

ADVENT CALENDAR BUNTING TUTORIAL BY SUZAN DURY

I designed this as a variation on Christmas bunting, and have made a few different versions. These are reusable every year - and look great left up all over Christmas. So much nicer than those commercial chocolate calendars you buy from the supermarket. You can put your own chocolate or small presents in the pocket which is the front of the bunting flag.



MATERIALS

- $\frac{3}{4}$ metre Christmas fabrics for front of bunting pockets -you can use as many different patterns as you wish or all the same. I used 3 different patterns- you need 24 triangles in all.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ metre lining -You also need $\frac{3}{4}$ metre of scrap fabric to line the front pockets - I used calico, but bits of old sheets or shirts are fine, you don't see this lining.
- 1 metre cotton batting for pockets -I used plain green or a chrismassy red also looks nice.
- Scraps of backing or felt to make numbers to appliqué on front
- $\frac{3}{4}$ metre medium weight iron-on interfacing for front of pockets
- 5 meters 1inch bias binding in appropriate colour
- 2 cardboard triangle templates:
 - 1)14CMX14CM
 - 2)16X16CM
- sequins/ribbon to decorate

1. Make your cardboard templates- use a ruler to make 2 triangles from sturdy cardboard (I used cat food box). 1 triangle is 14x14cm; the other is 16x16cm but you can scale these both up if you would like to make bigger pockets.



2. Cutting - cut out your 24 fronts from Christmassy fabrics using the smaller triangle. Use a pencil or washable fabric pen to draw round your template. Use a straight edge to line your base up and turn the triangle round to

make the best use of the fabric (I can put a picture in here). You need to work out how many of each pattern you need - e.g. if you are using 3 patterns you will need 8 of each; 4 patterns you will need 6 of each and so on.

3. Cut out your 24 front lining triangles using same size triangle as patterned fronts
4. Cut out 24 backs from the backing fabric using the larger triangle. (The backs are the green fabric in this picture below.)

CONSTRUCTION

1. Iron the wrong side of your 24 patterned fronts onto the interfacing. Cut carefully round each triangle. (You will have to do this in batches - use greaseproof paper between the iron and your triangles to avoid iron sticking to the interfacing.)
2. With right sides together sew the patterned front with interfacing onto the lining triangle along the base of the triangle (not the pointy sides)
3. Flip over and press the seam (the sides of the triangle are not sewn at this stage). Repeat for all 24 fronts.
4. Top stitch along the right side of this seam on all 24 fronts
5. Put your fronts in the order you want your final bunting to be.
6. The numbers need to be appliquéd on at this stage.



Applique numbers

This is easy using Bondaweb or Steam a Seam or similar. I just drew my numbers in reverse bubble writing onto the paper back of Bondaweb, which you then iron onto fabric and cut out. Remove the paper backing and iron on your fabric number onto the pocket. Sew on with a fancy stitch. I used a blanket stitch, but a small zig-zag is fine. You can use coloured felt quite easily without Bondaweb. Just draw the number in fabric pen or pencil and cut out. Stitch onto fabric with a small zigzag or blanket stitch. If you want a more professional look you can download alphabets from the internet and trace them.

7. When numbers are appliquéd with RIGHT sides together, sew the fronts onto the backing triangle along two long sides matching points. Trim seams around point. Turn out using point turner or chopstick to get a neat point. Press. Topstitch on the outside. You should now have a bunting flag with a pocket! Trim the top of the backing to about 3 cm showing above the fronts.

FINISHING

You need to make 1-12 and 13-14 into two rows of flags. (You can do them all in one if you like). Stitch 30cm of 1 inch coloured bias binding folded in half together to use as your hanging loop, then feed in your numbered flags. (usually easier to do these in reverse e.g. 24 first, then 23) when you get to 13 sew another 30cm of bias binding together and cut binding. Fold over zigzag binding together in a loop.

Sew on sequins and organza or ribbon bows as desired

Hang up - fill with chocolate!

