

Simple Apron: Start to Finish

A free one-hour beginner pattern. Straight seams, one pocket, no zippers.

From the makers at [Sewing.com](https://www.sewing.com)

If you can guide fabric in a straight line, you can finish this apron in an afternoon. Cut the shapes, hem the edges, attach the ties, and add a pocket. Every step below includes a quick fix-it note for when something slips.

What You Need

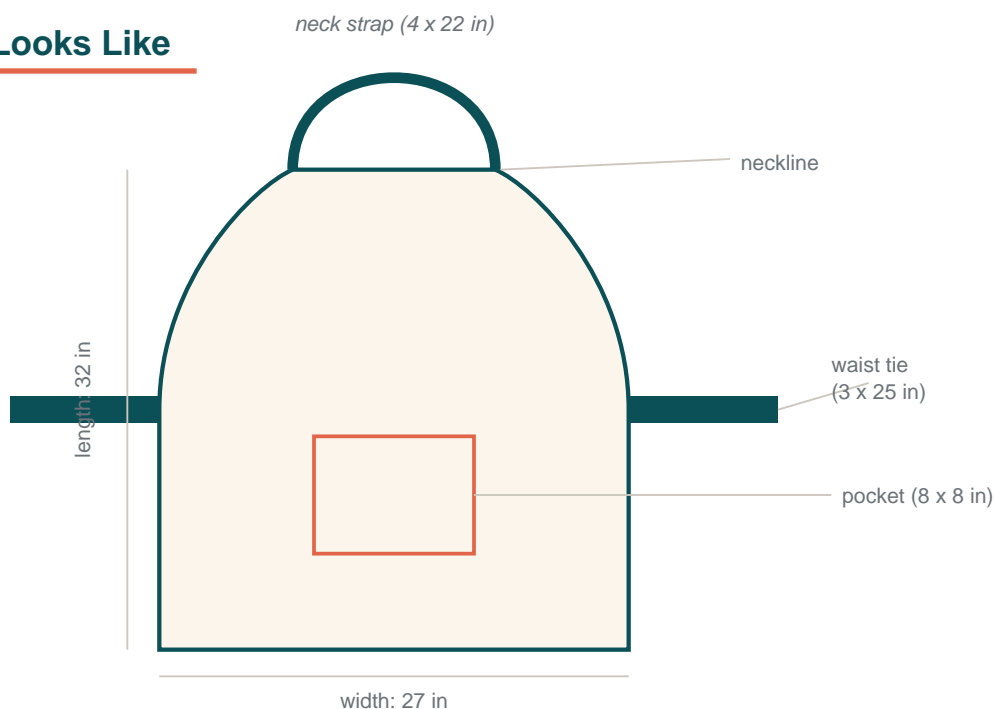
- About 1 yard of mid-weight cotton, canvas, or linen (tightly woven, not stretchy)
- Coordinating thread, pins, fabric scissors or a rotary cutter
- An iron and ironing surface
- A sewing machine (a sturdy hand backstitch also works; allow 2 to 3 hours)
- Optional: a loop turner or large safety pin for the ties

Cut List (fits most adults)

PIECE	QTY	MEASUREMENTS
Apron body	1	32 in tall x 27 in wide rectangle, curve the upper sides for the underarms
Neck strap	1	4 in x 22 in strip
Waist ties	2	3 in x 25 in strips
Pocket	1	8 in x 8 in square

Tip: add length to the body for a taller frame, and 4 to 6 inches to each waist tie for a fuller frame.

What the Apron Looks Like



Sew It, Step by Step

1 Cut the body and curve the underarms

Fold the body rectangle in half lengthwise. Mark the neckline width at the top, then draw a soft curve from the upper sides inward and cut both layers.

Fix-it: clip small notches into the curved seam allowance before hemming, or the curve will pucker.

2 Hem every edge

Fold each raw edge under a quarter inch, press, fold again, and topstitch. Sew the straight sides first, then the curves.

Fix-it: shorten the stitch length on curves and pivot with the needle down to stop puckering.

3 Make the ties and neck strap

Fold each strip in half lengthwise, right sides together, and stitch the long edge. Turn them right side out, or skip turning and topstitch (see the box below).

Fix-it: trim the seam to a steady quarter inch and press the tube flat before turning, which cures twisting.

4 Attach the straps with a reinforced stitch

Pin the tie ends at the waist sides and the neck strap at the neckline corners. Stitch a small square, then sew an X inside it.

Fix-it: backstitch firmly at each join; if sewing by hand, use doubled thread at these four points.

5 Add the pocket

Hem the top edge of the pocket square, press the other three edges under, center it on the apron, and topstitch down the sides and bottom.

Fix-it: hem the pocket top before attaching, or the opening will gape and fray after a few washes.

Do You Have to Turn the Ties? No.

The ties are where most first aprons get abandoned. You have two good finishes:

- Turn it: best for ties wider than about 1.5 inches. Trim, press, and pull through with a loop turner or safety pin for a crisp rounded edge.
- Topstitch it: best for narrow ties or a first apron. Fold the raw edges in, press, and topstitch both long sides. This is a real finish, not a shortcut.

Honest time: about 1 hour of active sewing, plus 15 to 20 minutes to cut and press. Worth every minute.