

## It's Sew Easy Series 1900

### Show#1902-1 Stylish Garden Apron with Zippered Pocket

**Presented by: Joanne Banko**  
[www.letsqosew.com](http://www.letsqosew.com)

**Let's stay in touch!** I'd love to help you make the most of **your** sewing machine!

[CLICK HERE](#) to add your name to the [letsqosew.com](http://letsqosew.com) email list and receive timely tips, sewing news, free tutorials, and special updates. You'll be the first to know about new blog posts and detailed previews of the online It's Sew Easy TV show.



Be on the best dressed list, even when you're working in the garden! If you're an avid gardener, you'll enjoy this stylish garden apron. It's made from water repellent ripstop nylon and features a decorative pocket secured with a zipper. This pocket style is perfect for items you want to keep safe & secure such as keys or your phone. **Are you ready? Let's go sew!**

#### **Materials and supplies featured in this show:**

- [Brother](#) XP1 Luminaire Sewing & Embroidery machine
- Brother SA208 Narrow Zipper foot, or an adjustable zipper foot.
- [Pattern tracing cloth](#) for creating a permanent pattern for the apron.

**Note:** You can choose to draw measurements directly on your fabric if you like. I prefer to make patterns from tracing cloth so I can easily make another in the future.

- Basic sewing notions including good quality polyester thread to match fabric, fine sharp pins, wash away fabric glue or glue stick for temporarily securing ribbon, seam sealant for finishing ends of ribbon, Size 10 or 12 Microtex needle, and a color matched 7-inch all-purpose polyester coil zipper.
- Fabric for main apron piece:
  - One piece of Ripstop Nylon fabric measuring 36-inches long X 24-inches wide.

**Options and ideas:** I purchased 5/8 yard of 60-inch wide Ripstop Nylon for this project. While this fabric may not be typical for an apron, I picked this fabric for its ability to resist water and stains. It comes in bright, fun colors and is very durable. Left over fabric of this type is ideal for making drawstring bags or totes to hold garden tools and supplies. Use quilt weight cotton as an alternative fabric if you wish. If you make items for re-sale at craft shows, etc., this apron could be stitched quickly and economically, especially if you choose standard cotton fabric. Consider using some of the many beautiful novelty prints available in the quilting cotton section of the fabric store. Be sure to choose an all-over print without nap or direction issues, otherwise your folded pocket will end up upside down. If you're using 44"/45" wide fabric you can shave the width down a little bit, use half of the width of a one-yard piece of fabric, and make two aprons from one yard. Skip the decorative stitching on the ribbon if you want to save a little time.

- Ribbon for apron:
  - Two pieces of grosgrain ribbon measuring 7/8-inch wide X 9-inches long for trimming zipper. **Tip:** I like to use liquid stabilizer to stiffen the ribbon before stitching. [CLICK HERE](#) to download a free tip sheet on this type of stabilizer from [www.letsdosew.com](http://www.letsdosew.com).
  - One piece of grosgrain ribbon measuring 7/8-inch wide X 72-inches long for waistband and ties.
  - One piece of satin or grosgrain ribbon measuring ¼-inch wide X 4-inches long for zipper pull.

**Note:** This apron style was previously featured on the [Brother Stitching Sewcial blog](#). You'll find similar instructions with additional photos in the blog post.

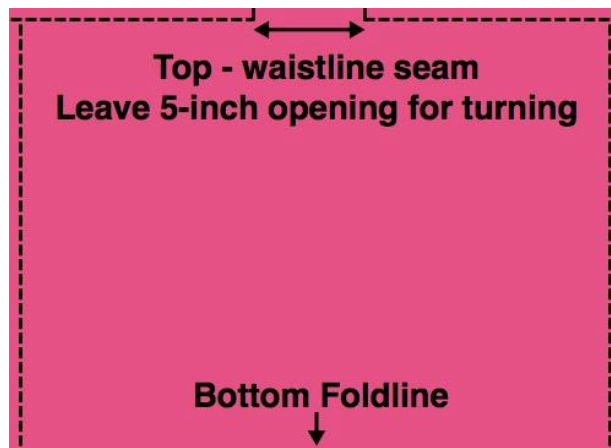
### Steps for making the apron:

Sew a decorative stitch down the center of each 9-inch piece of stabilized ribbon. If you have the Brother Luminaire machine, consider using the [projection feature](#) to view the decorative stitch on the ribbon and precisely stitch the pattern in the center of the ribbon. In addition, the [guideline marker grid](#) can help you keep the ribbon straight while stitching.

Remove all stabilizer residue and press ribbons flat. Use wash-away fabric glue to secure decorative ribbons along each side of zipper tape. Next, fold under each short end and stitch close to the zipper teeth on each side of the zipper. Wash out glue and let zipper dry. Set ribbons aside temporarily.

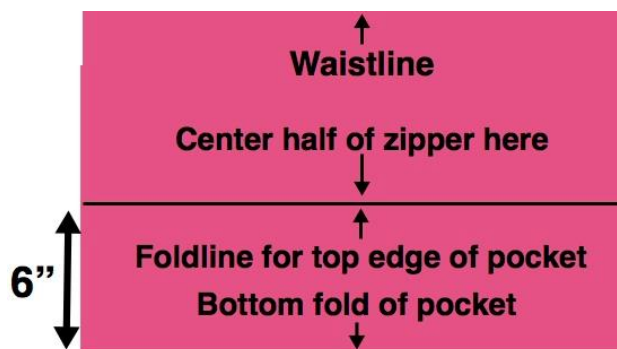
Select apron piece and fold right sides together so folded piece measures 18-inches long and 24-inches wide. Sew top edge using a ½-inch seam allowance, leaving a 5-inch opening along the top for turning right sides out.

**Tip:** Sewing the top seam as shown in the image below makes it easy to fold and press the opening closed when finishing the apron at the top. Next, sew each of the 18-inch sides using a ½-inch seam allowance.



Turn piece right side out and press. **Tip:** Ripstop Nylon is heat sensitive. Iron temperatures vary greatly. Use a low temperature and test on a remnant of fabric before pressing apron. Use a press cloth if necessary.

It's time to form the center zippered pocket and the two side pockets. Begin by measuring 6-inches up from the bottom fold, then turn and press up a 6-inch deep pocket along the measured line.



Note that one side of the decorative zipper piece gets sewn to the top pocket edge and the other gets sewn to the apron itself. Now, layer decorative zipper piece at top edge of pocket, with right side of zipper facing up, and the zipper teeth lined up with the foldline at the top edge. Pin close to fold, pinning ribbon to pocket layer, without pinning through to apron. Unfold pocket and use a zipper foot to stitch close to pinned edge of zipper teeth, then continue stitching around the ribbon in a box formation, stitching short ends and long edge of ribbon.

Fold pocket back up into place. Stitch the other piece of ribbon to the body of the apron, stitching close to the zipper teeth and then stitching around the ribbon as you did before.



Mark and then sew lines for the side pockets to the right and left of the zippered pocket. Switch to standard sewing foot. Finish these pockets by topstitching close to the two loose, outside edges of the apron pockets.

Center long piece of grosgrain ribbon along the top, waistline edge. Stitch ribbon to waistline, closing the opening in the process. String narrow ribbon through the zipper pull and knot. Trim ends of each ribbon piece at an angle and treat with seam sealant to keep from fraying.

You are finished! Enjoy gardening in your new, fashionable apron!



Visit [letsgosew.com](http://letsgosew.com) for updates, more project instructions, and It's Sew Easy TV series 1900 BONUS FILES.



#### Additional Resources:

- I invite you to visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website [www.letsgosew.com](http://www.letsgosew.com). You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, and lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!
- Sign-up for letsgosew.com news [HERE](#).
- Find me on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).
- Be sure to visit the [Official Brother Blog](#) to read my posts on a wide variety of sewing and embroidery topics.

Happy Sewing!

