

Hanky Panky

Full Apron (from p. 77, "Hanky Panky" Oct/Nov 2015 issue)



You'll Need:

3 hankies (We used two 16" hankies, and one 14" hanky for the bib. It's important for the skirt hankies to be the same size.)

4 yards of 1½" ribbon

3½ yards of lace or trim (optional)

basic sewing supplies

1. Decide which hanky to cut in half and fold it in half to make a rectangle; press. Cut along the crease. (Optional: edge finish the cut edges of the hanky.)
2. Lay out one of the half hanky pieces with the cut edge as the side facing the center. Line up the center hanky with one edge in the top position and layer over the cut side of the half hanky piece; pin. If your hankies don't perfectly line up at the top, that's okay, as they will be sewn into the waistband. (If your hanky has scalloped edges, make sure to overlap the edges enough so you can sew through both layers.)
3. Stitch the layers together close to the centered hanky's finished edge; press. (If your hanky has scalloped edges, you may want to follow big decorative scallops closely, but straighten out shallow scallops for ease of sewing.)
4. Repeat Steps 2–3 for the other side.
5. Run two rows of gathering stitches along the top edge at ¼" and ⅜". (You may have to adjust this to accommodate for scalloped edges.)
6. Prepare the ribbon: Cut one length 84" and one 21"; the rest will be used for the neck strap.
7. Using the 84" ribbon as the waistband, find the center of the waistband and mark. Measure 2" to each side of center and mark; measure 10" to each side of center and mark.
8. Pin the waistband in accordingly, making sure to overlap the ribbon edge to your bottom line of stitching; match centers together and edges of hankies to outer marks and pin. Pin the apron flat from the center mark to the 2" mark. Gather the rest of the apron into the ribbon and pin in place.
9. Baste layers together from the ribbon side, close to the edge. Press the gathered stitch line flat.
10. Set up the bib: Start with the outside of the hanky face down, and placed like a diamond. Fold over the top edge so that the fold measures about 7" wide, making the triangle shape as symmetrical as the hanky will allow. Then, measure along the angle from the folded corner 2½", and begin the side fold to the front from there, making the triangle shape as symmetrical as the hanky will allow. (The amount folded to the front will depend on the size of the hanky.) Follow the same procedure for the other side of the bib. Depending on the size of the hanky, the sides may overlap, touch, or have a gap. Pin.
11. Stitch the layers together close to the pressed-over corners' finished edges. Press.
12. From the top folded edge of the bib, mark 10" along the unfolded end of the hanky. Cut along this line. Save the scrap for a pocket.



13. Find and mark the center on the cut edge of the bib. Line it up with the center on the waistband ribbon. Pin in place so that you are overlapping the ribbon onto the hanky about $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
14. Baste the layers together from the ribbon side, close to the edge; press.
15. Using the 21" piece of ribbon, press over $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each short end. Place over the inside of the waistband, covering up the hanky edges; pin.
16. From the outside, stitch around the edges of the "ribbon sandwich" close to the edges. (Use the folded edge of the inner ribbon as a stitching guide along the short ends.)
17. If you are going to add lace, do it now. Stitch it along the neck-strap ribbon and the waistband ribbon as desired.
18. Place and pin one side of the neck strap at the top edge of the bib, folding one raw edge of ribbon under. Stitch close to the ribbon fold, then stitch one more time close to the bib fold.
19. Try your apron on. Make sure you tie it at the waist, and then pin the other end of the neck strap to the other side of the bib edge. This length will vary, based on height and size. Cut away the excess so it's 1" longer than your finished length. Pin and stitch in the same manner as the other side.
20. Using your triangular pocket scrap, finish the cut edge with a twice-turned hem. The amount you use will depend on how big your hanky is—the bigger the hanky, the deeper the hem can be.
21. Place the pocket $3\frac{1}{2}$ " from the waistband, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ "– $2\frac{1}{2}$ " from the side, depending on your pocket shape. Of course, you can get personal with this placement and put it just where you need it. Pin in place and stitch around the edges.
22. Trim ribbon ends at an angle or straight and finish ends of ribbon with fray stop or by sewing a twice-turned hem.

