

Rainbow Patchwork Half Apron

An exclusive S4H project created for Janome Canada

Design by Anne Adams, Instructions by Liz Johnson, Sample by Michele Mishler

This is a fast and fun project that would be perfect for someone new to sewing and/or patchwork. A colourful blend of solid pastel charm squares gives the apron its rainbow blend of pinks, yellows, greens, blues, and purples. The coordinating print fabric adds a beautiful backdrop to the rainbow with decorative stitching accents along the waistband as well as the pocket flaps.

Our friends at Sew4Home created this pretty project exclusively for Janome Canada users. It can be made on any Janome machine. There is detail below regarding which Janome presser feet Sew4Home employed to keep their seams straight and decorative stitching even.

The waistband and ties are surprisingly easy to make, but give the apron a very professional look, allowing the wearer to get a snug fit at the natural waist or a looser fit across the hips.

It's a very lightweight design. Both the patchwork front panel and the print lining panel are single layers. There is just a bit of lightweight interfacing in the waistband and pockets, giving those areas a crisp finish.



Speaking of those clever pockets, step-by-step instructions are included and there's a pattern download for the pocket flap. You'll love how simple it is to inset each pocket into the rows of patchwork.



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

Project photos courtesy of S4H. Any unexpressed use of these images in whole or in part are strictly prohibited.

Rainbow Patchwork Half Apron by Sew4Home

Bundle an apron with some homemade goodies or a special cookbook as a wonderful shower or housewarming gift.

The apron finishes at approximately 18" across the waistband x 17½" long (including the waistband height) with 30" waist ties – long enough for a pretty back bow. We used 32 charm squares.

Sewing Tools Needed

- Your Janome Sewing Machine
- Standard Presser Foot
- Quarter Inch Seam Foot
- Satin Stitch foot
- Border Guide Foot (optional)



PRESSER FOOT



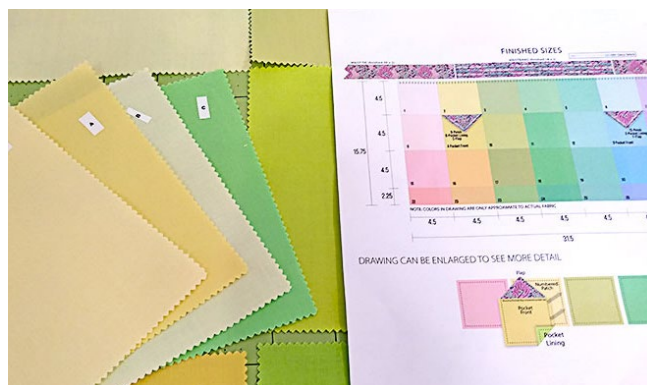
SATIN STITCH FOOT



BORDER GUIDE FOOT



SEAM FOOT



Fabric and Supplies Needed

- 32 solid color charm squares; ours were selected from a Kona Cotton Charm Pack and arranged in a rainbow pattern as shown above. Click the link below to view an enlarged view of the rainbow placement with measurements.



[Click to view finished size chart](#)

Note: If you do not use charm squares, you will need to cut thirty-two 5 x 5" solid color squares

- 1 yard of 44"+ wide quilting weight cotton in a coordinating print; we used a print from Amy Butler's Natural Beauty collection
- ½ yard of 20"+ wide lightweight fusible interfacing; we used Pellon ShapeFlex
- All-purpose thread to match fabric
- Decorative thread for accent stitching; we used multicolour Madeira Polyneon (#1603)
- Janome pre-wound bobbins
- See-through ruler
- Fabric pen or pencil
- Seam gauge
- Seam ripper
- Scissors or rotary cutter and mat
- Iron and ironing board
- Straight pins
- Low-tack mini labels or dots to help keep track of which square goes where; optional but quite helpful

Getting Started, Pocket Pattern

Step 1: Download and print the Pocket Flap Pattern



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

Step 2: Gather your 32 chosen charm squares. If not using charm squares, cut your fabrics into the thirty-two individual 5 x 5" squares.

Step 3: From the print fabric, cut the following:

- ONE 19 x 5" strip for the waistband
- TWO 31 x 5" strips for the ties
- ONE 32 x 16¼" rectangle for the lining
- Using the pattern, cut FOUR pocket flap triangles

Step 4: From the lightweight fusible interfacing, cut the following:

- ONE 18 x 2" strip for the waistband
- TWO 4½ x 4½" squares for the pockets
- Using the pattern, but cutting along the dotted seam allowance line rather than the outer solid line, cut TWO pocket flap triangles

Sewing Instructions Create the pocket flaps with their decorative stitching

Step 1: Find two of the pocket flaps and the two matching triangles of interfacing.

Step 2: Center an interfacing piece on the wrong side of each of the two pocket flaps so there is ¼" of fabric showing beyond the interfacing on all sides. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse in place.

Step 3: Thread the machine with your chosen decorative thread in the top (the sample used Madeira Polyneon

multicolour thread #1603) and Janome bobbin thread in the bobbin.

Step 4: Attach the Janome Satin Stitch foot. Select a built-in decorative stitch. S4H used the tapered oval stitch that is found on most Janome machines. The stitch was adjusted for a 7.0 mm stitch width and a .35 mm stitch length.

To create a perfect point for the decorative stitches on the pocket flap, use a pin to mark the point of the flap 5/8" in from each side.



Step 5: Start the decorative stitching for the first side of the pocket flap at this marked pin point. Once you have your starting point, be sure to remove the pin.

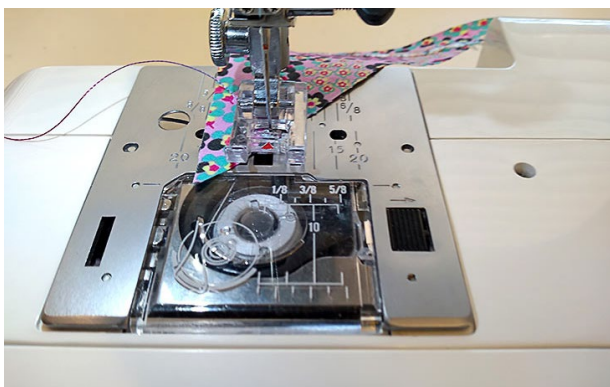
Step 6: Sew a line of decorative, stitching 5/8" from the raw edge of the fabric, using the guide lines on your sewing machine.



Step 7: With the first side complete, reposition for the second side of the pocket flap, starting again at the marked point of the flap but now with the raw edge to the left of the foot.



Step 8: Sew the second line of decorative stitches.



Note: If you are brand new to decorative stitching, you might opt to draw in guide lines to follow with a fabric pen or pencil. These lines would each start at the original point and should be drawn $\frac{5}{8}$ " in from the raw edge of the fabric. Remember, any time you are working on the right side of your fabric, make sure your marking tool is one that will easily wipe away or will vanish with exposure to the air or the heat of an iron. In this case, you would be stitching directly over the top of the drawn guide line, hiding it from view.



Create the waistband with its decorative stitching

Step 1: Find the 19 x 5" waistband strip and the 18 x 2" interfacing strip. Fold the waistband in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. All raw edges should be flush. Press to create a crease line.



Step 2: Unfold the waistband, wrong side up, so the crease line is visible. Place the strip of interfacing along the crease line, on the wrong side, centering it so the ends of the interfacing are $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the ends of the fabric. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse in place.



Step 3: Flip over the waistband so it is right side up. It should still be unfolded with the crease line visible. S4H recommends three lines of decorative stitching for the waistband, using the same stitch and settings as on the pocket flaps.

Rainbow Patchwork Half Apron by Sew4Home

The first line of decorative stitching should be $\frac{7}{8}$ " in from the top raw edge of the fabric. As above, S4H used the guide lines on their Janome machine; if you prefer, you can draw in guide lines to follow with a fabric pen or pencil. You are marking and stitching on the half of the waistband that has been interfaced.



Step 5: The third line of decorative stitching is centered between the two existing lines of decorative stitches just completed. Again, you can use a point on your foot as a guide, draw in a guide line prior to starting, or use S4H's fun solution: change from the Satin Stitch foot to the Border Guide foot. Use the guidelines on this clever foot to perfectly center the final line of decorative stitches.



Step 4: The second line of stitching should be $\frac{3}{8}$ " above the center crease line. S4H used the Satin Stitch foot; the width of this foot allowed them to simply place the left edge of the foot along the crease line and use that as a guide.



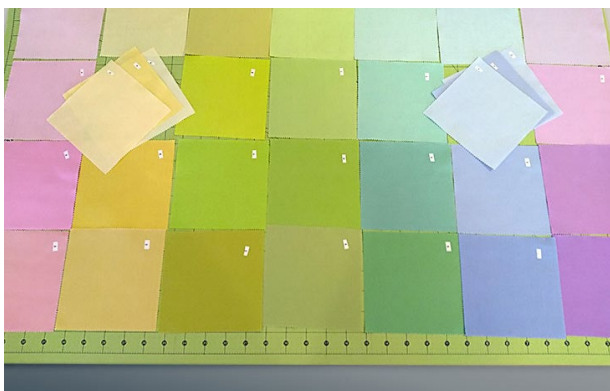
In the photo below, you can see how the subtle multicolour Madeira Polyneon thread nicely picks up the colours in the print fabric.



Organize all your squares

Step 1: Arrange the charm squares into a seven square wide x four square high layout.

S4H selected their colours to create a rainbow effect. Once your layout is established, it is very helpful to use little numbered stickers to ensure the layout remains the same while assembling the patchwork.



Step 2: The pockets are positioned along the second horizontal row of charm squares, on the second vertical row in from each side. You need TWO additional charm squares for each pocket.



Create the pockets

Step 1: Find the two front pocket flaps with their decorative stitching and the two lining pocket flaps, which are plain triangles.

Step 2: Re-thread the machine with all-purpose thread in the top and keep the bobbin thread in the bobbin. Attach a Quarter Inch Seam foot. Select a straight stitch, adjusting it to a stitch length of 2.2 mm.

Step 3: Place each front pocket flap right sides together with a lining pocket flap. Pin in place along the two short diagonal sides.

Step 4: Using a ¼" seam allowance, stitch the two short diagonal sides, pivoting sharply at the point of the flap.

Step 5: Turn each pocket flap right side out through the unsewn upper edge. Use a long blunt tool, such as a chopstick, knitting needle or point turner to gently push out the point of the flap so it is nice and sharp. Press flat. Trim away the little dog ears flush with the long upper edge of the pocket flap.



Step 6: From the three charm squares chosen for the pocket, select a square to complete the patchwork. Place it back in position in the main 7 x 4 square apron layout. From the remaining two squares, select a pocket front, which should be the square that matches the rainbow colour blend for its vertical row.

Step 7: Find a 4½" square of interfacing. Center it on the wrong side of this pocket front square so there is ¼" of fabric beyond the interfacing on all four sides. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse in place.



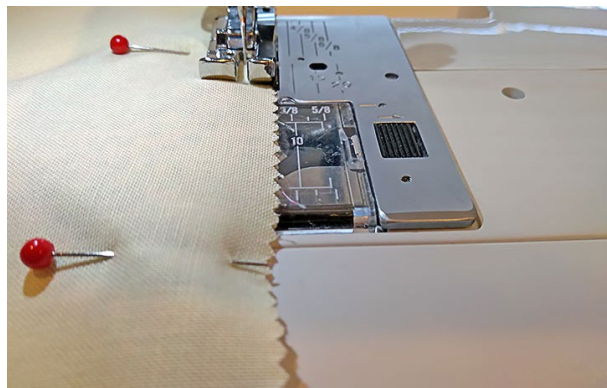
Step 8: Flip over the interfaced square so it is right side up. Find a pocket flap. Place the pocket flap right side up along the upper edge of the pocket front. Pin in place.



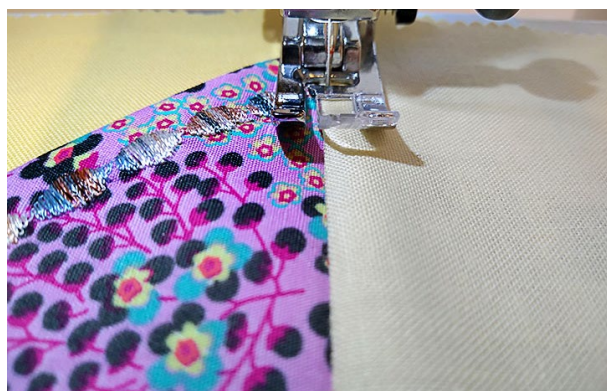
Step 9: Find the plain pocket lining square. Place it right side down on the pocket front, sandwiching the pocket flap between the two layers. Re-pin in place across the top through all the layers.



Step 10: Using a ¼" seam allowance, stitch across the top of the pocket through all the layers.



Step 11: Finger press the pocket lining to one side and understitch close to the seam.



Note: If you are brand new to understitching, Sew4Home has a step-by-step tutorial on the technique you can review prior to starting. [Click Here](#)



Step 12: Fold the lining to the back so the two layers are wrong sides together and all raw edges are flush. Press well.



Step 13: Press again from the front, using steam if possible to set the flap in its downward and flat position. Repeat all these steps for the second pocket unit.



Assemble the apron front

Step 1: We recommend first assembling all the vertical rows, stitching the squares together from top to bottom using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press each short seam open and flat.



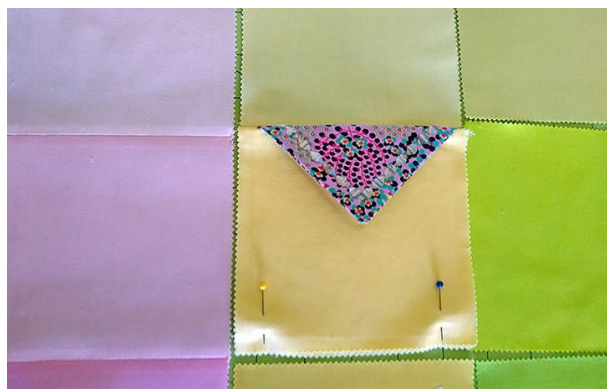
First assemble the five vertical rows **WITHOUT** a pocket.

Step 2: For the two vertical rows **WITH** a pocket, sew together the first two charm squares, using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press this seam open.

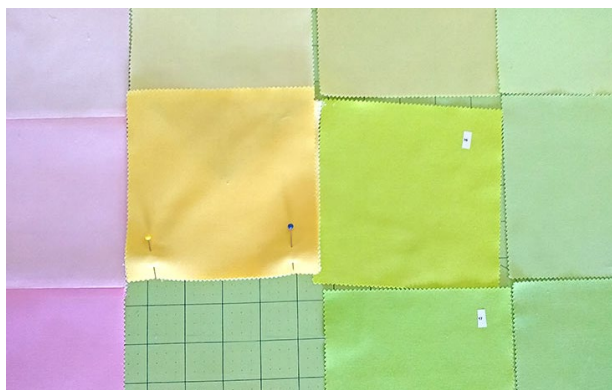
Position an assembled pocket unit over the bottom square in the pair of charm squares just sewn.

Note: This unit should, of course, be the one that matches your rainbow blend for this vertical row.

Step 3: Match the lower raw edges and pin in place. The top finished edge of the pocket unit should be aligned with the seam of the sewn squares.



Step 4: Find the next charm square in the vertical row's sequence. Place this charm square right sides together over the top of the pocket unit, sandwiching the pocket unit between the layers. The top raw edge of this third charm square should be flush with the bottom edge of the second square and the pocket unit. Remove the original pins along this bottom edge and re-pin through all the layers.



Step 5: Using a 1/4" seam allowance, stitch through all the layers.

Step 6: From the wrong side, press the seam allowance open, separating the layers.



Step 7: Complete the vertical row by adding the fourth and final charm square. Then, complete the remaining vertical row with the second pocket in the same manner.



Step 8: With all seven vertical rows complete, sew the rows together, still using a 1/4" seam allowance and carefully matching the seams.



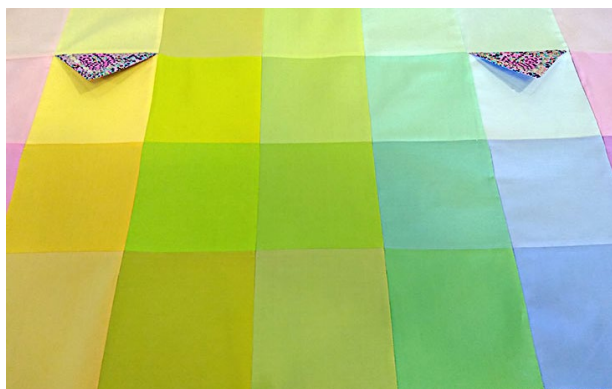
Note: When joining a pocket row, make sure you don't catch the pocket flap.



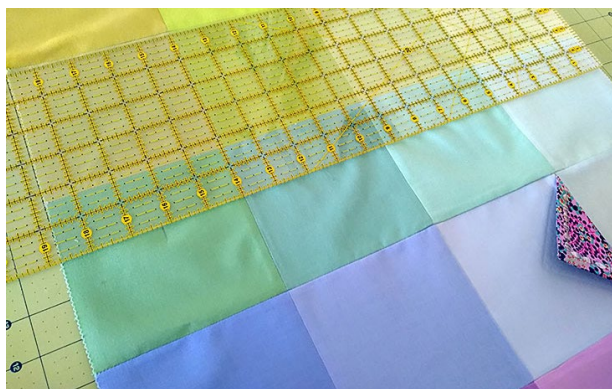
All the layers should come together at each corner.



Step 9: Press open all seams.



Step 10: Once the apron front is complete, you will trim a bit from the length. To do this, measure down from the upper raw edge of the apron panel and place marks at 16¼" in several places across the width of the panel (2½" up from the bottom raw edge).



Step 11: Use a ruler and rotary cutter to cut a straight line across the lower edge of the apron at your marked points. **NOTE:** This creates a narrow band along the bottom of the apron that matches the waistband above for a nicely balanced look.



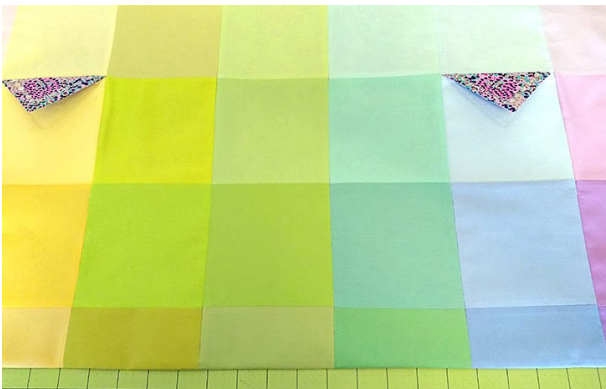
Step 12: Find the apron lining panel. Place the lining panel right sides together with the front panel. All raw edges of both layers should be flush. Pin in place along both sides and across the bottom. The upper edge remains unpinned.



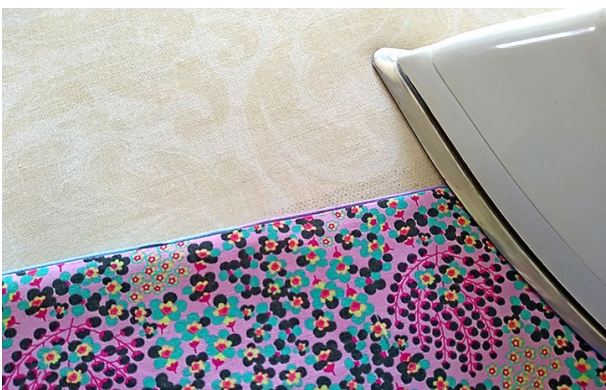
Step 13: Using a ¼" seam allowance, stitch along both sides and across the bottom, pivoting at the corners.



Step 14: Turn the apron right side out and press. As above, reach in through the open top edge and use a long, blunt tool to gently push out the corners so they are nice and sharp.



Step 15: For the best look to the seamed edges, roll the seam slightly to the lining side of the apron when pressing.



Step 16: Switch back to the standard presser foot. Lengthen the stitch to 5.0 mm for gathering the upper edge of the apron. Run two rows of stitching along the upper edge, within the ½" seam allowance.

To create the gathers, gently pull the pairs of thread until the top raw edge measures 18" and the gathers are even across the top of the panel.



Finishing Attach waistband and ties

Step 1: Place one 31" tie strip on either end of the 19" waist band strip, matching the 5" ends. The strips are right sides together. Pin in place.

Stitch both short seams, using a ½" seam allowance. Press open the seam allowances. You now have one continuous strip that is 5 x 79".



Step 2: Fold this strip in half, right sides together, so it is now 2½" x 79". Pin the ties in place from each vertical waistband seam out to the end of each tie. The middle 18" waistband section should be left un-pinned. Using a ½" seam allowance, stitch each tie. To do this, you will start at the waistband/tie seam, stitch towards the end of the tie, pivot at corner, and stitch across the end to finish. Remember, this leaves the center 18" waistband section open. Clip the corners at each tie's end.

Step 3: Turn the ties right side out through the open waistband section, which will also turn the center waistband section right side out. Gently push out all the corners and press both ties flat.



Step 4: Find the main apron panel. Match the gathered top edge of the apron panel right sides together with the bottom 18" raw edge of the waistband opening (the bottom is the part of the waistband with decorative stitching).

Pin the layers together across the 18" opening. The gathered edge should be a perfect fit within the 18" opening of the waistband. If it isn't, loosen or tighten the gathers until it fits exactly.

Step 5: Using a ½" seam allowance, stitch the gathered apron panel to just that one layer of the waistband. It's easiest to work with the gathers on top so you can make sure they stay in position.



Step 6: Press the seam allowance up toward the inside of the waistband.

Step 7: Press back the remaining raw edge of the waistband ½". Bring this folded waistband edge down and around into place to cover the gathered seam at the back of the apron. Make sure the folded edge at the back is below the original seam line; your final stitching will be done from the right side (which is why the photo below shows the pins along the front), but you want to be sure you catch the back edge all the way across.



Rainbow Patchwork Half Apron by Sew4Home

Step 8: Edgestitch the waistband in place, stitching on the right side so your seam line is nice and straight from the front, but is also nice and straight across the back, sealing the waistband opening.

