

Make Your Own Stockings



Yes, there are a lot of stockings there to fill. No, I don't fill all of them. I have two children who love to have their stockings filled by Santa, and the rest are there to throw Santa off!! Hohoho! Just kidding.

From a decorative standpoint, I looked at my four lonely stockings hanging by the fireplace last year and thought I should do something about it. I decided, what was the harm in making several stockings to fill in the mantle out of the scraps of fabric I have in my craft closet? So I went to work using fabrics that I had that coordinated with the needlepoint stockings my kid's have had since they were young. I made different sizes and color combinations, adding trims and tassels and even a snowflake ornament or two to really jazz things up. Fill them with empty plastic grocery bags and they look plump and interesting and make everyone want to dig in to see what's inside!

If you want to try this for your mantle, here's how to make your own stockings!

Materials List:

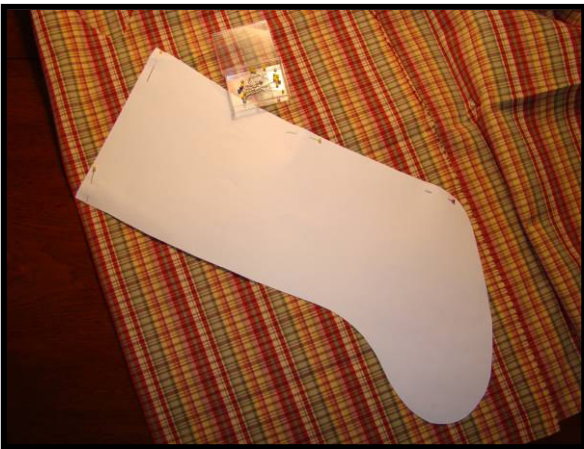
- Fabrics of your choice
- Trims, tassels, ribbons, and lace
- Coordinating thread
- Plastic grocery bags
- Newspaper or paper bags for templates

Tip:

Before you get started, pull out your current holiday stockings and determine what colors, patterns and trims might go well with the ones you currently own. Think about the size of the stockings you want to make – all the same size or varied? Planning ahead makes the project run more smoothly.

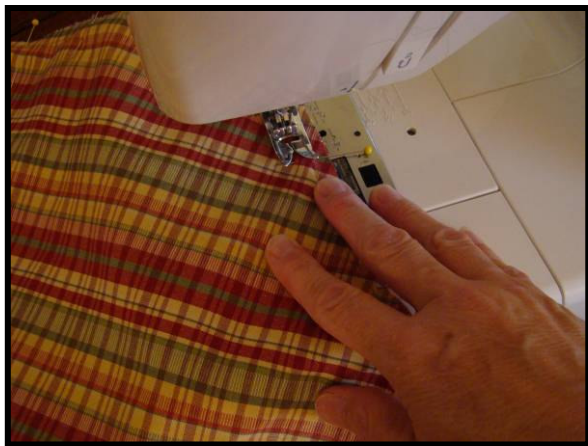
Instructions:

1 Use newspaper, butcher paper, or inexpensive white drawing paper to draw and cut out the template of your stocking.



2 Fold the fabric with the right sides together and pin the template to the wrong side of the fabric. Cut around the template 5/8 inch from the edge of the template creating a seam allowance as you cut. Or, trace around the template then measure and mark off a 5/8 inch and cut out the pieces. Or, build the seam allowance into your template!

3 Remove the template and pin around the stocking with the two pieces still right sides together.



4 Stitch the two pieces together. Remember to leave the top open for filling!

5 Remove the pins, trim the seam allowance and clip in a bit at the curves.





6 Finishing the top:

For a stocking without a cuff: Fold the top edge to the wrong side of the fabric twice, $\frac{3}{4}$ " each time. Iron and pin this hem in place and stitch. Turn the stocking right side out and top stitch any embellishments to the stocking.

For a stocking with a cuff: Slip the cuff onto the inside out stocking and pin the raw edges of the cuff to the raw edge at the top of the stocking. Stitch the cuff to the top edge of the stocking. Remove the pins and turn the stocking right side out. Fold the cuff down to cover the seam line.



Making a cuff: Use a contrasting fabric, fur, velvet or brocade for your cuff.

- a) Measure the width of your stocking from seam line to seam line. Add $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " to that number and that is the length of your cuff.
- b) Determine how high you want the cuff to be, double that measurement and add $3 \frac{1}{4}$ " to it. (This allows for the $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance and an inch of space before the overlap fold which is enough to hide the seam.)
- c) Fold the height measurement of the cuff fabric in half with wrong sides together.
- d) Fold the folded cuff in half lengthwise and pin the ends together and stitch.
- e) Slide the cuff over the wrong side out stocking so the raw edges of the cuff and the top raw edge of the stocking meet. Pin in place and stitch together.

- f) Remove the pins, clip the seams, and turn the stocking right side out.
- g) Fold the cuff over towards the right side of the stocking making sure to leave about 1" of the cuff inside the stocking but folding enough to cover the raw seams.



7 The last step is to add a loop to the inside of the stocking so you have something with which to hang it. Make a loop out of some of the extra fabric by cutting a piece 2" by 6". Fold the 6" edge into the wrong side of the fabric $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the middle. Do the same with the opposite edge.

8 Fold the entire piece of fabric again and pin the open edge together. Stitch closed.

9 Remove the pins, fold in half and hand stitch to the inside of the stocking. Use a double thread to make sure you have it attached well. The stronger the loop, the more loot for the stocking!!

Just beware of asking your family for input on this project. My kids wanted stockings that hung to the floor. What they don't remember is that the best gifts come in small packages!!!

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