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## **Jewelry Design with Scotchbonnet!: Working with Fabric** with Tracey-Renee Hubbard

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### **Chapter 1 - Jewelry Design with Scotchbonnet!: Working with Fabric**

#### Overview

- Hi, I'm Tracy-Renee Hubbard, a jewelry designer and founder of Scotchbonnet!, an accessories brand that features fun, bold, colorful pieces. If you're a creative person like me, it's always fun to buy art supplies, especially fabric, and you end up with a big stash and nothing to do. In this class, we're gonna solve that problem. I'm not the best sewer, but I do love cute accessories, and this class is perfect for sewers of all levels, especially beginners. We'll make easy accessories that could be used every day. When do you ever not need a scrunchie to pull your hair up? A headband turban can give you a little bit of style, and a fabric necklace, which is lightweight and easy to wear. Fabric has so much personality. It will be fun to work on these projects and see how different fabrics can give these ideas a brand new look. It's time to get that fabric out of your secret stash and show it to the world. (upbeat music)

#### Materials

- Here's what you'll need for this class. For the headband turban, you'll need four pieces of fabric 20 inches by 8 inches, two pieces of fabric 10 inches by 4 inches, and 1 1/2 inch elastic. For the necklace, you'll need three strips of fabric measuring 24 inches by 2 inches. They can be varying colors. And then you'll need two strips of fabric 3 inches by 24 inches in the same fabric. For the scrunchie, you'll need one piece of fabric measuring 26 by 5 inches and 3/8 inch elastic. Some general sewing supplies you'll need are fabric clips or safety pins, nippers, an iron for pressing seams, coordinating thread, a fabric turner, or you can use a safety pin, fabric scissors, seam ripper, cutting board, ruler, and rotary tool. And of course, a sewing machine.

#### Scrunchie

- Let's start making our scrunchie. I have a 26 by 5" piece of fabric inspired by the mood board from our Beaded Cuff class, and I have 3/8" elastic. We'll start by folding our fabric with the right sides together, so that the 5" edges line up, and we'll sew this with a 1/2" seam. Okay, I'll start with a quick backstitch. (sewing machine whirring) I am just clipping the threads, and I'm gonna flatten this and lay this on the table, and turn the seam side down. Then I'm gonna fold the bottom and top pieces so they meet in the middle, just to get them out of the way so that I can clip the outer pieces. I like to start in the middle by lining up the seam. Make sure we keep those pieces tucked in the middle. And then I'm just gonna sew along this edge, using a 1/4" seam and as we sew, when we get to this point, we'll continue to pull the fabric out and leave a 1" opening. So I'm putting this in the machine, making sure those inner layers are out of the way. I'll start with a backstitch. (sewing machine whirring) Okay, and then now, I'll gently pull the fabric from the inside, so we can continue sewing along the seam. And again, I'll line up those top pieces and make sure the inner portion is folded out of the way. (sewing machine whirring) Just keep tucking the fabric in as I go. (sewing machine whirring) And as I approach the other end, I'm just gonna stop and backstitch and leave about a 1" opening. (sewing machine whirring) Cut the threads, and then I'll use this 1" opening to flip it right side out. To feed the elastic through the scrunchie, I'm going to use a fabric clip to attach the elastic to the fabric, and then I'll attach a safety pin to the other end of the elastic, and feed it through the tube. I'm using a longer piece of elastic, but if you know the exact length that you want your

scrunchie, you can cut your elastic ahead of time and feed it through. I just find that it's easier to work with a longer piece of elastic and then tie and cut it. Okay, so now that we have that together, I'm just gonna kind of gauge the amount of elasticity and size that I want the scrunchie to be. And I will cut the elastic, and knot it about three or four times. That feels nice and secure. Cut off a little bit more excess. And the last step is just to edgestitch the seam. So first we'll make sure that the knot is moved over out of the way, and then we'll fold over those edges so that they're nice and clean, and stitch as closely as possible to seal it. And then I'll backstitch again. Backstitch at the end, cut the threads to keep it nice and neat. Scrunch the scrunchie. Our scrunchie definitely reflects the aesthetic of the mood board with the soft color choice and the sheen of the fabric, but if you're looking for a different aesthetic, the great thing about making scrunchies is there's so many ways that you could vary them. For example, using a printed fabric like this one, the tie dye almost makes it look like it's color blocked. And then I also varied the scale. I doubled the dimensions to end up with this supersize scrunchie. Scrunchies are great to make with leftover fabric, or to coordinate with other pieces you've sewn. I can't wait to see what you make.

### Turban headband

- Turban head bands are one of my favorite hair accessories. I'm going to make a fun one using this fabric inspired from the bold mood board from the beaded cuff class. To complete this project, we'll need four pieces of 20 by eight inch fabric, one piece of 10 by four inch fabric, and a five inch piece of one and a half inch elastic. The first step is to place two of the 20 by eight inch pieces of fabric right side together. And then sew at a quarter inch seam along the 20 inch edge. I'll bring it over to the machine, backstitch, and then start sewing with the quarter inch seam allowance. (woman sews) And then I'll backstitch again at the end. Cut the threads, and then do the same thing on the other side. (woman sews) And then I'll backstitch at the end. Once this step is completed, we can flip this right side out. And then repeat the process with the remaining 20 by eight inch rectangles. Once you have your two rectangles, place them on the table with the seams at the top and the bottom, and then fold them in half, and clip along the short end. We'll do the same thing for the second one, only this time we'll feed it through the first rectangle. So it'll look like this. Next, we'll take the 10 by four piece of fabric, fold it right sides together, and we're going to use a half inch seam allowance to sew along the 10 inch side. Bring it over to the machine, and I'll backstitch, and then sew with a half inch seam allowance. (woman sews) And then I'll end with backstitching, and cutting these threads. And the next step is to flip this right side out. I'll just cut off these loose threads, and then I'll take the piece of elastic. This is one and a half inch width, and I have cut it to five inches long. I'll attach a safety pin to one end, and then kind of fold it in half to get it started going through the tube. So once the elastic lines up with the edge, I'm going to secure this, and just sew it with a quarter inch seam. I'm gonna go over it maybe two or three times, just to make sure it's extra secure. (woman sews) I sewed it and backstitched it, so that should be nice and secure. Then I'll cut the threads and continue feeding the elastic through to the other end. We'll line it up, and sew at a quarter inch seam, just like we did for the other side. (woman sews) I'll cut the threads, and then flatten out this elastic. Usually helps to move around some of the fabric, so it's not all bunched up in one place. And that's what our elastic should look like. We'll take it seam side up, and center it along one of our larger pieces of fabric that we clipped together. So this is the eight inch seam that we clipped together. We'll place it right in the middle, and then fold one side so it covers the fabric. It's gonna go over it a little bit more, and then fold it back so it lines right up with the edge of the fabric. And then we'll do the same thing with the other side. We'll fold it over, and then line it up so it's the

width of the fabric. So we'll end up with kind of an accordion of folds, which I'm going to clip together, and sew with a half inch seam, and I'll go back across this several times to make sure it's really secure. And since we have some pretty thick layers of fabric, we'll take it nice and slow. (woman sews) I went back and forth a few times to make sure that's nice and secure. And then I'll take the other end of the elastic, make sure everything looks okay with that seam, and I'll do the same thing with the other side of the elastic. I'm going to place it seam side up at the center of the other grouping of fabric. And I'll fold over one piece to cover it, then fold it back, and do the same thing with the other side. Clip it together, and sew at a half inch seam allowance. Take it nice and slow, and go back and forth a few times to make sure it's really secure. Once that final seam is completed, just pull it through, and this is what it looks like. Fluff it up and we're good to go. I love all the bright colors, and the volume that the fabric gives this turban headband, but if you're looking for a different aesthetic, you can follow the same steps and make a few easy changes. I made another version using a lighter weight fabric, so it's a little bit more delicate, it has more drape, not as much volume, and I also reduced the size of the rectangles, I cut them in half. So this is a more delicate, but still very cute turban headband as well.

### Braided necklace

- Sewing a fabric necklace is a stylish way to use those scraps of fabric you have hanging around your workspace. To make the necklace, you'll need three strips of fabric that are 24 inches by two inches. They can be the same, they can be different fabrics. I've chosen a bright and bold color palette. You'll also need two strips of fabric of the same color that measure 24 by three inches. The first step is to take one of the strips of fabric that's 24 by two inches, to fold it in half right sides together, and to sew the long seam at 1/4 of an inch seam allowance. So we'll move over to the sewing machine and do that. I'll backstitch and start sewing. (machine whirring) Backstitched again at the end. I'll clip the loose threads. And then use a safety pin to flip this to right side out. And once I've done that, I'll repeat this process for the other two 24 by two-inch strips. Okay, so we have one done and then we need two more. Now that the three strips are completed, we'll work with the 24 by three-inch pieces of fabric. I'm gonna start by taking the last inch of fabric and folding it so that it's on the wrong side like this. And I'm gonna give it a quick press, just so it stays in place before we sew it. And we'll do that for both ends of the fabric. Now that that's pressed, I'll take the fabric and fold it right sides together and sew along the long side with 1/4 of an inch seam allowance. I'll backstitch and start sewing. (machine whirring) I'll clip the threads. And then use a safety pin to flip this right side out. And then I'll repeat the process for the other 24 by three-inch strip. Once those strips are stitched and flipped right side out, I also gave them a quick press so the seam would be right in the center. Next, we'll go back to the three smaller strips and I'll stack them right on top of each other. And then sew about an inch down. (machine whirring) Okay, I backstitched, just to make sure it's secure. I'll cut the threads. And now we're going to braid these. I usually put it right under the edge of my sewing machine, but today I'm just gonna use a little bit of tape. And we'll just start braiding these three strips. Bringing the outside strips over the one in the middle. And I'll continue until I get about an inch from the bottom. So around here, and then I'll stack the pieces on top of each other and sew, just like we did the other end. (machine whirring) Now you have the three pieces of fabric braided together. Another option if you wanted your necklace to have a little bit more weight, like this one, would be to use a safety pin to thread a lace through the tubes before you braided them together. And it gives you a little bit thicker look and more weight to the necklace. One thing to be mindful of is about the thickness of the fabric and if your machine will be

able to handle sewing through all six layers. Now we'll go back to the fabric strips, and I'm just going to topstitch about 1/4 of an inch down to close the end of this tube. (machine whirring) And then take the open end of the tube and insert one end of the braid until it covers right where the braid starts. So the part with the seam is going to be the back of the necklace and this side will be the front. I'll just topstitch about 1/4 of an inch and then again at 1/2 an inch. (machine whirring) So what we have now is one closed end where we'll tie the necklace and then the other edge where it connects the tie to the necklace. Then I'll repeat the process for the other strip. And those pieces of fabric you had laying around are now a cute little necklace. You can tie it at various lengths, so it's really versatile. I love the bold colors and fun stripes, but if you have a different aesthetic, you can try using a softer fabric and a monochromatic color palette to give the necklace a different look. There's so much you can do to make it your own. So now you have a game plan to use those extra scraps you have laying around. You can make scrunchies, headband turbans, our fabric necklaces, let's go.