

Half Yard

Christmas



Easy sewing projects using left-over pieces of fabric



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We try to produce quality, inspiring books with my words, my husband Garie's photography and Search Press' beautiful presentation, with ideas from all sides. I hope you enjoy them as much as we do.



Christmas Stocking

Christmas stockings nowadays can be glitzy and glamorous, patchwork and quilted or shabby and chic, but this stocking is simply traditional. The only decoration is the jumbo ric-rac around the top, but feel free to embellish as you like! The simplest way to make a pattern is to draw around a sock – this gives the basic shape for the stocking, then you can make it as big as you like!

What you need

A large sock to use as a template
Card and a pencil
Two pieces of outer fabric measuring 18 x 12in (46 x 30.5cm)
Two pieces of wadding (batting) measuring 18 x 12in (46 x 30.5cm)
Two pieces of lining fabric, measuring 18 x 12in (46 x 30.5cm)
18in (46cm) jumbo ric-rac
8in (20.5cm) length of ½in (1cm) wide ribbon
Repositionable spray adhesive
A button



1 Draw around the sock, adding a 2in (5cm) border all the way round. You may need to extend the top – my stocking measures 17in (43cm) tall.



2 Using the template, cut out two pieces from the wadding (batting) and two pieces from the lining. Place your two pieces of outer fabric right sides together and then use the template to cut through both layers – this will ensure that you cut a 'front' and a 'back' piece.





3 Cut the ric-rac in half. Pin it across the top of the outer fabric pieces, on the right side, as shown. Sew along the centre of the ric-rac.



7 Snip into the seam allowance around the curves. You could use pinking shears if you have them.

8 Turn the stocking right side out and press.

9 Hand sew the gap in the lining closed, then push the lining inside the stocking.

10 Hand sew a loop of ribbon to the back of the stocking and hide the stitches with a button.

4 Spray one side of each wadding (batting) piece with repositionable spray adhesive, and lay on top of a lining piece. It's better to adhere it to the lining rather than the outer fabric, as sometimes the fabric puckers slightly.

5 Place one wadding (batting) and lining piece on top of an outer piece, with the right sides of the lining and outer fabric facing. Sew along the top edge to join the layers together. Repeat this with the second set of fabrics.



Tip

If you take off the ribbon loop this stocking is actually reversible: use a different pattern on the inside and your youngsters will think they have a new stocking next year!



6 Open out the layers, lay one side on top of the other, right sides together, and sew all the way round, leaving a gap in the lining of about 3in (7.5cm) for turning.



Are you craving a crafty, creative Christmas?

Let sewing superstar Debbie Shore show you how to create over 30 simple, stylish projects from pieces of fabric less than half a yard long. Featuring six themed chapters – rustic, traditional, contemporary, monochrome, Scandinavian and kids – there's something for everyone: select your favourite style or mix and match throughout your home. Packed with Debbie's friendly guidance and easy-to-follow photography, this bumper book will have you feeling festive in no time!



Debbie Shore started her career as a children's television presenter and since then has appeared regularly on television both as an actress and needlecraft demonstrator on a shopping channel. Now a best-selling sewing author, Debbie spends her time designing projects and patterns for her own range of products and writes a regular column for a popular sewing magazine.



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