Make Your Own Fashion Patches with Lesley Ware

Chapter 1 - Make Your Own Fashion Patches

Overview

(soft music) - Hi, guys, this is Lesley Ware of The Creative Cookie and author of several activity books for youth. I'm also a fashion educator and a gallerina. I'm based in New York, but I'm originally from a small town called Muskegon, Michigan. In this class, you'll find out how to make easy animal applique or emojis. If you don't know, an applique is a small piece of fabric that's attached to a larger piece to create a design. Adding an applique is a method that fashion designers use to make basic garments stand out. Create an applique for your T-shirt, a pillowcase, a tote bag, or anything else. You're also going to learn how to sew on an applique and you'll learn about upcycling.

Materials

- This project is from my book, "How To Be A Fashion Designer." And here's the step-by-step instructions that I'm going to take you through in this class. The materials that you'll need to create your applique are felt, fleece, cotton, or any sort of heavyweight material. This is a great project to clear out your fabric stash, so if you have solid pieces of fabric or even some fun prints like this cheetah print. You're also going to need a small pair of fabric scissors if you have them, or you can just use your regular fabric scissors. You're going to need a sketch pad and something to draw with. You may need an embroidery hoop to help you once you're stitching your patch onto your garment. Fabric markers, a fabric glue. You'll need pins. You'll need needle and thread. And you'll need some garments from around your house or household items. So here I have a tote bag, a pillowcase, and a dress that I will probably be upcycling with this project. I'm not sure which ones I'm going to use yet. And then you'll need your panda patch or applique template. All right, let's get started making our patch.

Create your design

- So, the first step in this process is going to be to draw your favorite animal or your applique idea. I'm going to start with the panda. I love pandas. When I was little, my bedroom was covered in pandas. So the panda is an animal that's near and dear to my heart. So there's a panda pattern, there's a kitten pattern, and there's also an emoji pattern that's attached to this class, but I'm still going to just sketch it out, because if you find there's like another animal that you want to do besides one of those three, it's always good to just make a sketch so that you know the parts of the pattern that you're going to have to create. So pandas have cute little round ears. I'm drawing a mouth for my panda. This next panda that I create, let's give him a circle nose. And then pandas usually have kind of like oval-shaped eyes. Now it's going to put like another circle inside and then like another circle for the pupil. And that's like basically the panda. So you just essentially need like a large circle with like two half circle ears, and then a bunch of smaller circles to make up the nose, the eyes, and then the mouth is basically like a number three that's like not fully developed, or you could do like a triangle for the mouth, or just kind of like a little like half circle mouth, too. So it's really simple, the parts that you need to create your panda patch. Okay, so now we're going to cut those parts out and put them together. So you'll see how easy it is just to take the shapes and kind of of play around with them with your pattern to create your applique. We have our sketch, we have our materials and you have your pattern. So what we're going to do, and I just, before we start

cutting this out, I want to show you how, if you're creating a different animal, how you can kind of use your sketch to translate it into a pattern. So basically you're going to want to make the base, so that's just kind of the outline of the animal's head. So you'll see that this is just basically a circle with the ears, the panda's ears, and then the other pattern pieces you need are a circle for the nose and then the ears, 'cause we're gonna do them and like a contrast in color. And then you may even want to cut out a pattern for the mouth, and then everything else you can kind of improvise and create it however you want, 'cause they're just kind of like little pieces to add details to the animal's face. Okay, so I am going to take the base or like a panda head and I am going to cut it out in this black felt, and I'm just gonna move it to the left, so that I have a larger piece of scrap material that I can use later to add more details to my panda. So I'll just put a few pins to hold this down. And you have sort of two options here. If you want, you could trace around the panda's head with chalk. I like to use pins just cause I, I don't know, I like pinning, but I know some people don't, so you could trace. Okay, so I'm pinning the ear in place, pinning the panda's cheek. And now I'm going to cut it out. For this project I recommend using a smaller fabric scissor, just because it's going to allow you to cut out some of the fine details that are in the panda's face or whatever shape you decide to make. But you can also use your regular fabric scissors too, but you may have to just cut a little slower as you're going around the curves and getting in corners to get the details. Awesome. So now that that's all cut out, we're going to remove the pins. And tada, you have your panda's head. And I'm just going to, like, I'm noticing like a few parts where it's like a little choppy or like it could be like a little smoother. So I'm just gonna cut those off. And this, again, is where your like little scissors come in handy, 'cause they make it easy to do that. Okay, I think that looks great. So the next thing I'm going to do is cut out my panda's ears and his nose. So to do that, we're going to switch over to our white felt. To save time, you could fold your felt in half and place your pattern piece on top of the felt or fabric, whatever fabric you're using, you're going to put one pin in it and cut through the folded fabric. And then you remove your pin and tada! You have two ears. So the next thing you're going to do is just like referring back to your sketch. Just keep building out the parts of the panda's face. So I have one here that is all cut out. So we're just going to place the ear back here. And then I decided just to do like another smaller piece to create kinda like some contrast or just like another detail in the ear. And then here we have the panda's eyes. And then like, this is just like a smaller circle that I cut out without a pattern, 'cause it's just easy to cut tiny circles and then we're gonna do like a circle for the nose. And then we use our pattern for the mouth. And the next thing that we're going to do, now that we have the panda's face, pretty much completely done. And if you want, you could like add like more spots to your panda or you could give your panda a tattoo. So if you have something else you want to do here, you can. But I think I'm ready to grab my fabric glue and start to permanently assemble the panda's face. And then we're almost ready for the final step, which is to sew the panda on. I like to use fabric glue to just hold things in place. And then we're going to do a little decorative stitching just to give your applique a little more interest. So we're gonna start with the panda's mouth, and you don't need like a lot of glue for this. You're just going to put like a little... You know, 'cause we're remember, we're going to do some stitching on this too. So you just want to be able to hold it in place. So that looks good for the mouth. Then I'm going to do the panda's nose. And this glue is called Magna-tac, and the people at the fabric store recommended it. You can use really any fabric glue for this part. So we have the nose on and then I will do the panda's pupil. And then next, we're going to glue the entire eyeball. So I just do a very thin layer of glue. And this is important, 'cause you want to get the placements right. That looks good for the eye. And one thing to think about when you're building your animal's face is just like the proportions, of what the

proportions of a face. And so a lot of times, especially when I'm working with kids, they want to put the eyes like way up here and then it looks like an alien and not an animal. So just make sure that you remember that the eyes, even our eyes kind of fall in the middle of our face. So you don't want to have them too far up 'cause then your animal will look slightly askew. So we're going to place the other eye and I'm just looking at it in proximity to the first eye. That looks great. I have one more pupil to glue on. Adorable. Yay, panda! And now we just have to do the ears. And you can do so many details on this. Like this is just the beginning. Like I have gotten really creative, but I just want you guys to see the basics and then you can take it to the next level if you want. I hope you will. All right, so we're putting a little more glue and I think I'm going to kind of pull this, like I'm not placing it directly on top of the ear, just to add like a little something different here and it kind of makes it pop more. So we have one more ear to glue on, and your panda will have a permanent face. Okay, so now that the panda head is assembled, you might want to go back around and clean up the edges of your base. I kind of like seeing the black popping out from the background, almost like a little outline. So this is the point where if you are going to use your fabric marker to add more detail or interest to your panda's face, you can. I'm pretty happy with like how he looks right now. So I'm going to keep my fabric markers out and decide if I'm gonna do something with them later. But I do know that I want to add a little stitching to the panda, just to make him a little sparkly 'cause I love sparkles. So we're using this gold sparkle thread, which is lots of fun. And I think I want to do some stitching inside of his pupil to kind of add like a little spark to his eyes. So yeah, I always start from the back and I'm just going to do like, almost like I want to create like a square inside of his eyes. So I probably do three or four little stitches on top of each other. So now our panda has like a little sparkle in his eye, and I'ma do one more stitch and I'm gonna tie in that in the back and then move on to the other side. Oh my gosh, it's so cute! So we're gonna add some sparkle over here. I might do like a little stitching on his mouth. I think I'll add some to the ears. So I'm double knotting our panda and I cut the thread and now we're ready to move on to do the same thing on the second panda eye. And then we're going to attach him to one of our items. So I'm going to keep sewing this and I'll be back once all of our decorative stitching on our panda patch is complete.

Sew on Applique
- [Instructor] As you can see, our panda's face is pretty much complete. I used some black thread to kind of secure his mouth. I finished putting kind of like the little gold sparkle in his eye for a little twinkle. I even stitched around the ears with the black threads. So you really can't see it, it as not as visible. And then over here, I did like a little touch of the gold just to give it like an accent. And so now it's time to add your panda patch to a household item or a garment that you want to give a make-over. I decided to put the panda patch on this pillowcase, because as I mentioned earlier, like my room was covered in pandas when I was little. And so having this panda on a pillowcase really makes me think about my childhood and like other pandas that were in my room. And so I am going to show you how to stitch your panda onto your garment or household item. So you're going to need your pins and you're just going to take the patch, and remember, when we're sewing this on, whether it's a piece of clothing or something else, you only want to sew through one layer of fabric. So for example, if I sew it through both layers of this pillowcase, I wouldn't be able to put a pillow in later. So we're only putting the pins through one layer. So I have my hand underneath to guide the pins and also just to keep from going through both layers of fabric. So you're just pinning panda in place. And this is a point where you might want to use your embroidery hoop to help you keep everything neat and together. And it just could make it easier for you to stitch. I'm going to try to

do this without the embroidery hoop, but if I start to run into trouble, I'll grab it. All right, so we have our needle and thread, and I am going to just do the running stitch all the way around our panda's head. And I'll be removing the pins as I come to them, just to make sure things don't get jumbled or tangled as we're sewing. So funny looking at this panda in clouds, it makes me think that the panda is on cloud nine. (instructor laughing) Okay, so we're stitching around and you might want to check periodically just to make sure everything looks good inside of your pillow, so on the wrong side of the fabric, 'cause this is like a little awkward stitching this way. Another thing to think about as you're placing your patch is that you can put it wherever you want. I decided to place the panda in the center of the pillowcase, but you could put it pretty much anywhere. To find the center of the pillowcase, I just folded the pillowcase in half and then folded it in the opposite direction. And then I placed the panda right in the center of the point where the two sides meet up. But you can place your patch really anywhere on a garment or household item. Our panda is like in the clouds, so I don't think I'm going to add any like bamboo or eucalyptus, but if he were on something else, maybe I would, but I'm just gonna leave him on cloud nine. So we're stitching around still. We're almost done. I'm going to keep sewing and I'll be back once this is complete.

More designs & ideas
- As you can see, I finished adding my panda to this pillow case and I think it looks really cute. I'm super happy with it and so now I've moved on to two more projects. One of them is adding an emoji to this dress that I got from a thrift store recently for $5 and I thought it was kinda plain. So I'm going to maybe add this appliqué and maybe turn it into a pocket or I might just put it right in the center. I haven't decided on the placement yet and then I'm also starting another statement tote that just says self-care and then I'm adding a cat appliqué to it and so I did a little sketch and I'm still figuring out a few things but it's, she's getting pretty close. Now it's your turn. What are the things that you have at home that need sort of a makeover or a new life? This is a cool way to take things around your house that are kind of boring or need a new life and make them fab. So I hope you have a lot of fun with this project. Thank you.