
Quilt Block Oven Mitt with Ashley Nickels

Chapter 1 - Quilt Block Oven Mitt

Overview

(curious music) - Hi, I'm Ashley Nickels. I'm a modern quilter and a sewing and quilting instructor. As a quilter, I was really excited by the whippersnapper block, by Anna Maria Horner, and I decided to turn it into a really simple oven mitt. I'm gonna show you how to make quilt sandwiches, and we're also gonna work with bias tape. We'll practice quilting with straight lines, using the walking foot. Making the whippersnapper block is a fun way of practicing paper piecing, and then you can take your single block and turn it into something very functional for your kitchen.

Materials

- For materials, you'll need a finished whippersnapper block, you'll need two squares of Insul-bright, which is a heat-resistant batting. I've already cut mine out to nine by 13 inches. You'll also need three pieces of fabric cut to nine by 13-inch rectangles, and they can be prints or solids. They're gonna be the inside and the backing of your oven mitt. You'll need a marking pencil, some bias tape, about a yard and a half, and I've chosen to use two different colors. A pair of sharp scissors, a rotary cutter, and a rotary mat. You'll need the PDF pattern printed from the website, and you'll also need your walking foot attachment, and most importantly, don't forget your sewing machine with coordinating thread.

Make quilt sandwiches

- The first thing we're gonna do is make our quilt sandwiches. I've taken the finished whippersnapper block, which as you can see, is a lot bigger than my other two pieces. I've put my Insul-Bright in the middle layer. It doesn't really matter which way, and then my backing fabric, which if you're using a print, you wanna make sure that you've got your right side out. The next thing I'm gonna do is put some pins in my quilt sandwich, and I'm just gonna use maybe four pins to start out with, just to hold it in place. I'm gonna put one in the middle too, and I'll explain why. You can hear that the Insul-Bright kind of makes this crackling noise, and that's because it is heat resistant. Has, like, this metallic material in the middle. Okay, and now, I've got my pins in and I'm gonna take my PDF, which I have traced onto this piece of pattern drafting interfacing because I like how it feels like fabric. You could also just use the paper, is fine, and now it's really important to decide whether you're a righty or a lefty, so which way you want to trace your pattern onto the block. So for example, if I am a righty, I want my whippersnapper to face out, so I'm gonna trace it like this, but if I'm a lefty, I might flip my pattern and trace it the other way. Using my marking pencil, I'm gonna trace my oven mitt template directly onto the block. You can also pin this down if you feel more safe doing that. And just double check that you're getting all three layers. Now I've got my pattern traced onto my quilt sandwich. Now I'm ready to start quilting, and the whippersnapper block is really cool because it will guide us for our quilting lines, so I'm actually just gonna follow the lines of the whippersnapper block to do my quilting. Make sure you put your walking foot on your sewing machine. I'm gonna start quilting on this middle line here and I wanna start, every time I start a new row, I'm gonna start about an inch outside of my template cutout, or sorry, my template line, so I'll start about here and this is an opportunity to practice your stitch in the ditch, which means that you're gonna sew in that little valley area, and I'm just gonna start

quilting a straight line and we're quickly gonna encounter our first pin, so we wanna make sure we take that out. And there's our second pin. And we can also stop when we get about an inch outside of our template line, okay. And now, I'm just gonna continue to sew straight lines and I like the look of two parallel quilted lines that are close together, so after I've stitched in the ditch, my next row is gonna be about a quarter of an inch, maybe even an eighth of an inch next to that first line. My walking foot has this little notch in it, which marks a quarter inch for my next quilted row, so I'm gonna actually follow that edge right up with that notch, and I'm just gonna go all the way down. Okay, I'm gonna continue quilting with this same pattern. I'm gonna stitch in the ditch, and then I'm going to sew another row a quarter of an inch below that, and I'm gonna continue that all the way down into this left corner. You can play around with your quilting lines if you want. It's up to you how close together or how far apart you make them. Just make sure that you have a quilted line about every inch or so. So I've noticed that in this corner, where my template line is, that I wanna make sure that that is sewed down, so I'm actually gonna put another line right in this corner. Because I'm gonna cut it out on that line, I wanna make sure it stays put. My next step is to finish quilting on the right hand side of the block. I'm actually gonna flip my block this way and I'm gonna start sewing some straight lines in this area. I'll take it over to the machine and using this outer edge of my walking foot as my guide this time, I'm gonna sew, so following this line with this edge, all the way down. And my next row will also be a quarter inch, just like we practiced before, using the notch of my walking foot as my guide. You'll do the same quilting on your other quilt sandwich, the one you created with your other pieces of fabric and Insul-Bright, so you'll have traced the template and done your quilting, and it'll look something like this.

Assemble and sew mitt

- Now we're going to assemble both sides of our oven mitt. The first thing I'll do is cut out my mitt on the line. Okay. My next step is to attach this piece of bias tape along the wrist edge. And what you'll do is open up your piece of bias tape and just place this edge of the mitt in there. And see how it's a little short? So I need to move it down. And you can leave a little extra here and then just trim it away when you're done. And I don't even need to use a pin, although you could to be more safe. And then I'll take it to the machine. I'm going to keep my walking foot attachment on my machine because I have a lot of layers to sew through. And I'm going to just use a straight stitch. And I'm going to sew towards the edge of my bias tape on the inside. And I'm just going to do a straight stitch. You could do a back stitch or not, it's up to you. And I just want to use my fingers to make sure that my bias tape is staying secure. You might have to bunch up the rest of this on this end. And just use your fingers and go all the way to the edge. Okay. And then we can check to see how we did on the back. It looks good. If you wanted you could do a second row of stitches along that edge. That way it would kind of echo the quilting that we did. And now I'm going to trim away the excess bias tape on both sides. You're going to do the exact same thing with your second quilt sandwich. And I already have mine here. And our next step is to sew them together right sides together, which looks like this. And I'm going to use a few pins just to keep these lined up. I might put one right here in the middle. That's just to hold them in place while you're sewing. I'm going to sew around the entire edge of my oven mitt using a quarter inch seam allowance. I've kept my walking foot on my machine. And I'm going to start with a back stitch. And again, a quarter inch seam allowance on my walking foot is this little notch here, which is really handy. And a back stitch or two. And now I'm going to just keep going. You can be generous with your seam allowance too. It can be a little bigger than a quarter inch. And as you get to this curve you might need to start,

excuse me, you might need to stop and pivot. And don't worry if it's not completely lined up. You can always trim that later. And as you get into your thumb bay, we can call it, you'll have to stop and pivot quite a bit. And again, you'll have to pivot quite a bit. And at the end I also do a back stitch. Okay. So we can check to see if we need to do any trimming. And I notice here that my seam is quite close to the edge, which is fine. And then also this seam allowance got kind of big. So I think I'll trim some of that away. We don't need all of that extra. Okay. And then here I noticed that there's a little bit hanging over this edge. So I'll trim that. Okay. And if you felt like you needed to go back over any of these seams to reinforce them, feel free to do that. I think I'm going to trim this down here as well, and then maybe this corner, trim a little bit of that away. Got a lot of layers to cut through, so. The next thing I'm going to do is attach my bias tape along the entire edge. And in order to do that I want to first look at this thumb bay area. And I'm actually going to make a few cuts just to loosen up this corner. Be careful not to cut through your stitch seam. And that's just to loosen up this area for when you turn it. It loosens that area up. And now I'm ready to attach the bias tape. I'm going to take my piece of bias tape that's about a yard long, and I'm going to start on this side. My first step is I'm going to fold about a quarter inch of this bias tape in. And I'm going to set it up right on the edge here. Okay? And I'm going to take it over to the machine. This anchors the bias tape. And I'm going to start with a back stitch. And again, we're going to respect this quarter inch seam allowance as much as possible. And the bias tape, what it does is it covers that raw edge. Okay? And now this is a time to use your fingers just to make sure your bias tape is covering the front and the back. And we can double check behind it too, just to see how we're doing. It looks pretty good. The thumb area is going to be a little tricky. So be patient with yourself. As I start to go around the thumb you might need to start, excuse me, stop and pivot and check that your bias tape is covering the back. And it might get a little wrinkled or you might get a few creases in it, and that's totally fine. In the end this is going to be on the inside of your mitt. And then, of course, this thumb bay is also going to be kind of a pain. Bear with it. Just go slow and pivot as often as you need. I find that pinning actually does not help with this because you constantly have to adjust it anyways. So just be patient. It's probably just the most labor intensive part of this whole process. We're in the home stretch. I'm going to continue this stitching until the end. And at this point I'm going to continue to make my loop. I'm going to keep sewing. I'm going to sew probably another three inches of this straight stitch. And I'll take it out of the machine. And I'm going to trim away the rest of this bias tape. At about there. To make my loop I'll bring about a quarter inch or the end and I'll fold it down. And then I'm just going to sew a few stitches and back stitches to secure this. And you have a lot of layers here, which is another reason why you keep your walking foot on. But you might have to push it a little bit. And then back stitch. And I'll do this a few times. I just want to make sure it's nice and secure. And now I'm done I'm going to trim these threads. And this one over here as well. And the next thing I'm going to do is turn it so it's right sides out. And to do that it could get a little tricky. But just pull it through. And you can use something like a pencil or any sort of a straight edge, a sort of poking tool to help you. So any sort of poking tool will work. I've use a pencil. Be patient. You might need to just do what I'm doing, which is go from both sides. I want to show you a few different variations on this oven mitt. I have this one here that is made in a similar way with a pieced block. This one's sort of like a half square triangle, quarter square triangle block that I did myself. And the other side is two pieces of solid that's pieced together. And then I have this one which is just two whole pieces of fabric. And I have to show this side because of the flamenco dancer. But this is also an option, just using two solid pieces for front and back. This is a great project to not only practice your quilting skills and your piecing skills, but it's also fun to play

around with different fabrics. It's a really great project for a collection of fabrics where you can coordinate a bunch of different solids and prints. And it's the perfect way to customize something that if you buy in the store is generally pretty boring.