

Apron Sewing Instructions



Aprons were as much a practical as well as a fashionable clothing to wear in colonial times. It was worn by servants as well as ladies. A servant's apron would be made out of linen and used to protect the skirt and jacket from dirt because fabric was expensive and washing was time consuming and hard work. Aprons were bigger than the typical cooking apron that is used today and covered most of the front side of the skirt. A ladies apron could also be made of cotton or cotton organza with ruffles or lace or embroidery. Aprons could also be made of silk. In very rich households or among nobles, even some servant's apron would

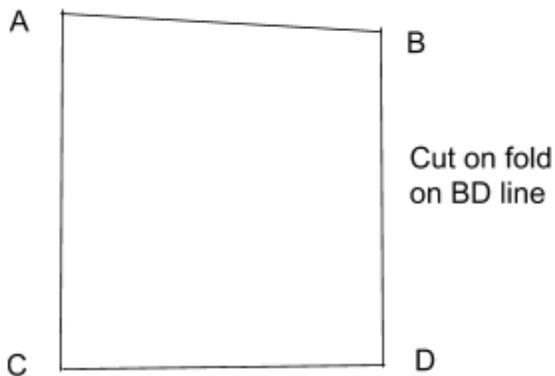


be made of silk. The servant at the Austrian Court of Maria Theresia, in the painting from Jean-Etienne Liotard as shown above is wearing a silk apron

You need:

- **1 piece of binding tape or 1 long rectangle 60" x 2";**
- **1 Hand sewing needle or Sewing machine**
- **Sewing thread**
- **1 piece of cotton or linen, cut on fold:**

Cut 1 piece of linen or cotton with the measurements below:



Measurements P1:

CD = 18(x2)" cut on fold on BD - total width of apron is 36" (wider if for adult)

AC = 32" (longer if for adult)

BC = AC - 1



Apron Sewing Instructions:

Step 1:

Ruffle top of apron: Sew two rows of basting stitches (longest stitch on sewing machine or running stitch by hand) $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top of the apron.

Pull the threads to gather the fabric to the desired length = 11" for size 10-12

Stay stitch the apron so that the gathering stays while preparing the binding

Step 2:

Bind off the top of the apron with a 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and about 50" long strip of the same fabric and the apron. To do so, fold the fabric in half and match the middle to the middle of the apron. Pin the gathered fabric to the binding fabric.

Stitch the gathered fabric to the binding fabric with right sides together.

Then, starting at one end of the binding fabric, fold the fabric like a binding tape: Fold it in half and fold the sides into the tape so that no raw edges are seen. Sew the sides shut with the raw edges inside.

Step 3:

Optional: Sew ruffles or lace around the apron if it is for a fancy dress.

