

PATCH & PLAY HOUSES

by anna maria horner
for JANOME



Hello!

The Patch & Play House project is a fun little sewing adventure perfect for using up fabrics that are smaller than a fat quarter while creating a sweet and soft interactive toy set for a little person. The more you make the more fun they will be to play with, and you can create a harmonious little neighborhood by buttoning houses and fence sections together. They would be darling stretched across a child's bed or bookshelf as charming décor when not the center of playtime. I've offered 3 different house sizes as a guide for you, however once you watch how simply they come together in the highlights video, you'll be able to make your own fun variations and add your own special details. Makes a wonderful gift!

Enjoy! xo, Anna Maria

*Watch the highlights video and sew along with me at <http://janome.com/en/inspire/anna-maria-horner/>

MATERIALS

Fabric & Interfacings & details:

- Assorted fat quarters for house, roof, fence, grass
- lightweight fusible interfacing
- heavy weight interfacing (fusible or not)
- fiberfill
- decorative buttons (or baby safe fasteners)

Tools & Notions:

- straight pins
- rotary cutter & mat
- scissors
- coordinating machine thread
- iron and ironing board

CUTTING

Tall House

- 2 house pieces 8.5x11"
- 8.5" square for roof, then cut from opposite angles to make two triangles
- Cut same as above from interfacing
- 1 window 3x5.5"
- (make as many windows as desired for your house!)
- 1 door 5x6"

Square House

- 2 house pieces 8.5x8.5"
- 8.5" square for roof, then cut from opposite angles to make two triangles
- Cut same as above from interfacing
- 1 window 3x5.5"
- (make as many windows as desired for your house!)
- 1 door 5x6"

Big House

- 2 house pieces 12.5x12.5"
- 12.5" square for roof, then cut from opposite angles to make two triangles
- Cut same as above from interfacing
- 1 window 4x6.5"
- (make as many windows as desired for your house!)
- 1 door 7x8"

Picket fence

- Layer "grass" & "fence" fabric and cut 1" strips from each (you'll want them to be at least 6" long).
- You will want to have about 10 or 11 pairs (fence & grass) of strips to create a nice fence section.
- Also cut two extra fence pieces that are about 1x12"

PREPARE HOUSE & FENCE PARTS

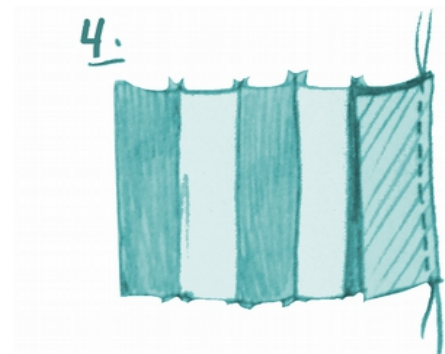
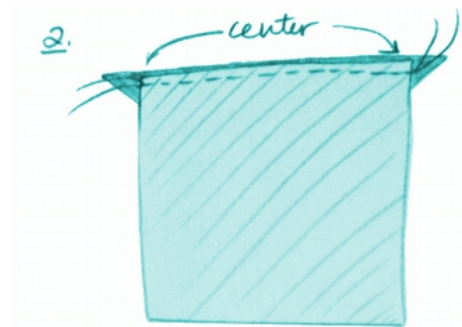
1. Interface roof pieces and house pieces with an iron, then carefully trim the interfacing to be exact size of the roof and house.

2. With right sides together, align long edge of one roof piece to short edge (or any edge if square) of house piece, centering the house within the longer roof edge. Sew with 1/2" seam allowance. Repeat with remaining roof and house piece. Press both seam allowances open and set aside

3. With right sides together, fold window piece in half on the length and sew each side with 1/4" seam allowances from edge to fold. Repeat with door piece. Set aside.

4. With right sides together and using a 1/4" seam allowance alternate the fence and grass fabric strips and assemble one to the next. Continue until the fence is as long as you'd like. I was sure to begin and end this strip piecing with the grass fabric.

5. Press pieced fence and trim to be 6" in height, the length is up to you, but mine is 10.5" wide (21 strips).



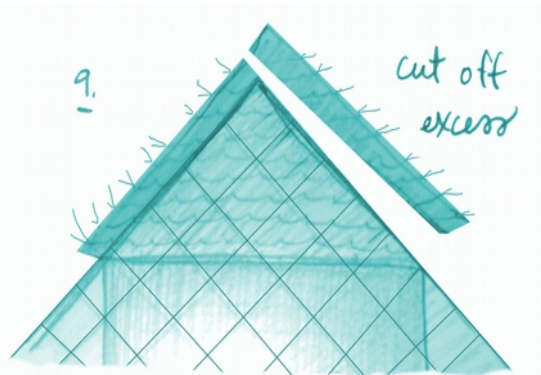
6. Make 2 cuts horizontally across pieced fence 1 1/2" away from each long edge so that you end with 3 pieces. Two pieces will be 1 1/2" wide and one will be 3" wide.



7. With right sides together and using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew the two long fence pieces horizontally between cut fence sections. Press seam allowances as desired. Trim any excess horizontal fence pieces.

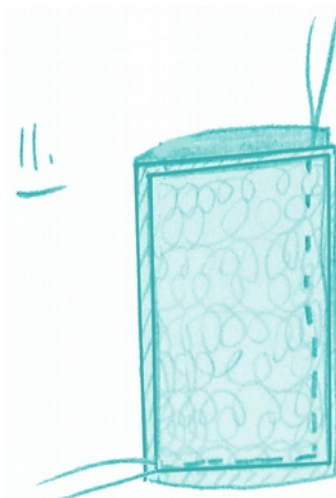
8. Use the finished size of the fence from Step 7 as a template to measure and cut a backing piece from the grass fabric. Set both aside.

9. You can now create detail stitching onto the roof pieces using rows of decorative stitching (there is a lot to choose from in many of the Janome models). Doing so in bright shades of thread is especially fun. Do this on one or both roof pieces. Once all roof details are complete trim the excess roof width off evenly keeping the top corner at 90 degrees, and so that the roof lower corners line up with the edge of the house. This is really simple with a square quilting ruler. Set aside.



10. (Optional) Create button tabs by first cutting 3x3" squares from grass fabric and house fabric, and for each also cut a piece of lightweight interfacing that is 1.5x3".

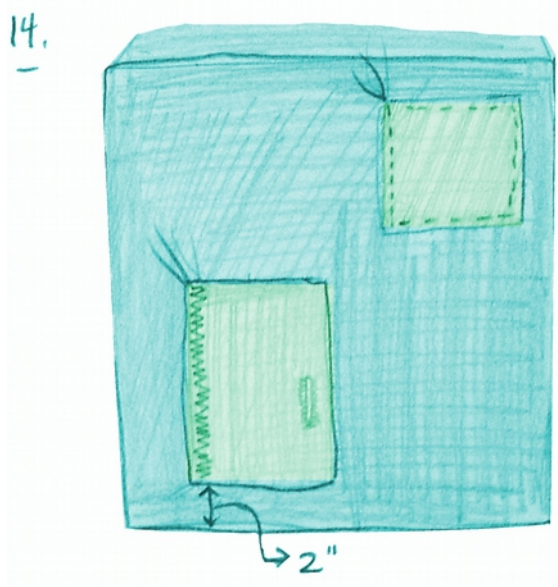
11. Press small piece of interfacing onto wrong side of 3" square button tab fabric, aligning 3 edges. Now fold fabric right sides together at center so that fabric now matches shape of interfacing. Use a 1/4" seam allowance to sew across one short and one long edge in an L shape. Trim corners, and flip to right side.



12. Press Button Tab well and create a button hole at the seamed end of the tab that matches the size of your button. (Create any additional desired button tabs to connect your houses and fence sections.)

13. Flip the sewn windows and doors through to right sides, smoothing corners and turning openings in 1/4" to hide raw edges. Press well. (Add any additional details to the window, like window pane stitch lines, or even shuttlers. Add any details to the front door like an embroidered wreath, or a button hole so that it can open and close.)

14. Place windows onto house front, and pin in place as desired. Place door onto house front and pin in place as desired, but be sure that the bottom edge of the door is 2" away from the bottom edge of the house piece (this will allow for the door to sit on the ground once the box shape is sewn for the house). Topstitch window onto house turning at each corner, and using a very scant 1/8" seam allowance. Attach door using a zigzag stitch from top edge of the left side, down to the bottom left edge.



ASSEMBLE HOUSE & FENCE

1. Using a straight pin, mark the right edge of the house front 4" from the bottom edge. Place the house front and house back right sides together, and align all their edges. Sew together using a 1/4" seam allowance beginning a few inches above the pin marked at the beginning of this step. Continue sewing all around the house, pivoting at each turn and finish once you have reached the pin marking.

2. To create a box corner, pull house front and house back away from each other at one bottom corner, align the bottom seam line with side seam, then press together with your fingers, thereby creating a triangular corner, and pin in place.

3. Use a clear quilting ruler to align the seam at the center of the triangle with the ruler's 1.25" line, and slide the ruler down until the 0" mark of the ruler is at one bottom point of the triangle and the 2.5" of the ruler is at the other opposite point of the triangle. Draw a line across the bottom of the triangle or place pins on the line (which will be perpendicular to the seam line) and then sew across the corner at this line. Trim off excess seam allowance to about 3/8".

4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 with the other house corner.

5. Clip seam allowance corners carefully, and make sure all seams are secure and backstitched. Turn through to right side. Smooth all seams and corners with your fingers and poke out points with a chop stick.

6. Cut a piece of heavy interfacing to place inside the base of the house in one of the following sizes: Tall House: 2.5x5.5", Square House: 2.5"x5.5", or Big House: 2.5x9.5". If you have created your own size, it's not hard to measure the box shape on the bottom of the house and determine the right size for an interfacing base. Place interfacing into bottom base of house (if you are using fusible, be sure to place fusible side down).

7. Begin stuffing house with small bits of fiberfill at a time. If you are hoping for the houses to stand and link with others, take care not to overstuff the house. (You might even try a inserting a home-made bean bag in the bottom to weight the house.)

8. Once house is sufficiently plump, turn the edges of the opening in by 1/4" to tuck away raw edges, and also slip the raw edge end of a button tab into the bottom of this opening. Topstitch closed with a scant 1/8" seam allowance to finish.

9. Follow Step 1 with fence section to the fence backing, however only mark the side edge 2.25" from bottom edge instead of 4".

10. Follow Step 5 with fence section.

11. Follow Steps 7 and 8 with fence section.

12. Hand sew buttons in place on the back left sides of house and fence section and behind front door as desired.

Enjoy!

