

STRING PIECED HOLIDAY STOCKINGS INSTRUCTIONS

String Piece the Stocking Front (Optional – Also String Piece Stocking Back):

- Trace the stocking pattern onto muslin or other lightweight foundation fabric and cut out the muslin foundation. (Prepare two if you plan to piece the front and back of the stocking). Place the muslin foundation(s) on a thin piece of batting, and use your rotary cutter or scissors to cut batting piece(s) to match the foundation.
- Layer one piece of batting on top of the muslin foundation – note which direction the stocking is facing; the front and back need to be facing opposite each other. If the batting pieces are smaller than the foundation, use a rotary cutter to cut a straight edge on each batting piece and butt the pieces next to each other, covering the foundation, and pin in place. (The batting edges will be secured by the string piecing.)
- Place one strip or scrap of fabric in the center of the stocking, right side up. Next, place a strip or scrap along one side of the center piece, right side down; sew along the edge and flip it open. (The strips/scrap can be pieced, angled, vertical, horizontal, large or small.) Finger press the seam or press (but be careful that batting doesn't stick to the iron). (See Diagram 1.)
- Keep adding strips until the foundation muslin/batting is covered. Then turn the stocking front over and trim the excess fabric around the muslin foundation. Repeat this process for the stocking back if desired (be sure the back is facing the opposite direction from the front – if they are facing the same way they won't assemble properly). Optional – embellish stocking front if desired.

Stocking Assembly:

- Using stocking pattern, trace and cut two (2) lining pieces out of leftover cotton (solid or a coordinating print) or other lightweight lining fabric.
- Sew the top edges of the lining pieces, RST, to the front and back stocking pieces, being sure that they are oriented in the same direction. (If they are not oriented correctly the lining will not fit into the stocking properly.) When you sew the lining to the front piece along the top, include a **hanger loop** (7" piece of grosgrain or other ribbon) in the seam, close to the seam allowance on the left side (heel side) of the stocking). The raw edges of the ribbon should be placed along the raw edges of the top of the stocking & lining, with the loop hanging down loose between the two. (See Diagram 2.)
- Press the seam allowances towards the lining and understitch the seam (sew 1/8" from the seam, on the lining, thru the seam allowance), which helps to keep the seam from rolling out on top. Pin the loose part of the hanger to the stocking front so you won't catch it in the side seam.
- Next, place the front and back of the stocking/lining together RST, pin all around the stocking & lining, and sew - leave an opening in the bottom of the lining about 4", or big enough for your hand to go thru. The seam should be 1/2" approx. Trim the seam to about 1/4" and clip into the curves - not all the way to the sewn seam - to distribute the ease of the curved seams. (See Diagram 3.)
- Reach inside thru the opening in the bottom of the lining and turn the stocking right side out. The ribbon hanger should be out at the top of the stocking. Press the sewn edges flat, turning the un-sewn seam allowance at the bottom of the lining in along the seam line and pressing it. Pin the un-sewn section of the lining, then sew close to the edge to close it.
- Last, stuff the finished lining into the stocking and press from the top. Enjoy your stocking!

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