
Sew Modern Christmas Stockings with Liana Allday

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Hi, I'm Leanna from Creativebug and there's a lot of things to love about Christmas but my favorite thing is Christmas morning. I love getting up and ripping into those stockings. And really the only thing I don't love about Christmas stockings is that they are traditionally made in forest green and primary red. I decided this year I would go away from the traditional red and green and try to do something with a modern color palette. Using a pattern piece we'll cut out the stocking. I'm gonna show you how to pin and sew it together on the sewing machine. And a really cool trick, actually we're making the curves nice and smooth. We'll do some finishing to create a cuff and then we'll add a strap and it'll be ready to hang on the mantle.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- These stockings are a great stash buster, because you can make them with less than a yard of fabric. What I have in front of me here is a beautiful Joel Dewberry print. I love the vibrant green and yellow Poppies that are climbing up through this, and I think it's going to make a gorgeous stocking. I'm also going to be using a neutral colored linen. And again you'll need about a yard of each of these, but go rummaging through your stash and see what you have. You might be able to find something that you already have in your drawer. Next, you're also going to need a sewing machine, and thread to match your fabric. You're also going to need about eight inches of ribbon. You can also use a cotton twill, and I also love to use leather straps to hang the stocking. I just think it gives it a really lux feel. If you are going to be using a leather strap though, be aware you will need a leather needle for your sewing machine. And for all the other ribbons, you can just use your regular sewing machine needle. It's always a good idea to have a seam ripper on hand, and you're also going to need a chalk pencil, some fabric shears, and also some little snips. You're going to need your stocking pattern. You can find this in your PDF. You'll print it out. It'll print out on several sheets which you can then tape together, and then cut out. And of course, you're also going to need an iron and ironing surface.

Chapter 3 - Sew Stocking

Trace and cut pattern pieces

- This stocking has an inner lining and an outer piece, and you need to cut out two pieces of each fabric, using the pattern piece that I have provided for you. So, what you wanna do is just lay your pattern sheet out onto the fabric. In this case, I'm just gonna start with the linen, and linen is the same on either side. So, you can just fold it either which way, as long as it's on the grain line. I have my pattern piece on top of my linen fabric which I folded in half, and I'm just going to use my chalk pencil to start drawing around it. If it makes you feel more comfortable to pin the pattern piece in place first, go right ahead and do it. I just kind of like to wing it like this. I feel like I can hold it in place with my hand and just move my way around. If your line gets a little bit wonky, it's okay. This isn't a stocking that's actually gonna be going on your foot. So it doesn't need to fit, and you'll be doing the full length of this pattern piece. You'll see that there is a line here, where we're gonna fold that down to do the outer piece, but for the lining, you need this extra bit of fabric, and that's what's

gonna fold over and make the cuff. We're going to trace our pattern piece onto the printed fabric for the outside of the stocking as well, but that needs to be handled a little bit differently. As you can see, I'm using this fabric that has a directional print. That means that the flowers are running up and down the fabric, and I wanna make sure that when I cut out my stocking, that I am capturing that print. I wouldn't want it to be running side to side, or it just wouldn't give the same impression. So, when you cut out your printed fabric, you actually need to fold it so that the right sides are facing each other. That will ensure that you don't cut out two identical pieces or they wouldn't be able to be sewn together. You want two pieces that are reversed. Take your pattern piece, line it up on your fabric, and if there is a particular part of the print that you wanna showcase, like I love the thought of having these flowers right along the foot of the stocking, and I love that this giant flower is gonna be running right up the center of it. So, this seems like a great place for it. Once you're happy with your placement, just lay your pattern piece down. Don't forget to fold over your cuff, and then start tracing, and we're back at the top. Now we're ready to cut out our fabric. Remember, you're going to need two lining pieces and two exterior pieces. Start anywhere you want and just cut out along the line. Try not to let your pieces shift too much as you cut them. All right, set those aside. I'm gonna deal with this corner. Cutting these out together in two layers makes them perfectly prepared for sewing. There's nothing really else to do here, except for add some pins to hold the layers together, and then we're ready to go to the machine. These pieces don't need a ton of pins, just enough to hold them in place, every few inches. Where it's really important to pin them is actually at the curves. That's where things can start sliding around a little bit. In fact, it might be helpful if you just make sure all of your curvy points are lined up before you start pinning in between. Then we'll do the same with this one. These are all pinned and ready to sew.

Sew stocking pieces

- You're going to sew both your lining fabric and your exterior fabric in the exact same way. You're gonna back stitch at the beginning and the end, and you're gonna go all the way around, around the toe and back up the other side. I recommend starting with the lining fabric, just so you can practice your curves and get it just right and then move on to the exterior fabric 'cause that's what we're gonna all see when you're done. We're just gonna line this up with the 3/8 inch mark, drop the foot, do a back stitch, and continue the 3/8 inch all the way around. (machine whirring) When you get to this particular curve, it's a good idea to keep your needle down and lift your foot and pivot and then keep going. Take it nice and slow around the curves. (machine whirring) You should be able to get all the way around without having to pivot again. (machine whirring) Almost there. (machine whirring) Back stitch once more, and your lining is all sewed. Sew your exterior fabric the exact same way. Find your 3/8 inch seam allowance, lower the needle in, back stitch to start, and same as before. (machine whirring) Stop at the pivot point, turn, back stitch at the end, and you're done. I like to trim my threads as I go, so I don't forget to do it later. Before you turn your stocking right-side out and assemble the pieces, you're gonna wanna go ahead and clip the curves around the edges. What this does is just allows the fabric to lie nice and smoothly around the curves. Every half-inch or so, cut right up to the seam, not through the seam, just right up to it. Just keep going all the way around the foot.

Make cuff

- Before you put your lining inside of your exterior fabric for the stocking, you're going to do one thing, you're going need to hem this raw edge, which is going to become your cuff. What I like to do

is just to flip this top edge down just about half an inch. Looks about even. And just hold it with my hands while I iron. And remember these edges, these raw edges here, are going to be hidden once it's inside of the stocking. So don't worry about these. Fold it and iron it one more time. And the trick here is just to do it in one fell swoop. Hold those edges taut and just flip it over. Looks about the same on both sides. Press it down with your fingers. Linen is very stiff, and until you iron it, it has a mind of its own. If they're a little bit off, it's really okay. You're not ever gonna see this edge. Once you have folded and ironed, just add a couple pins so things don't slide around. And you're ready to take it to the machine to sew. If you have a sewing machine where the bottom part comes off, go ahead and remove it. It's going to make this step a little easier. All right, just put your stocking onto the machine like this and drop your foot, your foot should just line up right with the edge of the fabric. That will do just fine. I'm going to use a zigzag stitch and you want to make sure it's set for about a medium width, so I have it about 2 1/2. Drop your needle in and just follow this line all the way around. (machine whirring) When you get back to the beginning, backstitch and you're done.

Chapter 4 - Assemble Stocking

Add strap and finish

- Once you've finished the raw edge of your lining, it's time to turn the exterior part of the stocking right side out. Just stick your hand into the stocking, grab that toe, and pull it through. Oh, this looks very exciting. Press out those curves with your fingers. That looks really cute. I love the way that the flowers are traveling up the leg of the stocking and then there's this nice bunch of blooms down at the foot. Now I can take the lining and just stick it right inside the exterior fabric here. So same thing, just reach my hand in and once your hand is all the way in at the toe, just reach in and scrunch it up to the tip there. And when you feel that the two have met, pinch them together and then you can pull your arm out and just move all that fabric down. You wanna make sure that these two seams line up as closely as possible. So that one's going there. Just keep fussing with it until it looks right and it's sitting right. It's kinda like getting your comforter inside the duvet cover. Just takes a little bit of pulling but it'll start to lay down nice and flat. And then you wanna look at your cuff and make sure that there's an equal amount of fabric hanging out all around the top part. So right here I can see that this needs to come out a little bit more in the front. There, that looks much nicer. The next step then is to fold it over and press it in place. That's gonna give you your guideline. That looks pretty cute to me. Looks pretty even on both sides. When you're happy with how much width is there. It should be about two and a half, three inches. You can kinda play with it. Pull out the edges, make sure it's nice and taught, and then take your iron and just press it in to place. Turn it over, do the same thing on the other side. And then I'm going to fold up the cuff again, once I've ironed it and my crease line is in place. And I wanna pull this up. Make sure that the exterior fabric is right along the crease line. Might take a little bit of tugging just like before. I think it helps to start pinning right at the seam line on the side. That way you can make sure that they're lined up perfectly. So I'm going to match up that seam with that seam. And we're going to pin it in place. Make sure you only pin through to the two layers of fabric. You're not going all the way through. And then just keep lining up the top of that exterior fabric with that crease line. Your side seam should meet up right at the same place. Go all the way around. Maybe one more pin in the middle. Then we're ready to take it to the machine and attach the two layers. Slide this right onto the arm of your machine again. Make sure you don't sew the top of your stocking closed. Just going to line up the edge of the exterior fabric with the foot of the machine. And we're still on our zigzag. The linen is not very stretchy at all so if your seam allowances were at all different, you're gonna see you have

a little bit of extra fabric here. If that is happening to you, this is a good opportunity to hide it right here at the seam. As you approach the side seam, just let this little bit of extra fabric kinda build up and run over it with your needle. That way when the cuff folds over, it's going to be hidden. Nobody's ever going to know. Keep sewing your way around. I'm gonna do my little trick on this side as well. Backstitch and you're done. While you're at the machine, let's go ahead and add your strap. If you are using leather like I am, you're going to need to switch to your leather needle. But if you're just using ribbon or cotton twill, you can use the needle that's already in your machine. In order to add the strap, you need to turn your stocking inside out. Okay, now you have lots of layers of fabric, very stiff linen. And your strap is actually going to go directly up from the heel and you'll place it right here where you get that stitching line shows where to fold over the cuff. So in my case, I'm just going to take this leather strap, fold it in half, and I will be placing it right there. Side the cuff onto the arm of the machine. Get it roughly in position. And then your double leather strap and then just rest it right there on that seam. You're just going to do a zigzag stitch right across it. And if you wanted to get really fussy, you could get a brown thread and use that so that you really wouldn't see it but for me, this is on the inside of the stocking, I'm not too worried about it. And I'll just backstitch once and then let's go ahead and sew one more line of stitches. Backstitch and you're done. At long last, let's have the big reveal. Put your hand in it one more time and pull it through. Okay. Fold this down. And there's our strap. Let's just give that cuff one more press. Nice and neat. I love the way that this stocking turned out. Hanging all together, I think they look like modern take on Christmas and they're going to look gorgeous hanging from your fireplace.