
How to Mend Clothing with Cal Patch

Chapter 1 - How to Mend Clothing

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Cal Patch. I'm a clothing designer and teacher, and I make most of my own wardrobe. So mending and darning have become a very important part of my process, since I've invested so much time and money into the making of all my clothes. Even if you don't make your own clothes yet, you probably have beloved pieces that might have holes in them, or are starting to fray. And knowing how to do a little repair work will extend their life. In this class, I'll show you mending with crochet, traditional darning, and how to mend with patches. You might even learn to love mending so much you'll actually be happy when you get a new hole in your clothes. (upbeat music)

Materials

- For your mending toolkit, you'll need a few things. You'll need an assortment of crochet hooks in the smaller size range, some mending threads, you can sometimes find them at a craft store like this. Sometimes sock yarn comes with an extra little bit of mending yarn. So hold onto that. You could save your bits of leftover sock yarn or knitting yarn. If you don't knit, ask your friends who do, because they often have these little balls left over, especially if they're a sock knitter. If you're lucky, sometimes a garment comes with its own ending threads. So look out for those. You might come across some vintage darning tools. This is a wooden darning egg and a wooden tool that's shaped like a sock toe, or a whiffle ball can work great as an impromptu darning egg as well. You'll also need some pins to hold things together, a few sizes of darning needles, some thread, and I like to use the heavy-duty button craft thread for mending. Save some scraps, because you'll always need little bits of mending and patching your woven and knit fabric items. And then sometimes you might wanna use embroidery floss to do a little more of a decorative mend.

Darning with crochet

- My favorite way to mend garments is with crochet. I like it because it's very flexible, you can use it as a flat mend or a shaped mend like on the heel of a sock and it's cool because you're creating a fabric patch that's built right into the garment and it has a lot of flexibility and it's also very durable. You can see that this was a little bit of a bigger hole so I've filled in this whole area, it would have been difficult to fill this in with traditional darning so this was a great way to create a patch that's automatically built into the sweater and then the socks often get a hole on the heel which has a little bit of a domed shape to it so I like to crochet so I can actually give some shape and it's not a flat patch, it's also going to be nice and stretchy and wear really well because crochet is actually kind of a double layer thick. So, there's some heels and here's one on the toe of a sock. The nice thing about crochet is that you can easily adapt it to any shape and size of hole. First, I'm going to show you a flat crochet mend on a sweater. I've got a little hole here in the sleeve of this sweater, you can see how this hole is kind of messy and there are some fraying threads, so the first thing I'm going to do is grab a pair of small scissors and trim around it to make it a nice, even circle. I don't wanna trim away too much because I don't wanna make the hole bigger, but it was kind of an awkward shape and that would make it not very easy to fill in. Generally, something like a circle or an oval is going to work the best. So, now it's a circle, but I wanna clean up some of this kind of frayed area,

sometimes you have kind of a worn area around the hole and then you might actually need to trim it bigger because you don't want to be mending into weak fabric or the mend will just pull away so what I've done here has cleaned it up, but also brought it out to where the fabric is nice and stable and it's going to hold well. So, I'm going to select, I think this hook looks like a good size, but we'll see as we get going, we can always change and I've got some fairly matching gray sock yarn. So, just like with any crochet, I need to start with a slip knot, put that knot on the hook and I've chose a pretty small hook because I want to be able to poke it right into the edge of my sweater. So, I've poked it through and I'm joining on with a slip stitch which is a pretty common way to join anything on in crochet, I'm gonna tighten up that little knot there and I'm going to try to lay the tail along the hole as I work so that it automatically gets worked in. I'm doing one chain stitch to start and now I can just move over a little bit on the sweater and single crochet right into it. If you've never crocheted before, you might want to check out my beginner crochet videos, I'm assuming you know at least the single crochet stitch. Then I can continue working around the hole. You have to kind of fill out the spacing because we're working into this knitted sweater fabric and not actual crochet stitches so I'm moving about a quarter inch apart for each of my stitches so far and that seems to be a good spacing, but you'll have to see, if you're too close together, your stitches will start to kinda ruffle up and if you're too far apart, you'll be gathering up the sweater so you're looking for kind of a happy medium. In this case, it seems like about a quarter inch is working just right. So, I'm just single crocheting along, working right over this edge and it's kind of covering the edge. You also wanna make sure that you're working deeply enough into the fabric so I'm trying to put my hook in to the edge of the sweater, about a quarter inch below the cut edge so that I'm really grabbing into some good, stable fabric. If you work too close to the edge, your little, mended patch might just pull away also, so don't be afraid to really bite into the sweater. The farther away you go from the hole, the stronger it usually is. So, I'm back to the beginning, I'm not gonna join with a slip stitch, I'm gonna take a moment to lay it flat on the table so I can just check my tension and how it's looking before I move on. I'm pretty happy with my tension, it's laying nice and flat, if you noticed at this point that your stitches were kind of buckling, actually I brought an example of that. So, here's one that a student did in one of my classes and I saved it because it's got a little too many stitches and you can see how this is all kind of ruffly and lettest, that's going to be a not great foundation for your patch so that's kind of what you don't wanna see, you wanna see them laying nice and flat like this. Had been too far apart, I would see it kind of pulling in and ruffling up the sweater and that would also not be good so the flatness looks good here. I am noticing that this sweater is... Some of the knitted loops are kind of popping up so it's possible I should have actually done a running stitch or two around the hole to stabilize it a little more after I cut it, that's something you might wanna do if you notice this happening on yours, I'm just gonna continue moving on, but keep it in mind that those live knit stitches might end up pulling away later. So to continue, we're not gonna join, we're just going to keep working into the next row and I am going to switch to a slightly bigger hook now that I'm working into crochet stitches and not directly in the sweater. I think this hook will behave better for me. So, I'm just working right into this first stitch that I had made in the first row and single crocheting in there and then working one stitch into each stitch. However, this circle will be a little bit smaller than my first one so I will need to do some decreasing. It's going to depend on the size of your hole, the bigger the hole is, the less decreases you'll need or the more non-decreasing stitches before each decrease. I think I can get away with about four decreases on this round because it's a pretty small, little circle. So, maybe I'll put my first one here and let me talk to you about how the decrease works, it's very simple. I go in and start a single crochet, pull up that loop,

but instead of finishing the stitch, I'm going to go on to the next stitch, pull up another loop, so I've started two stitches, now I'm going to grab and pull through those three loops that were on my hook. And that's decreasing two into one. So, then I can continue and just do regular, old singles again till I'm about a quarter of the way around the circle. Maybe one more. And then I should probably decrease again so, I'm putting the hook in, pulling up a loop, putting the hook into the next stitch, pulling up the loop, I've got three loops on my hook and I grab the yarn and go through all three. Just keep working around that way and we're almost done with this round, I'm ready to decrease again. And this is where I started round two. So, I'd say at the end of every round, it's a good time to just take a moment, let it lay down flat, a little bit of slight lumpiness is fine, like this is looking good, but if you saw major ruffling or anything weird, you might need to go back and adjust your decrease spacing, but I think this is looking great. So, the round I just did I decreased after every four stitches, for round three, we'll start by doing three stitches and then a decrease. One, two, three and decrease. As they get smaller, each round will start to go faster and faster too. And we're almost done with this round, if you have trouble seeing where your round stop and start, you could use a stitch marker or a piece of yarn to mark it, but it's also not an exact thing so if you start a little before or after the exact same spot every time, that's all gonna be fine. So, I'm ready for another decrease and this is the start of row four so now I'll just be doing two stitches and then a decrease. And you can see... Let's just look, I did say we should look at it after every round and it's getting more and more twisted so it helps to untwist it. So, we're filling in that hole with a nice, little, round crocheted patch. It's looking great. It looks like we might just need two more rounds and they'll be pretty short, so two stitches and a decrease. Have I gone all the way around? I think I have. Maybe I'll do another two and decrease and then I'll switch to ones and decrease. It does get hard to tell where you are as the circle gets smaller, but like I said it's not super precise. So, for this last round, it's just one stitch, one decrease. Let's take a look at this. It's better to stop a little bit early than a little too late. I do have a habit of wanting to keep going and if you do that, it will make a little point in the center so I think we're actually at the perfect stopping place and I'm going to break my yarn and finish this off and then take a needle and weave it together. So, there is still just a teeny bit of a hole, but better to do that than to keep working and making a little point. I've broken the yarn, I can pull it through that last loop and finish it off, tighten it up and then put it on my needle. I've got a pretty small tapestry needle for this because I'm just weaving it around this small center circle. I often just insert it into the top of those single crochets that I've just worked around this last row and make sure you go all the way around. So, I think I've gone in every stitch and now if I just pull it up, it's going to cinch it up nice and flat. I'm gonna put my hand in so I don't stitch it to the other side of the arm. I'm just gonna make a couple stitches, working right across the hole to really seal it up. And you do wanna be careful not to pull too tight because that can also make a little bump in the center. So, I think that is just right, I'm going to bring my needle through to the inside and turn this to the back so we can look at it. That looks great. I can tie a little knot by looping the needle under one nearby stitch or loop... Oops, that's the wrong end of the needle. And then bringing it through that loop of the stitch I was just making and tightening it up, that's a nice, little, secure knot and then I'll just weave in a little bit of this tail so that I can cut it off and it won't get caught on things or start to unravel. Crochet is always easy to weave into because you've got kind of a double layer so that should do it. Kinda looks cute from this side too, you could always do your patch from the back if you like the texture of the side better and if you give it a little press with a steam iron, that will flatten out even more, but I think it looks pretty good. This was a flat patch, next we're going to do a shaped sock heel, the technique will be the same, but this time the rate of

decrease will be just a little bit different. So, this sock has a lot of wear on this heel so I definitely need to trim away, you can see it's all messy and there's like three little holes and a lot of weakened fabric around. Often with kind of a synthetic blend sock, the wool will wear away and just leave the little synthetic threads, but they're very shear and not giving you a lot of good sock coverage so I'm gonna trim this to the nice, sturdy fabric that's a little bit away. Let's see how that looks. There's some kind of thin areas here so I'm gonna trim that part too and I want to also look at the placement and it looks like it is basically the center of the heel. So, that'll be a nice domed shape which is exactly what I'm trying to show you. I should probably take away a little bit of this, it's hard to know sometimes, like you don't wanna cut away too much of your original item, but you also don't want to be stitching into very weak fabric so somewhere you have to kinda make a compromise though. For this one because we do have the shape of the heel, I'm going to try my wiffle ball as a little bit of a darning egg tool so let's try having that in there, it's gonna give me a nice surface that's domed instead of flat which is exactly what I want on the heel of my sock. I've got some red yarn this time and I'll make my slip knot just like before, put my hook in it and see if this hook goes through the sock. No, it's a little too big because I did switch to the bigger one, I'm gonna go back to the smaller one. Poke into the edge, about a quarter inch away and make that slip stitch to join. So, I always like to tighten up that slip knot by pulling on the back of the loop on my hook just to make it lay nice and flat and one chain stitch and then move over about a quarter inch and make your next stitch. So, round one of this will be basically the same as it was for our flat patch. We're just trying to work smoothly and evenly around the hole to give us a nice foundation for the rest of our crocheting. I'm approaching the start and then I'll take a look at how my first round has gone. So, that's looking nice, it's pretty smooth, it might look like it's pulling in just a teeny bit, but that's okay because when your foot is in there, it stretches it out. So, when I stretch it out, it lays nice and flat. So, I can go ahead to my second round. The trick whenever you're doing this filling in the circle is to try to guess how many rounds it's going to take to fill it in. If I was doing a flat mend and I think I need about six rounds to go, fill in the circle, I would probably do about six stitches before each decrease on this first row, then five, then four, then three. Because this is now like a domed shape, my rate is going to change a little bit and not stay consistent. I think for this next round, I should probably do a row with no decreases, just to kind of start coming up a little bit and not immediately filling in with a flat patch, but after that, I might jump to a decrease every fourth or fifth stitch. We'll have to see and I'm gonna switch to my bigger hook now that I'm not poking into the sock. So, I'm just gonna do one stitch in every stitch around and I'll definitely keep checking it every round to see that it's laying nicely on the ball which is similar to the shape of a heel when it's in the sock. I've completed round two which had no decreases, for the third round, I think I'll do five stitches and then a decrease all the way around and I'll keep checking the fit after every round and deciding on my next rate of decrease. So, I'll start with a decrease and then five singles. Two, three, four, five and decrease. And I'm back to where I started, let's do one last decrease for this round. So, let's look at how it's shaping up. Looking good, it's laying nice and flat, well, not flat, it's laying domed right against the round, heel shape, it's looking perfect. So, that was a round where I decreased after each fifth stitch. Instead of going to four next, I'm actually going to skip four and go to three to start pulling the dome shape in a little more and flattening it out. So, it's kind of just a judgment call and you can always try around and pull it out if it doesn't seem to be the right shaping. Every sock or whatever you might be mending is going to be unique so there's always a little bit of trial and error. I've done this many times so I can kind of guess and usually I'm right, but sometimes I'm wrong and I pull out a row and go back. So, it's pretty quick and it's better to get the

shape right than to just leave it lumpier, pulled too tight. And where did we start? I can't... I think... One, two, three, yeah, I think we're around again, I should probably be marking but it doesn't really matter. So, I can move to two stitches and then a decrease. One, two, decrease and I'm back in the spot again, so at this point, I can... Let's see, let's take a look. Yep, looking good. I might repeat that row again to fill in, it looks like we need about three more rows so I'm gonna do the two stitches and then a decrease one more time and then I'll go to one stitch and then we'll decrease every stitch in the last row. So, one, two, decrease. Another round so I think... Yeah, I can go to the one and decrease, we're almost there. One stitch, one decrease. It's just about there, if I go too much farther, it'll get to that point where it starts to make a bump, but let's just do two or three decreases to try to fill that in a little bit more. So, decrease. Maybe one more decrease. Yep, that looks perfect. So, I'm gonna break the yarn, finish it off by pulling the tail through my last loop, tighten up the knot, double check that it's got a nice, round shape which it does and I can thread our tapestry needle onto the tail. I'm gonna pick up each top loop of my last round of stitches then I can pull it tight, not too tight, but just tight enough that it flattens out and cinches up that little hole so that you don't see it and just like before, I'll take a couple stitches across to kind of seal the deal and then take out the wiffle ball. I always think they look so cute from the backside. And I'll just loop around one of those last stitches. Bring the needle around and through our loop, tighten it up and then weave it in. We may go back another direction just to really make sure this heel is nice and sturdy and can cut that off. And you can see that this time, it's got a little bit of a round, domed shape. When there's a heel in there, it'll really fit great. This is a great technique to use for bigger holes, for shaping and if you already know how to crochet.

Traditional darning

- Crochet is great for mending larger holes, but for smaller holes, traditional darning works really well. This sweater had three tiny holes, and I've mended each one in a different color with traditional darning. I'll need about two yards of my darning yarn. I'm gonna thread that onto my darning needle. I'm not using a really big, fat needle for this because the sweater is fairly fine gauge, and my yarn is also pretty fine. Looking at my hole, I want to do a circle of stitching around it to give it some reinforcement. Some people don't tie a knot, but I think I'm going to tie a knot. So... Just make a nice regular old knot at the end of your yarn. That'll help the tail from not unraveling itself. I'll come up from the bottom, and pull until the knot bumps right up to the back of the fabric, and then I'm just gonna work a simple little running stitch around the edges, about a quarter inch away from the hole, just to give a little strength and stability to the surrounding fabric since it's a little bit compromised, probably from a moth chomping away at it. Okay. Back where I started, and I'm going to come up sort of at the corner. I know this is a round hole, and I just stitched a circle, so there's not really a corner, but I'm sort of in the lower left of it. So, I'm going to be working some running stitches up and down, kind of creating a warp, because darning is actually a little bit like weaving, we're going to have a warp and a weft. So, my first pass is, I'm just working straight up with a running stitch, just into the fabric. You can try to keep it round if you want. Mine might get a little more square as I work because the nature of weaving is that it's kind of a square shape, although, with practice, you can get better at making it a little rounder if you want. So, now I'm just working back down right next to the first row with another running stitch. For these first few rows that are just in the fabric and not actually intersecting the hole, you don't have to worry about whether your stitch is up or down, or how they're lining up. You just want two rows of stitching very close to each other, but it doesn't matter exactly how they line up, or how they don't line up. So, now I'm gonna go back up.

And I'm working just beyond my initial circle of running stitch. So, I make sure to go at least to the edges and maybe just a tiny bit past. Try to keep the stitches fairly small. The next pass I'll probably really go across the hole. Okay. Back down. And yeah, so, now I'm really kind of almost in the middle of the hole, I just jump across and keep working the running stitch into the fabric on the other side. So, wherever the hole is, you'll just be kind of, threading some warp threads. And if you don't know that word, warp, that's the foundation of weaving, is you have your vertical threads and then you weave across them, and that's called the weft. So, we're kinda laying down our warp threads right now. We'll go down again. There's really no fabric up here, it's all hole, so I'm just jumping over till the bottom where I can put some more stitches. Now I'm back on the other side of the hole, so it's all running stitch. Probably need two or three more rows here and then we can start going across. I'll do one more because I'm not outside the circle yet. Okay. So, I've got a nice foundation of vertical threads and stitches. Where the hole is, it's really just thread... going across the hole, which would not really be, we can't stop here because it's just halfway there. So, now I'm going to work across with my same running stitch. I'm gonna make one more stitch so I can go a little higher because the tops of my verticals are a little above where I was. So, now I'm just working a row of running stitch across. And you can sort of try to be thinking that you're going over and under every other one, but because we're working in the fabric still up here, it doesn't have to be perfect. I can't see all of my verticals because some of them are stitching behind. So, don't worry too much where you have fabric, as long as you're going in and out of the fabric it'll be fine. It's when we get to the kinda, naked stitches that are in the hole that it'll become more important. So, I'm just working back across the running stitch. So, that's my first loose thread that I can kind of, weave into, and I think there's actually two here, so I'm gonna try to split between them. Yeah, so, I'm under the first one and I'll go over the second one, and I can see that there's another one there that I could go over, and then I'm kinda back into the fabric. And go back across. So, now when I get to the weaving section, I do want to try to do the opposite of what I did the first time. So, I can see that I was under this vertical thread when I went across before, so now I'm going to try to be over it, and then the next one, I'll be under. And it's not gonna always be perfect... but just do the best you can. And just always keep looking, like I've got a few little warped threads here so I'm gonna try to make sure I'm going opposite what I did above. There's always sections where you can see them and sections where you can't, and when you can't, it doesn't really matter so much, but... wherever that hole really was, you want to be kinda weaving a new solid fabric. So, I'm done with the stitching, and I'll just finish it off by making one last stitch to bring the needle to the back, and flip it over. There's my little tail, got kinda woven in. I'll just take a tiny stitch into the sweater... and come around that loop, and pull through so that it's a knot that's attached right up to the sweater, and then I'll just weave in that tail, much like I did for the crochet mending as well. You can weave it kinda into your yarn stitches and into the sweater at the same time. I'd go back and forth maybe once or twice. And this is just reinforcing your darn even more. And then you can go ahead and cut that off. And I would probably try to untangle this original tail, although maybe it's woven in enough. It just looks kinda messy, but I think that looks pretty good from the front, and now I don't have a hole. You don't need to have a hole in order to darn something. If you notice that your fabric is wearing thin and you'd like to reinforce it in advance of the hole, we can do that, too. This sock is starting to get really thin around the big toe area, so I'm going to show you how to put a little preventative darning in to reinforce it, and maybe it'll never get a hole. Give yourself about two yards of thread or yarn again. I'm using some sock yarn. Sock yarn's good, 'cause it often has a little bit of nylon, which can help make it stronger. And I'll make a little knot. And I'll come in from the inside of the sock. So, this

is the little worn section that I want to reinforce. So, I'm going to come up... kinda to the lower left of it. I'm worried I might stitch through to the other side of the sock, so I think I'm going to use my darning toe, because I have one. You could also use the whiffle ball like we used for the other one, or anything you can put inside that will keep you from stitching the sock closed is going to help you. I'll just be working the running stitch. I don't think I need to start on this one with going around the area in a circle because the fabric is pretty strong around the edges here. And since I don't actually have a hole, but rather I'm preventing a hole, it doesn't look like I need to do that, but you can always use your judgment. So, I can also kind of, stretch this around... the toe, my wooden toe. Now I'll go back down. Try to keep your stitches fairly small. I'm starting to get into the thin area. I think I caught this pair of socks just in the nick of time. There probably would've been a hole next week if I waited any longer. Okay, let's see if that's enough. I think so. I could maybe go a little farther, but I think I'm back into the good sturdy fabric that wasn't starting to disappear, so I've got enough. So, I can now go horizontally across. Still working that running stitch. And when I can see a warp thread of my yarn I can kinda weave under and over them, but you don't have to get too obsessed with the weaving because you're also weaving this into the knitted fabric that's already there. And since it's not a hole yet... it's like a triple weave, kinda, where the two rows, the vertical and horizontal rows of stitching are working into the knitted fabric, making it stronger. And be careful you don't ever pull too tight, or you'll end up gathering up the fabric. So, at the end of every row I usually check that the tension seems okay. And even kinda give it a little stretch just to make sure. Okay. So, now that thin area is actually nice and thick, and we may never get a hole in our sock. We need to tie off a knot. I'll bring the needle through to the inside, and we can take out the wooden toe. Same knot tying process we've done before, just pick up a little stitch of the sock... Bring the needle through that loop, and then just weave that in a little bit. Should probably do it two or three times, but I think for me, that's enough. And you would come back and weave in your original tail, as well. Even looks good from the back. And there's our little darned patch. Of course, you can always use a closely matching color of thread or yarn to make your mending invisible, but I really like to celebrate the art form of it, and use the wildest, most fun colors.

Mending with patches

- We've done crochet and darning on your knitted garments, but you probably have some clothes made of woven fabric that have holes in them. Now, let's do some patching. This is a pair of jeans that I've had for a really long time, you can probably tell. I've done a few different types of patching on it just to show you that there's actually lots of ways to do this, but what I really want to talk about here is how there will come a point eventually where the fabric is just getting too weak. You can see that there are big holes with really compromised fabric up here above and down below the patches and I've pretty much stopped working on these because I can tell that if I build another patch up here, it's just going to start tearing away. There is inevitably a lifespan, but you can kind of milk as much time as you can out of a garment. The more you love it, the more you may wanna keep going, but eventually, there comes a point where it's just not gonna hold together. We are going to patch this hole in these jeans with a reverse applique, something like this, which is a nice sort of discreet way to patch a hole. The first thing I need to do is just trim the edges of the hole to clean it up and make it a little more of a circular shape, get rid of some of these fraying threads and just make it a shape that's a little bit easier to work with. It doesn't need to be perfect because we will be folding these edges under, but I think that should do it. I'm going to just make some tiny clips into the edge so that I'm more able to turn that edge under a little bit. I think that should be good.

I've got a piece of denim that's a similar weight and a similar color. It's not a total match, but I don't really mind mixing my denims. I'm putting it inside the leg and trying to center it underneath the hole. I can feel that it's pretty well placed with the hole in the center. I'm gonna grab my pins and start turning under the edge of the hole, pinning the patch down. I will need a hand underneath to make sure I don't pin it to the back of the leg. I'm just turning about a quarter inch or so of the edge underneath because that's going to help protect that edge and keep it from fraying even more. You can kind of do it a little bit as you're stitching too so you don't need to make it absolutely perfect in the pinning stage, but it helps to have it mostly in place. Creating quite a little pileup of pins in the middle, but we'll make it work. I think that's good. I've just got to thread a needle and I'm going to use red thread because I think it's more fun. You could use matching blue thread if that's your preference. I'm using the button craft thread because it's nice and strong. I'm going to come up from the back, through the patch, and the folded edge of my jeans. I'm going to do a whip stitch, which is just a little stitch going right over the folded edge and into the patch. I think I can take away that pin now. Let's see if we can get some of these pins out of the way a little more. It's just making this tiny little stitch that holds everything together. Keep tucking your little edges under if they want to escape. You can see that once you get going, it starts to kind of behave a little bit better. At first, it was a big jumble of pins, but now, everything's behaving and it's looking pretty good. We're almost there. I think this is my last stitch, so I'm going to put the needle in and turn the leg inside out so I can tie a knot on the back. I can make a little stitch right into my fabric right next to where the thread is exiting and then bring the needle through that loop and it makes a nice, secure knot. Then I'll just weave the tail into my stitches. You never really wanna cut a knot right off at the knot because it's always going to unravel. This is a pair of jeans so it's definitely gonna get worn and washed and you wanna really know that your stitches won't just come out right away. You wanna go for durability. Now I can cut this thread. I would probably try to weave in this little starting tail too, but my next step now is to try to open this up a little flatter so we can stitch around the edges of the patch from the backside. I could trim this a little smaller if I wanted and because I can see these edges are a little bit crooked and my thread's are kind of unraveling, I might trim it down a little bit, straighten out the grain of the patch and reduce the amount of stitching I need to do, but if the area around the hole was really starting to wear and get weak, a bigger patch would be more reinforcing. Use your judgment and decide what is gonna work best for your situation. These jeans are still pretty strong so I think it can be a little bit of a smaller patch. Now I will turn under the four sides about a quarter inch and pin. Make sure you're not pinning to anything but the top layer and I can see that I did, so I'll release some of these pins because if it's pinned together, there's a good chance I might sew it together. Now I can tell this layer is free from the layer underneath it. This time, I'm on the back, but I always like when I can to kind of bury the knot and the tail in between layers. I'm going to come in under the patch and exit the needle right in the fold. That way, my knot and my tail are already hidden. I'm just gonna do that same whip stitch. There's a lot of different stitches you could use here, but I find the whip stitch is kind of a good simple one that's not too hard to do while you're trying to hold all these pieces together and trying not to stitch into the other side of the leg of your jeans, which would be a bummer. I'm gonna stick with that whip stitch. Just right over the edge of the patch and into the jeans. I do like to try to get one stitch right onto the corner so that it's very secure. Like that. Get rid of that pin. Back to where I started. Just do one more stitch. And then I can tie a knot. I'm gonna make the knot right into the edge of the fold here. Tighten it up and then I can just needle into the fold of the patch to hide the tail. Disappears. Looking good. Let's go back to the right side and see how our handy work looks. I think

it looks great. With the jeans, I tried to make the patch a little bit discreet, but I have a jacket here with a hole in it that I thought would be fun to make a little more of a decorative flamboyant patch. I'm gonna use a cute little daisy printed patch. Because this is a jacket, it's nice that I can actually put just the layer I'm working with on the table. I'm going to center the patch on the hole, and this time, I'm working with the patch right on top. I need to turn these edges under just like before. That's always going to make the patch hold up better because raw edges are always gonna fray. About a quarter inch is good. All righty, I think that's enough pins. For this one, I'm going to use some embroidery floss. I think maybe this light green so that it's a little bit more festive. We're not trying to hide the fact that we have a hole in a patch, we're celebrating it. Make a knot. I could really use a lot of different stitches for this, especially since I'm in a decorative mode. I'm thinking blanket stitch is what I wanna use. I'm going to bring my needle under the patch and come out right inside the fold, which for some reason, it's eluding me. There we go. Tuck that knot right up inside the fold. My thread is coming out of the fold and I'm going to put the needle in about an eighth of an inch to the right and an eighth to a quarter inch down into the patch and then bring the needle straight up so it's coming through the jacket, but not through the patch, and I need to make sure the thread was laying up and underneath where my needle came out. Let me do it a little slower on this one. I'm moving over an eighth to even a quarter inch would be fine, and then I'm coming out just at the top of the patch so it's just through the jacket. Sometimes it's easier to right at this moment where the needle is not pulled through yet, make sure your thread is tucked under the needle and then pull from there and hope that your thread doesn't tangle around all the pins. Just like that. It can feel a little awkward at first, but you'll get into the flow. Let's get rid of that pin. I think blanket stitch is a really cute stitch to patch with. For the corner, you'll just do the same thing, but go into the same hole as the previous stitch and come out right at the corner and you'll see it's going to kind of wrap the stitch around the corner. Like that. Then you can turn to go around the other side. I'll go into that same hole one more time. Take out that pin. It's just gonna get in the way. There. You've got two blanket stitches taking you around the corner. Keep going all the way around the patch in the same way until you get back where you started. I've got one more stitch to finish this up and I can make a little knot right into the edge of the patch. A tiny stitch, needle through the loop, tighten it up, and then I'll just go into the fold to hide my tail. So cute. You could go around and do some more decorative stitching if you want to, or leave it just like this. You could play with different shapes of patch, different stitches, you might even be excited when you get more holes 'cause you can bring in other fabrics and it'll start to be a whole collage of patching. Now I'm gonna show you how to patch a T-shirt. I've got one of my favorite old T-shirts here, it has a lot of holes in it, so I'm going to give it some new life. I have some different knitted fabrics. You definitely need to patch and knit with a knit. Let's see which one. The color is nice of this one, but it's a little bit too thick, so I think I'm going to go with this dark green and I'm actually going to put the patch in an area where there's a couple holes. I'm slipping it inside. Knit edges don't really fray, so I don't have to do the turning under of my edges. I just need to get the patch centered in there so that it's covering what I need and I just need to pin it in place and make sure I don't pin it to the other side. I can feel it in there, so that's how I figure out where the edges are. I wanna include those holes in the patch too. I'm just gonna trim a tiny bit where there's some of this sort of jagged edges. For this method, it's okay if it's a little bit of an irregular shape. Just get rid of that little bit there. I've got my needle threaded with some embroidery floss, this sort of brownish green, and let's tie a knot. I need to come up from inside the sleeve. I'm looking for the corner of my patch and that's where I want to come up. What I'm trying to do in this case is sort of reinforce this whole area because the fabric is

starting to really come apart and I really don't wanna let this T-shirt go. I'm actually just going to do a running stitch up and down the whole patch that's sort of fusing the new piece of knit fabric to the T-shirt so that this whole area will be reinforced. Running stitch is nice because you can keep running the stitches along the needle and do a whole bunch at once, so it's pretty quick. Then I can head back down. It's kind of up to you how big your stitches are. Generally, the smaller they are, the more sturdy your mend is going to be, but you can make them a little bigger, maybe up to a quarter inch. I wouldn't get any bigger than that. Probably between an eighth and a quarter is a good size range. Keep making sure your tension's okay. I'm just gonna keep stitching up and down and cover the holes. This method is a lot like darning, but what's different is that we're adding in a new fabric instead of having to create the fabric to fill in the hole by weaving. It's a good way to mend your knitted fabric garments. (upbeat piano music) I'll tie a knot on the back just like I've been doing for all the others. Tiny stitch, needle through the loop, and I can weave right into some of these stitches. This is a little more of a textured, organic style mend. This method is good when you have a lot of small holes grouped together because you can cover a bigger area and really reinforce the whole thing. Let's take a look at everything we've done. We've patched some holes in a T-shirt, we've put a patch on top of this jacket to jazz it up a little with some flowers, we've done a more minimal reverse applique patch on a pair of jeans, we did some traditional darning on a sock and then crocheted a whole new heel for it, I mended a little hole with darning on this sweater, and a bigger hole with a crochet patch in this sweater. Next time you get a hole in your favorite clothes, don't say darn it, just darn it.