



SEW STRAWBERRY

by Julie Thompson

I love anything cute and practical, and aprons fit both requirements perfectly. From estate sales and thrift stores, my collection of vintage aprons is well loved and often used. I find inspiration in the color, fabric, and simplicity of a handmade apron. I've created collages from paper and simple embellishments and decided to use a similar technique to make aprons from a collection of vintage items. Just like a collage, I arranged the items until they looked just right and then I stitched them together. The result is a pretty Strawberry Apron and a crafty Sew Apron that I hope inspires everyone's inner apronologist.

I created the Sweet Strawberry Apron from several vintage items including a crocheted napkin, a printed table runner, and a sparkly brooch. I wanted the apron to have a simple, vintage, French linen look — part pastry chef and part farm girl.

I created the Sew Apron from a vintage table runner folded at the front to make deep pockets. The apron tie and pocket are items I saved from Anthropologie packaging. I knew I would find some way to use the button ribbon and it looks as if it was made for this craft apron, buttoned, not tied. A vintage sewing apron kit inspired the tape measure ribbon sewn on the bottom. The tape measure is upside down so the apron skirt can be used as a handy tool.

Sweet Strawberry Apron

TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Basic sewing supplies
- Brooch: vintage strawberry
- Buttons: vintage, cream
- Fabric scrap: red & vanilla, cotton, print
- Linen thread: natural
- Napkin: large, square, vintage cotton with crocheted edge
- Pinking shears
- Ribbon: wide grosgrain, red & vanilla striped
- Seam binding: vanilla
- Sewing machine
- Table runner: vintage, linen with strawberry print

TECHNIQUE

Fold over the top of the napkin about 2 inches and press in place. Cut a long piece of ribbon to use as the waistband and ties. The length should be enough to tie in back or loop around to tie in the front. Slip the ribbon under the fold in the napkin. Slip the linen fabric under the fold in the napkin and place it where you like (mine is slightly off-center). Cut the bottom edge from the linen, straight stitch across the panel near the cut edge, and fringe the linen by removing threads. Cut a piece of scrap fabric to fit under the linen. Hem the two sides of the fabric

scrap and cut the bottom side with pinking shears. Place the fabric scrap under the linen and topstitch them together so the fabric scrap peeks out from the linen. Slip the linen/scrap piece under the fold at the top of the apron and pin everything in place. Topstitch across the top of the fold, down the side, across the bottom of the fold, and back up the side, ending where you began. Fold seam binding in several loops and stitch to the waist of the apron. Pin the vintage brooch in the center of the binding. Finish by sewing vintage buttons on one side of the panel using linen thread and a large sewing needle. Tie the linen in a knot on top of each button. →



TIP

Use any linen fabric for this apron. A vintage tea towel, linen calendar, or embroidered dresser scarf would all work nicely.



Sew Apron

TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Basic sewing supplies
- Fabric: 34" x 18" with finished edges or vintage printed table runner
- Fusible web: iron-on
- Ribbon: wide, twill, embellished with buttons & several buttonholes
- Sewing kit: folded or other pocket embellishment
- Sewing machine
- Tape measure ribbon

TECHNIQUE

For this apron, the bottom half of the panel is the skirt and the top half is the pocket panel. Lay the fabric out on a table with the right side up. Grab the top two corners of your panel and fold it in half. Grab the same two corners again and fold them nearly to the top; leaving enough room for the waistband to show. Press all folds in place.

Use iron-on fusible web to attach the ribbon waistband because the buttons make it difficult to sew the ribbon onto the panel. Pin the pocket embellishment to the front panel and stitch in place. Pin the two edges of the folded pocket panel and topstitch the two sides and bottom edge (do not stitch the pocket panel to the skirt). Divide the front panel by stitching from top to bottom to create the pockets (I stitched one line in the middle to make two large pockets). Finish the apron by pinning the tape measure (upside down) to the bottom of the skirt. Stitch the tape measure in place. ✚

Julie Thompson lives in St. Louis, Missouri, with her family and has learned not to fear her sewing machine. Take a peek at her crafty life at [Jane's Apron](http://JanesApron.com), janesapron.com.



TIP

- Make a button waistband by attaching buttons to a wide piece of ribbon, finishing off the second half of the ribbon with a few buttonholes for a perfect fit.

