4-H Drawstring Apron Project Guide

Modernized step-by-step instructions with illustrated sewing diagrams.

DRAWSTRING APRON

A fun and useful first sewing project!



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 1 yard of fabric (45" wide)
- 1 spool of matching thread
- Trimming (optional)
- Scissors
- Pins
- Iron and ironing board
- Sewing machine
- Hem gauge or ruler
- Safety pins
- Pencil with eraser

FABRIC TIP:

Choose a fabric that goes with the colors you wear most or with your kitchen. Cotton blends are easy to sew and care for.

HOW MUCH FABRIC?

Have someone measure from your natural waistline to 3 inches below the bottom of your skirt. Add 14 inches to that measurement.

- 8 inches for drawstrings and pocket
- 6 inches for hem

TOTAL LENGTH OF APRON = YOUR LENGTH + 14 INCHES

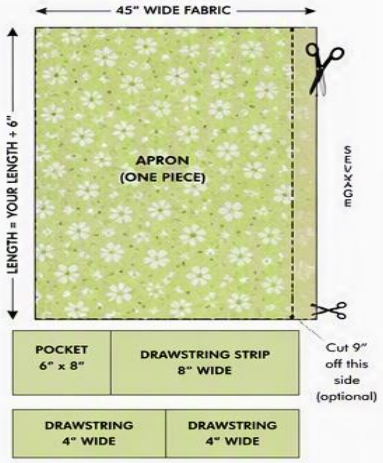
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CUTTING THE FABRIC

Cut the apron pieces as shown below.

1. Measure and cut an 8 inch strip for the drawstrings.
2. Cut 6 inches from one end of the strip for the pocket.
   - The pocket will be 8 inches long and 6 inches wide.
3. Divide the remaining 8 inch strip into two 4 inch strips for the drawstrings.
4. The length of the apron will be your skirt length plus 6 inches for hem.
5. If using 45 inch fabric, you may wish to cut 9 inches off one side (from the selvage side) to make the apron smaller for you.

Use a ruler or tape measure to measure carefully and cut accurately.



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MAKING THE HEMS

SIDE HEMS (1 INCH)

1. Use your hem gauge to turn 1/4 inch of fabric to the wrong side. Press.



2. Turn the folded edge to the 1 inch line and press in place.



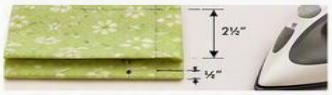
3. Stitch close to the first fold, about 1/16 inch from the edge.



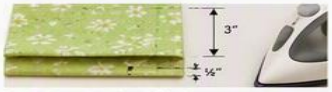
Do the same for both side hems.

TOP AND BOTTOM HEMS

1. For the top hem: press up 1/4 inch, then make a 2½ inch hem.



2. For the bottom hem: press up 1/4 inch, then make a 3 inch hem.



3. Pin hems in place. Clip the corners at both ends just short of the crease so the ends will not peek out.



4. Stitch hems in place near the creased edge. Backstitch at the beginning and end.

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MAKING THE CASING AND DRAWSTRING

APRON CASING

Stitch 5/8 inch down from the top edge of the apron to make a casing for the drawstring.



Use a seam guide or place a strip of adhesive tape on your machine bed 5/8 inch from the needle to help stitch straight.

MAKING THE DRAWSTRING

1. Pin the two 4" wide strips right sides together at one end. Stitch with 1/2" seam.



2. Press seam open.



3. Fold strip lengthwise with right sides together. Match raw edges and ends. Pin.



4. Stitch 1/2" seam along long edge. Leave a 4" opening near the middle for turning. Backstitch to secure.



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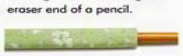
FINISHING THE DRAWSTRING AND ADDING THE POCKET

FINISHING THE DRAWSTRING

1. Trim 1/4" off the corners at both ends.



2. Turn right side out using the eraser end of a pencil.



3. Pull corners out square with a pin if needed.



4. Press flat.



5. Stitch the opening closed close to the edge.



ADDING THE POCKET

1. Turn under 1/4" at the top edge to the wrong side.



2. Fold top edge down 1", right sides together. Stitch a 1/2" seam at each end. Clip corners, then turn right side out.

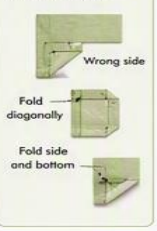


3. Turn under 5/8" on side and bottom edges. Miter the bottom corners.



MITERED CORNER HOW-TO:

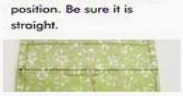
Fold corner diagonally to form a small triangle. Fold side and bottom edges on the 5/8" crease.



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FINISHING TOUCHES

1. Put on your apron and pin the pocket in a convenient position. Be sure it is straight.



2. Stitch the pocket to the apron about 1/8" from the edge. Backstitch at the top.



3. Use a safety pin to pull the drawstring through the casing on both sides.





GREAT JOB!

You made your very own drawstring apron!

Wear it, give it as a gift, and be proud of the skills you learned.

DON'T FORGET!

Have your picture taken in your apron, or a picture of your apron. This is the first garment you've made in 4-H. Add the picture to your 4-H records in the back of this book.

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