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## **Sew a Bow Tie** with Annabel Wrigley

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

I'm Annabel Wrigley and I'm an author, designer and owner of Little Pin Cushion Studio in Virginia. I always find it hard to come up with the perfect gift idea for guys. So our project today is going to be a really fun customisable sewing project. We're going to sew this great bow tie. You can change it up and make it in all different fabrics. And it's super easy. I'm going to be showing you how to cut your fabric and use interfacing. We're going to sew it all together and use some decorative stitches. And then we're going to finish it up with a little bit of iron-on velcro.

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

The supplies we need for this project are: a ruler, some fabric scissors. We only need one fat quarter of fabric and that's about 18 inches by 22 inches. a friction erasable pen, some pins, some iron-on velcro. various colours of sewing thread, button thread and some iron-on interfacing and a sewing needle. You're also going to need a sewing machine and an iron.

### **Chapter 3 - Sew Bow Tie**

#### Cut fabric and construct collar

We're gonna start out this project by preparing all of our pieces. I have one fat quarter of fabric here. And then I have some... fuseable interfacing right here, and this is heavy fuseable interfacing. So I'm gonna open up my fat quarter. And we're only gonna be working with just over half this piece right here. So, it's probably a good idea to just cut what you need and then put the rest of it aside. So, I'm just going to eyeball it. This fold right here is the halfway point. We're gonna go a little bit more than that. I'm gonna be cutting strips of fabric for the entire bow tie so I want to make sure that every strip that I cut is all heading in the same directions, so that all the prints look good when they're all together. So, I've cut that already and I want to fuse some interfacing onto the back of it. So, if I unwrap my interfacing, I'm just gonna cut off... enough for this project. We're going to need to attach the fuseable interfacing to the wrong side of our fabric. And to do that, we first want to iron this piece of fabric that we have. It's important to get the creases out before you attach the interfacing. Next we're gonna take the interfacing and put it down on the ironing mat, with the rough side facing up. And if you feel your fuseable interfacing, you'll feel that one side is rough and the other side is smooth. And the rough side is the side with the glue. And that's gonna be attached with heat. So, I'm just putting my fabric down with the wrong side of the fabric on the bumpy side of the interfacing. And then we're gonna continue ironing this until it's stuck down really well. Now we can go ahead and cut out all the pieces of our bow tie. So, the first measurement that we need for the bow tie is for the strap part of the tie. And that measurement that we need is 21 inches long by 3 and a half inches wide. So I'm gonna use my ruler and my friction pen so if I make a mistake, I can erase this pen mark with the iron. I like to start off by making a straight line. And then I'll measure up from there. So I'm just gonna find the 3 and a half inch mark on this ruler and I'm lining up my line with the lines on the ruler. And then you can go ahead and make that line. Now this is already measured to 3 and a half inches wide I need to cut it to 21 inches long. And then we can cut that out. From your remaining fabric you're gonna cut another piece that measures 3 and a half by 2

and a half inches. And that's gonna be for the inner part of the bow. And you're also gonna cut a piece that measure 16 and a quarter inches by 5 and a half inches for the bow. We're gonna start by preparing our longest strip, which is the collar. I'm gonna take that over to the iron and get that all ready. So, lay it with the fabric print face down and we're gonna fold it in half, hot dog style. And then iron it. We're gonna open that up and you'll see that there's a center crease right there. And that is gonna be our guide for the rest of the folding. So, fold in one edge and give that a really good iron. And then go ahead and fold in the other edge. Before we fold the entire thing in half, we need to fold the ends in, just a little bit. So, open out the edges, and fold in about half an inch, on this end, and then just press it. And then you can fold those edges back in again. And then go ahead and do the same thing with the other side. And now we can take the piece of fabric and we're just gonna fold the entire thing in half again. Now we're ready to stitch our strip down both sides. I think it's fun to experiment with a decorative stitch, so I'm gonna use a zig-zag for this one. And I want to make my stitch length a little bit bigger. And my stitch width a little bit bigger. I'm gonna be sewing with the inside edge of the Press-a-Foot running along the edge of the fabric here to sew down this opening. And I'm using a bright contrasting thread just because I think it looks pretty fun. Let's back stitch. And we're gonna sew this all the way to the end. At the end we're simply gonna lift the Press-a-Foot and turn it. And we're gonna sew across this end and then back out the other side. I love the contrast of the blue and the green. I think it really stands out. And then you can finish with a little back stitch. I'm gonna start working on the bow part of the bow tie now. We're gonna fold this piece right sides together, hot dog style. And you can just use your fingers to smooth that down. I wanna pin around these 3 open sides. We don't need to worry here, because it's folded. You'll see that I'm leaving a little bit of a gap here. I'm gonna be marking that with my pen. And this will be the area that we leave open. We're not gonna sew there. I'm gonna grab my friction pen and just mark that. Sometimes it's easy to forget, so if you mark it, it really helps. We're gonna take this piece over to the machine now and sew around it. I'm gonna change this back to a straight stitch. We don't need to change the colored thread in the sewing machine for this part because we're not even going to see it. We're gonna be sewing with the edge of the Press-a-Foot running along the edge of the fabric. And we're gonna start from this end where it's folded, and then make our way up to the other end. So, just start and then do a back stitch. And we're just gonna sew up to this point here. And then back stitch. Now, instead of taking it out from the machine, I'm just gonna lift the Press-a-Foot and pull it forward. I'm gonna put the Press-a-Foot down again, couple of stitches and then back stitch. And then gonna end with a back stitch. I'm gonna trim all of these threads now and then I'm gonna cut the corners and trim the edges before we turn it right way up. I'm just trimming away about half of that seam allowance just so that when we turn right way out, it's gonna stay flat. But I'm not gonna trim it where the opening is, I'm just gonna leave that the same. And you'll see I'm just trimming away about half. This is gonna help the seams lie really flat. There we go. Now to pull this right way out, we're gonna be pushing in from both ends. So, if you pull the 2 pieces of fabric apart with your fingers and then push it through with your thumb, it's a much easier way of turning long, narrow things out. I'm just gonna grab that and pull that side out. And then I'm gonna do the same thing with the other side. I'm just gonna put my scissors really gently up to those corners and just push them out a little bit. I'm just gonna give this strip a quick press and then we're gonna go around and stitch a top stitch around the entire piece. Make sure that those edges are folded in. We're going to sew with the inside edge of the Press-a-Foot on the edge of the fabric. And we're just gonna stitch a straight stitch around the whole piece, and this is gonna work well to close up that opening that we had left. Start with a back stitch. You really want to go as straight as you can

for this part because you're gonna be able to see this stitching. I'm going to sew all the way around across both ends. And then back stitch. We just have one more little seam to sew to finish up the bow part of the bow tie. I'm folding this strip in half. I'm going to measure 2 and 3 quarter inches from the end. And then... just rule a line. And we're gonna be stitching on this line with a straight stitch. If you need to, you can go ahead and put a pin in there, just to hold them together. Just put this under the machine and starting at one end, starting with a back stitch, we're just gonna sew along this line. And end off with a back stitch. We just have one more piece to finish and that's the little inside bow part for the bow tie. I'm gonna fold this piece in half, hot dog style. And just put a pin to hold it. And then I'm just gonna be stitching down the long side and one short end. So, with the edge of the Press-a-Foot on the edge of the fabric and start with a back stitch. And then just across the bottom. And end with a back stitch. We're gonna be turning this piece right way out so we need to trim the edges and trim the corners just like we did before. This one's gonna be a little bit trickier to turn right way out so I'm gonna use the end of my pen for that. So, I'm just pushing it from the end. And once I've got it started, that's when I'm gonna use the end of my pen. Just gonna get this little edge if I can get my scissors in there. Just gonna iron this. We don't need to worry about folding in these raw ends because they're be covered up. This time I'm gonna sew quite close to the edge and that's just something that you can kind of eyeball. I'm gonna go in a little bit closer to the edge than before when I was sewing with the inside edge with the foot on the edge of the fabric. And I'm just gonna do a straight stitch. And just end with a back stitch. I'm not sewing across that end because that's gonna be covered up. Now that we have all our pieces prepared, all that's left to do is put it all together.

#### Finish sewing the bow tie

Just a couple more steps and we'll be done with our super cute bow tie. I just want to show you how to fold the main bow strip and get it ready. We're going to open out these two flaps on the end. And just put them flat on the table. And then this big loop above it, we're going to fold it down. And centre it so there's a little bit coming out on both ends. So this looks good. And so now just eyeballing it. You could use a ruler if you want. I'm just going to eyeball the centre. Another good way to find the centre is also to fold this in half. Like that. Just finger press it and you'll see there's a little crease there. I'm going to put that on that little crease. And then I have a needle already threaded with some button thread. And I'm just going to bring that up from behind. Through the middle of the bow. Leaving a tail. And then I'm just going to take it down just like that and tie a knot in the back. And the reason that I'm doing that is just to hold this bow piece in position for the next step. Now we want to add this little middle strip to finish off the bow. But we want to sort of gather this middle bow first. So I'm just going to gather it, going to make a little bump on that side and a little bump on that side to create that gather, just like that. And then while holding it with one hand, take your centrepiece. And wrap it around that centre just like that. I'm flipping it over and the unfinished I'm putting on the bottom. And the finished end I'm going to put on top. And then I'm just going to grab a pin to secure that in place. We want to keep that tight so that pin is really going to hold everything securely. There we go I just want to stitch along this fold and I'm using button thread because it's super strong. I'm going to bring the needle through the end. And then I'm going to tie a knot with the tail. Just trim off that excess. And then I'm going to bring the needle through the bottom fabric and then through the top. And pull it nice and tight. And we're just going to work our stitches side-by-side. Always going through the bottom and then out through the top. And for this last stitch we're just going to do a few stitches in the same spot to secure it. It can get a little

tough when you're going through all these layers. And I think I'm just going to do one last one. And that should do it. Take out your pin. And that's looking great. All that's left for us to do to finish this great bow tie is to add the velco. And I'm using just a couple of inches of velcro because we want it to be a little bit adjustable. It has a sticky back so that you can position it before you iron it. So I'm going to pull that off. And then this side I'm going to put on the underside of the collar part. Just like that. And then this other one is sticky as well. We're going to put that on the top side of the other end. Sometimes sewing around velcro's a little bit tricky so I love this iron-on velcro product. We're going to take this to the iron now but we're not going to iron directly on the velcro. We want to turn it over and iron on the other side. And that heat is going to activate the stickiness of the velcro. This may take just a little while for the heat to get through the fabric. Perfect. So let's move onto the other side. And that's great. I bet you ever thought that making a bow tie would be this simple. You can go ahead and make them in all different fabrics for all different times of the year. I've made a couple in different prints right here. You might even want to make one for your favourite pet. Or maybe you might have child that needs a birthday gift. They're just a great, quick, fun make.