

# Ashbury Heights Apron

by Shelly Pagliai



Here I am again, with an apron tutorial for you.

I made this apron using the Ashbury Heights line by Doohikey Designs for Riley Blake. I'm in love with the telephone print that I used for the main body of my apron!

The online tutorial for this apron can be found on Riley Blake Designs Cutting Corners College web site:

<http://www.rileyblakedesigns.com/cutting-corners/>

This apron measures 22" wide across the top waistband, 35" wide across the bottom, is 20" in length, and has 41" long tie strings.

Seam allowances are 1/4" unless otherwise indicated.

I recommend that you read through all the instructions before beginning.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 2/3 yard of the main print for the apron skirt
- 1/2 yard of purple for the waistband, tie strings, and pocket trim
- 1/4 yard or 1 fat quarter of yellow for the pockets

## CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Print out the template from page 11 and cut it out, making sure it's the correct size by using the gauge provided.

From the main print fabric, cut 3 pieces 12 1/2" x 20". If your print is directional, make sure you're cutting the pieces the right direction. (The 20" measurement is the up-and-down measurement.)

From the purple fabric, cut:

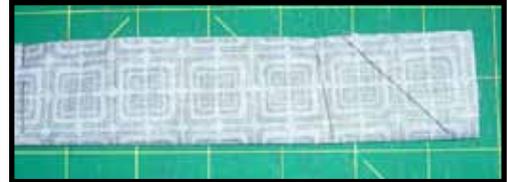
- 2 strips 3" x width of fabric (WOF) for tie strings (cut off the selvages)
- 1 strip 4" x 23" for waistband
- 2 rectangles 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" for pocket trim

From the yellow fabric, cut 2 squares 6 1/2" x 6 1/2".

## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

The first thing we'll do is make the tie strings and have them ready. You'll need your two 3" x WOF purple strips for this step. We'll work with them one at a time.

Fold a strip in half lengthwise, right sides together, and pin along the raw edges. At one end of the strip, mark a line at a 45-degree angle, as shown.



Beginning at the end without the marked line, leave the end open, backstitch to secure the seam, and stitch the raw edges together down the length of the strip. When you come to the marked line, pivot and stitch on the line toward the folded edge, backstitching again at the end. Trim the seam and clip the corners on the angled part.



Turn the tube right side out and press.  
Repeat for the other tie string.  
Set them aside for later.



Next, we'll work on the pockets.

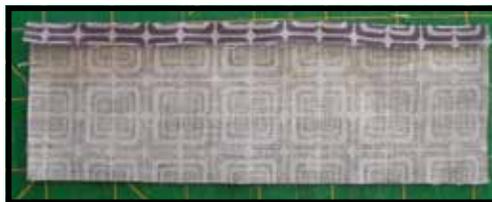
Match your two 6 1/2" yellow squares up, **wrong** sides together, and lay them on your working surface. Position the template in the lower right corner as shown. Pin in place, and cut the rounded corner using your scissors.



You should then have one pocket piece with a rounded corner on the lower right, and one with the rounded corner on the lower left.



Next you'll need your purple pocket trim rectangles. Press under 1/4" on one long edge of each rectangle.



Match the unturned edge up with the pocket top edge, right sides together, and stitch. Press the seam toward the purple rectangle.



Fold the purple rectangle back on to itself, right sides together, and pin. Stitch 1/4" seam around the side and bottom of the pocket piece on the two sides with the curved edge. You'll stitch the edges of the purple rectangle together, then just keep stitching all the way around the pocket edge.



Trim the corner, as shown.



Turn the pocket trim piece right side out. Fold the purple pocket trim piece over the seam on the back side of the pocket, and pin in place, as shown. Topstitch along the edge of the purple trim to hold it in place.



Press, and keep turning and pressing the edge of the pocket piece under along the sewn line, pressing it under all the way around those 2 sides.



Repeat for the other pocket piece.

When you have both your pockets prepared, you can add them to the side front skirt pieces of your apron.

To prepare the side front skirt pieces, match up two of the large skirt pieces, **wrong** sides together, and lay them flat on your work surface. Again, using the template, position it in the lower right corner of the pieces, as shown. (If your fabric is directional, make sure you have them the right direction before you cut.)



Pin the template in place, and cut around it to make the rounded corners.



You should have one piece with a rounded corner on the lower right, and one with a rounded corner on the lower left.



To attach the pockets, you'll need the apron piece that has the same rounded corner as your pocket, so match them up accordingly.



Position the pocket 6" down from the top edge of the skirt piece, with the raw edges lined up on the side. Pin the pocket in place.



Topstitch around the side and bottom edges. Baste the raw edges together in the seam allowance to hold the pocket in place.

Repeat for the other side with the other pocket.



Now you're ready to sew the skirt sides onto the skirt center. Sew the side skirt pieces on to each side of the skirt center, catching the pocket's unfinished side in the seam.

You can serge or zigzag stitch the seam's raw edges to keep them from raveling, or use pinking shears and trim the raw edges.



Press the seams open, if possible, or to one side, if necessary.



Next, press under 1/4" all the way around the sides and bottom of the skirt. Leave the top edge alone.



Turn under another 1/4" and stitch all the way around the sides and bottom of the skirt to finish the hem. Go gently on the corners, and they'll curve under easily, since they're bias edges.

Now, using a strong thread and a simple running stitch by hand, make a line of loose stitches across the top raw edge of the apron front, about 1/4" from the raw edge. This will be your pull string to make gathers.



Now you're ready to attach the waistband. Press under 1/2" on one long edge of the waistband strip. Find the center point of the waistband strip, and mark it with a pin.



Find the center point of the apron front's top raw edge, and mark it with a pin. Pin the waistband piece to the apron front piece at this marked center point, right sides together.



On each end of the waistband, leaving 1/2" of the waistband strip hanging out, pin the apron front to the waistband piece.



Working with one side at a time, use the pull string to gather the apron front between the center point and the end pin. Distribute the gathers evenly, and pin in place. Gather the other side, and pin it in place.



Stitch the waistband to the apron front with a 1/2" seam, backstitching at both ends. Remove the basting string.



Press the waistband up and away from the apron front.



Now you're ready to add the tie strings.

Working on one end, fold the waistband in half, right sides together to find the center where it will fold over. Lay a tie string even with the fold, with the seam of the tie string toward the bottom, as shown.



Fold the waistband back down over the tie string, and pin in place through all the layers. Stitch, using a 1/2" seam. Trim the seam and clip the corners. Turn the tie string right side out. Repeat to attach the other tie string to the other side.



Turn the waistband over to cover the seam on the back side, and pin in place.



Topstitch along the edge of the waistband to hold everything in place.



And that's it! You're all finished!

Thanks for visiting me and Riley Blake's Cutting Corners College!



When printing out the template, make sure the line above measures 1" long to ensure that you have it printed the correct size. If it doesn't, then enlarge or reduce accordingly.

