
Sew an Easter Bunny Basket with Annabel Wrigley

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

I'm Annabelle Wrigley. I'm an author, designer and owner of Little Pin Cushion Studio in Virginia. I'm going to be showing how to make this really cute bunny Easter basket. I'm going to be showing you how to create the face with some stitching on the sewing machine and a little bit of hand embroidery. I'm also going to show you how to put the bag together. We're going to sew the handle, we're going to make a cute pom-pom tail. And then we're going to put the entire thing together using a sewing machine. What I love about this cute Easter basket is it's going to be super handy for your Easter egg hunts but you can also use it all year round.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

The supplies that we're going to need for this project involve some canvas fabric, maybe just under a yard is fine. We're going to need a fat quarter of a fun print fabric. We're going to use this for the handle. Couple of sheets of felt and I just have two squares. And you can just buy it in this shape per sheet. We're also going to use some quilt padding. And this is just a thin cotton quilt padding. Also some fusible interfacing and this is heavy fusible interfacing, it still feels quite soft but it gives it a little bit more weight. We're also going to need a friction pen which is an erasable marker. I have this fabric paint pen. These are fantastic. We also have a black thread and a neon thread and that's going to be for our detail and our fun stitching. I have some black embroidery thread and an embroidery needle. Of course we need some pins. I have some paper scissors for cutting out our template. I have fabric scissors for cutting the fabric. And pinking shears for creating a really nice zig-zag edge on our face. I also have the template pieces that we're going to need and that's for the face and the ears. You'll need some fun-coloured yarn for the pompom tail. A sewing machine and a nice hot iron. And all of these materials can be found at your local craft store or at Micheals.

Chapter 3 - Make Easter Basket

Draw and sew bunny face

The first step to create our Easter basket is to give it a little bunny face and give it a little bit of personality. So to do that I'm using a piece of white felt. And I'll need my template piece as well. Make sure you're only using paper scissors for this part. We're going to cut out the face template. Take that little template that you've cut out and you can position it on your felt. Actually I think I'll do it this way. So that I have some left over for another project. And then pin it into place. And then you can cut it out. I'll just even out this little bit. On the template you'll see that there's deep face details. And you can use the template details as a guide for you to use your friction pen to create your own face. I'm going to copy the face that's on the template here. I'm going to use my friction pen which is a really great erasable marker. And if you make a mistake you can just iron it straight off and start again. I'm just copying the face as best I can. But you can add your own little personality, you don't have to copy my face. You can make your own. Now that I've drawn the face on, I'm going to sew all these details on the face using the sewing machine. With the exception of the eyes and the little face freckles and I'm going to do them with embroidery thread. The first thing I want to do is just start working on the sewing machine with some black thread around those

details. I'm going to start at one end of the mouth and then I'm going to work my way up around the nose and then back down to the other side of the mouth. So just one continuous stitch without taking it out from the machine. I'm going to backstitch. And just go nice and slowly, especially around those curves. And then backstitch at the end again. And now onto the whiskers. And we're going to start and end each line of the whiskers with a backstitch. We're going to sew the other whiskers on the other side of the face in the exact same way as we did the first lot with a back stitch at beginning and end. Now that's done I want to trim all these crazy loose threads that are on there. So let's get rid of those. I'm going to add the little cute pink cheeks and a little bit of a pink nose with my paint marker. I really love this colour deco paint marker. It's the colour number 9 pink, and it's a really great neon pink colour. I want to test it though before I get to work on the face that I put all this work into. So I'm just going to cut a little corner of that leftover felt. I don't want to just put it on just like that onto the little face. I want to make it a little bit lighter than that. So to do that I'm actually going to use my finger. So, let's flip this over. I'm going to put a little bit on my finger. And then I'm going to be pressing down to create that look of the cheeks and the nose. So I'm pretty happy with how that looks. So I'll start on those nose. And it's kind of just giving it a little hint of pink without it being too bright. And that is exactly how I wanted it to look. Let's give these face details and quick press with the iron just to set that paint. I'm going to be using a pressing cloth for that. And that is because the felt that we're using is synthetic and we don't want to melt it. So I'm just using a scrap piece of fabric for that. Just lay it over. And then run the iron over the top. So that's nice and set and we can move on and do the other detail. We'll have to draw the freckles on again. But that's pretty easy to do so we'll just draw them on. And the eyes. I think it's really important that you do draw the details on before you sew it. It's going to help you work out where everything goes. And it does come off with the iron which is helpful. I'm going to tackle the little freckles first. I've tied a knot in the end of my black embroidery thread and I've threaded my needle. So I want you to bring the needle up at the point of the freckle. And then I'm simply going to tie a knot with that piece of embroidery thread. Just like that. And put the point of the needle on that spot where we pulled it through. And then pull the knot down. This creates a knot that's really really close to the fabric which is what we want. Push the needle now down to the back. Almost where you pulled the thread up the first time. And then this is creating a really pretty little knot which is what we want. You're not going to have to cut the back of that thread to do the rest of them. You can just bring your needle up, straight up, at the next little freckle. And just go ahead and do the rest of those 5 more freckles. To finish off I'm just going to tie a knot in the exact same way on the back. And cut that. I'm going to embroider the eyes now and it's super super simple. Just a couple of stitches. So, you've probably got some leftover embroidery thread. Just tie a knot in the end again. And then for the first eye just bring the needle up from underneath. And then just down at the top of that marked eye. And all I'm going to do is 2 stitches, the same size, just beside each other. I'm just coming up again. Beside that last stitch. And then down the same way just like that. Then I'm going to finish off with a knot. Trim it and then move to the other eye. Don't forget to knot that end again. Coming up at the bottom. And then a knot at the end of that one. And then we'll just trim everything. Let's iron off the pen marks and don't forget your pressing cloth. I'm going to use these pinking shears to cut around this little face. For no other reasons than that it just looks really cute. I love the pinking shears because it gives a really great zig-zag finish to the work. And when you're using them on fabric it doesn't fray, even though felt doesn't fray anyway. Go nice a close to the edge. We're going to set this little face aside and we're going to focus on putting the bag together.

Sew the basket

We're going to be building all the components of the bag now. So that's the outside, the inside and the lining. And so I've gone ahead and cut two pieces of my canvas fabric to measure 13 inches wide and 14 and a half inches tall. And these two pieces that I have here are going to be for the outside of the bag. Now I want to make them a little bit stiffer, even though canvas has got a nice weight to it, I think I want to have a little bit more structure. So I'm going to use this fusible interfacing. All we need to do to attach it is iron it. And I've double it up here because it's going to be easier for us to cut. So if you take your two squares right here. I'm just going to put them on top and use those squares as my template. And just cut around them. The fusible interfacing that we're using has this rough side. And you can feel the little glue beads on there. And then the other side is really nice and soft. And the rough side is the side we want to be face-down on the piece of canvas. Because canvas has no right or wrong side, it doesn't really matter what side we attach it to. But we're going to be attaching each one of these to one of these canvas pieces with the iron. To set it up for ironing, place the interfacing on the ironing board with the rough side facing up. And then a piece of your canvas is going to go on top. And then I want you to iron it until it's stuck on there pretty well. So you can kind of go over it a few times. And then stop, check it and if it needs a little bit more then you can go and do a little bit more. Because we're ironing this cotton canvas you can go and put your iron on a nice hot cotton setting. You can go ahead and do the same thing with the other piece of canvas and interfacing. If you have any overhanging on that interfacing then now's a good time to cut that off. So I'm just going to trim that. We want the base of the basket to have a nice flat bottom so I'm going to show you how to create that with these two pieces of fabric. I have one of my pieces with the canvas side facing up here on the table. And I'm going to take the other one and put it on top with the right sides facing. So the canvases are facing each other just like this. And then using my erasable marker, and any kind of ruler you have around the house. I have a little quilters ruler here. I'm going to use this ruler to just measure 3 inches, creating a 3 inch square on both of these bottom corners. So I'm going to use this little square here. It works pretty well. But you can use any kind of ruler. So, I'm measuring 3 inches here and 3 inches here. And I'm just going to mark that. And then the same on the other side. And you can just cut those out. Cutting out these corners is going to help us create the boxed corners of the basket and that flat bottom that we want. Now you can separate them and put one aside because we're going to work on one of them and attach the bunny face right here. You can position this little guy's face somewhere pretty central on that piece. You don't want it to be too close to the bottom or too close to the top. I think it's good to just eyeball it in a good central spot. And then just put a few pins in there to hold it all in place. I want you to try to sew the face on with the needle pretty close to the edge. And start with a back stitch at the beginning and you're going to end with a back stitch. I haven't lined up with the inside of the foot running along the edge of the felt. And that's a really good way for you to create a guide for yourself. I'm just using a matching-coloured thread for this part because you want that stitch line to just blend away. and back stitch there. Let's assemble our bag now. I've got this piece with the bunny face facing up on the table. And then I'm going to take the other one and put the canvas facing the bunny face. So that's the two canvas sides right sides together. Just lay them on top of each other. And then pin these 3 sides. The 2 sides and then just the bottom. You don't need to pin that little cut-in area, we're going to come back to that after. We're going to be sewing around those 3 sides with a 3/8 inch seam allowance. And in this case, this presser foot is 3/8 inch. So we're just going to sew with the edge of the presser foot running along the edge of the fabric. Back stitch. When you get to the end of the side back stitch. And then instead of taking it out and cutting

the thread you can just lift the presser foot and just pull it over to the next edge. Back stitch. And then the final side we're going to do the same thing. Just pull it around and we can trim all those threads later. And take that out of the machine. And then cut those in between threads. You should have those 3 sides sown and then these corners should still be open. Because we're going to use these corners to create that boxed shape. To do that you're going to turn it kind of on its side. And then fold those ends together. So that those seams, this one and this one, are facing each other. And that's a good spot to put your first pin. And then maybe just a couple of more to hold it together so we're going to be sewing across here. You can repeat that on the other side matching up those seams. We're going to be doing the exact same thing for this side as well. We're just going to sew this part with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric as well. We're going to do the exact same thing with the other side. You can turn right side out now and it's going to give you a really good idea of what your finished basket is going to look like. You can go ahead and make another canvas bag exactly like this except without the face and without the interfacing. And this will be the lining. And then you can make a third bag out of cotton quilt padding or any kind of thin quilt padding and that's going to be the stiffener that goes in between the lining and the outer bag.

Create handle and sew ears

To make the handle for our Easter basket, you're going to need to cut a piece of fabric. I'm just using a print here to measure about 22 inches long by 5 inches wide. And I've gone ahead and cut that. And I've also attached some fuseable interfacing in the exact way that we did before on the main bag part. Cut that and I've got it ready to go. But now I want to fine it into position so that we can sew and create the strap. We're gonna go ahead and fold this in half, hot dog style. And then iron down that center crease. I'm gonna put a bit of steam on here. Now open it up and you'll see that you have this center-crease here, so we're gonna fold in each of the long sides to meet that center crease. And then iron them, just like that. And then I'm gonna do the other side in the exact same way. Now take this entire strip and fold it in half again. I'm just gonna pin these together before we start sewing. Now that we've pinned it, the handle's ready to go under the sewing machine. And we're gonna play around with some fun decorative stitches to make our handle really pop. I've thread the sewing machine with this bright neon yellow/green color for our decorative stitch. And I think that I want to do a big zig-zag, a few rows of it down my strap. But I want to make sure that my zig-zag is big enough. There's nothing worse than starting a project and having the stitch not look the way you think it should. So I'm gonna use a little bit of my scrap fabric. I'm going to set my sewing machine to a zig-zag stitch. And do a little sample. I can see it's pretty small, and I think I want mine to be a little bit bigger. I'm going to adjust my stitch length and my stitch width to be a little bit bigger. And then I'm gonna give that a try. That looks a lot better. So let's take a look. It's perfect. You see that this bigger stitch is gonna stand out a lot more on our handle than this little one. I'm gonna line up my press-a-foot so that the inner edge of the foot is on the edge of the fabric here. Cause I want my zig-zag to be fairly close to the edge. Back stitch there. We're not gonna see the end but I'm just gonna sew across it so that we don't have to take it out from the machine. And then continue up the other side, in the same way. Back stitch. I really love this contrast of the neon yellow and the pink. I think it's gonna look really great. But now we need to move on and do ear for our bunny basket. Get your template on hand ready to go and I have my canvas fabric. I have some pink felt and I have some fuseable interfacing ready to go for that ear. So I'm gonna start off by cutting out my ear template. I've cut a piece of interfacing that's bigger than

my ear template piece, the same as a piece of canvas, it's only slightly bigger, and a piece of felt. And the first thing I want to do is put my iron-on interfacing onto my canvas piece. We're gonna place the interfacing here with the rough side facing up. And then the canvas laying on the top, and we're going to iron those together. Now we're gonna take our felt piece and just pop it on top, like that. And our template and we're gonna pin them together to cut that out. You can take away the template piece but you can keep these two together, just like this. And then just re-pin it. And now we're going to sew around the ear, leaving the straight bottom open. I'm gonna just keep this thread in my machine because when we turn it right way out, we're not even gonna see the thread at all. Make sure that the canvas is facing the felt and that the interfacing is on the underside. So with the edge of the press-a-foot, on the edge of the fabric, you can start sewing. It is important to back-stitch here. And then turn it and go back down the other side. Before we turn our little ear right side out, we need to trim away some of the edges to make it a little easier. First we want to trim away this point, but don't go too close to the stitching. Just like that. And maybe just take a little bit off here. Don't go too close to the stitching. Maybe just cut away about an eighth of an inch. When you're pulling something like this right way out, you may be tempted to just pull it... try and pull it through the hole and you'll find it's a lot harder than you think it's going to be. So I find it easier to start at the point. So, I'm just gonna pull it apart with my fingers and push it down. It's gonna be a lot easier to get it through the hole. You could use the end of your scissors very carefully, just to push out that point. We're gonna give this little ear a really good iron and then you're gonna go ahead and make another one in the exact same way. I'm gonna be pressing on the canvas side for this part.

Chapter 4 - Finish Easter Basket

Make pompom and finish basket

Now we've completed all the components of the bag, it's time to put everything together. And we just have a couple of little things to do to prepare for that. Here's what you should have in front of you ready to put the bag together: you should have 2 ears, the handle, the main outer piece with the little bunny face on it, the batting inside part of the bag that gives it the structure it needs, and then the lining canvas piece and those should both already be sown. To prepare the bag for assembly, we're just going to trim a little bit off this batting piece just a tiny bit, maybe $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. I'm just going to give that just a little trim. And then next we need to do a little bit of ironing of the outer part, top edge and the lining top edge. So we'll start with the lining. This lining piece that I'm working with now is still inside out and we really want to keep it that way. So to do that little bit of ironing, we're just going to take the top and just fold it over about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch. And then you'll need to iron it that way. And then let's take the outer piece and you can leave it this way, this is fine. but this time you're going to be folding it in about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch. So, to assemble all these pieces, you're going to take this inner part and we're going to put that, this is still inside out and we want to keep it that way we're going to put it inside the main bag piece. And make sure that you get right in there. And push it all the way in. And it's going to sit a little bit lower than the top. And that's why we trimmed it. We want it to do that. Next, grab your lining piece. And we're going to put that in as well. That's still inside out. So I want you to line up those top 2 edges. It's sometimes easier if you line up those side seams first. And before we pin it we need to position the bunny ears and the handle in place. So I think we'll start off with the bunny ears. So you can take them, and with the felt facing out decide on where you want them to be positioned. Just pop a little pin in there. And then it's important to me that the ears are the same distance in from the edges so I

have my little ruler here and I'm just going to measure it from the side seam. That's about 4 inches. So I'm going to measure in the same distance from this side seam. Put this ear in. And make sure that you put them in about the same distance. I'm just going to double check that. And that looks about right. Next thing we're going to attach the handle. And to do that, we're going to go back to that side seam. We're just going to slide it in about an inch. And then pin it in place. And then we're going to do the same thing with the other side. So now we can just go and pin around the rest of the top making sure that those top edges are lined up really well. Now we're going to sew around the whole pinned top to finish it up. I don't want my thread to stand out too much so I've rethreaded the machine with this cream-coloured thread. And before we start sewing it's important that we take off the extension part to the machine which is this part here. And this is going to allow us to sew round in a circle around the top. Just going to slide this on the machine and make sure that the handle is out of the way. And we're going to sew with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric. And as always, backstitch at the beginning. You're going through a few layers of fabric so it's important to go slow. Try to remember to remove your pins before you sew over them. Be especially careful over the handle. Nice and slow. And you'll see we've come right back to where we started. And we're going to backstitch right there. The last thing we need to add to our cute bunny basket is a fluffy pink tail. Or any other colour that you want. I've chosen pink. So to do that we need to make a pompom. Instead of wrapping this yarn around the widest part of your hand to make this pompom, we're going to wrap it around your elbow. And let's do it maybe 30 times. So, I've wrapped it 30 times. Just slide it off and cut the yarn. And then we're going to twist it and then bring it back together so it's doubled up. I'm going to grab this in the centre. And then cut another small length of yarn and tie it super tight around the middle. Then take your sharp scissors and cut through those loops. It looks a little bit shaggy now but we're going to give a good trim all over. I've trimmed this down and I like it a little bit shaggy. And we're going to attach it to the back of the bag with the needle and thread. It's looking pretty good. I've threaded my needle just with sewing machine thread or you can use button thread. I'm going to bring the needle through from inside the bag at about the centre of the bag. And I'm not going to pull it all the way though I'm going to leave a few inches tail. And then I'm going to bring the needle through the centre of the pompom. And then back through. From there, I'm going to take it back though to where I started on the inside of the bag. Just like that. Now, if you have a strong button thread you could leave it right there. I think I want mine to be super secure so I'm going to bring it through the inside of the bag again. And then back through to the inside. And with my tails I'm just going to tie a few knots to make it super secure. I think just one more will do it. Then I'm going to trim my thread. Give it a little trim for any of those stray pieces of yarn. I think this basket has turned out super sweet. I love this little tail. I think it's my favourite part. You can change this up and customise it however you want. I've got another one here that I did which has a really plain handle but it's still using that decorative stitch. You can totally customise this to whatever you like. You can change the colour of the stitching or the colour of the canvas but one thing for sure: you are going to have the cutest Easter basket this holiday.