

Flirty Apron Tutorial



*a tummy
tuckin, cute
lookin, apron
just for you!*



Let's get started!

You will need 2/3 yard of cotton fabric (or a vintage sheet or pillowcase would be cute too)

About a 1/4 yard of contrasting fabric

A strip of fusible interfacing the length of your waist and 3" tall

Optional- rick rack, pompoms, ribbon, etc. embellishments for the pocket

1.5" x 48" grosgrain ribbon or wide bias tape or fabric

Get out a piece of paper and write down these measurements~

1. Your waist plus 6.5" (right above your belly button at your natural waist and comfortable!)

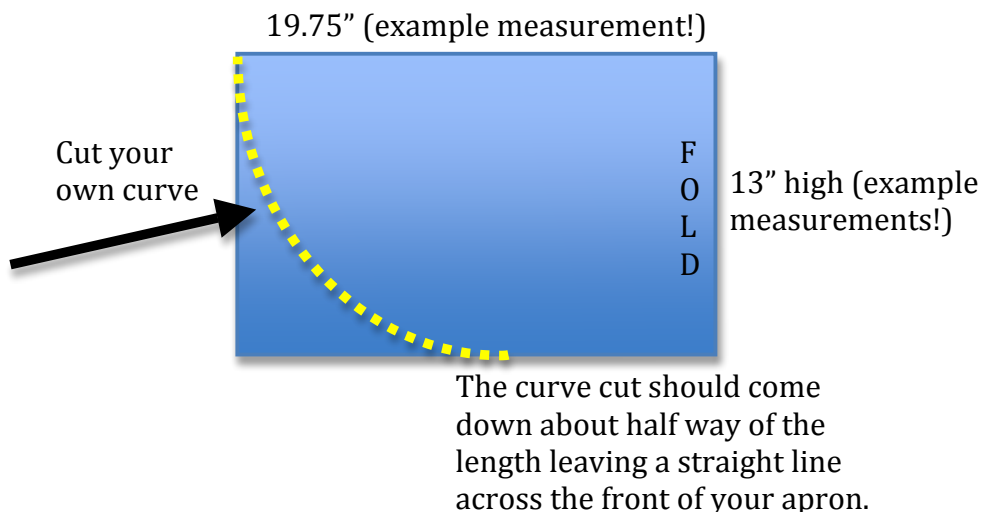
2. Length from your waist to your knee minus 11"

~this was the measurement I did but I am very tall (5'11"!) I haven't tried it on anyone shorter so you may have to make some adjustments if you are under 5'6". I came up with this number by using my knee to waist measurement and then subtracting the length of the finished ruffle (2.5") and the length I wanted it to fall above my knee (7") and then one more inch for the waist band since the wide waist band goes about an inch below your waist line. Then I added another .5" for seam allowances.

Example: If your waist is 33" and your waist to knee is 24" (these are my tall measurements!)

The main apron body piece will measure 39.5" wide and 13" long.

1. The numbers you wrote down will be the length and width of you main apron piece. Cut on the fold to make it easier and to be accurate. So, now you have to **divide your width number in half** because the fabric is folded! Now get brave because you have to cut the curve yourself! See the figure below to guide you...



2. Now to cut your waistband. You can make some choices about style here too. I like for my band and apron body fabric to be the same since I want to make sure no extra attention is brought to my belly! But a contrasting band would be cute too! Cut a piece of fabric the length of your waist and 3.5" high. Cut another piece exactly the same. Iron the strip of fusible interfacing to the WRONG side first band - centered in the middle so that there is .25" inches on either side. Now sew the 2 bands together using the line of the fusible interfacing as a guide. See Figure 1 below.



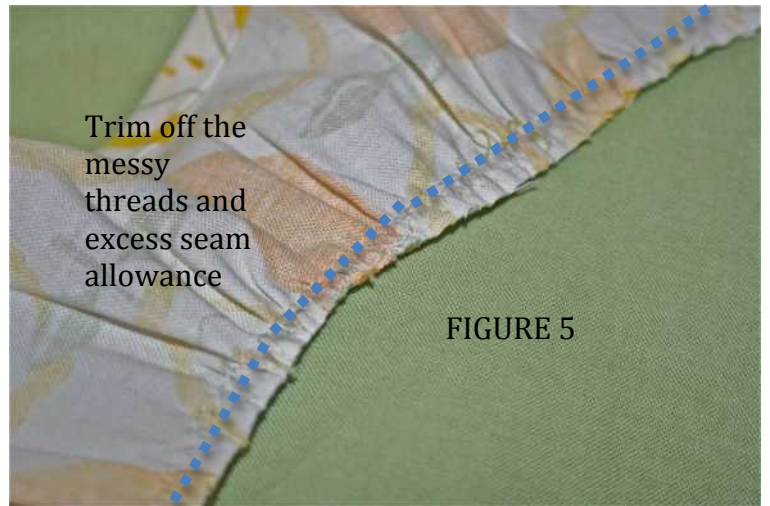
3. Now to make the ruffle. The ruffle width will be 2.5 x your waist size and 3.25" tall. (Example: if your waist is 33" then the ruffle length would be 82.5") Do a rolled hem (Google it!) along the entire length. Then, setting your machine to its longest stitch length and without doing a backstitch, stitch along the top length of the ruffle. Then gently pull the thread and begin to ruffle. The final length of the ruffle should be the length around the bottom and curve of the apron body minus 2 inches. You can either measure this or just adjust the ruffle until you get the correct length. See Figure 2.



4. Attach the ruffle by pinning it all around right sides facing like in Figure 3 below. We will do the pleats in the next step so just wait for that.



Sew on the ruffle side to make sure you catch all the gathering with a 1/2 " seam allowance. Once finished, turn it over to the apron body side and zigzag stitch all along the seam allowance for extra durability (or use your serger if you have one!). See Figure 4.



Once you have zigzagged, trim off the messy threads and excess seam allowance like in Figure 5. Iron the seam up toward the apron body and topstitch an 1/8" from where the ruffle and apron body meet. See Figure 6 and 7. Ruffle on and looking pretty!

5. To make the pleats, mark with a pin the center of your apron. Wrap it around your belly and determine where you want the pleats to go. I did mine 4" to either side of the center. If this is too far or not far enough for you, make adjustments. Take it off your body and mark the spot with a pin. Measure 1.5" out from that pin (and away from the center) and mark with another pin. Fold the fabric so the pins meet and make a nice pleat. Iron & leave a pin there to hold it. Make another pleat 3.5" away (again that's my measurement! Play with this a little so that it flatters YOU). Then repeat on the other side. Iron all your pleats well. See Figure 8 below.



6. Time to attach the waistband. Take your band & mark the center with a pin (fold it in half). Pin the RIGHT side of the band to the BACK (wrong side) of the apron. See Figure 9 below. Start by pinning the centers together so you are even on both sides. You should have about a 1/2" or more on either end. Sew it on. Next, iron over the top edge of the waistband like in Figure 9.



Iron the extra $\frac{1}{2}$ " of fabric on the end over and toward the right side of the apron body like in Figure 10 below. Do this on both ends of the waistband. Then fold the band over and iron well like in Figure 11. Pin the band down (like in Figure 12) and sew across with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam. Don't go up the short ends since we need those open to insert the ties. So nice and tidy!



FIGURE 10

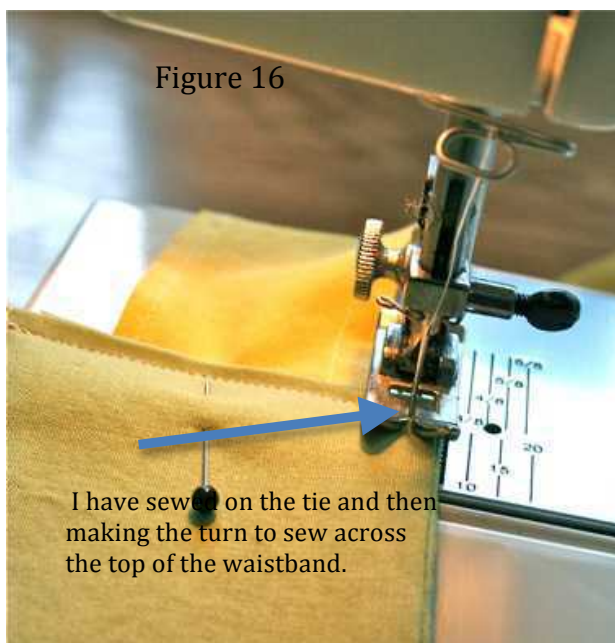


FIGURE 11



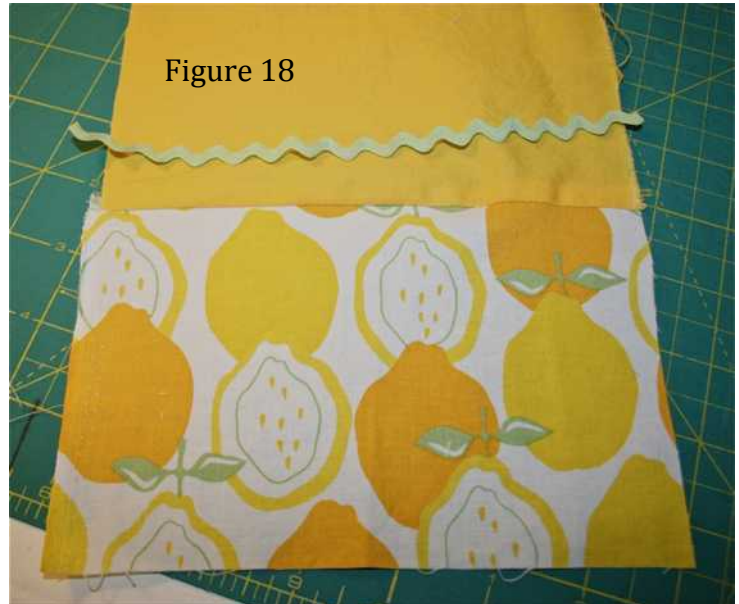
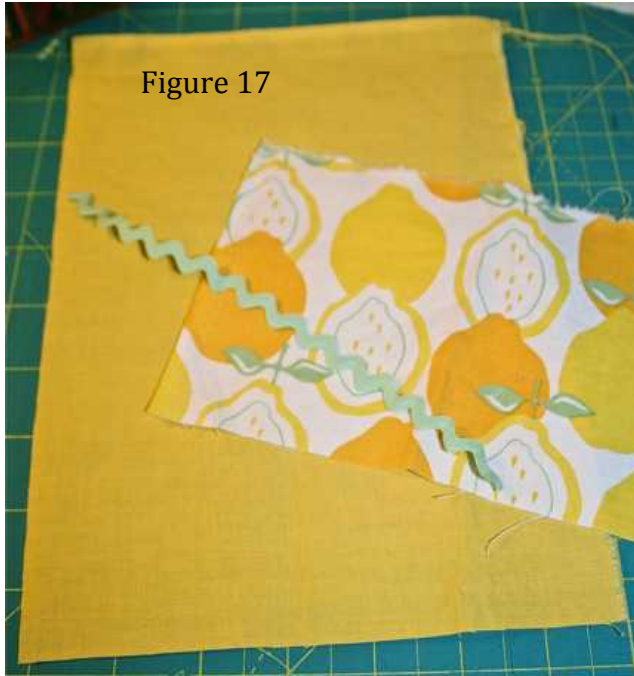
FIGURE 12

7. Next you need to attach the ties in the back. I just used some wide bias tape that I had around but you can do a variety of things. Easiest would be grosgrain ribbon but also some cute fabric strips with hems would be good too! Cut the Long ribbon in half to get two 24" pieces. See Figure 13.

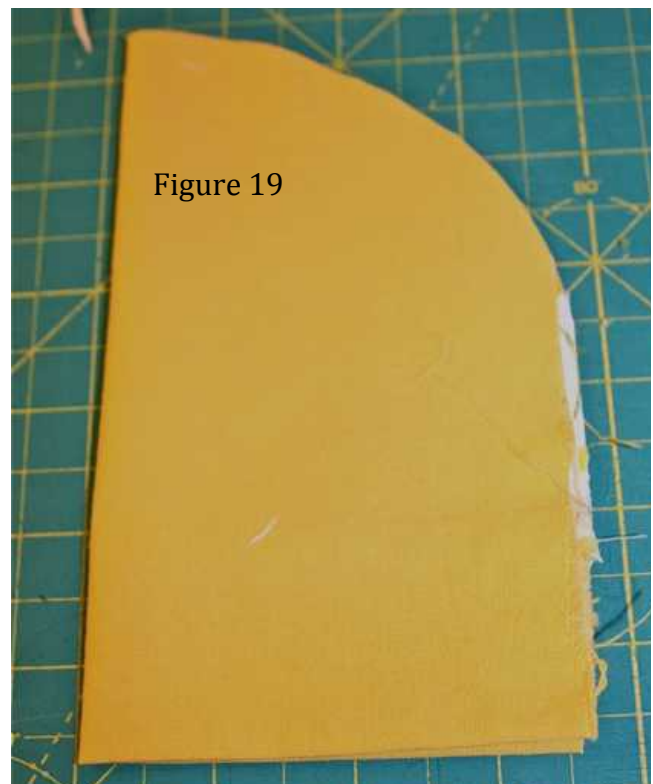


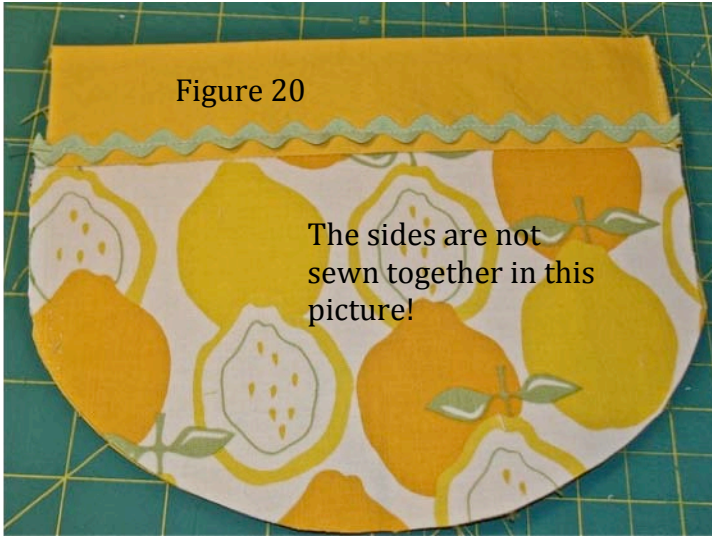
Insert the ribbon into the open gap you left when you did the seam in step 6. Like in Figure 14. Now sew it down like in Figure 15! Move to the other end, insert the ribbon, sew it up and then sew across the top again with a 1/8" seam. See Figure 16. Try it on and see how great you look! Now you can either be done or add a cute pocket.

8. Pockets are really fun on an apron! Here is how I made mine for the lemon apron. I took my piece of lemon fabric which measures 4.5" by 6.75", a piece of matching yellow that measures 8" by 6.75" & a piece of rick rack that was 6.75" too. See Figure 17. I then sewed the yellow and lemon fabric together with a ¼" seam allowance. Iron the seam out.



Turn back over and sew the rickrack on just above the seam you just made. See Figure 18. Then take the two short ends and fold them right sides together. Fold it in half and cut a nice curve on the bottom. See Figure 19. Unfold and you should have what you see in Figure 20. Fold it back to right sides together AGAIN! Now sew the 2 sides together, right sides facing, with a ¼" seam allowance. Leave a 2-inch opening so you can turn it right sides out. Turn it out and iron well, especially around the opening to make it nice and smooth. See Figure 21.





Now go over to a mirror and play around with where the pocket should be on your apron. They are usually at an angle and where your hand can rest easily. See Figure 22. Pin the pocket in place and go back over to your sewing machine and sew it on with a 1/8" seam allowance. Leave the top open of course. Try it on and start looking cute!





This is the picture of the other pocket I made on my red and aqua apron. To make this heart pocket, I cut out 2 hearts from this cute dots fabric. To make it a good size, you could cut a 6" x 6" square & then fold the fabric in half and cut out a heart (like paper hearts!). Use the one you cut out as a template to cut another. Sew these 2 together (right sides facing) just like you did with the other pocket. Leave an opening to turn it out. I then used coordinating turquoise thread and did a quick stitch by hand to get the rickrack secured. Then I pinned it on the apron, just like the other pocket. I threaded my machine with the coordinating thread and sew it on by trying to stay in the middle of the rickrack. See the picture above for a guide to where I stitched. Cute!

I hope you enjoyed making this apron. Make as many as you want for yourself and for gifts. Please do not make these to sell though! I would love to see your creations! Share your aprons in the Gingercake tutorials flickr group.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1515592@N24/>

Thank you!

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