

Patchwork Bib and Skirt Apron

Featuring Halter Style Bib + Corduroy Accents by Sew4Home.com

An exclusive S4H project for Janome Canada

Design by Anne Adams, Instructions by Liz Johnson, Sample by Debbie Guild

Stir a swirl of colour into your cooking! This gorgeous patchwork apron will feel like wrapping yourself in a rainbow. Four amazing quilting cottons, plus a coordinating lining cotton, and unique corduroy accents all come together in a delightful mixture of pattern and texture.

The larger bib is designed in a halter style, giving it a high neck and wide base with darts for shape. The ties are long enough to wrap around more than once, and the skirt falls to the knee. It's comfortable, and with only a bit of woven interfacing in the bib and pockets, it hugs the body as you move about the kitchen.

The S4H team created this beautiful project exclusively for Janome Canada users. As you put the apron together, you'll learn/practice: assembling panels, stitching darts, making skinny ties, inserting a decorative flange, and more. In addition, you'll see how all the layers can be assembled, stitched, and then turned through the open top of the bib, resulting in an apron that is fully finished front to back.

As always with our friends at S4H, each and every step is thoroughly explained with excellent photos throughout. Even if you are brand new on your sewing journey, you

can do this – and you'll be so proud of the result. Make one for yourself and several more as wonderful gift ideas.

The fabric featured is from the Fluent collection by Anna Maria Horner for FreeSpirit Fabrics. The stunning collection is due to hit retail and virtual fabric shelves in the late Fall of 2022. Of course, you are welcome to choose your own favourite fabric, and could even use fewer fabrics should you want a more neutral outcome.



Sew4Home provides inspiring tutorials that are expertly designed and have easy to understand instructions with gorgeous photography. To get to know Sew4Home better, visit Sew4Home.com

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The corduroy accents for the binding, ties, and flange add a pop of pretty texture. Look for a hefty wale with a soft hand; if the corduroy is too thick, it won't fold as needed for this application.

As with store-bought aprons, this design is meant to be one-size-fits-all. However, we realize you may still wish to make yours smaller or larger. As a reference for any alterations, the bottom of the bib is approximately 16" wide across the bottom, 8" wide across the top, and 13" high along the centre from the top of the binding to the bottom of the flange; the waist ties are each approximately 39" long; the neck ties are each approximately 21"; and the skirt length is 22".



Sewing Tools Needed

- Sewing Machine; S4H used the Janome Horizon Memory Craft 9450
- Standard presser foot
- Walking or Even Feed foot or engage your machine's built-in fabric feeding system - optional but helpful when working with the corduroy; S4H used the AcuFeed™ Flex feeding system on the Janome 9450



Fabric and Supplies Needed



Note: Our cuts are figured based on the fabric we selected and include extra to allow for fussy cutting of all the pieces. Should you choose fabric with a more random motif and decide to skip fussy cutting, you could get away with less fabric.

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of 44"+ wide quilting weight cotton for the bib front of the skirt's bottom accent band; we used Vestment in Summer from the Fluent collection by Anna Maria Horner for FreeSpirit Fabrics
- 1 yard of 44"+ wide quilting weight cotton for three of the skirt's patchwork panels; we used Passport in Fuchsia from the Fluent collection by Anna Maria Horner for FreeSpirit Fabrics
- $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of 44"+ wide quilting weight cotton for one of the skirt's patchwork panels and that panel's matching pocket; we used Raiment in July from the Fluent collection by Anna Maria Horner for FreeSpirit Fabrics

Note: The amount depends on the direction of your fabric's motif, if you have a strong vertical motif, as we did, you need the $\frac{3}{4}$ yard amount to fussy cut the one 7" x 23" panel and the matching pocket. If your motif is random, you could cut the panel and the pocket on the horizontal and would need just $\frac{1}{4}$ yard.

- $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of 44"+ wide quilting weight cotton for one of the skirt's patchwork panels; we used Raiment in May from the Fluent collection by Anna Maria Horner for FreeSpirit Fabrics

Note: As above, the cut amount depends on the direction of your fabric's motif.

- 1½ yards of 44"+ wide quilting weight cotton for the bib, skirt, and pocket lining; we used a Kona cotton in a mustard yellow; pick a colour that blends best with your front fabrics
- ⅝ yard of 44"+ wide lightweight, mid-wale corduroy or similar for the waist ties, neck ties/neck binding, waist flange, and pocket binding; we used an 8 wale, mustard yellow corduroy – you want a colour that accents your chosen patchwork fabrics but blends rather than distracts
- ⅝ yard of 20"+ wide lightweight fusible interfacing - a woven fusible gives the best drape; we used Pellon ShapeFlex
- All-purpose thread to match fabric
- See-through ruler
- Fabric pen or pencil
- Seam gauge
- Seam ripper
- Scissors or rotary cutter and mat
- Iron and ironing board
- Straight pins
- Hand sewing needle

Getting Started and Pattern Download

Step 1: Download and print the TWO pattern pieces for this project:



APRON BIB AND POCKET PATTERN

Note: This download consists of THREE 8 ½" x 11" sheets containing pieces for all the patterns. You must print the PDF file at 100%. DO NOT SCALE to fit the page. There is a guide rule on each sheet to confirm your printout is to scale.

Step 2: Cut out each pattern piece along its solid outer line.

Step 3: For the Apron Bib pattern, aligning the printed arrows, assemble piece A and piece B into the complete Bib pattern, which is designed to be cut on the fold.

Step 4: The Apron Pocket pattern is a single piece.

Cutting, Fusing and Marking

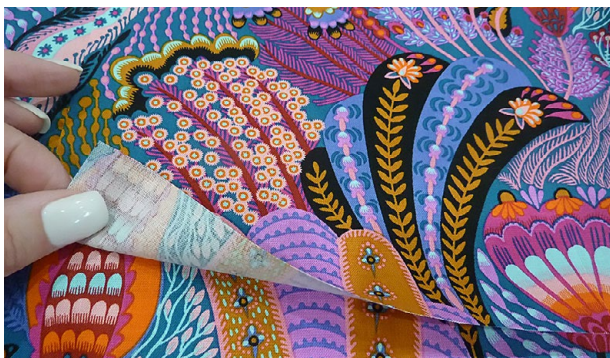
Step 1: From the fabric for the exterior apron bib and the exterior skirt accent band (Vestment in Summer on our sample), fussy cut the following (we very precisely positioned the "stripe" elements within both our cuts):

- ONE 31" wide x 5" high panel for the bottom accent panel
- Using the assembled Bib pattern, fussy cut ONE from the exterior fabric on the fold



Step 2: From the fabric featured on THREE of the skirt's patchwork panels (Passport in Fuchsia on our sample), cut THREE 7" wide x 23" high panels

Note: As mentioned above, if working with a random motif, you could cut on the horizontal (23" wide x 7" high); in either case, do take the time to fussy cut so all three panels match one another. This will look much better when the skirt is finished.



Step 3: From the fabric featured on ONE of the skirt's patchwork panels and with a matching pocket (Raiment in July on our sample), fussy cut the following:

- ONE 7" x 23" panel
- Using the Pocket pattern, cut ONE

Note: The pocket is designed to bow out slightly from the front of the skirt, which is why a pattern is required – it is not a simple rectangle. If you wish, as we did, to have your pocket match the panel on which it sits, check out the full [S4H tutorial on How to Match a Pocket to a Panel](#).



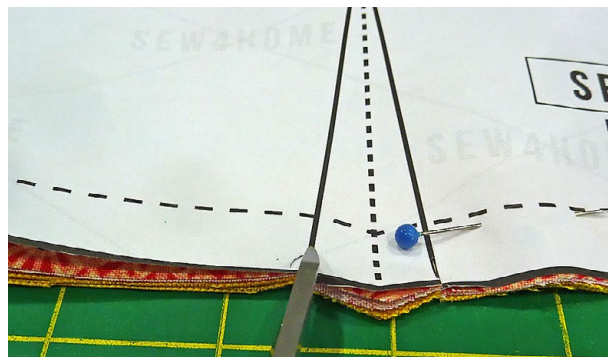
Step 4: From the fabric featured only on ONE of the skirt's patchwork panels (Raiment in May on our sample), fussy cut ONE 7" x 23" panel.

Step 5: From the lining fabric, cut the following:

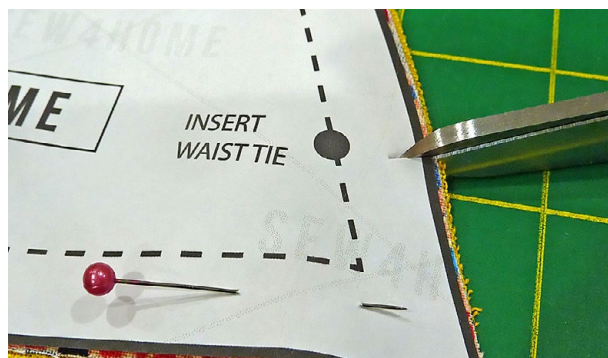
- ONE 31" wide x 27" wide rectangle for the skirt lining
- Using the assemble Bib pattern, cut ONE on the fold
- Using the Pocket pattern, cut ONE

Step 6: With both the exterior bib panel and the lining bib panel still folded, stack the two panels, layer the paper pattern on top, and pin through all the layers. This allows you to do your marking through all the layers at once.

Step 7: Snip into the bottom edge at the base of the dart markings.



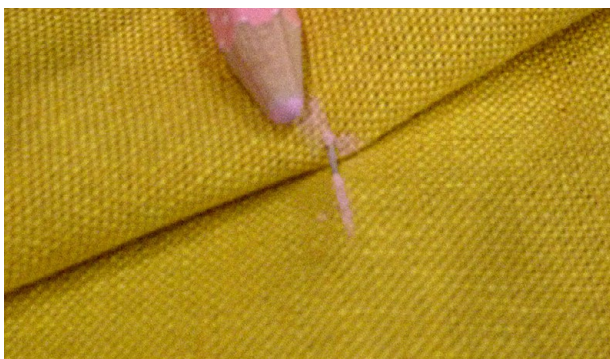
Step 8: Snip into the side edge at the waist tie marking.



Step 9: Place a pin at the point of the dart.

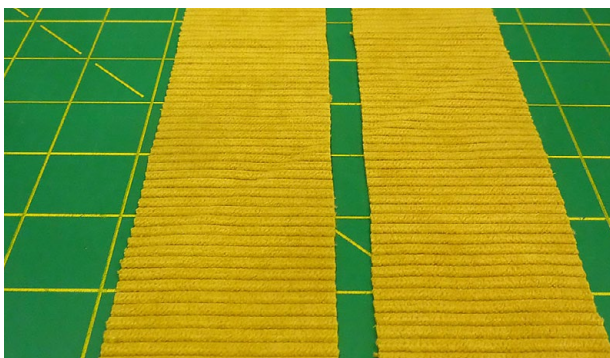


Step 10: Un-pin the sides and carefully lift up the layers, pulling each layer back to transfer the pin point marking to the wrong side of each layer – both the exterior and the lining.



Step 11: From the corduroy – STRAIGHT cut with the wale running vertically; cut the following:

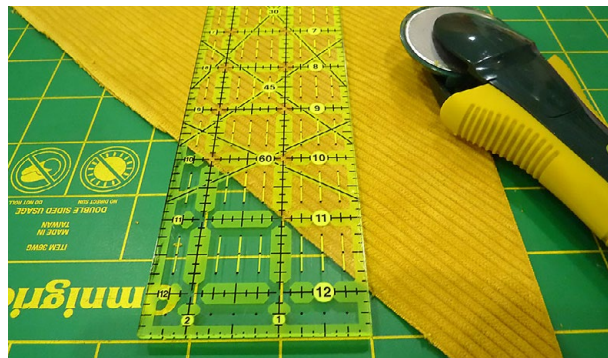
- TWO 40" x 2" strips for the waist ties
- ONE 18" x 2" strip for the waist flange



BIAS cut with the wale running on the diagonal;

cut the following:

- TWO 24" x 2" strips for the neck ties/binding
- ONE 8" x 2" for the pocket binding



Note: If you are new to cutting strips on the bias for binding, S4H has a [bias binding tutorial on the basics for figuring yardage, cutting, making, and attaching.](#)

Step 12: Trim both pattern pieces along their dotted seam allowance lines.

Step 13: Using the trimmed patterns, from the fusible interfacing, cut the following:

- ONE pocket panel
- ONE bib panel – on the fold

Mark the interfacing bib for the darts and waist ties in the same manner as above.



Step 14: Centre the lightweight fusible interfacing on the wrong side of the matching Bib and Pocket exterior panels so there is 1/2" of fabric showing beyond the interfacing all around. Also align the dart and waist tie markings on the Bib layers. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse in place.

Sewing Instructions

Create the pocket and attach to its matching panel

Step 1: Find the pocket front, which should already have the interfacing fused in place, and the pocket lining.

Step 2: Place the two panels right sides together and pin along the bottom only.

Step 3: Thread the machine with thread to best match the fabric in the top and bobbin.

Step 4: Using a ½" seam allowance and standard straight stitch, run your seam across the bottom edge only. The sides and the top remain raw.

Step 5: Bring the panels around so they are now wrong sides together. Making sure the seam is straight and true along the bottom edge, press flat.

Step 6: Find the 8" bias cut corduroy strip.

Step 7: Fold the strip in half, wrong sides together, and press to set a centre crease line.

Step 8: Unfold, wrong side up. Fold each long raw edge into the middle, meeting at the centre crease line. Press.

Step 9: Re-fold along the original crease line and press once more.

Note: When pressing a napped fabric, like corduroy, use a light touch and lower heat setting. You might also want to consider a pressing cloth or even placing a thick bath towel on your ironing board and allowing the right side of the corduroy to rest against the soft surface. All these options help avoid damaging the nap.

Step 10: Unfold wrong side up once again so all the crease lines are visible.

Step 11: Align one raw edge of the binding along the upper raw edges of the layered pocket panel. The corduroy strip and the front of the pocket are right sides together. Pin across the top of the pocket through all the layers.

Step 12: Re-thread the machine with thread to best match the binding in the top and bobbin.

Step 13: Stitch along the first crease line, which should be a ½" seam allowance, across the pocket top.

Note: As you can see in our photos, we used, and recommend, the built-in AcuFeed™ Flex feeding system or at least a standard Walking/Even Feed foot. It's what we used for the majority of our project sample construction.



Step 14: Remove the pocket from the machine and wrap the binding around to the back, re-folding it along its remaining crease lines. Pin at the back.

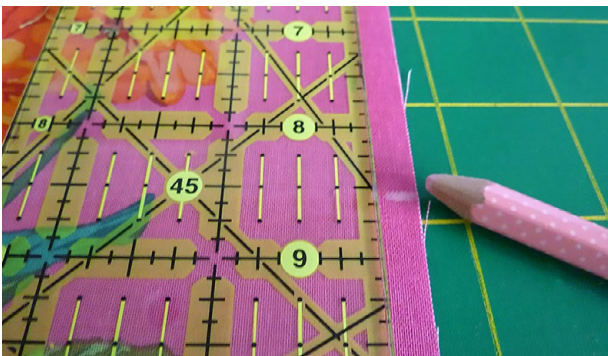


Step 15: Slightly lengthen the stitch. From the front, topstitch across the binding as close to the inner fold as possible, ensuring you are also catching the back of the binding in this one seam.



Step 16: Find the 7" x 23" panel that matches the pocket.

Step 17: Measure 8½" down from the upper raw edge of the panel and mark this point along both sides of the panel. If you did a pocket match to your panel, this bottom edge can vary slightly in order to ensure everything lines up properly.



Step 18: Place the seamed bottom edge of the pocket along your marked line and pin in place across the bottom as well as along both sides. As mentioned, the pocket is designed to bow out slightly from the panel. Make sure the raw side edges of all the layers are flush when pinning; this will allow you to see the bow.

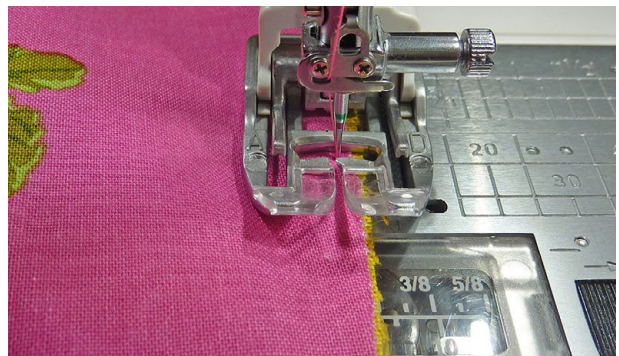


Step 19: Re-thread the machine with thread to best match the exterior pocket panel in the top and bobbin. Keep a slightly lengthened straight stitch.

Step 20: Edgestitch across the pocket bottom.



Step 21: Re-position to edgestitch along the sides of the pocket as well. This helps the pocket from shifting during the assembly of the skirt.



Assemble the vertical skirt panels

Step 1: Keep the panel with the pocket stitched in place on your work surface and gather the remaining four other panels. Place all five panels in order.



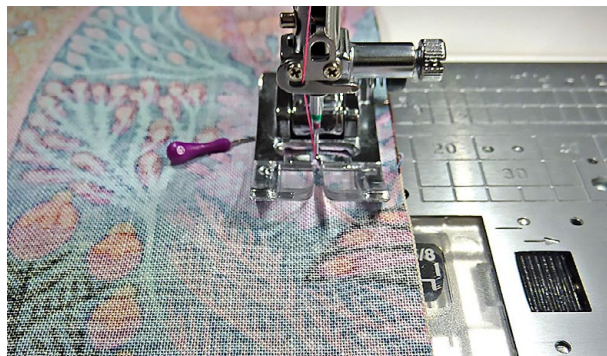
Step 2: You can assemble the five panels left to right or right to left – your choice.

Step 3: Place the first two panels right sides together and pin along the long inner sides.



Step 4: Re-thread the machine as necessary with thread to best blend with all your fabrics in the top and bobbin. Re-set for a standard straight stitch. We re-attached our standard presser foot.

Step 5: Using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch together.



Step 6: Continue pinning and stitching across all five vertical panels in the same manner.



Step 7: Press all the seam allowances open and flat.



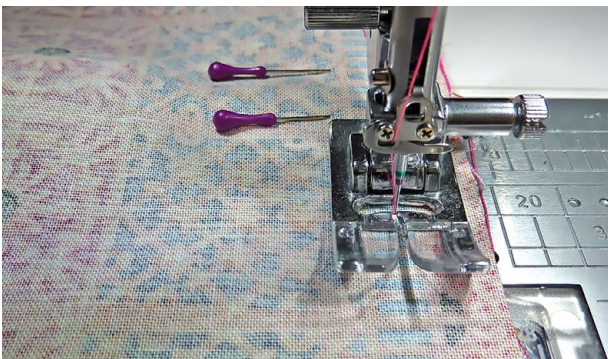
Add the bottom horizontal accent panel and layer with the lining

Step 1: With the vertical panels stitched into position and pressed, find the bottom horizontal accent panel.

Step 2: Place it right sides together across the bottom of the skirt. Make sure you are pinning together the bottom edge of the skirt panel and the top edge of the accent panel. This is especially important when you have a strong directional fussy cut, such as we did with our "cathedral windows stripe." Pin together the layers.



Step 3: Using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch together.



Step 4: Press the seam allowance open and flat.

Step 5: Find the skirt lining panel. Place the finished exterior skirt panel and the lining skirt panel right sides together. All raw edges should be flush. Pin along both sides and across the bottom.



Step 6: Using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch along both sides and across the bottom. Remember to sharply pivot at each bottom corner. The upper edge of the skirt panel remains raw.

Step 7: Press open the seam allowances and [clip the corners](#).



Step 8: Turn the skirt right side out. Reach in through the open top and gently push out the bottom corners so they are nice and sharp. A long knitting needle, chopstick or point turner works well for this. Press flat.

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Step 9: Run one or two lines of machine basting across the raw top edge of the skirt panel, staying within the ½" seam allowance.

Note: If you are new to gathering by machine, [S4H has a full step-by-step tutorial](#).



Assemble the bib with the flange and waist ties

Step 1: Find the exterior bib panel, which should already have its interfacing fused in place. Collect the lining bib panel, the two 40" corduroy waist tie strips, and the 18" corduroy flange strip.

Step 2: Create both darts in the exterior bib panel and the lining bib panel. If you are new to making a dart, check out the [step-by-step S4H tutorial](#).

Step 3: Press the darts away from centre, toward each side edge.



Step 4: Flip over the exterior bib panel so it is right side up and flat on your work surface and you can see your pretty darts.



Step 5: Find the 18" corduroy flange strip. Fold it in half, wrong sides together. Press.

Step 6: Place the flange across the bottom raw edge of the exterior bib, aligning the raw edges of the flange with the raw edge of the bib panel. The flange will extend a bit at either end. That is okay. Pin in place.



Step 7: Re-thread the machine with thread to best match the corduroy binding in the top and bobbin. Re-attach a Walking/Even Feed foot or engage your built-in AcuFeed™ Flex feeding system.

Step 8: Machine baste the flange in place along the bottom raw edge.

Step 9: Set aside the bib exterior.

Step 10: The waist ties are created in a similar fashion to how you made the pocket binding above.

Step 11: Fold each strip in half, wrong sides together, and press to set a centre crease line.

Step 12: Unfold, wrong side up. Fold each long raw edge into the middle, meeting at the centre crease line. Then, on ONE end of each tie, fold in the end to create a finished edge. The opposite end of each tie remains raw. Press.

Step 13: Re-fold along the original crease lines and press once more.

Step 14: Re-set for a lightly lengthened stitch.

Step 15: Edgestitch along the folded edges of each long tie. It's not necessary to pivot and stitch the finished end of each. The ties are narrow and the single line of edgestitching will hold the finished end in place.



Step 16: Place the raw end of each tie against the right side of the exterior bib panel. The raw end of the tie should sit at the mark you previously clipped into each side edge – approximately ½" above the top of the pinned-in-place flange strip.



Step 17: Machine baste each tie in place against the bib exterior panel.

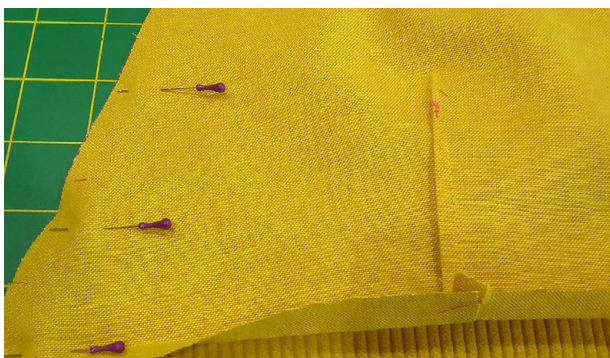
Step 18: Along each side of the bib, trim the tie and the flange flush with the angle of the bib.



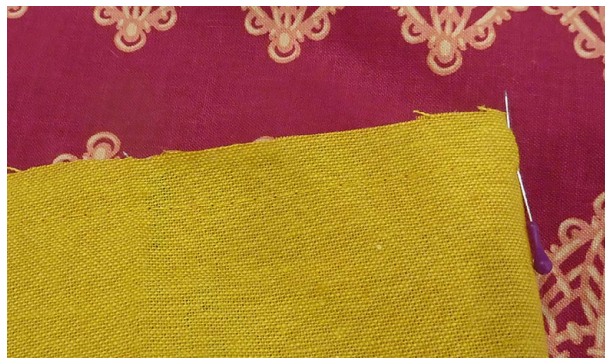
Step 19: Gather up the ends of the ties and pin or tape them at the centre of the bib so they will be out of the way during the remainder of the bib construction.

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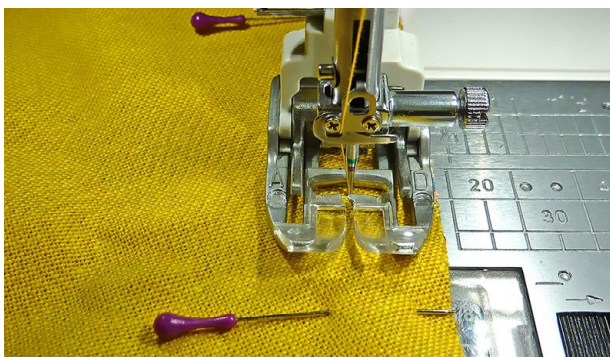
Step 20: Find the bib lining panel. Place the bib exterior and bib lining right sides together, sandwiching the flange and ties between the layers. Pin along both sides.



The best way to find the centre is to simply fold the panel in half and mark that folded centre point with a pin.



Step 21: Re-set for a standard straight stitch. We kept the machine threaded with the binding thread and it blended well enough. If needed, you can re-thread. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch along both sides. The bottom and top of the bib remain un-stitched.



Step 2: In the same manner, find the centre along the bottom edge of the bib.



Step 22: Press open the side seam allowances and turn the bib right side out. Press flat, making sure your seams run straight and true along each side.

Stitch the skirt to the bib

Step 1: Find the centre along the top raw edge of the skirt panel. This panel should be right side out with one or two lines of machine basting running along the top raw edge. We used one line.



Step 4: Pull apart the bib lining from the bib exterior so you are just working with the bib exterior. The right side of the skirt panel is against the right side of the bib exterior panel. Pin the gathered top of the skirt panel to the bottom edge.



Step 5: Pin all the way across in this manner, adjusting the gathers as needed to keep them even and to make sure the skirt fits the bib. Remember, you are pinning just through the skirt layers and the bib exterior – do not pin through the bib lining panel. Use plenty of pins; these layers need to be secure.



Step 6: To further cement this step, here is another perspective, showing how we lifted the bib lining up and out of the way to pin the skirt to the bib exterior.



Step 7: Gently turn the bib wrong side out, feeding the skirt through the open upper end of the bib. Bring the skirt all the way through until the bottom of the bib lays flat with the layers as follows: bib lining – gathered skirt – bib exterior. In other words, the two layers of the bib are now right sides together with the skirt sandwiched between. Re-pin along the bottom edge of the bib through ALL these layers.

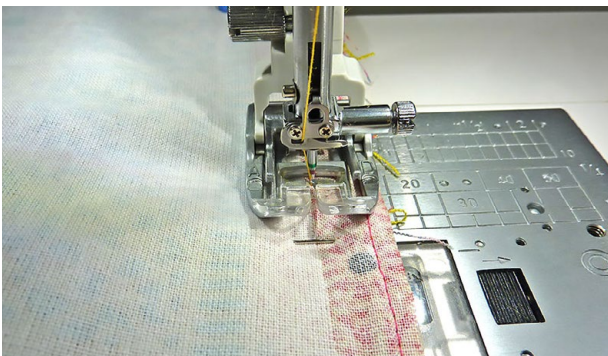


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Step 8: Make sure the darts are aligned on the two layers.



Step 9: Using a ½" seam allowance, stitch across through ALL the layers.



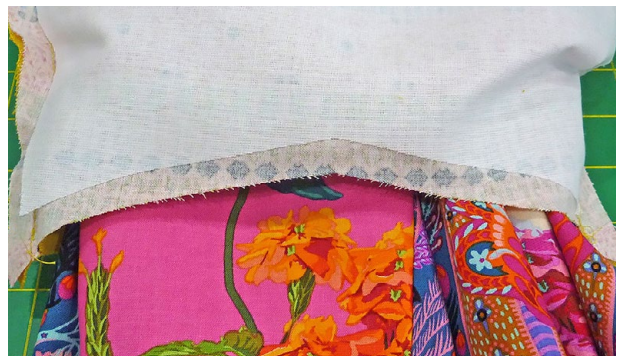
Here's another look at those stitched layers: bib exterior and bib lining sandwiching the gathered skirt top.



Step 10: Clip the ends of the seam to reduce bulk.



Step 11: Turn the bib right side out, which is accomplished by continuing to pull the skirt through the open top of the bib.



Step 12: Go slowly and carefully, releasing the ties – if you pinned or taped those in place.



Step 13: Press the bib flat.

Attach the top binding/ties

Step 1: Find the two 24" bias cut strips. Stitch them together end to end with a 1/2" seam allowance.

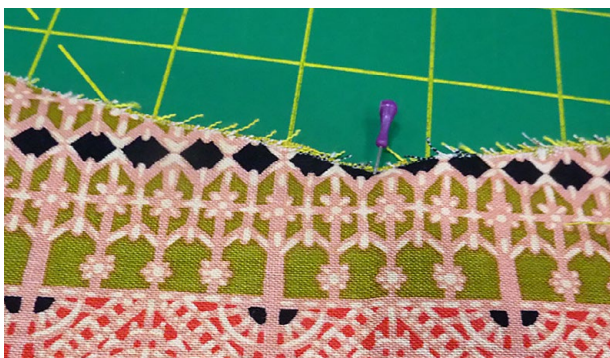


Step 2: As above with the other binding strips, fold this strip in half, wrong sides together, and press to set a centre crease line.

Step 3: Unfold, wrong side up. Fold each long raw edge into the middle, meeting at the centre crease line.

Step 4: Refold along the original crease line and press once more.

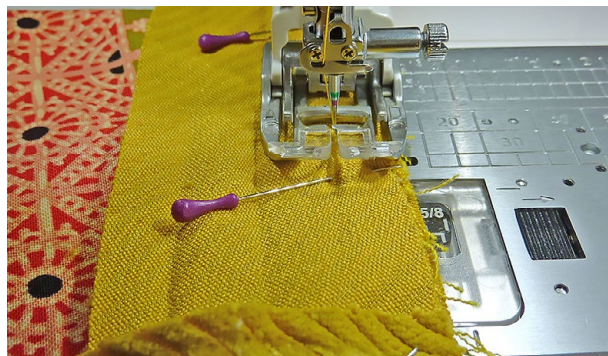
Step 5: Fold the top edge of the bib in half to find its centre point. Mark this point with a pin.



Step 6: Unfold the corduroy binding wrong side up and align one raw edge with the top raw edge of the bib. The seam of the binding should align with the centre pin point along the top of the bib. Pin in place across the bib.



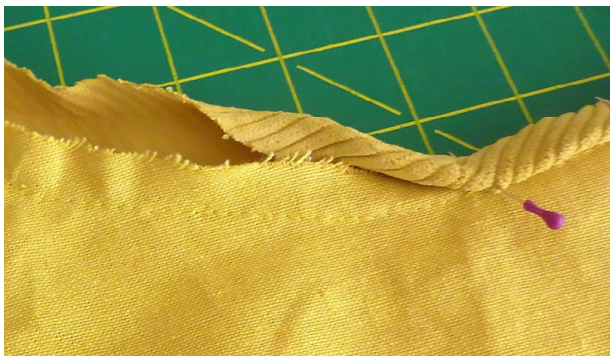
Step 7: Stitch along the inner crease line.



Step 8: Start and stop the seam at the side edges of the bib.



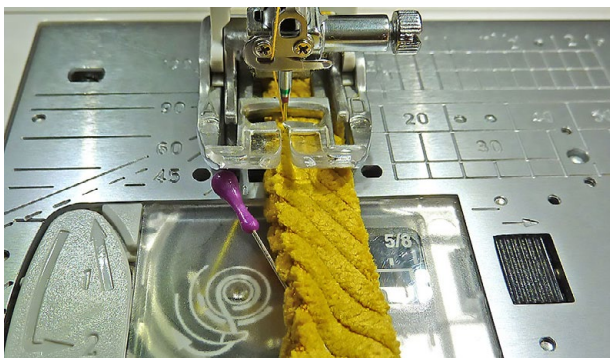
Step 9: Just as you did above with the pocket binding, re-fold the bib binding along the remaining crease lines, bringing the binding up and over to the lining side of the bib. Pin in place across the lining side of the bib.



Step 10: Continue re-folding and pinning past the bib and out along each neck tie. At the tail of each tie, just as you did with the waist ties, tuck the raw end within the folds to create a finished end.



Step 11: Slightly lengthen the stitch, and starting at one end, edgestitch along the tie...



... then continue across the bib and out to the opposite end.



Press down the flange and tack in place

Step 1: Using a pressing cloth and a bit of steam, press the flange done into its final position. It should drop down from the bottom bib seam, laying over the gathered top of the skirt.

Step 2: Thread a hand sewing needle with thread to match the corduroy.

Step 3: Tack the flange into the downward position, placing a tiny hand tack about every 1" along the flange. Take advantage of the corduroy's wale to hide your stitches. Come up between the wales, grabbing a bit of the skirt behind.



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Step 4: Then slide your needle between the layers of the flange to move to your next tack position.



Step 5: The ends of the flange curve up slightly into the side seams of the bib – the perfect spot to hide your knots.



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Skyline S9



Memory Craft 9450 QCP