would do that. - [Faith] Okay, good. - [Sonya] I would franken-bias that. All right, now these are the same, okay. Again, making that upside down L. Now, if I were to sew from here to here, then it would not be in a straight line. - [Faith] Oh, so you have to make sure that you still do it in the same one. - [Sonya] So, it's something, and then another thing if you wanna be, like really, like pro tip city, is that you have, that, you see that line of slant going there? Just making sure that all your slants are going the right way. You don't have to, I mean you could, go this way, that way, this way, that way. But, so I need to go sew this one. - [Allie] (mumbles) Just commented. That needs to be on a t-shirt, I franken-biased that. (laughing) And I agree because I was thinking that could be like a new verb. - Okay, I franken-biased that. - [Allie] I franken-biased that. - [Faith] It's very effective. - It tells you exactly what it is, right? What is that, is that portamento? What is that, or just neologism, there we go. Making new words, cut cut. - Making up new words and new songs. Hopefully new t-shirts. - [Sonya] The mix tape, stay tuned for the Creativebug mix tape and t-shirts. - [Faith] What was the name of the song you sent to me this morning, Sonya? - [Sonya] Oh, yeah, I sew many shirts, to be sung to

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the tune of We Didn't Start the Fire. (laughing) By Billy Joel. - [Allie] Next question comes from me, and it might be a silly question. But, franken-bias is a variation of bias tape. - [Sonya And Faith] Correct. - [Faith] Franken-bias is a variation of bias tapes. Answers Allie. We came up with it together. - [Geno] Put it in the middle of the table. I can't see it. - [Sonya] Oh, there we go. - [Geno] There we go. - [Sonya] There we go. I'm gonna do it under here, my freshly baked cake. - [Faith] So how many yards would you normally do of this? - You know, about a yard and a half is more than ample for a project. This is getting a little long, long, long. - Yeah. - But, let's just add another one. - Or let's show them how we wrap it up. - Oh, okay. - I think, is there anything special? - This is just, you know, a piece of cardboard that I've cut, and recycle, reuse, and I wrap them up. And it's just a way of, because if you just wrap them up like this, then they get tangled and so this is just a neater way of storing them. I put them in a basket. - [Faith] It's what keeps it nice, and crisp and flat. - [Sonya] Yeah, if you look at my Instagram every so often I will take pictures of my friend, Katrina wrote about, was taking pictures and the pleasure of organizing things in baskets and boxes, and yeah. - You were like (gasps), I can subscribe to that. - You know, I definitely subscribe to that. That it's really nice to, I mean, sorting buttons. Sorting your thread in color order. Yeah, it's like the world and the rest of my life may be chaotic, but you know. - Your bias tape. - My goodness my bias tape looks sweet. - [Allie] We have our next question. - All right. - [Allie] And pun, there are a lot of people making jokes today. - Yes. - [Allie] LeVonna asks, how will that be used when you're finished, you're not at all biased, are you? (groaning) (laughing) - I mean, will it be like this? Which one am I going to use for this project? (humming) No. (laughing) Oh, Franken-bias. - [Faith] Is perfect. - Yeah, that was a good one. - Big thanks to Sonya for joining us today. And thank you to all of you for your comments, questions, and for hanging out with us on this lovely Thursday. We will see you next Tuesday. - Yay. (upbeat music)

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