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CLEAN WINNERS

All it takes is just one outdoor tablecloth to create these cute aprons – one for you and one for your little one – in this easy project by **Kelly Doust**.



Tablecloths are a great source of fabric for all manner of recycling projects, particularly these cute matching aprons. You can make them from modern oilcloth, a plastic-coated material often used to protect outdoor tables from the elements. It's perfectly suited to performing the double act of withstanding kitchen thrills and spills.



YOU WILL NEED

- An outdoor tablecloth or newly purchased length of oilcloth fabric, available from most haberdashery stores
- Measuring tape
- Large ruler or quilting ruler
- Ballpoint pen
- Round plate or saucer
- Dressmaking scissors
- A length of thick bias binding (the length needed will depend on the size of the finished apron's full diameter)
- Sewing machine and thread
- 2-3m length of ribbon or apron string
- Pins

STEP 1: MEASURE UP

Whether the apron is for you or your little one, use a measuring tape to work out the height from mid-chest to mid-thigh or knee (depending on how long you want the finished apron). Now, measure the width from shoulder to shoulder – keeping note of these measurements – and collarbone to collarbone.

STEP 2: CUT OUT YOUR FABRIC

Lay out your oilcloth on a table or flat surface and draw the shape

(right) directly onto the plastic side of your oilcloth, using the measurements just taken. Use a plate or saucer to make the curved edges at the top of the apron. For a small child, a saucer works best. A dinner plate is perfect for the adult version.

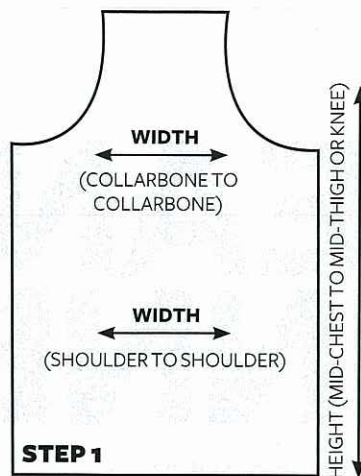
STEP 3: BIAS BINDING

Use the measuring tape to work out the full diameter of the apron – this will give you the length of bias binding needed. Turn over the apron, so the wrong side is facing upwards. Take your bias binding and open its folds. Line up the raw inside edge of the binding against the back of the apron and sew the two together around the entire outside of the apron, leaving a seam allowance of 2-3mm (Step 3a). Reverse a few times at either end for strength. Fold the binding over to the front of the apron and sew in place around the entire outside edge (Step 3b). When you reach the end, fold the raw edge under itself and, again, reverse a few times to secure in place.

STEP 4: ATTACH THE RIBBONS

Turn over the apron again. Place the end of the ribbon or apron string against the top left edge and pin into place, leaving about 2.5cm of ribbon spare at the spot where it will be stitched into place. Loop the ribbon over your head or your child's, making sure it fits through the space between, and pin in place at the other side (the top right-hand corner). Leaving another 2.5cm spare, cut off the excess ribbon. Now, pin one end of the ribbon to the left-hand side of the apron, just under the curved armhole, and the other end to the right side. Snip the ribbon in two in the very middle, at an angle, to create two ties at the back. Sew the ribbon to the apron at each place where you have placed a pin (removing the pin first). Reverse five to 10 times to keep each end in place.

You're done! Now create one for each member of the family. These aprons also make a great birthday gift for children and any domestic goddesses you know. Choose fabrics you know they'll love and it's likely they'll keep it for a lifetime. ■



NOTE: The oilcloths we used were recycled from an outdoor tablecloth we bought from a local haberdashery. You can source it online at www.cathkidston.co.uk.

