
Sew an Infinity Apron with Ashley Nickels

Chapter 1 - Sew an Infinity Apron

Overview

(light instrumental music) - Hi, I'm Ashley Nickels. I'm a quilter and artist. I often find myself needing to throw on an apron, whether I'm in the studio, or in the kitchen, or around the house, and I love my infinity apron. It's really easy to customize to my size, it offers full coverage so I don't have to worry about any of my clothes getting messy, and I can make it out of my favorite fabric. In this class, you'll learn how to make wide cross back straps, attach a patch pocket, and incorporate a selvage edge as a design element. It's very easy to make, and it consists only of rectangles, making it an ideal beginner's sewing project.

Materials

- The apron comes in two sizes. Size one will fit up to a 44-inch bust, and size two will fit 45-inch bust and higher. For this class, I've chosen to make size one. And for that, you'll need a rectangle of fabric that is 40 by 44 inches. I've chosen a linen, and make sure that one of the longer sides of your rectangle is the selvage edge. You'll need two strips of fabric for the straps, that are five inches by 30 inches. For the pocket, you'll need a nine-inch by 11-inch rectangle. You'll need a ballpoint bodkin or a loop turner for turning the straps inside out, coordinating thread, straight pins, a pair of scissors, sewing machine, an iron, and an ironing surface. And it's also nice to have a ruler handy.

Creating the body of the apron

- I'm gonna start with the top edge of the body of my apron and to identify that top edge, it's gonna be the one that is opposite the selvage edge, and if you are using a fabric with a right and a wrong side, you want to make sure that the right side is facing down. The linen that I chose here does not have a right or a wrong side, so it doesn't really matter. I'm gonna fold and press a quarter of an inch and I'll just use my ruler to double check, looks good. I'll cross the whole length of this end. Okay. I'm gonna now fold down two inches and I'll check here with my ruler, pretty good, and I'm gonna press and I'm gonna pin at the same time. The pin will help keep this in place for sewing. And feel free to use your ruler as you go along, since the two inches is a little bit harder to measure than the quarter inch. This linen material presses really nicely. This two-inch band gives a nice decorative edge. I'm gonna use a quarter inch seam, which creates a nice, finished edge. To find a quarter inch seam allowance, there's a little notch to the left of the 3/8 that marks the quarter inch and I've laid down a piece of Washi tape to mark that line. Some machines have feet that are actually quarter inch width so if you have one of those, use one of those, and I'll line up my fabric edge with the Washi tape edge and I'll begin sewing. And just stopping every once in a while to make sure I'm still following the edge. Okay. Now I bring my threads out and trim them. It creates a soft finished edge. Now I'm gonna finish the bottom edge of this fold and because this is not a decorative edge, I'm just gonna follow the edge of my sewing machine foot to keep it straight. So I've lined up that edge with the edge of my foot. Okay, and now I trim my threads. Now we've got that top edge nice and finished. I'm now gonna finish the two side edges, and to do that, I'm going to fold over a quarter of an inch twice, so once, and you can use your ruler, and then twice. And I'm gonna press and pin as I go. Press and use your pins to hold it secure. Quarter inch twice all the way down. Okay, now we're ready to sew. I'm gonna use my quarter inch Washi tape line again, and I'm gonna start with a

backstitch. And I'll also end with a backstitch. And now trim my threads, and now you'll repeat the same steps on the other side.

Creating and attaching straps

- To complete the straps, I'll take one and fold it in half lengthwise. And I won't even use any pins or pressing, because my fingers will do just fine. And I'm gonna take it over to the machine, and I'm gonna complete this short end, following the presser foot edge with my fabric. And I'm gonna start with a backstitch. (machine whirring) And as I approach this edge, I'll stop with my needle down, and I'll just turn and continue to follow this presser foot edge along this entire edge, making sure to use my fingers to make sure that the fabric is lined up. (machine whirring) Just double check. You can always tell by flipping it. Take your time, no rush. (machine whirring) And I'll end with a backstitch. (machine whirring) Okay. Trim your edge. Before I flip this around, I'm going to go back up to this top and trim the corner to get rid of that bulk for when I flip it. And I'm ready to use my bodkin. And I'm gonna use this edge to kinda push this through, and then you kinda have to use your fingers to wiggle the rest of the fabric through. And at a certain point, it'll just start coming down. And you can push the corners so that they look nice, and then take out the bodkin and just pull the fabric through. And this'll be nice and ready to press. And just make sure to flatten this edge, it gets a little bunched, before you press. Now we're ready to stitch this. First I'm gonna finish this open end. And I'm just gonna fold it in about 1/4 inch. There's no need to measure here, just so long as you get all of the raw edges folded in and it looks pretty neat. Now I'm gonna sew 1/4-inch seam along the entire perimeter of my strap, again using the wash tape line as my guide. (machine whirring) Turn and pivot. (machine whirring) And finishing. (machine whirring) Okay. Now I'll trim my threads. And now I have a strap. Now you'll repeat the same steps for the second strap. I'm gonna attach the straps to the front edge of my apron, and in order to do that, I need to find the middle of the top edge. To find the center, you fold it in half. And I'll mark the center point here with a pin. I'm gonna attach my straps to the back, and I want my straps to be about 6 1/2 inches from each other. I'm gonna use my pin as the center point, and I'll just place my straps equidistant from that center point. That looks about good. Again, roughly about 6 1/2 inches. And I'm gonna pin it down with a few pins on each side. And now I'm ready to attach those. I'm gonna secure this down with a square and an X pattern. And I'll use roughly 1/4-inch seam allowance. (machine whirring) First I'll create my square. And I'll take out my pins once I get almost done with this square. (machine whirring) And you'll have to pivot with the bulk of your apron, so just be careful with that. I'll take out the pins. (machine whirring) And now I'll create the X through the middle of this square. (machine whirring) And I'll come down on this bottom edge again. (machine whirring) And complete my X to the top. (machine whirring)

Attaching patch pocket

- Now I'm gonna make my pocket. I'll take my nine by 11 inch rectangle and on one of the shorter ends, I'm gonna fold and press a half an inch and I'll use my ruler to see how I'm doing. Half an inch, looks good, and press. And then I'll fold another half an inch and I'll press it again. At this point, you could put some pins in, although my linen fabric lays really flat, so I won't use any pins. Okay. I'm gonna trim my threads, and to complete the other three sides, I'm gonna do the same thing I did up at the top except that I'm gonna use quarter inch folds this time, so I'll fold over a quarter inch, just check with my ruler, how I did, and fold over another quarter inch and then press. And again, if you want to use pins, that is up to you. And I'm gonna do the two sides first and save the bottom for

last. Quarter inch and a quarter inch and press. And then our bottom edge, quarter inch, quarter inch. And I might put two pins down at the bottom corners just to hold them in place. And now we're ready to attach the pocket to our apron. To place the pocket on the apron, you need to pin it down first, and in order to find the correct location, you could try on the apron and find for yourself a place that works the best. For me, I like it in the center about 14 inches below the top edge, and I can use the straps to kind of eyeball where the center is. Now I'm gonna pin it down. So make sure it's nice and flat. Now I'm ready to sew a quarter inch along the three edges. I'm gonna start off of the pocket a little bit and then do a few backstitches just to secure that seam because that's where your hand is gonna go in and out of the pocket, so we want to make sure it's nice and secure. And I'll continue a quarter inch all the way down. And remember, at the end, we're gonna do the same thing that we did at the beginning, a series of backstitches. And we're done. I'll trim my threads and on the back, as well. And now your apron is done and ready to wear. Doesn't it look great? I also have a variation here that has the straps attached to the outside, if you prefer to do that. I've chosen a soft linen for my apron, but this pattern works really well in a canvas or a denim, as well.