

Shabby Fig Apron

SUPPLIES & CUTTING

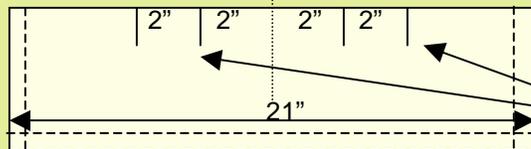
Cut (1) 8" x 24" top piece
Cut (1) 15 x 28" middle piece
Cut (1) 22" x 37" bottom piece

(2) 9" waistband/tie strips
(2) yards trim
[pompoms, ribbon, fabric strips, etc.]

SEWING

You will need to finish off one of the long sides and both of the short sides on each piece of fabric. The top long side on each piece can remain raw because it will get tucked under the waistband.

To finish the necessary sides, press each side under $\frac{1}{4}$ " all the way along the seam. Then press it in once more to have a finished edge. Sew that $\frac{1}{4}$ " edge down all the way along the length of the 3 sides. Be sure to strengthen the ends each time by backstitching about an inch at each end/corner.



Note: finishing the seams will shrink the size of your pieces by 1" on the long side & $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the short side.

Top Layer

Pin 4 small tucks [about $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide on each side of the fold of the tuck] on the top 24" (raw) side. When finished the strip will be app. 21" long instead of 23". As long as they are in the same positions on both sides of the center it doesn't really matter exactly where they are. Mine start 2" from the center.

Middle Layer

Take 6-8 tucks on 28" raw side. They can be a bit bigger than the ones you took in the top layer so that when you are finished pinning the tucks, the length of middle strip is the same as the top, about 21" on the long side.

Bottom Layer

Repeat the same tucking & pinning process with the bottom layer on the raw 37" side. This layer will have the largest amount of tucks and they can also be a bit bigger. I made 10-12 tucks, each about $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side of the tuck which means that the entire tuck took up about 1" of fabric. Finished length of strip will also be 21" long.

Assembly

Layer the 3 sections, one on top of the other; they should all be the same length so they match up. Pin the 3 layers together at the raw edges on top & sew them together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Be careful/slow as you sew because the pins will still be in each layer, holding the tucks in place. Remove all the pins from the layers after you have sewn them all together (or as you sew if preferred).

Waistband/Ties

Sew the (2) 9" strips together to make (1) 9" x app. 85" strip. Make double binding by folding the strip, right sides together the whole length of the strip. Match raw edges together & press. Open the strip & fold each side into the middle pressed crease on the whole length of the strip. Press back closed, folded edges together to make double fold binding. Finish off the ends by turning under $\frac{1}{4}$ " & then again to enclose the ends.

Find the middle point of your strip by folding it in $\frac{1}{2}$ & placing a pin in the middle. Fold your apron in $\frac{1}{2}$ as well to find the middle point & mark with a pin. Place the double binding over the top raw edges of the apron, matching up the middle points. Make sure that the raw top edges are about $\frac{1}{2}$ " within the inside of the double binding. Pin in place. As the binding comes off the edges of the apron, it will form the ties for the apron. Begin sewing at one end of the ties, sewing all the way across the apron, enclosing the top raw edge as you sew & finishing off the other tie on the other end as you finish sewing all the way to the other end. Back stitch at the beginning & end for strength. Clip threads & embellish edges with pompoms, ribbons, strips of fabric or premade binding. Note: to make the apron lay more flat, press the tucks down or sew them permanently in place 4"-6" down on the fold of each tuck.

