Stamped and Sewn Valentine's Pouches with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Introduction
Overview
(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Courtney from Creativebug, and I absolutely love to get letters and postcards in the mail, and when I was a kid, I especially loved Valentine's Day because we could make a little mailbox for your desk, and then you got 30 Valentines in little tidy envelopes with treats and stickers inside. And it was pretty much the best day ever. I'm gonna show you how to make a really sweet and simple Valentine that's perfect for kids to make and give to one another.

Chapter 2 - Materials
Materials
- All of these materials you can get at Michaels or your local craft store, and if you already have kids in your life, then you probably have a lot of these supplies laying around the house. We're gonna make our envelopes out of just our standard felt sheets, which you can find in the kid's section at most craft stores. These ones are nine by 11 and a half inches, and that's standard when you get the felt sheets, but you could also cut down your own felt if you have yardage of it. You'll need some rubber stamps to make your patterns on the envelopes. I like just getting a simple alphabet set, so you could do XO or Love or Smooches or Cutie or Kisses, whatever you wanna write out. I also like to have some easy motifs like hearts, which are really sweet for Valentine's Day. Because we're stamping on felt, you wanna have an ink that's gonna be quick drying and that's gonna show up on the felt. I like to use StazOn, which is a permanent ink, and I'm just using black, Tapestry needles that have a rather sharp point and a large eye, embroidery floss or thin yarn. We've included some printables for you that have four different Valentine's Day designs on them. Finally, you'll need a pair of sharp scissors.

Chapter 3 - Make Pouches
Stamp and cut out envelope
- I like to start by stamping an over all pattern on my felt sheets before I cut them in to envelopes. And this is really fun because there's not really a right or wrong way to do this. You can stamp words, you can stamp little heart images, you can really play with it. I wanna show you how to best ink up your stamp, especially if you are working with kids. And that's with tiny little pats. This kind of a pad is really firm and so it's not as important but some of those pads that are really gushy, when you press too hard you end up getting ink all over the wood and getting really unclean impressions. Press firmly to create an impression. You'll need to re-ink your stamp every time. (tapping) You can rotate your hearts. You can go right off the edge. (tapping) You can put in some little hearts. (tapping) Those hearts look really sweet. I'm gonna move on to the lighter color felt and we're gonna try stamping some words. Hugs and kisses is a good little Valentine's message to stamp. So you can just stamp your X's all over. Tapping lightly to re-ink. Do some sideways. They don't have to be perfect. You can even do your O's kind of all over if you prefer that. I'm gonna move on to a word like, you could use the word love for example. And you want to be thinking about where the envelope's acually gonna happen. So we're gonna get two envelopes out of one sheet of felt that's nine by 11 and a half. And the part that's really gonna go away when we cut our envelope shape is the corner here where we make the envelope lapel. You can think of it sort of like the arches of an

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M. And then we're gonna do a little tiny dip in the bottom of the envelope here. So just at the very base of your sheet. So if you have a really special word, try to keep it in the middle because that will wind up being the middle of your envelope when we fold everything together. So if I wanted to do LOVE, let's test out three different spots here. That's my L, O, I'm avoiding that center line there, so I placed my L's in places that I think they might show up. V comes next. And last, E. When you're done with your stamping you may want to give your stamps a quick clean. You can use a baby wipe but if you have some really stubborn ink, especially if you're using black and you're using the permanent ink like stays on, you may want to use and actual stamp cleaner. That way if you go to use your stamps again with a really light color, like a yellow or a pink, it doesn't contaminate your stamps themselves. Set these guys aside. And now we're ready to make our envelopes. Take your felt and fold it in half and you can kind of finger press to see a line to cut on. Or, what I like to do, is just fold it in half, and I'll just take my scissors and really pull and just cut that way. And then we're gonna look how this envelope, we wanna create this envelope, so it's really thirds that your kind of creating but that's loose, you can kind of change it depending on where you want things to fall. So if I have love on the front of my envelope then maybe I wanna flip it this way, have this coming up from the bottom and having the lapel for my envelope to come down like that. So you can eyeball that depending on the proportions of the envelope that you want to create. But I like to cut a lapel here, that's the pointed part of an envelope. So I think roughly about here, and you can make a little mark if you want, but I can just eyeball the thirds. I'm gonna fold this in half again so I get a nice lapel. And cutting from the center of my fold down toward that point. I'm just gonna cut it like that. And that's gonna be the top portion of my envelope. So it'll fold down like that. I can even go a little deeper if I wanted, just by dropping this down and I can have these on the side. And then I like to do a little divot here at the top, and I can just eyeball that as well, I don't need to even fold it. Just do like a soft curve here. I think that makes a nice inner portion of the envelope. Because of the way we placed our letters and the way things get folded up, on the back XO looks really good as does the world LOVE, but if it feels weird to you because we have OX here, because our lapel's folding down, you could just add another X here. The nice thing about XO is that they are the same orientation right side up and right side down. So you can do XO XO. Go ahead and stamp and cut your felt for as many envelopes as you need to make and then I'll show you how to sew them up and add your Valentine.

Stitch envelope and add notes

- Little bit of hand sewing is gonna bring this together into an envelope. And I have about an arms length of yarn threaded onto my tapestry needle, and I've tied a knot in the other end. We're gonna come in from the inside. So I have my envelope folded up how I like it and I'm gonna come in from the inside. And I'm coming in about an 1/8 of an inch right along that bottom fold. This first tug may take a second. And that's gonna trap our knot inside. We're gonna whip stitch up this entire edge to close off one side of the envelope. So going through both layers, this part's a little harder, you just have to give a little tug. And you have to adjust this first stitch so that it's capturing the edge of your envelope. And then just moving up the side about an 1/8 of an inch in, and 1/8 of an inch between each stitch. You can see how nice that looks just traveling up the side here. These don't have to be perfect. And if you don't have a kid that likes to hand sew, you could also just sew this on your home sewing machine, just with a quick single straight stitch and then you could pink the edges if you wanted. We're almost to the top here. Whoops, be careful not to pierce your yarn. We'll do one more whip stitch here to close up this. And you could tie off here, but I actually just like

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to do a running stitch along the lapel of the envelope so that I can just keep using my yarn. So that's just in and out, in and out. Coming up through here. Give this a little tug. Get to the top, then we'll just work our way back down. In and out, in and out. Which is really easy. Just kinda tug this back into shape, 'cuz you don't wanna gather that edge. I'll do one more running stitch and then we'll come back through both those layers, here. And this is gonna be the beginning of our whip stitch, here. Just keep working down the side of the envelope, to create your pouch. We'll do one more. And actually through this loop we're gonna leave that open and I'm gonna run my needle back through that loop to create a knot on the outside. And you may wanna do that one more time. Might get thick there. Just create a little knot, pull it taut. And then I'm just gonna take my needle and you can see that my yarn's just coming in, and close down to the bottom, I'm just gonna snip it. And that tucks our end inside. Once you get the hang of it, these go pretty quickly, but they do take a couple of minutes, so if you have to do something for like a double class of 60 kids, you may instead wanna sew them on your home sewing machine. You could just use a straight stitch all the way around and then use something like pinking shears to give it a decorative edge. Once your envelopes are all sewn, I have a printable that I've printed on card stock and these are individual, four different styles of valentines. And you can cut these out in any shape that you like. You can cut them out in a heart, or just a simple rectangle. You could even use decorative scissors to cut them out. This edge is fine, so let's just cut down from there. It's actually nice to sort of round your corners, so they don't catch on the felt edge. And we can go back in and trim this up. You could cut it out rectangular or square first, and then round the corners after if that's easier for you. And I'm really just eyeballing this, it doesn't have to be perfect. You just want it to fit into you envelope, so we can give it a little test. See if he fits, oh, he's a little tall. Let's make it a little shorter. Can just tuck in your valentine, add a few little candies inside and close that over. I wanna show you a few others made in different colors of felt. So we have the magenta that we stamped with the hearts. And we've got a little bear to tuck into there. And then, this is another one where I just stamped the front only on the envelope. And then I actually tied a little string here, so once you tuck this in, can use your string to loop it around like you would a sketchbook or something. You can really customize these by switching up your stamps or your felt colors. You can put your own valentine inside, or some special treats. And they make a really lovely, sweet valentine for your kid's classrooms.

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