Sew a Butterfly Wrap with Ashley Nickels

Chapter 1 - Sew a Butterfly Wrap

Overview

(soft music) - Hi I'm Ashley Nickels. I'm an artist and quilter and today I'm gonna show you a really fast and easy way to use one of your own t-shirts to draft a pattern for a top. This top is really light and airy and it works well open or you could even use a belt to close it. Therefore, we've named it the butterfly wrap and it worked really well in a lightweight rayon material. This is a great project for the beginning sewist. It's also a great way to try out using a rolled hem foot and also you don't need to buy a store bought pattern. (soft music)

Materials

- In this class you'll need two yards of fabric, I've chosen a lightweight rayon, your choice of thread, I've chosen a contrasting thread you might wanna choose a matching thread, a loose fitting tee shirt, your rolled hem foot, a pair of scissors, a piece of chalk for drafting, some straight pins, a measuring tape, and a sewing machine.

Drafting the pattern

- I'm gonna fold my two yards of fabric, right sides together, once, and then twice. And I'm gonna keep my salvage edges to my right side, and I'll go through and smooth out my fabric to make sure there are no wrinkles. I'm gonna bring my T-shirt over, and I've folded my T-shirt in half and I'm gonna lay it down so that these two folds line up and the top edge also lines up with the top, here. Now I'll take my measuring tape and my chalk, and using the edge of my T-shirt as a guide, I'm gonna measure five inches from my T-shirt. And some T-shirts have a slight curve in, and I'm just gonna try to keep my line as straight as possible. And I can stop about here. Now I'm gonna measure about three or four inches below the sleeve line. Maybe I'll go at 3 1/2, and I'm gonna draw a perpendicular line all the way to the edge. My next step is gonna be to draw a curved line, sort of joining these two lines together. This curved line is gonna be our butterfly wing. And now I'm gonna mark the bottom edge and the side edge. And for myself, I'm gonna measure 31 inches from the top edge, and I'm rather tall, so you might want to hem this later on, that's up to you. Okay, and for the sleeve, I'm gonna measure 22 inches from this midline, all the way down to the edge of the sleeve I have already drawn. I'm gonna redraw my curved line because I've noticed that my original curved line doesn't meet this sleeve, so we need to redo that. Okay, and now, what I'll do is take a few pins and I'm gonna pin this into place so that when I cut it out it doesn't move, since I'll be cutting four layers of fabric. All right, and now I'll take a pair of scissors and I'm gonna cut along my blue line. Okay, and now our bottom edge. All right. So now I'll take out my pins and we're gonna sew our underarm seam on both sides with a 3/8 inch seam allowance. So let's open up the shirt and make sure it's lying flat. And at this point I'm gonna pin the seam together, because rayon can move around a lot, so you wanna make sure you pin it. Make sure it's lined up nicely. And then I'll pin the other side as well.

Sewing the wrap

- Now I'm ready to sew my underarm seams with a three-eighths inch seam allowance. To find your three-eighths inch seam allowance, you'll see that most machines have a mark on the throat plate,

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and this one says three-eighths. So I'm gonna follow my edge of my fabric along that line. I'm gonna start with a back stitch. And then, because I'm sewing on a curve, you just want to stop every once in a while to make sure that your fabric lies flat. Make sure you take out your pins as you go. And end with the back stitch. And now the same thing on the other side. Okay, alright. Now I'm ready to cut out the front opening. I'm gonna lie this down flat, and I need to find the center and because I can't see my fold line, I'm gonna use my measuring tape, and we've got about 13 and a half, and then I'll go up to the top section as well, which would be, the half-point would be about 22 and a little bit. And I'll just mark it at the top too just to be safe. And we'll do one more line here. 13 and a half, okay. Alright, and very important to remember here to only cut through one layer of fabric, you only need one front opening. Okay, we're gonna make some neck adjustments, so we're gonna look at this opening here, and I'm gonna mark one inch on either side of this opening with my chalk. And now I'm gonna go onto the back and I'm gonna mark about an inch and a half from this opening. And what I'm gonna do is I'm gonna create kind of a U shape connecting those three dots. And I'm just eyeballing it, doesn't need to be perfect. Okay, and then what I'll do is I'll bring this to join up with the edge of the front. And they're more or less equal. And I might smooth that line out actually a little bit more. Okay, and now I'm actually gonna cut out that area. I'm gonna start by sewing my front opening with my rolled hem foot. The rolled hem foot is designed to pull the fabric through and double-fold it. And it's a little tricky to get started. You just want to make sure that you're feeding the fabric through and that it is doing what it's supposed to, which is to say that it double-folds before putting your presser foot down. And once you do that, you can start sewing and it should start feeding through, and you're gonna want to start to bring this material sort of in front of the foot to kind of help it in this rolling fashion. Be careful around this neck area because it's a pretty steep curve. So make sure it double-folds. Now you'll repeat the same process with the bottom edge and your sleeve holes. Now we've finished our butterfly wrap, let's try it on. Ta-da. I have here a variation in a different color scheme, also a rayon, so feel free to play around with different colors and different prints.

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