
Sew a Mouse Doll with Katia Ferris

Chapter 1 - Sew a Mouse Doll

Overview

- Young children love nothing more than toys that are as little as they are. What I love about this mouse pattern is it's so small, you can hold it in your hand and bring it with you on every adventure. I'm Katia Ferris. I'm an artist and designer living in San Francisco, California. I've been designing dolls for over 10 years, and I'm the author of a book of sewing patterns called Make Your Own Animal Friends. In this class, we'll sew a mouse doll and add them to the collection of Luckyjuju doll classes here on Creativebug. I'll teach you how to add dimensionality to your doll with darts, different methods to attach the legs, arms, and ears. Then we'll add sweet details to the face with embroidery, fabric marker, and blush. I'll teach you lots of tips and tricks for how to work at such a small scale, and we'll also make some little clothes that are exclusive to Creativebug, a pair of overalls and a skirt with a bib. Join me in making this delightful mouse doll with its little round tummy, long tail, big ears and sweet pink nose. This pattern is included in the book. And now I'm so excited to sew a mouse doll with you.

Materials

- Let's go over the tools and materials that we'll be using to make our little mouse doll. To begin, you'll need your little mouse pattern printed and cut out. As far as fabric, the fabric A, you can use a quilting cotton, a good quality muslin, a cotton linen blend. This fabric should be a medium weight fabric. For fabric B, you can use a light to medium weight fabric in a contrasting color. For the tail, I'm using a little piece of leather cording, but you could also use macrame cord twine or ribbon even. You'll need stuffing. And then a little bit of pink embroidery floss for the nose. Extra strong thread for attaching the arms, a doll needle and a smaller needle for closing your doll with ladder stitch. For your tools, you'll need fabric, scissors, pinking shears, some snips, tweezers, or you could use hemostats. Chopstick is very helpful for turning, or a turning tool is optional, but also very helpful for a little pieces. You'll need a sewing machine with thread to match your fabric, pins, disappearing marking pen, a permanent fabric pen in black. And then for blush, you can use an actual powder blush. You can use a little colored pencil, and I'm using these beeswax crayons. You may want to use a ruler and you'll definitely need an iron and ironing surface. I'll also be showing you how to make little mouse overalls and a skirt with a bib, and we'll go over the materials and tools needed for that later.

Sew the Doll

Prepare pattern pieces

- What's great about this project is that our mouse doll is so little that it just takes a really small amount of fabric. The fabric A is 14 and a half by eight and three quarters, and then fabric B will be using on the inside of the mouse's ears, and it's just a four by two piece of fabric. So it's a great opportunity to use a special little scrap you might have. First thing we need to do is fold our fabric in half, and I'm gonna iron it. Then we will lay out our pattern pieces. Note that the body piece includes the seam allowance while the arms, legs, and ear pieces do not include seam allowance. So

you'll need to make sure you leave enough room to have seam allowance on the outside. Lay these out like this, like this, and then save this piece of fabric to use as the backside of our ears. Trace out your pattern pieces, the body, two legs and two arms. Make sure to copy over the opening markings on the arm piece. Now let's cut out the mouse body with our fabric shears. We are gonna set the body aside for a moment and we'll take this. I'm just gonna clean up the sides here. Remember that we're saving this piece for the ears. I'm gonna just clean this up. Set aside the arms and legs. We're not gonna be cutting those, we're gonna be sewing them later. Now we're gonna be transferring the markings to our body piece. Open up the two pieces so that the wrong sides are facing up. And then prepare our paper pattern piece. Poke out the little dots for the eye and the dart point. And then we'll use a pair of scissors to cut along all the lines that need to be transferred. So the tail, the opening markings, the dart legs, the and the center point. This will enable us to mark it on one side and then flip it over and do it on the other side. So these are the wrong sides. Now facing up, and we're gonna transfer on this side. We're gonna transfer the opening markings through our little slits, and then we'll transfer the dart markings and the dart point. Flip it over and repeat the dart markings. You don't have to do the opening marking on this side. So the dart point, the and the dart legs, flip them over so their right side's up, and we'll transfer the tail marking on this side, and then the eyes on both sides. Okay, now we're gonna draw in our dart legs. So flip 'em back over to the wrong side. Take a ruler and your marking pen and we're gonna connect all these lines to the dart point. Set these to the side and we'll move to the ears. We've got our two pieces of fabric here for the ears. Let's flip them right sides together and then transfer the ear pattern twice. Make sure you leave room since we'll be sewing directly on the line. Now we have all our pattern pieces ready and we can begin sewing.

Sew arms, legs, and ears

- Now we're gonna sew the arms, legs, and ears of our little mouse doll. And remember, we're not cutting these out in advance. We're gonna sew directly on the line that we traced from the pattern. We're gonna use a straight stitch at two millimeters. We're sewing directly on the line with a back stitch at the beginning to secure. Leave the top line open for turning and on the arms. Make sure to leave the space between the two markings open. We'll start at the lower marking and sew around and back stitch to secure. Complete the other leg and arm, and we'll move on to the ears. We're gonna pivot right here for the turn. So do your back stitching to secure the line just along this straight edge. Then you can lift the foot to pivot the fabric around. So to the corner again. And then lift your foot, pivot your fabric around and secure the stitch along the straight line. Repeat for the second ear. Now that we've sewn our legs, arms, and ears, we're going to cut them out, turn them and press them. I'll demonstrate a few. Use straight scissors to cut the tops of the legs. It is important to leave a tab at the opening of the arms and the ears so that we'll be able to tuck this in. After we've turned it right side out. I'm using pinking shears around the outside of the arms and legs. If you don't have pinking shears, you can cut little notches into your fabric with a pair of straight scissors. From here, we'll turn our pieces right side out. If you have a turning tube, that's the easiest way to turn little pieces right side out. You would put the turning tube inside the leg. And then I don't use the pointy side, I use the blunt side because I don't wanna poke through the fabric. You tuck it, you just place it right at the tip. And then rather than trying to push this stick into the turning tube, I try to bring the fabric up over the stick. And you only need to get it as far as being able to grab this little piece of fabric and pulling it through. If you don't have a turning tube, you can use a chopstick, go to the furthest end of the piece, pinch it apart, and tuck the fabric up into the

leg. Then I put the point of the chopstick and really gently shimmy the fabric down. It works the same for the arms. You'll put the turning tube through the opening. And personally for me, it helps to brace it against my body and then push the fabric over the stick. You can use the chopstick to get that last little bit of fabric through. - Okay. - For the ear, since it's not so long and narrow, I'm just going to use the chopstick and I'm gonna pull the fabric apart and tuck it as far in as I can. And then just use the chopstick to push it through. Just being careful to be gentle so that you don't push the chopstick through the fabric. Turn out the rest of your pieces and then we'll press them with the iron. I'm gonna use my chopstick to press out these seams, and I'm just running the edge of the chopstick along the seam to push all the fabric out and then give it a little press for the arm. I like to use tweezers to tuck this fabric in and line it up so that it makes a nice shape. Tucking in that little tab of fabric here. And then I wanna make sure that the corners are pressed all the way out. With our arms, ears, and legs pressed, we can move on to sewing the body.

Sew body and tail

- The first thing we need to do on our mouse body is sew the darts. We're going to fold the fabric right sides together along the center line. Use a pin to check to make sure that the dart legs are lined up. Press it with the iron. Press and pin to hold and then we'll take these to the sewing machine. We'll use the same stitch length of two millimeters and we'll start at the top of the dart leg and we'll back stitch. To secure the seam, come all the way to the edge of the fabric without back stitching. Pull the fabric but hold onto the thread, so that it doesn't pucker your seam, and clip. Take the thread tails and tie them together. Again. Don't pull too tight so that the seam doesn't pucker. Clip your thread leaving half an inch to an inch. Then we'll press the darts open. Press towards the back, making sure to get into the dart point, and then clip the excess dart off and repeat for the other side. Next, we'll baste the tail. First, we'll position the tail on the right side of the body at the marking and pin it in place. For a thick piece like this, rather than trying to pin through this thick fabric, I go through the fabric and over the over the tail like that. And then we're just gonna baste along the edge about one eighth of an inch from the edge, using a regular two millimeter straight stitch. Back stitch back and forth a few times to secure. Now we will pin the front and back, right sides together, and sew the body. Line up the two dart seams at the top and pin and then line up at the neck and at the bottom. And you can just move the tail out of the way. Out the bottom. The bottom will not be sewn. This remains open for turning and stuffing. We will start sewing at the bottom, come all the way around, and then stop at this opening marking and then continue the rest of the body. This pattern piece includes one quarter inch of seam allowance, so I'll be sewing with the fabric right along the edge of the foot and I'll back stitch to secure. Make sure your dart seam allowance is pushed towards the back. Then we will continue sewing below the opening marking. I'm gonna run an extra line of stitching at the neck and throat where there'll be extra pressure put on the stitches and then also over the tail just to reinforce that as well. From here, we'll clip the curves and trim the seam allowance. First we'll cut around the opening so that we can leave a little tab there. Make sure to clip into these inner corners and then use the pinking shears around the curved areas and along the rest of the body. Make sure that little tail stays out of the way. We'll turn the little mouse right side out and I'm making sure the fabric is all the way pressed out and running my chopstick along the seam and pressing. Make sure the fabric around the opening is tucked in neatly and press it well to get a crisp crease. That'll make it easier for you when you ladder stitch the opening closed. Our next step will be to turn the bottom edge under to the inside a half an inch. I like to use a ruler and marking pen to mark that line a half an inch up on both sides. That will help

us fold it under neatly and then we'll press that as well. We'll realign so that the seams along the side become the center of the mouse, and I'll just pin that in place just for the moment. Our mouse is beginning to take shape.

Stuffing and ladder stitch

- First thing we'll do is anchor our embroidery thread. Later we'll be stitching a little pink nose on our mouse, so we wanna anchor this knot first so that we don't have to deal with hiding it later. So I have three strands of embroidery thread on a doll needle with a knot at the end. And you can come in through the bottom or through the back opening, come all the way up to the nose. And we wanna come about an eighth of an inch outside the seam, right at the tip of the nose. I'm just gonna draw that through. Anchor the knot, pull the needle off, and set it to the side. This might be a little bit fussy to have dangling while you're working, but it's easier than doing it later. Next we're gonna stuff the head just to the neck through the bottom opening. Stuff into the tip of the nose on the back of the head. I use my thumb to press it into the seams and I wanna press it into the center of the seams so that it's not getting lopsided, alternating front and back of the head. And then you can start to fill in the center top, center of the head. And you wanna make sure, once you have this center portion filled, then you wanna start stuffing it outwards so that we're pushing stuffing into the dart seams. Keep an eye on it to make sure it's not lopsided. You can kind of adjust the stuffing and the shape a little bit and keep stuffing until you're right at the neck level. Stuff it really well. Pack it tight. Once the head is stuffed firmly, we'll set it to the side and work on the legs. First thing I'm gonna do is mark three eighths of an inch from the top edge of the leg on either side. And this is just gonna help us know where to align the leg when we're putting it inside the body. Now I'll stuff the legs. I like to use my tweezers to grab a little bit of stuffing, tuck it into the leg, and then use the chopstick to push it down into the end and push it into the seam. And we'll stuff the leg until the stuffing is about a half inch from the top. One more little bit. Then I'm gonna use a straight pin to keep the stuffing in place and repeat for the second leg. Now we'll take our stuffed legs and insert them into the bottom of our mouse. So that line we drew on lines up with the bottom edges. And we're gonna position the leg all the way towards the outside. And remember that our center seams should be lined up. Can put a little pin in here temporarily to keep that lined up and then pin it in place. Repeat for the second leg, And then just make sure that they look even. And we'll pin that in place as well. And then we'll take it to the machine and we'll sew right along the edge. You can use a two millimeter or a 2.5 millimeter stitch, and you wanna make sure that your tail is out of the way. And you can take out the pins in the leg now because those will likely get in your way. And we're gonna sew right along the edge, but making sure that you're catching both the front and the back of the body with your stitches. Back stitch to secure. Remove the pins as you go. Back stitch at the end. You might wanna run another line of stitching right over the top of that first one for added security, but if not, we're ready to continue stuffing the body. I like to wind the embroidery floss around the head a little bit, just to keep it out of the way as I'm stuffing. And then stuff through the hole in the back. Make sure you're pushing into the corners or the bottom into the bottom seam and get the corners filled. This is looking really good, stuffed all the way down to the corners. The neck is filled out and the sides are filled out and it's really firm. So we're ready to ladder stitch this opening closed with a regular sewing needle and knotted piece of thread. We'll start at the bottom part of the opening. Anchor our thread. Ladder stitching is one of my favorite things to do. It's really satisfying. What you wanna do is where your thread comes out, you want to go to the opposite side of the seam. Exactly lined up with that thread and make a small stitch that goes in between the

folded fabric. Then you'll come across again, lined up exactly, and you're just going in between the two pieces of fabric. If you can see your needle on the underside, that means you've gone through both layers of fabric. So you just want to go through one. The smaller and more even your stitches are, the cleaner your seam will be. And you just wanna do a few stitches and then pull your thread tight every few stitches. And we're almost all the way closed at this point. If you had any empty areas here, you could shove a little bit more stuffing through the last little hole before you close up. And you can even push it under your line of stitching. And I'm holding, sort of pinching, the fabric or pinching the body to hold the fabric together as I finish up these stitches. For my last stitch, I'm gonna try to come up through the center seam. And knot off. Do another one for good measure and then insert your needle back through the seam right next to your knot. Pull the thread through so that you're tugging the knot down into the seam. There you go. We'll finish the arms using the same techniques of stuffing firmly and closing with ladder stitch.

Face details

- We're gonna add some sweet details to our mouse's face. We're going to use the embroidery floss that we had previously anchored, and I'm using a little bit of a smaller needle than our doll needle just to make it easier. And this is really simple. We're just going to stitch across the tip of the nose, about five or six stitches, whatever looks right, and it's just about maybe half an inch across. And we're gonna do a satin stitch, which is a series of parallel straight stitches, one below the other. If you have a little gap, you can always go back and fill that in, but I personally don't mind if they're a little bit shaggy looking, but maybe I'll give it a try. 18 00:01:12,450 --> 00:01:12,540 There, I feel good about that. So now I'm gonna finish off this stitch right here. And then I'm gonna come in about a quarter inch down from the end of the nose to create the mouth. And the center seam gives us a perfect way of centering under the nose There. Now we'll just make a simple two straight stitches for the mouth. So I'm gonna come down another about quarter of an inch and maybe about an eighth of an inch out from the center seam and stitch across. And just try to get that as even as possible. And if you don't get it on the first try, you can always take the stitch out and do it again. But I'm just gonna, I do this to check and see if they seem like they're gonna be pretty even. And then this last stitch will go back through that first same hole where the embroidery floss came out. And I'm gonna switch now to my larger doll needle so that I can bury the embroidery floss further down in the body. Now we have to think about how to anchor our knot. And there are at least two ways to do this. If your mouse is only going to be for decoration or gentle play, it's okay to just push the needle down as far down as it can go and draw the thread through and snip it. However, if there might be some rough play with it, you probably wanna knot it first. And so try to bring the needle out here on the side of the mouse where it will be covered up by an arm later on. In order to bring the needle out in that area, you may need to bend your mouse a little bit just to get the needle into the right spot. That looks pretty good right there. So you want it to be, you can use the dart seam as kind of a center point along the middle, and then we'll bring this through, make sure our mouth shape looks nice, and then knot it off right here where it will be hidden. And you can switch to a smaller needle at that point too, if it's easier to make a knot. Yeah. And then we'll bury the rest of the floss. Put your needle back in as close to the knot as you can without going through the same hole. And then draw it out a little ways away. Pull tight and it kind of anchors that knot right there. And then snip. Next, we'll use a fabric marking pen to draw the eyes very simply. Can use the markings that we had on there previously. Just draw on little circles. Just really simple, quick way to make eyes. You can always embroider these if you prefer to do that. You can also use plastic doll

eyes if you like that look. But I, I like the simplicity and the look of these, so just make sure they're even. And then for the eyebrows, use a really light touch for the eyebrows. You just want a little thin line just above the eye. And I think it gives it so much personality. If you like, you can add a little bit of blush. Wait until the marker has dried completely. before you do that. As I mentioned before, there are a couple different options you can use for adding blush. I'm going to be using beeswax crayons. The way I apply these crayons is by drawing on a cloth. This is kind of a soft flannel cloth, but any kind of muslin will will work as well. And just draw, draw out a little bit of the crayon, and then use this as an applicator. I stick my finger in there and then just rub really lightly to begin, just to see how much is going to come off. It's pretty, comes on pretty strong, so you can just build it up little by little until you're happy and until they're even. And then you can use another area of the cloth to just sort of gently rub it in. You don't wanna rub too hard. The friction could cause your fabric to pill a little bit. So just keep a gentle, a gentle touch. You don't need very much to make an impact. You can use the same method for colored pencil. Try drawing it onto the cloth and then rubbing it onto the mouse's cheek. If it doesn't transfer over, you can try rubbing directly on the cheek. Just do it slowly and little by little. If you're using makeup blush, just make sure you're using a powder version, not a cream version, and you can apply it with a little paintbrush or a Q-tip.

Attach ears and arms

- We're just a few steps away from completing our mouse doll. Let's attach the ears and arms. There's no need to ladder stitch closed the little openings at the bottom of the ears because we'll be sewing each side down to the mouse. So we'll need to position the ears, and this is a matter of personal preference. You can pin them in place and see what you like. I'll show you the position I usually use. Measure down three quarters of an inch from the center seam, and then about half an inch behind the dart seams. Here's my three quarter inch mark, so I'm gonna pin here and on the other side three quarters of an inch down and then I'll adjust the position of it. So I'm about a half an inch behind the dart seam on either side. This just gives me a starting point and I can adjust as necessary. I'm gonna mark these two spots here with my disappearing marking pen. Now I'll pin the ears in place and adjust is necessary. So I'll start with the inside corner and I'm just putting a pin here so that I can get it right in that spot. I will do it for the other one there. Then where you would like to position, the bottom of the ear is kind of up to you. I try to give it a little bit of a curve. I'll pin this side. I'll pin the bottom edge on both sides. Okay. You can adjust the curvature and pin that in place as well. Check them from the front and back. It also helps to look from above to see how they're lined. Up next, we'll sew them down. We'll begin sewing across the backside. I've got a needle here threaded with just regular thread with a little knot tied at the end and trimmed very close. And we're going to bury the knot inside the ear. Insert the needle into the opening at the bottom and come out at the corner of the ear hiding the knot inside. Just take a little stitch into the head just to secure it in place. Now we'll start ladder stitching. This is the same concept as we used to close up the back of the mouse. We're going to alternate stitching along the base of the ear, one stitch into the base of the ear, one stitch into the head, back and forth, and then into the head. Be mindful that you're keeping the kind of curved cupped shape of the ear. Make sure you're drawing tight as you go. And then when we get to the other corner, we'll make another anchoring stitch. I am gonna do another one just in case. Now we can remove this pin and begin stitching across the front. With this, be sure to keep that cupped shape as you stitch. Now that we've come around to the other side, I'll stitch into the head again to anchor. If you're giving this doll to a child, I recommend doing another round of stitches along the back and front. At this point, I'm just going to

bury my thread and then repeat for the other side. As we position the arms, the important thing to remember is to make sure that the ladder stitching is facing the back and that the curve points towards the front and we'll pin our arms in place. We also have our knot to consider and cover up, adjust them so they're even and centered along the side of the mouse's body. I like how that looks. We're going to need our doll needle and extra strong thread about 40 inches long. And we're going to thread this needle so that we have it doubled. And I'm gonna insert the doubled end into my needle. Pull that through. We're not going to knot our thread. We're gonna leave it loose. And going from the back to the front on the underside of the arm, through the body, and then from the front to the back on the underside of this arm, back through the body out here. So let me show you. Make a small stitch on the underside from back to front, and you wanna make sure it's pretty level. We'll draw it through, but don't, don't pull the thread all the way through. Insert it into the body, and try your best to line it up with where it will hit when the arm is close. Bring it across all the way through. And we wanna make sure that it's symmetrical both level wise, and then also centered on the side. And it might take a couple times and it's easy enough to just pull the thread out and start over if it doesn't work out the first time. Okay, then we'll stitch from front to back on this side and you're really just not taking a huge amount of fabric, just a small stitch. We'll draw it through and then through the body on this side, trying to line it up with where the thread comes out of the arm coming across to this side. - Okay, - I'm going to take out the pins and pull it through and see if it's lined up well. Take either end and tie a knot. I will pull it tight, check that they're level and that I like the position, and if so, I will tie another knot. For added security, we'll run the thread through again and knot on the other side. Thread one end of the tails, back onto your doll needle and insert it right next to the knot. And I'm gonna come through on the other side at the back right next to my first stitch. Draw the thread through and just leave that for now while I thread these tails on the needle. And I'll go back through the arm, repeating my stitches through the body. Come out right next to the first stitch, back through the arm from front to back. Bring your thread through and then knot these as well on this side. Can pull pretty tight because it will loosen up over time. Then we'll bury the threads deep into the mouse's body. Pull those tight and clip and our little mouse is complete.

148 00:14:15,575 --> 00:14:15,865

Sew Clothing

Prepare overalls pattern

- Let's make a little pair of overalls for our mouse doll. What you'll need is a piece of fabric 13 and a quarter inches by seven. Fold over your fabric about five and a half inches. Big enough that you can trace out your downloaded pattern and have double layer of fabric. Then we'll also trace out three rectangles on the remaining fabric. You can open up your fabric. We're gonna have an eight inch by one inch rectangle, a two by three inch rectangle, and a one and a half by two inch rectangle. So go ahead and cut those out. Also remember to transfer these markings from the pants pattern. This will leave a little hole for the tail to stick out of the pants. Once you have all those cut out, you'll have your pants piece and these three pieces. The first thing we're going to do is sew a pocket for the pants. So we'll take the piece that's one and a half by two. We'll fold it over so that the short, shorter sides meet and you can use an iron or simply finger press this, and we're going to sew just along these sides here, a quarter of an inch from either side. If you have a quarter inch foot, you can just take it straight to the machine. Otherwise you can use a ruler to draw out lines a quarter of an

inch from each side. Sticking with the same stitch length, we'll stitch along this side. When using such little pieces of fabric, they can sometimes get pulled down into the feed dogs. I'm gonna use my stop stitch on my machine. If you don't have one on your machine, you can use a different method. It also helps to grab onto the ends of the thread so that you can use that to kind of draw through your fabric. Clip the corners. And you can also use your pinking shears if you'd like to minimize bulk, especially on such a tiny piece of fabric. We will turn that right side out. Press out the corners. And again, you can iron or finger press. And next we'll turn the raw edges to the inside a quarter of an inch. Eyeball that, or I like to draw it out to help me make a neater edge. Once you've folded that down and pressed it, you will have a little pocket. To find the placement for our pocket, let's open up our pants pieces so that they're facing right side up. Place your pattern piece over the pants piece. Make sure you're using the right piece. You can see that the top slants down a little bit on this side and this is the side with the tail markings. So make sure you're doing it on the right side. And we're just going to mark out. I've poked these holes into my pattern piece so that I can put my pen right through and mark out the spot. We'll pin the pocket and you'll position it so that the open part of the pocket is face down. Position and pin it. And then we'll take it to the machine and we'll sew down the side across the bottom and then back up. The top remains open. We'll be sewing right along the edge. Again, it can help to hold onto these little threads to pull the fabric through because this is a lot of layers for our needle to get through. Lift the foot and pivot your fabric around. At this point you can pull the pin out and just hold the position with your fingers. We are not gonna have these threads to help us draw the fabric through. So I'm gonna use a pin and put it into the pocket behind my sewing needle. Make sure it's behind the sewing needle 'cause you do not want to sew into your pin, but I'm gonna use this as leverage and push as I start to stitch forward just to help me get that fabric through. And we will do that again for this corner. Reposition the pin if you need to. And fair warning that your pin might get bent outta shape in this process. I'm having a hard time getting it through, so I'm lifting the foot just a little so I can help ease the fabric through. There we go. That ought to do it. Lay the piece with the pocket over the other piece with right sides together, we're going to pin along this curved edge and sew it with a quarter inch seam allowance. And we will trim our seam with pinking shears along the curve. If you don't have pinking shears, you can just clip into the curved section. We will press the seam open with the iron. Then we'll set this to the side and prepare the bib piece. We'll be using the two by three piece in combination with this pattern piece. First thing we'll do is fold this so the short sides are lined up and press it. Then we'll trace out our pattern piece, center it so that the the smaller end is along the fold and trace out the pattern. We will sew this on the machine, sewing directly on the traced lines, leaving the bottom open. I'll clip the corners and trim the sides and turn it right side out and press it. Next, we'll mark it seven eighths inch down from the top edge and make a line across. And we'll also mark the center of the bib. And I'm just using my pattern piece again. We will work on the pants and come back to that in a minute. The last piece we need to prep is our eight by one inch rectangle that we will turn into straps for our overalls, fold the fabric, wrong sides together, joining them along the long ends and press. Next, open them up and fold in one side to the center and press and then bring the other side into the center as well. Fold in both sides and then fold again and put a few pins in to hold them in place and take it to the machine. And we'll just sew right along the edge, making sure to catch all four layers of fabric. And I am pulling on the thread ends. Just to get it started. The last step is to fold them in half into two even lengths. And cut it so that you'll have two straps ready to attach. We now have all the pieces we need to assemble our overalls.

Assemble overall pieces

At this point you have four pattern pieces, and now we're going to work on the waistband and hems. We'll start with the hems, turning the edges in a scant quarter inch, two times. That encases the raw edges and we we'll pin that for now and repeat for the other leg. For the waistband, similarly, we'll turn the edge down quarter inch to the inside twice. There's a little bit of a curve on the waistband, so try to maintain that curve. Pin to hold. Next we'll place our bib piece at the center of the waistband. We're gonna use this marking to line up along the top edge of the pants. And then the center marking should line up with the center seam and we'll pin that in place. And we'll start by sewing the hems. And then we'll sew the waistband. We're gonna sew along this first fold, close to the edge, and all the way across the bib to the other side. With our hems prepped, we will sew the waistband and attach the bib. As you come to the bib, make sure that the fabric is laying flat. You can even use the pin to hold it down so that it doesn't get pushed up by the foot or the needle. Just make sure that the pin is behind the sewing needle. And once you're up and over the bib, you can use this line to help you as a guide for sewing. Flip over the overalls so that they're right side up. And we're going to edge stitch along the top edge here. Now fold the pants with right sides facing and we'll pin along this curve. And sew. Make sure to stop at the marking to leave this hole open for our mouse's tail. This gap will remain open for our mouse's tail. So we can't really clip into this curve, but we'll clip on either side of it and then use pinking shears on the rest of the seam. Can press this open with an iron or finger pressing is fine too. To finish the pants, we'll just need to sew the inseam. Align the center seams so that they meet. Pin in place, and then pin each leg and we'll sew from one hem to the other. Keep the seam allowance open as you sew over. Trim with pinking shears. And I also clip into the center of the crotch here, just so that the pants lay nicely. Then we'll turn them right side out and press out the seams. To attach the straps on the front, place them behind the bib. Make sure the stitched edges are facing towards the outside, about three eighths to a half inch. You want them ever so slightly flaring to the side. Pin that in place. And same on the other side. There are lots of ways that you can attach these front straps. You can use little buttons or hand stitch them. I'm going to use the machine with a zigzag stitch. I wanna make sure that my needle is not going to go through the pin, so I'm going to sew from the backside where I can see the pin. I'm using a zigzag stitch at 1.5 millimeter length and three millimeter width. And I'm just going to position it so that I'm sure that the needle is going on either side of the pin because the pin is there. It's keeping the pants from moving, which is good, but I can move it now that it's attached. And just do a couple stitches in either direction back and forth. And I'll repeat for the other side. To determine the length of our straps, we need to try them on our mouse. Bring the straps around to the back. Make sure you have it centered well. You could even put a little pin to keep it centered while you're positioning the straps on the back. Tuck them in, make sure they're straight, and you wanna position them about a half an inch out from the center seam. Then take them off and you can as attach the straps on the back the same way we did the ones on the front. You could also use snaps if you wanted to make it a little easier to take the pants on and off.

Sew skirt with bib

- Like us, little mice like to have options for what they wear. So now I'm gonna show you how to make a little skirt with a bib. You'll notice some similar elements from the overalls pattern. All of your pattern pieces will be cut from one piece of fabric, 12 and three quarter inches by seven inches. The pattern consists of five rectangles. And in order for them to fit on this small piece of fabric, you'll have to lay them out like this. This is the skirt piece. It's 12 by three and one quarter. This is the

same strap piece that we used in the overalls. It's eight by one inch. This is the same bib piece and pocket piece that we used for the mouse overalls. Then this piece is the waistband that we'll be using. This piece is always gonna be one and a half inches high. The length of it will vary based on the chubbiness of your mouse. The length of your piece will be anywhere from about six and a half to seven inches by one and a half inches high. This piece is six and seven eighths by one and a half. To determine the length, we'll measure our mouse doll around the waist. This one is about five and three quarters, and we'll add an inch and an eighth to that measurement and it'll depend on the stretchiness of the fabric that you're using and how much you've stuffed the belly. So you already know how to make the pocket the bib and the straps. So we'll work on the skirt piece first, fold in the shorter ends, one quarter of an inch and press. Then we'll prep the hem by folding up the long edge about a quarter of an inch twice. I will pin those and we'll take them to the machine. We're gonna use zigzag stitch on the short sides. And the reason we're doing that, rather than folding twice and encasing the raw edge, is we wanna avoid making too much bulk. I've got my machine set at two millimeters stitch length and three millimeters width, and I'm gonna sew down to where the fold folded edge of the hem lays. As you near the end, move that folded hem out of the way. On the other side, unfold a little bit, but start just from where that folded edge will lay. Fold the hem back over and we'll sew the hem with a straight stitch. To create the gathers on a skirt, we'll run two lines of basting stitches along the top edge. We'll use the baste function and I like to adjust the stitch length to five or five and a half to help create the smaller gathers. The first row of stitching will be one eighth of an inch from the top edge, and then the next one will be a quarter inch down from that. And don't back stitch. Leave long tails at the beginning and end of your seam for both rows. And I'm starting my basting row just past the zigzag stitches and ending before the zigzag stitches on this side. Let's place the pocket. We'll determine the center of the piece by just simply folding it in half and giving it a little finger press. Now I'm going to measure seven eighths inch down from the top of the waistband and one and a half inches over from my first measurement, and then two and a half inches from that center mark for my second measurement. Again, the pocket opening goes towards the bottom and we'll line it up with these markings and then you'll attach it with the sewing machine. Once your pocket is attached, we'll prep the waistband. Fold in the short ends a quarter of an inch, fold the long sides so they meet with wrong sides facing. Then we'll bring each long side to the center and press just like we did for the straps. Mark a half an inch from the left side, make a mark parallel to the edge, and then we'll determine the halfway point between this marking and the other side. And we can just do that by folding and finger pressing and mark that. The markings are on the wrong side of the waistband. Open up the waistband and we'll attach it to the skirt. So wrong side up on the skirt and wrong side up on the waistband. We're going to line this up and pin it so that the skirt is one quarter inch away from the edge of the waistband. And you can use that marking there to help you determine that position. Then we'll line up the center markings. And lastly, we will line up the edge of this waistband with the edge of the skirt on this side, Find the top threads of your basting stitches. It's a little hard to figure out which ones are which. It's a little easier to see from the other side. So I'm gonna separate out the ones on this side from the ones on this side. And then you can gather your skirt until they're an equal measurement and you can just distribute them evenly. You may need to pull them again just to adjust them correctly. Once you have them distributed pretty well and straightened out, you can pin them making sure to line up the top of the waistband with the top of the skirt piece. 124 00:10:25,920 --> 00:10:26,920 Repeat for the other half of the skirt. We're gonna use a straight stitch on our machine and sew on the wrong side of the fabric, a quarter of an inch from the edge, starting at our marking a half an inch in. And

you can use the fold as a guide as well as the edge of the fabric. And just make sure that you're removing your pins as you go. Make sure to secure your seams at the beginning and end. Don't trim your basting stitches yet. We'll pull those out later. We'll try and keep the threads out of the way as best we can. And now we're just going to press the waistband up while trying not to crush our gathers. Fold over the waistband towards the front and pin it. Then we'll attach the bib and sew it on. Like the overalls, the bib is marked seven eighths inch down from the top edge, but the marking for the center bottom is on the backside rather than on the front side. This is going to help us position it on the back and then line up the line on the front with the top of the waistband. Just like we did on the overalls, we'll be sewing along the bottom edge and then along the top edge with an edge stitch. 152 00:12:59,140 --> 00:13:00,565 Sew all the way to the end of the waistband and secure. We can now snip the threads for the first row of basting stitches at the top. And then, well, we can try to pull out the lower line of basting stitches. But if that doesn't work, you can use a seam ripper. There are several options that you can use for a closure. You could use a little bit of Velcro or a sew-on snap like I used. The important thing is that one side of the fastener goes on the right side of the waistband without the tab, and then on the side with the tab, it's on the inside of the waistband. Then you can attach the straps just like we did on the overalls. If you have a hard time maneuvering a zigzag stitch on your machine next to the snaps, you can hand stitch it like I did here. Our sweet little mice have their new wardrobe, and now they're ready to go to the party, except for this one who needs a little help putting his pants on. Put the legs through and then remember that we left a little hole for the tail, which we'll need to find so that we can feed the tail through. Hitch those overalls up, slip the straps on, and if it's a chilly day, our little mouse might wanna borrow a scarf from the puppy. I teach you how to make a scarf like this on the puppy class here on Creativebug. Let's look at our little mice. They are ready to go. This one has little buttons, room for maybe a little almond or a little jelly bean for party favors. This one's got their strap stitched on. We have some different fabrics here. With all these sweet little outfits and their small size, they can fit in any little pocket and come with you wherever you go.