

## Toddler Paint and Activity Smock

Oilcloth and soft cotton with custom perimeter binding

An exclusive S4H project for Janome Canada

Design by Anne Adams, Instructions by Liz Johnson, Pattern Confirmation and Sample by Michele Mishler

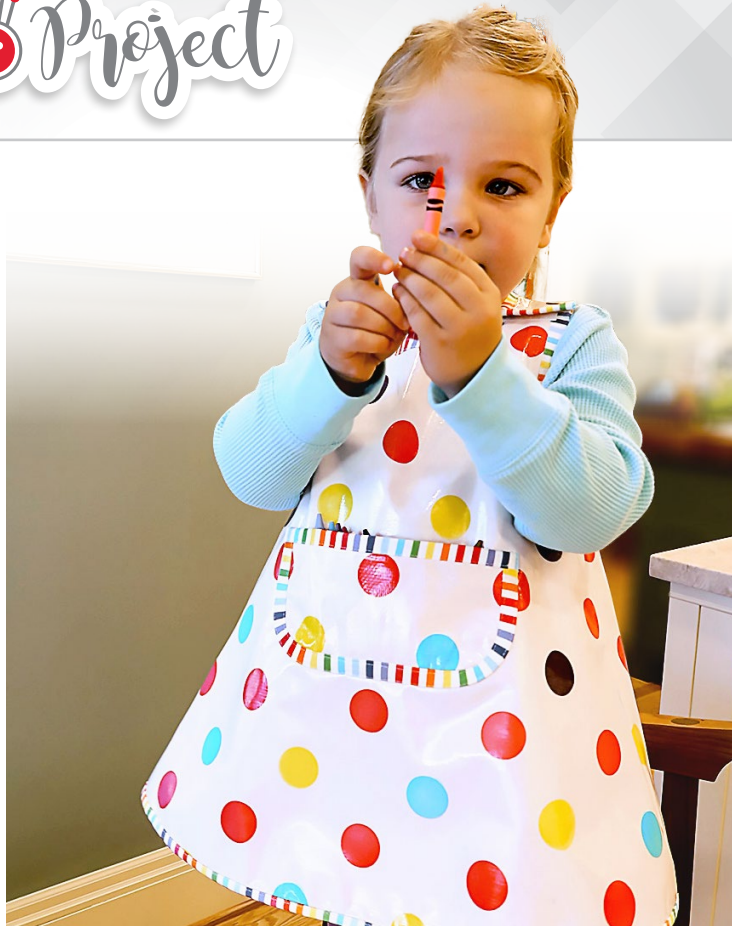
Stay clean. Stay cute! Wipe-clean oilcloth and soft quilting cotton combine with an all-around custom binding to create a full coverage Toddler Paint and Activity Smock that your favorite little one (and the little one's parents) will love.

The smock is designed with Velcro at each shoulder, so it's easy to fit to the child. Once the shoulders have been set, you can simply slip it over the child's head when they're ready to paint, color, glue, or otherwise get creatively messy.

The Sew4Home team created this adorable project exclusively for Janome Canada followers. There's a full pattern to assemble and complete steps for cutting the main front panels as well as the overlapping back sections.

As you put together your smock, you'll get to learn/practice S4H's favorite tips for working with oilcloth (and other sticky substrates), as well as how to make and attach your own custom bias binding. There are even special notes on how and when to gently stretch your binding around a curve and when not to.

Making custom binding is strongly recommended for this project. Not only does that open up a huge variety of colorful and fun fabrics to use; like the darling rainbow print S4H used, it also allows you to create a wider binding than



what you can find in prepackaged bias binding. In this case, a ½" wide binding is the best finish.

If you've worked with oilcloth or laminated cotton before, you know the back of it is usually not very attractive and can even be a bit scratchy and stiff. Because of this, S4H opted to line the smock with a standard quilting cotton. It makes the smock more comfortable to wear, and provides a pretty pop of color and design on the inside. The front pocket is also lined with the same cotton.

As always with our friends at S4H, each and every step is thoroughly explained with excellent photos throughout. Even if you're brand new on your sewing journey, you can do this – and you'll be so proud of the result.

The Toddler Paint + Activity smock is designed to fit a preschool child 2 - 4 years of age. Print and assemble the paper pattern to insure it is right for you.



Sew4Home provides inspiring tutorials that are expertly designed and have easy to understand instructions with gorgeous photography. To get to know Sew4Home better, visit [Sew4Home.com](http://Sew4Home.com)

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# Toddler Paint and Activity Smock

by Sew4Home

## Sewing Tools Needed

- This project is suitable for all Janome sewing machines
- Standard presser foot
- UltraGlide foot; optional but recommended when working with "sticky fabrics," like oilcloth and laminated cotton (If applicable for your Janome model, use in combination with the UltraGlide needle plate)

- Seam gauge
- Seam ripper
- Scissors or rotary cutter and mat
- Pattern weights or similar
- Iron and ironing board
- Straight pins
- Binding clips; such as Wonder Clips
- Clear tape; to secure some of the oilcloth elements during cutting and construction

## Fabric and Supplies Needed



- $\frac{3}{4}$  yard of 45"+ wide oilcloth or laminated cotton for the smock front and pocket front; we used oilcloth in a vibrant jumbo polka dot
- $\frac{3}{4}$  yard of 44"+ wide quilting weight cotton in a coordinating print or solid for the smock back and pocket back; we used a Tula Pink cut from our stash, Tudor Windows in Pink from her Elizabeth collection
- 5 yards of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " finished width, double fold bias binding; we used a pre-made  $\frac{1}{2}$ " rainbow binding – we strongly recommend finding pre-made binding in this  $\frac{1}{2}$ " width over purchased packaged binding. The packaged binding is too narrow for the best finished look... plus, custom binding opens up many more options for cute designs. If you are brand new to making your own bias binding, check out the full S4H tutorial on [Figuring Yardage, Cutting, Making and Attaching](#).
- $\frac{1}{4}$  yard of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide sew-in Velcro; you only need about 6" in case you have some in your stash - we used white to best match our fabrics and binding
- All-purpose thread to best match the fabric and binding
- See-through ruler
- Fabric pen or pencil

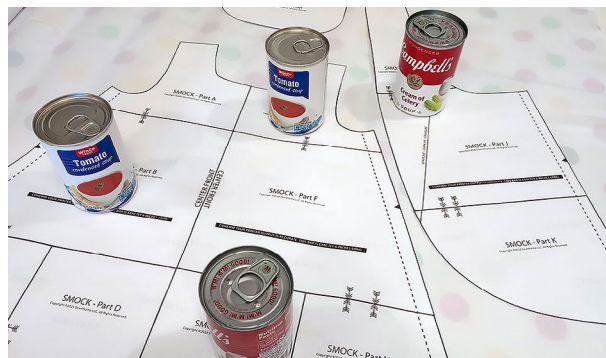
## Getting Started

### Notes on Working with Oilcloth

For a wipe-clean finish on the front of the smock, we recommend oilcloth or laminated cotton. At the fabric store, you will usually find these substrates displayed on rolls. This is because folding these types of specialty fabrics can result in permanent crease lines. Keep your fabric as flat as possible. If ordering online, you may receive folded fabric. Unfold it as soon as possible, set it in the sun to warm and hopefully allow some of the creases to fall out. For any remaining creases, press from the back with a pressing cloth and with your iron on a low setting.

Pins will leave permanent holes in oilcloth and laminated cotton. Clips are a better option for holding layers together.

Pattern weights (or a good collection of soup cans) will hold patterns in place on the fabric. Once you have the pattern pieces arranged, you can remove the weights and use small pieces of clear tape to hold the patterns in place while cutting.



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Adjust your stitch length to a slightly longer setting. We used a setting of 3.0mm.

Laminated fabrics like to stick to the surfaces around them. For easiest movement under the needle, try an UltraGlide foot. In addition, many Janome models also offer an UltraGlide needle plate for smooth movement top and bottom.

The tips above are our favorite general recommendations. For even more details, check out the full S4H tutorial: [Successful Sewing with Laminated Cottons + Oilcloth.](#)

## Pattern Download

Download and print the pattern pieces for this project.



**SMOCK PATTERN BUNDLE**

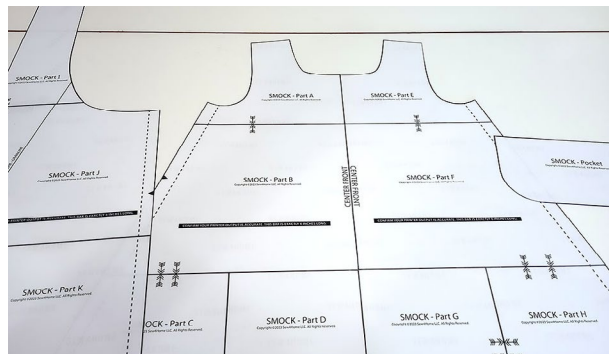
**Note:** This download consists of TWELVE 8½" x 11" sheets. You must print the PDF file at 100%. DO NOT SCALE to fit the page. There is a guide rule on each sheet to confirm your final printout is to scale.

Cut out each pattern piece along its solid outer line. Assemble pieces A through H for the full Smock Front, matching the arrows. Butt together all eight sections, do not overlap, and tape in place to complete the full pattern.

The full Front pattern will be used to cut the oilcloth as a flat pattern. This same pattern will be used to cut the smock's lining. The pattern can be used flat to cut the lining, but can also be cut on the fold, since your lining is a standard quilting cotton, using the center front line as a guide (this is shown in our photo below). Remember, as we stated above, it's always better to avoid folding oilcloth at any time during the process.

Assemble pieces I through K for the Smock Overlap Back pattern, matching the arrows. Butt together all three sections, do not overlap, and tape in place to complete the full pattern.

The pocket is a single pattern piece.



## Cutting

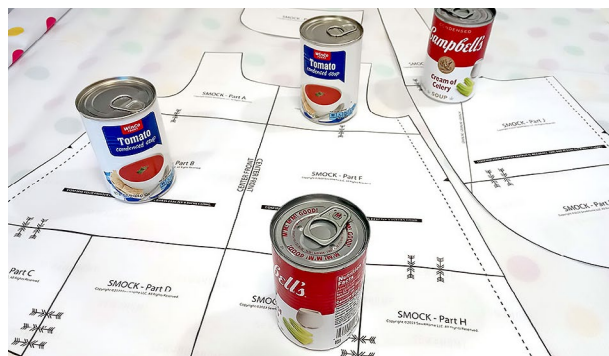
Place the laminated fabric on a large flat surface and arrange the pattern pieces on the fabric: Front, Overlap Back, Pocket. Use pattern weights or soup cans to hold the pattern pieces in place.

For the Overlap Back, you need to cut TWO pieces.

**ONE IS CUT WITH THE PATTERN FACING UP AND THE SECOND IS CUT WITH THE PATTERN FACING DOWN.**

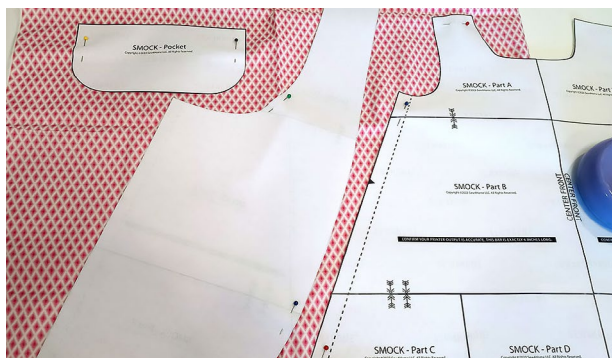
Yes, this is in all-caps because it is important. You need one left and one right overlap; they cannot be exactly the same, they **must be mirror images**.

Use small pieces of tape to hold the patterns in position for the final cutting.



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Use the same pattern pieces to cut the lining. The lining is cotton and can be cut on the fold if desired. And, of course, standard pins rather than weights or soup cans are fine to hold the paper pattern in place.



Collect and organize all your cuts.



## Sewing Instructions

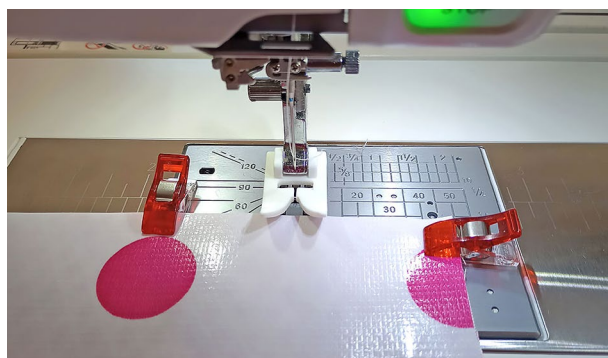
### Create Front Pocket and Attach Smock Front

Locate the pocket and the pocket lining. Layer the two fabrics wrong sides together. Hold the edges together with clips.

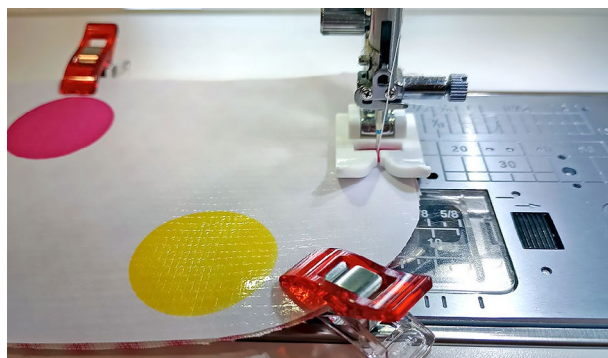


Set up the sewing machine with all purpose thread to best match the fabric and attach an UltraGlide foot. If possible for your machine model, you can also change out the needle plate to the UltraGlide Needle Plate.

Adjust the stitch length to 3.0mm.



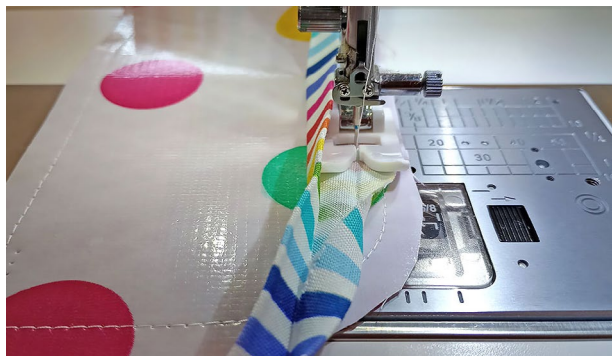
Machine baste the two layers together, staying within the 1/2" seam allowance. We used the edge of the UltraGlide foot as a guide, which placed the basting stitches about 5/8" from the raw edge. Remember to remove the clips as you sew.



The pocket is finished with the double fold bias binding. Starting at the top right corner of the pocket, unfold the bias strip and match the raw bias edge to the curved raw edge of the pocket. Adjust the position of the raw edge of the bias binding so its open-fold sits along the final 1/2" seam line.

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Stitch along the fold. As mentioned, this should be a 1/2" seam allowance. Go slowly and take care to avoid stretching the bias as you sew around the curves.



With the pocket right side up, stitch along the edge of the bias tape, removing pins as you stitch and securing all the layers as you sew.



**Note:** As mentioned above, we are using a pre-made, double fold bias binding. You can also make your own pretty 1/2" custom bias binding. If you are new to the technique, check out the full S4H tutorial on [Figuring Yardage, Cutting, Making and Attaching](#).

We once again started in the upper right corner and stitched around the curve, ending at the upper left corner.



Trim any excess bias strip at the upper corners so the binding is flush with the top edge of the pocket. Wrap the bias strip around to the back. Pin or clip in place. We used pins for this step, but pinned into the seam allowance of the lining only in order to avoid any visible permanent holes.

Cut a strip of bias binding to finish the upper edge of the pocket, adding an extra 1/2" at each end.



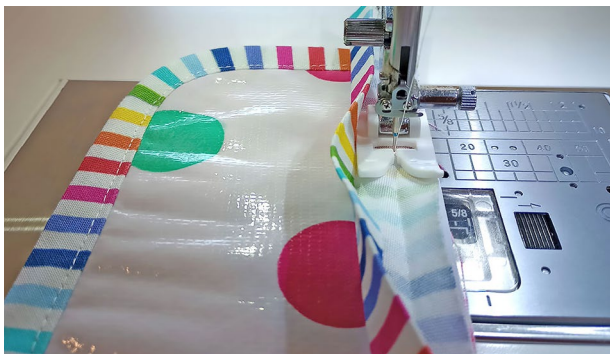
As you did with the pocket's perimeter, unfold this bias binding, and using clips, align the strip across the pocket top. Remember to center the strip so there is that extra 1/2" at each end.



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Machine base the bias strip in place.



Fold in the excess 1/2" at each end so the bias tape is flush with the side edges of the pocket.

Then, with those ends tucked in, fold the bias tape around to the wrong side (the lining side) and secure with pins.



Flip the pocket so it is once again right side up. Stitch along the edge of the bias tape, removing pins as you stitch and securing all the layers as you sew.

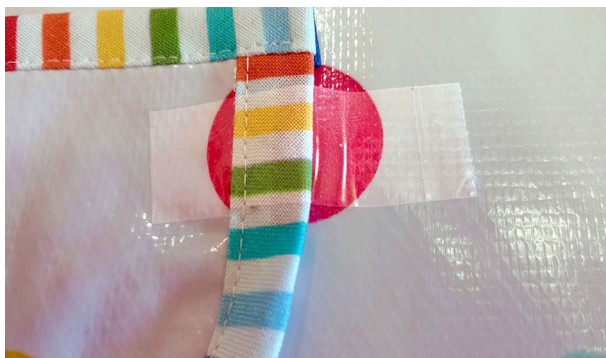


Find the smock front panel. Place it right side up and flat on your work surface.

Center the completed pocket on the front panel. The pocket is right side up and the pocket top should sit about 6" down from the center of the raw neckline curve.



Use small pieces of tape to secure the pocket in place.



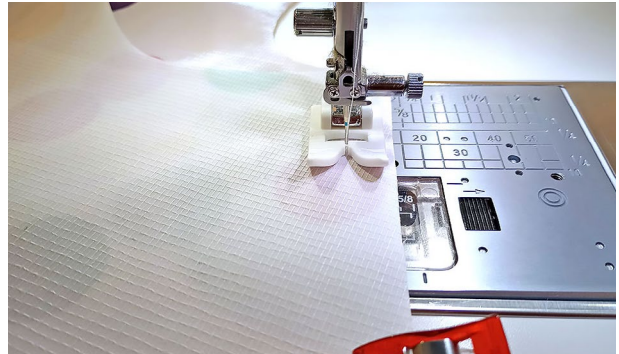
Edgestitch around the curved edge of the pocket, leaving the upper edge open (well, yeah; it's a pocket).



Remove the tape.



Using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch each seam, removing the clips as you go.



## Assemble Pieces to Create Full Front and Lining Panels

Place the main front panel, which now has its pocket stitched in place, right side up and flat on your work surface.

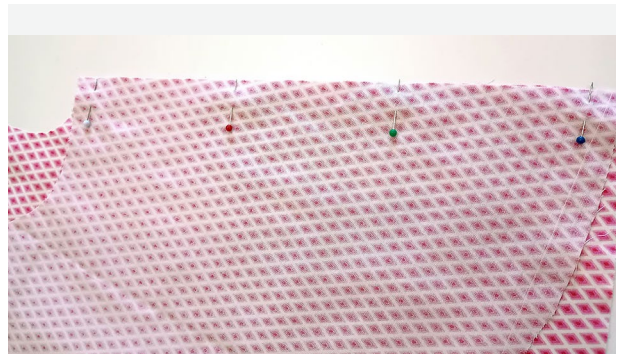
Find the two Overlap Back panels – in the oilcloth.

Align an Overlap Back panel to each side of the main front panel, right sides together.

**Note:** Remember when you cut these pieces as mirror images? Now you know why.

Press the seams open, using low heat and a pressing cloth.

Repeat to assemble, stitch, and press the lining panels in the same manner.



Clip together the layers.



## Attach Perimeter Binding and Apply Velcro

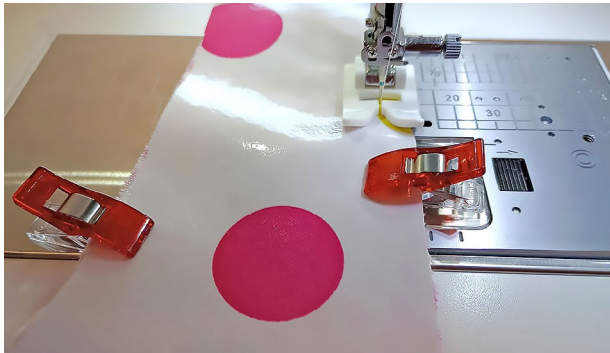
Place the smock front and the smock lining wrong sides together. All raw edges of both layers should be flush. Clip in place.



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As you did above with front pocket, machine baste the two layers together, staying within the final ½" seam allowance.



Find your remaining bias binding.

Using the same technique used to bind the pocket, apply bias strips to all the curved edges of the smock: the neckline, both armholes, and the main outer perimeter.



Edgestitch the bias binding as above, securing all layers.

**Note:** For the inner curves on the armholes and neckline, you do want to gently stretch the bias tape as you sew. When the bias tape is folded to the wrong side, this will help create the smoothest curve.

For the outer perimeter curve of the smock, do not stretch the bias (just like the pocket). Fold the bias tape to the wrong side and edge stitch in place.

Finish the upper ends of the straps using the same technique you used to finish the upper edge of the pocket. To do this, first cut small lengths to fit horizontally across each end, extending about ½" beyond the strap at each side. Clip and then machine baste in place.



Tuck in the raw ends, wrap the binding around to the back, and pin in place.



Flip to the front and edgestitch in place to secure.

Cut a length of Velcro for each strap end. The lengths should be about ½" shorter than the finished width of the strap. Our Velcro strips were about 1½".

Peel apart the Velcro and position a strip at the top of each strap. The strip should sit just inside the bias bound edge. The softer side of the Velcro (the loop) goes on the right side of the front straps, and the stiff side of the Velcro (the hook) goes on the lining side of the back straps.



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Re-thread the machine if need be with thread to best match the Velcro in the top and bobbin.

Edgestitch around all four sides of each strip of Velcro.

**Note:** We used white, which worked well with our oilcloth, cotton, binding, and Velcro. If any of your layers are particularly varied in color, pick a bobbin color that is the best match to the fabric.

