

Keeping it Real Sewing Series Simple Flat Front Work Apron: Part Two

SOME KEEPING IT REAL HINTS:

- I always work in the "needle down" position. This assures that when I turn a
 corner the needle doesn't move and create extra thread and goofy stitching.
 If your machine doesn't have this feature, just turn the wheel and manually
 put the needle down before you turn.
- 2. Also put the needle down if you need to stop in the middle of a line.
- 3. Trim your thread tails as you go along in order to avoid having the icky little boogers sticking out all over the place.

THE POCKET:

- 1. Fold the piece you cut for the pocket in half the long way right sides together.
- 2. Stitch a 1/4" seam around the piece leaving an opening to turn.
- 3. Iron your stitches. Clip corners
- 4. Press open along the top edge to create a nice seam where the opening is. This will be the bottom of the pocket in order to hide any little imperfections.
- 5. Turn and iron again.
- 6. With the opening on the bottom top stitch along the top of the pocket for a nice flat look.
- 7. I like to then make some crazy quilting lines across the pocket just for a little texture. This is optional.



(Keeping it real moment number eight... I have been foolish enough to eyeball the placement of the pocket on the apron front... don't do this. Follow the little tips below so that you don't have a lopsided pocket... Leave it to me to think I had it straight.)

- 8. First fold your pocket in half with the side that you want facing out on the top. Take a straight pin and mark center.
- 9. Do the same for the apron panel, marking center near the top of the apron.
- 10. Now take out a ruler and align the pocket to the top seam as pictured below with 4" between the waistband and the top of the pocket.



11. Pin securely in place. I use lots of pins to make sure that it doesn't budge.

12. Stitch the pocket on making sure to stitch back and forth and either end a couple of times just for security. A nice little triangle at the top corners helps too. See below ... Obviously the highlighted part isn't to size... make it just ½ inch in and ½" down. This really does make it more secure.



- 13. To make divided parts in the pocket. Take a ruler and mark a line with a fabric marker or tailor's chalk at each place in the pocket where you'd like to divide it for say a slot for your scissors, one for a pencil etc. My daughter actually measured the junk she wanted to carry in the pockets to make sure she had room for her Nintendo ds... believe it or not...
- 14. Stitching the divisions leads me to Keeping it Real Moment number nine: When you stitch over your marked lines be sure to back stitch at each end AND absolutely start from the bottom. The reason for this is that I have started from the top before and ended up with bunching on the bottom. Clearly I was doing something wrong. Probably the pocket wasn't flat or something. None-the-less, if you start from the bottom where it is already stitched on you will avoid this problem.

THE APRON TIES:

- 1. You'll be making two of these. For each piece: Fold right sides together.
- 2. At one end, fold down at 45° angle.



- 3. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam along the raw edge and around the angle.
- 4. Trim the excess fabric at the angle.
- 5. Iron your stitches. Trim corners

6. Turn. You can use a safety pin. I do it by hand on this project because it's wide enough. Use some sort of stick to push it all the way through. It also helps to use a little pin to pull that last little corner piece nice and flat.



- 7. Now you are ready to insert the apron tie into the waistband as pictured below.
- 8. You may have noticed that I had you cut the tie slightly wider than the waistband. I did this in order to create a cute little pleat where it is inserted into the band. Pin the apron ties in place as pictured.



- 9. Top stich this piece in place an 1/8" from the edge of the waistband.
- 10. Trim your loose threads, iron and you're all done.