
How to Chain Piece Fabric with Ashley Nickels

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Introduction

(relaxed music) - Hi, I'm Ashley Nickels, and I am a modern quilter and a sewing and quilting instructor. I'm gonna show you one of my favorite piecing techniques, called chain piecing, and I'm gonna show you on a nine patch block, which is also one of my favorite blocks. It's super simple. I actually made my first nine patch when I was eight years old, if you can believe that, and I'm gonna show you today how to do that.

Chapter 2 - How to Chain Piece Fabric

Chain Piecing

- [Host] For this technique you will need nine squares of fabric. I have chosen today to use three inch squares and because I'm going to use a 1/4 inch seam allowance, the finished piece will be 2-1/2 inch squares. Just keep in mind that you will lose 1/2 an inch on your seam allowance. You'll also need an iron and an ironing surface. You'll also need your sewing machine with a 1/4 inch foot. My first step is sewing these two blocks together. I'm going to actually get this whole row ready for sewing. In order to do that, I'm just going to flip them over on top of each other, just like this. I'm going to start with my first block and I am going to sew along this way. At this point you need to be very careful that you've got your edges lined up perfectly. You also don't need to even pin at this point. We like to call this finger pinning because you can just use your finger to keep them flat. Now, I am going to take it to the machine, and the edge of this foot is my 1/4 inch seam allowance. So, as long as I'm following it perfectly on the edge I have a 1/4 inch seam allowance. It's very important to keep a consistent 1/4 inch seam allowance, so be as accurate as you can. (sewing machine hum) When I get to the end of this block I'm not going to cut my thread. I'm going to stop. I'm going to grab my next set. Make sure they're lined up, using my finger and I'm actually just going to keep sewing. This is why it's called chain piecing. (sewing machine hum) I'm just going to keep sewing through, again, making sure that my 1/4 inch seam allowance is perfect. Again, I am going to stop. I'm going to grab my next two. I'm just going to continue sewing. (sewing machine hum) If you need to stop and adjust, feel free to do that. (sewing machine hum) That's the end of my first row. My next step is to sew my third block in each row onto the row using the same chain piecing technique. What I'm going to do is, I'm going to put right sides together and I'm going to bring it over to the machine. I'm doing the exact same thing I did before, making sure they're lined up. And using the edge of my foot as my 1/4 inch guide. I'm going to sew this seam. (sewing machine hum) Again, I'm not going to trim this thread. I'm going to take my next block, right sides together and I'm going to continue down the line. (sewing machine hum) I'm going to do the same thing on this last one. Open this one up, grab my last piece, right sides together, line them up, 1/4 inch. (sewing machine hum) That's the end of the first step. Because I have a white fabric in either corner I want to make sure that my seam is pressed away from the white fabric because it could show up on the front. So, I'm going to start by pressing this seam in and the same for this one. Press both of these in. We are going to nestle the seams, which means in this row, we are going to press the seams the opposite way. So these are going to get pressed out. This one's going to get pressed out. Then, this again has the white, plus we need it to be the opposite of this, so we are going to press these in. I always like to give it a little tug just to make sure I don't have any give. Okay. Now your seams are nice and flat

so it's time to sew the rest of the nine patch together. I've got to make sure that the right sides are together. You can see here how these seams line up perfectly right here. See how we pressed the seam allowances away from each other and they line up perfectly. I'm going to bring my piece over using my 1/4 inch foot again as my guide on the side. See how I'm using my finger to keep this in place. It's just very important to make sure that that seam doesn't move. (sewing machine hum) I'm going to keep it going. You can even have a little peak and make sure it stayed, and keep going through. I always stop at this point and get my next seam lined up. That always is a moment to breathe a sign of relief when it all lines up. (sewing machine hum) And that's it. So, go ahead and finish the final seam in the same way you just did. (gentle music) Give it one final press. So, I've done that. I've snipped all my threads and now my nine patch is complete.