



Fabric Paper Chains

Materials

All you need are some thread, old denim jeans and oddments of decorative fabric, this could be off cuts of garments made or old duvet covers.

Equipment

Scissors and cardboard template (30 x 7 cm) or rotary cutter and cutting mat. The template could be made from a cereal packet.

Sewing machine, pins and a safety pin.

Fabric paper chains can be made in any fabric, here they are made using up cycled on one side. This is a lovely use for old jeans and brings the colour theme together. You can turn the links so the denim is on the outside on alternate link, or denim always to the inside.

Using the template and scissors or the cutting mat and rotary cutter, cut out strips of fabric 30 x 7 cm. Cut as many denim as you cut decorative fabric.

Place the strips right sides together, with the edges neatly matching up.

Set the needle position on your machine to the centre, as shown in the picture to the right. Then line a long side of the fabric with the right side of the foot. Now, using the foot as a guide, stitch along the edge. Fig 1.

You can run straight from one pair to the next, creating a chain of fabric. Fig 2.

N.B. Take care to watch edge of the fabric as it runs up to the edge of the foot and NOT the needle. You will get a neater straight line this way. The reason is that if you are watching the needle and see a mistake, it is too late to correct yourself. If you are watching as the fabric is going up to the foot and notice you have moved away from the edge a little, you have time to correct yourself.

This is an excellent project for practicing sewing on straight lines!



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Having stitched down all your pieces on one side, turn them and repeat on the other long side. Fig. 3.

Now you have stitched all the pieces together, snip the threads joining them together so have individual strips as in Fig. 4.

Take a safety pin and attach to one side of the fabric at one end. Fig. 5.

Now push the safety pin down between the layers, easing it all the way down and out the other end.

When you have turned the fabric through and the right side is showing, roll the seam between your fingers to encourage the fabric to fold along the stitching line.

Press each piece as in Fig.6.

Now to make your chains. Take the two short edges of one strip and tuck one end into the other neatly, place in pin in to hold the fabric in place. Fig. 7.

Set your sewing machine to a zig-zag stitch that is as wide as it will go, probably 7mm and 2mm long.

Start a little in from the side, stitch a couple of stitches, then reverse stitch back to the edge. *This way helps to manage the bulk at the edge of the fabric.*

Then stitch all the way across the width of the link. And finish off by reversing a few stitches back to secure the ends.

Repeat this with each strip, linking it with another link to form a chain. Fig. 8.

You can book on workshops with Molly Brown at the Knitting and Stitching Shows, Stitch and Festival of Quilts. Or in the Chester area. There are also interactive, live workshops on Zoom. For more information visit mollybrownsemporium.co.uk

Or email mollybrownsemporium@phonecoop.coop



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

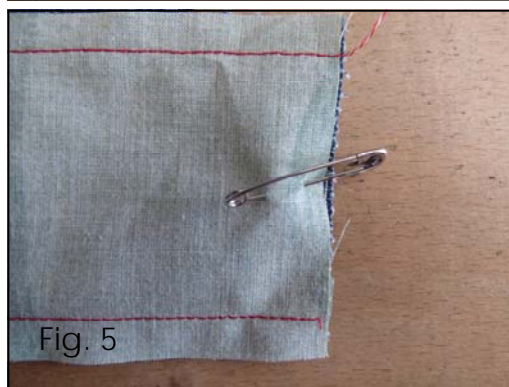


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8