

Child's Play

BY LINDA STEWART



What child wouldn't want to dress up in a striped apron in their favorite colors? It's stylish, fun to wear, and protects clean clothes from markers and paint, clay and glue.

Supplies

- ¼ yard each of 4 colors or patterns of 45" wide cotton or cotton-blend fabric (red, blue, yellow & green shown; instructions will refer to these four colors)
- Thread in coordinating colors
- Colorful buttons for embellishment
- Plastic or metal ruler
- Rotary Cutter & Mat (optional, but very helpful)
- Edgestitch Foot #10/10C
- Button Sew-On Foot #18
- Patchwork Foot #37 or Patchwork Foot with Guide #57
- 2mm Straight Stitch Hemmer Foot #62 or 4mm Straight Stitch Hemmer Foot #64

Prepare Fabric

Cut each color fabric in half, making each piece approximately 9" x 22½". Cut each piece into 4½" wide strips for a total of four strips of each color that measure 4½" x 22½" each.

Using Hemmer Foot #62 or #64, narrow hem the long edges of one yellow and one green strip. Set aside to use as ties for the apron. Also set aside one yellow, one red, one green and two blue strips for binding.

Trim one red strip to 20" x 2½"; fold in half lengthwise. Stitch the long edge and one end of this strip using Patchwork Foot #37 or #57 and a ¼" seam allowance. Trim, clip corners, turn and press. This piece is the neck strap. Set aside.

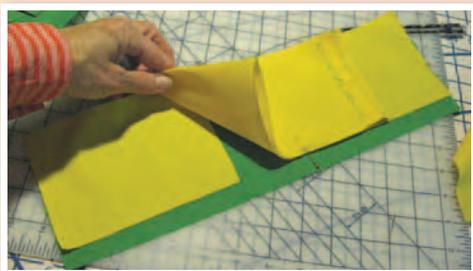
Prepare Side Panels

Make two identical panels using two yellow and two green strips.

Turn under 1" along the selvage edge of one yellow and one green strip.

Choose a decorative stitch to embellish the edge. Insert a Double needle and attach Edgestitch Foot #10/10C to the machine. Stitch along the very top edge of the hem, right on the 1" mark, to securely anchor the edge.

Cut 7" off one green and one yellow strip. These will be the bases of the side panels. Using the base strip as a guide, lay the 7" piece over the lower end of the guide piece. Place the embellished strip face down on top of both pieces with the



unembellished end of the strip at the top of the guide. Fold the embellished strip back on itself to within 3" of the top edge, forming a pocket as shown in the photos. Pin the top two pieces together and baste. (This piece is the same length as the bottom guide piece.)

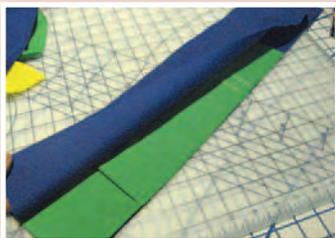
Yellow Panels: With wrong sides together, sew the base piece to the pocket piece at the top; turn to the right side and press.

Green Panels: Lay the green pieces to the side, unsewn.

Construct Apron

Note: Refer to the photo on the previous page for placement of the different color strips.

Sandwich the red strap between the two blue strips right sides together, raw edges together in the upper left corner. Baste in place.



Place the green side panel between the same two blue strips with lower and

left side edges together. Sew the left side and across the top, through all layers, taking care to keep the strap free. Trim the corner. Turn the blue panels to the right side and press. You now have one right side green panel attached to a blue panel with a strap at the top right edge.

Sandwich the blue panel between two red panels, right sides together, aligning raw

edges at the lower and left side edges. Sew the left side across the top and 7" down the right side, through all layers, taking care not to catch the blue fabric in the stitching. Reinforce the end of the stitching by making several stitches in reverse. Clip immediately below the last stitch to the seam allowance (1/4"). Trim the corner.

Turn the red panels to the right side and press. Turn the area below the 7" seam to the outside.

Sandwich the red panel between the two yellow panels, with the lower and side raw edges even.



Turn the top finished part of the red panel down and tuck it inside the yellow panels. Sew along the unfinished side and across the top of the yellow panels, taking care not to catch the turned down part of the red panel. Trim the corner. Turn the yellow panel to the right side and press.



You now have four panels sewn together, creating a self-lined apron. The top edges of the panels are all finished, leaving only the sides of the green and yellow panels and the bottom edges to be finished.

Fold the raw edges of the two straps in thirds and baste

them to the top outside side edge of the green and yellow panels.

Sew the five panels that were set aside together to form one large multicolored panel as shown in the photo. Open the seams and press flat. Cut two 1 1/2" wide bias strips from the center of the panel.



Sew the two strips together making a strip approximately 1 1/3 yards long. Bind the raw edges of the apron with the bias strip, mitering the corners and turning under 1/2" at the beginning and end.

Bring the ties from the back of the apron to the sides and topstitch to the edge of the bias binding.

Make a buttonhole at the top left edge of the red panel. To make the neck strap fully adjustable, place colored buttons evenly around the entire strap. Stitch

in place using Button Sew-On Foot #18. Buttons can also be added to the edge of the pockets.



The newest version of Button Sew-On Foot #18 has a non-slip sole to make it even easier to sew on buttons by machine. This short little foot sits on the button and has an adjustable shank that creates room for the button to go through the buttonhole, even on thick fabrics!