Sew a Waxed Canvas Lunch Sack with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Make a Lunch Sack
(upbeat music) - Why on earth would you want to wax canvas? And we have answers for that. Mainly it makes it water resistant so it's great for making bags. I guess you could use it for tents or for outdoor furniture, things like that. Anything that you would wanna keep kind of water resistant. Actually I was thinking about later, it would be great for a makeup bag. But one thing that immediately came to mind 'cause here we are in the middle of August, is doing a lunch bag because that's something you definitely need to be water resistant and durable. And you can wax your own canvas and make a really cute lunch bag. So today I'm gonna show you how to make one from scratch. This whole process beginning to end is gonna take about 20, 25 minutes so settle in, grab a beverage, and let's make this canvas tote bag. Or not tote bag, lunch bag. So what I have here, I'm starting out with a piece of fabric that has already been waxed and let cure for 24 hours. So Courtney waxed this on Tuesday and we let it sit. And the reason why you wanna do that is cause you don't want it to be gummy at all. When you're running it through the sewing machine, you want it to be nice and cured. And this one's ready to go. We cut it to, this one is 12 inches by 30 inches. And from there, we're just gonna fold it in half. And we're gonna take it over to the machine and I'm gonna show you guys a few cool tricks today. One of them is doing a French seam and that's gonna hide the raw edge. So in order to do a French seam, we're just coming on over here to our sewing machine. I just have a regular presser foot set up, regular old needle. And we're gonna run it through at about three eights of an inch. And you might notice, you may be saying, "Oh my goodness, she's making a mistake." Because I don't have right sides together and as we all know, you're suppose to have right sides together when you're sewing but when you do French seams, you actually do it the first time with the wrong sides together. So it feels really wrong. You're gonna feel like you messed up but you didn't. So I'm gonna go ahead and run this through on both sides. I'm not even pinning and that's another awesome thing about waxed canvas is that it's so stiff and it actually kind of holds the fold really nicely. I'm not backstitching when I do this because we're gonna hide the seam inside of another seam. So that's a nice little cheat. So when you've done both sides and you go, "Okay, all right so I sewed this up." You're gonna turn it inside out. And now you've got your right sides together. This is probably looking a little bit more normal. And by the way, as I am sewing, feel free to write in with questions. I love questions. I've got Courtney here, she's in the room to answer any questions about waxed canvas if you have them since she is our resident pro. So what I'm doing right now is I have just sewed my seam, I've turned it inside out, and now I'm flatting it out. And I am going to press this. Now very important when you're sewing with waxed canvas, do not put the iron directly onto the waxed canvas because as you can imagine, that's gonna get wax all over your iron. So you need to have a press cloth. I'm just using a nice little piece of Muslin here. Just a scrap that we had laying around. And I am giving this a nice press. I'm gonna do it to the other side. True story, yesterday I was in such a rush as I was making up some samples for this little class that we're doing and I wasn't thinking and I just picked up the iron and I put it right onto my waxed canvas and we definitely had some smoke. I had a few people come in and say, "Is the building on fire?" and I said, "No, no, no. "I just made a little mistake." If you do that, just the iron off and rub it over when you turn it back on, rub it over some of this clean Muslin like this and it should all come off or you could put it on piece of paper too. And it will come off on the paper. So I have just flattened out my seam

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here and now I'm gonna run it through the machine one more time. I love doing French seams. They sound so fancy and they are so easy. This time rather than doing a three eights inch, I'm gonna go all the way out to four eights of inch and this way my seam is gonna be nestled inside of it so I'm gonna sew a little bit. I'm gonna backstitch this time. And I'm gonna go all the way to the end. And back up again. We'll take it out and we're gonna do the other side. Okay. And let's see. Here we go. Needle down, backstitch. Running it through the machine. So like I said, the reason why we're doing this is so you don't have any raw edges inside of your bag. For some reason, it feels kind of gross to me when you're putting food in a bag to have raw frayed edges on the inside. So it felt really important to have some nice finished edges. So let's take a look. Now we have, this is all finished here. When you turn it inside out like that or right side out, you can see, it just looks like a regular seam but it's nice and neat on the inside. So while I have the bag turned inside like this, I'm going to go ahead and box some corners. I don't know if you guys have ever boxed corners before but it's super easy. Another thing that gives a really polished look to bags and is really easy to do. So in order to do this, I'm just pulling out. I don't know if you saw what I just did there. We have a flat seam like this. Just pop out the sides like that. It's like origami. And a lot of people are tempted to mark it on this side. I always do it on the side with the seam because that way you can really see where your center line is 'cause you're following that seam. So what you're gonna need to do is grab just like a little clear gridded ruler like this. We're gonna do a two inch box seam. So what I'm doing here is I'm lining up. I've just got it perpendicular like this. I'm lining up my two inch line here with the seam right up there at the corner and I'm gonna mark it across just like that. Pop in a pin. - [Brian] We have a question. - [Liana] Oh, I love questions. - [Brian] Okay, let's see, is... Now I'm trying to find the question. - Take your time, Brian. - [Brian] Can waxed canvas be machine washed? - Courtney, can waxed canvas be machine washed? - [Courtney] Yes, it can. Should I come up there? - Yeah. Courtney's gonna come up here. She's in the room. - [Brian] And I also have another question. - Hello everybody, welcome to the live stream. (laughs) Hug me real close because I'm not wearing a mic. - Speak into my microphone. - Yes, if you guys were watching on Tuesday, we said waxed canvas can be washed which it can but the reason that you wax canvas is to actually repel dirt and water so this will, as long as you're starting with something clean and fresh. It's gonna stay clean and fresh much longer than something that is not waxed. - So like a good wipe oughta do the job. - Yes, even with a brush. - If you get a little spill on your bag or something. - Yeah, you can do a clean wipe with a nice rag. If you have a little bit of dirt, you can use a soft bristle brush to remove any dirt. You can wash this but it will break down your wax over time so you're gonna have to re-wax it. - This is true. - Was there another question? - [Brian] Yes, is waxed canvas the same as oil cloth? - It is not. - That's right. - As I understand. - That's right. Liana's doing a great job on her test. (laughs) - I look to her. - Yeah, it's not the same. Oil cloth has a plastic coating on it. It's great for things like picnic tablecloths and craft tablecloths and things like that. But it's a different type of coating. It's not a natural coating like the 100% beeswax we used. - [Brian] Can you also tell Bianca where you can buy wax fabric? And can you also mention how we made that last week? - Yeah. - Yeah, so waxed canvas and waxed fabric in general is available in some specialty stores, I believe. The thing is that as far as I have found, it's pretty darn expensive. And there's some really great high quality stuff out there. Don't get me wrong, love me some waxed canvas by the yardage. But if you are not wanting to spend $30 or $40 a yard for some of the stuff I've seen, you would instead wanna just get your own canvas or your own upholstery weight fabric and wax it yourself. You're gonna save a bundle of money and you get to pick fun prints like this. They're not usually available in pattern fabric. Most of the time they come in like olive or khaki or brown. Some very neutral

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masculine beautiful, beautiful colors but again, solid is what you're gonna get. - [Courtney] Plus you can wax things that are already sewed like your makeup bag. - You can wax things that are already sewn like your makeup bag. Exactly, thank you Courtney. So I have just boxed these corners here. I marked them with my blue chalk and I'm gonna take it over to the machine and sew them. Okay. And again, just a simple line here. We've pinned it so that are fabric is folded properly. I'm just gonna lift that up so it's nice and smooth. We do want to backstitch at the beginning and end. And take this out. I'm going a little fast for you guys but normally I'm a person who trims my tails as I go. - [Brian] Can you just remind people that we showed how to wax this particular fabric in the last live class? - I will. So if you guys missed it, last Tuesday on our Facebook page. If you are watching this on Creativebug's Facebook page, welcome. If you're watching on the Joann Facebook page, welcome. We, last Tuesday, did a whole live class on how to wax your own fabric two different ways. Courtney showed how to do it with both a bar of beeswax and how to melt it in a crockpot and paint it on basically which is a little bit of thicker application but go check it out. We also have it in HD on Creativebug.com if you want to go watch that and see how it's done. Okay, so I boxed my corners. Now, we can turn it right side out. And you will see we have this cute little bag taking shape. It's got a nice flat bottom. I really modeled this after the classic brown paper sack. So it's already standing and that's the wax that's in the fabric that's making it be able to stand like that. Normally a regular cotton or utility canvas like this would not stand up. So it's kind of exciting to see it take shape. - [Courtney] Move the iron. - (laughs) The iron right in my face. So now we are ready to finish the top. I'm gonna turn it back out again. And in order to do this, I just gonna fold it down. Just a smidge. It's my technical term for anything that is around half a inch. Okay, so we're gonna turn it down like that. Once again, we're gonna use our press cloth and give it a nice little press. It does really hold a crease really well and I actually was reading some stuff about it and some people recommend using something called a clapper when you're sewing with wax canvas to really get a crisp edge. I imagine it's kind of like a chip clip and really keeps it nice and crisp but let me know if you've used a clapper. I've actually never worked with one before. Okay, and then I'm making sure my seams are all going the right direction. That's important. Turning these back this way. - [Brian] What brand sewing machine are you using? - A Janome, I am working on a Janome today. We have a lot of machines here at the office. We have what we call the sewing machine parking lot and I time and again go back to this really classic Janome model and I love showing that you can work on a whole bunch of different types of fabric with just a really simple sewing machine. So it does the trick, love this guy. Okay, so I folded it over one more time, about an inch. And I'm gonna press it one more time. And now I'm gonna be super fearless and go to the sewing machine to sew this on without any pins. (gasps) Because again, wax canvas, it's so forgiving and it really holds the edge. I'm just gonna take off this bottom part because it's a little bit of a smaller circumference here. And I'm gonna sew right along the edge, the inside edge here. And I'm actually gonna go a little bit further. Okay. Oops, you know what? I did that wrong because you've gotta start, it's really much better if you start at the side. I don't wanna teach you guys how to do this wrong. Okay. So now we're in at the side, dropping my needle down, and when you get to these sides, remember you're going through a lot of layers of fabric. So slow down, take your time when you get to the edges. Make sure your little fold line here isn't popping up. So here I'm going through four layers of fabric so just hold on to the edge. Kind of pull it through, it'll go. And we'll keep going around. And one more time through all those layers. There we go. So once you have done that, you are ready to add some Velcro. And what I love to do. Actually I'll do it from the inside here. Okay, so I'm gonna turn this bag. Look we're so close to being done. And I've got my little Velcro bits here. So I've cut them

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into about inch and a half pieces. And I'm just gonna figure out where I wanna place them. I'm eyeballing the halfway point in between here. That looks pretty even to me. If you wanna be precise, go ahead and measure it. I'm living on the edge. And I just mark the sides so I know exactly where it's gonna go. Flip it over. And then you can take it apart and sew these on one at a time. - A couple of questions. - Okay. - [Brian] Okay, so is the inside of the bag waterproof? - I believe Courtney waxed both sides of the fabric. If you wax both sides of the fabric, then yes it is. If you only wax one side of the fabric, then it's a little bit more questionable. You really want to do a thorough waxing. - [Brian] And that would be the reason why you wouldn't be adding a liner. - Yes, exactly because it should do the job. It should be that precipitation from leeching out or leeching in and make it so that you can just wipe it down. - [Brian] And just remind everyone because we have a whole bunch of new people, what fabric are we using and how did we get this fabric? - Oh my goodness. So I am using a patterned canvas fabric and we chose this because it's super fun and we thought it would make a fun lunch bag. The fabric itself, just for you who are joining us, we waxed last Tuesday in our live shoot so this has been coated in a nice thin layer of wax and you can, it's a little bit hard to see. If you scrunch it up, you can kind of see some of the lines here from where the wax comes through and that's part of rustic appeal. - [Brian] Thank you. - Yeah. Okay, so I've placed this little piece of Velcro between the two chalk lines. I'm just gonna take it over to the sewing machine. And again, I'm not pinning. It's really hard to pin for Velcro so just do your best to eyeball it. Once you get one seam on, then you're good to go. So I'm lowering the needle and I'm just gonna make a box. Backstitching. And do try to be a little bit neat because it will show from the outside. And turning it again. And one more time. We're good. So there we go. We've got this on. Rather than show you how to do the other pieces of Velcro now that you know how to do it, I'm gonna show this finished one that I already did. So this is the finished lunch bag and I put two pieces of Velcro here at the top. So it closes up nice and neat. And then I also put a piece of Velcro right here on the edge of the bag and another one down here. So it can fold over and you can carry it just like it's a brown paper bag. - [Courtney] What's for lunch? - Do you really want to know what's in here? It didn't look as cute when it didn't have food in it. So I have some tortilla chips and an apple and some cookies. And no protein whatsoever. (laughs) Not the healthiest lunch. I really hope that you guys enjoyed this lesson. Again, if you are curious about waxing fabric, I really encourage you to go watch the prior class where we showed how to do that and then you'll go and make something like this. And then finally something really important you guys is if you're going to be sewing with wax canvas on your home sewing machine, you might get a little gunked up in the works here. I mean, it's not totally obvious but just make sure you change your needle before the next time you sew with it. And you might also wanna give it a good cleaning. We have an awesome class on Creativebug that is all about how to maintain your sewing machine so it's like literally how to go in there with the brush and with your little oil that it comes with. You know that little mysterious thing of oil that comes with your sewing machine that nobody ever knows what to do with. So we show you how to do that and really how to take it apart and care of your machine. So check that out if you are curious and wanna give your machine a tune-up. And thanks again. We'll see you next week. We do this every Tuesday and Thursday. Like our page to get notified. All right, bye guys. (upbeat music)

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