
Sew Upcycled Kidâ™s Clothes with Faith Hale

Chapter 1 - Sew Upcycled Kidâ™s Clothes

Overview

(inspiring music) - I love to thrift and I love to make my daughter clothes, so what better way to combine the two than sewing her clothes out of articles of clothing I have thrifted. Oftentimes these garments are going to be discarded, so they might as well be used for something absolutely beautiful. I'm Faith Hale, I'm a professional crafter and an avid sewist. And while I do use patterns a lot, I also think it's super-fun to make my own patterns. I'm going to show you how to trace existing garments to make something that's customized to your kid. I'll be showing you how to make a pair of leggings using the sleeves from a shirt and then a little hat using the fabric from the body of the shirt. I'll also be showing you how to make a quilted vest using a pillow sham but you can use whatever quilted material you find. There's a lot of properties in already-made clothes that really save you a few steps in your final garment, whether it's something that is pre-quilted or a jersey fabric that has hems built in. Kids grow so fast, so there's always an excuse to make them something new. So adorable.

Materials

- Sourcing the material for this project is my absolute favorite part. It can be hard to cut into a finished garment, especially if you think that somebody else could use it. So I prefer using clothes that I personally have worn, that I'm ready to get rid of. This way I get to keep it. I like clothes that have been passed down that maybe your other alternative would be to donate it. Also, if you go to thrift shops, there's a lot of times where they'll have sales with clothes that they are ready to get rid of, and by get rid of, I mean throw in the trash. So when you are buying from a goodwill sale or a goodwill outlet, the bins, as they're commonly known, you aren't taking clothes from someone who could wear them, you are taking them from the trash. So think about cooking with food that's about to go bad, right? You're saving it, you're honoring it, you're not destroying it. You're transforming it into something new. We're going to use a piece of quilted material for our vest. I've gathered all of these from a basket sale at a thrift shop, which means that they were about to go in the trash, so I feel totally fine cutting them up. This is a place mat. This is a pillow sham. Here's another pillow sham. Can you believe that this hand stitched pillow sham was going to go in the trash? This is a great way of working with quilted fabrics if you don't wanna cut up actual quilts. I've seen pillow shams every time I've gone thrifting for the past, I don't know, year. And place mats, you can also buy place mats. They're really cheap. I believe these are dollar 99 Target place mats. For our leggings and our hat, you'll need something made out of jersey, a knit material. I got all these in a basket sale at the local thrift shop as well. I think this whole stack costs me \$2. You want something with a little bit of stretch to it, an interesting pattern, you can use like a T-shirt or a lightweight knit. We'll be making both our hat and our leggings out of a shirt, so make sure it has long sleeves. For the leggings, you'll need a pair of leggings to trace around. I'm using these size 6 leggings. These can also be thrifted. I've seen plenty of kids' clothes in the bins. We'll need pins or clips, a safety pin, a length of inch wide elastic. You'll be sure to have stretch needle or jersey needle or a ballpoint needle. These needles have rounded edges so that it goes between the fibers versus through the fibers. It makes for a much cleaner sewing experience. You'll also need an additional piece of twill tape and a permanent marker so that you can mark the size and we can make a fake drawstring. For

our vest, you will need a well-fitting jacket to trace. Using this size 4 jacket. And the fabric needs to be big enough so that you can have a back and two fronts. Now, I could use something this size if I wanted to make a cropped jacket. Right, it only needs to be about this long. I think this is probably hitting my daughter's hip anyway. It's a longer jacket. But I'm really excited about using this lovely pillow sham because of all the hand stitching, and it's nice and squishy. I think it'll be really warm. This I'll be making on the cropped side as well. You'll need double fold half an inch wide bias tape. And for both projects, you'll need a quilting ruler, a cutting mat, and a rotary cutter. This is very important. You're gonna wanna use scissors, but the way we're tracing our patterns, a rotary cutter will be your best friend. We'll also need a sewing machine that can do a zigzag stitch loaded with neutral colored thread.

Make kids leggings from a long-sleeved shirt or sweater

- I really love this process. I always feel like it's suspiciously easy. It doesn't take very much time at all, and it's easy to let go of perfectionism when you're working with fabric that could possibly be garbage. Begin by unfolding your shirt and we're going to be laying them flat on the table with a seam at the very, very edge. So make sure this seam is super straight. And then we're going to repeat the process with the other sleeve and lay it directly on top. Make sure there's no wrinkles on this side. And the more fastidious you are on this step, the smoother the sewing process will be. Just rolling this a little bit on our fingers and we're going to lay it on top so these edges don't have a seam, these edges have a seam and we're lining up the bottom exactly. The real reason why I started using already constructed garments to make my leggings is because I didn't have the capability of making such a clean hem and I didn't wanna buy another machine that would give me that kind of hem. So if you use already hemmed fabrics, you don't have to make your own. Now fold your pants together front side in and make sure that this bottom seam is really rolled to the edge, right? So the front of the pants should be below the back of the pants. And we're lining up those seams just like we did with our shirt and then folding those in half. Now these leggings, they do have a seam on the outside of the leg. We're going to eliminate that seam and just use the fold in our sleeve. Take your time, even press it with an iron if that's helpful to you. There's a couple of layers of fabric right here, so this is just gonna take some extra finessing. And when you're done, lay it on top of your shirt sleeve with the cuffs exactly on the bottom and the outside edge of the pant leg lining up with the outside edge of your shirt or sweater. Make sure everything's pulled inward. We're going to cut around this with a 1/4 of an inch seam allowance. Now you can see our center crotch seam is touching the edge of the shirt sleeve. I don't mind fudging it by that amount. So I'm going to cut around the edge, adding a 1/4 of an inch, but tapering just to the edge. And then we're repeating that 1/4 of an inch all the way to the top. And once we get to the very top, we'll be adding an inch and a 1/4 so that we can fold it down to enclose our waistband. So I'll start with that. Sometimes momentum takes me away and I forget to add that extra inch and a 1/4. We have an inch and a 1/4. I'm high above the surface of my fabric, so I'm just going to go slowly to cut it off. And then I'm actually just gonna eyeball a 1/4 of an inch. I've made so many of these, I feel very free with the process and go straight up when you get to the top. And we have that center here. I'm just gonna slice off both seams and we're gonna use our rotary cutter to just even out this curve just slightly. It's very forgiving, because there's spandex in this. There's a bit of stretch and now we have two identical pant legs. We do have to adjust for the front scoop. So we will, oh, and we can cut this off in a second. Pinch these two fronts together, lining them up at the top. And we're going to slope this edge. The lighter weight your jersey is, the more fiddly it will be and curly and likely to stick to

itself. So just be patient with yourself. Take your time. So we've opened up our pants and then we're going to fold the pants so that the side seams and the center seams are lining up. Lay it on the bottom and we're going to maintain that original slant to recut our slope. So this side already has the inch and a 1/4 added to it and we want it to be that tall, but we're going to follow the slope of our pants pattern so that there's extra fabric in the back and it's not too high up in the front. Okay. Let's see, we have the front and the back, an inch and a 1/4 added, now we have to take some out. So we're going to line our ruler up with the top of this and pivot down so that we still have an inch and a 1/4 extra fabric on the front. And we're just going to chop that off. (objects tapping) If you have any added seam, cut that off. So back, front, cuffs. We're going to sew our legs together. You can also use a serger if you have one, but we're going to use a zigzag stitch. And I'm just lining up the bottoms with that crotch curve. You can use your clips or your pins and repeat with the other side. Make sure that both sides you're sewing right sides together. Just take a peek at your hem to be sure. I'm at my machine. My thread is the same color as my fabric and I'm leaving myself really long tails. That'll keep them from getting caught up in the cuff. And I'm actually going to use a straight stitch just to cover the cuff. This area, it's really easy for it to separate. So if we start with a straight stitch, it'll keep it together. Giving ourselves a 1/4 of an inch seam allowance. (sewing machine grinding) And now I'll begin with a zigzag. We want it to be about five wide and three long. And we're not going off the edge. We're going pretty close to the edge that you'll see. We're just going up until the crotch point. (sewing machine grinding) And just sew off the edge. For a really secure bottom hem, I'll tie these tails before I snip them. The double knot should be fine. And we'll repeat this process with the other pant leg. We have our two pant legs and we're going to turn one right side out and we'll slip this inside the other one. So we'll have right sides facing and the front should be aligned. So you see how we have the short side? The short side and the backside, the backside. So this will go inside this guy with the seam lined up. We'll line up the crotches with a clip and line up the top. Because we cut these out one on top of the other, they should match up exactly. If they don't, just pin or clip until they do. And we're going to sew all the way from the front and to the back with the same zigzag stitch. I'm going to do the first half inch in straight stitch. I find straight stitch has less of a tendency to eat the fabric. (sewing machine grinding) When you get about an inch away from your crotch seam, I like to change it back to a straight stitch and then we're going to back stitch over that and straight stitch it again. This just really reinforces the seam. It's a pretty important seam and I think a couple layers of straight stitching does a good job of securing it. (sewing machine grinding) And change it back to zigzag. (sewing machine grinding) I'm changing it back to a straight stitch. (sewing machine grinding) I'm gonna trim my tails long enough to tie this seam. I didn't do that at the top of the leg on the inside, because I knew that that seam would be stitched over, but we want this one to be strong, so just double knot it. This you can see I didn't hold my tails and they got captured. I'll just have to hope and pray that it stays together. And now we pull the inside leg out and turn the whole thing right side out. They're so cute already. They don't even have a waistband and they're adorable. This is our back, this is our front, and we'll fold over our waistband an inch and a 1/4 and that will be where we insert the elastic. The 1/4 inch is of course for our seam allowance. This is one of those kind of persnickety parts of the process. So just take your time, use as many pins or clips as you need and make sure you go all the way around the top of the pants. So I'm putting in a clip in the back. I put a clip in the front. I'll do one in both sides and then I'll kind of work out the ease in between the two. We're going to sew all the way around at the very edge of our fabric. We're gonna leave an opening of about two inches so that we can slide in our waistband. I like to work from the inside of the pant just to make sure that I'm catching

everything I need to catch. (clips tapping) And for this, I'm going to make it a little bit slimmer. It's going to be 3.5 wide. To avoid getting a chunky tangle at the back, insert your needle, pull it up, and pull up that back thread or that bottom thread and hold it behind you. See, I learned my lesson from last time. (sewing machine grinding) We're back to the beginning. Make sure you cut, leaving a two inch space. We're going to bring in our original pants to measure the width of the elastic. I'm sure there are some people who would measure the number and then cut the number of inches, but I prefer it to lay it flat and just use what I see in front of me. Sometimes I get confused when it comes to the overlapping part. So instead, I will just draw a line for myself. Here is where it overlaps. This is gonna be covered up so it doesn't matter if it looks funky. And then I'll just cut about a half an inch over. That'll be our overlap. So I'll know when I'm sewing it together, it needs to match up at the line. I'll remove my clips. (clips tapping) I'll use my safety pin to thread my elastic through. And because the width of the elastic is exactly the width of the casing we made for ourselves, it's going to kind of hide any imperfections in sewing. So I'm gonna leave these tails really long so there's no way of this getting caught in my machine when I sew my elastic together. Making sure that your waistband isn't twisted, we'll line up the edge with the line and pin it. And then I'm gonna make several lines of straight stitches. (sewing machine grinding) Leave your needle down, pivot, turn it around, and go back to the opposite edge. You can take out your pin and we'll do that once or twice more. (sewing machine grinding) And now we'll be sure to evenly distribute this all the way through our waistband before we close it up. Oh my gosh, they're just adorable. And this is a good time to insert a size tag. I didn't do this with a lot of my daughter's pants in the beginning. And then when I tried to donate them, I realized how inconvenient that would be for someone shopping for their kid. So we're going to fold this in half and stick it under so you don't have to worry about finishing these ends. But make sure you give yourself enough space to write. I'll say six months. (scissors snipping) Cut it to about an inch. And then this, I will pin. And we're gonna zigzag seam this back closed. Just like the rest of the waistband. We're gonna try not to catch the elastic, but if it does, that is not the end of the world. You might notice that there's a little bit of puckering, because of how we sewed the waistband and the angles, but that doesn't bother me too much, 'cause it'll be hidden by the elastic pulling. Overlap your original line of sewing by about a 1/2 an inch and pull up our bottom tail. We've learned this lesson by now. And I'm just gonna add a couple more pins to make up for that excess bulk so that it looks as clean as we can get it on the back. And be sure to switch back to your zigzag stitch. 3.5 this time. (sewing machine grinding) Noticing I'm at a bit of an angle. I do want this tag going straight down though, so I'm repinning it. (sewing machine grinding) Overlapping my stitches by about 1/2 an inch and taking it out of the machine. We're gonna trim these threads close. (scissors tapping) Oh my gosh, they're so cute. And for one final detail, we're going to add a faux drawstring. I think this hides a multitude of sins. We're gonna cut about 12 inches of twill tape. We're going to knot both ends with an overhand knot. And because we are going to be sewing through the elastic, make sure at this point in time, the elastic is evenly distributed all the way around the body of the pants. We're going to find the center point and we're going to sew straight down with our straight stitch back and forth a few times. So down, reverse, down, reverse. Keep the back of the pant out of the way. And of course, we're pulling up our bottom thread. (sewing machine grinding) Make a teeny-tiny bow. (laughs) Love these. If you're making them for bigger kids, you can reinforce the sides by doing just a straight line of stitching down the sides. But for kids who are not even of crawling age, there's not going to be a lot of twisting necessary. There's a lot less wear and tear on your leggings. I'm so pleased with how these turned out. Here are a couple more I've been working on. This one, I used a lightweight sweatshirt

material and don't you think this would look so good with the same little bow? These are in a newborn size. I made these to match the hat we're going to make. And I just love these prints from the T-shirts I took them from. I feel like I couldn't buy this jersey fabric in a fabric store, so I had to harvest it from the shirts itself.

Sew a double-sided kid's beanie

- We'll begin by cutting a 15" square. You can use any kind of jersey for this project, but I really like using the sleeves for our leggings and the body for our hats. We have a matching set. I'm also using this lightweight jersey, but you can use like a thin merino or even a cashmere if you're feeling so bold. And we may as well cut through the back too, so we can make two at once, or we can save it for a different project. And don't forget to cut off your hem. There's our 15" square. And then this is where it gets wild and exciting. If you prefer a little bit more precision, I've seen a bunch of different versions of this kind of hat in a sewing pattern. But we can begin by folding the wrong sides together, making sure this edge aligns really carefully. Then we'll fold it in half widthwise and in half widthwise again. So essentially this will end up being the cuff of our hat. This is the top of our hat. We might as well, even this out at the very top, I could have done a cleaner job of that. We're going to cut two arcs in the top third of our hat, meeting in the middle. This is where you might be tempted to use scissors, but I definitely recommend using your rotary cutter to make sure everything is as aligned as possible to the top third to the center. And you can even flip the whole package over if you want to follow the same motion that you did last time. My points are not touching exactly. I'm totally fine with that. There's gonna be a bit of fudging and trimming. I'd prefer to trim after the fact instead of having a perfectly cut project to begin with. I think that allows me to be a lot freer. We're going to open it back up all the way. Make sure you have the wrong side of your fabric up. And we're folding our sides in. These should match. These should be the same. And fold these in. And we can pin at the top if we'd like or clip. We're going to be sewing one, two, three, four. Pick up your bottom threads so you have the tails behind you. And now we'll change to a zigzag. Going to do 3.5 wide and three long. And we'll sew all the way up through the top. We're going to be sewing over this a few more times, so it's okay if we just clip our threads instead of tying them. Complete the same seam on the other three outside seams, maintaining the half an inch of straight stitches, and then zigzagging the rest of the way. Tie your initial tails together in a double knot before clipping. Now, we'll place these long sides together, matching the top seams. And we will sew around, leaving a small gap for turning it inside out. I'll show you how. At the very peak, fold your seams so that they're facing opposite directions before you clip. And because we freehanded this, this might not be exactly precise, but it should be close enough that if you leave the 3/8" seam allowance, you should have more than enough. So again, we're sewing all the way around, leaving a small gap right about here. As with all the other seams, we're beginning with a half an inch of straight stitch, then switching to the zigzag. We are leaving space for our opening, and we're picking up sewing again about an inch below that top pivot point. And when we get within a half inch of the end, we're going to change back to our straight stitch. Sew off the end and leave a long tail that we can tie. You can clip these long threads so they don't get in the way. And one of my very favorite things about sewing like this is all the seams get hidden. So you don't even have to worry about trimming them up, or if they look kind of funky, reach your fingers into the hat and try to grab the top point where everything intersects. It's always the most exciting part. So this is the outside of our hat and the inside of our hat. We still have to close this up by hand. I have a hard time waiting to get to the next part though because it's so exciting. And I'll use the excuse of letting you

visualize what it's gonna look like when it's done. So we'll have the top points matching together. These are our corners that we worked so hard to smooth out. So we'll get to that point very, very soon. We'll need a hand sewing needle loaded with our matching thread. You want a piece of the length of your arm. You could of course close this up on your sewing machine, but I really like how neat and tidy it looks when you work a ladder stitch with hand stitching. We're going to overlap very slightly with where we left off on our sewing. So I'm gonna go just to the left of that exposed stitch. Make a small stitch on the bottom fold. You'll go up and take another stitch directly across. I'm exaggerating the size of my stitches a little bit. You might wanna take smaller ones. These edges should curl naturally because they are a jersey. But if you're working with something like a sweater or a knit, make sure there's enough fabric on the other side of the seam that it doesn't unravel or fray. When you've gotten to the very end, take a tiny stitch, and before the thread is all the way closed, insert your needle back in it twice to make a little double knot. Snug it up close and bury your tail by inserting your needle and coming out... Oh, it's coming out that side. Coming up maybe an inch away. And now we're done, except for having to smush it into place. This part's so fun. Pinch one layer of fabric in the center. See if you can pinch it on the other side too. And push it through. Oh my gosh. If these seem particularly pointy to you, rub them out with your fingers and push into the top of the hat. They still look pretty pointy. Check your other side. Maybe that's less pointy. Or maybe we'll just pretend that it doesn't bother us. And we have the cutest little baby cap. You can fold it up with a tiny brim. Oh my gosh. (laughs) So adorable. These pokey parts will definitely be tamed when it's on the head of a six month old. This hat is impossibly cute, especially when paired with our little matching leggings. This is such a sweet set, and it's a really lovely way to repurpose an item of clothing that's no longer wearable.

Sew a kid's quilted vest

- I'm using a jacket that I know fits my daughter well. But there's plenty of patterns available that you can choose from if you don't have a jacket like this. I'm cropping the bottom slightly. So I've tucked up my jacket to where I want this to hit, and I'm giving myself a $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance. So you can see on this side, I have my $\frac{3}{8}$, and I'm going to tuck in the sleeves. This is really similar to how we did the pants. I'm gonna use my rotary cutter to cut around so I can eyeball the $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance, or I can use my ruler. (cutter grinding) And because we're not sewing anything on the sleeves, we can just cut right up against our shirt, taking care, of course, to not cut into it. But this does not need an additional seam allowance. I think I went a little wide up there. Now when you get to the top shoulder, we're going to want to go directly out from the angle of the shoulder so that when we sew the front and the backs together at the shoulder, there's enough coverage of all the fabric. So I'm just angling this in the direction. So that's pointing and I'm regaining that seam allowance that I took off for the arm hole. This has a collar stand on it. We're just ignoring that altogether. (cutter grinding) Again, ignoring the seam allowance for the back of the collar. So we'll go back in. If this feels a little like playing with fire, go ahead and use an existing pattern, but I think this part's just really fun. I like living on the edge. Okay. Seam allowance for the shoulders. Cut straight. Cut straight. No seam allowance for the arm hole. (cutter grinding) I'll take away my jacket for a moment, but keeping this bottom flat. Oh, we nailed it. I love this, okay. So you can see there's a discrepancy between this side, which has a tab for sewing it, and this side which doesn't, which means I think we didn't scoop deep enough over here. (cutter grinding) And we'll fold it in half to make sure things look fairly even. Oh, not bad. Okay, again, there's still some fiddling to be done with this neck edge, so let's go back in. There we go. I can already tell this is gonna be

astoundingly adorable. We'll use our back piece to cut our front pieces. We will be adding a neckline, but we can do that after we've cut out what we need. So fold it in half, line it up with the bottom. (cutter grinding) That's one front piece. And I'm gonna use the front piece to cut out the other front piece. So we'll just have to find a spot where it fits. Fits great right here. And make sure the wrong sides are together so that you're cutting a mirror image. So cute. And we'll use our jacket to cut the neckline, but this can be finessed even further. This jacket has a really high neckline. The collar goes right up to the chin, and I kind of want it to V a little bit more, so I'm not even gonna use my jacket actually. I'm just going to pick a point I think right here, and I'm gonna slope it gently towards, towards this point. (cutter grinding) I wanna make sure that this is curved enough that it doesn't create an abrupt transition when we are adding our bias tape. You could also scoop out the arm holes a little bit longer if you want to. This part is great for customization. Maybe you want it even shorter. Maybe you want the edges to be rounded a little bit. This works just fine for me, especially if you're doing it for the first time. I would suggest just keeping ... blocking 90 degree angles at your corners, and then we will assemble it by sewing together the shoulder seams first and then the side seams. We'll cover these seams with bias tape, and then we'll go all the way around the outside with the bias tape as well. Pin right sides together. You don't need to do an excessive amount of pinning, just keep everything together. And depending on the thickness of your quilt, it might take a little bit to get it through the machine. So just take your time and maintain that 3/8 of an inch seam allowance. (sewing machine grinding) Back stitch at the end. (sewing machine grinding) (scissors tapping) (sewing machine grinding) It's all right if your pieces aren't matching up perfectly. We did hand-cut it. We will be trimming our seams after we've sewn them all. (sewing machine grinding) We're going to trim our seams down to about 1/4 of an inch. If your piece is not as voluminous as mine, you can leave yours a little closer to 3/8. But because mine is so thick, I know my bias tape isn't going to make it all the way around unless I do trim it. So I'll trim my sides and my shoulders. (scissors snipping) Now we're covering each of our seams in bias tape. I have made my own, and we're going to open it up. And I am aligning my fold with my seam. It's going to have to wrap all the way around, so it's gonna give me just enough space. But if your seam is not this big, you'll have cut less off the edge and your sewing shouldn't really go into the body of your garment. Make sure you're leaving enough overhanging. We'll trim it after the fact, and then sewing along my fold. (sewing machine grinding) (scissors tapping) I'll trim off straight from the body. (scissors tapping) And then I'll fold my bias all the way around. We're going to edge stitch right along the edge. You can pin it if you want. It doesn't really feel necessary to me, but I might just be scared of the bulk of this. It makes it a little harder to pin. (sewing machine grinding) Because I have so many layers going through, I might have to lift up my presser foot a little bit. That's totally fine. Just take my time. (sewing machine grinding) I'm not too worried about these edges being gnarly, because I am going to cover them with bias tape. And to flatten this out, we are going to sew it to the back. When I'm working my sides, I'll sew the sides to the back as well. (sewing machine grinding) So from the outside, it's just a line of stitching. And from the inside, it's nice and flat. We'll repeat covering our three other seams, and then we'll be ready to sew the bias all the way around the edge. At this point, we'll trim any inconsistencies. So these need to be cut off right here. I'm just going to even it out. And I would suggest you putting it on your child if your child model is available to see if you wanna make any changes. So right now, I know these are going to be kind of boxy shoulders. I could make them slimmer and carve out a bit more space. I might wanna change the neck line. Maybe I want it to be extra cropped. You'll have to do that now before moving ahead. we're gonna do our arm holes a little bit differently than we did our side seams. For this, we'll be

sewing the bias tape into a loop first before attaching it to our arm hole. Lay out your bias tape on your arm hole unfolded. Maybe use a pin to help keep it in place while you're wrapping it around. And we'll end pinning it in place and sewing it with a seam, the right sides together. Make sure the loop isn't twisted. (scissors snipping) (scissors tapping) (sewing machine grinding) Put your bias to the outside of your fabric and pin it all the way around. If this was an adult size, I'd be able to fit this around my machine, but because it's so tiny, I'm going to lay it flat and sew it that way. (sewing machine grinding) Flip your bias tape to the inside, top stitch around like we did in the other seams, and then repeat on your other arm hole. We are in the home stretch. We're going to attach bias tape around the whole outside edge of our piece. We'll begin at the inside back, leaving ourselves about a four inch piece unsewn. We're going to sew it together when we have finished sewing the bias tape all the way around. The rest of it operates exactly the same way. We'll have to do a little bit of a miter at the corner, but I'll show you that when we get there. We're sewing over a lot of layers here, so go easy with your machine and maybe help it along by tugging a little bit from the back. (sewing machine grinding) And my favorite way to work a miter is actually to go up to 3/8 of an inch from the end and then sew off the corner like this. (sewing machine grinding) Leave it down and pivot and sew straight to the corner. (scissors tapping) Then I'll fold up against that line that I just sewed. So here's my straight line. Here's my miter sewn off the edge. I'm gonna fold this up against the line I just sewed. And then we're going to start again 3/8 of an inch from the top and from the side. You can do it whichever way you're comfortable with. This is my favorite. (sewing machine grinding) And we're going to continue sewing all the way around until we get within a few inches of the end of our tape. We're about 10 inches away from the end of our bias tape, so I'm gonna sew about another inch. (sewing machine grinding) And then I am cutting my thread so that I can sew together the ends of my tape. I find sewing bias together on the bias to be a total brain teaser. So we're going to just do a straight seam, match up your ends, and I'll put a pin where they meet, and I'll sew along here. If you didn't give yourself quite enough space to work with to sew, you can clip these pieces together so that it's not pulling on your bias while you're trying to sew it. (sewing machine grinding) And before you trim the ends, check to make sure that it's the right length. Beautiful. I'm going to cut this off about 1/4 of an inch. (scissors snipping) And we'll finish sewing that, overlapping just slightly with our initial stitches. (sewing machine grinding) Our final step, we're so close, we're wrapping the tape around and we're sewing. Here's a good time to trim up any bulk you have, especially at these seams where we have lots and lots of layers of fabric. You can even just sculpt them down. You can grade your seams if you want. I just like to hack at it until it feels right. It's my sewing philosophy. So you can see here, we will not have enough to go around. So trim down your whole edge, being sure not to chop your bias tape while you do. (scissors snipping) We'll begin pretty much where we left off, rolling the bias over, sewing along the edge. And the only difference between the armhole seams is once we get to our mitered corner. (sewing machine grinding) Once we get to the edge, we'll fold our miter over, and sew up to the very edge, pivot. Easy as that. Sometimes it can be a little bit more fussy, and with this, worked out just fine. You know the drill. Continue sewing all the way around until you get back to the beginning and overlap by a few stitches. I am so charmed with how this turned out. Can you believe this was a 50 cent pillow sham from a Goodwill? I made two other versions using a pillow sham and a place mat. Because you design the pattern, there's so many ways to tweak it. You can add pockets if you'd like. Here's a version where I didn't put the bias on the edges. I just used the edges of the piece I had. These pockets go top down. These pockets are from the side. This was a little thick to add pockets. You can curve your edges, you can miter your edges. You could even add a little tag or a love note.

Ooh, or like a hanging tag. That would be really nice too. It's hard to believe these were made using pillow shams and place mats.