

Oilcloth Garden Apron



Get ready to start digging in your garden with a colorful oilcloth garden apron. Oilcloth is waterproof and easy-to-clean, making it the perfect fabric to wear while planting and weeding. Plus, a handy pocket is just the right size for carrying seed packets, garden gloves, and other small garden supplies.

Project Needs & Notes:

- 5/8 yard print oilcloth
- 1/4 yard solid-colored oilcloth
- 5/8 yard quilter's cotton
- Medium weight (2.5 ounce) cutaway stabilizer
- Temporary spray adhesive (like Gunold KK100)
- Extra-wide double-fold bias tape (two 3 yard packages)
- Masking tape
- Air-erase pen

The design used in this tutorial is [J7007, All Things Grow With Love](#). Designs that are 9.5" x 6" or smaller fit comfortably on the apron's pocket.



The video tutorial demonstrates how to embroider on oilcloth fabric. Instructions for assembling the garden apron are below.

Special Project Notes:

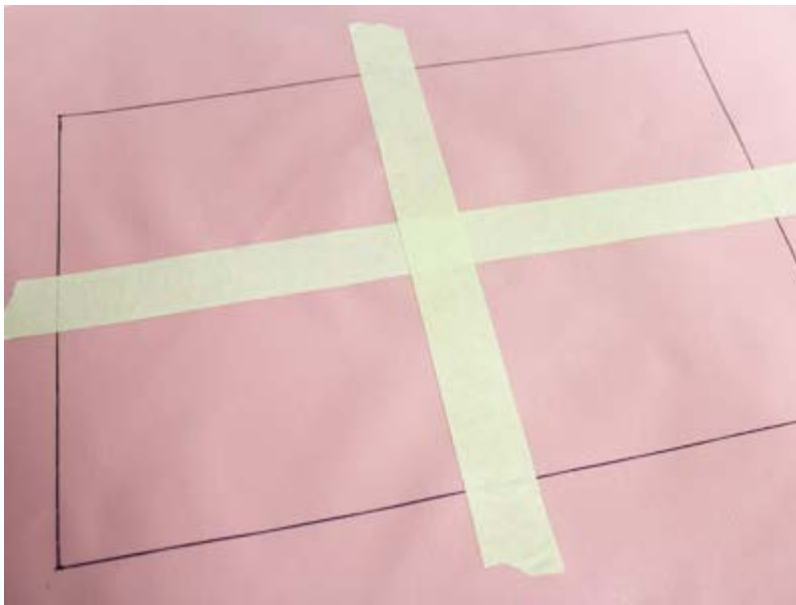
Oilcloth makes a wonderful gardening apron because it's durable and cleans easily.

This project was featured in the following:

[Garden Party Lookbook](#)



Begin by making the pocket for the apron. Draw a 12" x 8" rectangle on the solid-colored oilcloth.



Next, plan where to stitch the design. Air-erase pens don't work on oilcloth, so make a cross with pieces of masking tape. Each strip should go through the center of the side.



A template, or printout of a design, is an excellent tool to help with placement.

Print a template of the design from your embroidery software. If you do not have embroidery software, [Wilcom's TrueSizer](#) is a free program to use.

Place the template in the center of the rectangle, lining up the center of the design with the center of the tape.

Mark the center point, as well as the vertical and horizontal axis lines, on the tape.



Remove the template.

Hoop the oilcloth with a piece of cutaway stabilizer, lining up the marks on the oilcloth with the marks on the hoop.



Attach the hoop to the machine and load the design.

Move the hoop so the needle is right over the center point.

Peel back the tape.

Embroider the design. Use a size 11 or 75/11 sharp sewing needle when embroidering on oilcloth.

After embroidering, cut the excess stabilizer away from the back.

Cut out the rectangle shape.

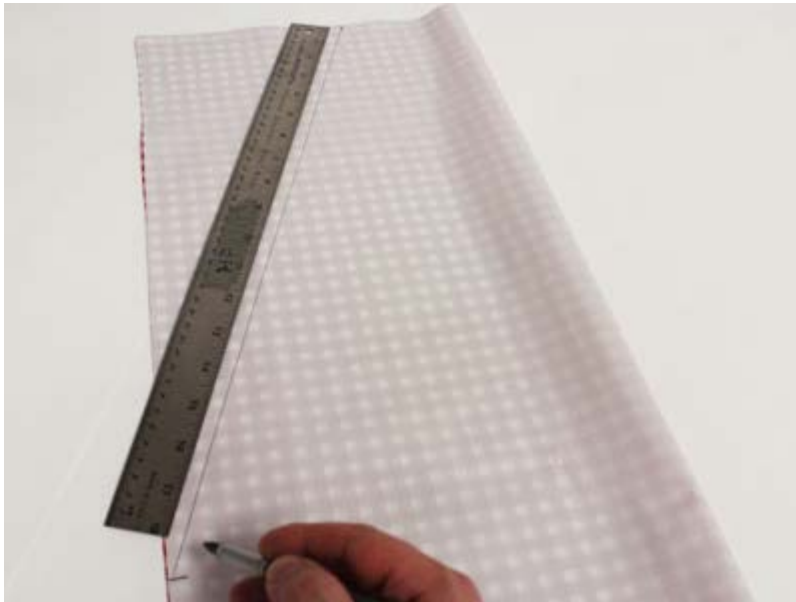


To make the pocket lining, place the embroidered oilcloth on top of the cotton, wrong sides together.

Do not pin, as pins will leave holes in the oilcloth. If you wish, you can use temporary adhesive between the two layers.

Cut around the shape.

Sew a 1/8" seam around the entire edge of the shape. Sew with the cotton side facing up, as oilcloth has a tendency to stitch to the sewing foot.



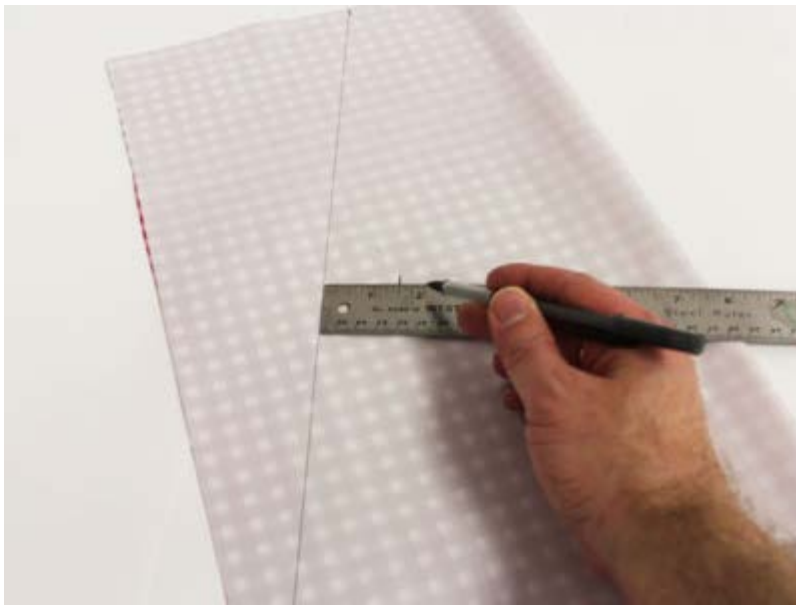
Now that the pocket is complete, proceed to making the apron.

Cut a 21" x 28" piece of print oilcloth.

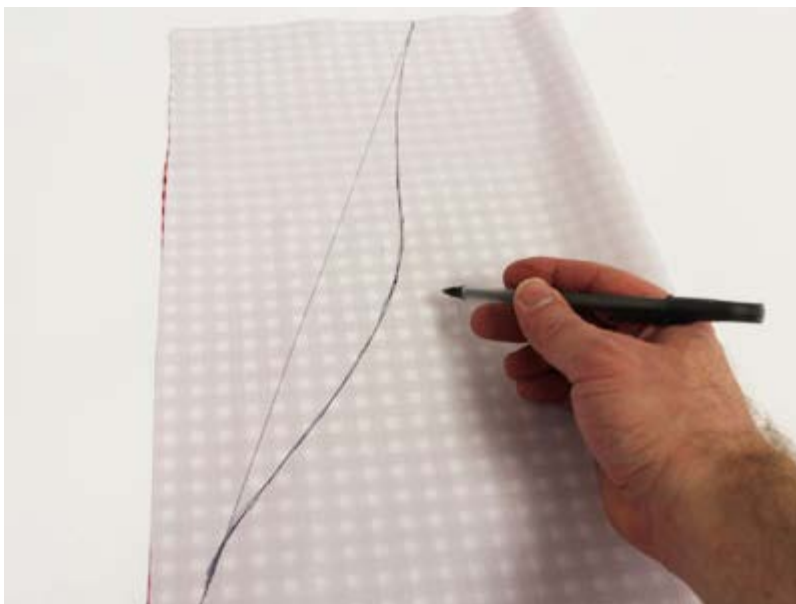
Fold it in half widthwise, long sides together. Place the fabric with the fold on the right.

Measure 4" in from the top right corner along the top edge of the fabric and mark.

Measure down 18" from the top left corner. Draw a line from the mark on the left to the mark on the top.



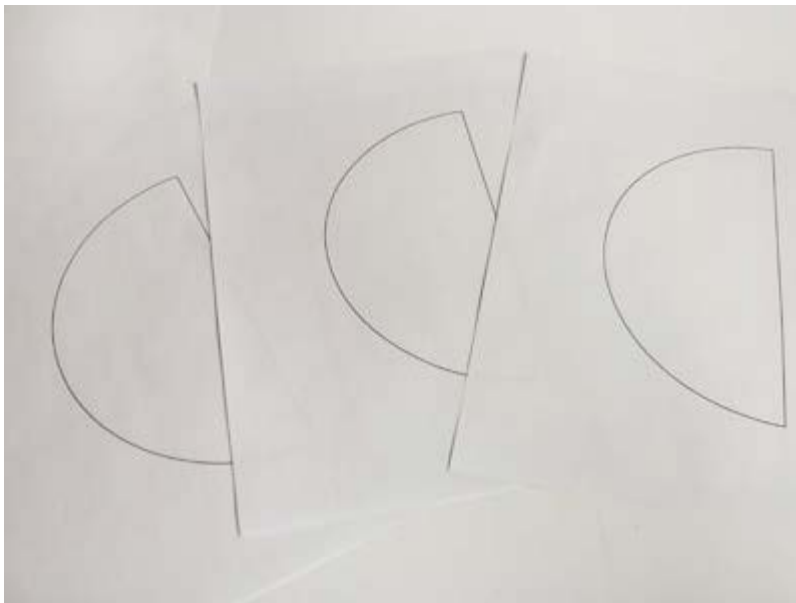
To give the apron a naturally curvy shape, measure and mark 1 1/2" in along the right side of the line just drawn, about halfway down the line.



Draw a curved line starting at the top of the first line, coming out to meet the mark made in the previous step. End about 3" from the bottom of the straight line.



Cut through both layers of fabric along the curved line.



For the bottom of the apron, use pattern pieces to trace the scalloped hem.

[Click here for the pattern pieces.](#)

They print on three pieces of 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Cut out the pieces.



Lay the fabric flat, right side facing up. Arrange the pattern pieces along the bottom of the apron so the curved edges line up with the bottom edge of the fabric.

Secure the pieces in place with a few pieces of masking tape on the back, then traced the shapes along the bottom curved edges.

There's no need to trace the top straight edge because you won't be cutting there.



Cut the fabric along the traced lines to make the scalloped edge.



To finish the pocket, wrap bias tape around the top edge. Fold it around the corner, stopping just below each top corner.

Pin in place and sew a seam along the inner edge of the tape.



Center the pocket on the apron with the bottom edge about 2" from the top edge of the scalloped shapes.

Wrap bias tape around the side and bottom edges of the pocket. Pin in place. Sew a seam on the inner edges of the tape along the sides and bottom of the pocket.

Do not sew the top pocket edge.

Since the needle does make perforations that can cause oilcloth to tear, it's best to use the pocket for storing smaller, lightweight gardening supplies like gloves and seed packets. This will help avoid putting too

much strain on the stitches.

After completing the pocket, add an accent piece to the apron top.



Cut a piece of the solid-colored fabric to 11" x 3". Spray the back with temporary adhesive, and smooth it onto the apron with the top edge of the accent piece lined up with the top edge of the apron fabric.

Trim the accent, cutting around the top of the apron fabric shape.

Add bias tape. Wrap it around the bottom edge of the accent piece. Trim the tape, leaving about 1/2" excess on each end.

Wrap the ends around the edges of the fabric. Pin in place, and sew a seam along the inner edge of the tape.



For the lining of the apron, spray the backside of the apron fabric with temporary adhesive. Smooth it onto the cotton fabric.

Cut out the shape.

To make the ties, cut two pieces of bias tape to 20" long for the top ties, and two pieces 30" long for the waist ties.

On each piece, turn one end in 1/4" and sew a seam along the inner edge of the entire length of the tape.



Insert the raw ends of the tape in between the layers of the apron section with the tape extending in about 1".

Insert the 20" pieces at each top corner and the 30" pieces at the side edges of the apron fabric. Line them up with the top edge of the pocket.

Pin the tape in place.



Sew a zigzag stitch around the entire outer edges of the apron, with the lining side facing up.

This oilcloth aprons is a stylish and easy-to-clean addition to



your gardening accessories.
Pick your favorite fabric and
embroidery to make it your own!

Questions or comments? Let us know! Send an email to us; the address is stitch@emlibrary.com.