
Sew a Reversible Sun Hat with Ashley Nickels

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(light music) - Hi, I'm Ashley Nickels, and I'm a modern quilter and a sewing and quilting instructor. I'm gonna show you how to make a really simple summer sun hat. I designed this hat to be reversible, and it's really fun because you can play around with different fabric choices, and it's really easy to make. I'm gonna show you how to measure your head to determine which size hat to make. And then we're going to cut out the fabric, add fusible interfacing, and then we'll sew it all together. So let's get started on this reversible hat. (light music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- For materials you will need three quarters of a yard of exterior fabric. And I've chosen a Chambray today. This sort of gray color. And you'll need three quarters of a yard for the interior fabric. I'm using a cotton linen blend. You'll need two yards of fusible interfacing. An iron, and an ironing surface. Pins. You'll need a pair of scissors. A Sharpie for marking. Pair of snips. A measuring tape. The PDF pattern. And some drafting interfacing or tracing paper. And you'll also need your sewing machine with a quarter inch foot.

Chapter 3 - Constructing Hat

Cut out pattern pieces and add interfacing

- The first thing you'll need to do is decide which size of the hat you're going to make. On the PDF you'll see that I've created a pattern that has three different sizes. In order to determine which one, you'll need to take your measuring tape and measure your head. You'll just take it and go around the back of your head, below where this large part of your head is, imagine how a hat will sit on your head. You're going to take your measurement as follows: I'm at about 23 inches; these sizes pretty much correspond to the normal universal hat sizes. So if you are between 21 1/8 inch to 21 1/2 inches, you're gonna be a size small. If you are between 21 7/8 inches and 22 1/4 inches, you'll be a medium. And anything above that, you'll be a size large. Now, I'm taking into account that some people have a lot of hair, some people like their hats to fit a little bit more snug, so for example, I'm going to make a size medium for myself, because I like it to fit a little bit more snug, so you really just have to make that call for yourself. Looking at our PDF, you're going to notice that there are three pieces. Piece one, which is the top of your hat, has two sizes, the small circle and then the medium and large are the same size circle. And then for piece two, you'll see here that the small, the medium and the large are different, so make sure you cut accordingly. And you'll also see that this piece says "fold," which means that you will cut this on the fold. And then piece three, which is our brim, also has three sizes, small, medium and large, and you'll also see that I've given you two options for brim size, so if you would like a shorter brim, you would cut along this line, and if you'd like a longer brim, cut on this line. You can play around with your brim length, if you want to make it a different size, go for it. To cut out my pattern pieces, I like to use pattern drafting interfacing, because I find cutting out pattern pieces from paper to be kind of cumbersome, and this way this kind of feels like fabric, so it actually moves really nicely and it doesn't distort your pattern pieces when you're cutting them out. To do that is really easy, this stuff is really thin, and you just simply

lay it on top of your paper, and if you would like to use a little bit of tape, you can do that to secure it down, and then you use your Sharpie to trace the pieces. I have already done that, so here is my piece one, here is my piece two, and be careful when you are transferring this to make sure that you indicate which side needs to be cut on the fold. I just use a little arrow there. And for this piece, I actually wrote out "fold." For the hat I'm making, I'm going to show you the shorter brimmed version. So I've taken my pattern pieces and my fabric, and I've placed the fabric right sides together, and this is the fold, so remember two of our pattern pieces need to be cut on the fold, so you can see how I've placed this pattern piece right up to the edge. Now this is super important, because you really need to make sure you have precise cutting, even the slightest distortion is going to effect how the pieces come together. And we can see here, also with piece three, you've placed your pattern piece right on the fold, right up to the edge, and you'll also see that I've placed enough pins throughout, so that it will stay down. You can use as many pins as you feel comfortable with, if this is the first time your are cutting out a pattern, I would use more pins. Make sure you're grabbing all the three layers, the two pieces of fabric and the pattern piece. Now I'm going to cut out piece three, and I'm going to cut right along the edge. Now make sure you're as precise as possible. (scissors cutting fabric) Come back over here. (scissors cutting fabric) Go ahead and cut out all your fabric for the interior and the exterior, and remember that this is reversible, so it's really just two different fabrics, not necessarily interior and exterior. You're also going to cut out your interfacing, and I have chosen to use interfacing on all three pieces of my chambray because it is a thinner fabric. Now that is totally up to you, I find that with a thinner fabric, like a chambray, or even a quilting cotton, I want it to be a little bit more sturdy, so I'm going to put interfacing on all three pieces, but you can see on my cotton/linen blend, because it's a little bit of a thicker material, and if you use a canvas or something like that, you really only need to us interfacing on the brim. I would recommend using interfacing on both brim pieces, because it will give your hat that sturdy floppy look, which is really nice. So now I'm ready to iron on my interfacing, now I'm going to use a steam iron or if you don't have a steam iron you can just use a squirt bottle and a regular iron. Keep in mind that I'm ironing on the fabric side, not on the interfacing side. It shouldn't take you too long, just use this nice swift motion. Keep in mind that this brim piece is a little tricky because it's circular. So you just want to make sure that you're not getting any wrinkles because it is on a curve. And that should do it, one last pass here. Trim away any excess interfacing that you see along the edge Go ahead and iron on the rest of your interfacing pieces.

Assemble pieces 1 and 2

- It's time to assemble our hat. And, the first thing that you're gonna do is take piece two and sew along this seam. The first step is to use pins to hold it in place. We'll bring it to the machine. We're gonna use 1/4 inch seam allowance and try to be as precise as possible just like you did with your cutting. Make sure to move your pin. And, just to point out that you can see that my interfacing doesn't go all the way to the edge here and that's okay. But, make sure that you follow the edge of the fabric not the edge of the interfacing. Take the other pin out. Now, I'm gonna press open the seam I've just done. Just using my fingers to help that out. And, now I'm ready to pin piece one to piece two. Now, this step is probably gonna be your most time-consuming and it can be a little bit fussy. So, don't despair if this is a little bit of a frustrating step. To figure out which side is the top, you'll see that this top side is shorter than this longer side, okay. So, you're gonna use this top side. Now, I'm gonna take the circle and then I'm gonna take piece one and I like to start here at the seam. You're gonna start using pins. Now, pinning on a circle, on a circular piece, is always a little bit

tricky, so we're gonna pin fairly frequently. I would say about every inch you'll place a pin. We're gonna continue pinning and each time you wanna make sure that the edge is lined up. Place a pin and then keep going around. Once you start to get around towards where you started, you might notice some bunching which we can see here. And, what you'll probably need to do is just do some readjusting of your pins. Take out this original pin and that's okay. You can move it around. If I were to pin it there, I would get a crease, right. So, I wanna make sure that I even that out. Now, this is just gonna take a little finesse. Don't worry if it takes you a little while to get the bunching distributed. It's not an exact science. Just make sure that you evenly distribute that bunching. I'm gonna go over to the machine and we are going to sew this circular seam with 1/4 seam allowance. Now, the first thing I'm gonna do is back stitch. And, I'm gonna start here on the seam. And, again using my presser foot as my seam allowance guide. And, I'll remove my first pin. So, you'll see there's a lot of bunching going on and that's because we're dealing with a circular seam. So, just every time you take a pin out, make sure you're flattening with your finger this bunching so that you're not sewing any creases into your hat. So, we're taking out the pins, smoothing it out, and sewing. So, this one's getting a little crazy here so let's smooth that out. Again, keeping our 1/4 seam allowance. And, remember this might be the most complicated part of the entire hat. We're approaching the end here and I'm gonna take out my last pin and just make sure that we have no bunching here at the end. Which, we look pretty good. And, just like I started, I'm going to stop with a backstitch. I'm going to cut into this seam allowance using little cuts like this. And, this is going to give the hat room to breathe, as they say, when we turn it inside out. We're looking at it the wrong way and so once we flip it, because this is a circular seam, we need to give this some give. Okay, so you're gonna go ahead and do this the whole way around. Be careful not to cut into that seam because you would be pretty sad about that. Now, we have half of our hat. And, we are ready to work on the brim.

Assemble pieces 2 and 3

- Before we attach the brim to the rest of the hat, we have to sew the ends together using a couple of pins. Remember to use right sides together. Making sure that this seam is lined up, and again, if the interfacing hasn't gone all the way to the end, that's okay. So we'll place it in our machine, again using the edge of our foot to indicate the quarter inch seam allowance again following the edge of the fabric, removing our pins, and that's it. So I'll bring it over and I'll press it, press this seam open, and once I've done this, I'm ready to pin the brim to the hat. I'm gonna take the two pieces, you're gonna use right sides together, so you see how I've flipped the top so it's right side out, I'm gonna take it and put it kind of inside the brim, and I'm gonna try to line up the two seams, so this back seam, this is gonna be the back of the hat. This is where I'm gonna place my first pin. I'm gonna hold these seams open, I'm gonna go ahead and put my first pin here. And in a very similar way that you did with piece one and piece two, you're going to go around and place a pin about every one inch. So I'll take my pins, and very carefully lining up the edge place a pin about every inch or so. As we get to the end, you'll probably see bunching in a similar way, so you have a little bit here, so I don't want to move this seam cuz I don't want to mess up joining those two seams. So I'm gonna go backwards a little and distribute the bunching and just keep doing that until all of the bunching is gone. So we'll bring it over and place it in the machine, starting at the seam, and again we'll start with a back stitch, and just keep in mind that you have this whole rest of the hat here with pins in it, so it'll take a little of, you know, maneuvering, but you should be fine as long as you keep in mind that these pins might get stuck a little bit on the way. I'm gonna start with a back stitch, and I'm

gonna, again following a quarter inch seam allowance and I'm gonna be taking my pins out as I go. And then, also keeping in mind that you're gonna need to use your fingers to just keep everything flat. So if you see a wrinkle coming up, make sure you flatten that out. Every once in a while you pull the rest of the hat forward, and we're almost to the end, I'm gonna take out my last pin, and again, we'll end with a backstitch. So it looks like we have our chambray side of the hat completed, now you are going to go ahead and do the exact same thing with the other fabric. And I have mine already here, made from the cotton linen material, and again I've only put the interfacing on the brim, we are ready to sew the two sides together.

Chapter 4 - Assembling Hat

Attach interior to exterior and finish

- We're ready to sew the two sides together. And in order to do that, we're gonna take them and we're gonna put right sides together. Again, I'm gonna use my seams as my point of connection, and then I'm gonna use a pin to join them together. And you won't need to use as many pins as you did before, you're simply gonna use maybe four or five, even six, just to make sure that it's together. And then we're gonna take it to the machine and sew almost entirely around the circumference of the brim. I'm gonna start sewing, but I'm gonna start towards the back. I'm considering where the seam is to be the back of the hat, but I'm not gonna start past this seam, I'm gonna start slightly before it. I'm gonna leave about a four-inch gap here, so that I can turn it right-sides out, and I'm gonna start and stop with a backstitch. Again, quarter-inch seam allowance using the edge of my foot along the edge of the fabric. Start with a backstitch, keep going. As I go over this seam I just wanna make sure that I do that carefully so that that seam stays flat. (machine whirring) And then I'm just gonna continue along the whole circumference of the brim until I get to my four-inch gap. And then, again, I'm gonna come around, remembering that I'm gonna leave about a four-inch gap here, so I'll probably stop right about here and give it a backstitch. So now is the big payoff moment where you get to turn this baby right-sides out. And I'm just gonna start pulling my hat through. It looks kind of funny, and then all of the sudden you have kind of like, I like to call it like a UFO. And then your hat is almost finished. I'm gonna take this edge, I'm gonna flatten it a little bit first with my fingers just to make sure that I've gotten everything and if I need to stick my finger through to push it, I'll do that. And then I'm gonna press it, and then I'll get to addressing this in a moment. I'm just gonna press this edge. Just get it nice and flat. When we get to the gap here, we are going to hide this opening as much as possible, which is really the beauty of this reversible hat. Because we won't actually see the difference once we've hidden this seam. I'm gonna iron this one down flat, and then I'm gonna flip it over, do the same here. You'll need to use a couple pins to hold this together. Might take a little bit of finesse, and you can always use a pin, like here I can hide that little thread. Use a couple of pins to hide that gap. And it will disappear. And now we're ready to topstitch. I'm gonna topstitch all along the circumference of the brim. I'm gonna start here at the seam. This is not a quarter-inch seam allowance. This is a topstitch along the edge, so we're gonna get as close to the edge as possible without going too far. I'm getting close to the end, which means I'm getting close to the gap. So since you've already pressed it and pinned it, it shouldn't be too tricky, but you'll have to take out the pins and you might have to adjust it slightly so that it gets completely hidden or blends in, I guess is the word. And you should be pretty satisfied with it. And I'm gonna end on a backstitch. And there we go! So we're all finished with our hat. I've brought another example to show you a version of the hat with a longer brim. Here's this example, and you can see I chose different fabrics. Remember that these hats are completely reversible, so you can wear it with your

neutral side out, or you could flip it around and have your floral side out. Same goes for the one we made today. You can have your neutral out, or you can have your chambray out. However you want!