
Patchwork Pants with Heather Ross

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- These penny patchwork pants are a great baby wardrobe staple and so easy to make. They don't have any zippers, plackets, buttonholes, or complicated closures, just a bit of elastic across the back of the waistband. We've also added this sweet little detail on the front with a little bit of hand stitching that gives them just a perfect little handmade touch.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- In addition to a very basic sewing machine, you'll also need a couple of other sewing supplies. You'll need a tape measure, a seam ripper just in case, some waistband elastic, some snippers, some embroidery thread, some buttons, and a pair of sewing shears. You'll also need a hot iron. I cut my pieces out based on the instructions on my pattern, and this is what I have. I have two pant front pieces along with some sections that go along the top to create a faux pocket. I cut those out of a contrasting fabric. And then I have two back pieces. And that's all I'll need.

Chapter 3 - Make Patchwork Pants

Sew front and back

- My first step is gonna be to piece my pant fronts together. I've got this little faux pocket detail, and I have this little mouse print, and I'm gonna attach it to the upper corner of my front pant piece, both sides, so I just need to fold this over and match up my edges. It'll look crooked but it'll be straight after you sew it together. I'm just gonna put a few pins in. And then I'm gonna move over to my machine for a 3/8-inch seam allowance. Gonna use just a few backstitches to lock this seam into place. Now I just need to press this, I can pull my pins out. And I'm gonna press it flat, and I'm gonna push all of that seam allowance right down towards the pant. You're gonna do exactly the same thing to your other front pant panel: piece it together, sew it with a 3/8-inch seam allowance, and then press it to one side. I've got one ready for us here so that I can show you the next step. We're now gonna sew up the front rise, and you do that by putting your two pant front pieces together, right sides facing. And I'm just gonna put a few pins in. And I'm gonna take it over to the machine, and sew it up, again with a 3/8-inch seam allowance. Alright, now we're ready to do the back. Our two back pant pieces don't need any piecing; they're ready to be sewn together at the rise. I'm gonna put my pieces together, right sides facing, just like I did with the front, and put just a few pins in. Now I'm gonna press open both my pant front and my pant back and get my elastic sewn on. Alright. I'm using 3/4-inch waistband elastic, which is a nice weight. You can go a little thicker; you can go an inch, or even inch and a quarter if you want but I find this is a really nice width for pants this size.

Sew waistband and inseam

- Now I'm gonna put my elastic piece onto the back of my pants. It's really simple. If you haven't sewn with elastic before though, the real trick is stretching it while you sew. When you do that, you always run the risk of pulling your needle out of place and then your needle breaking, so you have to really be careful, but this is a nice, small section so we should be good if you've never done it

before. I'm gonna start by lining up my elastic, and I've got about eighteen inches here, against this edge of my pant. I'm gonna put in, not one but two pins, right at the top because I want that to stay in place while I sew. I'm gonna use a zigzag to sew along that top edge. I'm gonna take the first couple of stitches without stretching my elastic and I'm gonna do it using a pretty wide zigzag stitch, and then I'm gonna back tack. Now my elastic is more or less attached to the fabric. This is where I start to pull my elastic and stretch as I sew. I'm just gonna do a few inches at a time. Gets a lot easier once you've got a little bit of elastic here to grab onto. Do a few inches at a time, and then sort of reorganize yourself. When you stop, though, stop with your needle in your elastic, that way when you pull on it again, it'll stay put. And when I get to the end I'm gonna back tack. And then I can trim off my excess elastic and trim my thread at the same time. Now I'm gonna pull out my pins, and I'm gonna sew my back pant to my front pant, right along the inseam. I'm gonna match up, with right sides together, my front and back rise, and I'm just gonna drop a few pins in. Then I'm gonna get back down to my machine, and I'm gonna sew with a 3/8-inch seam allowance all along that inseam. Alright, and now I'm gonna do the same thing to my outseams. I'm gonna start up here on my elastic, right at the top. Okay, and now I'm gonna do exactly the same thing on the other side, and then I'll be ready to turn my waistband and my hem.

Finish waistband and hem

- So now, we're ready to turn the waistband on our pant as well as the hems on both legs. It's really quick and easy. I'm gonna start here with my elastic side, my back side showing, and I'm gonna turn this top edge twice. And I'm gonna put a pin in that, just right next to that side seam. And I'm gonna do the same thing on the other side. Then I'm gonna turn the pants around so that my front is showing, and I'm going to extend those folds so that that top edge is turned twice, making it as even as possible. And I'm gonna press that down using my iron adding a couple of pins as I go. And then, once my front edge is done, I can do the same to the back. But I have to be a little more careful because of the elastic. I'm gonna put a pin right through the center, matching up that side seam. And then I'm gonna stretch each side just a little bit, just enough to put pins in. It's gonna stretch again when I'm sewing with it. When I pull it tight again, I should see a nice even inch, the waistband. And with my pins in place, I'm gonna go over it once with my iron. Alright, and I'm ready to sew. I'm gonna start right on the side seam. (whirring) Backtack just a little bit. And I can grab the fabric right behind (whirring) And stretch my elastic while I sew. I'm gonna sew through the elastic as I'm sewing which is pretty important. (whirring) (whirring) And then, I'm sewing across my front. (whirring) (snip) My elastic is gonna shrink up quite a bit when it goes in the washing machine and in the dryer. It's being stretched right now with the thread and the fabric, but it's gonna come back together again when I wash it. I'm gonna turn this hem. My pants are still inside-out. About three-eighths of an inch, just shy of a half an inch. And press. And then I'm gonna turn again. (brushing) And I'm gonna do that to both sides. (brushing) (brushing) And now, I'm ready to edge stitch around the bottom. (whirring) Sewing right along that folded edge. (snipping) Pop that creased edge back into place. (whirring) (snipping) Alright, now I'm ready to turn them right side out. (brushing) (brushing) Keep in mind that when you wash them, that elastic's gonna shrink up quite a bit more. (brushing) I'm cleaning up some of my loose threads here. Alright, and now we're ready for little handmade detail on my faux pocket.

Add Pocket Detail

- Have a little bit of embroidery thread here. This is actually three threads, I'm gonna thread it onto a

needle. Got a knot at one end, I just wanna create a little bit of pig stitch, right down this seam. These pants have correspond really beautifully ^with the Mousie Blousie, which is another ^one of my projects of Creativebug. This is one of those little handmade touches that just make such a different and only take a minute. Any time I can finish a sewing project with just a little bit of hand stitching, I really love that. My thread just popped right off my needle. I used to be able to break the thread with my teeth too, like cut through it but I did it for so many years, that now I have the little grooves in my teeth and I can't use them for that anymore. My dentist just asked me what was going on there and I didn't really explain, probably thinks I'm some sort of chewing obsession. Just making a little double knot and using my clippers and I'll do the same thing on the other side. Trim my threads at the top too. And, just for good measure, going to make it a little more like a pocket, I'm gonna tie another knot in my thread and you can check your pattern piece, it has a little mark that shows exactly where this button, I'm gonna eyeball it because I remember that it's exactly halfway. When you're sewing a button on, you wanna just keep going back to the same spot. When you're sewing buttons on something for kids, you wanna get it really secure, once you've gone through a few times, you can wrap your thread around the button, it creates a little bit of a shank and then, stick your needle right through those threads. Put a couple nice, solid knots in there. I like to hide my knots and threads underneath the button, some people like to do it on the back of the garment, but I like looking on the back and just seeing it really finished at the edge. Alright, and I'm gonna do exactly the same thing to the other side of my pant front with the pig stitching and the button and then I'm done, it's a really great little baby wardrobe basic, you can make it in any crazy print or solid that you can find. You can make them for boys too, we're gonna leave the button off, that's great, looks cute either way and you're all set, tiny little perfect pair of pants, I can't wait to put them on my little girl.