Crochet an Heirloom Granny Hexagon Stocking with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Crochet an Heirloom Granny Hexagon Stocking

Overview

(upbeat music) - I have always loved crocheting stockings for the holidays. They evoke such nostalgic feelings and they truly seem like something that my Grandma Wendleton, who taught me how to crochet, would've made. (upbeat music) I'm Twinkie Chan, I'm a crochet designer, author, and Christmas enthusiast. I'm going to teach you how to crochet an heirloom granny hexagon stocking. You'll learn how to work the basic granny stitch, which is made out of double crochet stitches and chains, and how to work in the round to create a six-sided shape. You get to choose your own color scheme and how many colors to use. And it's also very easy to adjust the size of the hexagon and therefore the size of your stocking. To assemble all of our hexagons into a stocking shape, I provide a diagram and I'll also guide you through my preferred method of putting it all together with a hanging loop. Imagine how sweet your home will look with a line of cozy handmade stockings just waiting to be filled with tons of treats and holiday magic.

Materials

- They say that granny squares and granny hexagons are called that because grannies, back in the day. at some point in history, would use all the scraps in their stash to make these squares and hexagons. So you might already have enough yarn to put together your stocking, but I'm gonna show you exactly what yarns and tools I'll be using in the class. This is Big Twist Value. It's a worsted weight, or medium weight yarn. The colors I'm using are ivory, medium rose, deep red, and jade green. You can also use a DK or sport weight yarn for a slightly smaller stocking, so you have some options as far as weight and how many different colors you'd like to use. The crochet hook I'm using is an H, or five millimeter, but, again, use the hook that works best for your yarn. I would also consider sizing down to a smaller hook size, just to keep your granny hexagons nice and dense. I'm naturally kind of a tightly-tensioned crocheter, so I'm using the hook that I normally use. But you might wanna use a G hook if you're using worsted weight. You'll also need scissors, a tapestry or yarn needle, that just means it has a blunt tip. As an option, you can use very long straight pins. These are actually, I believe, corsage pins. I would try to get like an inch and a quarter, or longer, to help you assemble the stocking. I don't actually use pins, but I feel like it's a nice suggestion if you aren't as comfortable with seaming together lots of pieces. I have some fabric on the table. And, again, this is optional. I'll be showing you how to make a fabric lining. You don't have to, I suggest it. So if you would like to make that as well, get half a yard of woven fabric. This could also be an old shirt or a sheet. It's gonna be on the inside, you'll be able to see it peeking out a little bit. So I do suggest using a solid color that kind of goes with your color scheme, if that's your preference. You'll also need some matching sewing thread and a sewing needle, and it's very handy to have a marking tool for fabric. I'll be using a FriXion pen, but in a pinch, I've also just used a regular No. 2 pencil. Go ahead and print out your class PDF. Not only does it include the crochet pattern, but it also includes templates and diagrams.

Crochet a granny hexagon

- If you've crocheted a granny square before, crocheting a granny hexagon is gonna be super easy. But even if this is your first time crocheting a granny anything, I'm gonna take you through it round

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by round and we're just using very basic stitches. If you'd like to design your own color scheme for your stocking, I provided this template in your PDF and there are four blank stockings. You can draw on this or load it up into your favorite drawing program and you can do it digitally. It's up to you. I always like to plan my colors before actually diving into the project. The design I've chosen is going to be this one. It's four rounds with one color in each round, but you don't have to change colors in each round. This suggested layout is kind of cool. It looks like a window pane. It would have three rounds and one color and then one round in the fourth color. I also played with each hexagon using three colors. So this might be rounds one and two in a pink, round three in white, and round four in red. So you can play around with that if you like or just follow along with me as we crochet this pattern. My first and center color is red. Pull out a little bit of yarn since this is a new skein. Make sure you have enough tail here to weave in later. Grab my hook. I'm gonna put a slip knot on it. And we'll begin with a chain five. Chaining is simply yarning over and pulling through the loop that's on your hook. That's one chain. There's two chains, three chains, four chains and five chains. You'll slip stitch to the first chain to form a ring. Slip stitching is inserting your hook into the desired stitch, narrowing over and pulling through two loops on your hook. And see we formed this tiny little circle. For round one you'll begin with chain three. One, two, three. And this counts as the first double crochet of your cluster. And we're working in clusters of three double crochets in this first round. To work the double crochet, yarn over, insert your hook into the center of the circle, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through the first two loops. Yarn over and pull through the remaining two loops. And this is one double crochet. Let's work our third in the cluster. Pull through one, pull through two, pull through two. This is essentially the granny stitch. It's three double crochets clustered together. And our first double crochet in this opening cluster is actually three chains. But it just gives you an idea like this is like the basic foundation of any granny square or granny hexagon project. We'll separate the clusters with a chain two, so chain one and chain two, and then work another three double crochet cluster into the ring. It's one, two, three. See there's two clusters of three double crochet. Wanna go all the way around for a total of six of these three double crochet clusters all separated by a chain two. One, two, and then another three. Chain two, and then another three. Three double crochets. We've got four clusters here and chain two, three double crochets. I've got my sixth cluster to go. If you're feeling like there's not enough room, not enough space for your stitches on the ring, remember you can scoot these down a little bit, give yourself a little bit more room. I'm gonna chain two and put in my last cluster, one, two, three. And then before joining to the top of the first cluster, our final chain two and then slip stitch to the top of this first chain three. And I like to go through two loops of that chain for more stability. To finish, we'll slip stitch yarn over and pull through both loops. And then if you're changing colors like I am, we'll break this off. Give yourself a long enough tail to weave in later. For me, that's usually about four or five inches. Yarn over and pull all the way through. You can pull this tight to secure. And that's what round one of your granny hexagon should look like. For round two, I'm using pink. And I suggest joining someplace away from where you just broke this off. We're gonna join into any chain two space in this hexagon. It totally does not matter where. I would just do it not here simply because then if all of our yarn tails are in the same area of the hexagon later when we weave all the tails in it'll get super dense. So I try to spread out where the tails will be woven. So I'm inserting my hook into any chain two space, putting a slip knot on my hook and joining that new color. For round two, we're going to be making corner clusters. So in each corner there're going to be two clusters. Lemme show you that, we're starting in the middle of a cluster here and I'll show you why we do that a little bit later. So start with chain three, one, two, three. That's again the first double crochet

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of the three double crochet cluster. Work two more double crochets. One, two. We're gonna move on to the next corner. This next chain two space, three double crochets, one, two and three. And in each corner, to really make that point in the corners of our hexagons, we're gonna chain two and put another three double crochet cluster in the same space. One, two, and three. You can see how that makes a really nice corner for the hexagon. Moving to the next corner, and we're not chaining two as we move to the next corner, just go ahead and go right into your first cluster again. Double crochets, three and then chain two and then another three double crochets. So every corner is exactly the same. Three double crochets, two chains, three double crochets. Just do that all the way around the hexagon. We're back at the first one. And remember we started only crocheting half of this corner. So we're going to complete the corner now. So you'll put your last three double crochet cluster right back in that first space. And chain two. And join at the top of that first chain three with a slip stitch, again through two loops of the chain. And you can break off your second color. And round two is complete and looks like this. For the next round, I'll be using jade. And much like round two, you're gonna join your yarn into any chain two corner, avoiding any corner that you've already joined and broken off yarn at. So I'm gonna pick this corner. You'll stick your hook in that chain two space. And I'm joining with my slip knot. And before we start round three, this pattern will look a little bit different. If you continued with all three double crochet clusters in the same way as rounds one and two, you're going to have too many stitches in the hexagon and it'll start ruffling. So we're gonna take away a couple of the double crochets in the corner regions. I'll show you what that means. We'll still begin with a chain three, which counts as our first double crochet, one, two, and three. And then just one double crochet here. In the corners we'll be doing two double crochet clusters. However, on the sides of the hexagon we'll still be using three double crochets. So this cluster goes in between the two clusters from the round below, like that. And here at our corner, two double crochets, chain two, two double crochets. On the edge, three double crochets. And you'll continue around with your two double crochet, two chain, two double crochet corner, and then three double crochets on the edges, all the way around in the same way. Back at my first corner. So I'll complete that corner cluster with two double crochets in that same space. Chain two, and then slip stitch at the top of that chain three to join, going through two loops. You could stop here. A three round granny hexagon will still give you a pretty okay sized stocking. But I'm gonna go for the fourth round. If you are breaking off here and stopping at this point, leave yourself maybe 18 inches of yarn tail before pulling through. But since I'm going to continue with round four I'm just gonna cut about four to five inches yarn over and pull it through. Round four will be very similar to round three. So let's join in any corner space that's fresh and hasn't had any joins or breaks on it yet. I'll choose this one. Using ivory for round four. And much like round three, or exactly the same as round three. We're gonna join with a slip knot. Begin with chain three, which is our first double crochet and then work the second double crochet for that corner cluster. And on the edges here, three double crochets in this first gap between clusters, one, two, three. Another three double crochet cluster here, one, two, three. Back at a corner, it's two double crochet, chain two and two double crochets and keep working around in that same manner. Three double crochet clusters along the edge of the hexagon. And then in the corner the cluster is two double crochets, and then a chain two, and then another two double crochets. I am back at my first corner so I'll work two double crochets in that same space. Chain two and slip stitch to the top of the first chain three. Since this is my last round I do join this and finish this in a slightly different way. It helps me see all of my stitches and chains a little bit more easily when I seam these together eventually. So what I do is I insert my hook just through one loop of that chain three and then I'm gonna give myself about 18

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inches of yarn tail. I'm gonna complete the slip stitch by yarning over and pulling through both loops. And I will not do my final yarn over to create a knot. I'm just going to finish that slip stitch by pulling out my yarn and pulling that slip stitch tight. So I'm using that slip stitch as my knot. And it's just a way for me to be able to see, okay, this is the top of that double crochet. This is the top of my chain three and this is my chain one and my chain two. It helps me distinguish what I'm looking at because I'm going to use all these stitches as a guide for the seaming. Here's everyone's favorite part. We have to weave in all of these tails. There is not really a trick to this. I mean, this is a very open stitch. There are lots of gaps. We can't hide the tail in as many spots but you still got places to hide them. I'll weave through the rest of the cluster like this and then I'll pick up a stitch or a loop of yarn from the round below just to anchor that so that I can bring the yarn back around and hide the tail again inside the cluster. Don't pull too tightly, and then trim. If you're weaving in a yarn tail that's not kind of at the base of a corner like that, you have a little bit more room to weave in. I'm just gonna pass this through the nearest cluster here. And then again, to change directions, I'll pick up a loop of yarn from the round below and then come back through the cluster so everything's hidden and nothing shows through on the front. Go ahead and weave in the rest of these yarn tails keeping your long sewing tail for seaming later. And if you wanted to not change colors for each round of the hexagon I'm gonna show you how to continue with one color. I have round one complete here. And to start round two with the same color, you're not breaking off, we're just continuing with the same yarn. You'll do your first chain three. one, two, three and work just a little bit backward into the chain two space right next to and behind this join and this chain three. So work my double crochet a little bit backward and then complete the three double crochet cluster. And then you would just continue on as you normally would for the rest of the round. So that's why I always start and finish my rounds in the middle of a cluster because if I want to just work in one color for two or three or even four rounds, it's really easy to continue with that chain three in the corner and then go all the way around. And this is what three rounds in the same color and a fourth round in a contrasting color would look like. To make your stocking, you're going to need to make 17 total granny hexagons. And don't forget to weave in all of those ends leaving your seaming tail.

Assemble stocking

- There are a number of ways that you could assemble your granny hexagons into a stocking. You could single crochet everything together which makes a nice bridged border. And you can see how I do that in my Crochet Sampler Daily Practice class. However, my preference for dealing with lots of tiny bits like this that have to go in a very particular order, I prefer seaming with whip stitch, and I know that seaming can maybe frustrate some people, or they just don't prefer it. So you do not have to whip stitch the way that I will be. I just wanna let you know you have options. But for me, as I'm arranging these pieces, whip stitch helps my brain sort of keep a hold on where all the pieces are going to go. Check out the diagram that's in your pattern. This shows the layout of where all your hexagons are gonna go. The main body of the stocking uses 16 of the hexagons, and you're gonna save the 17th piece for the toe. We'll deal with that later. So keep in mind this arrangement for your hexagons. Some people like to seam together in groups of three. They're mostly groups of three and then there's two groups of two. I, however, just start lining them up one at a time. It's just how I am able to keep all the hexagons under control. I am using a whip stitch in the back loop only. I like this look because working in the back loop only, leaves, it's kind of a nice border. You're getting like an extra design element. You could still whip stitch through both loops if you wanted. It's just a slightly different look. So we've already seamed these two together which equate to these top two

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hexagons in the diagram. And I'll show you how I seam on the third. You're going to be making decisions about what tail to use where, how to orient the new piece you're joining, and where the tail of that new piece is going to end up. Basically, my goal is to not have to rejoin any new yarn to seam the stocking together. I'm just trying to use all the little dangly bits. So they might get a little messy, but hang on to all of them. You may or may not be using them later. So for the third one that I'm joining, I might have to seam an edge of a stocking at some point. So I wanna leave this on the side here somewhere. So maybe I'll have these all matching and have the tail starting at the top-right corner. Oh, well, okay, (chuckles) that's fine. I can just use this tail that's in the exact same spot. And for seaming if you want, you could pin this whole array together if that helps you. I find the pinning is not as helpful, but I wanna give you that option if you're like, ah, I can't keep control of all of my pieces. When I'm working at home, I lay these all out on the floor and kind of crawl around on the floor, and I move around the arrangement. But here on this table, I'm gonna flip these around a bit, so I have better access to the stitches. You could just eyeball this and zip right down. It doesn't have to be accurate stitch per stitch, but for me, I'm a counter. I like counting the stitches. I like knowing everything has the exact same stitches. It is in the exact same place. So to give you an idea of what's fitting together, you're following the pattern of that last round. So I know that both of my corners here have two chains each. So to connect one side to the other, my seam is gonna start in the chain. One chain that's closest to the first cluster, right? We're gonna save the other chain for seaming this side if I were going to seam that side. And then you can match them up kind of cluster for cluster, so these two will go together. These three will go together. These three will go together. And then the last two, and then the last one chain in the corner, and that would be the side. For me, it's hard to get the yarn here in exactly the right spot it needs to go when you're finishing up the hexagon. So I do need to weave back through that first chain which is not counting as part of the seaming here. I'm just getting my yarn into the right spot. And I'll pick up that first chain that's right next to the first cluster here, and again, just the back loop. The back loops of both of these pieces will be the loops closest together or closest to your surface. And I'll find the back loop of the first chain that's next to the double crochet cluster here and connect the pieces. I feel like it's a lot of explanation for something that's pretty straightforward. So we'll go to the next stitch, back loop, next stitch on my other piece, back loop, whip stitch, and keep going down the line till you reach the other end. If for some reason, you discover you're off by a stitch or two, it's totally fine. Let's say, I'm gonna pretend to skip one. So let's say, I picked up one stitch on this piece, didn't see this stitch and picked up this one. And then I went, kept going down for a little bit. And then, let's see. Let's see, I would notice, oh, I'm at the two double crochet cluster on this piece, but I've still got one left on the three double crochet cluster here. So it's okay, just kinda double up. I'm gonna pick up the third double crochet here. Go back into the third double crochet on this side and you kind of can catch yourself up. But if you find that you're like two stitches off, three stitches off, I would pull out your seam until you're aligned again. And my very last stitch here will go through the first chain of the corner and the first chain of this other corner. And at the end here, I'll double whip stitch just so it's secure. But don't tie this off, you might use this tail later. So that's my first row, my first three hexagon, I guess we can call that a cluster as well. For the second row I can't really use this tail to start seaming over here, so I would definitely use the tail from the next piece that I'm joining which will be off to the left just a little bit. And you would seam these two pieces together, exactly the same way as these two pieces. I'm gonna turn this around again, weave through one chain just to get my yarn in the right spot. Pick up the back loop of that next chain. Pick up the back loop of the first chain of the corner here and keep whip stitching this edge. Remember, these are all in the back

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loops only. And the last one, I'd like to double up. Okay. I'm gonna keep my needle threaded with this tail as I join the next piece. Again, thinking about where do I want this tail to be? 'Cause I could use this right now. I might use this later. I could use this later. I might never use this one. Just think about your options. I like to use the tail of this new piece for this seam, and I like to continue on with the yarn that I have on this seam. Again, that just happens to be my preference. If you wanna do it a different way, you totally can. There really is no wrong way to do this as long as you follow the diagram. So this is the first time we're kind of joining a corner like this. It's pretty much exactly the same. You just wanna be able to orient yourself. I can see that this is the first chain in the corner, and here is the first chain of this corner. So I'm gonna go ahead and join those. I will keep working up this way. And back in a corner here, it's the first chain of the corner. So I'll double up my stitch, and I'm going to release my needle and work on this seam. When you're in the corner where three pieces converge, you might wanna double up on some of your stitches, so there won't be a gap. What I mean by that is if I were to continue, this is the first chain of this side. This is the first chain of this side. I might wanna pop a stitch in if you remember where these loops are here, just to snug up that opening. It's not a big opening, but I just know that it exists. So I'll just pop one stitch up into the center of this corner here. Can you have a center of a corner? Just where the points converge. And I'll come back in the same loop to start seaming these two pieces together. I'm seaming together the first double crochet and the second one. And then you can continue down in the same manner. After you're finished, we'll look at the next diagram, and you'll see it says with the "wrong side facing you." So we're just gonna flip this whole piece over to the wrong side. And notice, we still do have quite a few tails hanging off, and I'm keeping those because we have more seaming to do, and I wanna make good use of all that yarn. Okay, so after flipping, our piece should look like this and the red lines indicate where we're going to fold the piece, so it looks like a stocking. This is kind of the magical part, so the top folds like so. And this little piece hanging out gets folded in half and sort of see like eventually, if this is what we're gonna have to seam together. For a helpful visual, we can maybe put a pin here, so this flap stays closed. But you don't have to pin for sewing. I'm just doing this so you can see. And then the bottom part, the foot gets folded up like this, like a little puzzle piece that fits together. I might pop a pin in here just for now. Okay. For the toe, let's look at this next diagram. So you can see the red lines are where we folded. The yellow lines indicate where we're not seaming. So you're going to have to leave this opening here for the toe piece. And it looks like there are three sides, but since there are two layers, this leaves six sides free, and that equates to the six sides of the hexagon. Where this black line is, you'll be seaming this bottom edge and leaving 1, 2, 3, unseamed, and you'll keep seaming up here. And then, you'll be able to place the six sides of the hexagon and kind of smush it. It smushes into the toe, kind of like that. And the rest of these unseamed hexagon edges will need to be connected. With the hexagonal toe, there will be kind of a bump, like a lumpy bump in your stocking. Don't worry about that, I don't mind it. You can just kinda smush it around. But if it's really bothering you, I also provided a pattern for a square toe. This is not my preference, but it might be yours. This is a little granny square. And if you want to create and install a granny square, you'll need to seam up this line because this only has four sides. So you'll need to seam up two of those opening edges just to have four left. Again, this is not my preference. It makes the toe a little pointier, but you can go ahead and seam all these unseamed edges and then install your toe. And here it is! It's looking very lovely. And it's almost almost finished. Here, we have the toe sewn in, and this is what I was talking about a little bit. It's a little, you got a little bit of bumpy corner sticking up. This is not a big deal to me, especially if you stuff it with goodies. No one's gonna know. It looks the same on front and back, and we just have a

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few more finishing touches.

Add loop
- I'm guessing you're probably gonna want to hang your stocking in order to display it and fill it with goodies. So you're going to need a hanging loop, and I'm gonna show you how to make a very simple one. However, if you decide to try lining your stocking, you can go ahead and make the loop, but you wanna wait to attach it until you finish lining. And I'll show you how to do all that lining stuff in the next chapter. I'm going to use the same color as round four of my stocking, which is the ivory, but you can use whatever color you would like for your loop. Join with my slip knot. Create a length of chains that's the exact length you want for your loop. It doesn't matter how many, I'm not even really counting here, I'm just creating a length. Try not to chain too tightly. I have a tendency to do that. Loop this around. Imagine if that's the length that you want, I might want it a little bit longer, and I'll show you why. Let's give it a couple more. Grab your stocking and the loop is gonna hang from the back of it, right? So I'm gonna get that closer to me. And how we're going to attach it is you're gonna overlap a little bit onto the stocking fabric itself. So that's why I said add a little bit more length. 'cause you need a little bit more of that hang loop strip to kind of sandwich your actual stocking. That'll give it a little bit more stability. So depending on how you're hanging this, where you're hanging it, what your mantle looks like, you get to decide how much length this is. And for me, this is looking pretty good. I pop my hook back in. I'm gonna chain one more as my turning chain, and then skip that chain and work a single crochet. Oops. Trying to get one loop of that chain. Single crochet. If you need a refresher on single crochet, I don't think we've used it yet for this stocking, you insert your hook into the desired stitch, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, and pull through both loops. And you're just working one single crochet into each chain. As you get down to the end of this row, you could decide that this is a wide enough loop for you. This is actually looking a little thin to me in this moment. It just sort of, I don't know, it's like an aesthetic thing. If you want, you can repeat row one, chain one, and single crochet into each stitch, but you don't have to if you don't mind, or you prefer the look of just one row of single crochet, you don't have to do a second row. I feel like sometimes I go back and forth between the two, just depending on the particular stocking. A second row is feeling good to me here. And to try to minimize the amount of stretch on this hanging loop, after you work one or two rows of single crochet, we're going to do a row of slip stitches, since it's a tighter kind of more sturdy stitch. So you'll chain one and turn and work a slip stitch into each stitch. You don't necessarily have to pull too tightly on these. The slip stitch is innately a pretty tight stitch, not a lot of stretch. It does add a tiny bit more width to this strip, but it's not very much. Break off, leaving, I always like about eight to 10 inches of yarn tail here, yarn over and pull it all the way through. You could sew this on however you like, but again, I like to make that sandwich between the fabric of the stocking and the two ends of my loop. I'm folding this so I can see this is the center point of the back of my stocking. Gonna make that sandwich, and I'm just gonna start, I guess, using my favorite stitch here. I just like to stab in and out of all the layers, basically in a straight stitch, nothing fancy. So back through this bottom layer. See where my needle pops up in the front. Moving down this little end here, gonna hit that corner. For extra durability. I didn't give myself a lot of extra room on the stocking here, but instead of just sewing a straight line, if you're able to sew a box like rectangular shape, that'll give you even more stability and sturdiness here. I'm gonna go up a little and then back across. Trying to make sure I'm going through all the layers here. It will curl a little bit right now since you just crocheted it, but that will straighten it out as the fiber is relaxed and as you use your stocking and hang it. I think have

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maybe one more stitch back down into the corner that I started in, and then you can tie a knot and weave in your ends. I'm going in between the stitches so that the tail is hidden. And ta-da! So cute. This version of your stocking is ready to hang and make your home look super cozy.

Optional fabric lining
- When it comes to lining your stocking with fabric, I fully admit I am not an experienced sewist. So if this whole idea as a crocheter is intimidating or you feel like it's too much work or is scary, fear not. If I can do it, you can do it. The first step is we're gonna trace the shape of the stocking onto our fabric. This is my half yard piece. It's got some foldy lines on it. You could pass an iron over this if you wanted, but I'm not too worried about it since it's going to be on the inside of the stocking and no one will ever know. I'm folding this in half so that I can trace, cut, and sew two layers at the same time. Smooth it out a little bit. Place the stocking on top. I'm gonna grab my FriXion pen. Again, this could be any kind of fabric marker, even a No. 2 pencil. You probably won't be able to see these marks. And trace exactly against the edge, the shape of the stocking. Just kinda like tracing your hand when you would make turkey paintings in kindergarten or whenever you might've done it. Accuracy? I mean, get as close as you can. Do not worry if this line looks wonky and weird and if it's not exact. It's really still gonna be fine no matter what. Before I move this, I'm gonna check, make sure I hit all the spots. Looking good. And you'll need some seam allowance. This line represents our sewing line, so you wanna cut around your line. And generally, I think there are some standards in the industry, like 5/8 or 1/4 of an inch. I'm just eyeballing this, maybe like half an inch? Whatever you're comfortable with, giving yourself enough room to sew away from that edge. So do use a pair of scissors that you save just for fabric. It'll keep 'em sharper. If your cutting line isn't super even, also not a big deal. No one's gonna see. Only you will know. Just don't get it too close to the edge or it'll be difficult to sew. For sewing, you have a couple of different options. I'm going to do all hand sewing, so I don't need a sewing machine or any other tools. What you wanna do first is sew along the side, the bottom through the toe, and back up this side. You're not sewing together the top of the stocking. And this long seam can be done by hand or by a machine. You can even play with iron on adhesive hem tape. I have tried that, I did not have success with it. It could be my own user error, but I would stick with sewing. So if you have a sewing machine, you can zip right through this. And if you're hand sewing like me, we're gonna do that next. You can start on this side or this side. I'm gonna start here. I'll flip this around. You can just use a really simple running stitch. You could also backstitch if you wanted. Whatever you're comfortable with. Going to start at this top corner, insert through both layers. If you want to pin these pieces together before sewing, you can do that. I find that the seam is so simple and the linen kind of sticks to itself, so I don't need to pin, but you can go ahead and do that if that feels more secure. So for the running stitch, we're basically just running our stitch in a broken line. You can find a couple hand stitching courses here on Creativebug. Cal Patch teaches a Hand Sew a Shirt class, which I really enjoy. Heidi Parkes has the class on sewing a needle case, like a needle book, and she also goes through a couple stitches. But for running stitch, you're basically just weaving your needle in and out of the fabric kind of in small increments and pulling the needle through. Cal Patch invented a stitch which has a little bit more sturdiness than just a plain running stitch. She'll do a couple running stitches and then one backstitch. So she'll back up one step and then come forward 'cause the backstitch has a little bit less stretch, a little bit more security. So if you feel like you wanna play with that instead of backstitching the entire stocking, can do that as well. And no one's gonna see this and you just wanna make sure that these two pieces stay together. Also, I am using red thread so you can see

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what I'm doing, but you would be using a thread that matches. And my line is not straight. My stitches are not even. Do not worry about it. You can practice pretty stitches if you want, but for me this is utilitarian. I'm just trying to get the job done and have fun as I go. Oh, well, that's fun. I just created a little knot there. Oh. Try to loosen this with my needle. There you go. Might do a locking, a locking backstitch here just while I'm pausing and then keep going. So you wanna go all the way around and stop here. I've completed one with a matching thread and now we're gonna insert the lining into the stocking. Get your stocking. And I just wanna also point out you can still see my pen tracing line. If you used a FriXion pen, you can hit that with a blow dryer or a heat gun and it should disappear. But again, no one's gonna see it. I think it's fine. I'm just gonna go ahead and continue. I kind of put this on like a glove and then I'm going inside the stocking all the way to the tippy toe, distributing the lining inside. If it feels wrinkly or foldy, again, it's not a big deal, don't worry about it. Just trying to even it out a little bit and make sure that when little gifts and surprises go in here, they've got plenty of room. Just kinda like opening and closing my hand inside of the stocking, spreading the fabric around, trying to make sure that the heel of my lining is in the heel of my stocking. And they're kind of going like this and smushing things around. Okay, this is what we're looking like here. You wanna make sure the top points of your lining are basically matching up with the points of the stocking like this. If you have too much fabric sticking out or it feels like there's not quite enough, it's okay, you can kind of fuss with it and move it up or down. You're not really going to ruin anything inside the stocking. Regardless of the method that you chose to sew the sides and bottom of your stocking, you definitely want to hand sew the top portion. We'll do one section at a time. I'm going to fold the fabric like this. And I like the edge of my fold not to line up exactly with the top of my stocking but a little bit below it. Use some pins. You only need like one or two per edge just to keep all of this in place. These are the extra long pins but you can use whatever straight pins you have for this part. When you're at a peak, just fold the corner. I'm gonna stick a pin into that corner. And when you're at a valley, you wanna cut a little notch in the fabric so you can fold it back. Just, you know, like a maybe 1/4 of an inch. And fold your fabric. Put in a pin. You can rotate your stocking as you go around on the other side of this valley here. Folding back the fabric. You probably wanna put a pin in the valley. That would be a good idea, I'm gonna do that. And then the edge here, making sure that the peak is matching before I pin down the edge, or I guess the side. Keep rotating. It's quite a bit of pinning, but it's very worth it. You see that my seam line is not quite centered. It's not bothering me, again, no one's gonna see that. So fold my peak again. Like so, put in a pin. Keep doing the same on the other side. I'm going to make my little notch here so I can fold the fabric. Making sure this peak is matching up as well before I tack down the valley. We're almost done folding the last peak. You don't need to clip the valley where your seam is 'cause the edges are already not connected. I'm gonna put a pin in there. There'll be one more on this side. Okay, this is looking a little porcupine-y, so be careful in there. And grab your sewing needle and thread. And I'm using red so you can see where I'm going, but you would be using a thread that matches your lining. And you can really start anywhere. I'm gonna start right in the middle of this side. I would come up from the back of the fabric so that your knot is hidden. I'm going to use a simple whip stitch. You can use whatever hemming techniques that you're familiar with. Whip stitch to me is just easy. So I'm gonna come across the fabric here, across the edge. Take a tiny bite of yarn. I don't want a thread to show on the other side, even if it matches. A tiny bite of yarn. Pull through. Watch those pins. And then I'll travel up maybe like 1/4 of an inch. Again, back to front of the fabric. Come across the edge here, pick up a tiny bite of yarn. Come forward, maybe about 1/4 of an inch. Continue all the way around. I think the pinning was more of the tricky part than the sewing part.

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The sewing is kind of easy after you've got all the fabric folded and placed. I know my stitches are super visible, but again, that's because I'm using a bright red thread. Yours will look pretty invisible, especially because it's the inside. I can't keep emphasizing enough, it's the inside. No one's gonna know. Here's a version with the lining completely sewn in. It looks great, feels very sturdy. When it comes to the hanging loop, you wanna make sure that the sandwich, including the stocking and the two ends of the hanging loop, include the fabric. That helps ensure that there's even more stability 'cause you're pulling on the fabric rather than just yarn. And I attach this with sewing threads so you can get through the fabric. If this trio looks a little familiar, these are the colors and designs that I mapped out on my paper template at the beginning of the class. This is the beautiful four color, four round stocking that we worked on. This one has also four rounds, but the first two are in the same color. And this little fun one is using three rounds, so two rounds of one color and then a third contrasting color. I really love this window pane effect. Remember, these are all made with acrylic. And another fun thing to play with is wool or any animal fiber that will felt. Like a not super wash wool because super wash will not felt. This is a hexagon that is unfelted. Can kind of see that's still very stretchy with lots of gaps and the felting closed up and kind of shrunk everything down a little bit. It still has quite a lot of stretch. This was just thrown in a hot load of sheets and towels. You could put it in for a second round to felt it even further. But I wouldn't want you to lose the stitch definition either. So it's another fun project to play with, but for a really sturdy, beautiful stocking, I still prefer lining. No matter which method of finishing you chose or what color scheme you used, I know that you'll be able to enjoy your heirloom stockings for holiday after holiday. I can't wait to hang up these!

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