
Sew a Christmas Stocking Using EZ Quilting Templates with Leslie Schucker

Chapter 1 - Sew a Christmas Stocking Using EZ Quilting Templates

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Leslie Schucker. I've been working for Dimensions Needlecrafts for 15 years. I want to show you how to make a colorful, cute stocking for your fireplace or a nice personalized gift for somebody. It's all hand-sewn, no machine is required, and the reason I chose wool is because it's really durable. It creates a treasure to hand down for generation to generation.

Materials

- The materials you'll need for this class are wool felt, this roll is 18 by 24 inches, and you can get both the top and bottom stocking piece out of that. The rest of these rolls are 12 by 12, and that provides your accent pieces. You'll need a chunky yarn for the hanger and the personalization, and embroidery thread to coordinate with the felt colors, buttons to match, hand sewing needles, pins, Rick Rack, your ruler, scissors and rotary cutter. You'll need the EZ Quilting mini Dresden template, your cutting mat, and don't forget to print out the templates for your class, including the personalization and the stocking.

Cut fabric and pin pieces

- To begin, cut out the stocking front and back. To do that, print out your stocking template, cut it out, tape it together to create your stocking. Then we're gonna pin it to your felt. And you just need a few pins, just to hold it in place as you're cutting it. And you wanna make sure you lay it out on your felt so you have room for two pieces, And then I cut it out with the scissors. Once you cut out your stocking, you'll just wanna neaten up the edges. Once you cut out your stocking front, you're gonna take the pins off and repeat it on the other side of your wool to cut out the back of your stocking. You need to cut them separately, 'cause wool felt is thick and it's too hard to cut two pieces at one time. Cut your four accent colors into two-and-a-half-inch strips. That way when you place your template on, all you have to do is cut the sidelines. So you'll align the top and the bottom of your template and using a rotary cutter, you'll just cut both sides. This cutting mat is really nice because it rotates. Instead of having to turn your fabric all the time, you can turn your mat to get to the direction you need it to face to cut. Keep cutting all your pieces. You'll need 11 pieces of assorted colors. I have all my pieces cut. So I'm gonna lay out my toe first and I'm gonna use a few more red, just because it's a Christmasy color and I like red so we'll use a couple extra pieces of red. Your two end pieces are gonna go off the edge and I'll show you how to trim those off. So you just wanna get them laid out so they create a nice little arc across the toe of your stocking, and then we'll pin those in place. For the top, we're gonna create a fun little fringe with the Dresden's and we're gonna just place them. Alternating the wide edge and the narrow edge with every other piece. So it's gonna hang off the edge a little, but that creates the nice little fun fringe at the top of your stocking. Then you're gonna pin these in place as well. This is just to hold 'em so they stay in line while you're hand sewing them across the top edge. Grab your scissors and trim the two edges of your stocking. So I find it easier to flip it over and you can see where the patch lies right along the edge of your stocking. And you just wanna trim it flush to your stocking front. Just like that. We're not gonna trim the top edge. We're gonna leave that loose and create a fun fringe for the top of your stocking.

AppliquÃ©

- Hand sewing may seem intimidating, but this is a small project, so it really doesn't take that long, and I find it a little bit therapeutic too. I've already threaded my needles using one strand of the six-ply embroidery thread. And you're going to do just a little applique stitch to attach your patch pieces to the stocking front. To do an applique stitch, you're just going to come up from the bottom layer and pull your thread up through the two layers. You're going to tack right in front of the stitch where you came up and pull forward and come back up through the red layer. And you're going to just continue doing that around the piece, down through the white, up through the red. And you're going to do that all the way around, till you tack it through the other side. If your thread pulls out of your needle, all you have to do is quick re-tread it and continue on. Sometimes when it gets short, it gets hard to keep it in the needle. And when you get to the side, you're going to just continue all the way down the side of the stocking. When you get to the end, you're just going to anchor it with the little knot on the back. The way I do a knot is I just pull my needle through the thread, I catch the loop with my finger and pull it tight. And it creates a little knot to anchor it on the back. When you go to the next color, one thing to keep in mind is you want to attach the two pieces that are adjacent to each other together. 'Cause if you don't, you're going to end up with a gap between. So what you're going to do is you're going to come up on the color patch, you're going to go down across on the other color patch and pull it tight. This joins the two pieces together so you don't get that white split in between the two patches. When you do that, then it joins your pieces so they don't split apart. And you just continue going all the way around each piece using coordinating embroidery thread to tack them into place. When you're stitching, keep in mind this is a handmade project. So you don't have to be precise with how far apart your stitches are. I generally do roughly a quarter inch or so apart, and that's enough to tack it into place. All right, we're coming around the corner and we're going to do the same little knot to anchor on the back. Come up through your color patch down through your white, flip it over, you create a little loop with your needle and you pull it tight. And a lot of times I'll do that twice, just to create a nice little knot. And now continue with all the pieces and applique all the toe pieces down. Then you're going to applique the top edge of the fringe. Grab the needle with the coordinating thread and rotate your stocking so it's easiest for you to work. You're going to come up from the back and just do the same stitch across the top, switching your colors with every piece. This is the quick and easy part 'cause you're only doing the top edge. And you're just taking tiny little stitches, enough to anchor them in place. And again, you can flip your stocking over and do your little loop knot to anchor it. And then continue on using the coordinating thread of the next patch, which is red. And you just want to make sure your pieces are touching each other. And it only takes a couple little stitches to attach the top of each piece. Again, flip it over, tie your little anchor knot. Continue tacking the pieces down across the top edge of your stocking, and when you're done, your front will look like this.

Embellish

- This is my favorite part. We're embellishing the stocking. You're gonna use some buttons and some yarn to personalize it. First, we're gonna lay them out, placing the buttons on alternate colors. So I have two different colors here. We'll use the red and the aqua, and we'll mix them up. Let's put an aqua on there. So once we have them laid out to where we like them, then we'll stitch them in place using six ply of the embroidery thread. We'll use thread of the opposite color. So if your button's red, you're gonna want to use a teal or an aqua color on the button. And all you need to do to sew it on is have a knot in the end of your thread. Come up through the one hole, down through

the other. And that's really all you need to do to anchor it in place. Turn it over and tie a little knot. For the four-hole buttons, you're gonna do an X. So you're gonna come up from the back, put your needle through one of the holes and go in a diagonal. You wanna keep them in line. Then you're gonna come up at the other diagonal hole, and you might have to poke around a little till you find the hole, do another cross and then anchor it on the back. Sew on all your buttons using opposite color thread. And when you're all finished, it will look like this. Now we're gonna add three more buttons to the toe of the stocking. And again, we'll just alternate the colors. And now we're gonna sew them on the same way we did the top edge, using opposite color thread and on the four-hole buttons, you're gonna do an X. And you're gonna go through all the layers here, you're gonna go through the colored patch as well as the base of your stocking. I'm gonna flip it over, do my loop and tie a knot. (scissors snipping) Last button is the opposite color. Sometimes, it helps to take the needle, push it through, and then you can find the holes on your button that way. Again, doing the X, flipping it over and doing your knot. And that's what it will look like. Next, you'll need your rickrack, some pins and a threaded needle. And we'll add the top line of rickrack to your stocking. To attach the rickrack, you're gonna wanna cut a piece that's maybe about an inch longer on either side of your stocking. So you have something to fold over. (scissors banging) And then you'll pin that in place. I placed the rickrack just below the edge of the the stocking dresdens. And then you'll want to fold the ends over. And now, we'll hand-stitch it in place. To do that, you're just gonna take a single ply of thread and you're just gonna tack it. I would start by tacking the back first. Flip it over, and you're just gonna pull a little tacking stitch at three points on the rickrack, the lowest, the highest, and then, go back down to the lowest again. And what I generally do is I go around the bottom edge of the rickrack first, and then I'll come across doing the top edge of the rickrack. Just anchor your thread as you did in the past, and then your rickrack is finished. To create the personalization on your stocking, you'll want to make sure you print out your template that was provided. And I blew mine up to 200%, so it would fit nicely in the center of the stocking. Take your yarn, and we're gonna lay out according to the letter that that you've selected to get kind of an idea of the length you're gonna need. So I just kinda laid it out. I know I'm gonna need about that much. We'll cut it off, and you basically are gonna use your printout as just a guideline to lay out your yarn. What's really nice about the yarn, it kinda sticks to the wool, so it'll hold it kind of in place for you. I like how that looks. Thread your needle with one ply of coordinating thread that matches your yarn, and what you're gonna do is called couching. So you're gonna bring your needle up next to the yarn, go over top of it and go down, basically, underneath the yarn. You're kinda creating a little wrap around the yarn. And you're just gonna continue doing that all the way through your letter. Just go out about a half inch or so. Bring your needle up alongside the yarn, go over top of the yarn, and put the needle down underneath the yarn. And you're basically just catching it and holding it in place, and that's called couching. As you approach any place where your yarn would overlap, you're just gonna continue doing the same technique. You're gonna come up next to the yarn and go down, on the other side, underneath your piece of yarn. Now here, I'm going to come up on the other side of this loop that comes around. And couching is basically a tacking stitch, and you can use it to create long, smooth lines, by tacking another thread or yarn or another fiber in place. When you get to the end, you're gonna just couch a stitch, very close to the edge, go down underneath, and just make sure you're catching the edge of the yarn. Flip it over and do your loop knot. (scissors snipping) We've finished embellishing, and now the next step will be to assemble your stocking.

Sew stocking and add a hanger

- Now we'll assemble it using your plain stocking shape you cut out and I don't use pins. Wool felt tends to grab to each other so it kind of holds it together. You can use pins if you're comfortable doing that. Line up your front and back of your stockings. And I'm gonna flip it over. And I'm gonna start just using a whip stitch to attach the two layers together. So I'm gonna come between the layers and I'm using six-ply embroidery thread that matches the color of the stocking. And you're just gonna do what's called a whip stitch. And it's just, you come up through both pieces of the stocking, you move forward about a quarter inch or so, and you just keep doing this all the way down the stocking. It's basically attaching the two layers together. The only little tricky part is right here where you had the fringe. You want to try and just catch the white stocking and the Rickrack, but not go all the way through to the colored layers. Keep whip stitching your stocking until you get all the way around the other side. If you run short of thread, just anchor it off between the two layers, start a new thread, come up between the two layers, and then you'll end all the way up at the opposite top edge of this stocking by anchoring it off again. Then you're gonna add your hanger. Grab your yarn and you're gonna cut a piece maybe about 10 inches long. You're gonna fold it over and you're going to just tie a knot in it. And pull it tight. And you can make this as long or short as you want for your stocking hanger. I'm gonna trim the ends and then we'll anchor it inside the stocking. Thread your needle with one ply of coordinating thread that matches your yarn and you're going to not go all the way through the back of your stocking, but you're gonna kind of go between the layer of the wool so your stitches don't show through the back, and you're attaching your hanger to the inside backside of your stocking by just tacking it in place using one ply of thread. And when you're finished, you're just gonna nod it off as you've done in the rest of the stocking. And that's your finished piece. Switch up the colors, play around with your alphabet style, and create a personalized stocking for each of your family members.