

SEW IT YOURSELF :: BABY CLOTHES QUILT

MARCH 6, 2012 BY MELISSA Q. 16 COMMENTS

It's always difficult to know what to do with precious baby clothes once your baby becomes a full-blown kid. While most of them can be donated or passed on to other families, sometimes there are a few that are just too special. These are the baby clothes that instantly conjure up a sharp memory, a smell, or a small but memorable moment from those fleeting baby days. But, without any real plan for what to do with them it can feel a little silly. Rather than let them sit in a bag in your closet, I suggest you sew yourself a baby clothes quilt! Let me show you how I have made mine so you can make one yourself!



I have made about half a dozen of these baby clothes quilts and I really love the results every time. I made one each for my boys and a handful of others for families I am close with. Every time I make a baby clothes quilt, I get a bit emotional. Often my friends get emotional, too. It is not lost on me that I am being trusted with something really precious. They can be a bit of work, however, so I suggest setting aside some time.

+ Begin by sorting through your baby clothes and selecting 30 or so items.

+ Roughly cut up the baby clothes you selecting to isolate the designs or patterns you like the most. These will be a variety of shapes and uneven cuts. Don't worry we are going to clean it all up. Keep some of the plain backs of t-shirts because you may need them for design purposes later on.



+ Next, with as many pieces as possible, cut your fabric into 6" squares. Not everything will work when cut down this small but just do as much as possible. We will incorporate the larger pieces into the design when we get to that part.

+ For larger pieces, Just try to cut them down so that they have clean-cut and even sides.



+ Adding Interfacing: Cut up the same number of squares of lightweight interfacing as the number of jersey knit clothing squares you have. I suggest **this product from Fairfield**. (Note: I am a rep for Fairfield but I honestly love their interfacing. That said, any lightweight interfacing will do the trick.) Additionally, cut interacing pieces to match your odd-shaped clothing made of jersey knit.

+ Carefully iron the interfacing to the back of ALL pieces made of jersey knit, t-shirt material. This will help your sewing task IMMENSELY. By stabilizing your jersey knit pieces all of your material will essential behave like woven cloth. Trust me, don't skip this step, it will save you lots of headaches later on! If your fabric has a printed design on it, be sure to place a pressing cloth over it while you iron so the image doesn't melt.

+ Next, incorporate a few special items such as socks, buttons, hoods or tassels. To do this, cut a piece of woven fabric in a 6" square and just simply stitch the item into the center.



Continue to improvise around those special items. These are really the details that make the quilt special.

For example, For one of my quilts, I wanted to incorporate the hole worn into a pair of jeans but didn't want the quilt batting to poke through so I stitched the jeans material over a piece of plain, pink fabric.



+ Once you have all of your jersey fabric interfaced, your special pieces created and your odd pieces cut cleanly you are ready to create the design. To do this, decide on a general size. Probably around 40" across and 50" high. Translated into our fabric cuts, this is 7 fabric squares across and 8 fabric squares down.

+ Layout and design, for me, is a very improvised process. You may want to lay everything out precisely beforehand but I start by creating rows across that accommodate my odd-shaped pieces.. generally making sure that I am creating what approximates 7 fabric squares across.

+ IRON the seams after every stitch to be sure everything lays flat.



+ Continue to create rows in this same manner. Sometimes I am able to work in a bit of message that defines the child. Such as in this quilt when “Little Sister Love” looked so good together. Notice that I added bits of plain t-shirt to the sides of “Love” so that it fit under two standard-sized squares? This is the kind of improvising that this stage of the process requires. If you need to add an extra strip here and there, don’t worry. This isn’t about being perfect, it’s about saving a memory.



+ Once you have completely pieced together and designed your quilt top, it’s time to make the quilt.



+ Tape down your backing fabric, face down, and place quilt batting on top, I recommend this **cotton batting from Fairfield***, which is 100% cotton and super soft and washable. If you prefer a polyester blend that will work just fine, too, but I do love the all natural materials. Your backing fabric and quilt batting should be a bit bigger than your quilt top.



+ Place the completed quilt top on the batting.





+ Once you have sewn inside the seams as well as you can, you can sew one last stitch all along the edge of the quilt and cut off any excess batting and backing fabric.

+ Apply a quilt binding in your preferred method. **This is my favorite way** to do a quilt binding but follow this tutorial if you prefer **hand-stitching**.

You are done! Enjoy the beauty you created!





The best part is that while these quilts capture pieces from the fleeting baby days, it's also possible to see more of *the future* in watching kids react to seeing them for the first time. My own kids giggled, pretended to fall asleep, and jumped up to point at things they recognized in the quilt and they suddenly looked so big. The days of onesies and swaddling blankets seem so far behind while SO MANY amazing and

incredible moments seem just up ahead.



Note: As I mentioned, I work with Fairfield and am an affiliate for them. They did not, however, compensate me for this post and my opinion and recommendations about their products is my own. If you purchase their batting after clicking on this link, it provides support to me. Thank you!

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QUILT OUT OF CLOTHING, SEW IT YOURSELF BABY CLOTHES QUILT, SPECIALTY QUILT

COMMENTS



KRISTEN POWELL SAYS
MARCH 6, 2012 AT 8:47 PM

awww, how wonderfully lovely!! they look beautiful!!

Reply



GRACE SAYS
MARCH 7, 2012 AT 9:15 PM

Melissa....you did such a great job! They look awesome!

Reply



AHAPPYSTITCH SAYS
MARCH 12, 2012 AT 9:56 AM

Thanks Grace!

Reply



ROBERTA IRELAND SAYS
MAY 30, 2013 AT 12:38 AM

absolutely wonderful idea! I still have my 26 and 29 year old daughters clothes in a tub (they both just had baby boys). I'm really excited for another project!!!

Reply



AHAPPYSTITCH SAYS
JUNE 3, 2013 AT 9:13 AM

Thank you! Memory quilts are an awesome way to make something with all those special clothes!
Go for it!

Reply



THINGSFORBOYS SAYS
FEBRUARY 26, 2014 AT 4:44 AM

So lovely! I have started cutting out squares for my memory quilt...really must cut some more!

Reply



THINGSFORBOYS SAYS
FEBRUARY 26, 2014 AT 4:50 AM

So lovely! I've started cutting out squares to do a memory quilt (my first quilt). I really need to get on it. Love the socks!

Reply



MELISSA Q. SAYS
FEBRUARY 26, 2014 AT 8:15 PM

OH, thank you Abby!

Reply



LESLEY SAYS
MARCH 7, 2014 AT 3:30 PM

How exactly did you use the interfacing and stabilizer? I made a pillow case for my niece using bits of her baby blankets and my seams pulled apart and had to be repaired. I'd like to make a matching quilt using the rest of the fabric, but I'm afraid of this happening again. Any tips beyond 1/2" seam allowances?? Thank you! The quilt you made turned out beautifully!

Reply



MELISSA Q. SAYS
MARCH 7, 2014 AT 3:53 PM

This is definitely one tricky aspect of the baby clothes quilts. Yes, use a hefty seam allowance. Also, I applied lightweight interfacing to every piece of jersey knit fabric. To do that I simply used a pressing cloth over both the interfacing square and the fabric square but follow the instructions on your interfacing for best results. Thanks for the kind words!

Reply



AMINATH SHASHEE SAYS
SEPTEMBER 29, 2014 AT 5:06 AM

This is just awesome. I love the work that you have done here. It has inspired me to start one for my little one (who is not so little anymore)

Reply



MELISSA Q. SAYS
SEPTEMBER 29, 2014 AT 8:20 PM

Yay! I'm so happy to hear this inspired you! Go for it, it will be such a lovely memory maker!

Reply



KRISTY SMITH SAYS
DECEMBER 21, 2014 AT 8:06 PM

thank you so much for this i am blessed to have my niece she is the only one i wil ever be able to have and she has hydrocephalus and i was givens her clothes to give away but i said to my mom i would love to do something special but i didnt know what and if it could be done and now i have the confidence to be able to make her something so special thank you sooo much you have made me so excited to do this 😊

Reply



MELISSA Q. SAYS
DECEMBER 22, 2014 AT 8:58 AM

Oh, I'm so happy to hear this! How touching! I hope you share with me how it turns out. Good luck!!

Reply



BARB ELLIOTT SAYS
DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT 10:56 PM

Beautiful quilts! How did you attach the socks?

Reply



MELISSA Q. SAYS
DECEMBER 2, 2015 AT 9:41 AM

Thanks! I simply pinned them a whole bunch and stitched carefully along the edge!

Reply

LEAVE A REPLY

Hey! Hey! I'm kind of freaking out! I have an espadrilles DIY in the latest issue of @bust_maga zine . It was so much fun to be a part	Guys! We are home from vacation (have been for a week but...you know, reentry). I totally miss sitting at the beach in France but	We are home from our family vacation to England and France and as I plowed through our resulting laundry I realized how hard-	I snuck away from the family for a quick visit to @libertylond on ...an essential stop for a textile tourist, right?! See my stories	Look at all these espadrilles ! They are totally the go-to footwear for beach goers in the Breton region of France where we are	Enjoying a relaxing family vacation this week. We had a few days in Paris and are now in Brittany enjoying the beach for a week. Our	While my husband and children went nuts watching World Cup soccer yesterday I stole some quiet studio time and made myself	Happy Friday all! I opened up my Etsy shop with more espadrille kits. Woot! Woot! These are my very favorite shoes just for me but you	Eep. Hi internet, I'm working on building confidence in a bikini this summer thanks to the amazing @stasiasavas uk and the newly	Fondling some beautiful fabric today! Coming soon to an espadrilles kit with your name on it! 🥰 Note: all of my kits are currently
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of this fabulous magazine and create this exclusive pattern. Walk strong my sisters! .
♥ The spectacular fabric is from @thelongthead 🍌♥
#makeyourownshoes #feminist #feministswearcoolshoes #strongwomen #ahappystitchmakes #thespadrilleskit #diyshoes

I'm also thrilled to be back packing up your beautiful ESPADRILLE KITS! Thanks for all the pre-orders. ♥ I'm now all ready to ship more beauties out and have added TEEN sizes (size 3,4 & 5) #tofojumpsuit I had so many outfits! Oh, and I wore my #wellsbaybikini too. I am never really sure what a capsule wardrobe is exactly but I feel like I may have accidentally created one and it was a joy to wear it across Europe. Win for the handmade wardrobe!
♥♥
#wearwhatyousew #makersmovement #makersgonnamake #ahappystitchmakes @truebias @heyjunehandmade @halfmoonatelier @thredup_irl #isewmyown clothes

working and versatile my handmade clothes were as travel wear. In this pic I'm wearing my #sandbridgeskirt with a secondhand top. Between this skirt, my #phoenixtop, my 's and #tofojumpsuit I had so many outfits! Oh, and I wore my #wellsbaybikini too. I am never really sure what a capsule wardrobe is exactly but I feel like I may have accidentally created one and it was a joy to wear it across Europe. Win for the handmade wardrobe!
♥♥
#wearwhatyousew #makersmovement #makersgonnamake #ahappystitchmakes @truebias @heyjunehandmade @halfmoonatelier @thredup_irl #isewmyown clothes

for more photos. Actually, I didn't sneak out. I asked the kids, "Do you want to go to one of the most famous fabric shops EVER?" and they turned me down. Shocker 🤯. + 😊 . . ✂️
#ihavethisthingfortextiles @libertylondon #makersmovement #sewcialists #saintmalot #libertyoflondon #fabric

staying. The style is to wear them like slippers...while crushing the heel. Very casual chic. Of course, none are as cool or colorful as the kind you can handmade #thespadrilleskit #loveiseverywhere #stlunairebeach #stlunairebeach #saintmalot #espadrilles

next stop is London for a few days. It's amazing to unwind and be together. I'm mostly focused on my family but adding to my stories every once in a while. C'est magnifique! 🇫🇷
#familyvacation #loveiseverywhere #stlunairebeach #stlunairebeach #saintmalot #espadrilles

an #ogdencami from @truebias . I can't wait to wear it in France on vacation next week. Ooh-double strap? I love it. ♥️🇫🇷 Check out my blog for the details. ✨ P.s. my newsletter subscribers got advance warning that the shop opened today. Add yourself to my newsletter (form on the blog) to make sure you know next time. A few prints are already sold out. ♥️
#thespadrilleskit #ahappystitchmakes #makersmovement #makersgonnamake #diyshoes #espadrilles #summerishere #evileeyespadrilles

could recreate them with one of my I GOT IT kits and @thelongthead 's screen-printed fabric. Scare off these evil spirits! Check out my blog for the details. ✨ P.s. my newsletter subscribers got advance warning that the shop opened today. Add yourself to my newsletter (form on the blog) to make sure you know next time. A few prints are already sold out. ♥️
#thespadrilleskit #ahappystitchmakes #makersmovement #makersgonnamake #diyshoes #espadrilles #summerishere #evileeyespadrilles

released bikini WELLS BAY from @halfmoonatelier is a great way to start. I love the simple but elegant design of the top so, so much. Plus, it's all REVERSIBLE!! It's so sexy in an understated way. While I love the low rise bottoms; I feel a bit self conscious in them. I might make a Sophie and do some mix and matching. Then, I'll use the WELLS BAY pattern for undies! I have just managed to remind myself why sewing is awesome 😍.
p.s. this bikini is on sale! Check out @halfmoonatelier to nab it. 🙏 Are you wearing a bikini this summer? I never felt like I had a bikini body because I was told it had to be perfect. But, I really want to discard that idea and get some sun on my (imperfect) tummy. I'm not completely there yet but taking baby steps. 🍌🌈
#allbodiesar

sold out but I'm working on putting pre-orders together as soon as possible. DM me your email if you want to be notified when they are released. If it seems like I'm talking gibberish, scroll back in my feed! Things have been busy over here! @jenhewett this is incredible canvas 🍌 . I'm in love, true love. 🍌
#thespadrilleskit #imaginedlands #makersmovement #makersgonnamake #summerishere

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