

## Tutorial: 10 Minute Apron

Everyone loves an apron. They're not just a cool addition to your kit that instantly makes it look like a practical set of clothes, but they're also really handy for not getting food down your front when you're preparing it, eating it or scooping it into moving children. They're not just for homemakers, either – if you look at some of the medieval images that served as some of the source inspiration for Empire, plenty of working people wore them too – butchers, blacksmiths and carpenters, to name but a few. This is a really quick, easy, cheaty way of making an apron with the minimum of sewing for a flawless finish.

### You will need:

A dishtowel with a pattern or design you like  
2-3 metres of cotton bias tape in a matching or coordinating colour- enough to tie comfortably around your waist with a bow behind your back  
Thread in a matching colour to your bias tape  
Sewing machine or needle and thread  
An iron

### Preparing your materials:

Take your dishtowel, and if you are going to decorate it, do that first. You could stencil a design on in fabric paint or embroider something in a design you like, or, if you're lucky like me and get three pack of perfectly Varushkan dishtowels from Ikea for £2 you can use them as they are. You could get a plain white or cream one for the Marches, or a brightly coloured one for Dawn, or a naturally coloured one for Wintermark – you could dye one to match your kit. Inspiration is everywhere!



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Work out which side you want to be the top of your apron – it should be one of the shorter sides. Trim off the hemmed bit – if you like you can leave it on, but you're better to trim it as it can make your waistband a bit bulky. You should now have an apron shaped piece of cloth with three hemmed and one unhemmed edge.

### Sewing it up:

Find roughly the middle point of your unhemmed upper edge, and the middle point of your bias tape and mark them both with a bit of chalk or a pin. Unfold one side of your bias tape, and align it with your fabric, matching raw edges with the right side to the right side. You are now ready to sew your bias tape to your fabric – when you align it correctly ready to sew, it should look like this:



You can now sew the bias tape across the raw edge of your apron piece, from one side to another. You have now basically attached your waistband to your apron! Just a bit of tidying up to go and you're finished!

You now need to fold the bias tape over the raw edge of your apron, so you are completely encasing that top edge in a fold of bias tape. It should look a bit like this, with the right side up.



Now, all you have to do is topstitch your bias tape together to hold that fold shut, which will sandwich your apron piece between the fold of your bias tape. With the right side of your apron facing up, and the waistband on the right side and the long apron piece to the left as you feed it through your machine, start at the furthest end of the bias tape and stitch a straight stitch close to the two edges of the bias tape, and continue that all the way across your apron piece and onto the other side, until finally you run out of bias tape.



Tada! You have made a pinny.

You can now tie it round your waist and it's ready to protect your costume from anything the game can throw at you.



**Ready for more?**

You don't need to stick to pre made dishtowels – if you have more time you can find a bit of fabric of roughly the right size and hem three of the four edges.