Sew a Stash-Busting Stocking with Blair Stocker

Chapter 1 - Sew a Stash-Busting Stocking

Overview

(gentle music) - I am Blair Stocker of Wise Craft Handmade. I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico. And I'm an educator and author and a modern quilter. In this workshop, I'm going to teach you how to take your favorite quilting cotton prints and turn them into an heirloom stocking. We'll take the basic half-square triangle building block used every day in quilting and make it really tiny to create jewel-like blocks in your stocking. We'll learn dark and light color value, and how to apply that to your quilting cottons to create patchwork that shimmers and shines. Pick special prints and fabrics that will make it unique to the person that you're making it for. (gentle music)

Materials

- Let me show you the materials that we'll need to make this stocking. You'll need one yard total of fabrics with tiny little prints. I'm using liberty of London fabric and you'll want lots of scraps and a variety of fabrics. You'll need a half a yard of one printed fabric for the back of the stocking, two nine inch by eight inch pieces for the cuff of the stocking, and I'm using a light blue quilting cotton. One nine inch by one and a half inch strip for the hanging loop. A half a yard of fabric for the inside lining of the stocking. And I'm using a tonal blue quilting cotton. It's a little darker than the cuff. You'll also need two pieces of quilt batting measuring approximately 12 inches by 24 inches. You'll need some quilting rulers. I have a long ruler here that's four by 14 inches. And this is gonna be really helpful to mark the quilting lines on the back of the stocking. It's helpful to have a design tool, and I'm going to be using my design tool called the Ruby Ruler which helps you to see light and dark color value in all of the fabrics that you're using. I'll also show you how to use a phone to do this as well. You'll need a seam ripper. I'm gonna use a porcupine quill instead of pins, and I'll show you how to use that to hold your pieces together as they're going through the sewing machine. But you can also use pins for that. You'll need a printed template which is in your material PDF. It's three pages. And print it out. Don't scale it, and make sure that when you print it out, you check the one inch square to be sure that you're printing it out at full size. Paper scissors. Some scotch tape to tape the template together. Something that's helpful when you're pressing the pieces because they're so tiny, is a flattening spray or maybe some starch. A fabric marker or a hair marker. And this is gonna be used to mark your quilting lines. A rotary cutter and cutting mat. Fabric scissors, some neutral sewing thread. I'm just using a khaki color. A sewing machine. For the sewing machine you need a patchwork foot and you'll also need a walking foot. And this comes with most sewing machines these days, and it's also helpful to have some thread snips. And last but not least you need an iron and an ironing surface.

Prepare stocking templates

- Print out the pattern for your stocking. It's a PDF and it's three pages and I'll show you how to tape them together. The templates are labeled one, two, and three, and in the middle of each one, you'll see a one inch square box. You wanna make sure that that is one inch a square when you print it out. So don't scale your template, just print it out at full size with no scaling. Let me show you how we'll tape them together. You're gonna cut them out on the black line. To tape them together, you're going to be mindful of where these little circles fall on each of the templates. So you'll see

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two of them on template one, four of them on the middle, template two and then two at the top of template three, which is the bottom of the stocking. So with some tape, you're just going to line up those circles. So you're going to line them up the circles on top of each other and just tape them together. And then we'll do the same thing for the bottom piece, you can just hold them up to a window and make sure you're lining up your circles before you tape them together. This is the front of the stocking. We'll turn the template over to the back when we're doing the back panel of the stocking and that's the entire template. We'll stitch our stocking using a quarter inch seam allowance. There's no need to mark the seam allowance. We'll align the edges that we sew with the edge of our quarter inch patchwork foot.

Cut two inch squares

- We're gonna cut two inch squares from all of the different fabrics that you've pulled together for this project. And I wanna talk a little bit about the fabrics that I chose and give you some direction on which ones you should choose. I chose Liberty of London Tana Lawn prints for this project because most of those prints have really tiny floral patterns that really give these tiny little units we're going to make a lot of interest. So the units that we'll make begin with a two inch square. So you can kind of see here, this is a two inch square, so you can see how many different colors and patterns that you can get within a two inch square of this. So in addition to thinking about the size of the prints and the scale of the prints that you're using, you should also think a little bit about color value. So the success of the stocking project relies on the dark and light color values of our fabrics. So what is color value? We can look at this fabric and think to ourselves it's a dark or light color value, but actually we don't really know because the definition of color value is the relative lightness or darkness of a color, or in this case, of a fabric. We really need other fabrics around this piece to decide if this is dark or light color value. Let me add another fabric beside of it. Even though these two prints are very similar, this is now the darker of the two and this is the lighter of the two. And these two fabrics can go together in one of the little half square triangle units we're gonna sew to accomplish exactly what we want to do. We want every half square triangle unit we create to have one half of it in a dark color value, and the other half of it in a light color value. Let's look at some other examples. Here's another Liberty of London with some beautiful golds and greens, and a little pink. We don't really know what the color value of this one is until we find another fabric that we can put beside it for them to decide if this is dark or light color value. I would consider this one the light color value, and this one the dark color value in this pair. And I have a design tool called a Ruby Ruler, which is actually a value view finder, and this is based on a concept that landscape painters and photographers used for many years. And by holding the red tint of the ruler, holding it up halfway between your eyes and the fabric that you're looking at, it distorts the color intentionally to allow you to only see the values. What you are able to do is to pick fabrics that have value differences, but they're not super strong value differences. And what I love about that is when you combine these half square triangles and have some with a very strong contrast between the dark and the light value and others with the more muted or somewhat softer contrast between the dark and the light value, that creates what I like to say is quilt sparkle, which is perfect for a stocking project like we're making. Let's look at one more example of color value. Here's one that looks like it might be a light value, but we're not sure. Again, let's put another one right beside of it. These two are pretty similar. Actually, if I hold the ruler in front, I would say this one is the darker value and this one is the lighter value. So these are an example of what would make a really good more muted contrast in your half square triangle units. So from each of your fabrics, you're going to

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cut two inch squares. And I just do this one at a time. Always cut from the edge. You don't wanna use up too much of your beautiful Liberty of London. And usually, I'll just rough cut a two inch square. (scissors snipping) So I'll make it just a tiny bit bigger than two inches. (scissors snipping) And I might cut more than one. And if it's a fabric that I like a lot, I may cut three or four. Just depends on how many different fabrics I have. (scissors snipping) The more fabrics you have, the better the stocking will be. So I'll do that for each of my fabrics, and then I usually take my ruler, and I'll just trim up a two inch square just to make sure it's the right size. This seems like a tedious step, but it's gonna make all of your seams match up, it's gonna make your units be really precise, and honestly, it's worth the extra effort. And what I do is I cut all of my fabric into my two inch squares, and then if I want to square them up nicely with my ruler, I just turn on something on Netflix and just do that all at the same time. Because if you do batch processes throughout this stocking project, I believe that batch producing creates a much more precise step. So if you do all of your two inch cutting at the same time, then you do all of your half score triangle sewing which we'll do next at the same time, I believe it creates more accuracy, I think it's more enjoyable, and you'll also get really good at batch producing your units when you do them over and over again. Do this for all of your fabrics. You'll want essentially 84 dark value fabrics and 84 light value fabrics. But don't stress too much about having dark darks and light lights. We will figure all of that out in the next step.

Piece and sew half square triangle units

- We've now cut all of our two-inch squares so we're going to subcut them into triangles. I'm gonna show you how to pair them up. Here are my two-inch squares. You're gonna have a lot more than I have here but I wanted to show you what to do with these next. I just take a small stack of them and then cut them diagonally in half. I use my rotary cutter. You can use scissors. I find it easier to use a rotary cutter and I usually do this with all of them. I get them all cut into these triangles before I move on. Just kind of line them up. I do about four at a time, but you can also do one at a time, just depends on how sharp your blade is. Do these last few and the goal of this really is to just have a big stack that you're gonna mix up because it helps the process of choosing more randomly which is really what I think lends itself to the success of this project. So I'm gonna just mix these up and put them by my sewing machine. Now a couple thoughts on sewing units this small, I would lower my stitch length just a tiny bit and make slightly smaller stitches for this. It's good if you can have your needle stop and start from the down position. And I also have a quarter inch patchwork foot on my sewing machine and I'll use the edge of that to line up the edges of these. It's helpful to use a sewing stiletto instead of pins. And the reason I find that it works better for me is sometimes with units this small, pins can create like a bump in the seam allowance and it's just so much easier and quicker to use your seam ripper like a pin. And I will actually use a porcupine quill. This is an old Victorian trick. I use the pointy side, which is very pointy. I have an extra long one here. And yes, this is a real porcupine quill but it works really great. It's actually like an extra set of fingers to help hold these in place. So what you'll do is find a dark and a light-ish. Now what do I mean by that? They don't have to be super contrasty, like that is a good pair to start with. I'm gonna pair those together, right sides facing. I'll just line up the edge and we're going to stitch across this edge. Now we make these half square triangle units we're about to make just a little large and then we trim them down to size so that they're much more precise. So don't stress too much if you feel like these are not perfectly lined up at the edge. So I'm gonna take this to the sewing machine to begin sewing. So I'm lining up the long edge of these pieces here. I'm just gonna hold them in place with my sewing stiletto and just let them guide through. And another tip for working with these tiny

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pieces is that it's much easier instead of clipping your thread, let's continue on and just keep adding pairs. I'll talk about these as I am joining the pairs together. Here's another one. This is kind of a muted contrast between these two. I feel like this one's darker. This one is lighter. When I look through the ruler it looks like this one is showing up as darker but there's a definite contrast between the two of these. So what I will do is if I don't know exactly which one is the light and which one is the dark, I'll just go ahead and sew them together and figure that out once the pair is finished. So without clipping the thread, I'll just line this next one up and continue sewing. And these pairs are so little that you really have to double check and make sure that you've got the right sides facing 'cause they really are tiny. Here's another one. And by doing this randomly like this, what I hope that you get out of it is that you may not love every single pair that you pair up but the important thing is that they're all different and it allows you to make some design decisions that may be a little more spontaneous. And in the end you might even like them better than if you were to sit and be very intentional about the pairs that you're putting together. I think this process allows you to find some happy accidents that just can work. Not all of them work, but it's fun when they do. Do that one, that one's a higher contrast one, so you'll mix higher contrast pairs with more muted pairs. And after you sew a few of these, you'll realize how much easier it is not to pin each one and just to guide them through with either your seam ripper or some sort of sewing stiletto. So normally when you sew patchwork pieces, you sew them with a scant quarter inch, and if you stay just inside of the patchwork foot, you're doing a scant quarter inch, it will be totally fine rather than always making sure you do a full quarter inch. You can see I've got this little chain of flags off of the back of the sewing machine. So pair a few more. And you will continue to sow these, make your chain as long as you want off of the back and when you are completely done, then you can clip these apart and we'll take 'em to the iron. Normally I would say press the seam allowances to the darker side, but because these units are so tiny, I found it much easier in the end to press the seam allowances open. And if you, if you press your seam allowances open I would say continue to do that. If you are usually one who presses to the side I would say try pressing them open for this particular project. It just keeps the units much flatter in the end which I like, takes a little bit more time. But if you're doing the batch prep as I suggest so you've sewn all of your units and then you press all of your units, you don't have to interrupt your Netflix show to keep going. So I press all of these open. Another tip for pressing, once you've pressed these seam allowances open on the back like this, I like to use a flattening spray. So I turn them over to the front and just spray them with a flattening spray just to get them really flat. I think the flattening spray is much better to use than steam for this because your hands are right at the iron and the steam would be kind of uncomfortable. So it's much easier to just use something like this. You can also use spray starch but the goal is to get them nice and flat. Do that for all of your half square triangle units. The final step for preparing your half square triangle units to begin sewing them together is to square them up. So these are gonna end up being an inch and a half square and right now they're a little bit bigger than that. I use my Ruby ruler because it's a perfect little square to trim these up. And it's also got this line going through the center at 45 degrees. And so as I am trimming up my squares I'm lining that line up directly over the seam, going diagonally through the middle of each one. So I trim all four sides and I do that by placing my unit here. I've got my one and a half inch marks here and I'm making sure that this diagonal line is directly over the seam. I'm just exposing these two edges here. Then I'll flip it around and do my final squaring up. This time I've got my one and a half inch line directly on the edges of the two edges I just cut. I've got my diagonal line over the center and now I'm going to make my final two cuts. And you end up with a half square triangle that has the seam

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line going perfectly through the center and it's an inch and a half square. So diagonal line over the center seam, exposing these two edges just a little bit, making sure that what's under the ruler is extending just beyond the inch and a half lines, trim these two, flip it around. Now I'm lining these two edges up exactly with the inch and a half measurement and making my final two cuts. I know this seems like a lot of tedious work but it's gonna make such a beautiful stocking in the end so be sure to keep going. Cut 168 of these half score triangles. Congratulate yourself on a job well done and I'll see you in the next step.

Sew four-patch diamond units
- You've made all of your half square triangle units, they're all trimmed up. Now I'm gonna ask you to join them into pairs. We're gonna again, mix them up. You're gonna have a lot more than you see here. And we're gonna pair them together to begin with and do this at the sewing machine, again, I don't want you to overthink this step because I think the real magic happens when we put these together kind of randomly. So I'm looking at them and what I'm gonna do with these first two, you want your two darker color value half square triangle sides to face like this and the outer two should be the lighter value. We'll put them right sides together. I've got my diagonal seams on top of each other. And you could pin this if you want to, but I'm going to use my trusty sewing stiletto porcupine quill. I'm still keeping my stitch length just a tiny bit shorter than the normal stitch length, and I'm putting this under my quarter inch presser foot and sewing a quarter inch seam, and we'll chain piece these once again, I'll show you how I do that. After sewing that one, I'm not gonna cut my thread again, I'm just gonna keep chain piecing. Again, the two darker sides are going to be facing each other or side by side, the two lighter sides are gonna be in the outer corners. And you'll notice that these two light value sides are not the same amount of lightness. This one's a little darker than that one. Don't stress about that. I actually think that is a beautiful way for these light value and dark value squares to contrast with each other. I'm gonna put that directly under there and just keep on sewing. And you might remember this one that we paired together, it seemed like with just my eye that this was the darker of the values but then when I looked in the Ruby Ruler, this seemed to be the darker of the values and I said to leave that. Let's put something with it that has a definite dark and light. That one's a good contrast. So now by eye, I'm gonna look at that and see do these two look like the darker or does this one look like the darker? To me, this one looks like the darker of the two on that one, so I'm going to consider that one the darker. And if for some reason you feel like you're wrong in the end, I can guarantee you that you're not. It will still work really well. Take that one. This is just gonna allow you to get a lot of variety in your pairings. And we're still keeping that scant quarter inch seam allowance for all of these. So you'll do that to make pairs of all of your half square triangles, then we'll take them to the pressing station. Same as before, we're gonna press these seam allowances open. Just to separate that seam allowance. Give it a little bit of flattening spray. As I press these, this is a really good time to give those first seams we made with the half square triangles, another press. And ideally, you want your points of the dark valued sides to match up. If they don't match up, I can guarantee you that nobody is going to notice if they're a little off. So don't feel like you have to go back, rip the seam, sew it again, it's not necessary. To do that for all of the pairs that you've made and get ready for the final step of making our little half square triangle four patch units. All of our pairs are pressed. The final step is to create little four patch units out of these pairs that we've made. What you will have in the center is a dark valued diamond once you piece all of these together. So you're piecing two pairs and you're just gonna randomly pick your pairs. It could be really fun to create some unexpected color combinations

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where you're piecing these together into little four patches. I picked these two pairs, I'm going to align the seams. I'm still gonna use my sewing stiletto rather than pinning but if you wanna add a pin, you can. So I'm right sides together, same shorter stitch length and same scant quarter inch seam. And I'm gonna use my stiletto to just flatten out these seams as they go under the presser foot and line everything up at the same time. And the more you do this, the easier it gets. Make sure that those diagonal seams are lined up over each other. And again, just chain piece, don't clip the threads and just keep on going. And what you'll notice is that all of these dark values, again, are different, they're different intensities of dark but they're still dark. It still all works. And this creates a really fun scrappy look that has some dimension to it. Let's reposition. And just as a reminder, I'm keeping my needle in the down position when I stop and start the machine. Let's do another. That one's gonna be fun because this one is one of my favorite Liberty print. So I love the little bit of sort of burgundy color that's just in that one little bit of this four patch. You're gonna continue to do that to piece all of your pairs into four patch units. Clip your threads and you're gonna press the seam allowances open. Seems like an extra step that takes a lot of time but again, do this in batches. Do all of your four patches and then come back and press all of your seam allowances open, get them nice and flat and then we're ready to create the front of our stocking. You should have 42 of these 4 patch units and you don't need to square these up after pressing, because we've done such a good job of squaring up along the way when we made our half square triangles.

Construct front stocking panels

- Let's put our front panel together. With all of your four patches ready to sew together, have your stocking template laid out in front of you. And what we're going to do is place these across the stocking panel with the goal being to cover the panel completely. When these are all sewn together and all pressed, we'll be trimming away a little bit of the edges of all of these. I would suggest if there is a fabric that you really love that's out here, like there is my favorite little piece, I may want to just make sure that I put that somewhere where it's not gonna get cut away. And I'm gonna lay these out to begin with not really thinking much about what I'm placing where, just to get them out. It's gonna take each of these rows or about four, four patches across in order to cover the top of the stocking. Let's talk a little bit about placement now that I have these all out like this. I see a lot of this pink pattern in this cluster here. See it over here. Decide if that is a fabric that you like to see a lot of. I think sometimes when you lay out fabrics like this, certain colors tend to draw more attention to themselves than others. And in this cluster I see the pink. That's not wrong, but you can decide, do I wanna separate those and maybe spread them out a little bit more? Maybe I want to move these down here. Maybe I'd like to put that up there. I'd spin that around. That means that a little bit of that's gonna get cut off, but those are the kinds of things that we're thinking about at this point. Let's see what else I see. This is a more muted dark value diamond in this four patch. As I've said before, really like those four patches. I think those are good choices to have inside of your layout. But also looking at those, make sure that you have one next to it either below or beside that has a little more of a definite dark and light contrast. It's telling the person looking at the stocking that yes, it's supposed to be a dark diamond just like this diamond is a dark value, like this diamond is a dark value and this is a dark value. Those are the kinds of things that we're looking at at this point. I use my ruler to look and see the contrast, see that I like what's happening, and just place everything over your stocking, fiddle with it, decide what you like, decide what you wanna change. And then I'll stack my row of four patches to bring it over to the machine. This row is sewn together. To stack this row I usually go left to right, putting the outermost left one on top of the next one,

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then on top of the next one, and then on top of the last one left to right just to keep track of them. So now I'm gonna sew these together. I'm gonna line up my center seams, line up the edges. I'll use my quill. You could also pin and still with that scan quarter inch seam. (clanking sound) Then I'll go ahead and add the next one. (clanking sound) And the fourth one. (clanking sound) I'll take this over to the iron and press the seam allowances open on this as well. Once you've completed sewing all of your rows, we'll be ready to sow the rows together. So I'll put those right sides together. And at this point if you'd like to use a couple pins, this would be a good time to use those. I'm going to pin at the beginning and end, but then I'll use my porcupine quill to do the rest. And I would also take just a couple back stitches at the beginning and the end of this join. (clanking sound) I just kind of peek under there and check to be sure that all of my seams are lined up just before they go under the presser foot. (clanking sound) Just a couple of back stitches. Be sure to press the seam allowance for this row open and then add your next row and repeat that to create all of the rows that you need to cover the template. We've sewn all of our four patches together. We've fully finished the front of our patchwork stocking. Look at how these little diamonds sort of flicker and sparkle all over this beautiful patchwork front. It's got so much color and so much interest in it and that's a lot of little half square triangles you just made. The panel should have seven rows of four across, three rows of five, four patches across, and the bottom row at the toe of the stocking has three, four patches. And to make sure that you have enough, lay your patchwork panel over your stocking template. Be sure you have enough patchwork to cover all four sides of your template.

Sandwich and quilt panels

- To get our stocking front and back panels ready for quilting, we need to sandwich the front patchwork panel, the batting and the backing, and then we'll do the same thing to the back panel to get them ready for quilting. Here's the patchwork front. It's facing right side up. Underneath it, I have a piece of cotton batting. And underneath the cotton batting, I have a piece of blue quilting cotton, and this will be the inside of the front panel of the stocking, so the inside of the stocking. So we're gonna layer all these together. And you'll see, this will just fit on here, this kind of geometric, strangely brutalist-shaped stocking. And that is okay because we're going to take our template now, right side up, onto the patchwork panel. Pin it in just a couple of places if you need to to hold it in place. I'm just gonna kind of just gently pin it right through the front of the stocking because what you wanna do is take a fabric marking pin, and we're just going to trace the shape of the stocking directly onto to the patchwork panel. And this is so that when we're quilting the layers together, we can see that we're getting all of the stocking area quilted. You can just roughly do this. So to hold this in place, I'm just gonna put some straight pins through these layers. There's no big basting process that we need to do for this small amount of patchwork, so I'm just gonna put in some pins to just hold everything flat. I'm gonna move this to the side just temporarily so that now we can do the back panel. I've got the inside stocking panel here, piece of cotton batting, and then the back is gonna be a solid piece of one of my favorite Liberty prints. I'm not sure if you can see on camera, but this is one that has just some sparkly silver metallic printed on it, which is really pretty. I'm gonna roughly sandwich these, get them all nice and flat. Then I'm gonna take the stocking panel and turn it over, and making sure that it's positioned fully on all three layers. I'm just gonna put my hand under here, make sure that I'm getting the blue fabric. I need to move it just a little bit. Pin it to hold it temporarily. And we'll trace around this one as well. Once it's traced around, we can move that to the side. And just like the front, we're just gonna put a few straight pins in place for now to hold all layers together. Let's quilt the front panel. I don't feel the need to mark this for quilting

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because what we're going to do is quilt diagonally, going across the panel. So you'll see here how all of these half-square triangle units have their seams going this way. And through all of those, we're going to quilt across them so that our quilting lines make an X directly over the half-square triangle where that seam is. So let me show you what I mean. I have a walking foot on my machine. I'm gonna make my stitch length a little bit longer than the normal default setting on the sewing machine, just a little bit just because I think it looks a little more uniform. I've got my neutral thread, and we're gonna start up here in the very corner. You don't need to back stitch, and you don't need to worry about how you begin and end these stitches. So we're gonna stitch directly across all of these little four patches. Let me do the first one, and I'll show you what I mean. So I'm gonna start stitching directly through the corner, diagonally across this half-square triangle unit. And also, I wanted to mention it's very helpful if you have a needle down position on your machine so that when you stop and start, your needle starts and stops from the down position. That's super helpful when quilting. So your goal when you're doing the quilting on this is you just wanna make sure, I hold my hands in this area, and I just sort of make sure everything remains flat. I'm watching the needle go through the beginning edge and the opposite ending edge of each half-square triangle unit. That one is done. Let's do another one. This time, I'm gonna jump over to this set of half-square triangle units, but I'm gonna do the same thing. I will start at the top corner of this half-square triangle unit, and I will stitch through from corner to corner in each one of these. Once you start doing this, it's very easy to see from one corner to the next as you stitch. Take your pins away. Next, we're gonna start here in this half-square triangle unit. And there's one last area here. Actually, no, we don't need to. So each of these lines end up being 1 1/2 inches in width across. So once you stitch these lines, you can continue down the stocking, and there may be times when it's easier to come at your quilting lines from this side. You can do it that way. There's no rules as far as that's concerned. You do what's most comfortable for you. So now I'm going to start here in this. So you're always looking for that first half-square triangle that the seam is going perpendicular to where you're headed. I've now quilted all of the lines on the front panel going in one direction. Now we're gonna turn it and do lines going in the perpendicular direction to make a diamond quilting pattern. I'm gonna start in the opposite top corner this time. And I'll do the exact same thing that I did with the first set of lines. I'm just going through these little half-square triangle units perpendicular to the seam line in these. And you'll see, again, this is super easy to pick up on visually as you're quilting this. Move it over here to this next one. Keep going. I am going to continue on, and you should continue on to do all of the lines going all the way across the patchwork panel until you've quilted the entire panel going in the opposite direction, just the same way. I've quilted the front completely. Here's what it looks like from the back. Don't worry about those threads. We're gonna clip those. But here's the diamond pattern that we're gonna repeat on the back panel. Using the traced lines from the template, I am going to take this ruler. This ruler is a 3 inch by 18 inch ruler. You just need a long ruler and preferably one that has a 45-degree line going through it like this. And then with a Hera marker, which is something that marks cloth with a little crease versus making a mark on it. You can also use a fabric marker. This is just a lot easier, I think, for me. But I will press this against the acrylic ruler and on the fabric, and just run it across a few times to make a crease on the fabric. Then you will measure an inch and a half away from that line. So I'm not sure if you can see on camera, but I have the crease that I just made aligned underneath an inch and a half from the edge. And then I'll make a new crease. I'm gonna do that again. Inch and a half away. It's great if you have a ruler that will stretch all the way across the stocking template, but if you don't, that's okay too. You'll just have to reposition your ruler a little bit. You're just gonna continue marking until

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you've got everything marked across the stocking panel. I'm not marking all the way across this panel. I wanna make sure I just get around the stocking portion. I've got all the lines marked with my Hera marker going in one direction. Now to mark in the other direction to create the diamond pattern, I'm gonna align the 45-degree line on my ruler to the opposite edge, this time, of the stocking. And I am going to mark my first line with my Hera marker. I usually extend the line just a tiny bit beyond the lines for the stocking. Then I'm going to measure an inch and a half beyond that mark, all the way up the stocking, and then I will measure an inch and a half on this side and finish my lines all the way down the stocking. I'm just gonna add a couple of pins back in, just to hold it in place. My lines are all marked. And now I'm gonna take this to the sewing machine and quilt it. I'm just gonna follow the lines and do the exact same thing I did with the front. I've finished quilting the back panel. Here's what it looks like on the back side. Don't press it just yet. We're gonna trim it first. If you press it now, all of your tracing lines are gonna disappear. So let's trim it to the template outline. We'll just cut right on the line that we traced on, and that's also gonna trim away all those extra threads. Then we'll do the same thing to the front panel. There's the back panel trimmed. After trimming your front and back stocking panels, you could give them a quick press to remove all those lines, and we'll be ready to assemble our stocking.

Sew panels together
- Sewing the front and back stocking panels together is really straightforward. We'll put our panels right sides together, and we're gonna sew all the way around every seam, except the top. Remember, leave that one open. I just put a few pins in to hold the layers together. And we'll take it over to the sewing machine. I've put my regular patchwork foot back on my sewing machine, lower the stitch length back to whatever the default stitch length is on your sewing machine. And I'll sew a quarter inch away from the edge and I'll back stitch at the beginning and end. (sewing machine humming) Just gonna smooth out this fabric. You may get a little pucker too as you sew around in the seam, but that's okay. This will all be on the inside of the stocking. (sewing machine humming) Just gonna walk it around the curve. To get around the curve, I just take a few stitches, I raise it up, I reposition it, and I lower the presser foot back down. (sewing machine humming) Before we turn it right side out, I wanna just notch the seam allowances at the curves just so it turns out nicely. So here, I just make a couple of little triangles right here at the toe in just the seam allowance area just to get rid of some of all of this bulk that it's gonna be all crammed in the toe of the stocking. Try to trim just up to the seam allowance, but not on the seam allowance, 'cause then you'll have to restitch it. Let's see. We'll do this one. I usually just notch both concave or convex curves just to give them a little extra help when they turn them out. Just a couple more here. All right, we're ready to turn this right side out. The big reveal. And you could use a tool to turn the edges out fully, but I just used my hands. These are not really super tight curves, and we've notched them. So now we're gonna give it a press. And when I do that, I just roll the edges a little bit just to line them up and make sure they're fully opened up. And this will get rid of any last fabric marking lines that I made with my friction pen. Just smooth everything out to get ready for the cuff. You wanna make sure you get all of those edges out nice and evenly, 'cause bigger stockings are always better. There you go. We're ready for the cuff. Look how pretty that is. There's the front, there's the back with the little bit of shimmer of silver. Let's put the cuff on.

Make stocking cuff
- Next, get the two nine inch by eight inch rectangles you pulled aside for the cuffs, and we're

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gonna sew that up. I have my two pieces here. If these were printed, you'd wanna put the printed sides together, but since mine's solid, the right or wrong side's not very obvious. And I'm gonna sew a quarter inch from the edge on both of the shorter sides, the eight inch sides. So I'm gonna take that to the sewing machine. No need to back stitch at the beginning and end. (sewing machine humming) We will do the other side. (sewing machine humming) And just clip all of your threads. I'm gonna turn this wrong sides together, fold it in half. So we're matching up the raw edges that were at the top and the bottom of what we just sewed together. Just like that. And we'll take it over to the pressing area and just give it a little press. We're just gonna smooth out that top fold. Make sure that these are all lined up down here. And there's your cuff. And next we'll make the hanging loop.

Make stocking loop

- Grab your nine inch by one and a half inch strip to make your hanging loop. So if it's pressed out nice and flat, the first thing you're gonna do is fold in wrong sides on top of each other. So I'm folding it wrong sides together, raw edges are meeting over here, and I'm just gonna press to get a center crease. Then if you open that up, bring in each side to meet that crease in the center that we just made and press that. And then the last thing that we'll do is bring those in and fold this in half again. And you can press it if you need to. I'm just gonna put in a pin just to hold it in place. It should be pretty easy to just fold right on itself. And because these two top and bottom short edges are gonna be inside the stocking, you don't really need to worry about sewing those closed. I'm just gonna take this to the machine and sew across the edge here just to close up this loop. All right, so I'm just stitching right at the edge of this fold. I'm not gonna back stitch. Move my pins. (sewing machine buzzing) All right. Clip the threads. And the loop is ready. We are all ready to put this beautiful stocking together.

Assemble stocking

- With your stocking, your cuff and your hanging loop, let's put it all together. I find it super helpful to just take my cuff, the seam ends meeting and just make a little finger crease right at the center here. And then sort of do the same thing with my stocking at the opening. And if you need to just mark it with a pen temporarily, that's helpful just to sort of help us position everything. So once you've got those marked, put your cuff down inside your stocking. The seams should meet the side seam of the stocking on each side. So I start by pinning those sides. Do the same thing over here. Get those centers that you finger press, sort of get those together and pin, same on the back, and then pin on the sides. And keep in mind, you're gonna want your loop to be over on this side. So before I finish pinning everything, I'm gonna tuck my loop on that side between the cuff and the body of the stocking on the inside. So to do that, I'll just fold this in half. Can remove the pin and put it between the cuff and the body of the stocking. All the raw edges meeting and you can put it right at the side seam. I usually just put it just to the back panel side of the side seam and pin all that together. You don't wanna over-pin because sometimes I think that can be problematic. Just a few pins are all you need. Make sure it's nice and smooth. Looks like that's not as smooth. Then we'll take this to the sewing machine and stitch a quarter inch from the edge all the way around. If you've got a tray on your sewing machine like I do here you can stitch it from the inside rather than stitching across on the outside. It doesn't make any difference. And I will start stitching at a side seam and I'll back stitch when I start. Just make sure everything stays nice and smooth. (sewing machine humming) Once you're done, clip your threads. Let's fold the cuff over. You probably

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wanna press that out really well. And there you have it. Your heirloom stocking is complete. This is such a beautiful project. We've learned about color value. We've used some of our favorite fabrics to make this a really special piece that you'll pull out year after year, every bit as wonderful as the things that you'll put inside it.

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