
Quilted Jelly Roll Baby Bibs with Ashley Nickels

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Hi, I'm Ashley Nickels. I'm a modern quilter, and a sewing and quilting instructor. I'm gonna show you how to make an improv Log Cabin baby bib. And this project is really wonderful for using up scraps of fabric, or for using pre-cut fabrics. In this class, I'm gonna use Mojito by Windham Fabrics. The strips of fabric in a jelly roll are perfect for this, because I'm not gonna have to do a lot of cutting. I'm going to show you how to cut out your bib from your pieced sections of fabric. We're gonna add some quilted detail, and then, finally, we're gonna add Velcro closures. Not only does this bib make a great gift, for anyone you know with a little baby, but it also introduces you to this really awesome quilting technique. (relaxing nursery music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- For this class, you'll need your PDF pattern printed out. I always like to trace my pattern onto this pattern drafting material. Sometimes if you just use the paper and you use a lot of pins, then that paper, you can't reuse it as much because it starts to tear, so I always like to trace mine out separately. You'll need a cutting mat and a ruler, as well as your rotary cutter, Velcro, and make sure that you buy Velcro that is for fabric. You'll need some pins, some scissors, and I also like to have a pair of snips on hand. For fabric, I've selected a few of my favorite designs from my jelly roll, and this is what a jelly roll looks like when it's still rolled up. You can see how cool it looks. You can use as many or as few of the patterns as you want for your project. In terms of amount of fabric, this project doesn't really use a lot, so you'll just need to make sure you have enough to make two nine by 12 inch rectangles once they're pieced together. You'll also need an iron and an ironing surface. Finally, you'll need your sewing machine with a quarter inch presser foot and a walking foot. I like to use a walking foot any time I'm doing any quilting, but it is an optional material for you if you don't have one. You'll need your choice of coordinating thread. I like to use 100% cotton.

Chapter 3 - Quilting Fabric and Constructing Bib

Quilting bib fabric

- I'm gonna start constructing my improv log cabin. So here I have my pattern piece, and we're gonna build our log cabin in this area here, so keeping in mind that our main goal is to create a large rectangle, but we wanna center our log cabin on this piece. So I'm gonna begin here. And how I do that is, I'm gonna cut down some of my strips into thinner strips so that I can start making my log cabin. I always like to use a bright-colored fabric for the center of my log cabin because I feel like it makes it pop out, so I'm gonna use this bright neon green fabric for my center and because I'm doing a very improv log cabin, I don't necessarily even need it to be an exact square or rectangle, so I'm just gonna kinda cut maybe like that, it doesn't even need to be straight. So this is gonna be my center piece of my log cabin. I love using jelly rolls because they're so easy to cut, especially if you start stacking your fabrics together, so I'm just gonna put a few together, and again, because I'm doing this improv style, they don't even need to be evenly lined up for this step either. So let's say I take these three, and cut this much off, save that stuff for later, and then I'm gonna take these three, and just kinda very loosely, and not even that evenly, cut them in half, and so now I have a bunch of

smaller strips to work with. I'm gonna go ahead and cut some strips off of the remaining jelly roll strips, and because I'm improvising, I'm not really worrying about measuring or making sure my lines are straight, and some of your fabrics, you can make them in thicker strips, or thinner strips. I'm only really cutting off maybe 10 inches from each of the jelly rolls, because I'm gonna save the rest of those for a little bit later. We're gonna start sewing our log cabin together, and make sure you have your iron handy, because we do a lot of back and forth between the sewing machine and the iron. We're gonna take our center piece that we cut out before, and from our nice pile here of little strips that we just cut, I'm gonna sort of pick out which one I wanna start with. I think I'll start with this, I like this contrast. We are just gonna line this up, and notice how I have the selvage edge here, so you can either just snip that off before you start, or do it after you sew it on, and we'll just line up one of the edges, remember right sides together, and, it doesn't have to be perfectly lined up, and we're just gonna sew 1/4 inch seam allowance. And, until we get to the end of our little center piece there, and we've got our first one done, and I like to turn it to this side, and just cut any excess off either side. Okay, and obviously, this strip we can throw back in the pile. And now we take it to our iron. For this whole process, we're gonna iron our seams out. Okay, so again, because this is our first piece, remember that this is the center, so out means away from the center, okay? And now I'm gonna add another strip, so I'll go back to my pile, and I just love this pineapples, so I'm gonna use that one next. And then, we just start building out from the center, so, I'm gonna sew all along this row. And again, I'm using 1/4 inch seam allowance. And then when I think I'm at the end, or when I know I'm at the end, stop, and then I flip it over, and I trim any excess on either side. I'll bring it to the iron. Remember, we're ironing our seams out. And our next piece is gonna go here, and then our next piece will go here, so we're essentially building sort of a square spiral out from the center. So, I'm deciding which one I wanna add here, and I think I've used two greens kind of in a row, so I think I'm gonna go back to a bold of one of my coral prints. So we're gonna keep building out, remember we started with this one, so our next strip will be along this entire edge, and then, I also am keeping my pattern piece nearby because I'm gonna start to decide kind of how I wanna place my log cabin in this area of the bib. So do I want it to be sort of this more horizontal alignment or do I want it to be like this, so you can start to kind of decide how you want that to look on your bib. And again, we're using this as a guide, so we need to actually build out this log cabin until it fills up this entire area. And remember when you're building out your log cabin, you'll need to attach your strips in the same order, so make sure you follow a clockwise order for adding your strips. So my next piece is gonna go here, and I just wanna kind of try out a few fabrics here, like, I don't think I've used that one yet, but is that the one that I want, I'm not sure, let me see. Maybe I wanna bring that one in, but it's too similar, so no. And I really love my pineapples, but I think there's too many corals on that side, so I think I will go with that one. The cool part about a log cabin is that you start to get these corners here built out. And it's up to you, you can play around with these fabrics, and, for example, you could put all of your coral colored fabrics in the top right, and put all of your lime green fabrics in the bottom left. So it's up to you, you can really play around with the fabric placement. I'm at a point where I'm done constructing my log cabin, and I'm gonna use my pattern piece to kind of decide what my next move is. I've laid it on top of my pattern piece, and I'm making sure to make sure I leave just a tiny bit under the bottom edge, and I've got a little bit of space here. So I'm gonna go ahead and add two more strips on either side. On my other side, let's see, how about we use this green again? Just about done here, and, this is a nice time to show what the effect is of pressing all of those seams out. It really looks nice and organized and neat when you iron all of your seams out. You can see how flat they are, and this center piece is nice and flat, it just looks really clean. And

now, here we are with our pattern again. We've got our width all set here. And if you notice that there's a little bit more, you can add another strip. That's the beauty of this improv design. For this top part, it really doesn't matter to me that it looks exactly like the log cabin, so what I'm gonna do, is I'm gonna take these full strips from my jelly roll, again, those are 2 1/2 inches, and I'm gonna pick a few, and just sew on full strips up here at the top. Just in the same way we sewed on the log cabin strips, just add one here. Same thing, we'll trim the excess here, and maybe if there's some on this side, which I have a little bit. And same again, we'll press this seam up, or out. I'm gonna continue to add strips, looks like I might need one, two more, and I'm gonna continue adding until I've reached the top here. I have my bib front the right size, go ahead and construct the back of your bib by sewing together vertical strips of your jelly roll fabric, and make sure that you press all of your seams in the same direction. Your final rectangle, in this case, is going to be nine by 12 inches.

Cut and sew pieces together

- I'm ready to cut out my bib pieces, and here I have the back of my bib that I constructed using my strips. And I'm actually gonna cut both pieces out at the same time, and I'll show you how I do my pinning and cutting. I'm gonna lay this one down first, the back. And I'm gonna place right sides together, so this is the front of my bib. And just gonna use my hands to flatten everything out, and before I put my pattern piece over on top, I'm actually gonna put a few pins in. Kind of respecting the area where I know that, for example, the neck of the bib is gonna go here, so I'm gonna put a few pins in that area. Maybe like one or two. And then on the other side as well. And then a few down here, right in the middle, and over here as well. And then I'm gonna pin my pattern piece down. The reason why I've put some pins in underneath my pattern piece is so that after I've cut out my bib, I can actually just take it straight to the sewing machine and it'll already be pinned together. Because I'm gonna be cutting along the edge here, you wanna make sure that your pins are close to the edge, but that they're not crossing over the edge, because you're gonna need to cut there. Okay, so I'm gonna place some pins all around the edge, maybe even like a quarter inch from the edge of my bib. Special attention to this neck area because that's probably the trickiest area to cut out. So I'm gonna put pins every inch or so, and you'll be ready to cut it out. I'm gonna cut as close to the edge of this pattern as possible. You don't need to leave any extra fabric. And when you cut over those seams, it'll be a little bit trickier depending on how sharp your scissors are. Take it slow. Make sure you're cutting as evenly as possible. Curves are always kind of tricky, plus you have all of these seams. Go ahead and finish cutting out your bib, and you're gonna take out the pins that are attaching your pattern piece to the top, and we'll almost be ready to sew. I recommend probably adding a few more pins before you take it to the machine just to secure it down. These can go towards the edge also is fine, because you'll be removing them as you sew. Okay, that should do it. I'm gonna start sewing a quarter-inch seam allowance around the edge, and I'm gonna leave about four inches open. And I like to do that on a straight edge, so I'm choosing to do it on this side. You could probably do it at the bottom or on the other side as well, and I'm gonna start with a backstitch. And again, this gap is for turning, and so this opening will get a little bit of wear and tear so you wanna start with the backstitch. And just slowly going around, quarter inch seam allowance, taking out any pins that are in your way. And when you get to a really curved piece, if you have your needle down function turned on, you can just pivot whenever you need to. (sewing machine whirring) So just take it slow. Pivot when you need to. Don't go too fast, otherwise it'll become overwhelming. And I'm not too worried about it being an exact quarter inch either. It can be slightly less. Making sure everything is nice and flat. Making sure these seams don't get sewn in the wrong

direction, so you use your finger to kind of flatten those down as you go. And again, this neck seam will be the challenging one, just because it's circular. (sewing machine whirring loudly) And then I'm coming up to where I started. Remember to leave about four inches open so that you can turn this inside-out, and end on a backstitch. I'm ready to turn my bib right side out. And I like to start with the neck seams, and with my finger I can kind of poke that through, but it might not be enough, so if you have a pencil or something handy to help you push those seams through, it's gonna be really helpful. 'Cause they can get a little bit stubborn. Okay, so I did one of those. And now I'm gonna do the other. Just kind of find it with my fingers first and flip it. And then I'm just using the dull end of a pencil, even, is fine. Just something to help you get it poked through, and you could even use the sharp end if you wanted to get nice and specific. And then the rest should be pretty easy. And you can just use your fingers to smooth that from the inside. And we're ready to press. The first thing I'll do for pressing is I'm gonna hide this little opening, and essentially it's pretty easy to do. You just wanna fold down. I start with the bottom edge. And use your iron to do that, and then match the top one kind of the same, and that's kind of how you would hide a seam such as this. And I'm gonna use one pin, but before I do that I'm just gonna press my whole bib. Nice and flat. I'll place that pin just to secure that opening, and then we're ready to top stitch. I like to start my top stitch up here at one of the neck seams, and a top stitch goes along the edge, so you're not at a quarter inch seam or anything. It's just right along that edge. And again, because you have a curve, you're gonna have to stop and pivot, especially in the neck area. (sewing machine whirring) And when you come to where we've ironed this hole closed, just be aware that you have a pin there. Mokay. Now I like to pull these threads through to the back if I can. Sometimes they get a little stuck and in that case I might just trim them. If you pull one of the back threads and use a pin, you can kind of, see how I caught the front thread and I pulled it through. And then we'll see if I can get the second one. So I've found my second one. And then once I've got them pulled through, I just take two and two, and I just tie them in a couple of knots just to secure them nice and tight, and then I can just trim that really close to the knot. Now that you've got your top stitch, your bib is almost complete. We're gonna go in right now and add some quilting. The quilting not only adds a lot of decoration, but it also helps secure the two layers of your bib together because the idea is that you want this bib to be very washable, so this is gonna help keep your bib in one piece.

Add quilting detail and attach velcro

- Adding the quilting detail is not a necessity, but I love to do quilting whenever I can on a piece of work. And I've chosen to add my walking foot attachment, but that's not necessary for you if you don't have one. And I'm gonna just do a very simple stitch-in-the-ditch pattern, which means that I'm just gonna follow the edge of my spiral all along this seam, I'm gonna stop and turn here. And then I'm gonna start going inside my spiral. And if you notice, I won't need to pick up and move my foot at all. I just spiral all the way in and then this will be where I'll stop, right there. And you wanna pick out your path before you start, so that you know where you're headed and that way you won't have to start and stop and cut any threads. You'll just start and do one continuous stitch until you get to the center. And stitching in the ditch means that we follow this edge as closely as we can. And I like to stay in the ditch, meaning in the lower part of this seam. You'll notice that there's a part that's lower and a part that's higher, and I try not to cross over into the higher part. It just hides the stitch a little bit better. (sewing machine stitching) Okay, I'm actually ending down here. Alright. And now, the last thing I'll do is what I did before, which is to pull this thread through to the back and tie it off. And I'll use a few knots, just because this is gonna get some use, so I want it to stay

secure. And then I'll trim it. And then we have the threads where we started, as well. Let's check on those. Those got a little bit messy, see what we can do to fix that. And then that pulled it through for me, so I'll do the same thing here. So what I'll do, I have my two sides of my Velcro. I've chosen to use clear Velcro. And I'm just gonna cut two pieces that are about an inch, I don't know, an inch and a bit. It's not an exact science. So, those are my two pieces. And I am going to decide which one I want on this side, and then the other piece, obviously, is gonna go on the back like that. So, I think I want this more clear-looking one. See how it's a square, so it doesn't really fit, so I'm gonna take my scissors and sort of cut it into more of an oval shape. And I'll do that on the other side, too, just for consistency. And then, see how I did-- I like it to be up close to the edge. And you can make your Velcro a little bit longer if you think that this is for a baby who's maybe a bit smaller and needs it to be a little tighter around their neck. And then, what I'll do, before I even do anything else, is cut the second piece of Velcro sort of in the same way, and just use the other one as a guide. And then the beauty of this Velcro is that it's got some sticky stuff on it, so before we stitch it down, we can actually stick it on. See how I just took that off and it sticks down. I'll stick this one right here. This is the other side. Remember you always want to put it on the other side. We've switched our foot back to my quarter-inch foot, and it's really up to you whether you wanna sew in a spiral or you just wanna sew around the outside or if you wanna sew in an X. You basically just need to secure this Velcro down. I'm gonna go in a circle. And because I'm going in a circle, I'm gonna need to do a lot of pivoting. I've done a lot of pivoting with this bib. (sewing machine stitching) And I'm actually probably gonna go around one more time because this part of your bib will get a lot of wear and tear, obviously, because it's the place where you're gonna be taking the bib on and off, so you just wanna make sure that it's secure. And before I cut my thread, I'm gonna do a few backstitches because I wanna make sure it's nice and secure. Okay, and this time, we're not gonna pull our threads through because it's too challenging with the Velcro, so we're just gonna snip all of our threads, and that backstitch helped to secure the threads. And now you're gonna repeat that same process on the other side. Now that we've attached the Velcro, our bib is all finished. And I have a few variations on the bib, and I actually made these from the very same jelly roll, just with different colorways. So you'll see I have this blue and yellow one here, and this one, which uses the gray and yellow-orange colorways. As you can see, there are a ton of possibilities with all of these great color choices to make a really cool baby bib with this improv log cabin pattern.