

gingerbread men embroidered apron



Bake up those goodies in style with a lovely linen apron framed in patchwork binding, decorated with cute bounding gingerbread men, and infused with holiday goodness. Modify the measurements to make some for your little helpers, too.

handmade by **CATHY GAUBERT**



fabric & such

- 1 yard (.9 m) of linen
- ¾ yard (.7 m) of seersucker (for back of waistband and ties)
- 7 coordinating red cotton prints, solid fat quarters, or pieces, for binding and waistband, each at least 2½ inches (6.4 cm) wide
- 1 piece of brown felt (for gingerbread men), 7 inches square (17.8 cm)
- Fusible web
- Embroidery floss or perle cotton in white, black, and red (for hand stitching details)

tools

- Basic Patchwork Kit (page 9)
- Templates (page 123)

finished size

35 x 18½ inches (88.9 x 46.9 cm)

seam allowance

¼ inch (6 mm) unless otherwise indicated

get started

- 1 Cut the linen to measure 36 x 17 inches (91.4 x 43.2 cm) for the apron body. Set aside. Cut the remaining linen to measure 18 x 10 inches (45.7 x 25.4 cm) for the apron pocket.
- 2 Copy and cut out the gingerbread men templates. Trace the gingerbread men onto the fusible web. Following manufacturer's instructions, iron the fusible web to the felt and cut out the gingerbread men and hat. Refer to the project photograph for placement and iron the appliqués onto the apron pocket.
- 3 Appliqué the gingerbread men by machine stitching just inside their edges. Add details using an embroidery needle and three plies of white floss or perle cotton: Sew French knots for the buttons and straight stitches for the icing and mouths. Use a full, six-ply strand of black floss and make the eyes with French knots.

4 Transfer the phrase to the pocket using the template and hand stitch using red floss.

5 Cut the assorted coordinating fabrics into strips measuring 2½ inches (6.4 cm) wide; these will be used for the bindings and the apron waistband. Stack the strips and cut them into pieces measuring 5, 4, and 3 inches (12.7, 10.2, and 7.6 cm) long. Stitch the assorted pieces end-to-end to create a patchwork strip measuring 64 inches (162.6 cm) long; this piece will be the binding for the apron pocket. In the same way, stitch together a binding strip measuring 73 inches (185.4 cm) long; this will be the binding for the apron body.

6 Press seams open to decrease bulk. Fold and press to create two pieces of double-fold binding.

7 To bind the pocket, begin pinning the shorter binding strip at the upper right corner of the pocket, down the left edge (mitering the corners as you get to them), and ending at the bottom right corner. Stitch the binding in place using red thread and a zigzag stitch. Press.

8 Pin the pocket to the apron body by matching up the right raw edge of the pocket with the right edge of the apron body, leaving 4½ inches (11.4 cm) of apron body above and below the pocket. Beginning at the top right corner, stitch the pocket to the apron, stitching along the raw edge of the pocket, along the bottom edge, and up the left side of the pocket. Make additional stitches at the top left corner to add strength.

9 To bind the apron, begin pinning the remaining binding strip at the top right corner of the apron body, along the bottom edge, and ending at the top left corner. Be sure to miter the two corners as you get to them.

10 To make the patchwork waistband, gather up the remaining assorted ½-inch (6.4 cm) strips. Stitch assorted pieces end-to-end to create one patchwork strip measuring 36 inches (91.4 cm) long. Press the seams to one side. Set aside.

11 To make the ties, fold the seersucker fabric selvedge to selvedge. Cut two strips 5 inches wide (12.7 cm) and set aside. For each tie, fold under ¼-inch (6 mm) edge of the fabric all the way around and press. Fold over again and press. Be sure to miter the corners. Slightly increase your stitch length and topstitch around each tie, working ⅛ inch (3 mm) in from the edge. Topstitch again ¼ inch (6 mm) in from the previous stitched line. Set aside.

12 From the seersucker fabric, cut one strip measuring 36 x 2½ inches (91.4 x 6.4 cm). Pin the strip to the patchwork waistband, with right sides facing. Stitch along the length of one side only. Press the seam toward the patchwork side and fold right side out. Press again.

13 Turn the apron body so the back side is facing up and the raw edge is at the top. Pin the patchwork band, right side facing the apron, along the top edge. Stitch. Turn the apron so the front is now facing down, and press the seam toward the patchwork waistband. Now fold the waistband down.

14 To prepare the waistband for the insertion of the ties, fold in each side of the waistband so that the waistband side and the apron side are in line. Press.

15 Hand pleat the raw edge of one tie so that it measures about 1¼ inches (3.2 cm) wide. With the right side of the tie facing up, place about half of the pleated, raw edge onto the seersucker part of the waistband (this part of the waistband will have the wrong side facing). Hold in place and fold the patchwork part of the waistband down, sandwiching the tie between the front and back of the waistband. Pin through all layers. Do the same for the other tie. Next, fold and press the raw edge of the patchwork waistband under ¼ inch (6 mm). Slightly increase the stitch length and topstitch this edge to the apron. Reset the stitch length and then continue topstitching all the way around the waistband.

