Lingerie Sewing: Underwire Bralette and Ruffle Panty with Madalynne Intimates

Chapter 1 - Underwire Bralette and Ruffle Panty

Overview

(gentle upbeat music) - Hi, my name is Maddie Flanigan. I'm the owner of Madalynne Intimates, a Philadelphia-based lingerie company offering both ready-made and DIY lingerie kits. I also host monthly workshops out of my studio. Today we'll be making the Madalynne Simplicity 8711, underwire bralette and matching undy. The bralette is meant to combine the support of an underwire and the ease of a bralette. It's available in sizes 32A to 42DD. And in this class you'll be learning how to deal with stretch fabrics, working with underwires, and plus channeling, attaching elastics, and tons more. Let's get started.

Materials

- Let's go over the supplies. The first thing you'll need is the Madalynne Simplicity 8711 pattern. The pattern comes with directions, but I also put together a complete guide which you can download in your materials section. For the main fabric choose something that has a bit of stretch. Some options are stretch lace, jersey, stretch mesh. For this class I'm using a really fun Swiss dot. For the lining I suggest using a stretch mesh. And for the floating bridge I suggest using a PowerNet. Stretch mesh and PowerNet are both meshes but PowerNet has a little bit more support. For the 8711 you'll be using two types of elastic. One is a shoulder strap elastic which we'll use at the shoulder straps as well as at the under bust. The next up elastic is a pico plush elastic 3/8 of an inch wide. To hold the mono wire we'll be using a plush channeling. I chose this color so that it matches the lining. Depending on what size you are, you'll either be using a three by three hook and eye, or a two by three hook and eye. You'll also need snips for clipping your thread tails, a rotary cutter for cutting out your fabric, a marking pen for marking your notches and darts, applique scissors which we'll be using after we sew the elastic to trim the seam allowances underneath. Paper scissors; a soft tape measure for measuring your bust; ball point or stretch needles which will depend on what type of fabric that you're using; regular pins, you don't need any special pins to make the 8711; a mono wire, which you can purchase on my website; polyester thread, since we're using a stretch fabric; and a clear ruler. You'll also need a sewing machine. You don't need a special or expensive sewing machine to sew the 8711. All it has to have is a straight stitch, and a zigzag stitch. You'll also need a pair of ring and sliders for the shoulder strap elastic. The width of the rings and sliders should match the width of the shoulder strap elastic. You'll also need a cutting mat, and my secret weapon, is a temporary spray adhesive, like Odif's 505.

Bralette

Finding size and cutting

- Now let's get your size. You'll take your flexible tape measure and measure around your under bust, making sure that the tape measure is level all the way around. On this mannequin, the under bust measurement is about 29 and 1/8th. Then you'll take your full bust measurement, putting the tape around the fullest part of your bust. Again, make sure the tape measure is level all the way around. On this mannequin, it's about 34 inches. Once you have those two measurements, you're

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going to refer to the diagram in your PDF download or in the pattern. Both are the same. The mannequin measured 29 inches at the under bust which would make it a 34 band. To find your cup size, you'll subtract the full bust measurement, minus the under bust measurement. So 34 minus 29 is five inches, which would make it a DD cup. So if you're making a bra according to the mannequin's measurements, we would cut out a 34DD, but for this class, we'll be making a 38C. You'll choose your monowire size based on your cup and band size. So, if you measured a 38C, you'll choose a 38C monowire. Again, the monowires are available on my website. Now that you've determined your size, you'll cut out your patterns. (calm music) You may be wondering if lingerie has a grainline. In traditional garments, and by that, I mean woven tops, blouses, jackets and pants, you have what's called grainline and that's used to indicate the direction of the fabric that stretch the least. In most cases, patterns are cut according to this line but in lingerie, you want to think in terms of direction of greatest stretch. Generally speaking, you want the direction of greatest stretch going around the body for underwear and for a bra, you want the direction of greatest stretch going around the body from the back band. For the front of the bra or the bralette, you want the direction of greatest stretch going up and down, which will add stability and support. With that said, let's look at our pattern pieces. For the 8711, you want the direction of greatest stretch going horizontally for the back band, for the underwear front, and for the underwear back. For the bralette front, you want the direction of greatest stretch going vertically. Again, that's to add support and stability. For the bra ruffle, the floating bridge, the crotch lining and the flounces on the back of the underwear, you can disregard the direction of greatest stretch. How do you find direction of greatest stretch? Let's go over that as we're all spray basting your main fabric and your lining fabric. Find the direction of greatest stretch is simple. You're going to take the fabric and stretch it horizontally and vertically. You want to make sure that you stretch it inside the fabric and not at the edge. Whichever direction stretches more, is the direction of greatest stretch. Now comes in my secret weapon, the temporary spray adhesive. Again, my favorite is Odif 505. Cutting fine fabric such as lace, stretch mesh, can be really hard. There's a lot of shifting. It can move. So what I like to do to make my sewing and cutting a lot easier is to spray baste the main fabric and the lining fabric prior to cutting. (calm music) Now let's go over which pattern pieces are spray basted together and which pattern pieces aren't. For the bralette, the front and the back band have been spray basted together and for the underwear, the front and back have been spray basted together. The underwear ruffles and the bralette ruffle on the bottom have not been spray basted together. Those can be cut out of the main fabric only. I've also cut out the crotch lining out of a cotton jersey and the floating bridge out of the paranet. I've also used my marking pen to mark my notches and darts.

Assembling cups and floating bridge

- Now comes the fun part, sewing. The first step is to sew the bust darts. With right sides together, you're going to pin the dart legs where you marked the notches. Then you're gonna pin the bust dart. After you'll pin right in the middle. You'll sew from the dart leg at the bottom of the bralette to the dart point. And I'm gonna show you a little trick to make sewing your dart much easier. Take it two stitches forward, two stitches back. Then lift up your presser foot. Take that thread and put it at your dart point, and then stitch along that line. So essentially you're using your thread as a guide so that your stitching is straight. Once you get about half of an inch from the dart point, reduce your stitch length to about 1.8. And then stitch to the dart point. You're gonna sew off the fabric. Clip your threads, and then tie in a knot at least three times. You'll repeat the same step to sew the other bust dart. To sew the channeling onto the floating bridge, you're first gonna mark half of an inch

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away from the top on both sides. Then you're gonna take your channeling and you're gonna sew it with a straight stitch. Making sure that the inner edge of the channeling aligns with the edge of the fabric. You're gonna start stitching and stop stitching at that half an inch mark. I'm going to adjust my needle position so that my needle can get really close to the edge. I don't pin the channeling before I sew it, I simply walk it as I'm sewing. Now you're gonna sew another line of straight stitches on the other edge of the channeling. Again you're gonna start and stop a half of an inch from the top and bottom. You want to make sure to stitch as close to the other edge as possible so that there's enough room to insert the mono wire. And I'm going to adjust my needle position to the other side so that I can get really close to the other edge. Clip your thread tails. You can clip the channeling so that it's flush with the top of the floating bridge. Once the channeling has been sewn to the floating bridge, you're going to place the wrong side of the floating bridge with the wrong side of the bralette front. You'll pin at the side seam and along the bottom edge. Bust darts should be facing towards the center front. Then with right side of bralette front and right side of back band facing, you're gonna sew the side seams with a straight stitch. You want to make sure that you're stitching through all layers, so the floating bridge, the bralette front, and the back band. Seam allowances are a quarter of an inch. And there you have it, we've sewn the bust darts, we've attached the channeling to the folding bridge, and we're sewn the bralette front to the back band at the side seams.

Attaching elastic and ruffle

- Now we're gonna sew the picot plush elastic. We're gonna go over a few basics before we start sewing. First, picot plush elastic has a right and a wrong side. The right side or the plush or velvety side should always be against your body on the finished garment. Also the picot edge should be peeking out on the finished garment as well. In this step we're gonna attach the elastic at the neckline and the underarm and the top of the back band. To do this you're gonna place the elastic wrong side down with the bra right side face up. Elastic is sewn in two passes, so we're gonna sew a zig-zag pass on the picot edge and then flip it to the wrong side and sew a zig-zag pass on the flat edge. Now our picot elastic is 3/8 of an inch wide and all the seam allowances on the bra are 1/4 of an inch wide, so when sewing we're gonna have the picot elastic extend past the fabric's edge about 1/8 of an inch. Also, at the strap points you're gonna sew a straight stitch about 1/2 an inch down, then switch to a zig-zag, and then end with a straight stitch about 1/2 of an inch away. When sewing the picot elastic at the underarm you wanna make sure that you press or turn the channeling, so that you don't stitch over it, but you wanna make sure that you're stitching through the floating branch, as well as the bra front. I'm gonna adjust my needle position, so that my needle is right on top of the picot edge. I'm gonna stitch a few stitches forwards, then I'm gonna backstitch, then I'm gonna go forwards again. At about 1/2 of an inch down I'm gonna switch to a zig-zag stitch. Also, a question that I get a lot is should you stretch the elastic? For the eighth of 11 I set the elastic flat, which means I don't stretch it. And about 1/2 an inch before the end I'm gonna switch back to a straight stitch, adjust my needle position, so that it's right over the picot edge, and finish sewing. When I get close to the channeling I'm gonna make sure that it's pressed back. I can feel the channeling right here and I want this picot edge to just skim by it. You don't wanna sew over the channeling. Also when you get to the side seam you wanna make sure the seam allowances are pressed towards the back. Once you've sewn the first pass through the elastic your bra should look like this. As you can see, I used a straight stitch for about 1/2 of an inch, switched to a zig-zag. I've stitched through the floating bridge, but I haven't stitched through the channeling. You wanna make

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sure that you didn't stitch through this. Here's where your duck billed scissors will come in handy. You'll use them to trim your seam allowances close to your zig-zag stitches. They're a lot easier to use and to trim seam allowances than eight inch Gingher scissors. Once you've trimmed your seam allowances you're gonna turn the elastic to the other side and you're gonna sew another zig-zag stitch pass. When you get to the channeling, again, you wanna fold it out of the way, so that you don't stitch through it. You're gonna need this little flap here or not to sew it down in order to insert the monowire. The elastic has been sewn and now we're gonna attach the bottom ruffle. You wanna make sure that you've marked your notches. So since I'm making a 38 C I've marked a notch right where the C bubble is. You're going to sew a basting stitch in between those two notches about a little bit less than 1/4 of an inch away. Once you've sewn the basting stitches you are going to pin the bottom ruffle to the bottom of the bralet. You want to align the notches with the side seam in the bralet and you're going to pin the bottom ruffle to the bottom of the bralet so that they overlap 1/4 of an inch. In between the notches or the side seam you're going to pull one thread, either the top or the bottom of the basting stitch, to create sheering between and then pin to the bottom of the bralet. Because I used a really sheer fabric, when I sew the basting stitches it create a slight gather, so I don't have to gather it as much, but if you're using a different fabric, especially a thicker fabric, you will. Then you're gonna lay your elastic over, so that it covers the overlap. Make sure that the shiny side of the strap elastic is face up. And you're gonna stitch with a zig-zag stitch the width of the elastic all the way from center back to center back. We've attached the bottom ruffle and I think it adds a really nice dainty touch.

Attaching straps and closure
- The bottom ruffle has been sewn and now we're gonna attach the hooks and eyes and the straps and this is another step in which the temporary spray adhesive comes in very handy. With the back of the bra facing you, the eyes are gonna go on the left side and the hooks are gonna go on the right side. To attach the eyes, you're gonna take your temporary spray adhesive and spray it inside. Open the tape and make sure that you're spraying on either side. Then you're gonna wrap the eyes around the center back. Press it into place. The reason why I like to use the spray adhesive is that it's a lot easier to secure the center back to the eyes than pins. Press it in place, give it a good press, and then you're gonna stitch using a straight stitch about an eight of an inch. If you can get closer that's better. For the hook side you're gonna attach it in the same way. You're gonna open the tape, spray inside, and then wrap it around the center front. You wanna make sure that the hooks are facing inside the bra. You'll sew the hooks the same way you sewed the eyes in that you'll use a straight stitch but you'll have to adjust your needle position in order to sew onto the tape. And now comes the strap elastic. First you'll wanna cut two strips that are 16 inches long. Then using the temporary spray adhesive, spray a little dab on the end of the strap elastic. You'll weave one end of the strap elastic up through the slider, down the center bar to the other side. You want the overlap to be about 3/4 of an inch wide. You're going to sew a straight stitch from one end to the other end back and forwards. So essentially you're sewing three rows of straight stitches. You'll probably have to adjust your needle position in order to get close to the metal hardware. I'm also gonna reduce my stitch length so that it's like a bar tack. Then you'll trim the strap elastic close to the stitching. Before attaching the straps to the bra we need to sew the ring onto the strap points. You'll use your temporary spray adhesive, sew the ends, weave the strap through the ring, and fold it over so that this portion of the fabric is about a half an inch. Then you're gonna sew a straight stitch back and forth the same as you did when you were attaching the sliders. Just like the sliders, I've reduced my

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stitch length and I've adjusted my needle position to get close to the metal hardware. So forwards, sew backwards, then sew forwards again. Trim your thread tails, cut the elastic, and now we're going to attach the straps to the bra. You're going to weave the strap elastic from back to front, up through the center bar, and down again. And you're gonna use your back band pattern piece to mark where your strap elastic should be sewn. Because I'm making a C, I'm gonna mark it where the C notch is. Then you're gonna place the strap elastic underneath the back of the band of the bra. You'll sew with a straight stitch three times back and forth and back again and the strap elastic should overlap the picot elastic at the back band. And then you'll trim your strap elastic so that it's flush with the bottom of the picot elastic. You'll repeat the same steps to sew the strap elastic on the other side. The final step of the bralette is to insert the monowires and finish the side seam with channeling. To insert the monowire you're gonna take one end and insert it into the channeling. A question I often get or common error that happens is that people insert it in between the channeling and the fabric but it actually goes inside the channeling. Once you've inserted the monowire you're gonna close off the channeling at the underarm. You're gonna do this by sewing a straight stitch forwards, back, and then forwards again. You're gonna use a shorter stitch length about 1.8, just like you did with the rings and sliders. Once you've closed off the channeling you're gonna trim the channeling so that it's flush with the top of the bra. The very last step is to finish the side seam by covering it with a strip of channeling. To do this you're gonna use your temporary spray adhesive again, spray a little dab, and then lay it over the side seam. You want one edge to align with the side seam. Then you're gonna sew with a straight stitch along one edge all the way down to the bottom. You don't wanna sew into the bottom ruffle. Then you're gonna pivot, turn, and then sew along the other edge. Essentially, you're sewing a rectangle. (delicate instrumental music) We finished our bralette and now let's move on to the underwear.

Panty

Sewing ruffles and panty

- [Instructor] The bralette's together and now, we're going to move on to the underwear. Let's start by attaching the three flounces. I've marked the lines where I'm gonna sew the three flounces. There's a bottom flounce, a middle flounce, and a top flounce. I'm gonna sew from bottom to top. I'm gonna place the bottom ruffle so that the edge is along those lines and then I'm gonna sew with a zigzag stitch so that one edge of that zigzag stitch aligns with the top edge of the flounce. You also want to make sure that the flounces start and stop about a 1/2 of an inch away from the fabric edge. This will allow you to sew the elastic in the next steps. (sewing machine whirring) Now we're gonna sew the side seam using a straight stitch and a 1/4 of an inch seam allowance. With right sides of front underwear and back underwear facing, you'll pin along the side seam. Then you'll use a straight stitch to sew up and down. Next is sewing the gusset seam. You'll place right side of front, right side of back together and pin along the bottom edge. With the wrong side of the back of the underwear facing up, place the crotch lining or gusset lining right side down and repin. Next, you're gonna sew this seam with a 1/4 of an inch seam allowance using a straight stitch. (sewing machine whirring) Then you'll press the crotch lining or the gusset lining forwards and pin into place. You don't have to finish the top edge because jersey doesn't fray. We're on the last step of sewing the 8711, attaching the picot elastic at the waist and the leg openings. You're gonna attach it the same way you did as the bralette but at the beginning and the end, you're gonna overlap the elastics

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about a 1/2 of an inch. So with underwear right side facing up, you're gonna place your picot elastic so the plush side is facing up and picot are facing in towards the underwear. Again, you want to make sure that your picot elastic extends past the fabric's edge about an 1/8th of an inch. (sewing machine whirring) When you get to the end, you'll overlap the elastics about a 1/2 of an inch. I've marked it with a pin. So you'll sew all the way to that pin and then stop. You don't have to back stitch. (sewing machine whirring) we've sewn the first pass of zigzag stitches on the picot elastic and now you want to turn it to the wrong side and sew the second pass of zigzag stitches on the opposite side or the non picot edge. (gentle piano music) And there you have it. You've made your Madalynne Simplicity 8711. It's a simple style with added romantic details and lends itself to mixing and matching fabrics and trims. I have a variety of kits available on my website, www.madalynne.com. If you make a Madalynne Simplicity 8711, be sure to upload your photos to the online gallery or upload your photos to Instagram and tag @mmadalynne or @creativebug.

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