

Valentine Apron

by Shelly Pagliai



This **Valentine Apron** is patterned off of an apron my mother, Hazel Ilene Hyde Pagliai, wore in the 1950s. Hazel faithfully kept a diary all through her high school years, and I am in possession of the diary, and lots of her pictures. I've been publishing the diary, a day at a time, at: hazelsdiary.wordpress.com. The blog contains quite a bit of information, including quilt patterns, recipes, and more. Check it out, if you haven't already!

I thought this apron was cute and oh-so-appropriate for Valentine's Day, so I recreated one for myself from the picture of Hazel wearing hers.

I recommend reading through all the instructions before beginning to cut and sew.

Materials Needed:

2 1/2 yards red fabric

4 yards off-white jumbo rickrack

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

All seam allowances are 1/4", unless otherwise specified.



We'll begin by making the skirt portion. Press your red fabric and fold it in half lengthwise (like it comes off the bolt).

Straighten one edge of the fabric by lining your ruler up on the fold and trimming off the ragged edge.

From this edge, measure over 56" and cut this length from your yardage. Set the extra piece aside for now.

Remove the selvedge from one long edge of this piece. From this edge, measure over 26" and cut. Your piece will now measure 26" x 56". This is the skirt piece for your apron. Save the remaining fabric to cut some pieces from later.



On each short side of the skirt piece, press under 1/4" ...

... then press under 1/4" again.



Stitch along this edge to hold the folds in place. I used matching red thread, but you can use a contrasting thread for fun, if you wish.

Next, press under 1/4" all along one long edge of your skirt piece. This will be the bottom edge of your skirt, so if your fabric is directional, make sure you're pressing the correct edge so your skirt isn't upside down! Press under again 2".

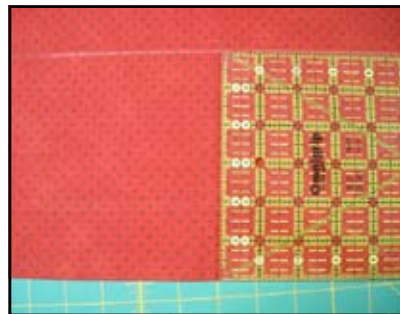


Pin this fold in place so it doesn't move.



Backstitching at the beginning and end, stitch along the double folded edge to hold it in place. This is your bottom hem.

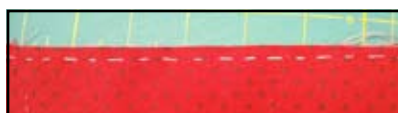
Next, measure up from the bottom hemmed edge 6", and draw a line with a marking pencil.



Lay the jumbo rickrack along this line, folding the raw edges under the side edges of the skirt. Pin in place, and stitch through the middle of the rickrack to secure it.



Along the top edge of the skirt piece, using strong thread, stitch a long basting stitch all the way across, 1/4" from the edge. This will be your pull string to use for making the gathers. Set the skirt piece aside for now, while we work on the pocket and tie strings.

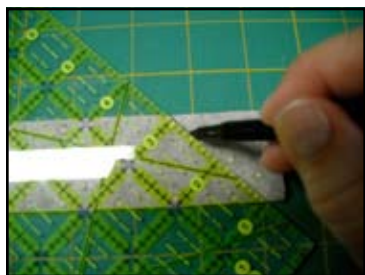


From the piece of leftover fabric you set aside after cutting the skirt piece, cut two strips 3 1/2" x 36" for the tie strings.

Also, cut one strip 4" x 32". This will be for the waistband. Set it aside for now while we work on the tie strings.

From the other leftover piece of yardage, cut two strips 2 1/2" x 30" for the neck tie strings.

To make the tie strings, we'll work with one strip at a time. Fold the strip in half lengthwise, right sides together. Pin all along the length.



Place your ruler at a 45-degree angle close to one end and mark a diagonal line.

Starting at the edge without the marked line, and backstitching at the beginning, stitch a 1/4" seam all down the raw edges to make a tube. When you come to the drawn line, turn and stitch on the line over to the folded edge, backstitching at the end.



Trim the end 1/4" from the stitching.

Using a bodkin ...



... turn the tube right side out. I used my Purple Thang ...



... to poke the pointy end out nicely. Press the strip flat.



Repeat for the other three tie string strips. The bigger ties are for the apron skirt, and the smaller ones are for the apron bib. Set them aside for now.

We're going to work on the bib part of the apron and the pocket now. You'll find the templates on pages 8 and 9. Print them out, and check the gauge to make sure they're the correct size. To do this, measure the 1" mark on the page after you print it. If it's correct, then proceed. If it's larger or smaller, then enlarge or reduce the templates until the gauge measures correctly. Then cut the templates out, and tape the pieces together on the dotted line. This makes half of the heart. Simply flip the template to mark the other half of the heart, or you could print them twice and tape them together for a full heart template, if you prefer.

From the leftover piece of yardage, cut:

2 from the large heart template

2 from the small heart template



Lay one of the large heart pieces out on your work surface, right side up. Line up the jumbo rickrack around the edge of the pocket, with the center of the rickrack positioned on the 1/4" stitching line of the heart. (Part of the rickrack will stick over the edge of the heart.) Pin in place as you go.



Lay the other large heart piece on top of this, right side down so that right sides are together, and pin all three layers together. Remove the pins from the rickrack as you pin the top heart in place so that pins aren't trapped between the layers.

Stitch around the edge of the heart, leaving a gap low on one side to use for turning it right side out. Backstitch at the beginning and end of stitching.

Trim the rickrack that sticks out even with the edges of the fabric hearts. Clip into the V at the top of the heart, and turn the heart right side out. Press.



Topstitch all around the edge of the heart, about 1/8" in from the edge. This will help hold it flat. This is the bib part of the apron.

Repeat the above process using the smaller heart pieces, and you will have your pocket ready to attach. Using the small heart template, mark the dots on the finished pocket with a marking pencil (make sure it will wash or erase out first). These dots mark the starting and stopping points for stitching the pocket to the apron so that it leaves an opening for your hand.



Position the pocket on the apron front. I put mine about 1/4 of the way over from the edge, and halfway between the top edge and the rickrack trim. You can put your pocket wherever you think it will work best for you. Pin in place.



Beginning at one dot, and backstitching, stitch around the pocket, following your previous topstitching line as closely as possible, and ending at the other dot and backstitching. This is what it will look like on the back side when you're finished.

Now you're ready to attach the waistband to the skirt.



Get out the waistband strip you cut earlier. Press under 1/2" along one long side of the strip.

Mark the center point of the opposite long edge with a pin. Mark the center of the top edge of the apron front with a pin.

Match the raw edge of the waistband strip up with the apron front, right sides together, matching the center points that you marked with pins. Pin the center points together.

Overlap the end of the waistband strip off the edge of the skirt front 1/2" and pin in place. Overlap the other end 1/2" off the edge and pin in place.

Working with one half of the skirt front at a time, use your hand-sewn pull string to gather the top edge of the skirt front to fit the waistband strip. Pin in place.



Stitch, using a 1/2" seam, and backstitching at both ends.



Remove the pins and the gathering string, and gently press the waistband up and away from the apron front.



Now you're ready to use the larger set of tie strings you made. Place a tie string (with the seam toward the bottom) on the right side of the waistband strip, matching up the raw edges at one end.

Fold the waistband strip down on top of it, right sides together, matching the folded edges of the waistband strip to each other, with the tie string trapped inside. Pin in place.

Stitch across the end of the waistband, backstitching at both ends, close to the edge of the apron (1/2" seam). Trim the corner at an angle.

Repeat for the other tie string on the other end of the waistband.

Turn the waistband right side out and over to the back, letting the folded edge cover the seam. Pin in place along the seam.

Now, you can either topstitch this on the sewing machine or hand stitch it down. I prefer doing it by hand, because I do a better job that way.

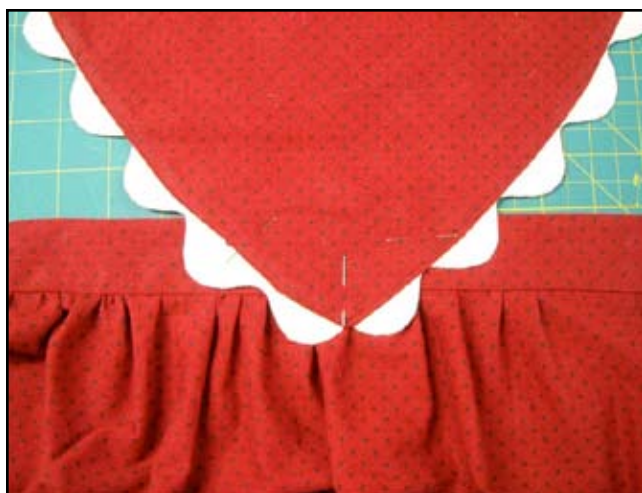


Now that you have the skirt part of your apron finished, it's time to put the bib on.

First we're going to add the neck tie strings to the bib.

On the raw end of each bib tie string, turn the raw edges to the inside about 1/2". Press. Position the tie strings in place on the back side of the finished heart where you want them. Pin in place. Following the topstitching line closely, stitch through all the layers to secure each tie string to the apron.

NOTE: You could add the tie strings as you are stitching the layers of the heart together, and just catch them in that seam, but I added mine this way because it's so much easier.



Finally, all that's left is to attach the bib to the apron front. Mark the center of the apron skirt front with a pin. Lay it out right side up flat on your work surface.

Lay the large heart piece on top, overlapping the bottom of the heart on top of the skirt front. Pin in place.

Following your line of topstitching closely, and backstitching at the beginning and end, stitch through all the layers to attach the heart bib to the apron front. And you are ALL finished!



Prairie Moon Quilts

31763 Intrepid Road

Macon, MO 63552

660.676.0606

www.prairiemoonquilts.com

info@prairiemoonquilts.com

prairiemoonquilts.wordpress.com

