
Easy Home Decor Sewing: A 3-Part Series with Annabel Wrigley

Chapter 1 - Pillows and Pillowcases

Overview

- I'm Annabel, I'm an author, designer, and owner of Little Pink Cushion studio in Virginia, which is a sewing studio for kids and adults. When I first learned how to sew, it was a pretty amazing experience, I had always been a little bit afraid of the sewing machine, and so as a result lots of things were stapled and hot glued together. That didn't work out so well. Once I finally learned and conquered my fears, I found out ways to make pillows and home dec stuff that was so easy, and so simple, and I really wanna share that with you. I'm gonna show you how to make the absolute easiest pillowcase for your bed, I'm gonna show you how to sew French seams, which sounds hard, but it's actually super easy. We're gonna add a really decorative, beautiful cuff, and maybe a little bit of trim as well, and you'll be so excited at how awesome they look. We're also gonna learn how to make three different pillow variations for pillows for your sofa. We're gonna be working on an envelope backed pillow, which is super easy, we're gonna take it up a notch and learn how to do button holes and create a button back, and then we're also gonna learn how to insert zippers, which was always my biggest fear, and is actually really easy. Once you learn how easy it is to make these super simple pillow covers, I can promise you you will never be buying another pillow cover ever again. (soft orchestra music)

Materials

- We're using pretty basic sewing supplies for these projects, but the most important thing of all is fabric and making sure that you have enough of everything you need. So for the pillowcases, we're gonna be needing a yard of main fabric for the main pillowcase panel. We're also gonna need about nine inches of coordinating fabric for the cuff of the pillowcase, and then a three-inch strip for the trim. And that's optional, if you want to add that. For our pillow covers for our sofa pillows, we're gonna be needing fabric for a 20 by 20 pillow form, so we're gonna use one and a quarter yards of either quilting weight or a decorator weight fabric. I'm using a decorator weight fabric for that. We're also going to be needing a few other basic supplies, so we'll run through those. We'll need a friction marking pen, and this is a great pen that you can get from the office supply store, and it comes off with the iron. We're also gonna need some pins. We'll need fabric scissors, pinking shears, a ruler, a pillow form for our 20 by 20-inch pillow covers, we're gonna need a 22-inch zipper, and this is for our zipper-back pillow that we'll be making. It's always good to have a seam ripper, just in case. We're gonna be using a seam gage. We'll need a rotary cutter and a cutting mat. We need some buttons for our button-back pillow. We'll need a buttonhole foot attachment for your sewing machine, and we're also going to need a zipper foot attachment for your sewing machine. You'll also need an ironing surface, or an ironing mat, and an iron. And of course, a sewing machine.

Preparing standard pillowcase fabrics for sewing

- I'm making this pillowcase for a standard size pillow, but if you're making one for a queen size pillow or a king size pillow, you'll find those measurements on the PDF. I've gone ahead, and I've cut fabric for my main part of the pillow. I'm going to be needing 27 inches by the full width of the fabric. This is a quilting-weight fabric, so it'll be around 44, 45 inches wide. I've also done the same thing with my trim, and I've cut that three inches by the full width of the fabric so which to salvage.

In this case here, I'm going to be cutting my cuff for the pillowcase. But I'm using a slightly heavier fabric. You don't have to do that, but mine is a little bit wider. I have a 10 inch wide piece of fabric here, and I really need to cut it down to 9 inches. That's how much we need for the cuff, and I want to show you a good way using a cutting mat and a rotary cutter to square up my piece and cut it down to the right size. I'm just going to use the lines that are on my cutting mat as my guide to work from, so I'm lining up the bottom edge along this line. Then I'm lining up the side, and then I'm going to use my ruler to measure out my nine inches. Right here I have my nine inch line, and I've measured it up along this straight edge. Then I'm just going to use my friction pen. I always like to mark my fabric before I just cut into it, just in case I'm off a tiny bit. Especially when you're beginning, I think this is a really good thing to get in the habit of doing. If one of your cut edges is not super straight to start with, you might want to start by ruling lines on both sides to get that correct measurement. I really feel like ruling lines is a great help when you want to do a straight line. I've marked my line, and this other side is pretty straight. I'm going to go ahead and cut with my rotary cutter. It's really important that you cut away from yourself with the rotary cutter and that you put a firm pressure on the ruler when you're cutting. If you don't have a firm pressure, the ruler can slide and you'll be super disappointed because you'll have to cut again. I'm going to put some pressure on there, and then I'm going to cut away from my body. Now my ruler isn't the full length, so I'm going to move it up and make sure that edge is lined up with the edge of the ruler. Then I'm going to continue. The great thing about this pillowcase is that we're pretty much just using the full width of the fabric. But before we can start pinning and sewing everything together, we need to remove the salvages from the edges of all of our pieces. The salvage is just simply the finished edge on the sides and in some cases ... It doesn't have anything written on this blue fabric, but on this one you'll see it's usually got the manufacturer and some details about the fabric on it. I'm going to start by cutting the salvage off of this main blue fabric. This is the main part of our pillow. I've got my ruler, and I want to make sure that I'm cutting straight. I'm looking at the edge of this edge right here and lining up a line, which is about half an inch. Then I'm going to cut that off. Then for our cuff piece, because this is a different width of fabric, I'm just going to use my trim piece to get the right size. I'm laying my trim piece on there. Just like this, and then I'm going to cut it. I'm always making sure with my ruler that all my edges are square. You can look at where the fabric lays under the ruler. Cut that off. To start the assembly of the pillowcase, I want you to take the trim piece, and we're going to go and iron it in half along the length. Just line up those edges. This part of the pillowcase is going to feel totally weird, and you're going to be wondering what I'm doing. But it's a really important part of putting everything together. We need to stack all our pieces in this really strange way, but magically it's all going to come together when we pull it right way out. I'm pinning along the top piece here of my cuff, and I have my cuff laid out on the table with the print facing up. We're going to take this folded trim, and we're going to be lining the raw edge up with the top of that cuff piece. Just like this. Next we're going to be taking the main fabric piece, and we're going to be lining that up as well on top. In our stack, we have cuff, fabric, print side's up, trim, folded trim, and then the main fabric piece. We're going to take our pins and pin them with the head of the pin facing out. Just like this all the way along. Now I'm going to show you this little trick. We're going to roll up this main fabric. I'm not rolling it all the way to the top, just a little ways from the top. Then you'll see that my cuff fabric is visible right here, and I'm going to be folding that up to meet that top edge. Instead of repinning it, all I'm going to do is put my fingers holding it together. I'm going to be taking the pin out and then repositioning it in the same spot. Just make sure that you're repinning through all of those layers.

Sewing machine basics

- We're just gonna be using a basic mechanical machine today for all of our projects and I just thought I would run you through a few of the parts of the sewing machine. The first thing I'm gonna tell you about is this part. This is the hand wheel and it's on the end of the machine and this is what we turn to lift the needle up and down. On this machine as well, we can pull out the hand wheel when we're loading the bobbin. This puts less pressure and wear and tear on the machine because the needle doesn't go up and down when we're threading the bobbin up here. I've got dials here on the front. This first one is our stitch selector. So you'll see that the letters coincide with the stitches that are on the front of the machine right here. So I have that set to A because I'm gonna be working a straight stitch with the needle position in the center. This dial here is our stitch length selector and I have this set on about 2.5. This changes for different projects that you work on but for all of the projects that we're working on today we're gonna be having it set on 2.5 which is a great, even, medium-sized stitch. Right here is the reverse button. So when we start and we finish a project we wanna reverse at the beginning or at the end, or back stitch, so you just wanna hold that down, sew a few stitches backwards and then let go of it again to go forwards. Right here, this dial is the tension for the sewing machine and the tension is basically how tight that top thread is. You'll see most machines will have a dial that has a highlighted, highlighted numbers and they're usually at like a three, four, and a five. That shows that it's, just a regular tension for straight sewing. The lower the number is, if I move that this way, the lower the number is, the looser the tension. The higher the number is, the tighter the tension. And we just wanna work with a regular, medium tension so I'm gonna set it to a four. Next we have the presser foot right here. The presser foot is what goes up and down as you sew on the fabric. We always wanna sew with the presser foot down and you'll see that there's a lever underneath the arm on your machine and that lifts it up and down. You wanna lift it up to pull your fabric out and put it into position and then drop it when you sew. You always really need to have that foot down when you're sewing. If you feel under the presser foot, you'll feel these little jagged teeth and I always think of them as lots and lots of hands pushing your fabric through. Sometimes you'll be tempted to push and pull your fabric but these do all the work for you so that you, all you need to do is steer the fabric. A lot of sewing machines also have a removable little table extension on them and that's really important that we take that off for certain projects that we do where we need this free right here. Before we thread the entire machine I wanna show you how to load a bobbin and a lot of sewing machines will have a diagram on the top, and we're lucky that this one does, that kind of gives you a little reminder of, of how to thread the bobbin. So I'm gonna show you how to do that. I'm gonna place my spool of thread on the spool pin right here. And then I'm gonna follow the diagrams on the top. I'm going to wrap my thread around this little silver pin here. And then I have my bobbin. I wanna bring the end of the thread from the inside to the outside. And then I'm going to put it on a little bobbin pin here. I'm gonna push it in just like this and then we're gonna go back to the hand wheel and pull it out. I'm gonna hold onto this thread while I put my foot on the foot pedal just until it catches. (sewing machine whirring) I'm just gonna cut that off there. And then just fill it until the machine stops. (sewing machine whirring) Once the bobbin has stopped spinning you can cut the thread, pull this out, remember to push in your hand wheel again, and pull it off. And we're ready to put this into the machine. You can just pop open the bobbin cover. There's usually a button beside that to pop it off. Then we're gonna put it into the bobbin case right here and you'll see that there's a little arrow and that is telling what direction to pull the thread in. So, you can put your finger to hold that bobbin case down, that bobbin down and then I'm going to slide it into this little slit right here and pull it in the direction of the arrow until you

hear a click. So that bobbin is in place, ready to pull up the thread. I love that most machines these days have got these numbers on top that are basically telling you and reminding you of how to thread your sewing machine. So I'm going to take my thread and I'm looking for number one, this is number one right here. I'm gonna follow my arrows. Number one is telling me to take it down here so I'm bringing it down. This is called the thread guide. And then I'm bringing it around just like it's showing me. We're gonna wrap the thread around that in the direction of that number three so we're always gonna be threading from one side to another. Number four here is telling us to bring it down. So we're gonna bring it down and thread it through our needle. Thread the needle from front to back and then pull the thread underneath the presser foot and then hold onto that top thread while you turn the hand wheel towards you and you'll see that that top thread passes over the bobbin and it picks up that bottom bobbin thread. You can give it a little tug like that and you'll see the loop right here. We wanna pull on that loop and we have that bobbin threader up. I'm just gonna put both threads under the presser foot and replace that bobbin cover and then we're ready to sew. I've shown you how to thread my particular machine but your machine may be completely different so I really want you to take the time to read the manual and really familiarize yourself with your machine. We're gonna be sewing with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric. So, remember to do a backstitch at the beginning, a few stitches forward and a few back, okay. And we're just gonna sew down the, the entire thing. (sewing machine running) And then at the end we're gonna be backstitching. I love this part of the project because it's really going to come together here even though it looks totally crazy. We're gonna pull the inside out of this tube that we have sewn. So I'm just grabbing onto this outside fabric and I'm pulling this inside out. It's kinda tricky. But just take your time with it because you really don't wanna rip anything. And amazingly, that technique has created this perfect top and trim with absolutely no raw edges showing.

Sewing a standard bed pillowcase

- I've gone ahead and pressed the top of my pillowcase and I've laid it in half, folded it in half, and I wanna just trim the excess overhang right here, so I'm gonna use the rotary cutter for that and my ruler. So if I just run the ruler along the edge of the fabric, then I'm gonna know that I'm cutting it straight. Remember, when using the rotary cutter, to always cut away from your body. Usually, when we're sewing things together, we sew it the right sides together, but in this case, we're gonna be sewing with the wrong sides together. And the reason for that is that we're making a French seam, and a French seam is a way to enclose the raw edges of your seam so that the inside looks just as good as the outside. So to start off with that, I have my pillowcase folded with the wrong sides together, and I'm gonna be pinning down the side and across the bottom of the pillowcase and then sewing with a $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance. The first place we're gonna pin is right here on this seam. We wanna match those seams up. And then we're gonna go ahead and pin every couple of inches. We're gonna place the pillowcase underneath my presser foot, and I'm working across the bottom first. And a $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance is with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric in my case, but you may have a presser foot that's a quarter of an inch and then you may need to use the guide on the plate here to help you with that. Remember, we wanna backstitch at the beginning. (sewing machine stitching) Now I'm gonna stop with the needle down and lift the presser foot to turn around the corner here. (sewing machine stitching) Now we're getting close to this trim here, we wanna make sure that it's pointing down on both sides, underneath and on the top. (sewing machine stitching) Now we're gonna backstitch. Now I wanna go ahead and just trim away some of that seam allowance, so I use scissors for this. You could use a

rotary cutter, but I feel a little bit safer using scissors. I'm just gonna cut away half of that seam allowance, really carefully. Try really hard not to cut that stitching. We're trimming it down to about an eighth of an inch. We're gonna turn the pillowcase wrong side out because we need to sew that seam again, but before we sew it, we really need to make sure that we press it really well with the iron. Push out your corners. And this part is really important because we don't want any of that raw edge to come through, so I just kind of use my fingers to flatten that seam, just like this, and then I'm gonna press it and even though it's not holding anything together, I am gonna pin it because I wanna keep it, this seam, as flat as possible for sewing. Now I'm gonna put it under again, and I'm going to be sewing that same bottom and sides as I did before, and this time, I'm sewing again with a $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance, or the edge of presser foot on the edge of the fabric. (sewing machine stitching) We're going through quite a few layers here at the top, so I want you to just go really slowly. (sewing machine stitching) And then don't forget to backstitch the end. (sewing machine stitching) You'll see that this is the actual inside of the pillowcase, and look how neat that seam is. Now all that's left is to turn the pillowcase right side out and give those seams a really good press, and we're all done.

Sewing an envelope pillowcase

- Now we're gonna start on one of our throw pillow covers, and this one's a really simple one. It's an envelope-back pillow. It's super-easy to make and it looks really fantastic. So to prepare for that, I want you to cut a 20 by 20 inch piece of fabric, and I'm using a decorator weight fabric. It's a little bit thicker than a quilting weight. And I've cut one at 20 by 20, and then I've cut two at 14 by 20. And I have them right here. I'm making this pillow cover for a 20 by 20 inch pillow form, and you're probably wondering why I'm using the same size pillow form as the size I'm cutting the fabric, and that's because I like a really full, quite fluffy-looking pillow. I'm going to be folding in this long edge one inch, so that's what I'm going to use this seam gauge for, and if you look at this, it's got all the inches on here, it has it in centimeters, too, but we're just using the inches. And I'm going to move this little blue arrow to the one-inch point like that. And then that's just gonna help me make sure that I fold it over the same amount each time. So I just want to do about an inch and I'm going to iron it like that. I'm just gonna eyeball the rest of it, but you can sporadically check and make sure, as you go along, that you're staying at that one inch. So now that I've ironed that over, I'm going to do the same thing again. I'm just gonna re-fold it and re-iron it to one inch. I'm gonna go ahead and put a few pins in here just to hold it, hold that fold down. And even though it's ironed down, I think putting pins in is just an extra layer of keeping it nice and secure and straight, 'cause it can just shift a little bit, as you sew. I'm just going to sew along this folded edge right here with, just nice and close to the edge. So for me, see the little hole on the presser foot right here, I'm just gonna line that up with my edge. It always helps if you find some focus point when you're sewing, especially if you're not sewing at a particular seam allowance. Remember to back stitch at the beginning. You can go ahead and sew that hem edge in the exact same way for your other 14 by 20 piece of fabric, and then when you're done with that, we're gonna create kind of a sandwich of all of our layers. We're gonna start off with our 20 by 20 square, here, with the print facing up, and then we're taking one of our 14 by 20 sides and laying it down, lining up those bottom edges with this hem that we just created at the top. Because the envelope back of our pillow means that the back pieces are overlapping, you just want to take a little bit of time to think about your print, if you're using a directional print. You want that hem to be at the right end of your directional print. So I'm going to grab my other piece and overlap it on top of this one. So I have one in place, and then I'm adding

my other one. You'll see how it overlaps right here. Just make sure that your raw edges all the way around are all lined up, just like this, and once everything's lined up, you'll know you're ready to start pinning. I like to pin on this first fold just to hold that in place first. So things don't shift, I'm gonna do both sides. And then I'm gonna go around and pin the entire thing. And I always just put pins every couple of inches. We're just gonna be sewing with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, and in our case, that's a $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch seam allowance. And we're just gonna sew around all four sides. So starting with a back stitch. And then we're gonna finish with a back stitch again. Finish the edges before we turn it right way out. I'm gonna use my trusty pinking shears, and this is gonna give us kind of a zig-zaggy edge that's gonna help prevent any extra fraying of the fabric. To use your pinking shears, you're just going to cut along the edge of that seam allowance, being careful not to cut the stitching, of course. It's gonna be a little bit harder on those edges where the fabric overlaps, so just go really slowly. Now we can turn our pillow cover right-side out, and then we can give the edges a little press before we put the pillow form in. Make sure to push out all your corners. The great thing about this envelope-back pillow is that it's so clean-looking, it's super neat, and it's really, really easy to put your pillow form in and out of. So I have my pillow form here. You're just gonna slide it in. You'll see this other flap here, you're just gonna carefully put your pillow in there, fold that underneath. And all done. And it's the perfect pillow cover. I love how easy these envelope pillows are to make. I mean, they're pretty quick. Once you cut the fabric, they are so quick to sew. They're awesome because you can change them out every season. It's much more economical than buying ready-made pillow covers. And you can match it to any decor. I love 'em.

Sewing a buttonback pillowcase

- Now that you've done an envelope pillow, I'm gonna show you how to make a really simple button back pillow. It's got the same kind of concept as the way we made the envelope pillow. Instead of having these two pieces overlapping quite a lot like the envelope pillow, this time they're just gonna be overlapping a little bit less, and we'll be positioning buttonholes along the back here. The pieces that we're gonna need to cut for this project are a 20 by 20 inch piece of fabric for the front of the pillow, and then we want to cut two 13 inch by 20 inch pieces for the back. I've just gone ahead and already hemmed those along the edges of the back pieces in the exact same way that we did for the envelope pillow. So, I've got them ready to go, and now I have to prepare one side for button holes. So, I have my iron here, and I am going to fold this one piece in half, and then I'm gonna press that with the iron. Then, open it out, and we're gonna fold this side in. And then, just the same for this side. This way, we've created these perfectly spaced creases, and that's gonna be where I position the buttonholes. This kind of takes some of the guesswork out of marking those positions for the buttonholes. They're already there, we know that it's completely even, and all we need to do is measure our buttonhole length, mark it on here, and then were good to go. So, I want to show you how to do a buttonhole on the sewing machine. To prepare for sewing a buttonhole, you're going to need the buttonhole foot attachment for your sewing machine and the button you want to be working with. In our case, we're going to be using this buttonhole foot. We need to open it up, like this, and we're gonna put the button in here. What this does is this automatically measures, so that when the sewing machine starts sewing, it's gonna know exactly how big to sew a buttonhole to fit this button. Most sewing machines have a foot just like this. So, we need to replace this, so we're gonna take this off. In this case, we're just going to press a button behind the foot and it's gonna drop off. Take that away. Then, right here is gonna be where we're attaching the buttonhole foot. I'm gonna drop that down, and that's attached, just like that. Most sewing machines will have

one of these levers at the back, and you just want to pull that down and set it behind the front of this buttonhole foot, and it just slides down there. So, this part of the machine is ready to go, but now we need to set the dials for the buttonhole. The first thing we need to do is set this top stitch dial to buttonhole, so I'm just going to turn that around to the buttonhole. Secondly, we wanna turn this stitch length dial around to where we see this little buttonhole icon right here. Then, lastly, we want to adjust the stitch width to its largest width, so we're gonna turn it up to five. You can position your fabric underneath for your test. This buttonhole stitch is gonna stop on its own, so you don't need to do anything. But, start at the bottom of your fabric, because it will be sewing backwards. (sewing machine whirring) So here we've got our test buttonhole, and I wanna show you how to use a seam ripper to open up that buttonhole. So, I have one right here. We want to be putting the sharp end of the seam ripper under through the fabric, and instead of just pushing it all the way to the end, which is a thing you can do, but you kind of risk cutting your stitches at the end, I usually do a little bit at a time. So, I'll put it through, just like that, and do it in little tiny sections, like this. You'll see that now my buttonhole is the perfect size for my button, right there. So, I want to measure this, how long this is. This is gonna help me accurately place it on the back of my pillow. So, I have my little seam gauge ruler, and it's just over one inch. So, I'm gonna take my backing piece that I marked with the creases, and I'm gonna put all my markings on there so that we can start making buttonholes. We want to mark along here, firstly the placement of the buttonhole so that they're all level. To do that, we're gonna use a ruler, just bringing it in, and I'm gonna be measuring up about half an inch and doing a line across here. So, this little purple part on my ruler is actually half an inch. I'm just going to draw a line with my erasable pen, and this is gonna help me keep all my buttonholes really level with each other. Okay, and the next what we're going to do is we're going to use the ruler to draw the line for each buttonhole. So, each one was around about an inch, so our one inch long line is going to straddle this crease mark, so you have half an inch on each side. You can go ahead and do the same thing with those other two crease lines. So, make sure that when you put this under the buttonhole foot that you remember it is sewing backwards. So, I'm gonna be starting on this first little mark here, and I'm gonna line that up. And if I need to, I can just look through that little square right there and see that it's centered. (sewing machine whirring) You can trim off your threads on the front and back and then sew the rest of your buttonholes, and when you're finished with that, make sure to iron off the pen marks, and then we're ready to carry on. So, I can go and use my seam ripper and open up these buttonholes. Remember, we're only ripping a little bit at a time. Next, we want to mark our other back piece for the buttons that we're going to be sewing on. I've laid my piece of fabric with the buttonholes on top of my piece of fabric that doesn't have buttonholes, and I've overlapped it just on those hems. I'm going to use my erasable pen to just put a little mark in the center of that buttonhole. Just like that. I'm going to put it down a little bit, because I want it to be a little bit more central, about there. So, I'm gonna go ahead and do that with all the others. This way, we can be sure that our buttons and our buttonholes will match up perfectly. I'm using pearl cotton to sew my buttons on, just because I love this green color, and I want my thread to really stand out on my buttons, but you can definitely use button thread, or sewing machine thread. So, I've cut a length, and I've tied a knot in the end. I'm gonna be bringing the needle up from the wrong side of the fabric, through where I have marked it, just like this. Then, I'm grabbing my button and putting the needle through one of those holes, just like that. I'm going to position it so that my button is fairly well centered on that hem, and then I'm going to push this back down to the back of the fabric again. I'm going to go up again through the first hole, and then back down again. And because I want this to be really secure, I'm gonna do that

same thing one more time. But on this last time, I'm gonna bring it down, and bring it out just under the button, just like this, and then I'm just gonna wrap it around underneath the button three times, one, two, three, and then bring the thread back to the back. Then, I'm gonna tie it in a knot with my tail of my other thread. Everybody does buttons in different ways, this is just a way that I really like to do it. Just like that. You can go ahead and sew on all the rest of your buttons, and then we'll start putting everything together. We've buttoned this now because we want to use this as one complete back piece to attach to the front piece. So, I have my front piece here, and you'll see that there's a crease down the middle, and that's just because I folded the entire piece in half and ironed it to create that crease as a guide. I'm just gonna position this crease on top of the buttons here, so that I know that this is gonna be right in the center of the back. There is going to be a little bit left on the bottom, and that's the side for the side of the back that didn't overlap the other one. So, see how we have this all lined up now? We're just going to use the scissors and trim this off. Pin all the way around the four sides of the pillow, and then we're gonna take it to the machine and sew with a $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance, or edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, just like we did with our envelope pillow. Just make sure that before you start sewing this that you have turned your machine back to a straight stitch and you've replaced the buttonhole foot with the presser foot. (sewing machine whirring) Just remember to back stitch at the end. Just like the envelope pillow, we're going to use the Pinking Shears on all the edges. We're gonna turn it right way out, and then we're gonna press all the edges with the iron. Hopefully by now you see that sewing buttonholes is not as frightening as you probably thought it was. I used to think it was pretty scary, but look how amazing it looks. You can change up your buttons, you can do really big buttonholes, or lots of little ones using this way of making the pillow. I love how this one came out with my vintage flower buttons. I've been saving them for a project, and I think this is the perfect one. You can really just change up the fabrics, like this one, we have the front a different fabric, and the back a little bit different. I just love how you're open to be really creative, and make these awesome pillows.

Sewing a zippered pillowcase

- The last pillow that we're going to be making today is a zipper-back pillow, and the way I'm going to show you to do it is a great way to take away that whole zipper fear, which is something that I think we all have a little bit. So I am cutting, once again, a 20 by 20 inch square of fabric for the front of the pillow. Then for the back, I'm cutting two 12 by 20 inch pieces, and I have them here. I'm also going to be using a zipper that's 22 inches long, and I'll show you the reason for that a little bit later. But the first thing we need to do is to use the pinking shears just to pink the edges, the long edges of the back pieces. Just one on each back piece. I'm not going to be taking off too much here. I'm just going to just take off a tiny bit. (shears snip) And we'll be doing this to both of those back pieces. We only need to do it on one side. I'm going to be using this seam gauge again and we need to fold in this pinked edge half an inch and then press it. You're going to go and do the same thing, pink the edge and fold it over half an inch, with the other long side of the other back piece. Then we're going to attach the zip. I have already done my two pieces here and I've got my zip ready to go. So, to pin the zip into place, we want to take one of our pieces and turn it over so the right side is facing up. I want to attach my zipper now to this folded edge and you'll see that my zipper is longer than my piece of fabric. The reason that I'm doing this is I think for a beginner it's a really easy way to attach a zipper. If you don't feel comfortable with a long one, you can get one that's the exact length, but I promise you you'll really like this method. So I'm going to be lining it up

with the zipper teeth facing down and I'm going to be lining up the end of the zipper with the edge of my fabric and the rest of it is going to be hanging off the end. The reason for that is then we don't have to try and sew past that zipper pull, which can be a little bit daunting when you're a beginner. So to pin it, I'm going to start up here because I want to make sure this is lined up really well. I want to just pin through this side of the tape. I don't want to go through to there. So you'll see what I mean, I'm going in, and then out, just like this. And I'm keeping that edge lined up. I've got the zipper all pinned in place, so let's take it over to the sewing machine and get that attached. I've attached the zipper foot to the left-hand side, right here, and that's because we're going to be sewing with the zipper on the left-hand side, right here. So starting at the end and putting it under, and I'm putting it so this edge right here is running along the edge of this little zipper ridge. If you feel it with your fingers, you can feel that there's like a little ridge right here. If you steer just really carefully and sew really carefully, this zipper foot is naturally going to stay in that position running beside the edge of that zipper teeth little ridge. So just go slow and you'll be surprised how easy it is. (sewing machine clicks and whirs) Just do a little backstitch there. You see, it's all sewn on here, and we're ready to attach the other side. But first, I want you to turn it over like this and we're going to press this bit of fabric away, along this seam. It just kind of gets it out of the way for the next part. So now we're ready to attach it to the other side of the fabric. You'll see that my fabric's right side is together here as well. We're just going to sew down this side the same way that we sewed down the other side of the zipper. (sewing machine clicks and whirs) And then a backstitch at the end. I'm just going to press this other side as well. We want to pin and trim the back to the front of the pillow, just like we did with the other two pillows. But there's one thing we need to do first that's really important and that is we want to open the zipper up a little bit. You don't have to do it the whole way, but if we don't do it, one, we won't be able to open the pillow to turn it the right way out, and two, if we cut it off and the pull was still here, we'd be cutting that off and it would be useless. So I'm just going to open it to about there, and that's fine. I went ahead and ironed my front piece in half, just like I did with my other pillow, to create that crease that acts as a guide. And I'm going to place that on top, with right sides together, with the crease on top of the zipper. Line up your edges. And then we can go ahead and trim the top and the bottom so that both pieces are the same size. So get all your edges lined up really well. And this zipper right here, we want to get those pieces lined up really well. We're going to pin around all four sides of this pillow and then once we're pinned, we're going to trim off this overhanging zipper. I'm putting pins in both sides of that zipper tape, right here, because I want to hold this together really well. We're going to sew around all four sides now, just like we did with all the other pillows, and you'll see that I've taken off the zipper foot and I've replaced it with our regular presser foot. We're going to be sewing around with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, or a 3/8 of an inch seam allowance. (sewing machine clicks and whirs) Now right here, where we just sewed over the zipper, I'm going to have you go backwards and backstitch over it, and then forward over it again. That's just to secure those ends where the zipper is attached. (sewing machine clicks and whirs) So we're going back over it and then back again. (sewing machine clicks and whirs) We're going to go slowly over here and then we're going to go back. (sewing machine clicks and whirs) And backstitch at the end. Before I pink my edges, I just want to cut off the zipper. (zips) (fabric rustles) I love how this pillow turned out. And I think that this really bright zipper adds a really great pop. You probably totally surprised yourself. You've sewn button holes and you've sewn a zipper-back pillow and you've sewn some envelope-back pillows. I think they're looking pretty gorgeous. It's amazing that with just a little bit of fabric and a little bit of time, you can make pillows for every room in your house.

Chapter 2 - Curtains and Duvets

Overview

(rhythmic piano music) - I'm Annabel, I'm an author, designer, and owner of Little Pincushion Studio in Virginia, which is a sewing studio for kids and adults. When I'm decorating a space in my house, I usually have a really set vision of what I want everything to look like, but it's often quite hard to find drapes and duvet covers to match that vision. So I want to show you today how to create really simple drapes and a really simple duvet cover. You can choose all your own fabrics ^and you can make your space your own and it's really easy.

Materials

- Because we're making three projects in this class, I want to run through all the supplies for all of the projects right now. Firstly, we're going to start off with the fabric. Five yards of a main print fabric, five yards of a coordinating accent fabric, and about half a yard of another fabric for the ties for the bottom of the duvet cover. For the window panel, we're going to be using three yards of a decorator weight fabric and for the shower curtain because it's a lot wider and we'll be matching prints we're going to be needing four and a half yards of a decorator weight fabric. Aside from the fabric, you're also going to need your basic sewing room set up and this is going to include your sewing machine. Also, a scrap of paper for writing down our measurements. We have a ruler. A tape measure. We're also going to need a sewing gauge ruler. A friction erasable pen. You'll need your buttonhole foot attachment. Some pins. I have a dowel here for pushing out corners on our ties. I also have a pair of fabric scissors. Some pinking shears. A rotary cutter and mat. And I have some Heat N Bond hem tape. And finally you'll need your iron and an ironing surface. We are going to be working with really big pieces of fabric for these projects, which is not as scary as it sounds, but you are going to need to find the biggest table in your house to spread out your work on and make sure you clear the whole thing off because we're going to need every little bit of that table.

Making ties

- Before we start working with those big panels of fabric, we're going to get the ties out of the way, so to prepare the ties and prepare your fabric, I'm working with decorator weight fabric and this fabric is actually 54 inches wide, which makes it the perfect width for our ties. If you decide that you have to use a quilting fabric, that's totally fine, but that is going to mean that you may need to double up on your fabric quantity and use a full yard of fabric, and I'll show you why a little bit later on. So I have got my ruler here and my rotary cutter. We're going to cut it to three inches times the full width of the fabric, and you'll see the fabric is folded over. So I have my rotary cutter, I'm putting a firm pressure on the ruler because we don't want it to shift as we cut, and then we're going to leave, leave the rotary cutter right there, move the ruler up, then continue cutting. So we have our strip, and I'm just going to cut off the selvage right here. So now I'm going to turn this strip so it's right sides together and line up those ends, and then I'm just going to pin down both sides. We're going to be sewing along both long edges. This is already closed at this end, so we're not going to sew there, and we're going to leave this end open, so just here and right here. We're going to be starting at the open end and we'll be sewing with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, remembering to backstitch at the beginning and at the end. And then backstitching. We're going to be sewing with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, or a 3/8 of an inch seam allowance. I'm just going to trim the corners right now and then we'll be ready to turn it right side out. I find it easier to turn things right way out if I start at the end, so I'm pushing the end

through, and then I'm going to grab my dowel and use that to help me with the rest of the way. Then I'm also using that dowel to push out the corners. You could also use a chopstick or a knitting needle. So let's take it over to the iron and make it nice and flat. Try and get those side seams nice and flat. To finish getting the tie ready, we just want to go to this open end and we're just going to fold it in a little bit, like this. And then we're just going to be sewing across that end. Just sew nice and close to the edge for this. All that's left to do to finish the ties is cut each one in half, and I'm just folding the tie that I've just finished in half, evening up those ends and then I'm going to just cut just like that, like that. You can go ahead now and make four more ties in exactly the same way, and then cut them in half to make a total of 10 small ties. If you're using quilter's cotton, you can go ahead and make 10 ties. You will just be using individual ties and you won't need to cut anything in half.

Sewing the front panel

- We're gonna start by sewing the big front panel of our duvet cover. And I'm going to start on the side panels. So, I just wanna let you know how we're gonna lay it out. We're gonna have our main fabric panel down the front. And then this pink fabric is gonna be two side panels. And the reason that we're doing that is because a full width of the main fabric is not quite wide enough for our twin size duvet. I wanna show you how to cut big pieces of fabric. And I don't want you to panic because it's actually quite easy. I've got my fabric for the side panel. And it's a little bit longer than the 88 inches that I'm going to be needing. So I wanna cut it to the exact measurement. And instead of having this huge piece of fabric hanging off your dining table, freaking you out, I want you to take your 88 inches, divide it by two, so it's 44 inches. I have my fabric here, folded over, so it's doubled up. And all I'm gonna do is measure 44 inches from the fold on the end where I folded it over. I have this folded here. The fabric is folded over, which is how it comes off the buldge. But then I folded the entire thing in half. I've got my tape measurer. I'm gonna be starting right here on this fold. And I want to measure 44 inches. So, here we are at 44. Got my erasable pen and I'm just gonna mark that point. And then I'm gonna go up to the top and just do that again. Just so I know that the line that I'm cutting is straight. So there's my 44. Grab your ruler. And line that up on the fabric, where your 44 inch lines are. And remember you're using a firm pressure on the ruler. You are gonna be cutting through four layers of fabric. And there you have it, you've cut a really, really long piece of fabric and it was pretty simple to do. And it didn't take up much space either. For these side panels of the duvet cover, we're going to take this piece of fabric and then we need to cut it in half. Luckily, the fabric is already creased in half right here. And folded. So we're just gonna be cutting along that crease. And for this quilting cotton, all I need to do to cut that is grab my scissors and just a little snip in that fold. I'm simply gonna tear this fabric and it's gonna be the best way to get a nice straight edge along the grain of the fabric. (ripping) So now we have two pieces of fabric, measuring 88 inches long, by about 22 and a half inches wide. And we're ready to attach these to the front of the duvet. And a thing to note is we're gonna be doing the exact same thing for the back of the duvet. So you could go ahead and prepare your side panels right now for the back as well. I finished cutting these and I already have my main panel piece cut to 88 inches. And we are using the full width of the fabric. All I need to do right now is just cut off the selvage. And the selvage is that side of the fabric where the manufacturers name is. I'm just gonna cut it along this edge right here. You can repeat on the other side. I like to cut the selvage off on the other side. It doesn't have the name of the manufacturer and it's not white. But it does have these little holes in it. And I just like to cut that off as well. Now we're gonna be working with really big pieces of fabric. So

I'm gonna go and work on small sections at a time. I've got my side Accent fabric laid out with my main panel of fabric. And you'll see that my main panel. We're gonna be attaching this side fabric with a French seam. And that's so that the raw edge will be completely enclosed. Now to start off with that, you would think we would normally start with right sides together. But, this time, we're gonna be sewing wrong sides together. So that means this is the wrong side of the main panel. And, luckily, with this plain fabric, there is no right and wrong side, so I'm just lining them up together. And I'm just going to pin down that entire side to attach this side panel. When you're pinning really large pieces of fabric, it's good to do just small sections at a time. So, I've done about three feet and then I'm just pulling the rest of my fabric up onto the table. You don't wanna try and be pinning right off the table. We're just gonna be sewing a straight stitch. And we're gonna be also sewing with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric. And you'll see, on this edge of this pink fabric, there's this little rough edge here. I'm just gonna ignore that and have the edge of my presser foot running along where the fabric actually starts. Remember, back stitch beginning and end. (mechanical noises) I like to just sew a little bit at a time. And I stop and then I readjust, because this is a huge piece of fabric. I also like to do this on a big surface, so I dining table or another large table. And you'll see why as this fabric starts moving out in this direction. (mechanical noises) The next thing we need to do is cut away about half of our seam allowance. And, to do that, you're just gonna grab your scissors and cut away about half of that. Go slowly, because you don't wanna cut your stitching. With the panel of fabric facing with the print up, we're going to just iron this seam towards one side. I'm just gonna iron it towards the print side. Now that we've ironed that seam to the side, we're gonna fold it, right sides together. And that seam is nice and flat, but we are gonna iron it again. You'll see that I have, I've got that seam perfectly in the center there and I'm going to iron it. All this ironing really ensures that that raw edge is gonna be encased in there when we sew again. I'm just gonna put a few pins in to hold this seam in place. And then I'm gonna take it over to the machine and sew down this entire long seam. You only need to pin every few inches. It's really just to hold it in place while you sew. Okay, so we're gonna take it over to the machine here and we're gonna sew with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric. Or a 3 eighths of an inch seam allowance. Starting with the back stitch. (mechanical noises) We're just gonna sew all the way down. Once you finish sewing this seam, you can open it out and give it a good press. And then go and attach the other side panel in the exact same way.

Trimming down to Twin Size

- I've gone ahead and attached both side panels, and I've given everything a really good press, and if you're making a queen or a double size duvet cover you can stop right there and work with this exact size that we have sewn, but we're going to be making a twin size duvet cover. So we need to do a little bit of numbers, and I'm gonna do it on this piece of paper, to work out what our total measurements are and how much we need to cut down these sides. So if I draw out what we're working on right here, I've got that center panel with the print on it, and I've gone ahead and measured that sewn, and it's 42 inches, we want the total of this entire thing to be around 64 inches. So, that leaves 22 inches to be divided by, these two to be divided into that 22, which means 11 inches wide. We need to cut the strip on both sides. But before we go ahead and cut it, we need to think about the seam allowance, and the seam allowance, which is the distance between the edge of the foot, and the edge of the fabric, and with the stitch line, that's 3/8ths of an inch. So we're gonna add 3/8ths on this side, and 3/8ths on this side. That's gonna make each side panel 11 3/8ths, but trying to draw out that 11 3/8ths with your ruler can be a little bit tiresome, so it's not gonna hurt if

we just round that up to 11 1/2 inches. It's gonna be a lot easier to draw. So I've got my roller right here, and my erasable pen, and I'm gonna be working from this seam line, and I'm going to be marking out lines at that 11 1/2 inch point, and then we'll go ahead and cut them. I've got this lined up at the 11 1/2 inch point, and I'm just going to draw a line here. Then I'm just going to work my way up, marking it the same way. I feel like I could rip it to the right size, but I just don't wanna risk it, because you just never know. I'm going to continue drawing the lines up that side of the side panel, and then I'm gonna go over and do the same thing with the other side, and then I'm gonna be cutting on those lines.

Sewing front to back

- What's great about this duvet cover is that the front and the back are exactly the same. I've gone ahead and I've made a back panel piece in the exact same way as my front piece. Now all we need to do is start on our French seams. I've gone ahead and pinned the entire duvet cover with wrong sides facing and I've pinned around three sides and left the bottom open. It's easy to work out where the bottom is on this one because I'm using a directional print and so the bottom of the print is where I'm leaving it open. It's really, really important that you remember that your fabrics for this part need to be wrong sides together. We're going to be sewing around the three sides with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric or a three-eighths of an inch seam allowance. Starting with a back stitch. (machine whirring) It's really important when you sew across the top that you make sure that you've pinned and lined up the front and back panels so that they meet up at the exact same spot. Right here I've pinned here to join up these two seams. We want those seams to be on top of each other. That's a good idea to pin that first before you do anything else. (machine whirring) You're gonna cut like you did before. We're cutting off about half of the seam allowance. This will be the raw edge that we enclose. Now we're gonna go ahead and turn the entire duvet cover inside out. We're going to press the edges, we're going to pin and then we're going to be sewing in the exact same way as we've sewed on those side panels. We're going to press this side seam. I carefully use my fingers to pull it out so it's nice and flat. Then I iron a little bit at a time. You wanna roll that seam with your fingers. You wanna make sure that it's completely flat. We're gonna sew around those three sides. I've gone ahead and pressed it and I've pinned it and we're gonna sew with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric. Just remember to back stitch. All your edges should look like this. I love these French seams because it totally encases the raw edges inside that seam allowance right there. We're gonna move on to working on the bottom of the duvet cover and this is the open side, the open end. You'll see, we just have those raw edges left. What I wanna do is fold up those raw edges towards the wrong side. I wanna do it about an inch. I'm gonna use my seam gauge just to check that. Then we'll press it. It doesn't have to be perfect. You can just eyeball that. We're gonna go around the entire bottom of the duvet cover, folding and pressing, just like that. When you get back to where you started, we're going to fold it up another inch and press it. This time when we fold it up another inch and press it, we're gonna go ahead and pin it. We'll do this all the way around the bottom. Now the last thing we need to do to finish our duvet cover is attach our ties. To do that, we first wanna work out where the dead center of the bottom is going to be. I am going to take the bottom and I'm gonna fold the entire cover in half and I'm gonna lay it seam to seam. My finger is right here on the center point. I'm gonna mark that center point. Now I'm gonna use my tape measure to measure out and mark the other places for the ties. I'm measuring out 13 inches from that center point and then I'm gonna go and measure 13 inches on the other side. Then we'll add on another 13 inches. You can divide these up and place

them where you want. I just thought that this was a good space between them and I wanted to have these ones quite close to this edge. Our last one is right here. Now we can go ahead and pin the ties onto the spots that we've marked. I'm positioning this tie in with the line lined up with the center. I'm pushing it all the way down and then pinning it in place. Let's go to the next one. We're gonna tuck that under the hem. Then we're gonna carry on and attach all the other ties on this side in the same way. To place them on the reverse side, I'm folding the whole thing up and I've got this lined up right here. I'm gonna slide this under so it's kind of lined up pretty well. Don't forget it's the raw edge that we'll be putting under that hem. The first thing we're gonna sew is along this edge and that's going to hold in the tie and then once we've done that, we're going to fold the tie down and we're going to sew along this edge and as we sew, we're going to be encasing it this way. We'll want the tie to be hanging out the bottom, makes it easier to tie. It's not really going to matter where you start, as long as you are sewing nice and close to this edge and back stitch. I'm going to sew carefully over this pin, because it's holding in our tie and I don't want the tie to come out. Now we just have one more thing to do and then we're finished with our duvet cover. That is to sew down these ties in the downward-facing position. It doesn't matter where you start, again, but we wanna be sewing nice and close to that bottom edge. I'm not gonna pin these in place, I'm just gonna fold them down and hold them down while I sew. Remember to back stitch. You don't wanna pull it down, you want it to lay nice and straight. We're finally finished with all the sewing for our duvet cover. You can go ahead and turn it right way out. You could go ahead and finish off the duvet by ironing the edges and pop your duvet in the cover. You can tie up the ends, just like this. You've got a beautiful custom duvet cover. Now you can go ahead and make them for everyone in your family.

Matching prints and sewing your shower curtain

- I love the look that a custom shower curtain can add to your bathroom because usually our bathroom's are kind of boring. I'm going to show you how to make a really, really easy shower curtain in this beautiful yellow fabric. We're going to start this project with me showing you how to match up prints. It's sometimes kind of tricky. But on a wide piece of fabric for a shower curtain we're going to need to join two panels together. So this is a really good tip to use in future sewing projects. I cut one length of fabric, that's this one, to measure 78 inches long. And before I cut my other piece of fabric to measure 78 inches long, I want to get both fabrics ready for print matching. And to do that, I'm laying this on top of this fabric and I'm looking for the matching print. You'll see this print right here is matching the one underneath. It's completing this. And so this is where we want to cut. I chose this particular print because it's beautiful but it's also quite detailed. And I think once you can learn to master matching a print like this, you can pretty much match anything. I had to move it around a little bit to find the match. It's always good to look for that central print. And for this one I was looking at this motif right here and trying to find the match because some of these big flowers are facing in other directions. So, when I laid it out perfectly on top and moved it around a little bit, I was able to locate that print. So I feel like this is good and I can go ahead and cut it here. I think for a project like this it's always good to maybe tack on an extra quarter to half a yard of fabric on your total fabric requirements because you are going to need a little bit more to match up those prints. You can see here why we cut it the way we did. We have a match right here. And this, all these will be matching up. So the first thing we need to do is fold over this seam allowance here. So I'm going to just fold it over right to the edge of that seam allowance and I'm going to iron it that way. So just fold along that edge and iron it. Make sure you're folding it down enough so that you

don't see that selvage. You can continue to fold and iron the selvage down all the way along that long edge of the shower curtain panel. Now I'm going to move this folded edge up to meet with the print on this side. So let's look at this right here as our guide. You see the little flower center. We want to match up our print as best as we can. And I think that looks pretty good. So I'm going to put a pin right here to attach that. We're going to go along and pin all these motifs all the way down this folded edge. And then we're going to come back with our hem bond hem tape and we're going to take out the pins and replace it with the hem tape and iron that down, and that's going to attach our two panels temporarily. And it'll be ready for us to sew. I've broken off a piece of my hem tape here and I'm just sliding it underneath that fold really gently because I don't want to shift where I've pinned it. And each little bit I'm going to be ironing. Just make sure to turn the steam off on your iron as you do this. And that hem tape, what's that going to do is adhere this folded edge to this edge, and it's going to hold everything in place perfectly for us to sew in a few minutes. Continue working with the hem tape all the way down the length of the panel. And I'm just breaking off about 12 inch pieces and working with that, it's a lot more manageable. And I just want you to continue going right to the end. I'm just flipping over this side that I just attached so that you'll see underneath, you can see this edge that we used the hem tape on. And it's pretty well stuck down. But what I want to do just to make sure it's extra secure is I'm just going to put a few pins in there before we sew it. Now you can take this shower curtain panel over to the sewing machine and we're going to be sewing in the crease that we made with the iron. You can put this under the sewing machine. And instead of having the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, we're going to align the center of the presser foot up with the crease that we made with the iron. And then starting with a backstitch we're going to sew all the way down. And don't forget to backstitch at the end. I'm just going to pink with my pinking shears down the edges just to take off that excess seam allowance. And you only need to take off a little bit. I'm only taking off that frayed edge. You don't have to take this off if you don't want to, but I think it looks much better. Turn it back over and have a look at how great it looks. I think all the extra pinning was totally worth it. I'm going to give it a press and then I'm going to move on to cutting off the excess fabric and we're going to start hemming the top and bottom and edges. I'm cutting my shower curtain to a width of 70 inches. And so I took that piece of fabric that I sewed the seam in to match up the prints and I measured out 35 inches on both sides and cut off the excess so that my seam would run down the middle. I've cut my shower curtain to a standard shower curtain size which is 70 inches wide by 78 inches long. And then I'm going to have a finished measurement will end up being 68 inches wide and 72 inches tall. We're going to be sewing our top and bottom and side hems in the exact same way with a double fold over. The only difference is going to be how deep each one of these hems is. And we'll get to that as we get to each hem. We're going to be folding this top hem over two inches. And I have my seam gage right here so that we can take a look. And once we've folded that over we're going to iron that in place. And then we're going to fold the rest of the top and you can check that as you go with your seam gage and make sure that it's all pretty even. And now we're going to go ahead and fold it over a second time two inches. And we're going to iron that and then we'll be pinning that in place. So we'll start pinning along this open edge. And you can just put a pin every couple of inches. I'm sewing nice and close to this folded down edge. And remember we're backstitching at the beginning and at the end. Don't forget to backstitch at the end. You're going to be repeating this hem the exact same way on the bottom except that your turn up is only going to be one inch and then one inch again. And then your side hems are going to be folded in half an inch, and then half an inch again and sewn. And you don't need to worry about the corners at all. The most important

thing for you to worry about is making sure that you do the top and bottom first and then the sides last. How easy was that to finish a shower curtain? You've hemmed all four sides and that's essentially it. You can use these really great clip rings if you want to for attaching it to your shower curtain. It makes it really easy to take it off to wash it and then to reattach it. And if you wanted to you could even clip the plastic liner to the other side, that's no problem. We can create these button holes to add openings to attach our shower curtain hooks, and they look really cool too. And you'll notice that on these shower curtains, the plastic shower curtain liners, they have the holes for the hooks as well. So when I was working out my measurements for how far apart my button holes should be, all I did was I held up the liner that I was going to be using, and I made a mark with my erasable pen and that was my spot to do my button holes. I love how easy making your own shower curtain is, and while you're doing it you're learning a lot of really great new skills like sewing those hems and matching those patterns. And best of all you're creating something that's really beautiful and totally washable.

Sewing a pocket rod curtain

- By now you've made something fantastic for your bathroom, and something equally as gorgeous for your bedroom, and now I wanna show you how to make a rod pocket window panel for your living room. The general rule for making a curtain panel is to make the width double the width of your window. And in our case, I'm gonna be making two single panels for my window. To measure for your curtain panels, you should measure from the curtain rod, down to the floor, and then add about 12 inches. And then, my curtain panel finished is going to be 45 inches wide, so I wanna add two inches to that measurement, and that'll be how I cut my fabric. So, I've cut for myself right here, I've cut a width of 47 inches, and a length of 96 inches. I'm gonna start off with the long edges of the curtain panel, and I wanna hem them first. So, I'm going to fold over my edge half an inch, and I'm using my seam gauge again here. Just to check. And once I've folded that over, I'm gonna press that in place. And I'll be doing that down the entire length of this side of my curtain panel. Once you've folded that over one time, you're gonna go ahead and fold it over a second time, and then iron it, and then pin it in place just like we did for the shower curtain. We're going to put this under the machine now and sew, instead of with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, we're gonna be sewing nice and close to this folded edge right here. Back stitch at beginning, and then we're gonna sew down the entire side this way. Just remember that if you're using a directional print, you'll want that hem to be at the bottom of that print. We're gonna be working on the hem on the bottom of the curtain, and the hem is gonna be really similar to this side hem. Except, we're gonna be folding it up four inches this time, and pressing it and then four inches again. You may be wondering why I do such a big hem for the bottom, and that's because I like my drapes to hang really nicely, and so I like to add a little bit of weight on the bottom. You might have seen some, some drapes have little weights in the bottom to hold it down and give it like a really good look, well this, we're just gonna be creating that by doing a double hem that's quite wide. So I'm just gonna press up my four inch hem. And then I'm going to fold it up another four inches. And then we're gonna pin that in place along this open fold, and then we'll be sewing very close to this edge all the way along. I've just sewn all the way along that hem, close to the edge, just like we did with the sides, and I'm coming back to the end and I just wanna remember to back stitch. I'm gonna be measuring the actual rod pocket at the top of my curtain panel for a standard one inch curtain rod, but you can make yours bigger or smaller based on the circumference of the curtain rod. If you're using a different size curtain rod just make sure that you don't make the pocket too big because it's

just not gonna slide along and look as good. And don't make it too small because then you'll have, not be able to pull the curtain across at all. So I found that for a one inch curtain rod, that a two inch pocket works really well. So I'm just measuring up two inches with my seam gauge again. And I'm going to be pressing that in place, and then I'll be folding it over again another two inches, pinning it, and then sewing it just like we did with the bottom. Almost finished sewing, you'll see I'm sewing very close to this folded edge like I have before. Remembering to back stitch at the end, as always. This top fold over that we have sewn has actually created our rod pocket right here. For my window you'll see that I've gone ahead and made a pair of panels, and I think they look fantastic, and they they go on the rod really easily, and they have good movement when I wanna open and close them and that's what we're looking for. I love that this particular project is really quick to make, it's super easy to make. You can make a couple of pairs even in an afternoon, which is great. By now you probably realize that it's actually pretty easy to make your own home decor items. It's been a long time since I was using hot glue and staples to staple my pillows together. Now, in just an afternoon, I can make a ton of things for my home and so can you.

Chapter 3 - Gathered Apron with Pockets

Overview

(upbeat cheerful music) - I'm always looking for the perfect gift idea for my friends that love to cook. I'm not such a great cook myself but what I can do is sew. So I thought of this great project to sew them a beautiful apron. I used up some of my really special fabric. This project is a really great way to showcase some of your favorite fabrics and we're gonna be learning some great new techniques including gathering and adding pockets. (soft music)

Materials

- We're only going to need a few sewing materials for this project. The most important is the fabric. We're gonna start off with one yard of the main fabric for the skirt of the apron. We're also going to have one yard of coordinating fabric for the waistband and the ties. Then we'll just have a piece of another fun fabric for the pocket. And this one measures 17 by 12 inches. We're gonna need some pins. We're also going to need an erasable pen, a rotary cutter and a mat, a pair of fabric scissors, a pair of pinking shears, this is totally optional, a ruler, a seam ripper, just in case, a seam gauge, and a tape measure. You'll also need a sewing machine threaded with the correct color thread. And we'll also need an iron.

Creating the tie and pocket pieces

- The first thing we're gonna sew for our apron is the pocket, and you will have cut a piece of fun fabric to measure 17 inches by 12 inches. And the first thing we need to do is just fold this piece of fabric in half with right sides together, just like this. And then we wanna mark an area where we don't wanna sew. And that's gonna be on the unfolded side. Just a couple of inches here. And this is really just to remind myself not to sew here. Now I wanna go ahead and just pin around the rest of it. There's no need to pin here because this is already folded. We're just gonna sew with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, or a 3/8ths of an inch seam allowance, remembering to back stitch at the beginning. (sewing machine hums) Now when I get to this line, I'm gonna do a little back stitch. And then, instead of taking the entire thing out, we're gonna lift that presser foot and I'm just gonna pull the fabric out and then put it down again at the next little point that we marked. And I'm gonna back stitch there, as well. (sewing machine hums) Make sure that when you

turn a corner, that the needle is always in the down position. (sewing machine hums) And I'm gonna back stitch at the end. Before I turn it right way out, I'm just going to snip the corners off. And then I'm also gonna snip that thread, right here. I'm gonna cut these corners, as well, and just make sure not to cut your stitching. Now we wanna turn this whole pocket right way out through that no-sew zone area. And make sure to push out those corners. Now remember, if you're making a pocket out of a directional print, you're going to wanna have it facing in the right direction. In this case, this is a non-directional print so I have my opening here, and I'll be sewing this up as I attach it to the apron. But what I do want to do now is just press this nice and flat and then sew a top stitch just across the top. We're gonna be just top-stitching across the top with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, for a $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch seam allowance. If you wanted to, you could use a decorative stitch here. Just make sure to back stitch at the beginning and at the end. You can go ahead and set this pocket aside, and we're gonna start working on the ties. I like a really long tie that ties around my waist twice and ties in a nice, big bow, so I'm using the full width of my fabric for the ties. I'll be cutting two of them. The ties need to measure eight inches each tall by the entire width of the fabric wide. To prepare the tie for sewing, we need to first fold it in half. I'm gonna press it with the iron to hold it together and make sure that it's evenly folded with right sides together. And then we're going to be pinning all the way down that long side. We're also going to be pinning one of the open, short ends. We're gonna start by sewing the short end first. As always, we're going to be sewing with the presser foot on the edge of the fabric for a $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch seam allowance. And we're gonna back stitch at the beginning. And then we're gonna continue sewing this way all the way down to the end of the tie. We just want to back stitch here at the end. And remember, we're leaving this other short end open. Before I turn this right-side out, I need to trim those two corners. So being careful not to cut the stitching, I'm just gonna trim them. To turn out this long strip, you can just use something that you have around the house, maybe the end of a wooden spoon from your kitchen, or, in my case, a dowel, and I'm going to start from the closed end. I'm gonna push in this closed end and then use my dowel and the table to push it all the way through. Before you pull it out, just make sure to use that dowel to push out those bottom corners. Go ahead and give this tie a really good press, and then go and make another tie in the exact same way.

Creating the skirt

- We're gonna start working on the skirt part of our apron now, and so we need to take a few measurements. We're just gonna measure from just below your waist to just above your knee. That's about 18 inches for me. To measure for the waistband, take your tape measure and wrap it around your waist or wherever you want the apron to sit, but I'm not going to measure all the way around to the back, because of the ties. So I'm measuring about this much leaving maybe a space of about five or six inches at the back. That's around 29 for me. From that 18 inch length measurement, we're gonna add on two inches for a total cutting length of 20 inches and then our width of the skirt is just going to be the total width of the fabric from salvage to salvage. I've got my apron skirt cut and ready to go right here and I'm gonna start by hemming the sides, the short sides, I'm going to fold in approximately a quarter of an inch and iron this in place and then I'm gonna fold it in another quarter of an inch pin it, and then sew it. We're just gonna sew down this side hem, we have our stitch line nice and close to this folded edge and we'll be back stitching to start. You can go ahead and sew the other side in the exact same way, and now I've done both sides, I'm gonna go ahead and sew my bottom hem. All I'm going to do is exactly what I did on those side hems, but I'm just gonna add a little bit more instead of a quarter, I'm going to fold it up about half to three quarters

of an inch. And then I'm going to fold it again, the same amount. We're just gonna go ahead and sew nice and close to the edge, to this folded edge along the bottom hem. And starting with a back stitch and then back stitch at the end. Now we're going to attach the pocket that we made before. To workout what position to put that in I usually like it right in the center, so I'm just gonna fold my skirt panel in half. I like to put my pocket in the center, because remember we're going to be gathering the top of this skirt and I feel like the pocket, that is the perfect location for it. So I've gone and pressed a crease, and I'm gonna open it up. I love using a crease as a guide when I'm sewing. Grab your pocket, and you can just position it over that crease, doesn't have to be perfect. And think about where you want it. You're gonna lose a little bit of seam allowance at the top, maybe just like half an inch with the gathering and the waistband, so you don't want to have your pocket too close to the top, but you also don't want it too close to the bottom. But you can just eyeball it, I like it kind of central and slightly below the center. And this looks good to me. Once you've decided on your placement you can just go ahead and pin it in place. Remember don't pin across the top, because it won't be a pocket then. I like to divide my pocket into two little sections, because I think one is really cute for a wooden spoon and then the other one for whatever else you wanna put in there. I've got my ruler and I'm just going to line up one of the lines with the top of my pocket. And just mark where I want that dividing line to be. We're gonna go back and sew that. Just like that. We're gonna be sewing close to this edge. Make sure to backstitch at the beginning. Oops. And you'll see right here we're sewing across that no sew hole. And that's gonna become closed with a stitch. Don't forget when you pivot around a corner that the needle needs to be down. Backstitch at the end. Now we're just gonna sew that dividing stitch line. So you wanna line up the center of your presser foot with the line. And backstitch. And we're just gonna sew it just slightly off the pocket, and back stitch. Go ahead and iron off that pin mark and trim your threads and then you have your two great pockets. Before we attach the skirt to the waistband we need to gather the top of the skirt. And gathering just means that we're going to sew a stitch on the top and then we're going to be pulling on the ends to sort of bring the skirt together and create a lot of little gathers. First things first, I want you to turn your stitch length to its highest position. So I'm gonna turn mine to a four. And then I'm going to take my thread, make sure you start with a long tail, with your bobbin thread and your top thread, I'm going to put this under my foot and I'm going to just do it about a quarter of an inch from the edge. Whatever you do when you start your gather stitch, don't be tempted to back stitch, because we need those long threads to pull on to create our gather. Now, at the end we don't want to batch stitch either, so you can pull out of the machine and leave a long tail. We're gonna add another line of stitching, about a quarter of an inch underneath that line of stitching. Remember, no back stitching at beginning and end, and then we'll be able to start the gathering. We've got these two rows of stitching here and you should have four threads coming off the end, two threads for each row and we're just going to be working with the bottom thread, so here are my top two threads, I'm just gonna move them out of the way, and I'm just going to be working with these. And what I'm gonna be doing really gently is pulling on my fabric to create this gather. You just have to do this slowly, take your time, because this thread can snap really easily. So what I like to do is I like to do a bit of the top one, and then I kind of even it up with the bottom one. I'm just gonna continue gathering all the way along the top, until my gathered piece measures around about 28 inches long. Now the thing is you can gather it and get it to that length and then you can go in and stop playing with it and even out those gathers. I'm gonna just gather from this side to about the halfway point and then I'm going to go over to my other side where I have my long threads as well and I'm gonna do the exact same thing. So sometimes it can help if you have a

ruler in front of you, could have a ruler or a tape measure, just so that you know that you're gathering to around about the length that we wanna work with. You can go ahead and cut your waistband now, I want you to cut it at waist measurement so for me it was 29 inches, and I'm gonna add on half an inch to that, so I'm cutting my strip 29 and a half inches long, and four inches wide. With your waistband piece facing upwards, you can flip over your gathered skirt, and we wanna be lining it up with the top edge of your waistband. Now here's where we can adjust our gathers to fit our piece. So, just take your time with this, you can pull it up so that it comes to about within about a quarter of an inch of the end. I just want to leave a little bit out just here. Once you feel like your gathering is pretty evenly spaced on that waistband piece, you can go ahead and start pinning it into place. I'm gonna leave a bit of space on this side as well. Around a quarter of an inch. I've got the crease that's still in the skirt from where I halved it, so a good thing to do before you finish pinning it, is to try and sort of eyeball halfway along the strip and pin it there. So if you pin the ends, the center point and the other end, then it's gonna help you evenly spread those gathers throughout the rest of the top. I haven't changed my stitch length, I just wanna baste along this top line. I'm not trying to have a really perfect stitch, I just wanna hold this gathered skirt portion to the waistband portion before we move on to the next step. Go ahead and cut another waistband piece in the exact same size, so that's 29 and a half by four inches for me and whatever that is for you go ahead and cut that, and we're going to be placing our other waistband piece with the right side facing down on top of that row of gathering stitch. If you look underneath you'll see that our first waistband piece is right side facing up. And now we're adding our second waistband piece and we're going to be encasing this gathered skirt in between the two waistband pieces. So I'm lining up the top corner just like this, I'm gonna pin this about every inch, because I want this pin to hold down those gathered folds, so that they don't get in the way when we're sewing. So we're gonna put this under the presser foot, and we're going to sew with the edge of the presser foot on the edge of the fabric, and back stitch at the beginning and the end. And then you're gonna back stitch at the end right here. And if we flip up our waistband, you'll see that we have our perfectly gathered top, and then if you turn it over to the other side, you'll see how neat it is on the back. And this raw edge is completely hidden on the inside. You may have a few visible gathering stitches, and you can just use your seam ripper to remove those. You can just go ahead and give that waistband a really good press with the iron, and then we'll be moving on to the next step.

Adding ties and finishing the apron

- We're gonna add the ties and enclose the waistband, so what I've done is ironed in the sides about a quarter of an inch towards the wrong side. And you'll see I've done that on both sides of the top of the band. And then after that, I've ironed in about a quarter inch on the ends here and here. We're just gonna taper the end of the tie before we encase it in the waistband. I'm just gonna take the raw end and I'm just gonna create a tiny, little pleat right there. I'm just gonna stick a pin in that little tuck right there. And then, I'm just going to sew close to the edge across the end, there. And I'll just sew this other one. (sewing machine buzzes) I'm gonna start off by pinning my two folded down edges together. And then here on the ends, we had folded in these ends, just like that, so you can fold them in again. And then, I'm just gonna pop this end in there. And you only need to put it in, I mean, maybe an inch, an inch and a half. Just remember how far you've put it in on each side. But I like it to be not too close to the edge, I like it in a little bit, so maybe an inch to an inch and a half. We're just gonna pin that in, just like this. We're just gonna repeat that on the other side. We're just gonna be sewing close to the edge along this side, and then all the way along the top and down

the other side, starting and finishing with a backstitch. Make sure to change your stitch length back to a regular, straight stitch length. And go quite slow, because you are going through a few layers of fabric. (sewing machine buzzes) You've made this really awesome apron. It looks super expensive and was much easier, I'm sure, than you thought it would be. You've learned all these amazing new skills, so you can go and tackle any project for any part of your house, even the kitchen.